



THE

# Ahmadiyya Gazette

إِنَّ الدِّينَ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ الْإِسْلَامُ

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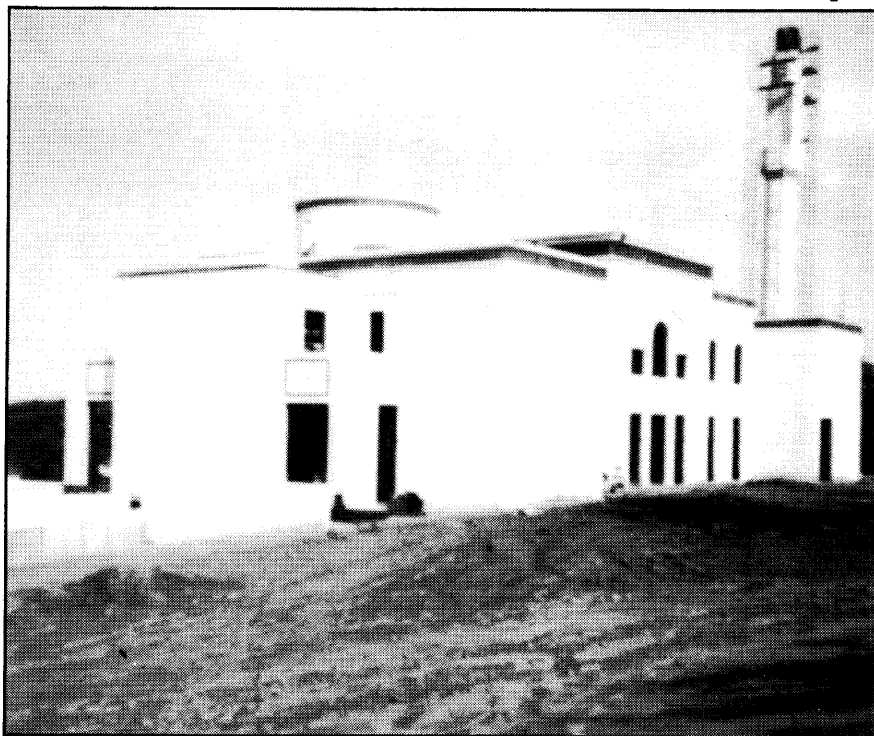
USA



Hazrat Khilifatul Masih IV had prayed on two bricks which were to be laid in the building structure. On May 7, 1994, respected Ameer Sahibzada M. M. Ahmad in the presence of a small group of representative members laid one brick and at his request respected Sheikh Mubarik Ahmad laid the other brick in the block out space in the foundation slab. Silent prayers were offered before and after laying the bricks.

## MASJID BAITUR RAHMAN UNDER CONSTRUCTION

TWO VIEWS FROM THE LEFT SIDE (see report on pag 23)



## FROM THE HOLY QURAN

When Allah said, 'O Jesus, I will cause thee to die a natural death and will exalt thee to Myself, and will clear thee from the charges of those who disbelieve, and will place those who follow thee above those who disbelieve, until the Day of Resurrection; then to Me shall be your return, and I will judge between you concerning that wherein you differ.

Then as for those who disbelieve, I will punish them with a severe punishment in this world and in the next, and they shall have no helpers.' (3:56-57)

All that is on it (earth) will pass away. And there will remain only the person of thy Lord, Master of Glory and Honor. Which, then, of the favors of your Lord will you twain deny? (55:27-29)

إِذْ قَالَ اللَّهُ يٰعِيسَى ابْنِ  
مَرْيَمَ اذْكُرْ نِعْمَتِي الَّتِي  
وَضَعَاكَ فِي الْاَرْضِ وَمَكَّنَّاكَ  
فِيهَا وَنَزَّلْنَا مِنَ السَّمَاءِ  
مَائِدًا لَكَ فِيهَا نَبَاتٌ كُنَّ  
تَخْتَلِفُونَ ۝ فَاَمَّا الَّذِينَ  
كَفَرُوا فَاَعَدَّ لَهُمْ عَذَابًا  
شَدِيدًا اِذْ يَدْعُوْنَ اِلَى  
اللَّهِ لِيُبْرِئَهُمْ مِنْ  
ظُلْمِهِمْ ۝

عَلَّ مَنْ عَلَيْهَا فَانٍ ۝ وَيَبْقَىٰ  
وَجْهٌ رَبِّكَ ذُو الْجَلَالِ  
وَالْاِكْرَامِ ۝ فَاِتَى الْاَرْضَ  
رَبُّهَا فَكَذَّبَتْ  
بَنِي

## HADITH

It is related by Hazrat Abu Hurairah (peace be upon him) that the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) said that if *Mu'min* had an idea of the punishment as to how severe it will be, he will never hope for paradise. He will think that it is very difficult to escape from the punishment.

If a *kafir* had an idea how vast are the treasures of grace and mercy of Allah, he will never be disappointed of His paradise. He will be confident that only a wretch will be denied of it. (Muslim Kitab al-Taubah)

**Explanation:** This Hadith gives an idea of the magnitude of vast treasures of Allah's grace and mercy. A *Mu'min* is fully confident of His kindnesses. When-

ever he commits a fault, immediately prostrates at His doorstep and begs His forgiveness and promises to be a better person. Allah also keeps on forgiving him. Thus he goes on advancing in virtues, good deeds and *taqwa* and reaches a stage where Allah says, "Come, enter the fold of my servants and enter my paradise".

On the contrary, if we see other faiths, the concept of forgiveness, pardon and mercy is not as sublime as it is in the religion of Islam. That's why *kafir* is not very confident of Allah's graces and mercy. He tries to seek refuge in the concept of atonement for his salvation or wants forgiveness in transmigration of souls. But both these beliefs are not correct and do not provide tranquility to the soul. It is the good deeds and right beliefs which are the source of man's salvation.

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## SACRED SAYINGS OF THE PROMISED MESSIAH

(PEACE BE UPON HIM)

Dear ones, no one can fight God's designs. Be sure that the source of perfect knowledge is divine revelation which is bestowed on the holy prophets of God. Therefore, God, Who is the ocean of grace, did not design that divine revelation should be sealed up for the future and the world should thus be destroyed. The doors of His revelation and converse are always open. If you seek them along their proper ways, you will find them easily. The water of life has come down from heaven and has stopped at its proper place. What must you do, so that you might drink of it? You should, by some means or the other, arrive at that fountain and should put your mouth to it so that you might be filled with the water of life. The entire good fortune of a person consists in this that he should run in the direction in which he perceives that light, and should adopt the way in which he discovers a sign of the Friend Who has been lost.

You have observed that light always descends from heaven and falls upon the earth. In the same

way the true light of guidance also descends from heaven. Man's own devices and his own conjectures can not bestow true understanding upon him. Can you behold God without His manifestation? Can you see in the dark without the help of heavenly light; If you can, you may perhaps see in this case also. But our eyes, though in perfect condition, depend on heavenly light; and our ears, though they can hear perfectly, depend upon the air which circulates under divine direction. That God is not true who is silent and leaves every thing to our conjectures. The Perfect and Living God is He Who manifests Himself on His own. At this time also He has designed to disclose His own Being. The windows of heaven are about to open and the day is about to dawn. Blessed are those who should rise up and seek the True God, the One Who is not overtaken by any calamity, the brilliance of Whose Glory is never dimmed. (*Philosophy of the Teachings of Islam* pp. 128-29)

*Majlis Irfan:*

### QUESTIONS ANSWERED BY KHALIFATUL MASIH IV HAZRAT MIRZA TAHIR AHMAD

## NATURAL DISASTERS

#### Question:

Huzoor, a very disturbing factor about natural disasters and the cause of fatal ailments like droughts and floods – which are not man-made. I mean that man is not responsible for them. Please explain?

