Basharaat-E-Ahmadiyya

A Quarterly International News Magazine of Ahmadiyya Anjuman Ishaat Islam (Lahore) USA
P.O. Box 3370, Dublin, Ohio 43016 U.S.A.
Phone 614-873-1030 • Fax: 614-873-1022
Email: aail@aol.com • Website: www.muslim.org

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THE HOLY QUR’AN
with English Translation and Commentary
Maulana Muhammad Ali

The Religion of Islam
A Comprehensive Discussion of the Sources, Principles and Practices of Islam

by
MAULANA MUHAMMAD ALI
Certified by Al Azhar Islamic Research Academy

Foreword to the Arabic Edition
by Sheikh Muhammad Tantawi, The Grand Imam, Al Azhar Al Sharif

NEW DATES FOR USA CONVENTION:
Aug 13-16 2015

Initiative to deliver major works to Libraries & Theology Professors Worldwide
See pages 7-13
Elevated by Dr. Noman Malik

WE THANK ALMIGHTY ALLAH the Most Merciful for all the opportunities He gives us to serve Islam and the Ahmadiyya Movement.

This issue of the Basharaat documents propagation work done in the United States, Australia, New Zealand, Thailand, the Philippines and Germany since the beginning of this year.

Here in the United States we are very fortunate to have a dedicated and active member in Fazeel S. Khan, the secretary of the Ahmadiyya Anjuman Ishaat Islam Lahore, USA. Despite his busy schedule as a practicing attorney, Fazeel always gives priority to the Anjuman’s work. In addition to his duties as secretary of the USA Jamaat, he is also editor of the Light and Islamic Review, the quarterly publication of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement.

Fazeel is also responsible for organizing the USA Jamaat’s program at its annual conventions. Most non-Muslim and non-Ahmadi Muslim attendees at the convention are there because of their close relations with Fazeel. Through his friendly association and interaction with both Muslim and non-Muslim groups, he has been able to raise the Anjuman’s profile in the Columbus religious community, and in the process has removed many misconceptions about Islam and the Ahmadiyya Movement. His activities, and those of Dr. Ahmad and Lubna Ahmad, who also are involved in interfaith initiatives, are detailed in the USA Jamaat report.

The sale of our literature in the USA is doing very well. Dr. Ahmad and sister Lubna do most of the packing and dispatching of books from our warehouse in Dublin.

Another significant activity in which Fazeel is involved is a discussion via e-mail with the Qadiani Ahmadiyya Jamaat on the issue of Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad and Prophethood. The discussion clarifies the stand of both Jamaats on the issue of Prophethood.

The tone of the discussion is polite and friendly, and we intend, inshallah, to publish the exchange in book form for the benefit of all those interested in this subject.

Al-hamdulillah! Our visit to Australia was very productive. Our project to supply libraries and professors of theology and Islamic studies worldwide with the English Translation of the Holy Quran and the Religion of Islam or their translations continues with the mailing of these books to all libraries in Australia.

We are very grateful to Mr. Sadr-ud-Dean Sahu Khan and his wife Naz for allowing us to store and mail the books from their house in Canberra. May Almighty Allah Reward and Bless him and his family for their support.

The lectures we delivered on Jihad were very well received by audiences in both Australia and New Zealand, and we hope to duplicate them in other countries.

Dawah work continues in the Philippines and our translation work is on track in Thailand.

The news from South Africa is very encouraging. Brother Ebrahim Muhammad and other members of the Jamaat are busy propagating and defending Islam in South Africa in meetings, lectures and through articles in the print media. They also participate very actively in Interfaith activities, as these provide an excellent forum for removing misconceptions about Islam and promoting interfaith harmony. May Allah Taala Bless and Reward this Jamaat for its efforts to serve Islam and the Ahmadiyya Movement. Ameen!

The Stichting Ahmadiyya Jamaat continues to produce more translations of our literature in the Dutch language. Brother Shabbir Hoeseni is primarily in charge of the translation work. May Almighty Allah Reward him for his hard work and dedication to this translation project.

We hope and pray that Allah, the Most Exalted in His Beneficence and Mercy continues to provide us with more opportunities to serve His religion in the future.

Ameen!

Editor’s Note

by Dr. Noman Malik

BREAKING NEWS!

Al-hamdulillah just as the magazine was going to press we received the joyous news that the Arabic translation of the English commentary of the Holy Quran had been completed.

We pray to Almighty Allah that this translation will, inshallah, further the cause of peace by bringing about a correct understanding of the Holy Quran.

Ameen!

See page 16 for full story.
Local Activities of the USA Jama’at

Alhamdulillah, in addition to its work internationally, the USA Jama’at (which goes by the name of Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society) has been active in various spheres domestically again this year.

Quran in Conversation

As some of you are aware, our Secretary Fazeel S. Khan is a contributor to a recently published book titled “Quran in Conversation” (http://www.baylorpress.com/Book/419/Qur%27an_in_Conversation.html). The book comprises 25 interviews conducted by Professor Michael Birkel (of Earlham College) with American Muslim leaders and scholars about the Holy Quran. Those of you who attended the USA Jama’at annual convention last year had the opportunity to meet Professor Birkel and hear him speak during the author’s night session.

The book, masha Allah, is receiving rave reviews and is on the Publishers Weekly Top Lists (http://best-books.publishersweekly.com/pw/best-books/summer-reads-2014/top-10#book/book-3). Fazeel S. Khan was requested again this year to be keynote speaker for an event sponsored by the Muslim Students Association (MSA) at Otterbein University. Last year’s event was to inaugurate the formation of the new MSA at the university, consisting of a small but very passionate and purposeful group of students. The event was titled “Five Pillar Feast: Diversity in Islam”. The program included a keynote address by Fazeel, a panel discussion in which questions were fielded from the audience of over 85 students and faculty members, and a dinner in which middle-eastern food was served. The keynote address was titled “Islamic Pluralism” and focused on the connection between the goal of unity and the means of diversity. Fazeel spoke about Islamic monotheism, and how, despite God being One, He is understood through diverse attributes or names. And similarly, how mankind is one, but comprised of different types of people based on race, tribe, nationality, religion, etc., so that people may learn from one another. And lastly, the role of Prophet Muhammad being the final prophet, the one prophet for all people, was addressed. It was explained that the significance of this role of being the final prophet is centered on the diverse life experiences of the Holy Prophet, such that he was the “perfect exemplar” for all people and not just one particular group of people or for people of one specific time period.

