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HAZRAT MIRZA GHULAM AHMAD
THE PROMISED MESSIAH

So said the Messiah:

“O mankind, hearken. This is the prophecy of God Who made the heavens and the earth. He will spread this movement in all the countries and will give it supremacy over all, through reason and argument.

“Remember, no one will descend from heaven... all wise people will discard this belief and the third century from today will not have completed when all those who had been waiting for Jesus—Jews, Muslims and Christians—will despair of his coming... There will be only one faith and one preceptor. I came only to sow the seed. That seed has been sown by my hand. It will now grow and blossom forth and none dare retard its growth.”

Conditions of Bai'at (Initiation)

in

Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam

By

Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad of Qadian

The Promised Messiah and Mahdi (*peace be upon him*)

- I. The initiate shall solemnly promise that he/she shall abstain from *Shirk* (association of any partner with God) right upto the day of his/her death.
- II. That he/she shall keep away from falsehood, fornication, adultery, trespasses of the eye, debauchery, dissipation, cruelty, dishonesty, mischief and rebellion; and will not permit himself/herself to be carried away by passions, however strong they may be.
- III. That he/she shall regularly offer the five daily prayers in accordance with the commandments of God and the Holy Prophet; and shall try his/her best to be regular in offering the *Tahajjud* (pre-dawn supererogatory prayers) and invoking *Darood* (blessings) on the Holy Prophet; that he/she shall make it his/her daily routine to ask forgiveness for his/her sins, to remember the bounties of God and to praise and glorify Him.
- IV. That under the impulse of any passions, he/she shall cause no harm whatsoever to the creatures of Allah in general, and Muslims in particular, neither by his/her tongue nor by his/her hands nor by any other means.
- V. That he/she shall remain faithful to God in all circumstances of life, in sorrow and happiness, adversity and prosperity, in felicity and trials; and shall in all conditions remain resigned to the decree of Allah and keep himself/herself ready to face all kinds of indignities and sufferings in His way and shall never turn away from it at the onslaught of any misfortune; on the contrary, he/she shall march forward.
- VI. That he/she shall refrain from following un-Islamic customs and lustful inclinations, and shall completely submit himself/herself to the authority of the Holy Quran; and shall make the Word of God and the Sayings of the Holy Prophet the guiding principles in every walk of his/her life.
- VII. That he/she shall entirely give up pride and vanity and shall pass all his/her life in lowliness, humbleness, cheerfulness, forbearance and meekness.
- VIII. That he/she shall hold faith, the honor of faith, and the cause of Islam dearer to him/her than his/her life, wealth, honor, children and all other dear ones.
- IX. That he/she shall keep himself/herself occupied in the service of God's creatures, for His sake only; and shall endeavor to benefit mankind to the best of his/her God-given abilities and powers.
- X. That he/she shall enter into a bond of brotherhood with this humble servant of God, pledging obedience to me in everything good, for the sake of Allah, and remain faithful to it till the day of his/her death; that he/she shall exert such a high devotion in the observance of this bond as is not to be found in any other worldly relationship and connections demanding devoted dutifulness. —(translation)

(*Ishtehar Takmeel-e-Tabligh* 12th January 1889)

FROM THE HOLY QURAN

"He it is Who has sent His Messenger with the guidance and the Religion of truth, that He May cause it to prevail over all religions, even if those who associate partners with God hate it." (61:10)

هُوَ الَّذِي أَرْسَلَ رَسُولَهُ بِالْهُدَىٰ وَدِينِ الْحَقِّ
لِيُظْهِرَهُ عَلَى الدِّينِ كُلِّهِ وَلَوْ كَرِهَ الْمُشْرِكُونَ ۝

In the Qartabi Commentary it is stated: The predominance of the True Religion will be in the time of the Messiah. The a time will come that there will be no religion left in the world except Islam..

In the Qami Commentary, the explanation of this verse is thus: The True Religion will prevail over all other religions in the time of the Imam of the Last Days. He will fill the earth with justice while the earth would have been full of injustice and violence before his advent. The True Law (Islamic Law) will be enforced only after his advent.

"And among others from among them who have not yet joined them. He is the Mighty, the Wise." (62:4)

وَأَخْرَجَ مِنْهُمْ لَبَأِئِلَاصًّا وَهُوَ الْعَزِيزُ الْحَكِيمُ ۝

In the Qartabi Commentary, the explanation of this verse is in the form of a Hadith quoted there. This Hadith is as follows: "Abu Hurqaira relates that people were sitting around the Holy Prophet, peace and blessings of God be on him, when Surah Jumuah was revealed. When Huzoor recited the verse quoted above, a person enquired f the Holy Prophet who those people would be?

He repeated this question two or three times. Hazrat Salman the Persian was also sitting in the audience. The Holy Prophet put his hand on the shoulder of Salman the Persian and said:"If faith would go up to the Plaides even then people from among the Persians will certainly bring it back to earth. In some versions of the above Hadith, the words"a man from the Persians" is related, instead of "people from among the Persians"

THE HADITH

Allama Abdul Ghafoor quotes the following Hadith in his book, Al-Najmul Thaqib, in connection with the Imam Mahdi:

Huzaifa bin Yaman relates that the Holy prophet, peace and blessings of God be on him, said that after the passage of 1240 years (of Hijri era), God will send the Imam Mahdi.

In Dar Qutni, the sign of the appearance of the Imam Mahdi is given in the following Hadith.

"For our Mahdi, there are two signs which have never happened since the earth and the heavens were created, i.e., the moon will be eclipsed on the first of the possible nightts in the month of Ramadhan and the sun will be eclipsed in the middle of the possible days of the month of Ramadhan.

This prophecy was fulfilled in the Eastern hemisphere with the lunar eclipse on the 13th of Ramadhan, 1311 Hijri and the solar eclipse on the 28th of Ramadhan, 1311.

Hazrat Ghulam Farid of Chacharan was a holy man whose followers found in plenty in the Bahalpur area. He affirmed the truth of the Promised Messiah when he said:

Because the lunar and solar eclipsess have happened in the month of April, 1894, corresponding to the 13th of Ramadhan, which is the first of the possible nights for a lunar eclipse, and the solar eclipse occurred on the middle of the possible days of the eclipse, the prophecy is fulfilled.

FROM THE WRITINGS OF THE PROMISED MESSIAH

FUTURE OF AHMADIYYAT AND ISLAM

Rest assured that this is a tree planted by the Hand of God. He will never permit it to go to waste. He will not be satisfied until He has seen it through to its fullness. He will see to it that it is well irrigated and will build a protective fence around it. Thus God will bless my followers with astounding progress and prosperity. Have you left any stones unturned? Had it been the work of man, this tree would have been cut and felled since long and no trace of it would have remained. (Anjaam-e-Atham)

People of the world may be inclined to think that it is Christianity which may ultimately spread through-out the world, or it may be Buddhism which will prevail in the end. But they are certainly wrong in these conjectures. Remember that nothing happens on this Earth unless it has been so willed in Heaven. And, it is God of Heaven who revealed to me that ultimately it will be the religion of Islam which will conquer the hearts of people. (Breheen e Ahmadiyya)

THE EXCELLENCES OF PROPHETHOOD ATTAINED THEIR CLIMAX IN THE HOLY PROPHET

The life of the Holy Prophet, peace be on him, was a life of grand success. In his high moral qualities, his spiritual power, his high resolve, the excellence and perfection of his teaching, his perfect example and the acceptance of his prayers, in short, in every aspect of his life, he exhibited such bright signs that even a person of low intelligence, provided he is not inspired by unreasonable rancor and enmity, is forced to confess that he was a perfect example of manifestation of Divine qualities and was a perfect man. (Al-Hakam, 10th April, 1902, p. 5)

It is my belief that if, leaving the Holy Prophet, peace be on him, aside, all the Prophets who had preceded him had combined to perform the task and to carry out the reform which the Holy Prophet performed and carried out, they would not have been

able to do so. They had not the heart and the strength which had been bestowed upon the Holy Prophet. If any one should say that this shows disrespect towards the other Prophets, he would be guilty of uttering a calumny against me. It is part of my faith to honour and respect the Prophets, but the Holy Prophet's superiority to all other Prophets is the principal part of my faith and my whole being is saturated with it. It is not within my power to exclude it. Let my unfortunate opponent, who is sightless, say what he pleases, but our Holy Prophet, peace be on him, performed a task, which all the others combined together, or separately, could not have performed. This is Allah's grace which He bestows upon whomsoever He so wills. (Malfoozat, Vol. II, p. 174)

THE DISTINCTION OF AN AHMADI

The members of our Jamaat ought to show something distinctive in their day to day behaviors. If somebody, after accepting Bai'at, does not show any distinctive condition and persists in mis-treating his wife and children and other people, even after submitting his pledge of "Bai'at", then what is the use of his "Bai'at"? It is very essential that one should demonstrate such an excellent example of dealing with one's family, relatives, neighbors, and even those who are opposed to him, that they should speak out with one voice that this person has completely changed after "Bai'at" and is no longer his old self.

Remember it very well that if you pursue the activities of your inner selves, then the people will definitely look upon you with respect and honor. Take the example of the Holy Prophet (peace be on him). The people were so much impressed and overawed by the power of his noble moral character that once they suspected that the Holy Prophet was going to pray for their destruction. All the non-believers got together, came to the Holy Prophet, and begged of him not to pray for their destruction. A truthful person certainly commands respect and dignity among the people.

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If Ahmadis clean their inner faculties and pursue their normal life activities, surely, all the people around them will yield to the power and dignity of their noble character. (Malfoozat, Vol. 9)

TREAD ON THE PATH OF TAQWA

He who sincerely enters the fold of my Bai'at, completely obeying me, follows me truly and abandons all his worldly desires, will be the one whom my soul recommend in these days of calamity. So, O ye who count among my Jama'at, you will be considered my true followers on the high only when you will truly tread on the path of Taqwa. Therefore, offer your five prayers in humility and fear as if you are viewing God Almighty. Keep the fast sincerely and truthfully. He who is obligated to pay Zakat, must pay the desired amount. On whom Haj is obligatory and there are no hindrances, must go and perform it. Do the virtue punctiliously and loathe vice and abandon it.

Beware that no deed will reach God which is deprived of taqwa. The base of every virtue is taqwa. The deed whose base is firm, will not be destroyed. It will be that you are tied with sorts of loss and misfortune as were the believers of yore. Therefore, beware lest you tumble. Earth can do you no harm if you have firm bond on the high. Whenever you will suffer, it will be at your own hands and not at the hands of the enemy. If all your earthly prestige is washed away, God will grant you lasting honor on the skies. So do not abandon Him. Surely you will be persecuted and many of your hopes will remain unfulfilled, but do not grieve over them. It is the trial from God to see if you are steadfast or not. (Kashti-e-Nooh, p. 14)

IMPORTANCE OF FRIDAY PRAYER

Of all the obligations of a Muslim, the most important is. prayer, and of all the prayers, none is so essential to be recited in congregation as the Juma'ah (Friday) service prayer. The Juma'ah is in fact the greatest Muslim festival. The Holy Quran regards it as a holiday. A whole chapter of the holy book entitled the Juma'ah has been devoted to it. In that chapter Almighty God commands Muslims to quit all their worldly affairs when they are summoned to prayer of Friday, to assemble in mosques and to say the Juma'ah prayers with due observance of all the

requirements of the Law. The person who does not act in obedience to these injunctions is regarded by the Holy Quran as guilty of a deadly sin and almost outside the circle of Islam. Far more stress has been laid upon attendance at the Juma'ah sermon and prayers than upon Eid. It is on account of this importance of the Juma'ah in the Muslim faith that Friday has universally been observed as a holiday among the Muslims from the very earliest time that Islam took its' rise.

DIVINE OPERATIONS

God Almighty operates in this world in three capacities: one, in the capacity of God; two, in the capacity of a friend; and three, in the capacity of an enemy. His treatment of His average creatures proceeds from His capacity as God; and His treatment of those who love Him and whom He loves, also proceeds from His capacity as God, but it is colored deeply by His capacity of a friend. His treatment of His enemies is characterized by painful chastisement and such signs as indicate clearly that God Almighty is the enemy of that people or that person.

Sometimes God tests a friend of His by making the whole world his enemy and for a time subjects him to their tongues and their hands, but He does not do this because He desires to destroy His friend, or to disgrace him or to humiliate him. He does this so that He might show His sign to the world and so that His impertinent opponents should realize that despite their utmost efforts they were not able to harm the person concerned. (Nuzoolul Masih, pp. 139-140)

SYMPATHY FOR ALL

My principle is that one should be sympathetic towards everybody. If someone sees that the house of a Hindu is on fire and he does not endeavor to extinguish it then I tell you the truth, I do not deem him to be one of my followers. I say it on oath and truthfully tell you that I have no enmity against anyone. I try my best to reform people and if anyone abuses me I do not complain to him. My complaint is made only to God and not to any worldly court. Under all circumstances it is our duty to be sympathetic towards everybody. (Siraj-i-Munir, p. 28)

The Victorious Leader Has Arrived

(To those who have rejected the Imam of the age)

The stars in heaven are a witness true
The sun and moon have darkened too

Think hard and see what happens

The reformer of the age has surely arrived
With pure God-given wisdom can he be recognized

Reflect deeply and see what happens

Heavenly treasures he will grant to you
If you approach with devotion true

Be sincere and see what happens

If you insist on disbelief and rejection
Do what you can, struggle to your satisfaction

Repeat your act and see what happens

Alter the course of the sun and moon, if you may
Change, if possible, the alteration of night and day

Defy nature and see what happens

Stop the motion of the stars by force
If you have the power, change their course

Do your will and see what happens

Come with the cavalry! let all your soldiers march
With full force come forward and charge

THE CHARACTER OF THE PROMISED MESSIAH

The late Sheikh Yaqoob Ali Irfani,lah be pleased with him

(Translated from the Daily Alfazal, Rabwah,)

QUICK IN TREATING SICK CHILDREN

It was the custom of the Promised Messiah to have sympathy with everyone in time of his affliction and pay attention to the sick. He would particularly take special care in the treatment of sick children. There was no hospital or clinic in Qadian. Hazrat Hakeem Noorud Din also came later on. The needs of treatment, of course, always existed. Women of neighboring villages as well from Qadian used to bring their children to the Promised Messiah for treatment. He would attend to their treatment with full attention and kindness.