#### Answer:

I understand your point. First of all, you must understand the philosophy of natural disasters, as understood by human beings, is just an incomplete story. The true story reaches far behind in history. The true story extends to millions of years of man's evolution or in various stages. When you are trying to understand that they are not useless

and meaningless, they have played a very important role in the history of human development or development of life. And they have been a blessing in disguise as far as progress goes. So whether you understand a local disaster in the context of human values or not, if you look back in the history of evolution of life you can understand easily that these disasters are a part of the general scheme of things under which the whole life is created. And they have their fair part and they are not meaningless.

So for the sake of a larger interest, smaller individual interests are always sacrificed. This is the principle. So because these disasters play an importance in the scheme of things and in the

stream of evolution of life and progress of life so they cannot just be discarded as meaningless just because some individuals suffer. The general philosophy behind these disasters could also be understood when you study the phenomena of life and death, as fixed against each other. At each step in life millions and millions of individuals are sacrificed. For each period billions of potentials of life are sacrificed. And again, in the entire universe you see millions of species and untold number of individuals in various living forms, and what is the ultimate purpose? If you understand the scheme of things they are made to serve human beings, and they only play a role to ultimately serve the ecology which is required by human workers. And all this is a part of a scheme, so a number is sacrificed for the sake of quality, that is the essence, the meaning. So if billions and billions of lives are sacrificed for human beings because they are superior; so if qualities are to be added to the qualities of human beings are to be tested or put to test, some of the sacrifices are quite justified for that grand scheme of things.

Now this is the general purpose and the general phenomena as I understand. But apart from that when you apply the situation of disasters to human context, you will then understand that every disaster was avoidable or at least could be mitigated to a very grave degree if human beings were moral, or moral elements and the standard of morality and humanity was up the mark, which is attempted to be created by everyday work. So because human beings lost their purpose, lost their direction and bearing. So after all this billions of years of service to mankind and all that has gone into their creation, you the person, do they deserve to be wiped out. The answer, if you look at everything that God has done in relation of mankind will be, after all of this, mankind has lost the purpose of creation and has become more of a adversary in nature than human. Then if the entire mankind is wiped out it is justifies. You believe exactly in the same manner in your own creation. Don't you?

If you want to paint or try to draw a picture of a man and instead a monkey is formed (like children usually do, they try to make cows but instead snakes are created). You know, there are

such differences within the creation of poor artists. But sometimes it is the fault of the creation. It is a property made and it gets deformed. What do you do with that? You wipe it out. So, Allah has every right to wipe out all humanity if humanity does not serve the purpose of creation. So these small droughts are just small punishment, out of all proportion small, only to sieve us out to what we truly deserve. This is why the Holy Quran tells us that if Allah has punished human beings for what they do, Allah would not have left any dark part on the earth.

So the philosophy even by the Holy Quran is this that if Allah had decided to punish human beings for what they have committed, Allah would have wiped out the whole life on earth.

Apparently, there is a dilemma because crime is committed by human beings and poor animals are wiped out for nothing. But when you follow what I say then this verse is very clear in its meaning and there is no other meaning attributable to it than what I have already said: That the purpose of creation of other species of life were not just the creation in itself. They were created for mankind. So if man lose justification, then all that has been created must go out along with him. All must go. Nothing should be there. This is exactly what the Holy Quran says in Surah Nahl.

*And if Allah were to punish men for their wrongdoing. He would not leave therein a living creature, but He gives them respite till an appointed term, and when their term is come, they cannot remain behind a single hour, nor can they go ahead of it. (16:62)*

The meaning is that if Allah were to bring to justice mankind for their transgression, Allah would not have left any species of life on earth. The punishment is meted out for mankind and what is wiped out? Every species of life. It only holds good in the explanation for which I have already given out; which is that the purpose of their creation was to serve mankind. So when that mankind ceases to deserve that mastery over the rest of the creation, that creation would go along.

## AHMAD AS A PROPHET-IV.

### "DEATH ON ALL SIDES"

(Reprinted from *The Review of Religions*, April, 1914)

The words that form the headline are the English translation of a revelation received by Ahmad so long ago as the year 1905. The original words of the revelation are:

موتنا موتی رگ رہی ہے

This was published by Ahmad soon after the disastrous earthquake of April 4, 1905, which turned the fertile Kangra Valley into a heap of ruins literally in the twinkling of an eye. This revelation coming soon after the terrible Earthquake showed that the heavy death toll caused by the Kangra disaster was only a beginning of the shocking mortality that was yet to occur on the face of the Earth. The revelation further showed that the disasters and other causes of mortality which were to work havoc were to follow each other in quick succession. Again, the words of the revelation showed that the predicted mortality was not to be confined to one part of the world, but that the havoc was to be wrought in different parts of the Earth. Similarly, the predicted mortality was to be of an extraordinary character, for ordinary loss of life is of daily occurrence.

Now this prophecy of Ahmad has met with a terrible fulfillment. Death has been playing havoc among mankind ever since Ahmad received the above revelation. The Kangra Earthquake was followed by a series of awful earthquakes both in the old and in the new world. These followed each other in quick succession and death toll was terrible. They caused terrible slaughter of the human race in different parts of the Earth: on the western shores of America, in the West Indies, in the South of Europe, in Central Asia and in the land of the Rising Sun. These disastrous earthquakes followed each other so closely

that the people began to wonder. This Earth unrest filled the inhabitants of this terrestrial globe with fear and they began to ask "what was the matter with the Earth?"

But earthquakes alone have not been responsible for the great slaughter of the human race that has been taking place during the last decade. Various other causes have also made terrible contributions to the appalling loss of human life. Among the almost numberless causes which have contributed to the fulfillment of the prophecy, wars and revolutions; I think, take the first place.

There have been bloody wars in the four principal continents of the Earth. Millions of men have been killed in China, Tibet, Persia, Arabia, Tripoli, Morocco and Mexico, and the Balkan Peninsula has been made red with human blood. Man has been killing man and ruffians have been murdering old men, helpless women and innocent children. One party in China has been massacring another party of their countrymen. Tibetans have been killing the Chinese and *vice versa*. The Persians have been killed by the Persians and massacred by the Russians. The Arab has been fighting with the Turk and Turk with the Arab. The Italians have been carrying fire and sword in the territory of the Turk and have been preying upon Arab men, women and children like ravenous wolves. The Europeans have been bayonetting the Arab of North Africa and the latter has been lying in ambush to pounce upon the former.

Revolution has followed revolution in Central America and one party has been trying to annihilate the other with sword. But the greatest massacre of human beings that has

taken place on the face of the Earth is that of the Balkan War. Besides the thousands of human beings that fell on the battle field fighting like soldiers, hundreds of thousands were ruthlessly tortured and burned to death by the Civilized Christians.

In short, there has been appalling massacre of men on account of the terrible wars and bloody revolutions that have been shaking the Earth for the past nine or ten years and the words of the revelation that death is working havoc on all sides have been clearly fulfilled. Let the reader ponder over the words of the revelation on the one side and think of the havoc wrought by earthquakes, revolutions and wars on the other and he will then see that the words of the revelation have proved true and that really the world has seen death working havoc on all sides in a very appalling manner.

But it is not only earthquakes, wars and revolutions that have been mowing down human race, but other causes have also made dreadful contributions to the same end. Storms and gales, deluges and shipwrecks, explosions and plagues have performed the terrible work of human slaughter in a very appalling manner. Shipwreck has followed shipwreck in such a quick succession during the past few years that it is difficult to find a parallel to it in the past history of navigation. Never in the memory of man has occurred on the billowy sea a calamity comparable with the Titanic Disaster. But the wreck of the *Titanic* is only one of a long series of disasters that have occurred on the surface of the sea since the publication of the prophecy under discussion.

But these disasters have not been confined to the sea; they have been equally, if not more, frequent and terrible on the land. Consider the loss of life that was caused in Japan by the terrible typhoon not long ago. Think over the heavy death toll due to explosions in various mines that have taken

place in recent years. So numerous are the causes that have contributed to the fulfillment of the prophecy that it is impossible to count them all here.

