

Al-Nahl

WINTER 1994



The final resting place of Yus Asaf, the Gatherer, known as Eesa in Islam and as Jesus in Christianity, peace be upon him.

A Review of his mission and life – inside.

The Al-Nahl

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**Mansoor Seyyed, Qaid Mal,
Majlis Ansarullah, U.S.A.**

Al-Nahl

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GOODNESS AND FORBEARANCE

AL-QURAN

وَلَا تَسْتَوِ الْحَسَنَةُ وَلَا السَّيِّئَةُ مُرَادْفَةً بِلَا تِي هِيَ أَحْسَنُ فَإِذَا الَّذِي بَيْنَكَ وَبَيْنَهُ عَدَاوَةٌ
كَأَنَّهُ وَدِّي حَمِيمٌ وَمَا يُلْقِيهَا إِلَّا الَّذِينَ صَبَرُوا، وَمَا يُلْقِيهَا إِلَّا ذُو حِظٍّ عَظِيمٍ

And good and evil are not alike. Repel evil with that which is best. And lo, he, between whom and thyself was enmity, will become as though he were a warm friend.

But none is granted it save those who are steadfast; And none is granted it save those who possess a large share of good. (41:35, 36)

AL-HADITH

Hazrat Ayesha (may Allah be pleased with her) relates: Whenever the Holy Prophet (Peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) was given a choice he adopted the easier course, unless it was sinful, in which case he avoided it more than anyone else. Nor did he seek revenge for a personal wrong, unless it involved violation of a divine command in which case he exacted a penalty for the sake of Allah. (Bokhari and Muslim)

MALFOOZAT

Al-istiqamat fauqul karamat (steadfastness is a better virtue), is a famous saying, therefore, it is befitting of our jamaat to advance in moral virtues. They must remember that if they are persecuted, then as far as possible, they should respond with courtesy and politeness. Violence and aggression should not be necessary even as a revenge. Man possesses an inner instinct which is of three forms; *Ammara*, *Lawwama* and *Mutmainna*. In a state of *Ammara*, one does not have control over emotions and unnecessary agitation. He exceeds the limits and thus falls below the moral norm. In a state of *Lawwama*, however, such control is retained. I am reminded of a story which has been reported by Sheikh Saadi in *Bostaan*, that a pious man was bitten by a dog. When he reached home, the members of his household discovered that a dog had bitten him. There was a simple little girl among them who asked, "Why did you not bite (the dog)?" The pious man replied, "My child, a man cannot be dog-like." In the same way, when a mischief monger resorts to name calling, then a believer must eschew such a situation or else the same dog-like example will hold true. The dear ones of God were called all sorts of bad names. They were severely persecuted, but they were asked to *a'ridh 'anil jahileen* (shrink away from the ignorant (Al-Quran, 7:200). Our Holy Prophet, may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, himself was tortured in many different ways. He was called bad names, was remembered with dirty words and insolence. How did that perfect incarnation of character (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) respond? He prayed for them. (Translated from Urdu Malfoozat, Vol. 1, pp. 102, 103)

Comfort of Heart is only through the Remembrance of Allah

Message of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih, ayyadahollah,
at the West Coast Ansar Ijtema

The Annual Ijtema of the Majalis Ansarullah, West Coast, U.S.A., was held on November 20 and 21, 1993. In his Friday Khutba of November 19, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih, ayyadahollaho ta'ala, made mention of the ijtema and devoted a portion of his khutba to address the American Ansar. Here is an English rendering of the message:

This is a special message for Majalis Ansarullah, West Coast Region, U.S.A. As you have heard the Quranic verse, *alaa bezikrillahe tatmainnulquloob*, i.e., "Beware that hearts can be satisfied only through the remembrance of God Almighty" (Al-Quran, 13:29). There is no other alternative to it. You are working or living in a country like America, where a proclamation exactly opposite to it is being made and every effort is being made to show that this opposing proclamation is true and valid, that all the satisfaction is in following the worldly pursuit and all the comforts are in earning the world and earning its rewards. There is a big difference in these two proclamations. The Quranic proclamation is the heavenly proclamation. The American proclamation is the earthly proclamation. The falsehood of the American slogan is apparent all over the country. No heart has found satisfaction. There are heaps of wealth. Every kind of entertainment is available to Americans. All the ways of fun and pleasure man could find are made available to these people but yet every heart is dissatisfied and disturbed. There may not be as many people in any other country as in America who seek pleasure in drugs. The psychiatric institu-

tions are filled with psychotics who became psychotic in the pursuit of pleasure. The American prisons are more populated with such psychotic people than anywhere else. The ones who could not be accommodated in prisons have been sent to so-called senior citizen's houses and rest homes but yet there are more mentally unbalanced people than places to house them. Psychologists have studied them and have determined that dissatisfaction of life has rendered them mentally unbalanced. The richest country of the world which is claiming to give peace to the world, their own homes are devoid of peace and their bosoms are destitute. You should tell them and especially to those downtrodden nations who are in search of peace now that peace is not in inferiority complex, pleasure is not in vengeance, satisfaction is not in fulfillment in following worldly pleasures. If there is peace, it is in remembrance of Allah. As this subject will be explored further and made clear, you will not only understand but will be convinced from the depth of the heart that Quranic claim is the truest of all claims that in this world peace of heart and mind cannot be obtained any other way than by the remembrance of Allah the Almighty.

AHMADIYYA BELIEF ABOUT KHATM-E-NABUWWAT

A speech telecast on WNVC, Channel 56, in Washington, D.C.,
by Maulana Sheikh Mubarak Ahmad

(WNVC broadcasts Ahmadiyya Muslim programming every Saturday at 6 p.m.
It usually consists of Hazoor's khutba or extracts from his QA sessions.)

Recently, Dr Israr Ahmad, a religious scholar from Pakistan, while speaking on a television program from Washington, D.C., mentioned the hadith in which it has been narrated that Hazrat Jibraeel (Gabriel, the arch-angel) visited the Holy Prophet, sallallahu alaihe wasallam, and asked him, "What is Islam?" To which the Holy Prophet, sallallahu alaihe wasallam, replied that Islam is to believe in the five pillars of faith. Hazrat Jibraeel confirmed this. It is very strange that Dr Israr Ahmad after admitting the fact that indeed the five pillars were the real criteria for a Muslim's faith and that the members of the Ahmadiyya community not only believe in these five pillars of faith, they also act accordingly, yet, he insisted that in spite of this the Ahmadis were not Muslims because, according to him, they do not believe in khatm-e-nabuwwat. This strange logic becomes all the more paradoxical because in the same speech he narrated the episode of Hazrat Usama when he killed a person during the course of a battle in spite of the fact that this person had declared his belief by reciting the kalima. When the Holy Prophet, sallallahu alaihe wasallam, learned this he was extremely furious at Hazrat Usama. He insisted that when that person had accepted Islam by reciting the kalima, then why was he killed. Hazrat Usama was so resentful and ashamed

that he felt sorry until the end of his life. This event has been recorded in Islamic history and the bottom line is that a person's faith should be judged by his profession. If a person testifies his faith by reciting the kalima he should and would be considered a Muslim according to the verdict of the Holy Founder of Islam, Hazrat Muhammad Mustafa, sallallahu alaihe wasallam. It is a matter of great regret and extreme surprise that people like Dr Israr Ahmad ignore all those announcements and declarations of the Holy Founder of the Ahmadiyya Community which bear testimony to the fact that he believed in the khatm-e-nabuwwat with all his heart and soul. Dr Israr and others like him continue their baseless accusations and through their such conduct are showing utter disregard to this verdict of the Holy Prophet, sallallahu alaihe wasallam. It seems that they have not learned any lesson from Hazrat Usama's episode and are disrespectful to the Holy Prophet, sallallahu alaihe wasallam. Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, the holy founder of the Ahmadiyya Community, has repeatedly declared that he believes Hazrat Muhammad Mustafa, sallallahu alaihe wasallam, to be Khataman Nabiyyin and has full faith in the khatm-e-nabuwwat. I would like to quote some of the sayings and writings which are ample proof that he and his followers have full faith in

this unique status of the Holy Prophet and they bear witness that as mentioned in the Holy Quran, the Holy Prophet, sallallahu alaihe wasallam, was Khataman Nabiyyin.

