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 AHMADIYYA MOVEMENT WEST COAST REGION

88 AHMADIYYA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

(As the 88th Jalsa Salana—Annual Gathering of the worldwide Jamaat Ahmadiyya to be held at Qadian and Rabwah is fast approaching there can be no better initiation for the intending participants to the mood and spirit with which to go through the Jalsa Salana engagements than the announcement made by the Promised Messiah on the occasion of the first institution of this important annual foregathering of Ahmadiyya Communities at their Sacred Centre at Qadian. With this explanation, we wish to reproduce below the announcement for the benefit of Ahmadi readers. —Editor)

ANNOUNCEMENT

"Be it known to you, my sincere followers, that the object of your initiation into the Ahmadiyya Movement is that you should abandon worldliness and replace it by love of the Benevolent God and of the Holy Prophet (on whom be peace and the blessings of God). Your existence here should be so detached that when your end approaches you may have no horror of death.

"In order to attain this object, however, it would be necessary for you, to have the benefit of my company, and to devote a part of your time to the pursuit of this aim. Perchance you may witness (if God wills it so) some convincing heavenly sign which may serve to sweep away the sloth and

weakness of spirit, and replace them by certainty of conviction and fervency of love. It should be your anxious concern, therefore, always to look out for such an opportunity. As long, however, as it does not fall to your lot to be constantly in my company you should keep it in my mind to be occasionally with me. If you fail in this, your initiation would be nothing but an empty ceremonial totally devoid of grace.

"For various reasons, moreover, it may not be possible for all to have the benefit of a prolonged company, or for all to come to pay me an occasional visit. Inherent want of enthusiasm, poverty, or the sheer impediment of distance, or unwillingness due

to absence of zeal to suffer inconvenience or discomfort, might deter a person from paying me a visit. I have decided, therefore, to set apart 3 days in a year on which God willing, all my sincere followers might present themselves here, with the exception perhaps only of those who may be sick, or who may have other unavoidable preoccupations.

"In my judgement it would be appropriate for the purpose to fix the three days from the 27th to the 29th of December every year. All of us, therefore, who will be living on the 27th day of December next, should make it a point to pay visit to Qadian on that date with a view solely to listen to divine addresses and to join in mass prayer. There shall be held in this Jalsa (gathering) discourses on religious subjects which would be the means of strengthening their faith. Special prayers for grant of righteousness shall also be offered on behalf of those who participate in the Jalsa so that they might attract the grace of heaven, and the sincerity of their faith might be accepted of the Compassionate God. The Jalsa shall also furnish, as a secondary advantage, an opportunity to those who may have joined the community as new members during the expiring year, to introduce themselves to the fraternity, and thus to strength mutual bonds of love and friendship. Prayers shall also be said for the repose if the souls of those who might have passed away in the course of the year; for unity of spirit among all members of the fraternity and for elimination from them of strangeness, hypocrisy and curtness of manner. The Jalsa will be accompanied by other advantages which will be apparent as they come along.

"It would be better for persons of limited means to make provision for the Jalsa beforehand. There would be no difficulty in finding the necessary expenses at the last moment if they make it a habit to save small sums of money to be kept apart for this purpose. It would then be as if they had performed the journey without any expenses....

"I pray that for every step of their journey they may have a handsome requital hereafter. Amen!"

AHMADIYYA NEWS

KHALIFATUL MASIH'S HEALTH

According to the latest report reaching us from Pakistan, Hazrat Hafiz Mirza Nasir Ahmad Khalifatul Masih III, is enjoying good health. Members should continue to pray for Hazur's health, and for the rapid progress of Islam under his dynamic leadership.

Rabwah, Pakistan:

In his Friday sermon delivered on September 21, 1979 at Masjid Aqsa, Hazrat Ameerul Momineen Hafiz Mirza Nasir Ahmad Khalifatul Masih III drew the attention of the inhabitants of Rabwah in particular and the Ahmadiyya Muslims of all over the world in general towards their responsibilities connected with the forthcoming Jalsa Salana -Annual Gathering.

Khalifatul Masih directed all the Ahmadies of the globe, that each country must be represented by its delegates at the Annual Gathering. In this respect, he further directed for procedural planning to secure the guests from any inconvenience, and providing them with the means to achieve the magnificent blessings of the Annual Gathering.

Regarding the Ahmadies in Pakistan, Khalifatul Masih expressed the hope that keeping their traditions and realizing the Grace of God bestowed upon them that they should endeavour to turn up in greater number.

Drawing the attention of the Rabwah Jamaat towards its obligations, Hazur remarked, that the Annual Gathering is an optional rally, hence, they should start supplicating for the incoming guests of the Jalsa Salana. Continuing, he said, that the people of Rabwah, should volunteer to carry out the administration of Jalsa Salana in such great number that the deficiency of workers should not be felt in any direction. Besides, Hazur also stressed upon the people of Rabwah to spare rooms from their dwellings to accommodate the guests of Jalsa Salana. He further directed towards the cleanliness of Rabwah and asked

its inhabitants to make it as neat and clean as a new simple bride. It does not require decoration, yet it does need neatness and cleanness.

Finally, Hazur prayed, that may Allah enable us to serve the guests of Jalsa Salana and thus attract the Grace of God the Exalted in abundance. Ameen.

TRIBUTE TO RELIGIOUS FOUNDERS

Calgary, Canada: At a unique function held in McEwan Hall University of Calgary, and organized by Calgary Chapter of Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam, tributes have been paid to the various Religious Founders by the speakers of different denominations.

The function which was chaired by Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan Ex Foreign Minister of Pakistan, Former President of 17th Session of General Assembly, former Judge and President of International Court of Justice at Hague, was part of Religious Founders Day celebration annually celebrated by the Ahmadi Muslim Community all over the world to open the vistas of peace and cordial relations among the followers of different creeds and faiths.

Among the speakers who addressed the well attended gathering of various nationalities were Dr. Benjamin Freedman, Dr. P.C. Cragie, Dr. F.C. Sood, Dr. Leslie Kawamura, Dr. Mansa Singh and Maulvi Ata Ullah Kaleem who spoke on the lives and teachings of Moses, Jesus, Krishna, Buddha, Baba Nanak and the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon them) respectively.

The audience asked the questions to which the speakers replied to their entire satisfaction. The questions on Islam and its Holy Founder were replied by the Chairman of the function - Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan who is a companion of the Promised Messiah Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad the Founder of the Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam.

Enquiries about Islam are always welcome

Calgary, Canada: The Holy Quran yields new truths and fresh guidance in every age and every level, has been declared here by Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan the former President of International Court of Justice at Hague.

Sir Zafrullah was addressing the students and staff of the Religious Studies Department of the University of Calgary on "ISLAM :ITS MESSAGE".

It is a standing and perpetual miracle, he continued, and is dynamic as is the universe dynamic. Indeed, so dynamic is the Quran that it has always been found to keep ahead of the world and never to lag behind. However fast the pace at which the pattern of human life may change and evolve, the Quran always yields, and will go on yielding, needed guidance in advance. This has been demonstrated through 14 centuries, and that is a guarantee that it will continue to be demonstrated through the ages.

Sir Zafrullah speech lasted almost one hour after which he answered the questions put to him by the Press and the audience.

AHMADI SCIENTIST GETS NOBLE PRIZE

Stockhalom, Sweden: Dr. Abdus Salam a Pakistani scientist has been awarded NOBLE PRIZE in Physics along with two other scientists.

The World of Islam can indeed be proud of Prof. Abdus Salam, a Pakistani scientist who has made notable contribution to the advancement of science and has revived the Islamic era which produced men like Bu Ali Sina.

It is worth mentioning that Prof. Abdus Salam is a member of Ahmadiyya Jama'at

THE HOLY PROPHET & HIS KHALIFAS

THE Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) is our chief and chief of all the Prophets. We received through him Islam, the perfect religion. He brought us the Holy Quran which teaches all the good things.

The Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) was born in Mecca, the central town of Arabia, on 20th April of the year 570 A.D. He came of a noble family Qureish. His father's name was Abdullah and his mother's name was Amina.

His father died a few months before the birth of the Prophet. His mother passed away when he was a child of six. He was taken care of by his grandfather, Abdul Muttalib who died when the Holy Prophet was eight years old. His uncle Abu Talib then became his guardian.