Church Presentations

The month of March in particular was very busy. In addition to the MSA event at Otterbein University mentioned above, we presented on Islam for two church congregations. The first was for Covenant Presbyterian. Fazeel was asked to present an introductory course on Islam to members of the congregation. Masha Allah, the attendees were greatly appreciative of Fazeel’s presentation and enthused to have follow-up presentations. In addition to speaking about the fundamentals of Islam and the spiritual aspects to the five pillars, Fazeel also spoke about the work the Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society is engaged in throughout the world. The attendees were very impressed and a few even inquired as to how they could help in our efforts to educate people about the true, peaceful, spiritual teachings of Islam. The second presentation was for the First Community Church. Members
of this church are dear old friends; we have spoken at their church on many occasions, and many of their members regularly attend our annual symposium. Fazeel gave a talk and held a discussion about “Being Muslim in America.”

Many thoughtful and sincere perspectives were related, and respectful conversations ensued. We are truly grateful for the gracious invitations we receive from churches that want to learn more about Islam and develop friendly relations with their neighbors.

**Interfaith Activities**

Our members continue to be active participants in the *Horizon Prison Initiative*. As mentioned in previous issues, this initiative focuses on providing programs for prisoners in central Ohio. In addition to providing educational programs – such as offering the opportunity to obtain a GED, learning computer skills, acquiring conflict resolution skills, etc. – the program also caters to the spiritual needs of inmates. This holistic approach offers inmates opportunities to not only obtain practical skills to assist in their reintegration into society when released, but also to lead healthy lives with others and develop a positive attitude towards life. The program has been extremely successful, with the recidivism rate of participants dropping to about a quarter of that of the general inmate population.

Dr. Mohammad Ahmad and Sr. Lubna Ahmad regularly attend correctional facilities and meet with Muslim inmates. They offer Islamic education and our Jama’at literature, and also are available for inmates to talk with and receive good advice. Fazeel is on the organization’s board of directors and also provides an interactive class to inmates on spiritual development from an Islamic perspective. This class includes a lecture, a small group workshop and time for questions and answers.

Another program that our members regularly participate in is the monthly *Spiritual Sharing Program* hosted by the Interfaith Association of Central Ohio, held at the main downtown library in Columbus, Ohio. Members of different faiths and traditions participate. The atmosphere is extremely cordial, with the purpose of promoting respect, tolerance, mutual learning and understanding. Topics, ranging from respect for parents to the existence and attributes of God, are discussed. Dr. Mohammad and Sr. Lubna Ahmad have been attending these meetings regularly for the past five years. Many attendees have benefited from Dr. Ahmad’s and Sr. Lubna’s participation, gaining a much better understanding of the true teachings of Islam.

**Friendly Discussions with Qadian Jama’at**

A very interesting development occurred last year as a result of the USA Jama’at participating in the London Book Fair in 2013. As we reported, we developed very positive relationships with some of the members of the Qadian Jama’at that were also hosting a booth thereat. This provided us with the opportunity to have informative and civil discussions about the reasons for the split in the Movement and the beliefs held by Hazrat Mirza Sahib. Later, we received correspondence from leading members of the Qadian Jama’at stating they would like to continue these discussions via e-mail and title the set of correspondences “A Peaceful Talk”. Certainly, discussions between members of the two Jama’ats have been taking place on an informal basis for many years, especially since internet use became so prevalent. However, what distinguishes these current discussions from the others is that members of the Qadian Jama’at that are engaged in this discussion have the formal endorsement of Mirza Masroor Ahmad Sahib (the khalifa of the Qadian Jama’at) to do so. In fact, Mirza Masroor Ahmad Sahib had advised the participating members as to which topics in particular to discuss. Fazeel S. Khan and Dr. Noman Malik have been engaged in this discussion via e-mail correspondence for over a year. Masha Allah, the discussions have resulted in understanding of various areas of common ground; regardless of the outcome, though, we believe the correspondences will serve as a valuable educational tool for all Ahmadis. The real success through this process has been an illustration of how such topics may be discussed in a respectful and considerate manner.

**Publication and Distribution**

The lifeline of our work as a Jama’at is the distribution of our literature. Masha Allah, the USA Jama’at has become a premiere Islamic book publisher and distributor, with its literature being carried by the largest retail outlets throughout the country (and internationally) and a thriving translation venture that comprises projects in over 20 languages. What is sometimes forgotten, though, is the regular voluntary work that is done locally to maintain this venture.

Dr. Mohammad Ahmad and Sr. Lubna Ahmad work tirelessly to meet the demand for our books by taking care of orders and physically packing books in the Jama’at warehouse. Last summer, the Columbus Dispatch reported on the Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society and its work. The article (picture of which is shown here, and also available with a short video at: www.dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2014/08/07/islamic-society.html) shows a glimpse of the practical work that is being done, internationally as well as locally, in our warehouse.
NOMAN AND I LEFT PAKISTAN for New Zealand on December 31, 2014, and after transiting through Bangkok Thailand and Sydney Australia, arrived in Auckland New Zealand, January 2, 2015 late at night.

The next day we attended a jalsa organized by Mr. Shabbir Buksh, Mr. Zahur ur Rahman and Dr. Shamshudean Sahukhan held in a meeting hall at a local hotel. Approximately 50 people attended the jalsa. Besides jama’at members, non-Ahmadi Muslims and non-Muslim guests were present.

The proceedings began with a Holy Quran recitation by Mr. Zahur ur Rahman. He was followed by Mr. Shabbir Buksh who welcomed the audience and introduced Noman and me.

Noman, who delivered the keynote speech on True Conception of Jihad in Islam. The audience was very pleased with Noman’s presentation and expressed their gratitude for the correct concept of Jihad imparted to them.

Next, I spoke about the work being done by the USA Jama’at to propagate Islam and the Ahmadiyya Movement in the world by translating and spreading the invaluable literature produced by Maulana Muhammad Ali and other buzzurgs of our Movement, and by establishing centers in other countries such as the Philippines, France and Albania. Audience members were very inspired by learning of our propagation efforts.

