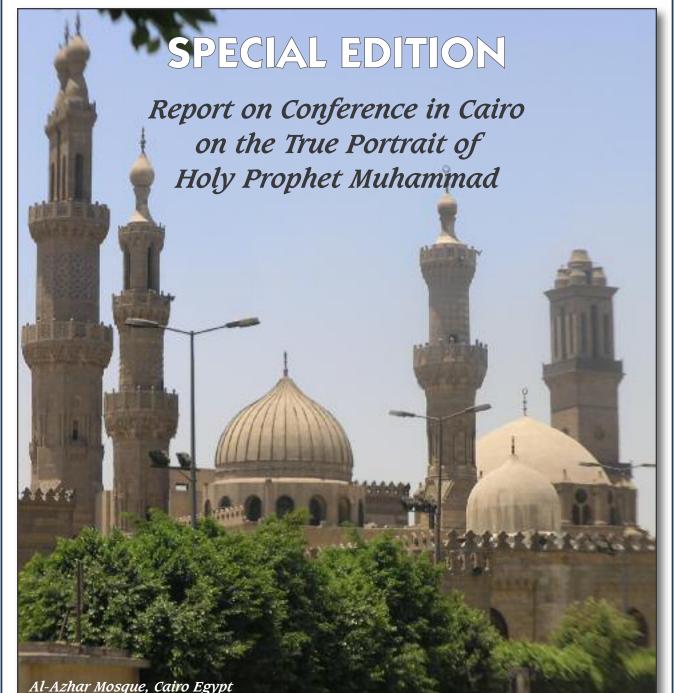
Basharaat-E-Ahmadiyya

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Continuing the Great Revival Initiative

Report on Conference in Cairo, Egypt on the True Portrait of Holy Prophet Muhammad

OR YEARS, IN ADDITION TO ITS WORLDWIDE TRANSLATION AND publication work, the Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society (the U.S. branch of the international Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement) has been engaged in a concerted effort to specifically introduce the Movement's teachings to the Arabic-speaking world. By the Grace of Almighty Allah, many accomplishments have been made in this regard. Many of the Movement's primary texts have been translated into Arabic, and many more are currently in the works. In addition, we were able to procure certifications for many of these publications from Al Azhar Islamic Research Academy, so as to facilitate its acceptance by the people in the region. Moreover, of fundamental importance to the goal of having our Movement's literature accessible to the vast populace in the middle-east is to establish relationships with local organizations with which we can collaborate in the distribution process. Again, by the Grace of Almighty Allah, Sr. Samina Malik developed such bonds of friendship with key figures in Al Azahar (including the late Grand Imam, Sheikh Muhammad Syed Tantawi, Sheikh Ahmad Khalifa, etc.) and continues to do so with esteemed leaders such as Sheikh Omar Bastiwisy and Sheikh Alaa Abul Azayem.

As a result of this foundation, and the Mercy of Almighty Allah, the USA Jamaat held a first of its kind conference in Cairo, Egypt on January 9, 2016 titled *The True Portrait of Holy Prophet Muhammad.* The conference was a remarkable breakthrough for the Jamaat's mission in the region. Being supported and co-hosted by the World Organization of Sufi Orders, and being attended by leading religious personalities and academics, the conference was a testament to the Lahore Ahmadiyya Jamaat's teachings and interpretations being capable of generating support from other Muslims even in this period of widespread anti-Ahmadiyya sentiment.

Background

The decision to organize this conference in Cairo was prompted by the success of a conference held in Istanbul, Turkey in September 2015 (detailed information about which may be viewed through the link at www.muslim.org). In that conference, held over three days, the USA Jamaat hosted a group of leading Sufi sheikhs from Egypt and delivered detailed presentations on the Ahmadiyya Movement. The presentations covered topics concerning the founding the Movement, its objectives and the practical work in which it is currently engages. Many misconceptions about the Movement and about Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad were also addressed. It was proven from Hazrat Mirza Sahib's own writings that he was a firm believer in the finality of prophethood in the Holy Prophet Muhammad, and that he neither claimed prophethood for himself nor regarded those who did not accept him as a divinely appointed reformer as *kaafir* (as is believed by the Qadian Jamaat).

Being impressed with the presentations delivered and the discussions held at the conference in Istanbul, the Egyptian Sufi participants requested that a conference be held in Cairo to demonstrate the service that the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement renders to the religion of Islam through its enlightened interpretations. In essence, they wanted the knowledge they gained about the Movement to be made available to others in Egypt as well. It was then decided, in view of the distorted image of the Holy Prophet Muhammad prevailing in the world today, a conference should be held in Cairo titled The True Portrait of Holy Prophet Muhammad. This topic, it was believed, would present an opportunity to not only confirm the Lahore Ahmadiyya Jamaat's belief in the finality of prophethood in the Holy Prophet Muhammad, but also deliver some unique perspectives concerning the significance of the Holy Prophet Muhammad being the final prophet.

After consultation with Sheikh Alaa Abu Azayem (Head of the Azayemi Sufi Order and President of the World Organization of Sufi Orders), the conference was scheduled for January 9, 2016. Fazeel Khan, Esq. developed the program, including the topics to be addressed and the key elements to be included in each topic. Sister Samina was entrusted with attending to all matters relating to the organization of the event itself. In this regard, Sister Samina and Dr. Noman Malik travelled to Egypt in October 2015 and Sr. Samina made necessary arrangements for the venue of the conference in a popular hotel in downtown Cairo.

Last Minute Obstacles

The day before the conference – after all preparations had been made, reservations for attendance by approximately 250 people were received, and Sr. Samina, Dr. Noman Malik,



Welcome address and introduction to the conference by Fazeel S Khan Esq.

Dr. Mohammed Ahmad, Sr. Lubna Ahmad and Fazeel S. Khan having already arrived – the local law enforcement informed us that the conference would have to be cancelled. In fact, the authorities were placing a temporary suspension on all religious and political conferences (especially those in which people from western countries were involved) in public accommodations such as hotels due to a security threat. There had just been an attack on a hotel by an ISIS-affiliated group in which several foreigners were killed, and there was some intelligence received that similar attacks could be forthcoming and we were a very susceptible target.

But, as we have witnessed on many occasions before, regardless of how dire the situation may seem, Almighty Allah may have His own plans and it is His will that is ultimately fulfilled. Sister Samina, who seems to have been placed on this earth specifically for resolving such crisis sit-



Dr. Hussein Aly addressing the audience

uations, immediately went to work to find a solution to this predicament. During the late evening and night hours, she was able to orchestrate a new plan to have the conference venue shifted to a spacious private hall that forms a part of Sheikh Azayem's building complex. This entailed making arrangements (and setting up) the entire catering, audiovisual equipment and simultaneous translation equipment at the new venue, and arranging for the participants to be advised of the change. These efforts took the entire night but, alhamdulillah, everything was arranged for proceeding with the conference in the morning.

Despite the last minute uncertainty, masha Allah, 250 people participated in the conference. Many were leading



Sheikh Tamer Salama Matar reciting the Holy Quran



Sheikh Abul Alaa Azayem welcoming guests



Dr. Muhammad Ahmad delivering lecture



Sheikh Omar Bastiwisy delivering lecture



Dr. Noman Malik delivering lecture



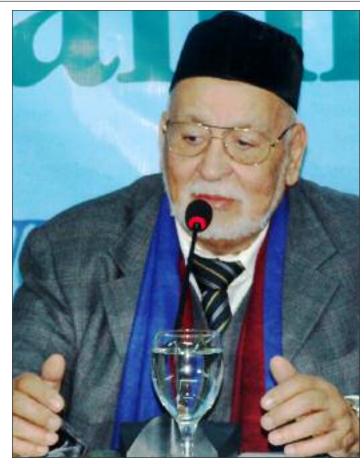
Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al Nagar delivering lecture



Fazeel S. Khan, Esq., delivering lecture



Sheikh Riffat addressing the audience



Sheikh Abul Alaa Azayem delivering lecture

Sufi sheikhs who were the heads of Sufi orders, invited by Sheikh Azayem. In addition, there were many academics who attended, primarily from Al Azhar University and the American University of Cairo, invited by Prof. Hussein Aly (the Arabic translator of Maulana Muhammad Ali's English commentary of the Holy Quran). Due to arrangements hav-



Mrs. Samina Malik thanking the audience

ing been made for a simultaneous translation of the speeches from English into Arabic and vice-versa by professional interpreters, all participants could understand all of the speakers in real time with headsets.

Program:

The True Portrait of Prophet Muhammad

As for the Program itself, the intent was to discuss the important issue of how to present the true narrative of the life and status of the Holy Prophet Muhammad to the world at a time when such distorted views about him are so common. Fazeel S. Khan first discussed the real significance of Prophet Muhammad being the "last" prophet, namely that Prophet Muhammad was the most excellent exemplar and role model for humanity. This laid the foundation for the other two presentations by representatives of the USA Jamaat, which then focused on both the internal and external aspects of the Holy Prophet Muhammad Ahmad's guiding example. Dr. Mohammed Ahmad discussed how the Holy Prophet is a perfect model for individual spiritual development, and Dr. Noman Malik discussed how the Holy Prophet Muhammad is a perfect guide for establishing universal peace among all people. In addition to these presentations, insightful talks were given by Sheikh Azayem, Sheikh Bastiwisy and Sheikh Al-Nagar (a prominent and influential Sheikh of Al-Azhar). And, in a concluding

address, Fazeel S. Khan spoke about the significance of the name "Ahmadiyya", being based on the Holy Prophet's name "Ahmad" and serving as a call to defend the Holy Prophet through peaceful means against the attacks made against his character.

Attendees listened attentively to the speeches, and their positive reactions were certainly more than we ever expected. They expressed their great appreciation for the knowledge and spiritual insights imparted to them. Some of the attendees stated many of the points relayed about the true significance of the Holy Prophet Muhammad being the final prophet were new to them, and that such interpretations inspired them to teach these lessons to others. Some stated that the information presented is exactly what is needed for the people in the region, especially the youth who are seeking an interpretation of Islam that is congruent with their understanding of the world. Others explained how they for the first time viewed the Holy Prophet not only through mere emotion but also through logic and reason. And others were so excited to learn about the differences between the Lahore and Qadian sections of the Ahmadiyya Movement, in particular the several journalists from leading Arabic newspapers who attended to report on the conference. As can be imagined, the experience was rather emotionally overwhelming. It was a reminder as to how fortunate we, as members of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Jamaat, are by having



Sister Samina, Sheikh Nagar and Dr. Hussein discussing Arabic tafsir of Holy Quran



Conference attendees picking up free books



Conference attendees picking up free books



Sister Samina distributing free books



Sheikh Ahmad Al-Tasqiyani and journalists at the conference







Conference attendees



Conference attendees



Dr. Ahmad and Fazeel Khan Esq. with journalists



L to R Sheikh Haleem, Sheikh Nagar, Sheikh Bastiwisy, Noman and Samina



Sheikh Abul Alaa Azayem, Sheikh Nagar, Mrs. Samina Malik, Sheikh Tamer Salama Matar



From left: Dr. Hussein Aly, Sheikh Haleem, Sheikh Nagar, Sheikh Bastiwisy, & Sister Hannan (far right) with USA directors



Prof. Ahmad El-Ezabi (3rd from right) with USA Jamaat directors

this treasure of knowledge imparted by Hazrat Mirza Sahib, Maulana Muhammad Ali and other Jamaat stalwarts available to us for our spiritual nourishment. But it was also a reminder of how imperative it is for the Jamaat to work together to further the actual practical work for which it was in fact created.

Notwithstanding the obstacles faced, the conference went on and ended on a very high note. In fact, the last minute complications seems to have been a blessing, as the atmosphere generated at the private hall turned out to be much more accommodating for establishing bonds of fraternal relations than the formal environment of a hotel banquet hall. Insha Allah the video recording of the conference proceedings will be made available soon.

Also, specifically for the conference, the USA Jamaat had approximately 2,500 copies of its Arabic publications (books by Maulana Muhammad Ali and Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad Sahib) prepared for free distribution, assembled in sets. These sets of books were received by the attendees with the utmost of appreciation. Within minutes, all of the sets of publications were taken, and cartons of extra books were even emptied. The interest generated by the conference, alhamdulillah, created a fervor among the attendees for additional knowledge to be taken home with them and shared with others. It was a joyous sight, one which we will never forget. Indeed, the interest and gratitude shown by the attendees for our Jamaat's literature is a very positive sign for the progress of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement's work in Egypt, insha Allah.

Post Conference: Meetings with Journalists and Professors

At the conclusion of the conference, journalists from several prominent Arabic newspapers and magazines desired to interview the USA Jamaat representatives. A few of them were able to conduct interviews that day (and also obtain presentation material to use in their reports). Several of them scheduled meetings with Sr. Samina and Dr. Malik over the next few days, after Fazeel, Dr. Ahmad and Sr. Lubna had left Cairo. These meetings entailed detailed interviews about the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement and the practical work being performed by the USA Jamaat to further the Movement's mission.

In addition, meetings were held with some of the academics who attended the conference. In particular, Sr. Samina and Dr. Malik were blessed to have a meeting with two professors from Al Azhar University (Dr. Ahmad El-Ezabi Prof. of English and Dean of the English Department and Prof. Dr. Yousaf Amer, Head of the Urdu Department and Vice-Dean of the Department of Linguistics. Dr. El-Ezabi shared how he was somewhat reluctant to attend the conference initially because of being exposed to anti-Ahmadiyya propaganda. He then expressed how his mind changed as the presentations began, and how much he has now come to appreciate the service performed by the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement. He also offered to have our English publications placed in the English Department library at Al Azhar (and other department libraries throughout university) and help organize future events in which we would present to students at Al Azhar. Professor Yousuf Amer, who speaks perfect Urdu, explained how he spent ten years in India studying at Delhi



Samina and Noman's meeting with Prof. Hussein Aly, Prof. Yousuf Amer and Prof. Ahmad El-Ezabi



Prof. Hussein Aly, Prof. El-Azabi, Prof. Amer, Noman and Samina

University, from where he received his Masters and Doctorate degree in Urdu. He was unable to attend the conference but was presented with Hazrat Mirza Sahib's Hammamatul Bushra by his colleague who obtained a set of our books when he attended the conference. Prof Amer said he held a negative view of Ahmadiyyat due to what he had heard about the Movement while in India, but after reading only a few pages of Hammamatul Bushra he became convinced that the negative propaganda he heard while in India could not be accurate. He now is eager to study all of Hazrat Mirza Sahib's original books and then write a book about him so as to clarify his true teachings and respond to the misinformation being spread about him. Among this professor's notable translation works from Urdu to Arabic is Allama Shilbli Nomani's Seerat un Nabi (the seven volume Urdu biography of the Holy Prophet Muhammad). Having such top notch credentials, Sr. Samina knew he would make a valuable asset to our translation team and, alhamdulillah, he agreed to her request to translate the commentary of Maulana Muhammad Ali's monumental work Fazl ul Bari (the Urdu translation and commentary of the Sahih Bukhari) into Arabic. Having this significant work available for Arabic-readers will, insha Allah, have a tremendous impact on the reformation of thought about the Holy Prophet Muhammad and his teachings in the Muslim world.

Conclusion

All praise is due to Allah, the Lord of the worlds. We are grateful for the continuing opportunities with which we are presented and are humbled by the results of our insignificant efforts. This practical work of disseminating the seeds of spiritual life as contained in the writings of Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad and Maulana Muhammad Ali, both of blessed memory, is the great striving (*jihad*) of the time, and we pray each Jamaat member will engage fully in this noble cause so that we, as a Jamaat, will be deserving of being representatives of the spiritual army of the Imam of the Age.

We would like to express our deepest appreciation to Sheikh Azayem for his continued assistance and support, as he has been instrumental in the progress of our work in Egypt. Special thanks must also be given to our dear friend, Sheikh Bastiwisy for all that he does to help in this cause, and to Sheikh Nagar of Al Azhar for his participation in the conference. Finally, we must convey our sincere gratefulness to Prof. Hussein Aly for his invaluable work in translating all of the conference material in both Arabic and English and who, along with his wonderful wife Hannan, attended to a host of other tasks to make the convention a success. May Almighty Allah bless all of them for their good deeds and their genuine conviction to support all that is good.

Reproduced below (see page 14-24) are sample newspaper reports about the conference and about the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement, translated from Arabic to English.

Please continue to pray for the success of this work. May Almighty Allah reward all those who are striving in His way. Ameen.

Wasalaam, USA Jamaat, Board of Directors

Reproduced below are English translations of relevant parts of reports from leading newspapers in Cairo, read by millions, about the conference and about the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement

Akeedaty:

January 16, 2016

Egyptian-American Celebration of Maulid Nabawy Sharif

Al-Azhar - Mecca for Religious Studies and Guard of Islamic Treasures

World Organization of Sufi Orders, under the presidency of Sheikh Alaa Abu Azayem, together with the Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society – USA, under the presidency of Dr. Mohammed Ahmed, were keen to celebrate Maulid Nabawy Sharif before the end of the Higri month Rabei I, in which the Holy Prophet Muhamad was born. In the celebratory event, they focused on the True Portrait of the Holy Prophet Muhammad, asking the Muslim world to apply what they learned from the Holy Prophet's life in all their daily life activities. By so-doing, they would set an example to the world as to what a Muslim should be.

The celebration took place at the headquarters of Azmi Sufi Group of Imam Muhamed Madi Abulazayem in Sayeda Zeinab of Cairo. A large group of Egyptian and American Sufis gathered in that spiritual atmosphere, which commenced with recitation of the Quran by Sheikh Tamer Salamah.

The Finality of Prophethood

Following the Opening and Welcoming, Mr. Fazeel S. Khan, the Secretary of Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society, gave a speech on the finality of prophethood. Mr. Khan stressed the need to promote the truth about the Holy Prophet Muhammad to the whole world, particularly the West. This, he explained, is even more significant nowadays with the rise of radical groups among some who claim to be Muslims espousing extremist ideologies. This recent phenomenon has resulted in many misconceptions about Islam, including Islam being viewed as a violent and intolerant faith. At the same time, the Holy Prophet Muhammad is being disparaged by critics in the vilest manner. Mr. Khan condemned the reactions by some Muslims who claim to defend the honor of the Holy Prophet through violence, not realizing that their misguided action only reinforce the negative views of those who try to malign the Holy Prophet's character.

Communicating the Message of the Holy Prophet Muhammad

Sheikh Omar El Bastawisy, the Former Director of the Office of Sheikh Al-Azhar, spoke about the various aspects of the life of the Holy Prophet Muhammad and how to represent that narrative to the world. He indicated that Allah has entrusted believers to respect the Holy Prophet, and that was made their duty, as reflected in many verses of the Holy Quran: "Make not the calling among you of the Messenger as your calling one of another" (24: 63), and "Surely Allah and His angels bless the Prophet. O you who believe, call for blessings on him and salute him with a (becoming) salutation" (33: 56). Sheikh Bastawisy stressed the great need today to abide by these instructions, taking the companions of the Holy Prophet as examples. He criticized those who talk about the Holy Prophet Muhammad without using the title "Allah's messenger" or "the Holy Prophet" or without following his name with salutations.

Mercy to the Whole World

Dr. Muhammad Ahmed, the President of Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society, talked about the Holy Prophet as a mercy sent by Allah to the whole world. Dr. Ahmed read many verses of the Quran reflecting this message. He explained that the Holy Prophet Muhammad was sent by Allah to give us spiritual life, as the Quran states: "He brings forth the living from the dead and brings forth the dead from the living, and gives life to the earth after its death. And thus will you be brought forth" (30:19). In order for that to happen, we need to take the Holy Prophet as a role model, as the Quran states: "Certainly you have in the Messenger of Allah an excellent exemplar for him who hopes in Allah and the latter day, and remembers Allah much" (33:21). Dr. Muhammad Ahmed stressed the need to follow the example of the Holy Prophet Muhammad in our daily lives. He called for Muslims to reflect in their conduct all the characteristics of the Holy Prophet as this would be the best representation of Islam and the most effective way to propagate Islam. If we have the will, Dr. Ahmed explained, Allah will help us accomplish our goals, as the Quran states: "And those who strive hard for Us, We shall certainly guide them in Our way. And Allah is surely with the doers of good" (29:69).

Guide for Universal Peace

Dr. Noman Malik, the Treasurer of the Lahore Ahmadiyyah Islamic Society, stressed the need for Muslims to represent in their lives the characteristics of the Holy Prophet Muhammad, as therein lies a guide for universal peace, particularly since the current age

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is a very critical time for humanity. Dr. Malik explained that the frequency and ferocity of wars and genocidal conflicts, due to technological progress which was supposed to bring many benefits to mankind such as peace and security, are unparalleled in human history. Dr. Malik further explained, "the very technology which was supposed to be a panacea is responsible for the extreme severity of these conflicts, and the material abundance produced by technology, instead of generating a spirit of generosity and sharing, has spawned a culture of greed and violence". Interestingly, Arabia before the advent of Islam was not different from the present time. The tribes in Arabia at the time of the Holy Prophet, as Dr. Malik explained, "were locked in a deadly cycle of blood feuds which had been ongoing for generations. Yet within a space of twenty three years a single man would end this deadly cycle of decades of violence and mutual hatred and replace it with brotherly relations." In addition, he stated that all messages of Allah call for peace, tolerance and reforming the spirituality of the individual, establishing justice, and conforming to covenants.

Promoting the Truth

Sheikh Ala Abulazayem emphasized that the aim of all the missions of Allah's messengers is to guide man to good morals. The Holy Prophet stated: "I was sent to perfect the morals". Morals in Islam, Sheikh Alaa explains, are characterized by two aspects: the first is that they are wide enough to include all circumstances, and the second is that they include all people, Muslims and non-Muslims. Sheikh Abulazayem clarifies that in order to develop our morals as well as our societies, we need to follow the example of the Holy Prophet Muhammad.

Al-Azhar's Role

Sheikh Abdelaziz Nagar, Secretary of Media and Missionary Activities, Al Azhar Islamic Research Center, clarified the role of Al-Azhar in representing the true portrait of the Holy Prophet of Muhammad. He stressed that Al-Azhar stands firmly against anyone who devalues the sunnah of the Holy Prophet Muhammad, as it is half of our religion. Sheikh Nagar said that Allah granted us Al-Azhar to defend Islam and the sunnah of his Prophet. He said that he is currently preparing an encyclopedia of manuscripts of sunnah which was preserved by Al-Azhar's scholars. These manuscripts were not only maintained by Al-Azhar's scholars, but also studied and verified using valid academic approaches. The same applies to all historic Islamic scholarly literature. He went on to explain that Al-Azhar is playing a significant role in preserving historic Islamic literature in spite of campaigns against it and obstacles to hinder its progress. He calls for support for Al-Azhar by all the people who love Islam. Sheikh Nagar quoted Imam Sharawy who stated that Egypt has exported Islamic studies to the whole world, including the country in which Islam has originally emerged.





Akeedaty:

Tuesday, January 26, 2016

Akeedaty newspaper in a meeting with the Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society:

Akeedaty newspaper met the leaders of Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society – USA during their visit to Cairo. It confronted the Lahore leaders with all the accusations concerning their relationship with the Qadiani sect, their financial resources, and their objectives. They said that the formation of Lahore Ahmadiyya was in response to the Qadian Ahmadiyya's diversion from the true teachings of the founder of the Movement, Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad. The purpose of the Lahore Ahmadiyya is to promote the true example of the Holy Prophet to the world. The Lahore Ahmadiyya leaders criticized the violent reactions to the campaigns against the Holy Prophet by some Muslims, which they said only reinforces the negative image of Islam. They stressed that the only way to defend Islam is to practically demonstrate the morals enjoined on Muslims in their daily lives. Dr. Muhammad Ahmed, the President of Lahore Ahmadiyyah Islamic Society – USA, Mrs. Samina Malik, the Vice-President of the Society, Dr. Noman Malik, the Treasurer, and Mr. Fazeel S. Khan, the Secretary, were in the meeting with Akeedaty.

What is your relationship with Qadian Ahmadiyya, and how do you fund your work?

We separated from Qadian Ahmadiyya after their diversion; we are selffinanced; and our purpose is to promote the true example of the Holy Prophet.

What is the significance of the name 'Ahmadiyya'?

Mr. Fazeel Khan, the Secretary of Lahore Ahmadiyyah Islamic Society, explained the significance of the name of 'Ahmadiyya.' He said that as we are all aware, our beloved Prophet was known by two names, "Muhammad" and "Ahmad". Even the Holy Quran uses both names in reference to him. These two names represent two different characteristics found in the Holy Prophet – "Ahmad" representing inner beauty (the aspect of "jamal") and "Muhammad representing outward glory (the aspect of "jalal"). And these two qualities of the Holy Prophet are reflected in two different phases of his life. The name "Ahmad", which symbolizes the inner beauty of Islam, was displayed in the early days while in Makkah, when the Holy Prophet was devoid of any power or material support, but notwithstanding, gained followers simply by the preaching of the spiritual lessons of the faith. And the name "Muhammad", which symbolizes the outward glory of Islam, was displayed in Madinah, when the Holy Prophet overcame attacks by opponents, was raised to status of being head of the citizenry, and institutionalized the just and equitable teachings of the religion in the governance of the society.

The role of Lahore Ahmadiyya

And how was that reflected in the establishment of Lahore Ahmadiyya?

Mr. Khan clarified that the condition of the Muslims today corresponds with the Holy Prophet's life at Makkah. Muslim nations do not possess the glory of being a ruling people on earth, so that it can contribute to the advancement of civilization as it once did. And because the Muslim world is regarded by others in the contemporary era as being weak, disunited and conflict-ridden, the religion of Islam and the character of the Holy Prophet are being impugned as the cause for its deleterious condition. This state of affairs necessitates Muslims today demonstrating the qualities of "Ahmad", which signifies being patient and showing perseverance in times of trials, just as the Holy Prophet and his blessed companions did at Makkah.

It was based on this understanding of the condition of the Muslim world and the needs of the time that the "Ahmadiyya Movement" was created in the year 1889. Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, the great reformer of the age, formed the Ahmadiyya Movement after the Holy Prophet's name "Ahmad" for the purpose of defending the religion of Islam and the honor of the Holy Prophet through gentle preaching of the beautiful, peaceful teachings of the faith.

Membership

And how can one join the movement?

Mr. Khan stressed that those who joined this Movement pledged to revive this example of the Holy Prophet's character and promote the spiritual basis of the Islamic faith to others. Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad explained:

> "Those who join my army, I order them to give up these ideas [of war], and rather to purify their hearts, develop and nurture their feelings of mercy towards all mankind and be helpers of those in distress and suffering. They should spread peace on earth, as this is how their religion will spread."

And the person who played the role like that of a "General" of this spiritual army, devoting his life to furthering this cause, was Maulana Muhammad Ali. He served as a faithful student at the feet of the *mujaddid* of the age, and after Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad's death, along with other senior companions of Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, separated from the Qadian faction of the Movement and founded the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement in the year 1914 to continue the practical missionary work envisioned by the founder. This was necessary due to the Qadian faction becoming engulfed in sectarianism and making exaggerated claims about the status of the founder, which were not only theologically baseless but also practically detrimental to serving the real purpose for which the Movement was created.

The Lahore Ahmadiyya Jamaat went on to establish the first ever Islamic missions in Europe, in England in 1913 and in Germany in 1922. These missions were the educational centers of Islam in the West and also aided Muslims around the world in defending Islam from western critics. The Lahore Ahmadiyya Jamaat also produced a library of scholarly publications, mostly authored by Maulana Muhammad Ali, which received glowing reviews from the time of its first publication and continues to do so even now.

Enlightening the Public

And what is the role of Lahore Ahmadiyya nowadays?

Today, the Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society - that is, the U.S. branch of the international Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement - continues this great legacy of educating the masses about Islam and the Holy Prophet through its publications. All of the major bookstores in the U.S. and U.K carry our books and many universities use them as text books in Islamic studies classes. We also have this literature translated into a host of different languages and distributed for free to local populations around the world. Recently we shipped 70,000 copies of our Russian translation and commentary of the Holy Quran to Russia and Central Asian countries. And many of our works have been translated into Arabic. Your respected and influential Al Azhar University has also provided certifications of authenticity for many of our publications and the late Grand Imam, Sheikh Muhammad Sayid Tantawi (may Allah be pleased with him), wrote a personal Foreword for Maulana Muhammad Ali's premiere treatise "The Religion of Islam".

Voluntary efforts

Who finance those efforts?

Mr. Fazeel Khan emphasized that all of this work is done on a voluntary basis, because those who join this Movement take a pledge which they understand to be the same pledge that early Muslims took to defend the Holy Prophet. Although the Holy Prophet (saw) has left this earthly abode, the attacks on him have not ceased; they are now focused on his character as opposed to his life.

Re-establishing Muslim unity

What is your purpose today?

We invite all individuals and institutions to join this noble cause of defending the Holy Prophet by showing his True Portrait to the world. We ask for your help by sharing information about our literature and the work we do to others. And let us also unite as an *ummah* in helping one another develop and display the true character of the Holy Prophet in our daily lives, so that we will be worthy of being his spiritual heirs, which is the greatest testament of him being *khatam-an-nabiyeen*.

There is great need to promote the truth about the Holy Prophet Muhammad (saw) to the world, in particular to Western nations. With the rise of radical groups espousing extremist ideologies among some who claim to be Muslims, the entire religion of Islam is being perceived by many as a violent and intolerant faith, and our beloved Holy Prophet's character is being disparaged in the most vile manner.

The recent disparaging cartoons against the Holy Prophet is an illustration of the type of sentiments about the Holy Prophet Muhammad (saw) that is prevalent among people today, and the lengths to which people will go in order to attack his character. Even more shameful, though, is the violent reactions by some Muslims, who claim to be defending the honor of the Holy Prophet, but who only reinforce the negative views of those who try to malign his character through their misguided actions.

And what is needed from your viewpoint?

What is needed is education – the people of the West need to be presented with the True Portrait of Prophet Muhammad. The name of the Holy Prophet Muhammad represents in the minds of Muslims a positive image of loyalty, tolerance, respect, etc., but conjures negatives images in the minds of Westerners. In order to change that, we need to present the true portrait of the Holy Prophet, and to present all the qualities of the Holy Prophet in our daily lives.

The example of the Holy Prophet

Dr. Mohammed Ahmed, the President of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society,

said that there is an urgent need to convey the message of the Holy Quran and the example of the Holy Prophet to the world and our humble effort today is part of it. The Holy Quran, he stated, explains this in the following verse:

"He brings forth the living from the dead and brings forth the dead from the living, and gives life to the earth after its death. And thus will you be brought forth" (30:19).

Allah, the Most High informs us in this verse of the Holy Quran that He is the One Who will revive the dead earth of our souls. This will be accomplished if we follow the excellent example of the Holy Prophet who is also the mercy to all nations. He then draws our attention as to how we can benefit from this excellent example. It is by accepting that none deserves to be worshipped besides Allah, remembering Allah much and submission to His will. Allah's pleasure becomes the sole purpose, desire and objective of our existence. We submit completely to His Will and magnify Him through our deeds. We develop genuine appreciation of His attributes mentioned in Al-Fatihah. In other words in dealing with human beings, we are to be nurturing, selfless, merciful, just and forgiving. Our moral example will serve to attract the rest of the world towards us and our religion, Islam.

The Holy Prophet's excellences And what are these distinctive excellences of the Holy Prophet?

Dr. Muhammed Ahmed said that not only was he a prophet of great moral excellences in his own person, but the purpose of his mission was to inculcate those values in others. His striving was to save others from evil and make them a shining example for the rest of humanity. The Holy Prophet's example is such that others can mould their lives to follow him. Human beings have the capability to follow his role model. If the Holy Quran is comprised of truths and facts, the Holy Prophet's character is a practical manifestation of these. This is so well described by his noble wife Aisha. When someone asked her about the conduct and character of the Holy Prophet, her reply was, "His character was the Holy Quran". If you want to know about his character, study the Holy Quran. I would say that if someone really wants to see what is written in the Holy

Quran, he should study the life and character of the Holy Prophet.

The Muslims of Today

For organizations that want to paint the true portrait of the Holy Prophet Muhammad before the world, Maulana Muhammad Ali, may Allah's mercy be upon him, gave this advice in one of his Jummah Khutbas:

> "The first task is for Muslims. There is the need to convey to them the correct teachings of Islam.

> The second task is to spread the Holy Quran amongst non-Muslims and make them appreciative of the Holy Prophet's character. And you cannot attract people towards your religion by calling other Muslims disbelievers. This malady of heresy calling (takfir) becomes an iron curtain. It becomes an impediment for an organization that invites others towards the example of the Holy Prophet Muhammad. So this was the standard set up by the Holy Prophet and this is what our organization has adopted.

Now I am asking you to come and demonstrate the example of the Holy Prophet in your daily practice so that you can propagate your religion in a more productive manner. Your mindset should be such that whenever you come across an excellence of the Holy Prophet you should make an attempt to immediately assimilate it in your practice. If you make a firm resolution that you will attempt to adopt any quality of the Holy Prophet that you come across, Allah the Most High will bless your efforts. The Holy Quran states:

"And those who strive hard for Us, We shall certainly guide them in Our ways. And Allah is surely with the doers of good." (29:69)

This is the example of the Holy Prophet Muhammad and I tell my friends to study his life history. Try to develop his morals within you and cast yourself in his mould so that people see his true picture by observing you. God sees you but in this way people will also recognize you as an example of true Islamic character".

May we heed this important advice by

Maulana Muhammad Ali, and may Almighty Allah help us all in this journey to follow in the footsteps of our beloved Prophet – may people appreciate his true character through the righteous conduct of his followers.

Critical time

Dr. Noman Malik, Treasurer of the Society, said that the present period that we are passing through is a very critical time for humanity. The frequency and ferocity of wars and genocidal conflicts from the late nineteenth century to the present time with concomitant loss of life, destruction of property and untold suffering have been unparalleled in human history. At present there exist at least half a dozen flash points for future large scale conflicts with some of them having the potential of becoming nuclear holocausts which would kill hundreds of millions of people in a matter of minutes and end civilization as we know it.

Without doubt, technological progress has brought many benefits to mankind, but the initial premise held out in the late nineteenth century, that the abundance produced by technology would end poverty and conflicts over resources, has been an unmitigated failure. In fact, the very technology which was supposed to be a panacea is responsible for the extreme severity of these conflicts, and the material abundance produced by technology, instead of generating a spirit of generosity and sharing, has spawned a culture of greed and violence.

The questions which need to be answered are: 1) Why do nations fight with each other, and 2) Is there a solution which will end this recurring conflict and violence? For the answer, we have to harken back fourteen hundred years to seventh century Arabia where a situation similar to our times existed in the Arabian Peninsula.

In spite of a common language, the tribes in Arabia at the time of the Holy Prophet were locked in a deadly cycle of blood feuds which had been on-going for generations. The weaker tribes were at the mercy of the larger and stronger tribes. Survival strategies necessitated the formations of pacts and alliances, which as a matter of expediency, were broken at the first opportunity, if that afforded some advantage to one party or other. In the settled areas and towns like Mecca, trade with the Roman Empire in commodities such as myrrh and frankincense had produced a rich oligarchy fond of pomp and show. As a consequence, the old tribal customs which previously had provided protection to the lesser members of the tribe were breaking down with resulting class differences and increasing mistreatment of the poor and the slaves. There was no central authority to dispense justice, and unless the under privileged such as women, children, slaves and the poor were under the protection of some powerful individual or clan, their rights and properties could be usurped at will.

The Holy Quran, the written record of that time, aptly portrays this situation:

"... And remember Allah's favour to you when you were enemies, then He united your hearts, so by His favour you became brethren. And you were on the brink of a pit of fire, then He saved you from it..." (3:103)

Yet within a space of twenty three years a single man would end this deadly cycle of decades of violence and mutual hatred and replace it with brotherly relations which would transcend family ties, social status and ethnic origins.

Never in history has such a complete transformation of a society been achieved under such adverse circumstances, on so large a scale and in so short a time. This transformation was achieved not by governmental decree or armed force but rather by something far more effective and long lasting; it was achieved by changing the character of men for the better. Today we again stand at a brink of a pit of fire of conflicts, hatred, fanaticism and war.

Global peace

And how can peace be achieved today?

Dr. Noman Malik said that the world today faces a catastrophe of nuclear war as conflicts mount, and powerful nuclear armed nations find themselves on opposite sides in these conflicts. Even a small misstep may lead to direct a confrontation between them with disastrous results. Concerted efforts to achieve this goal of international peace have been attempted, but have been unsuccessful so far. The reason is that this current modern civilization considers material success as the goal of man's existence. The result is that nations will employ any means whether fair or foul to

further their selfish interests to achieve this goal. Lasting peace and harmony among nations can only exist if nations can control the lower desires of the love of wealth and power which are the source of ruthless strife among them, and develop feelings of mutual love, friendship and respect towards each other on the basis of their common origin from the Spirit of God. This goal was achieved in Arabia fifteen hundred years ago by the Holy Prophet Muhammad and the teachings of the Holy Quran, by producing in the hearts of warring tribes the conviction of a living God whose very essence is that of Love, Goodness and justice.

Lahore Ahmadiyya's efforts today

And what do you do to promote better understanding of Islam today?

Mrs. Samina Malik, Vice-President of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society –

USA, stated that the Organization helps promote the true teachings and understanding of Islam in a variety of ways:

The most important of these activities is the Publication and Translation of the Literature of the Movement. for which she was in charge. She said she has been working in this field for more than twenty-eight years. During that time, hundreds of thousands of important books such as the Holy Quran, Religion of Islam, Manual of Hadith, Muhammad the Prophet, Living Thoughts of the Prophet Muhammad etc. have been printed and distributed throughout the world including countries such as the United States, Canada, UK, Europe, India, Philippines, South Africa, Nigeria, Australia and New Zealand, etc.. She also had the English translation of the Holy Quran and other important books such as the Religion of Islam translated into twenty languages. In the past ten years she has shipped and distributed seventy thousand Russian translation of the Holy Quran in Russia and the former Central Asian Soviet Republics.

In addition to the above activities, Mrs. Malik said that the organization sponsors symposia and conferences, many times in cooperation with like-minded organizations in various countries, promoting the tolerant and peaceful teachings of Islam. In some countries, such the Philippines, she has helped set up branches of the Movement for Islamic dawah purposes.

Speaking particularly of Egypt she mentioned her close relationship with Al-Azhar. Many of the books of the movement, she said, had received certificates of approval form Al-Azhar. Recently, a translation into Arabic of the English Commentary of the Holy Quran by Maulana Muhammad Ali was completed and will be published soon.



SAFER HELL

ALL INCOME.

تحت رعاية المنظمة العالمية للطرق الصوفية والجمعية الإسلامية الأحمدية اللاهوري مؤتمر «المعاني الأخلاقية للحقيقة المحمدية.

hore A

الإمام أبى العزائم تبمقر مشيخة الطريقة العزمية بالأزهر الشريف وقضيلة الشيخ عمر العذمة أس المفاس الإملاقية الم Carry and a second and The Yellow makes to be اليسطويسي رئيس فطاع مكتب شيخ المالم كله من والمات العرب والم الأزهم الأسبل والمديد الأستاذ الدكتور والمسل والعنول وتعط فلتربة م رفعت سديق الأستاد بعامعة الأزعر مرد تسال کا تعنا ہے ک والشيخ احمد التصقياني شيخ الطريقة There is any and that the التسقيانية والشوخ فكرى الفيتورى شيخ ملازهم الشريف عسيمة الشري ي الطريقة العروسية الشاذولية والشيخ and and a the taken سعير الفاسي شيخ الطريقة الفاسية . مرد المر على الله عبد الله معامة السبد علام أبو العرائم عن وأن الياعث الأساسير لانت على م وقد تحدث في المؤتمر رئيس الاتعاد العالمي للطرق الصوفية

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كتبت فناءحم مؤتمر بالمعاني الأخلاقية للمقيقة المحمدية، الذي العقد بقاعة الإمام أبن المرائم بمقر مشيحة الطريقة للمزمية بالقاهرة تحت رعابة المنطمة العالمية للطرق الصوفية والجمعية الإسلامية الأحمدية اللاهورية وبمضور رئيس الاتعاد العالمي للطرق الضوفية الميد محمد علاء الدين ماضي أبو العزائم وفضيلة الشيح عبد العزيز التجار رتبس الابتجمع البحوث الإصلامية

المؤتمر إنمة محبة سيدنا رسول الله صلى الله عليه وآله وسلم ، كما تحدث رئيس قطاع مكتب شيخ الأزهر الأسبق فضيئة الشيخ عمر البسطويسي شمول الرسالة المحمدية إلا أن رسول الله صلى الله عليه وآله وسلم خائم المرسلين ورحمة للعالمين . كما تحدث الأستاذ الدكتور رفعت صديق الأستاذ بجامعة الأزهر عن قضل الاجتماع للاحتفال يسيدنا رسول الله صلى الله عليه وآله وسلم ، كما تحدث الأستاد الضيل خان عن الحثيقة المحمدية وكيف نوصلها للعالم أجمع وأن النبى صلى الله عليه وآله وسلم رحمة للعالمين ، وتحدث الدكتور تعمان مالك عن أن النبى صلى الله عليه واله وسلم تبى السلام للعالمين -

وقد حضر المؤتمر عدد من علماء الأزهر ومشايخ الطرق الصوقية منهم الشيع أحمد التسقياني والشيخ فكرى الفيتوري وأبناء الطرق الصوفية .

اكد الدكتور نعمان مالك ممثل الجمعية الإسلامية الأحمدية اللاهورية فرع الولايات المتحدة الأمريكية». إن

الهدف من مؤتمر المنظمة المالمية للطرق المسوفية والجمعية الإسلامية الأحمدية اللاهورية الذي تحت عنوان مالمعاني الأخلاقية للحقيقة المحمدية بمقر الطريقة العزمية، استهدف شرح السيرة الذائية للوسول علية الصلاة والسلام، وكيفية تعاملة مع أصحاب الديانات الأخرى وكافة شئون الحياة.

ولقت إلى أن الجمعية تسعى إلى إيصال رسالة الإسلام الوسطى السمح للمالم أجمع، وبالاضافة الى هذة المحاضرات هناك أيضا حوارات دقيقة وعمية حول النبى الكريم والوسائل الى يمكن من خازلها تقديم صورثة الحقيقية للعالم واكد الدكتور تعمان مالك ان المطلوب هو التوعية فالعالم الغربي بحاجة الي أن تقدم لهم الصورة الحقيقية للنبي الكريم محمد واضاف ايضا الى أن دول العالم الغربي ثري العالم الأسلامي في العصر الحالى ضعيف ومفكك ويعانى من الصراعات وهذا الوضع يقتضى على المسلمين الآن ان يتحلوا بصفات النبى صلى الله علية وسلم وبناء على أدراك وضبع العالم الاسلامي واحتيجات العصبر

بهذا المنطور للمنست المركة الاخمدية في مام 1889 بقدمان الدهاع عن الدين الأسلامي بالموعظة الخمينة ولشر تماليم الدين الجميلة والمسلمة ويقديم اسس الأسلام الدومية إلى الأخرين

كما فالبد السودة سامونا فاللد نعن hinder and Range Margaria فرجالحركة الأحمدية اللاهورية الدواية هي الولايات المتحدة هذ الأربة المطيح التقيف الجماهير بمقيفة الأسائم من خلال متشوراتها وتوقيد كلينا في جميع متاجر الكتب الكبرى في الولايات Halank elleable Halank edition تستخدم كثير من الجامعات هدة الكتب المترجمة الى مجموعة من اللغابت المختلفة وتوزيعها مجانا على السكان المحليين في جميع انحاء العالم وقد المتا مؤخرا بشحن سيعين الف نسطة من القران الكريم وتفسيرة المترجم الى الروسية الى روسيا ودول اسيا الوسطى وقد اعتمد الأزهر الشويف متشوراتها وكنب الأمام الأكبر الراحل الشيخ محمد سيد طنطاوي مقدمة لاول كتاب مترجع الى العربية



Al Iktisad:

February 2016:

Conference sponsored by the World Organization of Sufi Orders and Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society on 'The True Portrait of the Holy Prophet Muhammad' at the Azmi Order headquarters in Cairo

A conference devoted to the True Portrait of the Holy Prophet Muhammad was held at the Azmi Order headquarters in Cairo. The conference was sponsored by the World Organization of Sufi Orders and the Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society. Among the attendees were Sheikh Alaa Abul Azayem, the President of the World Organization Sufi Orders, Sheikh Abdelaziz Elnagar, the Head of the Department of Media and Missionary activities, Sheikh Omar Bastaweesy, Ex-Director of the Office of Al-Azhar President, Prof. Rifaat Sideeg of Al-Azhar University, Sheikh Ahmed Tasqiyani, leader of the Tasqiani Order, Sheikh Fekry Al-Faitory, leader of Al-Arousiyyah Al-Shazuliyyah Order, and Sheikh Samir Al-Fasi, leader of Al-Fasiyyah Order.

Sheikh Alaa Abul Azayem, President of the World Organization Sufi Orders, was one of the presenters. He spoke about the need to present the true portrait of the Holy Prophet Muhammad. There is a dire need to present the true teachings of Islam and its tolerance as this is the only way to save the world from the darkness of wars, injustice, corruption, and aggression.

Sheikh Abdelaziz Elnagar, Head of the Department of Media and Missionary activities spoke about the role of Al-Azhar in presenting the true of portrait of the Holy Prophet Muhammad, and that the reason the conference was convened is the love for our Prophet Muhammad.

Sheikh Omar Bataweesy, Ex-Director

A report by Hanaa Hasib

of the Office of Al-Azhar President, spoke about the comprehensiveness of the message of the Holy Prophet Muhammad. Hence, the Holy Prophet Muhammad is the mercy sent to the world and the last prophet.

Prof. Rifaat Sideeq of Al-Azhar University, said that the conference is an excellent celebration of the birth of the Holy Prophet Muhammad.

Noteworthy, the conference was attended by a number of Al-Azhar scholars as well as a number of leaders of Sufi Orders including Sheikh Ahmed Al-Tasqiyani and Sheikh Fekry Al-Faitory.

Mr. Fazeel Khan spoke about the true portrait of the Holy Prophet Muhammad and how we can communicate it to the whole world. He also talked about the Holy Prophet as a mercy sent to humankind.

Dr. Noman Malik stressed that the purpose of the conference was to clarify aspects of the life of the Holy Prophet Muhammad and to show how he dealt with people from other religions, and show practical examples from his life. Dr. Malik added that the Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society seeks to promote the peaceful moderate message of Islam in the whole world.

In addition to the presentations, there were discussions, which were deep and detailed, about the tools that can be used to promote the truth about the Holy Prophet in the world. It was stressed that what is needed is to make the western world aware of the true image of the Holy Prophet Muhammad.

The current world situation makes it necessary for Muslims to follow the example of the Holy Prophet so as to attract people to the truth about the religion of Islam. It was also explained that the Ahmadiyya Movement was established in 1889 on the basis of awareness of the situation of the Islamic world and the needs of the world at that time. The purpose of the Movement was to defend Islam by promoting the peaceful teachings of the faith.

Mrs. Samina Malik said that the Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society is the USA branch of the international Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement. It attempts to spread the truth about Islam by publishing numerous books on the faith. Many of these books are available in the main bookshops in the USA and UK as well as university libraries.

A good number of these books are translated to a variety of languages, and are distributed to local populations in countries around the world. Recently, 70,000 Russian Quran Translation and Commentary were distributed in Russia and Central Asia. Mrs. Malik said that Al-Azhar certified many books written by the members of the Movement, and that the late Professor Sheikh Muhammad Sayed Tantawi wrote a foreword to the book 'Religion of Islam' translated into Arabic.