

# **LIFE OF THE PROMISED MESSIAH—**

**HAZRAT MIRZA GHULAM AHMAD  
PEACE BE UPON HIM**



**Life of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>**

Originally published in Urdu as: *Seerat Hazrat Masih-e-Mau'ood<sup>as</sup>*

Written by Amatul-Hayee Ahmad

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*We have found every light by following the immaculate Prophet and whoever follows him will also find it and he will become so accepted of God that nothing will be impossible for him. The Living God, Who is hidden from people, will be his God and all false gods will be trodden under his feet. He will be blessed everywhere and Divine Power will be with him. Peace be on him who follows the guidance.*

*Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad—the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>  
(Sirāj-e-Munīr, Rūḥānī Khazā'in, vol. 12, p. 82–83)*



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# FOREWORD

This book is another addition to the Children’s Book Series presented by Additional Wakalat Tasneef UK (Islam International Publications Ltd). This biographical series aims to educate children about the lives of holy personages in history. *Life of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>* is an English translation of the Urdu book *Seerat Hazrat Masih-e-Mau’ood<sup>as</sup>* compiled by Amatul-Hayee Ahmad. The English rendering was carried out by Sarah Ammar of the Children’s Books Committee of Additional Wakalat Tasneef. Several people helped in preparing this publication including Nauman Hadi, Waseem Sayed, Bushra Shahid, Sardar Anees Ahmad, Maryam Bhatti, Nayab Noshaba Khan, and Rawan Malas. May Allah the Exalted bless them all for the roles they played in the publication process.

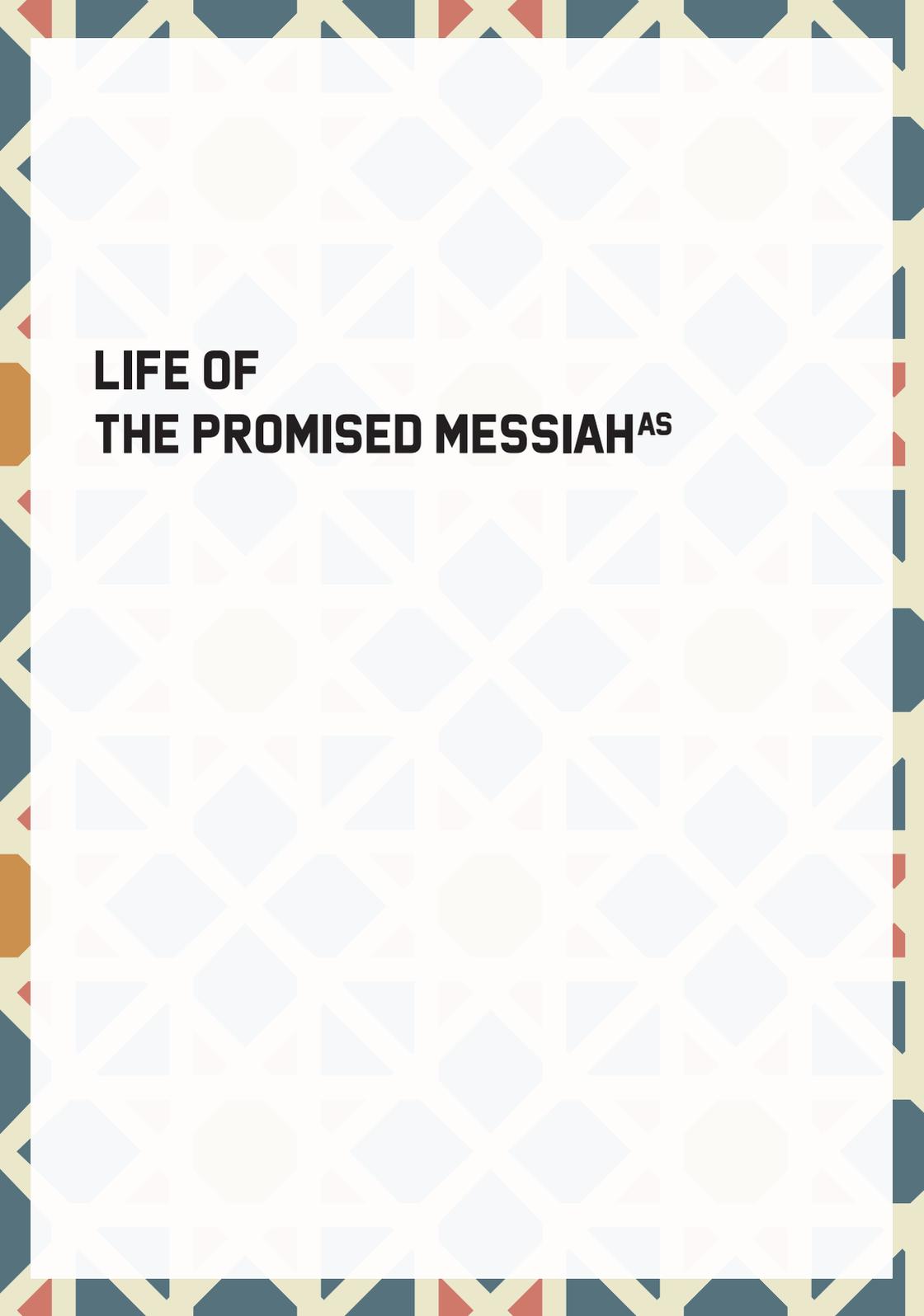
Though this book is aimed at children, there is no doubt that the reader, whatever his or her acumen may be, shall benefit much from the incidents narrated in the following pages from the life of the founder of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community—Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>.

I strongly encourage parents to read this book with their children, explaining, elaborating and helping them understand the importance and stature of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>. Such books are a stepping-stone for further advanced reading about the life of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> through which the lives of our future generations can be shaped.

**Al-Haaj Munir-ud-Din Shams**

Additional Wakeelut-Tasneef

June 2022

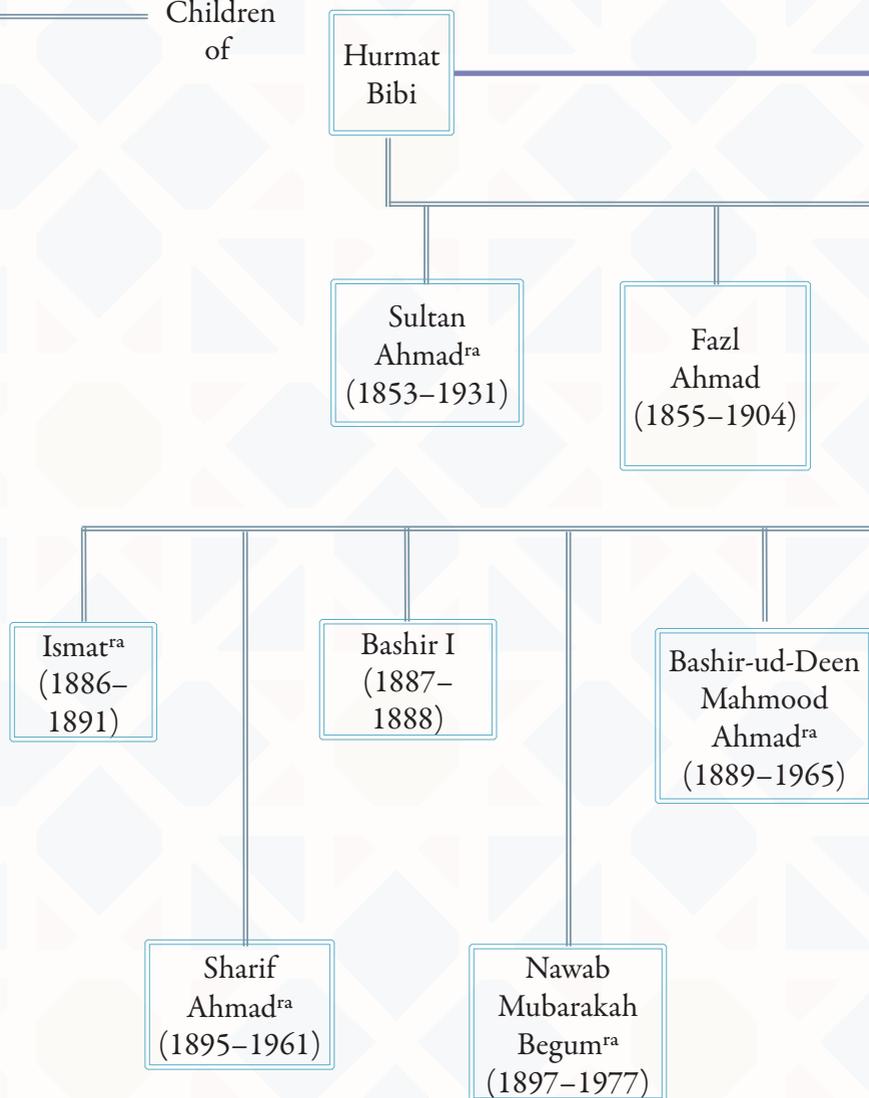


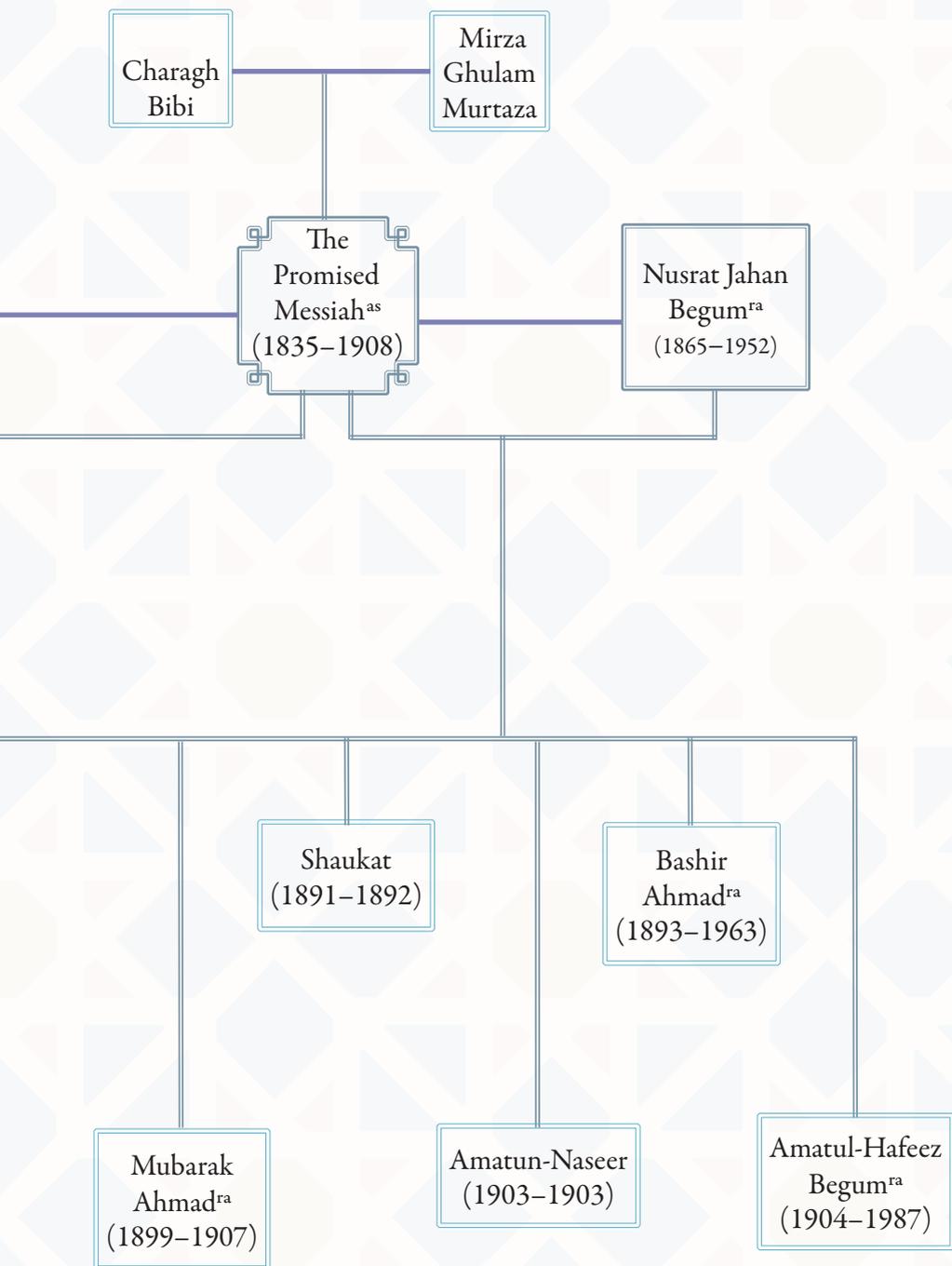
**LIFE OF  
THE PROMISED MESSIAH<sup>AS</sup>**

## FAMILY TREE OF THE PROMISED MESSIAH

———— Married  
to

———— Children  
of







Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad of Qadian  
The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>

## FAMILY & BACKGROUND

Allah the Almighty revealed the Holy Quran, His final Book, to the Holy Prophet Muhammad<sup>sas</sup> more than 1400 years ago. By 632 CE, Allah, the Almighty had revealed the last verse of the Holy Quran, and the teachings of Islam were complete.

Despite the fact that Allah, the Almighty had revealed the Holy Quran, and had provided the Muslims with the example of the Holy Prophet Muhammad<sup>sas</sup>, with the passage of time, the Muslims forgot the real teachings of Islam. However, Allah, the Almighty through His Mercy and Grace, had also informed the Holy Prophet<sup>sas</sup> of the coming of a man who would arrive centuries later to revive Islam. The Holy Prophet<sup>sas</sup> himself sent his *salaam* (greetings) to this person. That person

was our dear Imam and leader, Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad of Qadian—the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>.

Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad<sup>as</sup> was born on Friday, 13 February 1835 in a small and remote village of India named Qadian. He belonged to the Barlas clan, who enjoyed great respect in their community. His ancestors had migrated from Samarkand (present-day Uzbekistan) and settled near the banks of the Beas River in northern India. One of his ancestors, Mirza Hadi Baig, was appointed as a judge (*qazi*) of this area. This settlement eventually became known as Qadian.

The name of the Promised Messiah's father was Mirza Ghulam Murtaza, a brave chief whose ancestors were also chiefs. While he was a skilled physician, his primary source of income was from being a landowner.

Mirza Ghulam Murtaza was greatly sympathetic towards mankind. Once there was an outbreak of cholera in Qadian, with people in the slums quickly falling prey to it in large numbers. Mirza Ghulam Murtaza was in Batala at the time, but when he heard the news, he left for Qadian right away. As soon as he arrived there, he called for the pharmacists in Qadian to meet him and developed a medicine by which Qadian was rid of cholera by the next day.

On another occasion, the Raja of Batala, Teja Singh, became afflicted with a painful blister. When no treatment worked, he sent for Mirza Ghulam Murtaza whose treatment cured the Raja. As was customary at the time, the Raja offered Mirza Ghulam Murtaza a reward of a few villages and a large sum of money but Mirza Ghulam Murtaza refused as he provided such services only to please God. He said, 'I consider accepting these villages a disgrace for my progeny and myself.'

During the Moghul rule in India, Mirza Ghulam Ahmad's ancestors held responsible posts at the royal court and had control over a large area around Qadian. At the rise of the Sikh rule in Punjab, his family started to lose control of this territory, which was eventually confiscated in the nineteenth century by the British Government in India. The Promised Messiah's father wanted this land back and spent his entire life in litigation trying to regain possession of his ancestral estate. He spent a great deal of money and effort towards this end, but did not gain much.

Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad<sup>as</sup> was a dutiful son so, despite considering such time better spent in the cause of Islam, he worked in

Sialkot for four years upon his father's instructions and helped litigate cases to regain these lost properties.

During his childhood, the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> spent most of his time worshipping God. Due to this, his father would call him a *maseetarh*, or one who spends most of his time in a mosque. The Promised Messiah's father was worried about his son's future, and wanted him to take an interest in worldly affairs. But as he neared the end of his life, he realized that the Promised Messiah's attitude was correct. The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> states that his father, Mirza Ghulam Murtaza, would often recite a poetic verse of the grandfather of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>, a line of which was:

My destiny laughs at me whenever I embark upon a plan to do something!

So Mirza Ghulam Murtaza bought an expensive piece of land, upon which he built a large mosque—known today as the Aqsa Mosque of Qadian; Minaratul-Masih<sup>\*</sup> is located in the same compound. In his

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\* Minaratul-Masih (the Minaret of the Messiah) is a white minaret beside the Aqsa Mosque in Qadian. The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> constructed this minaret under divine instruction to partly fulfil a prophecy of the Holy Prophet Muhammad<sup>sas</sup>.

will, Mirza Ghulam Murtaza instructed that he be buried in a corner of this mosque so that he could continue to hear God's name five times a day. When the Promised Messiah established the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at, many would deliver *dars* in the Aqsa Mosque. Hazrat Mirza Bashir-ud-Deen Mahmood Ahmad<sup>ra</sup>\* also completed the recitation of the entire Quran there.<sup>1</sup> In this way, Mirza Ghulam Murtaza's wish was fulfilled.

The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> was in Lahore when God informed him through a dream, of his father's approaching demise. The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> immediately went to Qadian and found his father somewhat ill. God then revealed to the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> that his father would pass away after sunset and this is what happened. Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Murtaza passed away only a few days after the mosque's completion at the age of eighty-four. In a brief moment of distress, the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> thought how he would provide for himself as his father, who was his source of income, had now passed away. At that

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\* Hazrat Mirza Bashir-ud-Deen Mahmood Ahmad<sup>ra</sup> was the eldest surviving son of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> from his second wife Nusrat Jahan Begum<sup>ra</sup>. In 1914, at the age of 25, he became the second Khalifah of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> (Khalifatul-Masih II). He was also the Musleh Mau'ood (the Promised Reformer), whose advent was prophesied by the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> in 1886.

moment, Allah, the Almighty revealed the following words of the Quranic verse to him:

أَلَيْسَ اللَّهُ بِكَافٍ عَبْدُهُ

Is not Allah sufficient for His servant?<sup>2</sup>

After that, the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> knew that Allah, the Almighty would always take care of him. He had the words of this revelation inscribed on a ring in Amritsar at a cost of five rupees. This same ring came in the possession of Hazrat Mirza Bashir-ud-Deen Mahmood Ahmad<sup>ra</sup> by casting lots, after the demise of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>. Since then, every Khalifah of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> has worn this ring. You may have seen this ring on the right hand of the current Khalifah—Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad, Khalifatul-Masih V<sup>aba</sup>.

Charagh Bibi was the mother of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>, belonging to a noble Mughal family of Hoshiarpur. She was always pleased at the arrival of guests and would send food for eight people if asked to send for four. She was greatly compassionate to the poor, loving them like a mother.

When the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> was a child, he would never

demand anything from his parents. So, his mother would make sure his needs were met, but this lasted only in her lifetime. In reality, God Himself provided for his needs from the very beginning. The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> says:

ابتدا سے تیرے ہی سایہ میں میرے دن کئے  
گود میں تیری رہا میں مثل طفل شیر خوار

*From the very beginning, my life was spent under Your care;  
I remained in Your lap like a suckling infant.<sup>3</sup>*

The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> loved his mother deeply. One of his Companions, Hazrat Shaikh Yaqoob Ali Irfani<sup>ra</sup>, observed the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> on a walk to his ancestral cemetery. He proceeded towards his mother's grave with much eagerness, and stood in prayer there, with his Companions for a very long time.<sup>4</sup>



## CHILDHOOD

During his childhood, the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> often visited his maternal relatives. After claiming to be the Reformer of the age, whenever his maternal family visited Qadian, they would reminisce about his pious childhood.

Nawab Mubarakah Begum<sup>ra</sup>, the eldest daughter of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>, narrates that the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> particularly liked *meethi tikkiyan*<sup>\*</sup> because it reminded him of his mother. He, however, preferred them for his children, rather than for himself. He would ask his wife Hazrat Nusrat Jahan Begum<sup>ra</sup>—whom the Jama'at affectionately refers to as *Hazrat Amman Jaan*<sup>\*\*</sup>—to make these patty cakes which the children would enjoy with relish.

