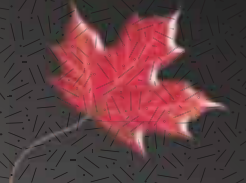


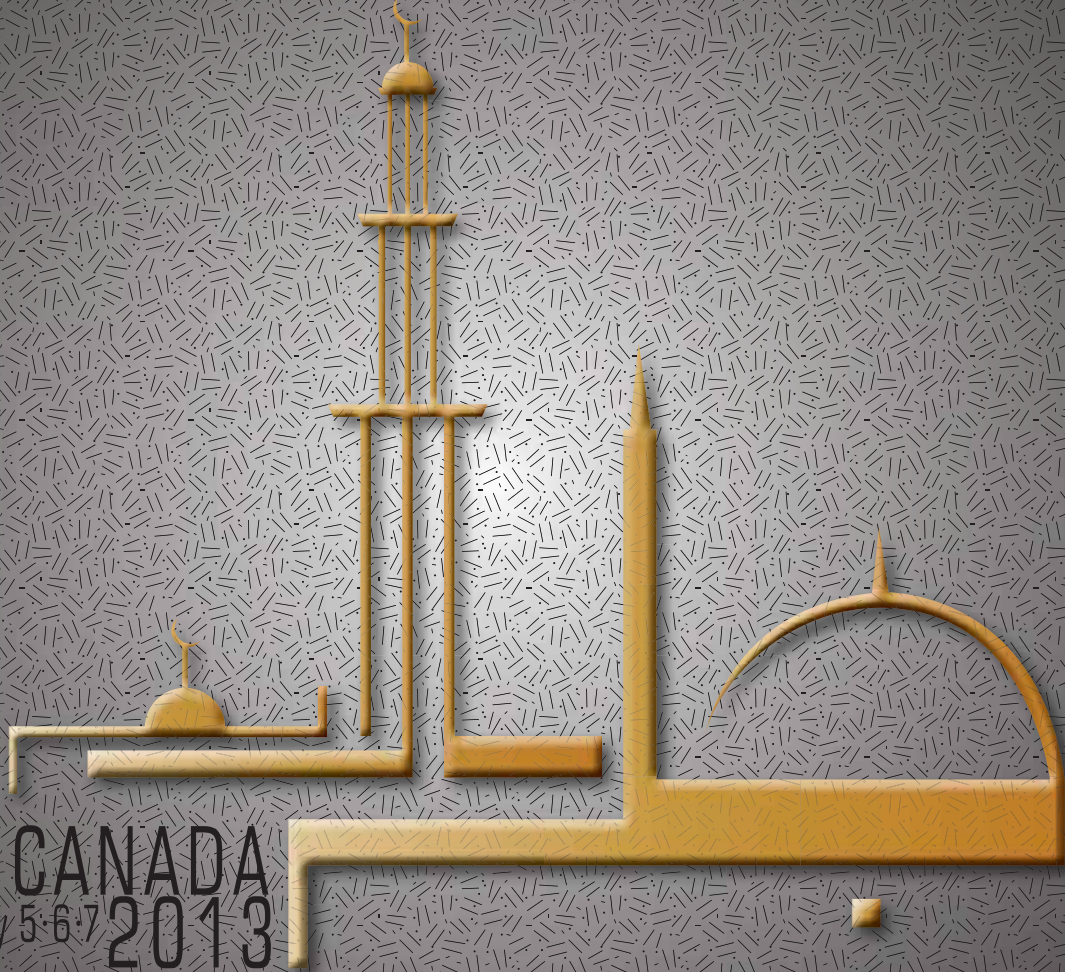
AHMADIYYA

# Gazette




CANADA

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 CANADA  
July 5-6-7 2013

JALSA SĀLĀNA  
2013



In the name of Allāh, the Gracious, the Merciful

# 37<sup>TH</sup> JALSA SĀLĀNA CANADA 2013

JULY 5,6,7, 2013

INTERNATIONAL CENTRE, MISSISSAUGA

By the Grace of Allāh, Jamā'at Aḥmadiyya Canada is holding its 37<sup>th</sup> Jalsa Sālāna on July 5, 6 and 7, 2013. Inshā'Allāh. It will be held at the International Centre, Mississauga near Pearson International Airport.

This Jalsa is very important for the spiritual, educational and training needs of the Jamā'at and for propagating the message of Islām. In fact, this Jalsa Sālāna is a branch of the Jalsa Sālāna which was started by the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> himself in 1891. The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> published an announcement on December 7, 1892 in which he expounded the importance of the Jalsa Sālāna in the following words:

*"You must not rank this convention in the same league as other, ordinary, human assemblies. This is a phenomenon that is based purely on Divine Help, for the propagation of Islām. The foundation stone of this community is laid by Allāh the Exalted himself. Nations are prepared for this, soon they will join it, because this is an action of that Powerful Being for whom there is nothing impossible." (Majmū'ah Ishtihārāt, Vol. 1 page 341)*

Aside from the five daily prayers, during the days of the Jalsa Sālāna, dawn prayer (*tahajjud*) would also be offered in the mosque. During these days educational and spiritual lectures are delivered by scholars of the Jamā'at. Time is spent in supplications, remembrance of Allāh and prayers in a unique spiritual environment. Thus, these three invaluable days of Jalsa Sālāna are an excellent opportunity for preaching, spiritual and educational uplift and training. Members of the Jamā'at should take full advantage of these days.

Members of Jamā'at are requested to especially pray for the success of this Jalsa Sālāna that may Allāh make this Jalsa a very blessed one, and make it a source of guidance for all.

Further you are also requested to participate in Jalsa Sālāna along with all of your family members, and to invite as many of your non-Aḥmadi friends as possible since this is an excellent opportunity for propagating the message of Islām.

May Allāh the Exalted enable you all to participate in this Jalsa, and make you recipient of its spiritual blessings, and may you all be the heirs of the many prayers of Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> which he offered for the attendees of this blessed Jalsa. Āmīn.

Shahid Mansoor

Afsar Jalsa Sālāna Canada

لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ مُحَمَّدٌ رَّسُولُ اللَّهِ

# Aḥmadiyya Gazette Canada

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# Pearls of Wisdom



## THE HOLY QUR'ĀN

And keep thyself attached to those who call on their Lord, morning and evening, seeking His pleasure; and let not thy eyes pass beyond them, seeking the adornment of the life of the world; and obey not him whose heart We have made heedless of Our remembrance and who follows his evil inclinations, and his case exceeds all bounds.

(Al-Kahf 18:29)

وَأَصْبِرْ نَفْسَكَ مَعَ الَّذِينَ يَدْعُونَ رَبَّهُمْ  
بِالْغَدْوَةِ وَالْعَشيِّ يُرِيدُونَ وَجْهَهُ وَلَا تَعْدُ  
عَيْنُكَ عَنْهُمْ تُرِيدُ زِينَةَ الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا وَلَا  
تَطْعُ مَنْ أَغْفَلْنَا قَلْبَهُ عَنْ ذِكْرِنَا وَاتَّبَعَ  
هُوَ هُوَ وَكَانَ أَمْرُهُ فُرْطًا ﴿٢٩﴾

## HADĪTH OF THE HOLY PROPHET MUHAMMAD<sup>SA</sup>

Ḥaḍrat Abū Hurayra<sup>ra</sup> narrates that the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> said Allāh has mobile (squads) of angels, who have no other work but to follow the assemblies of Dhikr and when they find such assemblies in which there is Dhikr, they sit in them and some of them surround the others with their wings till the space between them and the sky of the world is fully covered, and when they disperse they go upward to the heaven and Allāh, the Exalted and Glorious, asks them although He is best informed about them: Where have you come from? They say: We come from Thine servants upon the earth who had been glorifying Thee, uttering Thine Greatness and uttering Thine Oneness and praising Thee and begging of Thee. He would say: What do they beg of Me? They would say: They beg of Thee the Paradise of Thine. God would say: Have they seen My Paradise? They said: No, our Lord. He would say: (What it would be then) if they were to see My Paradise? They would say: They seek Thine protection. He would say: Against what do they seek protection of Mine? They would say: Our Lord, from the Hell-Fire. He would say: Have they seen My Fire? They would say: No. He would say: What it would be if they were to see My Fire? They would say: They beg of Thy forgiveness. He would say: I grant pardon to them, and confer upon them what they ask for and grant them protection against which they seek protection. They would again say: Our Lord, there is one amongst them such and such simple servant who happened to pass by (that assembly) and sat there along with them (who had been participating in that assembly). He would say: I also grant him pardon, for they are a people whose companions are in no way unfortunate.

عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ عَنِ النَّبِيِّ ﷺ قَالَ إِنَّ لِلَّهِ تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَى مَلَائِكَةً  
سَيَّارَةً فَضُلًّا يَتَّبِعُونَ مَجَالِسَ الذِّكْرِ فَإِذَا وَجَدُوا مَجْلِسًا فِيهِ  
ذِكْرٌ قَعَدُوا مَعَهُمْ وَحَفَّ بَعْضُهُمْ بَعْضًا بِأَجْنِحَتِهِمْ حَتَّى يَمْلَأُوا  
مَا بَيْنَهُمْ وَبَيْنَ السَّمَاءِ الدُّنْيَا فَإِذَا تَفَرَّقُوا عَرَجُوا وَصَعِدُوا إِلَى  
السَّمَاءِ قَالَ فَيَسَأُ لَهُمُ اللَّهُ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ وَهُوَ أَعْلَمُ بِهِمْ مِنْ آيِنِ  
جَنَّتُمْ فَيَقُولُونَ جَنَّتْنَا مِنْ عِنْدِ عَبْدِكَ فِي الْأَرْضِ يَسْبِحُونَكَ  
وَيُكَبِّرُونَكَ وَيُهَلِّلُونَكَ وَيُحَمِّدُونَكَ وَيَسْتَلُونَكَ، قَالَ وَمَا  
ذَا يَسَأُ لُونِي؟ قَالُوا يَسْتَلُونَكَ جَنَّتِكَ قَالَ وَهَلْ رَأَوْا جَنَّتِي؟  
قَالُوا لَا أَيْ رَبِّ، قَالَ: فَكَيْفَ لَوْ رَأَوْا جَنَّتِي، قَالُوا: وَيَسْتَجِيرُونَكَ:  
قَالَ: وَمِمَّا يَسْتَجِيرُونَني: قَالُوا: مِنْ نَارِكَ يَا رَبِّ، قَالَ:  
وَهَلْ رَأَوْا نَارِي؟ قَالُوا: لَا، قَالَ: فَكَيْفَ لَوْ رَأَوْا نَارِي؟  
قَالُوا: وَيَسْتَغْفِرُونَكَ: قَالَ: فَيَقُولُ قَدْ غَفَرْتُ لَهُمْ فَأَعْطَيْتُهُمْ  
مَا سَأَلُوا وَآجَرْتُهُمْ مِمَّا اسْتَجَارُوا قَالَ فَيَقُولُونَ رَبِّ فِيهِمْ فَلَانٌ  
عَبْدٌ خَطَاءٌ أَنَّمَا مَرَّ فَجَلَسَ مَعَهُمْ، قَالَ: فَيَقُولُ: وَلَهُ غَفَرْتُ  
هُمُ الْقَوْمُ لَا يَشْقَى بِهِمْ جَلِيسُهُمْ -

(مسلم كتاب الذكر باب فضل مجالس الذكر)

# So Said the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>



## A Great Gathering

“I re-emphasize that you must not rank this convention in the same league as other, ordinary, human assemblies. This is a phenomenon that is based purely on the Divine Help, for the propagation of Islām.” (Ishtihār Dec. 7, 1892, Majmū’ah Ishtihārāt Vol. 1, pg. 341)

### Prayers of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> for Those Who Attend Jalsa Sālāna

“O Allāh, O Sublime One, Bestower of bounties, for every such person who makes a journey to attend this convention that is for the sake of Allāh; May Allāh, the Exalted, be with them, grant them a great reward, have mercy on them, and ease for them their circumstances of hardship and anxiety and eliminate their anguish and grief. May He grant them freedom from every single hardship and lay open for them the ways of [achieving] their desired goals, and raise them up on the day of Judgment among those of His servants who are the recipients of His blessings and Mercy. May He be their Guardian in their absence until after their journey comes to an end. O Allāh! O Sublime One and Bestower of bounties, Ever Merciful and One Who Resolves all problems! Do grant all these prayers, and grant us victory over our opponents with scintillating signs, because You alone have all the might and power. Āmin! Āmin!” (Ishtihār Dec. 7, 1892, Majmū’ah Ishtihārāt Vol. I, pg. 342)

### Prayers of Khulafā’ Ahmadiyyat Regarding Jalsa Sālāna

#### Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih I<sup>ra</sup>

أَدْعُوْنِي أَسْتَجِبْ لَكُمْ

“Pray to me, I will answer your prayer,” is a weapon and it is very effective. However, at times the one wielding [this weapon] is a weak individual and therefore rejects prayers. It is the weapon of prayers that the entire world has abandoned. Muslims should sharpen [this weapon] and utilize it.

[They should] try to their utmost to supplicate and should not weary. I am so ill that I cannot image how long my life will be, therefore this is my last testament that along side, “Lā ilāha illāh,” you should sharpen your weapon of prayers. May your Jamā’at not be divided, for when a Jamā’at becomes divided then it incurs wrath. As the Holy Qur’ān says,

But they too have forgotten a good part of that with which they were exhorted. So We have caused enmity and hatred among them till the Day of Resurrection. (5:15)

You have been saved from this grief until now. Without the Grace and blessing of Allāh the Exalted even prayers are ineffective. For this reason I advise you to pray much. I say again, pray much so that the Jamā’at be saved from division. (Ḥarf Du’ā)

#### Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih II<sup>ra</sup>

O God, make us true. Save us from falsehood. Save us from miserliness. Save us from being unaware. Save us from disobedience. O God, grant us the ability to act on the Holy Qur’ān’s teachings. Grant our young ones and elder ones, our men and our women, our children and our elders the ability to become your perfect followers and may all of them be protected from stumbling and sins which take a person’s steps away from “the right path.” O our Lord! Create love for You in our hearts. O our Lord! Create love for your teachings, your political demands, your economic rules, your social rules and your religious teachings in our hearts. Create regard for them in us. So much so that there be no teaching more dear to us than the teaching You gave to us through Muhammad<sup>sa</sup>. O God! May he who attributes himself to you and is dear to you be dear to us too. And may he who is removed from you be removed from us too. May thoughts of compassion and reform of the entire world be dominant in our hearts and may we be successful in creating that great revolution that you expressly desired to establish through your Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>. Āmin Allāhuma Āmin.

#### Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih III<sup>th</sup>

May my Lord create firmness, genuineness and loyalty in your faith. May your acts on God’s path be full of sincerity and devotion and void of disorder. May God make all the ways you adopt be such that they lead you to achievement and success. May you have a lasting station in my Lord’s Heavens. And while glorifying Him and praising Him, “their greeting therein shall be, ‘Peace.’” (10:11). May you desire peacefulness for others and attain peacefulness from your Lord. May my Lord enable you to continue on the path of good works and pious actions. May this world become Heaven for you, where satan’s acts do not interfere. And when it is your time to pass on, may the Angels say, as they take you to His lasting Heaven, Assalāmu Alaikum, Allāh’s peace be upon you. May you continuously receive His Grace while under the shade of His Mercy.

May it become your habit to remain engaged in praising God and expressing your gratefulness to Him. May you become God’s Jamā’at in the true sense. O my Lord’s elect and chosen Jamā’at! May my Lord’s Mercy always descend on you. May all your darkness remain behind, May God let it be so. May you be enlightened with Allāh’s Divine light. May your light run ahead

of you.

May the light of your servitude meet the light of the heavens and the earth and may you attain the perfect nearness [to Allāh]. May Allāh's mercy always shower upon you. May the prayers of His Angels always be with you. May you be entitled to gifts of Peace. May you always remain engaged in the Remembrance of Allāh, May God let it be so. May the fountain of Remembrance of Allāh gush and flow with everlasting springs of happiness for you. May Allāh the Exalted's Mercy always cast its shadow upon you, may it always guard you. May the moonlight of his benignity and favour continue to illuminate the beds belonging to you and your companions. May your bring greater fruits through His Grace.

May your heart and bosom always be a cradle for pious inclinations and pure desires. May you have what you desire and may you receive gifts of security at all times from our Merciful Lord, may his promises come true in your favour. May you become the inheritors of His love. May your entire being prove to the world that those who act and strive in His path and show empathy and sacrifice receive a great rewards. They are the inheritors of the Allāh's Love. May the paths of His nearness open for you, May God let it be so, and may it become easy for you to tread those paths. May you reach His favours and Heavens through these paths, May Allāh let it be so. [With] a life of ease and comfort, may you always be in peace.

May my Lord always enable you to remain steadfast on righteousness so that in the worldly Heaven you can stay in homes which are full of remembrance of Allāh and are above and beyond any satanic whispering. And so that in the next Heaven your stay may also be in mansions where Angels pray for you and you receive messages of peace from your Creator, your Lord at every instance. May your Heart and bosom always be lit with the Holy Qur'ān's luminance. May that light always direct to the paths which take one to Dār al-Salām and may all darkness be removed from your path. May pursuing the pleasure of Allāh always illuminate the "Right Path" that takes one straight to His Heaven and his pleasure.

May my God's bright signs create waves of love for God in your heart and bosom, may God let it be so. May my Lord enable you to do good deeds, which are free from mischief and anarchy. May my Allāh Himself be your Friend and Guardian, and in his nearness, may your stay be in a house of peace.

May your being be beneficial for the world, may God let it be so. May you receive the prayers of the entire world. May all know you and recognize you and may all desire peace for you. May my Allāh's divine gifts quickly take you to the desired end. May you attain steadiness while at the station of trust and obedience. May you inherit the paradise of His Relationship.

May you be an exemplary in the establishment of pure Tawhīd, may God let it be so. May you be elated and intoxicated in the love of Muhammad<sup>sa</sup>, may God let it be so. May the rays of Muhammad's<sup>sa</sup> shine from your hands on all hearts, may God let it be so. May you be such as to inherit the prayers of the Muhammadan<sup>sa</sup> Messiah.

#### Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih IV<sup>th</sup>

Now, at the end I would like to pray, for it is Allāh the Exalted's great benevolence, grace and kindness that He has enabled us to gather here for the sake of His pleasure in an extremely pleasant environment while Himself freeing us from all types of mischief and disorder and maintaining our security. Lovers of Muhammad<sup>sa</sup> from all over the world corners of the world. People seek proof of Aḥmadiyyats truthfulness, in response to

this I shall read out a poem of Hazrat Muṣliḥ Mau'ūd<sup>ra</sup>:

Were it not a beautiful light, coming from the candle,  
Why would the world's butterflies gather here?

So today, all the butterflies of the world have gathered here to send Durūd on Muhammad<sup>sa</sup>, the Chosen one. Today, all the butterflies of the world have gathered themselves on Muhammad<sup>sa</sup>, the chosen one's candle in order to submit their lives to him<sup>sa</sup>. Today, all the butterflies of the world have gathered to sing hymns of love for Allāh, the Exalted. When these butterflies return for home they will continue to sing these hymns as they return. Their standing and sitting has become love for Allāh and His messenger<sup>sa</sup>. They pray now, and will pray as they return. When they come again, they will come praying, for our own and for others as well.

It is difficult at this to name everyone individually, pray for all of them. Allāh is aware of all their names. His gaze is on their hearts. May he grant them a great reward. And all of us who are here today, may Allāh the Exalted let us say farewell in goodness and wellness. And may He gather us again in goodness, wellness and love, and again depart and then meet. This meeting and parting is for the sake of God, where meeting is lovely and parting is lovely. I recall a couplet of Ghālib in which he says,

وداع ووصل جداگانہ لذت دارد  
ہزار بار برو صد ہزار بار بیا

#### Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V<sup>aa</sup>

May Allāh the Exalted make us inheritors of all the prayers of Hazrat Masīḥ Mau'ūd<sup>as</sup>. May we carry out no act that would remove us from those prayers. In these days you too should pray much, put a lot of effort in your prayers. Remember all the those who come here in your prayers. Some people are arriving, some are on their way, remember them in your prayers. Remember those too, who in order to gain benefit from this Jalsa are at home, who despite having the desire to be here are unable to come.

May we see more of Allāh the Exalted's grace in this Jalsa as compared to before, may Allāh let it be so. Always show endless gratitude to Allāh on account of His favours and become his grateful servant. For when a person expresses gratitude towards his benefactor, because Allāh the Exalted Himself gives so much, then he grants even more favours than before. For every expression of gratitude He continues to bestow more out of his Grace and Mercy in accordance with His promises. Another method of expressing gratitude is [to do what you came here to do], listen to the Jalsa, fully participate in the programs, benefit from them, and for these three days live your lives and spend your time only for the sake of Allāh the Exalted. May Allāh the Exalted grant all the ability to do so.

In the end, I would like to draw your attention to another prayer, for it is only through prayers that our works come into being, and it is only through prayers that all types of blessings are received. Pray much in the days of Jalsa. As I said yesterday, while walking, standing and sitting remain engaged in remembrance of Allāh. Be expedient in Durūd, and do much Istighfār. May Allāh be with you. May you benefit from the Jalsa's educational and spiritual blessings. (Weekly Al-Fazl International London. September 19, 2003)

# Guidance from Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V<sup>aa</sup>

## The Prophet<sup>sa</sup> for Mankind

### Summary of Friday Sermon Delivered on October 5, 2012

On October 5, 2012, Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V<sup>aa</sup> delivered the Friday Sermon at Baitul Futūḥ Mosque, London.

Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> said that the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> says, if people were aware of the blessed life and exemplary character of the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup>, they would all invoke blessings (*durūd*) upon him. This is not just some sort of wishful thinking, for the Qur'ān itself says that Allāh and all His Angels send down blessings upon the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup>, so Muslims should also invoke peace and blessings upon him. Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> said that no other Prophet has been so distinguished. The Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> has set an example with regard to all of his teachings. Gratitude requires that we not only follow his example, but also invoke blessings upon him through *durūd*.

Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> said that the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> has guided us towards Allāh with his own example and has inspired us with the zeal to worship Him. Such was his character that those closest to him were the first to affirm his Prophethood.

Today, however, it has become necessary that non-Muslims too should be made aware of his holy character. No one, unless totally devoid of justice, will fail to praise the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> when he learns of his blessed life. Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> once again urge Aḥmadis to tell other people about the blessed life of Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup>. For this purpose they can make use of the writings of Christian orientalist who, despite all their prejudices, could not stop praising him.

Some of the many excellences of the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> admitted by the orientalist are as follows: his great love for God, steadfastness, kindness, forgiveness, virtue and non-aggression. He was averse to aggression. He had the greatest impact upon mankind. He was a teacher of truth and righteousness. He was eloquent, farsighted, perceptive, a peace-maker and a man with perfect faith in God. He not only avoided all evil habits and customs, he put an end to them. He ended slavery, prohibited gambling, drinking and other evils. He lived a very simple

life and everyone could access him with ease. He was a philosopher, a speaker and a messenger of God. He was a brave and wise leader who outshone all other leaders.

Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> said that these orientalist have also admitted that in contrast to what the Christians did to other people or to some of their own sects, the conduct of the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> in relation to other faiths was exemplary.

Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> once again urged Aḥmadī lawyers and politicians to raise awareness regarding the need for prescribing some limitations regarding freedom of speech that hurt the sentiments of people of other religions.

At the end of the sermon, Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> informed the Jamā'at of the tragic martyrdom of Khwaja Manzoor Aḥmad ṣāḥib of Sargodha; and the sad demise of Amatus-Sami ṣāḥiba, wife of Mirzā Rafī Aḥmad ṣāḥib; and Chaudhary Khālid Aḥmad ṣāḥib, son of Chaudhary Sharif Aḥmad ṣāḥib.

Some of the many excellences of the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> admitted by the orientalist are as follows: his great love for God, steadfastness, kindness, forgiveness, virtue and non-aggression. He was averse to aggression. He had the greatest impact upon mankind. He was a teacher of truth and righteousness. He was eloquent, farsighted, perceptive, a peace-maker and a man with perfect faith in God. He not only avoided all evil habits and customs, he put an end to them. He ended slavery, prohibited gambling, drinking and other evils.

## Companions of The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> Summary of Friday Sermon Delivered on October 12, 2012

On October 12, 2012, Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V<sup>aa</sup> delivered the Friday Sermon at Baitul Futūḥ Mosque, London.

Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> related some incidents from the lives of the Companions<sup>ra</sup> of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> regarding their recognition and acceptance of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>. Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> said that whenever he relates such incidents, the descendants of the Companions<sup>ra</sup> write to him expressing their pleasure and joy. There are some people who criticize their elders, but their misunderstanding is removed when they listen to these narratives and thus come closer to the Jamā'at. Therefore, the progeny of these Companions<sup>ra</sup> should keep refreshing the memory of their elders.

Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> said that our elders accepted Aḥmadiyyat either after thorough research or having received guidance from God. The present generations can be mistaken, for they do not enjoy the nearness to God that our elders did, but their elders were not mistaken. We should pray that the descendants of these Companions<sup>ra</sup> remain firm upon their faith and pray for their elders.

The following are the Companions<sup>ra</sup> whose narratives Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> related: Hazrat Muhammad Fadil ṣāḥib, son of Nūr Muhammad ṣāḥib; Hazrat Sheikh Asghar 'Alī ṣāḥib; Hazrat Master Maula Bakhsh ṣāḥib, son of 'Umar Bakhsh ṣāḥib; Hazrat Qāḍī Muhammad Yūsuf ṣāḥib; Hazrat Sheikh Muhammad Afdal ṣāḥib, ex-Inspector of Police, Patiala; Hazrat Qaim-ud-Din ṣāḥib; Hazrat Allāh-Rakkha ṣāḥib, son of Hazrat Mian Amir Bakhsh ṣāḥib; Hazrat Mian Ghulām Muhammad ṣāḥib; Hazrat Hakim 'Abdur Rahman ṣāḥib; Hazrat Mian Rahim Bakhsh ṣāḥib; Hazrat Chaudhary Rahmat Khan ṣāḥib; Hazrat Maulawi Muhammad 'Abdullah ṣāḥib; Hazrat Nazamud Din ṣāḥib; and Hazrat Sayyed Walayat Shah ṣāḥib.

Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> said that the Jamā'at should pray to Allāh for protection against the mischiefs of our opponents. Recently some mischief monger has posted on Facebook the pictures of Hazrat Baba Guru Nanak ṣāḥib and the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> side by side, in which the former was denigrated while the latter was praised. The perpetrator of this gruesome act tried to ascribe his views to the Jamā'at,

so as to inflame the emotions of the Sikh community and to cause mistrust between them and the Jamā'at. Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> condemned this act in the strongest terms, saying that the Jamā'at never allows anyone to play with the feelings of others. As for Hazrat Baba Guru Nanak ṣāḥib, the writings of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> are full of praise for him. No Aḥmadi can ever think of denigrating that holy personage. Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> said that a local newspaper had made matters worse by publishing this item. The Jamā'at in Qādiān has condemned this act openly and has published disclamations in local newspapers. Aḥmadi and Sikh leaders have requested the government to bring the culprit to account.

At the end of the sermon, Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> informed the Jamā'at of the sad demise of 'Abdur Razzaq Butt ṣāḥib, an Aḥmadiyya missionary; Dr. Fahmida Munir ṣāḥiba; and Nasira bint Zarif ṣāḥiba, wife of Dr. Aqil bin Abdul Qadir ṣāḥib of Norway. Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> led their funeral prayer in absentia after the Friday prayers.

## Companions of The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> Summary of Friday Sermon Delivered on October 19, 2012

On October 19, 2012, Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V<sup>aa</sup> delivered the Friday Sermon at Baitul Futūḥ Mosque, London.

In this sermon Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> read some narratives recorded by the Companions of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> regarding their meetings with the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> and their acceptance of Aḥmadiyyat.

The Companions whose narratives Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> quoted are: Hazrat Walayat Shah ṣāḥib, son of Syed Hussain Ali Shah ṣāḥib; Hazrat Inayatullah ṣāḥib, Hazrat Shaikh Ataullah ṣāḥib; Hazrat Malik Barkatullah ṣāḥib, son of Hazrat Malik Niaz Muhammad ṣāḥib; Hazrat Dr. Umar Din ṣāḥib; Hazrat Master Abdur Rauf ṣāḥib, son of Ghulām Muhammad ṣāḥib; and Hazrat Maulwi Muhammad Abdul Aziz ṣāḥib, son of Maulwi Abdullah ṣāḥib.

Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> said that these narratives cast light on how the Companions progressed in spirituality after pledging Bai'at to the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>, how they grew in Divine knowledge and insight, and how new avenues of love for the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> were opened to them. It was because of

their love for the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> that their love and devotion to the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> proved to be stronger than any worldly relationship. May Allāh bless them abundantly and have mercy on them. And may Allāh enable us, who have pledged allegiance to the Imām of the age, to fulfil our obligations accordingly and undergo a holy transformation.

Hudūr<sup>aa</sup> said that news had just come of an incident in Karachi, Pakistan, in which an Aḥmadi family was fired at, martyring a young Aḥmadi and injuring his father. May Allāh grant him quick recovery and grant the martyr a lofty status in heaven. Likewise, similar reports are also coming

in from Ghattialian but the details are as yet sketchy. Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> said that the situation in Pakistan calls for fervent prayers. May Allāh protect all Aḥmadis from every mischief. *Āmīn*.

At the end of the sermon, Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> spoke about the sad demise of Syeda Amatur Rahman ṣāḥiba, wife of the late Sayyed 'Abdul Ghanī Shah ṣāḥib of Rabwah, and led her funeral prayer in absentia after the Friday prayers.

May Allāh enable us, who have pledged allegiance to the Imām of the age, to fulfil our obligations accordingly and undergo a holy transformation.



# Renaissance of Islām and Persecution

## Summary of Friday Sermon Delivered on September 28, 2012

On October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2012, Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V<sup>aa</sup> delivered the Friday Sermon at Baitul Futūḥ Mosque, London.

Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> recited verses 2 to 12 of Sūrah Al-Burūj, which are translated as follows:

“By the heaven having mansions of stars, and by the Promised Day. By the testifier and the one who is testified. Cursed be the people of the trenches—the fire fed with fuel—as they sat by it, and they witnessed what they did to the believers. And they hated them not but because they believed in Allāh, the Almighty, the Praiseworthy, to Whom belongs the kingdom of the heavens and the earth; and Allāh is Witness over all things. Those who persecute the believing men and the believing women and then repent not, for them is surely the punishment of Hell, and for them is the punishment of burning. But those who believe and do good works, for them are Gardens through which streams flow. That is the great triumph.” (85:2-12)

Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> said that these verses speak about the preservation of the true teachings of Islām in all ages and of the coming of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> for the

revival of the faith. They also speak of the opposition and atrocities the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> and his Jamā‘at would have to face and how the opponents would remain frustrated while the believers will succeed and inherit paradise.

Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> said that if we reflect deeply over these verses in the light of what the Jamā‘at is passing through, our faith in God and in the truth of the Holy Qur‘ān and the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> is greatly strengthened. God sent the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> to establish the truth and superiority of the Holy Qur‘ān and the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> over all others. In his footsteps, his Jamā‘at continues to act in an appropriate manner to stop every hand and every tongue that is raised against our Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup>.

Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> said that the fire of animosity towards the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> will not recede anytime soon and we will have to continue making sacrifices which will pave the way for our success. The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> says that all those who persevere to the end—no matter what tribulations shake them, what calamities befall them and how the world taunts and ridicules them—will come out victorious in the end. The Promised

Messiah<sup>as</sup> also says that the truth will prevail and the sun shall rise in all its glory, but not until we have exerted ourselves to the utmost. This means that the victory will be ours if we concentrate on our worship, our prayers and our *tahajjud*.

The victory of Islām is linked to the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> and his Jamā‘at but we will have to work hard for it.

Hudūr<sup>aa</sup> said that in this Sūrah, Allāh says that in order to preserve our faith we should be ready to burn in a fire which is akin to severe opposition. Referring to the lives being sacrificed by Aḥmadīs in Pakistan, Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> said that these sacrifices will not go in vain, rather they are meant to lead us to victory. The enemy cannot weaken our faith by such atrocities. Every Aḥmadī realizes the true spirit of sacrifice. Aḥmadīs should, therefore, not be perturbed. Our patience and our sacrifices will win us eternal paradise.

At the end of the sermon, Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> spoke about the tragic martyrdom of Sa‘d Farooq ṣāḥib, son of Farooq Aḥmad Kahlon ṣāḥib; Bashir Aḥmad Bhatti ṣāḥib; Dr. Raja Abdul Hamid Khan ṣāḥib, son of Raja Abdul ‘Azīz ṣāḥib of Karachi; and Riaz Aḥmad Basra ṣāḥib, son of Chaudhary Munir Aḥmad Basra ṣāḥib of Ghattialian (District Sialkot). Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> asked the Jamā‘at to pray for the full and early recovery of those injured in the attacks. Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> also spoke about the sad demise of Izzat Abdus-Samī Muhammad Jalāl of Egypt, and led the funeral prayer in absentia of all the deceased after the Friday prayers.

## Supplementary Fasting Every Monday So Aḥmadīs May Be Protected From Harm

Aḥmadīs in Pakistan have shown extraordinary patience and resilience in the face of severe persecution. These sacrifices and these emotions can only bear fruit if we fall down before Allāh and wet our prayer mats with tears. Pakistani Aḥmadīs in particular should offer fervent prayers and try to keep fast one day each week... It will be more appropriate if a specific day, such as Thursday or Monday, is fixed by the Jamā‘at for this fast. In any case, our focus should be to attract Allāh’s love by making whatever sacrifices we can, by establishing a personal relationship with Allāh, by raising our moral and ethical standards, by spreading the message of Islām and countering the objections that are raised against it.

*Members of the Jamā‘at are reminded to take part in this supplementary fasting scheme every Monday.*

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## Important Instructions Given at Jalsa Sālāna Canada by Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V<sup>aa</sup>

In 2005, our beloved Imām Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V<sup>aa</sup> graced Jamā'at Ahmadiyya Canada with his presence. On June 23, 2005, he gave the following instructions to the Jalsa Sālāna organizers and volunteers.

### Instructions Are Given Every Year

Every year, Jalsa duties are assigned, and every year a formal gathering is held and every year you are given instructions. The reason these instructions are re-given is that often that which was conveyed the previous year gets forgotten.

### These Are God's Guests

This Jalsa is that which was initiated by the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>. The guests who come to this Jalsa are thus the guests of his Holiness the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>. In fact, it should be said that since these people come to listen to God's words, therefore they are the guests of God. For this reason, a great responsibility is placed upon you, that you serve these guest to the utmost of your ability.

### You Will Have to Listen to the Guests

At times you will have to bear hardship and will have to listen to what guests have to say. You should endure all these things, because you are serving these guests, who are the guests of God.

### When Guests are Told Not to Waste Food

The Hospitality and Food department have to hear the most [criticism]... I have seen your arrangements and there is not much conflict here because food is given in packages. But at times food is wasted and guests are told not to waste food, doing this creates bitterness.

### Flaws and Inadequacies Should be Reported

You should endure to your utmost ability. It is necessary for you to endure with full composure if ever a guest is harsh to you... All departments must have made a register in which they would have noted down all flaws that were experienced during the Jalsa... Muntazmin should inform all volunteers of those flaws and inadequacies that say "such and such inadequacy or flaw occurred in the department and it should be avoided this year."

### New Inadequacies Do Come About

At times, new inadequacies present themselves which were not present in the previous year... It has been noticed that if the inadequacies of previous years are kept in view then it is for the better.

### The Cleanliness Department is a Very Importance Department

The Cleanliness Department is a very important department... Rather than having conflicts with guests, the department should be active enough to endure cleaning with full composure, rather than looking at guests with disdain and creating conflicts, complete your cleaning tasks with full composure.

### The Atmosphere Should Seem Exquisite

The Jalsa Gāh and its surroundings should seem exquisite and attention should be given to this aspect. There should not be any sort of garbage. Not a single bag, plate, cup, glass etc. should be seen lying around. The Cleanliness Department should be very active... The standard of cleanliness should be very high, for cleanliness has a great effect on guests

and observers.

### Offer Ṣalāt With Steadiness

The most important matter is that volunteers should be regular in offering their Ṣalāt... The Muntazmin of every department should ensure and make arrangements for their volunteers to offer Ṣalāt with steadiness and in congregation.

Then, at all times, all tasks should be carried out with prayers so that God, the Exalted, may bless your work.

By the grace of Allāh, the Exalted, the rest of the arrangements are now organized such that no hard feelings are created.

### Guests of Jalsa

There are some homes where guests are staying. These hosts should also demonstrate fortitude. Relatives are staying in some homes. Do not think of them as relatives, rather think of them as being guests of Jalsa. As such they should not face any difficulty. All guests should be given the best treatment whether they are relatives or not. May Allāh the Exalted give you the ability to do so. May you carry out your duties and obligation in the best manner.

### At the End of Jalsa, Much Cleaning Needs to be Done

When the Jalsa comes to an end, there is much cleaning that needs to be done. Those volunteering in the Langar Khana should not rely on the Cleanliness Department. Rather they should themselves clean as needed.

(Weekly Al-Faḍl International London, June 17 – August 9, 2005)



# Etiquette of Attending Jalsa Sālāna

The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> has prayed for all participants of the Jalsa - past, present and future - in the following words:

“I pray to God that He be with all those who are coming to attend the Jalsa. May God grant them great rewards, may He show Mercy on them and remove their hardships and sorrows. May He let them have what they desire and raise them on the Day of Resurrection along with those to whom He has shown Mercy and His Grace. ‘O God, O You who are the great Granter, the Benevolent and Merciful, the Remover of hardships, do listen to all these my prayers and grant us victory over our opponents with great glaring signs, for You have the power to do whatever You like. Amīn.” (Ishtiharāt, Vol.1 pg.342, December 7, 1892)

This is no ordinary gathering. There are many benefits of Jalsa to the participants. Members should utilize this opportunity to renew their personal faith and spirituality, meet and establish friendship with other members of the community, welcome new members into the fold of the community and remember those who have passed away in the previous year and pray for them.

Jalsa participants should:

- Pray for the safe travel of all members to and from Jalsa
- Try to portray the true and beautiful image of the

Jamā‘at to outsiders, especially our guests

- Co-operate with volunteers on duty to help park in appropriate spaces
- Register as soon as you come to Jalsa and put on your registration badge
- Notify security about anything suspicious, including individuals not wearing a badge
- Offer Salat in congregation at designated times
- Observe proper mosque etiquette when in the prayer area
- Listen quietly to the recitation of the Holy Qur‘ān
- Do not disturb others by talking amongst yourselves during Jalsa proceedings
- Arrive to Jalsa sessions on time
- Do not visit the dining hall or stalls during Jalsa sessions
- Keep the dining area clean and do not waste food
- Keep the bathrooms clean and report any non-functional bathrooms

immediately

- Be courteous to fellow attendees of the Jalsa
- Show respect to your elders and act in a kind manner to those younger than you
- Spend time in remembering Allāh, rather than in idle gossip
- Wear Islāmīc clothing, Men and women should cover their heads
- Women must observe Purdah and men must observe “Ghad-e-Basr” (lowering of the eyes)
- Men should not crowd near the women’s entrance
- Families should set their meeting points beforehand to avoid crowding in these areas
- Make sure that children as well as teenagers are on their best behavior
- Parents should come prepared and bring formula, supplies, snack and diapers etc. for their infants
- Constantly pray for the success of Jalsa



In the name of Allāh, the Gracious, the Merciful

# 37<sup>TH</sup> JALSA SĀLĀNA CANADA 2013

JULY 5,6,7, 2013 INTERNATIONAL CENTRE, MISSISSAUGA

## DAY 1 – Friday July 5, 2013

### At Bai`tul Islam Mosque Each Day

3:45 am Tahajjud Prayer

4:30 am Fajr Prayer and Dars

### At International Centre

12:30 pm First Adhan

1:00 pm Friday Sermon, Juma` and `Asr Prayers

2:15 pm Lunch

### SESSION I

4:30 pm Recitation from the Holy Qur'an and Translation

4:40 pm Poem and Translation

4:55 pm Introductory Remarks

5:00 pm Allah is the Friend of Those who Believe.(2:258)  
by Maulāna Imtiaz Ahmad Sraa

5:25 pm Relevance of the Holy Qur'an in the 21st  
Century

by Dr. Saleemur Rahman Ottawa

5:50 pm Morality in a Secular Society

by Ataul Wahid Lahaye

6:15 pm Announcements

7:00 pm Dinner

### At Bai`tul Islam Mosque

9:15 pm Maghrib and `Ishaa Prayers

### SESSION II

#### DAY 2 – Saturday July 6, 2013

A simultaneous translation in English will be provided.

10:30 am Recitation from the Holy Quran and Translation

10:45 am Poem and Translation

11:00 am Salat Safeguards Against Fahsha  
by Maulāna Naveed Mangla

11:30 am True Islamic Brotherhood  
by Abdul Hameed Warraich

12:00 pm Khilafat Establishes the  
Kingdom of Allah on the Earth  
by Maulāna Hadi Ali Chaudhry

1:00 pm Love of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> for  
his Master Holy Prophet Muhammad<sup>sa</sup>  
by Maulāna Ghulam Misbah Baluch

1:00 pm Announcements

1:30 pm Lunch

3:45 pm Zuhr and `Asr Prayers

### SESSION III

4:00 pm Recitation from the Holy Qur'an and Translation

4:15 pm Poem and Translation

4:20 pm Introductory Remarks

4:25 pm Extremism in Islam?

by Maulāna Farhan Iqbal

4:45 pm Establishing Peace on Earth

by Farhan Qureshi

5:10 pm Guest Speakers

Presentation of the annual "Zafarullah Khan  
Award for Public Service"

5:45 pm Keynote Address: Holy Prophet Muhammad<sup>sa</sup>  
A Prophet for all Times

by Maulāna Mubarak Ahmad Nazir

Missionary In-Charge Canada

6:30 pm Announcements

6:45 pm Dinner

### At Bai`tul Islam Mosque

9:15 pm Maghrib and `Isha Prayers

### SESSION IV

#### DAY 3 – Sunday July 7, 2013

10:30 am Recitation from the Holy Qur'an and Translation

10:45 am Poem and Translation

11:00 am Why I Believe in God

by Fazal Masood Malik, Charlottetown, PEI

11:20 am Martyrs of Ahmadiyyat

by Maulāna Afzal Mirza

11:40 am Personal Peace and Youth

by Tahir Ahmad

12:05 pm Distribution of Education Awards

12:15 pm Inauguration of Baitur Rahman Mosque

Video Presentation

12:25 pm Concluding Address:

Answering the Call of Khilafat

Lal Khan Malik

Amīr Jamā'at Aḥmadīyya Canada

Silent Prayer Announcements

1:15 pm Zuhr and `Asr Prayers

1:30 pm Lunch

Jalsa Sālāna Canada 2012 Speech

## Beyond the Veil

Nadia Ahmed

My dear sisters and beloved guests of Jalsa Sālāna, Assalāmu alaikum wa rahmātullahi wa barakāthahu. By the Grace of Allāh, we are gathered here today for this blessed occasion and I have been given the privilege to speak to you about the life of a Muslim woman beyond the veil.

Allāh desires that our eyes and hearts and all our limbs and our susceptibilities should remain pure. He says in the Holy Qur'ān,

“And say to the believing women that they restrain their looks and guard their private parts and that they display not their beauty or their embellishment except that which is apparent thereof, and that they draw their head coverings over their bosoms” (24:32).

This verse clearly explains what constitutes the Islāmic veil and which steps are necessary to fulfill this commandment. Men and women alike have been instructed to restrain their looks, as it is through one's eyes that the most evil thoughts enter one's mind. The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> states that it is necessary that one should cultivate the habit of *ghadd-e-basar* (minding one's gaze) in his or her social life; this is a blessed habit through which one's natural impulses would be converted into a high moral quality without interfering with one's social needs. In this way, the *hijāb* or head covering is simply one extension of the veil. However, it is *only* when the veil extends to our hearts and minds that we can reach the highest level of *ghadd-e-basar* and fully achieve the blessings of *purdah*, as commanded by God Almighty.<sup>1</sup>

As human beings, it is in our nature to take various precautionary measures to safeguard ourselves from both foreseeable and unpredictable circumstances. Just take the weather for

example, it is a bright sunny day but the forecast calls for a chance of showers. So naturally, we apply sun screen, but we also take our umbrella along just in case it rains. Now, are these preventative measures commandments of God? No. These are courses of action we take based on our natural instinct to protect our physical and mental well-being. But what about our spiritual well-being? What thoughts have we given to those precautionary measures which progress and safeguard our physical and spiritual development? My dear sisters, I would like us all to ponder upon the question just raised.

Allāh says in the Holy Qur'ān,

“O Prophet! Tell thy wives and thy daughters and the women of the believers that they should draw close to them portions of their loose outer coverings. That is nearer that they may thus be distinguished and not molested” (33:60).

God tells us that through the observance of the veil, He will guard our chastity and protect us from the social ills of society, a society where women are free to carry out a vast number of duties. In this way, the Islāmic *purdah* serves a double purpose. It enjoins privacy and recommends decorum and dignified behaviour.

The Book of God does not aim at keeping Muslim women in seclusion like prisoners. The purpose of Islām was to bring us humans closer to God Almighty and to eradicate any inequality that existed between men and women. Both are obligated to worship God alone, to fast during Ramadhan, to give charity, to perform Hajj, and to observe the commandment of the veil.

The *hijāb* accomplishes what women throughout the world strive for: respect for their character and intelligence, rather than their looks and outer

appearance. Subjugation of woman is a predicament for the whole human race, irrespective of one's faith or ethnicity. Islām protects women from this type of objectification. Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih IV<sup>th</sup> beautifully explains this:

“Women are expected to cover themselves decently and are advised not to behave in a manner as to attract attention from men. The use of cosmetics and ornaments are not forbidden, but they should not be worn when appearing in public to attract attention. The only thing which Islām would not endorse, would be to turn women into playthings. According to Islām, women must be emancipated from exploitation.”<sup>2</sup>

Therefore, my outer garment is intended to show that I am a Muslim woman who can perform her daily activities, without the mental anguish of being looked at by those of questionable character.

One might ponder as to why the topic of the *hijāb* has constantly been making headlines for the past few years. Perhaps it is important to recognize that the most misunderstood concept of Islām in the Western world is that of *purdah*. People have adopted extreme attitudes with respect to the veil, striving to abolish the veil altogether. What these countries fail to realize is that the very thing they continue to ban and construct laws against is the key to a peaceful and moral society. *Purdah* is by no means oppressive. It is in fact an extremely empowering concept. The concept of empowerment, therefore, refers to increasing the spiritual, social, educational and gender strength of an individual. In the Islāmic sense, the empowerment of a Muslim woman grants her the freedom to choose who can see her and who cannot.

History shows us that the veil is not

unique to Islām. The revealed religions practiced the veil as a symbol of modesty, piety and submission to God, dating back to 13<sup>th</sup> century BC in ancient Assyria. Beginning with Judaism we learn: “When the Jewess of Jerusalem left her house, her face was hidden, so that her features could not be recognized...failure to cover was an affront to her modesty.”<sup>3</sup> The Bible taught the wearing of a veil long before Islām: “When Re-bek’ah raised her eyes, she caught sight of Isaac and she swung herself down from the camel. Then she said to the servant ‘who is that walking in the field to meet us?’ and the servant said ‘it is my master’...She then proceeded to take a head cloth to cover herself.”<sup>4</sup>

Since its inception, the *hijāb* has championed the rights of women. Through practicing the *hijāb*, Muslim women have gained the respect they deserve. We need to educate others on the true nature and intention of Islām’s guidance of dress, by taking a stand and saying, “No, I am not an oppressed Muslim woman,” and by spreading the true message of Islām through our voice, our knowledge, our beliefs, and most importantly, our actions.

Islām says that physical attraction between men and women is good and pure only when within the context of the sacred institution of marriage. Some people tend to argue that they live in a civilized society and it is not a big deal if they exercise liberty with these teachings, as long as their intentions are pure. The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> states otherwise:

“It should be kept in mind that as the natural condition of man...his passions are bound to be roused, therefore being confronted with the opportunity for indulging in this vice. That is why God Almighty has not instructed us to freely gaze at men or women outside the prohibited degrees, or to contemplate and discuss their beauty, whether with pure intent or otherwise.”<sup>5</sup>

The observance of the *hijāb* is indeed a matter of one’s heart. Allāh knows our deepest thoughts and our every intention, and He is the Best of Judges. But what about our surroundings? One’s environment has a great affect on an individual. What if someone knows that their thoughts, intentions and actions are pure? Is it then necessary for them to follow the commandment of *purdah*?

Now let us look at this from a different angle. Let us take a driver for example. She is driving on the highway without

her seatbelt, going at 50km above the speed limit. A police officer pulls her over and questions her. She replies, “Officer, I’m an expert driver, I know how to control my car and my speed. Nothing bad could happen.” Is this a defence we would present for breaking the law? Is this a defence we would present to our Beloved God Almighty on the Day of Judgement? Laws are there to abide by and to protect us. Just because you are an expert, does not mean that you can control your surroundings, the outcome of the situation, or the intentions of others. I am not saying that every person we encounter in life will have impure thoughts or will engage in evil acts, but as a part of our human nature, we should always strive to protect ourselves; and this is why my dear sisters, it is essential to take that extra step by coming under the protection of the veil.

Now, based on the references and examples that I have mentioned, we understand that the observance of *purdah* is a commandment of God, and is applicable to the believing woman for all times to come. Yet, the younger generation is still hesitant to wear the *hijāb*. One of the most commonly formed opinions amongst the younger crowd is that observing *purdah* at school or work is a barrier in their future success. To clear this misunderstanding, I would like to share with you my personal journey as a *purdah* observing woman, one that I am sure is similar to the experiences of many of my sisters here today.

My journey of embracing the veil began with the thoughts and questions that constantly lingered in my mind – the Qur’ān commanding us to draw a veil over our heads, my parents stressing the importance of the *hijāb*, people questioning why I did not wear it, and the fact that I followed the commandment of *salat*, but neglected the commandment of *purdah*. I wanted to partake in this step as well, but I just could not wrap my head around why? I prayed to Allāh for direction and wisdom, and thanks to His Divine guidance, everything began to come together.

The *hijāb* became a part of me. I wore it and continue to wear it with confidence and pride. I have found a great deal of strength through the observance of *purdah*. It did not prevent me from excelling in the educational field, nor has it prevented me from achieving greater ranks in the professional field. The *hijāb* has never been an obstacle for me. Whether dealing with clients, management or staff, I have always been

appreciated, accepted and respected for who I am and what I believe. Yes I do come across the odd questions like, ‘You actually have hair?’ ‘Just take it off for one day, it’s not a big deal!’ and my favourite one, ‘Do you sleep in the *hijāb*?’ Despite being humorous, in reality, these questions have been a great mode of preaching the essence of the veil, and enlightening society about Aḥmadiyyat, the true Islām.

My dear sisters, the same will happen when you embrace the *hijāb*. Remember, God always guides those who seek to win His pleasure. He would not create something or make it mandatory if there was no need or purpose for it. We should therefore constantly recite the following Qur’ānic verse:

“My Lord, bestow wisdom on me and join me with the righteous” (26:84).

Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> stresses the importance of educating our children from infancy, by teaching them the value of modesty and showing them the wisdom behind God’s commandments. It is of utmost importance that parents should practice what they preach. We cannot leave our sons and daughters to do as they please and assume that they are young and that they will learn when they grow up; this type of thinking results in a gap in the education and development of our future generations.

My dear sisters, we are living in the 21<sup>st</sup> century where we are excelling in all walks of life, from the innovation of technology to advances in the medical field. As teachers, doctors, engineers, scientists, journalists, and professionals in the business field, *purdah* observing women are seen furthering their education and continuing to climb the ladder of success; reminding us, that Muslim women can and do play a significant role, and are valuable assets to the progress of society. Our beloved Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> has brought our attention again to the extreme importance of *purdah* and how it is not a hindrance or barrier in our worldly and spiritual successes, by reminding us of the exemplary characters of pious and *purdah* observing women. Such as Hazrat Aisha<sup>ra</sup>, who addressed important religious gatherings attended by male companions of the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup>, and the example of Hazrat Umme Amara<sup>ra</sup>, who during times of warfare carried out tremendous acts of bravery and courage on the battlefield.

*Continued on page 15...*

# Your Health and Hepatitis C

*Submitted by Noorud Din*

## Early Screening and Community Engagement Important to Remain Healthy

Often it takes an emergency or illness to make us stop and consider our health. For many immigrants to Canada, getting a job or providing for family can seem more important than finding a doctor and looking after their own health. Ignoring personal health, however, can lead to serious chronic diseases such as heart and liver disease and diabetes.

Early testing and diagnosis are important in managing chronic illness. One major illness is hepatitis C, which is transmitted through blood-to-blood contact and affects the liver.

According to the World Health Organization, the number of people that have hepatitis C in Pakistan is estimated at 4.8 per cent with a much larger population, compared with 0.8 percent in Canada. Immigrants may arrive with a higher number of hepatitis C infections than people living in Canada.

Many people can have hepatitis C and not know it because you can have the disease for many years without experiencing any symptoms. Also, immigrants arriving in Canada are routinely screened for HIV, tuberculosis and syphilis, but not for any kind of hepatitis.

“If you look at Pakistan, it has the second-highest prevalence in the world for hepatitis C. There are about 10 million people in Pakistan who are infected with hepatitis C. This is also the majority of the immigrant population that lives in Vaughan,” says Noor Din, Executive Director of Human Endeavour. “If the rate is so high in Pakistan and it’s the biggest immigrant community here, you can imagine how many people are infected without knowing it.”

Studies show that immigrants access the healthcare system less and often face

cultural and linguistic barriers to service and information.

## Immigrant Health Declines Over Time

Studies show that even though immigrants arrive in better health than the general population in Canada, their health often declines over time: “If we consider the ‘healthy immigrant effect’ and the fact that immigrants tend to get sicker over time, the two main health issues we have to consider are chronic disease and mental health,” says Nicole Nitti, Medical Director and a family physician with Access Alliance Multicultural Health and Community Services in Toronto.

Stress, poverty, stigma, and cultural and linguistic barriers are all factors that can stand in the way of immigrants seeking healthcare and health information.

Within a community, fear and stigma around being ill can also prevent people from seeking out information, getting tested and asking for support.

## Community Organizations Address Barriers, Provide Information and Support

The first steps to addressing illness and maintaining health can be getting informed and connecting with professional and community support. There are community organizations throughout Ontario that offer many community-building programs and address barriers that people face in accessing services.

Human Endeavour, for example, has been serving the Pakistani and South Asian community in Vaughan for the last eight years. Their programs focus on health and wellness, economic development, social enterprise and community engagement.

They have developed many social businesses to provide job and skills

training in response to the issue of financial stability among immigrants. One key challenge for immigrants is gaining recognition for their credentials in the Canadian workforce: “Economic stability has a very direct impact on health,” says Noor Din. “If people are financially stronger, they will have much better health as well.” These new resources are meant to reach immigrant communities that may not have much awareness of hepatitis C in Canada.

## Dispelling Myths About Hepatitis C

Are the myths about hepatitis C endangering your health?

Could you have hepatitis C? Impossible, you say. But you may be wrong. That is because there are assumptions made about the virus, spread through blood-to-blood contact, which are incorrect.

Dispelling those myths about hepatitis C could be a life-saver. Here are the facts:

### Myth #1: “There’s a vaccine for hepatitis C.”

TV commercials may lead you to believe that a simple vaccine will protect you from hepatitis. That is true for hepatitis A and B, but *not* for hepatitis C.

The good news is that while there is no vaccine for hepatitis C, treatment for the virus is available. Get tested for hepatitis C so you will know if you need treatment.

Since a person can be infected with more than one kind of hepatitis, it is a good idea to get vaccinated against hepatitis A and B.

### Myth #2: “Only certain lifestyles put people at risk for hepatitis C infection.”

People sometimes think that only those who are engaged in ‘risky behaviour’ can get hepatitis C. The reality is that anyone can be infected with hepatitis C for any number of reasons.

Hepatitis C is transferred through blood-to-blood contact, so there are many different activities that can put people at risk of infection, including:

- unsafe medical or dental practices, such as blood transfusions where blood is not screened or procedures where equipment is not sterilized
- sharing needles or equipment for drug use
- body art like piercing and tattooing
- shared personal items like razors, toothbrushes or nail clippers

You may not realize that piercing or sharing personal items such as razors would be ways in which hepatitis C can be transmitted, but that is the case.

**Myth #3: “I have medical care I trust. I’m not at risk.”**

A person could be at risk for hepatitis C infection during a medical or dental procedure if a needle was reused, equipment was not sterilized or blood was not screened for a transfusion.

Screening for hepatitis C in Canada’s blood supply began in 1992. Blood

transfusions before that year may have put people at risk for hepatitis C infection. Also, the safety of medical and dental procedures and the blood supply is not standardized worldwide, so immigrants to Canada may, without their knowledge, have been infected with hepatitis C in their home country.

**Myth #4: “I’m healthy and have no symptoms, so I must not have hepatitis C.”** Hepatitis C infection may not show any symptoms for many years, so many people can have it and not know. Early diagnosis can lead to better treatment outcomes. Getting tested is the only way to know your status.

How at risk might you be to having hepatitis C? Take the quiz below and think about whether you should get tested for hepatitis C.

**QUIZ: Should You Get Tested for Hepatitis C?**

Here are some questions to consider if you are thinking about getting tested.

1. Did you receive a blood transfusion before 1992?
2. Have you ever shared a needle or

other equipment for injecting drugs, even if it was only once?

3. Have you ever had body art like a tattoo or piercing, acupuncture, electrolysis or semi-permanent makeup done with equipment that may not have been sterilized?
4. Have you ever had medical or dental treatment where equipment may have been shared or not sterilized?

If you answered yes to any of the above questions, you may want to speak to your healthcare provider about getting tested for hepatitis C.

For more information about hepatitis C, go to [yourlanguage.hepcinfo.ca](http://yourlanguage.hepcinfo.ca). In Ontario, you can also call the AIDS and Sexual Health Infoline at Toronto Public Health at 1-800-668-2437. They offer free and anonymous counselling to anyone in Ontario about hepatitis, HIV and sexual health. They can also refer you to a clinic in Ontario to get tested.

The good news is that hepatitis C can be treated. Getting tested early will ease your mind and provide the opportunity to ensure a healthy future. Do it for you, for your family and for your community.

## Announcements

### Demise

- We are sad to announce that Ramiza Begum *ṣāhiba*, wife of Samad Ali Ghazi *ṣāhib* member of Sunderban Jama’at Bangladesh has passed away on March 25, 2013 at the age of 85 years. *Innā lillāhi wa inna ilaihi Rāji’ūn*. The funeral prayer was read in absentia on March 29, 2012 by Malik Lal Khān *ṣāhib*, Amīr Jamā’at Aḥmadiyya Canada in Baitul Islām Mosque after Friday prayers.

The deceased was a Musiya and leaves behind five sons and five daughters, including one daughter named Anwar Parwin in Peace Village East Jama’at. As well as his sister Mrs. Rezia Begum wife of Mr. Niẓām al-Haqq *ṣāhib*’s, Peace Village East.

- We are sad to announce that Issa Yacoob *ṣāhib* son of Hanif

Yacoob *ṣāhib* former Missionary in Trinidad has passed, member of Malton Jama’at has passed away on April 10, 2013 at the age of 52 years. *Innā lillāhi wa inna ilaihi Rāji’ūn*. The funeral prayer was read by Mirzā Muḥammad Afzal *ṣāhib* at Beniasia Funeral Home and burial took place at Beachwood Cemetery.

The deceased leaves behind one son named Sarfraz Yaqub.

May Allāh grant all the deceased forgiveness and elevate their stations in heaven, *Āmīn*. May Allāh also shower His Mercy upon the grieving families and give them solace and fortitude, and enable them to bear this loss with patience. *Āmīn*.

### Births

- We are pleased to announce that by the Grace of Allāh, Sadaqat Ahmed Chaudhary *ṣāhib*

and Hinna Chaudhary *ṣāhiba* blessed with a daughter, Soha Chaudhary, on December 25, 2012. *Alḥumdulillāh*.

- We are pleased to announce that by the Grace of Allāh, Khurram Hameed Bajwa *ṣāhib* and Farhana Qudsyā *ṣāhiba* of Weston South Jama’at were blessed with their third son, Safeer Khurram Bajwa, on February 1, 2013. *Alḥumdulillāh*.
- We are pleased to announce that by the Grace of Allāh, Nasir Muzaffar *ṣāhib* and Nazia Muzaffar *ṣāhiba* of Suriname Jama’at were blessed with their first son, Riyan Muzaffar, on April 24, 2013. *Alḥumdulillāh*.
- We are pleased to announce that by the Grace of Allāh, Mustafa Mirza *ṣāhib* and Saba Majeed *ṣāhiba* were blessed with a son, Nyle Ahmad Mirza, on May 1, 2013. *Alḥumdulillāh*.