In his epoch-making book "Braheen-e-Ahmadiyya," on page 246, he says:

Glory be to Allah and I repeat
Glory be to Allah the Almighty! What
a great prophet is Khatamal Anbiya,
sallallahu alaihe wasallam. Praise be
to the Almighty, what a great Light is
the Holy Prophet, whose humble ser-
vants, sincere and devoted followers
can reach the pinnacle of spiritual
stations. Allah shower Thy blessings
on Thy Prophet, Thy Beloved, the
best of the Messengers, Khataman
Nabiyyin, Hazrat Muhammad,
sallallahu alaihe wasallam.

Again he says:

It is a preposterous lie to allege
that I and my community do not con-
sider the Holy Prophet, sallallahu
alaihe wasallam, to be the Khataman
Nabiyyin. The absolute conviction,
the complete and steadfast faith and
the deep recognition with which we
believe the Holy Prophet to be
Khataman Nabiyyin is of such inten-
sity that the belief of our opponents is
not even a millionth of that. (Al-
Hakam, March 17, 1905)

Declaring his own belief and that of his
followers, he says:

The belief that we have in this
worldly life and with which we shall,
by the Grace of God, leave this world
is that Hazrat Syedana Wamaulana
Muhammad Mustafa, sallallahu alaihe
wasallam, is Khataman Nabiyyin and

the best of the Prophets on whose
hands the religion has been perfected
and that blessing has reached its ze-
nith. And by following his straight
path, man can reach the Almighty
God. (Izala-e-Auham, vol. 1, p. 137)

In his book Kishti-e-Nooh, page 15, he
directs his followers thus:

The belief which God expects
from you is that you believe in the
Unity of All-Mighty Allah and that
Muhammad, sallallahu alaihe
wasallam, is His Messenger and
Khatamal Anbiya and is the best of
all.

In one of his Arabic books, he declares:

I swear by God that I am a Mus-
lim and believe in Allah, the Exalted,
in His Books, and in all the Prophets,
and in all the angels, and in life after
death, and I believe that our Prophet
Hazrat Muhammad Mustafa,
sallallahu alaihe wasallam, is the best
of the Prophets and is Khataman
Nabiyyin. (Hamamatul Bushra, p. 8)

With reference to the verse of the Holy
Quran about Khataman Nabiyyin, the holy
founder of the Ahmadiyya Movement says:

We believe in the truth of the
verse with full faith in which the Holy
Prophet, sallallahu alaihe wasallam,
has been called Khataman Nabiyyin.
(Aik Ghalati ka Izala)

In continuation of his beliefs, he further
states:

We are Muslims and believe in
the Holy Quran and believe that our
Lord, our Master, Hazrat Muhammad,
sallallahu alaihe wasallam, is the
Prophet and Messenger of Allah who

brought the best of the religions and we believe that he is Khatamal Anbiyya. (Mawahabur Rahman, p. 66)

Again, he says in his book, "Anjam Atham," on page 73:

May Allah's choicest blessings be on the best of the Prophets, chief of all the Messengers, Hazrat Muhammad, sallallahu alaihe wasallam, who is Khatamal Anbiyya and intercessor for the sinners and Lord of those who have passed away or who will come after. We praise his holy progeny and pray for all his righteous companions who are the signs of Allah for the world.

Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, alaihessalaam, always proclaimed his belief whenever he found it necessary. Not only in his writings, but also in his sermons. Once he declared his faith while addressing a gathering in the Jamia Masjid, Delhi, and said:

I proclaim absolutely in clear terms while standing in this House of Allah before all the Muslims that I believe in the Khatam-e-Nabuwwat of the Holy Prophet, sallallahu alaihe wasallam, and consider him to be Khataman Nabiyyin and whosoever does not believe in the Khatam-e-Nabuwwat of the Holy Prophet, I consider him to be a disbeliever and outside the pale of Islam. (Tabligh-e-Risalat, vol 2, p 44)

Again, the holy founder of Ahmadiyya Movement proclaims under oath:

I swear by God that I am not a disbeliever. I believe in the kalima Tayyaba, "There is no God worthy of

Worship, except Allah and Muhammad is His Messenger." I have complete faith in the verse of Khataman Nabiyyin about the Holy Prophet, sallallahu alaihe wasallam. I can swear on this belief of mine as many times as are the Holy Names of Almighty Allah and as many times as are the words of the Holy Quran and as many times as are the signs of truth of the Holy Prophet in the sight of Allah. None of my beliefs are against the teachings of Allah and His Messenger. Whoever thinks contrary to this is mistaken and whoever considers me to be a disbeliever in spite of this, he will certainly be answerable to God. I declare on oath that I have such a strong belief in Allah and His messenger that it can out-weigh the belief of all the living human beings. (Karamaat-us-Sadiqeen p. 25)

Dear friends, the above statements, declarations on oath and the writings of the holy founder of the Ahmadiyya Movement which have been published in books and newspapers are clear enough proofs that he had the greatest faith, intense love, and extreme sincerity and affection for the Holy Prophet, sallallahu alaihe wasallam, whom he considered and believed to be Khataman Nabiyyin. It also shows that people like Dr Israr Ahmad, who accuse the Ahmadis to be non-believers in khatm-e-nabuwwat, are doing great injustice and are misguiding the Muslims at large about the Ahmadiyya Community and its holy founder. Yet, there are certain God-fearing Muslim scholars who have openly acknowledged the authenticity of these statements of the holy founder of the Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam. Two of the

present day scholars of great repute, Maulana Abdul Majed Daryabadi, editor of Sidq-e-Jadid, Lucknow, writes:

As far as I have seen the books and other publications of the founder of the Ahmadiyya Community, I have found that instead of the accusations that he did not believe in Khatam-e-Nabuwwat he has laid great stress and importance on the belief in Khatam-e-Nabuwwat. I remember that the belief in the Holy Prophet, sallallahu alaihe wasallam, to be Khataman Nabiyyin is a permanent clause in the initiation form of Ahmadiyyat. (Al-Fazl, March 21, 1925)

Another researched scholar of great repute, Maulana Niaz Fatehpuri, editor Nigar, has testified:

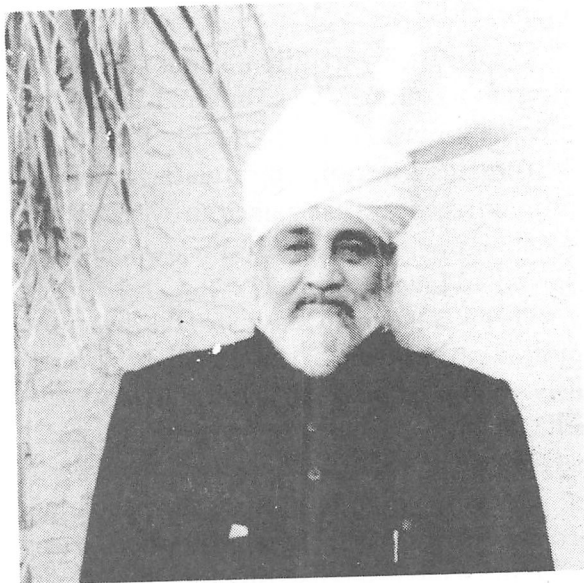
The greatest allegation on the founder of the Ahmadiyya Movement is that he did not believe in the khatm-e-nabuwwat. No other allegation can

be farther from the truth or more preposterous and absolutely baseless. He was certainly a believer in the Khatam-e-Nabuwwat and with such intensity which should be the hallmark of every true believer. (Nigar, Lucknow, May 19, 1962)

Both these scholars were not Ahmadis, but they were sincere, honest, and God-fearing. They had the courage to speak the truth. Similarly, whoever will examine the Ahmadiyya literature will surely find that the allegations against the Movement are absolutely baseless and that the holy founder of the Community and his followers are filled with intense love for the Holy Prophet, sallallahu alaihe wasallam, and they believe him to be the greatest and the best of the Prophets, the most noble of the creation, and holder of the highest status in spiritual field. They believe him to be the Khataman Nabiyyin, the seal of the Prophets. May Allah's peace and blessing be upon him. Ameen.

Maulana Sheikh Mubarak Ahmad is one of the early Ahmadi missionaries. He has served as Chief Missionary in East Africa, England, and the United States. While he was stationed in Kenya, Billy Graham visited that country. Maulana challenged him to a prayer competition. The American evangelist refused to accept the challenge.

He played an important role in the establishment of numerous mosques in England and in the U.S.A.



HOW I ACCEPTED AHMADIYYAT

The Story of Bro. Muhammad Sadiq

Bro. Muhammad Sadiq has a very soft spoken and affectionate personality. In one of his addresses during the 1993 U.K. annual convention, Hazrat Amirul Momineen, Khalifatul Masih the Fourth Ayyadahullah Binasrihil Aziz, made a special comment about him. Huzoor said that Bro. Sadiq had lost the light of his eyes but Allah had increased the light of his heart. The following account is based on a recent interview with the editor of Al-Nahl. It is being published with the express permission of Bro. Sadiq.

My name is Muhammad Sadiq. Before accepting Islam, my name was Howard William Scott. I was told that the first Muslim missionary to the United States was Mufti Muhammad Sadiq. I liked that name so much that I decided to take it for my own.

I was born in Newark, New Jersey, on October 29, 1912. My parents lived in Irvington, New Jersey, but due to some unpleasant domestic circumstances, they separated. I, along with my mother, was brought to live with my grandparents in Newark. I went to school in Newark, but, unfortunately, could never finish high school.

My family, by tradition, had a very keen interest in the profession of music. I also grew up learning music from my family members. My instructions were mostly in classical music. However, since jazz had gained an overwhelming popularity in this country, my own interest also shifted towards it.

That was the main reason for the discontinuity of my academic learning. I became a fairly good jazz musician and it started to pay well, also. So, I decided to make it my career and pursued it further. In those days, there were not too many opportunities for the people of African descent. This, I found out, when I tried to acquire a job in engineering for which I had

completed a course and had passed it. In spite of all my efforts, I could not find a job in that field and, as a result, I stayed with music until I accepted Islam.

My primary source of income, then, came from odd jobs. I finally became a painter and I retired a painter. When I first started to paint, I had very little knowledge of it, but my employer trained me well.

I never had any kids from my marriage. However, my wife asked me to adopt some abandoned children. I gladly accepted that suggestion. In the end, we had three children; all from the same mother. Although I still stay in touch with them, but it is very disappointing to see that they have no interest in Islam.

I was raised in a religious family, but nothing the church said appealed to me. It was not until I found Islam that things started to make sense to me. At first, even I was very skeptical about Islam. As a musician, I used to hear people talk about Islam, but every thing I heard about this religion, sounded so foolish that I did not care much about it. Then, one day in 1947, a friend gave me a book, "The Life of Muhammad," written by Sufi M.R. Bengali. I was in tears after reading that book. What hurt me so much was that I wanted to be so much like Muhammad, but I knew that I could never

be like him. Then I was introduced to some people who brought Islam to Harlem. One of those men, Talib Dauood, explained many things to me. He, then, asked me if I was ready to accept Islam. I told him that I was not. He surprisingly asked, "Why!" I said that I was not worthy of being among the Muslims. He asked me to at least accept it on a trial basis, to which I agreed. I was then brought to Missionary Ghulam Yasin, who formally initiated me into Ahmadiyyat by having me fill out a form. He read out the ten conditions of Bai'at to me. I prayed to Allah for forgiveness of my past sins and took a solemn pledge to live a life of piety. My wife was very happy to see me accept Islam. She, later on, became a very prominent lady in Islam. After accepting Ahmadiyyat, I also learned about some other sects of Islam but the fact that the Promised Messiah, in his writings, sounded so much like The Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him), I had no difficulty in recognizing Ahmadiyyat to be the true Islam.

The same year, after accepting Ahmadiyyat, I saw Hazrat Khalifatul Masih the Second in a dream. I saw that I was in Pakistan and I asked some men that I wished to see Huzoor. They said that he was upstairs in his room. When I went to see him, he appeared to be sleeping, but someone told me that he was praying. There was a back door in that room through which I saw Talib Dauood exiting as I entered the room through the front door.

Then, in 1974, I visited Pakistan and India for the first time. That began a warm relationship with Hazrat Khalifatul Masih the Third. I left there with a wonderful feeling, a kind of a feeling that is hard to explain in words. In the seventies, I had been to Qadian and Rabwah so many times that the border guards on both sides

would ask me, "How are you sir, this year?" I wish I could stay in Rabwah longer than I did, but as my mother could not travel with me, I had to return to provide care for her. When I visited Bahishti Maqbara in Qadian, I was filled with tears. I felt such a strong belonging to Islam that I had never felt anything like it before.

In the early days of my acceptance, Brother Abid Haneef and I would go to New York city and pass out pamphlets as a means of propagation. By doing so, we brought many people into Islam, but unfortunately, most of them have not



stayed with us. Once, Bro. Abid Haneef and I were arrested for passing out literature by the New York police. The police beat us and took us to the court where we were acquitted of all charges. When we were leaving the court, I told my attorney that we had done no wrong and that the policemen were drunk. He joked with us by saying that he could not do anything about it because the judge was also drunk. Years later, when I met Sir Zafarullah Khan, he asked me whether I had asked for forgiveness from God. I answered, "but I didn't do anything wrong." He again asked me the same question and I again answered it the same way. Then, he asked me for the third time and I again replied the same way. After that, he walked away from me without saying anything. Today, I realize what he was trying to tell me.

Accepting Islam and Ahmadiyyat has been the greatest achievement of my life. Had I continued my profession as a musician, I would have made much more money, but I would not trade my faith for all the wealth in the world. I found in Ahmadiyyat what I could not find anywhere else. Although I was making good money as a musician, I was never happy. I had seen what happened to other musicians down the road: they ran into a dead end. I also felt lost in that field. It was not until I accepted Islam that I saw a clear vision of the future.

Another affect Islam and the Movement has had on me is that after joining it, I began to love people. Before I joined Islam, I used to hate people because of the injustices meted out to us by the majority. Once I joined the Movement, that attitude changed completely. On the whole, I find this a very loving community.

I would like to thank Late Missionary Ghulam Yasin for his efforts in training me and teaching me the Holy Quran. He had a very

rigid way of teaching, but I am extremely glad that he taught us the way he did. He would not let us move until he was satisfied that we had memorized the verses assigned to us. I loved his dedication and style of teaching, and I appreciate it sincerely. Since I have lost the sight in both my eyes, I listen to tapes and try to memorize the Holy Quran as much as I can.

In the end, I would like to mention that there is none better person in the world than Khalifatul Masih the Fourth. He is extremely sweet. Today, if there is a way to reach the hearts of people, it is through his sermons and speeches. He speaks the truth and his message touches my heart every time I hear him. While I was attending the London Annual Jalsa this year, during Huzoor's address, he said something that touched my heart and I could not help but call out, "Nara-e-takbir." Huzoor immediately recognized my voice. The next thing I heard was a very loving comment about me by Huzoor.* He named me in the presence of the whole audience, switching abruptly from Urdu to English. This very unexpected reward by Huzoor was something that I thought I did not deserve and began to weep out of joy. I will never be able to forget this great blessing. One thing I must say about Huzoor, that if I had no knowledge of Islam at all, but had heard only one of his sermons, I would have accepted Islam, instantly.

May Allah bless this community. May Allah shower His immense blessings upon Hazrat Muhammad Mustafa (May Peace and Blessings be upon him), Hazrat Masih Mauood (alahis-salam) and his Khulafa. Amin.

* Huzoor's comment was: "Bro. Sadiq! Your voice was music to my ears." Al-Nahl.

JESUS, EESA IBNE MARYAM

ALAIHISSALAM

A REVIEW OF HIS MISSION AND LIFE ACCORDING TO THE BIBLE AND THE HOLY QURAN

BY RASHEED SYED AZAM, PSYCHOLOGIST

INTRODUCTION

Human History is full of many tragedies. One of the greatest tragedies in human distortions was introduced by a gentleman called "Saint" Paul into Christianity. He introduced his version of Christianity long after Jesus had passed away. With a few minor exceptions including the Unitarian Church, today's Christianity is neither based upon Jesus' teachings nor does it have much to do with those true portions of revelations still preserved in the Bible.

Today, Christianity, as a religion, is simply based upon myth and concocted stories about Jesus' Divinity (or Trinity, as Roman Catholics prefer it). When Freud, who came from a religious, Jewish family, commented in his theories, "God did not create man, man created God," he was most probably referring to Christians who created their own God out of a gentle human being, a true prophet of God. God is one, Allah, our Creator and the Creator of the Universe. He does not need a son or a wife; He is

the Master of everything.

The tragedy continues. The Western "civilization," in spite of its material advances in the knowledge of science and technology, is miserably failing to grasp the essence of true faith and spiritual life, with a few exceptions of some thinking intellectuals. The primary purpose of this essay is to sympathize with the suffering and misguided Christians of the world and offer them the true basis of faith for their salvation. A short review of the following two books is also included in this essay:

1. Masih Hindostan Mein (Urdu, 1899) by Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad of Qadian (1835 - 1908) the Promised Messiah alaihis-salam, first translated in English, JESUS IN INDIA, 1938-39, current edition by Islam International Publications, Ltd. (1989) UK.
2. JESUS: A life by A.N. Wilson, 1992. (USA edition). W.W. Norton & Co., London & New York.

CHRISTIAN FAITH – A SUMMARY

Christian faith is hardly based upon any revealed source much less upon the teachings of Jesus. Paul and, to some degree, other intellectuals have added or amended the shape of and practices in the religion of Christianity at

various times in its mythical development. Only four Gospels, i.e., John, Mark, Matthew and Luke, were picked out of possibly a hundred or so written during the period of one hundred to three hundred years after Jesus.

These four Gospels of the New Testament try to give an account of the life of Jesus as recalled by four different individuals. Even these four Gospels fail to support Christian beliefs and practices. Paul had to add his own version to shape the Christianity of today. He was, of course, trying to satisfy the pagan beliefs of Greeks and Romans when the ideas of Divinity and Trinity were introduced, something idol worshippers could relate to. He also needed to split with the Jewish tradition of One God and needed to create a “new god” of his own for Christians. And, since the people were already

accustomed to notions of myth and glory, it was not hard to create a myth about Jesus.

The basic tenets of Christian Faith can be described thus: “Jesus is Lord, Son of God, sitting on His right hand, after his resurrection from the dead. He died on the cross, an accursed death, and lived in hell for three days. God became flesh to enter the womb of the virgin Mary and was born like all of us to show how to live.” As if this was not enough, “he had to die for our sins and salvation. He will come back to reward his followers and put others in hell.”

JESUS' MISSION ACCORDING TO THE HOLY BIBLE

Jesus said, according to the Holy Bible, that no sign will be shown to those asking for sign except the sign of Jonah (Matthew 12:39-40). That is, he was to stay entombed three days, like Jonah was in the whale's stomach, going in alive and coming out alive. Jesus was alive when placed in the airy tomb and was well recovered to walk up to Galilee after three days, eating and sleeping like a normal human being.

His mission was to fulfill the Law – not to cancel it. He came to complete the Law (by teaching the Jews LOVE and not revenge). He was to prepare the world to receive the greatest prophet of all who was to appear after him. His

primary assignment from God, however, was to seek the lost sheep of the house of Israel and preach the message of peace and hope.

He did not die accursed, crucified, but was given life by God Almighty to fulfill his limited mission like a true Prophet. He did not abolish The Ten Commandments, but strengthen them with messages of “Love thy enemy and turn the other cheek if someone hits you on one.” Be humble like a little child to be great in the eyes of God, he said. “A camel may pass through the eye of a needle, but it is not possible for an arrogant man to pass through the door to heaven.”

JESUS, EESA IBNE MARYAM ALAIHIS-SALAM, IN THE HOLY QURAN

True Islam is based upon the Holy Quran. It is a complete and perfect book revealed from Allah, (the One God, our Creator, worthy of our worship) to the Holy Prophet, (may the blessings of Allah be upon him), the last and final Prophet with a Law (Shariah). Every detail of the Holy Prophet's life is recorded in history and serves as an excellent example for mankind to follow in order to live a complete life under

the Laws of God.

The Holy Quran supports the virgin birth of Jesus, a rare phenomenon in nature which is, now, verified by scientific knowledge. Mary alaihas-salam, who has been described by the Holy Quran to be the most pious lady of her time, in response to the allegations by the Jews, later married Joseph who also had a prior wife. She gave birth to several more children out of

this marriage who were natural brothers and sisters of Jesus.

Jesus, perhaps a derivative of Joshua, most often referred to as Eesa ibne Maryam, alaihis-salam, in the Holy Quran to distinguish him from many others bearing the same name as "Joshua," meaning saviour in Hebrew. He is truly loved and respected in Islam as a true Prophet of Allah, who was the last Hebrew Prophet in the long line of Prophets descending from patriarch Abraham, father of Ishmael and Isaac. Under God's promise, the prophethood passed from the house of Isaac to the house of Ishmael, and Jesus himself, along with others, prophesied the advent of the Holy Prophet of Islam, Muhammad (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him).

All true Prophets of Allah are given the holy spirit and are in a sense saviours of humanity from trespasses against God and other fellow beings. God created man in his own image (bestowed with His attributes, in the best of forms) and metaphorically we are all children or "sons" of God, One God Almighty. According to the Holy Quran, Jesus being a true Prophet, was not accursed. He was put on the cross, but was neither crucified nor was he killed on the cross. He looked like a dead person as he was in a swoon, when he was taken down from the cross after only a few hours. Evidently, the blood still ran from his body when he was pierced. According to God's laws described by the Holy Quran, a physically dead person never returns to life. However, spiritually dead are often brought back to life under God's command through His Prophets.

