



AHMADIYYA Gazette

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CANADA 

AND HE UNITED YOUR HEARTS IN LOVE
(3:104)





Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V (may Allah be his Helper!) stated:

“It is the favour of the Holy Prophet^{sa} upon us who said that if you wish that Allah should cover you with His forgiveness, then you should help and comfort the distressed, the afflicted, and the destitute as much as you can. Then, Allah will deal with you with kindness. Try to cover the weaknesses of your brethren. Do not try to find their faults or make them public. You do not know how many weaknesses and faults you have that you will have to account for on the Day of Judgement. Thus, if you had overlooked the faults of your brethren, if you had tried to counsel them with sympathy instead of making their weaknesses public, Allah will overlook your faults as well. These are the rights of people. If you discharge them, you will inherit the blessings of Allah the Almighty.”

(Conditions of Bai‘at and Responsibilities of an Ahmadi, pp. 156-157)



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ABBREVIATIONS OF SALUTATIONS

- sa** *Sallallahu 'alaihi wa Sallam* — May peace and blessings of Allah be upon him!
Usage: Salutation written after the name of the Holy Prophet Muhammad^{sa}
- as** *'Alaihis-Salam / 'Alaihas-Salam* — May peace be upon him/her!
Usage: Salutation written after names of Prophets other than the Holy Prophet Muhammad^{sa}, and pious women prior to the era of the Holy Prophet Muhammad^{sa}
- ra** *Radhiyallahu 'anhu / 'anha / '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** *Rahimahullah / Rahimahallah* — May Allah have mercy upon him/her!
Usage: Salutation written after the names of deceased, pious Muslims who are not Companions
- aa** *Ayyadahullahu Ta'ala binasrihil-'Aziz* — May Allah be his Helper!
Usage: Salutation written after the name of Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad, Khalifatul-Masih V^{aa}



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PEARLS O

THE HOLY QUR'AN

And hold fast, all together, by the rope of Allah and be not divided; and remember the favour of Allah which He bestowed upon you when you were enemies and He united your hearts in love, so that by His grace you became as brothers; and you were on the brink of a pit of fire and He saved you from it. Thus does Allah explain to you His commandments that you may be guided. (3:104)

وَاعْتَصِمُوا بِحَبْلِ اللَّهِ جَمِيعًا وَلَا تَفَرَّقُوا ۚ وَاذْكُرُوا نِعْمَتَ اللَّهِ عَلَيْكُمْ إِذْ كُنْتُمْ أَعْدَاءً فَأَلَّفَ بَيْنَ قُلُوبِكُمْ فَأَصْبَحْتُمْ بِنِعْمَتِهِ إِخْوَانًا ۚ وَكُنْتُمْ عَلَىٰ شَفَا حُفْرَةٍ مِّنَ النَّارِ فَأَنْقَذَكُم مِّنْهَا ۚ كَذَٰلِكَ يُبَيِّنُ اللَّهُ لَكُمْ آيَاتِهِ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَهْتَدُونَ ﴿٣٠٤﴾

HADITH

Hazrat Abu Hurairah^{ra} reported that the Messenger of Allah^{sa} said: “Verily, Allah would say on the Day of Resurrection: ‘Where are those who have mutual love for My Glory’s sake? Today I shall shelter them in My shade when there is no other shade but My shade.’” (Sahih Muslim)

عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ قَالَ قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ ﷺ إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَقُولُ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ أَيْنَ الْمُتَحَابُّونَ بِيَّالِي، الْيَوْمَ أُظِلُّهُمْ فِي ظِلِّي، يَوْمَ لَا ظِلَّ إِلَّا ظِلِّي (صَحِيحُ مُسْلِمٍ، كِتَابُ الْبِرِّ وَالصَّلَةِ وَالْأَدَابِ، بَابُ فِي فَضْلِ الْحُبِّ فِي اللَّهِ)

F WISDOM

SO SAID THE PROMISED MESSIAH^{AS}

“Remember that there are two commandments of Allah the Almighty. First, associate no partner with Him, neither in His being and attributes, nor in His worship. Second, be compassionate to the others. Benevolence does not imply that it should be only for your brothers and relations, but it should be for anyone, any human, and any of God’s creation. Do not consider whether someone is a Hindu or a Christian. I tell you truthfully that Allah the Almighty has taken the responsibility of ensuring justice to you; He does not want you to take it upon yourselves. The more congeniality you adopt, the more humble and serving you are, the more Allah the Almighty will be pleased with you. Leave your enemies to Allah the Almighty. The Day of Judgement is near. You should not be confounded by the opposition. I perceive that you will suffer a lot more at their hands because those who fall short of decency become ferocious as if a dam is broken and a flood bursts out. A pious person needs to control his tongue.”

(Malfuzat, vol. 9, pp. 164–165; English translation from Conditions of Bai‘at and Responsibilities of an Ahmadi, pp. 158-159)

Minaratul Masih, Qadian ⇨



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

Highlights from the Friday Sermons of
Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V^{aa}



1.

NOVEMBER 4, 2022 – BLESSINGS OF FINANCIAL SACRIFICE: *TAHRIK-I-JADID*

In his first Friday Sermon of November, as per tradition, Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V (may Allah be his Helper!) mentioned the immense blessings of *Tahrik-i-Jadid* and announced the commencement of its new year.

Huzoor^{aa} mentioned that alongside financial sacrifices, one must also strive to reform themselves, abstain from all that is vain, and do justice to their worship, otherwise Allah the Almighty would not bless one's wealth from mere monetary sacrifice. One should, therefore, not be satisfied with just making a financial sacrifice, but must also analyze themselves. This is the sign of a true believer.

After mentioning faith-inspiring incidents of devoted Ahmadiyyas from around the world, Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V^{aa} proceeded to announce the start of the 89th year of *Tahrik-i-Jadid*. In the previous year, the total amount of contributions towards *Tahrik-i-Jadid* was £16.4 million. Whilst announcing the top countries which contributed towards *Tahrik-i-Jadid*, Huzoor^{aa} mentioned that in Canada, by the grace of Allah the Almighty, in terms of the contributions, Vaughan stood first, followed by Peace Village, Calgary, Vancouver and Toronto.

At the end, Huzoor^{aa} announced the launch of a new website on the history of Ahmadiyyat in the UK. The website was inaugurated after Friday prayers, and its address is history.ahmadiyya.uk.

2.

NOVEMBER 11, 2022 – MEN OF EXCELLENCE: HAZRAT ABU BAKR^{ra}

In continuation of the series of sermons on the life and character of Hazrat Abu Bakr^{ra}, Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V (may Allah be his Helper!) highlighted some salient aspects of his noble character in this Friday Sermon. Huzoor^{aa} mentioned Hazrat Abu Bakr's^{ra} expert knowledge of genealogy, his perception and ability to understand subtle matters, and knowledge of the interpretation of dreams.

Hazrat Abu Bakr^{ra} was the first adult male to accept Islam, and through his preaching, the following five persons accepted Islam and went on to become stalwart companions of the Holy Prophet^{sa}: Hazrat Uthman bin Affan^{ra}, Hazrat Abdur Rahman bin Auf^{ra}, Hazrat Saad bin Abi Waqqas^{ra}, Hazrat Zubair bin al-Awwam^{ra} and Hazrat Talhah bin Ubaidillah^{ra}.

Hazrat Abu Bakr^{ra} was also a doting father. Although his eldest son lived separately, Hazrat Abu Bakr^{ra} would tend to his household expenses. His daughter, Hazrat Asma^{ra}, was living under straitened circumstances and did not have a worker in her home, thus she had to do much of the laborious work herself. Upon learning of this, Hazrat Abu Bakr^{ra} sent a worker to her home, a gesture which was a huge relief for her.



The Mubarak Mosque, Islamabad, Tilford, UK

3.

NOVEMBER 18, 2022 – MEN OF EXCELLENCE: HAZRAT ABU BAKR^{RA}

Highlighting the faith-inspiring character of Hazrat Abu Bakr^{ra}, Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V (may Allah be his Helper!) mentioned his special characteristics and close relationship to the Holy Prophet^{sa}, as his deputy.

Huzoor^{aa} related a narration of Hazrat Aisha^{ra} in which she stated that during his final illness, the Holy Prophet^{sa} summoned Hazrat Abu Bakr^{ra} so that he may write something down. He said he feared that someone else may consider themselves to have a greater right to being his successor, whereas the believers would certainly reject anyone else aside from Hazrat Abu Bakr^{ra} being his successor.

Huzoor^{aa} presented a quote of the Promised Messiah^{as} regarding the excellences of Hazrat Abu Bakr^{ra}. In it, the Promised Messiah^{as} said that Hazrat Abu Bakr^{ra} had a deep understanding of God, he was very kind, humble, forgiving and forbearing, and had a strong relationship with the Holy Prophet^{sa}. He remained under the shade of the Holy Qur'an and was distinct in his understanding of the Holy Qur'an. He was the pride of the Holy Prophet^{sa} and was unique from all others in the love that he received from him. He abandoned everything he had and devoted himself for the sake of God to the degree that the light of God was evident from his every step to the point that he was given the title of *Siddiq* (the Truthful).

4.

NOVEMBER 25, 2022 – MEN OF EXCELLENCE: HAZRAT ABU BAKR^{RA}

Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V (may Allah be his Helper!) continued mentioning the noble qualities of Hazrat Abu Bakr^{ra}. Regarding his innate yearning to serve humanity, Huzoor^{aa} stated that even before accepting Islam, Hazrat Abu Bakr^{ra} was regarded as the best among the Quraish, and people would often go to him for help in their difficulties. He was very hospitable and a patron of the poor and destitute. He would purchase quilts during the cold weather and distribute them among the needy.

Mentioning Hazrat Abu Bakr's^{ra} remarkable bravery, Huzoor^{aa} stated that he would always be in the heat of the battle, serving and protecting the Holy Prophet^{sa}, no matter the circumstances. For example, during the Battle of Badr, when it was being decided who would guard the Holy Prophet's^{sa} tent, Hazrat Abu Bakr^{ra} was the first to step forward and offer himself. Even after the demise of the Holy Prophet^{sa}, when people were becoming apostates, Hazrat Abu Bakr^{ra} showed great bravery and faced this challenge head on.

Regarding Hazrat Abu Bakr's^{ra} standard of financial sacrifices, Huzoor^{aa} said that according to one narration, when Hazrat Abu Bakr^{ra} accepted Islam, he had one million dirhams. It is said that he spent so much on the poor and needy that at the time of migration to Madinah, he only had about five thousand dirhams left.

Q&A

and more...

FUTURE SPREAD OF THE JAMA'AT

On November 13, 2022, Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V (may Allah be his Helper!) held a virtual online meeting with members of Majlis Ansarullah from Switzerland.

In this meeting, one of the attendees asked Huzoor^{aa}: Considering the rapid spread of the Jama'at, which country would be the first to become Ahmadi Muslim and how would it be governed? Huzoor^{aa} replied:

“It is the blessing of God Almighty that the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community is spreading around the world. God Almighty knows which country would first accept the Promised Messiah^{as}. Even if it is a small country, we certainly wish that majority of the people of a country join the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community. May Allah the Almighty enable our missionaries and those who take the message of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community to the people around the world that they spread its peaceful message and people's hearts open up to its truth so that they accept the Promised Messiah^{as} and enter the fold of Islam under the flag of the Holy Prophet Muhammad^{sa}. I certainly do not know which country that shall be and what will take place; only Allah knows the unseen.”

Replying to the question of how the country will be governed, Huzoor^{aa} said:

“The system of governance will continue to run as it is. Khilafat will not become a monarchy and nor will it run a system of governance similar to that of the *Khilafat Rashida*. Khilafat is going to remain separate and secular governance will be running independently. This is what the Holy Qur'an points to as well. In Surah Hujurat of the Holy Qur'an, Allah the Almighty states that when two Muslim parties are at conflict with each other, you should make peace between them with justice and that those governments that bring about peace, they should then not resort to any vengeance or injustice. So, what this means is that there will be numerous Muslim governments and each one will be managing their own affairs. When it comes to the system that is Islamic, where there are Islamic rulings, and on matters of obedience [to Khilafat], and in affairs of spirituality, those countries will turn to the Khalifa of the time for his advice.”

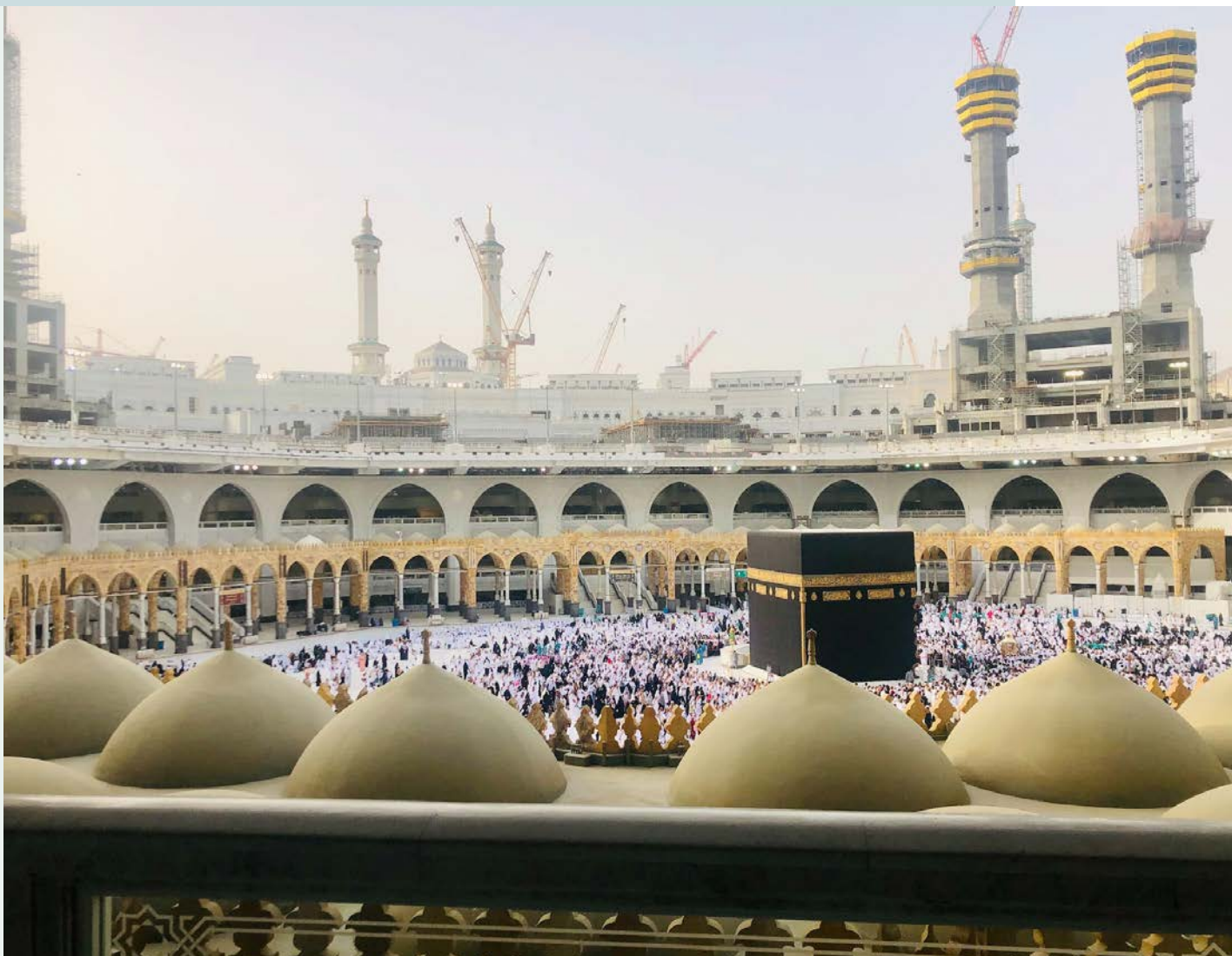
(Source: <https://www.pressahmadiyya.com/press-releases/2022/11/ansar-from-switzerland-have-honour-of-virtual-meeting-with-world-head-of-ahmadiyya-muslim-community/>)

RETURNING TO MOSQUES AFTER THE PANDEMIC

In the same meeting, an attendee asked Huzoor Anwar (may Allah be his Helper!) how to get Ahmadi Muslims to come together again like they did before the pandemic. While answering this question, Huzoor^{aa} highlighted that several major events of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community have now taken place where many people have come together and so people need to realise that they should begin to come to the mosques again. Huzoor^{aa} gave the example of his recent tour of America where people came together in large numbers whilst also observing appropriate COVID protocols and mentioned that they should serve as examples for the various chapters of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community around the world to also hold their events and functions. Then he stated:

“It is the responsibility of Majlis Ansarullah to inform their families at home that they should go to the Mosques. It is also the responsibility of Majlis Khuddamul Ahmadiyya and Lajna Imaillah. So, if Ansarullah, who are the elders, tell their families and they go to the Mosques themselves then the situation will improve. It is down to the effort you put in.”

(Source: <https://www.pressahmadiyya.com/press-releases/2022/11/ansar-from-switzerland-have-honour-of-virtual-meeting-with-world-head-of-ahmadiyya-muslim-community/>)



The Holy Kaaba, Makkah



WISDOM IN POSTURES OF SALAT

In a virtual meeting with members of Majlis Atfalul Ahmadiyya from Sweden on November 20, 2022, a boy asked Huzoor^{aa} why Muslims adopt different postures during their prayers whilst Hindus and Christians sit still to worship. Huzoor^{aa} responded:

Allah the Almighty has taught Muslims the perfect way to worship. He has taught us to firstly stand and fold our arms in front. Whenever you go in front of someone who is respectable and of influence, you show them respect by standing... When you wish to seek something, your inner state changes and you bow down and that is the position that is reflected in the 'Ruku' position. Then you stand straight again when you become restless in yearning for what you desire. When you become extremely anxious when asking for something, you again straighten yourself in desperation and ask your heart's desire. When your anxiety increases further still, you suddenly fall in prostration and weep in front of Allah the Almighty. You then sit up and fall in prostration again. Then you stand and then again pray whilst sitting down and eventually you finish your prayer. So these are the postures Allah the Almighty has taught us to adopt in prayer.

“When infant children really want their parents to give them something, they strongly insist and wail and whilst doing so, sometimes they sit down and then stand... So this is a natural way to adopt different postures. During the obligatory prayers, Allah the Almighty has taught us that when we go in front of Allah, we should adopt the different postures and adopt the appropriate internal state. He has even taught us the words of prayer we should use. He has also commanded us to worship with fervency in our prayers. Thus, Allah will accept our prayers if we do so. So our way of worship is perfect. It is not that way of worshipping where you just sit down and relax. It is a method that is very natural and is in line with our nature. There is no greater being than Allah the Almighty. So when we turn to God then we must adopt all the appropriate postures.”

(Source: <https://www.pressahmadiyya.com/press-releases/2022/11/atfal-from-sweden-have-honour-of-virtual-meeting-with-world-head-of-ahmadiyya-muslim-community/>)



HOW WILL ALLAH DEAL WITH DENIERS OF PROPHETS?



Image by Aa Dil from Pexel

In the same meeting with members of Atfalul Ahmadiyya Sweden, another boy asked Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V (may Allah be his Helper!) whether Allah the Almighty would forgive those who do not believe in the Promised Messiah^{as}. Huzoor^{aa} answered:

“Whether someone will be forgiven or not is entirely up to God Almighty. Allah the Almighty has said that you should believe in His prophets as per the statement of the Holy Qur’an. The Holy Prophet Muhammad^{sa} prophesied as well that in the latter days the Messiah and Mahdi will appear. We say that he was to be from amongst the Ummah, from amongst the Muslims. So the Promised Messiah^{as} came and we accepted him...The Promised Messiah^{as} has said that the dealings of Allah the Almighty with regards to the judgement of people is for the Hereafter. He will decide regarding punishment and reward and whether someone who has done a good deed, their deed is worthy of acceptance in the sight of God and how He shall punish anyone who is deserving of chastisement. Allah the Almighty punishes those people in this life who create disorder and carry out injustices and they will face His punishment in the Hereafter too.

“Nations are not destroyed because of the mere rejection of a prophet. They are punished because they transgress by committing cruelties. Today, people think Muslim nations are doing very well – they have oil wealth, and Muslims rule very rich countries and there are individuals that are very wealthy but this is not the true reality. They are actually in a terrible state. This is true for Muslims and for others. If you reject prophets and go further to mock them and commit injustices against those who believe in them, it is then that Allah the Almighty punishes the people and such people shall most certainly be punished in this life and the Hereafter.

“With regards to how Allah will deal with those who do not accept a prophet, the good deeds that they carry out, Allah the Almighty will reward them for it and punish them for their wrongdoing. Every individual is to go through some form of hell, either in this life or the next. Some people go through it in this life whilst others will do so in the next. However, it is a statement of the Holy Prophet Muhammad^{sa} that a day shall come when hell will become empty and everyone will enter paradise.”

(Source: <https://www.pressahmadiyya.com/press-releases/2022/11/atfal-from-sweden-have-honour-of-virtual-meeting-with-world-head-of-ahmadiyya-muslim-community/>)

WHY SURAH AL-FATIHA HAS SEVERAL NAMES



Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V^{aa}

On November 27, 2022, Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V (may Allah be his Helper!) held a virtual meeting with members of members of Nasiratul Ahmadiyya from Ghana.

In this meeting, a girl asked Huzoor (may Allah be his Helper!) why the first chapter of the Holy Qur'an, *Surah Al-Fatiha*, has several names. Huzoor^{aa} replied:

“Because this is the chapter which contains the gist and the summary of the whole of the Holy Qur'an. This is why it has different names and this is the basic Surah that asks you to praise Allah the Almighty and to seek His refuge. Then, it also has so many other attributes of Allah the Almighty which it contains. [*Surah Al-Fatiha* is called] ‘the Cure’ because it gives health to your spiritual diseases. You recite in *Surah Al-Fatiha*, ‘All praise belongs to Allah, who is the Lord of the worlds, He is the Provider and Sustainer of everything and He is Merciful and Ever Gracious’, and...there are so many other things written in it. So, it has been given the [various] names because it is the *Surah* which contains all the subject matters which are given in detail in the other parts of the Holy Qur'an.”

(Source: <https://www.pressahmadiyya.com/press-releases/2022/12/nasirat-from-ghana-have-honour-of-virtual-meeting-with-world-head-of-ahmadiyya-muslim-community/>)

GUIDANCE & PRAYERS FOR THE NEW YEAR



In his Friday Sermon on December 31, 2021, Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V^{aa} stated:

May Allah the Almighty make the coming year a blessed one for the members of the Jama'at and also collectively for the entire Jama'at in every respect. May Allah the Almighty protect the Jama'at from every kind of evil and completely destroy the ploys of the enemies. May we abundantly witness in our lifetime the fulfilment of the promises that Allah the Almighty vouchsafed to the Promised Messiah^{as}. May Allah the Almighty enable us to witness these.

Thus, continue to pray a lot and enter the New Year with prayers. Make a particular effort to observe the *tahajjud* [supererogatory nighttime] prayer...

In addition to the *durood* [invoking blessings on the Holy Prophet^{sa}] and *istighfar* [seeking forgiveness from Allah], also recite the following prayers as much as possible:

رَبَّنَا لَا تُزِغْ قُلُوبَنَا بَعْدَ إِذْ هَدَيْتَنَا وَهَبْ لَنَا مِنْ لَدُنْكَ رَحْمَةً إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ الْوَهَّابُ

“Our Lord, let not our hearts become perverse after Thou hast guided us; and bestow on us mercy from Thyself; surely, Thou alone art the Bestower.” (3:9)

Also recite the following prayer:

رَبَّنَا اغْفِرْ لَنَا ذُنُوبَنَا وَإِسْرَافَنَا فِي أَمْرِنَا وَثَبِّتْ أَقْدَامَنَا وَانصُرْنَا عَلَى الْقَوْمِ الْكَافِرِينَ

“Our Lord, forgive us our errors and our excesses in our conduct, and make firm our steps and help us against the disbelieving people.” (3:148)

May Allah the Almighty grant every Ahmadi the ability to do so.

(Al Hakam, January 28, 2022, p. 19)

CHANGES IN THE EDITORIAL BOARD OF THE AHMADIYYA GAZETTE

Respected Amir Sahib, Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at Canada, has kindly approved the following changes and appointments in the Gazette's Editorial Board:

1. Furhan Ahmad Hamza Qureshi, English Editor
2. Hafiz Mujeeb Ahmad, Assistant English Editor
3. Muhammad Musa, Assistant Urdu Editor

We are also pleased to announce that henceforth Anoosha Munawar will be serving as the graphic designer of the Gazette.

May Allah the Almighty enable them to serve to the best of their abilities.

Hadi Ali Chaudhary
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

SECOND COMING OF *the Messiah*

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.

THE MESSIAH AND THE MAHDI,

ONE AND THE SAME PERSON

From the traditions of the Holy Prophet^{sa} it is evident also that the Promised Messiah was to be a follower of the Holy Prophet^{sa}. One tradition tells us that ‘The Mahdi is none other than the Messiah’:

لَا الْمَهْدِيُّ إِلَّا عِيسَى

Another tradition says:

كَيْفَ أَنْتُمْ إِذَا نَزَلَ ابْنُ مَرْيَمَ فِيكُمْ
وَأَمَامَكُمْ مِنْكُمْ

How would it be with you when the son of Mary will descend among you and you will have a leader raised from among you? (*Sahih Bukhari, Kitabul Ambiya, Bab Nuzul Isa bin Maryam*)

These two traditions leave no doubt that the Messiah himself would be the Mahdi. He would lead followers of the Holy Prophet^{sa} and would be one of them, not an outsider. To think that the Messiah and the Mahdi are two different persons is wrong. It is against the clear indication in the tradition ‘The Mahdi is none other than the Messiah.’ It behoves good believers to ponder carefully over the utterances of the Holy Prophet^{sa}. If

the utterances seem contradictory, it is for us to try and resolve the contradictions. If the Holy Prophet^{sa} said, on the one hand, that the Mahdi would appear before the Messiah and the Messiah would then join the Mahdi and his followers in worship, and, on the other, that the Messiah himself was the Mahdi, what are we to do—accept one utterance and reject the other? Is it not rather our duty to consider the two utterances carefully and try to reconcile one with the other? The two utterances can be reconciled at once if we use one of them to interpret the other. It seems that the promise of the advent of the Messiah was couched in words which suggested that the Messiah and the Mahdi were two different persons. This suggestion is corrected by the tradition which says, ‘No Mahdi but the Messiah.’ This tradition makes it plain that the other tradition is metaphorical. It means that a follower of the Holy Prophet^{sa} will arise for the purpose of revivifying the world, but will not have the rank of a prophet. Then the promise relating to the second coming of Jesus^{as} will be fulfilled in his person and he will announce himself as the Promised Messiah. The tradition, therefore, tells us that the Promised One will start his career as a Muslim reformer who will become invested with the office of Messiah. Divine prophecies have to employ metaphors. They would convey very little otherwise.



