



AHMADIYYA
MUSLIM COMMUNITY
Love for All, Hatred for None

Garden of Peace

A Monthly Newsletter for New Converts



'Most of all it is my purpose to plant once more in the hearts of people the pure and shining unity of God.' -Promised Messiah (as)

March 2009

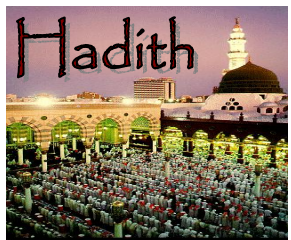
Vol 3 - Issue 1



The Holy Quran

O ye who believe ! fear Allah as HE should be feared; and let not death overtake you except when you are in a state of submission. And hold fast, all together, to the rope of Allah and be not divided; and remember the favor of Allah which HE bestowed upon you when you were enemies and HE united your hearts in love, so that by HIS grace you became as brothers; and you were on the brink of a pit of fire and HE saved you from it. Thus does Allah explain to you HIS commandments that you may be guided. And let there always be among you a body of men who should invite to goodness, and enjoin virtue and forbid evil. And it is they who shall prosper.

(3:103-105)



Hadith

Abu Bakarrah Thaqfi (r.a) has related that the Holy Prophet (sa) said: When two Muslims confront each other with swords and one is killed, both end in hell. I said: Messenger of Allah, as to the one who kills it is understandable; but why the other? The other was also eager to kill his opponent

(Bokhari and Muslim).



Mufti Muhammad Sadiq Lifetime Commitment Award

Who was Mufti Muhammad Sadiq?

Hadhrat Mufti Muhammad Sadiq was an early companion of the Promised Messiah, Hadhrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (as). He converted to Ahmadiyyat at an early age and dedicated the rest of his life to the service of Islam in India, USA, and Pakistan. In 1920 at the instruction of Hazrat Musleh Maud (ra), the then head of the Ahmadiyya community, Hadhrat Mufti Sadiq left India by ship to travel to the US as a missionary.

The story of his travel to the US, and subsequent stay is remarkable by any standard. He entered the US without any financial resources, and embarked upon spreading the message

of Islam in an area that was completely alien to his native culture. Consequently he faced many difficulties, trials, and tribulations.

Despite the difficulties, Mufti Sadiq Sahib remained steadfast to his objective. In a span of few years, he succeeded in winning the hearts of almost 700 Americans towards Islam. He thus single-handedly initiated the Ahmadiyya Community in the US. His other achievements include starting a religious magazine, *The Muslim Sunrise*, for the American audience, and setting up the first missionary mosque in the US in Chicago in 1921. These efforts have borne much fruit since then. *Muslim Sunrise* continues its quarterly publication to this date, and can be read online at www.muslimsunrise.com. The first Ahmadi mosque in the US has been rebuilt and named *Al Sadiq* mosque after its founder.

What is Mufti Muhammad Sadiq Lifetime Commitment Award?

The award is given on behalf of MKA (USA) to honor individuals who symbolize the spirit of Hadhrat Mufti Muhammad Sadiq (ra). These are individuals who entered the fold of Ahmadiyyat at a time when the Ahmadiyya community was still in its infancy in the US in many respects. They are therefore, like Mufti Sadiq Sahib, the pioneers of Ahmadiyyat in the US. The award recipients also, like Mufti Sadiq sahib, faced tremendous difficulties. Yet they sacrificed their time, energy, wealth, and indeed their entire lives so that they could withhold and spread the message of Islam in the US.

Respected Brother Bashiruddin Usama - Cleveland



I was born on August 4th, 1932. I am the third child of immigrant parents to America from the island of Jamaica, British West Indies. I grew up in Detroit, Michigan and migrated to New York in my late teens which opened up a whole new world for me. A fellow Jamaican, Vincent, who had heard about Islam, told me we should visit the Mission House at 110 E. 116th street. The missionary at that time was Brother Ghulam Yasin who was a strict disciplinarian in the teachings of Islam and Ahmadiyyat which I later learned resulted in the conversion of many new members of which 2 or 3 became Hafiz of the Holy Quran. Alhumdulillah.

Several months later, I began reading more about Islam and Ahmadiyyat. It became more appealing, so one day I decided to embrace Ahmadiyyat - True Islam but Brother Ghulam Yasin said that I should study Comparative Religions and then return and see if I still felt the same about Ahmadiyyat. So I did and shortly after embraced Ahmadiyyat - True Islam

in September 1951.

Shortly thereafter, I was drafted into the U.S. Armed Services where I practiced being an Ahmadi Muslim as best as possible. Following 2 years in the Service, I returned home to become an IBM operator in the US Government.

Ironically, one day at work I decided I did not want to do this for the rest of my life I called the Center - the American Fazl Mosque - in Washington, D.C. and asked the Missionary-in-Charge, Dr.Khalil A. Nasir, whom I became acquainted with earlier and who later became my mentor, if I could come there to study Islam and Ahmadiyyat. He said he would be most pleased and delighted if I would. So I arrived that summer, started my studies of the Holy Quran, Sunnah, Ahadith with Dr. K.A. Nasir and his assistant, Syed Jawad Ali.

Alhumdulillah. I was blessed with a job at the General Services Administration in Washington, D.C. and started going back to college - I had spent one year in college before going to the Service. With my arrival in the summer of 1955, my life at the American Fazl Mosque in Washington, D.C. turned out to be one of the most rewarding time in my life and helped to bring about unimaginable blessings that

significantly shaped my future. I studied under Dr. Khalil A. Nasir who profoundly influenced me and helped shape my spiritual, moral, and intellectual life in a most positive way and became like a father to me.

I also had the extreme honor and fortune to be in the presence and spending many days and hours with Dr. Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan whose last position was the President of the International Court of Justice at the Hague. He was an eminent scholar in the world of law, politics, diplomacy, and religion.

On June 9th, 1956, I had an arranged marriage with an East Indian - American woman, Fatima Begum Kaloo, whom I did not know but she was a born Ahmadi. She was not Jamaican. We had 4 boys: Muqit, Jalaluddin, Zafrullah, and Asif. By the Grace of Allah, we have been married for over 52 years. Alhumdulillah.

I completed training from Howard University College of Dentistry in 1963, and later returned in 1971 to Howard University Hospital and Veterans Administration Hospital in Washington, D.C. to become an Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon. As a result in 1963, I became the first American born Ahmadi to receive a Doctorate.

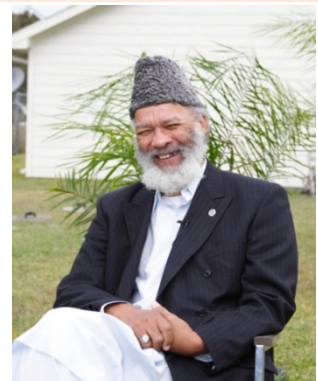
I traveled to many Ahmadi Mosques in Europe, Africa, Middle East, Pakistan. Made Umras and Hajj. I have also been blessed with the honor of addressing the Jalsa, the International Gathering in Rabwah in 1967 which was presided by Hazrat Mirza Nasir Ahmad, Khalifatul-Masih 3. I had the pleasure of meeting Sheikh Rehmatullah of Karachi with whom a very close relationship has endured thorough the years. Sheikh Rehmatullah is the father of Dr. Nasim Rehmatullah, the Naib Amir of USA jamaat currently.

I have been the President of the Washington, D.C, Detroit, Michigan, and Cleveland, Ohio Jamaats. Allah- ta-Ala has abundantly showered His Grace on my family and me, in addition to giving and receiving a shared love and friendship of Muslims and non Muslims all over the world.

With deep humility and knowing that all praise is due to Allah,

Bashiruddin Usama - Cleveland, Ohio - November 11, 2008

Respected Brother Abid Haneef - Boston



Respected Brother Abid Haneef was born on the 12th of December 1927 in New York, and went to school in Durham, North Carolina. As a young man who was interested in music and Jazz, he move to New York on 138th street. That is when he came into contact with a couple of Ahmadi missionaries - Dr. Khalid Ahmad Nasir and Chaudhary Ghulam Yasin - and started spending time with them along with some other musicians. Brother Haneef has tremendous respect for the dedication of the early Ahmadi missionaries to the U.S., whom he says “were doing it for us” despite the hardships they faced.

Brother Haneef recalls that Dr. Nasir and Chaudhary Yasin emphasized discipline, encouraged him to go back to college for higher education, and distilled in him the dignity of labor and hard work. Brother Haneef engaged in prayer a lot at the time as he wanted to do the right thing. Given his musical bent of mind, he was struck by the natural rhythm in the Holy Quran. As a result of his prayers, study, and personal interactions with his Ahmadi teachers, Brother Abid Haneef decided to join Ahmadiyyat in 1948 at the age of 21.

Brother Haneef fondly remembers the frequent visits by Sir Zafrullah Khan to New York. Sir Zafrullah Khan was the first foreign minister of Pakistan and a renowned jurist who later went on to become the president of the International court of justice. Sir Zafrullah Khan also took a keen interest in the new African-American Ahmadi brothers and would lovingly remark, “I am going to see my boys”.

The second head of the Ahmadiyya community, Hadhrat Mirza Bashiruddin Mahmood Ahmad, indicated his desire around 1948-49 that candidates from the U.S. come to Rabwah (Pakistan) to become scholars in Islam, and to dedicate their lives for the spread of its message. Brother Haneef remarks that at that time the Ahmadiyya community was over 90 percent made up of African American converts in New York – the Ahmadi immigrants from South Asia came later. He says it was “all our dream” to answer the call of our *khalifa* (spiritual leader). The recruiting process began, but one had to be single to qualify and Brother Rasheed Ahmad from Chicago was selected to go to Rabwah. As Brother Haneef recalls, “he was our national hero ... everyone wanted to be Rasheed Ahmad”.

Brother Haneef therefore enrolled in New York University in 1952 to further his education. However, his desire to study Islam and become a life devotee to spread its message never dwindled. It must have been his prayers and sincere desire to serve the cause of his Creator that many years later his son, Imam Azhar Haneef, would go to Rabwah and become a missionary!

The Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace be on him) said that “whoever builds a mosque, desiring thereby Allāh's pleasure, Allāh builds for him the like of it in paradise”. One of brother Haneef’s many contributions to the cause of Ahmadiyyat is his effort to build an impressive mosque at Sharon near Boston during the early 80’s. There is a lot more to be said about the services of Brother Abid Haneef to his faith and community. We invite you to learn more about his life by watching his interview online at www.mkausa.org.

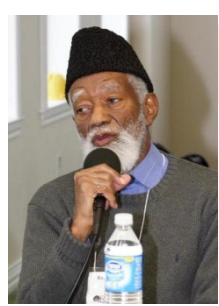
Respected Brother Yousef Abdul Lateef - Boston



He grew up in Detroit, accepted Islam Ahmadiyyat in 1948. He is currently 86 years old, and holds a doctorate in education from University of Massachusetts. He wrote his dissertation on “An Overview of Western and Islamic Education”. Mr. Lateef is also an accomplished world-renowned musician, and won a Grammy award in 1987 for his alternative music ...

Stay tuned for more on the life of Dr. Yousef Abdul Lateef in our future issues of the Garden Of Peace newsletter!

Respected Brother Rasheed Ahmad—Milwaukee



Respected Brother Rasheed Ahmad was born in 1923 in East St. Louis, Illinois. He accepted Ahmadiyyat in 1945 in Chicago. Imam Bengali sahib was the missionary in Chicago at the time, and there were also other converts in Chicago at the time who had come into Ahmadiyyat through Mufti Muhammad Sadiq sahib (ra). One of his earlier friends Brother Abid Haneef sahib, who himself is a convert to Ahmadiyyat, recalls that Brother Rasheed Ahmad was one of the most effective member of the community when it came to *tabligh* and was known for his honesty. The second caliph of the community, Hadhrat Mirza Bashiruddin Mahmood Ahmad (ra), indicated his desire around 1948 for American Ahmadis to come to Rabwah (Pakistan) and dedicate their lives to the study and propagation of Islam. Brother Rasheed Ahmad leapt at the opportunity and was fortunate to be selected for the honor. As his friend Abid Haneef sahib recalls, “he was our national hero ... everyone wanted to be Rasheed Ahmad”!

Brother Rasheed’s journey to Pakistan was nothing short of miraculous. He was arrested in middle east on his way to Pakistan, and accused of spying! When he finally reached Pakistan he had no idea where to go, in a completely foreign country with a different language. Yet he persevered and with Allah’s support by his side had the honor of studying and serving by the side of the second khalifa. Find out more about his incredible life story in our online interview of Brother Rasheed Ahmad at www.mkausa.org.

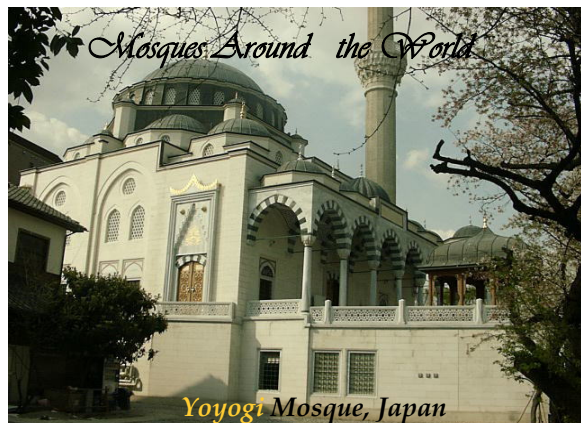
GOP Editorial

We have been presenting accounts of new converts to Islam Ahmadiyyat in our previous issues. In this issue, we shift our focus from new converts to *earlier* converts. These are individuals who accepted Islam and the Promised Messiah (as) of the time many years – in fact decades - ago.

When a young man accepts Islam the outside world may look at it as a transitory phase. However if the individual is sincere in his acceptance of the new religion, and the religion is true in its claim of transforming it adherents for the better, then time is the perfect test for an adherent’s truthfulness. A true religion has the power to life people out of darkness. The land of Arabia witnessed this phenomena more than fourteen hundred years ago when its inhabitants started accepting the message of Islam through Prophet Muhammad (peace be on him).

Islam changed the lives of its followers in remarkable ways. People who were corrupt and cruel became the most trustworthy and caring after their conversion to Islam. Husbands who were harsh with their wives now treated them with respect and dignity. The slave owners voluntarily started freeing-up their slaves. The rich who would treat their slaves and servants with brutality, now cared for them as members of their own household. Ex-slaves who once had a status lower than animals in the society, rose up to become generals and governors. Indeed there is no parallel to such transformations in the history of mankind.

Today we are very fortunate that we live in an age when the Promised Messiah (peace be on him) of Islam, as prophesized by Prophet Muhammad (peace be on him), has come. We can thus witness some of the same changes that the world saw fourteen hundred years ago



among those who are accepting Islam at the hand of the Promised Messiah. We present some accounts of such individuals in our current newsletter for our esteemed readers. Please do send us your feedback!

Have a letter, a story, a request or even a question you want to share with Garden of Peace... write to us today:

Write your letters to:

Garden of Peace

3421 White Plains Rd, Bronx, NY 10467



Tarbiyyat Advice
~ Moral Training ~

AVOID INCITING YOUR PASSIONS

Other practical ways to avoid inciting your passions include:

To restrain one’s eyes from looking at prohibited things outside the prohibited degrees also known as - Ghad e basaar (the veil of the eyes/lowering your gaze).

To restrain your ears from listening to their voices

To refrain from listening to descriptions of their good looks

To avoid occasions that may incite your passions

To control oneself during the period of celibacy with fasting, dieting, exercise

Before we even begin to think about the physical acts to prevent sin, there are modesty of thoughts. Allah says in the Quran that you will be brought to account for not only your action but your thoughts. Since all actions first begin with thoughts it’s important to put a check on what you watch, read, talk, and of course think about. The more regularly the thought occurs, the more acceptable it appears and it become less and less objectionable to then be translated into an act.

This is the basis of the Hadith, **Modesty is all virtue**You begin with modesty of thought/intention and all virtues is born from this state of mind and practice. .

On a larger scale, the company you keep will greatly affect your spiritual development and ability to overcome sin. Imagine you are constantly fight a tough current in a rough sea... eventually even the strongest swimmer will grow tired and being to sink, no matter how great the training he’d received. However a swimmer who is moving swiftly along with a current towards his destination and is wearing a supportive life jacket can either swim vigorously or remain still and float along smoothly, either way he is in no danger of drowning or going in the wrong direction. The same hold true for a group of friends. If the group is interested in your spiritual well being and moving with you in the same direction they can be a support for you when you’re feeling weak and good company when you are strong. However if you friends are suggesting you go against Islam and are constantly encouraging you to take part in sin, it is like a heavy current that will eventually weaken and destroy you.

What is Islam's view on obedience to the law of the land?

In Islam obedience to the law of the land is a religious duty. The Qur'an commands Muslims to remain faithful to not only Allah and the Prophet Muhammad (saw), but also the authority they live under:

O ye who believe! obey Allah, and obey His Messenger and those who are in authority over you (Ch.4: V.60).

Any country or government that guarantees religious freedom to followers of different faiths (not just Islam) must be owed loyalty. The Prophet Muhammad (saw) stressed this point when he said:

'One who obeys his authority, obeys me. One who disobeys his authority, disobeys me.' (Muslim)

The present head of the worldwide Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, Hadhrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad (aba), has also explained:

'A true Muslim can never raise his voice in hatred against his fellow citizens, nor for that matter against the ruling authority or government of the time. It is the responsibility of a true Muslim that he should remain loyal and fully abide by the laws of the land of which he is a subject.'

(Baitul Futeh Inauguration Reception, 11 Oct 2003)

This makes clear that according to Islam Muslims must obey the law of the land as anything to the contrary would mean that they are not obeying their Prophet or their religion.

Please submit your question to joinislam@gmail.com or mail it to Garden of Peace, 3421 White Plains Rd, Bronx, NY 10467. All questions will be answered.

Conditions of Initiation (Bai'at) to Islam

By: Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad of Qadian
The Promised Messiah and Mahdi (peace be upon him)

- I. That he/she shall abstain from Shirk (association of any partner with God) right up to the day of his/her death.
- II. That he/she shall keep away from falsehood, fornication, adultery, trespasses of the eye, debauchery, dissipation, cruelty, dishonesty, mischief and rebellion; and will not permit himself/herself to be carried away by passions, however strong they might be.
- III. That he/she shall regularly offer the five daily prayers in accordance with the commandments of God and the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him); and shall try his/her best to be regular in offering the Tahajud (pre-dawn supererogatory prayers) and invoking Darood (blessings) on the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him); that he/she shall make it his/her daily routine to ask forgiveness for his/her sins, to remember the bounties of God and to praise and glorify Him.
- IV. That under the impulse of any passions, he/she shall cause no harm whatsoever to the creatures of Allah in general, and Muslims in particular, neither by his/her tongue nor by his/her hands nor by any other means.
- V. That he/she shall remain faithful to God in all circumstances of life, in sorrow and happiness, adversity and prosperity, in felicity and trial; and shall in all conditions remain resigned to the decree of Allah and keep himself/herself ready to face all kinds of indignities and sufferings in His way and shall never turn away from it at the onslaught of any misfortune; on the

contrary, he/she shall march forward.

- VI. That he/she shall refrain from following un-islamic customs and lustful inclinations, and shall completely submit himself/herself to the authority of the Holy Quran; and shall make the Word of God and the Sayings of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) the guiding principle in every walk of his/her life.
- VII. That he/she shall entirely give up pride and vanity and shall pass all his/her life in humbleness, cheerfulness, forbearance and meekness.
- VIII. That he/she shall hold faith, the honor of faith, and the cause of Islam dearer to him/her than his/her life, wealth, honor, children and all other dear ones.
- IX. That he/she shall keep himself/herself occupied in the service of God's creatures for His sake only; and shall endeavor to benefit mankind to the best of his/her God-given abilities and powers.
- X. That he/she shall enter into a bond of brotherhood with this humble servant of God, pledging obedience to me in everything good, for the sake of Allah, and remain faithful to it till the day of his/her death; that he/she shall exert such a high devotion in the observance of this bond as is not to be found in any other worldly relationship and connections demanding devoted dutifulness.



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Garden of Peace is a monthly newsletter for the Nau-Ma'abeh (new converts) published by Majlis Khuddam-ul-Ahmadiyya, USA. All new converts are welcome to submit their own articles, experiences and opinions to the newsletter team. Please send your request to: By Mail: 11205 Hambricht Rd, Huntersville, NC 28078. By Email: joinislam@gmail.com - Garden of Peace Team: Ahmad Antar, Bilal Rana, Atif Mian, Hamza Ilyas, Tyab Rashid.

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