



AHMADIYYA Gazette

CANADA 

“And obey
Allah and His
Messenger
and dispute
not with one
another.”

(The Holy Qur'an 8:47)

**BELIEFS HELD
BY AHMADIS**

pg. 10

**IMMERSING
OURSELVES IN MTA**

pg. 12

New Feature:

KIDS ZONE *pg. 26*

MORALS OF BELIEVERS

Hazrat Khalīfatul-Masīḥ V (may Allah be his Helper) said:

“Islam has laid great emphasis on mutual cooperation and showing superior morals to fellow man. In various ways, God has drawn our attention towards building good morals, embodying mutual love and affection, and fulfilling the rights of others; [He has forbidden us] from scrutinizing our neighbours or those in our society; from probing for faults in others and spreading it further—because human beings are prone to error. This is a vain and futile act. ”

(Friday Sermon dated November 19, 2004)





AḤMADIYYA GAZETTE CANADA
An Educational and Spiritual Publication

CONTENTS

www.ahmadiyyagazette.ca | September 2022 | Volume 51 | No. 09

PEARLS OF WISDOM

02 SELECTION FROM THE HOLY QUR'AN AND AḤĀDĪTH

03 SO SAID THE PROMISED MESSIAH^{AS}

GUIDANCE FROM HAZRAT KHALĪFATUL-MASĪḤ V^{AA}

04 HIGHLIGHTS FROM FRIDAY SERMONS (JULY 2022)

06 Q/A & MORE

ARTICLES & REPORTS

10 BELIEFS HELD BY AHMADIS

14 IMMERSING OURSELVES IN MTA

16 LET'S TALK ABOUT PORNOGRAPHY

18 MY UMRAH JOURNEY

24 KIDS ZONE



**AḤMADIYYA
MUSLIM JAMĀ'AT**
Canada

AMĪR JAMĀ'AT
Lal Khan Malik

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Hadi Ali Chaudhary

EDITORS
Usman Shahid
S. H. Hadi

ASSISTANT EDITOR
Furhan Hamza Qureshi

MANAGER
Mubashir Khalid

LAYOUT AND GRAPHICS
Maham Aziz

COVER PAGES
Maham Aziz

ABBREVIATIONS OF SALUTATIONS

sa Ṣallāllahu 'alaihī wa Sallam - May peace and blessings of Allah be upon him!
Usage: Salutation written after the name of the Holy Prophet Muḥammad^{sa}

as 'Alāihis-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 'anhū / 'anhā/ 'anhū - May Allah be pleased with him/her/them!
Usage: Salutation written after names of Companions of the Holy Prophets and Companions of the Promised Messiahs

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 binaṣṣrihil-'Azīz - May Allah be his Helper!
Usage: Salutation written after the name of Hazrat Mirzā Masroor Aḥmad, Khalīfatul-Masīḥ V^{aa}

The Editors of the Aḥmadiyya Gazette Canada shall be solely responsible for all errors or omissions contained in the publication herein of the writings of the Promised Messiah^{as} or any of his Successors, as well as the Friday Sermon summaries or other Addresses of Hazrat Mirzā Masroor Aḥmad, Khalīfatul-Masīḥ V^{aa}. Articles published in the Aḥmadiyya Gazette Canada reflect the views of their respective authors and may not necessarily reflect the views, beliefs and tenets of the Aḥmadiyya Muslim Jamā'at Canada.

Aḥmadiyya Muslim Jamā'at Canada Inc.
10610 Jane Street, Maple, ON L6A 3A2, Canada
Tel: 905-303-4000 Fax: 905-832-3220
editor@ahmadiyyagazette.ca

The official publication of the
Aḥmadiyya Muslim Jamā'at Canada
ISSN 0229 5644

1. Aḥmadiyya - Periodicals.
I. Aḥmadiyya Movement in Islam Canada.
BP195.A34 1972 297.8605-20dc
CANADA POST
SECOND CLASS MAIL
Mail Registration No: 40026877

PEARLS O

THE HOLY QUR'ĀN

وَأَطِيعُوا اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ وَلَا تَنَازَعُوا فَتَفْشَلُوا وَتَذْهَبَ رِيحُكُمْ
وَاصْبِرُوا ۚ إِنَّ اللَّهَ مَعَ الصَّابِرِينَ ﴿٤٧﴾

And obey Allah and His Messenger and dispute not with one another, lest you falter and your power depart from you. And be steadfast; surely, Allah is with the steadfast. (8:47)

HADĪTH

Hazrat Nu'man bin Bashir^{ra} narrated that Allah's Messenger, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, said: "You see the believers being merciful among themselves and showing love among themselves and being kind, resembling one body, so that, if any part of the body is not well then the whole body shares the sleeplessness and fever with it."

(Sahih al-Bukhari, Kitab-ul-Adab)

عَنْ النُّعْمَانِ بْنِ بَشِيرٍ، يَقُولُ قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ
عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ "تَرَى الْمُؤْمِنِينَ فِي تَرَاحِيهِمْ وَتَوَادِّهِمْ
وَتَعَاطِفِهِمْ كَمَثَلِ الْجَسَدِ إِذَا اشْتَكَى عُضْوٌ تَدَاعَى لَهُ
سَائِرُ جَسَدِهِ بِالسَّهَرِ وَالْحُمَّى"

(صحيح البخارى، كتاب الادب، باب رَحْمَةِ النَّاسِ وَالْبَهَائِمِ)

F WISDOM

SO SAID THE PROMISED MESSIAH^{AS}

Mutual Concord and Love

“...you all ought to remain reconciled and united. This is the teaching that God Almighty gave to the Muslims that you must all remain as one being, or you will lose your stature. The reason that Muslims have been instructed to stand together in Prayer with their shoulders touching one another is to foster unity. The goodness in one person will flow into the next like an electric current. If you are divided and disunited, you shall be deprived...

I have only brought you two teachings: firstly, to believe in the Oneness of God; secondly, to show one another love and sympathy. Show an example that serves as a miracle for others. This was what developed amongst the companions and it served as an argument to others. Allah the Exalted states:

كُنْتُمْ أَعْدَاءً فَأَلَّفَ بَيْنَ قُلُوبِكُمْ

You were enemies and He united your hearts in love.

Remember! Unity is a miracle. Remember! Until each and every one of you likes for your brother what you prefer for yourselves, you are not from among my community. Such a one suffers misfortune and trial. He shall not meet a good end...

Through my person, a righteous community will be established, God-willing. What is the cause of mutual enmity? It is miserliness, pride, self-conceit, and emotional impulses...

An individual who joins my community and does not act in line with my objective is a dry branch. If a gardener does not cut it off, what is he to do? A dry branch that is attached to a flourishing one sucks water but cannot become verdant itself. In fact, the dry branch causes the green branch to wither away as well. So have fear. One who does not cure themselves will not remain with me.”

(Malfuzat Vol. 2, English translation, pp. 220-222)



GUIDANCE FROM HAZRAT KHALIFATUL- MASIH (MAY ALLAH BE HIS HELPER)

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE FRIDAY SERMONS OF HAZRAT
KHALIFATUL-MASIH V (MAY ALLAH BE HIS HELPER)

1

JULY 1, 2022 – MEN OF EXCELLENCE: HAZRAT ABU BAKR^{RA}

Continuing an account of the ninth expedition dispatched against rebels and apostates towards Bahrain during the Khilafat of Hazrat Abu Bakr^{ra}, His Holiness (may Allah be his Helper) mentioned that both the Muslim and enemy forces had dug trenches at the frontlines. Fighting continued for a month until one night, when the Muslims heard a commotion from the enemy camp, they realized that the enemy was drunk. Seizing the opportunity, the Muslim army attached and defeated their enemy. Hazrat Ala bin Hadrami^{ra} was the commander of this expedition.

Huzoor^{aa} also mentioned the incident of the expedition's miraculous journey across the ocean to reach Dareen, a stronghold of the hypocrites. Through the inspirational leadership of Hazrat Ala^{ra}, the Muslim army led their steeds into the ocean to reach Dareen. It is narrated that it was as if the animals were travelling on soft sand. Normally a journey taking one day and one night, the Muslim army arrived within a few hours.

Explaining the nature of miracles, Huzoor^{aa} cited a passage from the writings of Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih II^{ra} in which the miracle of the splitting of the sea by Prophet Moses^{as} was expounded. It is clear from the verses of the Holy Quran that the sea was at low tide when Prophet Moses^{as} passed through with the Israelites. When Pharaoh's army arrived and tried to pass through the same path, the sea reached high tide, drowning most of the army.



2

JULY 8, 2022 – MEN OF EXCELLENCE: HAZRAT ABU BAKR^{RA}

Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V (may Allah be his Helper) continued highlighting expeditions against rebel forces during the Khilafat of Hazrat Abu Bakr^{ra}. The eleventh expedition in this regard was sent to Yemen under the command of Hazrat Muhajir bin Abi Umayyah^{ra} to combat the self-proclaimed prophet Aswad Ansi. The uprising of Aswad had first begun in the time of the Holy Prophet^{sa}. A soothsayer and influential orator, Aswad Ansi lived in the northern part of Yemen. He declared that Yemen belonged to the natives of Yemen, arousing sentiments of national pride. Under the direction of Holy Prophet^{sa}, the Muslims combatted the uprising of Aswad in Yemen.

Initially, defeating Aswad Ansi appeared to be an insurmountable

feat, however, Muslims soon learned that Aswad was at odds with a person named Qais bin Abd Yaghuth. Qais was an apostate, but through the preaching of the Muslims, he reverted to Islam, after which several other chieftains also accepted Islam. This weakened Aswad's power, and he realized that the end of his reign was near.

When Aswad Ansi's wife, the widow of the Persian governor Badhan bin Sasan, learned that Aswad had in fact killed her former husband, she turned against him and assisted the Muslims in defeating Aswad. Ultimately, Aswad Ansi was killed in his fortress, bringing an end to his rebellion which only lasted three or four months.

3

JULY 15, 2022 – MEN OF EXCELLENCE: HAZRAT ABU BAKR^{RA}

In this Friday Sermon, His Holiness Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V (may Allah be his Helper) continued expounding upon the expeditions undertaken against rebel apostates during the era of the Hazrat Abu Bakr's^{ra} Khilafat.

Mentioning the events of the final battles against rebel apostates, Huzoor^{aa} stated that the effect of these battles was that widespread rebellion was uprooted and all dissenting tribes were brought back under Islamic rule.

In light of the writings of Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih II^{ra}, Huzoor (may Allah be his Helper) explained that these expeditions and battles were not fought because of false claimants to prophethood, rather it was due to their rebellion against the state. People also refused to pay the Zakat and attacked Madinah. There are a number of incidents which illustrate that these battles were not undertaken because of disobedience to the Holy Prophet^{sa} and falsely claiming prophethood, but because new governments and laws were being instated, while disregarding the established Shariah and Islamic government.

His Holiness^{aa} said that once the rebellion was eradicated, Hazrat Abu Bakr^{ra} did not rest easy. He resolved to protect Islam from the forces of the Roman and Persian empires, for he was aware that rebellions could still arise in foreign lands.



4

JULY 22, 2022 – MEN OF EXCELLENCE: HAZRAT ABU BAKR^{RA}

Highlighting incidents from the expeditions that were dispatched against the Persian empire during the era of Hazrat Abu Bakr's^{ra} Khilafat, Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V (may Allah be his Helper) narrated the events of the Battle of Kazimah, also known as the Battle of Chains. In this battle, the Persians linked themselves to each other with chains as a tactic, which proved to be a disastrous strategy. The Muslims were led by Hazrat Khalid bin Walid^{ra} whereas the Persian army was led by Hormuz. After Hormuz was killed in battle, the Muslims were able to gain an upper hand against the Persians and ultimately defeated them.

An interesting anecdote relates to the spoils of this battle. It is related that Persian noblemen would wear fancy hats denoting their status. The higher their rank, the more expensive the hat. The most expensive hat would be 10,000 dinar, which was exactly the one worn by Hormuz. After he was killed, his hat was presented to Hazrat Abu Bakr^{ra} but he did not keep it for himself and instead granted it to Hazrat Khalid bin Walid^{ra}. The spoils of war also included an elephant, which the people of Madinah had never before seen. It was taken around the city so that people could see it. Some people were so astonished by the elephant that they wondered whether it was manufactured or whether it was actually the creation of Allah. Hazrat Abu Bakr^{ra} eventually sent the elephant back to Hazrat Khalid bin Walid^{ra}.

5

JULY 29, 2022 – MEN OF EXCELLENCE: HAZRAT ABU BAKR^{RA}

Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V (may Allah be his Helper) continued his series of sermons on expeditions and battles undertaken in the era of Hazrat Abu Bakr's Khilafat. Huzoor^{aa} recounted details of the battles fought against the Persian empire, including the Battle of Heerah, Ain at-Tamar, and Daumatul Jandal.

Mentioning the Battle of Daumatul Jandal, His Holiness^{aa} explained that Daumatul Jandal was near a Syrian city called Medina. Hazrat Abu Bakr^{ra} had sent Hazrat Iyadh bin Ghanm^{ra} to Daumah, however he faced many difficulties there. When Hazrat Walid bin Uqbah^{ra} conveyed news of the victories at Anbaar and Ain at-Tamr to Hazrat Abu Bakr^{ra}, Hazrat Abu Bakr^{ra} instructed him to assist Hazrat Iyadh in Daumatul Jandal. Upon seeing the difficult situation Hazrat Iyadh^{ra} was facing, Hazrat Walid^{ra} advised him to seek help from Hazrat Khalid bin Walid^{ra}. Hence, after his victory at Ain al-Tamar, Hazrat Khalid bin Walid^{ra} set out with his troops towards Daumatul Jandal.

His Holiness^{aa} said that when Hazrat Khalid bin Walid^{ra} arrived in Daumatul Jandal, a fierce battle ensued, however the Muslims were ultimately victorious. Many people betook themselves to their fortress, but under the leadership of Hazrat Khalid^{ra}, the Muslims infiltrated that as well, and many were taken prisoners. This victory greatly strengthened the Muslims' tactical footing, as Daumatul Jandal was located on the way to three prominent places: Iraq, Iran, and Syria.

Q&A *and more...*



Image from Pexel

HOW TO OVERCOME DESPAIR

On June 26, 2022, Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V (may Allah be his Helper) held a virtual meeting with members of Majlis Khuddamul Ahmadiyya Sydney, Australia.

In this meeting, Huzoor^{aa} was asked how to overcome a state of despair which may arise from any failures a person may encounter in their life. Huzoor^{aa} replied:

“Take hold of the weapon of prayer of Allah the Almighty. Have certainty that Allah the Almighty exists and that He accepts your prayers. Know that the situation you are going through could be a short and temporary trial from God and it is a test you must pass and after that He will grant you success. At the same time, a person should always be praying to Allah the Almighty and should be certain that He accepts the prayers. Feeling down is a natural emotion a person goes through – although it can lead to becoming a lasting psychological issue – but it is wrong to become completely desperate and one should not leave everything aside and sit at home or alone in one’s room and become depressed. At that point you must act with the strength of resolve and will power. If mental state becomes severely affected then you should go to the doctor for treatment because at that point this natural state turns into an illness. So treat it like an illness and take medication so that you may phase out from the depression.”

“Bow down before Allah the Almighty, pray to Him, make an effort and be resolute that you are going to come out of this phase of depression. Allah the Almighty states in the Holy Quran, ‘Aye! It is in the remembrance of Allah that hearts can find comfort.’ You have to make an effort towards this and you must utilise your will power and face the reality head on. You must become strong. There is no other solution to this. Adopting will power, prayer, effort and resolve are the means to overcome this. If a person is weaker in one thing and does not attain success in it, it is possible that they will attain success in something else. Sometimes a person does not attain success for a long time and has to go through hardships. But, there is also no alternative to which a person can turn to other than God.

(Source: “Khuddam from Sydney Australia have Honour of Virtual Meeting with World Head of Ahmadiyya Muslim Community.” Ahmadiyya Muslim Community- Press & Media Office, pressahmadiyya.com)



Image from Pexel

CHANGING GENDER NORMS?

On May 15, 2022, during a virtual meeting with female members of the Waqf-e-Nau Scheme aged 15 and above from the United Kingdom, Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V^{aa} was asked about the Islamic position on changing gender norms in society. Huzoor^{aa} responded:

“The Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him) mentioned that men should appear like men and vice versa and that a sign of the end times will be that the differences of appearance between men and women will diminish, their senses and preferences will change and people will not fulfil their obligations. So today we are seeing such things are becoming commonplace. We see that there is a trend and push towards changing of one’s gender as well.... When times change like this and there is immorality, then Allah the Almighty sends His chosen messengers and His loved ones, in order to bring about a positive reformation in the world and in this era, the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) has been sent for this purpose.”

(Source: “Waqf-e-Nau Lajna From the UK Have Honour of a Virtual Meeting With Head of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community.” Ahmadiyya Muslim Community- Press & Media Office, pressahmadiyya.com)

RESPONDING TO THOSE WHO MOCK THE HIJAB

On May 8 2022, Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V (may Allah be his Helper) held a virtual meeting with female members of the Waqf-e-Nau Scheme aged between 12 and 15 from the United Kingdom in which someone asked Huzoor^{aa} how she should respond to those who mock the Hijab. Huzoor^{aa} replied:

“If you are determined, if you are strong and staunch in your faith, then you should not bother what the other people say. It is the commandment of Allah the Almighty that a (Muslim) woman should observe the Hijab... So, if people mock us then don’t care [about them]. Tell them, this is my personal choice, my personal view and I have a right to do whatever I like. [Inform them that] this is my personal liking and I am doing it because of my religious teachings, because of the commandment of the Shariah and the Holy Quran which has been given by Allah the Almighty in the Holy Quran. So, if you are a determined and strong Ahmadi Muslim, then you will never worry whatever the people say. Further, you can tell them that they engage in behaviour which they consider to be moral, but according to your religious teachings are immoral. And, so if you don’t object to their habits then who are they to question that why do you wear the Hijab?”



Image from Pexel

HOW TO SAFEGUARD AGAINST NEGATIVE USAGE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

In the same meeting, a girl asked Huzoor^{aa} for advice on how to save oneself from the negative usage of social media. He said:

“It is a matter of temptation. A person is easily tempted, whereby they open a link and they become interested and then they open up another link and then another and so forth. The user doesn’t think of the negative impact it is having upon them. So, the first time that you see something on social media that can potentially have a negative impact on you or others, immediately shut it down. Instead, visit those sites which increase your knowledge. For example, watch scientific or educational programmes and documentaries and read comments and articles by scientists and academics. Also, visit the sites and pages of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community rather than visiting harmful websites and content. It all depends on your will-power and determination and how much you wish to protect and save yourself.”

(Source: “Head of Ahmadiyya Muslim Community Speaks about the Importance of Supporting those who are Suffering with Mental Health Issues During Meeting with Waqf-e-Nau Girls from the UK.” Ahmadiyya Muslim Community- Press & Media Office, pressahmadiyya.com)



Image from Pexel

MORALS FOR DAILY LIFE

On March 20, 2022, during a virtual meeting with members of Majlis Atfalul Ahmadiyya from Norway, Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V^{aa} was asked ethics and morals and how they should be applied in our daily lives. Huzoor^{aa} said:

“There are more than 700 commandments in the Holy Quran and Allah the Almighty has told us what is good and what is bad. So, all those things which Allah the Almighty has commanded us to do are the good morals and all those things which Allah the Almighty has asked us to refrain from, they are the harmful and wrong things... A good Muslim should be morally good. Allah the Almighty says that you have two duties; one, to worship Allah the Almighty and discharge the rights of Allah the Almighty. [This includes] all the rights you owe with regards to Allah the Almighty. Secondly, you should discharge your duties towards your fellow beings. Always think good and do good for your fellow beings, for every creation of Allah the Almighty.”

“There are certain moral duties. You have to be good with your friends and as I have already said, worship Allah the Almighty, obey your parents, respect your elders, respect your teachers, give due attention to your studies and try to excel in knowledge – religious knowledge and secular knowledge. So these are the things which make you morally good. Always see that what are the bad things, which can corrupt your morals. Never watch those television programmes that are not good for your education, that are deviating you from good things, that are morally corrupting you and that are trying to involve you in the harmful things of the society. Never watch those programmes on the internet or on social media which can spoil your morals, which are not good for you, which let you go astray, which can cause you to deviate from your basic religious teachings. We have a guideline before us and that is the Holy Quran. Try to learn the meaning of the Holy Quran. So, find out all the dos and don’ts given in the Holy Quran and then follow it.”

(Source: “Members of Majlis Atfal-ul-Ahmadiyya from Norway have Honour of a Virtual Meeting with Head of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community.” Ahmadiyya Muslim Community- Press & Media Office, pressahmadiyya.com)



DEALING WITH RACISM AT SCHOOL

Image from Unsplash

In the same virtual meeting with Atfal from Norway, a Tifl mentioned to Huzoor^{aa} that some children in his school call him 'dirty' because of him being a foreigner in Norway. He asked for advice on how he should respond. Huzoor^{aa} said:

“So you should tell them that you are not dirty and that you do ablution five times a day when you do your prayers and so you are cleaner than them! If they say that you are a Muslim and a foreigner and therefore you are a bad person and by saying 'dirty' they mean you are not a good person then tell them that the real 'goodness' is in being morally good and pious. You should tell them that, 'Look, my morals are good, I worship Allah, and I speak good things with you and I think well of you and I do not fight with you. I study hard as well to get good grades so that when I grow older I can serve the country. I try to maximise my potential so that I am useful for my country and I can serve it when I grow older. So I am not dirty at all. You can think what you want of me. I do not think ill of you because if we start to think bad about others then it will give rise to hate. Our slogan is 'love for all, hatred for none'. Therefore you can call me what you want but I will not be abusive towards you and I will pray for you that Allah the Almighty may change your perspective.' So say these things to them.”

(Source: “Members of Majlis Atfal-ul-Ahmadiyya from Norway have Honour of a Virtual Meeting with Head of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community.” Ahmadiyya Muslim Community- Press & Media Office, pressahmadiyya.com)

BELIEFS HELD BY *Ahmadi's*

The Ahmadiyya Gazette Canada is serializing sections of the book "Invitation to Ahmadiyyat" by Hazrat Mirza Bashiruddin Mahmood Ahmad, Khalifatul-Masih II^{ra}. Written in 1926, this book serves as a primer of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community's doctrinal beliefs.

I now proceed to enumerate the beliefs held by our Jama'at so that you can see whether any of them are contrary to Islam:

- 1.** We believe that God exists; to subscribe to a belief in His existence is to affirm the most important truth; it is not to follow an illusion or superstition.
- 2.** We believe that God is One. He has no partner here or in Heaven. Everything else is His creation, dependent on His help and sustenance. He is without son or daughter or father or mother or wife or brothers, Unique in His Oneness and in His Individuality.
- 3.** We believe that God is Holy, free from all defects and full of all perfections. There is no imperfection which may be found in Him, and no perfection which may not be found in Him. His Power is unlimited. So is His Knowledge. He encompasses everything and there is nothing which encompasses Him. He is the First and the Last, the Manifest and the Hidden, the Creator and Master of all creation. His control has never failed in the past, nor is it failing at present, nor will it fail in the future. Free from death, He is the Living, the Enduring. He suffers no

defect or decay. His actions are willed, not forced or constrained. He rules over the world today as He ever ruled before. His attributes are eternal, His power always evident.

- 4.** We believe that angels are a part of God's creation. They follow the law laid down in the Quran:

يَفْعَلُونَ مَا يُؤْمَرُونَ

They do what they are commanded.
(16:51)

They have been created in His Wisdom for the discharge of determinate duties. Their existence is real and references to them in the Holy Book are not metaphorical. They depend on God in the same way as men or His other creatures. He is not dependent on them for the manifestation of His power. Had He willed, He would have created the universe without angels, but His perfect wisdom willed their creation. So angels came into being. God created light for the eye and bread for hunger. He created light and bread not because He was in need of them but because man was in need of them. The angels only manifest the Will and Wisdom of God.

- 5.** We believe that God speaks to His chosen servants and reveals to them His purpose.





Revelation from God descends in words. The recipient provides neither the meaning nor the words of revelation. Both come from Him. Revelation provides real sustenance for man. Man lives by it, and through it man comes to have contact with God. The words which embody a revelation of God are unique in their power and majesty. No man can coin such words. They carry treasures of knowledge and wisdom. They are like a mine the stone of which is the more valuable the deeper you dig. Indeed, a mine is nothing compared with revelation. A mine can be exhausted, but not the wisdom of revelation. Revelation is like a sea with a scented surface and a bed strewn with the most precious pearls. Those who turn to the surface enjoy the fragrance of the surface, and those who dive deep find the pearls below. Revelation is of many kinds. Sometimes it consists of ordinances and laws, sometimes of exhortations. Sometimes it brings knowledge of the unseen, sometimes knowledge of spiritual truths. Sometimes it conveys the goodwill and approval of God, sometimes His disapproval and displeasure, sometimes His love and regard, sometimes warnings and rebukes. Sometimes it teaches points of morality, sometimes His insight into secret evils. In short, our belief is that God communicates His Will to His servants. These communications vary according to the circumstances and the spiritual status of the recipient. Of all divine communications, the most perfect, the most complete and comprehensive, is the Holy Quran. The law laid down in the Holy Quran and the spiritual guidance it contains are to last for ever. They cannot be superseded by any future revelation or communication from God.

6. We also believe that when darkness prevails in the world and human beings sink deep in sin and evil, when without the help of God it becomes difficult for them to release themselves from the hold of Satan, then out of His Mercy and Beneficence, God chooses from out of His own loving and loyal servants those whom He charges with the duty to guide the world. God says:

وَأَنَّ مِنْ أُمَّةٍ إِلَّا خَلَا فِيهَا نَذِيرٌ

And there are not a people but had had a warner. (35:25)

This means that God has sent His Messengers to all peoples of the world. Their pure lives and perfect example ever serve as guides for other human beings. Through them God reveals His will and purpose. Those who turn away from them degrade themselves. Those who turn to them earn the love of God. The doors of His blessings are opened to them. His grace and mercy descend on them. They become spiritual preceptors for generations to come and attain greatness in this world and the next.

7. We also believe that Divine Messengers, who in the past have helped mankind out of darkness and evil, have belonged to different levels of spiritual greatness and have fulfilled in different degrees the divine purpose which determined their advent. The greatest of them was the Holy Prophet (on whom be peace and the blessings of God). God described him as 'the chief of men, a messenger unto all mankind'. God revealed to him the knowledge of good and evil and blessed him with His help. The most powerful earthly rulers trembled in awe of him. The entire earth was as sacred as a mosque to him. The time came when his followers could be seen in every part of the world; in every part there were believers who bowed and prostrated themselves before the One God, the God without an equal. Justice began to reign instead of injustice, kindness instead of cruelty. If the earlier prophets had lived in the time of our Holy Prophet^{sa}, they would have had to obey and follow him. Truly has the Quran said:

وَإِذْ أَخَذَ اللَّهُ مِيثَاقَ النَّبِيِّينَ لَمَا آتَيْنُكُمْ مِنْ كِتَابٍ وَحِكْمَةٍ ثُمَّ جَاءَكُمْ رَسُولٌ مُصَدِّقٌ لِمَا مَعَكُمْ لَتُؤْمِنُنَّ بِهِ وَتَتَّبِعُنَّهُ

And remember the time when Allah took a covenant from the people through the prophets, saying "whatever I give you of the Book and Wisdom and then there comes to you a Messenger fulfilling what is with you, you shall believe in him and help him." (3:82)

Truly has the Holy Prophet himself (on whom be peace and the blessings of God) said:

لَوْ كَانَ مُوسَى وَعِيسَى حَيَّيْنِ لَمَا وَسَعَهُمَا إِلَّا تَبِيعَايَ

If Moses and Jesus were alive today, they would have had to believe in me and follow me. (Tafsir Ibn Kathir, vol. 2, p. 246)

8. We also believe that God hears the prayers of His suppliant and servants. He helps them out of difficulties. He is a Living God, His living character being evident in all things, at all times. The guidance that comes from God is not like the scaffold we build when we dig for a well, to be destroyed after the well has been built, being required no more; a hindrance rather than a help. The guidance that comes from the Living God is like the light, but for which we should see nothing; it is like the spirit, but for which everything would become dead. Take away the spirit and we would be only lifeless masses. It is not true that God created the world and then chose to sit by. He continues His beneficent and benevolent interest in His servants and creatures. When they feel humble and weak, He turns to them with His help. If they forget Him, He reminds them of Himself and of His concern and solicitude for them. Then through special Messengers He reassures them, saying:

إِنِّي قَرِيبٌ أَجِيبُ دَعْوَةَ الدَّاعِ إِذَا دَعَانِ فَلْيَسْتَجِيبُوا لِي وَلْيُؤْمِنُوا بِي لَعَلَّهُمْ يَرْشُدُونَ

I am near indeed. I answer the prayer of the suppliant when he prays to Me. So that they should hearken to Me and believe in Me that they may go aright. (2:187)

That is, God hears the prayers of His men. It is up to men to believe in Him and pray to Him. If they do so, they will have guidance from Him.

9. We also believe that from time to time God determines and designs the course of events in special ways. Events of this world are not determined entirely by the laws known as the laws of nature. Besides these laws, there are special laws through which God manifests His might, interest, and purpose. It is these special laws which (constitute evidence of the Will and Power and Love of God, but which many out of ignorance deny. Such men believe in nothing besides the laws of nature. Yet laws of nature may be laws of nature but not laws of God. Laws of God are laws through which God helps His chosen ones, those whom He loves; through them He disgraces and destroys the enemies of His friends. If there were no such laws, could the weak and

friendless Moses have triumphed over a cruel and mighty Pharaoh? Could Moses succeed and Pharaoh fail while Moses was weak and Pharaoh strong? If there are no laws other than the laws of nature, how could the Holy Prophet Muhammad^{sa} have triumphed against an Arabia determined to put an end to him and his mission? In every encounter God helped the Holy Prophet^{sa} and made him triumph over his enemies. Every attack the enemies made ended in failure, and at last, with ten thousand saints, he re-entered the valley out of which, ten years before, he had had to flee for his life in the company of only one self-sacrificing friend. Can laws of nature account for such events? Can they permit such things? Laws of nature only guarantee the success of the strong against the weak; and conversely, the failure of the weak against the strong.

10. We also believe that death is not the end of all existence for human beings. Man survives death and has to account for his deeds in the Hereafter. Those who do good deeds merit generous rewards. Those who offend against His teachings and commandments meet the punishment which is their due. Nothing can avert this reckoning. Human beings must survive and face it. A man may be burnt to ashes and the ashes dispersed in the air; he may be eaten by birds or animals or worms or reduced to dust and the dust changed into something else; he will nevertheless live after death and meet his Maker to give an account of his deeds. The Power of God guarantees human survival. It is not necessary that the human body should remain intact in order that the human soul may survive. God has the power to restore a man to life from the meanest particle or atom of his soul or being. That is how it will happen. The body may be reduced to ashes, but the ashes need not disappear into nothing. Nor can the spirit, housed in the body, pass into nothing. Not without the Will of God.

11. We believe that non-believers in God and enemies of His revealed guidance, unless forgiven out of His infinite mercy, will stay in a place called Hell. Extremes of heat and cold will be the punishments awarded in this place, but the object will not be to give pain to the inmates, but to reform them. In Hell,

unbelievers and enemies of God will spend their days in wailing and woe, in regrets over days spent in evil. They will continue so until the Mercy of God, which encompasses all things, will encompass the evil-doers and their evil also. Then will the Promise of God be fulfilled which the Holy Prophet^{sa} announced.

يَأْتِي عَلَى جَهَنَّمَ زَمَانٌ لَيْسَ فِيهَا أَحَدٌ وَتَسِيرُ الصَّبَا تَحَرِّكُ
أَبْوَابَهَا

A time will come when no one will be left in Hell; winds will blow and the windows and doors of Hell will make a rattling noise on account of the blowing winds. (Tafsir-ul Maalam-ut-Tanzil under verse 11:107)

12. We believe that those who believe in God, His prophets, His angels and His books; who affirm with heart and soul the guidance which comes from Him; who walk in humility and abase themselves in His presence; who live like the poor though they be rich; who serve humanity and sacrifice their comfort for others; who abjure excesses of all kinds, hate, cruelty, and transgression; who are models of human goodness— these men will go to a place called Heaven. Peace and pleasure will reign in this place. Pain will not exist. The pleasure and approval of God will have been won by every man. God will be present to all, His Universal Grace enveloping every one. So near will God be and so conscious will everyone become of His existence and presence that everyone will be as a mirror reflecting God and His perfect attributes. All the low desires of men will disappear. The desires of men will be the desires of God. They will have attained everlasting life, every one an image of his Creator.

These are our beliefs. Whether there are any other beliefs which one must accept before one can be said to subscribe to Islam, we do not know. The doctors of Islam point to no other belief. We affirm all the beliefs of Islam and hold these beliefs as our beliefs.

(Invitation to Ahmadiyyat, pp. 7-16)



IMMERSING OURSELVES IN **MTA**



MTA programs enhance our knowledge, enlighten our soul, strengthen our identity, and inspire us to act. It is a great means of shielding ourselves against evils of the online and offline world.

Central to this great channel is the guidance of Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V (may Allah be his Helper!). His sermons, addresses, virtual mulaqats collectively provide us the bearings we need to navigate ourselves as Ahmadi Muslims in the present age; they offer us inspiration to put the commandments of Allah into daily practice so we can reform ourselves and elevate our character.

Huzoor Anwar (may Allah be his Helper) said: “In this age, Allah the Exalted has created further ease for us. Every Ahmadi should instil the practice of watching MTA for personal tarbiyyat and forging a strong connection with Khilafat.” (Friday Sermon of March 4, 2016, qtd. in *Social Media*, p. 87)

Furthermore, Ahmadi across the world attest to the benefits of watching MTA. Huzoor Anwar^{aa} said:

“Many people write to say that ever since they started regularly watching at least the Friday sermon on MTA, they have strengthened their faith and feel their connection with Jama’at has also become stronger. Our faith is getting stronger.” (Ibid.)

If we start watching MTA regularly, by the grace of Allah, we can reap countless benefits.

It has programs for audience of all ages. Whether you are a child, a youth or an elder, there is always something relevant for you to watch and enjoy. MTA covers a broad range of topics pertaining to Islam Ahmadiyyat. For example, Q/A’s; Daroosul Qur’an; contemporary issues; matters of Islamic jurisprudence; documentaries; biographical programs; children’s programs; and much more.

One way to explore the large database of programs is to browse MTA’s own website: www.MTA.TV. In addition to the “LIVE” tab that has programs running 24/7, one can find on-demand programs by clicking on “VIDEOS” and searching under “Brand”, “Category” and “Topics”. Similarly, from the “PROGRAMME” or “TV GUIDE” tabs, one can find schedules and featured programs.

Indeed, the most important program to watch on MTA is the Friday Sermon of our Beloved Imam Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V (may Allah be his Helper). While the sermon is delivered in Urdu, it is also translated simultaneously into many languages on other MTA channels (including English and French). In the same way, MTA covers all the addresses of Huzoor Anwar^{aa}, which offer Ahmadi the most pertinent advice to sustain our moral and spiritual well-being.

Another great program is “This Week with Huzoor.” Again, this program connects us to the Khalifa of the time, showing us glimpses of his meetings with members of Jama’at during the week and how the divinely guided Khalifa offers the perfect answers to questions asked by the members across the world. The program is aired on Friday evenings.

But MTA also has great content for kids. For example, MTA has launched several great programs including “Friday Sermon for Kids”, “Little Legends” and “Destination Next” and “Kids Space.” Other programs include *Bachon ki Dunya* and Storytime.

In addition to MTA’s own website and app, another easy way to watch MTA is through Youtube on our devices. Subscribe to the MTA channel, click on the scores of videos, and start learning about your faith.

Let us immerse ourselves in MTA and benefit from this extraordinary blessing of Allah. May Allah enable us all to do so! Amin



LET'S TALK ABOUT PORNOGRAPHY

Fazal Masood Malik, PEI

Pornography, or Porn has become a very common occurrence in our society today. Originating from the Greek word pornográphos, which referred to writings (gráphos) about harlots (pórne), or “prostitutes,” the word has always meant to stimulate sexual excitement. Its use has become so pervasive today that it is becoming common place to describe content that is beyond what is readily accessible. Food Porn, House Porn being two simple examples.

Unfortunately, the original intent of porn, being stimulation of sexual excitement, is pervasive yet largely unaddressed problem in today's world. Having claimed some Ahmadi Muslims as its victims, it shows no sign of slowing down.

It is difficult to exaggerate just how evil pornography is. Our beloved Khalifa has repeatedly drawn our attention towards safeguarding our lives and the lives of our loved ones from this social evil.

“Modern television, movies and the internet often contain fornication and promote adultery and so it is incumbent upon Ahmadi Muslim to avoid such indecent things.”

It is an uncomfortable subject but ignoring it will do no good. The fact is, pornography addiction is a massive and growing problem—especially for men. If you are struggling, take it seriously and get help as soon as possible.

Here are some suggestions that will help you move away from the evil of pornography.

1. Immunize yourself – Remove yourself from the porn-saturated media and culture. If your surroundings encourage this evil, then

consider leaving it behind and moving to a safer environment.

2. Find accountability – Don't trust yourself and your own self-control. The minute you do, you will fail. Install filters on your phone and the computer. Force yourself to use the technology in more open places where everyone has a line of sight.
3. Get help – You cannot win this battle alone. You need the support of others, and you need accountability. As hard as it might be, find someone you can trust and ask if they will be your accountability partner. Speak to your local Murabi in confidence. They are there to help and will help you with prayers and practical advice.
4. Be patient – Never give up. We tend to want instant results, and porn trains our minds to seek instant results. If you fall, don't despair, get up and try again. While transformations do happen, most of the time it does not happen immediately. Remember, consistency is key to success.

Porn can destroy your marriage, corrupt your intellect, emotions and give you a false understanding of relationships in your life. Just like any addiction, it will become a need so intense you can no longer function normally without it.

“Many families are destroyed because of viewing pornography. The so-called ‘progressive world’ considers such things to be ‘freedom and progress’. However, studies are now proving the harmful effects of pornography and how it often leads to domestic violence and child abuse.”

At the Khuddam ul Ahmadiyya Ijtima in 2019, Huzoor^{aa} guided the youth, stating:

“It is no exaggeration to suggest that in this era, more than ever before, society is engulfed by satanic influences. In addition, pornography, drugs, online gaming, gambling, immoral and inappropriate relationships, going to nightclubs and many other things are amongst those satanic influences which are entirely harmful and are taking people away from God Almighty.”

May Allah enable us to follow the teachings of our beloved Imam and save ourselves and our progeny from the evil of modern addictions.

SOURCES FOR QUOTES OF HUZOOR ANWAR (AA):

1. [“‘True love’ and the ‘Perfect’ life partner...?” The Review of Religions. reviewofreligions.org.](https://www.reviewofreligions.org/)
2. [“Head of Ahmadiyya Muslim Community concludes Majlis Khuddamul Ahmadiyya Ijtima with faith-inspiring Address.” Ahmadiyya Muslim Community- Press & Media Office, pressahmadiyya.com](https://pressahmadiyya.com/)

SUGGESTED FURTHER READING:

1. Friday Sermons 09-30-1983 and 11-13-1992
2. [“What can I do if I am addicted to pornography?” The Quest of a Curious Muslim. alislam.org](https://www.alislam.org/)

“Many families are destroyed because of viewing pornography. The so-called ‘progressive world’ considers such things to be ‘freedom and progress’. However, studies are now proving the harmful effects of pornography and how it often leads to domestic violence and child abuse.



Image from Unsplash

MY UMRAH JOURNEY

Aqila LaHaye

Life is a journey. Most of the time we grow and evolve in our given environment, from one stage to the next, without realizing it. As a Muslim, I believe that the seeds of another, more divine journey are also planted at our birth, but our focus gets distracted with the materialism and complexities of life and our spiritual journey stagnates. By the sheer grace of Allah the Exalted, I had the opportunity to go for *Umrah*. This was my physical and spiritual journey from the outside, but a quest to move closer to the Ever-Living, Ever-Present God.

JANUARY 16, 2022:

Our *Umrah* journey began by traveling to Medina as a group. We left Toronto and reached the city of Jedda, Saudi Arabia, at 4:00 am local time on January 18, 2022. This was followed by an approximate 7-hour drive to Medina, another historical city of significance for Muslims. In contrast to the bitter winter weather of Toronto, Medina had a warmer and more welcoming temperature of 14 degrees Celsius. We spent the rest of the day settling in and ensuring that we followed the health and safety protocols outlined by the Saudi government. Due to COVID, we were required to show our proof of vaccination on an app called *Tawkkalna* prior to entering the Prophet's Mosque (*Masjid-e-Nabwi*). We also booked a visit to the *Rouza* (the burial place of the Holy Prophet^{sa}) using an app called *Eatmarna*. These apps were helpful for booking our places at these sites and helped to maintain a safe amount of people at each place with regards to social distancing.

What is *Umrah*?

Umrah is an Islamic pilgrimage to Mecca that can be undertaken at any time of the year in contrast to Hajj which has specific dates according to the Lunar calendar.

JANUARY 19, 2022:

The opportunity to see the resting place of our beloved Holy Prophet^{sa} resulted in high levels of anticipation and longing. After many checkpoints to show our vaccination status and our booking confirmation, we finally arrived near the *Rouza*. The woman on duty asked us to offer two *nafl* (optional Muslim salat) and wait for our turn. It seemed like a very long wait. It is important to note that praying at the *Rouza* by raising your hands is not allowed, however, after arriving near *Rouza*, Allah granted us the opportunity to offer two *nafl* there. We prayed and sent *darood* (salutations) and *salaam* (peace) to the Holy Prophet^{sa}, Hazrat Abu Bakr^{ra} and Hazrat Umar^{ra}.

The *Rouza* is where the Holy Prophet^{ra} took his last breath and was laid to rest. Notably, this was also the chamber of Hazrat Aisha^{ra}. Later on, Hazrat Abu Bakr^{ra} and Hazrat Umar^{ra} were also buried in the same chamber. This part of the mosque is the original *Masjid-e-Nabwi* where the pulpit (*mimbar*) is situated, from where the Holy Prophet^{sa} used to deliver sermons.

I felt the presence of my beloved Prophet—mercy for all of mankind. I prayed for my family and friends and

for the whole ummah—specifically for women in Afghanistan, where women and girls are being deprived of their basic human rights in the name of Islam due to incorrect interpretations of his teachings. The love for the Holy Prophet^{sa} was pouring out which was hard to control in my suppressed cries.

اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِ مُحَمَّدٍ كَمَا صَلَّيْتَ
عَلَى إِبْرَاهِيمَ وَعَلَى آلِ إِبْرَاهِيمَ إِنَّكَ حَبِيدٌ مَّجِيدٌ
اللَّهُمَّ بَارِكْ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ، وَعَلَى آلِ مُحَمَّدٍ كَمَا بَارَكْتَ
عَلَى إِبْرَاهِيمَ وَعَلَى آلِ إِبْرَاهِيمَ إِنَّكَ حَبِيدٌ مَّجِيدٌ



Image from Unsplash

It was 2:00 am when we got out and went to the *Jannat al-Baqi* graveyard, which is next to *Masjid-e-Nabwi*. This is where the graves of Hazrat Fatima^{ra}, Hazrat Aisha^{ra}, other family members and many martyrs and companions of the Holy Prophet^{sa} are situated. The grave of the Third Khalifa Hazrat Uthman^{ra} is also there, but it is about half a mile away from *Masjid-e-Nabwi*. We prayed there and invoked *darood* and *salaam* upon them. This graveyard is very large and protected by a high fence, preventing any attempts of entry.

JANUARY 20, 2022

We took a bus with our group to go on a tour of the city, making our first stop at *Masjid-e-Quba*, the first mosque built by the Holy Prophet^{sa}. It is stated on the display board outside the mosque that anyone who offers two *nafl* prayers here will receive the reward of an *Umrah*. I offered *nafl* and prayed for all my family and friends; may Allah accept my humble prayers.

We took the opportunity to explore the city. Every mosque we visited was well-managed and had consistently similar and the same organizational structure. Every mosque maintained a strict level of cleanliness. We also visited a very crowded marketplace where we bought dates and other treats. Many buses carrying pilgrims from various countries visited the market as well. The shopkeepers were mostly from third world countries, but Saudi Arabs were collecting money at the checkout. Overall, Medina is a very modern city with advanced infrastructure. While some greenery is visible, the city is largely characterized by mountains of red stone around the city.

Afterwards, we went to *Masjid al-Qiblatayn*. Due to COVID restrictions, we could not gain entry, so we offered two *nafl* outside the mosque. *Masjid al-Qiblatayn* is the mosque where the Holy Prophet^{sa} received the command to change the *Qiblah* (direction of prayers) from Jerusalem to Mecca. It is stated that it has two *mehrab*s (*Qiblah* walls) in different directions.

Next, we visited *Masjid-e-Khandaq*, where the Battle of the Trench took place. There used to be three small mosques here: *Masjid-e-Abubaker*, *Masjid-e-Umer* and *Masjid-e-Fatima*. The Saudi government has demolished them to build a larger, consolidated mosque which is called *Jami Khandaq*.

On the left side of the mosque there is another mosque called *Masjid-e-Fateh*. It is at the top of the hill and made of stones. There are no doors or windows.

We later visited *Uhud* mountain. It was about 15 degrees Celsius and a beautiful sunny day, making it the perfect weather

to climb the hill. *Uhud* mountain is where the second battle after the migration to Medina was fought. There is a huge mountain on one side and on the other side is the hill where the Holy Prophet^{sa} appointed 50 soldiers to protect it and stressed not to move from there under any circumstances. When those Muslim soldiers saw that their enemy is running away and that Muslims have won the battle, most of them went down to collect valuable goods left by their enemies. Khalid Bin Walid, the general of the Meccan army, noticed the hill unprotected and ran with his battalion and attacked from behind. Consequently, the Muslim's victory turned into defeat.

The Holy Prophet's^{sa} dear uncle Hazrat Hamza^{ra} was martyred in this battle. His grave and other martyred companions' graves are all located here. We prayed and invoked *darood* and *salam* and remembered their selfless sacrifices. May Allah shower His blessings on all of them. Ameen!

JANUARY 21, 2022

We left for Tahajjud prayers at 4 am. It was very cold, and I wished I had packed warmer clothes. One must be prepared for this temperature if you are visiting Medina in January. *Masjid-e-Nabwi* was approximately a 4-minute walk from our hotel. We later went for Juma prayers. The mosque was full, but everyone was still socially distanced.

Before the *khutba* started, a woman next to me stood up and started distributing candies to the women sitting in her proximity. I looked at the candies and they had a different language on them. I asked her if she was from Bosnia and she responded that her nationality was Russian. This small encounter stood out to me. I reflected on the fact that while every country has their own culture, language, and customs, we were united in one place for the mutual goal of worshipping One God; this is the focal point that binds this *ummah* together. It was a small gesture of love, warmth, and sisterhood, which impressed me very much. *Al-Hamdo lillah!*

JANUARY 22, 2022

On this day, we had to leave for Mecca for *Umrah* and we needed to be in *Ihram*. For men, it is two white unstitched sheets which they wrap one around their lower body and one for their upper body. Women can wear any proper clothing which conceals their entire body while leaving their hands and face uncovered.

What is *Ihram*?

Ihram means prohibition and a state of holiness. It demands the pilgrims to remove any impurity or unclean aspects from their mind, body, and soul. *Ihram* signifies peace, harmony, and unity, with the sole purpose of worshipping Allah. Some acts that are permissible in normal conditions become temporarily prohibited. A pilgrim must enter a state of *Ihram* before crossing the pilgrimage boundary which is called *Miqaat*. *Ihram* removes all societal representations of wealth or social differences and both men and women renounce the temptations of vanity and the world.

What is *Miqaat*?

There are different *Miqaat* points coming from different directions to Mecca. The *Miqaat* point for people travelling from Medina to Mecca is Masjid-e-Shajra; it is approximately 7 kilometers from Masjid-e-Nabwi. We stopped at this point and performed wudhu and offered two nafl prayers and made niyya (intention) for *Umrah*, which put us into a state of *Ihram*, and we started reciting the *talbiyyah* and other prayers all the way to Mecca. Pilgrims intending to perform Hajj or *Umrah* must enter the state of *Ihram* (prohibition).

The way to Mecca from Medina looked very dry, with very large mountains. You could see some medium and small trees which didn't look very green. We saw some camels wandering around near the mountains. I considered the fact that we were travelling in a very comfortable air-conditioned bus in January in pleasant weather. In contrast, when the Holy Prophet^{sa} and Hazrat Abu Bakr^{ra} migrated from Mecca to Medina, it was the month of June. It must have been a very hot and difficult journey, hiding from the Meccans and taking a longer route to protect themselves from the *Quraish*. Just imagine—no shade and

no shelter on the rocky land. The thought of the hardships which the Holy Prophet^{sa} had to go through to preserve the faith in Allah brought tears in my eyes.

We arrived in Mecca at 5:30 pm and booked our *Umrah* time slot through the *Eatmarna* app. We got the slot for 12:00-3:00 am. We anxiously waited in our rooms to see the *Ka'ba* and perform *tawaf* (circuit). Finally, the time came and we entered the *Maqam Ibrahim* while reciting prayers and the *talbiyyah*. It is said that when you first glance at the *Ka'ba*, whatever you pray for at that time will be accepted by God Almighty. Overwhelmed with



uncontrollable emotions, while reciting prayers and *darood*, we entered that holy majestic land where Hazrat Ibrahim^{as} laid the foundation for this building so that the name of One God would be protected and recited there. The Holy Prophet^{sa} suffered so much hardship, persecution, starvation, humiliation, and pain in order for the name of Allah to stay alive in the hearts of coming generations, so

that they worship one God and establish a connection with the Ever-Living Omnipresent God. No words can express the storm of emotions my heart and mind were going through.

The atmosphere was surreal. I would describe it as a feeling of all your senses becoming active as your soul bows down in front of the presence of Allah the Almighty.

لَبَّيْكَ اللَّهُمَّ لَبَّيْكَ – لَبَّيْكَ لَا شَرِيكَ لَكَ لَبَّيْكَ –
إِنِّ الْحَبَشَ
– وَالنِّعْمَةُ لَكَ وَالْمُلْكُ – لَا شَرِيكَ لَكَ

Here I am, O Allah, here I am. Here I am. You have no partner, here I am. Verily all praise and blessings are Yours, and all sovereignty. You have no partner.

I could hear Bilal saying “*ahad, ahad*” (God is one, God is one) while being beaten and dragged under the hot sun. My tongue started reciting “*Qul ho wallaho Ahad*” which translates to “say He is Allah, the One”.

In the courtyard of the Ka’ba, there is a lighting system that makes it feel like Allah’s *noor* is everywhere; the air we breathe is light and pure. The majestic building of the Ka’ba is reminiscent of the sacrifices of our father Ibrahim^{as}, our Prophet Hazrat Muhammad^{sa} and the testimony of Allah’s protection and help. This building is standing firm and gracefully, manifesting to the believers that the God of this building (*Rabb-e-Ka’ba*) is always there for you if you are sincere towards him.

SA’EE OF SAFA AND MARWA:

After performing 7 circuits around the Ka’ba praying and beseeching help from

Him, we offered 2 *nafl* prayers at *Maqam Ibrahim* and went for Sa’ee of Safa and Marwa.

Safa and Marwa are historical hills which are adjacent to the Holy Ka’ba in *Masjid-e-Haram*.

The memories of Safa and Marwa are associated with the search for water by Hazrat Hajra^{as} for her son Ismaeel^{as}. She ran back and forth 7 times in the scorching heat to find someone or some source of water. Hazrat Hajra^{as} pleaded to Allah to save her son’s life. As per Islamic traditions, Allah answered her prayers and water emerged where baby Ismaeel^{as} was kicking his feet. That fountain is called *Zam Zam*. Pilgrims going for *Hajj* and *Umrah* remember this story and run back and forth 7 times to commemorate Hajra’s^{as} love for her son and unwavering devotion and faith in Allah.

We walked back and forth 7 times praying earnestly and reciting *darood*. I especially prayed for the 2 million starving children in Yemen, just south of Saudi Arabia. O my Lord, listen to the cries of those children and their mothers and grant them relief like you did to Hazrat Hajra^{as} and her son Ismaeel^{as}. Ameen.

After completing Sa’ee, *Umrah* is complete. After every *Umrah*, pilgrims must cut their hair, which is called ‘*Taqseer*’ to exit *Ihram*. For women, removing *Ihram* requires cutting their hair by the length of a fingertip. I brought one small pair of scissors with me so all the women in our group cut each other’s hair. When other people saw that we have scissors, they borrowed it from us to use. The significance of this ritual is because the hair on one’s head is a worldly attachment with one’s appearance and vanity. To surrender completely to Allah, one must detach from it and follow the path of simplicity and spirituality. My first *Umrah* was now complete, *Al-Hamdo lillah*.



Image from Unsplash

JANUARY 23, 2022

We booked a second *Umrah* slot at 9:00 pm-12:00 midnight *Al-Hamdo lillah*. Before our second *Umrah*, we had to go to *Masjid-e-Aisha* which is approximately a 20-minute drive from *Masjid-e-Haram*. It is the nearest and most convenient location to enter *Ihram* for those residing within the boundaries of the *Haram*. This is a big mosque with facilities for baths, ablution, and dressing. This place is the *Miqaat* for the people of Mecca. We offered two *nafl* prayers and did our *Niyya* for *Umrah*. You can wear *Ihram* here if you are going straight to the *Ka'ba*, so we went to our hotel rooms and got ready for our second *Umrah*. We repeated all the same rituals as the first *Umrah*—*Tawaaf*, two *nafl* at *Maqame Ibrahim*, *Sa'ee* and then *Taqseer*. I performed this *Umrah* on behalf of my parents and sisters. It was not crowded due to COVID restrictions, so it was easy to do *Tawaaf* and *Sa'ee*. We performed 2 *Umrahs* in 24 hours.

By the Grace of Allah the Almighty, I was able perform three *Umrahs* and two *Tawaaf*.

If you intend to only do *Tawaaf*, you don't need *Ihram* or to go to *Miqaat*, instead, make 7 or more circuits and pray—prescribed prayers or any prayers in your language—as much as you are able, then offer two *nafls* at *Maqame Ibrahim*. This completes your *Tawaaf*.



Masjid-e-Haram - Image from Pexel



Mount Arafat - Image from Unsplash



Image from Unsplash

JANUARY 24, 2022

Around 9:00 am, we went on a bus tour to see the city of Mecca. We visited the site of *Jabal Thaur* (a mountain where cave *Thaur* was located, which is where the Holy Prophet^{sa} and Hazrat Abu Bakr^{ra} took shelter while migrating to Medina). The Saudi government has demolished that mountain to build a hotel there. There was a large billboard sign with a picture of that mountain. We stopped there and recited *darood*.

Next, we visited *Arafat*, which is a major location of *Hajj*. Pilgrims must be here from *Zuhr* to *Maghrib* on the 9th of the Islamic month *Dhul Hijjah*. It is 14 miles from Mecca. *Masjid-e-Numra* is close by, where the *khutba* (sermon) is delivered during *Hajj*. The mosque is closed during the rest of the year. There is *Jabal-e-Rehmat* (Mountain of Mercy), where the Holy Prophet^{sa} delivered his last sermon. The landscape includes high mountains. When he delivered his last sermon, his voice echoed because of those mountains and reached 10,000 people who were gathered there to listen to him.

It was only 22 degrees Celsius and a sunny day. It felt very hot because of the mountains and dryness. The Holy Prophet^{sa} delivered his last sermon on March 6, 632 CE. I imagine that it must have been a lot hotter that day. There are stairs with approximately 125 steps to go up to where the Holy Prophet^{sa} delivered his sermon. A pillar has been built to commemorate the spot. There are

no trees for shade, just mountains and stones. I entered our comfortable air-conditioned bus thinking of the hardships the Holy Prophet^{sa} and his companions had to face to preserve their faith.

Maidan-e-Arafat is to the west of this Mountain of Mercy, where *Hajjis* stay in tents.

We travelled by bus to see the city of tents, called *Mina*. *Hajjis* stay here for three days. Permanent tents have been built for miles where 5-6 million people stay. These tents are air conditioned, and every block has a medical camp for first aid.

From a distance, we saw the mountain called *Jabal-e-Noor* where Cave *Hira* is located. This is where the first revelation was revealed to the Holy Prophet^{sa}. It is a strenuous climb up and down that mountain. We also passed by *Jannat-al-Mu'alla*, the graveyard where Hazrat Khadija^{ra} and Abu Talib are buried.

We performed our third *Umrah* from 9:00 pm to midnight with all the rituals associated with it. *Al-Hamdolillah*.

JANUARY 25, 2022

It was a hot afternoon, and we went to see the birthplace of the Holy Prophet^{sa} which is part of *Masjid-e-Haram*. The house has been turned into a library which was closed at the time, so we were only able to take pictures from outside. On the left side of this library is a tall building which is also a part of the mosque where there are two small windows. A woman used to throw garbage on the Holy Prophet^{sa} from that window when he used to pass by.

At night around 9:00 pm, we performed *Tawaf* of *Ka'ba* and offered two *nafl* at *Maqam Ibrahim*.

JANUARY 26, 2022

We performed our farewell *Tawaf* right after *Fajr* prayers. *Al-Hamdo lillah*. At 3:00 pm we left Mecca with a heavy heart to make our journey back home. The physical journey of worship and rituals came to an end but the inner spiritual journey to attain the pleasure of Allah the Almighty continues.

اَرْجِعْ إِلَىٰ رَبِّكَ رَاضِيَةً مَّرْضِيَّةً

Return to your Lord well pleased with Him
and He well pleased with you (89:29)

CHALLENGE:

MEMORIZE THIS HADITH:

إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يَنْظُرُ إِلَى صُورِكُمْ وَأَمْوَالِكُمْ وَلَكِنْ يَنْظُرُ
إِلَى قُلُوبِكُمْ وَأَعْمَالِكُمْ

Verily, Allah does not look at your appearance and
your wealth, but He looks at your hearts and your
actions.
(Sahih Muslim)

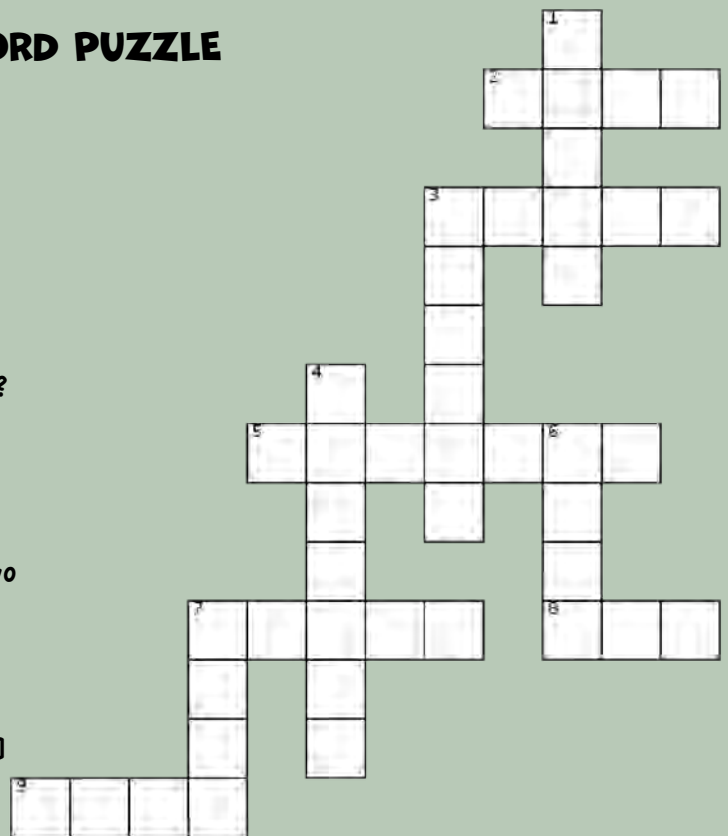
CROSS WORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

2. Number of obligatory prayers to be offered daily
3. Arabic term for Namaz
5. Arabic term for optional prayer
7. Arabic term for a kind of prayer (e.g. first three rak'aat of Maghrib prayer)
8. Name of the late afternoon Prayer
9. Which Prayer is offered in the early afternoon?

DOWN

1. Arabic term for the direction we face when offering prayers
3. Arabic term for a type of prayer (e.g. first two rak'aat of Fajr prayer)
4. Prayer offered immediately after sunset [until dusk]
6. Prayer offered later in evening
7. Prayer offered at dawn [to just before sunrise]



Across:
2. Five, 3. Salat, 5. Nawafil, 7. Fardh, 8. Asr, 9. Zuhri
Down:
1. Qibla, 3. Sunnah, 4. Maghrib, 6. Isha, 7. Fajr

ZONE



TRIVIA

1. At what age does Salat become compulsory for a believer?
2. Why do we cover our head during Prayer?
3. Why is the purpose of the ablution [Wudhu] before observing Prayer?
4. What is the meaning of 'Muezzin'?
5. The person who leads namaz is called what?
6. Name some etiquettes of Namaz
7. What are some of the benefits of offering Namaz?

- Solutions:
1. 7 years
 2. To show the utmost reverence to our Creator
 3. It is a commandment of Allah; to cleanse ourselves; to prepare for Namaz;
 4. The person who calls the Adhan is called 'Muezzin'
 5. Imam
 6. Perform the ablution; wear decent clothes; smell nice; wear a cap; offer Namaz with full attention; visualize as if you are standing before Allah; eyes should be fixed at point of prostration
 7. Helps us become good Muslims; helps us stay away from Satan; establishes our relationship with Allah; grants us peace of mind; give us opportunities to supplicate and ask God for what we need in life [especially during the Sajdah]

DID YOU KNOW?

The Holy Qur'an is the literal Word of God. It was revealed to the Holy Prophet^{sa} over a period of 23 years.

FILL IN THE BLANKS

1. _____ prayer has 2 Sunnah and 2 Fardh.
2. Zuhr prayer has 4 Sunnah, _____ Fardh, followed by _____ Sunnah.
3. _____ prayer only has 4 Fardh.
4. Maghib prayer has _____ Fardh followed by _____ Sunnah.
5. Isha prayer has 4 Fardh, _____ Sunnah and _____ Vitr.
6. We are prohibited from offering prayers at _____, _____ and when the _____ is at its zenith.

- Solution:
1. Fajr
 2. 4, 2
 3. Asr
 4. 3, 2
 5. 2, 3
 6. Sunrise, Sunset, Sun



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:

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

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
- Soutien divin du Khilafat-e-Ahmadiyya
- Obéissance envers le Califat

RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. Participants must write an essay on only one (1) of the essay topics provided.
2. For participants from Group A (Atfal and Nasirat), the essay should be 2 to 3 pages [single-spaced; 12 pt., Times New Roman font for English & French; 18 pt., Jameel Noori Nastaliq font for Urdu]
3. For participants from Group B (Khuddam, Lajna and Ansar), the essay should be 4 to 6 pages [single-spaced; 12 pt., Times New Roman font for English & French; 16 pt., Jameel Noori Nastaliq font for Urdu]
4. Each essay should be written and submitted by a single author. Collaborative essays will not be accepted in the competition.
5. All entries must be submitted by 11:59 pm EST on October 31, 2022 at editor@ahmadiyyagazette.ca. Late submissions will not be accepted in the competition.
6. The essay should be submitted in both Microsoft Word/Urdu InPage and PDF formats.
7. Each essay must contain participant's name, email address, phone number, Jamaat and member code, and auxiliary organization in the header
8. The essay must be the sole creation and original work of that person. No previously published work will be accepted. All essays submitted will be closely checked for plagiarism with entries disqualified if found to be plagiarised.
9. The decision of the judges will be final.
10. All references in the essay must be clearly and correctly cited; block quotations should not be longer than 5 lines

Group A: Atfal & Nasirat
Group B: Khuddam, Lajna & Ansar



OPEN UNTIL
31 OCT, 2022
11:59 PM EST

LANGUAGES:

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

PRIZES:



\$300
GIFT VALUE



\$200
GIFT VALUE



\$100
GIFT VALUE

DOMESTIC ISSUES AND THEIR SOLUTIONS

This book is a collection of sagacious pronouncements of His Holiness Mirza Masroor Ahmad, Khalifatul-Masih V (may Allah be his Helper) giving solutions based on teachings of Islam to problems faced in domestic life. These discourses of His Holiness shine a beacon of light on how to live a happy married life for husband and wife and also on the best moral training of their next generations.

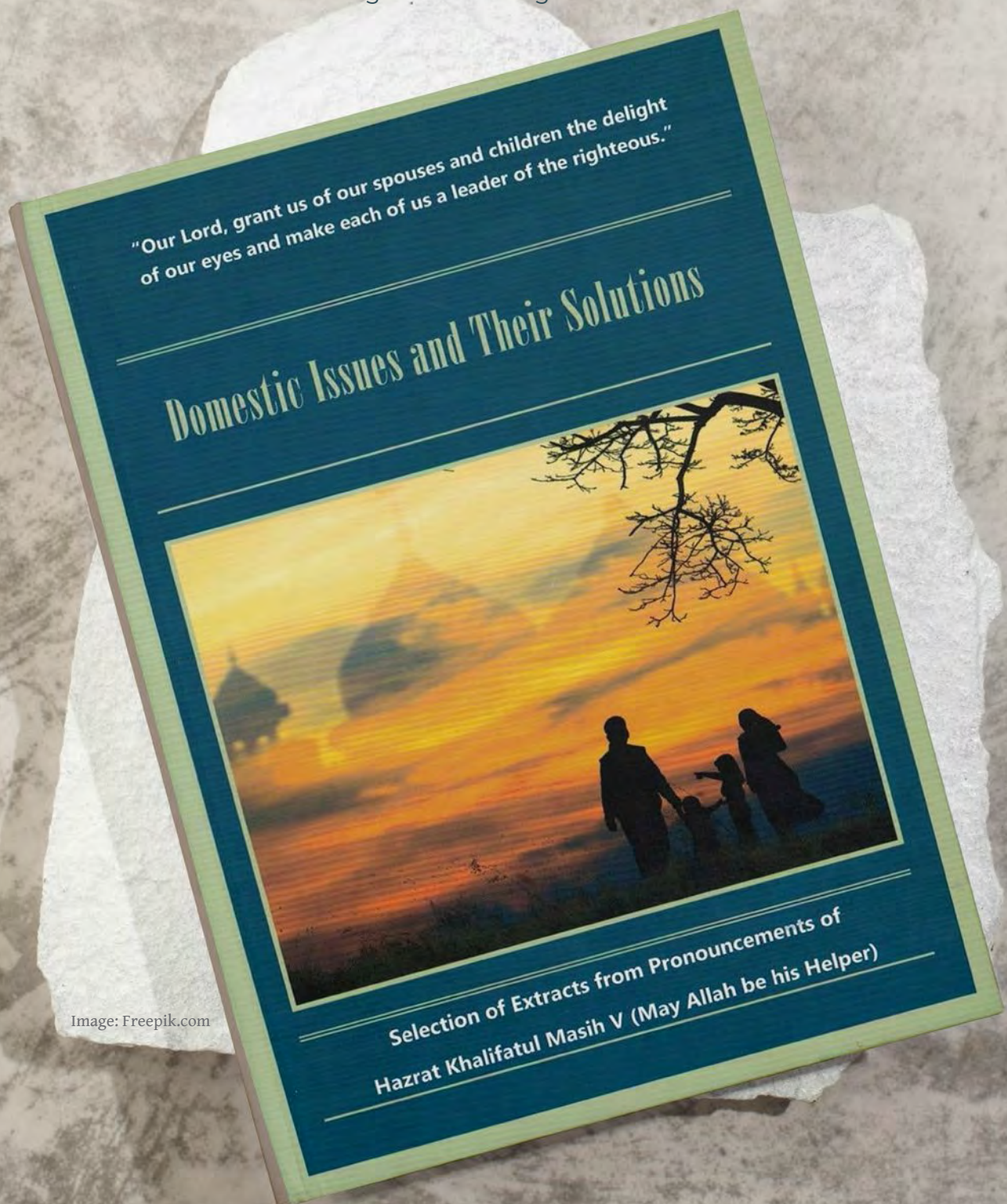


Image: Freepik.com



Image: Freepik.com

HAQIQATUL-WAHĪ

(THE PHILOSOPHY OF DIVINE REVELATION)

by Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, The Promised Messiah and Mahdi^{as}

In this book the Promised Messiah, on whom be peace, discusses the philosophy of divine revelation, the three categories of people who claim to receive revelation, and the distinction of the truthful from the false. He then establishes his truthfulness by documenting over 200 Signs, including the fulfillment of prophecies made by the Holy Prophet Muhammad, may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, other men of

God, earlier scriptures, and his own revelations spanning over twenty-five years.