A companion of the Promised Messiah relates the following incident:

“Once the Promised Messiah (a.s.) Had to write an important article when many women brought their children to him for treatment. I also happened to come by and saw that Huzoor was earnestly occupied in treating children. He had a number of boxes open and was dispensing medications to all the children. This little hospital kept open for about three hours.

“After he was finished with this task, it was said to him that this was a lot of trouble and wasted a lot of his time. He replied very calmly that this was also a religious task. They are poor people and there is no hospital here. I keep a number of eastern as well as western medications which are useful at such times. It is a virtuous task. A religious person should not be lax and careless in these tasks.”

QUERIES ON RELIGION IMPORTANT FROM CHILDREN

He was very kind to children and hated to punish them but he would not tolerate any act from a child which was disrespectful of the Holy Prophet (s.a.w.) or the Holy Quran. Once he even punished Sahibzada Mirza Mubarak Ahmad Sahib. If a child would begin to ask something, he would pay full attention to it. If any child asked any question on religion, he would never ignore it because it was childish. He would give the same importance to a child's question as he would to a question from a grown up learned person.

Dr. Mir Muhammad Ismaeel relates that Mirza

Bashir Ahmad was in the third grade in school, his father, Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, proclaimed to the the Promised Messiah. Mirza Bashir Ahmad was too young to understand the import of this claim. When some children in school told him that his father had proclaimed to be the Messiah, he said: It can't be.

When Hazrat Mirza Bashir Ahmad came home, his father was sitting in the room. He asked him: Some people say you have proclaimed to be the Messiah. On hearing this, Huzoor got up calmly and got out a book from the shelf which he had written. He gave the book to the young Bashir and asked him to read that book. How seriously he attended to this question from a child.

NOT ANGRY WHEN A CHILD DOES NOT REMEMBER HIS LESSON

The Promised Messiah was very much against beating the children. In schooling, he did not like teachers who would beat children. Huzoor did not formally instructed any children in general, but his son, Mirza Sultan Ahmad, had this privilege. He was instructed by Huzoor in Persian and Arabic grammar, etc. He used to go to sleep with the books under his pillow. He was not very studious. He would understand the lesson, would remember some and forget some; but Huzoor was never angry with him in regard to his studies and never beat him.

When the Promised Messiah got preoccupied with Tabligh under divine command, he got other teachers to instruct his children. Once he had begun to prepare a lesson on Arabic speaking for children and children would learn it enthusiastically. Later he began to prepare a similar course for adults but because of other preoccupations this project could not be completed.

SHOW OF FATHERLY LOVE

The Promised Messiah loved and respected his children because he considered them a sign from God. When he did not think of a second marriage, God had given him glad tidings of a marriage and of children who will be servants of religion. This prediction came out true in its time and we are taking advantage

of this fruit today.

Parents generally love their children and children love their parents. When there are many children, sometimes each child thinks that he is loved more than others. Sometimes the children even argue among themselves on this subject.

Hazrat Mirza Bashir Ahmad has related one such episode which is important as an example of fatherly love. He relates that once all of the children of the Promised Messiah began to tease their brother, Mirza Sharif Ahmad, in front of the Promised Messiah, saying that father did not love him but he loved the others. Huzoor tried to stop us but we children kept on teasing him. He began to cry and his nose began to run.

The promised Messiah (a.s.) rose up and advanced towards Mirza Sharif Ahmad so he could embrace him to reassure him of his love for him.

As the Promised Messiah would approach him, Mian Sharif Ahmad would shrink away because his nose was running. Huzoor kept on trying to embrace him and he kept on trying to get away. This kept on for some time while all of us kept on laughing.

Hazrat Mirza Bashir Ahmad also relates that when they were young, we would approach our father, no matter how busy he was, and ask for money and he would always give us some money. When he was very busy and we would insist on something, he would only say: please, I am busy, do not disturb me.

ABOUT HIS CHILDREN

Unlike a typical father, the Promised Messiah never wished that his children would attain to worldly things like become big officers or become very rich. The only desire he had for them was that they be the servants of the faith. This is apparent from the prayers he had for his children (which are published in the form of verses or prose). What happened also testifies to this.

The Promised Messiah's wife relates that when Mirza Bashir Ahmad was in the second grade, he began to jump and do somersaults on the bed as the Promised Messiah came out of the bathroom. On seeing his son jumping, he smiled and said: See what he is doing. Get him a master's degree.

This became a prophecy. Hazrat Mirza Bashir Ahmad studied to attain an MA in the lifetime of his mother. It is obvious that the Promised Messiah did

not have in mind that Mian Bashir Ahmad would get a high paying job or anything like that. He wanted him to be highly educated so that he could serve the faith better. As the events proved, Hazrat Mirza did get an MA degree but used his knowledge to serve Ahmadiyyat.

The Promised Messiah only wanted his children to be true servants of the faith. Two incidents may be related here to illustrate this. These incidents did not happen in the public. They happened in his household so his true feelings were reflected there.

Hazrat Mirza Mahmood Ahmad had returned from Amritsar after appearing in his matriculation (high school graduating) examination. Conversation started regarding him. Someone said he was very thin and weak; someone said he was worried about his health and feared that he might fail his exam. Someone asked the Promised Messiah to pray that he passes the exam.

This is what the promised Messiah said at that occasion: I hate to pay attention to such things and I do not pray for such things. I do not want for him to pass the exam so he can get any good jobs. All I wish that he would have some education so he can serve his faith better. I am not concerned about his passing or failing any exam.

Just ponder over this. Can a worldly person utter such a statement. This was a time he was sitting at home with his family. It was not a gathering of his followers. It reflects his true feeling regarding his children. One might say that at that time the Jamaat had grown a lot and maybe the Promised Messiah did not worry any more about the financial condition. This was not so; as can be illustrated by another incident.

This incident happened before he proclaimed to be the Messiah. Mirza Sultan Ahmad, the eldest son of the promised Messiah from his first marriage, appeared in an exam for Tahsildari. He asked his father to pray for him to pass the exam.

Huzoor was performing the Wudhu for Asr prayers when he received the letter from his son. After the Wudhu, he read the letter and with contempt tore it and threw it away. Then he said: I hate to pray for someone who asks me to pray only for worldly gain. But if someone asks for prayers who is being tested in the path of Allah writes for prayers, then my mind attends to pray for him.

CONCLUSION OF THE 14TH CENTURY AND A MOMENT OF REFLECTION FOR THE MUSLIMS

{Extracted from a booklet by Alhaj Ata Ullah Kaleem. We have used the following abbreviations in this article: (a.s.) = peace be on him; (s.a.w.) = peace and blessings of God be on him.}

God the Exalted raised the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of God be upon him) and elevated his status to Khataman-Nabiyyeen – Seal of the Prophets. He was made Prophet, as has been pointed out in Hadith, even before the creation of Adam:

"I was a Prophet when Adam was yet in (the initial stage) between water and mud."

Hence, all the prophets of the yore reflected partly the prophethood of the Holy Prophet in one form or another. He was the purpose for all creation, as Allah told the Holy Prophet (s.a.w.).

"Had I not created thee I would have created neither heaven nor earth."

Besides, his prophethood shall continue up to the Day of Judgement.

Through knowledge bestowed upon him by God, the All-Knowing, the Holy Prophet (s.a.w.) foresaw the condition under which his Ummah had to pass during different ages and particularly in the Last Days. He is reported to have said:

1. "There will come a time upon the people when nothing will remain of Islam except its name only and nothing will remain of the Quran except its inscription. Their mosques will be splendidly furnished but destitute of guidance. Their divines will be the worst people under the heaven and strife will issue from them and avert to them." (*Mishkatul Masabih*, Kitabul Ilm)
2. "A time will come when my followers will become divided into seventy-three sects. All of them except one will deserve the fire."

Nevertheless, as mercy for all peoples, he gave the glad tidings of the advent of Mujaddideen (regenerators) and that of the appearance of Mahdi and Messiah. A few of these prophecies mentioned in the books of Ahadith (traditions) are given below:

1. "Verily God will appoint for this Ummat in the beginning of every century, one who will restore for it its faith." (*Abu Dawood*, Kitabul Fitan)
2. "And I swear by the Lord who holds my life in His hands that the son of Mary shall surely appear among you as just arbiter and shall break the cross, annihilate the swine and abolish Jazia." (*Sahih Bukhari*, Kitab Bad'ul Khalq, Bab Nazooli Isa Bin Maryam)
3. "What will be your condition when the son of Mary will descend among you and he will be your Imam from among yourselves." (*Sahih Bukhari*, Kitabul Anbiya)
4. "There is no Mahdi except Isa." (Ibn Maja, Bab Shiddatuz Zaman)
5. "Whosoever lives from among you shall meet Isa, son of Mary who is Imam, Mahdi, Arbiter and Judge." (Musnad Ahmad bin Hanbal, Vol. 2, p. 411)
6. "I give you the glad tidings of Mahdi who will be raised in my Ummah at a time of disgression and distress of people. He will fill the earth with equity and justice as it is filled with oppression and violence." (Musnad Ahmad Bin Hanbal, Vol. 3, p. 37)
7. "When one thousand two hundred and forty years will pass, God will raise Mahdi." (An-Najmus Saqib, Vol. 2, p. 209)
8. "That Ummah can never be destroyed which has me at one end, and the Messiah, son of Mary, at the other." (Ibn Maja, Bab Al-I'atizam Bis-Sunnat)
9. "The best century is the one in which I live, then the next century, then the century after that. Then there will spread falsehood at the hands of people who will take pride in their wealth and riches and will grow fat on the earnings of

others." (*Tirmidhi & Bukhari, Kitab Al-Shahada*)

As foretold in this tradition of the Holy Prophet, Islam began to decline after the first three centuries of uninterrupted conquests and growing prosperity, till it suffered a very serious setback in about 271 A.H. when its graded decline began and this decay continued till it reached its nadir in the next one thousand years that the reference has been made in the Quranic verse:

"Then shall it go up to Him in a day the duration of which is a thousand years." (32:6)

In another of his sayings, the Holy Prophet, peace be on him, is reported to have said:

"Faith will ascend to the Pleiades and a man of Persian descent will bring it back to earth." (*Sahih Bukhari, Kitab-al Tafseer*)

With the appearance of the Promised Messiah and Mahdi in the 14th century A.H. the process of decay has been arrested and a renaissance of Islam has taken place.

Before pondering over these traditions of the Holy Prophet, (s.a.w.), regarding the advent of the Messiah and Mahdi, it must be kept in view that the Holy Quran as well as the traditions of the Holy Prophet are unanimous in their verdict that Jesus, son of Mary, has died his natural death. Further, the Holy Quran and the traditions of the Holy Prophet both are in unison that the dead never return to life in this transitory world of ours. Hence when it is narrated in the traditions that Jesus son of Mary will come, it should not be taken literally but rather to be understood in the metaphorical sense as has been interpreted by a scholar of great repute and regenerator of his century, Mohyyud Din Ibn Arabi, when he says:

"His descent in later ages will be with a different body." (*Tafsir Araisul Bayan, Vol. 1, p. 262*)

Another scholar has also thrown light on the subject when he says:

"Some believe that the soul of Jesus will manifest in Mahdi and the descent only means his Buruz." (*Iqtibasul Anwar by Sheikh Muhammad Akram Sabri, p. 52*)

In pondering over the above traditions one is bound to come to the veritable conclusion that:

1. The Mahdi is no other than the Messiah. To think that the Messiah and the Mahdi are two different persons is wrong as is clear from the above traditions No. 4 & 5.

For shedding the light of Islam in the Christian world he is called Messiah or son of Mary, and for illuminating the hearts of Muslims with the light of Islam he is called Mahdi. And this is the very interpretation given by the person who was raised in the fulfillment of these prophecies, when he says:

"As I have been given the light for the Christian people, the name of the son of Mary has been given to me for this reason."

2. The advent of Messiah and Mahdi shall take place in the concluding years of the thirteenth century A.H. and in the beginning of the 14th century A.H. This is what the divines of the Ummah deduced from these traditions. Consequently, Nawab Siddiq Hasan Khan of Bhopal stated in his book written at the close of 13th century:

"And at the head of the fourteenth century to which there are still ten more years to go, if the advent of Mahdi and the descent of Jesus takes place, they will be the Mujaddid and Mujtahid." (*Hujajul Kiraman, pp. 135-139*)

Nawab Nurul Hasan, the son of Nawab Siddiq Hasan Khan, in his book *Iqtarabus Sa'at*, written in the beginning of the 14th century, stated on page 221:

"In accordance with this calculation the Mahdi should have appeared in the 13th century, but the century elapsed and the Mahdi has not come. Now we are almost in the 14th century and even six months have passed of it since this book was written. Probably God will favor us with His Grace, Equity, Mercy and Generosity; and the Mahdi may appear within four to six years."

The late Khawaja Hasan Nizami, after his tour of the Islamic countries wrote:

"All the divines and saintly people with whom I met during my tour of the Islamic countries, I found them anxiously awaiting for the Imam Mahdi. A Khalifa of Sheikh Sanosi went to the extent of saying that the Imam Mahdi shall appear in this very year — 1331 A.H."

(Ahl-Hadith, January 26, 1912)

3. Ummat-e-Muslema has been promised that God will appoint for it in the beginning of every century, one who will restore its faith for it. Consequently, this promise had been fulfilled in the past 13 centuries with the advent of Mujaddideen –regenerators, who were distinguish-ed exemplars of Islam, and played a very important part in spreading and establishing Islam. They are listed below:

- 1st century: Umar Bin Abdul Aziz
 2nd century: Imam Shafi'i; Imam Ahmad Bin Hanbal
 3rd century: Abu Sharh & Abul Hasan al-Ash'ari
 4th century: Abu Ubaidullah of Neshapur & Qazi Abu Bakr Baqilani
 5th century: Imam Al-Ghazali
 6th century: Al-Sayyid Abdul Qadir Jeelani
 7th century: Imam Ibn Taimiyyah & Khwaja Mueen-ud Din Chishti
 8th century: Ibn Hajar Asqalani & Saleh Bin Umar
 9th century: Imam Suyuti
 10th century: Muhammad Tahir Gujrati
 11th century: Al-Sheikh Ahmad of Sirhand, Mujaddid Alf Thani
 12th century: Shah Wali Allah Muhaddath Dehlavi
 13th century: Syed Ahmad Bareilvi

Keeping the traditions of the Holy Prophet, (s.a.w.), and the statements of the Muslim divines in view, each and every sane Muslim is requested to think twice that the 14th century closed on November 7, 1980, with the appearance of the Hilal of Muharram, the first lunar month of the Muslim era, and the 15th century began on November 8, 1980. By now more than 16 years of the 15th century are over; but:

- A. Where is the Mujaddid of the 14th century and who is he?
 B. Where is the Imam Mahdi and Messiah and who

is he?

- C. What happened to the promises made and the prophecies foretold?
 D. Are the Muslims, after being despaired of the advent of the Promised one, going to console themselves by saying:
1. We admit that Mahdi will not appear. What harm is there if he does not appear? (Hadith-al-Ghashiyya, p. 343)
 2. We admit that Mahdi may not come. This does not contradict any important belief of the people of Islam. (Iqtarabus Sa'ah, p. 147)
 3. See the descent of God on the minaret of your heart; now even discard the awaiting for Mahdi and Isa. (Dr. Allama Iqbal)
 4. As far as the belief for the Promised Mahdi is concerned, it is the invention of the helpless and indolent. (Shorash Kashmiri, Editor, Chitan, Lahore, May 28, 1962)

As a matter of fact there is no cause of despair, rather, we should rejoice that God fulfilled His promise made in the Holy Quran:

"We Ourselves have sent down this exhortation and most surely We will be its guardians."
 (15:10)

The prophecies of the Holy Prophet, peace be upon him, have seen the light of the day; and at the exact time – in the beginning of the 14th century, the Founder of the Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam, Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, having received knowledge from God the Exalted, made the following announcements from Qadian, as was predicted by the Holy Prophet, that: "Mahdi will appear in a village the name of which will be called Kad'ah." (Jawahirul Asrar, p. 55)

1. "When the 13th century of the Hegira drew to a close and the beginning of the 14th century approached, I was informed by God Almighty, through revelation, that I was the Mujaddid (Reformer) for the 14th century." (Kiabul Bariyya, p. 201)
2. "A few years thereafter, it was made clear to me through Divine revelation that the Messiah, whose advent among the Muslims had been

promised from the beginning, and the Mahdi whose advent had been Divinely decreed at the time of decline of Islam and the spread of error, and who was to be guided directly by God, and who was to invite people to partake of the heavenly banquet, and whose coming had been foretold by the Holy Prophet, peace be upon him, thirteen hundred years in advance, was myself." (*Tazkaratush Shahadatain*, p. 1-2)

3. "The holy and pure revelation of God has informed me that I have been sent by Him as the Promised Messiah and the Promised Mahdi and as Arbiter for the internal and external differences." (Arba'een)
4. "It was the time of Messiah and not of any other. Had I not come, another would have come." (Durri Sameen)

So, as the 14th century has concluded and the 15th century has begun, we entreat all those who call themselves Muslims to reconsider seriously the claims of the Founder of the Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam, as there is none beside him who presented himself as the Mujaddid of 14th century, as the Promised Messiah and Mahdi.

The claim of Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad has been testified by the signs appearing in heaven and earth. For instance, Darqutni, a most eminent and recognized authority, records a saying of the Holy Prophet:

"For our Mahdi there shall be two signs which have never happened for any one else since the creation of the heavens and the earth: At his advent there shall occur an eclipse of the moon in the first of its appointed nights and an eclipse of the sun on the middle one of its appointed dates and both will occur in the month of Ramazan." (Darqutni, p. 188)

The prophecy does not mean that the occurrence of the eclipse would in itself be unique and unprecedented. But the prophecy predicted thirteen hundred years beforehand that two of the signs of the true Mahdi would be that the sun and the moon would be eclipsed in the manner indicated. Eclipses have no doubt occurred before but never as a sign of the advent of a heavenly reformer; because there has never been in the history of the world a claimant of any kind at the time of the phenomena described. It

is also confirmed by the Quran (75:6-9) which refers to the same prophecy.

Now according to this the eclipse of the moon actually occurred on Thursday evening the 13th of Ramazan, 1311 A.H. (March 21st, 1894); and that of the sun occurred on Friday morning the 28th of the same Ramazan (April 6th, 1894). The eclipse of the moon generally occurs on the 13th, 14th, or 15th day of a lunar month and according to the prophecy, it occurred on the first date. The eclipse of the sun can occur on the 27th, 28th, and 29th and it occurred on the 28th which was the middle date predicted. Hence, Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad rightly claimed that the prophecy was fulfilled and that it was a strong evidence on the truth of his claim as no one except God has power over these heavenly bodies.

Dear brethren, please study carefully the valuable works of the Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam. The promised one came at his right time, and after establishing a dynamic Jamaat departed successfully from this transitory world towards his eternal abode.

This is the Jamaat that has been blessed to render wholehearted service to the religion by conveying the message of Islam all over the world, through translating the Holy Quran in different important languages, establishing Missions in various countries of the world, and constructing mosques in the dominant centers of Christendom; thus bringing hundreds of thousands of people into the fold of Islam.

Hence, do not fall prey to despair and despondency, but rather rejoice and cheer up that you too could have the precious chance of serving the religion by embracing the community of Imam Mahdi and the Promised Messiah; and winning the pleasure and blessing of God through rendering obeisance to the injunctions of the Holy Prophet in respect of the Imam of the age.

1. When you hear the advent of Mahdi it is then enjoined on you to enter into his Baiat (i.e. to enter into his fold) even if you have to walk on snow by crawling and creeping to reach him." (Kanzul Ummal; also footnotes to Musnad Ahmad Bin Hanbal, Vol. 6, p.29-30)
2. "He who dies in a condition that he has not recognized the Imam of his age dies a death of

ignorance." (Musnad Ahmad Bin Hanbal, Vol. 4, p. 96)

WHO IS THE IMAM OF THE AGE?

In this age Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad claimed to be the Mahdi and the Messiah whose advent had been foretold by the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of God be upon him).

As the Founder of the Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam, he did not claim to have brought any new religion. He was raised to remove the errors that had made their way into the views and beliefs of the Muslims. The Movement was founded in the year 1889 at Qadian, India, and thus it has had only a brief existence of a little more than a hundred years, and yet in this short span of time it has, in spite of desperate efforts to suppress it, spread to all the continents, so that local Ahmadiyya Communities have been formed not only in India and Pakistan but almost in all the countries of the free world. These communities consist of emigrants from India and Pakistan, as well as the natives of these lands. At present the international Headquarters of the Movement are at Rabwah, Pakistan.

The Ahmadiyya Movement stands towards Islam in the same relationship which was occupied by Christianity in the early days towards Judaism. As it is already indicated, one of the claims of Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad was that he was the Promised Messiah. Keeping this in mind one can easily understand that Ahmadiyyat is Islam itself, and not a mere off-shoot of Islam, as Christianity was not an off-shoot of Judaism, but was pure Judaism in plain and simple form.

The Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) passed away in 1908 and was succeeded by his foremost votary and closest companion, Hazrat Maulvi Noor-ud-Din, as Khalifatul Masih I (First Successor to the Promised Messiah). After his death in 1914, the Promised son of the Promised Messiah, Hazrat Mirza Bashir-ud-Din Mahmud Ahmad, was chosen as Khalifatul Masih II. During his 52 years long leadership, the Khalifatul Masih II organized a world-girdling chain of Mosques and Missions.

On the demise of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II on November 8, 1965, the Electoral College named with one accord, Hazrat Mirza Nasir Ahmad as Khalifatul Masih III (Third Successor to the Promised Messiah).

On the demise of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih III in 1982, Hazrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad was elected as the Khalifatul Masih IV. Under his able leadership, the Ahmadiyya Jamaat is making very rapid progress.

The Ahmadiyya Muslims number more than ten millions in the world. The majority of these are found in Pakistan, India, Indonesia and Africa. During 1996 alone, there were more than 1.6 million new members of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community.

Beside other vast literature on Islam, the Movement has published the translations of the Holy Quran in most major languages including English, German, Dutch, Russian, Danish, Esperanto, Swahili, Luganda, Yoruba and Urdu languages.

The Movement has built Mosques in London, Hamburg, Frankfurt, Zurich, Den Haag, Copenhagen and Goteborg in Europe; in Baltimore, Chicago, Dayton, Detroit, New York, St. Louis, Silver Spring, MD, Pittsburgh, Tucson, and Washington in the United States of America, and in hundreds of cities, towns and villages of Asia, Africa and South America. In 1982, a mosque was inaugurated in Spain—a revival of Islam after 500 years.

The Movement has established Missions in more than 150 countries including the United Kingdom, Germany, Spain, Holland, Denmark, Sweden, Norway and Switzerland in Europe; in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Zambia, Mauritius, Nigeria, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Gambia and Republic of South Africa in the African continent; in Syria, Republic of South Yemen, Israel, Srilanka, Bangladesh, India, Burma, Singapore, Japan, Malasia, Indonesia and Philippines in Asia; in Surinam, Trinidad and Guyana in South America; Fiji in the Pacific; and in 47 locations in the USA, including Chicago, New York, Dayton, Pittsburgh, Detroit, Waukegan, Philadelphia, Milwaukee, St. Louis, Houston, Baltimore, and Washington.

Besides different Schools and Colleges at Rabwah, and Qadian, the Movement runs scores of Elementary and Secondary Schools in Africa. After the historic visit of Hazrat Mirza Nasir Ahmad, the Khalifatul Masih III, to West Africa in 1970, the Movement has established a number of Hospitals in Nigeria, Ghana, Sierra Leone and Gambia.

Besides a number of Daily, Weekly and Monthly papers published from Rabwah and Qadian the

Movement publishes a score of Weekly, Bi-Monthly, Monthly and Quarterly Journals in Africa, Asia, Europe and America.

In the U.S.A. the Mission was established in 1921. There are at present 47 organized Ahmadiyya Communities all over the United States. The Mission publishes a Monthly Annoor and Ahmadiyya Gazette, The Headquarters of the Movement in America are at 15000 good hope Rd., Silver Spring, MD 20905.

Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, the Promised Messiah and Mahdi, the Imam of the age and the Founder of the Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam, was perfectly true when he prophesied:

"Harken, all ye people. This is a prophecy of Him Who had created heaven and earth. He will spread this Community of His in all countries and will make it supreme over all, through reason and arguments. The days are coming, indeed they are near, when this will be the only religion which will be held in honor. God will bestow extraordinary blessings on this religion and Movement. He will frustrate everyone who seeks to destroy it. This supremacy will last till the Judgement Day.