When we look about ourselves, and carefully consider what has been happening all around us during the last ten years, the one thing that impresses us more deeply than anything else is that there has been a terrible slaughter of the human race during the past ten years and nothing can describe it more aptly than the words of the revelation which means "Death on all sides."

These words were received about ten years ago and during this time we have been witnessing a fulfillment of these words. The last decade has borne a sad testimony to the truth of the revelation, but the end does not seem to have come yet. God knows how long these days of general tribulation will continue. It appears, however, that the calamities and disasters will continue to afflict the Earth and this general massacre of the human race will not cease until the world is awakened from its deep sleep and recognizes the messenger of God, the Promised Messiah, whose advent in the latter days had been predicted by the great prophets of the world. We began to witness the truth of this prophecy soon after it was published by Ahmad. The following quotation from the *Pioneer* of April 22, 1906, will show in what a remarkable way the prophecy had begun to be fulfilled soon after it was announced by its holy recipient:—

"The year 1906 has not yet run a third of its length, but it has already contrived to compass into its annals a series of calamities and disasters that would suffice for ten. Hardly a week has been free from the convulsions of Nature that have travelled as impartially round the world. The West Indies saw the commencement with an eruption at Martinique, said to have been the worst known for 60 years, accompanied with great

volcanic activity in the neighboring islands? Followed a disastrous storm wave and inundation in the valley of Mississippi. Formosa is visited by two earthquakes of the severest character in successive months, probably far more violent than that which has been the means of destroying Frisco. An explosion of fire-damp in a French mine, where such a thing was previously unheard of produces the worst colliery disaster of which there is any record. The last survivors of this catastrophe have hardly been brought to the surface, before our sympathies are called off to South Italy, where Vesuvius bursts out with a violence unknown for centuries and threatens to stifle Naples herself under dust and ashes. Before the safety of the fair Calabian capital is well assured, the center of this general disturbance of underground nature has travelled to the equally beautiful and smiling coast of California, and has laid the delectable city of the Western world in ruins. It would be hard to parallel such general havoc since the first century A.D. when earthquakes and eruptions were abroad throughout Europe and Asia Minor, giving currency to ideas which are reflected in the imagery of the Apocalypse."

The general havoc so succinctly described in the above paragraph has continued uninterruptedly in one form or another ever since the prophecy under discussion was published. And it is a notable thing that not only great wars, and disastrous earthquakes and terrible plagues have been working havoc all round but even other disasters have played a remarkable part in the fulfillment of the prophecy. To show with what extraordinary quickness disastrous calamities have followed each other in the last few years, I pick at random from *Reuter's Press Messages* the following list of various calamities that have occurred in October, November and January last:

1. The loss of the *Volturno* on 9th October

1913; 170 lives lost.

2. Colliery explosion at Cardiff on 14 October; 417 lives lost. The worst disaster in Britain for 70 years.
3. A Zeppelin wrecked on 17th October, 1913; all lives, 30 in number, lost.
4. Railway accident in America on 18th October, 1913. Death toll 261.
5. Colliery Accident in Mexico, on 23rd October, 1913. Death toll 261.
6. Wreck of the Paris-Marseilles Express, collision at Melun on 4th November, 1913. At least 40 killed.
7. Earthquake in Peru on 13th November, 1913. 120 killed and hundreds of others succumbed to the injuries received. Ten towns destroyed.
8. A destructive gale at Ottawa, on 15th November, 1913. Twenty cargo steamers and probably a hundred lives have been lost in a gale on a lake. A later message said that fifteen vessels were lost in the hurricane on the lakes with crews totaling 301.
9. Earthquakes in Japan. Seven thousand missing as a result of the eruption and a hundred thousand are homeless. (18th January 1914).
- 10 Loss of Submarine A. T. a Lieutenant and ten men on board. All lives lost. (January 19, 1914).

In short, there has been a fearful carnage of the human race, by means of wars, pestilences, earthquakes and various disasters of extraordinary nature following each other in quick succession, and what has been taking place on the face of the Earth can not be better described than by the words "Death on all sides." So surely the prophet who foretold this general massacre of mankind in the fore-



going words was a true prophet.

There is a great tribulation on Earth, such as never was since the world began and this tribulation bears a twofold testimony to the truth of Ahmad. It was foretold by Ahmad not only in the prophecy that I have been discussing in this article, but also in other prophecies. Therefore it is a proof of the truth of Ahmad. But it would have been a proof of his truth, even if he had made no prophecy about it, for according to the old scriptures the tribulation that now prevails on the face of the Earth is a sign of the coming of the promised Messiah.

Matthew reports Jesus as predicting "great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be." Daniel says: "At that time ... there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation." And the tribulation now prevailing is surely unprecedented in the world's history. So Ahmad must be regarded as the Promised Messenger of the latter days, not only because the times bear witness to his truth, but because these signs of the times were predicted by him long before they came into existence.

After we had written the above, news came of another terrible disaster as if to corroborate our statement that disasters are following each other with an unprecedented rapidity and are bearing a sad testimony to the truth of the prophetic words which predicted death on all sides. We give below an account of the disaster as given by *Reuter*. The message is dated 6th April, and runs as follows:— "St. John's. — The *Bellaventure* has arrived with fifty survivors and sixty-nine dead of the *Newfoundland's* crew on board. Reuter's representative was informed that Tuesday morning opened fair and that the barometer did not indicate a storm. Four ships went out with a thousand men seeking seals. The blizzard broke at noon. One hundred and

fifty of the Newfoundland's crew wandered in blinding drifts unable to find the ship.

The blizzard raged all Wednesday, but abated at night. The captain of the *Bellaventure* was preparing at daylight on Thursday to send out men on icefloes to hunt seals when he sighted strangers approaching with enfeebled gait which betokened disaster. The work of rescue lasted all day. The last man saved had been 59 hours adrift without food! He went blind the day after his rescue. Most of the survivors are frightfully frost-bitten. One has his both feet gangrene, and they must be amputated. Others will lose fingers, toes, ears and noses. Two had their brothers die in their arms, while many dead were chopped out of the ice with axes. Several died when the rescuers were taking them to the ships. Forty-three bodies were taken off three small floes.

The rescuers piled the dead in groups and planted flags above them for the steamers to collect as they would seals. Many of the dead were horribly contorted. Many went insane, their ravings terrifying their comrades. Others battered their faces with ice, their bodies being almost unrecognizable. One man committed suicide by jumping from an ice-crag. (If this wretch had been a follower of the Holy Prophet of Arabia, he would not have committed this act. The Holy Prophet, peace be upon him, described the act as cursed, but Jesus did not, hence the prevalence of this damned practice in Christian countries, and the freedom of the Muslim countries from this evil.—*Editor, R. R.*) The colony is in mourning. Business is suspended. Hope of succoring the Southern Cross has been abandoned. It is considered certain that she has foundered off Cape Race with all aboard."

# THE CASE OF ARRANGED MARRIAGES— ISLAMIC STYLE

## TEACHINGS IN THE HOLY QURAN

(Muhammad Arshad Ahmadi, U.K.)

For so long as there is going to be life on earth, there are bound to be marriages in one form or another, be they love marriages, arranged marriages or otherwise, because one of the main objects of marriage is procreation and propagation of the human race. This brief article is on "arranged marriages".

It should be appreciated that to deal with this very difficult topic a great deal of other factors have to be considered that pertain to the subject, none more so than the effect of the society that we are so vulnerable to, in which we live. The subject is, of course, extremely sensitive and delicate.

I have, most certainly, derived most of the guidance from the Holy Quran, the traditions of Hadith and the sermons and talks of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih IV.