The author cites numerous examples of his enemies who publicly predicted his downfall and demise, only to become the very victims of their own prophecies. God, however, protected him against every assault, while continuously reassuring him of His promise to bless his Community—a promise

which continues to bear the seal and testimony of history.

The author also appeals to the followers of different faiths to read this book cover to cover to appreciate and accept this evidence as proof that God is One and the Holy Prophet Muhammad is the Messenger of God, and that he is the Promised Messiah raised to unite humanity under the banner of Islam.

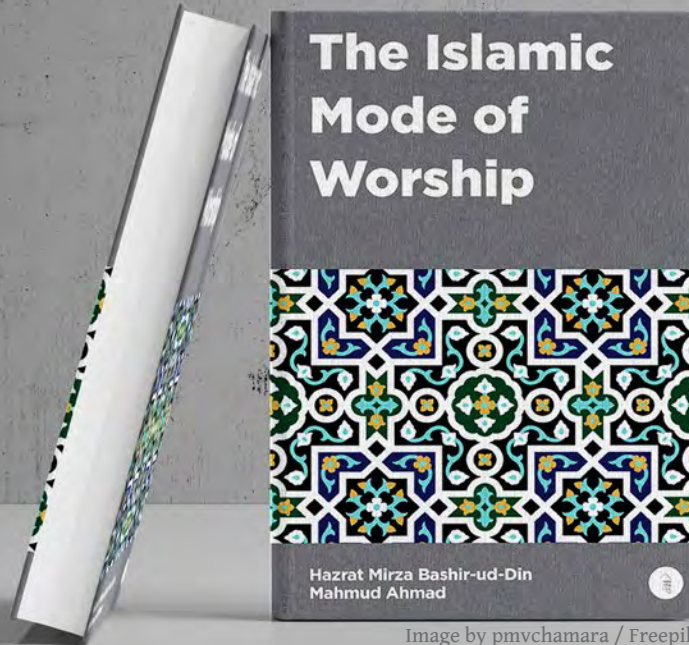


Image by pmvchamara / Freepik

THE ISLAMIC MODE OF WORSHIP

by Hazrat Mirza Bashiruddin Mahmud Ahmad, Khalifatul-Masih II^{ra}

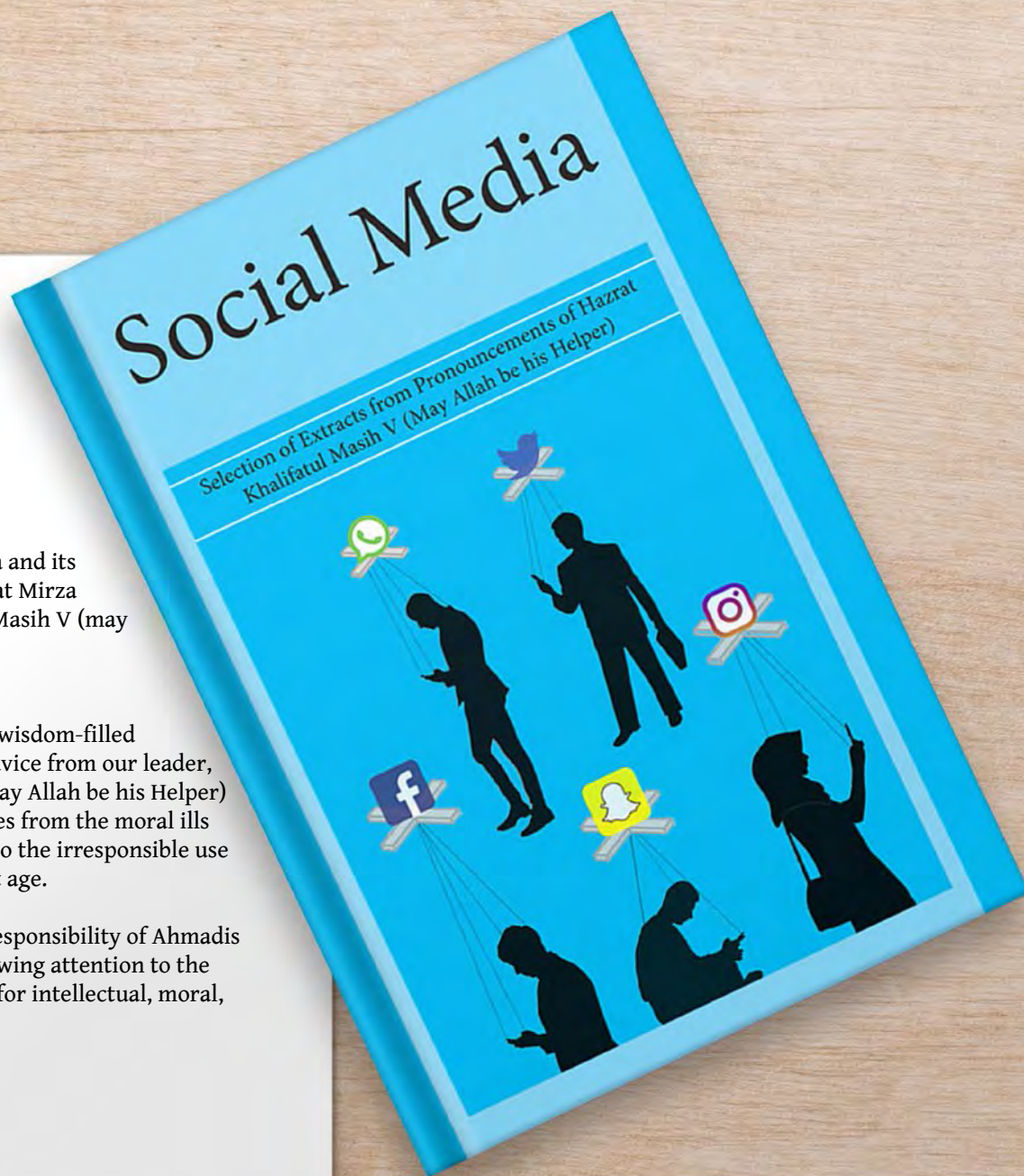
In *The Islamic Mode of Worship*, Hazrat Mirza Bashir-ud-Din Mahmud Ahmad^{ra} provides a brief but comprehensive overview of the formal Islamic prayer and its primary purpose. Key concepts including the sequence of positions, ablution and prescribed timings are explained in lucid terms and through the use of integrated illustrations. Important verses of the Holy Quran pertaining to the prayer are also highlighted and presented in a simple manner for book is a valuable resource for those who wish to know more about one of Islam's most fundamental pillars.

Social Media

Issues Related to Social Media and its Resolution Proposed by Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad, Khalifatul- Masih V (may Allah be his Helper!)

This book is a compilation of wisdom-filled exhortations and beautiful advice from our leader, Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V (May Allah be his Helper) on ways to safeguard ourselves from the moral ills spreading in the society due to the irresponsible use of Social Media in the current age.

This book also presents the responsibility of Ahmadis while using Social Media, drawing attention to the judicious use of Social Media for intellectual, moral, and spiritual training.



AYAZ MEHDI
PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION
ANY CITY, ANY COURT, ANY TIME.

FAMILY LAW
WILLS & CRIMINAL LAW
CIVIL LITIGATION

CALL NOW

647.671.3485 amehdilaw.com

Insuranceland®



"Our Family, Protecting Your Family"

**YOU COULD SAVE
UP TO **\$700** WHEN
YOU BUNDLE YOUR
HOME & AUTO
INSURANCE!**

WHY CHOOSE US?



- Exclusive Discount of 15% on Auto & 15% on Home Insurance
- Flexible Payment Plans
- Referral Reward Program
- \$5 Donation to Humanity First for getting a quote

info@insuranceland.ca
www.insuranceland.ca



@insurancelandinc

**Proud to be
Celebrating
40 Years in
Business!**

CALL US TODAY!

Ontario

1-800-243-9379

x 2300

Quebec

1-888-542-4811

All Other Provinces

1-866-247-7700

Combine + and SAVE*

Allstate offers great features & benefits including:

- Claim-Free Discount**
- Claim Forgiveness***
- Disappearing Deductible†
- Discounts to help you save (combined home and auto, new homes, homes with monitored security systems)
- Expertise and personal service
- **myAllstate** (convenient access to your policies anytime, anywhere)

Contact me today for a **FREE** no-obligation quote.
It's fast, simple and it could save you money.



Rehan Nisar

Stoney Creek Agency
2176 Rymal Road, East
Unit 103
(289) 203-3067
RNisar@allstate.ca



Allstate
You're in good hands.

*Terms and conditions apply. Your savings may vary. Coverage, perils, discounts and availability may vary by region. Rates and discounts subject to change. **Claim-free discount applies to policies that are free of claims in the past 12 months. ***Rates will not be surcharged if insured submits no more than one claim every six years. †Claim Forgiveness does not protect your Disappearing Deductible. Trademark owned by Allstate Insurance Company used under licence by Allstate Insurance Company of Canada. ©2022 Allstate Insurance Company of Canada. 223028 | 2-22





ARE YOU THINKING OF:
SELLING BUYING INVESTING

MANSOOR MIRZA

BROKER M.Sc., SRS, ABR, RENE

- VIP Access to Most Builders!
- Special package for first time buyers
- Call for listing and buying packages
- Call or text for in person or virtual consultation

TEAM MIRZA



 **416-571-1163**  **1-800-696-5870**

 www.mansoormirza.com  mansoormirza21@gmail.com

 **People's Choice Realty Inc.**
Brokerage Independently Owned & Operated

FOLLOW US:

