



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)

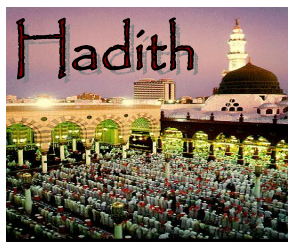
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The Holy Quran

O ye who believe !
avoid much suspi-
cion; for suspicion in
some cases is a sin.
And spy not on one
another, neither
back-bite one
another. Would any
of you like to eat
the flesh of his dead
brother ? Certainly,
you would loath it.
And fear Allah,
surely, Allah is
oft-Returning with
compassion and is
Merciful.

(Chapter 49:Verse 13)



Abu Hurairah has
related that the
Holy Prophet
(peace and bless-
ings of Allah be
upon him) said:
Allah does not re-
gard your bodies
and looks, but
looks at your
hearts. (Muslim)



Khalifah Tours North America:



Inauguration of the Biggest
Mosque in North America

We talked about the reinstatement of the Divine system of *Khilafat* with the advent of the Promised Messiah (as) in our last month's issue. We are thus very fortunate to be witnessing the fulfillment of this prophecy of our Prophet Muhammad (peace be on him) in our very lives. The months of June and July were especially blessed in this regard for the Ahmadi Muslims of United States and Canada. We were graced by the arrival of our current *Khalifa* (Caliph), Hadhrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad, who chaired the annual Ahmadiyya conventions of both US and Canada.

The 60th annual convention of the U.S. was held in Harrisburg Pennsylvania from June 20th to 22nd. About 9,500 Ahmadi Muslims from all parts of the U.S. attended the convention. This year's convention was of particular significance since it marked the 100 years of the re-institution of *Khilafat* in Islam Ahmadiyyat, and was chaired by the *Khalifa* of the time himself. The three day event was a chance for everyone to spiritually uplift themselves, and to strengthen a bond of brotherhood with peoples of all races and backgrounds. The convention thus serves the essential purpose of Islam: strive to get closer to God, and build bonds of harmony and brotherhood with each other.

Canada hosted its 32nd annual convention a week after the U.S. convention in Toronto. Hadhrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad graced this convention with his presence as well. Around 20,000 individuals participated in the Canadian convention from various parts of North America. A large number of guests and dignitaries belonging to multiple faiths also took part in the activities. The convention thus also serves the purpose of showcasing to the outside world, the *true* peaceful message of Islam, summarized in the famous Ahmadiyya motto: *Love for all, Hatred for none*.

Both the US and Canadian conventions were broadcast live on Muslim Television Ahmadiyya (MTA) which is broadcast via satellite to all parts of the world, and can also be viewed online at www.mta.tv. The Ahmadiyya Muslim community holds conventions in many countries of the world every year. While each convention has its own colors, every convention shares the fundamental purpose for which they were initiated by the Promised Messiah (as). He says, "The primary purpose of this Convention is to enable every sincere individual to personally experience religious benefits; ... Among its secondary benefits is that this congregational meeting together will promote mutual introduction among all brothers, and it will strengthen the fraternal ties within this Community."

The head of the Ahmadiyya community visited Calgary after the Canadian convention to inaugurate *Bait un Noor*, which is now the largest mosque in all of North America. The mosque is spread over 1.5 hectares of land, with 48,000 square feet of prayer area, a 7,400 square foot multipurpose hall, administrative offices and sports facilities. The project cost 14 million dollars, which has been entirely financed by voluntary contributions from Ahmadi Muslims.

The local Ahmadiyya community expressed their gratitude to God Almighty on the completion of the mosque project. The following excerpts were reported in Calgary Herald, a Canadian newspaper, on June 29th, 2008. "If this mosque is just a building, we have accomplished nothing," says Ahmadiyya spokesman Dr. Safer Khan, a psychiatrist with the Calgary Health Region. "We want this to be a place all Calgarians can use and can feel welcome in. We want to learn about their faiths and tell them about ours in a supportive environment." Khan says this outreach is a way Ahmadis can say thank you to Canada for the religious freedom they have found here.

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Hadhrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad (aba) - Khalifa V arrives at Baitul Rahman Mosque in DC



Khalifa V addressing the Canadian Community at the Annual Convention, Jalsa at Calgary



The Rider of Rasheed City: Hany Mohamed

By Naveed Malik, Boston, USA



Cairo, Egypt – Hany Mohamed is a kind-hearted, thoughtful and soft-spoken 23-year-old Egyptian Ahmadi Muslim. His story is remarkable. Before I tell it, let me tell you how I came to befriend this brother. After the US Jalsa, I flew to Cairo, where I would spend two months continuing my Arabic studies. Not having ever been here, I did what any Ahmadi does: reach out to the Jama'at. The Ameer of the Jama'at kindly allowed me to stay at the guesthouse. My second day in Egypt was “Yaum-ul Jumu'ah”, meaning Friday, and I was eager to see our Jama'at members here in Egypt. I had already heard about a well-known scholar who had accepted Ahmadiyyat some years ago (more on him later). So I took a cab to the home of Mr. Mustafa Thabit (who appears on MTA al Arabiyya), where Jumah prayers are held. After the sermon, several people came up to me to introduce themselves. One of them was Hany.

Hany was pleasant and welcomed me in English. Later that evening, he and Syed Fathy Abdel Salam, the scholar I just mentioned, came to the guesthouse. Syed Fathy sahib's routine is to spend the weekend at the guesthouse serving the cause of the Jama'at. Hany came along to learn and assist, and while here, I got a chance to learn about him. Hany was born into a Wahhabi Muslim family. But he never really believed in some of the things he was taught. Even as a youngster, he would ask his Qur'anic teacher, “How come tawaffah means death everywhere in the Qur'an except when it refers to Jesus?” He was given answers that left him unfulfilled. Around this time last year, meaning the summer of 2007, he came across the concept of Ahmadiyyat. He heard it from a non-Ahmadi, and what he heard wasn't very flattering.

“I never liked to learn about a religion from a person from a different religion. So I went to learn about Ahmadiyya myself.”

Hany went to IslamAhmadiyya.net, which is the Jama'at's official website in Arabic. He also logged on to watch MTA3: Al Arabiyya.

“I was shocked,” says Hany. He could not believe that Ahmadiyya existed, and was amazed that he had never heard of it. Now he realizes how the mainstream clerics have actively tried to suppress the message of Ahmadiyyat in many Muslim countries. Hany read ‘Aina Kamalat-e-Islam’, one of the Promised Messiah's Arabic books, and was in awe of the Promised Messiah's command of Arabic.

At this point in the conversation, I mentioned that I wanted to memorize “Al Qaseedah” (the Arabic poem the Promised Messiah wrote in praise of the Holy Prophet Muhammad), and Syed Fathy sahib asked me, “Which Qaseedah?”

“What do you mean ‘which Qaseedah?’”, I retorted, “You mean there's *more than one?*”

Syed Fathy sahib quickly went and retrieved a thick book comprising the Promised Messiah's *Arabic* poetry, which includes a poem comprised of more than 500-verses in praise of Prophet Muhammad (sa). When I asked this former Al-Azhar University scholar to critically assess the Promised Messiah's Arabic, pulling no punches, his eyes widened.

In a deliberate and magnificent tone he said, “**It is of the highest caliber there is! The only way an Indian could have written these poems is with the Help of Allah. It is a simple equation: An Indian man plus the Help of Allah equals these poems. Without the Help of Allah, there are no poems. They are a proof of his truth! The benchmark for judging the Qur'an itself and the poems of the Promised Messiah are ... the same,**” he explained. “**It is written in an ancient, classical style, which is also used to assess the quality of the Holy Qur'an. It has never happened in history that a poem of 500 verses was written in the same form and with such unprecedented command of Arabic.**” And this is just one of several.

That left me tingling. Hany added, “Oh yes, his Arabic was so great. It was one of the reasons I accepted Ahmadiyya, because I could not believe that any person, especially from “Al Hind”, meaning India, could write like this without the Help of Allah.”

He then told me about a dream he had in those days, last November. In it, he was riding a horse, and leading the people of Rasheed City, his hometown, who were on foot behind him, towards a figure in the distance. He turned to them and said, “Look people, this is the messiah. Come, join him.” Hany was now ready to take bai'at.

He wrote to the Jama'at and said he wanted to meet Ahmadi in Cairo (there is no public information on the Jama'at in Egypt as Ahmadiyyat is “banned” here, and most “Muslim” countries). He was put in touch with Muhammad Shareef sahib, who is part of the Kababeer Jama'at, and appears on MTA3: Al-Arabiyya. Shareef sahib called him and talked to him about Ahmadiyyat, and when convinced Hany's interest was genuine, gave his information to an Ahmadi in Cairo. “You took bai'at then?”, I asked. “Yes,” he replied. “Do you remember the day?” “November 2, 2007.”

And while I thought the story ended there, that was just the beginning. He returned to Rasheed City and told his family and a close friend he had just accepted Ahmadiyyat. The young man who he thought was his confidant, went off and reported the news to everyone. For better or worse, Hany was now getting a lot of attention.

“My friend Hasan, who is 25, came to me”, recalls Hany. “He is very wise”, Hany said to me, with a smile on his face. “Why?”, I asked, “because he accepted Ahmadiyyat too?”, I guess. “Yes!”, Hany exclaims. Now there were two Ahmadis in Rasheed City. In less than one week, Hasan heard more than enough to convince him that Ahmadiyyat was the truth. Hany advised Hasan not to tell people he had accepted Ahmadiyyat, but Hasan felt he was strong enough to withstand any resistance. But Hasan's brother was a very committed Wahhabi who could not stand Hasan's acceptance of the Promised Messiah (as) and worked to turn his entire family against him. Egged on by his brother, Hasan's father wrote a letter to him, disowning him and instructing him to leave their home. But before leaving, Hasan recalled that when he would explain Ahmadiyyat to his mother (and neither his mother nor father were religious), his mother would be in awe, and remark “Now *that* sounds like Islam to me!” Nonetheless, Hasan moved out of his home and city and is doing well these days.

The story continues. Ahmad, the brother-in-law of Hany's so-called friend who reported the news of his conversion everywhere, came to Hany. Ahmad was 27, my age. He pulled Hany aside and asked him, “Have you accepted someone saying he is Imam Mahdi?” “Yes,” replied Hany in a humble voice. “Tell me, what does he say about Dajjal.” When asked this very direct question, Hany thought to himself, “Why is he asking me so much a direct question about Dajjal, and not the basics?” As soon as he finished explaining the Promised Messiah's beliefs on Dajjal, Ahmad said, “I want to do bai'at.” Now there were three. Mind you, it has been less than two weeks since Hany's own bai'at. We're still in November 2007.

And yes, the story continues. Muhammad, 20, Hany's former neighbor, heard about Ahmadiyyat in his own town. When he was visiting Rasheed City, that same month, he asked about it and of course by now everyone knew that Hany had become Ahmadi, so they said “Go talk to Hany.” Muhammad was surprised that Hany, his childhood friend, had become Ahmadi. When Muhammad approached Hany, the two reconnected instantly. After explaining the basics of Ahmadiyyat,

Continued from Page -2: The Rider of Rasheed City

Muhammad also did bai'at. And just like that, in one month, four young men joined the Jama'at of the Promised Messiah (as).

But as I mentioned earlier, Hany was receiving all sorts of attention, and not all of it was positive. One night in April, just a few months ago, he heard a knock on the door. When he answered it, a man asked him if he was Hany Mohamed and he replied in the affirmative. The man said, "I am Osama, and I am with the Secret Police. Come with me to the station." Hany thought this had to do with a visa application to the US for work, but when he arrived, he learned it was about Ahmadiyyat. "Do not do Tabligh of Ahmadiyya", he was told. "But I am not doing Tabligh. When people themselves come to me to ask me about Ahmadiyya, I only tell them my beliefs, to defend my own faith. Then if someone wants to accept it, what can I do about that?" Indeed, Allah ta'la made Tabligh easy for Hany in a country where it is prohibited. So long as they come to him, and he does not go to them, even the Secret Police is placated!

Hany is all those things I mentioned at the onset of my piece, but Hany's not a salesman. He just soberly states the facts, which his friends (and most others around him) have never heard before, and of them, a handful has already accepted the message. Let's pray Allah ta'la continues to grow and care for our Nau Muba'een, especially in places where secret police goes around knocking doors in the night.

The Jama'at in Egypt has grown threefold in the last year. Just today after Jumu'ah we had another three bai'ats, Alhamdulillah. Whereas a year ago there were just 10-15 Ahmadi families in Egypt, there are some 40-50 now. Why? It's a product of MTA3: Al 'Arabiyya, IslamAhmadiyya.net, and Tabligh by new converts, like Hany. The message is spreading. If the mullas ban Ahmadi books, the website finds its way into people's homes. If Ahmadis cannot build mosques, they can launch television programs. Little by little, Jama'ats in the Middle East, like the one here in Egypt, are growing. Young and old, rich and poor alike are coming alive through the writings of the Promised Messiah (as). After Jumu'ah, Ameer sahib and Syed Fathy sahib hold a Q&A session in which you can witness great enthusiasm from a Jama'at with predominantly new membership, in an ancient land.

As for Hany, he graduated college recently and just moved to Cairo, where he has taken a steady job in Accounting. He wants to continue studying to get an even better job, InshaAllah. He assists Syed Fathy sahib with his Tabligh work, and has obviously enjoyed success himself. Indeed his dream before accepting Ahmadiyyat, where he was leading the people of Rasheed City towards Ahmadiyyat, started coming true in the same month of his bai'at. As international brotherhood is a hallmark of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, and strongly emphasized by respected Sadr MKA, if you want to reach out to your brother Hany, just email him at hany_bye2002@yahoo.com. May Allah help Hany, Hasan, Ahmad, Muhammad and all the new converts in Egypt, and the world over, in their journeys, and may He keep us all united under Khilafatul Ahmadiyya.

Continued from Page -1: Khalifa Tours North America

The community's financial sacrifices have been remarkable. Homes have been remortgaged or sold, women have contributed treasured jewelry and children have broken into their piggy banks to help pay the bills. The mosque's exterior is ringed with 99 gleaming Arabic words, each one highlighting an attribute of Allah's character as outlined in the Qur'an.

Local realtor Nasir Ahmad said, "This building is about sacrifices, but we are all so excited to be able to share it with all Calgarians. This place is for you and me,". Nasir Ahmad's father, 68-year-old Allah Yar, bears the scars of being shot four times by religious militants in Pakistan in 2000. With his son interpreting his Punjabi, Yar says he's thankful for being able to worship in a mosque. "This is a real house of God," he says with a smile.

"We want this mosque to say to the world, 'Please come and join us and together let's make a truly peaceful society in Canada,' "



Part of Baitun Nur Mosque in Calgary, Canada - The Biggest Mosque in North America

Hadhrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad inaugurated the mosque on the 4th of July, but reminded his followers that mosques are not about buildings, but their true essence is spirituality and righteousness. He said that in line with the wishes of the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace), this new mosque is built purely for the sake of Allah and with no evil intent, indeed it could never be so because we are the followers of the true and ardent devotee of the Holy Prophet



Mosques Around the World

Baitun Nur Mosque, Canada

(peace and blessings of Allah be on him) who came in this world to bring man closer to God. He said that a mosque is truly useful when in it the dues of Allah and the dues of people are paid. Otherwise there are many mosques around the world which do not serve these purposes.



*Tarbiyyat Advice
~ Moral Training ~*

Unity is Stength

Unity is strength! The fundamental message of Islam is the Unity of God and the establishment of the unity of mankind bound together by ties of practical brotherhood. This is the clarion call of Islam which abhors strife, hatred, greed, selfishness, pride, intolerance and such like un-brotherly dispositions. The aim of every Muslim should be in accordance with the injunction of the Holy Quran:

Help one another in righteousness and piety.

The Holy Prophet of Islam has likened the true spirit of Islamic brotherhood to that of a building every part of which reinforces other parts and, as an undivided symbol of unity, commanded Muslims when lined up for prayer to stand together shoulder to shoulder like a solid wall leaving no space for even a rod to be passed between them.

Islam is a universal religion revealed by God for the guidance of all mankind and is above personal bias, tribal prejudice and ignorant sectarianism. It teaches that all human beings are equal and nobody is superior to another due to origin, colour, genealogy or race. The only difference in the sight of God between individuals is their degree of righteousness. As God says in the Holy Quran:

Verily the most honourable person among you in the sight of God is he who is the most righteous among you. (49:14)

This ideal of Islamic unity and brotherhood which is sadly lacking in the world today can only be achieved by devoutly acting upon the injunctions of Islam. Muslims should act upon and call people to what is good, and avoid and forbid what is bad. The strong and more fortunate should help the weak and less fortunate. The rich should help the poor. No one should usurp the property and rights of others. Religious tolerance is essential.

The Ahmadiyya Community in Islam has been dedicated to the revival of Islam for over one hundred years since its inception in 1889 by its Holy Founder, Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad-- the Promised Messiah and Mahdi. Its growth has spread all over the world and the Community continues to spread its heavenly influence in rejuvenating the pristine purity of Islam in the hearts of people of all nations and creating among them a bond of divine unity.

Review of Religions, July 1993



Angels are spiritual beings who are assigned various duties by God and carry them out as commanded by Him. In the Arabic language the word for angel is malak meaning "power" while in the Hebrew language an angel is called mal'akh meaning messenger. The English word angel is derived from the Greek angelos, also meaning messenger. The literal meaning of the word angel thus points more to the function of such beings rather than to their nature. In the Quran, therefore, the angels are frequently referred to as rasul or messengers.

Although angels are spoken of as beings, they have not been granted the choice of doing right or wrong, as the human beings have been; the angels automatically carry out the command of God. In this respect, the angels may be said to be the powers of nature. The function of the angels is to obey; they cannot disobey. The various tasks assigned to the angels include:

- ◆ bringing of divine revelations to the prophets
- ◆ bringing punishment upon their enemies
- ◆ giving glad tidings to the believers
- ◆ glorifying God with His praise
- ◆ keeping records of people's deeds

The concept of angels exists in Judaism and Christianity as well, and the names of some of the angels the Muslims believe in are mentioned in the Bible:

Jibraeel (Gabriel in the Bible), Mikaeel (Michael in the Bible), Israfeel (Raphael in the Bible), Izraeel (Israel in the Bible) and it was the Angel Jibraeel (Gabriel) who used to bring the Quranic revelations to the Holy Prophet Muhammad, saw.

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-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 Hambright Rd, Huntersville, NC 28078. By Email: joinislam@gmail.com • Garden of Peace Team: Ahmad Antar, Bilal Rana, Atif Mian, Hanzla Ilyas, Tyab Rashid.

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