The next speaker was Mr. Zahoor ur Rahman, who lectured about the Holy Prophet Muhammad as the best exemplar. The audience was greatly moved and inspired by accounts of the high moral and spiritual attributes of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him).

Mr. Rahman was followed by Dr. Shamsudean Sahukhan who delivered the concluding speech thanking the speakers and audience. The lecture session was followed by a delicious dinner.

The next afternoon we went to the center of the Ahmadiyya Anjuman...
Ishaat Islam Lahore New Zealand to attend a jalsa arranged by board members of the Jama’at in our honor.

The jalsa began with a Quran recitation by Mr. Shahid Raza. Mr. Mehboob Raza then welcomed us and informed jama’at members of the world-wide propagation work we are doing. Mr. Mehboob Raza then delivered the concluding address. After the speech session a delicious dinner was served.

We thank Almighty Allah that all Lahore Ahmadiyya members participated in both jalsas in a spirit of unity and brotherhood. May Almighty Allah Bless them all and make them unite to work in the service of Islam and Ahmadiyyat.

Ameen!

Visit to Fiji

The following day we left for Fiji where we visited Brother Mehboob Raza, President of the Fiji Jama’at.

We had long and fruitful discussions about the work of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement and ways in which we could help and co-operate with each other. Mr. Mehboob Raza donated $2,000 Fijian for the publication and translation work of the USA jama’at.

Mr. Mehboob Raza has frequently donated to publication and translation projects of the USA Jama’at. May Almighty Allah Bless and Reward brother Mehboob for his generous donations.

We next visited Brother Jalal ud Dean and his esteemed mother. She is 95 years old, and by the Grace of Almighty Allah, is in reasonably good health. We also meet with and enjoyed some interesting discussions with brother Nizam-ud-Dean and his wife.

A day before we left Fiji, Mr. Firoz Jan from Ba, Fiji, invited Noman to give a lecture on the True Conception of Jihad in Islam. 120 people, all non-Ahmadies attended. They were

Noman delivering the lecture on Surah Ikhlas in the New Zealand Center.

Noman delivering the lecture on the True Conception of Jihad in Islam.
very pleased with Noman’s lecture and participated heartily in a question and answer session after the talk. Mrs. Jan prepared a very delicious dinner which everyone enjoyed.

Mr. Jan is a very sincere and devoted Muslim and is a very close friend of the Senior Hussein Sahukhan’s family. Although he is not a member of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Jama’at he supports the liberal and enlightened teachings of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement. He was a great friend and admirer of the late Hafiz Sher Muhammad. Five years ago he had also invited Noman to give a lecture at his house. May Almighty Allah Bless and Reward him for the Islamic work he is doing.

We also met Mr. Nazeem Sahukhan, currently working as an Attorney in Nadi, Fiji. It was very kind of him to visit us at the hotel where we were staying in Nadi.

The next day, January 19, we left Fiji and returned to New Zealand. We stayed for another three days in New Zealand and met with Jama’at members for some important work.

Lectures and Book Distribution in Australia

by Sister Samina Malik

Sydney

On January 22, we flew to Sydney. Mrs. Nur Alam, President of the Australia Jama’at, received us at the airport. While in Sydney, we were guests of Sister Nur and her mother Mrs. Chand Sahukhan. They took very good care of us, and we thank them for their gracious hospitality.

On January 23, we attended the Jumma prayer at the Australia Jama’at’s Center. Mr. Usman Sahukhan delivered an inspiring jumma Khutba. We were impressed with the excellent renovation of the center by the Australia Jama’at.

On January 24, a talk on The True Conception of Jihad in Islam was given by Noman at the Center. After Noman’s lecture, I gave a powerpoint presentation of the world-wide work being done by the USA Jama’at. The members present appreciated the lec-
ture and learning about the work being done by the USA Jama’at. The event was chaired by Mr. Samir Khan, secretary of the Australia Jama’at. We had discussed the Ahmadiyya Movement and Islam with him and were impressed by his dedication to the jama’at.

Mr. Sadr-ud-Dean Sahukhan and his wife, Sister Naz, had driven the 285 km from Canberra to attend the Sydney meeting.

Successful Work in Canberra

On January 25, Mr. and Mrs. Sadr-ud-Dean Sahukhan drove Noman and me to Canberra. We were guests at their house during our stay in Canberra.

Mr. Sadr-ud-Dean, who is president of the Interfaith Association, had arranged for Noman to speak on *The True Conception of Jihad in Islam* at a meeting of the organization on January 31. Mr. Sadr-ud-Dean Sahukhan is a founding member of the Interfaith Association in Canberra. He is widely respected and loved for his dedication and sincerity in promoting interfaith
dialog, his tolerant views and his respect for all religious traditions. He frequently lectures in interfaith forums and has been asked to speak about Islam and represent the Islamic viewpoint in various parliamentary committee hearings. The lecture, attended by about 120 people, was held at the Multicultural Center.

The audience included members of different faith traditions, leaders of local Muslim organizations and members of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Jama’at — some of whom had driven from Sydney to attend the event.

The proceedings began with a ceremony honoring members of the interfaith association for their long service and dedication to the organization.

After the honoring ceremony, Mr. Sadr-ud-Dean introduced Noman. Noman’s presentation was divided into two parts. The first lecture was about “The True Conception of Jihad in Islam” and the second was about the related topics of Terrorism, Suicide Bombing, Apostasy and Blasphemy. Coffee and delicious savories were served in the ten minute intermission between lectures.

The audience was very pleased with both of Noman’s lectures, and expressed their appreciation during the question and answer session. Both Noman and Mr. Dean participated in the question and answer session and were able to clear up many misconceptions about Islam and violence in religion.

The booklet True Conception of Jihad in Islam was distributed among the audience. The booklet is an excerpted chapter on Jihad from Maulana Muhammad Ali’s monumental work, The Religion of Islam.

A very delicious dinner, prepared by Ms Julia Jones, member of ACT Parliament, and shadow Minister for Multicultural Affairs.