"Remember, that no one will descend from heaven. All our opponents who are alive today will die and no one will see Jesus son of Mary descending from heaven. Then their next generation will pass away and no one of them will see this spectacle. Then the generation next after that will pass away without seeing the son of Mary descending from heaven. Then God will make them anxious that though the time of the supremacy of the cross had passed away and the world had undergone great changes, yet the son of Mary had not descended from heaven. Then the wise people will suddenly discard this belief. The third century after today will not yet have come to a close when those who hold this belief, whether Muslims or Christians, will lose all hope and will give up this belief in disgust. There will then be only one religion that will prevail in the world and only one leader. I have come only to sow the seed, which has been sown by my hand. Now it will sprout and grow and flourish and no one can arrest its growth." (*Tazkaratush Shahadatain*, p. 64-65)

Dear brethren, for God's sake, do not denounce the Imam of the age precipitately because as he himself has said:

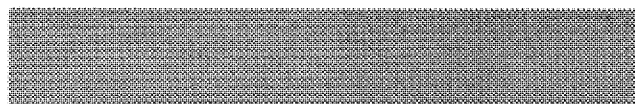
"I announce it plainly that it is not easy to denounce me. He who calls me kafir would have himself to become a kafir first. He who describes me as faithless and astray would have to confess his own error and humiliation. He who charges me with departing from the Quran and the Hadith would have himself first departed from them. I am affirmant of the Quran and the Hadith and am in turn affirmed by them. I am not astray but am the foremost of the believers. God has assured me that whatever I say is the truth. He who believes in God and accepts the Quran and the Holy Prophet, peace be upon him, as true, should find it enough proof to silence him that I say so, but I have no remedy for him who is daring and heedless in his denial. God Himself will admonish him. I, therefore, desire that you should reflect upon this for the sake of God alone and you should also advise your friends so that they should reflect upon these matters honestly and impartially." (Malfoozat Vol. 4, p. 16)

Finally, we pray:

O Allah, help him who helps the religion of Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) and count us among them. Ameen!

THE FUTURE OF ISLAM

"The time is approaching when God will grant worldwide popularity to this Movement and this dispensation will spread in the East and the West and the North and the South, and in the world. Islam and this Movement will become synonymous terms. This is a revelation from God on high for Whom nothing is impossible." (Tohfa Golarawia, by Hazrat Ahmad, the Promised Messiah, p. 56)



MIRACULOUS SIGNS OF THE PROMISED MESSIAH

by Shiekh Mubarak Ahmad

We shall show them signs in heavens and in themselves until they shall be convinced that it is indeed true. (The Holy Quran: 41:54)

The above cited Quranic verse indicates that God shows different types of signs and manifestations to prove the truth and veracity of His chosen ones. Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad was the Promised Messiah and Mahdi of the Muslim Ummah. God showed a very large number of signs and miracles in his support in an extraordinary fashion. Mentioning this heavenly support, the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him = a.s.) writes:

"To support me, He has shown so many signs that if I count them individually, I can state on oath that to this day of July 16, 1906, they number more than three hundred thousand." (*Haqiqatul Wahy; Ruhani Khazain*, vol. 22, p.70)

These signs were not only very large in number but also exceptional and unique. Referring to this, the Promised Messiah (a.s.) said that he had been favored with so many signs from Allah that there could be found no parallel to them during the last thirteen hundred years (*Taryaquq Quloob*, p. 208 in Ruhani Khazain, vol. 15, p.336).

In his book *Zaruratul Imam*, the Promised Messiah (a.s.) reminded the Muslims that the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him = s.a.w.) had prophesied that the Muslims would be blessed with a divinely appointed judge to settle the disputes between Muslims at their time of decline. This judge was destined to be supported by a multitude of signs. He asserted that the time of the coming of the divinely appointed judge had come and there was a clear manifestation of the signs:

Even now the series of the signs continues. The heavens are showing signs, the earth is showing signs. Blessed are those who do not close their eyes to these signs. (*Zaruratul Imam*, in Ruhani Khazain, vol. 13, p. 25)

The Promised Messiah (a.s.) divided these multitudes of signs into a few categories and challenged all his opponents to compete with him in showing the signs of God. He said that Allah had

bestowed four kinds of signs upon him:

1. "As a reflection of the miracle of the Holy Qur'an, I have been granted the sign of eloquence and perfect felicity in the Arabic language. No one can compete with me in this respect."
2. "I have been granted the sign of propounding the verities and the wisdom of the Holy Qur'an. No one can compete with me in this respect."
3. "I have been granted the sign of the acceptance of prayers in great abundance. No one can compete with me in this respect. I can declare on oath that about 30,000 of my prayers have been granted acceptance. I have evidence of their acceptance."
4. "I have been granted knowledge of the unseen. No one can compete with me in this respect. These provide the evidence of divine support for me. The prophesies of the Holy Prophet (s.a.w.) have been fulfilled in my support like shining pearls."

During one of his speeches in 1898, the Promised Messiah (a.s.) re-iterated that all these categories of signs were clearly manifested in his favor. (*Alhakm* Sept. 20-27, 1898, in Malfuzat Vol. 1, pp. 277-278)

1: MASTERY OF THE ARABIC LANGUAGE

A. Challenges and Response

A great sign granted to the Messiah by his Benevolent God was his mastery of the Arabic language. One of his chief opponents, Maulvi Muhammad Hussain Batalwi, had criticized him for lacking Arabic knowledge so much, that the Maulvi claimed that even one correct sentence was beyond the capabilities of the Promised Messiah (a.s.) The Promised Messiah was moved to pray for God's succor in this regard and his prayers were granted. Almighty Allah turned to him with mercy and granted his prayers, as he writes:

"In one night I have been taught forty thousand

roots of the Arabic lexicon." (*Anjam-e-Aatham*, p. 234, in Ruhani Khazain Vol. 11, p. 234)

Accordingly, he was granted such extraordinary powers of expression and narration in the Arabic language that he claimed:

"In subservience to the original miracle of the Holy Quran, I have been given the salutary powers of lucidity of expression and subtleties of linguistic expositions to the degree that there is none to compete with me, whether Arab or non-Arab, or all of them joined together." (*Zarooratul Imam*, p. 25, in Ruhani Khazain Vol. 13, p. 496)

To drive the point home and to put to shame the so-called scholars of the Arabic language the world over, he wrote no less than 24 books and booklets displaying the bounties of God in this respect. In his Arabic book, *Ejazul Masih*, which is replete with Quranic excellence and its luminous treasures, he challenged that no one shall be able to write anything like it even though they invoked the powers of their ancestors, their future generations, their elders, their scholars, their learned, and their jurists. He stressed that they would not be able to produce the like of his commentary of the Quran, in such a short and limited time, as he had done, even though they joined their forces together. He also backed up his challenge with a reward of 500 rupees. He emphatically declared:

"This is a book, beyond challenge, and anyone who dares to compete with this shall soon suffer frustration and embarrassment." (Title page *A'ijazul Masih*, in Ruhani Khazain, vol. 18, p.1)

One Maulvi Muhammed Hussain of Bheen, District Jhelum, took up the challenge and started writing notes in rebuff. The Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) received a revelation:

The One from heaven has stopped him.

Within a week, this Maulvi passed away, and in this way God upheld the mighty message that he had given to his Messiah.

In this challenge, the Promised Messiah (a.s.) did not exclude the scholars of Arabia and Egypt. In particular he invited Allama Rashid Raza, the editor of *Almanar*, Egypt, to attempt a reply to his book *Alhuda wa Tabsaratal Limanyara*. The Allama kept quiet despite several invitations from the Promised

Messiah (a.s.) and the promise that if the Allama produces a worthwhile reply, the Promised Messiah (a.s.), will incinerate his books.

B. Revealed Address:

All his books, especially those in Arabic, were a miracle of divine inspiration and served as a sign from God which continues to remain unchallenged. To crown it all was the *Khutba Ilhamiya*, (Revealed Address), that the Promised Messiah (a.s.) delivered on April 19, 1902, extempore and without prior preparation, at the occasion of Eidul Azha. God Almighty, specially instructed him for this address. This address is a masterpiece of literature about which the audience of several hundred people had already been informed in advance, and had been asked to stop him wherever any word was missed or misheard. Scholars like Maulana Nooruddeen and Maulvi Abdul Kareem were present and kept interrupting for clarification and repetition. The Promised Messiah (a.s.) was fully in the possession of the Divine power. It was clear to the listeners that it was not he who was speaking, but the Omnipotent All-knowing force was showering the abundant rain of heavenly wisdom. He was speaking the words of Allah, although the voice was his.

2: SUBTLETIES OF THE QURAN

A. The Treasures of the Holy Quran:

The Promised Messiah (a.s.) was gifted with a deep knowledge of the Quran. He was blessed with a comprehensive and accurate understanding of the Holy Book. Such understanding is granted only to those who are specially commissioned by God. Allah Almighty says in the holy Quran:

No one can grasp (the true meaning of) His book, except those specially purified by Him" (56:80).

To meet the needs of our time, new pearls of wisdom were given to him from the Holy Quran, such as have never been found since the Holy Prophet (s.a.w.). He invited all and sundry to compete with him in bringing out refreshing and pertinent interpretations of the Holy Book, but there was nobody to respond to this challenge. In *Taryaqul Quloob*, he says:

"No one can compete with me in the heavenly gift of describing the celestial treasures of the Quran. The sweetness, the lucidity of expression

and the facility with which I express the truths, the celestial treasures and marks of this book are not within the grasp of my opponents, their friends, their mentors or their preceptors.... I challenged them to come out and compete, and had offered them great rewards for accepting the challenge, but to no avail." (*Tiryaqul Qulub*)

B. Braheen Ahmadiyya:

This book was his first treatise and is full of Quranic treasures and its deep and innermost meanings. The way it has illumined the deepest treasures of Surah Fatiha is a miracle in itself. He invited mankind to experience the beauties of the Holy Quran in general and Surah Fatiha in particular. The way he explained the philosophy and beauty of this Surah and the Quran has not been done by any one since the Holy Prophet (s.a.w.). The auspicious way in which he sought to assert the supremacy of the Holy Quran over other revealed religions permeates all his books in various forms and angles and this book is no exception.

For instance, he established in this book that not even an iota of the Holy Book was abrogated or canceled and that its various teachings are equally applicable in this day of scientific and technological age as they were before. He also established that the Quran contains a mass of knowledge of future events and no other book can compete with it in this regard. Moreover, he also proved in this book that whatever the Quran proclaims, it provides proofs and reasons for it at the same time.

In *Braheen Ahmadiyya*, he also explained the philosophy of the next life and the essence of its enjoyment. In short, the world was wonder-struck by the plain rationale he gave of Islam's beautiful, practical and effective teachings. He also established the sinless character, piety and undiluted righteousness of all the messengers of God. Through these marvelous expositions, Quran's greatness and sanctity and its comprehensiveness were made abundantly clear.

Exposition of all these beauties of the Holy Quran was started in *Braheen Ahmadiyya*, and the task continued through all his writings, spread over a period of 25 years.

3: THE ACCEPTANCE OF PRAYERS

The Promised Messiah (a.s.) says: "It is a great

sign of man's acceptance to God that a majority of his prayers find favor with Him. There is no sign like it. This proves his nearness to Him. It is not necessary that all of a man's prayers are granted acceptance as God may also decide occasionally to assert His will. Yet there is no doubt that in the acceptance of prayers no ordinary person can compete with men of God. I do state on oath that thousands of my prayers have been granted acceptance by my God so that if I were to write them together, it will form a voluminous book." (Haqeeqatul Wahiy, p. 336)

Furthermore, he wrote: "I have been favored with the sign of abundance of acceptance of prayers so that no one can compete with me in this respect. I can state it on oath that over thirty thousand of my prayers have been accepted and I can prove it. (Zarooratul Imam, p. 26)

I shall now present a few specific instances of the acceptance of his prayers.

A. Recovery of a Rabies Victim:

Firstly, I want to mention a sign which is like raising the dead. The Promised Messiah (a.s.) says:

"Abdul Karim, son of Abdul Rehman of Hyderabad, is a student in our school. He was once bitten by a rabid dog and was sent to Kasauli specialist hospital for treatment where he spent a few days and then returned to Qadian. A few days later he was found to have symptoms of rabies and showed signs of acute hydrophobia, and was scared of water

"I was greatly distressed for this young man who was in a new and a strange land, and felt forced to pray for him. Everybody thought that he had only a few hours to live. A telegram was sent to the Kasauli hospital for advice as to what should be done, but the English doctor telegraphed back: 'Regret! Nothing can be done for Abdul Karim!' Nevertheless, I was moved for this poor young man and several of my friends also pleaded with me on his behalf. I was filled with compassion for him and I felt an extraordinary urge to offer supplications on his behalf.

"My heart was aggrieved for him. Soon signs of recovery started appearing as if a dead body was quickening to life again. He was scared of water and light but soon he started improving and asked

for water which he drank and also performed ablution with water and offered his prayers and slept peacefully through the night. His frantic condition had completely disappeared and in a few days time he was fully recovered.

"People who know this disease, categorically state, that they have never seen a case where a man affected by rabies and having reached the acutest stage has ever recovered from it. What more can be said – about the hopelessness of his condition that the certification from Kasauli specialists who had confirmed his irretrievable condition and telegraphically informed us that nothing could be done for him.

"When I started praying for him, God instilled it in my mind that he should be administered a certain medicine which was given to him a few times and he recovered. Indeed it was nothing short of a dead man rising again."

Abdul Karim lived for 28 years thereafter and died a natural death in 1933.

The events described are from 1907. Cure of hydrophobia was unheard of at that time. Even today, with immediate hospital care and the use of the latest drugs, and intensive care management, people bitten by a rabid dog stand only a small chance of recovery.

The telegram from the Pasteur Institute is still retained in the archives of the Ahmadiyya Movement, as a sign of gratitude to Allah for the acceptance of prayer. (Iain Adamson: Mirza Ghulam Ahmad of Qadian, pp.95-96)

B. Recovery of Lala Malawamal

Another sign of prayer was a Hindu Arya, Lala Malawamal, who had considerable acquaintance with the Promised Messiah (a.s.) and was a witness to many of his signs. He was afflicted with tuberculosis and his condition became serious and started to deteriorate rapidly. In a dream Lala Malawamal saw that a poisonous snake had bitten him. Disappointed from every side, he turned to the Promised Messiah (a.s.) with great humility and perturbation so that the Promised Messiah (a.s.) was moved to pray for him whereupon the Promised Messiah (a.s.) received the revelation: "O fire, be peaceful and cool."

