

*“Call to the path of thy Lord with wisdom and goodly exhortation,
and argue with people in the best manner.” (The Holy Quran 16:125)*

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*Exponent of
Islam and the
Lahore
Ahmadiyya
Movement
for over
seventy-five
years*
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The Light

& Islamic Review

May – June 1999

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*Presents
Islam as:*
**PEACEFUL
TOLERANT
RATIONAL
INSPIRING**
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CONTENTS

No. 3

**Special issue on
distribution of
the Russian Holy Quran
in Russia,
Report and reactions**

with photographs

◆ *Ahmadiyya Anjuman Isha'at Islam Lahore Inc., U.S.A.* ◆
1315 Kingsgate Road, Columbus, Ohio, 43221–1504, U.S.A.

The Light was founded in 1921 as the organ of the AHMADIYYA ANJUMAN ISHA‘AT ISLAM (Ahmadiyya Association for the propagation of Islam) of Lahore, Pakistan. *The Islamic Review* was published in England from 1913 for over 50 years, and in the U.S.A. from 1980 to 1991. The present periodical represents the beliefs of the world-wide branches of the Ahmadiyya Anjuman Isha‘at Islam, Lahore.

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Beliefs and aims

The main object of the A.A.I.L. is to present the true, original message of Islam to the whole world — Islam as it is found in the Holy Quran and the life of the Holy Prophet Muhammad, obscured today by grave misconceptions and wrong popular notions.

Islam seeks to attract *the hearts and minds* of people towards the truth, by means of reasoning, good moral example, and the natural beauty of its principles. It neither aspires to gain political power, nor allows the use of force in support of the faith.

Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (d. 1908), our Founder, arose to remind the world that Islam is:

International: It recognizes prophets being raised among all nations and requires Muslims to believe in them all. Truth and goodness can be found in all religions. God treats all human beings equally justly, regardless of race, nationality or religion.

Peaceful: Allows use of force only in unavoidable self-defence. Teaches Muslims to live peacefully under any rule which accords them freedom of religion.

Tolerant: Gives full freedom to everyone to hold and practise any creed or religion. Requires us to tolerate differences of belief and opinion.

Rational: In all matters, it urges use of human reason and knowledge. Blind following is condemned and independence of thought is granted.

Inspiring: Worship is not a ritual, but provides living contact with a Living God, Who answers prayers and speaks to His righteous servants even today as in the past.

Non-sectarian: Every person professing Islam by the words *Lā ilāha ill-Allāh, Muḥammad-ur rasūl-ullāh* (There is no god but Allah, and Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah) is a Muslim. A Muslim cannot be expelled from Islam by anyone.

Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad taught that *no* prophet, old or new, is to arise after the Holy Prophet Muhammad. However, *Mujaddids* will be raised by God to revive and rekindle the light of Islam.

About ourselves

Ahmadiyya Anjuman Isha‘at Islam Lahore has branches in the following countries:

U.S.A.	Australia
U.K.	Canada
Holland	Fiji
Indonesia	Germany
Suriname	India
Trinidad	Poland
Guyana	South Africa

The Movement has members and supporters in many other countries as well. In Berlin, it has a large historical mosque constructed in the mid-1920s.

Achievements:

The Anjuman has produced extensive literature on Islam, originally in English and Urdu, including translations of the Holy Quran with commentaries. These books are being translated into other languages, such as French, German, Spanish, Russian, Chinese, Dutch and Polish.

The Anjuman has run several Muslim missions around the world, including the first ever in Western Europe.

The Movement’s unique contribution to Islamic thought is summed up on the left.

History:

1889: Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad founded the Ahmadiyya Movement.

1901: Movement given name *Ahmadiyya* after Holy Prophet Muhammad’s other famous name *Ahmad*.

1905: Hazrat Mirza appoints central body (Anjuman) to manage the Movement.

1908: Death of Hazrat Mirza. Succeeded by Maulana Nur-ud-Din as Head.

1914: Death of Maulana Nur-ud-Din. Ahmadiyya Anjuman Isha‘at Islam founded at Lahore as continuation of the original Anjuman. Maulana Muhammad Ali elected as Head.

1951: Death of Maulana Muhammad Ali after fifty years of glorious service to the cause of Islam. Maulana Sadr-ud-Din (d. 1981) becomes Head.

1981–1996: Dr. Saeed Ahmad Khan, an eminent medical doctor and religious scholar, led the Movement, at a time of intense persecution.

1996: Prof. Dr. Asghar Hameed, a distinguished retired University Professor of Mathematics, and learned Islamic scholar, elected Head.

Foreword to the Russian Translation of the Holy Quran

By Alexander Sadetsky

The Holy Quran, translated into English by Maulana Muhammad Ali, one of the most prominent researchers of Islam belonging to the Ahmadiyyah movement, is well known throughout the world. The fame of this particular translation and its commentary has crossed the boundaries of the English speaking world. People living on different continents and belonging to different cultures and religious traditions can now get acquainted with Maulana Muhammad Ali's understanding of the Holy Quran in some of the most widespread languages, such as Spanish, French, German and Chinese. I am delighted that I had an opportunity to participate in this project, delighted that the translation of the Holy Quran, rendered by Maulana Muhammad Ali, translation which is penetrated by a spirit of tolerance and rationality and directed to the people of different times and cultures while appealing to the most basic and profound qualities of the human nature, shall now resound in its Russian version.

In our epoch, as the authoritarian discourse and the violence it incurs try to silence dialogue — such as was the case many centuries ago — and try to picture as fruitless and unnecessary any attempt to understand the other, the interpretation of the Holy Quran given by my Maulana Muhammad Ali is extremely relevant. This interpretation found its expression in his translation and in the commentary, as well as in the vast introduction which constitutes research on the most important aspects of Islam and the analysis of the Holy Quran, simultaneously from a historical perspective and from the point of view of our epoch.

The Russian translation tries to preserve the specificity of the original, where modern English is used to convey (and, in the commentary, to explain) Arabic words pronounced centuries ago. This is why the Russian version constantly oscillates between literal exactitude and fidelity to modern usage. It is with pressing concern not to betray the original, neither in sense nor letter (while translating the verses of the Holy Quran and Maulana Muhammad Ali's commentary, as well as numerous sources quoted therein), that we oriented our translation.

I wish to emphasize that this Russian translation of the Holy Quran would have been impossible without the help of an important number of Russian specialists in the fields of philosophy and history of Islam, researchers of the dialogue between Muslim and Russian cultures, scientists who have been investigating the previous Russian translations of the Holy Quran and comparing their distinctive features, and theorists and practitioners of translation from oriental languages and from English. I would like to express my gratitude for their worthy advice and the generosity which permeated their answers to my questions.

I am particularly grateful towards Mrs Samina Sahukhan and Dr. Noman Malik, members of the Lahore Ahmadiyyah movement, whose extensive knowledge, constant readiness to help (sometimes in the most unusual situations), open-mindedness, kindness, extreme patience, altruism and self-sacrifice have become for me the very symbol of the noble mission of the human being, a mission understood according to the thought of the outstanding Muslim scholar whose English words I have translated into Russian. Their devotion to their work is unconditional; their understanding of its importance is at the source of all their actions. I am honoured to have been given the chance to work with such people.

Alexander Sadetsky

Translator

Free Distribution of the Russian Translation of the Holy Quran in Russia

By Sister Samina

On April 23, 1999, I left the USA for Moscow. The Ahmadiyya Anjuman Ishaat Islam USA had sent nine thousand two hundred copies of the Russian Translation of the Holy Quran to Russia six weeks earlier. We had been informed by the shipping company that the Holy Qurans would be in Moscow when I arrived there. However, when I reached Moscow, I found out that the Quran shipment was still in St. Petersburg, and that I would have to clear it through Customs there. So I left for St. Petersburg the same evening accompanied by Dr. Alexander Sadetsky (the translator of the Russian Holy Quran), his wife Dr. Tanya Sadetsky and Mr. Riffat Osmanov, the Vice President of the Hilal Foundation Mosque.

The next morning we went to the Broker's Office who informed us that it would take a long time to free the books. He gave us a long list of documents which he said that we needed to get notarized by an attorney. After their notarization he would submit the documents to the customs, and the Qurans would be cleared after many weeks. Also a large sum of money would be charged as duty. We spent nearly half a day at the attorney's office, but he advised us not to notarize the documents as this would create additional problems for Customs clearance. He suggested that we should go to the Customs Office to clear the shipment without the Notarized Documents.

The same evening we went to the Customs Office but were unsuccessful in submitting the paper work due to many more cases ahead of us. The broker tried to impress upon us that it would take a long time for our case to be processed due

to the heavy work load and to the fact we did not have full paper work.

Early next morning we went back again to the Customs Office, and I asked the broker to submit whatever documents we had for processing. He did this, but our documents were at the bottom of a large pile, and it was obvious that our turn would not come for a few days. During the lunch break I opened the Customer window and looked into the office. I saw a Customs Officer in the room, and decided to ask him for help. Allah *Ta'ala* the most Merciful must have heard my prayer because as soon as I began to speak to him he beckoned to me to come inside the office. I entered the office together with Dr. Sadetsky who acted as translator while I explained the whole situation to the Customs Officer. I told him about our Movement and our desire to spread the Quran in Russia, and about my long journey from United States to Russia for this purpose. I was crying while I related all the difficulties we were experiencing with the broker, and that I had to return to the United States in a few days and may not be able to complete my mission. He listened very sympathetically and said he would help me provided that I gave him something. I apprehensively asked him what that was. His reply was "A copy of the Russian Holy Quran". This brought tears to my eyes and I thanked Almighty Allah for his help. He asked me to send our broker in. In a few minutes time the broker came back and raising his arms said "Allahu Akbar" and waved the release documents in his hands. We immediately went to the port where our container was stored. The Customs officers there thoroughly inspected the cargo and released the books, and we flew back to Moscow.

The next morning I received a call from the Hilal Foundation that the Qurans had arrived. That afternoon (30th April) I went for Jummah Prayers at the Hilal Foundation Mosque. They had placed seven hundred Qurans for free distribution on tables in the entrance hall of the Mosque. It was a moving and inspiring sight to see the people crowd around the table and pick up

their copies of the Holy Quran. Many of them were crying and hugging the Qurans to their chest. I also helped in handing out the Qurans. This was one of the happiest days of my life. Within a short time all the Qurans were gone.

I spoke for half an hour on Islam and the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement before the Jummah Prayers, and Dr. Alexander Sadetsky translated my speech for the audience. After the speech I went upstairs to join the ladies for the prayers. They were overjoyed to see me and began to hug and kiss me and express their gratitude for the gift of the Quran. Many of them had tears streaming down their cheeks. I was greatly moved by their love and hunger for the Holy Book. I explained to them that all this was a gift from Allah and we were all thankful to Him.

The Hilal Foundation had informed the Islamic Centers and Mosques in the surrounding areas that the Qurans would be distributed today, and people from these areas had driven several hundred miles with trucks to pick up their share of the Qurans.

After the Jummah prayers I met with the President of the Hilal Foundation Mr. R.A. Baiazitov and formally presented with a copy of the Russian Translation of the Holy Quran. The Hilal Foundation is dedicated to serving Islam and doing Charity work. They are very open minded and free of Sectarian influences. They encourage interfaith dialog and understanding among Religions. They were very kind and supportive to me, and we discussed ways of cooperating to further the cause of Islam.

Since my return, I have received several faxes from them asking for more Holy Qurans as the stock we gave them had all been distributed.

The Quran had been sent by them to the following places (the numbers shown are the number of copies):

1. Moscow Muslims (500 of these were sent to Azerbaidjan Community)	2000
2. Omsk (Siberia)	500
3. Novolibirsk (Siberia)	500
4. Nijniy Novgorod	500
5. Saint Petersburg	500
6. Ufa (Dofa)	500
7. Ekaterinburg	500
8. Kazan:(captital of Tataria Bash-kirtostan)	500
9. Chuvashia (Republic of Churashia)	500
10. Moscow Obvlst (Moscow Region)	1000
11. Libraries of Russia	1500
12. Russian Officials (Russian Govt. etc.)	520

While in Moscow, I made arrangements with a Librarian, Ms. Tala, to mail copies of Holy Quran to University and Public Libraries in Russia. Ms Tala, who had been introduced to me by Dr. Tanya Sadetsky, has worked very diligently. She has mailed many appreciation letters to us, some of which are reproduced in this magazine.

Before I returned to USA I gave a lecture on Islam and Ahmadiyya Movement at the Museum of Literature. This Lecture had been arranged by Dr. Tanya Sadetsky . Dr. Alexander Sadetsky acted as translator.

I specially pray for Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, Maulana Muhammad Ali and Dr. Saeed Ahmad Khan *sahibs* who have been my inspiration in undertaking this project. The successful completion of this project which took nine years was due to the Mercy of Allah and the prayers of the late *Hazrat Ameer*, Dr. Saeed Ahmad Khan Sahib.

I would like to express my deep gratitude and heartfelt thanks to Dr. Tanya Sadetsky and Dr. Alexander Sadetsky for their help and support. I

would also like to thank the President Mr. R. A. Baiazitov and the Vice-President Mr. Rifat Osmanov for their support and cooperation. May Almighty Allah Bless all those who struggle in this great Jihad.

At the end of my report I am pleased to announce that we will, *insha-Allah*, be printing another **20,000** copies of the Russian Quran in November to meet the demand in Russia.

Letters of acknowledgement received

We reproduce below some of the letters of acknowledgement sent by various organizations upon receiving our Russian Quran. These have been translated from Russian by Dr. Alexander Sadetsky.

Praise be to Allah, the Lord of the worlds!

Dear Muslim brothers,

May Allah the Beneficent, the Merciful bless you!

On behalf of all the Muslims of our city, we would like to thank you and to express our admiration concerning all the excellent publications which were edited by your organization. May Allah help you in this noble work. Your publications are especially important in our time when the devil seems to be so powerful. All the young people who have read your publications were impressed not only by the contents but equally by its presentation; you've managed to answer all the most important questions.

We, the administration and the students of the Faculty of Theology of the Religious and Philosophical Institute for the Humanities of the city of Naberejnyie Chelny, express our deepest desire to collaborate with you.

Our Institute is situated in the city of Naberejnyie Chelny in the Republic of Tatarstan. 400 students receive their education at our Institute. Our Institute has three faculties: the Faculty of Theology, the Faculty of Philology and the Faculty of the Religious Studies. In spite of all the difficulties, our Institute has managed to provide education to its students for the last three years. Each Sunday, our Madrasah opens its doors to all those who would like to get more information about the pure and beautiful religion of Allah. The Institute is associated with a magnificent Mosque which is big enough for 400 believers (200 men and 200 women); the Institute also has a hostel where 50 students can stay. One wing of our building hosts a library. We try to collect as many books as possible in all the scientific fields; the most important part of our collection is composed of books reflecting the Muslim principles. Presently, we mostly need the literature which could give the detailed and truly progressive idea of Islam as a way of life. That's why we would like to ask you to help us, if it's possible, to get books which answer to this need.

We hope that our common efforts could play an important role in the cause of propagation of the ideas of our beautiful religion of Islam.

Respectfully,

K. G. Bagaoodinov,

Principal of the Institute

We hereby acknowledge the receipt of the Holy Quran and we express our profound gratitude to you.

We thank you for sending us this magnificent publication of the Quran. We shall be very grateful if you could send us more literature of this kind.

Due to our present financial difficulties, we shall especially appreciate if these publications are sent to us free of charge.

B. N. Vinogradov,

Director of the Institute of Technology, Administration and Design of the city of Dimitrograd.

3 June 1999

The Scientific Library of the Penza State University cordially thanks you for your gift, the copy of the Holy Quran. This book is truly essential nowadays for our readers.

We sincerely wish you good health, happiness and a lot of success in your work.

Respectfully,

P. S. Chubarov,

Director of the Scientific Library of the Penza State University

2 June 1999

We are very thankful for your gift, the copy of the Holy Quran. This book is the first Holy book in our still very young library. We would like to find more about you and about all those who are involved in the distribution of the religious literature of the same kind. We need this type of literature very much.

Sincerely yours,

The Administration of the Penza Pedagogical University

The Library of the Kazan Energetics Institute of the Technical University would like to express its gratitude for the book you have sent us, the Holy Quran.

Presently, several courses in the humanities are given to the students who specialise in the technical field; the book sent to us will be used in the course 'The History of Religions' which is a part of the General Course 'The Foundations of the Humanitarian Knowledge'.

We are looking forward to future cooperation.
The Administration of the Library of the Kazan Energetics Institute of the Technical University.

23 July 1999

Our students who specialise in the domain of the humanities are supposed to take three courses: the Culturology, the Comparative Religious Studies and the course dedicated to the presentation of the World Religions. This is the reason why we permit ourselves to ask you to send us, if it is possible, three more copies of the Holy Quran.

We thank you in advance,

V. F. Ivanov,

Vice-principal of the State Academy of Mechanical Engineering for agricultural purposes of the city of Rostov-na-Donu.

The Ministry of General and Professional Education of the Russian Federation.

The Library of the Dzerjinsky department of the Nizhegorodsky Technical State University thanks you for the precious gift. We did not have any copy of the Quran in our collection; your present will fill in this important gap.

We express you our profound gratitude.

A. V. Zlyguina,

Director of the Library

The Scientific Library of the State University of the Chuvashi Republic received the book you had sent us, the Holy Quran. We express our deepest gratitude.

K. Ivanova,

Director of the Book Acquisition Department of the State University

The book 'The Holy Quran. Translation, introduction and commentary by Maulana Muhammad Ali' was received by the Lobachevsky library of the Kazan State University.

We thank you very much.

A. Sooslova,

Director of the Book Acquisition Department

Dear colleagues,

We received the copy of the Holy Quran you have sent us. We are very grateful to you, and we hope our collaboration will continue.

Panov,

Director of the State University of the Mari Republic.

10 June 1999

The Library of the Technical State University of the city of Samara acknowledges the receipt of one copy of the Holy Quran. The book is presently available to all the readers of our library.

We express you our deepest gratitude.

Peshkov,

The Scientific Library of the Technical State University of the city of Samara

*The remainder of this issue,
containing photographs, is only
available in printed form.*