(L to R) Mr. Firoz Sahukhan, Dr. Noman Malik, Mrs. Samina Malik and Sadr-ud-Dean Sahukhan.
Mrs. Naz Sahukhan and other members of our Jama’at, was served after the lecture. For a week prior to the meeting, Sister Naz had been busy purchasing groceries and other items for the conference, and cooking food for the dinner. May Allah Bless her and others who contributed to the success of the conference.

We would especially like to thank Mr. Sadr-ud-Dean Sahukhan for his hard work in making arrangements for the Conference and bearing all the expenses for the event.

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**Meeting with Mr. Nic Manikis, Director, Community Services Directorate**

On February 24, Mr. Sadr-ud-Dean Sahukhan took us to meet with Mr. Nic Manikis, Director, Community Participating Group with Community Services Directorate. Mr. Manikis is also the senior executive for the office of multicultural affairs, women, aging and youth engagement. He provides government policy to the Minister for the Government of the day in relation to constituency groups.

We were very cordially received by Mr. Manikis in his office. Noman presented him with the *English Holy Quran* and the *Religion of Islam* which he was very pleased to receive. Mr. Manikis briefed us about the work he did. We were very impressed by his efforts to promote interfaith harmony in Australia.

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Sister Samina, with Noman presenting Mr. Nic Manikis, the Director of Community Service Directorate, with copies of The Holy Quran and The Religion of Islam.
Distribution of copies of the English Translation of the Holy Quran and The Religion of Islam to Libraries and Professors in Australia

by Sister Samina Malik

The USA Jama'at has undertaken a project to distribute free, two of Maulana Muhammad Ali’s major works, the English Translation of the Holy Quran and The Religion of Islam, to all libraries and professors of Religion and Theology in English speaking countries. Sets of these books have already been mailed to libraries and professors in the United States and their distribution has started in the United Kingdom. The USA Jama'at has also sent 1000 copies of The Holy Quran and The Religion of Islam to the South Africa Jama'at for free distribution to libraries and professors in that country. This distribution is being duplicated in non-English-speaking countries in the languages of which we have published The Holy Quran and The Religion of Islam, namely Germany, France, Austria, Switzerland and Italy.

The main reason for our visit to Australia was to initiate the same project in that country. Mr. Sadr-ud-Dean Sahukhan very kindly offered his residence in Canberra as a base for mailing the books. Brother Sadr-ud-Dean has built a large room attached to his house which functions as a Mosque and meeting place.

Two months before our arrival in Canberra we made arrangements to ship 1,000 copies each of the English translation of The Holy Quran and The Religion of Islam, to Mr. Sadr-ud-Dean Sahukhan’s residence in preparation for the project. The shipment, scheduled to arrive in Canberra by January 24, was delayed due to unavoidable circumstances, and the arrival date was delayed to February 19, 2015.

Meanwhile, we obtained a mailing list of all the libraries and professors of Theology in Australia and purchased mailing supplies of bubble wrap and pre-paid courier packs from the Post Office in preparation for mailing. The easiest and least expensive way to ship parcels in Australia is by courier.

We had a wait of 20 days before the book shipment arrived in Canberra. We had originally planned to visit Thailand and the Philippines after completing the project in Australia, but because of the delay, we decided to visit the Philippines and Thailand in the interim. Please see page 11 for news from that visit.

When we returned to Australia from our successful visits to the Philippines and Thailand, the books had arrived in Canberra.

With the help of Saleha and Hussein Sahukhan we prepared 600 packages for mailing. Each package contained a copy of The Holy Quran and The Religion of Islam.

The packages were then put into postal sacks which, when filled, each weighed about 50 pounds. Noman and...
Hussein loaded these sacks into a car and transported them to the back door of the post office where they unloaded and carried them into the mail room. It took several trips to transport the entire shipment. Hussein did most of the lifting of the heavy sacks.

Noman and I are very grateful to Saleha and Hussein for their much needed help. They both did the work cheerfully and enthusiastically, with a smile on their faces. May Almighty Allah Bless and Reward them for their hard work.

I would like to thank Sister Naz Sahukhan for all her help. We kept her busy driving us to the post office to purchase pre-paid courier envelopes and to office supply stores to make copies of the letter included in the packages, and purchasing bubble envelopes and other shipping supplies such as tape, scissors, box cutters etc.

We are very grateful to brother Sadr-ud-Dean Sahukhan for allowing us the use of his house to store and ship the books to the libraries. May Almighty Allah Bless and Reward the whole family abundantly for their unwavering support in this extremely important work of spreading the books *The Holy Quran* and *The Religion of Islam* and for their untiring service to Islam and the Ahmadiyya Movement.

We would also like to thank the whole family for the love and hospitality shown to us during the three weeks we stayed with them. They made our stay very comfortable and we felt completely at home.

I would also like to ask other Jama’at members to participate in this great jihad of spreading *The Holy Quran* and *The Religion of Islam*. The greatest jihad is to take the Quran to all corners of the world. When we leave this world we will be answerable to Almighty Allah, as we have the literature produced by the Mujaddid of this age and his followers in our hands, and have taken an oath to spread this literature in the world.

We should look at the example of
the Holy Prophet Muhammad and see
the sacrifices he made to deliver the
message of Allah, and how numerous
people converted to Islam as a result.
We should try to emulate his inspiring
example. Do you think we can call
ourselves true and sincere Muslims if
we do not follow the Sunnah of our
own beloved Prophet?

Our dear Maulana Muhammad Ali
translated the Holy Quran into English
with its valuable commentary in 1917
and then revised the whole work in the
last years of his life. He finished this
laborious task on his death-bed as
described in the foreword to the trans-
lation: "On arrival of the proofs from
England," write his biographers ‘the
Maulana would get his head raised in
his bed, and with hands quivering
would correct the proofs and give the
final touches.’ The final proofs were
corrected on October 8, 1951, and five
days later he breathed his last. He died
in harness in the service of the Quran.”

Why is it that we do not try to
spend our money for the propagation
of the Quran in spite of these inspiring
examples. We have a project to send
The Holy Quran and The Religion of
Islam to all libraries and professors of
Religion and Theology in the world.
The project is costly, especially in the
United States where there are many
more libraries and professors than in
other countries.