The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> had a twin sister, Jannat Bibi, who died in her infancy. In addition, he had one sister and two brothers. His elder brother was Mirza Ghulam Qadir. His sister Murad Begum was married to Mirza Muhammad Baig of Hoshiarpur but she was widowed at a very

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\* A deep fried dessert, made with flour, clarified butter, sugar, cardamom powder, milk, sesame seed, desiccated coconut, and semolina.

\*\* Meaning *respected mother*.

young age. She spent her time in remembrance of God until the end of her life. His second brother had passed away in infancy.<sup>5</sup>

During his childhood, the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> took part in activities like swimming and horse-riding, but he loved walking most of all. He would walk briskly for many miles at a time and continued to do so even when he was over seventy years old.

He also exhibited special traits as a child. Once, he asked his cousin, ‘Pray for me that God grants me *Salat*.’<sup>6</sup> On another occasion, when he was visiting his mother’s family in Aimah, a pious man Ghulam Rasool, upon observing him, said: ‘If anyone deserves to be a prophet in this age, this lad indeed should be one.’<sup>7</sup>

Despite formal education not being customary during the time of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>, his family hired teachers for his education. When the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> was six or seven years old, a man named Fazl Ilahi taught the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> the Holy Quran and Persian. When the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> was ten years old, a teacher named Fazl Ahmad taught him the basics of Arabic. At the age of seventeen or eighteen, Maulawi Gul Ali Shah taught him grammar, logic and philosophy. He also studied some books of traditional medicine from his father.<sup>8</sup>

Since the family of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> revered education, their home had a vast library. The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> would remain busy in reading. The Holy Quran was his favourite book, reading repeatedly and reflecting upon its meaning. He would then pray:

O Allah! This is Your word. I will understand it only if You explain it to me.

Hazrat Mirza Sultan Ahmad<sup>ra</sup>, the eldest surviving son from the first marriage of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>, narrates that the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> may have read the Holy Quran about 10,000 times.<sup>9</sup>

To demonstrate the truth of Islam, the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> extensively studied all faiths, then published articles to prove Islam's truthfulness. The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> would study with such concentration that his father occasionally had to stop him to protect his health.

The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> also read various newspapers, *Akhbar-e-Aam* being his favourite. He would fully read a newspaper and, if he found anything against Islam, he would send his response to it. Thus, he simultaneously carried out both extensive reading and writing.

We will narrate an incident which demonstrates the grand purpose of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>. Once there was a cricket match among the

students in Qadian and some elders also watched it to encourage the children. A son of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> asked him, ‘Father, why don’t you go to play cricket?’ His reply was, ‘They will return after the game but I am playing such cricket which shall continue till the Day of Judgment!’<sup>10</sup> This does not mean that the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> discouraged children from playing games. In fact, he encouraged them but he also disliked wasting time. God Almighty had revealed to him:

تو وہ عیسیٰ ہے جس کا وقت ضائع نہیں کیا جائے گا۔

You are the Isa [Messiah] whose time shall not be wasted.<sup>11</sup>

He wrote more than ninety books, delivered lectures, and wrote articles in Urdu, Arabic and Persian. He also read and replied to hundreds of letters a day; proofread his own manuscripts and arranged for their publication. He personally met and advised a large number of people on a daily basis; cared for his guests; frequented the mosque for the five daily Prayers; and conducted the affairs of the Jama’at. All of this was only possible due to the special grace of God Almighty.

Nawab Mubarakah Begum<sup>ra</sup> states:

Laziness was never seen in his work. Allah, the Almighty, had blessed his time with such abundance that one is amazed

thinking about it now. One wonders if those days and nights were of twenty-four or forty-eight hours in duration? He would write both sitting down during the day and while walking. Mostly he would write walking to and fro. A bottle of ink would be kept on a small table. He used a fine, chisel-edged nib and dipped it [in the ink] while walking and kept writing—all the while listening to others talk, responding to them, prescribing medicines to people.... It was as if his pen was in the hand of the Gracious God. Had it been anyone besides him, they would have lost track at the slightest interruption.<sup>12</sup>



## MARRIAGE & CHILDREN

According to the custom of those times, the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> was first married at fifteen or sixteen years of age. His wife was Hurmat Bibi, the daughter of his maternal uncle Mirza Jami'at Baig. God Almighty blessed him with two sons from this marriage: Mirza Fazl Ahmad and Mirza Sultan Ahmad<sup>ra</sup>.

Mirza Sultan Ahmad<sup>ra</sup> received the title of *Khan Bahadur*. This is a title of respect and honour that was given by the British to those who performed faithful service to the empire. He also gained literary prominence.\*

According to God's will, the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> married again in 1884 into a notable Syed family of Delhi. His second wife was Sayyedah Nusrat Jahan Begum<sup>ra</sup>. She was the daughter of Hazrat Mir Nasir Nawab<sup>ra</sup>. In a revelation, God Almighty addressed this great lady as 'My Khadijah'. Hazrat Amman Jaan<sup>ra</sup>, got married to the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> at seventeen years of age and became a mother figure for the entire Jama'at, sharing in people's miseries and misfortunes.

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\* He did not take the oath of allegiance to the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> during his lifetime but later undertook *Bai'at* at the hand of Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih II<sup>ra</sup>.

Furthermore, in the beginning of the Promised Messiah's ministry, as there was no particular guest accommodation. All guests stayed in the Promised Messiah's house. The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> named his house Darul-Amaan,<sup>\*</sup> also commonly referred to as Darul-Masih.<sup>\*\*</sup> Hazrat Amman Jaan<sup>ra</sup> would tend to their needs—never expressing any disapproval.

Hazrat Amman Jaan<sup>ra</sup> offered her *Salat* with poise and grace and regularly engaged in *istighfar*. She would do most chores with her own hands. She detested complaining and back-biting. Five of her children passed away very young but she remained resilient. She was so thankful to God that, regarding her, God Almighty said to the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>:

خدا خوش ہو گیا۔

God has been pleased.<sup>13</sup>

God Almighty blessed the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> and Hazrat Amman Jaan<sup>ra</sup> with ten children:

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\* House of Security

\*\* House of the Messiah

1. Ismat (15 April 1886 to July 1891)
2. Bashir I (7 August 1887 to 4 November 1888)
3. Mirza Bashir-ud-Deen Mahmood Ahmad<sup>ra</sup> (12 January 1889 to 7 November 1965): He became Khalifatul-Masih II in 1914. He was the same Promised Son about whose birth God Almighty informed the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>. After a forty-day period of continuous prayers, the news of the birth of this son was given in the form of a prophecy known as the Prophecy of the Promised Son. In this prophecy, God promised a son to the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> who would be filled with secular and spiritual knowledge. The destinies of nations would depend on him. He was given the title *Musleh Mau'ood*, meaning a reformer whose advent has been promised. The fifty-two signs relating to him in the prophecy were fulfilled in his fifty-two years of *khilafat*. He is also known by the name of Fazl-e-Umar.
4. Shaukat (1891 to 1892)
5. Mirza Bashir Ahmad<sup>ra</sup> (20 April 1893 to 2 September 1963): In a revelation to the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>, God revealed that he was given the title *Qamarul-Anbiyaa* (Moon of the Prophets).

6. Mirza Sharif Ahmad<sup>ra</sup> (24 May 1895 to 26 December 1961): In a dream concerning him, the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> was told:

وہ بادشاہ آیا۔

Here comes the King.<sup>14</sup>

Hazrat Mirza Sharif Ahmad<sup>ra</sup> is the paternal grandfather of our current Imam, Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V, Mirza Masroor Ahmad<sup>aba</sup>.

7. Mubarakah Begum<sup>ra</sup> (2 March 1897 to 23 May 1977): Regarding her, the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> received the revelation, ‘Nawab Mubarakah Begum’. As God had foretold that she would be married into a Nawab family, she was married to Nawab Muhammad Ali Khan<sup>ra</sup> of Malerkotla. She spent her childhood in the company of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>, even her bed was close to that of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>. She states,

It is a great favour of my dear God upon me that I have committed to memory—in great detail—a large number of details about him [the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>]; especially his blessed visage, his manner of sleeping and waking up, his pacing back and forth, his writing,

offering his *Salat* and manner of speech. The memory of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> that has always been present in my heart has not let me forget him, even now, it is as if I am seeing him with my own eyes.<sup>15</sup>

Nawab Mubarakah Begum<sup>ra</sup> had true dreams from her childhood and the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> would often ask her to pray for him.

8. Mirza Mubarak Ahmad<sup>ra</sup> (14 June 1899 to 6 September 1907).

9. Amatun-Naseer (28 January 1903 to 3 December 1903).

10. Amatul-Hafeez Begum<sup>ra</sup> (25 January 1904 to 6 May 1987): The revelation *Dukht-e-Kiraam* of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> refers to her.<sup>16</sup>

دُخْتِ كِرَام

The daughter of noble ancestors.<sup>17</sup>

Here are a few incidents from the lives of those five children of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> who passed away at a young age.

Ismat was the eldest daughter of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>. Bashir I [*Awwal*] was born after her and passed away just a few months later.

Regarding Sahibzadi Ismat, Nawab Mubarakah Begum<sup>ra</sup> narrates that Hazrat Amman Jaan<sup>ra</sup> told her:

When your older brother—Mirza Bashir-ud-Deen Mahmood Ahmad—was born, Ismat was asleep. The maidservant woke her up and said, Wake up Bibi, your Bashir has arrived. Ismat probably remembered Bashir Awwal often after his demise.<sup>18</sup>

The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> loved Mubarak Ahmad dearly. A day before his birth, the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> was told by revelation that the boy would die young. Accordingly, Mubarak Ahmad passed away at the age of eight. He is buried in Bahishti Maqbarah, Qadian.

Mubarak Ahmad<sup>ra</sup> learned to read and write Urdu, and to recite the Holy Quran. He exhibited such signs of goodness and virtue in his childhood that people used to address him by the name *wali* [friend of Allah]. Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih II<sup>ra</sup> states that as children, they once wanted to raise hens. At the time, Mir Muhammad Ishaq<sup>ra</sup>, the brother of Hazrat Amman Jaan<sup>ra</sup>, and Bashir Ahmad<sup>ra</sup>, both kept hens. So, they would visit these pens and collect their eggs to hatch chicks; they ultimately hatched one hundred hens. They would leave early in the morning to open the pens. Then they would

count the eggs and proudly compete with each other regarding the number of eggs laid by each of their hens. Mubarak Ahmad<sup>ra</sup> would enthusiastically join in as well.

When Mirza Mubarak Ahmad<sup>ra</sup> fell ill, someone saw a dream that he was getting married. When the dream was narrated to the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>, he said:

Its interpretation is death. However, some interpreters [of dreams] have stated that if the dream is fulfilled in real terms, it sometimes dispels the evil news. So, come! Let us get Mubarak Ahmad married.

Doctor Syed Abdus-Sattar Shah<sup>ra</sup>, a Companion of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>, was staying in the *Gol Kamrah*—a room in the house of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>. His two and a half year old daughter Maryam was also there. The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> asked her mother to promise Maryam to Mubarak Ahmad<sup>ra</sup> in marriage when the two became of age. The mother readily agreed and the *nikah* or the marriage announcement took place.

However, God's will prevailed, and Mirza Mubarak Ahmad<sup>ra</sup> passed away on 16 September 1907.

The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> wrote some verses for his tombstone which are recorded in his book of poetry, *Durr-e-Thamin*, one verse of which reads:

جگر کا ٹکڑا مبارک احمد جو پاک شکل اور پاک خُو تھا      وہ آج ہم سے جدا ہوا ہے ہمارے دل کو خزین بنا کر

*Mubarak Ahmad, the darling of my heart, pure of countenance, and pure of heart;*

*He has departed from us today making the heart sad.*



▲ A photo of Mirza Mubarak Ahmad<sup>ra</sup>. He was a son of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> who passed away in childhood at the age of eight in 1907.

Maryam later grew up to become a daughter-in-law of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> when she married Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih II<sup>ra</sup>. She would also become the mother of Hazrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad,<sup>19</sup> Khalifatul-Masih IV<sup>rta</sup>—that is why she is also called Umme Tahir.

After Amatun-Naseer, passed away, the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> took her body to the graveyard and carried her in his arms to the place of burial. All these incidents show how compassionate he was as a father and the respect he had for his children.<sup>20</sup>



A photo of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>  
with his son Sahibzadah Mirza Sharif Ahmad<sup>ra</sup>.

## A LOVING FATHER

The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> paid particular attention to his children's upbringing. He would nurse them during sickness, console them for hours, tell them stories, morally nurture them and fervently pray for them.

When his eldest daughter Ismat, fell ill in Ludhiana, the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> busied himself in her treatment as if it were not possible to live without her. When she passed away, however, he immediately accepted God's will.<sup>21</sup>

He looked after Mirza Mubarak Ahmad<sup>ra</sup> in a similar manner, and even got some small birds to cheer him up.<sup>22</sup>

Once, Mirza Bashir-ud-Deen Mahmood Ahmad<sup>ra</sup> placed a piece of brick in a pocket of the waistcoat that the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> was wearing. The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> said, while Mir Hamid Ali<sup>ra</sup> was massaging his legs, 'I have had some pain in my ribs for some days now.' Upon looking, Mir Hamid Ali<sup>ra</sup> found that piece of brick which had been poking his side. The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> had forgotten about it and said, "Oh! Mahmood had put it in my pocket and had told me not to take it out since he wanted to play with it."<sup>23</sup>

Once, when Mirza Bashir Ahmad<sup>ra</sup> was around three years old, he became fond of sugar. He would come to the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> with his hand held out, saying, *Abba Chitti*— indicating that he wanted white sugar. Often, the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> would be busy writing a book but, upon this request, would get up to give the child some sugar before returning to his work. This would happen several times a day.<sup>24</sup>

The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> loved his children, but he also corrected them when needed.

Once, the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> was in his room along with Hazrat Amman Jaan<sup>as</sup>. Mirza Bashir Ahmad<sup>ra</sup> made a mention of Mirza Nizam Din, an enemy of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> and addressed him only as Nizam Din. The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> admonished him and said, ‘*Miyan*, after all he is your uncle; you should not address him just by his name.’<sup>25</sup>

On another occasion, Mirza Bashir-ud-Deen Mahmood Ahmad<sup>ra</sup> was trying to catch a bird that had accidentally flown into the house. He had all the doors closed when the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>, who was leaving for Friday prayers, saw him. He said, ‘*Miyan*, one should not

catch the birds living in one's own home. The one who has no mercy has no faith.<sup>26</sup>

Both the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> and Hazrat Amman Jaan<sup>ra</sup> trusted their children, encouraging them to never do anything against their wishes.

For instance, the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> was once sitting in a room on the roof of his house. One of his Companions, Hazrat Sayyed Fazl Shah<sup>ra</sup>, was also there peeling almonds. Mirza Bashir-ud-Deen Mahmood Ahmad<sup>ra</sup>, who was about four or five years old at the time, entered and collected all the almonds in his lap. The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> was watching this. He said, 'He is such a good child. He will not take a lot. He will take only one or two and will put back the rest.' The child complied immediately and left with only one or two almonds.<sup>27</sup>

Once, the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> went for a walk with some of his Companions. Along the way, was a fallen tree. Some of the Companions cut off a few twigs to be used for cleaning teeth and handed one to Mirza Bashir-ud-Deen Mahmood Ahmad<sup>ra</sup>. He innocently offered it to the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> saying, 'Father, have a *miswak*'—meaning the twig. Huzoor<sup>as</sup> smiled and said, '*Miyan*, first

tell me with whose permission have these twigs been taken?’ Upon hearing this, everybody threw their twigs on the ground. Thus, in a most endearing manner, Huzoor<sup>as</sup> pointed out that one should never take anything without permission, even if it is lying on the ground.<sup>28</sup>

Regarding prayer, Hazrat Nawab Mubarakah Begum<sup>ra</sup> states, ‘When I was a young girl, Huzoor would ask me many a time to pray for one of his tasks.’ Such behaviour encouraged the habit of praying in the children, and having their prayers accepted.<sup>29</sup>

He would also ask other children of the Jama’at to narrate their dreams to him, some of which he would record in a diary.

Once, Manzoor Sadiq, the son of Hazrat Mufti Muhammad Sadiq<sup>ra</sup>, had a dream in which he saw a number of goats being slaughtered. Upon hearing this, the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> had one goat slaughtered for each of his family members by way of *sadaqah* [almsgiving]. He said,

A believer sometime sees a dream himself and sometimes others are shown such dreams for his sake.

The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> would also tell his children moral stories, such as the following:

There was a bald man and a blind man. An angel of God Almighty came to the bald man and asked him what he desired. The bald man wanted wealth and hair on his head. So the angel passed his hand over the bald man's head, and with God's grace he grew hair and also gained wealth and servants. Then the angel went to the blind man and asked him the same question. The blind man asked for his vision to be restored, and also for wealth so that he would not be dependent on others. When the angel passed his hand over the blind man's eyes, his eyesight returned and he too gained a lot of wealth.

Later Allah, the Almighty, sent the same angel disguised as a beggar to test the bald man. When the beggar asked the bald man for alms, he scolded the beggar harshly and said that there were many like him who roamed about begging. The angel passed his hand over the bald man's head. As a result, he lost both his hair and his wealth! Then the same angel visited the man who had been blind but could now see and was very rich. Disguised as a beggar, the angel asked him for alms. The man said that everything had been given to him by Allah, the

Almighty, and the beggar could also have some of it. At this, Allah, the Exalted, bestowed even greater wealth upon him.<sup>30</sup>

The point is that one should always be grateful to Allah, the Almighty and serve his creation.

Once during Muharram, the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> gathered all his children and told them the painful story of the martyrdom of Hazrat Imam Hussain<sup>ra</sup>, the beloved grandson of Holy Prophet Muhammad<sup>sas</sup>. He wept while doing so. Such was his love for the Holy Prophet Muhammad<sup>sas</sup> and his family.

Hazrat Maulawi Hakeem Noor-ud-Deen, Khalifatul-Masih I<sup>ra</sup>, narrates that he often saw the children of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> with other children, sitting on his bed with the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> pushed to the very edge. In their innocent, childlike way, they would tell him long stories of crows, frogs and sparrows and the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> would listen to them as if they were recounting stories from Masnavi Rumi!

The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> arranged for his children learn the Holy Quran at an early age. Mirza Bashir-ud-Deen Mahmood Ahmad<sup>ra</sup> was taught the Holy Quran by Hazrat Hafiz Ahmadullah<sup>ra</sup>. Mirza Bashir Ahmad<sup>ra</sup>, Mirza Sharif Ahmad<sup>ra</sup> and Nawab Mubarakah

Begum<sup>ra</sup> were all taught the Holy Quran by Hazrat Pir Manzoor Muhammad<sup>ra</sup>, the author of *Qa'idah Yassarnal-Quran*.<sup>\*</sup>

On 3 November 1901, the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> held the *Aameen* ceremony of these children in which his friends, orphans and the poor were all treated to a feast. He also wrote a special poem on the occasion which was published in *Durr-e-Thamin*. A few verses of this poem are as follows:

ہے آج ختم قرآن نکلے ہیں دل کے ارماں      تو نے دکھایا یہ دن میں تیرے منہ کے قربان

*Today [Mahmood] has finished the Quran; thus are satisfied all my heartfelt desires.*

*It is You Who have shown me this day. May I be sacrificed to the Countenance of You.*

اے میرے رب محسن کیونکر ہو شکر احساں      یہ روز کر مبارک سُبْحَانَ مَنْ يَّرَانِ

*O my Compassionate Lord, how can I express thanks for this Favour. Make blessed this day; Holy is He Who watches over me.*<sup>31</sup>

While the children of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> were all a manifestation of God's signs, he never celebrated their birthdays. This was

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\* Hazrat Pir Manzoor Muhammad<sup>ra</sup> mainly wrote the *Qa'idah* for teaching the children of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>.

because he fully obeyed the Holy Prophet Muhammad<sup>sas</sup>—who never did such a thing.

The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> would also playfully tease young children in a gentle, loving manner. Sometimes, he would silently catch hold of a child's ankle without talking to him, or if a child was lying down he would tickle his foot. Mirza Bashir Ahmad<sup>as</sup> says that he experienced this many times.

He would show great compassion to everyone. Sometimes the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> would be busy in writing some important article when rustic women would knock on his door. Demanding his attention to address their needs, they would say, 'Mirza Ji! Open the door!' The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> would stop working and get up as if an officer had issued a command. Sometimes they would take an hour of his time, but he never expressed any frustration and listened attentively to them.

In this regard, Hazrat Maulawi Abdul Karim Sialkoti<sup>ra</sup> states:

A most important article was to be written urgently. I happened to be with the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> by chance. I saw him standing firm and ready like some European on duty. He had five or six boxes open before him and was distributing medicine

into small bottles, and syrup into others. This activity lasted for about three hours and medicine was dispensed continuously. After the engagement had ended, I commented that precious time had been wasted. The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> replied most calmly, ‘This too is a religious activity. These are poor people. There is no hospital here. I keep many English and Greek medicines with me for their sake. This is a most rewarding thing to do. A believer should not be lazy or careless in such matters.’<sup>32</sup>

Hazrat Nawab Mubarakah Begum<sup>ra</sup> states:

The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> felt great happiness in serving others. An old lady by the name of Maaee Taabi lived in our house. She suffered from chronic headaches. The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> was most mindful of her needs and would provide her with medicines and instructed that she be given almond syrup. I would often grind almonds to make Maaee Taabi her syrup and receive blessings in return. I had the feeling that the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> was also pleased with me for doing this service.

Hazrat Maulawi Abdul Karim Sialkoti<sup>ra</sup> was a very close Companion of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>. After his demise, the

Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> took great care of his widow, who was called Maulawiyaani, and would humour her greatly. She loved me a great deal and would have me stand on her legs as massage so as to relieve the pain in her legs. The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> would often ask me if I had done so. At his saying, I did this gladly and Maulawiyaani would hold my hand the whole time so that I would not fall down.<sup>33</sup>

The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> also paid attention to seemingly minor aspects of life such as:

□ In Urdu, a rainbow is called *qaus-e-qazah*. The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> told the children to call it *qausullah* (Allah's bow) as *qaus-e-qazah* literally means the bow of Satan.

□ He instructed one not to point the tip of a knife or scissors towards anyone nor to hand it to someone with the razor edge towards them.

□ He said not to throw a stone towards anyone, lest it injures them.

□ He instructed that during wrestling one should never kick anyone, lest that kick strikes someone in a delicate area.

□ He also disliked for children to fast at a young age.<sup>34</sup>

## PRAYERFULNESS

The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> considered praying, in addition to the obligatory Prayers, a powerful weapon. At home or when travelling, the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> would designate a particular area for his prayers; which would be called *Bait-ud-Du'a*. The *Bait-ud-Du'a* in his home in Qadian was built in 1903. There would always be a specific time in his daily schedule for prayers. The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> began every important task with prayers and *istikharah*. The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> also liked one to pray in his own words during *Salat*. Hazrat Amman Jaan<sup>ra</sup> narrated that he would recite the following prayer abundantly in addition to *durood* and *istighfar*:

سبحان الله ويحمده سبحان الله العظيم  
*Subhanallahi wabi-hamdih, subhanallahil-azeem* \*

In a revelation, God taught him the prayer:

رَبِّ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ عَازِمٌ رَبِّ فَاحْفَظْنِي وَأَنْصُرْنِي وَأَرْحَمْنِي

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\* Translation: 'Holy is Allah Almighty with His Praise, Holy is Allah Almighty the Most Great.'

O my Lord everything serves You. So O my Lord, protect me and help me and have mercy on me.

He was made to understand that this prayer was highly effective in this day and age. The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> advised his daughter Mubarakah Begum<sup>ra</sup>:

You should pray whenever you wake up or even when you change sides [while sleeping].

## HOSPITALITY

When the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> claimed to be the Reformer of the Age, Qadian was a small, remote, unknown village. Despite there not even being a railroad track that had reached Qadian, news spread far and wide and people came to Qadian in droves. In this regard, God revealed to him,

وَسَّعْ مَكَانَكَ  
Enlarge your house.<sup>35</sup>

This was in order to accommodate those who would come to meet him out of love. At another time, it was revealed to him by Allah Almighty that so many people would come to him that the road on which they would travel would become rutted.

Hazrat Shaikh Yaqoob Ali Irfani<sup>ra</sup> was a Companion of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> from Hyderabad, Deccan. A poor student at the time, he travelled to Qadian for the first time in 1893. It was already evening when he reached Batala, about twelve miles from Qadian. There were no means of transport from there on and he did not fully know the way. He was also carrying some vegetables and his belongings

in his hands. He got lost on the way and after asking for directions from those whom he met on the way, he finally reached Qadian in the early morning. There, he met Mir Hamid Ali<sup>ra</sup>, a Companion of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>, who had him stay in the *Gol Kamrah* which is a room in the house of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>. Upon hearing of arrival, the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> personally visited Shaikh Yaqoob Ali Irfani<sup>ra</sup> and had an elaborate meal served to him. The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> spent a good amount of time with him. He asked about his journey to Qadian and the anxiety that he must have experienced upon losing his way. The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> then went and brought the bedding himself, saying, ‘Hamid Ali, feed him well and arrange the bedding here.’ After all the instructions had been carried out and Irfani Sahib<sup>ra</sup> had laid down to sleep, Hamid Ali<sup>ra</sup> started to massage his legs, saying the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> had instructed him to do so, as he must be very tired.<sup>36</sup>

Hazrat Maulawi Abdul Karim Sialkoti<sup>ra</sup> once came to Qadian during the month of June. As he lay down to rest, the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> laid down beside the bed on the floor. Maulawi Sahib immediately sat up as a sign of respect. Huzoor<sup>as</sup> smiled and said,

I was only keeping watch over you. The children were being noisy, and I was trying to stop them lest your sleep be disturbed.<sup>37</sup>

Hazrat Dr. Hashmatullah<sup>ra</sup>, who later became the personal physician of Hazrat Musleh Mau'ood<sup>ra</sup>, was a resident of Patiala and in 1907 came to Qadian to attend the Jalsa Salana.<sup>\*</sup> At the end of the final session in Mubarak Mosque, a meeting of Jalsa officers was convened. Dr. Hashmatullah<sup>ra</sup> had last eaten in the morning and did not go for dinner in the *Langar Khana*<sup>\*\*</sup> with the other Jalsa attendees, lest the meeting began before he got back. The meeting ended at 11:45 at night, by which point the *Langar Khana* had closed. So, Dr. Hashmatullah<sup>ra</sup> went to sleep without eating anything.

Sometime later, he heard a knock at the door and the voice of someone saying that the *Langar Khana* had been opened for those who had not eaten. So he went and ate whatever was offered alongside two other guests. Around nine o'clock the next morning, it became known that Allah, the Almighty had informed the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> through revelation about the hungry guests. Shaikh Abdul Haq<sup>ra</sup>,

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\* Annual Convention

\*\* Communal Kitchen

who worked as an assistant in *Dar-uz-Ziafat*, writes about this incident in a letter. He mentions that in the 1907 Jalsa, some Companions slept hungry one night. Around 10:30 at night, Huzoor<sup>as</sup> received the revelation:

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّبِيُّ اطْعِمُوا الْجَائِعَ وَالْمُعْتَرَّ  
O Prophet, feed the hungry and the distressed!<sup>38</sup>

Immediately, he got up to search for those who had gone to sleep without eating. In the morning, the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> came to the old stairs of Mubarak Mosque and asked for Hazrat Hakeem Noor-ud-Deen<sup>ra</sup>. When he arrived, the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> told him,

Maulawi Sahib, last night's revelation was caused by the miserable plight of some friends which reached the throne of God so quickly, shaking it to the point that the command to feed them was communicated through revelation.<sup>39</sup>

Dr. Hashmatullah<sup>ra</sup> confirms that on that night he really was very hungry, and the hunger was only due to being busy in Jama'at work which moved the throne of God. This incident shows God Almighty's desire for the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> to honour and dignify his guests because in the future many people would eat at his table. Today, his *Langar*

*Khana* serves the guests of the Jalsa in every country where the Jama'at has been established.

The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> also gave detailed instructions to Miyan Najm-ud-Din, who was in charge of the *Langar Khana*:

There are many guests here, you know some of them but do not know others. Therefore, it is proper to treat and serve all of them with respect. Since it is winter, serve them tea. No one should suffer any discomfort. I trust you to provide every comfort to the guests, therefore serve them well. If any residence is cold, arrange for wood or coals (to be lit) there. <sup>40</sup>

The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> also exhibited special concern for other hospitality-related issues:

- The same kind of food was cooked for all members during the Jalsa, as the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> did not like for anyone to be given preferential treatment. He would say: 'All (guests) are equal to me. There cannot be any distinction or differentiation on this occasion.'
- Despite the above, guests were also served food they were

used to. For example, if anyone came from Madras, Bengal, or Kashmir, the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> made sure that they were served rice. He would say, ‘How will they learn about religion if they do not have good health?’

- *Langar Khana* workers were required to report the arrival of any guest directly to the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>.
- Upon arrival, guests were immediately served tea, lassi, or any other drink depending upon the weather. If preparation required time, they were served milk, bread or fruit until then.
- The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> never wanted the guests to leave after a short while. Once, Hazrat Munshi Zafar Ahmad Kapurthalvi<sup>ra</sup> came for a visit. Each time when he requested leave, the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> would tell him to stay more and not leave so quickly and so he ended up staying for a long time. Hazrat Maulawi Abdul Karim Sialkoti<sup>ra</sup> says: ‘This quality is a sign of his truthfulness. A liar grows anxious within a day lest the truth of his situation becomes evident. But since God sent the Promised Messiah, he had no such fear.’

□ To promote informality, the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> would have mangoes and mulberries brought in from his personal orchards and share them with his guests.

□ The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> would have food packed for those leaving on a journey.

Hazrat Pir Siraj-ul-Haq<sup>ra</sup>, another devoted Companion of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>, narrates that an elderly Sikh gentleman lived in a village near Qadian and was about twenty years older than the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>. The man often visited Mirza Ghulam Murtaza, the father of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>, who would sometimes send for the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> to come and meet the gentleman. The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> would arrive with his eyes downcast, greet his father and sit at some distance from him. His father would address the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> as *maseetarh* and complain that he did not have a job, nor any earning and would softly say,

Alright, I will have him appointed as a clergy of some mosque.

He will get ten mounds of grains at least!

Once, that same Sikh gentleman came to visit the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> while he was sharing a meal with his Companions in the *Gol Kamrah*.