The Prophet lived a life of virtue from early childhood. When he grew up he took care of the poor, spoke the truth, helped the weak and worshipped God. When he was forty years old, God made him His Messenger and Prophet. He appointed him to guide mankind to the path of piety. His people were rude to him and rose against him. They persecuted him as earlier prophets had been persecuted. When the Prophet told Meccans to worship the One True God and to give up the worship of idols, they turned against him. They caused him and his followers much suffering. But the Prophet and his companions bore all hardships calmly. For thirteen long years they faced bitter opposition. Then God commanded the Prophet to leave Mecca and go over to Medina with all his followers. This event is called the Hijra. The Holy Prophet lived in Medina for ten years. During this period, he had to take to the field against enemy forces many times. After every battle, Islam grew stronger and the enemies of Allah grew weaker. Finally Mecca was conquered without fighting. The Holy Prophet entered the city with 10,000 followers. The enemy feared revenge. But the Holy Prophet forgave them all. They knew that Muhammad was mercy unto all, unto the friend as well as the foe. They joined Islam in thousands. Soon all Arabia was in the fold of the Prophet's faith.

The Prophet lived only two years after the fall of Mecca. He died 11 years after the Hijra on 8th June 632 and lies buried in Medina. May Allah bless him and his people over and evermore!

THE Holy Prophet was succeeded after his death by his four Khalifas, the first being Abu Bakr, the second Omar, the third Osman and the fourth Ali. May Allah's peace be on them.

Islam made great progress under their leadership and spread far wide, Tangier in the west and to Trans-Caucasia in the north. Its lands touched the borders of Sindh in the east.

The four Khalifas were near relatives and close companions of the Holy Prophet. He loved them dearly and they gave him and Islam their services devotedly. God granted them great support and victory. Their period is known as the term of the guided caliphate-Khilafate Rashidah.

Drinking and gnashing

By Anthony Tucker, Science Correspondent

Science has come up with evidence against alcohol that is enough to make drinkers gnash their teeth.

Apart from causing liver and brain damage, industrial and road accidents, affecting digestion and promoting high blood pressure, research now shows it stimulates bruxism—the gnashing of teeth.

Laboratory studies have shown that although the afflicted may embark upon a bout of gnashing at any time of the night, it occurs most frequently during periods of light sleep.

But there has been nothing, hitherto, to indicate whether external factors or dietary components might play a part in triggering attacks.

Now Dr Ernest Hartmann of Boston State Hospital believes that bruxism is brought on by drinking alcohol. He studied four bruxists among his patients for a picture of their daytime and nocturnal activities.

It turned out that the factor unambiguously allied to the onset of bruxism was alcohol. Once the relationship became apparent one patient was monitored very closely over six-week periods which alternated between abstinence and normal social drinking. There was a perfect correlation between

bouts of bruxism and the pattern of drinking.

The overall finding — taking all the patients into account — was that bouts of bruxism were about four times more frequent after a night of drinking than after an abstemious one. There are no studies yet on the relationship between moderate alcohol intake and sleep patterns.

Bruxism is, as the New England Journal of Medicine reminds us, an affliction characterized by loud and violent nocturnal gnashing or grinding of teeth. This can do serious damage to teeth, gums and surrounding tissues.

Sleeping partners are left to endure the noise and report it later — possibly to doctors.

THE GUARDIAN

Monday August 27, 1979

Festival of sacrifices

IN the second year of Hijrah (migration of Prophet Mohammad peace and blessings of God be upon him from Mecca to Medina), the Holy Prophet established the Festival of I'dul Adha or the festival of sacrifice. This great festival occurs seventy days after the Festival of Breaking the Fast, on the tenth day of Zul-Hajja, the day which marks the close of the Hajj or the pilgrimage to Mecca.

The meaning of I'd in Arabic is "something repeated again and again", and as joyful occasions are desired to happen "again and again" regarding such occasion we all say "May there be many such happy returns" — this recurring festival denoting joy and happiness is called "I'D".

This is a day of great rejoicing and the festival is celebrated with great solemnity and reverence throughout the world of Islam. This festival is distinguished by the sacrifice of an animal, which is made after the public prayer is over.

Thousands of lambs, rams and cows etc. are sacrificed by Muslims all over the world. The idea of sacrifice was a very significant one.

Besides animal sacrifices, human sacrifices were rife among the ancients. Both the Greeks and the Romans practised the latter, no less than the primitive races of ancient Europe.

According to the teachings of Islam, the sacrifice of animals is not offered as it was understood by the ancient nations to appease offended deities or to win their favour as an atonement for sins.

But, as it is mentioned in the Holy Quran "These do not reach Allah, their flesh nor their blood, but to Him is acceptable the guarding against evil on your part".

In other words, your sacrifice will benefit you if you fulfil the object underlying them,

that is the inspiration with symbolic lesson of making supreme sacrifice for the sake of God and in the service of humanity; but if you fail to do that, you merely have killed an animal as you slaughter animals for the purpose of food.

Among other prayers the following verse of the Holy Quran is read at the time of the slaughtering of the animal. "Say: my prayer and my sacrifice, and my life and my death are for the sake of God, the Lord of all the world".

The person who makes the sacrifice is allowed to use only a portion of the meat, the remainder is distributed among the poor, relatives, friends and neighbours.

This festival is observed in commemoration of the sacrifice made by Abraham and Ishmael 4000 years ago.

The story is well known that Abraham in a vision saw himself slaughtering his son Ishmael. Thinking it a Divine Commandment for the test of his devotion to God he got ready to translate it literally.

But at the eleventh hour Abraham was told by the Divine Voice to stop—"he had fulfilled the vision", he had been tested and had not been found wanting.

So an animal was sacrificed in substitution for the boy; and this marked the abolition of the savage custom of human sacrifice. Thus God proved to the world that Abraham was a faithful servant and that human sacrifice was wrong and contrary to the laws of God.

We must not forget either Ishmael's great willingness to sacrifice himself when his father informed him of his dream, in spite of the fact that his father was wealthy and that he was the sole heir, yet his reply was "Do as thy God hath commanded thee". (Al-Quran) So Ishmael showed, like his

father, complete submission to the will of God. In this lies a perfect example of sacrifice for youth.

And lastly, we must remember the sacrifice of Hagar, wife of Abraham and a daughter of Pharaoh, who though a princess was willing to go forth with her son Ishmael into the wilderness at the command of Abraham, to whom God had spoken.

Her firm faith in the will of God in spite of the privation that she suffered was rewarded by the finding of water and sustenance. Genesis 21: 14, 17, 18, 19 and 20. This Godly family lives for ever not in memory alone, but God granted it such ascendancy that like the stars, they shine into eternity.

To imagine that the animal sacrificed is supposed to carry the sins of the persons making the sacrifices is an entirely erroneous conception of the teachings of Islam on the subject.

The sacrifice of an animal on this day is a symbol whereby the Muslim has to declare his willingness to kill the animal that is in him, to kill himself, his powers and all his beloved ones to please his God, and if he is unable to accomplish that self-abnegation after performing his sacrifice, then he has only done something fetish and he simply believes in fetishism. Even if a Muslim does not prepare himself to kill his will for the Will of God then certainly he has simply degenerated the sacred institution of sacrifice.

The Holy Quran, the Divine Book of the Muslims, has vehemently refuted the fetish idea when it describes the significance of the sacrifice in these remarkable words: "Neither the flesh nor the blood of your sacrifices reaches God, but it is the righteous motive

underlying them that reaches Him." (22: 37).

"A true Muslim", therefore in the words of Hazrat Ahmad, the Founder of the Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam, "is he who bows his neck before Allah the Creator. And Sustainer of all the worlds. And for Him he sacrifices the she-camel of himself and throws down on her forehead and he does not forget his own death at any moment."

GOLDEN PRECEPTS

"One day", relates the Abbas, "as I was riding behind the Holy Prophet on his camel, he thus spoke to me: 'Come, my boy, let me give you a few useful principles for guidance in life. Keep Allah always in mind and in return Allah will always bear you in mind. If you keep Him in your thoughts, He will always befriend you. If you need anything or want any help, ask it of God alone. And never forget this that, unless God wishes to do so, the whole world can neither help you nor harm you in anything, how much soever it tries to do so. Maintain connection with Allah in the hour of your comfort and ease so that He may think of you in the hour of your adversity. And remember also that nothing can grant you immunity from what affliction Allah wills to send you nor can any harm befall you from which He wills to protect you. And never forget this that patience under hardship is a prerequisite to Divine assistance. And remember, every scarcity is followed by plenty and every hardship is followed by comfort.'" (Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessing of Allah be upon him).

PRAY ALSO IN YOUR OWN LANGUAGE

"One should try to find words of agonising appeal. It is not too good that one would stick parrot-like to those words always which the Holy Prophet used in his prayers, without one's heart feeling their full force. To follow the sunnat is necessary, but to seek personal expression of agonising appeal is also part of the sunnat. Pray in your own language, which you understand well, so that you should be able to develop a fervour in your prayer. One should not worship words alone, for this course leads to disgrace and loss. Words of the Masnoon prayer, too should be used for the sake of blessing, but you should take care to get at the reality. Those people of course who know the Arabic language and have some affinity with it, they can use the Arabic prayers with advantage". (Hazrat Ahmad, peace be upon him).

SPEAK TRUTH ALWAYS