In the only recorded audio tape of
Maulana Muhammad Ali, a jummah
khuba, he says “We have all the liter-
ature for the defense and the
propagation of Islam. What is the prob-
lem that we do not spread it in the
World?” In this khutba he repeatedly
stresses the need to spread the Holy
Quran and other literature in the world.
We are very fortunate to belong to the
jama’at of Hazrat Mirza Sahib, but, as
Maulana Muhammad Ali states in his
khutba “what is the use of our being
in the jama’at if we do not participate
in the work of propagating Islam?”.

Brothers and Sisters, help us in this
great jihad; this will benefit you. It will
bring you closer to Allah Almighty on
the day of judgment.

The USA jama’at is spending more
than $150,000.00 to send the sets of
books to libraries and theology profes-
sors in the United States.

Giving your time and money for the
propagation of the Holy Quran is the
best jihad in the world. We do not ask
for all your savings, but try to donate
at least 10% of it to the jama’at for the
publication projects.

Please send your donation to the
USA jama’at for the free distribution of
the Holy Quran and other books.

All donations may be sent to:
Ahmadiyya Anjuman Ishaat Islam
Lahore USA. P.O.Box 3570, Dublin,
Ohio, 43016. If you would like to wire
the money, let us know, and we will
send you the necessary bank informa-
tion for the wire transfer.

Mr. Sadr-ud-Dean Sahukhan purchases
books for the Australia Jama’at

The Australia Jama’at placed an order
to purchase books from the USA
Jama’at. When brother Sadr-ud-Dean
came to know of this, he very gra-
ciously donated $2,500 AD for the
cost and shipping of the books.
Alhamdulillah!

Sadr-ud-Dean and his wife Naz also
donated $2,500 AD for the publication
projects of the USA Jama’at on behalf
of his late parents Mr. and Mrs. Hussein
Sahukhan and sister Naz’s late brother
Ebrahim Buksh.

Brother Sadr-ud-Dean Sahukhan is
a regular attendee and speaker at the
USA Jama’at convention. We all enjoy
listening to his informative and inspir-
ing lectures.
Work in the Philippines & Thailand
by Sister Samina Malik

We left for the Philippines from Australia on February 3rd. After a night stop-over in Thailand, we arrived in Manila, Philippines on February 5th. We stayed a day in Manila to attend to some official work regarding the registration of our Jama’at. We arrived Cagayan de Oro on February 6th.

We were very happy to see the renovation of our center and the mosque. We had a Sunday gathering in which Noman gave a Quran Dars and held classes for the members. The meeting finished with the combined Maghrib and Isha prayers. Members were very happy to see us again after three months since our last visit. We thank Almighty Allah that we have a Jama’at and Center in the Philippines.

Sister Nena Mendosa, Brother Jaffar, and other members are very active in dawa work. They have a plan to visit all the neighborhoods and talk to them about Islam and Ahmadiyyat. They also would like to invite community members to our Sunday classes which Noman gives via Skype.

We pray to Almighty Allah that He bless this small Jama’at in every way. Inshallah, we will be there in another few months time to hold a symposium.

The translation and publication work in Thailand

On our return from the Philippines, we stayed for several days in Thailand where we met with our translators. We are thankful to Almighty Allah that we have a very good team of translators who are working hard to translate our books into the Thai language. Our booklets the Prophet of Islam and Islam the Religion of Humanity and the books the New World Order and Muhammad the Prophet have been translated.

We are now endeavouring to get the print and e-book versions of these books ready. Alhamdulillah! The Holy Quran translation is doing well, and inshallah, should be ready in two years.

Please pray to Almighty Allah that the literature that we have translated into Thai will help new converts who are accepting Islam. There are almost 300 Thai converting to Islam every month. We pray to Almighty Allah that He guides more people to Islam.
Work is nearly complete on our “Text Only” version of the Holy Quran English Translation by Maulana Muhammad Ali.

This format, which omits the extensive footnote commentaries has been in high demand by our members and others, and we are pleased to be able to say that, Inshallah, the production of this important work will be complete in the coming days.

Ideal for daily reading during the Holy Month of Ramadan!

*Please watch our website [www.muslim.org](http://www.muslim.org) for updates.*
Arabic Translation of Maulana Muhammad Ali’s English Commentary of the Holy Quran Completed

By the grace of Almighty Allah, the Arabic translation of the English footnotes of the Holy Quran has been completed.

The translator, Dr. Hussein, is professor of English in a leading university in Egypt. He obtained his PhD. in English in the United Kingdom and taught in England for several years before returning to his native Egypt.

Dr. Hussein began the arduous and demanding task about two years ago and completed it a few days prior to the writing of this article. Alhamdulillah! May Almighty Allah Bless and Reward him for his hard work.

The translation has been checked by two professors in Al-Azhar Al Sharif. We have begun typesetting the work and will, inshallah, publish it in a few months.

Inshallah, the correct concept of Quranic teachings which are present in the footnotes will greatly contribute to spreading peace in the strife torn Middle East. Ameen!

The USA Jama‘at would like to thank Sister Samina Malik for her efforts in finding a translator of Dr Hussein’s caliber and working with him to successfully complete the project.

Mr. Sadr-ud-Dean Sahukhan speaks at the Australian Parliament

Mr. SADR-UD-DEAN SAHUKHAN attended The United Nations Interfaith Harmony Week at the Parliament House in Canberra. The conveners of the Parliamentary Friends of Multiculturalism, the Member for Calwell, Maria Vamvakinou and the Member for McMillan, Russell Broadbent, commemorated the United Nations Interfaith Harmony Week with an interfaith dialog in partnership with the Canberra Interfaith Forum and Religions for Peace Australia in Parliament House Canberra on Wednesday, February 11, 2015.

Attendees included SBS chairperson Nihal Gupta, and Deputy Chair of the Joint Standing Committee on Migration, and Professor Des Carhil, President for Religions, for Peace Australia.

Mr. Sadr-ud-Dean Sahukhan, who is President of Canberra Interfaith Forum was the featured speaker at the conference. He gave an excellent speech about the essence of interfaith co-existence which was greatly appreciated by conference attendees. The
Religious intolerance in society has created many problems — millions of people have been killed; many people are discriminated against every day, if not murdered because of their religion; many nations have been divided on religious lines. There is much discord in the world.