According to the Holy Quran, salvation depends in correct belief and righteous ac-

tions. Death of one person can not save anyone from accounting before God. There is no God but Allah and creating and worshipping another "god" besides Allah is the most grievous sin and leads man to spiritual destruction. Only Allah knows full well what is hidden in our hearts and what is apparent in our behavior. We are responsible for what we do. He will not question us about other people's actions or behavior. Nevertheless, for the love of God, we must love His creatures and enjoin people to do good and refrain from evil. Hurting others is evil, indeed. Jesus, Eesa ibne Maryam, alaihis-salam, is considered very noble and a true Prophet of God who did not bring any new Law. He never asked people to worship him or his mother. He believed in One God and preached people to worship Him alone. He was given the Holy Spirit of a true Prophet, who brought back to life many who were spiritually dead. He taught humility as the way to attain nearness to God. He followed the Mosaic Law but also emphasized the need for love and humility which were missing in the lives of the then Israelites. He gave the good news to people of the coming of the Holy Prophet after him.

Jesus and his mother are both cleared of all charges in the Holy Quran which were levied against them by the Jewish clergy of the time. Mary had committed sin according to those people. But, the birth of Jesus without the agency of a father is a rare event which is admitted within the natural laws of God. Jesus was also saved from the accursed death on the cross, according to the Holy Quran. His spirit was raised towards the heaven by Allah after his natural death, many years after the event of his alleged crucifixion.

ERRONEOUS BELIEFS AMONG MUSLIMS

Many Muslims, including ignorant clergy who may be Muslims by name only, have held certain beliefs which appear to have been introduced in Islam perhaps by the converting Christians. These so-called Muslims, like most so-called Christians, believe that Jesus was physically lifted to heaven and that he is still alive there* and that he will descend back to earth someday, to punish his enemies, Islam or Christianity, depending upon which group will grab him first! He will thus reward the believers. There is, however, one major difference in this mythical tale presented by the two groups. The "Muslims" advocate that another person, perhaps an innocent man was put to death, and the real Jesus was, thus, rescued.** The Christian story, on the other hand, lets Jesus die for their sins and then lets him rise after three days! Paul, of course, had an incredibly logical brain!

According to the Holy Quran, God has sent prophets to all peoples of the World at the time of need according to human evolution. The Holy Quran supports the continuation of Prophethood, Allah's greatest gift to the mankind. No prophet, however, will bring a new Law as a complete Law, in all respects, has already been given to the Holy Prophet. Any new Prophet will obey Allah and the Holy Prophet, the Khataman Nabiyyeen. Many so-called Muslims, contrary to the correct Quranic injunction, continue to contradict themselves by saying that no Prophet of any kind will appear now, while living under the false hope that Hazrat Jesus, a Prophet, still alive, will return to earth some day and, indeed, make them rich beyond their dreams. Many ignorant peoples of the past also held similar notions, says the Holy Quran.

THE PROMISED MESSIAH, ALAIHIS-SALAM

The Holy Prophet of Islam had prophesied that a true Muslim from among his followers of the Persian descent, will appear at a time when Islam will be under attack from all directions. The Muslims will be Muslims only by name and the Holy Quran would have disappeared from their lives. (This prophecy, by the way, is fully supported by the Holy Quran). This person will have the spirit and characteristics of the Prophet of God in Muhammadi dispensation. He will be called, Mahdi. He would bring back the faith (*iman*) to earth even if it had ascended to Pleiades. He will re-conceive the True Islam and restore its spiritual glory. The glory and beauty of Islam will be spread through the mighty pen and rational argument. There will be no *jihad* or fighting during his time. He

will distribute treasures of knowledge from the Holy Quran, but most Muslims will not accept those treasures of great value. Muslim clergy, the ignorant mullahs, will oppose him the way the Jewish clergy opposed the first Messiah, and they will mislead many people against him. His followers will suffer a great deal of persecution and torture at the hands of these so-called Muslims and mullahs.

He will be the Great Deputy of the Holy Prophet and defend the honor of the Holy Prophet against all attacks from all quarters. He will establish a *jama'at* or a community, and his followers will be the true Muslims. They will reflect the beauty of Islam through their own lives and character, the way these qualities were exhibited by the companions of the Holy

Prophet. The two groups, although separated in time, will be joined together in representing the true Islam to the world. He will consider Allah's help sufficient for him and Allah will spread the message of True Islam through his community all over the World. The members of his community will be given dominance in knowledge and piety over all other Muslims. God will guide and open the hearts of many thinking people of the world to join His community.

These prophecies have seen continuous fulfillment in the world-wide Ahmadiyya Mus-

lim Community. According to a prophecy in the Holy Quran, Islam will ultimately triumph over all other religions of the world. It was prophesied by the Promised Messiah that before the end of the third century, from the date of the establishment of this community, Islam will be the only religion viewed with honor and respect in the world.

The Promised Messiah and Mahdi, alaihis-salam, 1835-1908, wrote more than 80 books. Jesus in India, is one of those books.

JESUS IN INDIA

Jesus in India is an account of Jesus' escape from death on the cross and of his journey to India after that event. The book has only four chapters in addition to an Introduction. The fourth chapter is further subdivided into three subsections. An appendix at the end of the book refers to many important works of historians and other eminent writers. All references listed are highlighted with a brief summary of the subject matter presented by each writer.

Jesus in India can be conveniently reviewed under three important headings: the purpose, the religious, and the other evidence including physical landmarks of historical significance.

The purpose of the book as stated by Hazrat Ahmad alaihis-salam was to remove the misconception among the Muslims and most Christians about the life and death of Jesus, alaihis-salam. Jesus was not transported to heaven alive and is not sitting there waiting to come back to earth. He did not die on the cross, rather, he only appeared to be dead. He was a true Prophet of God and died a natural death much later. God would not let his beloved

become *mal'oon* or accursed, as the then Jews had desired and the Christians now falsely believe. Christians have unwittingly fallen prey to a vicious scheme to hurt that noble personality and have woven a tangling mess around their necks of untenable dogma based upon myth and fabrication by Paul and company. Muslims should also pay heed to the Holy Quran that all the prophets have died including Jesus and dead persons do not come back. However, another prophet may be designated by Allah and given the characteristics of a former prophet. The way John the Baptist (Yahyah), came in the spirit of Elijah, Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad of Qadian, the Promised Messiah, also appeared in the spirit of Jesus.

The religious evidence is mainly derived from the Holy Bible and the Holy Quran, supplemented by reliable *ahadith* of the Holy Prophet. Jesus had promised no sign except for the sign of Jonah. (He was asked by the Jews to come down from the cross if he was truly the God or the son of God and only then would they believe in him). Jonah remained in the belly of a whale for three days. He was alive when he was swallowed and came out alive. So was

Jesus entombed for three days to recover from his ordeal. On the cross, he was in a state of swoon, his blood still flowed, his bones were never broken, and he was taken down quickly before the fast approaching time of the beginning of the Jewish Sabbath. This was God's design to save His Prophet from an ignominious death on the cross. The Holy Quran supports this argument by stating that Jesus looked like a dead person but he was neither killed nor crucified.

Other evidence includes the mention of an "Ointment of Jesus" stated in hundreds of ancient and not so ancient books of medicine written by Jews, Christians, Muslims and others. An ointment was prepared to treat the wounds suffered by Jesus when he was nailed to the cross. He recovered well enough in three days to travel to Galilee on foot, eating and sleeping on the way and showing his physical wounds to his disciples. He was no longer safe in Judea and departed to fulfill his mission to

find those "lost sheep of Israel." Jewish tribes had settled in Afghanistan and in Kashmir, India. This is a well documented historical fact. Many of these Jews had converted to Buddhism. Jesus may have even preached to these groups, also as is evident from the teachings and practices of the followers of Buddha. This fact has also been reported in detail, by many historians. Buddhism, therefore, is sometimes described to be the Christianity of the East.

Jesus lived and died in India and the discovery of his tomb in Srinagar (Mohalla Khanyar), Kashmir, is the final physical evidence identified by Hazrat Ahmad, alaihis-salam. The book is based upon well researched facts of history and no thinking person can fail to draw the logical conclusion that if Jesus was in India, he could not have died on the cross. Hazrat Ahmad, with inspiration from Allah, has shattered the foundation of the false faith of the cross, through rational arguments.

JESUS: A LIFE (a brief review)

Jesus: A Life by A. N. Wilson (1992, USA Edition) supports most of the contentions in the research and findings of the Ahmadiyya Movement of Islam. He has tried to put some facts together about the Gospels of the New Testament. In his search, he has looked into many other questions including the question of myth and reality about the life of Jesus. He draws the logical conclusion that Christianity is based upon myth, but he still remains a skeptic about the historical Jesus.

The writer is a well known author in the

best English tradition I have witnessed, thus far. His logical mind and clarity of thought, however, betrays his purpose for writing this book, which appears to be only an intellectual exercise. He is invited to critically examine some Ahmadiyya literature, including, Jesus in India, to discover the historical facts about Jesus. A study and an understanding of the Holy Quran, the Scripture preserved in its original form for more than 14 hundred years, is the best source to discover the true person of Jesus and his mission in life.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

True Islam is simple and meets all human needs, material and spiritual. It offers solutions to all human problems in a most rational way.

The most fundamental tenet of Islam is the Unity of God which unites all human beings as one nation with a unity of purpose, seeking

unity with God through service of mankind. Muslims all over the world must unite and shape their lives and character to reflect the beauties of Islam in practice. They must obey Allah and His Holy Prophet according to the Holy Quran to convey the message of Islam for human salvation. The future success of Islam is now ordained through the Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam and the Ahmadiyya Khilafat as established by the Holy Prophet's Deputy, the Promised Messiah and Mahdi, under the Divine Guidance.

Allah is the Creator and the Master of the whole universe. He has the total knowledge. Human beings are given only a little part of that knowledge. We know this to be a fact that under God's unchanging laws, we all have to die one day. The short life on this earth has a purpose. This purpose is indeed the blessings for all mankind. It is an invitation to and a challenge for all thinking and living human beings to discover the purpose of life before the inevitable occurs.

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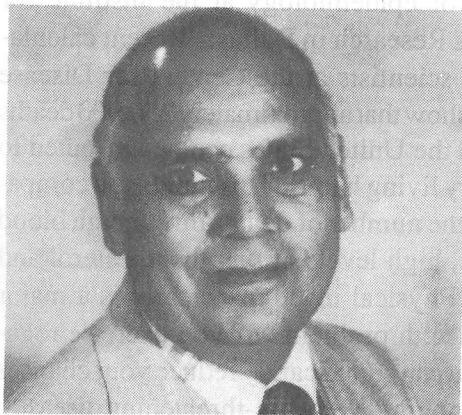
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* According to Christians, he is sitting on the right side of God.

** A group among them says it was Judah who deserved this punishment because he betrayed Jesus; another group says that it was the guard on duty or somebody else who went to check on the condition of Jesus in prison who was confined to be crucified at that time. They grabbed this person and changed him into a Jesus-look-alike and whisked the real Jesus quietly away to heaven.



Dr Rasheed S. Azam, Psychologist, lives in Staley, N.C. He was born in British India on November 15, 1953. Moved to Lahore (from Amritsar) in 1947. He joined Ahmadiyyat in 1953 – only Ahmadi in his family. Earned M.A. in 1957 and L.L.B. in 1963 from the University of the Punjab. Moved to England in 1963 and did graduate work at Swansea and London Universities (1971), and practiced Psychology. Emigrated to the U.S. in 1976. He has served the Ahmadiyya Community in the capacities of Qaaid in Khuddam, Zaeem in Ansar, Education, General, Tabligh and Finance Secretary in Jama'at.

PHYSICAL EXERCISE

The importance and benefits of physical exercise can never be overemphasized. The Organization of Ansarullah must remain healthy in order to actively contribute towards the service of Islam. For the benefit of its readers, Al-Nahl is reproducing excerpts from an article published in the Health Science of Spring 1993 issue. We hope that our members will find these suggestions workable and inculcate them in their daily lives to improve and maintain their health.

For Beatrice Palmer it was the vacation of a lifetime. Ten days in Northern California exploring the rugged coastline, marveling at the beauty of Lake Tahoe and taking in the sights of San Francisco. It was also a vacation that changed her life. Walking up one of the more modest hills in San Francisco, Palmer started to feel winded. By the time she reached the top, she was perspiring and out of breath. The next day she again found herself huffing and puffing when climbing some steps. This time she vowed to do something about her poor physical health. As soon as she got home, she

asked a friend to walk with her. Now each morning the two women lace up their shoes and circle the neighborhood. Palmer is one of the lucky ones. She learned that you don't have to compete with Olympic stars to gain the rewards of exercise. And she knows that moderate exercise helps you look better, feel better and live longer- it even lessens the effects of certain diseases. "I have more energy," she says. "I don't tire as easily when I clean the house or work in the yard. I have some arthritis in my knees and a bad back. Walking is easy on both. If I can do it, anyone can."

Move more, suffer less

Years ago we were a more physically active society than we are now. Up at dawn, we toiled in the fields until sunset or did manual labor in low-tech, heavy industry. But now our society seems bent on engineering physical exertion out of our lives. We sit behind desks and let our fingers do the walking on computer keyboards. Our trek to the water fountain or rest room may be the only time all day we get up and walk around. Add to the mix a crammed personal life- or, worse, a killer TV schedule- and it's easy to see how exercise can hit the top of the procrastination chart. Like Palmer before she began her exercise program, if we don't make an informed effort to be more physically

active, we can end up overnight, tired, out of shape and at serious risk for disease and premature death. Listen to Steven N. Blair, P.E.D., director of epidemiology at the Institute for Aerobics Research in Dallas: "Recent calculations by scientists at the Centers for Disease Control show that approximately 250,000 deaths a year in the United States can be attributed to sedentary living habits. This number is comparable to the number of deaths due to high blood pressure, high levels of blood cholesterol and obesity. Physical inactivity clearly is a major public health problem." If you exercise regularly, you can significantly reduce your chances of developing several life-threatening diseases:

Heart disease

For years, the American Heart Association (AHA) labeled physical inactivity a contributing factor to heart disease. But in 1992, the AHA raised physical inactivity to the status of a major risk factor for heart disease, placing it right up there with smoking, high blood pressure and high blood cholesterol levels. What prompted the change? According to Gerald Fletcher, M.D., chairman of the national committee that wrote the association's stronger exercise statement, the AHA adopted this position only after extensive review of scientific evidence. Some of the research the AHA committee examined:

- ◆ Two large-scale studies- one published in *The New England Journal of Medicine* and

the other in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* - found that cardiovascular diseases rates are seven to eight times higher in unfit individuals than in fit men and women.

- ◆ Another study of more than 12,000 men, also reported in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, found that regularly taking part in even moderate physical activities, such as gardening, yard work and swimming, reduces the risk of heart disease.

Says Dr Fletcher: "Lack of exercise obviously is not a poison like smoking. But it is an important, modifiable risk factor [for heart disease]. I think at this point it is among the 'biggies.'"

Cancer

A study of 13,344 men and women conducted at the Institute for Aerobics Research found that the more physically fit a person is, the less his chance of dying from cancer. Another study found a link between lack of exercise and colon cancer. In that study, involving more than 17,000 Harvard University alumni, researchers reported that the physically active

alumni were at half the risk of developing colon cancer as their inactive counterparts. Exercise may also play a protective role in preventing breast and reproductive cancers, says Neil F. Gordon, M.D, Ph.D., M.P.H., director of exercise physiology at the Institute for Aerobics Research.

Obesity

Regular exercise is an essential component of weight maintenance and loss, according to the government report Healthy People 2000 and a panel of obesity experts convened by the National Institutes of Health. Exercise may be particularly helpful for those who carry their weight above vs below the waist- a known risk factor for heart disease, Dr Gordon says. "We

now know that the risks from obesity aren't just related to how obese you are, but where the obesity is. Central or abdominal obesity is a greater risk than peripheral obesity [fat around the hips or thighs]," he says. "Some preliminary studies suggest that exercise is most effective when it comes to reducing abdominal obesity, otherwise known as your spar tire."

Diabetes

Exercise has long been recommended as a way to help control type II, or non-insulin-dependent, diabetes. Now at least three major studies suggest that physical activity may prevent the disease. The first study appeared in *The New England Journal of Medicine* and looked at nearly 6,000 healthy men. It found that the most active men were half as likely to develop diabetes as the most sedentary. The men who had the greatest chance of developing the disease- with risk factors including obesity, a parental history of diabetes and high blood pressure- received the most pro-

tection from regular exercise. The second study was published in the British medical journal *The Lancet*. Researchers followed more than 87,000 middle-aged American nurses and reported that the women who exercised regularly suffered from type II diabetes at a much lower rate than did those who engaged in vigorous exercise less than once a week. And the third study, involving 21,271 male physicians and released in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, found that the incidence of type II diabetes could be reduced at least 25 percent with regular exercise.

Hypertension

Physical activity can cut the risk of developing hypertension- high blood pressure- by 35 percent to 52 percent, according to two studies of nearly 20,000 men and women. And exercise

can actually help lower blood pressure in some people. The studies were published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* and the *American Journal of Epidemiology*.

Exercise raises “good” cholesterol

You don't have money to join a health club. You haven't ridden a bicycle in 20 years. And swimming makes your eyes itch. Exercise isn't for you, right? Wrong. According to Edward S. Cooper, M.D., 1992 president of the American Heart Association, any physical activity is better than none. “Housework, gardening, shuffleboard – anything that causes us to move is beneficial,” he says. You don't have to devote a lot of time, and you certainly don't have to do decathlons to reap the rewards of exercise. Consider two important studies:

- ◆ A 1990 study published in the *American Journal of Cardiology* found that three 10-minute bouts of moderate-intensity exercise, such as walking, spread out over the day produced essentially the same improve-

ment in fitness as one 30-minute session. According to the authors of the study, “For many individuals, multiple short bouts of exercise...may fit better into a busy schedule than a single long bout.”

- ◆ A 1991 study published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* shows that leisurely walking, when done regularly, can raise levels of HDL cholesterol – the “good” type – just as much as fast walking.

Dr Gordon, with the Institute for Aerobics Research and one of the authors of the study, says: “A lot of people don't exercise because they think you have to exercise at high intensities to get any benefits. And the message from this study is no, you don't. You get big returns for a little bit of effort.” So why would anyone

exercise at higher intensities? According to Dr Gordon, it all depends on your reason for exercising in the first place. He explains: "If you want to improve your cardiorespiratory fitness or your ability to exercise at your maximum capacity, then you have to exercise at fairly high intensities. "Plus your energy expenditure- how many calories you burn when you exercise- is related to the type of exercise you do, the frequency, the intensity and the duration. If you exercise at higher intensities, you can exercise for a shorter period of time to burn the same number of calories. Walking briskly for roughly a half-hour burns the same number of calories as walking slowly for an hour."

One final word of caution. Not everyone should leap from their couches and immediately

start exercising. For example, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists recommends that pregnant women consult their doctors about exercising. And the American Heart Association recommends that people in the following groups consult their physicians before significantly increasing activity levels:

- ◆ Those who have not exercised in a long time.
- ◆ Those older than 40.
- ◆ Those who have known or suspected cardiovascular, respiratory, metabolic, orthopedic or neurological disorders.
- ◆ Those who have significant risk factors for heart disease, such as cigarette, high blood pressure or high blood cholesterol levels.

Divorce More Likely After Living Together!

ANAHEIM, Calif. – Couples who live together before marriage have a 50 percent greater chance of divorce than those who don't, says a researcher who has reviewed 50 years of data. "Conventional wisdom suggests cohabitation serves as a filter to get rid of those who are not compatible, and as a test to see if couples will stay together," says Brigham Young University researcher Jeffry Larson. "We find strong evidence

that the marriages of those who have cohabited are less satisfied and more unstable" than those who didn't. Factors he said work against cohabiting include later regret that couples had "violated their moral standards," tension with parents over the live-in arrangement when cohabiting didn't make the marriage work.

(Boston Herald, October 8, 1993.)

Al-Nahl: Obey the Laws of Allah, The Holy Quran.

(Majeed A. Mian)

New York Majlis Holds Annual Ijtema

Majlis Ansarullah, New York, N.Y., held its Annual Local Ijtema on October 17, 1993 at Bait-ul-Zafar, New York, N.Y.

The ijtema started with Tahajjud Prayers led by Zaeem Ansarullah, Mubarak A. Jamil, followed by the Fajr Prayer led by Missionary, North Eastern Region, Maulana Mukhtar A. Cheema. After the Prayer, Maulana Cheema gave the Holy Quran *dars*. Mr Mohammad Sharif led the exercise class. Then the breakfast was served.

The next session started by the recitation of the Holy Quran by Saleem Ahmad followed by the reading of the pledge by Zaeem Ansarullah. Mr Zinda M. Bajwa read a poem. Mr Mohammad Sharif, our previous zaeem, gave the opening address.

Competitions were held in Recitation of the Holy Quran, Hadith, Prepared Speech, Impromptu Speech, Poems in Urdu and English. For the last three years, Atfal are also invited to the Ansar ijtema. Competitions were held in

azan and recitation of the Holy Quran for atfal.

Zuhr and Asr Prayers were offered and lunch was served at the end of the ijtema. The lunch was prepared by the *ziyafat* team of Salahud-Din, Naeem A. Sharif, Latif A. Tahir, and Mohammad Sharif. After the lunch, all ansar and atfal went to a nearby park for sports competitions. Due to bad weather, we were able to participate only in races and walk competitions.

The final session started after the sports. We were honored with the presence of Sadr, Ansarullah, U.S.A., Dr Karimullah Zirvi. He presided over this session. The session started with the recitation of the Holy Quran by Nasim A. Bajwa, poems by Mohammad Sharif and Abdul Hameed Ahmad. Dr Karimullah Zirvi addressed the gathering and distributed prizes. At the end, Dr Karimullah Zirvi distributed candies among the atfal.

The results of the competitions are as follows:

Ansar Competitions:

Competition	First	Second	Third
Talawat	Abdul Hameed Khan	Mohammad Sharif	Naseem Bajwa
Hadith	Ali Murtaza	Abdul Hameed Ahmad	Mohammad Afzal Shah
Poem (Urdu)	Abdul Hameed Ahmad	Zinda M. Bajwa	Naseem Bajwa
Poem (English)	Nazir A. Ayaz	Ali Murtaza	Rashid Alladin
Prepared Speech	Rashid Alladin	Mohammad Afal Shah	Ali Murtaza
Impromptu Speech	Ali Murtaza	Nazir A. Ayaz/Zinda M. Bajwa	Rashid Alladin
Races	Ali Murtaza	Abdul Majeed Piracha	
Walk	Ali Murtaza	Nazir A. Ayaz	

Atfal Competitions:

Talawat (Juniors)	Munawar Nasir	Yasser Cheema/Samir Mahmood	Muzammil Jamil
Talawat (Seniors)	Jalil Nasir	Imran Ahmad	Amaar Nasir
Azan (Juniors)	Munawar Nasir	Mohammad Saqib	Jalil Nasir

Azan (Seniors)	Amaar Nasir	Imran Ahmad	
Races (Juniors I)	Samir Ahmad	Ahmad Sultan	Mohammad Saqib
Races (Juniors II)	Jalil Nasir	Muzammil Jamil	Atif Cheema
Races (Seniors)	Ali Bajwa	Omar Bajwa	Saad Nasir
Walk (Juniors)	Samir Ahmad	Ahmad Sultan	Arbab Cheema
Walk (Seniors)	Kamran Bajwa	Muzammil Jamil	Yasser Cheema

A special prize was awarded to Rashid Alladin for participating in most events.

Checking on Wives

During my youth I had time to read books and I did read a lot of books. One of the comments I read in a book and still remember was that a husband should, from time to time, check on his wife. He should drop in the house unexpectedly and see that everything is OK. It was sure a strange idea.

Later I came across a saying of the Holy Prophet Mohammad, peace be upon him. This *hadith* teaches an action quite opposite to this idea. He directed believers to forewarn their wives of their return. The purpose is that they may have enough time to put things in place and make necessary arrangements for the arrival of their husbands.

This injunction of the Holy Prophet, sallallahu alaihe wasallam, clearly shows the

respect, mutual trust, and oneness of purpose Islam gives to the concept of a Muslim family. Though the husband is the head of family, but he is not to take the role which puts mutual trust and oneness in doubt. A husband's forewarning of his arrival shows his respect for his wife and wife's preparation shows her respect for her husband.

In this male dominated world, Islam has not forgotten minutest details to establish respect for the female. When doubters cannot understand an Islamic injunction, they are apt at dismissing it as an ancient and thus a primitive idea. But the principles forwarded by Islam 1,500 years ago will always be ahead of the current and future so-called "civilized" societies to the end of the world. — *Sajid*

The Holy Quran – a Trivia

Total Letters: 323,760

Words: 86,430

Verses: 6,666

Total Ruku's: 540

(One ruku a day will finish the Quran in less than two years. Two ruku's a day will take less than a year to read the Quran.)

Total Surahs (Chapters): 114

Total Parts: 30

(One part a day will finish the Quran in one month.)

Total Manazil: 7

Sajood (Prostrations during Recitation):

14 (Agreed), +1 (Unagreed)

Revealed over a period of approximately 22 years and 5 months.

First Revelation: 96:1-5

Last Revelation: 2:281 or 5:3

Glossary

Explanation of some of the words and expressions appearing in this issue

- ahadith: plural of hadith.
alaihassalam: peace be upon her.
alaihessalam, alaihis-salam: peace be upon him
Ansar: members of Majlis Ansarullah.
azan: call for formal Islamic Prayer.
Atfal: members of Majlis Atfal-ul-Ahmadiyya.
bai'at: pledge of initiation.
Br., Bro.: Brother (in Islam, in Ahmadiyyat)
Chanda: contribution, donation.
dars: a reading from the Holy Quran accompanied by its explanation.
hadith: saying of the Holy Prophet Mohammad, sallallahu alaihe wasallam
ibn, ibne, bn: son of.
Ijtema: Rally
kalima, kalima tayyaba: pronouncement that there is none worthy of worship except Allah and Mohammad is His messenger.
Khalifatul Masih: Successor to the Promised Messiah, alaihessalam.
khutba: (Friday) sermon
Majlis: society, organization.
Majlis Ansarullah (Helpers of God): The organization of all Ahmadi men above 40 years of age.
Majlis Atfal-ul-Ahmadiyya (society of Ahmadi children): The organization of all Ahmadi boys up to the age of 14.
Malfoozat: sayings of the Promised messiah, alaihessalam.
Maryam: Mary
Sadr: President.
sallallahu alaihe wasallam: peace and blessings of Allah be upon him.
talawat: recitation from the Holy quran.
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Majlis Ansarullah, U.S.A., Pledges \$100,000 for the National Mosque Fund

Ansar are Requested to Help Realize the Pledge

It was decided at the Ansarullah Shura that Majlis Ansarullah, U.S.A., will contribute \$100,000 towards the National Mosque Fund. To this end it has been decided that each Ansar should give at least \$120 during the next 12 months. The work on the National Mosque in Washington, DC, has already started and the Mosque is scheduled to be completed by June 1994, God willing. The Ansar who are able to pay more are requested to contribute more than \$120 towards the National Mosque Fund. However, each Ansar must pay the minimum amount of \$120 during the next 12 months. Naeem Ahmad Waseem, has been appointed as Naib Qaid Maal and Incharge National Mosque Fund. Please give him full cooperation in this matter. May God Almighty help us to fulfill the pledge Majlis Ansarullah has made towards the National Mosque Fund. — *Karimullah Zirvi, Sadr, Majlis Ansarullah, USA.*

Reflections on

Aayat Al Kursi

(Holy Quran 2:256)

by Yusef A. Lateef

ALLAH -- there is no God except
YOU, no Controller except
YOU, the Giver of Life, the
OBLIVERATOR of strife, the Giver of
Victory,
PERPETUAL SUSTAINER of PEACE.

Insensitivity or negativity, sizes
YOU not, nor fatigue. Nothing comes into
being, or remains or moves about or
beyond without

YOUR permission.

YOU know that which is in the hearts.

YOU alone know the qualities within creation for

YOU alone are the

CREATOR

YOU know that which is to be, before it becomes, and

YOU know that which is lying dormant; and that which comes into being encompasses only
that which

YOU have given of

YOUR knowledge.

YOUR knowledge extends over, throughout, and beyond ordinary comprehension.

YOU know who is deserving of

YOUR nearness, for

YOU are the

HIGH, the

GREAT



Yusef Abdul Lateef was introduced to the Religion of Islam in 1948. He accepted this precious gift through the Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam. Presently, he lives in Amherst, MA, and is Tabligh Secretary of Boston Jama'at and also holds the office of the Za'eem Majlis Ansarullah, Boston. He holds B.A., M.A., and Ed.D. degrees. His dissertation was titled "An Over-view of Western and Islamic Education." He is Visiting Professor at the University of Massachusetts, at Amherst.



Br. Sami opening the first session of West Coast Ansar Ijtema at Los Angeles, California, with recitation from the Holy Quran. Seated, from left to right, are Dr Hameed-ur-Rahman, President, Los Angeles Jama'at, Dr Karimullah Zirvi, Sadr, Majlis Ansarullah, U.S.A., and Dr Khalid Sheikh, Zaeem, Majlis Ansarullah, Los Angeles, CA. Hazoor's message at the occasion appears inside.

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