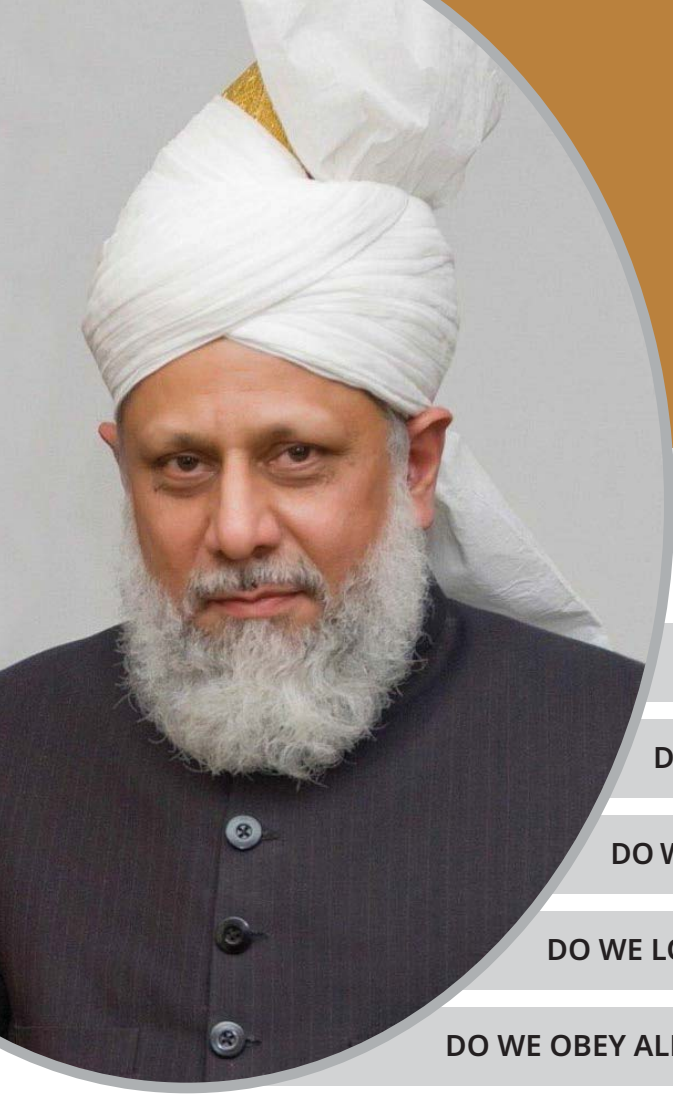


AHMADIYYA Gazette

Volume 51 - No. 06 - June 2022

CANADA 





WHAT IS THE LEVEL OF OUR FAITH?

Syedna Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V (may Allah be his Helper!) said:
We need to analyze ourselves and ask:

WHAT IS THE LEVEL OF OUR FAITH?

DO WE HAVE FEAR OF ALLAH?

DO WE TREAD UPON THE NARROW PATHWAYS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS?

DO WE LOVE GOD ALMIGHTY MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE?

DO WE OBEY ALLAH THE EXALTED AND HIS MESSENGER^{SA} TO A FULL EXTENT?

And in parallel, we must keep an eye on our deeds [and ask ourselves]:

DO OUR ACTIONS CONFORM TO THE TRUE TEACHINGS OF ISLAM?

ARE OUR DEEDS MERELY FOR SHOW?

ARE THE PRAYERS WE OFFER OSTENTATIOUS?

IS THE WEALTH WE SACRIFICE AND THE ZAKAT WE OFFER PRETENTIOUS?

ARE THE FASTS WE OBSERVE A MERE DISPLAY?

DO WE GO FOR HAJJ TO BE CALLED 'HAAJI' ?

And we will be showing true obedience to Allah and His Messenger^{SA}—and attain peace of mind— only when every action we carry out is done solely for the pleasure of Allah. Only then can such a society be established under the shade of Khilafat, when every action we take is fulfilling the rights of Allah and the rights of mankind. ”



AḤMADIYYA GAZETTE CANADA
An Educational and Spiritual Publication

50 YEAR ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

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ABBREVIATIONS OF SALUTATIONS

- sa** Ṣallāllahu 'alaihi wa Sallam - May peace and blessings of Allah be upon him!
Usage: Salutation written after the name of the Holy Prophet Muḥammad^{sa}
- as** 'Alaihis-Salām/ 'Alaihas-Salām - May peace be upon him/her!
Usage: Salutation written after names of Prophets other than the Holy Prophet Muḥammad^{sa}, and pious women prior to the era of the Holy Prophet Muḥammad^{sa}
- ra** RaḍīAllahu 'anhu / 'anhā/ 'anhum - May Allah be pleased with him/her/them!
Usage: Salutation written after names of Companions of the Holy Prophet^{sa} and Companions of the Promised Messiah^{as}
- rh** Raḥimahullāh - May Allah have mercy upon him!
Usage: Salutation written after the names of deceased, pious Muslims who are not Companions
- aa** Ayyadahullāhu Ta'ālā binaṣrihil-'Azīz - May Allah be his Helper!
Usage: Salutation written after the name of Hazrat Mirzā Masroor Aḥmad, Khalīfatul-Masīḥ V^{aa}



**AḤMADIYYA
MUSLIM JAMA'AT**
Canada

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PEARLS OF WISDOM

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

THE HOLY QUR'ĀN

And when books are spread abroad. And when the heaven is laid bare, and when the Fire is caused to blaze up, and when the Garden is brought nigh, then every soul will know what it has brought forward.

(81:11-15)

وَإِذَا الصُّحُفُ نُشِيتُ ۖ وَإِذَا السَّمَاءُ كُشِطَتْ ۖ وَإِذَا الْجَبَاهِمْ سُعِرَتْ ۖ وَإِذَا الْجَنَّةُ أُنْفِثَتْ ۖ عَلَيْهِمْ نَفْسٌ مَّا أَحْضَرَتْ ۖ

(سورة التكويد، 11-15)

اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِ مُحَمَّدٍ وَبَارِكْ وَسَلِّمْ إِنَّكَ حَمِيدٌ مَجِيدٌ

HADĪTH

In the name of Allah, the Gracious, the Merciful. [This letter is] from Muhammad, the servant of Allah and His Messenger, to Heraclius the Ruler of Rome: Peace be on whosoever follows the guided path. Thereafter, I invite you to Islam. Become a Muslim and find peace; and Allah will double your reward. If you turn away, you will be answerable for the sins of your subjects. And “O People of the Book! come to a word equal between us and you — that we worship none but Allah, and that we associate no partner with Him, and that some of us take not others for Lords beside Allah.’ But if they turn away, then say, ‘Bear witness that we have submitted to God.’” (Āl-e-‘Imran, 65)

(Text of letter sent by Holy Prophet^{sa} to the Byzantine Emperor. qtd. in Sahih al-Bukhari, Book of Revelation, Hadith 7)

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ مِنْ مُحَمَّدٍ عَبْدِ اللَّهِ وَرَسُولِهِ إِلَى هِرَقْلَ عَظِيمِ الرُّومِ: سَلَامٌ عَلَى مَنْ اتَّبَعَ الْهُدَى، أَمَا بَعْدُ فَإِنِّي أَدْعُوكَ بِدَعَايَةِ الْإِسْلَامِ، أَسْلِمْتَ تَسْلَمَ، يُؤْتِكَ اللَّهُ أَجْرَكَ مَرَّتَيْنِ، فَإِنْ تَوَلَّيْتَ فَإِنَّ عَلَيْكَ إِثْمَ الْأَرِيسِيِّينَ وَيَا أَهْلَ الْكِتَابِ تَعَالَوْا إِلَى كَلِمَةٍ سَوَاءٍ بَيْنَنَا وَبَيْنَكُمْ أَلَّا نَعْبُدَ إِلَّا اللَّهَ وَلَا نُشْرِكَ بِهِ شَيْئًا وَلَا يَتَّخِذَ بَعْضُنَا بَعْضًا أَرْبَابًا مِنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ فَإِنْ تَوَلَّوْا فَقُولُوا اشْهَدُوا بِأَنَّا مُسْلِمُونَ (آل عمران: 65)

(صحيح بخارى، كتاب الوحي، باب ٦)

SO SAID THE PROMISED MESSIAH^{AS}

“We find in the Holy Qur’an:

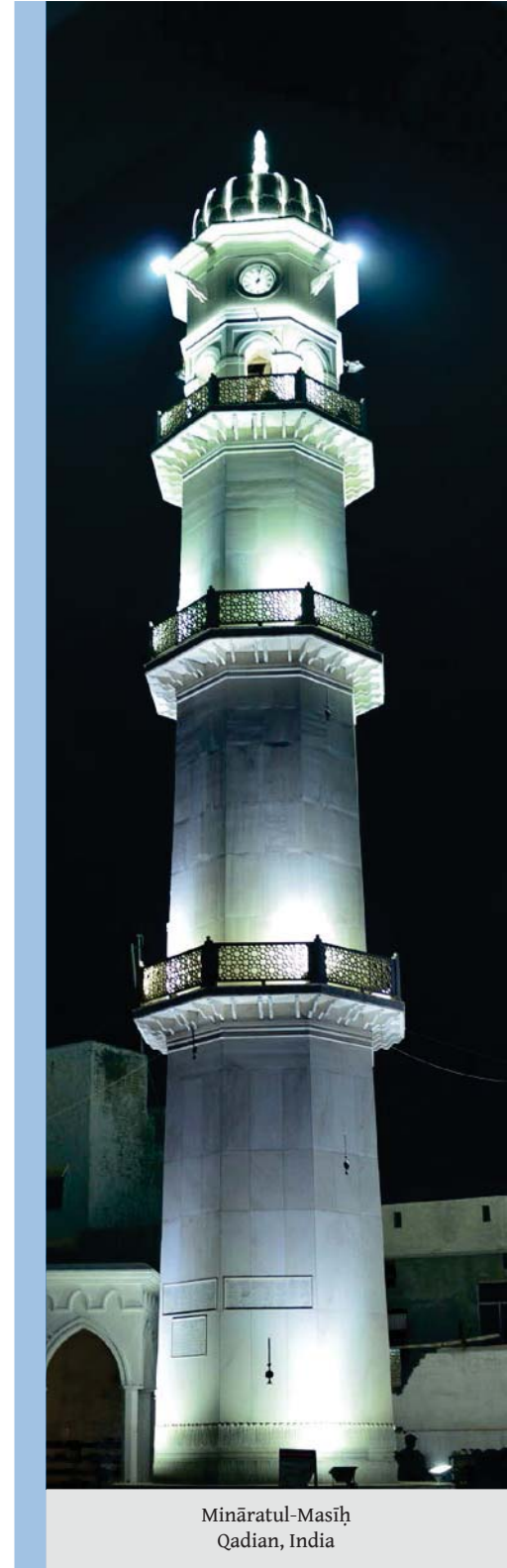
وَإِذَا الْعِشَارُ عُطِّلَتْ ۖ وَإِذَا الْوُحُوشُ حُشِرَتْ ۖ وَإِذَا الْبِحَارُ سُجِّرَتْ ۖ وَإِذَا النُّفُوسُ زُوِّجَتْ ۖ وَإِذَا الْمَوْءِدَةُ سُيِّلَتْ ۖ بِأَيِّ ذَنْبٍ قُتِلَتْ ۖ وَإِذَا الصُّحُفُ نُشِرَتْ ۖ

And when the she-camels, ten-month pregnant, are abandoned, and when the beasts are gathered together, and when the seas are made to flow forth one into the other, and when people are brought together, and when the girl-child buried alive is questioned about, ‘For what crime was she killed?’ *And when books are spread abroad.*

Meaning, in that era, she-camels, which previously were the best means of transport and conveyance, shall become useless. In other words, during that era, the mode of transport will become so advanced that these earlier forms would be rendered useless. This alluded to the age of locomotives. Those who believe that these verses speak of the Resurrection do not stop to reflect how a she-camel could remain pregnant at such a time. The word ‘ishār refers to pregnant she-camels.

Then, these verses state that streams shall be made to flow forth in all directions *and books shall be published abundantly.* Hence, all of these signs relate to the era under discussion.”

(Malfuzat - Sayings & Discourses of the Promised Messiah, Vol 1, pp. 49-50)



Mināratul-Masīh
Qadian, India

GUIDANCE FROM HAZRAT KHALĪFATUL- MASĪH V^{AA}

*The following summary of Friday Sermon has been prepared by
the Review of Religions, as posted on allIslām.org*



MAY 27, 2022

UNDERSTANDING THE TRUE ESSENCE OF KHILAFAT DAY

After reciting Tashahhud, Ta'awwuz and Surah al-Fatihah, His Holiness, Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad^{sa} said that today is the 27 May which is known as Khilafat Day in the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community.

FULFILMENT OF A DIVINE PROMISE

His Holiness^{aa} said that on this day we hold gatherings commemorating Khilafat Day, but why? It is important to always keep that answer to this question in mind. This day first started on 27 May 1908 when, in fulfilment of His promise, God established Khilafat in the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community. The Promised Messiah^{as} had been informing the Community for some time that his time to pass on was drawing near, however, at the same time, he would give the glad tidings that God had promised

this Community's success which would be led by the system of Khilafat.

His Holiness^{aa} said that once, the Holy Prophet^{sa} said to his Companions that he would remain among them so long as God willed and after his demise, Khilafat upon the precepts of prophethood would be established; these Caliphs would be in complete subservience to the Holy Prophet^{sa} and then, this Khilafat would end whenever God willed. Thereafter would follow tyrannical monarchy and upon its end would follow monarchical despotism. The Holy Prophet^{sa} prophesied when all this would take place in the Muslim Ummah, when God would manifest His mercy and establish Khilafat upon the precepts of prophethood once again. Then, the Holy Prophet^{sa} remained silent.

His Holiness^{aa} explained that this prophecy

of the Holy Prophet^{sa} about the ending of cruelty was for those who accepted the Promised Messiah^{as} and acted according to his teachings. If people do not avail this opportunity given to them by God, then the result is certainly that which is being seen with the rest of the Muslims world today. His Holiness^{aa} prayed that may Allah enable everyone to accept the True Servant of the Holy Prophet^{sa}.

A CALIPHATE TO REMAIN UNTIL THE END OF TIME

His Holiness^{aa} said that the fact that the Holy Prophet^{sa} remained silent after mentioning the second establishment of Khilafat upon the precepts of prophethood shows that this second manifestation and system of Khilafat would remain for a long time.

His Holiness^{aa} quoted the Promised Messiah^{as} who said that according to God's promise to him which has been published in his book Barahin-e-Ahmadiyya, the second manifestation after him – Khilafat – would remain until the end of time as God would continue to commission people for the safeguarding and progress of this Community and Khilafat.

His Holiness^{aa} said that those of us who have always remained attached to Khilafat are fortunate, and unfortunate are those who wish to limit Khilafat-e-Ahmadiyya to a certain period of time. Such people will only ever experience defeat.

A SECOND MANIFESTATION TO CONTINUE THE TASK OF THE PROPHET

His Holiness^{aa} quoted the Promised Messiah^{as} who said that he was the first manifestation sent by God, and that after him, there would be others serving as the fulfilment of the second manifestation in the revival of Islam. His Holiness^{aa} said that thus, the promises made by God to the Promised Messiah^{as} regarding the establishment of Khilafat and the success of this Community will surely be fulfilled and will certainly come to pass. The Promised Messiah^{as} said that according to God's decree, His chosen ones are always victorious, as He states in the Holy Qur'an:

“Allah has decreed: ‘Most surely I will prevail, I and My Messengers.’ Verily, Allah is Powerful, Mighty.” (58:22)

His Holiness^{aa} further quoted the Promised Messiah^{as} who explained that prophets are commissioned to present God to the people and so that they may sow the seeds, but these seeds do not grow fully during the prophets' time. Rather, there comes after them a second manifestation which sees to the fulfilment of their mission. Hence, the institution of Khilafat established after the Promised Messiah^{as} serves the same purpose. As such, God inculcates a special bond and love within the hearts of people for Khilafat. In fact, this bond and love are even established in the hearts of new Ahmadis. This is all only possible due to the blessings of God.



Syedna Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V^{aa}

MIRACULOUS WAYS IN WHICH ALLAH GUIDES TOWARDS THE TRUE ISLAM

His Holiness^{aa} narrated various incidents about how people have been miraculously guided towards accepting Islam Ahmadiyyat. For example, a Christian man in Guinea-Bissau saw a dream in which a man wearing a turban was delivering an address to a crowd of people. He saw this same dream three times but could not recognise who this was. Some time later, he was in a nearby town and saw the Ahmadi watching the Friday Sermon on MTA. He asked who this was and was informed that this was the Caliph. Afterwards, he prayed with the Ahmadis and then announced that he was accepting Ahmadiyyat because this man who he saw on MTA was the same person he had seen in his dream, addressing people in the same manner. Hence, these are the ways in which God guides people, even if they reside in far-off places. His Holiness^{aa} said that some may ask why such incidents don't occur with them. His Holiness^{aa} said that these are the blessings of Allah, and it is also necessary for one to be sincere and pure in nature.

His Holiness^{aa} narrated many more incidents about the miraculous ways in which God guided people around the world towards accepting the truth of Islam Ahmadiyyat.

His Holiness^{aa} said that these are the ways in which God grants the Community sincere and loyal people and this will continue to happen by the grace of Allah. This is something which worldly people cannot understand. So long as people remain faithfully attached to Khilafat, they will reap the blessings of God. However, to achieve this, it is necessary to always remain mindful of our actions and ensure that they are in accordance with the commandments of God and are for the sake of attaining the pleasure of God Almighty. As the Promised Messiah^{as} explains, God has mentioned the doing of good deeds along with the mention of faith. Hence, we must always remain mindful of these things, so that we may all partake in the bountiful blessings promised by God to the Promised Messiah^{as}. We must ensure that we remain attached to Khilafat so that we may be united in spreading the message of God to the entire world.

His Holiness^{aa} said that every Ahmadi must have a bond of sincerity and loyalty with Khilafat, which will in turn enable them to fulfil the purpose of their oath of allegiance. This in essence, is the true purpose of commemorating Khilafat Day.

SPECIAL MESSAGE OF HAZRAT KHALĪFATUL-MASĪH V^{AA}

In the name of Allah, the Gracious, the Merciful

Respected Amīr Sāhib Jamā'at Canada

Assalamu 'alaikum wa Rahmatullah wa Barakatuhu

I have received your letter requesting a special message for the Gazette's 50-year issue. On this occasion, my particular message is that one objective of an organ of the Jamā'at is to play a distinct role in the tarbiyat of its members. The magazine should not only be a means of tarbiyat for its members, it should play an active role in the tarbiyat of their children and loved ones. Furthermore, these publications should also be a source of introducing members to the literature of the Jamā'at, which they could use in the work of tabligh. Hopefully, this magazine of yours has endeavored to fulfill these functions in its past. However, if it has not done so in these 50 years, you must now work along these lines; and in the future, this magazine must play an important role for Jamā'at members and, in particular, for the new generation. I have generally noticed that though you publish the magazine, no one seems to be reading it. The new generation is especially disinclined to it. The Gazette must also publish articles that cater to the psyche and intellectual needs of youth, and articles that bring out and highlight diverse aspects of tarbiyat, so the youth of the next generation read them and try to act upon them. May Allah the Exalted enable you to do so! May this magazine fulfill its function and true objective, which is to become a source of tarbiyat and tabligh, not just for the sake of publication.

May Allah bless your efforts. Amin!

Wassalam!

The humble one

Mirza Masroor Ahmad

Khalifatul-Masīh V

(Translated from Urdu)

“The magazines should not only be a means of tarbiyat for members, they should play an active role in the tarbiyat of their children and loved ones.