If our interpretation of these traditions is not correct, then there are only two alternatives left for a seeker after truth, both of them absurd and dangerous. Either we admit that the tradition which describes the Messiah and the Mahdi as one and the same person is not a true tradition, or we admit that the Messiah and the Mahdi are two different persons and that the intention of the tradition is to point to a difference of spiritual significance in the two. It may mean that the true Mahdi would be the Messiah. The other Mahdi would be insignificant compared with the Messiah. It would be like saying, 'Nobody knows but so and so.' When we say such a thing, we do not mean literally that nobody else knows. What we mean is that the given person knows very much more. However, both interpretations are dangerous. One requires us, without good reasons, to treat as spurious a tradition which is a well authenticated one, true according to all sound criteria. The other implies that the Mahdi, in comparison with the Messiah, will be as nothing. Such a thought would be contrary to the traditions which teach that the Mahdi will be the Imam, and the Messiah a follower who stands behind the Imam in a congregation. Both alternatives therefore, are absurd. The only worthwhile interpretation we can put upon the traditions is that they foretell the coming of a Messenger from among the followers of the Holy Prophet^{sa}. This Messenger will first present himself as a reformer and later announce himself as the Messiah of the prophecy. The same person will be the Mahdi as well as the Messiah. Except for this interpretation, there can be no plausible interpretation of the traditions on the subject.

MEANING OF NUZUL

The fact of the matter is that nearly everybody has been misled by the word *nuzul* in the tradition. Literally it means 'descent'. Therefore, most people have been misled into thinking that as the Messiah was to have a descent, it can only be the first Messiah. Now, it is quite wrong to think that the word *nuzul* always means 'descent from an eminence'. The word 'descent' only points to how important, significant and far-reaching the thing is which is to descend. It tells us that the thing to descend is to be the instrument of the Majesty and Power of God. Such things are said to descend from God to a people. This meaning of 'descent' (sending down) is in conformity with usage sanctioned by the Holy Qur'an in several passages. Thus:

ثُمَّ أَنْزَلَ اللَّهُ سَكِينَتَهُ عَلَى رَسُولِهِ
ثُمَّ أَنْزَلَ عَلَيْكُمْ مِنْ بَعْدِ الْغَمِّ أَمْنَةً نُعَاسًا
أَنْزَلَ لَكُمْ مِنَ الْأَنْعَامِ ثَمَنِيَّةَ أَزْوَاجٍ
قَدْ أَنْزَلْنَا عَلَيْكُمْ لِبَاسًا يُؤَارِي سَوَاتِكُمْ وَرِيشًا ۚ وَلِبَاسٌ
التَّقْوَىٰ ذَٰلِكَ خَيْرٌ ۚ ذَٰلِكَ مِنْ آيَاتِ اللَّهِ لَعَلَّهُمْ يَذْكُرُونَ
أَنْزَلْنَا عَلَيْهِمُ الْمَنَّاءَ وَالسَّلْوَىٰ
وَأَنْزَلْنَا الْحَدِيدَ فِيهِ بَأْسٌ شَدِيدٌ وَمَنَافِعُ لِلنَّاسِ وَلِيَعْلَمَ اللَّهُ
مَنْ يَنْصُرُهُ وَرُسُلَهُ بِالْغَيْبِ ۚ إِنَّ اللَّهَ قَوِيٌّ عَزِيزٌ
وَلَوْ بَسَطَ اللَّهُ الرِّزْقَ لِعِبَادِهِ لَبَغَوْا فِي الْأَرْضِ وَلَكِنْ يُنْزِلُ بِقَدَرٍ
مَا يَشَاءُ ۚ إِنَّهُ بِعِبَادِهِ خَبِيرٌ بَصِيرٌ

Then Allah sent down His peace upon His messenger. (9:26)

Then after the sorrow, He sent down peace on you, a slumber that overcame a party of you. (3:155)

And He has sent down eight head of cattle in pairs. (39:7)

We have indeed sent down raiment to you to cover your shame, and to be an elegant dress; but the raiment of righteousness—that is the best. That is one of the Signs of Allah, that they may remember. (7:27)

And sent down on you Manna and Salwa. (2:58)

And We sent down iron, wherein is material for violent warfare and many benefits for mankind, and that Allah may distinguish those who help Him and His Messengers without having seen Him. Surely, Allah is Powerful, Mighty. (57:26)



Image by Anis Coquelet from Unsplash

And if Allah should enlarge the provision for His servants, they would rebel in the earth; but He sends down according to a proper measure as He pleases. Indeed, He is All-Aware and All-Seeing with regard to His servants. (42:28)

Everybody knows that peace is a quality of the human mind and sleep a function of the human brain. Animals, garments, green fields, quails (*salwa*), iron, and other things grow on the soil or come from under it. They do not descend or drop down from Heaven. Nor is their descent from Heaven a description sanctioned by the Holy Qur'an. The description of the Holy Qur'an is quite clear. It says:

وَجَعَلَ فِيهَا رَوَاسِيَ مِنْ فَوْقِهَا وَبَارَكَ فِيهَا وَقَدَّرَ فِيهَا
أَقْوَامًا فِي أَرْبَعَةِ أَيَّامٍ ۖ سَوَاءً لِّلسَّالِئِلِينَ ۝

And He put therein firm mountains on the surface, and He put blessings therein and measured its foods therein into four periods, alike for all seekers. (41:11)

In this verse, God points out that the whole subject of the creation of nature and the creation of different kinds of wealth needs for its comprehension a knowledge of the different sciences. This knowledge God reveals in pieces. Some of it has been revealed already, some will be revealed in days to come. Ever new questions will be raised and they will receive their answers. But, says God, We have described the creation of nature and the creation of the wealth of nature in such a way that all men at all times (according to their capacity) will find in them a description which will be both satisfying and true.

From the Holy Qur'an, therefore, it appears that all things in nature descend from God—are gifts of God—and yet they do not drop from Heaven. Their creation takes place in and on and

through this very earth. They grow on it or show themselves from under its surface. Therefore, the word *nuzul* (descent), when used for the coming of the Messiah, can have no other meaning. It can only point to the importance, the blessedness and the spiritual significance of the Promised Messiah^{as}. It is not in the least intended to suggest that he would physically drop from Heaven to earth. Most people forget that the word 'descent' has been used in the Holy Qur'an for the Holy Prophet^{sa} also. All commentators of the Holy Book take this expression to point to the greatness of the Holy Prophet and to the importance of his advent. And they are right; for, as all the world knows, the Holy Prophet^{sa} was born in the house of honourable Quraish parents. The name of his father was Abdullah and the name of his mother Amina. The verse which

describes the advent of the Holy Prophet^{sa} as descent is this:

قَدْ أَنزَلَ اللَّهُ إِلَيْكُمْ ذِكْرًا ۚ رَسُولًا يَتْلُو عَلَيْكُمْ آيَاتِ اللَّهِ
مُبَيِّنَاتٍ لِّيُخْرِجَ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ مِنَ الظُّلُمَاتِ
إِلَى النُّورِ ۝

Allah has indeed sent down to you a Reminder, a Messenger, who recites unto you the clear Signs of Allah, that he may bring those who believe and do good deeds out of every kind of darkness into light. (65:11-12)

Now it is amazing that the same word *nuzul* is used about the Holy Prophet^{sa} and the Messiah. Yet that same word is interpreted one way for the Holy Prophet^{sa} and quite another way for the Messiah. The Holy Prophet^{sa} was born like any other human being on this earth and grew up to be a prophet. The event was described as *nuzul* (literally, descent). Why not mean the same thing when the same word is used for the Messiah? Why not let even the Messiah descend in the ordinary way, that is, be born on this earth and grow up to be a prophet?

(Invitation to Ahmadiyyat, pp. 41-52)

The Prophet's^{sa} Mosque, Madinah



Baitul Islam Mosque Open House

Riaz Ahmed Bajwa
Nazim Tabligh, Majlis Ansarullah
Majlis Muqami

An open house was arranged at Baitul Islam mosque by Majlis Muqami on October 28, 2022. This event was held simultaneously with the Islamic Heritage Exhibition, which was organized at the Aiwan Tahir complex. Both events were attended by dozens of guests.

Majlis Ansarullah Muqami invited members of a local church for the occasion, a total of which 10 guests attended. A delegation also visited from the administration of the United Church of Nobleton, led by the Church Minister.

The open house began from the mosque entrance. A senior Jami'a Ahmadiyya student, Hassan Minhas, welcomed the guests with an introduction to the history of the mosque. They were shown around the vicinity of the mosque and book stall by Nazim Tabligh Majlis Ansarullah, Riaz Ahmad Bajwa. After this fruitful interaction, they wrote their contact information for future programs. They observed the offering of Maghrib prayers by the Community members. Afterwards, three missionaries, Maulana Imtiaz Ahmed Sraa, Maulana Mohammad Sadiq Ahmed and Respected Adam Abid Alexander, and answered questions and provided information about the Community and religion in general.

After completing the tour of the mosque, the guests visited Aiwan Tahir for the Islamic Heritage Exhibition. They showed keen interest in the exhibition as well, and the volunteers answered their enquiries as required. The tour concluded in the evening.



Let's talk about Marijuana

Fazal Masood Malik, Sadr Jama'at PEI



Where does the recreational use of legalized marijuana fit into Islamic ethics and living? In the Holy Qur'an (2:220), we read about the prohibition of "*khamr*," which is commonly translated as wine or alcoholic beverages. However, the root word for *khamr* means to conceal or to cover.¹ These meanings highlight how the word has been selected to extend to those intoxicants that cover one's senses, concealing them from reality. In the same verse, the Holy Qur'an concedes that such substances have some advantages, but their harm outweighs them.²

In the words of our beloved Imam^{aa}, "Drugs are forbidden because they are harmful to people. In Islam anything harmful which takes one away from piety is forbidden."

The marijuana plant has many different components, most common being tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) and cannabidiol (CBD).³ THC is commonly used as a recreational drug, while CBD is used for medicinal purposes. While THC clouds our ability to perceive the world clearly and dulls our sense of reality, CBD, when used for medical reasons, is effective for certain patients with epilepsy, bipolar disorders, cancer, etc., as well as for some children with severe autism.

With the legalization of marijuana in Canada, it has become the second most common drug, after alcohol, to be used legally. What is concerning is that about one-third of the North American population reports as having consumed marijuana at some point in their life.⁴ Known by many names, such as weed, pot, spliffs, K2 and Spice, its use is at its highest level in 30 years, and today's teens are more likely to use marijuana than tobacco.

There are many ways people can use marijuana. These include:

1. Smoking the dried plant (buds and flowers) in a rolled cigarette (joint), pipe, or bong
2. Smoking liquid or wax marijuana in an electronic cigarette, also known as vaping

Image from Unsplash

3. Eating “edibles,” which are baked goods and candies containing marijuana products
4. Drinking beverages containing marijuana products
5. Using oils and tinctures that can be applied to the skin

Is Marijuana addictive?

Contrary to a popular myth, like any drug, repeated marijuana use does lead to addiction; meaning that a person is unable to stop using marijuana even though it's causing health and social problems in their lives. People who begin using marijuana at a younger age are more likely to become addicted and suffer from other dangerous side effects⁵.

Missionaries, Parents and Prevention

Parents, including missionaries, can help youth learn about the harmful effects of marijuana use. Talking about marijuana at an early age can help our youth make better choices and may prevent them from later developing a problem with marijuana use.

Tips on discussing marijuana:

1. Accept the fact that in current society, exposure to marijuana is pervasive.
2. Exposure to marijuana in legal or social settings is highly possible.
3. Ask them about situations where they have known about marijuana being used.
4. Hear their example and their feelings without interruptions and without negative or angry comments.
5. Discuss with them information about the risks and consequences of marijuana.
6. Explore ideas on how to better manage the situation where marijuana or any legal drugs, such as alcohol, is being consumed.
7. Share with them how they can help themselves and other people who are using marijuana even recreationally because it will lead to health, wealth and intellectual catastrophe.



Image from Unsplash

If you suspect someone of using marijuana, look for these common signs:

1. Acting very silly and out of character for no reason;
2. Having increased irritability;
3. Losing interest and motivation;
4. Having trouble remembering things that just happened;
5. Carrying pipes, lighters, vape pens, or rolling papers;
6. Coming home with bloodshot red eyes;
7. Urges to eat outside of usual mealtimes; and
8. Stealing money or having money that cannot be accounted for.

Effects of Marijuana

Many people believe that marijuana is safer than alcohol or other drugs. However, research shows that marijuana can cause severe problems with learning, feelings, and health.

Short-term use of marijuana can lead to the following:

1. School difficulties
2. Problems with memory and concentration
3. Increased aggression
4. Car accidents

5. Use of other drugs or alcohol
6. Risky sexual behaviours
7. Worsening of underlying mental health conditions, including mood changes and suicidal thinking
8. Increased risk of psychosis
9. Interference with prescribed medication

Long-term use of marijuana can lead to the following:

1. Hard drug use;
2. Lower intelligence;
3. Breathing problems as smoking cigarettes (coughing, wheezing, trouble with physical activity, and lung cancer)
4. Decreased motivation or interest, which can lead to a decline in academic or occupational performance
5. Mental health problems, such as schizophrenia, depression, anxiety, anger, irritability, moodiness, and risk of suicide

Is there a good side to Marijuana?

The marijuana plant contains complex medical compounds. Some of these have positive medicinal benefits. However, current availability of marijuana, in legal or illegal capacity, only leads to mental and physical harm.

There are medicines available for other ailments which currently can cure or manage disease. Self-medication through use of drugs such as marijuana is highly inappropriate and can lead to severe medical issues; it should be avoided at all costs (NIDA, 2018).

Conclusion

Due to the legal nature of marijuana, its use in many settings is pervasive. However, one must remember that marijuana use can lead to long-term consequences. Our youth rarely think they will end up with problems related to marijuana use, so it is important to begin talking about the risks and continue this discussion over time. It is also important to understand that if your child is addicted, being angry with them will only make the matters worse. It is far better to start your journey with your child together with prayers and seek help. There is no shame in asking for help; you will diligently be performing your duty as a parent.

Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V^{aa} has explained the underlying philosophy:

“... the purpose is to try and reform. There should not be enmity towards a person consuming it, rather the aim is to save them.”

References

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AACAP Policy Statement on Use of Medical Marijuana in Children and Adolescents with Autism Spectrum Disorder for Core Autism Symptoms or Co-Occurring Emotional or Behavioral Problems

Endnotes

1. Edward William Lane. Arabic-English Lexicon (London: Willams & Norgate 1863). Book I, pp. 806-809
2. Holy Qur'an 2:220. Sher Ali. “They ask thee concerning wine and the game of hazard. Say: ‘In both there is great sin and also some advantages for men; but their sin is greater than their advantage.’”
3. <https://adf.org.au/drug-facts/cannabinoids/> Accessed November 10, 2022
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Islamic Heritage Exhibition in Regina

Nauman Ahmad
Secretary Tabligh, Regina Jama'at

An Islamic Tabligh exhibition was setup and displayed by the Ahmadiyya Community of Regina from November 2-6, 2022. Digital invitations were sent to over 100 contacts via social media platforms, such as Twitter. Four different institutes of worship were also invited to see the exhibition.

The exhibition comprised of a presentation on the Holy Qur'an, as well as a section on the sayings of the Holy Prophet^{sa}. It also included a section portraying various prayer mats, prayer caps, the Holy Kaaba, a poster outlining the essence of Hijab, as well as a veil brochure. Further, a miniature-scale model of the Prophet's^{sa} Mosque (Madinah) and a physical depiction of the 5 pillars of Islam was displayed.

A part of the exhibition included information on Remembrance Day which included sayings of the Holy Prophet^{sa}, quotations of Huzoor Anwar^{aa}, significance of the poppy, and the historical impact of war veterans. Visitors were urged to write something memorable for veterans, which was tweeted and shared with the Legion.

Some of the guests were gifted books of the Community as well as copies of the Holy Qur'an. The exhibition display also included a large picture of the Promised Messiah^{as}, humanitarian work undertaken by Community members of Regina, along with a picture of the Community mosque and park built by Regina Jama'at for the Standing Buffalo First Nation Reserve.

By the sheer grace of Allah, 324 individuals attended the exhibition, some of whom became contacts of the Community. Volunteers answered various questions posed by the attendees.

Always keen to adhere the spirit of sacrifice, Jama'at members donated their valuables for the Islamic Heritage exhibition for the days it was active. May Allah reward all the volunteers abundantly!



Prophecies of the Holy Qur'an:

Fulfillment in the Modern Era

Farhan Iqbal, Missionary Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at Canada

The following is a transcript of a speech delivered by Murabbi Farhan Iqbal on July 16, 2022, at Jalsa Salana Canada.

About 3,400 years ago, a man claimed that he was a Prophet of God. Like many prophets of God, he told people to abandon their old ways, he taught people a new way of being, a new way of being with yourself and with others.

This man brought forth commandments, that he said were from God and said that no one can challenge these commandments, as they are the truth. Now, the king who ruled this land was not very happy to hear about this. The king knew that such ideas would threaten his power, his dominion over the land. So he began to mistreat anyone who followed this prophet.

Then, the prophet was commanded by God to leave that area along with his people. So the prophet and his followers left, and they came to this point where they had to cross a sea to escape. So the prophet and his followers crossed the sea; but right behind them were the king and his army, chasing the prophet and his followers.

At this key junction in the pursuit, a remarkable incident happened. Through divine intervention, a miracle happened when the prophet and his followers crossed a portion of the Red Sea safely. But when the king and his army tried to cross, the water levels rose and many of them drowned.

I'm sure many of you recognize that that prophet was Moses^{as} and the people who went with him were the Bani Israel. And the king who pursued them was the Pharaoh of Egypt.

Preservation of Pharaoh's Mummy

This incident is narrated in both the Bible and the Holy Qur'an. But the Holy Qur'an adds one crucial detail. It records

a piece of the narrative that no human being could possibly have heard. The most any human could have seen at the time would have been Pharaoh and his army drowning.

What could not be heard were the words of Pharaoh as he addressed God in those moments when he was drowning.

What was it that he said to God? What was it that he begged of God? It is absolutely beyond the ability of any human observer standing far away at the shore to know anything about Pharaoh's words. It is no wonder why the Bible simply states that Pharaoh and his pursuing army drowned, without exception.

But the Qur'an says something different. About 2,000 years after this event, the Qur'an states:

And We brought the children of Israel across the sea; and Pharaoh and his hosts pursued them wrongfully and aggressively, till, when *the calamity* of drowning overtook him, he said,

أَمِنْتُ أَنَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا الَّذِي آمَنْتُ بِهِ بَنُو إِسْرَائِيلَ وَأَنَا مِنَ الْمُسْلِمِينَ ﴿١٠﴾

"I believe that there is no God but He in Whom the children of Israel believe, and I am of those who submit to Him."

God said in response: What! Now! While you were disobedient before *this* and (you) were of those who created disorder.

Image by Ashkan Forouzani from Unsplash



کس سے اُس نور کی ممکن ہو جہاں میں تشبیہ
وہ تو ہر بات میں ہر وصف میں کیٹا نکلا

Who in the world can compare to the light (of the Qur'an)? The Qur'an is absolutely unique in everything (it states) and in every one of its qualities.

What is more is the Qur'an's account is not just telling us something from the past which was unknown. It is also telling us that that body would *eventually* be discovered and become a means of guidance for people *in the future*.

The Qur'an states:

وَإِذَا الْقُبُورُ بُعْثِرَتْ ۖ

فَالْيَوْمَ نُنَجِّيكَ بِبَدَنِكَ لِتَكُونَ لِمَنْ خَلَقَكَ آيَةً ۖ وَإِنَّ كَثِيرًا مِّنَ النَّاسِ عَنْ آيَاتِنَا لَغَفْلُونَ ۝

So this day We will save you in your body *alone* that you may be a Sign to those *who come* after you. And surely, many of mankind are heedless of Our Signs. (10:91-92)

This announcement by the Holy Qur'an is a historic announcement.

No source of human history has ever referred to this last piece of dialogue between Pharaoh and God Almighty!

No human source of history has ever referred to the saving of this Pharaoh's body for the purpose of it becoming a source of guidance for others!

When the Bible mentions this, it incorrectly says "not so much as one of them remained." (Exodus 14:28)

And at the time of the revelation of the Holy Qur'an, there was no sign of Egyptian kings buried deep underground. Not much was known by the Arabs regarding mummification. None of their traditions hinted at the rescue of Pharaoh's body, or its preservation.

There is no doubt then that the Holy Qur'an is clearly superior, as the Promised Messiah, Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad^{as} states:

"And when the graves are laid open." (82:5)

One of those graves was that of the mummy of Rameses II discovered in 1881. And the grave of Merneptah, the son of Rameses II, found in 1898. One of these Pharaohs is the same Pharaoh who almost drowned, was saved, and mummified at the time of his death. And both these mummies were discovered during the time of the Promised Messiah^{as}.

What grandeur! What an astonishing prophecy of the Holy Qur'an that found its fulfillment in the modern era.

The Suez and Panama Canals

Similarly, close to the time of the birth of the Promised Messiah^{as}, in the 1830s, a French explorer and engineer determined for the first time in history the means to build a canal from the Mediterranean to the Red Sea.

Thirteen hundred years prior to this, it was the Holy Qur'an that had stated in Surah Rahman, verses 20-22:

مَرَجَ الْبَحْرَيْنِ يَلْتَقِيَانِ ۚ بَيْنَهُمَا بَرْزَخٌ لَا يَبْغِيَانِ ۚ فَبِأَيِّ آلَاءِ رَبِّكُمَا تُكَذِّبَانِ ۝

God says:

He has made the two bodies of water flow.
They will *one day* meet. Between them is *now* a barrier; they encroach not *one upon the other*.
Which, then, of the favours of your Lord will you twain deny? (55:20-22)

Similarly, the Qur'an states:

وَهُوَ الَّذِي مَرَجَ الْبَحْرَيْنِ هَذَا عَذْبٌ فُرَاتٌ وَهَذَا مِلْحٌ أُجَاجٌ ۖ
وَجَعَلَ بَيْنَهُمَا بَرْزَخًا وَجِجْرًا مَحْجُورًا ۝

“And He it is Who shall merge the two seas together. This palatable and sweet, that saltish and bitter. And between them He has (presently) placed a barrier and a massive partition.” (25:54)

These are two places in the Holy Qur'an where the merging of the seas is mentioned. And there are two great canals that were built in modern times. The Suez Canal was completed in 1869 and the Panama Canal was completed in 1914.

These prophecies are the kind that could not have been perceived at the time of the Holy Prophet Muhammad^{sa}. These are not educated guesses. These prophecies show that the Holy Prophet^{sa} is a true Messenger of God who was given information from the Unseen.

The Qur'an states in Chapter 72, verses 27 and 28:

عَلِمُ الْغَيْبِ فَلَا يُظْهِرُ عَلَىٰ غَيْبِهِ أَحَدًا ۚ إِلَّا مَنِ ارْتَضَىٰ مِنْ رَسُولٍ
فَاتَّخَذَ بَيْنَكَ وَمَنْ خَلْفَهُ رَصَدًا ۚ

“[God] is the Knower of the unseen; and He reveals not His secrets to any one, except to him whom He chooses, namely a Messenger of His. And then He causes an escort of guarding angels to go before him and behind him.” (72:27-28)

Commenting on this, the Promised Messiah^{as} states:

اس آیت سے قطعی اور یقینی طور پر یہ سمجھا جاتا ہے کہ
کھلی کھلی پیشگوئیاں جو مقدار میں زیادہ اور صفائی میں اول
درجہ پر ہوں صرف خدا کے برگزیدوں کو ہوتی ہیں دوسرے
آدمی ان میں شریک نہیں ہوتے

“This verse is categorically and certainly understood to mean that clear-cut prophecies that happen to be large in number and most unambiguous are communicated only to God's chosen people and not to others.” (Haqiqatul Wahi, p. 763)

New Modes of Transportation

It is indeed unambiguous when the Qur'an states:

وَإِذَا الْعِشَارُ عُطِّلَتْ ۝

“When the ten-month pregnant she-camels will be abandoned.” (81:5)

This is a clear reference to better, faster, and more powerful means of transport that were to be invented in the Latter Days. Commenting on this, the Holy Prophet^{sa} says:

وَلَيُتْرَكَنَّ الْفِلَاضُ فَلَا يُسْعَىٰ عَلَيْهَا

Meaning that in that age “she-camels will become useless and no one will travel on them.” (Sahih Muslim, Kitab-ul-Iman, Bab Nuzul Isa ibn Maryam)

This is not an ordinary fulfillment of a prophecy. This is absolutely astounding. Camels have been used for millennia to travel in the Arab lands and around the Sahara Desert. It is only in the 20th century that they have largely been abandoned and replaced by modern means of transport.

The Promised Messiah^{as} has observed that a time will come when travel by riding camels will completely come to an end in the entire world and we are seeing this happen and are able to marvel at the way this prophecy is being fulfilled in this age. (Tafsir Hazrat Masih Mau'ud^{as}, vol. 8, p. 302)

The fact is that the camel has been used by the Arabs for a very long period of time, and there are close to 1,000 names for the camel in the Arabic language. And there are perhaps close to 20,000 couplets in Arabic poetry which mention the camel.

The Promised Messiah^{as} writes:

سبحان اللہ! کس قدر روشن پیشگوئی ہے یہاں تک کہ دل چاہتا
ہے کہ خوشی سے نعرے ماریں کیونکہ ہماری پیاری کتاب اللہ
قرآن شریف کی سچائی اور منجانب اللہ ہونے کے لئے یہ
ایک ایسا نشان دُنیا میں ظاہر ہو گیا ہے کہ نہ توریت میں
ایسی بزرگ اور کھلی کھلی پیشگوئی پائی جاتی ہے اور نہ انجیل
میں اور نہ دنیا کی کسی اور کتاب میں۔

“Subhan-Allah! How clear is this prophecy! So much so that my heart yearns to make pronouncements with joy because this [great] Sign has been manifested in the world establishing the truth of the Holy Qur’an and the fact that it is indeed from Allah. Neither the Torah has such a great and clear-cut prophecy, nor the Gospels, nor any other book [of God].” (*Tafsir Hazrat Masih Mau’ud^{as}*, vol. 8, p. 302)

What is more is that the Qur’an does not stop with these modes of transport that are limited to land transport. It predicts the invention of air travel, for instance, when it states:

وَالسَّمَاءِ ذَاتِ الْجُبُلِ ۝

“And by the heaven *full* of tracks [or paths].” (51:8)

This is a reference to extensive air travel. And the Qur’an does not stop here either. It challenges modern humans to go even further. It says:

يَعِشَرَ الْجِنِّ وَالْإِنْسِ إِنِ اسْتَطَعْتُمْ أَنْ تَنْفُذُوا
مِنْ أَقْطَارِ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ فَانْفُذُوا ۚ لَا تَنْفُذُونَ
إِلَّا بِإِذْنِ ۝

“O company of Jinn and men! If you have power to go beyond the confines of the heavens and the earth, then do go. But you cannot go except with the help of most powerful deductive logic.” (55:34)

This, again, is a clear prophecy that in the Latter Days, with the help of deductive logic, human beings will be able to build spaceships that can take us into space.

Communications

These modern methods of transport are not just making travel easier. They are also helping to bring people together. The Qur’an states:

وَإِذَا النُّفُوسُ زُوِّجَتْ ۝

“And when *various* people are brought together.” (81:11)

We are all witnesses to the fact that in this day and age, people have come together in ways that were simply unimaginable in the past. The Promised Messiah^{as} has written how the telegraph has fulfilled this prophecy. And the telegraph is simply an early version of what we have today in the form of internet, e-mail and social media communications.

Gathering of the Children of Israel

More specifically, the Qur’an also speaks of a ‘bringing together’ of a single nation when it states:

وَقُلْنَا مَنْ بَعْدَهُ لَبِئْسَ إِسْرَءِيلَ اسْتَوُوا الْأَرْضَ فَأَذًا
جَاءَ وَعْدُ الْآخِرَةِ لَكُمْ لَفِيفًا ۝

And after him We said to the Children of Israel, ‘Dwell ye in the land; and when *the time* of the promise of the Latter Days comes, We shall bring you together *out of various peoples*.’ (17:105)

It was in 70 C.E. when Jerusalem was destroyed by the Romans and the Jews were scattered in many different countries. But the Holy Qur’an says that a day will come when they will be brought together from all over the world and once again they will be assembled in the Holy Land. Hazrat Khalifatul Masih IVth writes:

“Never in this history of the Jewish people after any diaspora were they brought back from all the countries of the world as it happened in the recent past after the creation of the state of Israel.” (Revelation Rationality Knowledge and Truth, p. 597)

Publication of Books

Then, the Holy Qur’an states that this bringing together of the people will be accompanied with large-scale publication of books. It says:

وَإِذَا الصُّحُفُ نُشِرَتْ ۝

“And when books are spread *abroad*.” (81:11)

The fulfillment of this prophecy is self-evident. We are seeing that the publication of books is extremely

easy and widespread in these days. In the past, it used to take much longer. Nowadays, the moment a decision is made to publish a book, it can be printed on the other end.

The internet has even made this easier. The speed at which this is happening could not even be imagined a few decades ago. (*Social Media*, p. 91)

Genetic Engineering

Whereas human progress will be absolutely impressive and exciting, the Holy Qur'an also forewarns of a dark side to this progress. It says that human beings will advance so much that they will be able to change *certain* features of life.

The Holy Qur'an states that Satan said to God:

"I will assuredly take a fixed portion from Your servants; And assuredly I will lead them astray and assuredly I will excite in them vain desires, and assuredly I will incite them and they will cut the ears of cattle;

فَلْيَعْمِرَنَّ خَلْقَ اللَّهِ ط

and assuredly I will incite them and they will alter Allah's creation." (4:120)

The idea that human beings will reach a stage where they could change the creation of Allah through genetic engineering is something that was inconceivable at the time of the Prophet Muhammad^{sa}. This possibility has only become a reality within our own lifetimes. But the Holy Qur'an has already warned us of the dangerous path this can take, which can lead to disaster.

Contact with Extraterrestrial Life

So far, I have mentioned those prophecies that have been fulfilled in this era. Many a times, we are asked by critics of the Holy Qur'an to share a prophecy about the future. For them, we can give the example of a prophecy of the Holy Qur'an which says:

وَمِنْ آيَاتِهِ خَلْقُ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ

وَمَا بَثَّ فِيهِمَا مِنْ دَابَّةٍ ط

"And among His Signs is the creation of the heavens and the earth, and of whatever living creatures (*da'bbah*) He has spread forth in both."

The word *da'bbah* refers to all kinds of animals and is a clear reference to the existence of extraterrestrial life. So, here the Holy Qur'an has clearly stated that extraterrestrial life exists. And what is amazing is that the Qur'an states:

وَهُوَ عَلَىٰ جَمْعِهِمْ إِذَا يَشَاءُ قَدِيرٌ ۝

"And He has the power to gather them together whenever He pleases." (42:30)

Discussing this verse, Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih IVth writes:

Jam-'i-him is the Arabic expression in this verse which specifically speaks of bringing together of life on earth and life elsewhere.

We are not told when this meeting will take place. We are not told whether it will be here or somewhere in space, and whether it would be a physical meeting or a contact through communication. That is for the future.

“

AND
ASSUREDLY
I WILL
LEAD THEM
ASTRAY AND
ASSUREDLY
I WILL
EXCITE IN
THEM VAIN
DESIRES,
AND
ASSUREDLY I
WILL INCITE
THEM

(4:120)

However, as Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih IVth says, “the very fact that more than fourteen hundred years ago such a possibility was even predicted is miraculous in itself.” (Revelation Rationality Knowledge and Truth, p. 330-331)

“All good is contained in the Qur’an”

Hence, there are numerous prophecies of the Holy Qur’an pertaining to our modern era. Many of these prophecies have been fulfilled and I just mentioned a few that could be described as the tip of the iceberg. I also gave an example of a prophecy that will be fulfilled in the future, perhaps even in our lifetimes.

This proves that the Holy Qur’an is a truly, truly remarkable book. We should value it and keep it close to our hearts. The Promised Messiah^{as} states:

سو تم قرآن کو تدبر سے پڑھو اور اُس سے بہت ہی پیار کرو
ایسا پیار کہ تم نے کسی سے نہ کیا ہو کیونکہ جیسا کہ خدا نے
مجھے مخاطب کر کے فرمایا کہ اَلْحَقُّ فِي الْقُرْآنِ کہ تمام
قسم کی بھلائیاں قرآن میں ہیں یہی بات سچ ہے افسوس اُن
لوگوں پر جو کسی اور چیز کو اس پر مقدم رکھتے ہیں تمہاری
تمام فلاح اور نجات کا سرچشمہ قرآن میں ہے کوئی بھی
تمہاری ایسی دینی ضرورت نہیں جو قرآن میں نہیں پائی جاتی
تمہارے ایمان کا مُصَدِّق یا مَلَدِّب قیامت کے دن قرآن ہے
اور بجز قرآن کے آسمان کے نیچے اور کوئی کتاب نہیں جو
بلا واسطہ قرآن تمہیں ہدایت دے سکے۔ خدا نے تم پر بہت
احسان کیا ہے جو قرآن جیسی کتاب تمہیں عنایت کی۔ میں
تمہیں سچ سچ کہتا ہوں کہ وہ کتاب جو تم پر پڑھی گئی اگر
عیسائیوں پر پڑھی جاتی تو وہ ہلاک نہ ہوتے اور یہ نعمت اور
ہدایت جو تمہیں دی گئی اگر بجائے توریت کے یہودیوں کو
دی جاتی تو بعض فرقے ان کے قیامت سے منکر نہ ہوتے
پس اس نعمت کی قدر کرو جو تمہیں دی گئی۔ یہ نہایت پیاری
نعمت ہے، یہ بڑی دولت ہے، اگر قرآن نہ آتا تو تمام دنیا
ایک گندے مضغ کی طرح تھی قرآن وہ کتاب ہے جس کے
مقابل پر تمام ہدایتیں ہیچ ہیں۔

(کشتی نوح، روحانی خزائن، جلد 19، صفحہ 26 تا 27)

“Study the Qur’an with deep contemplation and hold it very dear. Love it more than anything else. God has said to me: اَلْحَقُّ فِي الْقُرْآنِ Meaning, all good is contained in the Qur’an. This is the truth. Pity those who favour anything besides it. The fountainhead of all your prosperity and salvation lies in the Qur’an. There is no religious need of yours which is not fulfilled by it. On the Day of Judgement, the Qur’an will confirm or deny your faith. There is no other book beneath heaven besides the Qur’an, which can directly guide you. God has been most beneficent towards you in that He has bestowed upon you a book like the Qur’an. I tell you truly that if the book which has been recited to you was recited to the Christians, they would not have perished. If this favour and guidance which has been bestowed upon you had been granted to the Jews in place of the Torah, some of their sects would not have denied the Day of Judgement. Therefore, appreciate this favour that has been bestowed upon you. It is a most precious favour; it is a great wealth. If the Qur’an had not been revealed, the whole world would have been nothing more than a filthy half-formed lump of flesh. The Qur’an is a book, in contrast with which, all other guidance amounts to nothing.” (Noah’s Ark, p. 43)

دل میں یہی ہے ہر دم تیرا صحیفہ چوموں

قرآن کے گرد گھوموں کعبہ مرا یہی ہے

It is a permanent and constant desire in my heart to kiss Your Scripture; to go around the Qur’an; this surely is my Kaaba. (Qadian Kay Arya Aur Hum, Ruhani Khaza’in, vol. 20, p. 457)

May Allah make the Holy Qur’an a source of guidance for all those in the modern era who are witnesses of the fulfillment of its prophecies. Ameen!



Muslims for Remembrance Ceremony at Baitul Kareem Mosque

Nabeel A. Rana
Event Organizer

On Saturday, November 12, 2022, a Remembrance Day program was held at Baitul Kareem Mosque in Cambridge, Ontario. This was the first Remembrance Day ceremony event organized by the Jama'at in the Region of Waterloo. It was primarily organized by Majlis Ansarullah and the Department of Umoor Kharjiyya (Jama'at Brantford), with the cooperation of Majlis Ansarullah Guelph and the partnership of the Royal Canadian Legion, Galt branch.

By the mere grace of Allah, representatives from federal, provincial, and regional governments, as well as local municipalities from across Cambridge, Kitchener, Waterloo, Guelph, and Brantford attended this event. Additionally, senior members of the Waterloo Region Police Service and some leaders of local Muslim communities were also present.

Promotion & Invitations

A few Khuddam and Ansar members distributed flyers and posters a few days prior to the event in local neighbourhoods, libraries, and community centres. Invitations were sent to leaders of various organizations, Church groups and Mosques. The event was also promoted on social media.

Since this event was entitled "Muslims for Remembrance", the local Jama'at outreached 16 mosques of varying denominations in the region. Three of them accepted the invitation and were present at the occasion.

Reception of Guests

The initial gathering of the guests in the vicinity of the mosque displayed a unique atmosphere of unification between various communities. The hall was decorated according to the colours and significance of Remembrance Day. There was ample opportunity to communicate with dignitaries and guests about the importance of this day, as well as on the humanitarian endeavours undertaken by the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at across the globe.

Program

The commemorative program was emceed by Dr. Ahmad Imran of Cambridge. It began with the recitation and translation of the Holy Qur'an and a march of





colour by the Royal Canadian Legion, Galt branch. Dr. Imran introduced the program and presented welcoming remarks. His comments acknowledged the sacrifices of men and women during the Second World War. He also presented a warning of Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V^{aa} about a potential Third World War. Then, Missionary Fatir Ahmad delivered an opening speech and presented the Islamic perspective on sacrifice and love for one's home country. Thereafter, the act of remembrance was conducted which included playing of the Last Post, a moment of silence, and the Rouse.

Afterwards, selected dignitaries and leaders of different organizations were invited in groups to present their thoughts to the audience. The local president, Nauman Mubashir, delivered a brief speech on behalf of the local mosque. Lastly, Respected Muhammad Aamir Sheikh, Na'ib Amir Canada, delivered the concluding address and led the congregation in a silent prayer.

A donation of \$1000 was made to the local legion branch on behalf of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community and Majlis Ansarullah to the Royal Legion's Poppy Fund.

Press and Media Coverage

This event received significant press and media coverage, by the grace of Allah. Several days before the event, print and broadcast media was contacted and briefed regarding the program. Local newspapers (The Waterloo Record, Cambridge Times, Waterloo Chronicle) used the term "Muslims for Remembrance" event at Baitul Kareem Mosque in their regular news broadcast several days prior to the event.

On the day of the event, CTV Kitchener and the Waterloo Record newspaper attended to cover the event. Both provided extensive coverage of the event from Baitul Kareem Mosque. *Al-Hamdu lillah!*

Impression of Dignitaries & Guests

All guests and dignitaries left with positive comments and a positive outlook about the Jama'at. The Mayor of Cambridge, who was serving her last days as mayor, commented in an email after the event: "Thank you for the honour of speaking on behalf of the City. It was my last official duty as Mayor and so good to be at this mosque."

Attendance

Among those in attendance were 2 police chiefs, 5 mayors of local municipalities, one regional chair, 4 members of parliament, 2 members of provincial parliament, several councillors, leaders of faith and secular organizations, as well as Galt legions executives.

In total, 27 dignitaries attended the event, as well as 18 members from the general public. Similarly, approximately 35 men and 30 women from the local Jama'at membership attended. This included Ansar, Khuddam, Atfal and Lajna members. The event was a resounding success, and the total attendance of the event was over 110, *Al-Hamdu lillah!*

KIDS ZONE

FILL IN THE BLANKS

- _____ was the first Caliph in Islam.
- Hazrat Abu Bakr^{ra} was related to the Holy Prophet^{sa} as _____
- “*Thani-Ithnain*” means _____
- _____ risked his life by staying in the home of the Holy Prophet^{sa} during the migration to Madinah.
- Hazrat Abu Bakr^{ra} had memorized _____ parts of the Holy Qur'an.

1. Hazrat Abu Bakr^{ra}
2. Father-in-law
3. Second companion
4. Hazrat Ali^{ra}
5. 30

Answers:

TRIVIA

- Which daughter of Hazrat Abu Bakr^{ra} married the Holy Prophet^{sa}?
- How long was the caliphate of Hazrat Abu Bakr^{ra}?
- What title was given to Hazrat Abu Bakr^{ra} by the Holy Prophet^{sa}?
- Where was Hazrat Abu Bakr^{ra} buried?
- What was the full name of Hazrat Abu Bakr^{ra}?

1. Hazrat Aisha^{ra}
2. 2 years, 3 months
3. Siddiq (the truthful one)
4. Next to the Holy Prophet^{sa}
5. Abu Bakr Abdullah ibn Uthman bin Qahafa^{ra}

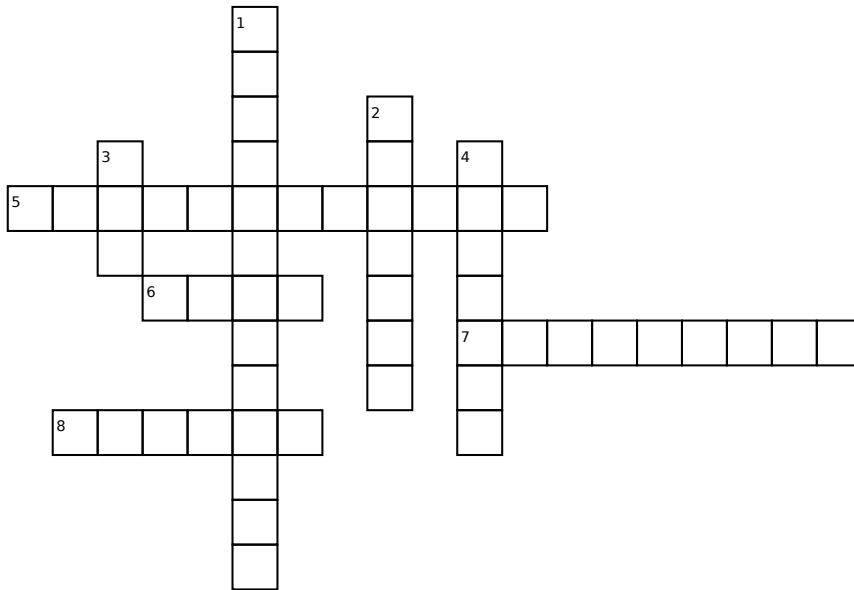
Answers:

CHALLENGE:

Memorize the Hadith:

خَيْرُكُمْ مَنْ تَعَلَّمَ الْقُرْآنَ وَعَلَّمَهُ
 “The best among you is the one who learns the Qur'an and teaches it.”
 (Sahih Bukhari)

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

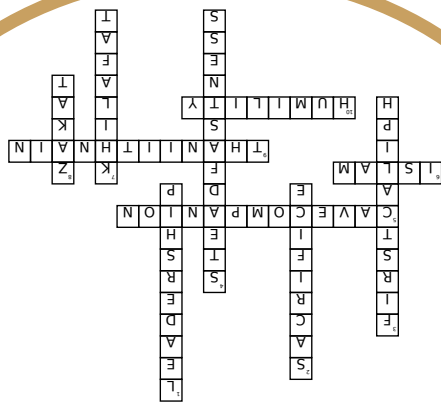


Down:

1. Skill of Hazrat Abu Bakr^{ra}
2. Moral quality of Hazrat Abu Bakr^{ra}
3. Title of Hazrat Abu Bakr^{ra}
4. Quality of believers
7. Name of divine institution
8. Pillar of Islam

Across:

5. Meaning of *Thani-Ithnain*
6. The last religion
9. Companion of the Holy Prophet^{sa} in the cave
10. Moral quality of Hazrat Abu Bakr^{ra}



Answers:

DID YOU KNOW?
Hazrat Abu Bakr^{ra}
once sacrificed
everything in his
home in the way of
Allah!

Announcement of Birth: Noor Umer Ahmed

Dr. Tahir Ahmed and Mrs. Mansoor Tahir of Ottawa West Jama'at are pleased to announce that their daughter, Nimra Ahmed, and son-in-law, Mohammad Umer, were blessed with a daughter on November 5, 2022. She has been named Noor Umer Ahmed, and she is their second child. Noor was born in Fort McMurray, Alberta, where her parents are engineers working in local oil fields with Suncor. Noor Umer Ahmed is the granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Raghbir-ud-Din Sahib of Calgary. Members of the Jama'at are requested to pray for the long and healthy life of Noor. May Allah the Almighty grant her wisdom and strength to serve Ahmadiyyat, and may she be a source of pride and pleasure for her family. Ameen!

The Ahmadiyya Gazette Canada extends its heartiest congratulations to the family at this joyous occasion.



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