As we all know, the Holy Quran is a complete and perfect book and, of that, "there is no doubt", it has guidance and rules on all aspects of life, and in dealing with the subject of marriage, it has gone to great lengths in discussing every conceivable angle—even to solving problems when, for some reason, marriages fail. I am sure everyone here is fully aware of the teachings in the Holy Quran as regards marriage and it is just not possible to discuss it at length here, but I shall only mention the salient points when discussing certain aspects of it. I feel sure that part of the problem is that fundamental rules are being ignored with respect to marriages.

As marriage involves both man and woman, it is necessary to discuss the responsibilities of both, the cultural differences between East and West and the damaging effect of the Western society on, not just our youngsters, but also, to some extent, our elders.

Living in the West, we are aware of the Media never missing an opportunity to high-light, wrong-

fully, that in Islam women are regarded as second class citizens, married by force, imprisoned in the home, not having a say in any matter, *etc, etc.*

### Comparison with the Bible

Let us see what the Bible says of the place of woman in society: The New Testament, 1st Timothy 2: 11-14, records:

*"A woman should learn in quietness and full submission. I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man; she must be silent. For Adam was formed first, then Eve. And Adam was not the one deceived; it was the woman who was deceived and became a sinner."*

Mark the words that relate to "woman": "submission", "silent", "deceived", "sinner"; anyone who has been brain-washed to believe that Islam teaches that women should be kept in subjection will mistake these passages for Quran verses! But they, in fact, come from the Bible.

The truth is, the story in the Bible of Eve's dealings with the serpent is the most devastating thing ever written against women to prove conclusively that they are responsible for the evils of the world. In the story of creation, as told in the Bible, woman is a fatal after-thought. Light was created by a simple device, and man by the loving hand of God, but woman was created by a stratagem! It was due to these Biblical stories that the ancient saints spoke so disparagingly about women.

For instance, St. Barnard had declared: *"Woman is the organ of the devil."*

St. Jerome adds: *"Woman is the gate of the devil, the road to iniquity, the sting of the scorpion."*

St. John Chrysostum has equally strong words

to say about women: *"Of all the wild beasts the most dangerous is woman. If she is young she was a trap set by the devil and if she was old and withered she was likely to be a witch."*

Strong words indeed!

Yet, despite this degradation of womanhood, no voice was raised until a few decades ago when women in the West started to fight for their rights and are still fighting for more rights—but little do they know that 1400 years ago, one certain Prophet, may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, through Divine revelation of laws and teachings, appreciated the miserable condition of woman's life and made them equal, nay in some respects positively the better of men.

In complete contrast to the Bible, the station of the woman is so elevated in Islam that in one of the Hadith, the Holy Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.), has said that *"Paradise lies under the feet of the mother."*

I have brought this comparable point deliberately so that our Ahmadi girls do not forget that they are on a much higher pedestal in society and in the home than their Western counterparts, and should be proud of that fact and be ever thankful to God Almighty.

Now we come to the sad and difficult question why so many of our so-called "arranged marriages" are beginning to fail.

Let us first ponder over the term "arranged" which has come to imply incompetence in that both partners do not have wishes of their own and are incapable of finding suitable partners on their own and that something is being contrived behind their backs by their elders trying to marry them off.

Nothing could be further from the truth.

### Parents are excellent guides

Parents and Guardians, who have throughout the years worried themselves sick and brought up their children with love and tenderness, tending to their every whim, are not suddenly going to desert them and pair them off with the first partner that comes along. Parents have always guided their

children in matters of health, schooling, education, etc, and when it comes to choosing a life-long partner for them, their guidance should not be ignored.

The parents can only propose a suitable partner and cannot force their child to accept their decision. The children are also free to propose a choice of their own, but they should not forget the fundamental teaching of Islam, that our girls have to have the consent of their parents for marriage. If later, however, they become widowed or divorced, no formal consent is needed, but to get the blessings and prayers of the parents, for both boys and girls, is a virtue worth striving for.

If one is not happy with this "arrangement", what other alternatives are there? What else is on offer?

### Western mode of courtship

One is the Western way of courtship, where the partners have to fend for themselves, because their parents have washed their hands of the matter and have given their children total freedom and independence. The method adopted here is a sort of "trial and error" method, whereby you can choose a partner, go out together, without a chaperon, and see if they are compatible. If not, get another partner—"Plenty of other fish in the sea" is normally the term used. It is like leaving Bugs Bunny with a carrot and not expecting him to sniff at it or to eat it. It just is not on, leaving a positive and negative charge together, and expecting nothing to happen. Some parents have even been known to encourage their youngsters not to settle down too quickly, but to "play the field" before finally choosing a suitable partner.

In fact, the Western way of courtship can be likened to mating in the animal kingdom, where the jungle can be substituted for the disco. The way both the sexes dress up is "licensed to thrill"! Figure-hugging, tight-fitting clothes that accentuate certain parts of the anatomy, heavy make-up, pouting mouths, etc.,— and that is just the girls!

But the boys DO have a slightly different look — shirts with buttons undone to the navel, or thereabouts, showing off a hairy chest, or in some cases, a hairy chest-wig; the 1970's gold medallion

is, thankfully, now replaced—a more refined stud in one ear is in vogue, and so, the "come on" signs are illuminated and the chase begins.

To start with, the male stalks the female.

Having lived in this country for a long time and having come to know the habits of the youngsters it is quite safe to assume that, in most cases, in the male predator there is only one thing in mind, and that is to lay the prey. He will beg, steal or borrow or, sometimes, all three to get his way, and if he is successful in achieving his goal (or scoring, as they say), he will show off to his mates and go on to newer pastures.

It is then that the roles are reversed—the female then starts to woo the male back, usually without luck, and she, on the rebound, resorts to other relationships which, invariably, lead to promiscuity, which, in turn, has been the main reason for the alarming rise in the spread of AIDS.

### Objects of marriage

In spite of the fact that the dangers of this disease are high-lighted the world over, the message is still not clear. The only people to have benefited from this epidemic are the manufacturers of condoms, who are still trying to devise methods of safer sex whereas, in fact, the effort should be to completely change the social habits of a nation and to revert back to religion and to God.

Most of the partnerships are a result of physical attraction, but a long lasting relationship can never be based on looks alone. There is much more to marriage than just lust.

I think the Western society has forgotten the main objects of marriage which we understand to be:

- (a) protection against physical, moral and spiritual maladies;
- (b) peace of mind and the availability of a loving companion;
- (c) procreation of children;
- (d) widening of the circle of relationship.

What we see in newspapers, magazines and TV is a constant barrage of sex and nudity forced

upon us—Sex seems to be the be-all and end-all of all relationships and is the obsession of the nation.

Another example of the depths of depravity that the nation has sunk to, is the TV program "Blind Date", (Cilla Black, certainly has a lot to answer for). It may seem like a harmless and amusing program, but it is playing with people's emotions and trivialising the sanctity of a relationship between a man and a woman. Most liberated people will say that is only a harmless "bit of fun", but it is these very "bits of fun" that later account for "bits on the side" which have been the main reason for the break-up of so many marriages, family discord and single parentage in the West.

Another example of arranging marriages is through computer-dating. Computer-dating agencies are mega-sprouting everywhere, even as far as the Far East. It has been proved that the majority of the applications are from people having a "bit of fun"—all the agencies are interested in is the applicants' registration fees and not the results.

I do not have the time to mention all the other evil social habits of the West, as regards drinking, drugs, etc., but it has been necessary to mention some of them, because some of our youngsters have been affected by them, to some degree, and I sincerely hope and pray that it does not come to the stage whereby they have to be reminded that they must marry and have children in that order and not the other way around as has become the "in thing" in the West.

So, after having seen the alternatives, is not our way still the best by far?

Even, in spite of this however, some of our marriages in the last few years have not survived long; some have only lasted until the honeymoon period. I think the fault sometimes lies with either of the partners, or sometimes with both, or even, sometimes, with the parents.

### Marriage amongst Ahmadis

A few years ago there were a lot of marriages taking place between boys and girls from Pakistan and the U.K.