The burning fever soon started to cool down and Lala Malawamal not only fully recovered but also

survived the Promised Messiah (a.s.) by over 50 years.

C. A Skeleton Walks:

Another sign of prayers concerns the Promised Messiah's own brother, Mirza Ghulam Qadir. The Promised Messiah (a.s.) says:

"Once I saw in a dream that Mirza Ghulam Qadir's days were numbered, maybe not more than 15 days. He fell ill suddenly and was soon reduced to a mere skeleton so that his bed would appear to be empty. He was always in a state of unconsciousness and would normally pass water and purge himself in bed. Every available physician said that he had but a few days to live.

"I was a young man then, full of vigor and able to undertake arduous spiritual exercises and firmly believed that my God had absolute power over everything except that He may already have determined otherwise or it may be against His inviolate laws or repugnant to His Unity. I, therefore, started praying for him having three objectives in view:

"Was I worthy of my God's favors; was it possible to secure postponement of a decreed matter already revealed; and whether a man reduced to a mere skeleton could recover from that acute stage. By the Glory of my God in whose hand is my life, I say that following my prayers, he started showing signs of recovery. I saw another dream in which I found him walking in the lounge unaided.

"After I had been praying for him for about 15 days, he expressed the desire to walk which he did with the support of a stick or another person's hand, which he abandoned very soon and then lived for another 15 years. This is how kind our God is!"

D. Something Out of Nothing

We reviewed earlier, what is called raising from the dead, but now witness what can be called the creation of something from nothing. Patwari Munshi Ata Muhammad belonged to the village Nathpur near Qadian. He had been married for a long time and had three wives but had no children. An Ahmadi met him and started preaching to him, apprizing him of the advent of the Promised Messiah (a.s.) that he was the

Mahdi, people had been waiting for. He was receptive to the message but said that before he could contemplate joining Ahmadiyyat he would like to ask for a prayer for something and if that prayer was granted he would be convinced of the truth of the Promised Messiah (a.s.)

Accordingly, he wrote to the Promised Messiah (a.s.) requesting him that he pray for him that he be blessed with a male issue from his eldest wife who was of advanced age. The Promised Messiah (a.s.) replied that he had prayed as requested and had the glad tidings that he would be favored with a handsome and prosperous boy from the wife of his choice provided he observed the repentance of Hazrat Zachariah.

A few months later he found his wife crying with misery, that not only had she had no children in the past but now she had even stopped having monthly periods, she thought she had become post menopausal. She requested her husband to take her to her brother in Amritsar where she might try some sort of treatment.

He did not take her to Amritsar but obtained the services of a local lady gynecologist who, after casual observation, said that there was no need for any treatment because in her opinion it appeared that God had made a mistake. She was of the firm opinion that the woman was incapable of bearing a child but at the same time she had noticed that she was pregnant, indicating that God had definitely made a mistake. Munshi Ata Muhammed advised the gynecologist not to be surprised at God's doing as it was indeed in fulfillment of the prayers he had requested the Promised Messiah, (a.s.), to make on his behalf, and he also started telling his friends that he was sure of being blessed with a handsome and prosperous boy in due course.

"This is God's doing and is a marvelous miracle in front of our eyes." So said Munshi Ata Muhammad. He was previously, fully convinced about the impossibility of him having an issue but the powers of God are strange and they are certainly moved in favor of his chosen servants even to the extent of achieving impossible things. Munshi Ata Muhammad was blessed with a handsome son who obtained a good education and became an executive engineer in due course.

This was a great sign not only for Munshi Ata

Muhammad, who was now a devoted Ahmadi and a faithful servant of God, but for several other people. In my school days, I used to visit the village of Nathpur and often met both the father and the son, and it always reminded me of the great sign of Allah. Both of them are no more amongst us now and we, therefore, pray that God may bless their souls.

E. Supreme Lecture:

Another mighty sign of the acceptance of prayer was the unprecedented success of a lecture. This sign also contained an element of prophecy. This lecture was delivered at Lahore, in 1896, and has been published as the "*Philosophy of the Teachings of Islam*". This book has caused many readers to accept the truth of Islam in general and Ahmadiyyat in particular.

What had happened in 1896 was that some Hindu dignitaries of Lahore planned to hold a multi-religion meeting to discuss five questions and invited representatives of different faiths. One of the organizers, Swami Shogan Chandar traveled to Qadian to request the Promised Messiah's participation, to which the Promised Messiah (a.s.) readily agreed. He prayed to God to help him in expounding the supremacy of Islam in this competitive gathering.

God granted his prayers and he felt specially empowered to write a forceful exposition. No prior draft had been prepared, but the flow of the subject was extraordinarily spontaneous so that those who were writing after his dictation found it difficult to keep up with him. At the end of his thesis he announced that he had been blessed with the revelation that this thesis shall prove supreme. The thesis was listened to with absorbed attention, and at the end of the recital, the Hindu chairman involuntarily exclaimed that the thesis was indeed above all others delivered at the function. All those who heard it or read about it could not agree more with the chairman's true and spontaneous assessment.

It should be noted that a few days before the meeting, the Promised Messiah (a.s.) had issued a poster and had it widely publicized, including postings on billboards in the streets of Lahore. The poster said that God had given the glad tidings that his thesis shall prove to be the most superior of all and because of the true guidance and light contained in it, it shall prove its superiority to all the representatives of other faiths provided they physically

participated in the proceedings and listened to the discourse from beginning to end. It also added that they shall not be able to produce anything like it from their own religions whether they were Arya, Sanatan Dharam or any other faith because God had decreed that on that day the divine supremacy of Islam shall be established beyond doubt.

This meeting was held on December 26-29 at Lahore and all representatives of religions who presented their papers at this gathering were unanimous in declaring that the paper of the Promised Messiah (a.s.), was indeed superior to all others. Thus proving without doubt the fulfillment of the prophecy he had made and published. This lecture has been published in hundreds of thousands of copies with translations in many languages and people all over the world who have read it have agreed that it is a marvelous exposition of the beauties of Islam and is unparalleled.

I would conclude this section by quoting from one renowned non-Ahmadi journal, *Chaudhavin Sadi*, Rawalpindi. It stated:

“The best lecture which was the highlight of the function was that of Mirza Ghulam Ahmad Qadiani. It was read out by Maulvi Abdul Kareem, and what a wonderful delivery it was which enthralled the entire audience.... We have never heard anything like it in our lives. Papers read out from other religions were way off and removed from the questions asked, lots of them had many words but little substance. However, Mirza Sahib’s lecture dealt with the questions point by point and covered them thoroughly. The audience listened to it attentively and enjoyed it thoroughly as it contained valuable and highly provocative thoughts.”

4: PROPHECIES

The fourth category of signs given to the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) was the prophecies consisting of future events and unseen occurrences. The knowledge of such future events is given by God to his chosen ones only. The Holy Quran says that God reveals his secrets to those only, whom he chooses as messengers. The prophecies of messengers have no element of doubt in them, are in abundance and among other issues pertain to their success and the failure of their enemies. No one else has the power to produce the like of such prophecies

(72:27-28). God’s messengers and prophets throw a challenge to their opponents to subject them to any punishment if their prophecies are not fulfilled. Quite often these prophecies relate to impossible or improbable events. Usually there are many reasons that such prophecies should not come true. Yet they are fulfilled like the dawn of a day. The Promised Messiah (a.s.), says that there is no greater means of establishing God’s existence than His prophecies. He added that God’s true knowledge and understanding can only be secured through prophecies and that God has promised him in Braheen Ahmadiyya that He shall establish him through these means.

The prophecies of the Promised Messiah (peace a.s.) cover a wide and varied scope. Some concern a people or a community such as the Hindus or Christians, others concern countries and nations, yet others relate to wars and earthquakes. Some refer to the defeat of enemies, victories for his community, prosperity for his progeny, and some concern other extraordinary occurrences. A few of them are mentioned below.

A. Demise of Lekh Ram

Pandit Lekh Ram was an Arya who used filthy language against the Holy Prophet of Islam, (s.a.w.). The Promised Messiah (a.s.) did his best to stop him, but the Pandit was uninfluenced. He arrogantly wrote to the Promised Messiah (a.s.) that as far as he was concerned, the Promised Messiah (a.s.) had full freedom to publish whatever prophecy he liked against him, he could not care less. The Promised Messiah (a.s.) turned to his God and received the revelation: A calf without soul who brays and for whom there is pain and punishment. Further that he shall die within six years. Moreover, it was prophesied that his day of death will be adjoining the Eid day, (the Muslim festival). He added:

“By publishing this prophecy I wish it to be known by all people, Hindus, Muslims, or Christians – that if this man did not suffer within six years from today, an exemplary and frightful punishment beyond ordinary occurrences, then you would be free to take me as an impostor. If I prove false in this prophecy I would be prepared to accept any punishment, to be drawn on the gallows with a noose around my neck....

“Bear in mind that this person has insulted the Holy Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be

upon him, and used hurtful language against him. His books are full of filthy insults and derogatory remarks and slander. No Muslim can listen to these writings without his heart being torn with pain and affliction. This is not a casual prophecy, it is in answer to my prayers in this behalf."

Right in accordance with this prophecy, Lekhram was killed by someone who thrust a big knife in his stomach which disemboweled him and he died in considerable pain and suffering after having undergone further dissections of surgery. A great sign was thus delivered to mankind within the stipulated time and in circumstances as foretold and was testified as such by no less than three thousand witnesses, Hindus and Muslims alike.

B. Death of Dowie in America:

The second prophecy in this category relates to John Alexander Dowie who was a prominent American evangelist, enjoying good health and wealth. He had claimed to be prophet Elijah to prepare the way for the expected descent of Christ. He too used filthy language against the Holy Prophet of Islam, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, and aimed himself to destroy Islam. Speaking to his disciples he declared that he viewed the Holy Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, as false and looked down upon him, that the aim of Islam was to insult women and deprive them of all rights and that it was necessary for mankind to wash this blot from the face of the earth, to establish Zionism and to remove the flag of Islam from Jerusalem, and that the final battle between the crescent and the cross was fast approaching (Leaves of Healing, August 15, 1903).

When the Promised Messiah (a.s.) learnt of this man in 1902, he challenged him to a Mubahala (prayer duel), saying that if he accepted it, he would be destroyed during the lifetime of the Promised Messiah, peace be upon him. The Promised Messiah (a.s.) was 70 years of age at that time while Dowie was about 50, yet the Promised Messiah (a.s.) took no notice of this disparity in ages, declaring that to God these considerations were of little consequence. Even if Dowie refused to come forward, he and his mission were doomed to fail.

This challenge was widely published in America and the rest of the world. He replied in a derisory manner and within years of this, during the lifetime of

the Promised Messiah (a.s.) he was stripped of his glory and eventually died of paralysis in a pitiable condition. His daughter whom he loved very much burned herself. His own wife and also his son suffered divorces. His son died without an issue. The city of Zion that he had so pompously established was abandoned and destroyed. All his wealth and belongings were dissipated. The "Tribune" of Chicago wrote on March 10, 1907 that this self appointed prophet died in ignominy in utter desolation so that none of his near relatives were present at his death bed.

The "Independent" of March 14 commented editorially that Dowie reached his ascendancy materially as well as religiously but soon licked the dust, utterly deserted by his son, wife and the church. The Boston Herald of June 23, 1907 published a large photograph of the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) and captioned it:

Great is Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, The Messiah. Foretold pathetic end of Dowie

and continued, "On August 23, 1903, Mirza Ghulam Ahmad of Qadian had foretold the death of John Alexander Dowie, the self proclaimed Elijah III, and this was fulfilled in March.

"America came to know of Mirza in 1903 when he challenged Dowie, but now his fame has reached far and wide, for not only had he successfully prophesied Dowie's death but also that it would take place in his lifetime.

"The Mirza had declared that whosoever was an impostor shall die during the lifetime of the other. Dowie is there no more, his assets sequestrated, he suffered paralysis and lunacy and he died with his Zion city in ruins."

The Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) wrote:

"My mission was to break the cross. With Dowie's death, therefore, a major proportion of that aim has been accomplished. In the whole world he was the principal exponent of Cross who had claimed to be a prophet, through whose prayers all Muslims were to be destroyed, Islam was to be effaced, and the Ka'ba was to be demolished. God, therefore, destroyed him through me and I know for certain that the prophecy concerning the destruction of swine has

been manifestly fulfilled. I swear by God that he was the swine whose destruction had been prophesied by the Holy Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, to take place at the hands of the Messiah.