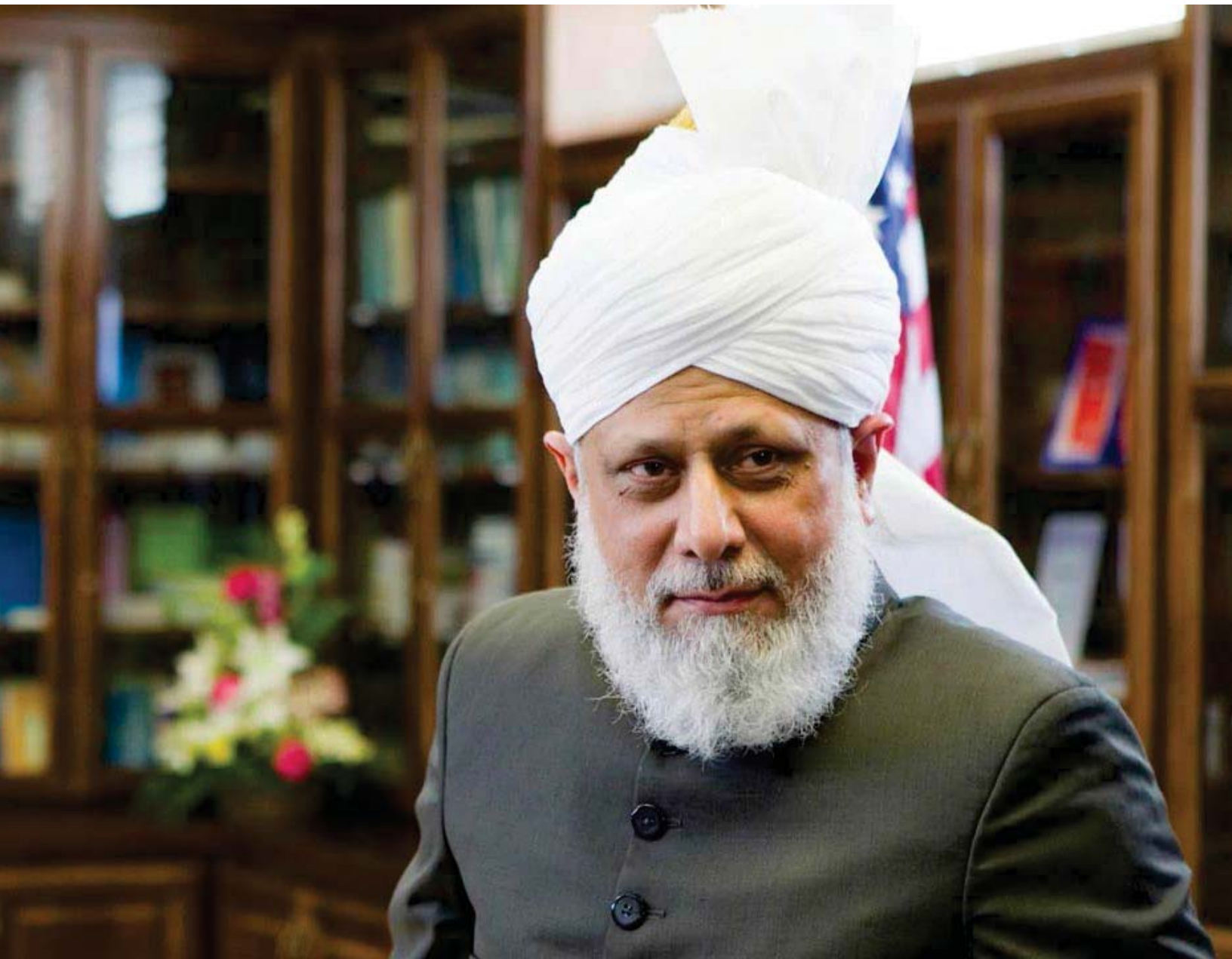




Image from: <https://islamicheritagemonth.org/>

MESSAGE OF AMĪR JAMĀ'AT CANADA

Dear members of Jamā'at Canada

Assalamu 'alaikum wa Rahmatullah wa Barakatuhu!

I have been asked to write a message for this special edition celebrating the 50-year anniversary of Ahmadiyya Gazette Canada.

I join all of you in celebrating this golden jubilee of the Gazette. The Gazette began in the form of a short news bulletin back in 1972. By the grace of Allah, it has since evolved into a comprehensive monthly organ of the Jamā'at that provides rich content for its readers.

Members of the Jamā'at, across the board, enjoy reading its content which revolves around the Holy Qur'an, the Holy Prophet^{sa}, the Promised Messiah^{as}, and the Khulafa Ahmadiyyat. A central feature of the Gazette is the summaries of the Friday Sermons of Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V^{aa}. It also includes articles from scholars and other writers who like to share their perspectives and knowledge.

Yet another great feature is that it acts as a news platform for Jamā'at events held across Canada. Similarly, it serves as a means of connecting individual members to the rest of the Jamā'at. Through the announcements section, individuals are given the opportunity to share their moments of happiness and sorrow with readers. In this way, people are able to share their news with the entire Jamā'at and request them for prayers.

No doubt, the editors, volunteers, and contributors throughout the last 50 years worked extremely hard to publish the Gazette and to ensure it reached Ahmadis' homes consistently. By the grace of Allah, we have witnessed how the Gazette has been reaching our homes month by month, year by year. Al-Hamdo lillah.

We have enjoyed and benefited immensely from its rich, spiritual content. All those who worked so hard to make it possible are worthy of our prayers.

The Ahmadiyya Gazette Canada has always been accessible in print format, but in this age of multimedia, it is also being provided in web format for the ease of our readers. It can be accessed on the website ahmadiyyagazette.ca. It can also be accessed through its Twitter account @AMJGazetteCA.

On this momentous occasion, let us pray that God Almighty may richly bless and reward all the past and present members of the Gazette team.

And let us continue to benefit from the Ahmadiyya Gazette Canada by reading it regularly and using this great platform to stay connected to the Jamā'at and to Khilafat Ahmadiyya.

Congratulations to you on the 50-year anniversary of your Ahmadiyya Gazette Canada!

Wassalam!

Lal Khan Malik

Amīr Jamā'at Canada

MESSAGE OF EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Dear Readers,

Assalamu 'alaikum wa Rahmatullah wa Barakatuhu!

Today, it has been 50 years since the Ahmadiyya Gazette started being published. This year is its 50-year jubilee. This special and historical issue is being presented to the readers as an expression of our celebration and gratitude to Allah on this occasion.

Readers would be pleased to note that, along with other books and magazines, this publication is also a practical testimony of the fulfillment of the Qur'anic prophecy:

وَإِذَا الصُّحُفُ تُنَشَرُ

“And when the books will be spread abroad” (81:11),

in favour of the Promised Messiah^{as}. Whereas this prophecy gives the news of the profusion of book and magazine publications in the world as a sign for the advent of the Promised Messiah^{as} in the latter days, the word 'As-Suhuf' especially points to the books and magazines that will be written and published to complete the mission of the Promised Messiah^{as}. Hence, our Gazette is also a small piece or element of this prophecy and divine will.

Al-Hamdo lillah, this magazine was initiated in 1972. On behalf of the entire Gazette staff, I congratulate all those early, sincere volunteers who pioneered this publication or contributed to it in any way. May Allah the Exalted grant them great rewards and bless them with His endless mercy.

By the grace of Allah, through its evolution in the last 50 years, this Gazette has become a permanent organ of the Jamā'at with a strong foundation.

However, one must always remember the fact that the fundamental source of its progression has always been the light and guidance of Khilafat Ahmadiyya. Al-Hamdo lillah!

By the grace of Allah, this magazine is full of teachings from the Holy Qur'an, the Holy Prophet^{sa}, the Promised Messiah^{as} and his Khulafa. Similarly, it is an informative, literary, graceful, and cherished magazine. It is published on a monthly basis and reaches every Ahmadi home. Beyond that, it is also sent to other Jamā'ats in the world.

I congratulate each and every member of the Gazette staff on this special and historical milestone. I pray that Allah the Exalted may accept their services, grant them the best of rewards, and bestow His countless blessings upon them.

Wassalam,

Hadi Ali Chaudhary

Editor-in-Chief



Image by jplenio from Pixabay



Editor's Note

All the secular magazines in the world, combined with their vast knowledge and latest information, can never quench the spiritual thirst latent in our soul. Being the fortunate ones to accept the Promised Messiah^{as} the Imam of the age, we Ahmadi Muslims are those fortunate souls who have, at our fingertips, spiritual treasures elusive to the rest of the world.

These spiritual troves that connect us to God Almighty and guide us on how to live a happy and fulfilling life are none other than the pearls of wisdom found in the text of Holy Qur'an, and in the example of the Holy Prophet^{sa}. In this age, Allah appointed the Promised Messiah^{as} to revive the true teachings of Islam, bring humanity back to its Creator, and offer the true path to world peace. The same mission is now being perpetuated by Khilafat Ahmadiyya.

Our beloved Imam Syedna Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V^{aa} provides us guidance in real-time, always drawing our attention to the most pertinent elements of our moral and spiritual well-being.

For this 50-year special issue, Huzoor Anwar^{aa} has yet again provided us guidelines and a course of action through his special message. The takeaways from his message are:

- The Gazette, as a national organ of Jamā'at Canada, should play an active role in the tarbiyat of Canadian Ahmadi—particularly the youth
- The Gazette should also focus on tabligh content and become a medium to introduce members to Jamā'at literature, especially material useful for doing Tabligh
- Members of the Jamā'at—especially the youth— should become attached to this magazine and read it keenly

Dear readers, the Khalifa of the time has spoken. Let us answer the call of our Imam. Let his message be our catapult.

The staff of the Gazette will Insha'Allah do its part to make the Gazette content more engaging and streamlined with tarbiyat and tabligh content, as desired by Huzoor Anwar^{aa}.

Similarly, members are requested to do their part and become avid readers of the Gazette. Please read the Gazette regularly and benefit from its content. It will offer you insights into the teachings of Islam, empower you with religious knowledge, motivate you to act, introduce you to Tabligh literature and connect you to Khilafat, Insha'Allah!

So the next time you receive a copy of the Gazette, please open it up and enjoy its contents.

Another great way to engage with the Gazette is to share your comments, feedback, and ideas with us. Similarly, you can write for us and contribute articles. Finally, you can share your occasions of happiness and times of sorrow with the rest of the Jamā'at members and benefit from their prayers. Please email us at editor@ahmadiyyagazette.ca.

May Allah the Exalted have mercy on us all, always enable us to obey the Khalifa of the time, and earn the pleasure of God. Amin!

Humbly,

Usman Shahid

Editor

“And when books will be spread abroad”

FULFILMENT OF A GRAND PROPHECY OF THE HOLY QUR’AN

Furhan Ahmad Hamza Qureshi

Serving as Assistant Editor, Ahmadiyya Gazette Canada

Out of the signs of the era of the Promised Messiah^{as} mentioned in the Holy Qur’an, one powerful sign is وَإِذَا الْكُتُبُ تُنْشَرُ i.e., “and when books are spread abroad” (81:11). This verse constitutes a grand prophecy regarding the latter days which was fulfilled in a remarkable manner. Before proceeding to examine the fulfilment of this prophecy, it should be borne in mind that although the word الْكُتُبُ has been translated commonly has ‘books’, it can also connote ‘pages’ and ‘scriptures’, thus providing a more expansive understanding of the prophecy.

LETTERS OF THE HOLY PROPHET^{SA} TO WORLD LEADERS

The first manifestation of this prophecy took place during the blessed life of the Holy Prophet^{sa} in the form of letters to world leaders. Allah the Almighty sent the Holy Prophet^{sa} as a global Messenger, as stated in the verse قُلْ يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ إِنِّي رَسُولُ اللَّهِ إِلَيْكُمْ جَمِيعًا “Say, ‘O mankind! truly I am a Messenger to you all from Allah’” (7:159). Hence, in view of this universal mission, the Holy Prophet^{sa} sent letters to kings and leaders after the Treaty of Hudaibiyah, in 6 AH. These letters were sent towards the leaders of the major empires of the era. The world leaders to whom these letters were addressed included Heraclius, Caesar of Rome; Chosroes, the King of Persia; Muqauqas, the Governor of Egypt; and the Negus, King of Abyssinia. Thus, in this way, the sending abroad of these writings constituted a fulfilment of this prophecy.

THE ERA OF THE PROPAGATION OF GUIDANCE

During the blessed lifetime of the Holy

Prophet^{sa}, guidance—in the form of the Holy Qur’an—was completed and perfected, and although the universal mission of propagating this guidance had begun, it was not yet time for the mass spreading of this teaching. Propagation of the teachings of Islam required means which were not then available. Thus, Allah the Almighty deferred the time of the propagation of Islam to the era of the Promised Messiah^{as}. Expounding upon this, the Promised Messiah^{as} wrote:

Since the means to connect the entire world together had not yet been created, nor had the means to facilitate travel by land and sea, nor were there any tools to accommodate the mass printing of religious books and distribute them throughout the entire world, neither were all faiths openly in sight of each other at one place...thus, according to Divine knowledge, another era was decreed for the completion of propagation in which complete means were available for complete propagation.

In concordance with the prophecies of the Holy Qur’an, the aforementioned ‘complete means’ for propagation were to be created during the time of the Promised Messiah^{as}, as is evident from the introductory verses of Surah At-Takwir, chapter 81 of the Holy Qur’an. In those verses, Allah the Almighty declared that during the latter days, in the blessed time of the Promised Messiah^{as}, there would be new means of transportation and communication, and books would be published and circulated in large quantities across the world—rendering it a global village. Despite the vastness of the earth, it would be as if distances had disappeared. It is towards



this that the Holy Prophet^{sa} alluded when he said:

الْأَرْضُ يُقْبَضُ لَهُ

i.e., the earth will be shrunk for him. That would be the era of the ultimate victory of Islam, as laid out in the verse

هُوَ الَّذِي أَرْسَلَ رَسُولَهُ بِالْهُدَىٰ وَدِينِ الْحَقِّ لِيُظْهِرَهُ عَلَى الدِّينِ كُلِّهِ

i.e., “He it is Who sent His Messenger with guidance and the Religion of Truth, that He may make it prevail over every other religion.” (9:33)

INVENTION OF THE PRINTING PRESS

For thousands of years, no effective resources were available for the mass publication of books. Books were rare

(c. 1400-1468), is credited with being the inventor of the mechanical printing press with movable type, which ushered in an unprecedented era of the mass publication of books. It is estimated that before the invention of Gutenberg’s press, the number of books in all of Europe could be counted in the thousands, whereas within just 50 years of its invention that number rose to millions.

disseminate the teachings of Islam across the world through the writings of the Promised Messiah^{as}.

Commenting on the revolutionary invention of the printing press and the fulfilment of this Qur’anic prophecy, the Promised Messiah^{as} wrote in his book *A’ina-e-Kamalat-e-Islam*, “This is the work of Allah the Almighty so that He may assist us in our task and spread our Faith and books, and so that He conveys our teachings to every nation that they may take heed and attain guidance.”

SIGN OF THE TRUTH OF THE PROMISED MESSIAH^{AS}

While mentioning the signs of his truth in *Haqiqatul-Wahi* (The Philosophy of Divine Revelation), the Promised Messiah^{as} wrote that the sixth sign “is the publication of books and manuscripts on a large scale, as is indicated in the verse: وَإِذَا الصُّحُفُ نُشِرَتْ” He further stated: “It is a matter of principle that during the time of a Divinely commissioned [messenger], all major activities and revolutions of the era are ascribed to his advent.” Therefore, the invention of the printing press and the mass publication of books is a powerful sign of the truth of the Promised Messiah^{as}.

Elaborating upon the prophecies of Surah At-Takwir, the Promised Messiah^{as} wrote:

وَإِذَا الصُّحُفُ نُشِرَتْ

i.e., the latter days will be a time in which books and scriptures will be widely published, such as had not been done before. This is alluding to machines through which books are published nowadays and subsequently distributed across thousands of miles by train.”

In *Lecture Lahore*, the Promised Messiah^{as} described this grand prophecy saying:

God has not only stated one sign of the latter days, when all people will be united under one religion, for the Holy Qur’an mentions many other signs, such as... availability of means for the mass publication of books (this



Image by Fauzan My from Pixabay

and handwritten by scribes, and countless books were lost to time as they could not be republished. However, under Divine decree, through this prophecy of books being spread abroad, just before the era of the Promised Messiah^{as}, new machines for the publication of books were invented.

A German goldsmith, Johannes Gutenberg

It is worthy to mention here that the first mass published book in Gutenberg’s press was the Bible. Although the printing press was invented by Christians, who aimed to spread their faith through the publication of their holy book, the Qur’anic prophecy of وَإِذَا الصُّحُفُ نُشِرَتْ (“and when books are spread abroad”) indicated that the actual purpose of the printing press would be to

refers to the printing press)...In this age, we have seen the fulfilment of all these signs. Every sensible person will realize that God has sent me at a time when all the signs that were written in the Holy Qur'an have been fulfilled.

DOES THIS PROPHECY APPLY TO THE DAY OF JUDGEMENT?

Interestingly, Muslim exegetes have applied the verse at hand merely to the Day of Judgement. Commenting on it, they explain that the word “الْأَنْفُثُ” applies to man’s record of deeds. For instance, the famous Qur’anic commentator Al-Zamakhshari (1074-1143) writes in his commentary “Al-Kashshaaf” that this verse refers to a person’s record of good and evil deeds which are rolled up at the time of death and then opened on the Day of Judgement. Identical or very similar explanations have been given by other great Muslim exegetes such as Imam Al-Qurtubi in *Al-Jami’ Li Ahkamil Qur’an*, Al-Alusi in *Ruhul Ma’ani*, and Imam Razi in *At-Tafsirul Kabir*.

Modern scholars have also limited the scope of this verse to the Day of Judgement and rather perplexingly neglected its application to the modern era. *The Study Qur’an*, edited by Seyyed Hossein Nasr and published by Harper Collins in 2015, summarizes the consensus of Qur’anic exegetes thus:

When the pages are spread refers to the opening of the book in which people’s deeds are recorded. Upon witnessing this life review, they will say, “What a book this is! It leaves out nothing, small or great, save that it has taken account thereof.” And they find present [therein] whatsoever they did (18:49), since on the Day of Judgment no deed can be hidden.

This begs the question: Does this verse apply to the Day of Judgement or does it prophesy the latter days? The Promised Messiah^{as}, who was commissioned as the judge and arbiter for religious matters, categorically stated that this verse does not apply to the afterlife. Commenting on the verse وَإِذَا النُّجُومُ عُدِّلَتْ “And when the

she-camels, ten-month pregnant, are abandoned” (81:5), he explained:

Those who think that these verses apply to the Day of Judgement do not consider how she-camels could ever be impregnated on the Day of Judgement, since عِشَار means pregnant she-camels. [The Holy Qur’an] also states that seas would be spread all around and books would be published in large quantities. All these signs are regarding the current era.

At another juncture, he stated:

If the truth of prophecies is not manifested in this world, then of what benefit could they be, and how would they increase faith? The foolish apply every prophecy exclusively to the Day of Judgement and when they are asked, they respond by saying that the Holy Qur’an does not contain any prophecies pertaining to this world.

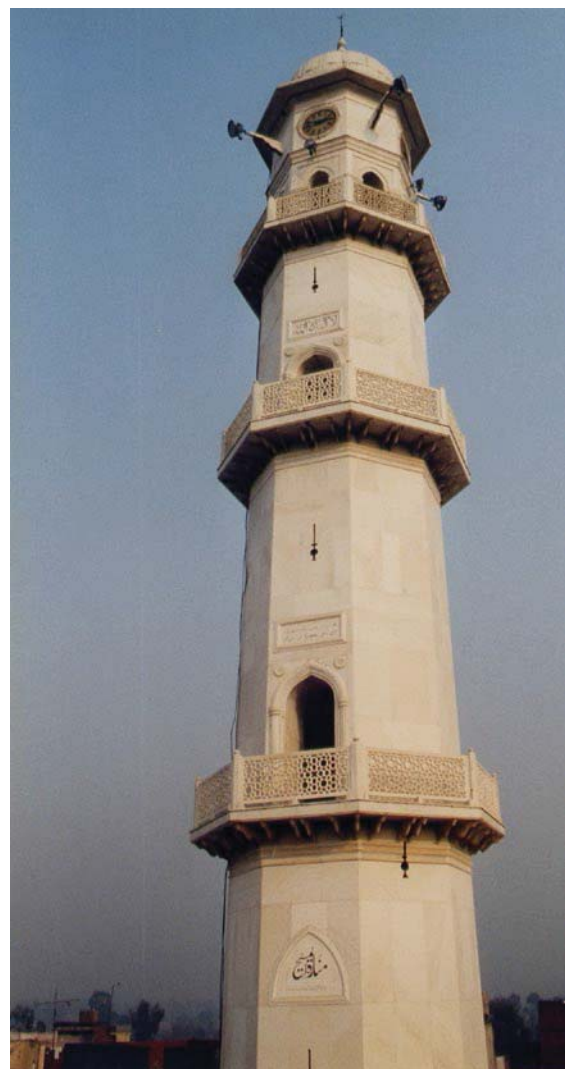
FULFILLMENT OF THE PROPHECY

Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih II^{ra}, the Promised Reformer, also commented on this verse in his magnum opus Qur’anic exegesis *Tafsir-e-Kabir*. He presented three meanings for the word نَشَرَ, from which نُشِرَتْ (lit. ‘will be spread’) is derived:

1. To spread, as in نَشَرَ الْخَبَرَ i.e., he spread the news
2. To open, as in نَشَرَ الْكِتَابَ i.e., he opened the book
3. To revive from the dead, as in نَشَرَ اللَّهُ الْمَوْتَى i.e., Allah revived the dead

In view of these meanings, he provided the following commentary of this verse:

- I. Printing presses will be invented for the large-scale publication of books and newspapers, and printed material will be spread across the world through new, effective modes of transportation.
- II. Books will be read more widely than before, and libraries will be



Minaratul-Masih Qadian, India

built from where patrons can sign out books and take them home. Thus, closed books will be opened and read.

- III. Archaeologists would translate books written in ancient languages, thus giving life to books that were practically dead and forgotten.

Furthermore, in the current, technologically advanced era, this prophecy is being fulfilled in many ways. Through the internet, not only books, but every type of knowledge has been spread all around and coincidentally, the term ‘webpage’ is an inadvertent allusion to this prophecy



Qadian, India

Printing presses will be invented for the large-scale publication of books and newspapers, and printed material will be spread across the world . . .

ROLE OF THE AHMADIYYA MUSLIM JAMĀ'AT

Since its inception, the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamā'at has been playing a key role in the spreading of books abroad. Like his master the Holy Prophet^{sa}, the Promised Messiah^{as} also wrote letters to world leaders and dispatched them across the world. He published thousands of leaflets outlining his mission and sent them to numerous countries including England, France, Germany, Greece, Russia, and America. *The Review of Religions*, which he founded, was regularly sent to English-speaking countries across Europe and to America as well, ushering in a new era of Islam in the West. Hence, through the Promised

Messiah^{as} himself, books and pages were spread across the planet.

Today, under the blessed guidance and leadership of Khilafat Ahmadiyya, books, magazines, newspapers, and writings are being spread throughout the world. The Jamā'at has published translations of the Holy Qur'an in over 70 languages. Sayings of Holy Prophet^{sa} and books of the Promised Messiah^{as} are being published, translated and circulated on a global scale, to acquaint the world with the beautiful true teachings of Islam. "The spiritual treasures which were buried for thousands of years" can now be accessed in a matter of seconds. Thus, through the internet, smart phones and social media, the truth of the Qur'anic prophecy of books being spread abroad is being manifested in a remarkable manner.

The Ahmadiyya Gazette Canada, which has been rendering services to the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamā'at in Canada for the last 50 years, is also a testament to the truth of this grand prophecy. By the grace of Allah Almighty, through the prayers and guidance of Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V^{ra}, this magazine is steadily progressing towards new heights of success. Through the blessings of the prophecy of *وَأَزِيدُ الْكِتَابَ نُشْرَةً* ("and when books are spread abroad"), may Allah the Almighty enable this organ of the Canadian Jamā'at to continue advancing, both in readership and circulation. Amin!

AN INTERVIEW WITH A PIONEER:

ZAKARIA VIRK

The Ahmadiyya Gazette Canada had the honour of interviewing Zakaria Virk Sāhib, an early staff member of the Gazette. We asked him the following questions. His answers are very insightful and shed light on the early workings of the Gazette. [Editor]

HOW WAS THE GAZETTE PREPARED IN THE EARLY DAYS, 50 YEARS AGO?

ZV: First of all, I would like to congratulate all the members of the staff of Ahmadiyya Gazette Canada on the glorious completion of 50 years of uninterrupted publication.

I arrived in Canada in September 1973. After living in Toronto for a few months, I moved to Mississauga (Queen Frederica Dr.) on Dundas/Dixie Road. There were several Ahmadi families living nearby like Mubarak Ahmad Khan, Mian Muhammad Siddiq, Muhammad Zafar Qureshi, Taufiq Malik, Mubashar Ahmad (of Kharian), and Sahibzada Tahir Latif, our Toronto President at the time. Mubarak Ahmad Khan was editor of *Ahmadiyya News Bulletin*. After consultation, I was made assistant editor. Mubarak Ahmad Khan used to prepare the *News Bulletin*, usually typed up the material for announcements himself and photocopied some material taken from Daily Al-Fazl Rabwah, or Monthly Al-Furqan Rabwah – one or two Urdu pages to be included in the magazine. The *News Bulletin* used to be 3 or 4 foolscap (legal) size pages. I used to write Urdu news by hand, and sometimes, Bashrat Ahmad Khan would do the Urdu ‘*kitabāt*’ as he was a seasoned calligrapher.

After my appointment, I used to type Toronto and Canadian Jamā‘at news, announcements and chapter reports on my typewriter. Some of the Urdu material was either handwritten by me or other members, like F. Rahman Amer. We would take this material to a photocopy shop and have 200 to 250 copies printed. After the printing, three to five members would gather at an Ahmadi’s house in the evening

or weekends to collate, handwrite postage addresses, affix postage stamps, staple and stamp the return address to each copy and take it to the post office for mailing. It was a labor intensive job but everyone did it happily.

In January 1976, our Jamā‘at bought a German printing machine, Gestetner, which was placed at my apartment in Mississauga. An announcement was given in the February 1976 issue: “Ahmadiyya Gazette acquires its printing unit”. In fact, the February issue was printed on this new machine. I would prepare the stencils on my manual typewriter, handwrite Urdu material with a black sharpie and run 200 or more copies on this machine, one page at a time. Although there were sometimes problems with printing, it was handy as well as cost effective. Then, we would take these copies to someone’s house for collating, writing mailing addresses and the rest. I distinctly remember doing this work at Mian Muhammad Siddiq’s house many times because his house was closest to mine. Printed address labels came in handy years later.

The postal address given on the Gazette was: P.O. Box 1183, Mississauga, Station B, Mississauga, Ontario with the phone numbers 274-3735, and 275-4145.

Fortunately, I have old copies of Ahmadiyya Gazette Canada from 1974-1977 at my home, as well as copies of the Gazette up to 1980. Right now, I am browsing copies from August 1974 to December 1974. September 1974 issue consists of three 8 ½ x 11" pages—two typed in English and one page of Malfoozat in Urdu taken from the Daily Al-Fazl, Rabwah. On the front page is

an English extract from Malfoozat, then a Hadith is given. On the next page is news from Rabwah, then local news, marriage ceremony announcement, a request for prayers, and an announcement for the next monthly meeting.

WHO WERE THE EARLY WRITERS OF THE GAZETTE?

ZV: As stated before, the *News Bulletin* consisted of 3 or 4 pages, so there were no writers. Once in a while, I would write a short article like “If Muhammad Ali Enters Pakistan”. In 1975, it was renamed to Ahmadiyya Gazette Canada. Subsequently, more pages were added, for instance the April ’76 issue consisted of 8 pages. As members showed great interest, more members started expressing their opinions. From this time on, some of the writers were Mubarak Khan, Muhammad Issajan Khan, Khalil Ahmad Chaudhry, M. H. Cheema, Abdur Rahman Mahshar (Urdu poet), Salim Siddiqui, Hassan Muhammad Khan Arif, Ch. Abdul Bari Ahmadi, Mrs. Attiya Sharif, Mrs. Amatur Rashid Shaikat, Hadayatullah Hubsch, Dr. Ijaz Ahmad Qamar (Winnipeg), Soofie Aziz Ahmad (Ottawa), Nasim Ahmad (Secretary AMJ Montreal), Muhammad Inigla (Windsor), Dr. Qazi Barkatullah (USA), C.M. Idris (USA), and myself (Zakaria Virk). The purpose of the journal at this time was to keep members abreast of Jamā‘at news, provide spiritual sustenance, guidance and make this a stable and strong link between the headquarters and members, both locally and nationally. Reports of Canadian chapters like Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, Brantford, Winnipeg, Edmonton, Calgary and Vancouver were published regularly.

I would prepare the stencils on my manual typewriter, handwrite Urdu material with a black Sharpie and run 200 or more copies on this machine, one page at a time.

MY EXPERIENCE WORKING WITH SYED MANSUR AHMAD BASHIR SĀHIB

ZV: Our first missionary Syed Mansur Ahmad Bashir was a dedicated, very active, energetic, and committed missionary. I had known his younger brother Imtiaz and his father Syed Iqbal Hussain from my childhood days in Darus Sadr Gharbi, Rabwah. Nothing deterred him from doing his work, even if it meant travelling 3000 miles by bus and staying up all night. He was a humble and down to earth person. He cultivated affable manners. Though he was short in stature, he had a high resolve. Once, when I asked him what the names of his children were, he whispered I don't know. He was engrossed in Jamā'at work and propagation feverishly.

It was a pleasure working under his direction. Before his arrival, I had moved to Thorncliffe Park Drive as my place of work, the Ministry of Health, was nearby. Our first mission house was also on 36 Thorncliffe Park Drive, #505 (subsequently, it was # 311). Most days after work, I would go to the mission house to offer Salat and do any work around the apartment. The printing machine was now at this apartment. I continued my work as assistant editor under his guidance and direction. More members were spending time in the mission house, so it was easier to collate, write addresses, staple pages, stamp and mail the Ahmadiyya Gazette. Two years after his arrival, the December 1979 Gazette consisted of 20 pages. It was diverse, covering activities of all branches of the community (Lajna, Khuddam, Atfal). Many times, intellectual discussions took place.

Once, Murabbi Syed Mansur Ahmad Bashir and I went to the Toronto Star office to

meet with the religion page editor, Tom Harper, a well-known journalist and author. On another occasion, the two of us went to the Toronto Maple Leafs' arena to hear Islamic scholar from South Africa, Mr. Ahmad Deedat. Once, we attended the constituent meeting of the member of parliament for Don Valley Mr. Gillespie and presented him with a copy of the Holy Qur'an.

DO YOU REMEMBER ANY HISTORIC EVENT FROM THE '70s ?

ZV: The most historic event was the arrival of Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih III^{rh} in Toronto from 8th to 11th August, 1976. This was the first time any Khalifatul-Masih had arrived in North America. The Ahmadiyya Gazette of August 1976 carried a beautiful photograph of Huzoor^{rh} on the front page. On pages 2, 3, and 4, Mubarak Ahmad Khan gave a detailed report of this historic visit. There was an announcement that the movie which was made during the visit of Huzoor^{rh} would be shown in the monthly meeting for September 1976 at YMCA on College Street in Toronto. Room 4 would be for Nasirat, room 7 for men, room 15 for Lajna and room 18 for children. The month of Ramadhan was starting on August 27, 1976 and Taraveeh would be offered in some homes.

ANY FAITH INSPIRING INCIDENTS FROM THOSE YEARS?

ZV: I am delighted to know Ahmadiyya Gazette is celebrating 50 years of its publication. From meager resources, little funding, and small manpower, our Ahmadiyya Gazette has flourished through all these years. This is indeed faith-inspiring. This magazine has been a strong and vocal link between members across this vast land of Canada.

After the Rabwah incident, a delegation of Toronto members, including myself, went by car to Ottawa in June 1974 to lodge a protest with the Ambassador of Pakistan. We met with press secretary Khalid Hassan (subsequently the press secretary of Z. A. Bhutto) who gave us a sympathetic ear. Afterwards, he sent a letter to National President Abdul Aziz Khalifa saying, "Your deep concern and your feelings expressed so eloquently by you and your colleagues were conveyed to the Government of Pakistan." I have a copy of this letter.

Also faith-inspiring was our first Jalsa Salana that was held in December 1977. An announcement in the December 1977 issue of the Gazette said: "The annual conference of Canada Jamā'at will, Insha'Allah, be taking place on December 24 & 25, 1977 at David and Mary Thompson Collegiate Institute, Scarborough." This announcement also appeared in the Toronto Star.

This historic and memorable first Jalsa Salana was presided over by Maulana Ataullah Kalim, Missionary In-Charge USA. According to the convention program included with the Gazette, it states the chairman of the convention was Syed Mansur Ahmad Bashir, while the Secretary of the Convention was Zakaria Virk (myself). Some members traveled by car from British Columbia - Idris Shaheen (3364 km) and one from North Dakota (2230 km) Chaudhry Idris to attend this blessed convention during the inclement winter season.

A JOURNEY OF THE GAZETTE AND ITS STAFF SYSTEM

Hadi Ali Chaudhary, serving as Chairman History & Records Committee
Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at Canada

Translated into English by Atiya Saleem

With the formal establishment of Jama'at Ahmadiyya Canada, it was felt that a magazine should be published in both Urdu and English. Thus, in June of 1972, the initial version of a newsletter called "Ahmadiyya News Bulletin" was launched. It was published until March 1975 under this name. The next three issues (April, May and June) were published under the title "The Muslim Outlook." And finally, the publication was named "Ahmadiyya Gazette Canada" from July 1975 and thereafter, it has been printed under this title.

In the very beginning, the editor and the assistant editor were solely responsible for the publication and worked hard to improve its quality. May Allah grant them the best of rewards! Āmīn

However, because the magazine, by default, falls under the supervision of the National President or Amīr, the following were the supervisors of the Gazette (until 1996):

1. Syed Tahir Bukhari, National President Jamā'at Ahmadiyya Canada: From inception in 1972 – May 1973
2. Khalifa Abdul Aziz, National President Jamā'at Ahmadiyya Canada: June 1973 – February 1977
3. Maulana Syed Mansur Ahmad Bashir, Missionary In-charge: March 1980 – November 1980
4. Maulana Munir-ud-Din Shams, Amīr & Missionary In-charge: December 1980 – June 1985
5. Major Shameem Ahmad, National President Jamā'at Ahmadiyya Canada:

July 1981 – November 1983 [During this period, this was a separate office distinct from Amīr and Missionary Incharge and was held by a different individual]

6. Maulana Naseem Mahdi, Amīr & Missionary In-Charge: May 1985 – May 1996

During this same period, the following were the editors and assistants:

EDITORS

1. Mubarak Ahmad Khan: June 1972 – December 1977
2. Maulana Syed Mansur Ahmad Bashir: January 1978 – February 1980
3. Retired Colonel Muhammad Saeed: March 1980 – June 1981
4. Maulana Munir-ud-Din Shams: July 1981 – August 1984
5. Hassan Muhammad Khan Arif: September 1984 – May 1996

ASSISTANT EDITORS

Muhammad Zakaria Virk, Chaudhary Khalil Ahmad, Professor Dr. Inayat-Ullah Mangla, Muhmmad Yousef Khan, Azfar Shah, Saleem Siddiqi, Hassan Muhammad Khan Arif, Habib-Ullah Tariq, Syed Hasnat Ahmad, Syed Hidayatullah Hadi, Abdul Hameed Abdul Rahman, Dr. Ijaz Qamar, Shafeeq Ullah, Hafiz Rana Manzoor Ahmed.

THE NEW STRUCTURE OF AHMADIYYA GAZETTE CANADA

As stated above, the National President or Amīr supervises all publications of the Jamā'at, just as he supervises all other Jamā'at endeavors of the country he presides



in. However, in June of 1996, it was established for the first time that the Amīr of the country would also formally serve as the overall supervisor of the Gazette, and that the editor-in-chief would work under his supervision. It was also established that the editors of English and Urdu portions would serve under the supervision of editor-in-chief. By the Grace of Allah Almighty, this system has continued to flourish ever since. The list below outlines the foundational history of the new system.

AMĪR JAMĀ'AT AS SUPERVISOR

1. Maulana Naseem Mahdi, Amīr & Missionary In-Charge: June 1996 – June 2007
2. Respected Lal Khan Malik, Amīr Jamā'at Canada: July 2007 to date

EDITORS-IN-CHIEF

1. Hassan Muhammad Khan Arif: June 1996 – June 2006
2. Lal Khan Malik: July 2006 – June 2007
3. Maulana Naseem Mahdi: July 2007 – December 2009
4. Hadi Ali Chaudhary (myself): January 2010 to date

URDU SECTION EDITOR

Syed Hidayatullah Hadi served the Ahmadiyya Gazette Canada in various capacities for a long period of time. Upon the establishment of the new system in 1996, he was given the role of editor of the Urdu section, which he is carrying out with great zeal to this day.

ENGLISH SECTION EDITORS

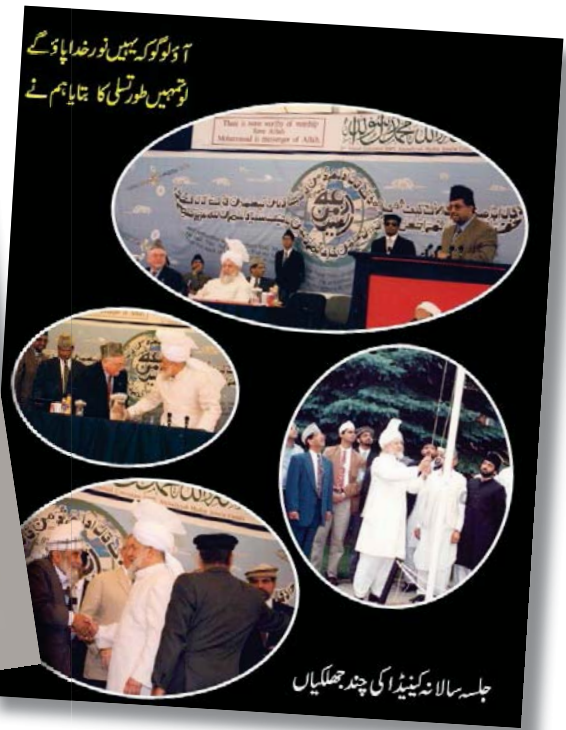
In the beginning, the editor-in-chief and his assistant editor would work on both the English and Urdu sections. From November 1984 up until May 1985 Respected Muhammad Yousef Khan and

Respected Azfar Shah served as editors of the English section. Starting in 1996, separate editors were assigned to both English and Urdu sections. The names of the English editors are listed below:

1. Hassan Muhammad Khan Arif: June 1996 – August 2006 (he simultaneously served as editor-in-chief)
2. Saleem Akhtar Farhan Khokhar: September 2006 – May 2007
3. Muhammad Nadeem Siddiq: June 2007 – August 2008
4. Ansar Raza: September 2008 – February 2011
5. Farhan Ahmad Naseer: March 2011 – September 2013
6. Usman Shahid: October 2013 to date

FRENCH SECTION EDITOR

In June of 1996, a small French section was added to the Ahmadiyya Gazette Canada and Respected Abdul Hameed Abdur Rahman served as its editor. He was editor of the English section at the time. This French portion ran until April of 1997 and then revived in March of 2017. Madiha Gohar has served as its editor.



The following members served alongside her: Sajid Muslin, Urooj Khan, Tahmina Rajpoot, Nadeema Sāhiba, Asifa Butt, Adila Malik, Maria Iqbal, Luqman Ahmad, Nabil Mirza.

MANAGERS AHMADIYYA GAZETTE

For the first month that Jamā'at Ahmadiyya Canada started this publication, respected Abdul Basit Khalifa carried out the responsibility of manager of the Gazette. Moving forward, various dedicated members of the Jamā'at served as manager; their names are listed below:

1. Abdur Sharif Latif: March 1985 – December 1988
2. Khalifa Abdul Wakeel / Mubarak Ahmad Mirza: January 1989 – March 1991
3. Khalifa Abdul Wakeel: January 1989 – August 2006
4. Mubashir Ahmad Khalid: September 2006 to date.

OTHER VOLUNTEERS

Other volunteers who have served the Gazette in various capacities over the years are listed below:

Muhammad Danial Khan, Muhammad Ilyas Khan, Muhammad Hazqeel Khan, Abdul Basit Khalifa, Basharat Ahmad Khan, Sheikh Mushtaq Ahmad, Mansoor Muzaffar, Parvaiz Saeed, Professor Mubarak Ahmad Ansari, Muhammad Zubair Mangla, Muhammad Nasir Ahmad, Chaudhry Majid Ahmad Warraich, Naseem Ahmad Sarfaraz, Hamid Latif Bhatti, Nasir Ahmad Vance, Dr. Basharat Muneer Mirza of USA, Nabeel Rana, Muhammad Sultan Zafar, Mubashir Ahmad Khalid, Masood Nasir, Tahir Azhar, Hafiz Rana Manzoor Ahmad, Shafiq Ullah, Muhmmad Asif Minhas, Mian Muhammad Hanif Qamar, and Ghulam Ahmad Abid.