Religious harmony holds the key to a peaceful and progressive world. Religious harmony is the need of the hour because we are children of the same God. Holy books of various religions are filled with Divine knowledge; if we are religiously tolerant and study these holy books and practise their teachings in our daily life then our world can be a better place for all.

Let us work together to create religious harmony in our world by knowing and practising our own faith while respecting the faith of others.

Religious harmony holds centre stage for peace and prosperity in our multi-faith and multi-cultural world. Let’s pledge to love and respect everyone in the world of goodwill, irrespective of, and indeed specifically because of, one’s religion, caste, creed, sect, colour, ethnicity, language, gender, nationality and any other differences. The basis for Interfaith Harmony stems from humanity which is ‘Love of God and Love of the Neighbour’ or ‘Love of the Good and Love of the Neighbour’.

Let’s pledge to work in the interests of Australia and the world, towards bringing Religious Harmony and creating a peaceful and prosperous world, together.

The title page of Sadrud dean Sahukhan’s thesis for his Master’s in Islamic Studies is reproduced below:

Is Takfir (excommunication) allowed in Islam?

Sahu Khan
11504544

Charles Strutt University

We congratulate Mr. Dean for this great achievement. After reading Mr. Dean’s thesis, his professor was so impressed that he suggested it should be published in an academic journal after some modification.

To be able to attain a Masters degree while working as a busy attorney is indeed a great achievement, and it demonstrates Mr. Dean’s love and devotion for Islam.
The Centre
We are thankful to the USA Jama’at for donating a Centre to our Jama’at. Without their help we were unable to purchase a centre in Cape Town. May Almighty Allah Bless the USA Jama’at directors for their great help to our Jama’at. We continue to have regular Friday Jumuah prayers and meetings at the Centre.

Youth Programme
Anwar Abrahams and Siraj Mohamed have set up scheduled talks for the year for the youth and other interested parties on selected topics. On March 21, Siraj presented on the role of the Ahmadiyya Movement and Anwar talked about the “Death of Jesus” in April.

Donation of the Holy Quran, Religion of Islam and other books by the USA Jama’at
We thank the USA Jama’at for sending us 1000 hard cover copies of the English Holy Quran and 1000 hard cover copies of the Religion of Islam. An additional pallet containing most of the books by Maulana Muhammad Ali and other authors printed by the USA Jama’at has been shipped from the USA to us.

The Good News
Our January publication was entitled “Not in the name of Islam” dealing with the tragic events of extremists who falsely claim inspiration from Islamic teachings for their deeds.

Propagation
Once we receive the new consignment of books donated by the USA Jama’at, we will plan the next phase of distribution of Qurans and Religion of Islam to selected libraries, theological professors and educational institutions.

The February edition covered “The Treatment of Women in Islam.” This topic sparked a response from an anti-Islamist source claiming the Quran indeed teaches female domination by men. The writer is busy with a rebuttal which he will share.

Reply to the Jesus in Quran Video
Sister Ruwaida Zain wrote a very comprehensive rebuttal to the “Jesus in Quran” video she received from a Christian friend, which went viral on the Internet. The video was widely circulated on social media to the delight of local Christians. The video, using a so-called Muslim convert to Christianity as narrator, tries to prove Jesus’ superiority over Muhammad using the Quran. A copy of Ruwaida’s rebuttal will be shared under separate cover. After more than a month of receiving her reply, the person who sent her the video still did not respond.

Interfaith
On February 5, 2015 the writer attended a talk organized by the Cape Town Jewish Board of Deputies on the topic “The Challenges of Interfaith in a world of Hate.” The keynote speaker was the Most Reverend Stephen Brislin, Archbishop of Cape Town. I had a chat with the Archbishop and told him of our work and donated a copy of the Holy Quran to him, which he accepted with delight.

On February 16, 2015, Scheega and I attended a very interesting talk on the topic “Faith and the Family”. The talk was organized by the Sufi Movement. The Sufi Movement is not tied to any Tariqa like the traditional movements currently in vogue in the Muslim community. Although they pay allegiance to the teachings of Hazrat Inyat Khan, they are open to all members of the community regardless of Faith. The speakers consisted of a Muslim, Hindu and Jew. The talks were followed by a very interactive session where we shared our backgrounds and
views with the topics presented.

On February 19, 2015, the writer gave a talk on “Muslims’ response to anger – Islam teaches Tolerance”.

I was invited to give a talk on Islamic tolerance with specific reference to Muslims’ response to anger, a much debated topic that came about as a result of the “Charlie Hebdo” incident in Paris. The talk was arranged by the University of the 3d Age, an Interfaith group in the southern suburbs of Athlone, Cape Town. I was accompanied by Scheega, Faheem, Naeem and Miesqa. The audience comprised mostly local Sunni Muslims and Christians. The talk was very well received and the organizers thanked me and asked if I could assist in their monthly talks. I agreed to assist as far as possible.

A well-known columnist, Dr Qassim Darcy of a local Sunni newspaper, The Muslim Views, congratulated me on a presentation he felt was free of the usual trimmings and ambiguities you come across in the sermons of the local ulema.

Some Christians expressed their thanks for enlightening them about the true teachings of tolerance in Islam – one commented that he felt it was refreshingly free from dogma and bias which was very encouraging. E-mail addresses of members of the group were added to my “Good News” mailing list and two copies of the Holy Quran and Religion of Islam were donated to their library.
Friday Sermon by Maulana Muhammad Ali

April 16, 1948

The Commandments of the Holy Quran and the Holy Prophet Muhammad regarding the Temporal and Spiritual authority, maintenance of order and forgiveness.

This article (translated from the original Urdu into English by Dr. Mohammed Ahmad) comprises a Jummah khutba (Friday Sermon) by Maulana Muhammad Ali delivered on April 16, 1948. In this khutba, Maulana Muhammad Ali discusses the meaning of true forgiveness and its importance as an essential attribute for spiritual development and for fostering brotherly relations in an organization and among humanity in general. We are thankful to Dr. Ahmad for translating these khutbas for the benefit of all those who revere Maulana Muhammad Ali but cannot access his works in Urdu. Dr. Ahmad has translated more than a hundred khutbas and the first fifty of these are in the final phase of checking and will, inshallah, be printed as volume 1. May Almighty Allah reward and bless him for this much needed noble work.

I bear witness that none deserves to be served besides Allah and I bear witness that Muhammad is the servant and messenger of Allah.

After this, I seek the protection of Allah from the accursed devil.

In the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful.

And let not possessors of grace and abundance among you swear against giving to the near of kin and the poor and those who have fled in Allah’s way; and pardon and overlook. Do you not love that Allah should forgive you? And Allah is Forgiving, Merciful. (24:22)

In the last Friday sermon, I mentioned that Allah the Most High and His messenger have also given great importance to the temporal authority and order in society and rebellion against it has been prohibited. Our Holy Prophet has stressed that even if those in authority take away what is your due and are guilty of inequity, do not rebel against them. The words of one Hadith go so far as to state, “When you are involved in Jihad against the enemy, you should not be thinking about the character of your Imam (leader). It is incumbent upon you to strive along with all those in authority whether your Imam is most pious (birun) or most sinful (fujurun). Even if he is guilty of a major sin do not part with him during the striving.” The Arabic word bir is used first in this Hadith to indicate that the Imam should preferably be the one who is the best in piety. If, however, his election was faulty, misplaced, beyond your control or his character deteriorated afterwards (the Arabic word fujur, indicating the breadth in wrongdoing), you are still to obey his authority and continue to support him in the striving.

Incidents of use of language critical of the righteous Caliphs

It is true that we find some incidents narrated in the Hadith where the companions of the Holy Prophet were critical of the Imam. There is also one Hadith that states: “Speaking the word of truth before the iniquitous ruler is the greatest Jihad.” The ruler is called iniquitous because he will not accept the truthful word but will become angry upon hearing it. Thus speaking the truth under these circumstances is considered a Jihad. There are also examples in the Hadith where people used strong language to criticize the righteous Caliphs. These were people who had great strength of faith. When Hazrat Umar delivered a sermon in support of curtailing the amount of dowry given to women, a woman stood up and said, “O son of Khattab Allah is giving us while you are taking away from us.” With this reprimand she quoted the Quranic verse: “And if you wish to have (one) wife in the place of another and you have given one of them a heap of gold, take nothing from it” (4:20).

There is also another well-known incident regarding Hazrat Umar when he commanded that the Amir should be obeyed. A man stood up and responded with very harsh criticism of his order. Pointing towards the cloak the Caliph was wearing, he said: “we will not obey your command until you explain the source of the cloth from which your cloak has been made. The material that you received as war bounty would not have been sufficient for this purpose.” In response Hazrat Umar did not say that you are very rude to accuse me of dishonesty. Instead he asked his son to respond to the query. Hazrat Umar’s son stood up and explained that he had given his share of the cloth to his father from which the garment was made.
Those in authority to be obeyed in all matters except disobedience to Allah and His authority

This incident seems to indicate that those in authority can be criticized and disobeyed even for minor infractions. Remember, however, that what was said by the Holy Prophet cannot be compared to individual behavior. Whatever the Holy Prophet stated is indeed correct and rests on a firm foundation. He said obey them unless they command disobedience to God and His messenger. Even if you suffer personal loss or those in authority are corrupt. There is only one exception, and that is as long as you are not prohibited from obeying God and His messenger. Today the Promised Messiah has also put great stress upon this. Those in authority should be obeyed unless their command is contrary to the word of God and His messenger.

Obedience when those in authority are Non-Muslim

Today the forty or fifty million Muslims remaining in India have no choice but to obey and submit to authority. The fifty or sixty million Muslims in China also have no recourse but to submit to those in authority. Now some sovereign Muslim states are coming into existence. Muslims have, however, lived for centuries under the rule of Non-Muslim authorities. This would not have been possible without obedience to those in authority. The only exception being that if the ruler commands disobedience to Allah and His messenger, he is not to be obeyed.

The Commandment of the Holy Quran regarding Spiritual matters

I have stated that a temporal system of governance can function only if its authority is accepted. There is a spiritual domain also. This is not under the authority of a king or a government. A system is also, however, needed for this to function and it is essential to follow it. For this purpose one has to make sacrifice. The spiritual order in fact demands greater sacrifice than the temporal. In my previous sermon I discussed in detail the temporal order. I commented on this verse of the Holy Quran:

“And dispute not one with another, lest you get weak-hearted and your power depart" (8:46).

The command regarding the spiritual order is even more exalted. In order to draw your attention to it I have recited these words of the Holy Quran from the chapter Al-Noor:

“And pardon and overlook. Do you not love that Allah should forgive you?"

Slander against Hazrat Aisha and the establishment of her innocence

When were these words revealed? This revelation came after an incident occurred amongst the Muslims of such gravity that the honorable wife of the Holy Prophet, Hazrat Aisha was the subject of slander. As is customary, such gossip spreads from one person to another and some Muslims also associated themselves with the slanderers. The Word of God ultimately established her innocence with the revelation of these words:

“Why did they not bring four witnesses of it? So, as they have not brought witnesses, they are liars in the sight of Allah.” (24:13).

Connected with this incident was a companion of the Holy Prophet by the name of Mistah who had taken part in spreading the false reports against Hazrat Aisha. He was a relative of Hazrat Abu Bakr. The person who participated in this slander had nevertheless been of some service to the cause of Islam. He was from amongst the emigrants and had participated in the battle of Badr. Hence the Divine command to forgive him. If you love that Allah forgive you then you should learn to forgive His servants. One who is himself seeking Allah’s forgiveness, his desire to be forgiven is false if he does not forgive the servants of Allah. This also shows that Allah the Most High desires to imbue us in His coloring. This is the lesson of the command, “create Allah’s morals within yourselves.” Allah is Forgiving but His forgiveness is for those who forgive His servants. The Holy Quran reminds us of two of God’s attributes, He is the:

“Forgetter of sin and Acceptor of repentance”(40:3).

Allah the Most High is The Forgiver of sins even without repentance and also accepts repentance when somebody repents. Just as Allah forgives without a person asking for His forgiveness you should also be at the spiritual level where you should forgive people without their seeking your forgiveness. He who pardons when pardon is sought is not doing anything extraordinary. True greatness lies in forgiving even when forgiveness is not asked for.
Choose to be called a liar even if you are telling the truth

The Imam of the age has also laid stress upon your choosing to be called a liar even if you are telling the truth. This does not mean that you randomly accept being called a liar. What this means is that although you are truthful in a matter, do not expect accusers to come and ask for your forgiveness. Take advantage of the power of forgiveness within you and forgive spontaneously. Some people have the tendency to become upset over small differences and cut off relations until their forgiveness is sought. This is not the right way and the Holy Quran and the Holy Prophet forbid it. The Promised Messiah prohibits it.

It is only through forgiveness of your brethren that your organization can survive. Remember well that this is a spiritual order. If you want to build and strengthen your organization you need to follow the principle of forgiving your brethren and embracing them unconditionally. Let not the thought enter your heart: “why should you be the one showing humility?” Discord worsens because ‘A’ always considers ‘B’ at fault and vice versa. In order to sustain order in your organization, even if you think that your position is based upon righteousness, forgive those who are unrighteous. Your benefit lies in this. This is what will result in the resolution of your internal conflicts and the maintenance of order and harmony within your organization.

Be strong in opposing the enemy and show humility to your brethren

Remember well that the Imam of the age has laid the foundation of a temporal and a spiritual order amongst us. Both of these systems can only be sustained if we manifest complete obedience and submission and do not exaggerate the shortcomings of our brethren. You are endowed with two strengths, the strength to fight back and the power to be humble. Use your strength to fight back against the disbelievers and remain firm in your effort. Use the power of humility amongst yourselves. Be humble before your friends, even if your friends are at fault. This is the meaning of the verse:

“Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah, and those with him are firm of heart against the disbelievers, compassionate among themselves.” (48:29).

If the power to oppose is used against your friends, it will lose strength and you will not be able to stand up to disbelievers, therefore it is incumbent that you preserve your strength.

Remind yourselves of the goodness of those who work and pardon their shortcomings

This is a very useful principle, to work together within the system of your organization and to pardon each others’ shortcomings and mistakes. I am reminding you of this because your founder Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad has entrusted you with a great and noble task. Do not think of what you could accomplish in Pakistan? Pakistan is a mere skeleton — you have to reform its spirit and character to bring it to life. This is the purpose that Allah the Most High sent Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad with, to inculcate faith in the hearts and minds of people. It was their faith in Allah that enabled the Muslims to become capable of running a huge terrestrial empire. There is no doubt that major cracks have appeared in the moral fabric of this nation. It is also possible that the closer we look, the more apparent these cracks become. Only Allah has the true estimate of this. It is your duty to overlook the faults of others and focus upon their redeeming qualities. Take the case of Mistah. There is no doubt that he was guilty of a grave calumny but God gave preference to his one good deed. He was amongst the companions of the Holy Prophet during the battle of Badr. It is my observation that we ourselves commit grave errors and overlook them. We are, however, swift in our verbal tirades against people who have accomplished magnificent works. This is not appropriate. When judging others always put more weight to their good deeds and overlook their weaknesses.

The overall strength of our organization

God knows better that when I estimate the overall strength of this organization, I find many exemplary qualities in it. When these people pass away one would only wonder if there would be others like them. Look at Khwaja Kamal ud Din. We had differences with him. During one annual convention it almost appeared that the organization would be there no longer. The work that he did is highly exalted. Where can we find people like him today? Remember well that all those who work for this organization are human beings and not angels. There is no doubt that they have shortcomings but you should look at their work and ignore their weaknesses. You should appreciate the great job they accomplish and overlook their faults: “Do you not love that Allah should forgive you?” Strengthen this principle and be aware of your own shortcomings. Many great prophets cried out in their prayers, “I have been unjust to my soul!” Everyone is answerable to God and we all seek His protection. So if someone wants to be forgiven, he should overlook the faults of his brethren; if he doesn’t, he cannot expect God’s forgiveness. I have said that this organization has amongst its members people whose good qualities go far beyond their shortcomings. This organization as a whole appears to distinguish itself from others. Their character and morals are exalted and their deeds are exemplary. If I start counting, the list would be a long one. There is no doubt that there have been many amongst this organization who were of highly exalted spiritual status.

The Appreciation of the works of this organization by others

Some of you may have attended the annual awards ceremony of the Muslim High School yesterday. You may have observed how impressed the
higher authorities were by the works of your organization. When we were constructing the building for this High School we asked the government for assistance. Of those who were assigned this task, one senior officer questioned whether we would be able to raise half the funds for the construction of this building. One of his subordinates advised him that this was a very active organization and that they will be able to accomplish everything. His words were proven true and the school building was completed within three months. So you must have observed yesterday the good opinion authorities of this government have of your organization. They know well what kind of people are needed to be of service to Pakistan. That is why the chief guest attending this ceremony was of the opinion that this organization should establish a college. The graduates of this college will be amongst the best to serve Pakistan. What is, after all, the distinguishing feature of this school? It is a school of the same organization that is subject to so much name-calling by the people. Why is it that they send their children to get educated here? It is because they realize that their children get the best education here.

The breadth of the promised Messiah’s vision, his strength of knowledge and action

Remember well that Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad accomplished a stupendous task by forming this organization. I wish the word had not been used by a part of this organization that turned off many people otherwise many would have joined its ranks. We observed many great qualities of Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad. His visionary insight was such that few since the time of the Holy Prophet have been gifted with it. Many of the conditions of this age foretold by the Holy Prophet were also revealed to him. His strength of knowledge was such that whosoever got close to him became a scholar and a strong protagonist of learning. And he had another gift — his strength of action. He accomplished whatever task he undertook. People claim that we have destroyed this organization and struck the last nail in its coffin. It will stay alive as long as the knowledge base given by Hazrat Mirza Sahib remains alive — the prophecies that he made about this age are still being fulfilled. Search the pages of history and you will not find such breadth of vision or strength of knowledge and action. You will not find these three elements together! Do not assume that the world does not recognize this. The world acknowledges, but we have not appreciated Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad. Just as we have not truly recognized the Holy Prophet Muhammad. You should keep up your effort, the harder you work, the more you will reap the fruits of your labor. You are seeing how much hold evil has over the world and how rampant bribery and corruption is. Try your best to reform the character and create good morality in the world. Spend your full effort in this quest and then observe the good effects of your labor.

Note: