# Al-Hilal



## Jalsa

US \$2 A Magazine for Children 2017-2



#### QUARTERLY AL-HILĀL

A magazine for children, by children, that provides them with a creative opportunity to learn about the world around them, and how to apply the teachings of Islām and Aḥmadiyyat to their daily lives.

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Cover by Sumera Ahmad

Dear Reader,

As-Salāmu 'Alaikum Wa Raḥmatullāh.

A Jalsa or "gathering" is unlike any other event. There are very special blessings and even prayers associated with attending a Jalsa.

This issue highlights Jalsas readers have attended and also Jalsas they hope to one day see.

One of the many wonderful qualities of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community is the international scope of our organization. Jalsa takes place in Malaysia, Mauritius, Benin, Belize and Bosnia. You can travel and see Jalsas in Italy, Trinidad, Jamaica and Uganda. What a blessing to see Muslims united by Khilāfat practicing peace and unity all over the globe.

As you enjoy this issue, make an intention to visit in the upcoming months or maybe even years, a Jalsa in a country you've yet to visit!

Was-Salām,

Aliya Latif,

Al-Hilal Editorial Team

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### **Purpose of Jalsa**

Hadrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (1835-1908), the Promised Messiah and the Mahdi, may peace be upon him, explained,

... The primary purpose of this Convention is to every sincere individual personally enable to experience religious benefits; they may enhance their knowledge and-due to their being blessed and enabled by Allah, the Exalted-their perception [of Allah] may progress. 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...

... It is essential for all those who can afford to undertake the journey... that they must come to attend this convention, which embodies many blessed objectives. They should disregard minor inconveniences in the cause of Allah and His Prophet<sup>sa</sup>. Allah rewards the sincere at every step, and no labor and hardship undertaken in His way ever goes to waste. It is written again that do not rank this convention as other ordinary public conventions. This is a phenomenon that is based purely on supporting truth and the propagation of the message of Islam."

(Translated into English from Urdu Announcement of 7 December 1892, Majmū'ah Ishtihārāt (Collection of Flyers/Announcements), Vol. I, Pages 340-341)

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Age 7–Miami FL

My most memorable Jalsa was Jalsa Sālāna USA 2017. I became a Tifl in June 2017. I was welcomed by Aṭfāl-ul-Aḥmadiyya USA. The Majlis gave me toys, books, a bag and a cap with Atfal USA written on it.

I also had my Aameen at the Jalsa. I finished my first recitation of the Holy Quran in February.

I was asked by True Islam Snapchat team to say what True Islam means. I said, True Islam means Peace!

I had lots of fun at the Jalsa. I loved meeting my cousins and friends. We had a great time together listening to speeches. We also visited the booths where we bought toys, candies and books.

I look forward to Jalsa Sālāna USA next year. In Shā Allah.



### My Jalsa Experience

Aqsa Suhail — Age 7 — North Virginia

During last Jalsa my job was picking up trash in the children's hall.

I felt really good about doing this duty as I was making everyone happy and more comfortable at Jalsa and I was making the place cleaner. The funny thing is that when my mom tells me to clean my bedroom I really don't like it. Here is why I think this is. At Jalsa there are a lot of people and you want them to be happy and enjoy Jalsa.

I love going to Jalsa because I like meeting my friends and relatives. You feel like you are part of one big family.

### Jalsa USA 2017

Aleena Dard — Age 12 — Research Triangle NC

My most memorable Jalsa was this year's 2017 USA Jalsa Sālāna. For me, the journey to Pennsylvania was fun since I went with two of my brothers and my mum. However, it was really tiring since the drive was eight hours long.

This was my most memorable Jalsa because I got to volunteer for the first time ever with two of my really good Nāṣirāt friends, Sofia and Tooba. I was volunteering at the Children's Activity Center in the Children's Jalsa Gah. I wanted to volunteer because I like helping others and I thought it was fun. We helped children play certain board games and make cool arts and crafts.

The fundraiser stalls were awesome since there was kulfi, samosas, pakoras, kebabs, coffee and cake. The food in the Ziafat hall was great and everyone was extremely nice and helpful.

The speeches were very well written and engaging. It taught me a lot of things I didn't know.

I was sad that I had to leave on Sunday since Jalsa is really fun and every kid should have a chance to experience it. However, I'm looking forward to going to Jalsa again next year to volunteer.

### PRAYERS FOR PARTICIPANTS OF JALSA

Hadrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (1835-1908), the Promised Messiah and the Mahdi, may peace be upon him, prayed for the participants of the Jalsa in the following words.

May the Almighty God be with every person who travels for this Convention that is for the sake of reward them in abundant measure, have Allah. them, for them their mercv on ease up of hardship and circumstances anxietv and eliminate their anguish and grief. May He grant them freedom from every single hardship and lay open for them the ways to their cherished goals, and raise them up, on the day of Judgment, among those of His servants who are the recipients of His blessings and Mercy. May He be their Guardian in their absence until after their journey comes to an end.

O God! O Glorious and Bountiful, the Ever Merciful and One Who removes difficulties, accept all these prayers, and grant us victory over our adversaries with manifest signs as You alone have all the might and power. Aameen, and Aameen again."

(Translated into English from Urdu Announcement of 7 December 1892, Majmū'ah Ishtihārāt (Collection of Flyers/Announcements), Vol. I, Pages 340-341)

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Palwasha Ahmad—Age 11—

First J

Chicago Northwest

This year we planned to go to Jalsa Sālāna in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. I was sure it would be a journey and a memory I would never forget.

It was 5 A.M. in the morning when we all climbed in the car to start our eleven hour journey to Pennsylvania.

Before we started, my family and I, all joined in Du'ā together praying for safety during the trip ahead.

We all snuggled in our pillows and blankets as the car drove toward Pennsylvania. We drove through Indiana and Ohio. It was all so beautiful.