For example: A Pakistani boy married a girl brought up in the U.K.

In some cases it was a marriage of convenience, whereby the boy was looking for a passage into the U.K. at the expense of ruining a girl's life. In most of the other cases, which were perhaps genuine, there was a cultural difference, in spite of the fact that both were Ahmadi Muslims – no matter what you may think, there are bound to be some aspects of the culture and habits that are prevalent in your domicile to rub off on you. In most cases, the girl was probably more educated than the boy; there was, perhaps, a language barrier, different tastes in matters of leisure activities, which all culminated in causing friction between the couple, ending in separation or divorce.

Another example is the reversal of this partnership – *i.e.*, a Pakistani girl marrying a boy brought up in the U.K.

Compared to the previous example, this one fared slightly better; but, even in these types, there were some problems in that the boy greatly mistreated the girl, almost to the extent of a slave, with constant reminders that a great favor had been done by the boy in getting the girl out of Pakistan.

We now come to the third and present type of marriage where an Ahmadi boy born, and bred in the UK marries an Ahmadi girl, also born and bred in the UK. Surely, this must be the perfect match—the same background, same culture, same education, etc.; surely, these marriages are bound to last.

In truth, most of them still are, but sadly, some of these marriages have only lasted a few weeks or months. What has gone wrong so dramatically and so drastically?

This is the 64,000 dollar question, to which, I can assure you, there is no easy answer.

### **Failure of the Western system**

Firstly, it will be necessary to reason why the Western system has failed so miserably in the last few decades and relate it to the problems facing us when they are still in their infancy. The percentage

of marriages breaking up in the West is so high and rising all the time, that it is difficult to keep pace with them.

The Second World War took a heavy toll on the male section of society across the whole of Europe, which left an abnormally large number of young women without husbands.

Indeed, the great over-balancing of females over males in the West, due to the appalling loss of manhood caused by the War, was responsible for the present awful laxity of morals which has eaten into the vitals of Western society. Young girls failed to get suitable husbands; but natural passions must be satisfied. The result was depravity and immorality.

**IF EVER THERE WAS A CASE FOR POLYGAMY, THIS WAS IT!!**

The present terrible crisis in Bosnia is going to pose similar problems and, so, not just our young men, but those from the Ansar as well, should get ready to offer themselves for a noble cause (*i.e.*, marrying widows and orphans). I do not have the time to discuss the subject of polygamy at length, but suffice to say, that polygamy is a sacrifice demanded of men and women alike—a sacrifice in which personal and passing sentiments are required to be partly ignored for the wider and permanent interest of whole communities and nations.

### **Fighting for equality**

Going back to the state of affairs at the end of the last war; with such a depletion of the males of a nation, there was obviously a fall in the birth rate and, consequently, more and more women started to go out to work and started to fight for rights and independence, which, in my view, sealed the fate of the West. When one acquires the taste of forbidden fruit, it is very difficult to let go.

Let us compare this fighting for equality with early Islam in the time of the Holy Prophet, Hazrat Muhammad (S.A.W.).

Let me quote from Abu Dawud in Kitab al-Nikah.

*"It was a common practice with the Arabs to inflict physical chastisement upon women for every little fault. The Holy Prophet taught that women were equally with men the creatures of God and were not the slaves of men and should not be beaten. When women got to know of this they went to the other extreme and began to oppose men in every-thing, with the result that in many homes domestic peace was continually disturbed. Hazrat Umar complained of this to the Holy Prophet and said that unless women could on occasion be chastised they would become unruly and there would be no holding them in check. As detailed, Islamic teachings with regard to the treatment of women had not yet been revealed, the Prophet said that if a woman was guilty of serious transgression she might be chastised. This in its turn led the men in many cases to revert to the Arab practice. It was now the turn of the women to complain and they laid their grievances before the Holy Prophet's wives."*

*"Thereupon, the Prophet admonished men and told them that those who treated women with unkindness could never win the favor of God. Thereafter the rights of women were established and for the first time women began to be treated as free individuals in their own right."*

### **Unfeminine face of equality**

There is a great lesson to be learnt from this. Things can certainly get out of hand and out of control and anarchy will prevail. If the calming hand of the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) had not been there and there had been no Divine guidance as to the rights of women, our situation would have been on a par with that of the West as it is today.

Quite frankly, the women in the West, the so-called Women's Liberation Front with people like Germaine Greer, have taken to fighting for equality as their *"raison d'etre"*. Men and women have different roles to play in society—though the rights of women should certainly be upheld as laid down in the Holy Quran, women will never be the equal of men and conversely, men can never be equal to women!

Take, for example, in sports where women are striving all the time to compete against men on

equal terms, like marathon running, etc., and are punishing their bodies so much so that some of them are beginning to look like men! You see them on the athletics tracks, the shot putt, javelin, etc., etc.

How unfeminine can you get? The most appealing part of a woman is her femininity, her innocence, her coyness; and if she loses that in pursuance of physical excellence, she will have acquired it at a very heavy cost.

Even in the business world, an over-powering and domineering woman can be a big turn-off. (You only have to mention Maggie Thatcher). Aggression is certainly not a woman's finer point.

It is, in no way, being implied that our girls should not educate themselves; they should certainly aim for the top, but it should be remembered that in universities, colleges and places of work there is bound to be mixing of the sexes, and, therefore, there is bound to be potential danger. Most of our girls, I am glad to say, do observe some kind of purdah and, if they do, then the potential risks can be averted; BUT if they do not, then the alarm bells are most certainly going to ring.

### **Male Purdah**

Our boys also need a lot of counselling in this respect. They should not consider themselves lucky that they are in any way exempt from purdah—they, too, have to safeguard their chastity and cast their eyes down. By your behavior, be it in school, college or work, colleagues should be able to point out that you are not just a Muslim, but a practicing Muslim. Your friends will respect your beliefs and will not put temptation in your way in the form of drinks, drugs, sex, etc. If they do not respect your beliefs, then they certainly are NOT your friends and their company should be avoided.

### **Need for marriage**

In an ideal world, both sexes can learn and work together without moral danger, only if strict purdah is observed.

Most of the responsibility lies with the woman

because a woman displaying her beauty and charm is a much greater distraction and danger than a man can ever be.

With this brief background to the problems our youngsters face, being brought up in a society that is steeped in immorality and irreligiousness, let us establish first the necessity of marriage.

Family is the basic unit of society, therefore, Islam encourages marriage. The Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) has said: "*Wedlock is my way; he who turns away from my way is not of me.*" Islam regards the married state as normal and conducive towards the full evolution of human character. The Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) has also said: "*O Company of the youth! He who can afford to marry should marry, for it keeps the eye cast down and keeps the man chaste.*"

A man who can afford to marry and yet he refrains from marrying must definitely be led to immorality and will be a nuisance to society.

### Simplicity of marriage

Now, let us turn to marriage itself.

Special as it certainly is, marriage should be a very simple and modest affair as taught by the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.). Sometimes great debts are incurred to make it the best wedding ever, due to family and social pressures. Huge amounts of dowries are fixed; the most expensive clothes and jewelry are bought, five or six different dishes will be prepared (hoping Rafi Shah to cook all of them!) and, suddenly, before you know it, the marriage has started off with financial problems, which play a great part in the break-up of so many marriages. Sometimes, both parties are at fault. From the girl's side, the family is not satisfied with the clothes and jewelry presented to them, and vice-versa. This creates a great deal of ill-feeling and does not just affect the newly married couple but it breaks up a longstanding friendship between the two families that may go back a few generations.

When two people get married, they should not expect that everything is going to be rosy from the word "go" and that the earth is going to move every time for them. What is portrayed, especially

in Indian films, is a lovey-dovey picture where the hero always gets the heroine, who marry and live happily ever after! Do not expect the newly-weds to be walking in a park in Wimbledon Common and suddenly seeing one of them burst into song singing: "Mere Mahboob Tuje Meri Muhabat Ki Kassam!"

