

THE HOLY QURAN ON PILGRIMAGE

1. "The months of the Hajj are well known; so whoever determines to perform the Pilgrimage in these months, (should remember that) there is to be no foul talk, nor any transgression, nor any quarrelling during the Pilgrimage. And whatever good you do, Allah knows it. And furnish yourselves with (necessary) provisions, and surely, the best provision is righteousness. And fear Me (alone), O men of understanding.

It is no sin for you that you seek the bounty of your Lord. But when you pour forth from 'Arafat, remember Allah at Mash'ar al-Haram; and remember Him as He guided you, although, before this, you were of those gone astray.

Then pour forth from where the people pour forth, and seek forgiveness from Allah; surely, Allah is Most Forgiving, Merciful.

And when you have performed the acts of worship prescribed for you, celebrate the praises of Allah as you celebrated the praises of your fathers, or even more than that. And of men there are some who say, 'Our Lord, grant us (good things) in this world; and such a one shall have no share in the Hereafter.

And of them there are some who say: 'Our Lord, grant us good in this world as well as good in the world to come, and protect us from the torment of the Fire.

For these there shall be a goodly share because of what they have earned. And Allah is swift at reckoning.' (2:198-203)

2. "And among the sacred Signs of Allah We have appointed for you the sacrificial camels. In them there is much good for you. So mention the name of Allah over them as they stand tied up in lines. And when they fall down (dead) on their sides, eat thereof and feed him who supplicates. Thus have We subjected them to you, that you may be thankful.

Their flesh reaches not Allah, nor does their blood, but it is your righteousness that reaches Him. Thus has He subjected them to you, that you may glorify Allah for His guiding you. And give glad tidings to those who do good." (22: 37, 38)

SAYINGS OF THE PROMISED MESSIAH, PEACE BE ON HIM  
ON PILGRIMAGE

"The true lover finds his highest satisfaction in sacrificing his very heart & soul for the beloved one's sake, and the circuit round the house of God is an emblem or external manifestation of it. Corresponding to the Divine temple on earth, there is a Divine temple in heaven and a circuit round the temple on earth is useless unless a circuit is made round the heavenly temple also. The pilgrim who makes a circuit round the Ka'aba takes off all his clothes and wears only one garment, but the spiritual pilgrim throws off all his superficial garments and comes into Divine presence with a heart quite naked because it has been freed from every trammel. The pilgrim shows that the fire of Divine love has been kindled within his heart, and like the true lover he makes circuits round the house of his beloved one. He shows in fact that he has lost his own will and completely surrenders it to that of his beloved Master and that he has sacrificed all his interests for His sake. Such is the true meaning of the Hajj or pilgrimage in the Islamic Law, and everybody who undertakes to go on a pilgrimage should bear in mind that unless he realizes the full significance of the pilgrimage and unless the bodily act of the pilgrimage is accompanied with the spiritual pilgrimage, his performance of the rites of the pilgrimage is only a lifeless ceremony devoid of all meaning. But many people perform the pilgrimage only to be called pilgrims and spend their foully earned wealth for a visit to the holy places. Almighty God does not accept their pilgrimage, for they are only crusts without any essence." (Review of Religions, January 1907)

2. "Bear in mind that true happiness and bliss is not in the lot of the lover of earthly things.....On the contrary, the real source of happiness lies in righteousness alone." (The Malfuzat, p.403)

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MESSAGE FROM HAZRAT KHALIFATUL MASIH III FOR THE CONVENTION, 1968.

My dear Brothers and Sisters,

Assalamo alaikum wa rahmatullahi wa baraka-  
tohu.

I am pleased to learn that the 21st Annual Convention of the Ahmadiyya Jamaats of America is being held on August 31 and September 1, 1968, at Dayton, Ohio.

On this occasion, I cannot do better than remind you of your duties to God and man. Wherever you are and whatever your station in life, try as best as you possibly can to fulfil the obligations which devolve on you as the custodians of truth. Remember you hold the divine key to the relief and salvation of suffering humanity. It is for you to remove the idols of class and colour, race and prejudice from the hearts of men and women and bring them back to their Creator, the One and only God. This you cannot do unless you try to learn and live and convey the message of Islam as lived and exemplified by the Holy Prophet Muhammad (On him be peace and blessings of Allah), his great spiritual son, the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) and the reigning Khalifas who succeeded the Promised Messiah. Try to cultivate a living relationship with God and turn to Him for guidance and help always. You believe in a just and merciful God. It is your duty, therefore, to establish justice on earth albeit through means which Allah approves - through prayers, love, reason and peace. You don't have to win bodies. You have to win hearts and transform souls. You have to save mankind before it destroys itself. You cannot afford to relax or relent. You have to begin at the beginning - with your own selves. You have to set an example. As spiritual physicians of the world you have first to heal yourselves and then try to heal others. Your task is great and responsibilities heavy. But we should be sustained by the conviction that humble though we are, we are part of a divine scheme, chosen instruments in the hands of God. If we prove or even try to prove worthy of the divine trust, we shall Insha Allah be able to bring about the Spiritual Revolution which God has willed. It will be a new earth and a new heaven in which Allah Himself shall be our reward. INSHA ALLAH.

May Allah bless you all and be your shield and protection against all evil and harm.

With deep affection and regard,

Yours-in-Islam,

(Sd.) Mirza Nasir Ahmad.

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MESSAGE FROM VAKILU-UT-TAHSIR

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Assalamo alaikum wa rahmatullahi wa barakatohu.

I am glad to know that you are holding the Annual Convention on August 31, & September 1, 1968, at Dayton. This Convention is being held to follow the Annual Gathering started by the Promised Messiah, peace be on him. As a result its aims and motives are the same. As many members as possible should gather at the place and glorify the name of God, the One. You should listen to the teachings of the Holy Quran and Ahadith in detail and follow them so that you may be models and guidance for others.

You should introduce yourselves to each other and create mutual acquaintance so that your physical and spiritual ties of love and brotherhood may be strengthened. You should pay attention to the sayings of the Missionary-in-charge who is the representative of the Khalifatul Masih of the time. The matters proposed by him for the progress of Islam and Ahmadiyyat should be considered and the program be made and be practised upon according to the best God-given faculties so that every person of your country may be acquainted with the high teachings of Islam and establish contact with his Creator by walking on His right path.

Another important matter to which I want to draw your attention is to bring up your children according to Islamic teaching and if possible under Islamic environments, so that they may be your best successors and may hold fast the banner of Islam and hoist it in four corners of the earth and they may add to the

pomp and glory of Islam.

May these submissions of mine impress upon your minds and may you live up to them so that all of us may verify the command of God, "Balligh ma unzila ilaika", (i.e. Convey what has been revealed to thee,) and win His will and pleasure ! Amen.

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# TWENTY FIRST ANNUAL CONVENTION OF AHMADIYES IN UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The 21st Annual Convention of Ahmadiyya Jamaats in America was held at Dayton Mosque, Dayton, Ohio, on August 31 and September 1, 1968. The delegates started coming on Thursday, the 29th of August to participate in Friday Prayers. The arrangement for the lodging was made in private houses and hotels. Those who had cars stayed in Hotels whereas the sisters and those who had families along with them stayed on rent in Private Houses near the mosque. The Convention, by the Grace of Allah, as is usual with the religious Jamaats, was well attended and was estimated to be more in number than last year. Approximately 250 delegates came from different States of America- Washington D.C., Washington, New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin, Indiana, Kentucky, Missouri, Mississippi, California, etc. Prof. Shahid Ahmad Qureshi, of T.I.College, Kumasi, Ghana, also attended.

Altogether we had four sessions. Three of them were held on Saturday. The first session was presided by Br. Ahmad Shaheed, Ameer of Pittsburgh. The second one was presided by Br. Bashir Afzal, Ameer of New York, and Consultative Meeting, the 3rd one was presided by the Chief Missionary himself. On Sunday the fourth session was presided by Dr. Khalil Ahmad Nasir, who kept the audience attentive and spirited by his timely, proper and inspiring remarks.

On Saturday after recitation the Chief Missionary Maqbool Ahmad Qureshi delivered the opening speech after conveying the inspiring and blessed Messages of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih III and Secretary Foreign Missions Office, which have been published in this Gazette for the instruction and guidance of the members. Chief Missionary exhorted the members to be one with God and become His agents and means. Being in His mighty hands they can change the barren land of spirituality in the most fertile and green one.

Excepting Dr. B.Usama, who could not come to speak because of his son's drowning, all the speeches were delivered on the given topics by the learned speakers according to the program published in the last Gazette. By the Grace of God all were well-prepared and were instructive and informative, enlightening and inspiring.

In second session Ansarullah and Khuddamul Ahmadiyya members held their meeting, discussed their respective duties, and later on members of Khuddamul Ahmadiyya elected their national Qaid for the next year Br. Munir Hamid of Philadelphia. Ansarullah did not have election as the term of their offices would extend to the next year.

This year St. Louis mission served as a host. By the Grace of God the service of the food remained throughout satisfactory. Breakfast, Luncheon and dinner were served in time. The sisters and brothers of the host mission performed their duty wholeheartedly, enthusiastically and successfully. May God reward them all! Members of the Convention Committee Br. Syed Jawad Ali, Br. Ahmad Shaheed and Br. Muhammad Qasim also managed the affairs of the Convention well. May God bless them as well!

One week before Convention a class was held in Dayton Mosque in which representatives of New York, Washington, Milwaukee, Dayton, Baltimore, Kentucky, Chicago and St. Louis participated. They were one from each mission except the last two, wherefrom three three representatives came. All the students worked hard. They attended the classes from 8.30 a.m. to 8.30 p.m. excepting the interval of 1½ hours for prayers and luncheons. May God enable them to learn more of Islam and make them good example for others.

On Sunday Janaza prayers of Br. Jalal son of Br. Dr. B.Usama of Detroit were said after Zuhri and Asr prayers. Later on the Chief Missionary was asked by the members to convey the message of condolence to the bereaved family on their behalf. May God grant the deceased Paradise and the bereaved family patience and peace of mind!

Dayton Daily News published in advance the notice that THE AHMADIYYA MEET STARTS SATURDAY and that all Daytonians are welcome to attend the two-day Convention.

The said newspaper again published a brief report of the Convention in its issue of September 7, 1968. It wrote:

"The 250 delegates to the national convention of the Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam in Dayton this week were urged to win hearts and transform themselves in order to save mankind before it destroys itself.

Messages to the delegates from the head of the movement and its foreign missions office were brought by the order's chief missionary, M.A. Qureshi.

HE TOLD the delegates, "You have to heal yourselves first and then try to heal others. You must be one with God and become His instruments. Being in His mighty hands, you can change a barren land of spirituality into the most fertile and green ones."

Other speakers at the two-day convention were Dr. Khalil Nasir of Long Island University, who spoke on the life of Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, the founder of the Ahmadiyya Movement; S.J. Ali, a missionary who spoke on prophecies in the Koran and the Bible and their fulfillment in the person of the founder; S.I. Hussain, B. Afzal and M. Sadiq.

The Convention adopted a resolution of condolence for Dr. B. Usama of Detroit whose son drowned. Nearly 40 delegates left after the convention for Port Clinton to say funeral prayers for the drowning victim."

In the end we pray to God that He may fill the houses of the participating members with His favors and blessings and increase them in their faith, zeal and recognition of their Creator! May He make this Convention a means to transform their lives first so that they may be able to bring transformation in the lives of other spiritually thirsty people! Amen.

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POEM WRITTEN BY CHIEF MISSIONARY MAQBOOL AHMAD QURESHI  
HOLY MASTER OF THE C E N T E R  
YOU ARE HOLDING GODLY SCEPTER

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|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. O my Rabwah dear Center            | Lives wherein my dear Master       |
| 2. Still I hold you dear in Mind      | You were really very kind          |
| 3. Still I preserve in remembrance    | all your favors with due deference |
| 4. Holy Master of the Center          | You are holding Godly scepter      |
| 5. You are spirit of the place        | You are sign of Allah's Grace      |
| 6. You strive hard to propagate       | You make people see true fate      |
| 7. You help cause of your creed       | And spend money in good deed       |
| 8. You make nights alive with tears   | Fervent prayers to you dear        |
| 9. You prepare missionaries           | Making them your luminaries        |
| 10. Zealous hearts full of His love   | Soaring into heights above         |
| 11. You send odours to the sky        | With your living faith you fly     |
| 12. Knowing fully religious power     | You excel others and tower         |
| 13. Shining in the sky like star      | You enlighten from afar            |
| 14. May you prosper may you soon      | Shine in spiritual sky like moon!  |
| 15. May you flourish and be blessed ! | By His righteous garment dressed ! |
| 16. May He fructify your strife !     | May He grant you lasting life !    |
| 17. Though the countries intervene    |                                    |
| Though the distance long between      |                                    |
| 18. Never mind if minds united        |                                    |
| Fire of love in hearts ignited        |                                    |
| 19. You are near, dear to me          |                                    |
| You are really here to me             |                                    |
| 20. May He bless Maqbool with Grace   |                                    |
| May His favors he embrace !           |                                    |

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NEWS OF AHMADIYYA AMERICAN JAMAATS

1. We announce with profound sorrow and regret the drowning of dear Jalal son of Dr. Bashiruddin Usama, Detroit, who drowned on August 25 and later on his body was found at Port Clinton, Ohio after six days. Inna lillahi wa inna ilaihi rajioun. May God grant him Paradise and the bereaved family patience and peace of mind and reward them with manifold blessings!
2. The Newspaper of Athens, Ohio, THE MESSENGER in its issue of July 28, 1968, published in detail about the Camp of Ahmadiyya Children. The paper wrote a long article under the Captions : AHMADIYYA MISSIONS HAVE YOUTH CAMP , AND, ISLAMIC CALL TO PRAYER HEARD IN ATHENS COUNTY, in which the aim and object of the camping, of prayers in Islam was mentioned and a little history of Ahmadiyyat was also traced.

The readers who want to read the full report can see it in the issue of August of Ayesha.

3. Our Milwaukee Jamaat meets regularly at the Wisconsin Hotel. The weekly Ads. are still being published in two Newspapers. The members are propagating Islam enthusiastically. More than thousand letters were mailed by them. May God reward them!
4. Br. Bashir Afzal, Ameer of New York reports that Br. Ibrahim Abdus Salaam was married to sister Khalilah. May God make this marriage a blessed one!
5. By the Grace of Allah ten persons joined the Ahmadiyya Jamaat- Eight from Waukegan, one from Chicago, and one from St. Louis. May Allah bless them all and grant them steadfastness !

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A N N O U N C E M E N T S

1. The Jamaats have already received their quota of "Teachings of Islam" from London. Now the Ameers should start depositing the price of the books with the Secretary at Washington, Br. Syed Jawad Ali. The price is \$125.00 per thousand. The Chief Missionary should be informed as well when the money deposited.
2. QADIAN FUND : All the members are aware of the importance of the Protection of the dear Center Qadian. The Ameers are requested again to pay attention to it and get this fund collected at the earliest and the collections be sent to the Secretary.
3. ELECTION OF AMEERS for the next year should be made upto October 10 and reported to the Chief Missionary for approval along with the number of voters and attendance. Those who are behind in subscriptions cannot vote. May God enable the members to elect only the deserving and enthusiastic persons!
4. FAZLI OMAR FOUNDATION PLEDGES: We are far behind in their payment. All the Ameers should try to receive them as early as possible.
5. SUBSCRIPTIONS: Members are requested to be regular in their subscriptions of the Month, of Wasiyyat, of Tahriki Jadid, of Waqfi Jadid, or other pledges which they have made. Jazakumullah !
6. ISLAM AND CHRISTIANITY written by ex-Missionary Major Abdul Hamid is out. Members are strongly requested to buy it and present it to non-Ahmadies. It can be had from the Secretary at Washington or directly from Carlton Press Inc., 84, 5th Ave. New York 11 for \$4.05 including postage.
7. SUBSCRIPTION TO THE AHMADIYYA GAZETTE \$2.50 per annum or donation will help its publication. Jazakumullah !

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THE AHMADIYYA GAZETTE is the monthly organ of the  
AHMADIYYA MOVEMENT IN ISLAM in the United States of  
America. It is edited and published by the Chief  
Missionary Maqbool Ahmad Qureshi, Dayton Mosque, 637  
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