After a memorable road trip, we reached Pennsylvania. I was very excited when we reached the hotel. I unpacked my suitcases for Jalsa. I was ready.

My family and I went to the Jalsa site on Thursday to offer 'Ishā Salāt. I saw the Jalsa Gah for the first time. It was huge! The stage and the lights were so beautiful! I could not believe I was actually

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here.

On Friday, we went to Jalsa Gah, and we listened to many inspiring speeches.

My sister and I are fortunate to be Waqf-e-Nau, so we got to volunteer in three different departments throughout Jalsa: Cleaning, Aab Rasaani (water supply), and Stroller Duty. We had so much fun.

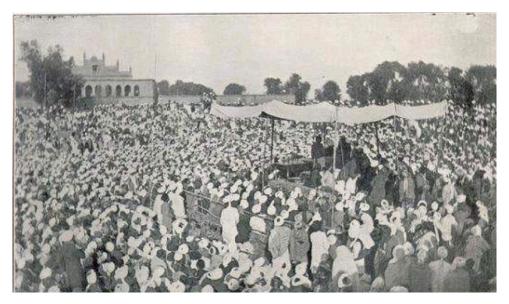
There was always something to do whether it was duties, or listening to the speeches. You always get to learn something new. We got to spend time with family and friends from all over the US and enjoyed all the snack stalls at lunch and dinner.

On Saturday, we listened to many inspiring speeches. My favorite, one was about purdah (Hijab), I learned how to react to somebody with questions about Islamic purdah.

On Sunday I was very sad, knowing that Jalsa was coming to an end. So, I made most of the day as memorable as I could. My family and I said our Salaam to our family members, hoping that In Shā Allah we will be able to see them again, as I knew that I will come again.

These three days really impacted my life, and I pray that everyone will get this experience, In Shā Allah.

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Jalsa Sālāna in Qadian during the Second Khilāfat Men's side.



Hadrat Khalīfatul-Masīh II (may Allah be pleased with him) addressing 1940 Jalsa Sālāna in Qadian Men's side.

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### JALSAS ARE FOREVER

Hadrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, the Promised Messiah and Mahdi, may peace be upon him, lived in Qadian. During his time, all the Jalsas were held in Qadian from 1891 to 1907 and the attendance grew from 75 to 3,000. Jalsas were not held in 1893 and 1902. All Jalsas were held in Aqsa Mosque except for the 1892 Jalsa that was held near the pond (Dhaab).



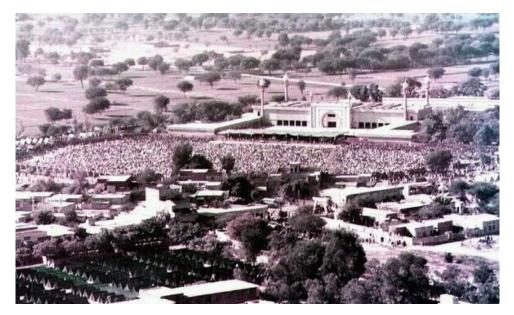


After the Promised Messiah, may peace be upon him, passed away in 1908, Hadrat Maulawi Nur-ud-Din led the Jamā'at until 1914 as the Khalīfatul-Masīḥ I, may Allah be pleased with him. During his Khilāfat, Jalsas were held in Qadian form 1908 to 1913. All Jalsas were held in Aqsa Mosque except for the last Jalsa that was held in Masjid Nur.

Jalsa Sālāna continued to be held in Qadian from 1914 to 1946 as Ḥaḍrat Mirza Mahmud Ahmad led the Jamā'at as the Khalīfatul-Masīḥ II, may Allah be pleased with him. About 40,000 attended the last Jalsa in Qadian in 1946 before the creation of Pakistan in 1947. These Jalsa Sālāna were held in Masjid Nur or Ta'lim-ul-Islam School.



The Khalīfat-ul-Masīḥ had to move to Pakistan after India was divided into India and Pakistan. After moving to 2017 — Issue 2 Jalsa — 13



Jalsa Salana in Qadian during the Third Khilāfat Men's side. Aqsa Mosque is seen in the middle. Part of Rabwah is visible in the foreground.



Roti (tortilla) machine at UK Jalsa

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Pakistan, three Jalsa Sālāna were held in Lahore in 1847 and 1948 before the establishment of Rabwah. Two Jalsas were held in 1948 in March and December.

During the Second Khilāfat, Jalsa Sālāna was held in Rabwah from 1949 to 1964. Two Jalsa Sālāna were held in 1949. Jalsas were held near Masjid Mubarak 1949-1954 and on the grounds of Nusrat Girls High School 1955-1964. The attendance increased to 100,000.

After Khalīfatul-Masīḥ II, may Allah be pleased with him, passed away in 1965, Ḥaḍrat Mirza Nasir Ahmad led the Jamā'at as Khalīfatul-Masīḥ III. Until he passed away in 1982, Jalsa Sālāna was held next to Masjid Aqsa in Rabwah, Pakistan. The Jalsa Sālāna in 1971 was cancelled due to war between India and Pakistan. Attendance increased to well over 200,000.





After Khalīfatul-Masīḥ III, may Allah's mercy be on him, passed away in 1982, Ḥaḍrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad led the Jamāʿat as Khalīfatul-Masīḥ IV. The 1982 and 1983 Jalsas were held in Rabwah with attendance touching 300,000 mark. Ḥaḍrat Khalīfatul-Masīḥ IV moved to London, UK, in 1984 as he could no longer discharge his duties as the head of his community in Pakistan, due to anti-Ahmadiyya laws enforced by the

government there. Since then the government of Pakistan has not permitted the Ahmadis in Pakistan to hold their Jalsa Sālāna.