### THIS IS NOT SO IN THE REAL WORLD.

Marriage is no bed of roses—there are bound to be prickly thorns attached to them. You have to tread carefully in trying to reach the rose, and you may get pricked a few times in your persistence in getting that rose.

It all depends how badly you want that rose. Similarly, it all depends how badly you want your marriage to last. You do not want to give up at the very first hurdle.

### Relationship within marriage

After marriage and the honeymoon, the real work starts as to the building-up of the relationship between the couple through love, kindness, and something that is always over-looked—compromise. You may find that your partner has a bad habit of squeezing the tooth paste tube from the middle, or cuts nails in bed, or is unkept, or snores, or all of them put together; but that is not the reason to go running to your parents and seeking a separation or divorce. NO ONE IS PERFECT!

The Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) has said: "*Do not adopt a critical attitude towards your mates on account of any quality that you do not approve of, for there must be many qualities that you like and approve.*"

In Islam, husband-wife relationship has been compared to a garment: "*They are a sort of garment for you and you are a sort of garment for them.*" (Holy Quran, 2:188)

What a beautiful comparison the Holy Quran has used; "*Garment*" serves a three-fold purpose:

- (a) To cover up one another's weaknesses and short-comings from others;
- (b) To act as an adornment and embellishment for one another;

(c) Just as clothes protect us from the severity and inclemency of the weather, so in the same way the wife and the husband should stick fast to each other through thick and thin and at no time should they fall apart in adverse circumstances. Each should serve as a rock of support to the other.

### More to marriage than just sex

I would also like to bring to the notice of newly-weds and couples who have been married longer the following verse in the Holy Quran: "*But when they have cleansed themselves. GO IN UNTO THEM AS ALLAH HAS COMMANDED YOU.*" (2:223).

I bring this to the attention, not to titillate, but because some marriages have broken down because of abnormal sexual practices, mainly by husbands who are unduly demanding on their wives, which can be attributed to watching pornographic films on videos, etc.

The Islamic teaching is such a complete teaching that it even deals with the subject of the method of coitus with one's wife which should be in a matter conducive to procreation.

The problems have to be recognized first, before they can be redressed; that is why it is necessary to deal with subjects that were previously taboo.

Similarly, in the very next verse: "*Your wives are a sort of tilth for you; so approach your tilth when and as you like and send ahead some good for yourselves; AND FEAR ALLAH AND KNOW THAT YOU SHALL MEET HIM.*" (2:224).

God says that even in the height of passion you should not forget the purpose of marriage and warns that one day you will meet your Lord.

### Regard for sentiments of women

There are a few other things that couples should remember which help to sustain a good marriage, and this also applies to those who have been married a long time. This advice was given by the best husband that ever lived, Hazrat Muhammad (S.A.W.). He was so careful of the feelings and sentiments of women that he always

exhorted those who had to go upon a journey to finish their errand quickly and return home as soon as possible so that their wives and children should not suffer separation longer than was necessary. Whenever he returned from a journey he always came home during the day-time. If he found night-time approaching towards the end of his journey, he would camp outside Medina for the night and enter it next morning. He also told his Companions that when they returned from a journey they should not come home suddenly without notice of their return (Bukhari and Muslim). In giving this direction, he had in mind the fact that relationship between the sexes are largely governed by sentiment. In the absence of the husband, a wife may often neglect the care of her body and of her dress and if the husband were to return home unexpectedly the finer sentiments of the wife or the husband might be upset. By giving the direction that when a man returns from a journey he should contrive to arrive home during the day-time and after intimation to the members of his family of his return, he ensured that the members of his family would be ready to receive the returning member in a befitting manner.

### No magic formula for successful marriages

If, in spite of all the efforts, the marriage is not working out, divorce is not the only solution. If there are problems, then the partners should spend some time away from each other, and more often than not, it can work wonders for the relationship.

There is a saying that "absence makes the heart grow fonder"; and there is certainly some truth in this.

After having discussed just some of the matters pertaining to marriage, it is quite obvious that there is no magic formula for a successful marriage. You can use all the computer-dating systems available, both your "star" signs can show compatibility, you can have the same back-ground, education, share the same interest and friends, BUT if righteousness and Taqwa (Fear of God) are ignored, then that relationship is doomed to failure.

On the other hand, however, a couple can be as different as "Chalk and cheese", be from diverse



cultures, from different countries, be of different color, have an enormous age gap, but if they are both righteous and have Taqwa then, BY GOD, that marriage will last.

Let me give an example of one such unusual union during the time of Hazrat Maulvi Noordeen, Khalifatul Masih I, (May Allah be pleased with him), who went to Mecca to perform Hajj. During his stay in Mecca he was the guest of a certain venerable gentleman called Makhdoom Sahib.

### **Taqwa and righteousness are the key to a successful union**

In his book on the life story of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih I, Choudhry Muhammad Zafrulla Khan Sahib writes:

*"Makhdoom Sahib was of advanced age. His wife was much younger and was very beautiful. One day Maulvi Nooruddeen said to her: I wish to ask you two questions. The first is: Are you fully conscious of your great beauty?"*

*Indeed I am. I am so conscious of it that in the whole of Mecca I am the only woman who does not use any make-up whatever.*

*My second question is: I have observed that you work very hard to make Makhdoom Sahib comfortable. He is very old and you are very young. Your utter devotion to him surprises me.*

*Were he not old, I would not work so hard. God having bestowed him on me as my husband, it is my duty to behave most hand-somely towards him and provide him with every comfort.*

*Maulvi Nooruddeen was convinced that the young woman had achieved the climax of virtue and beneficence. He enquired from Makhdoom Sahib: are you completely satisfied with your wife? He answered: I can vouch for her truthfulness. She is most mindful of my comfort, and fully justifies her name Sadiqah (the righteous one)."*

Indeed there is a lesson to be learnt from this.

### **Concluding prayer**

Finally, I would like to end by reminding newly-wedded couples and those due to marry of a prayer in the Holy Quran:

*"Our Lord, grant us of our spouses and children the delight of our eyes, and make us a model for the righteous." (25:75)*

I have deliberately kept the prayer at the end so that it remains in your mind and that you recite it constantly, for without prayer, no success can be achieved.

## **UNIFICATION**

By Mrs. Atika Amiruddin, Los Angeles

We worship the One the One  
We work under the moon and the sun  
We follower of Mohammed  
We family of Ahmad

We work day and night  
being humble and polite

All the green branches of Ahmad  
Are spreading, the Message of Mohammed

We'll work, hand in hand  
We are ready to walk on sand

Ahmad's picture is seen on screen today  
Mohammed's message is on to relay

No one dare to hit, no one dare to hinder, our  
way

All angels pray, and together; we say

No one dare to hit, no one dare to hinder our  
way

Come what may, come what may

God open my eyes, to look at Thee and Thy  
face

God open my ears, to hear Thee and Thy grace  
God open my mouth, to speak with Thee and  
Thy nature

God open my heart, to love Thee and Thy  
creature.

God is everywhere, He is not away  
No one dare to hit, no one dare to Hinder our  
way

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SYMPOSIUM ENTITLED "SECOND COMING OF THE MESSIAH" CELEBRATED AT BAITUL HAMID MOSQUE, LOS ANGELES SUNDAY, MARCH 27, 1994 2 – 6 PM

A brief report of our Symposium to commemorate the Celestial Signs 100th Anniversary is presented below. Allah the Merciful made this conference a tremendous success, Alhumdolillah.

Four local newspapers printed a little intro about the symposium prior to its occurrence, two clippings are printed here.

2000 beautiful invitation cards along with a small R.S.V.P. card inserted, were distributed to our regular Mosque guests and the guests of the individual friends of Ahmadiis. 500 invitation cards were distributed in the immediate neighborhood door-to-door.

Three Clergymen, a University Professor and 3 Ahmadi scholars addressed the audience. Dr. Saleh Mohammad Aladin was our special Guest speaker who joined us all the way from India and made an excellent contribution to our success. *Fajazahumullah*. Speakers used Visual-Aids, Charts and Statistical data in their presentations.

The Ahmadi Scholars were well prepared and made excellent presentations which were well received by all the listeners.

An extensive exhibition was prepared with 40 laminated large size (36"x48") charts pertaining to the Solar and Lunar Eclipses; large size photos of the sacred places and early Islam, some recent pic

pictures taken in Qadian by Imam I. H. Kauser and the activities of Jama'at Los Angeles.

All the guests were presented with gift packages. The contents of the packages included the life sketch of Hazrat Ahmed, a pamphlet about the coming of the Messiah, and the March issue of the *Review of Religions* and our business cards.

The entire Mosque was illuminated to express our joy of celebration of the fulfillment of the Grand Prophecy about the Celestial Signs.

All the Jama'at members were repeatedly invited and three reminders were sent to all along with reminders in the Friday prayers.

Total attendance was 635, with 280 non-Muslim men and women seated in the Tahir Hall and 45 non-Muslim ladies seated on the ladies side. This was an incredible success by the Grace of Allah. Alhumdo Lillah.

Over all, the Jalsa was highly informative and all the audience stayed all four hours to listen to the entire program with interest as a great number of them were taking serious notes in their diaries.

Thank you letters are being sent to all the guests who attended this historic Jalsa.

Anwer Khan, General Secretary  
L.A. Jama'at

### SYMPOSIUM ON MORAL VALUES PLANNED

(Reprinted from Chino Newspaper, *Champion*, March 18-24, 1994)

The Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam in Chino will hold a symposium entitled, "Second Coming of the Messiah" on Sunday, March 27 from 2 to 6 p.m. at Baitul Hamid Mosque, 11941 Ramona Ave., in Chino.

The speakers will include Dr. Allen D. Zych, professor of Astrophysics, UC Riverside; D. Thomas A. Wolf, professor of Intercultural

Studies, Golden Gate Baptist Seminary in Brea; Dr. Saleh Mohammad Aladin, chairman from the Institute of Astronomy at Osmania University in India; D. Alan Cameron, associate pastor at Corona Seventh-Day Adventist Church; Larry A. Hamblen, pastor of Cornerstone Community Church in Ontario; Inamul Haq Kauser, Imam of Bait-ul Hamid Mosque and Regional Missionary; and Anwar M. Khan, general secretary of the

Ahmadiyya Muslim Association.

The chairman will be Dr. Hamid-ur-Rahman, president of the Los Angeles Chapter and the moderator will be Sahibzada Rashed L. Rashedi, preaching secretary of the Los Angeles Chapter.

The symposium will be centered on the status of moral and spiritual values and this is to invite Christians and Muslims to discuss these issues from one single forum.

Everyone is invited and the admission is free.

Dinner will be served at the close of the session.

The Mosque is located two blocks north of Pomona Freeway at the Ramona Avenue exit.

For more information call 627-2252, 591-8717 or (310) 327-8594.

## MEMBERS OF FAITHS TO DISCUSS 'SECOND COMING OF MESSIAH'

(Reprinted from Riverside Newspaper, *The Press-Enterprise*, Saturday March 19, 1994)

Two Christian pastors, a Muslim imam, two professors and an astronomer are among the guests on a panel that will discuss "The Second Coming of the Messiah" on March 27.

The free discussion will be held from 2 to 5 p.m. at Bait-ul-Hameed Mosque, 11941 Ramona Ave., two blocks north of Highway 60. Reservations are required for a dinner that will follow the session.

Amid political turmoil, natural disasters and a decline in morality around the world, believers in several faiths anticipate the arrival of a divine reformer, explains Anwer M. Khan, general secretary of the Los Angeles chapter of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Association.

Christians await the Messiah's return, Muslims are anxious to receive the Mahdi as predicted by the founder of Islam, Hindus expect Krishna to return, and Buddhists look to the advent of Buddha, he says. In this spirit the Muslim group organized a symposium on the topic.

Among the questions to be discussed: Will mankind receive all these reformers? If the signs of a return have been fulfilled, where is the redeemer? When is a reformer expected to come?

In addition to Khan, scheduled to appear on the panel are Dr. Allen D. Zych, astrophysics professor at the University of California, Riverside; Dr. Thomas A. Wolf, professor of intercultural studies at Golden Gate Baptist Seminary, Brea; Dr. Saleh Mohammad Aladin, chairman of the Institute of Astronomy, Osmania University, Hyderabad, India; D. Alan Cameron, associate pastor of Corona Seventh-day Adventist Church; Larry A. Hamblen, pastor of Cornerstone Community Church, Ontario; Inamul Haq Kauser, imam of Bait-ul-Hamid Mosque and a missionary.

Chairman for the event is Dr. Hamid-ur-Rahman, president of the LA chapter of Ahmadiyya Muslim Association. Sahibzada Rashed L. Rashedi will be the moderator.

For more information or to make reservations call (909) 627-2252 or (909) 591-8717.

## AHMADIYYA MUSLIM CELEBRATION OF MAHDI AND MESSIAH

On April 17, 1994, The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community of Houston, celebrated the completion of a hundred years of the fulfillment of the divine prophecy regarding the "Lunar and Solar Eclipse" on the specified dates during the month of Ramadhan as a sign of the advent of Mahdi and Messiah. The function was arranged in the Preet Hall, Fairbanks Plaza, Houston.

The session started with the recitation from the Holy Quran by Brother Mohammad Ahmad Shabutee of Yamen and was followed by its English translation by Brother Abdullah of Nigeria. A poem was recited by Mr. Dowood Muneer with its translation by Mr. Tariq Hamid.

In his welcome address, Mr. Shamshad A. Nasir greeted and welcomed all the **300** participants. Among them were about **80** guests; including Sikhs, Hindus, Bosnians, Christians, Russians and the Arab Muslims. Also there were guests from the Jama'at of Dallas, Baton Rouge, Austin, New Orleans, Mississippi, etc. After that, Mr. Shamshad gave a brief introduction of the Jama'at, telling about the advent of the Mahdi in 1889. He said that although there was a real lack of the means of communication in the small town of Qadian, India, Almighty Allah revealed to him,

*"I shall give you a large party of Islam."*

Mr. Shamshad said that by the Grace of Allah (God) up till this time, the Ahmadiyya Community has spread in **137** countries and the Holy Quran has been translated into **50** major languages. Then he narrated the purpose of the gathering and the celebration of the fulfillment of the remarkable prophecy, as the Holy Prophet, peace be upon him, said:

*"For our Mahdi there are two signs which have never appeared before since the creation of the heavens and the earth, namely, the moon will be eclipsed on the first night in Ramadhan (i.e. on the first of the night on which a lunar eclipse can occur) and the sun*

*will be eclipsed on the middle day of Ramadhan (i.e. on the middle one of the days on which a solar eclipse can occur) and these signs have not appeared since God created the heavens and the earth."*

In 1889, Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, peace be upon him, claimed to be the Mahdi (Reformer) expected in the 14th century of the Islamic era, whose advent was foretold by the Holy Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him. The prophecy was fulfilled a hundred years ago, back in 1894 and now the community was celebrating the first centennial of the fulfillment of this prophecy. Mr. Shamshad also presented a Holy Quran to the Russian delegation.

In his speech, Mr. M. A. Cheema said that the coming of a great Divine Reformer in the latter days has been predicted in the holy scriptures of various religions, since all the messengers of God were bestowed with the knowledge of the future, which was unknown to mankind. He gave references from the Muslim, Hindu, Sikh and Christian literature, that how this prophecy was fulfilled in the person of Mirza Ghulam Ahmed of Qadian.

