

Basharaat-E-Ahmadiyya

Newsletter of Ahmadiyya Anjuman Ishaat Islam, (Lahore) USA

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Audio Recording
of the English Translation
of the

Holy Quran



By Maulana Muhammad Ali

Read by
Robert Adams

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Editorial

This has been another year in which we cannot thank Almighty Allah enough for all the encouraging events that have taken place. The message of the Holy Quran continues to spread throughout the world. More copies of the Holy Quran are being distributed in Central Asia. In Europe, initially the Dutch Holy Quran in Holland and now the German Holy Quran in Germany, have been distributed to all major libraries in these two countries. Soon, insha Allah, the same will be done with the Italian and the French Holy Qurans in their respective countries. These seeds, which are being planted will, insha Allah, bear fruit when Allah Taala wills.

The Lahore Ahmadiyya Jamaat will, insha Allah, be registered in Albania, Kyrgystan and other Central Asian countries. To continue work in a systematic manner, long term, a permanent presence in these countries is required. Insha Allah, our registration in these countries will facilitate the attainment of our goals in these countries.

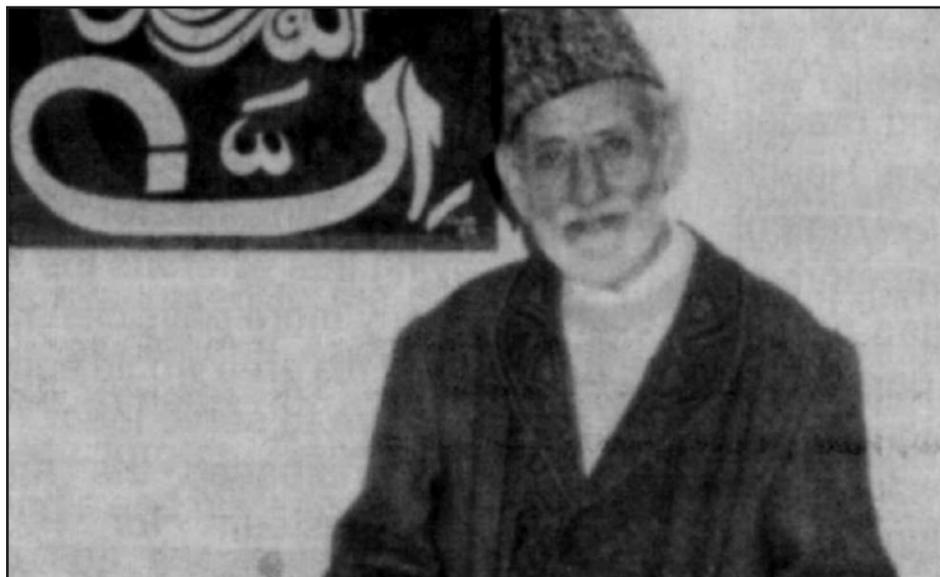
Our various translation projects continue to progress very well by the Grace of Almighty Allah. We have been truly blessed with a group of qualified and dedicated translators. There is only so much that can be planned, only so much that is

within one's control. We try to complete our projects as best as humanly possible. But the success of any task is always dependent on Allah's will. We are truly grateful for Almighty Allah's help and for His making our efforts easy for us.

And last, but not least, we thank Almighty Allah for the miraculous recovery that he has granted Brother Nur Sardar Sahib after his severe and prolonged illness. We pray to Almighty Allah that He keeps brother Nur Sardar under His protection and blesses him with continued good health, so that he can continue to serve Islam and Ahmadiyyat in Holland. Ameen.

To conclude, November reminds us of our late Ameer, Dr. Saeed Ahmad, our beloved Jaanji, who passed away in this month. Personally to Samina especially and to many of us of my age group and younger, who did not

have that clear a memory of spiritual giants such as Maulana Muhammad Ali, Dr. Saeed Ahmad provided that inspiring link to that grand spiritual era of the Great Mujaddid , Promised Messiah and Mahdi and his Mansoor. His steadfastness in the critical time in 1973 when the most severe attack was made on Ahmadiyyat will always be a source of strength for us. His journeys to strengthen the jamaats, some of whom were reeling after the blow of the events in 1973, will always be remembered as one of his greatest achievements. The example of that man in his eighties, traveling thousands of miles in economy class without any help to hold the Jamaats together, is an inspiration for all of us in service and leadership. Surely, many of those who are most active in serving the Jamaat are those who have been inspired by personal contact with this servant of Allah and his Messenger.



Dr. Saeed Ahmad

Chechnya Conference: Islam, the Religion of Peace and Creation

By Samina Malik

In August, I received an invitation from the Russian Federation in Moscow and the Government of Chechnya to attend an international Islamic conference to be held in Chechnya titled "Islam the Religion of Peace and Creation". I accepted the invitation with pleasure. Such conferences focusing on the true, peaceful teachings of Islam should always be supported. I also viewed this as an excellent opportunity to present our Jamaat's peaceful and tolerant interpretation of Islam to the international delegates.



Samina and a member of the international delegation departing for Chechnya at the Moscow airport

Within one week my visa documents arrived and I left on Sunday, August 19th for the conference. I arrived in Moscow the next day. I was received at the airport by government officials who escorted me to a government hotel, named Hotel President. The accommodations were

excellent. After a nights sleep, I spent the next day arranging for 100 copies of our Russian translation of the Holy Quran to be shipped from Moscow to Chechnya for the conference. I brought 30 copies with me in my luggage, but wanted at least 100 available for distribution to the international delegates. Our good friends from the Hilal Foundation, as usual, were extremely helpful in making this happen. It was so nice to meet these friends again, who came to visit me with their families. At 3:00 am on August 22nd, I left for Chechnya along with the other delegates who were also residing at the Hotel President.

We arrived in Chechnya at about 11:00 a.m. There were about 100 people at the airport to greet us. The ladies were dressed in very fancy, traditional clothes and presented us with a type of paratha and ghee to eat. Three double-decker buses awaited us: one for the locals, one for the Russian delegates and one for the international delegates. Several police and other government vehicles escorted the buses throughout the trip. There were also a host of reporters and television crew that accompanied us as well.

The first stop for the delegates was the Ahmad Kadyrov Central Mosque, named

after the first president of Chechnya. The mosque is still not complete, but even at this point it was absolutely beautiful. We were told it can accommodate 10,000 people. A congregational dua was made for the completion of the mosque and for peace in Chechnya and for Muslims throughout the world.



Reception at the airport in Chechnya with paratha and desi ghee

After visiting the Central Mosque, we attended the opening of a new madrassa. The ribbon was cut by the Mufti of Moscow and the Mufti of Uzbekistan. The madrassa was beautiful and very spacious. It had a computer room with twenty new computers in it and a library full of Islamic literature. It also had a very large mosque, class rooms and casual reading areas. It also had extremely clean and nicely furnished boarding rooms for students who come from abroad to study. I have never seen such a wonderful madrassa before. Insha Allah it will be

a place wherein people will learn the truth about Islam and wherefrom peace and good relations will spread.

After the visit to the madrassa, we went to the cemetery to make dua for the past first president, Haji Akhmad Kadyrov. Apparently it was his birthday that day. We then went to the mosque for prayers and then for lunch at a very nice restaurant that primarily served government officials. Finally, we went to the conference.



Welcome at the Chechnya airport

Masha Allah, the conference was very well organized. Delegates from approximately 70 countries attended. The organizers and the delegates were seated around a huge roundtable which could accommodate 200 people. Local attendees were seated in rows behind the main roundtable. The seating arrangement was similar to pictures seen of meetings at the U.N. Every seated person had two bottles of water, head phones which provided simultaneous translations of the speeches, and wireless microphones.



Government House and the Residence of the President of Chechnya, Mr. Ramadan Kaderov

In addition to Muslim representatives from throughout Russia, delegates attended from Saudi Arabia, United States, Australia, Poland, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, and other places. The Mufti of Chechnya opened the forum. The Chairperson then related the history of Chechnya and stories about the past president and his service to Islam and Peace in Chechnya. Thereafter, the President of Chechnya Mr. Ramzan Kadyrov spoke about the need for peace in Chechnya and the need to stop terrorism in this region and around the world. It was a very inspiring speech, which was well received by all.

The large roundtable had the names of each person posted so that each person could know who everyone else was. I was seated alongside the President and Mufti of Chechnya, and the representatives from Iraq, Jordan and Uzbekistan. I was asked to speak in the same

session as these persons as well, which was within the first hour of the conference. This was very fortunate as the President Mr. Ramzan Kadyrov had to leave after the first hour for some other commitments. There were approximately 50 speakers in the total. . When it was my turn to speak, I was introduced as the delegate from United States of America. I spoke for about 15 minutes on the topic of "Islam's liberal view of other religions". Masha Allah, the speech was well received. The best thing was that every speech was being simultaneously translated. So, everyone could understand my speech and I could understand everyone else's regardless of what language was being spoken.



Samina Malik delivering her speech at the Symposium in Chechnya

I presented our Russian translation of Maulana Muhammad Ali's translation and commentary of the Holy Quran to the President of Chechnya, Mr. Ramzan Kadyrov, and to the Mufti of Chechnya, Mr. Sultan Mirzayov. I also presented them with

some of our other Russian and Arabic literature. They were very grateful and expressed their appreciation in very kind words. They actually made an announcement that they had received 130 copies of the Russian translation of the Holy Quran from Mrs. Samina Malik of USA, and that these would be distributed in Chechnya by the Mufti. Alhamdulillah!

I had further discussions with the Mufti about distribution of our Russian translation of the Holy Quran throughout Chechnya. I agreed, on behalf of the USA Jamaat, to donate 2000 copies very soon. He was absolutely thrilled and thanked me very graciously. He asked that I come again next year along with my family.

I had heard many troubling things about Chechnya in the news over the past few years. However, I was pleasantly surprised to see that in actuality it is a beautiful and rather safe place. The past president has worked very hard to bring peace in this region. Most of the buildings are very modern looking. The streets are very clean. After about midnight, nightly, many women go out and sweep the streets in their areas. I have never seen such a thing before. The whole community contributes to keeping their region clean.