With the move of the Khalīfatul-Masīḥ to London, the UK

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A farm turned into a temporary city for UK Jalsa Salana



Jalsa Sālāna UK 2014

Jalsa has become de facto International Jalsa of the



Ahmadiyya Muslim Community since 1984.

After Khalīfatul-Masīḥ IV, may Allah's mercy be on him, passed away in 2003, Ḥaḍrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad has been leading the Jamāʿat as Khalīfatul-Masīḥ V, may Allah be his helper, and the UK Jalsa continues to grow under his guidance. It recorded an attendance of 14,000 in 1989 and 40,000 in 2008 making it the largest Muslim gathering in

UK. In 2006 its venue moved from Islamabad (Sheephatch Farm) in Tilford to Hadiqat-ul-Mahdi (Oaklands Farm) in Worldham.

Similar Jalsas are held under the guidance of Khalīfat-ul-Masīḥ in many countries all over the world such as Ghana, Germany, India, Canada, USA and others. They are peaceful gatherings devoted to remembrance of Allah and spiritual and moral excellence. They are destined to continue to expand and spread all over the world.

The first Jalsa Sālāna was held in the USA on 5 September 1948 at Dayton OH. Ḥaḍrat Khalīfatul-Masīḥ III was the first Caliph to attend a US Jalsa in 1976.The venues of the international Jalsa Sālāna up to 1983 are shown in the map on the opposite page along with other important places.

Qadian: The town of the Promised Messiah where Jalsa started and continued until 1946 as international Jalsa. Jalsa of the country India is still held there.

Lahore: The Promised Messiah passed away while visiting Lahore in 1908. First Jalsa Sālāna after migration from India to Pakistan was held in Lahore in 1947.

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Flag hoisting at Germany Jalsa Sālāna



Jalsa Sālāna Qadian 2011.



Chenab Nagar/Rabwah: The town established by Khalīfatul-Masīḥ II, may Allah be pleased with him, as Rabwah, officially renamed by the government as Chenab Nagar under pressure from Muslim Clergy. International Jalsa was held here from 1949-1983.

Hoshiarpur: The Promised Messiah, may peace be upon him, was blessed with the Prophecy of the Muṣliḥ Mauʿūd during forty days worship and prayer here in seclusion.

Murree: Venue of the grave of Mary, the mother, or Mary Magdalene.

Srinagar: Venue of the grave of Jesus.

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#### Tanzeela Ahmed-Age 5-Virginia North.

Jalsa Salana USA 201

I love Jalsa Sālāna USA 2017. I went with my mom, dad and my two brothers who are 10 and 6 years old. I am 5 years old.

My brothers went with my Dad and I went with my mom to children's Jalsa Gah. There were lots and lots of mommies and babies and pretty girls wearing pretty dresses with scarves like me. I liked the kids play area in children's Jalsa Gah.

The best part is eating yummy kulfi, pizza, cake, and samosa.

I saw all different colors of flags with American flag. My mom said there are many people coming to attend Jalsa Sālāna from different countries. A A RAZELA

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### TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE ABOUT JALSA

Pencil your answers in blank spaces and the compare with answers at the end.

- 1. When was the first Jalsa held?
- 2. Where was the first Jalsa held?
- 3. Who started Jalsa Sālāna?
- 4. How long was the first Jalsa?
- 5. How many people attended the first Jalsa?
- 6. Is the Jalsa still held in Qadian?
- 7. What does the word Jalsa mean?
- 8. What does the word Sālāna mean?
- 9. How are the Jalsa expenses met?
- 10. Where are the largest Jalsas held these days?
  - 10.UK, Ghana, Germany, etc.
  - 9. Members contributions towards Jalsa Sālāna Fund.
    - IsunnA .8
    - 7. Gathering
      - səY .ð
        - £. 75
    - 4. The first Jasla was 3 days and has been 3 days.

may peace be upon him.

- 3. The Jalsa Salāna was started by the Promised Messiah,
  - 2. The first Jalsa was held in Qadian in India.
  - 1. The first Jalsa was held on 27-29 December 1891.

:srewers:

#### Haaniya Khan—Age 10—L.A Inland Empire

UK Jalsa Salana

12-14 August 2016

My most memorial Jalsa was the UK Jalsa Sālāna 2016. I experienced so many things at that Jalsa.

The best part at Jalsa Sālāna UK was that I was staying at the Jalsa with hundreds of other people! The tent we were staying at was filled with lots of people.

I loved staying at Jalsa because we could easily walk for Tahajjud and Fajr Prayers.

First day of Jalsa was on Friday and started right after Jum'ah Prayers.

On Saturday, Huzoor came to the Lajna Jalsa Gah. My Mom and I got ready really early to take a seat close to the stage to see Huzoor.



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On Sunday, which was the last day of Jalsa, I experienced the Bai'at. It was incredibly amazing.

There were a lot of places to visit at Jalsa. There was a bazaar. It had a lot of different food stalls and clothing stalls. There also was a kulfi stall.

Also, I got to visit a couple of exhibitions which had a lot of history of Aḥmadiyyat.

Food was served in a big tent. My favorite food was Aaloo Gosht, that is, potatoes with meat.

All the volunteers at Jalsa work very hard, especially Nasirat serving water.

After Jalsa we went to Bait-ul-Futuh and Fazl mosque in London.

Bait-ul-Futuh was very big. It had three floors! I got to see the Prayer hall where Huzur delivers his Friday Sermon every week.

At Fazl Mosque, we had a Mulaqāt with Huzoor. It was so nice to meet Huzur in person. He gave me a pen and chocolate which I shared with my parents.

I had a great experience at Jalsa Sālāna UK and I pray that I can go again soon. In Shā Allāh!

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### What I did in Jalsa Salana USA 2017

#### Adeel Ahmed—Age 8—Virginia North

At Jalsa Sālāna 2017, we went to place called Farm Show Complex a day earlier because my dad, as a volunteer, wanted to check his assigned work before people come in. It was a huge empty place but next day it was filled with thousands of people all around. I, with my brother, helped at Haazri Nigraani Desk (managing volunteers who serve the guests) helping in distributing the special T-shirts to all the volunteers. Jalsa was fun helping volunteers around and same time having loads of fun having ice cream called "Kulfi" and talking with friends during lunch and dinner. Yummy : ).

What I liked the most in Jalsa Sālāna is lots of people working as volunteers setting the stage, making sure everything is in place and keeping the place super clean.

I also received Atfal scarf and cap this time as I turned 7 years old. I specifically loved the Golf



carts we were driving around with volunteers and that we



were the last one to leave the complex after wrapping up all that we setup for Jalsa Sālāna.

I love to go again and again and again to help people who volunteer for Jalsa Sālāna USA. Faheem Malik Ahmed—Age 10— Virginia North.

EXPERIE

At Jalsa Sālāna USA 2017, I volunteered helping at Haazri Nigraani (volunteer supervising desk) with my younger brother. We gave out special T-shirts to the volunteers, who worked to prepare the venue for Jalsa. I also got an opportunity to meet our Amir Sahib, the President of Ahmadiyya Muslim Community USA.

Best part of Jalsa Sālāna I always enjoy is having yummy food volunteers serve us and it's totally free. The best is Kulfi and delicious lentil curry. I and my brother also attended the Waqifeen-e-Nau class, and went around the exhibition and bought some books. We were there four days and every day was so fun most of the time volunteering and listening to the speeches sitting at the volunteer desk.

> On the last day I always have fun with golf carts, and riding a bike inside the huge Farm Show Complex as all the volunteers wrap up to leave. This time I was remembering our beloved Huzoor, wishing hoping and praying that next year we have our dear Huzoor (may Allah be his helper) presiding at our special Jalsa Sālāna In Sha Allah.

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Syeda Fazeen Rizvi–Age 10–North Virginia

alsa Salana 20

In this article I have written about what I felt during the Jalsa Sālāna held this year in Pennsylvania. It was a very lovely feeling; the feeling of family is what I felt. Everyone was so kind and even the people I didn't know commented on how they loved my scarf and clothes!

The volunteers worked so hard for us providing food, comfort, and enjoyment. They sacrificed their whole weekend just for us working in the nursery as well as other departments. They provided free milk to mothers with babies. And kids themselves could volunteer to serve water and help look after little kids, and even collect trash!

You could also listen to the amazing speeches that everyone had prepared for us.

I love the Jalsa Sālāna and so should you!



Water

### MY MOST MEMORABLE JALSA

Syeda Fiza Rizvi—Age 14—North Virginia

My most memorable Jalsa was the Jalsa held this year in Pennsylvania. I love how the volunteers sacrificed three days to make the Jalsa a success. What I loved most was the children's area. As you all know little kids get bored very easily so a children's activity room had been arranged and the best part was that I got to help!

There was a nursery for infants and babies as well as a first aid area.

Jalsa is my favorite time of the year.

Here is a drawing I made about my memories of this year's Jalsa.



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Age 13–Austin, TX

I've been to many Jalsas in my lifetime. I've attended Jalsas in the United States and Canada as well as in the United Kingdom throughout my childhood. The most recent Jalsa I attended was the West Coast Jalsa Sālāna in the United States, which was held at the Baitul-Hameed Mosque in Chino, California in 2015.

I have many recollections of this particular Jalsa, such as, my toddler cousin getting lost and wandering around as my mom and aunt frantically tried to find him with the help of very calm and caring Jalsa volunteers. We all got a big laugh about this afterwards though as incidents like these sometimes are unavoidable in large gatherings. I remember listening to the amazing and thought provoking speeches that were given by the elders of our community. These religious speeches are always a key in spiritually towards guiding us striving selffor reformation. I remember the delicious food I ate and the exhibition of the beautiful jewelry, clothes, handicrafts that were being sold at the fundraising stalls. My mother bought a beautiful painting of Bismillah calligraphy to benefit Humanity First organization. I remember the overly enthusiastic children jumping from one place to another as their mothers tried to contain them in children's Jalsa Gah. It is always a dilemma for mothers of young children to keep coaching their kids to quietly listen to Jalsa proceedings. I remember my mom's attempts to bribe me with crayons and coloring books when I was young.

But the most striking memory I had of this particular Jalsa was the sudden appearance of the Police Chief of San Bernardino at the podium and expressing his thoughts to support the True Islam Campaign. I only remember seeing him in news lately because a few weeks ago, an alleged Muslim couple from Pakistan had shot and killed 14 people and injured 22 people at a work event in the San Bernardino County. This unfortunate incident sparked a fresh wave of Islamophobia in the country, and people began shouting hateful rhetoric towards Muslims in public and vandalizing mosques throughout the country. The presence of government officials and other non-Muslim guests at the Jalsa was their way of showing solidarity with their Muslim neighbors in USA. Their speeches reassured us that they understand the peaceful teaching of Islam and that it is not fair to blame an entire Muslim community for the acts of a few misguided ones.

By the grace of Allah, as more and more people are becoming enlightened with the pristine teaching of Islam, they will continue to understand and propagate in their circle of friends that terrorism has no religion at all. We are so blessed that Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) had initiated this institution of hosting annual convention more than a century ago, so that not only Ahmadi Muslims but also other individuals pursuing the true spiritual light can benefit from such a bundle of true knowledge as well. Long live Jalsa Sālāna!

#### Nasirah Salmana Bajwa —Central Virginia

**Jalsa Salana 201** 

It all began when I and sister were getting in the car to get to our cousin's house. We drove with them and we grabbed snacks and stuff.

We packed water but we forgot it at the house so we got water again at a gas station.

We drove for a few hours and we got to the Jalsa Sālāna. We were there only for a little bit then after that we went to our hotel.

The next day we stayed there longer, two time longer and then it got even longer.

My whole family was working. Even the little kids were working. I helped set up the tables and cleaned.

I really enjoyed all the Nazms (poems) at Jalsa.

It was also great because we were doing it for Allah so it felt great.

I also liked getting kulfi. The food was really good!

Then my mom drove as back.

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#### My Most Memorable Jalsa

#### Fizah Ahmad—Age 10—Georgia

My most memorable Jalsa was in 2012, when our dear Huzoor came to U.S. This Jalsa was the most special and memorable out of all the others because not only Huzoor, may Allah be his helper, came, but that I also had my Aameen. The best part to me out of both of those reasons was that our Huzoor came.

We were in the women's Jalsa side. The girls who had their Aameen had to wear white. We started walking towards the men's Jalsa side. I was very nervous and curious because I have never seen our beloved Huzoor yet. There were two lines of boys and girls sitting one behind the other.

I started to hear a girl reciting Bismillah. After a while, it was nearly my turn, and I was so scared and nervous! I was astonished by how kind our beloved Huzoor looked. I said As-Salāmu 'Alaikum, and he replied kindly. Suddenly, my nervous feelings were wiped away. I started reciting the Holy Quran, and soon, my turn was over. I wished I could have stayed longer.

We have saved pictures of the Aameen, and whenever I look at them, they bring back memories of my most memorable Jalsa.

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Aleena Malik—Age 12. Silver Spring Maryland

This past summer, I and my family were blessed with a chance to attend the annual UK Jalsa, which took place at our headquarters and was guided by our beloved Khalifa. Growing up in the United States, and only having attended the US Jalsa, this was a unique once in a life time opportunity that I will always remember.

The UK Jalsa was a city within itself, and I was astonished at the amount of time it had taken to set it up, and the number of selfless volunteers who sacrificed their time and effort to ensure that thousands of others could get their Jalsa experience. At our US Jalsa, we have our venue set on hard ground for us already, while at the UK Jalsa they erect their own tents in which the Jalsa is held.

With my previous experiences, I'm not going to lie, I'm pretty spoiled and the UK Jalsa was difficult. I wasn't used to the amount of people, for the Jalsa had about 39,000 attendees this year Mā Shā Allah, which is far greater than the crowd I was accustomed to at our US Jalsa.

The tents were set on open fields, which soon turned muddy thanks to England's rainy weather. It was hard to pull yourself out of the shelters but it was even harder to resist the bazaars and stalls. We might have ended up soaking, but those Kulfis were worth it.

On Saturday, we were able to get out of the children's marquee after handing my brother over to the men's side so we could sit in the main hall and listen to Huzoor's (may Allah be his helper) women's address. At the end, no amount of muddy laundry could ever take the feel of getting to do Bai'at live at the hands of Ḥaḍrat Mirza Masroor Ahmed (may Allah be his helper) away.

This Jalsa was definitely one I will always remember and am thoroughly grateful for being able to attend, and I hope and pray that experiences like mine continue and are shared with others.



Children are encouraged to send their original writing for publication. Please include your full name, age, city, state and contact number when submitting an article as we may follow-up with the author for clarification.

If you would like to send a picture or artwork, please send the original. If you would like the original returned, please include your full name and return address/postage along with this request.

The Children's Magazine Committee, under the supervision of the Amīr, Jamā'at Aḥmadiyya, U.S.A., will review and approve all submissions before publication.

E-mail Submissions to: al-hilal@ahmadiyya.us

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Sajeela Ahmad—Age 6—Virginia South Drawing made in the activity area at Jalsa.

2017 od is the

Şalāt Poster: 18" x 24" Arabic with English translation and transliteration. Send \$2 per copy and your mailing address to Bookstore, 15000 Good Hope Rd, Silver Spring, MD 20905. http://www.amibookstore.us/



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### My Experience at the Jalsa Salana

Ayela Maqsood—Age 8—Silicon Valley

The Jalsa was very fun! I had a kulfi every day. I also got to meet some of my relatives at the Jalsa.

Each day, I wore nice and pretty clothes.

I also bought two toys at the bazaar—a yoyo and a violin.

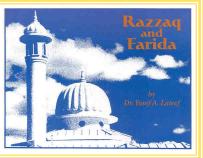
The food over there was very yummy.



My experience at the Jalsa Sālāna was fantastic!

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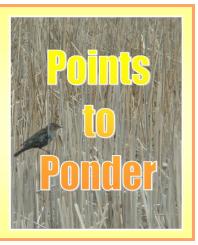


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#### MY MEMORABLE JALSA

Liba Khan—Age 12—Chicago E

In the summer of the year 2012, my family went to Harrisburg in Pennsylvania for Jalsa Sālāna. We travelled by car along with my cousins, Aima and Manahil, and their parents. We drove through Indiana and Ohio to get to Harrisburg, and on our way we saw many sights. Travelling with us in another car was my best friend Samreen, her two brothers and her parents. We drove for many hours.

When we got to Harrisburg we stayed in a hotel. My friend also stayed in the same hotel with us; they stayed next room to ours. It was crowed in the rooms but was fun.

At the Jalsa what was really fun and memorable for me was when I saw Ḥaḍrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad (may Allah be his helper). He raised the flag at Jalsa.

I bought many souvenirs. At Jalsa they were selling food, bags, Islamic books, for example, the life of Muhammad and lots of Qurans.

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### **MY MEMORABLE JALSA**

### Samreen Shaheadi—Age 13—Chicago E

In 2013 my family and I went to Harrisburg Pennsylvania for USA Jalsa. I was very happy when I saw Hadrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad (may Allah be his helper). We asked him questions and many people read poems to him in different languages. My brothers received pens from Huzoor. The pen has Huzoor's name on it.