"Had I not challenged him to Mubahala, nor invoked prayers against him or fore-published his destruction, his death would have been of little significance for Islam. However, since I had already published it in newspapers that he should die in my lifetime, I am proved to be the Messiah and he an impostor. There can be no greater miracle than the fulfillment of the prophecy of the Holy Prophet of Islam, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, which only an enemy of truth can deny." (Addendum to *Haqeeqatul Wahiy*, pp 77-80)

C. The Plague:

Another glaring prophecy concerned the emergence of the pestilence of plague, shown to him in a dream. In March, 1901 at the occurrence of some cases of plague in the country he issued a warning, against ridicule and scorn that was leveled at him and his community, and exhorted people to turn to repentance and sublime attitudes. This warning was ignored by the population of India. The consequence of this was an increase in the intensity in the pestilence so that people started dying like dogs. Families and villages were wiped out with such rapidity that not enough time and courage was found to bury the dead. In those days the Promised Messiah (a.s.) wrote a booklet, *Dafay-ul-Balaa*, advising people again to turn to a repentance of sins, to seek their Lord, God Almighty, and to receive the Messiah in their hearts. He reminded them of the revelation he had published in 1898:

God does not change what is decreed for a people unless they change themselves.... That is that God shall not take away the plague until people have cleansed their hearts of evil tendencies and turned with humility and submission to the messenger whom God had raised. He will, however, save the town of Qadian from the scourge so that it may be a sign that a chosen one of His and a messenger lived there. (*Dafful Balaa*, p. 12)

Another revelation concerning the sanctuary of Qadian said:

Had it not been for its honor, this place would have been devastated.

That is, if God had no scruples for the Movement that He had started in Qadian, He would have destroyed it too.

Four years before the onslaught of the plague, when there was no sign of it anywhere in the country, the Promised Messiah (a.s.) warned mankind of its coming and at a time of its ferocity when people were dying like dogs, he foretold that Qadian shall be graced with immunity as a revelation from God had said:

"I shall save all those in your house; except those fuming with arrogance; and I shall protect you in particular; a word of peace from merciful Lord."

Consequent upon this revelation, the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) invited a number of his devotees to stay with him at his house and this included Maulana Nooruddeen, Maulana Muhammed Ahsan, Maulvi Abdul Kareem and his wife, and Maulvi Muhammed Ali. Despite the crowd there was no grouse between the inhabitants, or inconvenience to the host and God kept the place immune from the rampant pestilence, not even a rat died in the vicinity. However, in these very days, Maulvi Muhammed Ali, did contract high fever and believing that it was plague, wrote his will and gave his last instructions to Mufti Muhammed Sadiq, who too was resident in the house.

The Promised Messiah (a.s.) went to see him and finding him in great distress and perturbation said that if he died of plague then he would regard himself as a false Messiah and that his claim to revelation was untrue. He put his fingers on his pulse and lo! the power of God made itself manifest; and no trace of fever was left in the body (*Haqeeqatul Wahiy*, p. 253). Glory be to God! Witness the great faith, the Promised Messiah (a.s.) had in the promises, God had made to him. He could not even remotely imagine, that anyone in his house, could become a victim of plague.

With great faith and fastidiousness he had written in *Kashti Nooh*:

"God has willed to show a sign of mercy to the people of this age. He addressed me saying that I and anyone else within the four walls of the house shall all be saved from plague provided

they are within complete devotion, submission, and true righteousness.... God has said to me again that Qadian, on the whole, shall not suffer an acute degree of plague which turns people into rabid dogs, from grief and epilepsy."

This one prophecy had many facets of manifestations, all of which were exuberantly fulfilled. The Promised Messiah (a.s.) had gone as far as to say in "Kashti e Nooh" that if this prophecy did not clearly evidence the differentiation between his people and the rest, then his opponents were legitimately entitled to falsify and refuse his claim. The world witnessed how the Promised Messiah's followers were protected miraculously from the epidemic which played havoc with the towns and cities of his opponents. As a result hordes of people joined his Jama'at (community) throughout the country.

D. International Satellite Transmission:

The Promised Mesiah was foretold, on several occasions by Allah, very early in his ministry, about the success of his mission. It was at a time when his community was very weak and had very meager worldly resources. One of these revelations, pertaining to the success of his message, has become proverbial in Ahmadiyya community. It was originally in Urdu. It loses some of its grandeur in translation. Nevertheless, it translates as follows:

"I will cause your message to spread to all nooks and corners of the world". (*Tazkirah, year 1889*).

We have seen the fulfillment of this prophecy in several different ways over the years. However, in recent years, the world has witnessed its reaffirmation in the form of international satellite transmission. The community has in recent years been able to set up an international, 24 hour, transmission of religious programs. So, in this way the message of the Promised Messiah (a.s.) is literally reaching all the nooks and corners of the world. This is the first religious transmission that has acquired international dimension.

We are already seeing the fruits of this grand effort. In the year 1994 to 1995 alone, more than eight hundred thousand people joined the folds of this Islamic community.

Once again, it should be emphasized that this prophecy was made when the community consisted of less than a thousand people, the center of activity was

a small village of India, and the opposition was bitter and strong.

THE BLESSINGS CONTINUE

The great signs enumerated above, brought about a transformation in the world of Islam, and each one of these should be more than enough to convince a true seeker after truth. It was inevitable that reactionary forces should raise their ugly heads in response to this positive revolution. Despite bitter opposition from powerful antagonism, he and his community prospered and flourished and continue to do that.

"This again is a great miracle from God that despite strenuous efforts of our enemies day and night and their vilification and falsification of me, my community keeps growing.... How great is this miracle that despite incessant machinations of all sorts to destroy us and Islam, God's benevolence is making us prosper."

And again: "Do you know the reason for it? The reason is that whomsoever God chooses for His people, He causes them to increase and his following to prosper, and humiliates and destroys his opponents until they perish in utter frustration." (*Malfoozat, Vol. 10, p. 24*)

God has promised in the Quran:

"We indeed stand by our messengers and those who believe in this life as well as the next."
(40:52)

In one of his verses, the Promised Messiah (a.s.) says:

God's support is not available to those who are impure; Nor does He allow to go to waste those of his people who are pure.

According to the sayings of the Holy Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, God softens the hearts of mankind for His chosen ones. Apply this criteria to the life of the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) and see for yourself. He has himself said in his verses:

I was a pauper, helpless, unknown, with little virtue in my hands; So unknown that none knew where (my village) Qadian was;

Seldom people looked towards the direction of Qadian; And none knew that I existed.

(continued on page 31)

HAZRAT MIRZA GHULAM AHMAD OF QADIAN

(Basharat Munir Mirza, Athens, Ohio)

Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad belonged to a noble Mughal family originally from Samarkand in Persia. In 1530 a chieftain from Samarkand, Mirza Hadi Baig, migrated to Panjab, India. A few years earlier, another Mughal, Babar, had laid the foundations of the Mughal Empire in India and came to be known as Emperor Babar.

Mirza Hadi Baig came from Samarkand with his family and about two hundred others under his command and settled down in the plains of Punjab. He founded a fortified village and named it Islampur. The Emperor Babar granted him an estate of several hundred villages and appointed him the Qadhi of this area.

Islampur was now known as Islampur Qadhi. With the passage of time, Islampur was dropped and the village was simply called Qadhian, or Qadian in the local pronunciation.

For several generations the family held important offices in the Mughal government. Eventually the Mughal empire lost its power and the Sikh rule began in Panjab. In the year 1802 the family was expelled from Qadian. After an exile of about fifteen years the family was allowed to return to Qadian during the reign of Maharaja Ranjeet Singh.

Mirza Ghulam Murtaza, the then head of the family, joined the Maharaja's army. Many years of service impressed the Maharaja and he restored five villages of the estate to Mirza Ghulam Murtaza in 1834.

Shortly afterwards, Mirza Ghulam Murtaza was blessed with a second son on February 13, 1835. He was named Mirza Ghulam Ahmad. He had a twin sister who died within a few days.

The arrival of Mirza Ghulam Ahmad was a time of rejoicing for the family as it heralded an end to the time of extreme adversity for them.

Mirza Ghulam Ahmad grew up to be a very different kind of person. He was completely withdrawn from worldly affairs and devoted all his time in prayers and a deep and serious study of religious scriptures.

He did not attend any formal school and was educated by tutors hired by his father. At least three different tutors instructed him until he was about 17.

He had become very fond of reading books and paid little attention to anything else. This bothered his father very much as he wanted him to get involved in family affairs. Other members of the family almost looked down upon him and largely ignored him.

His father arranged his marriage to his cousin, Hurmat Bibi. She bore him two sons, Mirza Sultan Ahmad (1853) and Mirza Fazal Ahmad (1855). This marriage, however, did not last very long and ended in a divorce.

In his preoccupation with religious studies, Mirza Ghulam Ahmad completely ignored his health and became very weak and infirm. He suffered from diabetes and migraine headaches. At one time he may have suffered from tuberculosis but recovered from it. He had no interest in remarriage.

Islam was attacked from all sides and Mirza Ghulam Ahmad stood up in the defense of Islam. In 1881, he published the first volume of *Baraheen Ahmadiyya* giving forceful arguments in the defense of Islam. He had been receiving revelations for some years now and he listed many of his revelations in this publication.

HIS TASK DEFINED

In 1882, he had a unique experience which he relates thus:

"I was occupied in writing something one night and then went to sleep. In my dream I saw the Holy Prophet (s.a.w.) and his face was bright like a full moon. He came close to me and I felt as if he wished to embrace me, which he did, and I saw that rays of light proceeding from his countenance had entered into me. I felt these rays were like palpable light and I believed that I was seeing them, not only through my spiritual sight but also with my physical eyes. Thereafter, I did not perceive that he had separated from me nor did I perceive that he had left me. In those very days... God addressed me and said: "Allah bless

thee, O Ahmad... The Most Gracious One has taught thee the Quran so that thou should warn the people whose ancestors have not been warned... Proclaim: I have been commissioned and I am the first of the believers... Surely, We have made thee the Messiah, son of Mary... I have chosen thee for Myself. Say: If you love Allah, then follow me and God will love you and forgive your sins." (*A'eena Kamalat-e-Islam*, pp. 550-551; also, *Tadhkira*, English, pp. 30-31)

Thus God indicated to him that his task was defined. He was to be commissioned to lead the world to the right path. He was to fulfill the prophecy regarding the second coming of Jesus, son of Mary. He was to be the Promised Messiah.

One of his earliest revelations said: "I will cause thy message to reach the ends of the earth". We see today an undeniable fulfillment of this prophecy when we find Ahmadies in more than 150 countries of the world.

SECOND MARRIAGE

During the year 1881, he received a number of revelations indicating that there was another marriage in store for him. For instance:

"God has provided you with a noble descent and has arranged your marriage in a noble family."

"I shall make all arrangements for your new wedding and shall provide all that you might need." (Tadhkirah, English, p. 27).

And so it happened. He married Nusrat Jahan Begum, a young lady of a noble Syed family of Delhi, on November 17, 1884. This was the year he was contemplating going to Sujapur for a solitary retreat for a period of 40 days and devote himself entirely to Divine worship and supplications. He received a revelation: "Your purpose will be served in Hoshiarpur."

Syeda Nusrat Jahan Begum bore him five sons and two daughters. The very first child, Basheer Ahmad, died in infancy and the youngest died at an early age. The remaining three sons and two daughters lived to ripe old ages.

DIALOGUE WITH HINDUS

The Arya Samaj faction of Hinduism in India was very active in those days in attacks on Islam and the

Holy Prophet Muhammad (s.a.w.). There were many encounters between the leaders of the Arya Samaj and Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad in the 1880's.

A part of this dialogue was a demand in September, 1885 from the Hindu Arya Samaj members of Qadian for a sign within one year. Hazrat Ahmad agreed to this challenge. The details of this demand and the response of Hazrat Ahmad are given in the book *Majmua Ishtiharat*, Vol. 1, pp. 91-96.

In January, 1886, Hazrat Ahmad went to Hoshiarpur for a solitary retreat. After this period of retreat, he published a handbill on February 20, 1886 from Hoshiarpur, detailing the prophecy of an illustrious son. This famous prophecy is known as the prophecy regarding the Musleh Mau'ood.

On January 12, 1889, Hazrat Mirza Bashirud Din Mahmood Ahmad was born who fulfilled the prophecy regarding the Musleh Mau'ood. Hazrat Mirza Mahmood Ahmad would later lead the Ahmadiyya Community from 1914 to 1965 as the second successor to the Promised Messiah.

PANDIT LEKH RAM

Pundit Lekh Ram, the leader of Arya Samaj in India, was one of the most vehement opponents of Hazrat Ahmad. He had even predicted that Hazrat Ahmad would die within 3 years. Ahmad put out a counter prediction in 1893, on revelation from God, that Lekh Ram will die a violent death in six years, on the day next to the Eid day.

Lekh Ram's prediction did not come out true at all, but the prophecy of Ahmad was fulfilled brilliantly in 1897, when Lekh Ram was stabbed to death by his own servant on the day predicted, next to Eid day. The servant simply disappeared right in front of the eyes of Lekh Ram's wife and his mother, who witnessed the stabbing and ran towards the servant. In spite of a massive manhunt, the servant was never found.

AHMADIYYAT INITIATED

On March 23, 1889, Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad laid the foundation of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamaat when he took the covenant of *Bai'at* (initiation) for the first time. Forty persons entered into the Bai'at on that day. The first to get the initiation was Maulana Hakeem Noorud Din. He continued to follow Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad

with great devotion through the years.

There were ten conditions of initiation which were first published by the Promised Messiah on January 12, 1889, in Urdu and are given in the Urdu section of this Gazette. An English translation of these conditions is given on page 2. In layman's language, these conditions are summarized by Iain Adamson on pages 62 and 63 of his book entitled *Mirza Ghulam Ahmad of Qadian*, as follows: Members must vow that:

1. In their worship nothing should be associated with God.
2. They would keep away from falsehood, adultery, cruelty, dishonesty, rebellion and would not allow themselves to be carried away by their passions.
3. They would perform the five daily acts of worship (Salat)
4. They would do no harm to God's creatures in general, and to Muslims in particular, neither by their hands, their tongue or any other means.
5. In joy or sorrow, in prosperity and in adversity, they would be faithful to God and ready to endure every insult and pain and in the hour of misfortune would not turn away from God but rather draw closer Him.
6. They would not follow vulgar customs and would guard against evil inclinations.
7. They would discard pride and haughtiness and pass their days in humility, lowliness, courtesy and meekness.
8. They would hold their religion and the dignity and welfare of Islam dearer than life, wealth and even their children.
9. For the grace of God they would have sympathy for all His creatures and would devote their natural ability to the promotion of their welfare.
10. They would establish a relationship of brotherhood with Ahmad on condition of obeying him in all good things and would adhere to it till death. This relationship would be of such a high order that the like of it would not be found in other worldly relationships.

THE KING OF THE PEN

Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad was a prolific

writer. His first major writing, the *Braheen Ahmadiyya*, published in early 1880s, was considered a masterpiece. But that was just his first masterpiece. He wrote more than 80 books in his lifetime and truly earned the title: The King of the Pen.

Early in 1891, three books by Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad were published. They were: *Fateh Islam*, *Tauzih Maram* and *Izalah Auham*. In these publications he laid his claim to be the Promised Messiah and Mahdi whose advent was foretold by the Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings of God be on him.

The more than 80 books written by the Promised Messiah (a.s.) are treasures of knowledge. In order to understand the mission of the Promised Messiah (a.s.) and acquire the necessary knowledge, one has to read all these masterpieces more than once in one's lifetime.

All these books have been collected together (along with the many leaflets published by him and his other discourses) in a collection known as *Roohani Khaza'in*, comprising of 36 volumes.

The frequent revelations that the Promised Messiah had are given at various places in his books. These revelations, visions and dreams have also been compiled in the book known as *Tadhkirah*. An English translation of this work is also available.

IN THE POWER AND SPIRIT OF JESUS

One of his important discoveries forms the basis of the book: *Jesus in India*. He proved that Jesus did not die on the cross and lived a long life, perhaps to the age of 120 years. He died and was buried in Srinagar, Kashmir where his tomb still exists.

Both the Christians and Muslims commonly believed that Jesus has ascended to heaven and will come back to lead the world. Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad proclaimed that the second advent of Jesus, as foretold, was fulfilled in his person. He had come in the power and spirit of Jesus. In some of his revelations God calls him Jesus.

He also fulfilled the prophecies in other religions about the re-appearance of their prophets in the latter days. He was, therefore, Jesus for Christians, Krishna for Hindus, Buddha for Buddhists, etc.

His claims resulted in an uproar from every

quarter. There were many discussions and many debates with his opponents. God supported him time and again and proved that He was on his side and helped him at every step.

He made many prophecies for the future. Some were fulfilled in his lifetime and many have since been fulfilled. Others will, surely, find fulfillment at the appropriate times later on.

THE TEACHINGS OF ISLAM

In 1896, a Hindu scholar, Swami Shugan Chandra, organized a Conference of Great Religions, which was to be held in the Lahore Town Hall on December 26, 27 and 28, 1896. The Promised Messiah was invited to give a paper. There were five questions asked of each participant and the answers were to be given in reference to the religious scriptures of the faith of the respondent.

We must remember that this was a time when everybody was opposing Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad. He was certainly not a popular person with the masses in general.

Mirza Ghulam Ahmad had a revelation that his paper will be judged to be the best among all the papers presented at the conference and so he advertised this prophecy in advance of the conference. He said in this announcement that his paper was not the result of ordinary human effort but was a sign among the signs of God.

He had sent one of his disciples, Maulana Abdul Karim, to read his paper. This paper was allotted two hours, between 1:30-3:30 p.m., on December 27. He spent the allotted time but the answer to even his first question was not yet complete.

The paper had aroused so much interest in the audience that the next speaker volunteered to give all the time allotted to him for his speech to Hazrat Ahmad's paper. This extra time was still not enough to finish the answer to the first question. The session was, therefore, extended for an additional hour, by popular demand, so that the answer to the first question could be completed.

There were still four more questions to be answered. The interest of the audience was so great that, by popular acclaim, arrangements were made to extend the conference by an additional day to allow the audience to listen to the complete paper. The

conference was thus continued on December 29 also and that entire additional session was devoted to the paper written by the Promised Messiah (a.s.). It took a total of six hours for a complete reading of the paper.

Needless to say that the newspaper accounts of this event unanimously acclaimed this paper to be the best one among all the papers presented. In the official report of the Conference, glowing tributes were paid to the paper.

This paper was later published under the title "Philosophy of the Teachings of Islam". It has been translated into many languages and very widely published.

DIALOGUE WITH CHRISTIANS

Jesus had appeared in his first coming in a country ruled by a foreign power. In a similar fashion, Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, the Messiah in the power and spirit of Jesus, appeared in India ruled by a foreign power. The British ruled India at that time. Along with the British rule, however, was also the strong presence of the Christian Church in India.

The Christian Missionaries were out to win converts in India and they were very aggressive in attacking Islam, the Holy Quran and the Holy Prophet Muhammad (s.a.w.).

By 1893, a community of new Christian converts had been established near Amritsar. The Reverend Dr. Henry Martyn Clark, medical missionary in Amritsar, had invited the Muslims of that area for a public debate to establish which of the two faiths was true.

Hazrat Ahmad was approached by the Muslims of that area to represent them in this debate. Ahmad came forward and after a certain amount of correspondence with Dr. Martyn Clark, a date was fixed.

The debate was held in Amritsar, at the residence of Dr. Clark, between May 22 and June 2, 1893. Hazrat Ahmad represented the Muslims and Mr. Abdullah Athim represented the Christians.

It had been the proposal of Ahmad that the parties should supplicate to God for a definite sign in support of the true religion. This suggestion was repeated during the debate and was accepted by Mr. Athim.

At the close of the debate, Ahmad concluded

thus:

When I prayed to God.... I was given the sign... that the one who was deliberately following falsehood... will be thrown into hell within 15 months... and he would suffer open disgrace if he **did not turn to the truth**; and that the one who was following the truth... would be openly honored..." (*Ahmadiyyat, the Renaissance of Islam*, p. 104)

Mr. Athim was visibly shaken on this announcement. He put his hands on his ears, shook his head and repeated: "I repent, I repent, I did not mean to be disrespectful." He had, thus turned to the truth. He withdrew from public life and did not even make any public speech for the next 15 months.

Late in 1894, after the 15 months had passed, people began to say Ahmad's prediction did not come out true. Thereupon, The Promised Messiah (a.s.) challenged Mr. Athim to take an oath that he had not repented, but he was not willing to take any oath even after several calls from the Promised Messiah (a.s.). The last such call was issued in December 1895 in a leaflet.

This refusal to testify under oath that he had not repented, proved to hasten the end of Athim. Seven months after the last call from the Promised Messiah, Athim died in July, 1896. The hollowness of Christian claims had been exposed. It was a setback for Dr. Henry Martyn Clark.

CURE THE BLIND

On the last day of the debate discussed above, an interesting thing happened. Dr. Clark and his colleagues brought in three persons, a lame person, a blind man and a dumb person. They argued that Jesus had cured such persons and if Hazrat Ahmad is Jesus (in his second coming) he should heal these persons as a sign of his truth.

The Promised Messiah replied that according to the Bible, if a person had faith equal to a grain of mustard seed, he should be able to perform even greater wonders. This was, therefore, an opportunity to test their faith in Jesus. If Jesus did what they claimed, then let them cure these persons presented here as a demonstration that they had at least some faith in Jesus.

This completely frustrated the Christian divines

and they promptly arranged to get rid of these poor afflicted persons.

AHMAD DRAGGED TO COURT

Mr. Athim died in July 1896 and Pandit Lekh Ram in March, 1897, in accordance with the prophecies of the Promised Messiah (a.s.). These incidents made the Christians as well as the Hindus greatly enraged. The Muslim divines had already given their verdict that Ahmad was an apostate and declared that his assassination would be a meritorious act.

Dr. Henry Martyn Clark devised a plan to disgrace Hazrat Ahmad which was greatly applauded by the Majority of the divines, Hindu, Christian as well as Muslim. He lodged a complaint in the court of the District Magistrate of Amritsar against Hazrat Ahmad.

The complaint alleged that Ahmad had conspired to murder Dr. Clark. To support this charge, a youth by the name of Abdul Hamid was produced who made the statement in front of the District Magistrate that Ahmad had instructed him to go to Amritsar and kill Dr. Martyn Clark.

Thereupon, the District Magistrate issued a warrant for the arrest of Hazrat Ahmad and sent the warrant to the District Magistrate of Gurdaspur for execution. But soon the District Magistrate of Amritsar realized that he did not have the jurisdiction over this matter and forwarded the complaint of Dr. Clark to the District Magistrate of Gurdaspur.

Jesus was brought before Pontius Pilate in an attempt by the Jews to kill him. Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, the Messiah (a.s.), the one coming in the power and spirit of Jesus, was given the same treatment, with the same objective.

The District Magistrate of Gurdaspur, Captain M. W. Douglas, was thus the counterpart of Pontius Pilate in this case.

Captain Douglas issued a notice to Hazrat Ahmad to appear in his court and show cause why he should not be bound over to keep the peace.

The Promised Messiah (a.s.) appeared in Court in Gurdaspur on August 10, 1897. The statements of Abdul Hamid and other witnesses were recorded over the next three days.

The demeanor of Hazrat Ahmad as he entered the court had impressed Captain Douglas greatly and he did not think a man of his stature would stoop to such actions as assassination attempts. He was also not impressed at all by the demeanor of Abdul Hamid. He noticed serious discrepancies between the statements of Abdul Hamid made in Amritsar Court and those made in the Gurdaspur court. He also noted that Abdul Hamid was living with the Christian Mission authorities in Batala and his statement was constantly being enlarged and added to.

Consequently, Captain Douglas instructed Mr. le Marchand, the District Superintendent of Police, Gurdaspur, to take charge of Abdul Hamid and question him independently.

As Mr. Marchand began to examine Abdul Hamid and had taken a part of his statement, Mr. Abdul Hamid burst into tears and fell on the feet of Mr. Marchand, confessing that he had made false statements on instruction from some of the Christian missionaries.

After putting Mr Abdul Hamid through a thorough examination, Captain Douglas honorably discharged Hazrat Ahmad of all the allegations against him and said he would grant him leave to sue Dr. Clark for malicious prosecution. The Promised Messiah (a.s.) did not care to do that, saying that his case is with the Highest Judge, God.

THE PLAGUE

In another book *Kishti Nooh* (Noah's Ark) published in 1900, he warned the inhabitants of India of the impending epidemic of the plague. He claimed that this epidemic would not affect any of his followers.

The plague appeared in 1903 and resulted in a very large number of deaths. But not one member of the Ahmadiyya community was affected. His prediction was coming true so obviously that the rate of Bai'ats accelerated greatly. The community grew to more than half a million by the time of the demise of the promised Messiah.

An interesting incident may be reported here. Once, Maulana Muhammad Ali, one of the followers of the Promised Messiah (a.s.), fell ill. To the doctors attending him, it appeared that he had all the symptoms of plague. He had a high fever and his underarms had swelled up. Someone came over to the

Promised Messiah and said that Maulana Muhammad Ali says he has got plague.

The Promised Messiah's answer was that it was impossible that any of his followers gets plague. God had promised to protect all his followers from plague.

The Promised Messiah (a.s.) went over to visit Maulana Muhammad Ali. A number of people were sitting there full of anxiety at the apparent plague attack on Maulana Muhammad Ali, fearing that he might die soon. The Promised Messiah approached Maulana Muhammad Ali, who was lying ill in bed, put his hand on his forehead and said: Where is the fever? I do not feel any fever on him.

All the witnesses are unanimous in reporting that Maulana Muhammad Ali sat up in bed. The doctors examined him and found him to have no fever at all. The underarms, swollen a little while ago, were all right now. Maulana Muhammad Ali was all right and had no signs of any sickness on him. He did not die of plague at all. In fact, he lived till long after the demise of the Promised Messiah (a.s.).

WARS, EARTHQUAKES AND FLOODS

Another prediction he made was about five major and dazzling signs. There were calamities described as resembling earthquakes but global in nature. (These could be five major wars in the world.) The first one of these would be within 16 years of its prediction, which was made in 1905. He predicted that the Czar of Russia would be in a sad state. He stated that if it did not happen within 16 years of the announcement, he was not a true Messiah.

World War I came in 1914 and was over in 1918. The Czar of Russia and his family were killed and the prediction was brilliantly fulfilled.

There have been three more large scale wars lasting many years each. They are the second world war, the Korean war and the Vietnam war. It is interesting that Korea was mentioned by the Promised Messiah by name. The last major conflict could be a nuclear war.

It was explained by the Promised Messiah that the prediction of these catastrophes was meant to be a warning. If people were to mend their ways and turn to God, these calamities can be averted. Joining the Ahmadiyya Movement was not necessarily a prerequisite.

Four of these calamities have already happened. Let us hope that the world will learn a lesson from them and make a change for the better to avert the final calamity.

There were predictions of floods, earthquakes and pestilence on an unprecedented scale. He predicted a new kind of plague in the West, and so we have AIDS today.

It is interesting to note that Jesus had also predicted wars, floods, earthquakes, etc., as intended punishments for people for rejecting the Messiah in his second coming. The same calamities were predicted by the Promised Messiah as a result of rejecting him.

A FALSE PROPHET

There was the case of Dr. John Alexander Dowie in Chicago who had claimed to be Elijah III. Dr. Dowie was born in Edinburgh, Scotland, in 1847. In 1872, he went to Australia and in 1888 he migrated to the USA. In 1901, he claimed to be Elijah III. The same year, he laid the foundations of Zion City, a town in the north of Chicago.

Dr. Dowie had started the publication of a paper, *Leaves of Healing*. In this publication, he began a relentless attack on Islam and the Holy Prophet of Islam.

The Promised Messiah (a.s.) put out a challenge to Dowie in the following words:

"...Dowie... has repeatedly declared in his paper that all Muslims will be destroyed and not one of them will survive... we wish to point out respectfully to Mr. Dowie that there is no need for the fulfillment of his purpose to subject millions of Muslims to destruction. There is a very easy way of determining whether Dowie's god is true or our God. That way is that Mr. Dowie need not repeatedly announce his prophecy of the destruction of all Muslims, but should keep me alone in his mind and should pray that of the two of us, the one who is false may die before the other... I am an old man of more than 66 years of age... my life depends not upon the condition of my health but upon the command of my God." (Review of Religions, Vol. 1, No. 9, pp342-348)

This challenge of the Promised Messiah (a.s.) was

given great publicity in the American Press. After a long silence, Mr. Dowie announced in his paper, *Leaves of Healing*, of December, 1903:

"In India, there is a Mohammadan Messiah who keeps on writing to me that Jesus Christ is buried in Kashmir. People ask me why do I not send him the necessary reply? Do you think that I should answer such gnats and flies? If I were to put my foot on them I would trample them to death. The fact is that I merely give them a chance to fly away and survive." (*Leaves of Healing*, as quoted in *Ahmadiyyat, the Renaissance of Islam*, pp. 99-100)

Thus the prayer duel was joined by Dowie. That was the beginning of the downfall of Dowie. Ahmad predicted the downfall and a miserable death of Dowie in the lifetime of Ahmad. This also found fulfillment in a brilliant manner.

Dowie suffered a stroke in 1905. After partly recovering from this stroke, he has another severe stroke which left him completely paralyzed. He suffered from insanity and finally died a miserable death on March 9, 1907.

Many American newspapers gave accounts of the prayer duel and the downfall of Dowie. For example, the Boston Herald of June 23, 1907 had the banner headline:

GREAT IS MIRZA GHULAM AHMAD THE MESSIAH FORETOLD PATHETIC END OF DOWIE.

John Alexander Dowie was not appointed by God at all. He was therefore, a false prophet. He met his ignoble end in accordance with the decree of God regarding the fate of false prophets.

THE TRUE PROPHET

The Bible as well as the Holy Quran give a sure test of a true Prophet. If a person pretends to be a Prophet and lies about revelations from God, he will never prosper and will dwindle into oblivion. (see Deuteronomy, 18:21; The Holy Quran, 69:45-48). This has to happen in a short span of time, perhaps no more than just a few years.

We already have the example of Alexander Dowie, a false prophet proclaiming to be Elijah III. He began in 1902 and was already dead by 1907.

Ahmad, on the other hand, claimed to be from

God and said that God talked to him. He wrote more than 80 books and related in them thousands of revelations from God. If he was making them up, he would be telling lies on God. In that case he would have the same fate that John Alexander Dowie had.

We see the complete opposite of that. Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad laid his claim to be the Promised Messiah more than a hundred years ago. He was rewarded by God with one brilliant success after another. Far from disappearing into oblivion, his fame is increasing every day and we see his followers in almost every country of the world. Just this fact alone should be quite enough for a seeker after the truth.

EPILOGUE

Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad passed away on May 26, 1908, but the Community established by him in 1889 kept on flourishing and is now found in all the corners of the globe. How beautifully did his prophecy find fulfillment which had stated:

"I will cause thy message to reach the ends of the earth."

Lots of people, groups and even government powers have tried to stand up in opposition to the Promised Messiah but none has so far succeeded in stopping the spread of his Movement.

Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, the then Prime Minister of Pakistan was the first to officially declare the Ahmadies as non Muslims in 1974. It is interesting that there was a prediction made by the Promised Messiah that he will reach his 51st birthday but will not see his 52nd birthday and he will die like a dog. This is exactly what happened. In 1977, Mr. Bhutto won by a landslide but was soon ousted by a military coup and was hanged in 1979. He was 51 years and 90 days old when he dies like a dog.

King Faisal of Soudi Arabia was very much behind Mr. Bhutto when he declared Ahmadies to be non-Muslims. He also died, killed by his nephew.

The President of Pakistan, General Ziaul Haq, was a vehement opponent of Ahmadiyyat. He declared in 1986 that he was determined to wipe out "the cancer of Ahmadiyyat" from the face of the earth. He was challenged for a prayer duel in June 1988 and met a sudden end in August of 1988 in the crash of his Presidential plane.

The American Ambassador died in the plane crash with him so the US government investigated the cause of the crash very thoroughly. After a year long investigation, the conclusion was that the plane had no mechanical failure and it was not shot down. We say it was an act of God. Perhaps the pilot had a heart attack.

The spread of the message of the Promised Messiah has accelerated greatly with the inauguration of the MTA International. This satellite transmission is beamed all over the world, 24 hours a day, 365 days of the year.

In 1996 alone, there were more than 1.6 million new members initiated into the Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam.

Hazrat Ahmad has predicted that there will be a majority of Ahmadies in the world within three centuries. This is bound to happen. Blessed are those who seek out the truth and join the ranks of those who follow the Promised Messiah. *Allaho Akbar.*

Miraculous Signs...

(continued from page 23)

But see the glory of God today that a multitude of people are flocking over to me; Turning Qadian into a site of attention for the righteous nobility.

Today the sun does not set on Ahmadiyyat which can be found in more than 140 countries of the globe. Other than the rate of spread of the message, another criterion of growth of the community is the fact that the yearly budget of few rupees in the early days of the Movement, a 100 years ago, has grown to over 4 million dollars, for the American chapter alone.

In the beginning the community had only one or two mosques in Qadian, this number had grown to more than 4,000 by 1994. 28 of these centers are in USA.

The success of the community has been so convincing in various spheres that even the arch enemies of community have acknowledged this.

FROM THE DESK OF THE AMIR SAHIB

MISSION HOUSES IN EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

Hazrat Khalifatul Masih (aba) in his Friday sermon of December 27, 1996, made a one time appeal for \$1,500,000, of which \$1,000,000 is to be collected in the first year for missions in Bosnia and Albania. It is requested that all Jamaats should organize collections for this important appeal.

Since it is a one time appeal, it will not be necessary to appoint a separate office holder and the responsibility in each Jamaat will be assigned to Financial Secretary or any other Secretary considered appropriate by the President in the circumstances of each Jamaat.

The collections will be in the name of "**Bosnia/Albania & East European Mission Fund.**" It may be mentioned here that I have already received two checks from 2 devoted Ahmadies as an immediate response to Huzoor's appeal.

MARRIAGE BUREAUS

The President, Chicago Jamaat, brought to the notice of the Amir that Mrs. S. Piracha has established an International Marriage Bureau and charges a fee of \$25.00 for registration and \$600 for services rendered in arranging marriages. It was further stated that she has offices in Pakistan and USA and has now started extending her activities among Ahmadies as well. This practice is not in keeping with Jamaat's traditions and I brought this matter to Huzoor's notice, seeking his directions in this regard.

A letter received from the Additional Vakilut Tabshir, London, conveys Huzoor's directions to the effect that **the Jamaat has nothing to do with such Marriage Bureau and no Ahmadi should participate or take advantage of such an arrangement.**

Message from the General Secretary, UK Jamaat:

Re: JALSA SALANA UK 1997

I am directed to inform you that with the approval of Syedna Hazrat Khalifatul Masih IV the 32nd Jalsa of the UK Jamaat shall, Inshallah, be held at Islamabad (Tilford) on July 25, 26, and 27, 1997. Please note these dates and communicate to all concerned.

Syedna Hazrat Khalifatul Masih IV has also nominated Mr. Abdul Baqi Arshad as Officer Jalsa Salana and Maulanaa Ataul Mujeeb Rashed, Missionary Incharge UK as Officer Jalsa Gah.

You are requested to pray for the success of the Jalsa Salana.

REGISTRATION FORM

49th Ahmadiyya Movement In Islam USA Jalsa Salana June 20, 21, 22, 1997

MAILING ADDRESS:

Nazim Registration Jalsa Salana 1997
15000 Good Hope Road
Silver Spring, MD 20905 (Attention: *Latif Khalil Nazir*)
Phone: 301-879-0110

JALSA LOCATION:

Capital Expo Center, Chantilly, VA 22022

- INSTRUCTIONS:**
1. All Jalsa attendants must complete this form to register and obtain a registration card.
 2. Please return completed forms to arrive by *May 15, 1997*.
 3. If any guest is listed without a member code, the form must be verified by a Jama'at Office Holder.
 4. Accommodation will be provided for *two nights* only.
 5. Please identify your special needs during the Jalsa on a separate page and mail it with your form.

I. LIST ALL MEMBERS OF YOUR PARTY

Complete the table and write your name first as head of the family. Include all members of your party that will be attending this year Jalsa. Make sure to write member code for each person listed. Please write last name, first name, and middle name carefully.

No.	Member Code	Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Sex M/F	*Tanzeem A/K/L/N/T/U	Relationship
1							SELF Family Head
2							
3							
4							
5							
6							
7							
8							

*Tanzeem: A-Ansar, K-Khuddam, L-Lajna, N-Nasirat, T-Tifl, U-Under 7 Years

II. YOUR ADDRESS & PHONE NUMBERS

Street Address						
City		State/Province		Zip		
Country		Jama'at				
Home Phone With Area Code	(____)-____-____	Work Phone With Area Code	(____)-____-____			

III. ACCOMMODATION WITH A FAMILY

Do you want Jama'at to arrange for your accommodation with any family?	YES / NO
--	----------

If you prefer to stay with a family, please provide the following information about your preferred host. Note that if you do not provide this information, your preferred host will be asked to accommodate other guests.

Host Name	Phone	(____) - ____ - ____
Address		

Please note that if you do not have any family preference and your Registration Form is received after *May 15, 1997*, Jama'at will not be able to reserve family accommodation for you.

IV. MOTEL ACCOMMODATION

If you prefer to stay in a motel, with special reservation arranged by Jama'at, please complete the following

Completed Form Must Arrive	Rate For Two Nights	Amount Enclosed With Completed Form
On or Before May 15, 1997	\$70 Per Room	
From May 16, 1997 To June 1 1997	\$120 Per Room	
After June 1 1997	Please make your own arrangements, Jama'at will not be able to provide any accommodation.	

Please enclose check for the total amount payable to: AHMADIYYA MOVEMENT IN ISLAM

NOTE: If you wish to stay in the same motel where your relative or friend is going to stay, your and relative/friend's completed forms must arrive together in one envelope with appropriate amount. Please call ahead if your group is larger than two families.

V. TRAVEL INFORMATION

TRAVEL BY	SCHEDULE	
Airplane	Airline Name & Flight #:	
	Arrival Date:	
	Do you plan to rent a car on arrival?	YES NO
	Depart Date & Time:	Depart Airport

Please note that *Washington Dulles International Airport* is closest to the Jalsa. Jama'at will provide transportation from this airport *only*. You must make your own transportation arrangements if you decide to fly into Washington National or Baltimore-Washington International (BWI) Airport.

VI. REGISTRATION VERIFICATION BY JAMA'AT PRESIDENT/MISSIONARY

(Only Required For Those With No Membership Code)

Name	Jama'at
Designation	SIGNATURE

THE PHILOSOPHY OF THE TEACHINGS OF ISLAM

The Promised Messiah's book, *The Philosophy of the Teachings of Islam*, has been published in many foreign languages. It is available here in the following languages.

Albanian	Bulgarian
Chinese	English
Greek	Hebrew
Persian	Polish
Russian	Spanish
Turkish	Urdu

All these books are priced at \$2.00 each. Hard bound copies are available in the English version for a price of \$2.50

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2141 Leroy Place, N.W.
Washington, DC 20008

Other books available from the above address are also listed in the next column. Order the books you need today.

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Tafseer Kabeer, (Urdu) 10 volumes	60.00
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Yassarnal Quran Primer	3.00
Introduction to the Study of the Holy Quran	7.00
Life of Muhammad (s.a.w.)	5.00
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Murder in the Name of Allah	6.00
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A Man of God	6.00
Lessons of Islam (set of 4)	6.00
Waqf Nau Set	6.00
Gulf Crisis	8.00
Souvenir Baitur Rahman Mosque	8.00
Synopsis of Religious Preaching 1, 2 (each)	1.50
My Mentor	4.00
Rah-i-Huda	4.00
Tafheemat Rabbania	8.00
Shaheedan Rahe Wafa	3.00
Ibn Maryam	6.00
Tohfa Golarvia	6.00
As'hab-e-Ahmad	5.00
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