# Kitchener-Waterloo Jamā'at Report: National Tablīgh Day, May 5, 2013

*Nabeel Rana*

By the grace of Allāh, this was another huge milestone in the history of Tablīgh Days for the local AMJ-Kitchener-Waterloo branch. We campaigned in the City of Guelph and broke many previous records.

48 Volunteers (including youth, seniors, children, ladies and gents) participated in the Campaign and we knocked 560 doors. (Highest ever)

Members gathered at the 190 Fife Road Community Centre to embark on the campaign. News media consisting of CTV, CBC Radio and Guelph Mercury also arrived at the scene. After briefings, Hafiz Talal Raja ṣāhib lead us in loud recitations of prayers of the Holy Qur'ān, ḥadīth and from the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> several times. Thereafter pre-prepared routes were given to teams to 2 or 3 individuals.

## Summary of Report

- No. of Households participated: 21 [Total valid active tajnīd has 30 households]
- No. of members participated: 48 (including children, seniors and ladies)
- No. of flyers distributed: 560

Comments: Like last year, volunteers also distributed an offer for a free copy of the Holy Qur'ān.

## Success Factors

This peace campaign was an enormous success because of the following measurable criteria.

1. 70% of households participated in the Tablīgh day - which is up from 52% (2012), 43% (2011) and 34% (2010). We thought we had reached plateau last year, but Allāh has raised the bar on

attendance once again. Alḥamdulillāh. This is a tremendous accomplishment. Below, I have noted some factors which contributed to increased attendance:

- We had multiple channels of saiḡin to remind and encourage members (a) Emails (b) Text messages (c) Mailing a flyer to each home (d) Assigned all members to Amila members to phone and motivate
- Moreover, almost all members were encouraged and motivated by our venue host, Shafiq Khan ṣāhib a few days before the event.
- Posters were posted at the mosque a few weeks prior to the event and encouraging announcements were made during Jumu'a prayers
- We arranged for rides for families and members who needed.

2. Specific Routes consisting of 30-40 houses each were distributed to mostly 2-member teams. Some teams consisted of children and some ladies. Others consisted of seniors. Most participated with great vigor - Alḥamdulillāh.

3. As usual, a good number of children participated in the campaign and showed great enthusiasm and team work. This was a great team building event for children.

4. Press and Media releases were sent to several media outlets of the region. Several media personnel were personally contacted and requested to cover. Alḥamdulillāh one pre-event radio interview and three post event CTV, CBC Radio and Guelph Mercury coverage made our message to reach thousands in the region. These are all mainstream media outlets and we were given prime time on each.

## Pre-event Coverage

- 570 News Talk Radio:

## Post-event Coverage

- CTV News
- CBC - One Radio
- Guelph Mercury News

5. Food and refreshments was provided to all volunteers who participated. This was greatly appreciated by those who attended. This provided a very good social time for volunteers to discuss the responses and be motivated about Tablīgh.

6. Each volunteer who participated in the campaign also received a t-shirt gift to wear and display the message of peace of the Jamā'at. This created a lot of buzz within the volunteers and they appeared as a team when all wearing the same t-shirt.

## Organizing Team

Special thanks and Jazakamullāh to the following members for working very hard and in assisting with all necessary logistics related to the Tablīgh Day event:

1. Daud Nasir ṣāhib - For preparing routes and maps and coordinating other logistics
2. Nasir Khokhar ṣāhib - For motivating members and all Ansar members of the Jamā'at
3. Shafiq Khan ṣāhib - For motivating all members and preparing the the venue
4. Mrs. Shafiq Khan ṣāhib - For assisting in the preparation of the venue
5. Abdul Rauf ṣāhib - For helping in the venue preparation
6. Naeem Khan ṣāhib - For assisting in the venue preparation

Several others also helped in cleanup and other logistics. Therefore please keep all

volunteers in your special prayers.

I would like to thank all those who participated or helped us through their good wishes and prayers. Everyone is requested to pray for all those who participated in the campaign and for all those to whom the message was delivered. May Allāh open up their hearts for Aḥmadiyyat - the true and pure Islām!

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*Continued from page 11...*

Focusing on our spiritual rejuvenation, Huzoor's<sup>aa</sup> following words resonated in my mind over and over:

“We must make a renewed pledge, no matter what worldly engagement you have, no matter what taunt or mockery you face, no matter how harshly people treat you, you will never remove your hijāb and religious attire.”<sup>6</sup>

Everything we do in life has a purpose and reason. If I am doing something for the mere pleasure of Allāh, then that is all that should matter. I urge each one of us here today to analyze ourselves, our thoughts and our actions and look deep into the commandments of Allāh and the wisdom behind it. The only deterrent is that we have dug our roots so deep in the material world, that we have been blinded by its worldly gain, and have forgotten our true purpose. May Allāh enable us to follow His commandments and be pious and righteous Muslim women. Remember my dear sisters, it is never too late to tread on the path of righteousness. It is all dependent upon taking a step in the right direction. My dear sisters, if you come to Allāh walking, He will come to you running.

**(Endnotes)**

1. The Philosophy of the Teachings of Islām, pg 23-25.
2. Islām's Response to Contemporary Issues, pg 92-93.
3. Jeremias
4. Genesis 24:64-65
5. The Philosophy of the Teachings of Islām, pg 49.
6. Jalsa Sālāna USA, 2012



# Tabligh Report: Majlis Khuddāmul Aḥmadiyya Canada

Zahid Masud, Muhtamim Tabligh, Majlis Khuddāmul Aḥmadiyya Canada

## November 2012 - February 2013

By the immense mercy of Allāh the Exalted, *Majlis Khuddāmul Aḥmadiyya* is saying *Labaik* to the call of our beloved *Imam* in spreading the message of *Islām and Aḥmadiyyat* to various cities and towns of Canada. The summary of these activities is as follows:

Total towns/cities where the message of Islām and Aḥmadiyyat was spread: 10

No. of people reached: 141, 000

Total interfaith Symposia held: 17

Total open Qur’ān House exhibitions held: 12

Total Tabligh / book stalls / sessions held: 39

### Events

- Astonishing story of the Prophet – Muhammad<sup>sa</sup> – Nov 20, 2012, Roy Thompson Hall, Toronto
- Astonishing story of the Prophet – Muhammad<sup>sa</sup> – March 25, 2013, Vancouver Playhouse
- Astonishing story of the Prophet – Muhammad<sup>sa</sup> – April 4, 2013, Vic Juba Community Theater Lloydminster
- A series of events in University is being held by Department of Umur Talaba in Universities

Food Drive & Blood Drive with pledge to donate 5,000 units working together with Department of Khidmat Khalq.

## March 2013

By the sheer grace of Allāh the Almighty, *Majlis Khuddāmul Aḥmadiyya Canada* is very busy in spreading the message of *Islām and Aḥmadiyyat* to various cities and towns of Canada on a county wide campaign “Muslims for Life”. The summary of March activities is as follows:

No. of people reached: 42,000

Total interfaith Symposium held: 9

Total number of Khuddām who helped in spreading the message of Islām & Aḥmadiyyat = 715

The Astonishing story of Prophet in Vancouver Playhouse was a very successful event. Over 535 guests attended the event and learned the beautiful life of Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup>. Khuddām in British Columbia had been working for this event for the full month of March with passion and enthusiasm.

A series of World Peace Conference in Universities were held in which around 550 guests attended.

### Events

- Astonishing story of the Prophet – Muhammad<sup>sa</sup> – April 4, 2013 at Vic Juba Community Theater Lloydminster
- Food drive & Blood drive with pledge to donate 5,000 units working together with Department of Khidmat Khalaq

## April 2013

By sheer grace of Allāh the Almighty, *Majlis Khuddāmul Aḥmadiyya Canada* is busy in spreading the message of *Islām and Aḥmadiyyat* to various cities and towns across Canada on a county-wide campaign Muslims for Life. The summary of April first two weeks activities are as follows:

No. of people reached: 5,700

No. of Khuddām involved in spreading the message of Islām & Aḥmadiyyat: 116

The Astonishing story of The Prophet in Lloydminster was tremendous event. Over 70 guests attended the event and learned the beautiful life of the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup>.

Current and Upcoming Events:

Special Daiya’an Summit: A focus is being given to achieve bai’ats and changing the hearts of Non-Aḥmadīs. A workshop is being held every 2 weeks in Aiwan Tahir, Toronto and at Baitun Nur, Calgary. To join us please fill out the form or contact your Nazim Tabligh.

Food Drive & Blood Drive with pledge to donate 5,000 units working together with Department of Khidmat Khalq.

May Allāh enable us to fulfill our responsibilities in the best possible manner. Āmin! Prayers are requested for all those who have been going out despite extreme weather to spreading the message of *Islām and Aḥmadiyyat*.

Nov-12		Dec-12		Jan-13		Feb-13	
Khuddām Participated	Message was given to	Khuddām Participated	Message was given to	Khuddām Participated	Message was given to	Khuddām Participated	Message was given to
1,726	100,000	105	2,000	250	9,850	200	10,150

## Ahmadīyya Muslim Jamā'at Press Releases



### Muslim Leader Inaugurates Second Mosque of Ahmadīyya Muslim Jamā'at in Spain

On March 29, 2013, the World Head of the Ahmadīyya Muslim Jamā'at and Fifth Khalīfa, Hazrat Mirzā Masroor Aḥmad<sup>aa</sup>, inaugurated the Baitur Rahman Mosque in Valencia. It is the second Ahmadīyya Muslim Mosque to be built in Spain, following the historical Basharat Mosque in Pedro Abad, which was inaugurated in 1982.

Baitur Rahman was inaugurated as the Khalīfa of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> led the Friday Prayers from the Mosque. The event was broadcast live globally on MTA International.

During his hour-long address, Hazrat Mirzā Masroor Aḥmad<sup>aa</sup> spoke about the significance of the new Mosque and its location. He said that he had purposely chosen Valencia, because centuries ago, when Spanish rulers set out to remove all traces of Islām from the country, the local Muslims continued to practice their faith until they were forcibly banished.

Hazrat Mirzā Masroor Aḥmad<sup>aa</sup> also spoke on the demographic changes occurring in the Spanish population. He said that the Muslim population had greatly increased in the past 30 years and was set to increase further in the coming decades. Therefore, it was the responsibility of the Ahmadīyya Muslim Jamā'at in Spain to propagate the true and peaceful message of Islām to the Spanish people.

Hazrat Mirzā Masroor Aḥmad<sup>aa</sup> said:

“Islām’s re-entry into Spain was made through the Ahmadīyya Muslim Jamā'at when it built the Basharat Mosque. However, today we will only come to see the real Islām flourish in this country when the servants of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>, realizing their significance, strive to spread the beautiful and pure teachings of Islām to every single person in Spain.”

Hazrat Mirzā Masroor Aḥmad<sup>aa</sup> said that underpinning all efforts made by the Ahmadīyya Muslim Jamā'at to spread Islām was the Qur’ānic injunction that “*There should be no compulsion in religion*”(2:257). In light of this teaching, Aḥmadī Muslims would seek to win the hearts of the Spanish people with love, compassion and kindness.

Hazrat Mirzā Masroor Aḥmad<sup>aa</sup> said:

“The Spanish people are fellow citizens of the Aḥmadī Muslims who live here, and to fellow countrymen we must spread the message of love and peace. We must seek to win the hearts of the Spanish people by displaying the beautiful and pure teachings of Islām.”

Hazrat Mirzā Masroor Aḥmad<sup>aa</sup> concluded by praying:

“May this Mosque prove to be a means of presenting the true and beautiful image of Islām to the Spanish people and may all Aḥmadī Muslims who live here fulfill their responsibilities in this regard.”

To further mark the occasion, Hazrat Mirzā Masroor Aḥmad<sup>aa</sup> also unveiled a plaque to commemorate the inauguration of the Mosque.

### World Muslim Leader says New Mosque will Spread Peace and Unity in Spain

On April 3<sup>th</sup>, 2013, the Worldwide Head of the Ahmadīyya Muslim Jamā'at and Fifth Khalīfa, Hazrat Mirzā Masroor Aḥmad<sup>aa</sup>, addressed a special reception held to celebrate the recent opening of the Baitur Rahman Mosque in Valencia.

During his address, Hazrat Mirzā Masroor Aḥmad<sup>aa</sup> explained true Islāmīc teachings of peace, justice and tolerance.

The Khalīfa of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> said that he wished to reassure the Spanish people that the new Mosque would be a source of peace and compassion. He said the Mosque would foster a spirit of togetherness and unity within the society.

Hazrat Mirzā Masroor Aḥmad<sup>aa</sup> said:

“We, Aḥmadī Muslims, are not here to cause you any disturbance, but rather we are here to serve, we are here to share with you the community, to join you in your activities, and live peacefully and happily with you.”

During his address, Hazrat Mirzā Masroor Aḥmad<sup>aa</sup>, repeated the motto of the Ahmadīyya Muslim Jamā'at of ‘*Love for All, Hatred for None*,’ which was first coined by the Third Khalīfa of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>, Hazrat Mirzā Nasir Aḥmad<sup>aa</sup> during a visit to Spain in 1980.

Hazrat Mirzā Masroor Aḥmad<sup>aa</sup> said:

“Today the Ahmadīyya Muslim Community is established in more

than 200 countries, and everywhere we go we spread the message of ‘Love for All, Hatred for None’.”

The Khalīfa of the Promised Messiah<sup>aa</sup> said that due to the extremist acts of a tiny minority of ‘so-called Muslims’ the image of Islām had been unfairly tarnished in the West. He said that extremism and terrorism had nothing to do with Islām. The truth is that never once did the Holy Prophet Muhammad<sup>sa</sup> or his Rightly Guided Successors<sup>ra</sup> ever initiate any wars or acts of aggression. When permission was granted by Allāh to fight, it was given as a means to protect *all* people and *all* religions.

Hazrat Mirzā Masroor Aḥmad<sup>aa</sup> said:

“The Holy Qur’ān states that permission to fight back was given because otherwise no place of worship, be it a Church, a Synagogue, a Mosque or Temple, would remain safe from the aggressors.”

In conclusion Hazrat Mirzā Masroor Aḥmad<sup>aa</sup> said:

“This Mosque has been built to serve as a place of brotherliness and unity. Whoever comes here with pious intentions, be it a Muslim or a non-Muslim, will have the doors of the Mosque always open for him or her. This Mosque has been named Masjid Baitur Rahman – that is a House of God, who is Ever Gracious and shows kindness to His Creation without any conditions. We, who have built this Mosque, will ensure that we continue to serve and help the communities we live in and serve God’s Creation.”

Dozens of guests attended the reception, including a range of politicians and dignitaries, some of whom also addressed the audience.

The Mayor of Pobla de Vallbona, the town where the new Mosque is located, said that she was delighted to welcome so many guests to her town. She praised the Aḥmadīyya Muslim Community for “*always promoting peace and tolerance in the world.*”

Jose Maria Alonso MP said that he had been greatly impressed when he met Hazrat Mirzā Masroor Aḥmad<sup>aa</sup> a few months earlier at the European Parliament and when listening to his address in Brussels. The MP said it was imperative that interfaith relations between Muslims and

Christians continued to develop.

Luis Santamaria, Head Representative of Spanish Government in Valencia, also spoke of the need for interfaith dialogue. He said that Hazrat Mirzā Masroor Aḥmad<sup>aa</sup> had always promoted Islām’s message of peace. He added that “*all people of goodwill were welcome in Spain.*”

Juan Cotino, President of Valencia’s Regional Parliament, called the new Mosque a “*truly beautiful building,*” and said that the event itself was a “*symbol of goodness,*” as people of different faiths and beliefs were joined together.

Prior to the event, Hazrat Mirzā Masroor Aḥmad<sup>aa</sup> met with various dignitaries, whilst immediately after the reception he met personally with all of the guests.

## “The first ever ‘Charter for the Protection of Religion and Religious Rights’ is found in the Holy Qur’ān”

Worldwide Head of the Aḥmadīyya Muslim Jamā‘at addresses Reception marking opening of the Baitur Raḥmān Mosque in Delta, British Columbia

On May 18, 2013, the Worldwide Head of the Aḥmadīyya Muslim Jamā‘at and Fifth

Successor, His Holiness Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad<sup>aa</sup>, addressed a Special Reception held to celebrate the opening of the Baitur Raḥmān Mosque in Delta, British Columbia.

During his address, His Holiness<sup>aa</sup> reassured the audience that they had no reason to fear Aḥmadīyya Mosques because they were built only for the worship of God and for the sake of serving humanity.

Speaking about the new Mosque, His Holiness<sup>aa</sup> said: “I would like to proclaim and declare that this Mosque will prove to be a source of spreading love, affection, peace and brotherhood for all people irrespective of whether they are Ahmadi or non-Ahmadi or whether they are Muslim or non-Muslim. The doors of our Mosque will always be open to the people of all religions, because this Mosque is a means of manifesting God’s Grace, Mercy, Love and Compassion for mankind.”

His Holiness<sup>aa</sup> also addressed the issue of

Jihad by explaining that when permission for defensive war was given to the early Muslims, it was given as a means to protect all religions and all places of worship.

His Holiness<sup>aa</sup> said: “In essence, it can be said that the first ever ‘Charter for the Protection of Religion and Religious Rights’ is found in the Holy Qur’ān and it has been associated directly to the Mosque. In other words, whenever a new Mosque is built, a new chapter for religious freedom is opened.”

The world leader also used his address to congratulate the Canadian Government for recently opening an ‘Office of Religious Freedom’.

His Holiness<sup>aa</sup> said: “In my view, the Government deserves praise and congratulations for opening a designated ‘Office of Religious Freedom’. We fully support the Government of Canada in this endeavour. We will fully cooperate with them in every possible effort to establish religious freedom throughout the world.”

Prior to the keynote address a range of politicians and dignitaries also took to the stage

Kerry-Lynne Findlay, Associate Minister for Defence, read out a message on behalf of Prime Minister Stephen Harper congratulating the Aḥmadīyya Muslim Jamā‘at on the opening of the new Mosque.

Dr Andrew Bennett, Ambassador of Canada’s Office of Religious Freedom said he was amazed “by the message of the Aḥmadīyya Muslim Jamā‘at and its commitment to Love for All, Hatred for None.”

Lois Jackson, Mayor of the Corporation of Delta said the Mosque had become “an instant landmark”. She said it was “a great honour to have Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad in the city.”

Judy Sgro, Member of Parliament, said the fact that so many dignitaries were in attendance illustrated “the love and respect we all hold for the Aḥmadīyya Muslim Community.” She said the Aḥmadīyya Community was “an example for the entire world.

Prior to the event, Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad<sup>aa</sup>, answered questions during a 30 minute press conference. Amongst the media outlets included were ‘CBC’, ‘CTV’, ‘Global TV’ as well as several Ethnic media outlets.



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# NATIONAL MOSQUE FUND

Alḥamdulillāh, our Jamā'at is growing rapidly. This growth is creating a pressing need to have more Mosques all over Canada.

To fulfill this need, all our brothers and sisters are requested to generously donate towards the National Mosque Fund on a monthly basis so that we can meet the ever growing need of building new Mosques. The sacrifices made today will Inshā'Allāh safeguard both our and our progeny's future.

May Allāh the Almighty shower His innumerable blessings on those who come forward and donate out of that which Allāh Himself has given.

May Allāh bestow upon all of us the strength and courage to answer the call of the hour.

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Khalid Naeem,  
National Secretary Finance Canada

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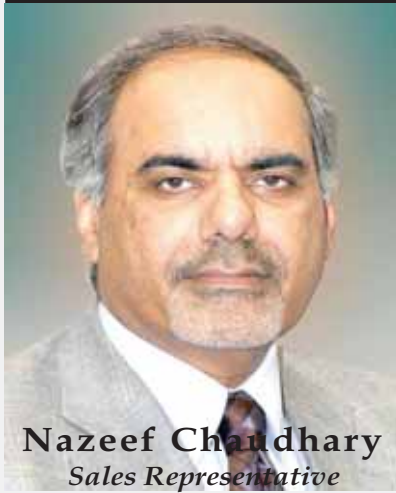
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3 منٹ

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