The following ladies have served:

URDU SECTION: Tahira Hadi, Bushra Afzal Khan, Bushra Bilal, Ansa Talat, Naroz Malik Rosy, Fauzia Butt.

ENGLISH SECTION: Shazia Khokhar, Hana Malik, Nadia Mahmood, Amal Yousuf, Mansoor Rauf, Tahira Malik, Mahreen Khan, Naila Ahmad, Mishal Malik, Baria Qadeer, Manahil Pasha.

SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE

In September 2006, Muhammad Akram Yousuf was given the role of Special Representative. He has continued to serve in this capacity to date.

GRAPHICS

Muzzafar Ahmad, Nabeel Rana, Shazia Khokhar, Mubashir Ahmad Khalid, Farhan Naseer, Kashif Mahmood, and Maham Shahid-Aziz.

WEBSITE

Muzaffar Ahmad, Mubashir Ahmad Khalid, Farhan Naseer, Kashif Mahmood, Kashif bin Arshad, Bilal Ghumman.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Muhammad Sadeeq Akbar Toor, Muhammad Yahya Khan, Abdul Haleem

Qureshi, Bashir Ahmad Nasir, Ijaz Khan of USA, Muzaffar Malik, Tanveer Sheikh, Atta-ul-Qudoos Tahir, Major Abdul Hafeez Khalifa, Saeed Asad, Hadi Ali Chaudhary (myself), Mirza Tahir Baig, Farhan Naseer.

PRINTERS

Brothers Printing, Fazl Umer Printing Press (Ohio, USA), Ansar Graphics Printers, Jamnik Graphics, A-One Printers.

PROOFREADERS

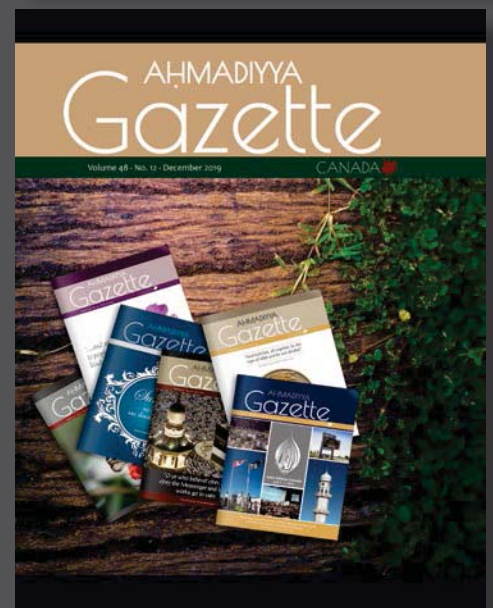
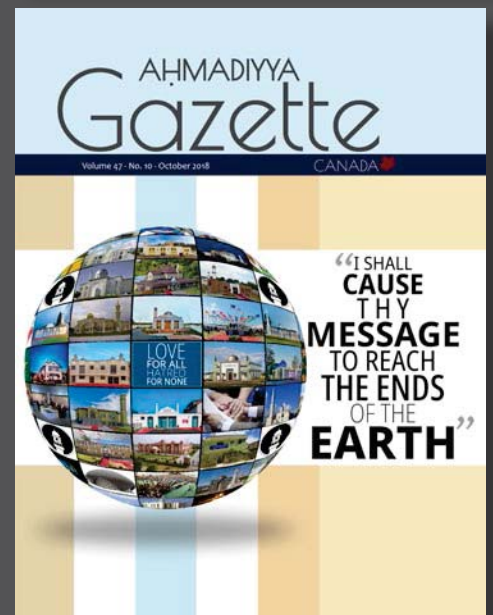
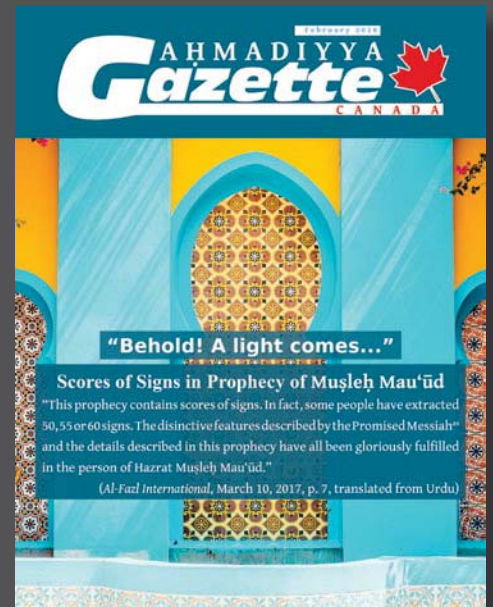
The following members have assisted Respected Amir Sahib in his proofreading and reviewing of the Gazette: Sadiq Ahmad, Saqib Zafar, and Najeeb Ullah Ayaz. In addition, the General Secretary Department also assists with proofreading. Reviewers from GS Department include: Sabih Nasir, Maarij Rana, Suleman Asfand, Khalid Minhas, and Iftikhar Ahmad.

CONCLUSION

By the grace of God Almighty, the Gazette continues to flourish and progress continuously in its inner and outer beauty; in its organization and quality of content.

In their respective letters, throughout the years, Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih IV^{rh} and Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V^{aa} have praised the Gazette and offered prayers for its staff.

May God Almighty accept their prayers in favour of the past and current volunteers, and may He enable this publication to continue growing and flourishing. Amin!



RECOUNTING the BLESSINGS

Syed Hidayatullah Hadi,
Serving as Urdu Editor, Ahmadiyya Gazette
Canada

Translated into English by Usman Shahid

The national magazine of Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamā'at Canada was initiated in June 1972 under the name of "Ahmadiyya News Bulletin."

The first issue consisted of 10 pages. The News Bulletin continued until March 1975. Following this, it was named "The Muslim Outlook." However, after three issues, April, May and June of 1975, it was decided to rename the magazine to "Ahmadiyya Gazette Canada". And thus, from July 1975 onwards, our national magazine was published under this title. The first editor of the organ was Mubarak Ahmad Khan. Gradually, more and more people joined the Gazette team. May God Almighty bless the staff and writers who served in this magazine. Today, on the momentous occasion of the 50 years of Gazette, we congratulate all those pioneers and subsequent staff members who contributed to the Gazette in one way or another.

In the initial stages, the Bulletin and Gazette would be written entirely by hand and would be printed using a cyclostyle and then distributed among Jamā'at members. May Allah the Exalted abundantly reward those pioneer writers and volunteers who

rendered these tedious and laborious tasks during that time. Hence, we especially pray for those pioneers on this 50-year anniversary of Gazette.

When I first arrived in Toronto on 25th July 1988, Maulana Naseem Mahdi was Amīr and Missionary In-Charge, Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamā'at Canada. Upon my arrival, he had graciously arranged for a place for us to stay. May Allah grant him the best of rewards. In truth, it is Khilafat Ahmadiyya, which is the fountainhead of all these blessings of Allah. Because of Khilafat, members of the community have a strong bond of love and brotherhood. As a result, despite the migration to a new land, I did not feel like a stranger in this new country.

BAITUL ISLAM MISSION HOUSE

At the time, the mission house was situated in a deserted area. Jane Street

was a narrow, small street with hardly any traffic. It had no bus service. I also did not have a car for transportation. Imagine the distance from Gerrard Street downtown all the way to Steeles. We would wait at Tim Hortons near Jane Street and Steeles Avenue, from where we were given a ride to the mission house by a volunteer. We would also buy doughnuts, Timbits, and coffee from Tim Hortons for the volunteers in the mission house. This was a time when telephones were less common. We would use a public phone booth to call for a ride.

On the very first floor of the mission house was the office of Abdul Wakeel Khalifa and some other volunteers. Beside it was a small room in which Isajaan Khan and Col. Muhammad Saeed would sit, whilst adjacent to their room was the office of the National Amīr. In the basement of the mission house, the Friday prayers would be held in a large hall. And on the opposite



side was the computer room.

PARTICULAR INSTRUCTIONS OF RESPECTED AMĪR SĀHIB

Upon my arrival, respected Amīr Sāhib appointed me to the editorial team of the Gazette and he instructed me to look after three particular points. First, that the Gazette should be published on a monthly basis so that members of the community are regularly informed about matters pertaining to the Markaz. Second, to include the proceedings of the monthly meeting as well as training classes. Along with the reports, he instructed that we should include pictures to spark interest in the readers. Third, to make arrangements for special editions which should include more academic and research-based articles, for example, issues on life of the Holy Prophet^{sa}, Promised Messiah^{as}, Muşleḥ Mau'ūd^{ra}, Khilafat. Furthermore, special issues on Jalsa Salana that should include the proceedings, speeches, as well as snippets from newspaper coverage and pictures. In addition, he also said to work on an exclusive 'Mubahila Challenge' issue which should also include all the blessings and help of Allah the Exalted as a result of the Mubahila challenge. These were the responsibilities which were assigned to me in July 1988.

JAMĀ'AT MONTHLY MEETINGS

Monthly meetings would be held in David and Mary Thomson Collegiate Institute, Scarborough. And thus, our team tried to regularly include reports of the monthly meeting as well as reports of Jalsa Siratun Nabi^{sa}, Prophecy of Muşleḥ Mau'ūd Day, Masih Mau'ūd Day, Khilafat Day, etc.

THE START OF MY AFFILIATION WITH THE AHMADIYYA GAZETTE CANADA

In the September-October issue of 1988, respected Amīr Sāhib included an announcement pertaining to my appointment as an Assistant Editor, assigning me to serve under Hassan Mohammed Khan Arif. I was already acquainted with him from Pakistan. It was an honour and pleasure to work with him.

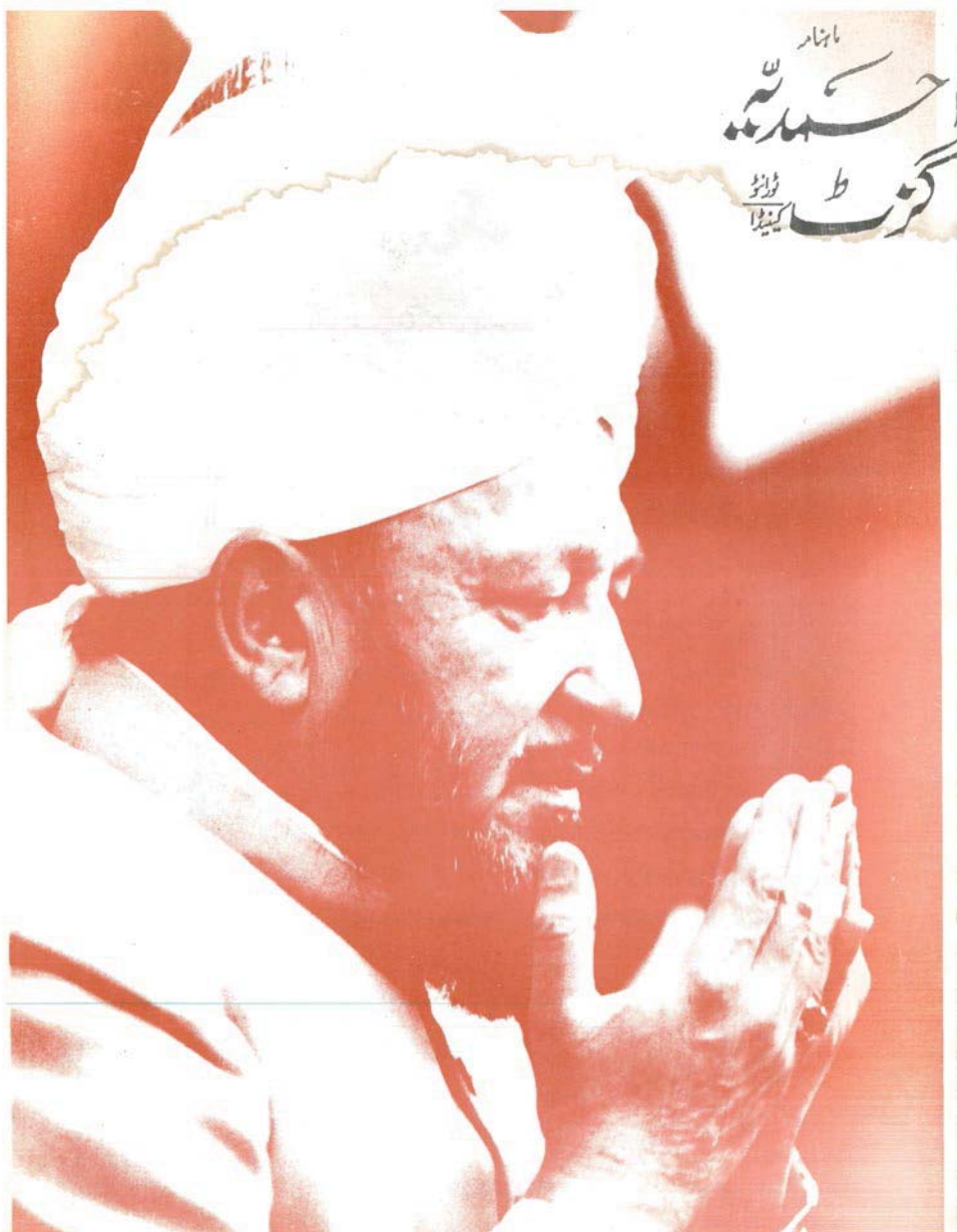
"MUBAHILA CHALLENGE" ISSUE


During this time, on June 10, 1988, the Fourth Khalifa^{rh} gave an open Mubahila challenge in his Friday sermon to all the enemies and rejecters and opposers of our community. Hence, respected Amīr Sāhib expressed the desire that the Ahmadiyya Gazette should publish an issue on this subject. Our team was advised to start working on the contents of this special edition. This was the first task I worked on after joining the team. The Mubahila issue was the very first special edition of the Gazette. The Mubahila edition was a combined issue for August, September, and October 1988. It comprised 80 pages, and, at the time, the Urdu section was

still being written by hand. In addition, clippings of Jamā'at newspapers were also included as images. However, the English section was already being composed on an electric typewriter by Hasan Mohammed Khan Arif.

CANADIAN ETHNIC MEDIA ASSOCIATION

In 1988, the Gazette became a formal member of the Canadian Ethnic Media Association and has since continued to be a member. The association maintains regular contact with us. From time to time, I attend their events. An annual fee is paid to be a member of this association. Our magazine has prominence among the pool





In the early phase of the Gazette, pages were prepared manually and one by one. Newspaper clippings were pasted right on the pages.

of magazines, journals, and newspapers. During this long period of time, many magazines have come and gone. It is the sheer grace of God that sometimes, when the chairman of the association introduces our magazine, occasionally they mention that the editor of the Ahmadiyya Gazette is their oldest serving member.

"DIVINE SUPPORT" ISSUE

The second special edition of the Gazette was on the theme of Divine support. It was published in January and February of 1989 and consisted of 128 pages. The contents of this special edition include the astonishing signs of Divine succour in favour of the Jamā'at as a result of the Mubahila challenge. In particular, respected Amīr Sāhib asked me to write an article on the striking similarities between the Pharaoh of Moses and the Pharaoh of the Promised Messiah^{as}. Thus, after writing a letter to Hazrat Khalifatul-Masīh IVth, I wrote this article, which mentioned 21 astonishing similarities between the Pharaoh of Egypt and the Pharaoh of this age in light of the Holy Qur'an. Again, this special edition had a similar format in which some articles were written by hand whilst there were many other newspaper clippings included.

PENMANSHIP OF THE AHMADIYYA GAZETTE

In those days, the Gazette was handwritten. But this was no easy task. It required painstaking efforts. Making amendments after the proofreading was challenging. Our writers included Basharat Ahmad Khan, Muhammad Nasir Ahmad, Naseem Sarfaraz, Muhammad Zubair Mangla, Hamid Lateef Bhatti, and Ch. Majid Ahmad Warraich. They were all very dedicated. Snippets of the corrections were written and then affixed to the relevant places. Sometimes, this would mean modifying the

sequence of paragraphs and even pages. Other times, entire pages would have to be re-written. The Gazette was printed on normal paper. It was not the kind of paper used by professional publishers. Hence, one can imagine how difficult and laborious it must have been to write the magazine on a monthly basis. They were all volunteers and had true sincerity, earnestness, and passion for this work. Many of them were recent immigrants but never did they complain. May Allah grant them the best of rewards!

I remember Hassan Muhammad Khan Arif would come to the mission house every Friday, all the way from Derry East, Mississauga. He would have to take several bus routes to arrive. It was on Fridays that the Gazette would be presented to him for corrections, after which the final proof was shown to respected Amīr Sāhib. Amīr Sāhib would scan over the draft and give us guidance. His eyes would stop precisely on the errors, which he would markup with a black pen.

PHOTOGRAPHERS

In the earliest stages of the Gazette, cameras were not common. Various volunteers served as photographers at different points, including: Muhammad Siddiq Akbar Toor of Windsor, Abdul Haleem Qureshi, Yahya Khan, Bashir Ahmad Nasir, Ijaz Ahmad Khan of Detroit, and several others whose names have already been mentioned in the article "A Journey of the Gazette".

Bashir Ahmad Nasir began to volunteer as a 'press photographer' upon his arrival in Toronto. He would give very minute coverage to every event and work with exceptional diligence. He took thousands of pictures. He would accompany Amīr Sāhib on his meetings with leaders and

politicians and would take historical photos and preserve and collect them in albums. His daughter, Warda Iffat Nasir assisted him in sequencing and saving these photos. Her efforts are indeed praiseworthy.

AHMADIYYA GAZETTE PRINTERS

In the early phase of the Gazette, pages were prepared manually and one by one. Newspaper clippings were pasted right on the pages. In this delicate work, Rehan Lateef Sharma worked particularly hard and showed great responsibility in carrying out this task. The manuscript was then given over to the printers, who would screen it thoroughly. If an error was caught, it would be fixed with urgency. Only once the printing started was there a sense of relief. Yet, in a few days, the team would restart working on the next issue. Due to this constant cycle, the team would hardly have time to take a breather. But by the sheer grace of Allah, the whole team had tenacity.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE GAZETTE

In those days, the printed copies were transported to the mission house in large sacks. Khalifa Abdul Wakeel, manager Ahmadiyya Gazette, would invite a team of children who would manually place the Gazette inside envelopes and write the addresses on each envelope. These were re-checked for accuracy. Next, envelopes were stamped with return addresses. The Gazettes were then sealed and placed in Canada Post sacks and dropped off at the Canada Post outlet at Major Mackenzie and Keele. Such was the arduous journey of printing and distributing that would have to be taken every month.

Another name that stands out in the history of printing the Ahmadiyya Gazette is the late Dr. Basharat Munir Ahmad who

was the son-in-law of Hazrat Deputy Mian Muhammad Shareef^{ra} of Lahore, companion of the Promised Messiah^{as}. Dr. Sāhib was a unique personality in the Fazl Umar Press, Ohio, USA. He published the Ahmadiyya Gazette at the lowest rate, one that was unimaginable at the time. He also printed some books free of charge. He would latch a small trailer to his car and transport the Gazette to Toronto. He would wait for them to be labelled after which he'd put them in large sacks and drop them off at the post office in Vaughan or Mississauga. He was an extremely hard-working, passionate, sincere and virtuous soul. He served Ahmadiyya Jama'at USA with the same devotion. May Allah grant him the best of rewards.

"AHMADIYYA JUBILEE" ISSUE

The third special issue was on the Centenary Celebration of Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamā'at (1889-1989) which was the March-June 1989 edition and comprised 224 pages. In this particular issue, my name was published as the editor. It was a comprehensive, historical magazine that included historical photos, even some in colour. The edition included some sample writings from holy personages; some highlights from the history of Jamā'at from 1835 to 1984; a list of martyrs from 1901 to 1978, as well as an editorial congratulating members of the community on this auspicious occasion. It also included an article on a brief history of Jamā'at Ahmadiyya Canada from 1972 to 1989. By the grace of Allah, the edition gained wide acceptance.

The historical photos for this special were provided by Abdul Haleem Qureshi, Yahya Khan and some other friends, including Muhammad Siddiq Akbar Toor, who travelled from Windsor to attend the historical event and photographed the ceremonies.