In his closing remarks, Dr. Alhaaj Mr. Muzaffar A. Zafar, National Vice President of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at, USA, drew the attention of the attendants towards the fulfillment of the said prophecy. He also insisted upon the humanitarian vales and love as the central point of all the religions.

There was also an exhibition of religious books and the translations of the Holy Quran in different languages.

The session ended with silent prayer and then refreshments were served.

## **FROM THE DESK OF SAHIBZADA M. M. AHMAD, AMIR USA**

As I have emphasized in my previous letters we have come to a stage where funds are desperately needed for the completion of the National Mosque Project. We expect and pray that the National Mosque Project Washington will play a vital role in removing the misconception and misunderstanding about Islam and will materially promote its propagation and growth. It is necessary that every Ahmadi should make contribution to the maximum extent possible. It will be a great pity if

this unique opportunity is missed by any of us.

As soon as we have completed the National Mosque Project we have to address ourselves to construction of Mosques/Mission Houses in other localities where the need is also urgent. Some of the areas where proposals are under consideration are Detroit, Boston, Philadelphia and San Francisco area.

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## **AN APPEAL TO ALL EARNING MEMBERS OF THE JAMA'AT**

Mubarik Ahmad Malik, Financial Secretary USA Jama'at

Chanda Jalsa Salana is an obligatory Chanda which was initiated by Hazrat Maseeh Mauood (asws) himself. The rate of this Chanda is 1/120 of annual income to be paid over 12 months period. All the expenses of Jalsa Salana (including food and accommodation) are born from this Chanda. Keeping in view that Hazrat Khalifatul Maseeh IV is visiting our Jama'at in October 94 for the inauguration of Washington National Mosque and bless our Jalsa, members are expected to attend in large numbers and the expenses will be much higher.

Against our budgeted income target of

\$191,333 towards Chanda Jalsa Salana for the current financial year (which ends on June 30, 1994), we have collected only \$54,527 in ten months which is only 28% of the total budget. This means that we have to realize a collection of \$136,806 in the remaining six weeks of the financial year.

All earning members are earnestly requested to make full payment towards their Chanda Jalsa Salana budget in the remaining six weeks time available. Members can find the status about their Chanda payments from their Jama'at's Financial Secretary. Jazakumallah.

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## **THE END OF THE CURRENT FISCAL YEAR AND OUR RESPONSIBILITY**

Our current fiscal year ends on June 30, 1994. It is incumbent upon each and every one of us that we must try hard to fulfill the financial commitments made by us for the current year.

We must make sure that each one of us has paid his Chanda Aam or Chanda Wasiyyat according to the prescribed rate for all the 12 months of this fiscal year (July 1993 - June 1994). In addition, the Chanda Jalsa Salana must be paid

in full according to the prescribed rate (see announcement above).

Other chandas, such as Tahrik Jadid, Waqf-i-Jadid, etc., must also be paid up for this fiscal year before the close of this year.

We hope that all members will live upto their responsibilities and pay up their dues in time. *Jazakum Allah.*

# REVIEW OF RELIGIONS

With the grace of Almighty Allah, the distribution of the magazine, "Review of Religions", within the United States, has been placed under the administration of New York Jama'at. Naseer Ahmad Sahib, Publications Secretary of New York Jama'at, will be in charge of the distribution.

Previously, Los Angeles Jama'at was in charge of distribution throughout the United States. The Los Angeles Jama'at has done an excellent job in distribution, promotion and marketing of *Review of Religions*. May Allah reward all those involved in this successful endeavor. Ameen.

Anyone wishing to start or renew their subscription, kindly send a check/money order for \$30

\$30.00 for the annual subscription, payable to:

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86-71 PALO ALTO STREET  
HOLLISWOOD, NY 11423

All missionaries and presidents are strongly urged to start a subscription for their Mission House or library.

There will be no more free distribution and only prepaid customers will receive their copies. Jazakumallah.

Nazin A. Ayaz, President  
New York Jama'at

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## MASJID BAIT UR REHMAN, WASHINGTON, D.C. CONSTRUCTION UPDATE AS OF MAY 16, 1994

By the grace of Allah the Almighty, the progress of the National Mosque Project is in high gear now. The main activities under construction this month are as follows (pictures on page 2):

1. Precast Concrete exterior wall panels have been installed on all the elevations. Erection of Minerat panels is about to be completed.
2. Roofing operations began, about 25% completed
3. Waterproofing at the building perimeter has been completed.
4. HVAC Air Ducts, have been installed on all the floors. Installation of boilers and chillers/ piping is in progress now.
5. Plumbing piping and rough in the bathrooms is in progress now.
6. Exterior Windows, installation is in progress.
7. Drywall framing and other interior work has also started on floors.
8. Missionary Residence #1; has been erected, exterior cladding and interior finishes are in progress now.

progress now

9. Missionary Residence #2; Renovation of the existing house has begun.

10. Brick Laying; Hazoor had prayed on two bricks which were to be laid in the building structure. On May 7, 1994, the respected Ameer Sahib, in the presence of a small group of representative members, laid one brick and at his request respected Sheikh Mubarik Ahmad Sahib laid the other brick in the block out space in the foundation slab. Silent prayers were offered before and after laying the bricks.

Earlier on April 17th, respected Ameer Sahib visited the construction site and examined the progress. All the brothers and sisters are humbly requested to continue to pray to Allah for its completion as planned, Insha Allah.

**This is the time**, please come forward with your generous contributions, fulfill your commitments now, so that we may be able to meet our financial obligations in a timely manner, *InshaAllah*  
Manzoor Rehman, Deputy Chairman  
Mosque Committee

Al-Hajj Haneef Ahmad of Zion Jama'at passed away on Saturday April 9, 1994 is standing on the left side of Al-Hajj Nooruddin Al-Hadith of Washington Jama'at.

Hazoor has conveyed his deep sorrow and condolence on his demise and has praised him as a devoted Ahmadi, free of all prejudice and complexes and was an ideal Ahmadi.



## ANNOUNCEMENT FOR AHMADI SCIENTISTS

DR. KARIMULLAH ZIRVI

Recently, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih IV (ABNA) has very graciously approved the formation of an International Association of Ahmadi Scientists (IAAS). Respected Amir Sahib, USA has received a letter from the Center instructing that an Ahmadi Scientists' Association should be formed in the USA. Accordingly, Amir Sahib has deputed me to collect information about Ahmadi Scientists in the USA.

In this regard, all Ahmadi Scientists (*M.D., Ph.D, M.S., D.D.S., AND D.V.M. affiliated with some research institute, with research experience and publications in the following disciplines: Natural Sciences, Physical Sciences, Earth Sciences and Mathematics*) are requested to complete the attached "Membership Form" and send the form to me as soon as possible. The Aims and Objectives of the Association are as follows:

1. In light of the teachings of Islam, to find out ways and means to utilize scientific knowledge for service of mankind.
2. To provide an advisory forum for the Jama'at to receive professional advice when needed.
3. To provide a network of Ahmadi scientists across various disciplines in the scientific fields and to further the understanding of the present frontiers in different fields of science and technology among Ahmadis in general and Ahmadi scientists in particular.
4. To provide a platform for Ahmadi scientists to exchange information and views on current scientific issues.
5. To train and support each other and our young scientists to become leaders in their respective specialized fields.
6. To open new avenues for young Ahmadi scientists through its members by providing them with the opportunities for further studies or jobs as appropriate.
7. To provide through its members letters of recommendations for young Ahmadi scientists seeking jobs or admissions for further studies.
8. To provide, through its member, guidance to the young scientists for selecting an appropriate topic of research and field of study.
9. To collect and publish annually publications of Ahmadi scientists in different fields in a booklet form for distribution among the members.
10. To set up an exhibition for the general public at the time of annual gathering displaying scientific achievements made by the members.
11. To encourage the members to write scientific articles of general public interest in simple language in Jama'at publications to inform the community of current scientific developments, etc.
12. To hold an annual poster exhibition/seminar in which the members will be able to present their scientific work.



