



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)

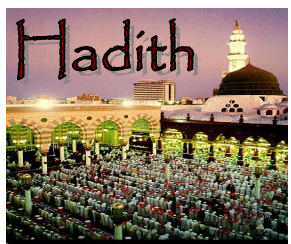
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## The Holy Quran

O ye who believe ! be strict in observing justice and be witnesses for ALLAH, even though it be against yourselves or against your parents or kindred. Whether he, against whom witness is borne, be rich or poor, ALLAH is more regardful of them both than you are. Therefore follow not your low desires that you may be able to act equitably. And if you hide the truth or evade it, then know that ALLAH is Well-Aware of what you do (4:136)



**Hadith**  
Abdullah ibn Mas'ud relates that the Holy Prophet (saw) said: Truth guides to virtue and virtue guides to Paradise. A person persists in telling the truth till in the sight of Allah he is named Truthful. Lying leads to vice and vice leads to the Fire; and a person goes on lying till in the sight of Allah he is named a liar.

(Bokhari and Muslim).

## The Spirit of Financial Sacrifice

One of our central aims as Muslims is to strive for the highest stages of spiritual growth. As new Muslims we ask ourselves "How do I strive for and reach high stages of spiritual progress?" The straight answer from the Holy Qur'an is, "Never shall you attain to righteousness unless you spend out of that which you love.." (3:93).



The spiritual head of the Ahmadiyya Muslim community, Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad recently informed us in his Friday sermon on *Waqf-e-Jadid*, that "revolutionary changes are brought about with sacrifices. In this hedonistic age to overcome the selfishness of the *nafs* (self) is a tremendous source of *Tarbiyyat* (moral training) and financial giving is a great *Jihad* (striving) of the time." He then went on to encourage all Ahmadis, especially children and new converts to Ahmadiyyat, to participate in the financial scheme of *Waqf-e-Jadid*.

What is *Waqf-e-Jadid*? In the year 2002 the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community of the Republic of Benin held its first Jalsa Salana (annual convention). The child pictured here (Mujeeb) was seven years old and is from a small rural village in Benin. This noble and blessed boy asked his parents to sacrifice all of the funds that they had been saving to pay for his first year of school, to the organizers of the Jalsa. Imagine the degree of excitement that he must have felt in offering such a sacrifice toward this big event!



Indeed through the efforts of schemes such as *Waqf-e-Jadid* and *Tehrik-e-Jadid*, children all over the world like Mujeeb are saved every day from the dangerous and inhumane influence of radical Islamic groups. Through a network of schools, hospitals, missions and fraternal gatherings such as the Jalsa Salana, children throughout the world of Ahmadiyyat are called to practice the true teachings of Islam. Due to the efforts of the *Waqf-e-Jadid* scheme many children in the rural areas of India, Bangladesh, Pakistan and West Africa, have been saved from the clutches of radical and extreme Islamic groups.

As Ahmadis we strive in the cause of Allah and his noble Messenger (pbuh). Devotions to such schemes as *Waqf-e-Jadid* show the world that we are committed to the high ideals of Islam; Love for God and his creation. Our noble sacrifices in towns and villages the world over are evidence of this striving. Like the young Mujeeb, Ahmadis all over the world do not see themselves as poor victims, indeed even as we look at our brother Mujeeb's face we do not see poverty and hopelessness. He is not being paraded as a victim in need of \$1.00 a day to survive. The Noble Mujeeb even at his young age is learning to strive and make sacrifices for the good and just cause of Islam -Ahmadiyyat. His sacrifice when measured with the tales of children who are being trained as radicals and terrorist fighters - is so pure, noble and lasting.

As we recently witnessed the beginnings of the Khilafat centenary in West Africa, we saw the fulfillment of Khalifatul Masih IV's vision for *Waqf-e-Jadid*. Thousands of people gathered under Khilafat in peace, love and unity. We also witnessed the sacrifices of some 300 Khuddam from Burkina Faso that traveled more than 800 miles on bicycles to celebrate Khilafat. These actions show that Ahmadiyyat is committed to the spread of the true and pure Islam on earth. Join with Mujeeb and our brothers from Burkina Faso. Fight those who create mischief in the name of religion by spreading Love for All, Hatred For None – the true message of Islam. Make a contribution to the blessed scheme of *Waqf-e-Jadid*. Let this sacrifice be your badge of honor!



Originally from Guinea, Alfa Bah of Zion was a Sunni Muslim for most of his life. A few years ago in a move from Evanston to Zion, his commute for Jumma prayers became very tedious and time consuming. One day, while driving with his wife on 173 he noticed the familiar Ahmadi motto coined by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Khalifa of the Promised Messiah, “Love for All, Hatred for None.” His wife told him this was a mosque. He immediately resolved to go there for Jumma prayers from this point forward because of the local Masjid’s convenience.

After going to the Ahmadi mosque in Zion and being embraced he was fascinated by the brotherhood and unity he witnessed. As time passed he began consuming large amounts of Ahmadi literature which clarified many concepts of Islam in a rational and cogent manner. As he read more, Alfa Bah became more convinced of the truth of Ahmadiyya Islam. He maintains that he had always felt that a reformer was needed in Islam and this was the primary and essential difference between Ahmadiyya Islam and mainstream Orthodox Sunni Islam. The Ahmadi literature provides an inexhaustible resource for him to understand his faith and develop it further.

A husband and a father of two daughters, ages 11 and 6, Alfa Bah says he has grown tremendously over a few short years. Since becoming Ahmadi, he has dedicated his life to serving the cause of Islam and enhancing his spiritual and moral development.

Alfa Bah got the opportunity to attend the Centenary Khilafat celebration of 2008 in Ghana which drew a crowd of hundred thousand people. This was a memorable experience for him. The electric atmosphere in Ghana was infused with emotion and spirituality where floods of thousands of people showed their depth of dedication and obedience to Khilafat, displaying an extreme love of Allah and one another, exemplified by their supremely efficient and problem-free organization. In addition to the seamless brotherhood and unity, Alfa was especially touched when he saw thousands upon thousands of people gather for Tahajjud prayers behind Hazrat Ameerul Momineen, Khalifatul Masih V, every morning of the Jalsa.

He feels very blessed to have found the True Islam at a point in his life when his faith was not quite as strong. Although he always wished to dedicate his life to learning and spreading Islam, he was never part of a community that had the organization, resources, and dedication to spread the True message of Islam. The resources and literature helps Alfa when he goes to the local jail to preach to inmates about the beautiful, natural and wholesome teachings of Islam. He offers his services as a chaplain and gives prayers in the jail as well. He routinely counteracts the negative image of Islam in the dominant media with his conduct and energy, being involved in a wide range of projects.

Brother Alfa is also studying for a Masters in Education and is active in the local community in Zion. He keeps contact with the Guinean community in Chicago to spread Ahmadiyyat, and is studying the Quran and Ahadith in depth. He also works as a substitute teaching and coaches soccer.

May Allah bless and reward his efforts and give us more pious and dedicated souls like him.

*Assalamo Alaikom Wa Rahmato Allah Wa Barakatuhu,*

Dear brothers,

This is my first time writing for the Garden of Peace newsletter. Being a new convert to Islam, my knowledge of Islam is not that deep. I would like to talk about something that I do have a little knowledge about which is unity, peace, and kindness among man.

The current state of affairs in the world is unstable especially when it comes to war and politics. There are many factors to that phenomenon including the multi religious conflict. Such conflict might be due to disagreements over beliefs and customs. Islam teaches peace and unity. The Holy Quran strongly focuses on the unity of families and doing good deeds unto children, women and men.

Nevertheless, even in Islam, there us` unrest and fighting between different sects over varying beliefs and traditions that does not promote peace and unity. There is a hadith of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (saw) that he addressed to His people where He said, "Oh people, your lord is one, you are the progeny of the same father (who was created from dust). Hence, it is not permissible for you to make any discrimination between high and low. An Arab has superiority over neither non-Arab, nor a non-Arab over an Arab. A white person is not superior to a black person, nor is a black superior to a white. The most honorable among you in the sight of God is the one who is the most righteous".

I strongly urge the readers of this newsletter to reach out to your neighbors and friends of different beliefs and talk to them about your beliefs and differences. Find out how you can make your community more united and faithful. I would like to close by emphasizing on the true meaning of the word Islam, which is peace. Do everything you can to be kind to your fellow man, even if they are not to you. If someone does wrong to you, turn the other cheek and be kind. Do not condemn those who do wrong, for it is only through patience that other can learn from your example. It takes a more honorable and pious person to do such a thing which is definitely within the teachings of Islam.

Jazakallah, and May Allah bless you with peace and kindness, Ameen.



**ISLAMIC GUIDELINES FOR PROPER GROOMING AND HYGIENE**

**Cleanliness is next to Godliness...**

The Quran says:

**"Allah loves those who keep themselves clean." (2:223)**

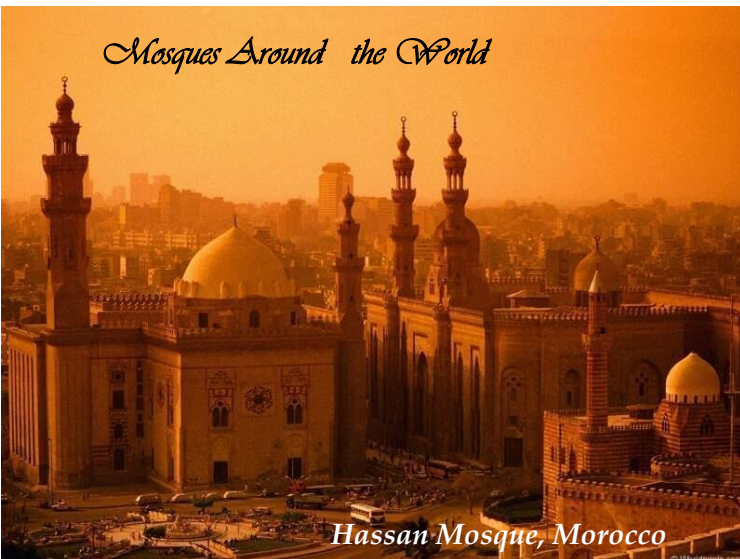
The most important aspect of good hygiene is cleanliness. In accordance with the Islamic belief that the condition of the body affects the mind, physical cleanliness is essential for spiritual well-being.

Proper Islamic grooming and hygiene includes

- ◆ Oiling and combing of hair after washing,
- ◆ Keeping fingernails and toenails trimmed and clean,
- ◆ Removal of superfluous body hair, including the armpits and pubic areas.
- ◆ Using Deodorant and Cologne after bathing.
- ◆ Keeping clothing neat and free from dirt.
- ◆ Brushing teeth after meals
- ◆ Sitting down when urinating
- ◆ Cleaning with water after using the bathroom

When Muslims practice Islamic hygiene in the correct manner, they benefit in two ways: their outward purity helps them achieve inner purity, and the whole society benefits because many health hazards can be avoided.

*Mosques Around the World*



**Your brother Talib Van Beaver.**

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,

*Hassan Mosque, Morocco*



**Why do Muslim men have beards and wear turbans?**

Muslims seek to follow the noble example of the Prophet of Islam (saw). The Holy Prophet (saw) had a beard and wore a turban, both of which were the custom appearance of men of that age and country. However, these were not done simply to follow custom or tradition. The growing of beards has been linked with piety and manhood for thousands of years across many cultures and civilizations and it is common in many religions. In Sikhism, the beard is seen to be part of the dignity and nobility of men. In Judaism and Christianity, the ancient priests often used to grow beards and the shaving of them was seen as a sign of shame and dishonor. (1 Chronicles 19:5) . Islam has continued this noble tradition, where the Prophet of Islam (saw) encouraged the growth of beards: 'Narrated Ibn 'Umar: Allah's Apostle (saw) said, "Trim the moustaches short and grow the beard."' (Sahih Bukhari, Volume 7, Book 72, Number 781). From this hadith it appears that there is no fixed size or style of the beard, but it should be longer than the moustache. Moustaches should not be shaved altogether not should they be too long as the hadith says 'trim'. A beard is a beauty of a man so it should be tidy as well. 'Growing a beard is one of the signs of nature.' (Muslim) Growing a beard was also the way of the Holy Prophet(saw), and the Holy Qur'an says if you love Allah follow the Prophet (saw) then Allah will also love you (Ch.3: V.32). As for turbans it is true to say that many Arab and Asian Muslims wear the turban purely for customary reasons, but there is no religious requirement that a turban should be worn. The reason why Muslims may wear a turban is because it reflects the spirit of Islam that seeks to remind people of God. When praying Muslims are required to cover their heads as they are in the presence of their Lord. Covering the head is a sign of showing respect to God. Similarly some Muslims choose to cover their heads at other times as a reminder of their faith and of God. The form of head covering is not prescribed so can range from caps and hats to turbans. In the Asian and Arabian culture the turban also symbolized that the person was a man of learning and wisdom. Thus it served as a reflection of what a true Muslim should be – one who is ever-mindful of his Creator and ever-inclined to seek knowledge.

Please submit your question to [joinislam@gmail.com](mailto: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-Klauba'en (new converts) published by Majlis Khuddam-ul-Ahmediyya, 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](mailto:joinislam@gmail.com) . Garden of Peace Team: Ahmad Antar, Bilal Rana, Atif Mian, Hanzla Ilyas, Tyab Rashid.



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