"COMPUTER" ISSUE

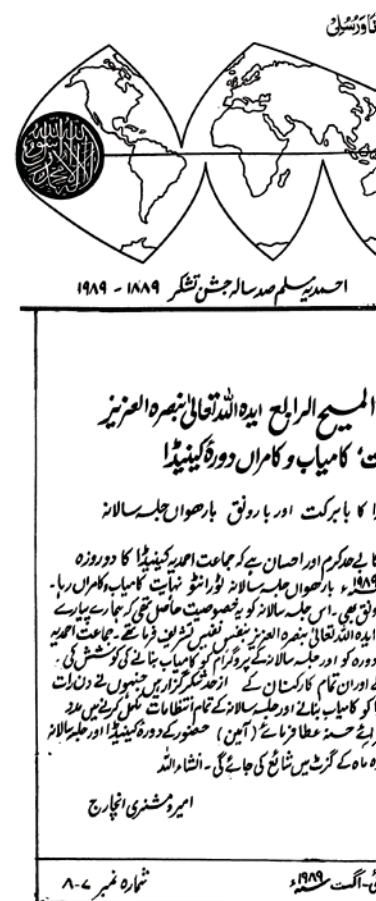
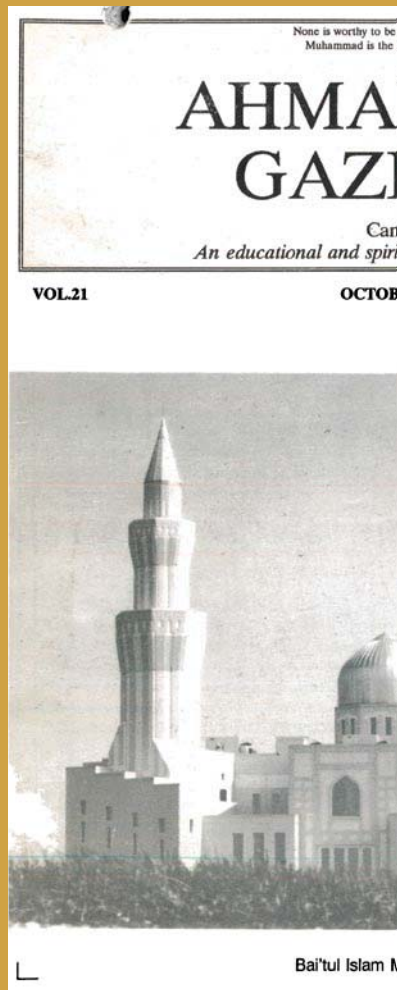
The fourth special edition was the Computer issue published in June 1991 with 110 pages. A special message of Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih IVth was also included in this issue. Apart from some other messages, it consisted of items such as the history of the computer system, the launch of a computer class, an overview of activities of the computer department, etc. This particular edition was entirely handwritten by Danial Khan.

THE INITIAL STAGE OF THE COMPUTER

This period runs up to the initial planning stage of the Baitul Islam mosque. I was also a student of AS 400, but up to this point, there was no Urdu typing software. In 1991, Mansoor Muzaffar, who had designed other programs for the Jamā'at, was specially requested to design an Urdu software. I remember constantly requesting him for the software. Eventually, he came up with the software, which was named 'Surkhab' [a Chinese pheasant bird]. Our beloved teacher Prof. Chaudhary Muhammed Ali would jokingly call it 'Surkab ka Per' [wing of the bird] Al-Hamdo lillah Mansoor Muzaffar was a very talented and hardworking individual who would work late into the night. In addition to the mission house, the software was also provided to Bushra Bilal Khan and Nauroz Malik Rozi to help facilitate the typing process. They would regularly type the content and send it to the mission house using a floppy disk. At the time, there was no email. This new software still had limited features. For example, at first it didn't have the capability of adding columns on a page; but gradually, the program was updated with the columns feature. Subsequently, our team would prepare two columns per page.

"MOSQUE" ISSUE

This issue was published in October 1992 and consisted of 124 pages. The mosque issue was the fifth special edition of the Gazette, partially handwritten and partially typed on Surkhab. It was prepared hurriedly. We faced two major obstacles in its preparation. First was to provide the content to those who were to hand write the articles; then there was proofreading and the major challenge of incorporating the amendments into the text. The second challenge was that Surkhab was also in its nascent stage and I was not as yet fully acquainted with it. I tried my best to work through it. Still, Mansoor Muzaffar and Pervaiz Saeed helped us every step of the way. Respected Amīr Sāhib had written some faith-inspiring examples of sacrifices made by members. In the evening, he would come to the computer room and dictate the incidents as I typed them on Surkhab. In this manner, the article was completed over three to four evenings and was finalized under the title 'Shining Examples of Financial Sacrifices'. As mentioned, it was particularly challenging because one had to type out a single column



DIYYA ETTE

Canada
Actual monthly publication

ER 1992

No.10



Mosque, Canada



<p>سیدنا حضرت خلیفۃ کا بائیکاٹ</p> <p>جماعت احمدیہ کینیڈا</p> <p>انور اللہ شاہ احمد علی، اللہ تعالیٰ سنة ۱۴۰۰ ۱۸ جون ۱۹۷۹ جلسہ سالانہ بابرکت یحییٰ نجا اور بار امام سیدنا حضرت امیر المؤمنین کینیڈا کے حق المقدور حضور کے ہر تمام اصحاب جماعت کے ایک کر کے حضور کے دورہ کینیڈا وہابی۔ اللہ تعالیٰ ان سب کو جز کی معاف روداد مع تصاویر آنند</p>	<p>نگران اعلیٰ و سرپرست۔ مولانا سید مہدی امیر دستری، انچارج مدیر اعلیٰ۔ حسن سعد خان مدیر۔ دہلیت اللہ بادی معاون۔ محمد عزیز خان کتابت و ترجمہ و زیر نفاذ۔ چوہدری ماجد احمد ڈالچ غلیظ علی الوکیل میرزا سہارک احمد</p>
<p>جولاء</p>	<p>جلد نمبر ۱۸</p>

and manually adjust it on the page; as a result, one would often have to retype and carefully save each column, one at a time.

PROGRESSION IN OUR COMPUTER SYSTEM

In 1994, an individual named Jameel Ahmad Mirza of Delhi designed an Urdu desktop publisher called "InPage." This program was widely accepted in India and Pakistan. Once the Jamā'at bought this program, things started getting easier. Similarly, content was shared using increasingly better ways, from the floppy disk to the floppy diskette [smaller] and later through the CD. To this day, the Urdu section of the Gazette is being prepared in InPage.

This was the phase in which our Ahmadi sisters started contributing to the Gazette. In addition to fulfilling their family obligations, they served their faith passionately. They would type articles on the computer and assist in preparing the Gazette. The names of these sincere volunteers are recorded in the article "A Journey of the Gazette". Unlike earlier stages, now, by the grace of Allah, many different fonts are available to choose as well as fonts like Jameel Noori Nastaleeq for Urdu and Al-Qalam for Arabic; many different formatting features are available by which a person can format a page, column, paragraph as well as poems, etc. Content can easily be acquired in Word format directly from our websites. For example, the Holy Qur'an, Ahadith, Ruhani Khaza'in and other books can easily be accessed by anyone. Such conveniences were hardly possible in earlier times and everything had to be manually typed.

THE FRENCH SECTION

The Ahmadiyya Gazette Canada has also tried to incorporate a French section as this language is also an official language in Canada. First, in 1996 the French section was started and consisted of a couple of pages. Its first editor was Abdul Hameed Abdul Rahman; it ran until March 1997. After a long gap, it was published from December 2017 to October 2019.

"JALSA SALANA" SPECIAL EDITIONS

As per instructions of respected Amīr Sāhib, special issues were published for Jalsa Salana. It has generally become a tradition for the

Jalsa Salana special edition to include Huzoor Anwar's^{aa} Friday sermons, Jalsa addresses, press conferences, media interviews, details of his visits to Canada; as well as to include Jalsa Salana speeches of other scholars, dignitaries' remarks and messages, and clippings from newspaper coverage. In particular, these special issues were printed with coloured pictures during the Canadian tours of Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih IVth and Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V^{aa}.

SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE

In 2001, Muhammed Akram Yousuf became affiliated with the Ahmadiyya Gazette, being appointed as a Special Representative. By the Grace of Allah, he is still serving in this capacity. He has always done tremendous work in recording the proceedings of the Jalsa and then using those audio recordings to create a detailed report of the proceedings. His reports have been a great feature of the Gazette for a very long time.

FAREWELL CEREMONY OF CHIEF EDITORS OF AHMADIYYA GAZETTE

On June 11, 2006, a simple farewell ceremony was organized for long-serving editor of Ahmadiyya Gazette, Hassan Muhammad Khan Arif. Similarly, a simple farewell ceremony was organized for Maulana Naseem Mahdi on February 18, 2010. In both ceremonies, their respective services were mentioned to congratulate them and bid them farewell. At the same time, the new chief editors were welcomed to the team. Reports of the ceremony were also published in the Gazette.

THE SECOND STAGE IN THE EVOLUTION OF AHMADIYYA GAZETTE

In September 2006, Saleem Akhtar Farhan Khokhar became affiliated with the Ahmadiyya Gazette and served as the English editor until May 2007. During this period, through his planning and efforts, the Gazette underwent an overall change with some very major aesthetic changes. As a result, the entire Gazette began being printed in colour, whereas up to that point, only the cover was being printed in colour.

BRIEF HISTORY OF THE WEBSITE

During his tenure as editor, Saleem Akhtar Farhan Khokhar oversaw the first website of the

Gazette, www.ahmadiyyagazettecanada.ca and tried to have the latest issue posted immediately, so the readers could benefit and download the PDF. Hence, as a result of his efforts, readers of the Gazette were given access to the Gazette through an easier and quicker medium. Indeed, his efforts are commendable. May Allah grant him the best of rewards. Āmin!

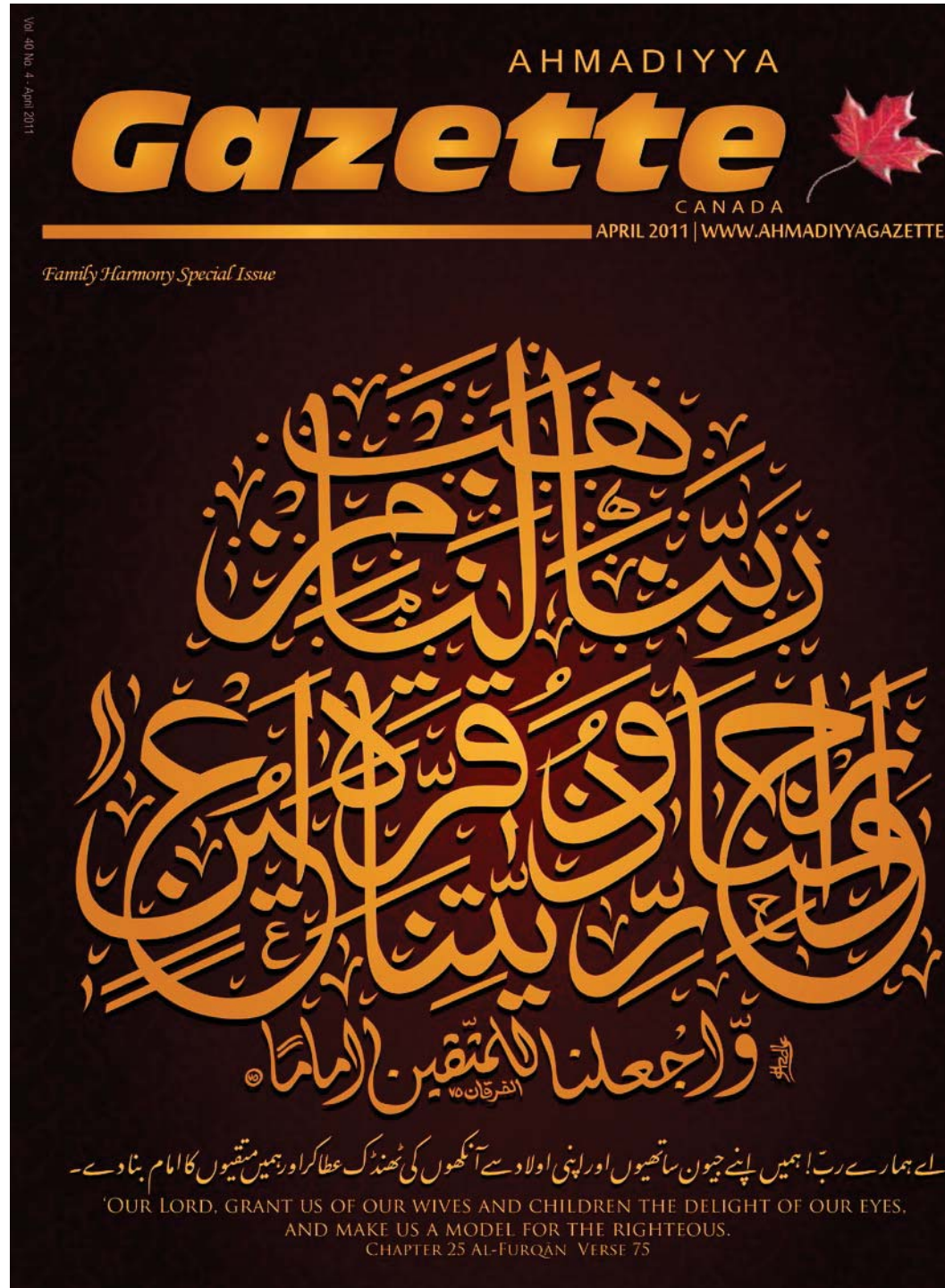
For this purpose, a team was formed that consisted of the following members: Tahir Ahmad Azhar had been working individually from 2006 to 2009. Subsequently, Muzaffar Ahmad began working on this project from 2009 to 2018. Following this, the manager of Ahmadiyya Gazette, Mubashir Ahmad Khalid, undertook this responsibility from 2018 to 2019. Next, Kashif bin Arshad, Farhan Naseer and Kashif Mahmood worked on it from 2019 to 2020. And finally, from 2020, Bilal Ahmad Ghumman has been serving in this department. May Allah reward them abundantly. Āmin

GRAPHICS

From 2000 to 2006, Nabeel Ahmad Rana began designing both the Urdu and English covers in beautiful colour designs and laid out the entire Gazette. During his tenure, he worked extremely hard with absolute sincerity and dedication. In the subsequent years, this responsibility was discharged by Shafiqullah, Farhan Naseer and Maham Aziz. Since last year, Munib Ahmad has joined the graphics department and in January 2022, respected Amīr Sāhib appointed him as an assistant editor. Munib Ahmad has recently presented himself for life devotion after his retirement. In addition to serving in other aspects of Jamā'at, he is affiliated with the Gazette. He is helpful in finding content for the Gazette. Other names of volunteers of the graphics department have been recorded in the article "A Journey of the Gazette". May Allah bless them all.

THE TOURS OF RESPECTED AMĪR SĀHIB

Typically, Maulana Naseem Mahdi, Amīr and Missionary In-Charge would tour Jamā'ats outside the greater Toronto area such as Waterloo, London, Windsor,



Cornwall, Ottawa, Montreal, Quebec, etc. he would also take respected Khalifa Abdul Aziz, Naseer Ahmad Khan and myself. Reports of these tours were made and published in the Gazette. Subsequently, respected Lal Khan Malik, Amīr Jamā'at Canada would also take tours and take the same individuals. I would write down all the proceedings during these tours and report them in the Gazette. In this manner, the Gazette became more and more active

in reporting.

"KHILAFAT AHMADIYYA CENTENARY" ISSUE

This special number was the first colour special edition in the tenure of respected Lal Khan Malik, Amīr Jamā'at Canada. This great souvenir was published in June 2008, was decorated with very historical photos and consisted of 209 pages. The issue

included the special historical message of Syedna Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V (may Allah be his Helper) in which he addressed the entire Jamā'at on the occasion of 100 years of Khilafat. In addition, it included scholarly and academic articles.

MAULANA HADI ALI CHAUDHARY AS CHIEF EDITOR

In January 2010, Maulana Hadi Ali Chaudhary was appointed as editor-in-chief of the Ahmadiyya Gazette and he has since then held this responsibility and discharged it in a befitting manner. The Ahmadiyya Gazette also benefits from his calligraphy. In certain special editions as well as other issues, his calligraphy added another dimension to the Gazette.

"FAMILY HARMONY" ISSUE

The seventh special edition of the Gazette was on family harmony. It was published in April 2011 and had 126 pages. As a result of beautiful calligraphy, it had a distinct look as compared to earlier special numbers. In particular, Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V^{aa} gave a detailed and faith-inspiring message that became the cornerstone of the issue.

THE NEW WEBSITE DESIGN OF AHMADIYYA GAZETTE

By the grace of Allah, at this stage, the team strove to collect the archives of the Gazette, which are a trove of academic and historical content. Many pioneer members were contacted in an effort to acquire these rare, early editions. Farhan Ahmad Naseer (Librarian, Jamia Ahmadiyya Canada) worked hard to digitize the archives from 1989 to 1999. Recently, Furhan Hamza Qureshi (Lecturer, Jamia Ahmadiyya Canada), who was appointed as an assistant editor in the English section in January 2022, digitized issues from 1972-1986.

He worked very hard and organized this collection. Now the entire digital library is in the process of being uploaded to the website. May Allah bless them both.

However, for the benefit of our readers, the following is a breakdown of the collection that has been scanned and will (insha'Allah) soon become available on the website: 1972-1980, 1983-1986, 1989-1999.

Currently, the following archives are already available online: 2013-2014; 2016-2021; and the latest issues of 2022 are uploaded each month. These are available in PDF format and can be downloaded from our website: ahmadiyyagazette.ca.

The website can also be accessed through its Twitter account @AMJGazetteCA.

PHOTOS AND ARCHIVES DEPARTMENT

After moving from the old mission house to Aiwan-e-Tahir, Jamā'at Ahmadiyya Canada established a department of central archives and photographs. The department operates under the supervision of the general secretary department. Respected Muzaffar Ahmad Malik is in charge of this department. The archive also includes a large collection of albums and CDs with photography of Bashir Nasir. His collection was organized and preserved by his daughter Warda Iffat Nasir. The collections of the department continue to grow. Muzaffar Malik has created a team for the department that is working to organize this large collection. His team also includes Assad Syed, photographer of the Gazette. He undertakes this responsibility with due diligence and takes photographs at Jamā'at events and immediately provides them to the Gazette department.

PROOFREADERS

I am thankful to all the proofreaders who assisted me during the various periods of my service. Their names have been listed in the article "A Journey of the Gazette". But I would like to especially mention some who've worked exceptionally hard. Professor Mubarak Ahmad Ansari, Chaudhary Rashid-ud-Din, Hafiz Rana Manzoor Ahmad, Abdul Aleem Khan (former editor Nahnu Ansarullah), Ghulam Ahmad Abid, Waqas Muneeb, Bushra Nazir Aftab of Saskatoon, Naveed Iqbal (ex-missionary), and Shakoor Ahmad (missionary). May Allah bless them all.

A FRUIT OF ALLAH'S MERCY

Allah the Exalted blessed the Ahmadiyya Gazette Canada with a righteous, pious and selfless servant in the form of Hassan Muhammad Khan Arif, who served as editor with absolute devotion and constancy for a long period. Following his tenure, by the grace of Allah, several editors served in the Gazette in the English section from the period of 2006 to 2013. Their names are mentioned in "A Journey of the Gazette". May Allah grant them the best of rewards. Amin.

By the grace of Allah, in October 2013, a young missionary, Usman Shahid, was appointed as the editor of the English section. He studied 7 years in Jamia Ahmadiyya Canada, and thereafter, upon the instructions of Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V^{aa}, studied an additional 6 years to acquire a BA in English literature and an MA in translation studies. He has been serving with constancy and a spirit of devotion. In addition to serving as editor, he is tasked with translating books of the Jamā'at under the guidance of Markaz. May Allah the Exalted accept his services and enable him to serve Islam Ahmadiyyat. Āmīn

Currently, the following archives are already available online: 2013-2014; 2016-2021; and the latest issues of 2022 are uploaded each month. These are available in PDF format and can be downloaded on our website ahmadiyyagazette.ca.

AHMADIYYA GAZETTE CANADA AND INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

By the grace of Allah, the Ahmadiyya Gazette had the opportunity to present deep views on global issues.

“Satanic Verses” by Salman Rushdie steered great controversy and fueled hatred for Islam in the West. This book worked to spread hatred in Europe and Islamic countries and gave rise to extraordinary and prolonged protests and unrest. The Ahmadiyya Gazette published articles in reply to allegations leveled in Rushdie’s book.

Following Rushdie’s work, another issue came to the forefront. A Canadian lady by the name of Irshad Manji published a book called “The Trouble with Islam Today” in 2004. This further fueled hatred against Islam in the world. The Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamā’at wrote rejoinders to this book in light of historical sources from the Holy Prophet^{sa} and Hazrat Khalifatul-Masīh V^{aa} delivered several sermons. A comprehensive and strong article was published in a series written by respected Hadi Ali Chaudhary. Similarly, Ansar Raza wrote a rejoinder to Manji’s books in the form of a book called “Manji: Another Pawn Advanced” in 2007. He also wrote an article which was published in the Gazette. Likewise, Zakria Virk wrote a critical review of her book, which was published in the December 2006 issue.

On December 30, 2005, Kurt Westgaard published very derogatory and insulting cartoons in Denmark that depicted cartoons of the Holy Prophet^{sa}. This event steered unrest of the highest proportions not only in Europe and America but also in Muslim countries, where Muslims raised protests, went on strikes and caused civil damage, setting buildings on fire. The peace of the world seemed in peril.

Seeing this grave situation Syedna Hazrat Khalifatul-Masīh V^{aa} delivered many sermons which were published in the Gazette. The leading message was that revenge in the form of hatred and violence is not the answer; that appropriate replies must be given from the life and character of the Holy Prophet^{sa}; that we must all adopt the excellent model of the Holy Prophet^{sa}

in our lives. Similarly, Seerat Conferences were held by the Jamā’at globally. Non-Ahmadis and western scholars were also invited to join the events. These efforts had very positive results by the grace of Allah.

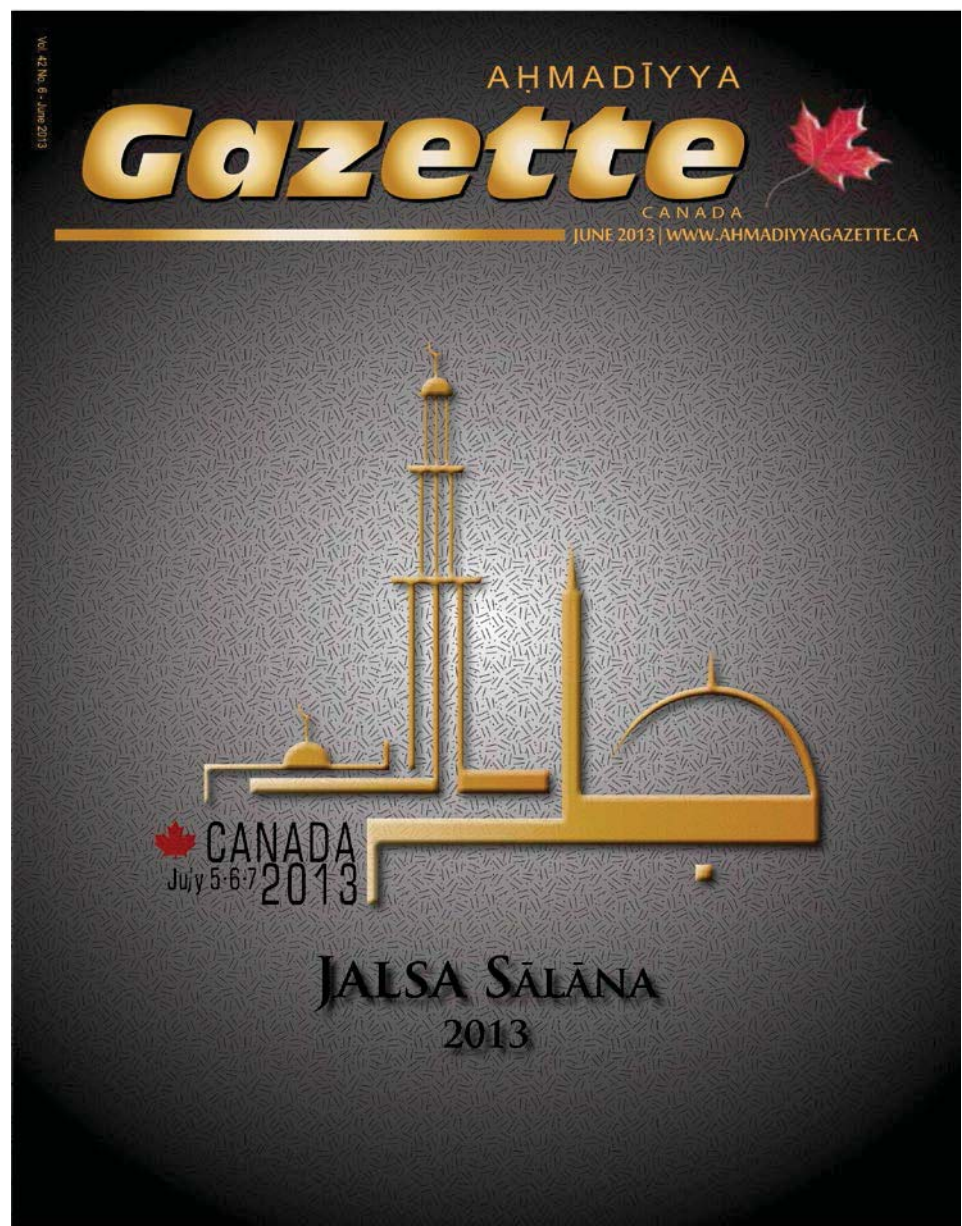
This was yet another wave of Islamophobia that spread 20 years after 9/11. Though it was not as severe this time, international terrorism revived this wave of hatred.

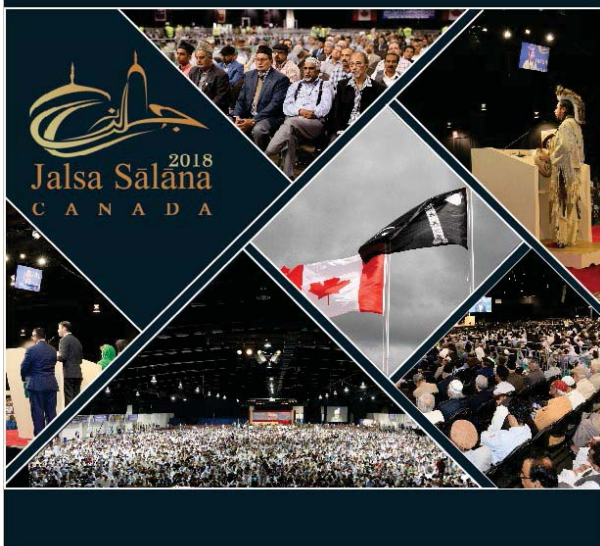
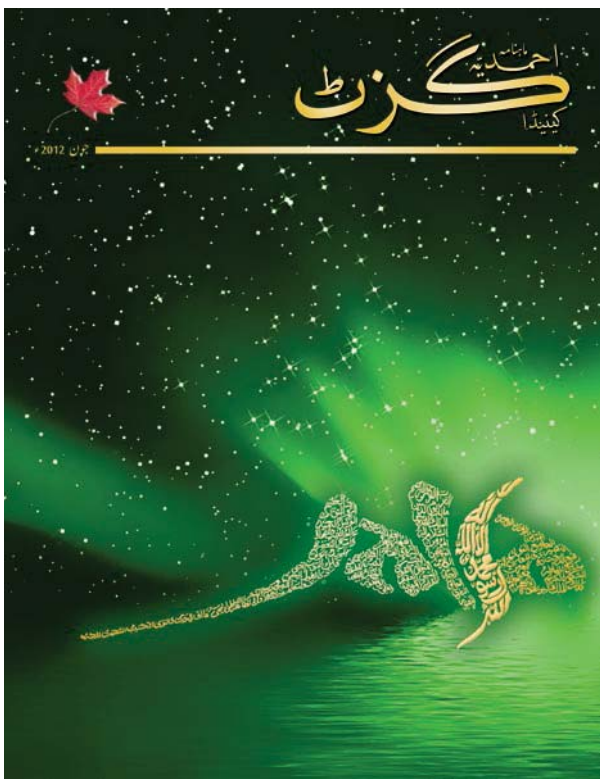
The Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamā’at quelled this wave of Islamophobia by presenting the true picture and understanding of Islam before the world and proving that Islam does not teach terrorism; rather, it promotes peace and harmony. As such, a peace conference was held in which

Hazrat Khalifatul-Masīh V^{aa} delivered a very scholarly and historical address in the European Union on the subject of Islamophobia. Similarly, he spoke in the British Parliament, which created great waves in the European media. All these efforts were covered in the Ahmadiyya Gazette Canada.

AHMADIYYA GAZETTE AND COVID-19

It is said that COVID-19 began after Christmas time in 2019, yet the US and Europe did not realize it for two to three months. According to the guidelines of the Canadian government, Baitul Islam mission house was also shut down in April





of 2020, and along with it, the office of Ahmadiyya Gazette was also closed. People started working from home and from April 2020 to October 2021, the printing of the Ahmadiyya Gazette was temporarily halted and members were not mailed the Gazette during this period. As the Gazette is the national magazine of Jamā'at

Canada, it was published exclusively online and without interruption so that members of the Jamā'at may be apprised of the latest announcements and guidelines from Markaz. During this period, following government guidelines, all Jamā'at events were also being held virtually. But as per routine, reports were published in the Gazette. By the grace of Allah, the pandemic did not slow the talimi, tarbiyati, and tablighi efforts of the Ahmadiyya Gazette. The Gazette was a constant source of contact with the members of the community. And now, once again, the printing of the Gazette has resumed since November 2021. And once again, the Gazette is not only posted to members across Canada but also it is sent to the main centers of our Jamā'at worldwide.

A FEW POINTS ON THE GAZETTE

I would now like to describe some of the great people I had the fortune of working with, from 1988 to the present. These are people I received tremendous guidance from.

Maulana Naseem Mahdi

I always found Maulana Naseem Mahdi to be a kind and compassionate individual. He was a benefactor and I always remember him in my prayers. When the upper floor of the mission house was converted into Jamā'at offices, a room next to the kitchen was assigned as the office of Ahmadiyya Gazette Canada. The office had two computers, and I would spend many late nights working in the office. I remember on cold winter nights when my wife Tahira and I would be composing articles on the computer, he would come out of his residence with a large teapot along with snacks, enter

the Gazette office, and graciously offer us tea. He would look after his volunteers, and whenever he received gifts or sweets, he would share them with his staff and volunteers. It was out of his kindness that he would give me a diary with a message of prayers written in it, along with a pen. He was lighthearted, with a good sense of humour. He would often tell Mian Nadeem: "3 cream, 1 sugar - double-double - for Hadi Sāhib!" During his tours of Jamā'ats, he would take the mail along with him and advise me to accompany him with the Gazette. In this way, I would show him the Gazette and get his approval, jotting down corrections and guidelines he'd offer. He was endowed with great intelligence and acumen; he would scan page after page swiftly, yet so minutely that his eyes would only stop on errors.

Maulana Naseem Mahdi passed away on May 24, 2022. *To Allah we belong and to Him shall we return!* I can never forget his affection, kindness, generosity, geniality, and goodness. May Allah the Almighty have mercy on his soul, grant him an elevated status in Paradise and bestow comfort and solace to his family. Āmīn!

Respected Hassan Muhammad Khan Arif

Hassan Muhammad Khan Arif was a virtuous, praying, and very capable life devotee. He spent his entire life with a true spirit of devotion. He served as Naib Wakilut-Tabshir for a very long period. From 1984 to 2006, he offered his exemplary services to Ahmadiyya Gazette Canada. He was extremely kind and loving towards his colleagues and always upheld their respect and dignity. Often he would say that a person who works will also err. If we ever received an admonition from Markaz regarding the Gazette, he would always take full responsibility for it. He would show utmost respect for the Amīr. His level of obedience was exemplary. He would show obedience in both letter and spirit. For the Gazette, he would himself choose the verse of the Holy Qur'an, saying of the Holy Prophet^{sa}, and an extract from the writings of the Promised Messiah^{as}, all of which embellish the first part of the Gazette. He had deep love for Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih I^{ra} and always endeavored to include at least some writing or faith-inspiring incident of the First Khalifa^{ra} in

both English and Urdu. In proofreading the Gazette, he was very meticulous. He had an excellent command of the English language; translating extracts from Urdu into English was no difficult task for him. He was very proficient in typing as well. In fact, the veranda of his home in Rabwah, near Mahmood mosque, was the first formal institute in Rabwah that taught typing. There'd be large wooden typewriters sitting on the veranda. This humble one also benefited from the institute after completing my grade 10 matriculation exams. He was a man of great qualities and considered me a son, perhaps because I was a childhood friend of his eldest son, Javaidi, with whom I studied in college. He would often tell me, 'Son, you should make a habit of praying for your colleagues. It is extremely beneficial. Difficulties will be resolved. I pray for my colleagues without exception.'

I took this advice to heart and always benefited from it. May Allah tala grant him forgiveness and elevate his station in Heaven. Amin.

Respected Lal Khan Malik

When I arrived in Canada, Respected Lal Khan Malik was National Secretary Tarbiyat of Jamā'at Canada. I found him to be a very kind and loving person. He served as the chief editor and later became the overall in charge of the Gazette as the Amīr Jamā'at Canada. In working under him, I always found him to be extremely compassionate and kind. He would also take me along in some of his tours of the Jamā'ats. In spite of being extremely busy with countless other tasks, he personally reviews the Urdu section. Prior to the pandemic, he would grant me a particular time after Zuhr namaz in which to discuss it. I would always email the draft to him a day or so earlier but also bring a soft copy on my USB. He would always be kind enough to offer me a beverage and begin with a light conversation and ask about my family. Then, he would begin his review of the Gazette, page by page, and point out any amendments to be made. I would note these in my diary. In other parts, he would write a question mark and ask me to double check it. Typically the Urdu section consists of approximately 32 to 36 pages,

which he would complete in a matter of 20 to 25 minutes. He had a very dignified and mild manner in explaining any errors in the drafts of the Gazette. May Allah grant him the best of rewards.

Maulana Hadi Ali Chaudhary

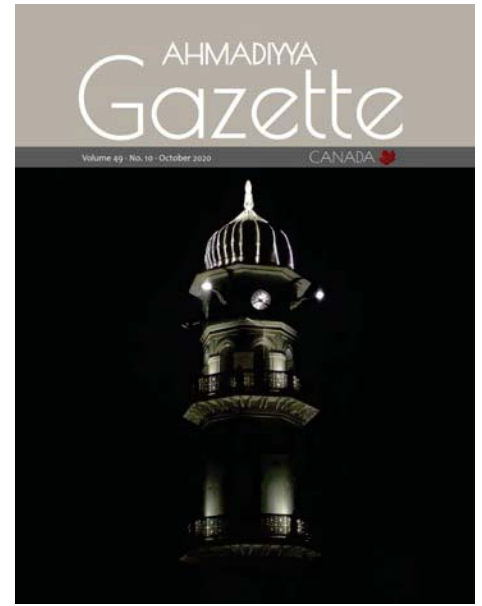
Being a man of letters, Maulana Hadi Ali revises the Urdu Gazette in minute details. In particular, he always ensures that the Arabic in Qur'anic verses and Ahadith is correct. He works through our drafts and returns them quickly, no matter how extensive the content. Sometimes, I had the opportunity to travel with him to various events and found that he always treated me with respect and love; yet he also has a great sense of humour. He also

“One must remember that to run a magazine is not the work of a single individual. It requires the persisting and constant labour of an entire team. It requires constancy and steadfastness.

contributes many academic and research-based articles for the Gazette that have been published. He also provides the Gazette with rare and valuable content on the life and character of the Holy Prophet^{sa}, on the blessings of Khilafat, replies to allegations against Khilafat, as well as other valuable yet rare and credible references. Such content is occasionally included in the Gazette, depending upon the context and occasion. Hence, by the grace of Allah, the Gazette has benefitted from his knowledge in numerous ways. May Allah grant him the best of rewards. Amin

AN IMPORTANT POINT WORTHY OF NOTE

One must remember that to run a magazine is not the work of a single individual. It requires the persisting and constant labour of an entire team. It requires constancy and steadfastness. In this respect, the entire team of the Gazette must be commended which works as a single unit, otherwise, the magazine cannot be published. The various



aspects of the work include: writers, proofreaders, IT support, poets, special representatives, photographers, graphic designers, website, manager, department of Ishā'at, department of Finance, assistant editors, editors, editor in chief and the overall supervisor, printers, etc. And most importantly, the tasks of the entire team are carried out by the grace of Allah and prayers of the Khalifa of the time.

WIDE ACCEPTANCE OF AHMADIYYA GAZETTE

It should also be noted that many readers of the Gazette are impatiently waiting to read each successive issue. Sometimes, people call or contact us when they do not receive an issue. Another point is that many members from other countries also reach out to us and request for copies of the Gazette and in that sense it has an international scope because its copies are regularly sent to the centers of various countries.

EXPRESSIONS OF PLEASURE BY THE KHULAFAT

In various letters, both Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih IVth and Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V^{aa} have written congratulatory notes along with their heartfelt prayers upon receiving the Gazette issues. These letters containing expressions of their love, pleasure, and prayers were published in the Gazette. The following samples are being given for the benefit of our readers:

“Your monthly Ahmadiyya Gazette is, Masha’Allah, a good magazine. May Allah the Exalted bless it! Very good and appropriate selections have been given, Al-Hamdo lillah! May Allah Almighty enable it to make further progress and benefit many people.” (January, 1989)

“Masha’Allah, it has good presentation. Both English and Urdu sections have useful content. Jazakumullah! Convey my salam full of love to all members of your team and a heartfelt congratulations for this beautiful publication.” (March, 1993)

“Masha’Allah, the mosque number is very well done and aligned with the honour of Jamā’at Canada. Al-Hamdo lillah! Your mosque edition is very comprehensive in terms of rights of the mosques, etiquettes of the mosque and other writings in reference to mosques. Masha’Allah you have collected good material on this subject. May Allah enable people to benefit from it. What I liked about this edition is that you didn’t limit the content to Baitul Islam Mosque; rather you gave extensive coverage to mosques in general, and, as it were, you graced this magazine with beautiful stars.” (April 1993)

“I have received the Khilafat Special. May Allah enable Ahmadis to establish a sincere and loyal bond with Khilafat Ahmadiyya and show excellent examples of obedience!” (August 3, 2016)

“Masha’Allah, it is a good effort. May Allah enable its readers to fully benefit from it, and may He continue to bless your future efforts. Amin!” (December 2, 2017)

“Masha’Allah, it has very good academic articles. May Allah enable the readers to

benefit immensely and bless your future endeavors! May Allah always be the Helper and the Guide for you and your assistants!” (November 17, 2017)

“Al-Hamdo lillah your standard is continuously improving. The Qur’anic verses on kindness, compassion, sacrifice, obedience, loyalty, etc., must always beautify the cover pages. May Allah the Exalted enable you to do this, and may this magazine continue to benefit the members! May this publication prove to be a true magazine for moral progress, love & brotherhood, and talim & tarbiyat of Canada Jamā’at. Amin!” (November 28, 2018)

“Masha’Allah, it contains very academic content, and it is commendable. Jazak’Allah! May Allah enable Ahmadis to benefit from it! May Allah enable this magazine to continue being an effective organ of Jamā’at Ahmadiyya and enable it to fulfill the responsibility of the religious and intellectual training of the Jamā’at. Amin! May Allah keep you all under the shade of His mercy. Amīn!” (March 30, 2019)

“Masha’Allah, very good articles, containing very intellectual and thought-provoking content. Al-Hamdo lillah! May Allah bless its publication in every way and enable members to attain as much benefit as possible. Amin! May Allah enable you to continue demonstrating the same level of team work and partake of His grace and bounties! Amīn!” (May 26, 2019)

“Masha’Allah, great articles. Jazak’Allah! May Allah bless its publication and benefit many. Amin! May Allah also grant the best of rewards to those who serve with you and always enable everyone to absorb the continued blessings of Khilafat Ahmadiyya! May this organ of the Jamā’at continue to be the voice of Ahmadiyyat!” (June 20, 2019)

May Allah the Exalted accept the prayers of the Khulafa for both the past, current, and future volunteers, and enable the Gazette to continue flourishing and benefitting the Jamā’at. Amīn!

COMMENTS OF AHMADI SCHOLARS WORLDWIDE

Various scholars of the Jamā’at as well as social workers of India have periodically given positive comments about the Gazette. Although it will be difficult to reproduce their comments, as an expression of gratitude, the following is a brief list of some of the people who have given us positive feedback:

1. The late Maulana Dost Muhammad Shahid, Historian of Ahmadiyyat, Rabwah
2. The late Maulana Sheikh Mubarak Ahmad, USA
3. The late Maulana Imam Bashir Ahmad Rafiq, London
4. Maulana Imam Ataul Mujeeb Rashid, Missionary In-Charge UK
5. The late Malik Muhammad Ahmad, Germany
6. Dr. Deewan Bhaghat, Qadian

FINAL POINT

I would like to express that a lot of volunteers have contributed to the Gazette in its long 50 year history, and it is possible some of their names have not been mentioned in this article. If that is the case, I am deeply apologetic. Yet, every single person who has done selfless service to this magazine is worthy of congratulations and prayers. I request all our readers to kindly remember them all in your prayers.

AN EVOLUTION TOWARDS DIGITAL COVERS & GRAPHICS

Nabeel Ahmad Rana
Kitchener, Ontario

In today's fast-moving society, time is perhaps the most precious commodity. In the Holy Qur'an, Allah says to spend in His way out of what we love most: "You cannot attain righteousness unless you spend out of that which you love; and whatever you spend, Allah surely knows it well" (3:93). Hence, volunteering and dedicating our time for the sake of Islam Ahmadiyyat is much loved by Allah. It also provides us an excellent way for learning new skills and to sharpen our knowledge.

The Ahmadiyya Gazette Canada was published monthly in black-and-white or single colour text-only cover until the summer of 2000. Soon after, I arrived in Canada from USA, I started volunteering with my humble services to Islam and Ahmadiyyat for the National Department of Tabligh. I began producing numerous tabligh publications for Canada Jamā'at during the 1998-2001 time period, Al-Hamdo lillah. This was due to instructions and guidance received from Hazrat Khalifatul-Masīh IVth to the western Jamā'ats of world to convey the message of Islam Ahmadiyyat to at least 10% of the population by the first year of the new millennium. This was a momentous, blessed task and Jamā'at Canada worked diligently to achieve this goal. The National Secretary Tabligh Saleem Akhtar Farhan Khokhar contacted me and had recruited me to develop tabligh flyers and publications for this venture. This involved a great deal of planning and research of suitable text, images and graphics. Together with several other members of the national tabligh team, I had the pleasure to research and learn the tools required to produce high quality

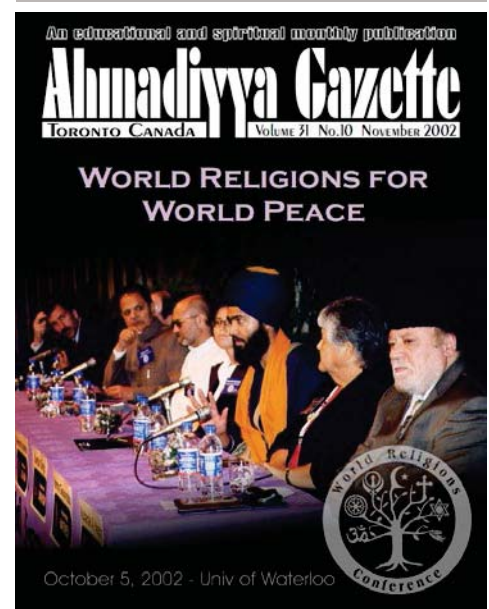
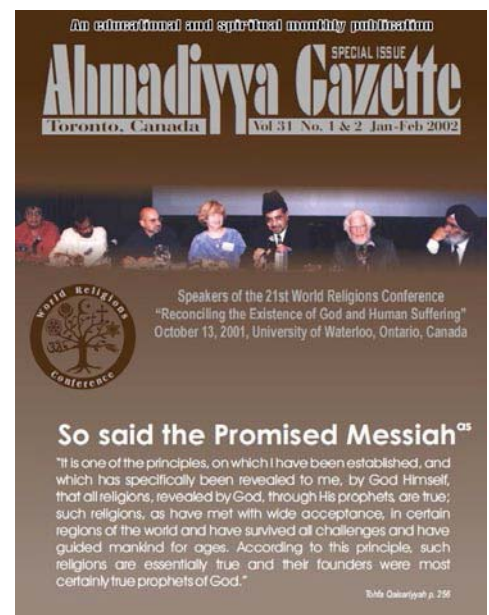
full-colour publications and I developed significant skills in the field of editing, desktop publishing and producing tabligh brochures. With the mentorship of Farhan Khokhar, and along with other tabligh team members we became very busy researching, editing and creating tabligh publications and by the grace of Allah delivered dozens of tabligh flyers that were published in hundreds of thousands to be distributed throughout Canada.

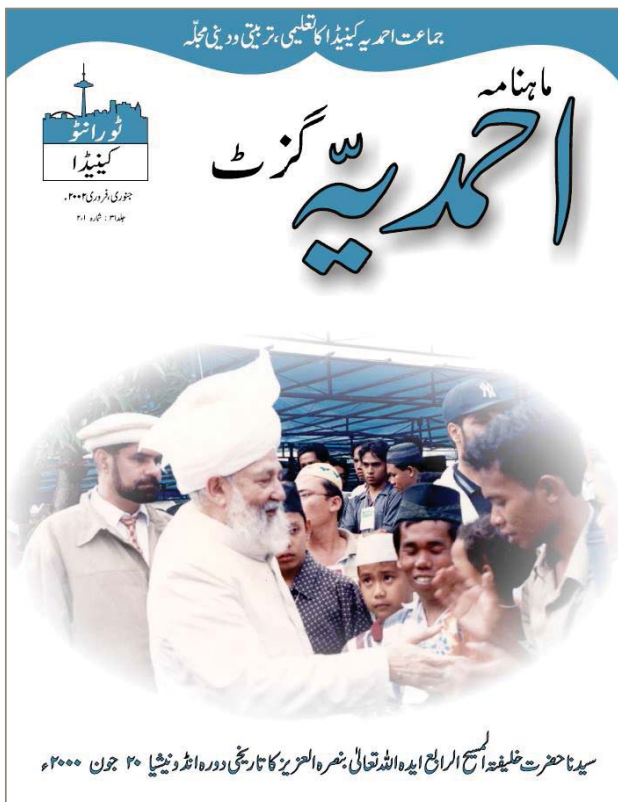
Producing art and graphics was one of my personal hobbies since childhood, however, I lacked the technical skills to do so. Professionally, I am a software engineer, but creating art was always my passion. My educational background then gave me the ability to quickly grasp the knowhow to utilize the skills necessary to create artistic work using digital tools. Working for a few years with the tabligh department, I developed this skill. Very soon, I also began producing flyers and brochures for Jalsa Salana Canada and other tabligh events like the famous World Religions Conference and Voice of Islam colloquia and symposiums. Several dozens of these events were organized in Canada and I was the go-to person to produce flyers or brochures for these tabligh events.

Soon thereafter, the Ahmadiyya Gazette editorial team also became interested in upgrading its 2-tone or black-and-white simple cover of the monthly publication to a full-colour custom designed graphics and pictorial cover. I gladly offered my services and by Allah's grace, and the approval of respected Amīr Sāhib, I was recruited by the editorial board of the Ahmadiyya Gazette to produce both

“You cannot attain righteousness unless you spend out of that which you love; . . .

(3:93)





An educational and spiritual monthly publication
Ahmadiyya Gazette Canada
 Toronto, Ontario Volume 32 No. 7.8 July-August 2003



Jalsa Salana UK 2003

English and Urdu full-colour covers of the magazine.

It was a pure pleasure to work with extremely talented and knowledgeable members of the Ahmadiyya Gazette team. I not only enjoyed working, but we also socialized a lot and I found each member extremely nice and collaborative. I lived about an hour away from the Baitul Islam headquarters and would often travel to meet the editorial board. The hospitality of Syed Hidayatullah Hadi (one of the primary editors) was extraordinary and I always felt special to be a part of the esteemed team. Being responsible for producing the cover of the magazine was indeed a tremendous undertaking. It required studying the articles of the magazine in detail and researching suitable images and graphics related to the content of the magazine. The next greater challenge was acquiring high resolution images. Digital cameras and digital images were not as common back then as they are today and most images were hard copies. Obtaining access to physical copies of photos was a tedious task in itself. Next, scanning pictures into digital copies was another massive mission. Scanning technologies during the 2000-2001 era were not very advanced and required much patience, troubleshooting, and significant hardware resources. Image compression technologies were also primitive, and it was not until recently that we were able to heavily compress large image data files into small, easy-to-handle digital files.

The transportation of large files of digital data was another challenge and, for the most part, digital data CDs were couriered from one place to another. It is hard to imagine these difficulties today with the advancement of technologies and bandwidth in transmissions. But one can well imagine the challenges

almost two decades ago.

After acquiring suitable images or graphics for both the English and Urdu covers of the magazine, designs and graphics were produced. This often involved interviewing and communicating with the authors of articles which were chosen to be highlighted on the cover. The drafts were then shared with the editorial team for their review. This sharing was also often through physical means, since internet bandwidth did not allow for the easy transmission of such large digital files. Members of the editorial team would diligently review the proposed drafts and provide feedback. Thereafter, a final full-colour cover for each month was selected and finalized. Full colour printed proofs were then sent to the attention of respected Amīr Jamā'at Ahmadiyya Canada for his final approval and consent. Thereafter, a CD of the graphics was prepared and couriered to the printing company for large quantity production.

Several members of the Ahmadiyya Gazette Canada editorial team, primarily Syed Hidayatullah Hadi, Hasan Muhammad Khan Arif and Muhammad Akram Yousuf became active mentors for my contributions and provided valuable tips due to their extensive knowledge of Islam Ahmadiyyat and its culture.

The graphics production task immensely increased with some special issues, like the Jalsa Salana issue or some other issues of the Ahmadiyya Gazette when Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih visited Canada. These special issues of the Ahmadiyya Gazette were produced in full-colour in their entirety, and not only the cover. This was surely an immense task, requiring long hours of processing.

One of the most challenging aspects in my role as the graphics and

cover designer was the punctuality and discipline needed to produce a cover design each month before the appointed due dates.

Another sensitive challenge that I routinely faced was the criticism of numerous readers on the cover. Although, I and the entire team would strive to meet the desired standard of the readers of the Ahmadiyya Gazette, it would invariably fall short in many ways due to certain circumstances or human weaknesses. I also received a great deal of appreciation from many kind readers throughout Canada, which was surely a great encouragement despite my shortcomings.

I continued to volunteer my services for the Ahmadiyya Gazette Canada regularly until the middle of 2006. My volunteering for the Gazette gave me a tremendous opportunity to increase my knowledge of Islam Ahmadiyyat as well. It was necessary for me to thoroughly review the articles and contents of each month's magazine, research and communicate with the authors of the articles on a regular basis. These activities helped gain a wealth of knowledge that I would not have acquired otherwise. Hence, it is the blessings of this volunteer work that I acquired this knowledge. And it is my advice to all Ahmadi Muslim youth to volunteer for any Jamā'at department, as it would not only help them advance in their knowledge of Islam Ahmadiyyat, but also advance them in their professional fields.

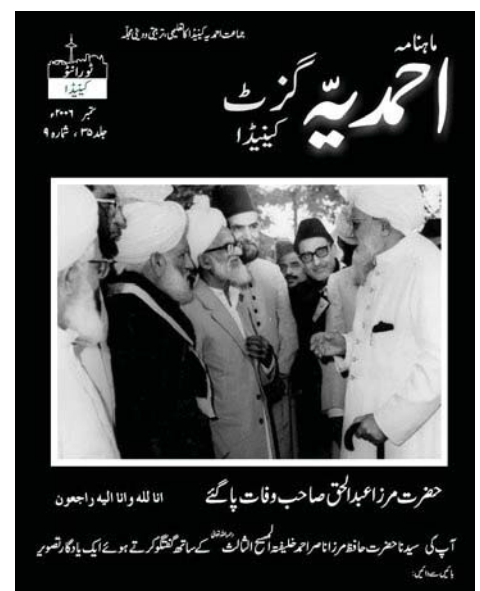
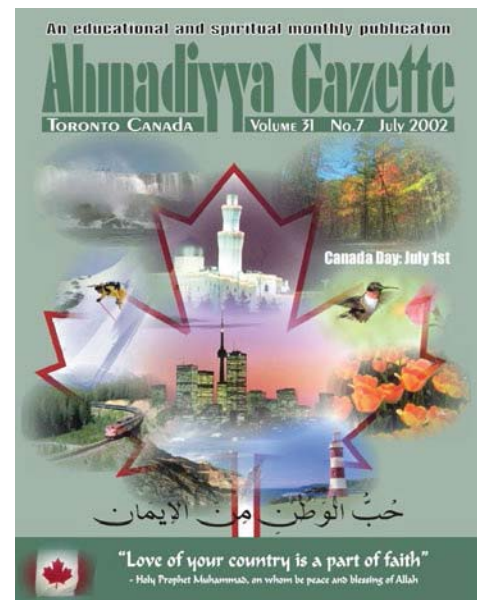
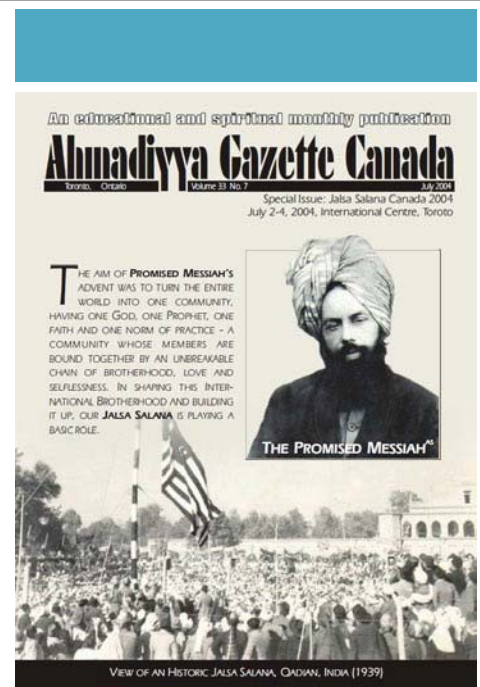
In addition to graphics, I also contributed towards the English section of the Ahmadiyya Gazette with articles and essays. Even today, I routinely write the English report of the very famous and largest World Religions Conference held annually in the region of Waterloo. Another major undertaking was for a special supplemental issue published in 2004 when Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V^{aa} visited Canada. The English section of this special supplemental was entirely produced by me, single-handedly, with Urdu contribution from Muhammad

Akram Yousaf. The supplemental issue was released within 24 hours of Huzoor's arrival in Canada and was greatly appreciated by the readers.

In 2008, I visited London UK and was blessed with a meeting with Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V^{aa}. Huzoor discussed the production of the Ahmadiyya Gazette Canada and advised during his conversations that the Canada Jamā'at needs to improve both the graphics and the printing of the magazine to suit the advanced status of an advanced nation like Canada. Upon returning to Canada, I conveyed the message to respected Amīr Jamā'at Ahmadiyya Canada and to the editorial team of the Gazette. Immediately following the instructions of Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V^{aa}, the magazine adopted the challenge of producing the magazine in full-colour in its entirety, Al-Hamdo lillah!

Having acquired cover production skills, several Ahmadi Muslim authors from around the world started contacting me to produce covers for their newly-authored books. As time permitted, I was able to help a few authors in this regard as well. Some significant projects were: (1) *Error at the Apex* by Mujeeb ur Rahman (2) *The Reminiscences of Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan* by Prof. Pervaiz Perwazi Sāhib and (3) *Ahmadiyya Culture* by Prof. Pervaiz Perwazi.

Even to this day, I volunteer for the Gazette from time to time through reports and articles and through feedback on how we can improve this blessed publication, the oldest publication of Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamā'at at Canada. May Allah continue to make it a source of knowledge and guidance for its readers, and may the magazine attain better standards in the future! Insha'Allah!



My Affiliation WITH THE GAZETTE

Maham Shahid-Aziz
Serving as Graphic Designer, Ahmadiyya Gazette Canada



Image from Pixabay

My earliest connection to the Ahmadiyya Gazette came from a brief volunteer experience I had whilst I was still in grade school in the early '90s. As I could read Urdu, I was asked to assist in typing Urdu on an Urdu software. I remember sitting in front of the computer in the Gazette office in the mission house and working alongside Naroz Malik and Tahira Hadi. It was a pleasure and the grace of Allah that I was given this opportunity to be affiliated with the Gazette at that early age.

I have always had a passion for art and design. I began by building my portfolio as a hobby, but after high school, I decided to take formal training in this field. And so I completed my post secondary education in the field of Graphic and Multimedia Design. Following my education, I began my career as a graphic designer.

By the grace of Allah, as I began working in my field, I was also given an opportunity to volunteer in An-Nisa, the national magazine of Lajna Ima'illah Canada. And so for a number of years, I was graced with the honour to serve as both the English editor and graphic designer. Serving in An-Nisa was a great pleasure. Not only did I learn immensely by editing the content, I enjoyed the experience because it allowed me to explore the creative

elements that came along with serving as a graphic designer.

In 2018, the Ahmadiyya Gazette Canada was seeking a new graphic designer, and by the grace of Allah, I was blessed with the opportunity to take on this role. The first task I was assigned was to redesign the Gazette masthead and layout design. I came up with a number of mock-ups so the editorial team could decide which design was best suited for the functionality of the Gazette. Al-Hamdu lillah, one of the designs was chosen and has been in use since.

As I transitioned into this role, the former graphic designer Kashif Mahmood was kind enough to bring me up to speed on the process flow of the Gazette. Starting in March 2018, I began doing the layout design of the Gazette, along with preparing the English and Urdu covers.

Serving in this role in the last 4 years has helped me appreciate the hard work and dedication it takes to publish a monthly magazine. I am grateful to God Almighty for giving me this opportunity.

May Allah the Exalted enable the entire team to keep working hard and continue enhancing the quality of our publication, and may He enable all our members to read and benefit from it. Amin!

REVISITING THE KHILAFAT CENTENARY SPEECH: 5 LESSONS FOR AHMADIS

Mudabbir Din, UK

I was 17 years old at the historic event of the Khilafat Centenary Jalsa in 2008 in which Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad, Khalifatul-Masih V^{aa} delivered the keynote address. At that age, I had little understanding of Islam and even less of the status of Khilafat – a blessed institution which Allah had once again blessed the Muslim ummah with since the time of the Promised Messiah^{as}. But now, as I listen back to that momentous Khilafat Centenary speech and the historic pledge Ahmadi Muslims made, the older me learns a few new lessons that I had missed out on all those years ago.

LESSON 1: GRATITUDE TO ALLAH

The Khilafat Centenary was celebrated throughout the world and Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad, Khalifatul-Masih V^{aa} said the celebrations were only for one purpose: Gratitude to Allah. Adhering to the following command of Allah was a religious obligation:

وَأَمَّا بِنِعْمَةِ رَبِّكَ فَحَدِّثْ

“And as for the bounty of your Lord do relate [it to others].” (92:12)

Meaning to express thanks for the bounties of Allah, we must show gratitude to Allah for bestowing the bounty of Khilafat and that was the very purpose of the

historic event on the Khilafat Centenary.

As Ahmadi Muslims, we need to show deep gratitude that Allah has granted us the citadel of Khilafat. The whole ummah is left devoid of this blessing, yet Ahmadi Muslims have enjoyed Khilafat for well over 100 years now. This is a blessing that is monumental and cannot be forgotten.

LESSON 2: FEAR INTO PEACE

In the verse of the Holy Qur’an wherein Allah has promised Khilafat, He has also stated that this divine institution will establish peace and security after fear. Huzoor^{aa} mentioned two parts to this:

Firstly, there is the transformation of fear into peace for the whole Jamā’at, just like after the Holy Prophet’s^{sa} demise, when all the Muslims were in a state of shock and fear; internal anxieties about the future of Islam began spreading; Muslims, with great anguish, looked for direction and leadership, amid the external fear of the enemies who were rejoicing the demise of the Prophet^{sa} of Islam. The enemies firmly believed Islam had now ended, but Allah allowed them to dwell in this misconception.



Then, Allah showed the awe-inspiring magnificence of His power by establishing Khilafat.

This was the same after the death of Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, the Promised Messiah^{as}. On the one hand was the internal fear, sorrow and anxiety at the death of the Promised Messiah^{as}, and on the other, the munafiqeen – hypocrites – were taking their seats and lining up to watch, what they thought, was the end of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamā’at. Newspapers and clerics alike were in a frenzy. Little did they know their excitement would be short-lived. Allah once again gifted Islam with Khilafat and through it dissolved all doubt, all anxiety and all fear.

This we can all understand, and will have heard many times. But the second part Huzoor^{aa} mentioned in his Khilafat Centenary speech is even more majestic and inspiring.

Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V^{aa} said that once God Almighty had selected his Khalifa, He removed all worldly fears and doubts



The Khilafat Centenary speech in 2008,
ExCel Centre, London

It is because of this guaranteed divine support that no matter what worldly platform it might be, no matter which world leader it might be, even if millions of people are watching him, even if internal hypocrites emerge forcefully within the Jamā'at, even if there is external opposition against the Jamā'at, we never see Huzoor^{aa} overwhelmed and we never see any sign of fear.

LESSON 3: HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF

In his speech, Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V^{aa} spoke of the various hurdles and challenges the Jamā'at faced – from internal hypocrites, to external enmities – since the demise of the Promised Messiah^{as} and throughout the era of Khilafat Ahmadiyya. But then, inevitably, all these hurdles turned to dust and became a thing of the past when they came up against the divinely guided Khilafat.



from within him. He gave His Khalifa the strength to confront fear, provided His Khalifa consolation in any difficult situation and then the Khalifa comforted the Jamā'at.

After the demise of the Promised Messiah^{as}, the enemies of the Jamā'at, anti-Ahmadiyya newspapers, religious clerics and intellectuals all jumped on the bandwagon of opposition and mocked the Ahmadiyya community. “How will this old

man, Hakim Maulwi Nuruddin^{ra}, now lead the community? He will just be left with the task to sit in a mosque to recite the Qur'an to his followers”, they said. Opponents from outside the Jamā'at and hypocrites from within predicted the end of the Jamā'at at the election of this “weak” individual as the Khalifa. However, with his very first speech as Khalifatul-Masih, Hazrat Hakim Maulwi Nuruddin, Khalifatul-Masih I^{ra} completely demolished these allegations and disturbances. All those present, whether they were hypocrites or those of weak faith, unanimously accepted his leadership. This was the first manifestation of turning “fear into peace”.

Then, at the demise of Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih I^{ra}, the Jamā'at again was plunged into a state of fear and uncertainty. Once again, hypocrisy reared its ugly head from within. “How will this 25-year-old ‘child’, Mirza Bashiruddin Mahmud Ahmad^{ra} occupy the seat of Khilafat? How will this inexperienced youth lead the community?”, they said.

Allah displayed the second manifestation of “fear into peace” and angels led the hearts of the faithful to accept the bai'at of the young “Mian Sāhib”. The 52-year era of Hazrat Muşleḥ Mau'ūd^{ra} needs no words. A prestigious and monumental chapter adorned with undeniable success was the fruit of divine succour.

After the demise of Hazrat Muşleḥ Mau'ūd^{ra}, the Jamā'at felt it was hit with an unrecoverable blow. A night of fear had descended on the Community. But with the election of Hazrat Mirza Nasir Ahmad, Khalifatul-Masih III^{rh}, Allah fulfilled his promise again by lifting the state of fear and enveloping the Community in the blanket of peace. From establishing schools and hospitals in Africa to safely steering the Jamā'at in the perilous year of 1974 in Pakistan, each achievement was a challenge to every worldly power and enemy, and echoed the words that “this divine Community can never be destroyed”.

Hazrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad, Khalifatul-Masih IV^{rh} was the fourth manifestation

of the divine promise of transforming “fear into peace”. The enemies of Islam tried everything within their power to destroy this “man of God”. What was Allah’s response? Not only did Allah completely obliterate the enemy, but He also granted unimaginable success. With the blessing of MTA, the message of the Messiah^{as} of Islam now reached further than ever.

The Khilafat of the Holy Prophet^{sa} only saw four caliphs. This was according to the prophecy of the Holy Prophet^{sa} himself. The Khilafat of the Promised Messiah^{as}, however, was to be everlasting. This again was in exact accordance with the prophecy of the Holy Prophet^{sa} himself.

The fifth election of a successor of the Promised Messiah^{as} – the fifth time Allah turned “fear into peace” through the election of Khilafat Ahmadiyya, and the fifth challenge to the enemies of the Community – was witnessed by the whole world.

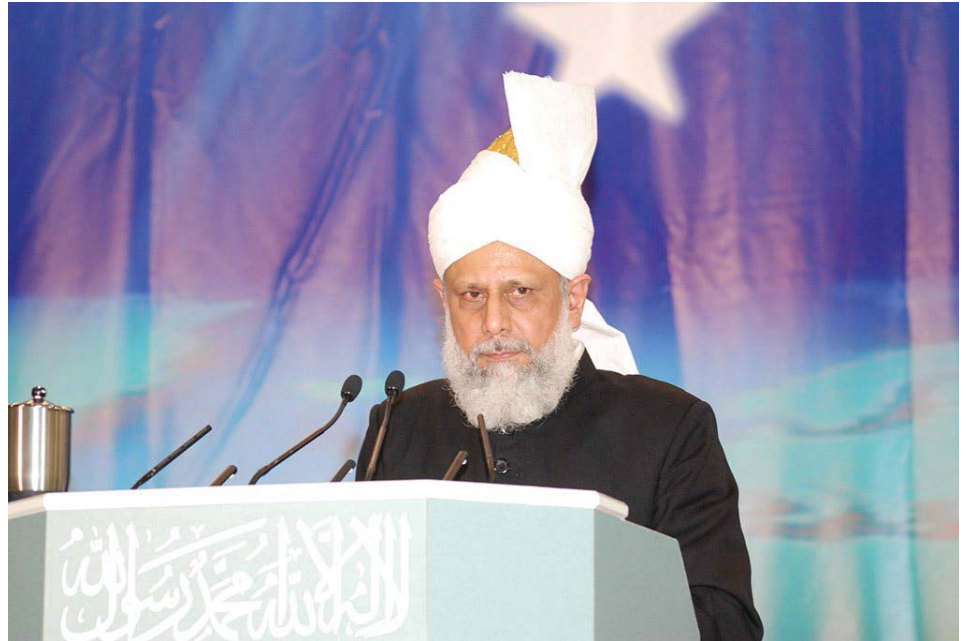
This election was a statement to the whole world that “this community is united under this divine institution [of Khilafat]. No matter what you do, its progress cannot be stopped.”

LESSON 4: A GOLDEN CHAPTER IN AHMADIYYAT

This, for me, was the most inspiring part of Huzoor’s centenary speech. These few words of the speech were clear proof of the communication between a divinely elected Khalifa and his Creator. It was clear proof of the unbreakable trust Huzoor^{aa} has in Allah.

Huzoor^{aa} began this part by talking about himself. The words Huzoor^{aa} used highlight his immense humility and meekness, which only a person ordained by Allah to be the Khalifa could possess, especially considering the fact that he is a leader.

The speech then took a sudden turn. Awe-inspiring words left me spellbound on the trust Huzoor^{aa} had in Allah. Huzoor^{aa} promised, “Allah the Almighty, with His uncountable blessings, will lead the Jamā’at on the avenues of progress and this progress can never be stopped”.



Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad, Khalifatul Masih V^{aa} delivering the Khilafat Centenary speech | Photo courtesy of alislam.org

Huzoor^{aa} said that anyone who stayed attached to Khilafat Ahmadiyya would witness these blessings. Allah would also continue to grant Khilafat such persons whose hearts would be filled with the love of this divine institution and they would make every effort for its establishment.

“I have been assured by Allah the Almighty about this a long time ago that He Himself will prepare the faithful ones”.

Hearing these words now, all one can do is pray that Allah accepts us among these faithful ones that will be blessed and fortunate to serve Khilafat.

LESSON 5: THE OATH

A once-in-a-lifetime experience. Nobody knew that halfway through this speech, Ahmadis around the world would be standing and making an oath to Allah with their Khalifa. We have all heard this oath many times on MTA but let me try to put into context exactly what we promised to Allah on that day.

We promised to Allah that we will:

1. Strive till our last breaths to spread the message of Islam Ahmadiyyat and the name of the Holy Prophet Muhammad^{sa} to the corners of the world

2. Offer the greatest sacrifices and keep our lives dedicated to this objective
3. Strive till our last breath for the safeguarding and establishment of Khilafat
4. Exhort our children and their progenies to always remain attached to Khilafat and benefit from its blessings

Revisiting the Khilafat Centenary speech and oath (which is available to watch on YouTube) put into perspective how Allah treats divine communities, and that success, no matter what the trial may be, always emerges by staying closely attached to Khilafat and by moving, as believers, in accordance to the instructions of Khalifatul-Masih^{aa}.

AHMADIYYA GAZETTE CANADA

50TH ANNIVERSARY ESSAY COMPETITION

For its 50-year celebration, the Ahmadiyya Gazette Canada is holding a special essay competition. This competition is open to all members of the Jamā'at. Participants will be according to two groups:

Group A: Atfal & Nasirat

Group B: Khuddam, Lajna & Ansar

ENGLISH TOPICS:

GROUP A (Atfal/Nasirat)

- Blessings of Khilafat
- Love for Khilafat

GROUP B (Khuddam, Lajna, Ansar)

- Khilafat-e-Ahmadiyya: The Solution to Global Unrest
- Divine Support of Khilafat-e-Ahmadiyya
- Obedience to Khilafat



OPEN UNTIL

31 OCT, 2022

11:59 PM EST

LANGUAGES:

The competition will be held in 3 languages: English, Urdu, and French

FRENCH TOPICS:

GROUP A (Atfal/Nasirat)

- Bénédiction du Califat
- Amour du Califat

GROUP B (Khuddam, Lajna, Ansar)

- Khilafat-e-Ahmadiyya: la solution aux troubles mondiaux
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- Obéissance envers le Califat

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Submission guidelines will be announced at a later date. All essays will be due by October 31, 2022.

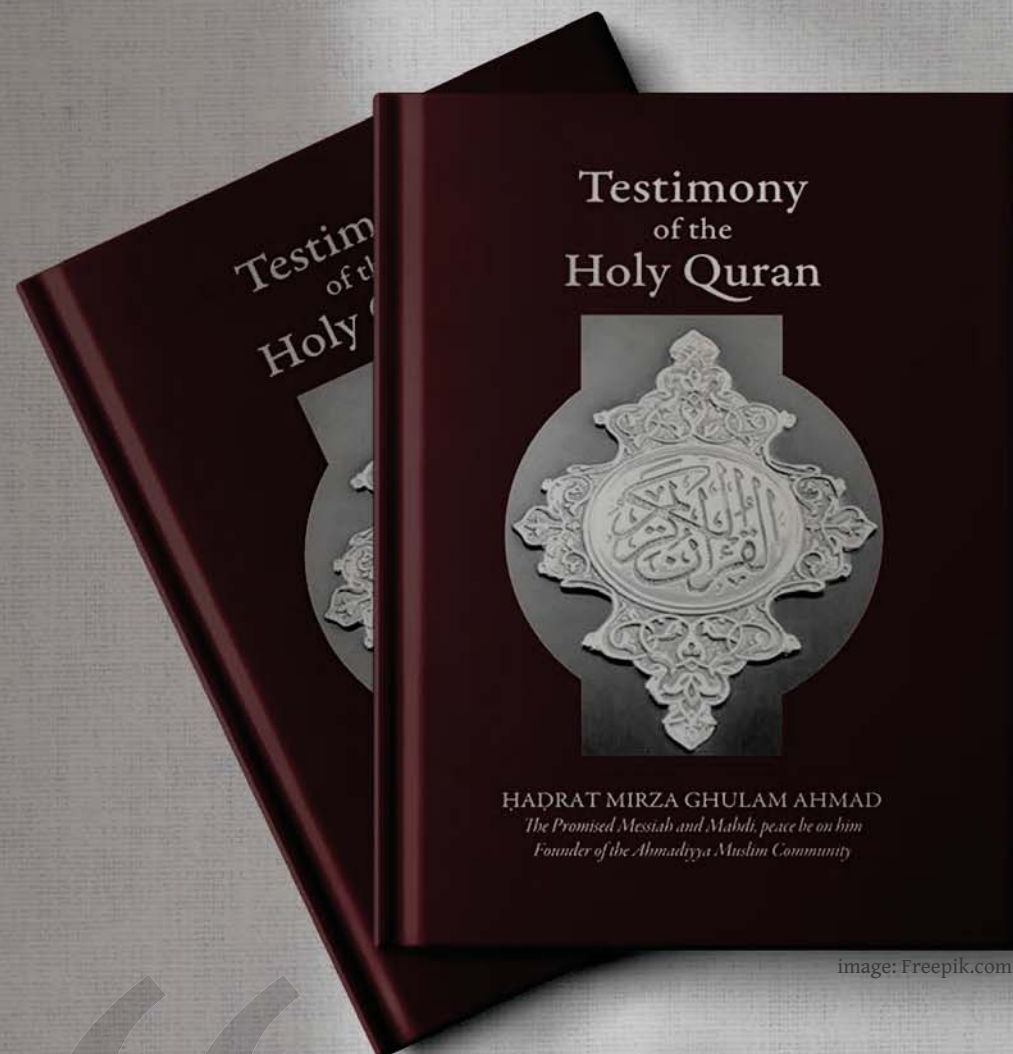


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TESTIMONY OF THE HOLY QUR'AN

REGARDING THE ADVENT OF
THE PROMISED MESSIAH IN
THE LATTER DAYS

God Almighty says that He will continue sending Khulafa' of this Holy Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, from time to time. And the word khalifah has been chosen to imply that they will be successors to the Holy Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, and will partake of his blessings, as occurred in earlier times. They will spread the Faith and establish peace after fear; that is, they will appear at such times as when Islam will be rife with schisms. And whosoever defies them after their coming will be depraved and rebellious." (p. 69)

In Testimony of the Holy Qur'an, Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad^{as} of Qadian enumerates the Signs of Latter Days as described by the Holy Qur'an and demonstrates how the prophecies regarding the advent of the Promised Messiah are fulfilled in his person. He also explains the vital position of the Hadith in Islam and shows that these, too, inform us of the appearance of a reformer in this very age, making it incumbent upon today's Muslims to recognize their Imam.

In short, the topics covered in this book comprise the foundational arguments for one of the core tenets of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community; namely, that the ahadith prophesying the advent of the Latter Day Messiah are indeed reliable and are supported by Qur'anic testimony.

Available on alislam.org

THE HOLY WAR

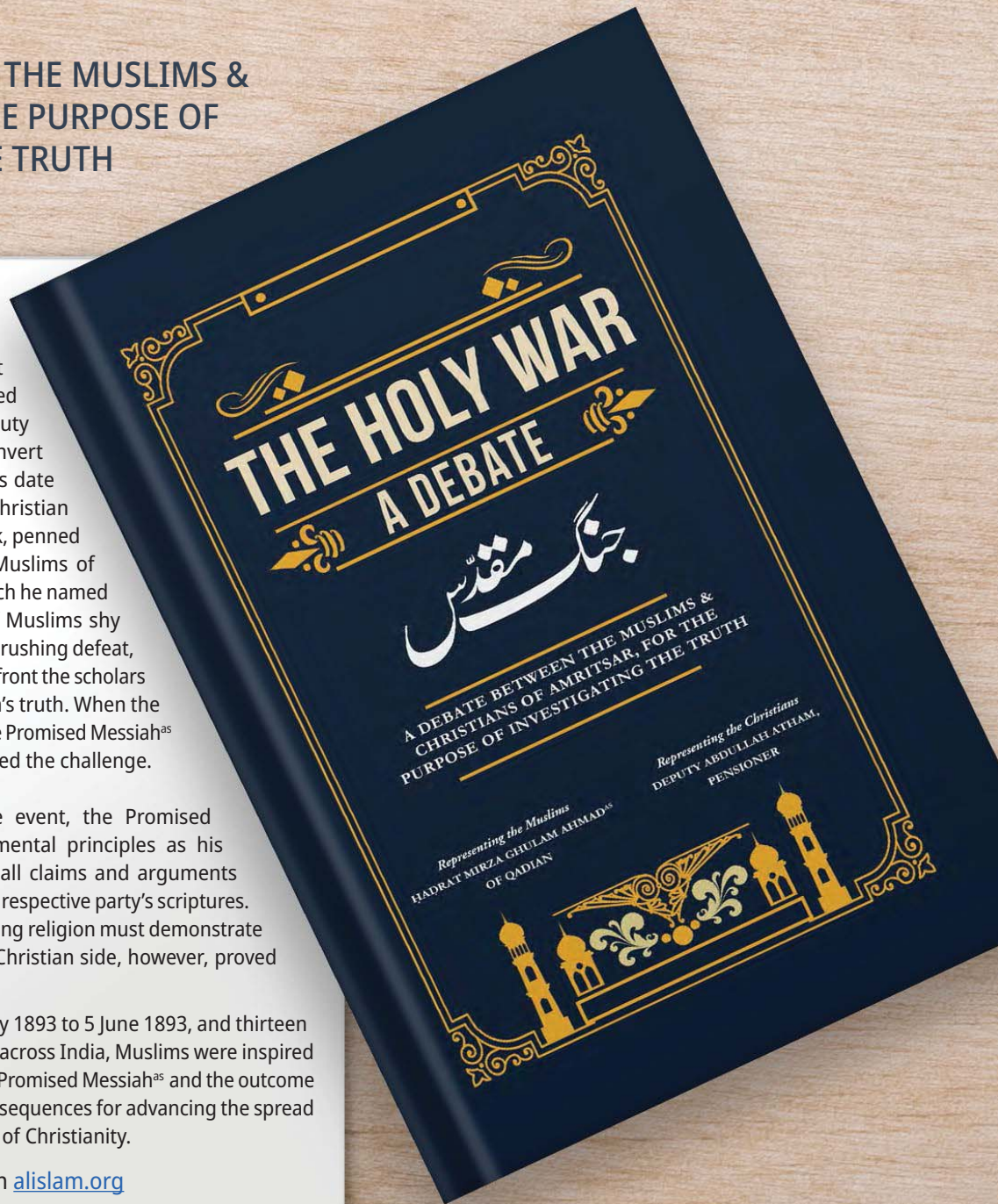
A DEBATE BETWEEN THE MUSLIMS & CHRISTIANS FOR THE PURPOSE OF INVESTIGATING THE TRUTH

Jang-e-Muqaddas (The Holy War) documents the daily debate proceedings held between Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad^{as}, the Promised Messiah and Mahdi, and Deputy Abdullah Atham, an Indian convert to Christianity. The event's origins date to 1893, when a prominent Christian missionary, Dr. Henry Martyn Clark, penned an open letter challenging the Muslims of Jandiala to a decisive debate—which he named 'The Holy War'—declaring that if Muslims shy away from this contest or suffer a crushing defeat, they would forfeit their right to confront the scholars of Christianity, or to boast of Islam's truth. When the leader of the Muslims petitioned the Promised Messiah^{as} to defend Islam, he readily accepted the challenge.

Since the very planning of the event, the Promised Messiah^{as} laid down two fundamental principles as his conditions for the debate. First, all claims and arguments should be sourced strictly from the respective party's scriptures. Secondly, he emphasized that a living religion must demonstrate Heavenly Signs in its favour. The Christian side, however, proved thoroughly inept in both areas.

The debate took place from 22 May 1893 to 5 June 1893, and thirteen papers were published in total. All across India, Muslims were inspired by the innovative arguments of the Promised Messiah^{as} and the outcome of the debate had far-reaching consequences for advancing the spread of Islam and arresting the growth of Christianity.

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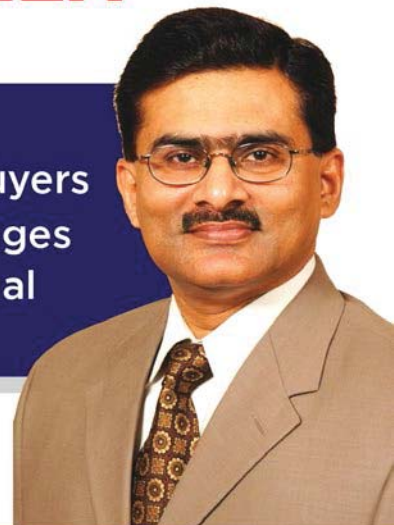


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