The next morning I was not feeling too well. The hectic schedule began catching up with me. When the Mufti and the organizers heard of this, they were very concerned

and asked that I accompany the lady organizers to the president's residence for breakfast. Although I was not feeling up to it, I felt it would be somewhat impolite to turn down their gracious offer. We were very impressed by the fact that the president together with fifty officials came to bid farewell to the delegates. The president spoke to each delegate personally and thanked each one for coming to Chechnya and attending the Conference.

May Almighty Allah bring about the fruition of the resolutions of Peace and Creation in Islam passed by the Conference.

I must mention that my airfare and all expenses were paid for by the organizers of the conference. They were more hospitable than I could have ever imagined. May Almighty Allah Bless the President of Chechnya for his effort of bringing Peace in the country. Also May Almighty Allah Bless each and every one who has tried to arrange the convention to a success. May Almighty Allah bless this Jamaat. May we be steadfast in our work. May He provide us with many more opportunities to further His cause. And may Almighty Allah be pleased with our efforts. Ameen. Jazak Allah for all of your prayers. Nothing can be done without Allah's help. Copied below is the speech I delivered at the Conference:



The International Symposium in Chechnya

Speech by Mrs. Samina Malik at the chechnya conference

Dear Mr. President Ramdan Kaderov, respected delegates, brothers and sisters in Islam, assalamu aleikum! It is a great honor for me to partake in this forum and speak on the subject of Islam being a religion of peace and tolerance.

I am the delegate from the United States of America and am the Vice-President of the U.S. branch of the international organization, the Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society. The primary goal of our organization is to translate the Holy Quran into all of the languages of the world and have it distributed widely so that people, Muslims and non-Muslims alike, may study Almighty Allah's word for themselves, in their own language. Recently, we donated fifty thousand copies of the Russian translation of the Holy Quran to Russia for free distribution. We are also working in several Central Asian countries to develop learning centers where the local populations may come to learn about Islam from its original sources. Unfortunately, today, many Muslims are deprived of learning the Quran for themselves because they do not have access to its teachings in their own language. These people resort to learning their religion from

others, who are sometimes more interested in politics than Islam. We believe by providing the people with the Quran in their own language, they will be in a much better position to learn the truth of Islam. Our motto is: get the Quran into the hands of the people, and the spiritual force of the Quran will then do the rest.

This forum here today could not have been held at a more opportune time. As you all know, Islam is being portrayed throughout the world as a violent, intolerant and destructive force. This image of Islam is based on the acts of terrorism by a small minority of Muslims who claim they are acting in accordance with Islam. Unfortunately, it is these violent actions that capture the headlines in the media and feed the perception among non-Muslims that the religion of Islam is anything but peaceful. Forums such as these are extremely necessary as they are very effective in disseminating the correct, peaceful teachings of Islam. It is my earnest prayer to Almighty Allah that He causes the proceedings of this forum to be widely disseminated so that the true picture of Islam, as a religion of peace and tolerance, prevails in the world. Ameen! As we all know, there is a very deep-rooted misconception prevalent in the world that the Quran itself preaches intolerance and that Prophet

Muhammad preached his faith with the sword in one hand and the Quran in the other. This, it is argued, is the cause for Muslims carrying out acts of terror in the world today. This logic could not be further from the truth. And this is why I would like to discuss today the topic of: "Islam and the Foundation for Inter-religious Peace."

Faith in all prophets

As a fundamental principle of Islam, a Muslim must believe in all prophets of the world. This fact, in and of itself, is enough to rebut the allegation that Islam is intolerant toward other faiths. The Holy Prophet Muhammad taught that simple respect for the founders of the great religions of the world was not enough – in Islam, one must have faith in them as well. Thus, the word "tolerance" cannot sufficiently describe the attitude Islam prescribes towards other religions – Islam preaches equal love, equal respect and equal faith in them all.

As the Holy Quran states in Chapter 4, verses 150 to 152:

Those who disbelieve in Allah and His messengers and desire to make a distinction between Allah and His messengers and say: We believe in some and disbelieve in others; and desire to take a course in between –

These are truly disbelievers; and We have prepared for the disbelievers an abasing chastisement.

And those who believe in Allah and His messengers and make no distinction between any of them, to them He will grant their rewards. And Allah is ever Forgiving, Merciful.

No Compulsion in Religion

It is also clear that intolerance cannot be ascribed to a book which plainly declares:

There is no compulsion in religion (2:256).

Thus, “freedom of religion” is an entrenched principle of Islam. The Holy Quran clearly mandates that a person’s belief in religion is his or her own concern and that everyone should be given the choice of adopting whichever path they want; if he or she accepts the truth, it is for his or her own good, and that if he or she remains in error, it is to his or her own detriment. The Quran lays this down in the clearest words. In Ch. 18, verse 29, it states:

The Truth is from your Lord; so let him who please believe and let him who please disbelieve (18:29).

In Chapter 6, verse 104, it states:

Clear proofs have indeed come to you from your Lord: so whoever sees, it

is for his own good; and whoever is blind, it is to his own harm (6:104).

And in Chapter 76, verse 3, it states:

We have truly shown him the way; he may be thankful or unthankful (76:3).

Why fighting was allowed.

Now, certainly history testifies to the fact that Muslims were permitted to engage in certain wars. But what was the object of those wars? This is the question that must be asked.

It was surely not to compel non-Muslims to accept Islam, for this would be against all the verses I have just quoted from the Holy Quran. No, it was to establish religious freedom! It was to stop all religious persecution and to protect the houses of worship of all religions, whether churches, synagogues or mosques. The Holy Quran explains:

And if Allah did not repel some people by others, cloisters and churches and synagogues and mosques in which Allah’s name is much remembered, would have been pulled down” (22:40).

Every student of Islamic history knows that the Holy Prophet and his companions were subjected to the severest persecution as Islam began to gain ground at Makkah. Over one hundred of them fled to Abyssinia, but persecution

grew still more relentless. Ultimately, the Muslims took refuge in Madinah, but they were not left alone, and the sword was taken up against them even there to annihilate this small group of believers. The Quran bears testimony to this; it states:

Permission (to fight) is given to those on whom war is made, because they are oppressed. And Allah is able to assist them — those who are driven from their homes without a just cause except that they say: Our Lord is Allah (22:39, 40).

Thus, in Islam, war is only permissible in “self-defense”! And even under these circumstances, it is limited. The Quran states:

And fight in the way of Allah against those who fight against you, but be not aggressive. Surely Allah loves not the aggressors” (2:190).

The Quran, therefore, allowed fighting only as defensive measure to save a persecuted community from powerful oppressors; as soon as the persecution ceased, the fighting was to be stopped.

The Holy Quran goes so far as to prescribe that if the enemy offered peace, peace was to be accepted, though the enemy’s intention might only be to deceive the Muslims. The Quran states:

And if they incline to peace, incline thou also to it, and trust in Allah. Surely He is the Hearer, the Knower. And if they intend to deceive thee, then surely Allah is sufficient for thee (8:61, 62).

In accordance with this principle, the Holy Prophet made treaties of peace with his enemies. One such treaty brought about the famous “Truce of Hudaibiyah”, the terms of which were not only disadvantageous, but also humiliating to the Muslims. According to the terms of this treaty, “if an unbeliever, being converted to Islam, went over to the Muslims, he was to be returned, but if a Muslim went over to the unbelievers, he was not to be given back to the Muslims”. This clause of the treaty diminishes all allegations of the use of force by the Holy Prophet. It also shows the strong conviction of the Holy Prophet that neither would Muslims go back to unbelief, nor would the new converts to Islam be deterred from embracing Islam. And these expectations proved true, for during this period not a single Muslim deserted Islam, but rather a large number came over to Islam.

It is a mistake to suppose that the conditions related above were abrogated at any time. The condition to fight “against those who fight against you” remained in force to the last. The last expedition led by the

Holy Prophet was the famous “Tabuk Expedition”, and every historian of Islam knows that, though the Prophet had marched a very long distance to Tabuk leading an army of thirty thousand, yet, when he found that the enemy did not fulfill the condition laid down above (i.e. was not currently engaged in aggression), he simply returned and did not allow his troops to attack the enemy territory.

So from first to last, the Holy Qur’an allowed fighting only against those who fought the Muslims first. It allowed fighting only in defense, without which the Muslims would have been exterminated, and it clearly forbade aggressive war. The view that Islam encourages the waging of war on unbelievers to compel them to accept Islam is a myth pure and simple; it is a concept completely foreign to the Holy Quran and untraceable to acts of the early Muslims.

No punishment for apostasy.

Another widely prevailing misconception may also be noted here. It is generally thought that the Quran provides a death sentence for those who desert the religion of Islam. Anyone who takes the trouble to read the Quran will see that there is not the least ground for such a supposition. The Quran speaks repeatedly of people going back to unbelief after

believing, but never once does it say that they should be killed or punished. In Chapter 2, verse 217, the Quran states:

And whoever of you turns back from his religion, then he dies while an unbeliever — these it is whose works go for nothing in this world and the Hereafter” (2:217).

In Chapter 5, verse 54, it states:

O you who believe, should anyone of you turn back from his religion, then Allāh will bring a people whom He loves and who love Him (5:54).

And in Chapter 3, verse 90, it states:

Those who disbelieve after their believing, then increase in disbelief, their repentance is not accepted, and these are they that go astray” (3:90).

So from where did this misconception arise? It appears that some people, who after becoming apostates, joined enemy forces, fought against the Muslims and took the life of a Muslim. Thus, if such a person was at some time killed by the Muslims, it was because of the crime of murder, not simply because he changed his religion. The principle is similar to the punishment for the crime of “treason” accepted widely in the world today.

Conclusion

My dear brothers and sisters, we recite the Surah Fatiha in each of our daily prayers wherein we ask Almighty Allah: “Ideen a siratul mustaqeem” – “Guide us on the right path”! Almighty Allah has provided us this guidance in the form of the Holy Quran and the example of the Holy Prophet Muhammad. Now it is our duty to study these two gifts from Almighty Allah and put them into practice. This is in fact the true “jihad”. The war that is obligatory upon each Muslim in this age is not any type of military action but rather a spiritual struggle to better our souls so that through our personal example others will come to know that Islam truly is a religion of peace. May Almighty Allah grant us the strength and courage to achieve this mighty goal. Ameen.

Jazak Allah for your attention, your hospitality and your kindness.



Samina with the Jordan delegation at the Symposium in Chechnya



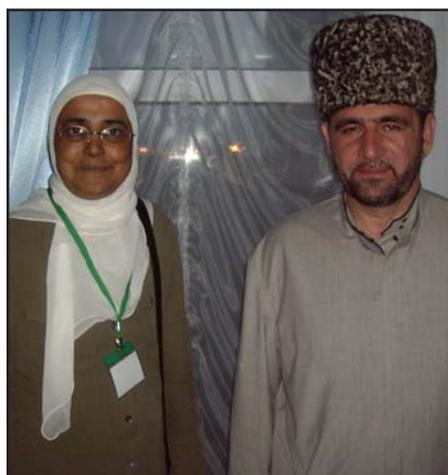
International delegates and local officials at the opening of the Madrasa in Chechnya



Samina Malik with the Mufti of Russia



Opening of the Madrasa in Chechnya by Mr. Ramadan Kaderov, the President of Chechnya



Samina Malik with the Mufti of Chechnya



Opening of the Madrasa by muftis of Russia, Moscow and Iraq



Samina Malik and sister Zara having breakfast at the President's Palace



Dinner at the restaurant for the International delegates



Mr. Ramdan Kaderov, President of Chechnya wishing Samina Malik a safe trip back to the USA



Mr. Ramdan Kaderov, President of Chechnya and the Mufti greeting the International delegates



Samina Malik with Ishmail (Imam at the Hilal foundation in Moscow, Russia) and family



Iftar dinner with Muslims in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan



Samina Malik and Mr. Ombudsman visiting a poor family during Ramadan, October 2007



A Kyrgyz girl in Mr. Ombudsman's office

An Overview of the 2007 Conference presented by the Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society

By Fatima Rahman

The annual conference presented by the Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society was held on July 28, 2007 in Columbus Ohio. The theme for this year was The Faith of Abraham: A Symposium on the Patriarch of Organized

Religion, From an Islamic Perspective. The emphasis of the conference this year was to promote inter-faith understanding by presenting the common origins of Islam, Christianity, and Judaism. The conference attracted a diverse crowd belonging

to various faiths, with many members of the Ahmadiyya Society attending from various corners of the United States and from abroad. The conference featured five speakers who discussed various topics concerning Abraham from a progressive

Islamic lens as espoused by the Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society. Mr. Fazeel S. Khan, Esq. started off with a talk on Abraham: the common ground, highlighting the commonalities between the three major faiths. Next, Dr. Noman Malik presented a talk titled, Abraham: "a friend of God" establishing the principle from the Holy Quran that no matter which religion one professes it is only belief God and service of mankind that is acceptable to God. Dr. Muhammad Ahmad then presented on the topic of Abraham and the sacrifice of the animal within in which he showed how without sacrificing that which was dear to oneself belief in God and service of mankind cannot be done. Mr. Sadr-u-Dean Sahukhan, Esq from Australia gave a talk on Abraham and the concept of prayer in which he proved from the Quran and the example of the Prophet Abraham and the Holy Prophet Muhammad that only prayer can provide the conviction and resolve which is needed for Belief in God and sacrificing in his way. And finally Maulana Kemal Hydal finished off with a speech on Muhammad: an affirmation of the Abrahamic faith showing how the Holy Prophet Muhammad practically reaffirmed the principles of faith discussed by the previous speakers.

Along with the major symposium on Saturday, there was a Friday program that featured a youth program and

a Sunday program consisting of various talks from members of the Ahmadiyya Society. The youth program exhibited the enthusiasm of the youngest members who recited chapters and translations of the Quran and spoke on a variety of topics concerning Islam such as the unity of God and the concept of afterlife. In addition to the youth presentations, the premier of the Lighthouse Magazine for Youth was held, where Aafia Ahmad and Saira Malik-Rahman spoke a few words about the magazine. The Friday and Sunday programs also featured guests from abroad. This year, a member of the Islamic Society of Albania attended and gave a talk on Islam in Albania. Ms. Zahida Hydal, the secretary of the Toronto branch also gave a talk as did Maulana Kamal Hydal. Other speakers included Dr. Hamid Rahman, Ms. Fatima Rahman and Mr. Mohammad Sadiq.

One of the major highlights of Sunday was the fundraising program. Mrs Samina Malik gave an inspiring speech about Maulana Muhammad Ali and the his sacrifice in the service of Islam and the translation of the Holy Quran. About 103,000 dollars were raised in about an hour.

An addition to this year's event was an engaging three day course on the Prophecies of the Return of Jesus conducted

from Julyx to Julyx.. It was the premier course of the Institute of Imaamat Training (ITT) in the United States. ITT is a project run by the Ahmadiyya Islamic Society Trinidad and Tobago, and consists of a series of interactive, multimedia courses to educate members of the organization as well as others interested about Islam from the progressive and rational perspective that the Ahmadiyya Society promotes. The three day course was led by Maulana Kemal Hydal. The course systematically presented a detailed overview and analysis of the perspectives on the return of Jesus as held by Christians, mainstream Muslims, and Ahmadi Muslims. The course was the highlight for many attendees of the conference, and it brought about only positive and enthusiastic feedback from the students.

A live demonstration of how this interactive course would be conducted was given by Nadeem Hydal, Maulana Hydal's son on Sunday Julyx. Nadeem showed how sitting in Trindad he could lecture to student's anywhere in the world in an interactive format thus creating a true virtual classroom. Nadeem who specializes in communications has worked very hard to set up this joint project between the USA and Trinidad Jamaat. May Almighty Allah Bless and Reward him for his perseverance and hard work.

Inshallah under Maulana Kamal Hydel's guidance this medium will prove very useful in spreading the correct true peaceful teachings of Islam.

The 2007 conference was a success, by the Grace of Allah. It was an intellectual and spiritual experience, a renewal of the spirit for which its members await eagerly

every year. In addition, it promoted a rational and inspiring image of Islam for non-Muslims, a goal that is of course central to the mission of the Ahmadiyya Society.

Work In Europe

By Samina Malik

On October 19th, Noman and I flew to Holland from London. Brother Nur Sardar and Jerrel Sardar came to receive us at the Schiphol airport in Holland. We were overjoyed to see Brother Nur Sardar looking so well after his ordeal with health issues last year. We thank Almighty Allah for granting him such a miraculous recovery, and we pray that He continues to bless him with good health. We were very pleased to be Brother Nur Sardar's guests in Holland.

The next day, On October 20th, the Amsterdam Jamaat held an Eid Milan Jalsa which was attended by approximately one hundred people. Brother Nur Sardar opened the jalsa with a short speech welcoming everyone and thanking all the members for attending. After Brother Nur Sardar's speech, Mr. Jerrel Sardar did the presentation of the audio recording of the Dutch Religion of Islam on CD. Masha Allah, the CD package is very attractively designed and is a wonderful compliment to its content. We hope and

pray that this CD will make the treasure house of Islamic knowledge in the Religion of Islam accessible to people who otherwise may not read the book. May Almighty Allah bless and reward the members of the Stichting Jamaat for bringing out this much needed work.

Following Mr. Jerrell Sardar's presentation, I spoke about my trip to Chechnya, where I had been invited by the government of Chechnya to attend the Conference titled Islam the Religion of Peace and Creation. The lecture was illustrated by a slide show of pictures from the conference, which was greatly appreciated by the audience. My presentation was followed by a speech by Dr. Noman Malik about the significance of Id.

The President of the Amsterdam Jamaat Mr. Rafi Kallou spoke at the end of the jalsa and thanked every one for attending. A delicious dinner was served as well.

Albania

On October 21st, Noman and I flew from Holland to Albania.

We arrived at Tirana airport at noon and were met upon our arrival by our brother Mr. Bujar Mullahi and his son. Brother Mullahi attended our annual USA Convention this past July and it was a pleasure to see him once again. In Tirana, we met with Dr. Cathrina who is translating our Holy Quran from English into Albanian. She is enjoying her work very much and is very favorably impressed by Maulana Muhammad Ali's commentary. Insha Allah, the translation will be complete in about one year.

In order to successfully distribute our literature in Albania, we need to register our organization in the country. Without a permanent presence, a long term goal of establishing our literature in the country would be very difficult. We met with an attorney for this purpose and have been working through the administrative process to have this done. Insha Allah, by the time this magazine is published our Lahore Ahmadiyya Jamaat will be registered in Albania.

We also found another very good translator in Tirana who is a journalist by profession. He has already translated Mr. Naseer Ahmad Farooqi's booklet, Ahmadiyyat vs Qadianiyat. Inshallah, we will have this book printed soon. Currently he is translating Hazrat Mirza Sahib's works, Message of Peace, Teachings of Islam and Four Questions Answered. The goal is to have all of our major works translated into Albanian. Please pray for the success of this project.



Dr. Noma Malik with Mr. Bujjar Mullachi and his son in Tirana, Albania



Samina and Fatima Mullahi in Albania, Egypt

London

We returned to Holland, and after a four day stay, we went to London where we stayed at the Center in Wembly for three days with our dear sister

Mrs. Bano Anwar. We went with Mrs. Anwar to offer our condolences to Mrs. Jermila Khan, the President of the UK Jamaat, for the sad demise of her husband, Brother Faiz Khan. We all visited the graveyard to offer the Fatiha prayers at his gravesite. Br. Faiz Khan will always be remembered for his years of support for the UK jamaat. May Almighty Allah grant him a place in paradise. After visiting the graveyard, we returned to Mrs. Khan's residence for a nice talk over tea.

The next day we went to visit Mrs. Aziz Ahmad. It was an honor and pleasure to meet her. Mashallah, she looked very well. May Almighty Allah Bless her and Grant her a speedy recovery.

Holland

After a few days in London we flew back to Holland and stayed another three days in Den Haag with Brother Nur Sardar. On November 3rd, the Stitchting Jamaat held a Jalsa on our behalf. It was so nice to see so many of the Stitchting Jamaat members again and be inspired by their zeal and enthusiasm. Noman and I both spoke at the jalsa, and brother Nur Sardar, who was the chairperson, translated our speeches. Also present was Reza Ghafoerkhan and Dr. Asif Asghar Ali who also delivered lectures that were greatly appreciated by the audience.

Two guests from the Dutch Clergy also attended and were greatly interested in the lectures. They were constantly taking notes while the speeches were being delivered. These priests have regular interfaith meetings with the Stitchting Jamaat. Most interestingly, one of them said that if he ever became a Muslim, he would join the Ahamadiyya Jamaat! May Almighty Bless the Stitchting Jamaat for their hard work and their sacrifice in serving Islam and Ahamdiyyat. As usual, we also enjoyed spending time with the hardworking and devoted Mr. Hoeseni. His devotion to producing practical work for the Jamaat is always inspiring. On November 4th, our visit of Europe ended. Noman returned to the USA and I left for Cairo. We both would like to thank Mr. and Mrs. Nur Sardar for their warm hospitality and the good care they took of us. We both enjoyed every moment of our time with them and felt completely at home while staying with them. We pray to Almighty Allah to Bless them and Grant them good health. Also, we would like to thank Mr Hoeseni, the President of the Stitchting Jamaat, and Mr. Jerrel Sardar, the Secretary, for their help in making our stay very productive and comfortable. May Almighty Allah bless each one of them for doing so much work in the cause of Islam and Ahmadiyyat in Holland.



Mr. Noer Sardar speaking at the Eid Milan Jalsa in Amsterdam



Dr. Noman Malik addressing the audience at the Stichting Jalsa



Dr. Asif Asgarali delivering a speech at the Stichting Jalsa



Mr. Jerrel Sardar introducing the audio CD of the Dutch Religion of Islam



Samina Malik addressing the audience at the Stichting Jalsa



Reza Gafoorkhaw delivering a speech at the Stichting Jalsa



Audience at the Jalsa of the Stichting Jamaat

Distribution of Arabic Books in Egypt and Abroad

By Samina Malik

On November 4th, I arrived in Cairo for a six day stay. The USA Jamaat has rented storage space in Cairo for our books and has hired a person to take care of the packing and dispatching of our books when needed. The following books have been sent to majority of libraries in Egypt: The Religion of Islam, Muhammad the Prophet, the Living Thoughts of Prophet Muhammad, and Manual of Hadith.

Masha Allah our Arabic translation project is progressing extremely well. The latest additions to our list of Arabic books are:

- New World Order
- Ideal Prophet
- Ahamdiyya Case.

The books that have already been translated into Arabic are:

- Religion of Islam
- Manual of Hadith
- Muhammad the Prophet
- Living Thought of Prophet Mohammad
- Teachings of Islam
- The Ideal Prophet
- New World Order
- The Ahmadiyya Case
- The Ahmadiyya Movement
- The Early Caliphate

By the Grace of Almighty

Allah, our Jamaat has been able to produce a substantial collection of works to be used for spreading the true, peaceful teachings of Islam in the Arab world. We are now planning on adding some more of the important books about the Ahmadiyya Jamaat to the list of works to be translated into Arabic. May Almighty Allah reward all those who have sacrificed their time and wealth this project.

In this visit, I made arrangements to have the Arabic books that we have printed in Egypt shipped from Cairo to our international Jamaats. Also I, along with Mr. Ahmed Abdel Khalik, went to donate a set of our Arabic works – comprising the Religion of Islam, Muhammad the Prophet, The Living Thoughts of the Prophet Muhammad and the Manual

of Hadith – to the various embassies of Muslim/Arab countries in Cairo. The Syrian and Jordan embassy staff were especially pleased to receive the set and inquired about how to obtain more sets for the purpose of providing them to their staff. The Official from the Jordanian Embassy felt that the Religion of Islam would be very beneficial for their Religious Studies Department in the main University of Amman and asked if we could facilitate this. Both he and the Official from the Syrian Embassy promised to help me in the distribution of our Arabic Books in their respective countries. May Almighty Allah bless and reward Maulana Muhammad Ali for his untiring efforts in producing works which today are being recognized as indispensable to understanding Islam.



Mr. Yousef Abdel Ghani, the First Secretary of the Embassy at the Kingdom of Jordan in Cairo, Egypt



Left to Right: Samina Malik, First Secretary of the Syrian Embassy in Cairo, Egypt and a staff member

The USA Jamaat's Arabic Website

We are very pleased to inform you that the USA Jamaat has had the entire Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement section on the muslim.org website translated into Arabic. It is currently being proofread for any corrections. At present,

we are also translating the entire Islam section of muslim.org into Arabic. Insha Allah, when this material is placed on our newly redesigned and reorganized website, it will be of great utility in spreading the correct interpretation of Islam among Arabic people. As first impressions are always the most important, much time

and effort is being put towards creating a website that will leave a lasting impression on visitors. Insha Allah, the redesigned and reorganized muslim.org will be a leading source of knowledge about Islam on the internet as well as a source of easily obtainable and understandable information about Ahmadiyyat.

The Audio CD of the entire Maulana Muhammad Ali English Translation of the Holy Quran

The USA Jamaat is very happy to announce that the audio CD of the of the English translation of the Holy Quran by Maulana Muhammad Ali is now complete and available for ordering. The retail price of the CD is \$14.95. Mrs. Samina Malik found Mr. Robert Adams, a professional reader who records audio books for the Vancouver Public Library System. This product took almost two years in the making, as the checking for

accuracy of the contents and technical work required for the tracking feature was very laborious. The entire work has been checked four times, by members of our Jamaat. In this regard, Mrs. Lubna Ahmad has taken the lead, performing most of the checking. Mrs. Samina Malik has paid for the entire project. May Almighty Allah bless and reward her and everyone else contributing to this project.

Also in the works is the audio recording of the booklets Islam the Religion of Humanity and Prophet of Islam and the books, The Religion of Islam and Muhammad the Prophet. We have found that there is a great demand for audio books, especially for travelers. We are trying to satisfy this demand, as we have done with our written publications.

Other News

2500 Copies of the German Translation of the Holy Quran Distributed

The USA Jamaat is very happy to announce that, with the help of the Stichting Jamaat, we have donated 2500 copies of the German Quran to a multitude of libraries, universities, and government offices throughout Germany. The Quran was shipped from

the warehouse, which was donated to us by Mr. Jerrel Sardar, that is used for storage of our books intended for the European market. Mr. Sabier Hoeseni and Mr. Hasim Hoeseni, the President and Secretary of the Stichting Jamaat respectively, obtained all of the recipient addresses and made arrangements with a mailing company for the actual shipping. May Almighty

Allah bless these members for their efforts in this project.

Italian Translation Project

Books and website contents translated from English into Italian

We thank Almighty Allah our Italian translation project is proceeding very well. The following summarizes the work done so far:

Books translated and printed to date

The Holy Quran
Living Thoughts of
Prophet Muhammad
Islam the Religion of Humanity
Prophet of Islam
Teachings of Islam
Introduction to Islam
Early Caliphate

Books translated and undergoing proof reading

The following books have been translated from English in to Italian, and inshallah, will be ready for printing as soon as their proof reading is finished:

The Religion of Islam
The Manual of Hadith
Jesus in Heaven and Earth
The Ahmadiyya Case
Death of Jesus

The section of Islam on our website www.muslim.org has been translated into Italian.

Translation work in progress

Several books are in the process of translation and the Ahmadiyya section of our website is now being translated into Italian. Please pray for the continued success of this project.

Free Distribution of the Italian Holy Quran

Inshallah, our next project is to send the Italian translation of our Quran to all the libraries, universities, government

offices and other opinion makers in Italy, as was done with the Holy Quran in Germany. The cost of sending one copy of the Holy Quran amounts to about six euros. This includes the cost of purchasing the addresses and boxes for mailing, packing the Holy Quran and postage charges. All members wishing to participate in this spiritual jihad are requested to contact the USA jamaat at sanomalik@aol.com.

President of the Fiji Jamaat Passes Away

We all mourn the sad passing away of Mr. Shafi ud Dean Sahib the President of the Fiji Jamaat. Inna lillahi wa inna ilaihi rajioon. The deceased served the Fiji Jamaat with great distinction. Under his experienced leadership the Fiji Jamaat made great progress in distributing jamaat literature on Islam and Ahmadiyyat. His sincerity in serving Islam and Ahmadiyyat was the essential quality in achieving this success. His wife, sister Yasmeen, played a great role in helping him in jamaat activities. Mr. Dean will be greatly missed by the world wide Ahmadiyya Jamaat. May Almighty Allah have mercy on him and admit him to paradise, and may he give his family sabr to bear this great loss. Ameen.

Fiji Jamaat Generously Donates for the Russian Holy Quran Distribution Project

We are very pleased to announce that the Fiji Jamaat has pledged a donation of \$15,000 US Dollars to the USA Jamaat for use in the Russian Quran Project. May Almighty Allah bless the members of the Fiji Jamaat for their constant encouragement and sacrifice in the cause of Islam.

Passing away of Dr. Ayesha Baig

By Samina Malik

Dr. Ayesha Baig passed away on November 30th. Inna Lillahi wa Inna Ilahi Rajeeoon

The janaza took place on December 1st at 1:30 p.m after the Zuhur prayers. I thank Almighty Allah that I could manage to arrive a few hours before the janaza prayers. Most of the family members from USA were present at the janaza prayers.

I have known Ayesha Apa for the last 22 years.

Ayesha Apa migrated from Pakistan to USA with her husband Mr. Rahman Baig and children in 1982. I first met her at General Abdullah Saeed's house in Houston, Texas where we spent a week together, and I found her to be a very pleasant person.

She was the eldest daughter of our dear Janji (late Hazrat Ameer, Dr. Saeed Ahmad). Janji had so much praise for Ayesha Apa. He used to tell me that she is not only my daughter, but also a very good friend. Janji also told me that she was an outstanding child in the family. After every jalsa, Janji used to give Noman and myself an audio tape of his speech in the salana jalsa to take back for Ayesha Apa.

Ayesha Apa participated in the 2001 jalsa of the USA Jamaat in Columbus, Ohio. She did the opening of the Library in the mosque which was named after our dear Janji, The

Dr. Saeed Ahmad Library. Whenever I travelled abroad, I used to highlight the work of our Jamaat to Ayesha and she used to be very happy, and was very glad to know of the work being done for Hazrat Mirza Sahib and Maulana Muhammad Ali. I still have some of her letters sent to me in which she expressed her appreciation about the work of publication being done by the USA Jamaat. She used to order the books of our Jamaat and distribute them free to non Muslims and her family members.

Our dear sister Ayesha Apa

was a very courageous person with a strong sense of justice who always supported what was right. May Almighty Allah Grant her a place in paradise. May Almighty Allah give us the courage and wisdom to follow her example. She is survived by two sons, two daughters, several grand children, five sisters and six brothers.

We will miss her very much. May Almighty Allah Grant patience to her family to bear this great loss.

Holland Stichting Jamaat activities

Exhibition of Lahore Ahmadiyya Publications by a public library during Ramadan 2007

A public library in the Netherlands, which wanted to bring the month of fasting, Ramadan, to the special attention of the public, by organizing an exhibition of Islamic literature in its library, requested our help. This library had most of our Dutch books already, but they wanted additional books for the exhibition. The books were displayed in a special display cabinet at a prominent place in the library. These books included the Dutch, German, Russian, Italian and French translations of

the Holy Quran by Maulana Muhammad Ali, the Dutch translations of The Religion of Islam and Muslim Prayer Book by Maulana Muhammad Ali, Introduction to Islam by Dr. Zahid Aziz, Commentary on the Holy Quran (Ch. 102 to 114) by Dr. Basharat Ahmad, and other books and informational literature published by Stichting Ahmadiyya Isha'at-i-Islam. When the exhibition was over, the new translations of The Holy Quran in German and Italian as well as the Russian translation were donated to the library. In the near future, Stichting Ahmadiyya Isha'at-i-Islam

will distribute the German and Italian translations to universities and other main libraries in Holland.

First copy of the Dutch Religion of Islam on MP3 presented to Prof. Dr. P.S. van Koningsveld of Leiden University

Stichting Ahmadiyya Isha'at-i-Islam has recorded the Dutch translation of the Religion of Islam by Maulana Muhammad Ali (ISBN 90-5268-015-8) in MP3 format. The length of the recording of this Seven hundred and twenty seven page book is thirty nine hours. It is hoped that, inshallah, this recording

will prove very beneficial to the visually impaired. The Religion of Islam has been given an approval certificate by Al-Azhar in Egypt. An Arabic translation of the book has been printed by USA Jamaat.

After Eid-ul Fitr salaah, which was attended by more than 500 people, the meeting was extended for a special reason. At this meeting, the first copy of the MP3 version of the Dutch recording of the Religion of Islam and the Arabic translation of the Religion of Islam were presented to Prof. Dr. P.S. van Koningsveld of Leiden University by Mr. Noer Sardar, vice president of Stichting Ahmadiyya Isha'at-i-Islam. Prof. Dr. P.S. van Koningsveld is the head of The Department of Islamic Theology of the world renowned Leiden University. The newly revised Dutch translation of the The Religion of Islam published several years ago by Stichting Ahmadiyya Isha'at-i-Islam had been presented previously to Professor Van Koningsveld. In his speech, Van Koningsveld said that the old Dutch translation of this book translated by Soedewo and published by Ahmadiyya Anjuman Isha'at Islam Indonesia had been used by Leiden university for some decades and now this newly printed translation of the Stichting jamaat was also being used at this university.

He said that, for this reason, he was very pleased to receive the MP3 version and the Arabic translation of this very important book from the Stichting jamaat. He said that the university would use this Arabic translation as a textbook for students of Arabic. After this, he elaborated on the importance of the Religion of Islam, praising its high academic standard and its relevance in the world today. He said that this book was one of the best books available for academic studies.

Mr A.S. Hoeseni stated during his speech that the purpose of the present MP3 publication was to make the very important contents of the book accessible to the general public and especially to those with a visual handicap who could not read the printed text.

Mr. Goerdin, director of Stichting Federation EEKTA and Mr N. Sardar also delivered a speech at this special meeting.

The Stichting Ahmadiyya Isha'at-i-Islam is thankful to Mr. Jerrel Sardar and his wife Mrs. Shafida Sardar who made this MP3 recording project possible.

Special meeting

In the beginning of November, a special Jalsah was organized, where Dr. Noman Malik of USA Jamaat was the

main speaker. He gave a very interesting talk on The Faith of Abraham. Other speakers were Reza Ghafoerkhan, Dr. Asif Asgarali and Mrs Samina Malik. This meeting was attended by members of the Federation Ahmadiyya Isha'at Islam Nederland and by some Christians guests who had interesting questions for the speakers, specially for Dr Noman Malik. Because some speakers took more time for their topic than expected, and because of the question and answer session, this meeting had to be extended by an hour to satisfy the audience.

Dutch Quran

The Sale and free distribution of the Dutch Holy Quran in the Netherlands, Belgium and Suriname is doing well, by the Grace of Almighty Allah. The Dutch Quran is available in all the major bookshops in these countries. Three of the five major bookshops, and also some Jamaats sell the new Dutch Holy Quran in Suriname.



Shabbier Hoeseni with Prof. Dr. P.S. Van Roningsveld of Leiden University



Mr. Noer Sardar donates the Dutch MP3 audio CD of the Religion of Islam to Prof. Dr. P.S. Van Koningsveld of Leiden University



Eid Khutba by Reza Gafoorkhan



Stichting Jamaat participating in a Holland bookfair



MP3 CD of the Dutch Religion of Islam



Stichting Jamaat children's activities

Conversion of Dutch Youth to Islam

A Dutch youth, who was a friend of the grandsons of Brother Nur Sardar, Azeiz Sardar, became a muslim after Islam was explained to him by the two youths. The youth took the muslim name of Hamid. The account of his conversion in his own words is reproduced below.

May Almighty Allah bless Aziez and his cousin for efforts in the service of Islam. Ameen!

Salaam aleikum,

This is an article about my

conversion to the Islam, my shahadah. I will tell you about my motivations: why I became a Muslim and what the Islam means in my daily life.

For a long time I had asked myself why we were created, and what purpose mankind had in this life. It was time for me to find my purpose in life. I knew there was a reason, so I went searching for the reason why I was brought to life. I found out that the answer was Allah.

Allah is the one who created mankind. If somebody leads a good life and does good deeds, then that person will go to paradise, but if that person lives a bad life there would be an eternity in hell waiting for him or her. Life is a test. On judgement day Allah will decide over mankind, because he knows, sees and hears everything. Allah gave me this life, gave me eyes to see, ears to listen. I needed the religion where I felt close to Allah. The religion where I felt at

home, a pure and wonderful religion. I began to read the Qur'an. Asking questions about Islam to my Islamic friends. I realised that the Islam was the right religion for me. I'm really happy I did my shahadah, my conversion to Islam. After my shahadah I felt like the real me has come out. Nowadays when I wake up I thank Allah for giving me another day on

this earth. The least I can do is honour him, thank him for everything he has done for me, and obey him by following the Qur'an.

I believe in Allah, and follow the Qur'an by living by its rules, I will pray to him everyday, and hope I will follow his path, the path to Allah. Allahu Akbar.



Hamid accepts Islam

News from South Africa Jamaat

by Mr. Ebrahim Mohammad

This year we launched a youth program, entitled Seekers and Thinkers. The idea is to stimulate a process of 'thinking' and 'searching for truth' amongst the youth. Subjects such as the existence of GOD, Creation, issues facing the youth and the role of religion came under discussion. The idea is to inculcate a behaviour of questioning, pondering and reflection instead of blind following. The meetings were a great success in that the youth showed great interest and participated freely in the discussions. A new member has joined the Jamaat. His name is Shafiek Hendricks. He was managing a book shop that held our books, the International Book Services. Another colleague of his, is presently also showing much interest in the Movement. I am confident he will also join

soon. Both these gentlemen have studied Islamic studies at local colleges and will add great value and learning to our group.

We are constantly approached for books especially the Holy Quran, The Religion of Islam, The Ideal Prophet and Jesus in Heaven on Earth. The International Book Services have closed for a while but has reopened under new management. The new management are the management of a new Islamic university started here named the International Peace University. I have been told through a contact that the Principal is favourable to our literature. I will in due course approach him to enquire if he needs any of our books for sale through the book shop. We are grateful to the USA Jamaat for providing us Quran and other books

for free distribution. We have quarterly administrative meetings, Jumua and Eid Gatherings at my residence. Inshallah, my wife and I will be attending the convention of the USA Jamaat in the coming year.



Eid Khutba by Ebrahim Muhammed (President South Africa Jamaat)

Ebrahim Mohamed, South Africa

Rabb-annaa aatinaa fie-
doenyaa ghassannatan Wa
fiel aghierata ghassannatan
Wa qee naa athaa bannaar.

Our Lord grant us good
in this world and good in
the Hereafter and save
us from the chastisement
of the fire. (2:201))

Dear Brothers and Sisters we
pray that Almighty Allah should
bless us all this day of Eid, by
answering all our supplications
for goodness in this life and the
after life and pardon our faults
and mistakes and save us from
the torments and humiliation
of hell on this earth and in the
hereafter. The goodness that
we seek is that everlasting
peaceful and ever-recurring (ID)
joyous state which overcomes
our souls (i.e. our very beings)
as we draw closer and closer
to our Creator and Sustainer.
The month of Ramadaan is
indeed the best time to attain
a more pronounced awareness
of our Creator as we
collectively strive to get closer
to Him through our prayers
and observance of our fasts.
After Ramadaan we should
make sincere efforts continue
in the same spirit, strive to
obtain a true knowledge of
the Holy Book and engage
in efforts to spread the good
news contained therein.
The goodness in this world

that the Holy Quran refers
to, no doubt means that
by treading a Godly path,
in no way means that we
should deprive ourselves of
the 'goodly provisions' that
Almighty Allah has provided for
us. The verse gives a clear and
succinct, panoramic sketch of
our origion, existence on earth
and progression to a higher
futuristic state and hints at
possible dire consequences we
might face if we neglect to take
due care of body and soul. And
no doubt, the best prescription
on how to take care of body
and soul is indeed to be found
in the in the Holy Quran and
the example of our beloved
prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

The verse above is a prayer
taught by the Almighty Himself.
Is it not amazing that Our Lord
Almighty actually teaches us
how to pray to Him by telling
us what to ask of Him?
Would it not be foolish of us
not to ask of Him our needs?
We should note that although
we are actually taught to ask
for good in this life first, the
verse strikes a neat balance
between this life and the
after life i.e. our 'earthly' life
and 'spiritual or heavenly
life'. It implies that in order
to live a good balanced life
that will ultimately lead to a
peaceful existence here and
in the hereafter, there should
be no extremities on either
side in respect of our bodily

or spiritual needs on earth.

The Holy Quran does not
accept the dervish practice
of retreating to the woods
to live an unproductive life
remote from all society as a
show of piety. For our moral
and spiritual growth, we need
to live amongst society where
we equally face the challenges
and severities of life. We need
to engage in honest work in
order to sustain ourselves.
Says the Holy Quran, "For
men is the benefit of what
they earn. And for women is
the benefit of what they earn
(4:32). There is no asceticism
in Islam. Asceticism refers to
those extra voluntary spiritual
acts that people sometimes
resort to at the expense of
their worldly duties. No one
is allowed to go to the length
of neglecting his worldly
duties for the sake of religious
exercises. Religion is meant to
enable a man to live a better
life, and voluntary acts (such as
fasting) should be undertaken
only if the aim is to enable
man to achieve this objective.
This is made clear in the story
of Abu Darda and Salman,
between whom brotherhood
was established by the Holy
Prophet. One day Salman paid
a visit to Abu Darda and saw
his wife in a state of neglect.
Being asked the reason, she
said that her husband, Abu
Darda had become an ascetic
(i.e. devoted himself solely

to religious exercises). When Abu Darda came home and the meals were served, he refused to eat because he said he was fasting.. Salman himself would not eat, out of courtesy until Abu Darda ate and therefore had to wait until Abu Darda broke his fast. At night also, after a short sleep Abu Darda woke up for tahajjud (voluntary night prayers). Salman said he still wished to continue sleeping until the latter part of the night when he woke up and joined Abu Darda in the tahajjud prayers. It was then that Salman decided to approach Abu Darda and said to him, "Verily thou owest a duty to thy Lord and thou owest a duty to thy wife and children." When this was mentioned to the Holy Prophet (PBUH), he approved of what Salman had said and done (B30:51) Here, therefore the husband was forbidden to fast, for the sake of his wife (if meant she would be neglected thereby). Similarly the wife should not resort to voluntary fasts without the permission of the husband (B 67:85) as it creates disharmony in the home. Also if you have a guest staying with you then you as the host should not place the guest at discomfiture by resorting to voluntary fasts. So now we see taking matters to the extreme, even matters of a spiritual nature is forbidden in Islam.

So we should strike a balance between the needs of this

world and the next. On the other hand, to prevent us from indulging excessively in the exploits of this world and neglect our spiritual duties, Islam has ordained specific times for resorting to prayer. Prayer seeks to instill the conviction that God is a living force in our daily lives. But we should be careful that we do not engage in prayer in a ritualistic manner for mere show. The Holy Quran warns us, "So woe to the praying ones, who are unmindful of their prayer, who do good to be seen, and refrain from acts of kindness" (107:4-7). The place of prayer in the self development of man is given such prominence in Islam that in the call to prayer the words 'come to prayer' are immediately followed by the words " come to success " And the Holy Quran stresses the point that " Successful indeed are the believers who are humble in their prayers" (23: 1,2)

In his book the Malfuzat Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, the Mujjadid of this age writes the following about prayer (duah)

"Du'a is not just the mumbling of a few words, for this amounts to nothing whatsoever. The true meaning of du'a is to beseech Allah, Most High, sincerely for His assistance. This petition becomes perfect and efficacious only when man surrenders his all to Allah,

Most High, with total anguish of heart, perturbation and heart-burning and makes supplication so fervently that his soul melts like water and flows at the threshold of Divine Unity. For example, look at how a person who is embroiled in a misfortune importunes people for help in moving terms and see what a wonderful change and transformation his appeal undergoes – the tone of his voice becomes full of anguish which attracts the mercy of people.

Similarly, when a person makes du'a to Allah, Most High, the tone of his voice changes also and is filled with tenderness and pain that causes the fountain of Divinity to gush forth with mercy. When du'a is being made the modulation of one's voice should be such that every limb of the body is affected and meekness and humility issue from the tongue. The heart must also be filled with softness and agony and the limbs must surrender with total submission to the Creator.

Over and above all this, one must have consummate faith in Allah's mercy and generosity and entertain complete hope of acceptance of one's entreaty. If one should fall at the Divine threshold in such a state he will never be disappointed and in this condition he should beseech the Almighty over and over in the following manner:

“Dear Master, I am nothing but a weak, helpless sinner. Without Thy support and mercy I can never amount to anything. Please have pity on me and cleanse me of my sins for without Thy kindness and grace there is no one else who can purify me.”

When a person makes this kind of petition repeatedly and continuously and seeks Allah’s assistance with patience and perseverance then at some unforeseen time a light will descend from Allah, Most High, and peace will suffuse the heart of the supplicant and thus the darkness which

formerly covered his heart will be dispelled. Allah, Most High, will then endow him with a power that creates revulsion in his heart for sins from which he will be saved. At this point he will realise that his heart which had become seized and imprisoned in low passions and carnal desires as if hundreds of thousands of chains had fettered him and were drawing him helplessly towards a life of sinfulness – at this stage he will find that these chains have been miraculously cut in a flash and he has been liberated. His former love for sin will be replaced by hatred for

it and instead of fear and hatred for Allah, Most High, love for Him and a magnetic attraction in his heart for his Lord will be born as the Holy Qur’an delineates in 49:7-8: “...but Allah has endeared the faith to you and has made it seemly in your hearts, and He has made hateful to you disbelief and transgression and disobedience. Such are those who are rightly guided – A grace from Allah and a favour.” BarakAllah

Local Activities

Ambassadors of Peace

Dr. Malik, Samina Malik and Fazeel Khan were recently invited to attend a conference presented by the “Universal Peace Federation”. The UPF is an international organization very active in inter-religious works. Several members from this organization attended the USA Jamaat 2007 Annual Convention in which a symposium was presented on “The Faith of Abraham”. Having the opportunity to get to know us personally, learn about our Jamaat and see the work that we do, the organization wanted to recognize members from our Jamaat as “Ambassadors for Peace”. Ambassadors for

Peace, as they explain, are:

Individuals whose lives exemplify the ideal of living for the sake of others, and who dedicate themselves to promoting universal moral values, strong family life, interreligious cooperation, international harmony, renewal of the United Nations, responsible mass media, and the establishment of a global culture of peace. Transcending racial, national and religious barriers, the Ambassadors for Peace contribute to the fulfillment of the hope of all ages, a unified world of peace, wherein the spiritual and material dimensions of all reality are harmonized.

At an event in downtown Columbus, Ohio, in which approximately 3000 people participated, Fazeel Khan was called on stage with five other community leaders and was presented an Ambassador for Peace certificate. Dr. Malik and Mrs. Samina Malik were also presented similar certificates later in the program. But the highlight of the night was that Dr. Malik was asked to present an Islamic prayer to the audience of about 3000. On stage, along with a Christian priest and Jewish rabbi, Dr. Malik recited the Sura Fatiha and spoke about its significance. The non-Muslim participants were very pleased to hear such enlightening principles

in Islam. More interestingly though, was the reaction of the large group of Muslim attendees who appeared most enthused by the commentary on Sura Fatiha, masha Allah. This friendship with groups from other faiths, like the UPF, is of great benefit in presenting people the rational and enlightening principles of Islam that they are normally not exposed to. We plan to continue working with UPF as we do with other inter-faith organizations in spreading peace and tolerance among people of various faiths.

Muhammad Alexander Russell Webb

A new book about Muhammad Alexander Russell Webb was published recently, titled: "A Muslim in Victorian America". When researching and writing this book, the author's staff had been in constant contact with Mrs. Samina Malik. As the author, Umar F. Abd-Allah – who is the Chair and Scholar-in-Residence at the Nawawi Foundation based in Chicago – writes in the book:

I am obliged to Samina Malik of the Lahori Ahmadiyya Community of Plain City, Ohio, for her assistance in providing primary source material relevant to Webb's correspondence with Mirza Ghulam Ahmad.

The book devotes an entire section on Mr. Webb's contacts with Hazrat Mirza

Sahib, including the letters communicated between the two. He writes on page 60 of his book:

Two years before his move to the Philippines, where he accepted Islam, Webb initiated a remarkable correspondence about Islam with the Indian Muslim scholar Mirza Ghulam Ahmad. Mirza Ahmad would soon become the object of great controversy, but that was not yet the case when Webb wrote him. At the time, Mirza Ahmad was recognized as one of the foremost Muslim scholars of India and was actively involved in making Islam known to the West, especially through personal correspondence with prominent Westerners. Webb came to know of Mirza Ghulam Ahmad's interest in corresponding with persons interested in Islam and wrote a letter to him. The Webb-Mirza Ahmad letters are an essential part of Webb's biography and are of great note because they were a prelude to Webb's later correspondence with Indian Muslims and presaged many of his later concerns about Islam, even the possibility of creating an Islamic mission in America.

On page 61, he further clarifies: "Webb's first clear step toward Islam, however, was expressed in his correspondence between 1886 and 1887 with Mirza Ahmad".

The author goes on to discuss the controversy surrounding Hazrat Mirza Sahib in the Indian subcontinent shortly thereafter and that this was the basis for him not visiting Hazrat Mirza Sahib when he visited India, despite:

Webb express[ing] an interest in visiting Mirza Ahmad during their stay in Hyderabad, remarking that Mirza Ghulam Ahmand had done him "a great favor" by bringing him to Islam.

The book not only reveals the connections Hazrat Mirza Sahib had with this early movement of establishing Islam in America, it also extensively refers to the Islamic Review and other publications from the Woking Mission. Details are provided about the early stages of propagation work in England, referring to well-known converts like Lord Headly. In fact, a picture of Lord Headley with Khwaja Kamal-u-Din is included on page 77. Speaking of the early spread of Islam in England, the author states on page 72:

Lord Headley figured most prominently among the British converts of the time, and no doubt his conversion and active participation in the Woking Mosque outside of London and the Islamic Review, which it published, were underlying factors in many of those conversions.

The book is an objective review of the early spread of Islam in the West. It confirms the connections the Lahore Ahmadiyya Jamaat had with this work. Whether it be correspondences with Mr. Webb in America, the distribution of academic literature made available in the Philippines, the creation of the Woking Mission and publication of the Islamic Review in England, or the establishment of the Berlin Mission in Germany, the book reveals that the Lahore Ahmadiyya Jamaat played a central role in laying the foundations for the spread of Islam in the West. This book, which is already quite popular among Muslims in the U.S., provides readers with the opportunity to re-evaluate preconceived notions about this Jamaat. Certainly, the question must arise when reading this book: how could an organization that is today regarded by many as outside the pale of Islam, have done so much work for instituting the spread of Islam in the West? All genuine and sincere readers will have to resolve the obvious conflict between recorded history and tales from uninformed contemporaries.

The book is available from Amazon.com. It can also be searched and previewed at: <http://www.amazon.com/Muslim-Victorian-America-Alexander-Russell/dp/0195187288>.

Statehouse Iftar Dinner

On October 9, 2007, Fazeel S. Khan was invited to an Iftar dinner at the Ohio Statehouse. Sponsored by the twenty six-member bi-partisan Host Committee composed of the Ohio Senate and House of Representatives, the event was attended by more than 30 State Senators and House Representatives, Ohio State Homeland Security, Ohio State Department of Public Safety, Deans of local-area universities, clergy and religious leaders, local businessmen and students. It served as a wonderful opportunity for people from all walks of life to socialize, establish dialogue and celebrate diversity. The Iftar dinner was organized by the Columbus, Ohio based Scioto Educational Foundation. A slideshow of the event is available at: <http://www.sefohio.org/template/statehouse.html>.

AAIIL(USA) 2008 Convention

AAIIL(USA) will be recognizing the 100 year death anniversary of Hazrat Mirza Sahib by devoting its annual convention in 2008 to the remembrance of the life, mission and vision of this great saint. The Convention next year will be held on June 27-29, 2008. Please mark your calendars and make appropriate arrangements for your participation at your earliest convenience.

The symposium that is held in conjunction with the convention – the forum in which guests from other faiths, academics, clergy and political figures attend – will be titled “Reforming the Muslim World: A critical assessment of the reforms proffered by Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (1835-1908), a century later”. The objective is to present a review of Hazrat Mirza’s teachings and lessons on Islam in a manner that will reveal its utility in bringing about reform in the Muslim world. The presentation topics will be as follows:

Reforming the Muslim World

A critical assessment of the reforms proffered by Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (1835-1908), a century later.

1. The Need for Reform: An analysis of the political, intellectual and spiritual condition of the Muslim world in the 19th and 20th centuries.
2. Mirza Ghulam Ahmad: Introducing a Muslim leader whose vision of Islam transcended the contemporary, religious and political climate in which he lived.
3. Jihad, Holy War and Terrorism: The denunciation of extremist ideologies and a warning of its dire consequences to the religion

of Islam and humanity at large, a century prior to 9-11.

4. Reason, Logic and Rationality: The causes of societal and political decline in the Muslim world and the application of an academic approach to the study and interpretation of Islam.

5. Fundamentalism, from East to West: The rise in religious fundamentalism and the role that literalism, particularly in the case of latter-day prophecies, plays in shaping current world events.

6. A Message of Peace: Laying the foundations for unity amongst Muslims and a platform for peaceful cohabitation between the Muslim and non-Muslim worlds.

Should you require any more information about the Convention, please contact Samina Malik at (614) 873-1030 or at sanomalik@aol.com.

Article in Columbus Bar Lawyer's Quarterly

By Fazeel S. Khan, Esq.

Recently, I was asked by the Editors of the Columbus Bar Lawyer's Quarterly to write an article on Islam for their periodical. I submitted a short piece discussing what I

believe to be a fundamentally imperative approach to facilitating the acceptance and spread of democracy in the Muslim world. My objective was to expose the readers of the periodical to some of the established principles from Islamic scripture and early history that correlate with, and therefore are supportive of, the institution of a democratic form of government. For the sake of making the article appealing to the readers of the periodical, it was presented in the form of an argument about the benefits of the use of "semantics" in facilitating the spread of democracy in the Muslim world. The article is reproduced below. The issue of the Columbus Bar Lawyer's Quarterly in which the article was published is also available online at: <http://www.cbalaw.org/members/publications/barbriefs/CBLQFall2007.pdf>.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

The role of semantics in facilitating the spread of "democracy" in the Muslim world

The word semantics is commonly defined as "the meaning that can be derived from words or some other form of expression." As lawyers, we are quite familiar with the value of semantics. Whether it is a word in a statute, a term found in a decision, or an idiom used by a witness,

we utilize semantics to argue interpretations that further our clients' interests. We provide meanings to words that go beyond their common import so that the substance of what is being presented may be captured. The process of employing effective interpretations to words in order to further a specific agenda, however, may prove beneficial beyond the realm of "lawyering"; it may also help promote democracy in the Muslim world.

The word democracy has no single definition. It means different things to different people. For some, it equates to a system of governance wherein a written constitution is supreme. The British though would necessarily disagree, for they have no written constitution. For others, it means a governing structure wherein persons are elected strictly by popular vote. This, however, does not hold true in representative democracies like the U.S. Still others view democracy as a political scheme whereby all people are guaranteed equality. Try reconciling this with the caste system prevalent in the so-called largest democracy in the world, India, or the years of slavery experienced in America's early history. Clearly, when promoting something as complex and multifaceted as democracy to the Muslim world – where the concept is generally held

suspect as an inherently western idea that attempts to deny the sovereignty of God over His creation through the establishment of man-made rules – a more descriptive interpretation of the term is required.

A general consensus may be reached in defining democracy, at its core, as a system of governance wherein: 1) majority opinion is accepted, and 2) minority/individual rights are protected. By deconstructing the term to this basic two part formula, the system being promoted is more easily understood. It demystifies the western concept by providing tangible mechanisms that may be correlated with established principles found in Islamic tradition.

For instance, the essence of majority rule finds explicit support in the Quran, the holy scripture of Islam. The Quran, in its forty-second chapter titled Al-Shura (“The Counsel”), specifically praises those: “whose affairs are (decided) by counsel among themselves” (42:38). In this verse, we find the foundation for the establishment of a government by council or parliamentary government. This principle was put into practice by no other than Muhammad himself, the holy prophet of Islam. Recorded history bears witness to him not only engaging in consultative

processes with regard to administrative matters and state affairs, but also accepting the majority view despite his personal opinion at times being to the contrary.

The basis of a majority rule system is further espoused in Islamic tradition by the Quran instructing: “Surely God commands you to make over (positions of) trust (in government or affairs of the state) to those worthy of them” (4:58). This verse plainly calls for the institutionalization of an electoral process whereby the people determine who they want as their representatives. This principle was also practically demonstrated in the early history of Islam by the Muslims electing the first four Khalifas (i.e. heads of state after Muhammad) either by agreement of all parties, by nomination after consultation with leading representatives of the community, or by appointment by an elective council.

Similarly, the fundamental elements of the minority/individual rights notion are unequivocally upheld in Islamic tradition. The Quran champions the equality of all mankind: “All men are a single nation” (2:213). It also features what some believe to be the magna carta of religious tolerance by declaring: “There is no compulsion in matters of religion” (2:256). Even the economic independence of the

sexes is advanced: “For men is the benefit of that they earn. And for women the benefit of what they earn” (4:32). Again, undisputed history bears testimony to the distinguished civil liberties enjoyed by non-Muslims under early Muslim rule, the protected status of Jews in Spain being an illustrious example. And just as it is understood in western democracies that the formation of fair and impartial tribunals that address the claims of aggrieved parties is essential to ensure the protection of minority/individual rights, the Quran likewise provides: “Judge between all men justly and follow not any bias, lest it lead thee astray from the path of truth” (38:26). Muhammad himself applied this principle to the fullest extent possible. He provided persons of other faiths living within Muslim communities the option, in certain circumstances, of being judged according to their own laws, if they so chose, so that fair adjudication may be achieved.

Clearly, the foundational components underlying the broad term democracy share many commonalities with entrenched Islamic principles governing statehood. Unfortunately, the term democracy in and of itself does not instinctively strike such parallels in the minds of common Muslims living in purported “Islamic States”.

Rather, it is more often than not perceived as a foreign concept, at odds with the basic tenets of their faith. In order to spread democracy in the Muslim world, this misunderstanding must be corrected. The establishment of democratic forms of government in this region is much more likely to be realized if the basic concepts of majority rule and minority/individual rights are presented in terms of the people's own authoritative traditions.

The process of explaining something by deconstructing it to its basic elements, though, is certainly not limited to the experience of lawyers. Rather, it is a natural phenomenon in which, whether conscious or not, everyone engages. We instinctively recognize that when something is not understood and an explanation is required, by presenting rudimentary parts of the larger, more complicated concept, the "thing" being explained may be more easily comprehended. Intuitively, we know this is the basis of knowledge and learning: by compartmentalizing and reconciling the basic elements of something, one may acquire a full realization and appreciation of it. This process of learning is also uniquely "human". It is only "man" that has the ability to study the basic elements of a thing in order

to completely appreciate its true nature, rather than, as other creation, simply accept a thing or a phenomenon for its mere outward/physical/obvious characteristics. This is the primary quality that distinguishes man from other creation – man, is simply smarter this way. And this universal principle is beautifully illustrated in the Holy Quran.

In Chapter 2 verses 31-33 of the Holy Quran, it is stated:

31 And He taught Adam all the names, then presented them to the angels; He said: Tell Me the names of those if you are right.

32 They said: Glory be to Thee! we have no knowledge but that which Thou hast taught us. Surely Thou art the Knowing, the Wise.

33 He said: O Adam, inform them of their names. So when he informed them of their names, He said: Did I not say to you that I know what is unseen in the heavens and the earth? And I know what you manifest and what you hide.

The section in which these verses appear, deals with the nature of man. Using "Adam" as an illustration and representation of "man" in general, we are told that God "taught Adam all the names". As Maulana Muhammad Ali explains in his commentary on these verses, although the Arabic word asma literally

signifies names, what is meant is that God taught man "the attributes of things and their descriptions and their characteristics, for the attributes of a thing are indicative of its nature." Thus, God explains that the distinctive characteristic that makes man superior to all other creation is his ability to study the attributes and characteristics of things. Man does not rely on instinct alone, but rather has the unique ability to conduct a comprehensive study of the properties of things and it is through this inherent skill, that he will rule the earth and all of its creation. Therefore, the article copied above actually serves two purposes. First, the obvious, is that it presents a simple overview of the compatibility between basic components of democracy with established Islamic principles. Second, the not so obvious, it presents a process by which the understanding of this compatibility may be facilitated, a process that is inherently Islamic!

It should be mentioned, though, that the Quran routinely explains spiritual concepts by using physical illustrations. The parallel spiritual significance to this physical analogy may be that just as man can attain greatness in the world due to his ability to acquire a full and complete understanding of things, so too can man

reach a stage of spiritual eminence by acquiring a complete understanding of God. The ninety-nine names of Allah presented in the Quran are in fact the independent characteristics of God, which, when studied and understood thoroughly, can lead to the true realization of the “complete” Divine. The inherent, unique skill of studying the attributes

and characteristics of a thing, what is referred to in the Quran as the “names” of a thing, therefore, is the basic quality which can lead to man’s material as well as spiritual greatness.

May Almighty Allah help us recognize our inherent abilities so that we may put them to use in establishing systems

of governance that lead to peaceful cohabitation on earth. May this recognition of our innate facilities also be used to develop our souls so that we may be fit to live a life in peace with God in the hereafter. Ameen.

LAHORE AHMADIYYA ISLAMIC SOCIETY

Peaceful . Tolerant . Rational . Inspiring



About Us

The Lahore Ahmadiyya Society was founded in Lahore, Pakistan in 1914 by senior companions of Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (d. 1908). The principal objective of the Society is to present the true essence of Islam to the world; that is, a peaceful, tolerant, rational and inspiring faith.

We believe in Islam as revealed in the Holy Quran and as illustrated by the practice of the Holy Prophet Muhammad. We strongly feel that both Muslims and non-Muslims alike desperately need to understand the true message of Islam, so vastly different from its distorted image prevalent in the world today.

The Lahore Ahmadiyya Society is most well known for its publications, a true Islamic treasury. This collection of works has received worldwide acclaim for its scholarship, authenticity and service to Islamic education. The Society was a pioneer in establishing Islamic centers around the world and today continues this legacy by producing numerous translations of its historic literature, establishing a network of affiliated branches globally and developing working relationships with like-minded Muslim communities.

ISLAM ✦

LAHORE AHMADIYYA SOCIETY ✦

LIBRARY ✦

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OTHER LANGUAGES ✦

FEATURE ITEM

Press Release: AAII(USA) strongly Condemns 'Jyllands-Posten' for Its Cartoon Depictions of the Holy Prophet Muhammad and Advises Muslims to Bear This Attack With Patience and Defend Their Faith by Informing the Public of the True Character of the Holy Prophet

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September 2007
Volume 3, Issue 1

modern muslims

Newsletter of the Institute of Imaamat Training

Training Modern Imaams

Welcome to the first issue of Modern Muslims, the newsletter specifically designed to provide Modern Muslims like you with contemporary interpretations the Qur'an in a concise, colorful and engaging format. In the world today, Modern Muslims

need to become Modern Imaams and training Modern Imaams demands a modern approach to Islam.

From rational thinking to innovative technology the Institute of Imaamat Training is modernising Islamic Education. Be a part of this revolution!



Achieving Success.



The Institute of Imaamat Training is consistently achieving its goals through Allah's grace and your partnership and dedication. The IIT continues to set higher standards for Islamic Education. This is a mission in progress and the IIT intends to achieve the following short term goals by February 29, 2008:

- Conduct three new instructor-led training courses (one course will be delivered online)
- Increase student population by sixty five new students
- Develop training partnerships with three additional Jamaa'ats in Trinidad
- Raise \$60,000 TTD to fund training initiatives
- Publish two issues of *Modern Muslims* newsletter

Achieving success is a team effort. You can help the IIT to achieve success by contributing your time, finances and knowledge.

Nurture the Imaam in You.

Did you know that you are an Imaam?

In Islam every man, woman and child has the opportunity to be an Imaam. Allah, the most High, encourages us to pray:

"Our Nurturer, bestow on us from our wives and our progeny the apple of our eyes and let us be Imaams for those who protect (themselves) from evil" 25:74.

So what is an Imaam? Well first let's dispel some misconceptions.



- The Qur'an never uses the word Imaam to mean the leader of prayer.
- An Imaam is not a priest as there is no priesthood in Islam.
- Women are also Imaams and there is no prohibition in Islam against women being Imaams.
- The word Imaam can also refer to inanimate objects. In fact the Qur'an refers to a book and a road as Imaam.

Simply put **an Imaam is one whose words and actions are followed**. An Imaam is a leader in any or all aspects of life whether material or spiritual, whether good or bad.

We are all Imaams and Islam gives you the opportunity to display your good leadership qualities.

In your daily life you lead yourself, your spouse, your family and even your coworkers and your community. It is therefore important that you develop the best leadership (Imaamat) qualities in you.

It's time to achieve your full potential. Remember, **Modern Muslims need Modern Imaams**. Nurture the Imaam in you!

Visit www.iitonline.org

To find out more about nurturing the Imaam in you.

Eid Mubarak !

Ramadaan is a vacation from everyday life when you suppress your physical desires in order to attain true peace.

Ramadaan culminates in Eid-ul Fitr, a festival of recurring happiness which emphasises that continuous spiritual development is essential to rejuvenate your soul.

Eid-ul Fitr is the perfect opportunity to plan how you will develop yourself spiritually over the next eleven months.

Be sure to take advantage of the training opportunities provided by the Institute of Imaamat Training.



Eid Mubarak from the IIT and thank you for your continued support!



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SPOTLIGHT ON ACHIEVEMENTS

IIT Training Receives Global Appeal

The Institute of Imaamat Training recognized an increasing disparity between the quality of Secular Education and Islamic Education and set out to demonstrate that Modern Muslims can bridge this gap. The IIT successfully launched a modern approach to Islamic Education through the design, development and hosting of its "Prophecies of the Return of Jesus" course.

This modern approach to Islamic Education is continuing to receive global appeal following seven training events in partnership with Jamaa'ats in Trinidad and Tobago, Canada and the United States of America. Fueled by increasing student demand and a successful model of training partnerships the IIT has successfully trained 145 students from Albania to Australia over a period of eight months. The IIT's achievements include the following:

- Design and development of two courses ("Prophecies of the Return of Jesus" and "Qur'anic Arabic I")
- Conduct of 7 training events throughout three countries
- Establishment of training partnerships with five Jamaa'ats globally
- Training and certification of 145 students globally
- Establishment of a trainer resource base of 20 trainers
- Training of 37 young persons (under the age of 25)
- Internet based course delivery (USA training event featured live instructor presentations from Trinidad)

These achievements were made possible through dedicated partnerships with the Jamaa'ats at Cunjal, New Grant and Siparia in Trinidad and the Ahmadiyya Anjumans in Ontario and USA.

The IIT is committed to developing new training initiatives and investing in modern training methods. We are currently extending our network of training partners.

To involve yourself & your Jamaa'at.

Visit www.iitonline.org or email iit@iitonline.org



HELPFUL HINTS

It's Easy to Contribute to the IIT

The IIT has made it easy for you to contribute to modernising Islamic Education.

- visit www.iitonline.org to donate via pay-pal or credit card
- make deposits & standing orders to Scotiabank Account # 171104
- make cheques payable to "Institute of Imaamat Training"



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TRAINING EVENTS



Onsite Training

IIT announces the launch of its new training course entitled "*Life, Death and Beyond*".

This introduces students to concepts such as:

- The Purpose of Life, the Soul
- Deeds and Pre-destination
- Heaven, Hell and Intermediate States
- Judgement, Life After Death and Resurrection

This course will be launched at the IIT's training event in Toronto on October 27th, 2007. The course will be subsequently hosted at three training events in Trinidad in November 2007.

Toronto Course Schedule:

- Saturday 27th & Sunday 28th October, 2007

Trinidad Course Schedule:

- November 5th to December 5th, 2007
- Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays at Fireburn, Iere Village and Gasparillo mosques respectively.

Register early! Limited spaces are available.

To register visit www.iitonline.org or email register@iitonline.org or contact your Jamaa'at Liaison



Online Training

IIT will pilot its Online Training initiatives with an Online Seminar entitled "*Mirza Ghulaam Ahmad's Solution to Combatting Terrorism*".

Students from Australia, Canada, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago and the United States of America have been invited to participate.

This event will prepare the IIT to offer self paced and instructor led online courses. The IIT will launch its first online course in January, 2007.

Online Seminar Schedule:

- Saturday, October 20th, 2007 at 00:00 UTC