He was told that the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> was busy and that the old man could meet him when he came out. Without any fear or hesitation, the old man called in a loud voice, ‘Mirza Ji, come outside.’ The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> immediately came out, without even putting on his turban, and greeting the man with a smile, inquired, ‘Sardar Sahib! Are you well and happy? You have come after a long time!’ The man replied, ‘I am content, though old age has weakened me. Mirza Sahib, do you even remember the past discourses of the older Mirza Sahib? Had he been alive today, he would have seen this bustle; how his *maseetarh* son sits like a king, and how influential people come from far and wide to serve him!’ The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> listened with a smile and then replied, ‘Yes, I do remember all of that. It is all Allah’s bounty; it is none of our doing.’ Then, with great warmth, the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> told the Sikh gentleman to wait until some food was arranged for him. The Sikh gentleman wept as he recounted this conversation and kept saying, ‘Had Mirza Ghulam Murtaza been alive, what a sight he would have witnessed.’<sup>41</sup>

Hazrat Mirza Bashir Ahmad<sup>ra</sup> states:

Sethi Ghulam Nabi was a very noble and humble Ahmadi, who

belonged to Chakwal but had a shop in Rawalpindi. He told me that he once went to Qadian to visit the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> during the winter. It was raining when he reached Qadian in the evening. During the night, around midnight, when he had retired after dinner, someone knocked on his door. When he opened the door, he saw the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> holding a glass of warm milk in one hand and a lantern in the other. Sethi Ghulam Nabi was embarrassed at this gesture. Huzoor however, said most kindly, ‘Someone has sent this milk. I thought that you may be in the habit of drinking milk, so I brought it for you.’ Sethi Ghulam Nabi narrates that his eyes welled up with tears at the wonderful manner of the chosen Messiah of God, who went to great lengths and found such pleasure in serving even his servants.<sup>42</sup>



▲  
 A historical group photo of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> with his Companions. From the right standing: Abdul Hameed s/o Shaikh Rahmatullah, Hakeem Fazl Ilahi, Munshi Taj Din, Mir Nasir Nawab Dehlavi, Mir Hamid Shah, Master Ghulam Muhammad Sialkoti, Hazrat Sahibzadah Mirza Bashir-ud-Deen Mahmood Ahmad. (On chairs) Shaikh Rahmatullah, Maulawi Abdul Karim, The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>, Maulawi Ghulam Hassan Pishawari, Hazrat Hakeem Maulawi Noor-ud-Deen<sup>ra</sup> (on his lap Sahibzadah Mirza Bashir Ahmad<sup>ra</sup>). (Seated on the floor) Khalifah Rasheed-ud-Din, Seith Ismail Adam, Mufti Muhammad Sadiq, Mirza Khuda Bakhsh, Shaikh Maula Bakhsh, Shaikh Abdur Razzaq s/o Shaikh Abdur Rahman (may Allah be pleased with them all).

## PHYSICAL APPEARANCE AND DRESS

The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> was a little above average in height with a somewhat heavy appearance. He had large eyes which were usually cast downwards, a glowing complexion, and a forehead without wrinkles. He had a straight posture, was strongly-muscled, and had a fair wheat-like complexion which turned red when he laughed. He possessed straight, shiny hair which reached his ears, and had a dense beard.<sup>43</sup>

The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> usually wore a *kurta* or shirt, a waistcoat, a coat, and an *amaamah*. He also always kept a handkerchief, which was slightly larger than average size. In its corners, he would put some musk and any medicine that he would be taking. He would wear socks in winter. He wore traditional shoes. When going out, he carried a walking stick, but never leaned on it. He always changed his clothes into a night dress before going to sleep.<sup>44</sup>



▲ A historical group photo of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> with his Companions. Standing from right: Munshi Karam Ali, Maulawi Abdullah Arab, Maulawi Muhammad Ali, Miyan Miraj-ud-Din Omar, Hakeem Fazl Din Bhervi, Hakeem Muhammad Hussain, Shaikh Yaqoob Ali Irfani, Mufti Fazl-ur-Rahman, Bhai Abdur Rahim. (On chairs) Mufti Muhammad Sadiq, Sahibzadah Mirza Bashir Ahmad, Sahibzadah Mirza Bashir-ud-Deen Mahmood Ahmad, the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> (Sahibzadah Mirza Sharif Ahmad on his lap), Hazrat Hakeem Maulawi Noor-ud-Deen, Maulawi Abdul Karim Sialkoti, Pir Manzoor Muhammad. (Seated on the floor) Pir Siraj-ul-Haq Nomani, Maulawi Hakeem Qurtb-ud-Din, Maulawi Sher Ali, Malik Sher Muhammad, Unknown, (may Allah be pleased with them all). Photo taken in June 1899.

## DIETARY HABITS

The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> would eat whatever food was brought to him, expressing his liking for whatever was served, but he ate very little. Generally, he would eat chapatti, breaking it into small pieces; his fingers would never dip in the gravy. There would always be some chapatti leftover, which his Companions ate as a blessing. Hazrat Nawab Mubarakah Begum<sup>ra</sup> states,

He ate puris and parathas [type of Indian breads] filled with lentils, which were best made by Hazrat Amman Jaan<sup>ra</sup>—thin yet large. The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> enjoyed anything similar to this if placed before him.<sup>45</sup>

He would also eat bread, biscuits and rusks. He ate flatbread made of cornflour. Meat was cooked in his house, but the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> liked lentils more. All kinds of dishes and every variety of vegetables were served at his table. Among birds, the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> preferred the meat of partridges and doves. He sometimes ate pilau but liked the rice well-softened.

If sick, he would eat boiled rice. The last meal served to him on

the evening of 25 May 1908, was with boiled rice. Whenever there was writing to be done, he would especially ask for *firni* [rice pudding] or jaggery rice to be cooked for him. He would drink milk regularly to maintain his energy, and would drink it in three or four small portions.

Among fruits, he liked grapes, bananas from Bombay, oranges from Nagpur, apples, melons, Saroli mangoes, and sugar cane. However, he ate whatever fruit was brought to him. During the mulberry season, he would often eat those brought from his personal orchard and share them with his Companions during the evening walk.

He never ate alone. If he was at home, he would eat with his family. When among his Companions, there would be twenty to twenty-five people eating with him. If anyone from among those who ate regularly with him was absent, he would set aside their share of food.

He would always wash his hands before and after eating. During the winter, he would use warm water for washing his hands and dry them using a cloth or towel.<sup>46</sup>

## LOVE FOR THE HOLY PROPHET MUHAMMAD

The Promised Messiah's eldest son, Hazrat Mirza Sultan Ahmad<sup>ra</sup> narrates:

The one thing I had particularly observed in my father was that he could not tolerate anything against the Holy Prophet <sup>sas</sup>. If someone said anything disrespecting the Holy Prophet <sup>sas</sup>, his face would become red and his eyes would reflect anger. He would get up and leave such a gathering immediately. He adored the Holy Prophet <sup>sas</sup> to his core. I have never seen such love in anyone else. <sup>47</sup>

The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> once said:

The last admonition is that we have found every light by following the immaculate Prophet and whoever follows him will also find it and he will become so accepted of God that nothing will be impossible for him. The Living God, Who is hidden from people, will be his God and all false gods will be trodden

under his feet. He will be blessed everywhere and Divine Power will be with him. Peace be on him who follows the guidance.<sup>48</sup>

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# GLOSSARY

**Aameen Ceremony:** a happy occasion celebrating the first reading of the Holy Quran.

**Bahishti Maqbarah:** heavenly graveyard established by the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>.

**Bait-ud-Du'a:** literally means, 'house of prayer'. It is the name of a small room in the house of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> where he would pray alone.

**Chapatti:** homemade flat-bread.

**Cholera:** a bacterial disease usually spread through contaminated water.

**Dars:** a reading from the Holy Quran accompanied by its explanation.

**Dar-uz-Ziafat:** the guest house established by the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>. The phrase literally means 'the house of hospitality'.

**Firni:** rice pudding from the Indian subcontinent, made by boiling milk, sugar and rice.

**Gol Kamrah:** lit. round room. A room in the house of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>.

**Hazrat:** his/her holiness—used as a title of respect.

**Huzoor:** your holiness

**Istighfar:** an Arabic phrase which means seeking forgiveness from Allah the Almighty.

**Istikharah:** the mode of praying in which one asks for guidance from Allah the Almighty on a certain matter.

**Jama'at:** community of believers. Although the word Jama'at may be used for any community, in this book Jama'at means the worldwide Ahmadiyya Muslim Community.

**Khan Bahadur:** a formal title of respect and honour, which was conferred exclusively on Muslim and other non-Hindu natives of British India.

**Lassi:** a traditional yogurt-based drink that is popular in the Indian subcontinent.

**Masnavi Rumi:** is a classic Persian book written by Jalal-ud-Din Muhammad Rumi, a Persian poet, sufi and theologian.

**Meethi Tikkiyan:** a simple dessert made by making a dough of flour, sugar and water, then frying small portions of it in ghee or butter.

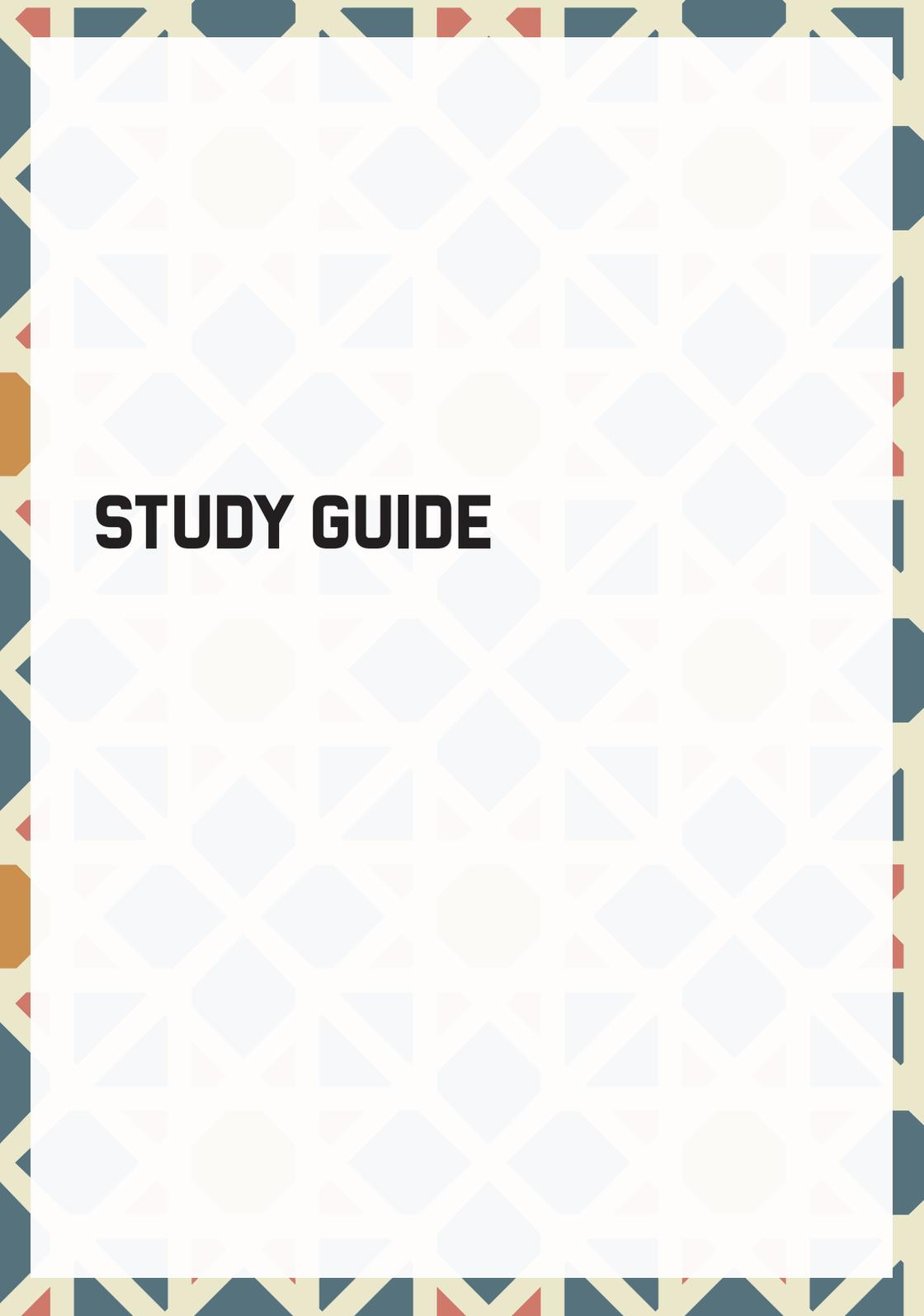
**Miswak:** a teeth-cleaning twig made from the *Salvadora Persica* tree.

**Miyan:** a term of respect used as a way of addressing someone.

**Muharram:** the first month of the lunar calendar during which a grandson of the Holy Prophet<sup>sas</sup>, Hazrat Imam Hussain<sup>ra</sup> was martyred by the forces of Yazeed Bin Muawiyya upon his orders.

**Parathas:** in Indian cooking, a flat round piece of unleavened bread fried on a griddle.

**Puri:** pl. puris—a small round piece of bread, deep fried, and served with meat or vegetables.



# **STUDY GUIDE**



# ACTIVITY 1

**QUESTION 1:** Who was the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> and what was his mission as given to him by God Almighty?

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**QUESTION 2:** When and where was he born?

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**QUESTION 3:** What were the names of his parents?

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**QUESTION 4:** What is the name of the mosque that was constructed by his father?

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QUESTION 5: What is the well-known revelation he received at the death of his father?

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QUESTION 6: What was the name of his twin sister who passed away a few days after birth?

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QUESTION 7: What games and sports did he participate in during his childhood?

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QUESTION 8: What was his goal from a very young age?

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QUESTION 9: What was the name his father used to call him and what does it mean?

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QUESTION 10: What subjects did he learn in his childhood?

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QUESTION 11: How many books did he write?

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QUESTION 12: What were the names of his first and second wife and how many children did he have through each marriage?

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QUESTION 13: What does the word *Musleh Mau'ood* mean?

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QUESTION 14: What was the most prominent quality in his pure character?

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QUESTION 15: What were some of the values he instilled in his children?

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QUESTION 16: How did he instil the habit of praying in his children?

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QUESTION 17: What did his children learn before any type of school education?

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QUESTION 18: What type of stories did he tell his children?

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QUESTION 19: Which famous book contains the poem written by him on the occasion of the *Aameen* of his children?

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QUESTION 20: What kind of food did he eat?

## ACTIVITY 2

**PICK THE CORRECT ANSWER TRUE OR FALSE:**

**QUESTION 1:** The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> was born on Friday 13 February 1839.

**YOUR RESPONSE:** True

False

**QUESTION 2:** The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> was born in Qadian.

**YOUR RESPONSE:** True

False

**QUESTION 3:** Allah the Almighty revealed to the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> *Is not Allah sufficient for his servant?*

**YOUR RESPONSE:** True

False

**QUESTION 4:** The name of the Promised Messiah's mother was Charagh Bibi.

**YOUR RESPONSE:** True

False

**QUESTION 5:** The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> had one sister and two brothers.

**YOUR RESPONSE:**

True

False

**QUESTION 6:** The name of the Arabic teacher of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> was Fazl Ahmad.

**YOUR RESPONSE:**

True

False

**QUESTION 7:** The main purpose of the treatment that Mirza Ghulam Murtaza provided to the Raja was to earn some money to restore the lost reputation of his family.

**YOUR RESPONSE:**

True

False

## ACTIVITY 3

1. The Promised Messiah's childhood was different from ordinary children. Explain how.

2. What do you know about the Raja Teja Singh's story on page 3?

# ACTIVITY 4 - WORDSEARCH

From the names given below of the family members of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> fill in the correct word in the blanks then find the same words in the wordsearch given on the next page:

Charagh Bibi

Jannat Bibi

Murad Begum

Ghulam Murtaza

Mirza Ghulam Qadir

1. \_\_\_\_\_ was the father of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ was the mother of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ was the brother of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ was the sister of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ was the sister of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>.

R N T V N H I Q I A T H H L M  
 P A L G W A N W H A A K S F I  
 J H B H H J R M R F R M I J R  
 V S C U W R A U I Y W D A A Z  
 F N J L A D I L Q X L R V L A  
 Q W D A I H A K D Y W X R S G  
 T L R M L H R L E X L T E A H  
 O B Y M K N G Q V J A O D I U  
 H A R U A K L O G L A X H R L  
 C H A R A G H B I B I D F K A  
 I U G T N N A E L B J P I O M  
 B N A A I D M K A U M I S D Q  
 I A J Z A I M A I U L A H K A  
 B W N A U J Y I G A X Z O V D  
 T W U Z G A L E A N J A L N I  
 A N T V N H B Q I A T H H L R  
 N A L E W D N W H A A K S F U  
 N H B E A J R M R F R M I J P  
 A S C R W R A U I Y W D A A C  
 J N U O A D I L Q X L R V L D  
 Q M D G I H A K D Y W X R S A  
 T L R Y L H R L E X L T K B L

# ACTIVITY 5 - CROSSWORD

## Clues Across

2. Hazrat Mirza \_\_\_\_\_ son of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> whose revealed name was *Qamarul-Anbiyaa* which means Moon of the Prophets.
4. Sahibzadi \_\_\_\_\_ daughter of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> who passed away before age one.
6. Sahibzadi \_\_\_\_\_ daughter of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> who passed away at the age of one year.
9. Hazrat \_\_\_\_\_ Begum daughter of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> about whom God foretold that she would be married into a Nawab family.
10. Sahibzadah Mirza \_\_\_\_\_ son of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> who lived a little over 8 years and got married to Maryam Begum.

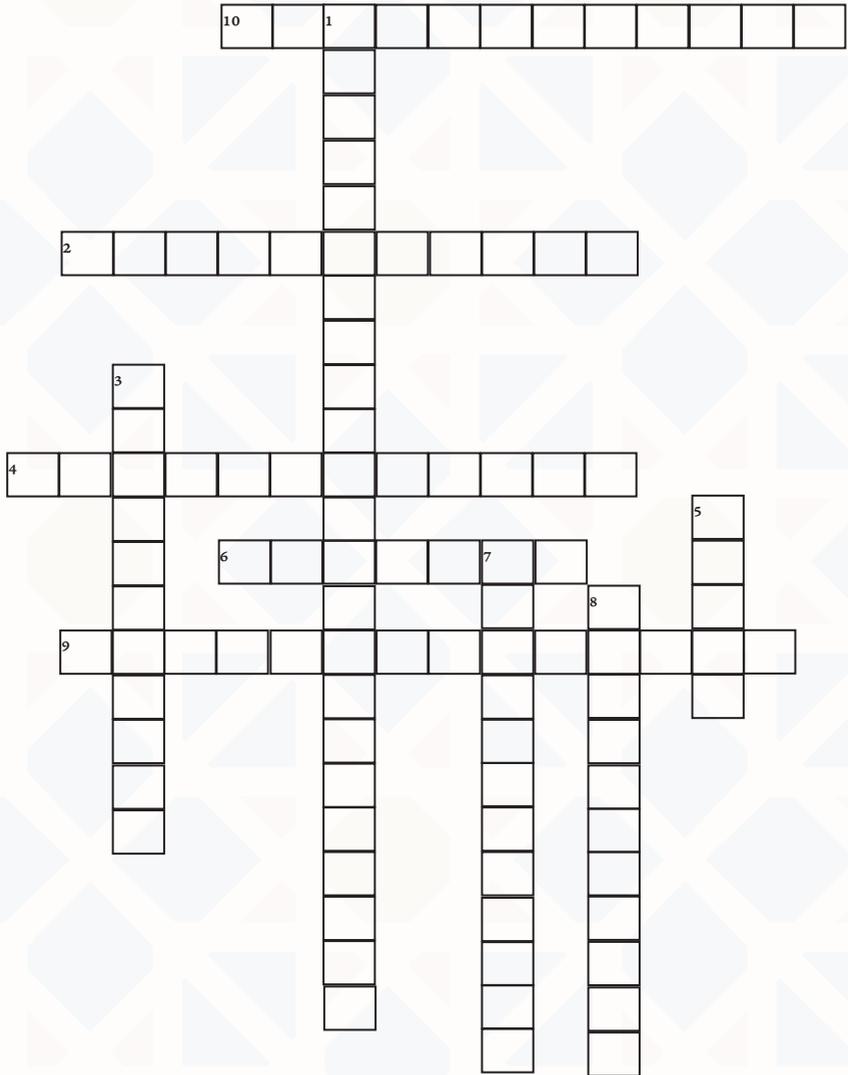
## Clues Down

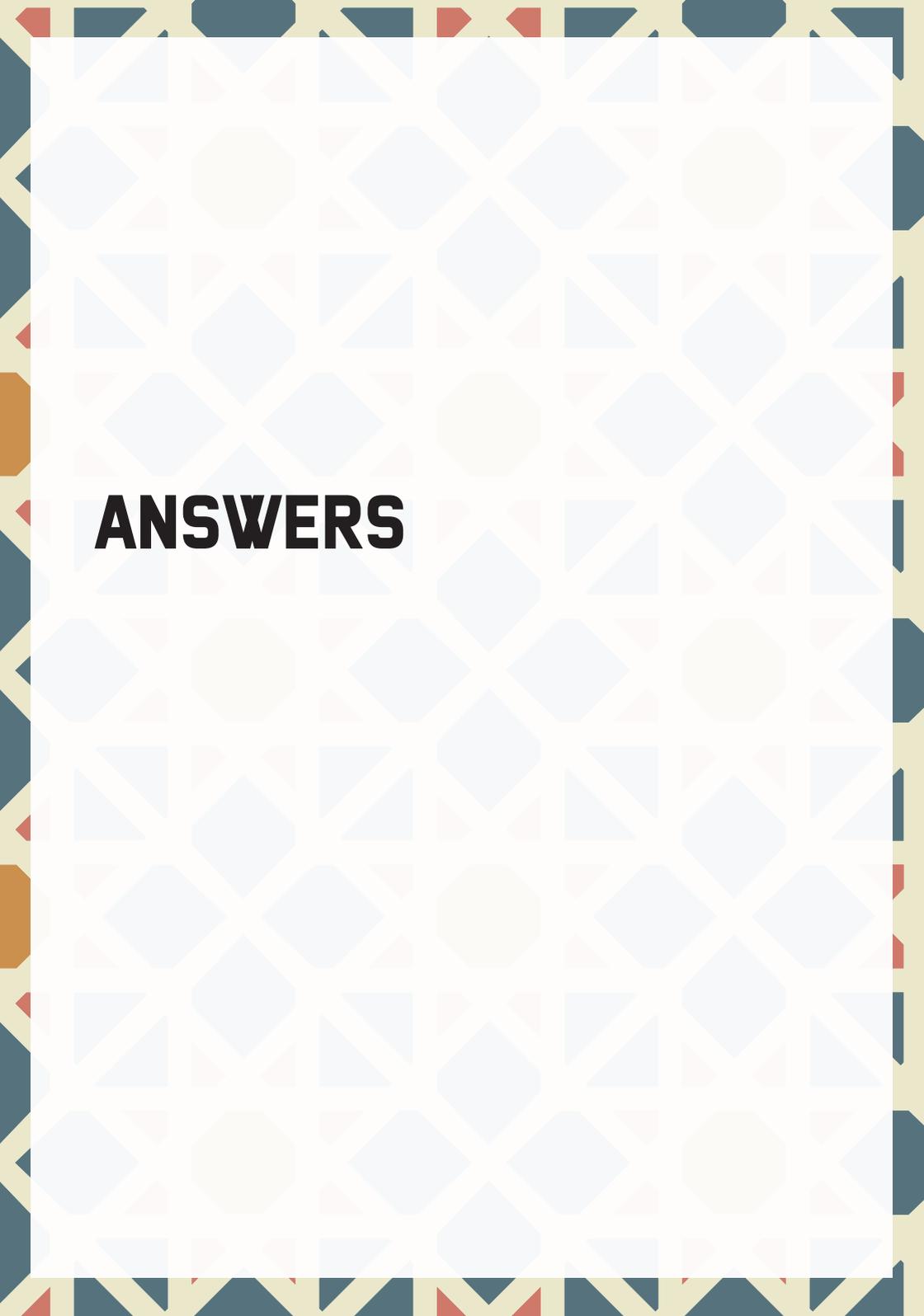
1. Hazrat Mirza \_\_\_\_\_ son of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> who became the second Khalifah.
3. Hazrat Mirza \_\_\_\_\_ son of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> concerning whom, the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> had a dream: 'Here comes the King'

5. Sahibzadi \_\_\_\_\_ daughter of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> who passed away at the age of 2-3 years.

7. \_\_\_\_\_ Begum daughter of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> about whom the revelation *Dukht-e-Kiraam* was revealed.

8. Sahibzadah \_\_\_\_\_ son of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> who passed away at the age of one year.





# **ANSWERS**



# ANSWERS TO ACTIVITIES

## Answers to Activity One

**A1.** Mirza Ghulam Ahmad of Qadian was Hazrat Masih-e-Mau'ood, the Promised Messiah, whose mission was to revive Islam.

**A2.** He was born on Friday February 13, 1835 in Qadian, India.

**A3.** His father's name was Mirza Ghulam Murtaza and his mother's name was Charagh Bibi.

**A4.** The Aqsa Mosque in Qadian.

**A5.** The revelation was in Arabic **اللّٰهُ بِكَافٍ عَبْدَهٗ** and is translated as; 'Is not Allah sufficient for His servant?'

**A6.** The name of his twin sister was Jannat Bibi.

**A7.** Swimming, horse-riding, and athletic exercises.

**A8.** He said to his maternal cousin, 'Pray for me that Allah grants me

*Salat.*' This shows that from a young age his goal was to be regular in *Salat*.

**A9.** His father used to call him a *maseetarh* meaning one who spends most of his time in a mosque.

**A10.** In his childhood, he learned Arabic, Persian, grammar, logic, philosophy and medicine.

**A11.** He wrote more than ninety books.

**A12.** His first wife was Hurmat Bibi. He had two sons from that marriage. His second wife was Nusrat Jahan Begum<sup>ra</sup>. He was blessed with ten children; out of whom five passed away in childhood. Three sons and two daughters attained a long life.

**A13.** The word *Musleh Mau'ood* means a reformer whose advent has been promised.

**A14.** The most prominent quality in the pure character of the Promised Messiah as was his complete obedience to the Holy Prophet<sup>sas</sup>.

**A15.** Some of the values he instilled in his children were truthfulness, honesty, respect for elders, love for the young, and service to humanity.

**A16.** He asked them to pray for an important task to help develop the habit of prayer.

**A17.** His children learned to read the Holy Quran before any other school education.

**A18.** He told his children stories with a moral lesson.

**A19.** The poem is found in the book *Durr-e-Thameen*.

**A20.** He ate whatever was served to him. Among the foods he ate were chapatti, lentils, bread, biscuits, rusk, flat-bread, rice, vegetables and meat. In desserts, he liked *firni* and jaggery rice.

## Answers to Activity Two

1. **FALSE**—The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> was born on Friday 13 February 1835.
2. **TRUE**
3. **TRUE**
4. **TRUE**
5. **FALSE**—The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> had two sisters and two brothers.
6. **TRUE**
7. **FALSE**—The main purpose of the treatment that Mirza Ghulam Murtaza provided to the Raja was not to earn money. He helped the Raja purely out of compassion.

## Answers to Activity Four

R	N	T	V	N	H	I	Q	I	A	T	H	H	L	M
P	A	L	G	W	A	N	W	H	A	A	K	S	F	I
J	H	B	H	H	J	R	M	R	F	R	M	I	J	R
V	S	C	U	W	R	A	U	I	Y	W	D	A	A	Z
F	N	J	L	A	D	I	L	Q	X	L	R	V	L	A
Q	W	D	A	I	H	A	K	D	Y	W	X	R	S	G
T	L	R	M	L	H	R	L	E	X	L	T	E	A	H
O	B	Y	M	K	N	G	Q	V	J	A	O	D	I	U
H	A	R	U	A	K	L	O	G	L	A	X	H	R	L
C	H	A	R	A	G	H	B	I	B	I	D	F	K	A
I	U	G	T	N	N	A	E	L	B	J	P	I	O	M
B	N	A	A	I	D	M	K	A	U	M	I	S	D	Q
I	A	J	Z	A	I	M	A	I	U	L	A	H	K	A
B	W	N	A	U	J	Y	I	G	A	X	Z	O	V	D
T	W	U	Z	G	A	L	E	A	N	J	A	L	N	I
A	N	T	V	N	H	B	Q	I	A	T	H	H	L	R
N	A	L	E	W	D	N	W	H	A	A	K	S	F	U
N	H	B	E	A	J	R	M	R	F	R	M	I	J	P
A	S	C	R	W	R	A	U	I	Y	W	D	A	A	C
J	N	U	O	A	D	I	L	Q	X	L	R	V	L	D
Q	M	D	G	I	H	A	K	D	Y	W	X	R	S	A
T	L	R	Y	L	H	R	L	E	X	L	T	K	B	L



# PUBLISHER'S NOTE

Please note all references provided are from the Urdu edition and thus, are mostly books, periodicals or addresses published in Urdu.

We have added the references to the Holy Quran citing the name of the *sūrah* [i.e. chapter], followed by a chapter number: verse citation, e.g., *Sūrah al-Jumu'ah*, 62:4.

Salutations are recited out of respect when mentioning the names of Prophets and holy personages. These salutations have been abbreviated and inserted into the text where applicable.

Readers are urged to recite the full salutations for the following abbreviations:

ṣas *ṣallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam*, meaning 'peace and blessings of Allah be upon him', is written after the name of the Holy Prophet Muhammad<sup>ṣas</sup>.

as *'alahis-salaam*, meaning 'peace be on him', is written after the names of Prophets other than the Holy Prophet Muhammad<sup>ṣas</sup>.

ra *raziyallahu 'anhu/'anhaa/'anhum*, meaning 'Allah be pleased with him/her/them', is written after the names of the Companions of the Holy Prophet Muhammad<sup>ṣas</sup> or of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>.

rta *rahmatullah 'alaihi/'alaihaa/'alaihim*, meaning 'Allah shower His mercy upon him/her/them', is written after the names of those deceased pious Muslims who are not Companions of the Holy Prophet Muhammad<sup>sas</sup> or of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>.