We stayed in a hotel while we were there. Our hotel room was small for five people but had two beds. It was still fun.

Another good part was that in our hotel my friend Liba and her family and also her cousins stayed next door to ours. At night I went to their room to play.

It was also crowded in our car too. On our trip there we saw many woods and forests. We went through Indiana and Ohio to get to Harrisburg.

At Jalsa, stalls were selling many things like Islamic books, shoes, food clothes and many more.

Back then I was little and small so I fell asleep most of the time when I got bored. I mostly got bored when I didn't understand what was going on or what they were saying.

Anyways, I bought two books and two bags; *love for all, hatred for none* was written on the bags. The books I bought were Life of Muhammad by Ḥaḍrat Bashir-ud-Din Mahmud Ahmad <sup>r</sup>. The second book was How to Learn, Read and Write Urdu. Overall the trip was really fun and memorable because I saw Huzoor.

### WHAT IS JALSA

Sajeela Ahmad-Age 6-Stafford VA

My best Jalsa memory is of Jalsa Sālāna UK 2017.

Jalsa is when we all gather to pray and we may meet Huzoor (may Allah be his helper). We listen to the Khutba on Friday. Khutba is a message or speech delivered before Friday Prayer. Jalsa starts after Friday Prayer.

#### WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

Jalsa is important because on every Jalsa day we learn something new from the Khutba and other speeches. However, the most important thing is listening. Listening is important because you won't learn at all without listening. Also, by not listening to words of Allah, you are not being respectful to Allah (Arabic word for God). I like it when Huzoor (may Allah be his helper) gives people awards.

#### HOW I FEEL ABOUT IT

I like it how all the things happen. When there is Khutba, I like to listen to what Huzoor (may Allah be his helper) is saying. I feel good about everything at Jalsa.

#### WHAT IS SPECIAL AT JALSA AND WHY

UK Jalsa is special because that is Huzoor's home and it is the best Jalsa to me but other Jalsas are good too.

#### MESSAGE TO OTHERS

All Jalsa memories which I have are just as good so the next Jalsa should be good as well. I like Jalsa just as you do.

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### **My Memorable Jalsa**

Hamda Saleem-Age 9-Chicago East

I went to the USA Jalsa in Pennsylvania in 2015. My mom, my grandmother, my uncle, my aunt and nephew all went together. Also, my new friends from Kyrgyzstan went with us. Their names are Adil, Akhmaral, and Ayesha. They were new to the USA and this was their first time going to any Jalsa. I had a lot of fun because I got to play with my nephew and my new friends.

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Because this was the first time the new family was going to Jalsa, we went a couple of days earlier for sightseeing. We all decided to go to an animal safari in Pennsylvania. We saw many animals including chickens, goats, cows, buffalos, and ostriches. We got to ride on a bus so we could see the animals close up. We even got to feed the animals crackers. It was really fun



because I had never done that.

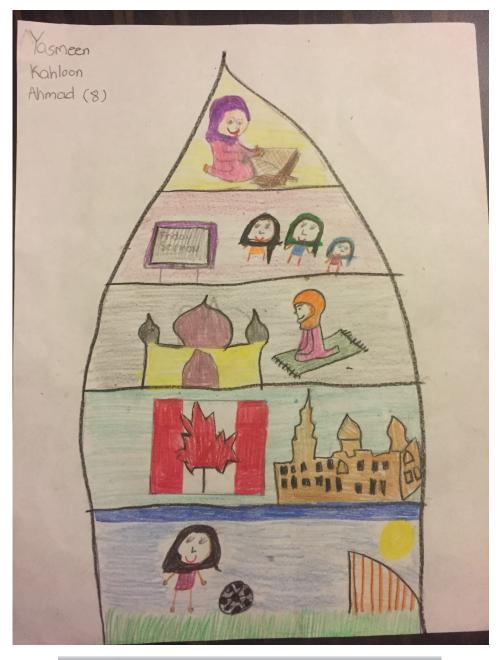
I have many good memories from that day.

The Jalsa was also fun because the new family was considered special guests so we all had a special dinner. We all received a new Quran and some other religious books.

### When Were the First Jalsa Sālāna Held

Mauritius and Ghana: 1923 Indonesia: 1927 East Africa: 1944 Kenya: 1945 USA: 1948 Sierra Leone: 1949 Nigeria: 1950 Tanzania 1961 British Guyana: 1963 Britain: 1964 Liberia: 1967 Ivory Coast: 1968 Fiji Islands: 1970 Gambia: 1975 Germany: 1976 Canada: 1977.









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## Jalsa Memories

Yesmina Iman Mirza—Central Virginia

This summer I was lucky to attend UK Jalsa. It was my first experience going to UK Jalsa. This was definitely a very awesome experience.

I have gone to the USA Jalsa every year and was expecting UK Jalsa to be similar. I was very wrong. The Jalsa in London was a whole different world. First of all, it was very big and there were so many more people. I loved seeing people from all over the world come together to be part of a big community. Although it rained and was very muddy, people still had smiles on their faces and made the best of the situation. I enjoyed meeting people and cousins visiting from different countries. But best of all, it was so amazing to be with Huzoor (may Allah be his helper). Huzoor was very busy and must be very tired but I loved when I saw him smile.

The Jalsa Gah was very different from what I was used to. I enjoyed walking around and seeing the exhibitions and stalls. The bazaar was very large and we got to eat yummy food and cotton candy. Another favorite part of this trip was seeing all the excitement around the Masjid Fazl and going there every day to attend the Prayers behind Huzoor, may Allah be his helper.

I had so much fun visiting UK Jalsa and hope and pray that I am able to go back every year, In Shā Allah.

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### My Most Memorable Jalsa

Khadija Chaudhry–Age 13–Central Virginia

My most memorable Jalsa was the U.S. Jalsa Sālāna 2012. I remember this well because Huzoor attended this Jalsa and he delivered a speech to the Lajna and Nāṣirāt.

It was great to be at such a marvelous place, with your friends and family.

I was very grateful to be able to attend a Jalsa in which Huzoor (may Allah be his helper) has come from so far to give wonderful speeches and lead us in prayer.

Many people were at this Jalsa because Huzoor was there.

I think it is amazing that so many people will come to together to listen to Huzoor and be led in prayer by him.



The children's magazine committee members and a group of reviewers review the magazine before going to press. Their reviews make the magazine what it is. Please send your email address to publications@ahmadiyya.us if you want to help us review the contents before their publication.

Al-Hilāl



#### **My Most Memorable Jalsa**

### Sophia Chaudhry—Age 8— Central Virgina

Jalsa Sālāna 2017 was my favorite Jalsa. I am 8 years old and on this Jalsa I volunteered for cleaning in the food area. I worked with my friends, and we worked hard cleaning.

We picked up all the trash after lunch and cleaned the tables. It was really fun for us Nāṣirāt doing work together as a team.

I felt very proud that I helped in Jamā'at work like my mom and my aunt. My parents were very proud of me that I volunteered. I also listen to Huzoor's speech and other speeches with my mom. I bought lots of kulfis too with my cousin.

I really enjoyed the Jalsa. I pray to Allah that I do more and more work for my Jamā'at. Aameen.

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### My most memorable jalsa ATTYAT TUL SABOOH 10, Central Virginia

'My most memorable was Jalsa 2016, because I saw my friends there and it was our first Jalsa here. It was really fun. On the way I saw a lot of cool things. I heard a lot of good poems there.



### My most memorable Jalsa

Maleeha Bushra 12, Central Virginia

My most memorable Jalsa was the Jalsa of 2015 in Pennsylvania. It was my favorite Jalsa because it was my first Jalsa and it was an amazing experience. I made new friends at the Jalsa. I learned new things. All volunteers were very nice. I volunteered too. I felt really lucky because I went to Jalsa while some cannot.



### Jalsa Sālāna

#### Ira Anwar — Age 14 — Central Virginia

Jalsa Sālāna is a mixture of food, drinks, family, and it is full of culture. Personally, every year I go to celebrate with my family, I always run into my family that I haven't seen in years. It always brings me so much joy to see my mom and grandmother reunite with their friends and family. Every single time I go, my grandmother's friends will always tell me "You've grown so much, when I last saw you, you were this little." Me and my cousin, who is like my sister, and is my best friend, never get to see each other, but Jalsa is one of the blessed times we get to spend three whole days together, and we try to spend as much of that time together.

At Jalsa there are speeches, Salat, and much more. There are concession stands, and booths.

For three days, you eat Kulfis, have some Roti, eat candy, and enjoy yourself. We also help. We clean, we serve, we make food sometimes. Everyone contributes, and does their part. Speeches are sometimes about people's experiences converting, or sometimes about the prophets. Everyone dresses nice and looks beautiful. Jalsa is a very cultural, and a fun place to be, and I look forward to it every year.

On our way back from the Jalsa I feel recharged with spiritual energy and light that keeps me going for the rest of the year. The speeches have always been refresher courses for me. They provide solutions to my daily life problems and challenges.

Lastly and most importantly Jalsas keep me connected to our beloved Khalifa-e-Waqt (Khalifa at the time), may Allah be his helper.

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### Jalsa Salana

Iza Anwar — Age 11— Central Virginia

My most memorable Jalsa Sālāna is filled with a lot of knowledge, blessings, and family. Jalsa is a time that you get to spend time with your family and you get to meet your family that you haven't seen since you were a baby. I love to spend time with my cousins we get so much food and a lot of candy. I get some for my little brother. Me and cousins get a lot of deserts. We have a great time with each other. We pray and we learn something new.

We go to the Jalsa Gah and we listen to speeches by other people we listen to some peoples speeches that talk about a person that converted to Islam and were from other cultures. Some of there are sad and some of them are so touching. We do salat and we all do silent prayers. I pray for me and my family and that I do good in school. My Jalsas are always amazing and I love them.

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Areeba Ali-Age 10-Central Virginia

My most memorable Jalsa was the Canadian 2016 Jalsa. Huzoor, may Allah be his helper, came and I loved every speech he gave and they were all very beautiful and had a lot of great lessons. I also liked how organized it all was. All the food was very good. I enjoyed every minute of it all the stalls and arrangements.

I was very happy when I saw Huzoor, may Allah be his helper, there and it was very exciting moment in my life. Even though we had to travel nine hours all the way from Fairfax Station, VA to Toronto, Canada but it was totally worth it. The hotel we stayed in was very nice and it was fun to enjoy it with my family.

My favorite speeches were on the last day of the Jalsa. I really thought those were really strong and well thought out speeches. I really can't pick a favorite they were all amazing.

I was really surprised on how many people were there. You didn't have enough space to walk.

What I really thought was great was Maghrib and Ishā Prayers were held at the Peace Village Mosque where it was led by Huzoor, everyday everyone rushed straight to the Mosque. I think this shows how much everyone loved the Jalsa and their daily Salat behind Huzoor. Every morning adults and some kids or teenagers offered Tahajjud and Fajr at 5 in the morning. I loved to see how many people were going every morning and night for the cause of Allah and for His special blessings.

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Maha Laiq—Age 13 Central Virginia

Emotions can play a very important role in making an experience memorable. Jalsa Sālāna has always encompassed memorable experiences for me, but for several reasons I'd have to choose this particular Jalsa.

The 2016 Jalsa was by far the most significant one I experienced because of the emotions relating with the whole event.

Remembering my past years of Jalsa Sālāna, I realize how materialistic my motives were at the time. The only thoughts that would seem to pass through my mind were "Oh, I can't wait to buy this thing at whatever stall," or, "Maybe I can meet my friend at this side of the complex center." My intentions were never to listen to the speeches or increase my spiritual knowledge, but this year it was different.

This year my ears stopped to hearken to the speeches and apply them in my life. In the past years my misconduct was affected by my young age and lack of maturity, but this year there was a change. Overall, this whole Jalsa Sālāna, my attention was solely on the speeches. A few years ago I might have found the fact surprising that I would have found interest in what the respected



speaker had to say. Seeing myself now, I am in awe as I think back on this dramatic change.

I have my entire life ahead of me In Shā Allah, with all of its beautiful experiences. But despite being so young, I already have a personal breathtaking experience, which I am sure I will carry with me until my last days: my first memorable Jalsa Sālāna.

### My Most Memorable Jalsa

### Neha Shahid—Age 11—Dayton OH

My most memorable Jalsa was Jalsa Sālāna UK It was a once in a lifetime experience which included offering Salat behind Huzoor, may Allah be his helper, listening to his address almost everyday, and seeing the International Bai'at. But if you ever think of going (which you should) then make sure to bring rain boots, umbrella, and rain coat. I learned that the hard way. There is so much mud and rain but other than that the food is delicious. Bring a light jacket because you may get cold, considering everything is outside and in marquees.

## MY MEMORABLE JALSA

Ata U-Salaam Butt—Age 10—South Virginia

My most memorable Jalsa Sālāna is the 69th Jalsa Sālāna held at Harrisburg, PA for couple of reasons.

We drove on Thursday afternoon and arrived at at 8:00 P.M. at the home of my mother's uncle, whom we call Chacha and his wife, our Chachi. We were exhausted but also excited to be with our relatives.

When I woke up on Friday the first day of Jalsa Sālāna, I first had breakfast and then studied for my upcoming Aameen ceremony. Sometimes my dad listened to my recitation and a couple of times Ammi Jaan. Chacha's mother who had come back from Australia also listened to my recitation.

I arrived at the Jalsa site with my older brother. We got our badges from the registration team. Uncle Chris was also at the front desk.

I visited the stalls or the small shops. I wanted to buy a few gifts from the shops for my cousins.

Shortly after, the Friday Prayer was announced. We went straight for Jum'a at the main Jalsa Gah.

On the second day, I woke up and after breakfast I studied again to perform well at the Aameen. The Aameen ceremony was to take place in the evening before Maghrib/Isha.

I listened to the English speeches and had lunch.

Right after dinner, around 7:00 P.M. I went with

my family straight to the main Jalsa Gah where the Aameen ceremony was to take place. There were many young boys and girls and I had to be patient to have my turn. I did well because the person listening said, "shabash," indicating, well-done. I received my gift of The Holy Quran with English Translation and Commentary. I was very happy but I wish the sound system was better. Everyone was really excited that I did well especially Ammi Jaan and my mom.

Third and the last day was very short. I learned many things. I learned about their spiritual journeys and how Ahmadi Muslims are facing hardships for the sake of their faith. We stayed at Chacha's home and enjoyed a lot with different activities.

### My Most Memorable Jalsa

### Mena Shahid—Age 10—Dayton, Ohio

My most memorable Jalsa was the most recent Jalsa of 2017. We learned a lot of new things through speeches and presentations. The most amazing thing to remember was that I got to walk with my cousins without my parents and I did not feel scared or afraid.

This Jalsa had amazing poems. I also loved the speeches. The sound system was very good and I could clearly listen to the Jalsa program. All the speeches made me learn how to be a better person in the future.

I also got to help people who were volunteering. When I left the Jalsa, my heart was full of good memories.

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# Glossary

- āb, aab آب : water
- āb rasānī, aab rasaanee آبرىانى : water supply
- Āmīn [Āmeen, Aameen] آئين So be it. Amen. Ceremony to commemorate the completion of the first reading of the Holy Quran.
- As-Salāmu 'Alaikum Wa Raḥmatullāh ٱلسَّلَامُ عَلَيْكُمْ وَرَحْمَةُ اللهِ وَبَرَكَاتُهُ Peace السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكُمْ وَرَحْمَة اللهِ وَبَرَكَاتُهُ be with you and blessings of Allāh.
- Volunteer attendance monitoring : حاضری نگرانی Volunteer
- Jalsa بلسه : meeting. assembly. convention.
- Jalsa Gah بطبه گاه : venue for the Jalsa or meeting or convention.
- Jalsa Sālāna جلسه سالانه: Annual Convention
- Jamā'at, Jamā'ah تراعت: Community, Organization. community of believers.
- Kulfi کلفی: ice cream stick
- Langarkhana انتكرخانه : free public kitchen
- rightly guided مهدی: آMahdī
- Majmū'ah Ishtihārāt مجموعه اشتهارات Majmū'a-i-Ishtihārāt
- Collection of Flyers or Announcements
- masjid ، مَسْجِد mosque
- poem<sup>نظ</sup>م :Nazm
- rasānī, rasaanee رسانى : supply
- roti روئی : tortilla, flat bread
- Salāt تملوة: Formal Prayer offered according to a prescribed procedure. Thus, Ṣalātut-Tahajjud, Ṣalātul-Fajr, Ṣalātuẓ-Zuhr, Ṣalātul-'Asr, Ṣalātul-Maghrib, Ṣalātul-'Ishā.

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### My Most Memorable Jalsa

Muqadas Shahzad—9—Bloomington

My most memorable Jalsa is UK Jalsa 2017. At the Jalsa I got to see and meet Huzoor, may Allah be his helper. The weather was bad and mud got into my shoes but I had lots of fun at the Jalsa. I played with my cousin and learned so many good things. I went to the MTA exhibition. There were virtual reality 3D-Goggles and they were so cool. I ate so much from the market. During Bai'at, I prayed for a lot of stuff. You should go to the Jalsa too.

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