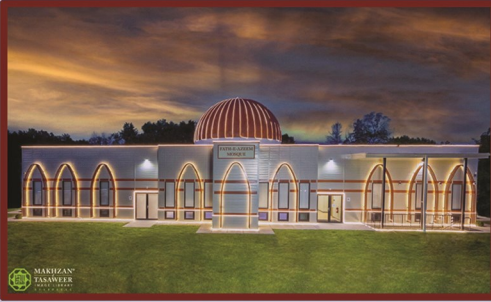


Al Hilal



**“The Blessings
of
Khilafat”**



Meeting Huzoor USA Tour 2022



US \$2

A Magazine for Children

2023-1

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 Ahmadiyyat to their daily lives.

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In This Issue

Blessings of Khilafat

Raza Muzaffar	75	Editor's Note:
Rehaan Muzaffar	75	The notation (sa) is an abbreviation of the prayer <i>sallallāhu 'alaihi wa sallam</i> (peace and blessings of God be upon him), which we say after the Holy Prophet Muhammad (sa). Though the prayer has not been written in full it should nevertheless be understood as being repeated in full in each case.
Sabeeka Ahmad	12	Similarly the notation (as) is an abbreviation of the prayer <i>'alaihi-salam</i> (peace be upon him) and is used at the mention of the Promised Messiah (as) and all other prophets of God.
Sabeeka Ahmad	25	The notation (ra) is an abbreviation of the prayer <i>radiyallahu 'anhu/'anha/'anhum</i> (may Allah be pleased with him/her/them) and is used for the companions of the Holy Prophet (sa) and the Promised Messiah (as).
Sabeeka Ahmed Mallik	84	The notation (aba) is an abbreviation of the prayer <i>ayyadahul-lahu ta'ala bi-nasrihil-'aziz</i> (may Allah be his helper) and is used at the mention of the current Khalifa (aba).
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Dear Reader, As-Salāmu ‘Alaikum!

We were truly blessed to have our Beloved Huzoor, Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad, Khalifat-ul-Masih V (aba) visit USA last year in September and October 2022. During his visit, Huzoor inaugurated two beautiful mosques in Zion, IL, and Dallas, TX, and spent valuable time meeting families. Huzoor’s visit concluded at Bait-ur-Rahman, MD, drawing large crowds of Ahmadis. In fact so many people flocked to see their Khalifa and attend Friday prayers at Bait-ur-Rahman with him, the numbers exceeded that of a Jalsa Salana!

Huzoor’s (aba) visit began with the historic opening of the mosque in Zion which celebrated the great victory for the Promised Messiah (as) over Alexander Dowie who had wanted all Muslims to be annihilated and who had founded the city of Zion for select Christians only over 100 years ago. Katrina Lantos Swett, President of the Lantos Foundation for Human Rights and Justice, who attended the inauguration ceremony, called it ‘a victory for all humanity’!

Above all, it was extraordinary to witness the unique bond of love God has established between the Khalifa and the Jama‘at members. Please join me in appreciating these accounts of love and joy and the blessings of Khilafat from the children who came to see Huzoor (aba).

Was-Salām
Saliha Malik,
Chief Editor, Al-Hilāl

القرآن الكريم

Allah's Promise Through Khilafat:

وَلِيَمَكِّنَنَّ لَهُمْ دِينَهُمُ الَّذِي ارْتَضَى لَهُمْ
وَلِيُبَدِّلَنَّهُمْ مِنْ بَعْدِ خَوْفِهِمْ أَمْنًا ط
يَعْبُدُونَنِي لَا يُشْرِكُونَ بِي شَيْئًا

And He will, surely establish for them their religion which He has chosen for them; and that He will, surely give them in exchange security and peace after their fear; They will worship Me, and they will not associate anything with Me.

Holy Qur'an Ch. 24, V. 56

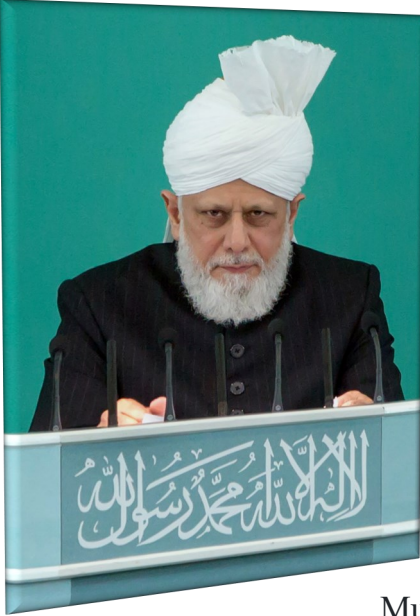
Hadith

Prophecy of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (sa)
on Khilafat:



“Prophethood shall remain among you as long as Allah shall will. He will bring about its end and follow it with Khilafat on the precepts of prophethood for as long as He shall will and then bring about its end. A tyrannical monarchy will then follow and will remain as long as Allah shall will and then come to an end. There will follow thereafter monarchical despotism to last as long as Allah shall will and come to an end upon His decree. There will then emerge Khilafat on precept of Prophethood.”

The Holy Prophet said no more
(Masnad Ahmad).



The Inauguration of Fath-e-Azeem Mosque — September 30, 2022



Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad, Khalifat-ul-Masih V (aba) said, Today, by the grace of Allah we have gathered for the inauguration of the mosque in Zion. Allah Almighty has enabled the Community in USA to construct a mosque in a city which holds great importance to the Ahmadiyya

Muslim Community. It is the city of an opponent of the Community. For a false claimant to speak ill of the Promised Messiah (as), for him to perish, for the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community to then be established in his city and for a mosque to be constructed in Zion renders all of us to be extremely grateful to Allah Almighty. This day is not only a day of immense joy for Ahmadis, but also a day for immense gratitude, for Allah Almighty manifested a great sign in this place for the truthfulness of the Promised Messiah (as).

A hundred and twenty years ago, the prophecy of the end of this false claimant and enemy of Islam was made, having been informed by Allah Almighty, and how wonderful a sign it is that now the Community has been enabled to construct a mosque in the very place where that person claimed that no Muslim shall be allowed to enter without first accepting Christianity.

Mosques are constructed so that people may worship five times a day, remember God and refrain from worldliness. But if this is not the result after constructing this mosque, then we will not partake of the blessings of this mosque. The Promised Messiah (as) stated that the Community must continue to support him with fervent prayers. Hence, it is our duty to make worship an integral part of our lives and inculcate it within our children.



This mosque has been named '*Fath-e-Azeem*' Mosque, as it is a manifestation of that great victory which was granted to the Promised Messiah (as). The end of that enemy was declared a great victory, which we witnessed come to fulfilment approximately 115 years ago. The Boston Herald of that time declared that great indeed was the Promised Messiah (as) who prophesied the end of Alexander Dowie. This man from India had claimed that he is the Messiah promised to come in this era... It further mentioned that if Dowie ran from the challenge of the Promised Messiah (as), then it will be a defeat for him and prove his claims are false. The Promised Messiah (as) said that he and Dowie should pray for the demise of one another to see who is true in their claim.

Dowie perished in such a deplorable state that his city fell prey to internal dissension, he lost all his fortunes, his physical and mental health deteriorated, and his own followers began praising Islam. This is certainly a proof of the truthfulness of the Promised Messiah (as), but it is not where our joy ends. Rather, we must find new avenues of spreading the message, and continue to reform ourselves in order to attain true joy. Therefore, we must not think that we have attained a great victory here and lose focus on the true goal.

This was a sign not for the destruction of the enemy, but for the grandeur of Islam, and to display that now is the time for the Promised Messiah's (as) community to prevail. Hence, today it is our duty to establish the Unity of God in people, increase in our righteousness, and develop our relationship with God. Every sign of victory should bring about a revolutionary change within us. This day must cause a spiritual revolution to take place within us, otherwise, the end of Dowie will be of no benefit to us whatsoever. The great victory must be the great change that happens within us and when the world comes under the banner of the Holy Prophet (sa). Huzoor (aba) prayed that may Allah Almighty enable us and our progeny to attain this.



The Blessings Of Khilafat

Mehreen Raja/ Age 10/ Virginia North

Ever wonder, what life would be like without our beloved Imam?

No one would be there to remind us about true Ahmadiyyat and Islam!

Huzoor (aba) works hard every day of the year,
To write Friday Sermons weekly for us to hear.

But that's not the only
job that dear Huzoor
(aba) has to do,
He reads every single
letter that we write for
him, too!

When I went to Zion to
see him, my love for
him grew,
And guess what? My
focus in Salat did, too!

It was magical how it
all happened without meeting him personally,
But this is me experiencing the Blessings of Khilafat, you see!



My Visit to The Lion Mosque

Sanaya Raja/Age 8/ Virginia North

My most memorable experience in Zion, at the **Fath-e-Azeem** Mosque, was when after Prayer we rushed to catch a glimpse of dear Huzoor (aba). My siblings, my mom, and I did not want to miss Huzoor (aba) passing by, so we grabbed our shoes and ran to see him right away. We did

not even put our shoes on! We waited anxiously for Huzoor (aba) and when I saw a few security guards, I knew the moment we all had been waiting for was finally there. Huzoor walked by us, looking so peaceful! Everyone started greeting him, but when everyone quieted down, I

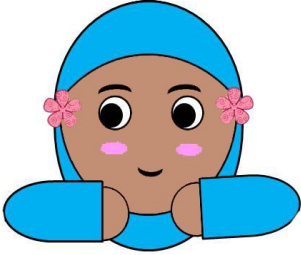


yelled at the top of my lungs: “As-Salamu ‘Alaikum, Beloved Huzoor!” Then he waved to me with the most beautiful smile!

We would do that same routine every day for three days and when it was time for dear Huzoor (aba) to leave, we were very sad. But we knew how blessed we were to experience all of this, *Al-Hamdu Lillah!*

SEEING HUZOOR

Sabeeka Ahmad/10/ Philadelphia



I was so excited when my mom told me that we were going to Zion to see the mosque that my dad was working on. But the biggest surprise was when we found out Huzoor (aba) would be there too, and I would be able to see him! I could not wait, and each day seemed like a long time! When the day came to go to Zion, I was very emotional. We left early morning for the airport and in a few hours, we finally arrived in Zion! I stood there in pure joy staring at the mosque. It was so beautiful!

The mosque was called **Fath-e-Azeem**. There was so much excitement around it because beloved Huzoor was going to be coming that same evening! There



were tents around the mosque and decorations with lights, banners, and flowers. Everyone was waiting impatiently!

We also waited in the crowd for Huzoor (aba) outside. We waited for more than two hours! The nasirat were practicing *taranas* [welcome songs]. It started to get really cold and dark, as the sun set. At last, it was all worth it! Beloved Huzoor (aba) arrived! There was a rush of excitement everywhere. There were loud *na'ray* [slogans], as Huzoor's car entered the site! Huzoor got out of his car and waived at the crowd. We could hear continuous *na'ray* and *taranas*.



When I caught a glimpse of beloved Huzoor's face, I couldn't stop crying! His face is just so pure and full of light, it was almost impossible not to cry. I was overjoyed with excitement and emotions and felt very grateful to Allah for this opportunity. It was soon time for Prayer, so the crowd ran inside the mosque and tents to pray behind Huzoor. In Prayer, I was crying so much! It felt like heaven. Just being able to see Huzoor (aba) was like something I could never have imagined. I was so excited for the next day, that I couldn't wait! *Al-Hamdu Lillah* my entire week in Zion was beautiful and I feel very blessed that I was able to see beloved Huzoor many times and pray behind him. I will cherish this experience forever!



I loved Huzoor's visit to Zion

Nafi Latif/ Age 8 / Zion

I really liked seeing Huzoor (aba) at the new mosque in Zion, Illinois called **Fath-e-Azeem** Mosque. I really liked doing cleaning duties for the guests. I helped clean the bathrooms and swept the leaves from the outside Prayer area. There were so many people. I loved it. I also enjoyed praying behind Huzoor (aba) in the mosque. I stood in line with my brothers for an hour to enter the mosque for Prayer time. It was worth it!



VOLUNTEERING IN THE WAY OF KHILAFAT

Kashif Latif / Age 14 / Zion

Before Huzoor (aba) arrived, I and many of the Jama'at members were preparing for his arrival. My job was making sure the house Huzoor (aba) was staying in had plenty of tables, comfy chairs, and air purifiers. It was more



than a day's work, my dad and I had to come back to the site early on the day of Huzoor's (aba) arrival to make sure we were ready for all the people who would be coming.

Once Huzoor (aba) arrived, the real volunteer work started. My duty was to make sure the bathrooms were in good condition and that they were clean. We would

stay at the Zion Mosque all day making sure everything looked good and was in good condition. It was great being there at the event because of all the people there. I saw people from my Jama'at but also people from far away as well. I was able to pray behind Huzoor (aba) which was a really incredible experience.

Being there at the event volunteering and offering prayers with all the people there made it feel like a Jalsa!

Their faces lit up!

Asifah Latif/ Age 14/ Zion

My experience of Huzoor visiting my Jama'at was very heartwarming and one that left me steadfast. Being able to see Huzoor (aba) and pray behind him was a very special moment that I will never forget. I will also never forget people's expressions. The way their faces lit up at the mention of Huzoor (aba) and lit up even more when they saw him. It warmed my heart to see people as happy as I was. It made me grateful that I was here to witness this blessed occasion with my family and friends. I hope that one day, *In Sha' Allah*, Allah will give me another opportunity to see Huzoor (aba) again soon.



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The Blessings of Khilafat

Aqsa Suhail/ Age 13/ Virginia North

Prophethood is the greatest form of righteousness the world has ever seen. God Almighty knew we would go astray after the demise of the Holy Prophet (sa) as after early Khilafat there was a gradual decline. So, he created the system of Khilafat that would last until the end of time.

Before the Promised Messiah (as) came, there was a time many Muslims worldwide went astray. They started prioritizing worldly matters and forgot all about Allah. This was the new life of many “Muslims.” Soon after declaring his title, the Promised Messiah (as) was able to bring so many Muslims back to the right path even though many people tried to bring him down. He initiated Ahmadiyyat.

When the Promised Messiah (as) passed away, Allah appointed a Khalifa. God created the system of Khilafat because He knew without leadership people would go astray again. These Khulafa give us advice on how we should act in this day and age. They help us understand the Qur’an in a modern sense. Allah knew things would change drastically because of modern times and these Khulafa would help us in so many ways. They help us create a stronger bond with Allah and become more united. They give speeches to inspire us, they give us interactive programs, and they teach us to love Allah and to remember our motto of **“Love for all hatred for none.”** These are the some of the many blessings of Khilafat.



Blessings of Khilafat

Kashifa Farhan / Age 15 / Virginia North

There are many blessings of Khilafat, but one of the most important things to me is the guidance that I receive when I listen to any sermon, speech or class given by our beloved Huzoor (aba). When I watch those classes or any Jalsa speech that is played on MTA, I feel I can find a solution for any problem. Whenever I feel lost, or I don't know something I find guidance and comfort in Huzoor's (aba) addresses and his classes with the Waqf-e-Nau around the world and I think that this is one of the many, many blessings that we have from Khilafat. Khilafat, in general, is not only meant to be a guidance for every Muslim across the world, but also to inform non-Muslims about our beautiful religion and clear any and all misconceptions of the Jama'at. Khilafat itself is the greatest blessing of all.



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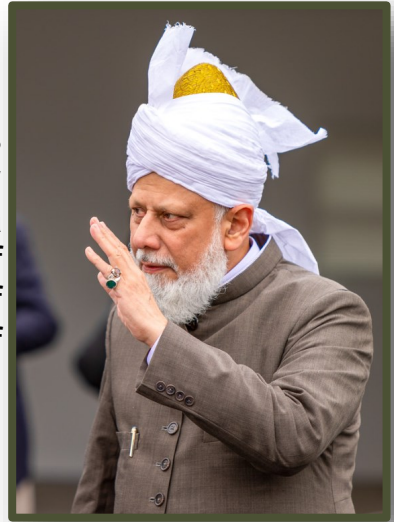
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THE BLESSINGS AND IMPORTANCE OF KHILAFAT

Hareem Bilal/ Age 10/ Virginia North

Ahmadi Muslims are blessed by Allah to have received the gift of Khilafat. Many people know of its importance in our Jama'at, how it is a source of leadership, a source of direction, a source of divine guidance, and a source of spiritual solace. All members of the Ahmadiyya Jama'at are united under one leader.



Khilafat was established to keep the teachings and foundations of Islam alive and keep its followers on the right path. Huzoor (aba) is divinely guided by Allah and has a direct link to Him. We must remember that we have the Khalifa of the time to give us advice and pray for us. We are most fortunate to have a Khalifa and we are all united under him together.





Our Khalifa is Coming

Meher Rehman/ Age 11/ Dallas

Late Summer was the time we received confirmation
Our Khalifa was coming to visit our nation
Anticipation filled our hearts
Dallas members were eager to start
Plans were made and Nasirat meetings were set
Mosque cleaning began and deadlines were met
Tarana practices for girls and boys
Langar Khana was bustling with noise
Our Khalifa is coming! We must prepare.
Our Khalifa is coming! Are you all aware?
Bright lights were hung, and flowers were planted.
The energy was electric, and our hearts, enchanted.
Oh, what a blessing, it surely will be
To see our Khalifa, plant a tree.
And finally, after a very long while,
Slogans were raised. Huzoor, gave a warm smile.
He waved his hand and said Salaam
Proceeded to the mosque to hear the Adhan.
Prayers behind the Khalifa? Oh, what a treat!
Prayers behind the Khalifa, nothing could be more
sweet!
Al-Hamdu Lillah! Al-Hamdu Lillah!
Huzoor came to Dallas. *Al-Hamdu Lillah!*

[*Langar Khana*—public kitchen]

I Was Filled With Joy!

Narmeen Rashad/ Age 11/ Austin

The hot Texas sun was bright the day of Huzoor's (aba) arrival. All the time spent practicing the *tarana* was worth it. I felt nervous, jittery, and excited all at the same time. My heart was in my throat. I couldn't contain my feelings. Then suddenly, somebody shouted, "Huzoor is here." As soon as I heard that, I was filled with joy. I spotted Huzoor's car, giving us our cue to begin the *tarana*. As we sang the moments felt surreal. It felt as if I had walked into a dream. But this wonderful event was happening right in front of me. It's not every day that you can see our Beloved Huzoor (aba) walk past you. I felt proud of myself, proud of my friends, and proud of all the other people that worked hard to get this *tarana* ready for Huzoor's arrival.



Afterwards, I replayed in my head what just happened. I felt so blessed to have seen Huzoor in real life. Afterwards, we all scurried inside for Prayers. I thank Allah for so many countless blessings; how unreal it felt, having the chance to actually meet Huzoor (aba), and so many other things. My family had the opportunity to spend the last three days of Huzoor's stay near him in Dallas. We said our Prayers behind Huzoor, and my father volunteered at the inaugural dinner. Soon, the time came to go back home. As we were driving back to Round Rock, I prayed to Allah that may I and my family have the chance to meet our Beloved Huzoor(aba) many times in the future, *In Sha' Allah*.



A SPECIAL MOMENT

Azlan Mahmood Ahmed / Age 6 / Fort Worth

I am very thankful that my beloved Huzoor (aba) came to visit us in Dallas and Fort Worth. I loved going to the mosque every day after school to see and pray behind Huzoor (aba). It made me very happy.



One thing I will always remember is that one day, I was playing outside the mosque and there was still time for Huzoor (aba) to come for Maghrib Prayer. Because there was still time, many people were still busy eating dinner. A miracle happened and Huzoor (aba) came out of the mosque early to head over to his house. I was busy running around but when I saw Huzoor (aba) I ran near the mosque and happily said, "As

-Salamu 'Alaikum my Beloved Huzoor, I love you!" Huzoor looked, smiled, and waved back at me and said, "Wa 'Alaikum as-Salam!" This moment was so special to me because it was only I and my family around. This experience will always hold a special place in my heart.



I love Huzoor (aba) so much.

A Moment I will Never Forget

Ayatt Bajwa / Age 10 / Queens

My family got the opportunity to follow our beloved Huzoor (aba) throughout his 2022 tour of the United States. My family and I caught the earliest flight on a Friday morning in order to catch the Jumu'ah prayer in Dallas, Texas. There wasn't much we wanted to do except to offer every Prayer we could behind our beloved Huzoor (aba).

Later that night, when we found out Huzoor (aba) was going to lead *Maghrib* and *Isha* Prayers in a small mosque an hour away from the Dallas Mosque, we rushed into the car and started driving to make sure we made it for that Prayer as well. When we got there, not many people were there - there were only about fifty ladies in the Lajna Hall. Since this was a new mosque, Huzoor (aba) decided to take a tour around the building after *Isha* Prayer.

At first, we were sitting quietly waiting to be allowed to exit the mosque. Suddenly, we hear some of the ladies in charge telling everyone to sit down and be quiet because Huzoor (aba) was coming in. At first, I couldn't believe that I was at such a close distance to our beloved Huzoor



(aba) and I was mesmerized by his presence. It happened so fast! This moment will always be imprinted in my mind! I am sure that I will never forget this experience.

A Blessed Opportunity

Jaziba Ahmad/ Age 14/ Austin



One of my most memorable moments during my beloved Huzoor's (aba) visit to Dallas was the Waqf-e-Nau class. I was really excited to learn that Huzoor was coming to Texas, but my eagerness increased even more after

learning about the class. I've seen many of Huzoor's (aba) classes on MTA, and the thought of being one of those girls actually in a class with him made me very excited. The day of the class I felt excited and nervous because I didn't know what to expect.

I also had the opportunity to sit in the front row which made me feel even more nervous but also really blessed. When Huzoor (aba) walked into the room, my heart wouldn't stop pounding, but after some time, I felt at ease. My favorite part of the class was the question-and-answer session. I really enjoyed listening to Huzoor's (aba) responses to all the different questions. I thought time would go by really slowly, but I barely even noticed the time pass because of listening to Huzoor (aba).

Even though the atmosphere felt really tense at the start, Huzoor (aba) made it comfortable with his presence. When the class ended, I felt sad that we had to go, but really blessed that I had the opportunity to sit down in a class with my beloved Huzoor (aba).

Huzoor's trip to Dallas

Daniyal Ahmad/ Age 14/ Dallas

The best part for me about Huzoor's (aba) trip to Dallas was the Waqf-e-Nau Class. I enjoyed being in the same room as Huzoor. It was exhilarating. During this class, Huzoor (aba) answered our questions in a very inspiring and easy to understand manner.

I also spent a lot of time waiting in line to say Prayers behind Huzoor. I never felt tired, and I wanted to do it over and over again because the blessings were great. Standing in line to see Huzoor pass by us before and after Prayers was always a special time during the whole week Huzoor was here. I took a week off from school and enjoyed every bit of it. I wish Huzoor (aba) would come again to Dallas.



CLOSER TO KHILAFAT

Sabeeka Ahmad/ Age 11/ Austin

In October 2022 our beloved Huzoor (aba) came to Dallas, Texas to inaugurate Bait-ul-Ikram Mosque. My family and I went to Dallas for five days to be in the company of our beloved Huzoor (aba). I was really excited to see him because I had not seen him since his last visit to the US in 2018.



One of my favorite memories of the Dallas visit is waiting and watching beloved Huzoor (aba) walk from

his residence to the mosque. I would join everyone outside the mosque, behind the barricades to greet Huzoor (aba). It was so amazing to see him up close. Even though I see Huzoor (aba) on MTA, seeing him in person made it feel really special. During this visit, I had the opportunity to offer Prayers behind our beloved Khalifa and offer Jumu'ah Prayer led by him.

Seeing Huzoor (aba) and being in his presence made me feel closer to Khilafat. It helped me strengthen the bond I have with not only Huzoor (aba), but the Jama'at as well. Being there with girls like me made me feel special and blessed to be a part of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at. I can't wait for our beloved Huzoor's (aba) next visit to America.



The First Time I Met Huzoor



Tamseela Ahmad/ Age 8/ Dallas

This was my first time seeing Huzoor (aba) in real life. I was part of the group of kids who greeted Huzoor when he first came to our mosque in Allen, Texas. He waved to me! I saw him many more times during the week while Huzoor (aba) stayed here because I live nearby in Allen, so my family and I went every day after school.



It was a blessing to say our Prayers behind Huzoor (aba). So many people and kids came from different states to join us for this event. They put up big tents and hung beautiful lights which looked amazing. We are very thankful for the hard-working volunteers that helped put the event together. It was definitely an event I will remember forever, and I hope to meet Huzoor (aba) again soon.

One Moment Stood Out!

Yussra Sheikh / Age 11 / Dallas

The first time I met Huzoor was when he visited Houston in 2018. This was the second time I met him in person, and I was very excited that I could see him for a



second time. I felt very emotional and happy when Huzoor (aba) arrived in Dallas. We spent a lot of time preparing the *tarana*, but it was all worth it. Seeing Huzoor (aba) brought everyone so much joy since this was his first visit to Dallas.

The inauguration of the new mosque in Dallas was one of the high points of the visit. But one moment stood out more to me than all the others. After the inauguration Huzoor (aba) planted a tree in front of the mosque. All the Lajna stood a few feet away while he was planting the tree. That was the closest some of us have ever been to Huzoor. We were very blessed to have Huzoor (aba) visit Dallas and everyone was very sad to see him go, but I am looking forward to seeing him

again in the future, *In Sha' Allah*. I pray that we can one day enjoy the blessing of having our beloved Huzoor visit again, *In Sha' Allah*.



The Blessings of Khilafat

Mahera Qudus Malik/ Age 7/ Virginia North

My whole life is a story of the many blessings of Khilafat. For example, when I was born, I had a hole in my heart. My parents were very worried, so they wrote a letter to our Beloved Khalifa, Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad (aba) asking for prayers. Miraculously due to Huzoor's (aba) prayers the hole in my heart disappeared, *Al-Hamdu Lillah!*

When I was newborn, my parents somehow forgot to feed me honey as is the sunnah of the Holy Prophet (sa). Later on, as I grew, they had this wish that Huzoor (aba) should give me "gurhti" [Tahneek] as it is called, but they were nervous to ask.



One day when we had a *mulaqat* [meeting] in Canada, Huzoor (aba) asked for honey to be brought in and fed me honey! Just like that! Even before I was born, Huzoor's (aba) prayers were with

me. My brother was praying for a baby sister, so he wrote to Huzoor (aba) for three years asking for prayers. My parents were worried that I would be a boy and my brother would be disappointed. However, Allah is the Greatest, and Hearer of Prayers, and especially the prayers of the Khalifa. Here I am, a girl, healthy and full of blessings. *Al-Hamdu Lillah.*

Do not think that I am writing all this to tell you that I am somehow special. In fact, the message I want to spread is that Khilafat is special. All Ahmadis can share similar or more amazing stories on how Khilafat changed their lives for the better and how Allah blessed them through Khilafat. Khilafat is surely a special Gift from Allah. We must never take it for granted. We must always listen to Huzoor (aba) and pray for him and his family and write to him often. Whenever you think it has been a long time since you last wrote a letter to Huzoor (aba), you should do it right away. It could be about anything you need prayers for.

If you had a bad dream, if you are going to a new school or starting a new school year, if one of your family members are having problems or if you are having problems, or if you want something like a pet or a new relative, always write and stay connected to Khilafat.

Cherish and safeguard Khilafat with your prayers, your actions, and your words. May Allah make us true helpers of Khilafat - always, Ameen!



Blessings and Importance of Khilafat

Manal Ahmad / Age 9/ Virginia North

Khilafat means succession, and its purpose is to bring mankind close to their Creator. Beloved Huzoor, Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad (aba), is the fifth successor to the Promised Messiah (as), who was a prophet of Allah.

Khilafat is a blessing and is the most important part of our lives as Ahmadi Muslims. Khilafat gives us a purpose in life. Whenever we are feeling lost or sad or hopeless, we can always turn to the light and guidance that the Khalifa of the time gives us. For example, when quarantine started, we were all

feeling lost, confused, and hopeless. We did not know what to do and who to listen to because our country was telling us one thing and scientists were telling us another thing. But when our beloved Huzoor (aba) gave us guidance, we all felt a sense of peace. This is a pure example of unity under Khilafat. This also shows the blessings that Allah gives us through Khilafat.



Khilafat is extremely important because it has been established by God to bring mankind under the Unity of God. At the time of the Khilafat-e-Rashida [the Rightly Guided Khilafat], the first four Khulafa after the demise of the Holy Prophet (sa), Islam was united. But after that Khilafat ended. We know that over time Islam became divided into seventy two sects (groups of people with different religious beliefs). After that, Allah brought the Ahmadiyya Khilafat, which is the successorship after the Promised Messiah (as).

It is our duty to listen to Huzoor (aba). In his Friday sermons and "This Week with Huzoor," Huzoor (aba) discusses topics on how to live a life that will please Allah, such as:



- Saying five daily Prayers
- Financial sacrifice
- Daily recitation of the Holy Qur'an and understanding the translation
- The Importance of visiting the sick
- Take care of our neighbors
- Always speak the truth and stay honest with your actions.



These are just a few of the many topics. If we follow these instructions, we will always make the right decisions, *In Sha' Allah*. And remember, whenever you feel sad or hopeless or lost, just turn to Khilafat. It will help guide you to the right path, *In Sha' Allah*.

IMPORTANCE OF KHILAFAT

Ali Ahmad Khan / Age 11 / North Jersey

Khilafat's main purpose is to carry the message of the Holy Qur'an and the Holy Prophet (sa) to the whole world. Khilafat is important because it keeps us Muslims united. With Khilafat we can have peace and love each other. Without Khilafat many bad things can happen to humankind.

Khilafat helps the people practice the true teachings of Islam. Khilafat can help you when you need help the most. One very important thing to always keep in our mind is that the Khalifa is always appointed by Allah the Almighty.



Khilafat helps us stay mentally healthy and stay happy. Without Khilafat we would begin to lose guidance on how we can improve our relationship with the Creator of the Earth and the Heavens, Allah Almighty. We'd lose guidance on what is right or wrong. Khilafat is something that one day will help the world when the world needs it.

Today, the Muslims of the world are facing different kinds of difficulties and hardships. If they believe in Khilafat, they can live in peace today.

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 Ahmadiyya, U.S.A., will review and approve all submissions before publication.



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

Unity Under Khilafat

Hassan Ahmad / Age 10/ North Jersey

Al-Hamdu Lillah, we are Ahmadi Muslims and we are so lucky that we have belief in Khilafat. Just a few months ago I saw a very good example of unity under Khilafat at the Bait-ur-Rahman Mosque.

When all Ahmadis are together we feel something that unites us. No matter what skin color you have or what your background is, we are just one body under the blessings of Khilafat. Joy is what we all feel when we are united as Ahmadis.

During Jumu'ah behind our beloved Huzoor (aba) I felt something unlock in my heart. After Jumu'ah I looked around and saw so many people feeling good and all of us having the same feeling I was having. Unity is something that keeps us close together. When we are united anything can be done. Under Khalifat there is only love.





IMPORTANCE OF KHILAFAT IN THE MODERN WORLD

Areeba Ali / Age 15 / Buffalo

In the Holy Qur'an, Allah says:

“Allah has promised to those among you who believe and do good works that He will surely make them Successors in the earth, as He made Successors from among those who were before them; and that He will surely establish for them their religion which He has chosen for them; and that He will surely give them in exchange security and peace after their fear: They will worship Me, and they will not associate anything with Me. Then who so is ungrateful after that, they will be the rebellious.” (Ch. 24, V. 56).

Khilafat is our guiding principle, and it brings us as Ahmadi Muslims closer to Allah and our community. For example, we have classes hosted by MTA with our Huzoor (aba) that Ahmadis around the world can learn from and then teach to their peers and family, spreading the message of Islam rapidly and effectively.

As the world is evolving, with new technologies and ideologies that could lead us astray from Allah, we should look to our Khalifa for guidance, so that we stay on the path that leads to paradise. Khilafat means succession which follows a Prophet of God and continues their work. Without



this succession, who knows what path we would be on right now and how many misguided people

there would be in the world without the teachings from our Khalifa. We must be grateful for the blessings that come with Khilafat and make every effort to follow its principles.

A MIRACLE STORY!

Kashifa Mirza / Age 13 / Virginia North

A year ago
On this day
In the living room
My father lay

For a month before
In a sterile room
He was cut open
His chest in two

Heart attack
That's what they told us
Surgery
In Allah we trust

His hands were ice cold
His voice weak
Yet so bold

Then one day
A letter was sent
Carefully folded into three
Into the envelope it went

From a box it was taken
In a room it was placed
Amongst its companions
Each story was faced

Then on one cold, English
evening
It was received
And the story unfolded
And I can't believe

That now
Every day
When I see my father
I begin to pray,

“Dear God,
I can never thank you
enough
For the miracle you showed
me
The hard times you got me
through
And the patience with which
you bestowed me.
But most of all, thank you
God,
For someone I will never
forget
Thank you for our beloved
Khalifa
Whose blessings are
immense.”

We all Started Singing

Fatima Suhail / Age 8 / Virginia North

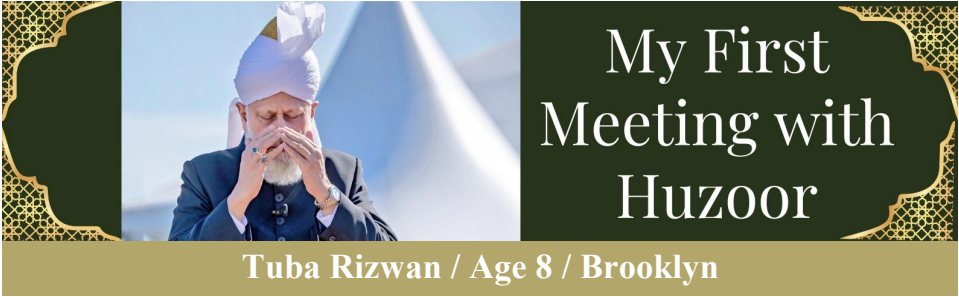


In October we were lucky that Huzoor (aba) visited Maryland. Before he came, a lot of preparations were being made. We practiced *taranas*, booked hotels to stay in Maryland during Huzoor's (aba) visit, and took COVID tests

so that we could see Huzoor (aba). On the day Huzoor came we parked our cars in the mall parking lot and got on school buses to go to the mosque. I was really excited to be going to see Huzoor (aba). When we got there the mosque was full of people waiting for Huzoor. As Huzoor walked in we all started singing beautiful *taranas* to welcome him.

The thing I enjoyed the most about Huzoor's (aba) visit was rushing outside to see him before prayers. Everyone was saying As-Salamu 'Alaikum to Huzoor (aba), including me. As he waved back, he walked to the mosque and lead us all in Prayer.





I met my beloved Huzoor (aba) on Tuesday, October 11, 2022 at 10:30 a. m. for the first time, *Al-Hamdu Lillah*. I was so excited because I had seen Huzoor on MTA. That day, when I entered the room, I felt so nervous that my eyes filled with tears. My beloved Huzoor (aba) said, “Come here” and he put a hand gently on my head and forehead. At that moment, I sensed that Huzoor (aba) was not just any normal human being but that he is the greatest human being, a man of God’

Our beloved Huzoor’s (aba) face is so bright! He gave me and my sister beautiful pens and a lot of prayers. I kept feeling that this person is very great and special from Allah. We stayed six days in Maryland and *Al-Hamdu Lillah* we spent the whole day at Bait-ur-Rahman Mosque. We said our prayers behind Huzoor (aba). We also had a *mulaqat* with *Apa-Jan* (Huzoor’s respected wife). She was so nice and loving. This will always be my best memory. My family is very happy. Now I wish to meet with Huzoor (aba) again. I would like to ask him some questions, *In Sha’ Allah*. I pray for Huzoor (aba) that may Allah give him a long, healthy, happy life, *Ameen*.



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الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ

Memorable Moments with Huzoor



Moeez Ahmad Sheikh / Age 8 / Virginia North

My most memorable moment from Huzoor's (aba) recent visit was when he reached Bait-ur-Rahman Mosque on October 10th, 2022. I was part of the Atfal group that recited poems for Huzoor's (aba) arrival. It was my first time memorizing a Punjabi poem and I enjoyed having the chance to memorize it with my Atfal friends. This was my very first time seeing Huzoor (aba) up close and offering prayers many times behind him. It felt like attending Jalsa throughout the week and I enjoyed every minute I was there throughout Huzoor's visit.



I was also lucky to see Huzoor (aba) so close for another few minutes while he inaugurated the Lajna Hall Complex and be part of the silent prayers. It was great to be part of this event in person. It was a blessing to be in

the same place as Huzoor (aba), listening to Huzoor's (aba) Friday Sermon within the same mosque. I wish and pray that Huzoor visits the US every year, *In Sha' Allah!*

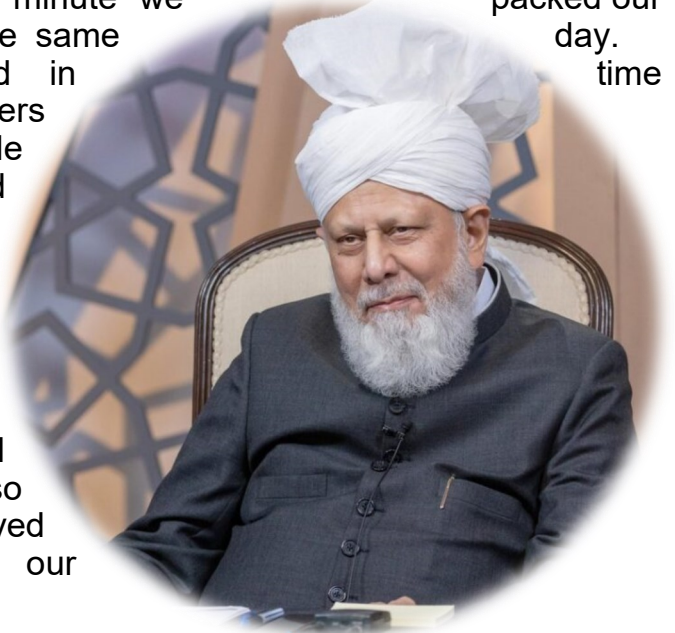


I THANK ALLAH

Hania Amina Mannan / Age 7 / Hartford

We made plans to visit Huzoor (aba) and pray behind him at Bait-ur-Rehman Mosque in Maryland. Then we got sick with COVID and all our excitement was gone. We prayed hard to get better soon so we could show a negative test to enter the mosque because we didn't want to risk our beloved Huzoor's (aba) health. It was the last week of Huzoor's stay in the USA. We didn't want to miss praying behind our Khalifa, so we prayed hard. *Al-Hamdu Lillah*, on Friday morning we tested negative and soon after without wasting a single minute we packed our things and left the same day.

We arrived in time for Jumu'ah prayers and stood outside to see our beloved Huzoor (aba). Upon seeing him I was very, very happy and my smile was the biggest smile I had ever had! I thank Allah so much that He paved our way to see our beloved Imam.



May Allah give Huzoor (aba) a long life, *Ameen*.



PRAYERS BEHIND HUZOOR



Amna Bushra / Age 7 / Hartford

My story began when I heard Huzoor (aba) was coming to the USA. I was so excited, but we could not meet Huzoor (aba) personally because we had already met him during his last visit to the USA. So, instead, my parents decided that we should go and offer Prayers behind him. My dad took time off from work and my brother and I informed our school that we were going to Maryland to see our Khalifa.

It was a six-hour drive! Bait-ur-Rahman Mosque was decorated beautifully with banners and lights. Soon after our arrival it was time for *Zuhr* and *Asr* Prayers. That's when I saw Huzoor (aba) in front of me, very closely! There was light coming from his face. His presence was spiritual.

It was a beautiful experience to offer Prayers behind him. I cannot thank Allah enough for giving me the opportunity to offer my Prayers for so many days behind Huzoor (aba).



I also got the chance to meet Huzoor's respected wife, Apa Jan, the next day. I will always remember my trip to Maryland to see Huzoor (aba).





Blessings of Khilafat

Malaika Khan / Age 13 / North Jersey

Khilafat means succession. Khilafat is one of the most beneficial accomplishments for Islam. Khilafat is a shield and as an Ahmadi Muslim we believe that our future would be safe in the bond of Khilafat. Allah says in the Holy Qur'an:

“Allah has promised to those among you who believe and do good works that He will surely make them Successors in the Earth, as He made Successors from among those who were before them; and that He will surely establish for them their religion which He has chosen for them; and that He will surely give them in exchange security and peace after their fear: They will worship Me, and they will not associate anything with Me. Then whoso is ungrateful after that, they will be rebellious.” (Ch. 24, V. 56)

Allah the Almighty says in this verse that when He makes successors in the Earth then all the fears of the people will turn into peace and security. The main purpose of the Khalifa is to bring people closer to Allah the Almighty. The Khalifa is such a leader who is chosen by Allah the Almighty. Khilafat is a priceless gift of Allah the Almighty. We are so lucky that Allah the Almighty has granted us the Blessings of Khilafat.

Khilafat gives us security and peace of mind. Khilafat is a great divine blessing that has been bestowed on the Ahmadis. May Allah the Almighty help us to improve our faith in Khilafat, *Ameen*.





Blessings of Khilafat

Shafia Ahmad Virk / Age 13 / Hartford

The Holy Prophet of Islam (sa) passed away like all prophets before him, but his message was to endure till the end of days. Thus, Allah Almighty promised in the Holy Qur'an that Islam would be nurtured and fortified through the dedicated efforts of his rightly guided spiritual successors, His Khulafa.

The term "Khilafat" means successorship, and the Khalifa is a successor to a Prophet of Allah (sa) whose goal is to carry to completion the tasks of reformation and moral training that were seeded by the Holy Prophet (sa). The community of followers of the Prophet of Allah (sa) continues to nurture its faith and practices under the blessing of the institution of Khilafat for as long as Allah wishes. Since the advent of the Promised Messiah (as) there have been five Khulafa to help spread the true Islam. Now is the era of the present Khalifa, the fifth Khalifa, our beloved Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad (aba).

The Muslims of the world who should have been united and in harmony are instead divided into countless sects and divisions. It is not only in religious aspects but in politics too. When there is such division, they cannot progress in the world, which requires a united and harmonious people. Under Khilafat we are all united and our community has made extraordinary progress, *Al-Hamdu Lillah!*





So Happy!



Saqeena Zakia Ahmed/ Age 7/ Hartford

Al-Hamdu Lillah I am so lucky! I got to see Huzoor (aba)! We drove to Maryland for six hours. When we got there it was raining, so I went into the tent. The rain sounded really loud in the tent. I said prayers and I saw Huzoor (aba) on the big screen. Then I also saw Huzoor (aba) going into the mosque after waiting for hours outside. I felt so happy! It was so exciting to see Huzoor (aba) in person. It was a moment not to forget. It was unforgettable. I wrote a letter to Huzoor (aba) after the trip. I felt extremely happy, *Al-Hamdu Lillah!*

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Something Special

Khadijah Mannan/ Age 10/ Hartford

My family had the unique chance to see the Divinely appointed Khalifa of our day and age! It was a true blessing. It is special because this sacred position was promised by Allah in Surah An-Nur of the Holy Qur'an, by the Holy Prophet Muhammad (sa) in a *Hadith*, and by the Promised Messiah (as) in his book *Al-Wasiyyat*.

We made a trip to our national headquarters, Bait-ur-Rahman Mosque, just to catch a glimpse of the fulfillment of "the second manifestation of Divine Power" who we consider to be our beloved spiritual father, Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad, may Allah be his Helper, the fifth successor to the Promised Messiah (as).

We have seen beloved Huzoor (aba) before a few times during our trip to the international Jalsa Salana in the UK where we were honored with the opportunity of having personal family meetings with Huzoor (aba). The pictures of those memorable *mulaqats* still hang on our living room walls. However, this time Huzoor (aba) flew all the way to the US to inaugurate houses of Allah.

Something special happened. A Murabbi from the national headquarters contacted my father and asked if he was available to call the Adhan for the *Zuhr* and *Asr* Prayers on Huzoor's (aba) last Saturday with us in America. This happened to be the same day and time that my uncle's Nikah was to be announced by Huzoor (aba). I remember how honored and ecstatic my father felt. In fact, I have never seen him more happy and this excitement energized all of us!

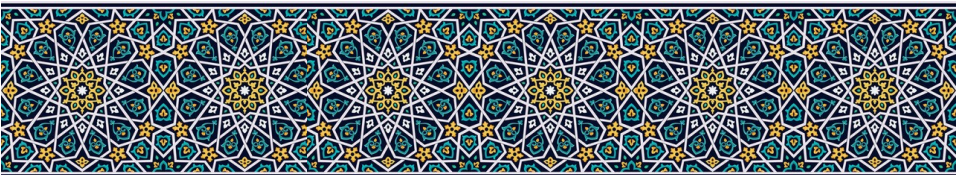


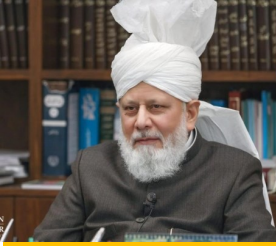
We recited *Durood Sharif* and prayers on our way there, from Connecticut to Maryland, a drive of over four hours! When we finally got there all our emotions were built up to do the best thing we were created for - perform Salat behind our Khalifa, the closest living person to God on earth. We were luckily allowed inside the mosque, and I raced to look down the glass window to see our beloved Imam enter the House of the Gracious God. I then saw my father call the Adhan beautifully. I was humbled and proud of him. When Huzoor (aba) entered an indescribable light surrounded him. It was a dream come true, and a spiritual feeling that I can't describe overcame me.

Although I knew he couldn't hear me I still said, "*Wa 'Alaikum As-Salam wa Rahmatullahe wa Barakatohu*" when Huzoor (aba) said "*Salam*" and waved to everyone. We arranged ourselves in rows to be led in Prayer by our noble leader. It was icing on the cake to hear my father recite Takbir before the Khalifa led us in the worship of our One Creator in the best way. We heard Huzoor (aba) announce many *Nikahs* because in those moments we had an extra chance to see Huzoor's shining face and hear his soothing voice. When Huzoor said 'Salam' and left, I too said 'Salam' to Huzoor and waved.

Although it was a short experience, it was still impactful and left a lasting impression. For me Huzoor (aba) is a manifestation of Divine Power and the support for the Promised Messiah (as) and the Holy Prophet (sa). When I have these experiences with Huzoor (aba) it makes me feel like God is truly present and showing me love.

May Almighty Allah bless our *Ameer-ul-Momineen* and strengthen Huzoor (aba) with His Holy Spirit and make others see and reflect his light. I pray to become his helper, *Ameen*.





LOVE FOR KHILAFAT

Aiza Mahmood/ Age 11/ Virginia South

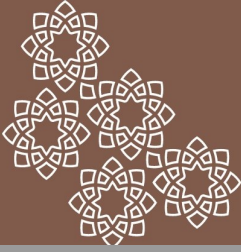
When I heard that Huzoor (aba) was coming to visit the USA, I felt very happy, emotional, excited, and blessed all at the same time. South Virginia Nasirat started preparing for the *tarana* to show our love and emotions for Khilafat. We practiced a lot so we would recite well upon his arrival. Unfortunately, I couldn't go to Zion, or Dallas but waited anxiously for Huzoor (aba) to arrive at Bait-ur-Rahman Mosque, Maryland. All the Nasirat wore white clothing and their assigned colored scarfs.

Once Huzoor (aba) arrived, we were so excited that we forgot to do the *taranas* and started waving to our beloved Huzoor instead. Even though we were standing for hours waiting for him, as soon as I saw him all tiredness was gone as I felt energized and very happy to see him. He walked towards Nasirat and smiled while waving happily at us, it seemed he directly looked at me which made me even happier. I stood outside to see him as much as I could before and after Prayers and felt him look at me with kindness and love each and every time.

*"Khalifa ke hum hain, Khalifa hamara,
wo dil hai hamara, Aaqahamara"*

*[We belong to the Khalifa, this Khalifa of ours,
he is our heart, he is our leader]*

After his blessed tour to the USA, we went to London for a *mulaqat* with Beloved Huzoor (aba). We had the pleasure of meeting him, talking with him, getting chocolates and a pen from him. I enjoyed eating that chocolate from Huzoor (aba) more than ever before, *Al-Hamdu Lillah!*



Huzoor's Arrival

Maria Ahmad/ Age 8/ Maryland

We were very fortunate to have our beloved Huzoor (aba) visit us in Silver Spring, Maryland in October 2022. I eagerly waited for the day he would arrive, counting down the days until I would see my Khalifa in person. The Maryland Nasirat had been practicing *taranas* to welcome our dear Huzoor (aba). The day of Huzoor's (aba) arrival we woke up early and started preparations to go to Bait ur-Rahman Mosque. At the mosque everyone stood excitedly waiting to welcome our Khalifa.

The moment we all had been waiting for had finally come. When we saw Huzoor's (aba) car arrive at the gates of the mosque we started singing our *taranas*. The Nasirat of Maryland were wearing green scarves and holding flags.

When I saw my beloved Huzoor (aba) my heart filled with joy. It was a moment I could never forget. Then we all headed towards the mosque for *Zuhr* and *Asr* Prayers behind our beloved Huzoor (aba). We couldn't believe how fortunate we were to have our Khalifa bless us with his presence and lead prayers at our local mosque. I pray our beloved Huzoor (aba) visits us again soon.



Miracles Of God

Syeda Mahnoor Shah/Age 12/Hartford

There are times which feel unreal, and they could be the best moments of your life. This October, we drove 330 miles west from my home in Connecticut for something miraculous. By the grace of Allah, our beloved Huzoor (aba) visited the US and stayed in Zion, Dallas and Maryland. Our trip was five hours long, not including stops. We arrived just in time for Jumu'ah Prayers and were able to catch a glimpse of Huzoor (aba) before the Prayer started. That entire week we were able to see Huzoor (aba) before and after every prayer.

Many wishes of mine also came true during this day. The first miracle was our family meeting with Huzoor (aba). We were hoping to have a family meeting, but as some of us



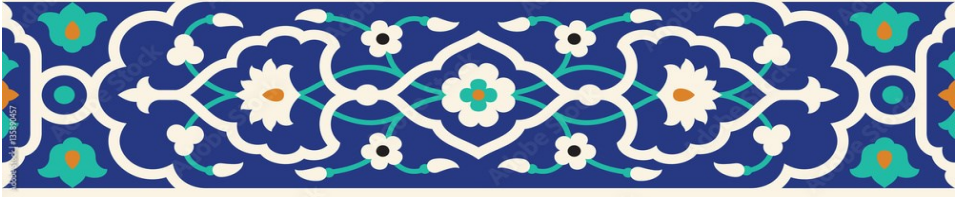
had already seen him in 2018, it was not possible. After *Zuhr* and *Asr* Prayers on the second day, we were heading back to the hotel when my dad received a call from Murabbi Sahib. We immediately pulled over as he said that it was urgent. We all held our breath as he delivered the news. He

said, "How would you like a family meeting today? Can you get here in twenty minutes?" Another family was unable to come and there was a free slot of time. We couldn't believe what just happened and drove there in a rush, feeling thankful the entire time. We hurried through the checkpoints

and made it to the waiting rooms. After about half an hour, it was our turn and the excitement on my little brother's face was as plain as day. Our first family meeting will forever hold a special place in my heart.

Another prayer of mine came true during my one week stay in Maryland; I was able to attend a Waqf-e-Nau class! We thought I could not attend as I was only 12. I was on my way home from school when my mom told me the news, "I received an email and found out that the age limit is now 12 and over, and you just made it." Fast forward to the day of the class and I was nervous, yet excited as I was attending the class with my mum. After *Zuhr* Prayer I changed into the dress code of the class and went upstairs to wait in line. We got our name tags, pink hijabs [scarves], and temporary placements. Everyone had snacks and were taught how to properly wear the hijab. As I was in the youngest age group, I was seated in the front row. I was expecting Huzoor (aba) to come from the door next to his chair and was quite surprised when he entered from the door behind us and walked past my row. Although the class was an hour long, it flew by. This was a special trip filled with excitement and new experiences which will always be with me.





Meeting Huzoor

Eshaal Syed/ Age 11/ Virginia South

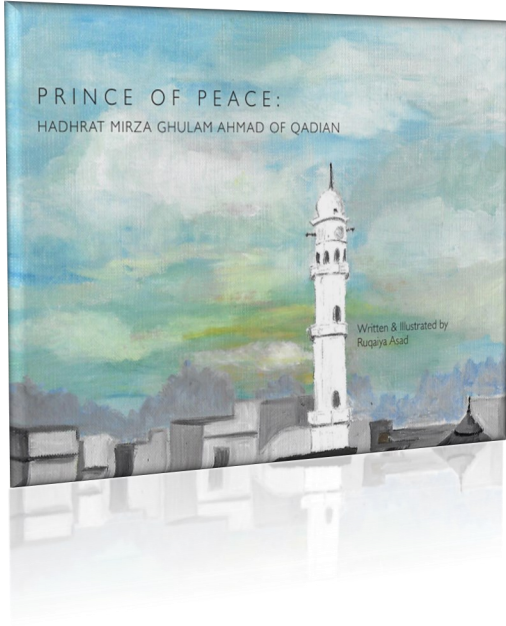


While living in Pakistan, we couldn't even imagine that we would ever meet Huzoor (aba). By the grace of Allah we got a visa to America. Within a few months, we heard that Huzoor (aba) is visiting America for a month and we were also permitted to meet him. Our meeting was to be held on October 13, 2022 in Bait-ur-Rahman Mosque. We were very excited but a little nervous when we went there. After some hours it was finally time to meet Huzoor (aba). We went into his office and introduced ourselves. My father told Huzoor about how and why we came here. Huzoor (aba) prayed for us and gave us chocolates and a pen with his name on it. We also had a picture taken with Huzoor (aba). We see Huzoor (aba) every Friday in the Friday sermon on MTA but we were so amazed by his personality. His face was as bright as the moon. My meeting with Huzoor was no less than a miracle to me.



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The Jumu'ah Line

Maaz Rashid Kiran/ Age 10/ Orlando

I went to Maryland for the amazing chance to attend Jumu'ah in the mosque while our dear Huzoor (aba) led the prayer. As my father and I left the mosque after Fajr Prayer we noticed a line, so my father asked, "Is this the line for the shuttle?" A man replied while laughing, "This is the line for the shuttle to Jumu'ah!" We quickly joined the line. My father met some friends he hadn't seen in a long time. We waited in the line for a whole seven hours! Finally, we were able to start entering the mosque and we got in the fourth row!

Al-Hamdu Lillah, we had an amazing time in Maryland and saw Huzoor (aba) in person up close. May Allah keep our dear Huzoor safe, and healthy, and may we have more chances to be in his company, Ameen.

A BRIGHT LIGHT

Fareeha Meher Iqbal/ Age 10/ Virginia North

When I heard that Huzoor (aba) was going to visit America I was very excited to meet him. I started practicing the welcoming *taranas* that we were going to sing for him on his arrival. On the day of his arrival to Bait-ur-Rahman



Mosque, I was standing at the front of the crowd with other Nasirat. As soon as I saw Huzoor (aba) step out of his car I was so happy, and we all started singing loudly. As Huzoor walked past us, he waved at me. I also noticed how he was glowing, like there was a bright light all around him. This made me realize that Huzoor (aba) is a very special person who is blessed by Allah.

Al-Hamdu Lillah, I had the chance to see Huzoor many times during his stay at Bait-ur-Rahman and to pray behind him. I feel very blessed, and I will always remember that special time.

PLANT TEN TREES!

Hibbatul Bari Iqbal/ Age 12/ Virginia North

When Huzoor (aba) came to Maryland, I was able to attend the Waqf-e-Nau class with Huzoor at Bait-ur-Rahman. I was fortunate to be sitting in the very first row right in front of Huzoor. I learned many things from Huzoor (aba) during the class. He told us that every Waqf-e-Nau should plant at least ten trees in a year to help protect the



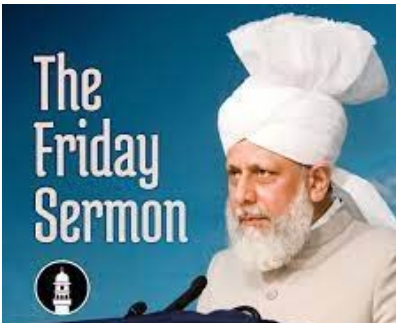
environment, and that we should learn to read and write in Urdu to understand the books of the Promised Messiah (as). He also advised us to read the Holy Qur'an daily with translation. I have made these my new goals for 2023 and I hope I'll be able to achieve them. May Allah

enable all of us to obey the instructions of Huzoor (aba) so that we may become better Ahmadi Muslims. Ameen.

THE BEST GIFT!

Kinza Malik/ Age 10/ Virginia North

Khilafat means successorship and the Khalifa is a successor to a prophet of Allah. The Khalifa completes the task of reformation and moral training that was started by the prophet of Allah. Khilafat is important because a Khalifa provides guidance on how Allah wants us to live in the world. This teaches us that when we follow the guidance of a Khalifa, we can have a direct connection with Allah. Having a direct connection with Allah makes sure that we are safe from wrong things.



Our beloved Khalifa (aba) speaks to us every week through Friday sermons and “This Week with Huzoor” and we can listen to him and take notes of his instructions and apply them to our daily lives. For example, in “This Week with Huzoor,” Huzoor (aba) once said that

we could stay connected to our faith by saying Prayers on time, by reading the Holy Qur’an, and by avoiding sins. I try to follow his instructions and that helps me build a good connection with Allah under the guidance of Khilafat.



We can also establish a connection by writing letters to our beloved Huzoor (aba). He reads every letter that we send him and responds to us all

with prayers and guidance. There is no other leader in the world who works so hard to establish a direct connection with his followers.

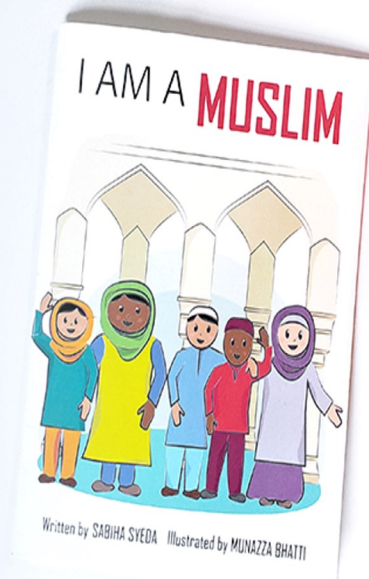
During Huzoor's (aba) visit to the US, I waved at Huzoor (aba), and he looked right at me and waved back, which made me feel so special. I was so happy! I said my prayers behind Huzoor (aba) and later, I had a *mulaqat* with beloved Huzoor (aba). During the *mulaqat* dearest Huzoor (aba) blessed me with his signature on a letter I wrote to him, this was the best gift I had ever received in my life, he also gave me a chocolate and a pen. I felt so special and prayed that may Allah continue to shower His blessings on our family by keeping a direct and strong connection with Khilafat, *Ameen*.

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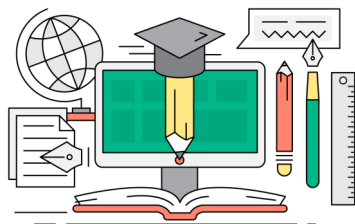


The Rightly Guided Khulafa

Sophia Chaudhry/ Age 13/ Virginia North

The Institution of Khilafat is desperately needed in this day and age because Muslims are split into various sects. Disagreements prevent them from making progress in the world, whereas a unified and peaceful society is able to make progress.

Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) was chosen as the first Khalifa in Islam at the time of the demise of the Holy Prophet (sa), when all the believers were overcome with grief. There were various false prophets and rebellions during the time of Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) but he was able to vanquish all rebel and disorderly forces, firmly defending Islam. By the end of his Khilafat, the Muslims had come back together under a single rule which demonstrates how we can join together in peace through Khilafat.



Muslims were blessed under Hazrat 'Umar's (ra) leadership after Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) passed away. Hazrat 'Umar (ra) was able to do many wonderful things during his time as Khalifa such as popularizing the old age pension system. Boys and girls were both required to attend school.

Under his direction, the population expanded in prosperity overall and the public treasury provided allowances to the weak and the disabled. This was all because Hazrat 'Umar (ra) was a great leader, and he guided the Muslims.

Hazrat Uthman (ra) was divinely chosen to be the

third Khalifa. During Hazrat Uthman's (ra) Khilafat, he built many new homes, streets, and mosques. When certain forces attempted to expel Hazrat Uthman (ra) and bring about the end of his Khilafat, he displayed amazing patience. Even though those forces were aggressive, he didn't attack them because he didn't want to kill innocent Muslims. To safeguard the unity of Khilafat and advance Islam, Hazrat Uthman (ra) gave his life. This shows how much Hazrat Uthman (ra) sacrificed for peace and harmony in the community.

Days after Hazrat Uthman's (ra) passing, Hazrat Ali (ra) was chosen to serve as the fourth Khalifa. In an effort to prevent conflict and violence, he moved the capital to Kufa in modern day Iraq because Medina provided little protection. Although Hazrat Ali (ra) made an effort to appease the Muslims, the anti-Khilafat disease that had appeared wasn't easy to eradicate. Sadly, there were many wars which ultimately led to Hazrat Ali's (ra) demise. This represents how determined this Khalifa was to establish peace in society.



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UNITY UNDER KHILAFAT

Zara Laiq/ Age 13/ Virginia North

In this day and age, people have become more divided and disconnected from each other than ever before. God created us to worship Him in Unity, but many worldly distractions cause us to stray from the purpose of



our creation to worship Allah the Almighty. If there is anyone who is truly practicing unity in faith in these times, it is Ahmadi Muslims. This is because of the valuable guidance that we have in the form of Khilafat.

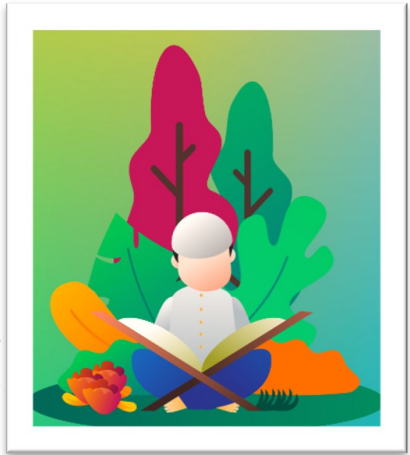
Khilafat is the strong bond that keeps us together when we start drifting away from the purpose of our creation and reminds us to come back. Our beloved Khalifa continuously guides us towards the ways of gaining Allah's pleasure and towards maintaining unity in our community.

Our faith teaches that without an Imam, we can never have unity. Just like when we go to the mosque to pray to Allah, there must be an Imam so that we can all stand and pray together. The Holy Qur'an emphasizes the importance of praying in congregation and prefers it over praying by yourself for that very reason. Just like an Imam is important for praying, similarly a Khalifa is important for guiding the entire community.



Khilafat has blessed us with the ability to create a direct connection with Allah. Through writing letters, listening to the sermons, and meeting with Huzoor (aba) we can strengthen our connection with Huzoor (aba) and Allah.

We have the Holy Qur'an, the ahadith of the Holy Prophet (sa) and the various books of the Promised Messiah (as), to consult and to learn from. As people who already have every source of religious knowledge at our fingertips, why must we have a Khalifa?



Promised Messiah (as) says that humans are born into a state of *Nafs-i-Ammarah* [the self which incites to evil]. This is the natural state where human instinct is not controlled. As your spiritually deepens, you enter the state of *Nafs-i-Lawammah* [the reproving self] where you practice self-control and try to become a person with high moral qualities. The highest state is *Nafs-i-Mutmainnah* [the soul at rest] where you achieve a perfectly harmonious relationship with God Almighty. Most people are somewhere in the middle because we often make mistakes. However, this is where the help of Khilafat comes. To guide us constantly and to give us the reminders that we need. May Allah enable us to improve ourselves and overcome our weaknesses under the blessed guidance of our beloved Khalifa (aba), *Ameen*.



The Blessings of Khilafat

Emaan Ahmed/ Age 13/ Virginia North

The word Khilafat means succession and a Khalifa is a successor. Khilafat is a great blessing because it is the way to establish the authority of Allah on Earth, and the Khalifa is the one who upholds that authority within the community of followers. Allah is the one who appoints the Khalifa and He selects the most pious person for the task. Once a Khalifa is selected, he remains a Khalifa for the rest of his life. A Khalifa is important because he has the job of obeying the Holy Prophet (sa) whom he is succeeding and spreading the knowledge of Allah to mankind.



Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) was the first Khalifa after the Holy Prophet (sa). Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) led by both precept and by example and was able to crush all forces of revolt and disorder thereby fully safeguarding Islam from discord and disintegration. When the Holy Prophet (sa) died, it was an incredibly sad day for the Muslims, but Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) fulfilled his duties as the Khalifa, serving devotedly for about two and a half years.

Hazrat 'Umar (ra) became the second Khalifa. He served in a very humble and tolerant way. In fact, his Khilafat represents a golden period in the history of Islam. He dramatically expanded the Muslim Empire. Hazrat 'Umar (ra) also established *Majlis-e-Shura*, a consultative body of advisors to the Khalifa. He had an exceedingly kind personality and served as the Khalifa for ten years.

Hazrat Uthman was elected as the third Khalifa and was

known to be a very admirable leader and rightly guided. He united the Muslims on the reading of one authoritative dialect of the Holy Qur'an. In general, Hazrat Uthman (ra) showed great tolerance and patience even towards the end of his Khilafat when various groups wanted to depose him. Hazrat Uthman (ra) served the Muslims for



twelve years and served them with great integrity, honesty, and piety.

Hazrat Ali (ra) was elected the fourth Khalifa. His priority was to restore law and order to the state. Hazrat Ali (ra) wanted to avoid fighting and bloodshed because he had already lost so many Muslims in the fight to keep Islam. He served for five years and earned the title of Al-Sharif [the noble].

The Khilafat-e-Ahmadiyya, Hazrat Maulana Hakeem Nur-ud-Din (ra), Hazrat Mirza Bashir-ud-Din Mahmood Ahmad (ra), Hazrat Mirza Nasir Ahmad (rh), Hazrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad (rh), and Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad (aba) are the successors after the Promised Messiah (as). They continue his valuable work of bringing us close to God. They are all true blessings for us. Our current Khalifa Mirza Masroor Ahmad (aba) is guiding our community through a time of great global skepticism and a time when there is so much animosity towards Islam.



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KHILAFAT

NAMAZ

KHALIFA

ALLAH

HUZOOR

HIJAB

QURAN

NASIRAT

ISLAM

MULAQAT



BLESSINGS OF KHILAFAT

Sundas Aiman / Age 9 / Virginia North

I learned that Allah is most giving. Whenever I ask my parents for something, they always say, “Ask Allah as He is the Provider.” I learned that Huzoor (aba) has a connection to Allah.

Allah will be happy if we listen to Huzoor’s (aba) Friday Sermons and follow the guidance Huzoor (aba) mentions. Huzoor (aba) tells us about different topics like Allah, the Holy Qur’an, Salat, and things like Halloween, Christmas, and much more.



Allah listens to our prayers. I prayed that I would meet dear Huzoor (aba) and Allah listened to my prayers and blessed me. I,



along with my parents, went to London for the Jalsa Salana UK in 2019 and met with Huzoor (aba). I also saw Huzoor (aba) when he visited the Maryland mosque last year. I enjoyed this time. We sang beautiful welcome *taranas* for

Huzoor (aba) and offered many prayers behind Huzoor (aba).

There is unity under Khilafat, and we are very blessed to have Khilafat. I write a letter to Huzoor (aba) every month. May Allah bless our Huzoor (aba) with happiness, *Ameen*.



HUZOOR'S BLESSED TRIP

Muneefa Khan/ Age 9/ Hartford



From September to October 2022, Huzoor (aba) visited America for the first time after COVID. I went to Dallas and Maryland to see him. Every morning we went to the mosque to offer *Fajr* Prayers, especially in Dallas because they were led by Huzoor (aba).

In Maryland, there were so many people waiting outside the mosque. They all came to see Huzoor when he was going to the mosque for *Isha* prayer.



It was raining so hard and barely anyone had an



umbrella. The lady on the security duty told everyone to go inside because it was raining and Huzoor (aba) might use a different entrance to the masjid. Everybody obeyed. But everyone was also willing to stay outside in the rain and wait for Huzoor longer.

I also had lots of anxiety going to school and I was always nervous at school. After Huzoor's (aba) visit, I felt better and didn't have any more anxiety. I also started wearing my *hijab* at school. Huzoor's (aba) visit pulled away all my anxiety.



MEMORABLE MOMENTS

Tanzeela Ahmed/ Age 11/ Virginia North

I just turned eleven on October 14th when our Beloved Huzoor (aba) was visiting us at Bait-ur-Rahman Mosque in Maryland. I truly enjoyed those very special ten days. As we live in North Virginia, my mom and dad drove us every day, waking up early at 3:30 a. m. We took time off from school and work and nothing stopped us just being there with our beloved Khalifa (aba).

It felt like there was nothing important except praying behind our Beloved Huzoor (aba) five times a day in congregation.

Seeing Huzoor (aba) walk out of the mosque after Prayers, the way he silently waved at us, us following him wherever we could. Seeing our dear Huzoor (aba) in real life rather than MTA was something which made me forget everything else.

As my mom, dad, and my brothers were all busy volunteering, I also volunteered at hospitality with my mom. It was so good to greet people, help them where needed, and be kind and smile to make visitors feel comfortable (with the help of chai, coffee and cookies!).

My heart was filled with so much gratitude for Allah's blessings, I wrote a poem after offering my *Fajr* Prayer at Bait-ur-Rahman Mosque when everything was quiet.



MEETING HUZOOR

Ziha Shafique / Age 11 / Virginia South

I went to Bait-ur-Rahman Mosque in Maryland to meet Huzoor (aba). My experience was marvelous! Everyone was



excited when Huzoor (aba) came. There was a lot of joy and it was cheerful because we hadn't seen Huzoor (aba) for a long time because of COVID-19.

We recited *Taranas* when Huzoor (aba) was making his entry

which was so fun. Everyone was assigned with volunteering duties to make Huzoor's (aba) visit successful.

Huzoor (aba) meets with the press to give guidance to the world, and also teach the world about the real meaning of Islam and how our community is helping humanity and spreading peace throughout the world.

We learned that we should offer five prayers daily, be united, help each other in difficult times, and recite the Holy Qur'an daily. Huzoor's (aba) visit was full of enjoyment. I saw more people and made more friends who came from different states from across the USA.



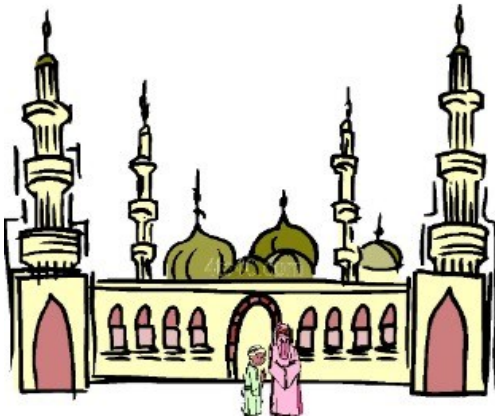
Blessings of Khilafat

Naila Ahmad Virk / Age 12 / Hartford

I was very lucky to have the opportunity to see Huzoor (aba) up-close. It was a very happy moment and one that I will never forget for the rest of my life. During my visit, I learned many new things about Khilafat.

Khilafat is the system of leaders who come after a Prophet passes away and continue to carry out his message to the world. There have been five successors to the Promised Messiah (as), and we are now under the leadership of the fifth successor, Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad (aba).

Khilafat establishes the authority of Allah on Earth, and the Khalifa strives to uphold that authority within the community of followers. For the believers, Khilafat is a



symbol of Allah's Unity. The believers partake of the blessings of Khilafat by holding firm to their faith and practices, united under him.

It was a blessing of Khilafat that so many people from all over America came to visit. Seeing Huzoor (aba) in person made me feel different, unlike I've ever felt after having seen anyone in

my life. I don't know why, but it was a great blessing for me. I loved the mosque. It was beautiful! I was so surprised to see how people volunteered to make and serve food and clean the area for so many people. It was very loving. I loved the trip to Maryland to see Huzoor (aba). It was awesome!

Candle of Khilafat

Shafia Ahmed Mallik / Age 11/ Maryland

When Maryland Jama'at found out Huzoor (aba) was coming to visit our mosque after four years, we were overjoyed. A new energy had come over our community. We focused on the tasks given to us and did them with gusto, thinking of the moment Huzoor (aba) would arrive and grace us with his presence. *tarana* practice felt short, because we were so focused on our beloved Khalifa and how it would feel to have him close to us again. It was only the beginning of the blessings we gained through Khilafat.

The moment we heard he was arriving, all the Nasirat rushed outside and got into position for *tarana*. American flags were handed out as we waited for his entourage to come rolling through the heavy gates. Finally, he stepped out of the car and started making rounds. Many tears were shed, and we sang from the bottom of our hearts for our Khalifa and the joy he brought us. Those of us with flags stretched our arms high and stood on the tips of our feet for just a glimpse. The mere sight of him revived our faith.



Those of us on registration duty arrived at 3:00-4:00 a.m. in the morning and left past 10:00 at night, but none of us felt any strain or stress at all. His very presence gave us life. Around Prayer times we would rush to the prayer hall to



get a spot to offer prayer behind His Holiness (aba).

The week passed by much too fast however, and before long it was time for Huzoor (aba) to leave.



As with his arrival, many tears were shed; these tears were out of sadness for his leaving. When he left, he took our hearts with him. The flowers that had bloomed so magnificently the week he was here, withered. We sang for him with deep sorrow in our hearts and minds. The blessed week was a treat like no other, and something I will never forget. Huzoor (aba) is our light, and may Allah be his Helper, *Ameen*.



Rameeza Khalid/ Age 8/ Virginia North

Unity means the state of being united or joined as a whole. As Ahmadi Muslims, we are blessed with Khilafat. Our Khalifa tells us about the teachings of Islam. It is important that we listen to the Friday sermon every Friday to stay in touch with our beloved Huzoor (aba). All of us Ahmadi Muslims are one big family and being part of a family requires love and kindness. We should love and respect each other and put our differences aside. We say, *“Love for All, Hatred for None”*.





Huzoor came to our Mosque!

Soha Ahmed / Age 12 / Virginia North

In October 2022, my family and I went to Bait-ur-Rahman Mosque to see our beloved Huzoor (aba). I was thrilled to know that I was so blessed and would be able to see Huzoor (aba) for the second time in my life. When Huzoor arrived at Bait-ur-Rahman



Mosque, I was reciting a beautiful *tarana* with the Nasirat. As I saw Huzoor (aba) step out of his car and wave, tears filled my eyes. It felt great to see Huzoor so closely and say Salaam. Even if Huzoor did not

hear me say Salaam, I still felt fulfilled.

I realized how blessed Khilafat is as it keeps us in touch with Islam and saves us from going astray. Afterwards, I was upstairs offering Prayers, my heart felt so full seeing so many people who came to see Huzoor (aba). I also felt so blessed to hear Huzoor's (aba) voice while I offered prayers behind him.

I listened to the Friday sermon in person, and it was so exciting knowing that Huzoor (aba) was giving the Friday Sermon in our mosque. I also had lunch and dinner with my mother, sisters, and friends. I was also able to see other family members who came to see Huzoor (aba). While we were driving back to Virginia, I thought about the farewell *tarana*. I will never forget that week when Huzoor (aba) came to the USA. It made me sad knowing that Huzoor was leaving, but I will never forget that beautiful experience.



Unity Under Khilafat

Hana Suhail/ Age 10/ Virginia North

We are all united under Khilafat. Our religion, our community is a very large part of what makes us who we are. We are all blessed to be in this community because we have a Khalifa to guide us along our life. We are the luckiest among the Muslims because if you look at other Muslims, they don't



have a leader to guide them. Some of my Muslim friends sometimes say to me they are not sure which mosque to go to and that was when I realized how fortunate we are to



belong to this Jama'at. We can go anywhere, and we find our Ahmadi friends. My family and I recently went to Merida in Mexico and as it was Friday we wanted to attend Jumu'ah Prayer. We were very fortunate to find that there was an Ahmadi Mosque nearby. We were welcomed by the people in the mosque, and we had a very nice time there, talking

and eating with them as if we were old friends. We felt like we were all one big family, and this connection we have with each other is the blessing of Khilafat.

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New Children's Publications

TALES TO LIVE BY



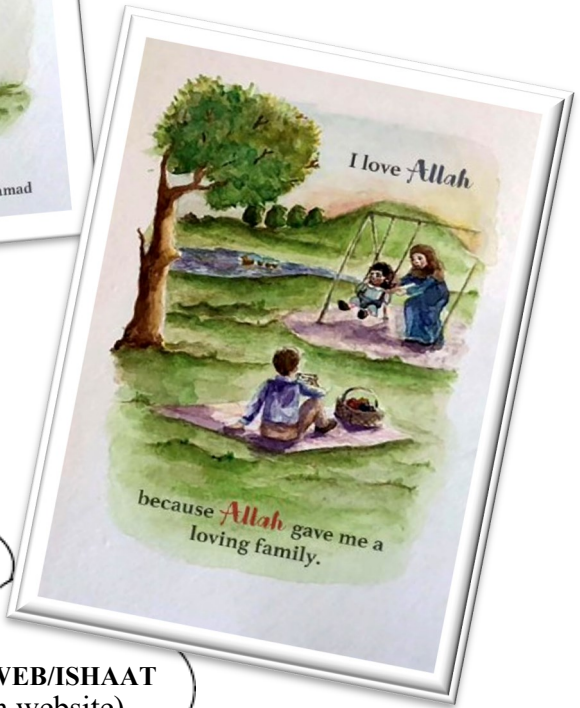
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The Importance of Khilafat

Sheraz Aun Ahmad/ Age 10/ Maryland

Khilafat is a significant and blessed part of Ahmadiyya Islam. After Prophethood, Khilafat is the most important institution in Islam. Khulafa are ultimately appointed by God through His Divine guidance. The importance of Khilafat in Islam is that the Khalifa leads all the Ahmadi Muslims in the



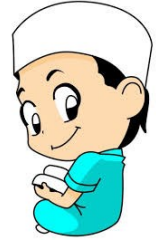
world. The Khalifa also makes sure that all Ahmadis follow the right path. Allah says in the Holy Qur'an:

“Allah has promised to those among you who believe and do good works that He will surely make them Successors in the earth, as He made Successors from among those who were before them; and that He will surely establish for them their religion which He has chosen for them; and that He will surely give them in exchange security and peace after their fear: They will worship Me, and they will not associate anything with Me. Then who so is ungrateful after that, they will be the rebellious.” (Surah An-Nur, Ch. 24, V. 56)

The Holy Prophet (sa) said, “Prophethood shall remain among you as long as Allah shall will. He will bring about its end and follow it with Khilafat on the precepts of prophethood for as long as He shall will and then bring about its end. A tyrannical monarchy will then follow and will remain as long as Allah shall and will and then come to an end. There will follow thereafter monarchical despotism to last as long as



Allah shall will and come to an end upon His decree. There will then emerge Khilafat on precept of Prophethood.” The Holy Prophet said no more. (Masnad Ahmad).



Those are only some of the blessings of Khilafat in Islam. But I can guarantee you that there are many more.

Our Visit to See Huzoor (aba)

Rehaan Muzaffar/Age 12 /Raza Muzaffar/Age 10 /
Aleena /Age 9 /Orlando

In October 2022, our beloved Huzoor (aba) visited the US. We were so excited to have the chance to see him at Bait-ur-Rahman Mosque in Maryland. We went from Florida



with our dad. On each day there were hundreds of people crowded everywhere. The atmosphere was always full of excitement and many emotions. We were fortunate to offer the Jumu'ah prayers and all our other prayers behind Huzoor (aba). We caught a glimpse of Huzoor (aba) in person. Someone told us that we could wait at a certain spot to see Huzoor in person. We waited about ten minutes and we finally saw him and said “As-Salamu ‘Alaikum Huzoor”. He turned towards us and replied “Wa ‘Alaikum As-Salam”. Our hearts were filled with joy!

We were happy to go home with these special memories. We pray that Allah enables Huzoor (aba) to visit again *In Sha' Allah*.

MY QUESTION

Nahval Majeed/ Age 16/ Virginia North

October 12, 2022 was a chilly day but so many families crowded in near the gates, and intense security regulations were in place. It was truly a miraculous experience to behold because our beloved Khalifa, our spiritual leader, was coming to Maryland for the *Wafq-e-Nau Mulaqat*.

I was one of the many registered and fortunate Waqf-e-Nau girls who attended this Mulaqat with beloved Huzoor (aba). I was even blessed with the great opportunity to be able to ask a question to beloved Huzoor (aba). While I was excited by the thought of speaking directly to our beloved Huzoor (aba), I couldn't help but feel apprehensive. Throughout the day, my anxiety mounted. So I prayed. I asked for forgiveness from Allah Almighty for my shortcomings and mistakes. I prayed for help, patience, and strength. I muttered the sweet prayers from the Holy Qur'an under my breath every time a negative thought would swirl in my mind. Sure enough, these verses soon acted as an antidote for my overwhelming stress.

Before our meeting, we practiced walking inside and exiting the room in a respectable, but efficient manner. The staff checked our attire, prepared our scarves, and reminded us how to act. When the time came to meet beloved Huzoor (aba), we quietly made our way downstairs and into the prayer hall, forming many proper rows. I was near one of the front rows along with the other presenters, centered in the middle of the large quiet room. The thrill and anxiety that swelled the room was unwavering. The silence tightened my throat and my lips stuck together. It all felt so unreal, as if it



was a dream. After some time, the door finally creaked open. Instantaneously, we all stood up, peering over our shoulders to catch a glimpse of the light walking beside us from behind. Huzoor (aba) walked towards his chair, motioning his hand for us to sit. It was inspiring! Our beloved Huzoor (aba) was standing before us, clear as day, giving his precious time. As always, it was a life-changing experience.

Soon it was time for my question: “Beloved Huzoor, In the Holy Qur’an, it is mentioned that everything will come to an end. What was the purpose for which Allah created the world then, if it was destined to come to an end anyway?” Beloved Huzoor replied, “Every person who comes to this world dies, some after thirty or forty years. This is the lifespan. In the same way, there is a lifespan of the world hereafter, and of this present world. So Allah says, ‘How did this world came into existence?’ With the big bang. That is what science says. That there was a big bang, and it erupted then there were stars and the solar system and the universe and all sorts of things, yes? So Allah says in the Holy Qur’an that after some time you will go back into the black hole, right? That’s what science also says. And then after that black hole, again there will be a big bang. And again, a new world will start. So this is how Allah wishes and how He starts. But even this world is millions and billions of years old, so you should not worry that it will finish very soon, okay?”

My anxieties washed away as I was so grateful for these cherished moments. The hard work everyone put into these events will not be forgotten and will surely be rewarded in the end. May Allah grant our beloved Huzoor (aba) a healthy, blessed, and long life, and always keep him, his family and our Jama‘at Ahmadiyya in His Mighty Protection, *Ameen*.



Close to Huzoor

Sarmed Ahmad/ Age 10/ Virginia South

Huzoor's (aba) visit to the US was a very memorable one. I kept looking forward to meeting him for a few weeks and I'm glad that I was able to spend the whole week in Maryland.

I was able to see Huzoor (aba), by the grace of Allah, about thirty times! I saw him so much after the Prayers because it would take Huzoor (aba) a full minute to reach the entrance of the overflow prayer hall and the stairs to enter the mosque. One time, after *Maghrib* and *Isha* Prayers, Huzoor (aba) was going to come out any minute. So I rushed to the end of the tent to grab my shoes but I couldn't find them. It took me more than a minute to



find my shoes. By the time I put them on and came out, Huzoor (aba) was already outside. I had to sprint down the hill, across the small road and the length of the parking lot to the black fences. I'm pretty sure Huzoor (aba) saw me.

There were a lot of duties we participated in during Huzoor's (aba) visit. And my brother, my dad and I worked in Ziyafat [hospitality]. It was actually

really fun. We had to wipe the tables with a cloth to keep them clean, and we had to place packets of roti (about two or three times per table) and bottles of water which we usually give in sets of eight. We served



the people which was the most fun part because I was able to see everybody, and the food also smelled good. When the food finished, we had to go around and pick up all the trash.



VOLUNTEERS

One time I was with my mom when she got a text from my dad saying that they were taking pictures with Huzoor (aba) and kids who volunteered were also a part of it. So somehow, me and my brother ran around the mosque and into the spot where they were taking the pictures and we made it on time. The best part? I was right next to Huzoor!

Overall, the trip of Huzoor (aba) when he came to America was so much fun. I enjoyed seeing him and praying behind him and all the other things that the Jama'at arranged, like the bookstore. I hope Huzoor (aba) can visit again soon, *In Sha' Allah*.



The Khalifa Visits Bait-ur-Rahman

Asher Nayel Malik/ Age 7 / Maryland

I went to Bait-ur-Rahman to see Huzoor (aba). On the first day on October 9th, 2022, we welcomed Huzoor (aba) by singing poems (*taranas*). We waited a long time but I was super excited to see him and wave my flag. Each day me and my family would go to the mosque to offer Prayers behind him and eat delicious food there. One day I stood in line with



my brother for two hours to have the privilege of going inside the mosque to say Prayers behind Huzoor. My Mum and I met Apa Jaan (Huzoor's respected wife) and talked to her. I

will always remember when I stood outside to catch a glimpse of Huzoor (aba) walking in and out of the mosque. I enjoyed volunteering for different duties, such as helping in security and registration. I enjoyed getting on the shuttles each day from the parking lot to the mosque. I am so blessed and happy that we had a chance to see our beloved Huzoor (aba) so close.



ANOTHER WORLD

Sajeela Ahmad/ Age 12/ Virginia South

My experience at Bait-ur-Rehman when Huzoor came was a memorable one. When I was there, it was like I was in another world, and the only thing I worried about was offering Prayers and seeing Huzoor (aba). I felt very connected with the community of people who came to Bait-ur-Rahman to see Huzoor (aba). Overall, my experience was something I will remember for the rest of my life.

I had my first family *mulaqat* with Huzoor with my mom and siblings. I observed my mom having the chance to speak with Huzoor (aba). Huzoor's visit was very blessed and everyone there left refreshed and with peace of mind. Seeing him and everyone so excited to meet him created a great feeling of unity among the people.

My meeting with Huzoor

Raazia Majoka/ Age 14/ Orlando

I was very fortunate to meet Huzoor (aba) during his USA Tour. When I found out he was coming I was very excited and nervous to meet him. We traveled to Bait-ur-Rahman Mosque in Maryland to meet Huzoor (aba). We waited a while in the Mosque and then we were called in for our turn. As we walked into the room, I saw Huzoor (aba), his face was glowing! We took our seats, and he asked us questions like what grade we were in and who we were. Huzoor himself handed us chocolates and a pen! Then afterwards, we took a picture. I was standing so close to Huzoor! Even though it was a short meeting, I was very happy to meet Huzoor (aba)!

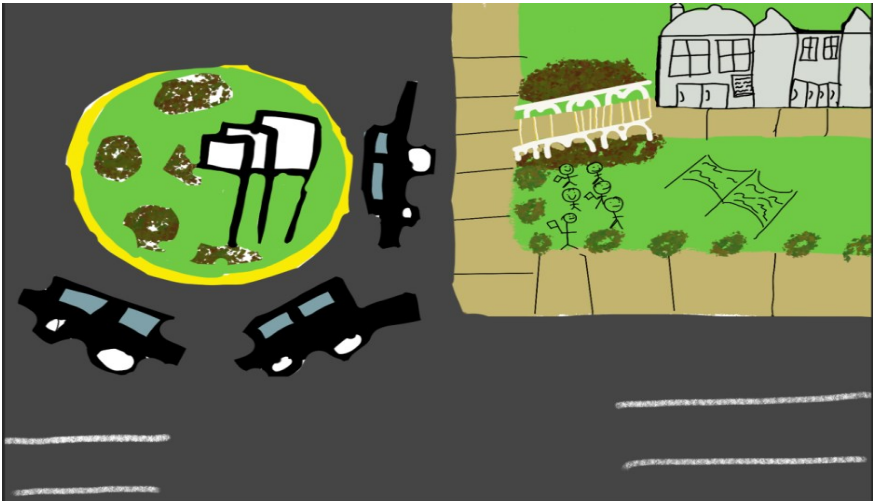


My meeting with Huzoor

Sheza Nabira Ahmad/ Age 12/ Maryland



My meeting with Huzoor (aba) was a miracle. We filled out the form to have a Mulaqat with Huzoor (aba), but we were not chosen to meet him. I was really sad when I found out that we were not chosen, so I decided to write a letter to Huzoor (aba), asking him to pray so that I could meet him. I did not get a reply, but I kept praying. Time was passing by fast, and soon Huzoor (aba) was in Maryland. Huzoor's (aba) schedule was really busy, so I thought I had no chance to meet him. But one night, my parents got an email saying that we are invited to have a group meeting with Huzoor. We were late due to traffic and COVID testing on-site, so again I thought that I had no chance of meeting him. By the time I entered the meeting hall, I was the last person to enter and



then they closed the doors. After a short time, I heard, "Huzoor is coming!" Huzoor (aba) selected people randomly to say what they wanted to say. All of the sudden, Huzoor (aba) called on me and asked me what I wanted to say! I told him about my letter, and that Allah had accepted my prayers today so I could meet him. Then he replied, "May Allah always accept your prayers." This was an unforgettable moment with Huzoor (aba). May Allah always strengthen our bond with our beloved Khalifa and give him a long life, Ameen.



SO MANY BLESSINGS

Eshall Sabibzada/ Age 9/ Maryland



Our beloved Huzoor (aba) visited Maryland in 2022. My whole family and I were excited to see him at Bait-ur-Rahman Mosque. Whenever Huzoor (aba) visits the United States, our days and nights are filled with so many blessings and joy. We enjoy praying in his company at Bait-ur-Rehman. I was with the Nasirat who welcomed Huzoor by singing *taranas*. Our mosque was so nicely decorated. When Huzoor (aba) came out of his car I was so excited to see him among us. I think that it is our blessing that Allah the Almighty has given us such a devoted and selfless leader who always thinks for our prosperity and well-being, both spiritually and physically.



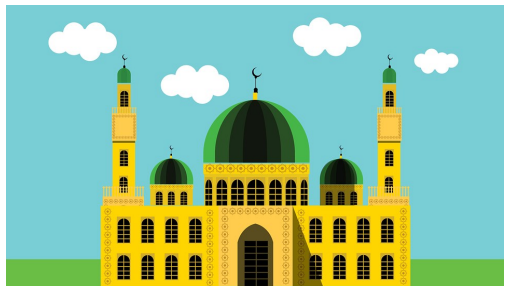
The Blessed Visit

Sabeeka Ahmed Mallik / Age 10/ Maryland

Last year in October, we were blessed with a visit from Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad, (aba). Everyone's mood lifted as they found out. When I heard the news, I felt as if all of my problems went away, even though Huzoor (aba) himself wasn't here yet, just the news of his arrival gave me peace and excitement.

We started setting up for his arrival immediately. Marquees, chairs, food, mats, those were just some of the things we needed. The list of tasks was through the roof, but we knew that Allah was watching over us, so it was a breeze. The next few days were busy, but fun and very calming. I wanted to help, so I decided to sign up for hospitality, along with my sister. I started working the day after Huzoor (aba) arrived.

I was most excited about seeing Huzoor (aba) in person! *Al-Hamdu Lillah*, the visit was a great success. No obstacle stood in our way. When he arrived, we all had to stand behind a gate. All I could



see was waving crowds and crying people, yet Huzoor's (aba) presence was stronger than everyone else's combined. You could feel his energy. Every day, we would see him at least twice. First, we would all rush to the front to be closest to Huzoor (aba). Then after Huzoor (aba) entered the mosque, we would all rush to the prayer hall for the front row seats, so we could see Huzoor (aba) as up close as possible. After prayers we would all rush outside for the food

and to find seats in the dining tent.

We practiced our *tarana*, and we all got scarves indicating which Jama'at we were from. When it was time for Huzoor (aba) to leave everyone was sobbing. I cried too. I chose to go and pray behind Huzoor (aba), rather than go to school, because of course I wasn't going to miss this blessed opportunity. I made friends, but they didn't live in the same area as I did, so after the glorious week ended, we said our goodbyes, hugged, and went home. I think that was the best and most peaceful week of my life, *Al-Hamdu Lillah*.

FOREVER GRATEFUL

Hamdan Ali/ Age 12/ Buffalo

I belong to an ordinary family that is very loyal to Jama'at Ahmadiyya. I grew up in an Islamic environment, and I realized from a young age that the Jama'at plays a crucial role in my life. I have been serving Jama'at Ahmadiyya since childhood, and it is a pleasure for me since I am a part of the Waqf-e-Nau scheme, and I wish to carry the Jama'at with me throughout my life.

Like everyone, I spent my childhood praying to meet Huzoor (aba). In May 2017, my prayers were accepted, and I got the chance to meet Huzoor (aba) in London. My father and I traveled from Virginia to London. I arrived in London, but we were not able to see Huzoor immediately (aba). It took two days to be processed before we could meet him. During this time, I spent time with my family from London. We did some sightseeing around the beautiful city and went on the London Eye.



My first meeting with Huzoor (aba)

Haniya Bushra Khan/ Age 9/ Virginia North

My first *mulaqat* with Huzoor (aba) was great! We went to London last year to visit Huzoor (aba) in Islamabad. It was the 18th of July. After a long wait it was our turn. When we went in we said “As-Salamu ‘Alaikum beloved Huzoor”. After that Huzoor (aba) spent some time chatting with us.

When it was my turn he asked me, “Which grade are you in?” I replied, “Huzoor! I’m in third grade now.” Then Huzoor smiled and said, “You look like you’re still a 1st grader.” I was very happy Huzoor (aba) talked to me. Then he gave me and my sister a pen with his name engraved on it, and also a Twix chocolate (my favorite!).

I still remember Huzoor’s (aba) words, and it feels like I met him only yesterday. When we were done, we had a family picture taken with our beloved Huzoor (aba). That was a very beautiful and blessed moment for me and my family. I didn’t want to leave. It was a short *mulaqat* but it was really worth seeing Huzoor (aba). We said “Allah Hafiz, Huzoor” and left with very happy hearts because we got a chance to meet our beloved Khalifa. If I get another chance to meet Huzoor (aba) I will definitely say, “Huzoor! I love you more than anyone in this world.”



MEMORIES WITH HUZOOR (ABA)

Aariz Iftikhar Malik/ Age 10/ Maryland

In 2019 my family and I went to England to have a *mulaqat* with our beloved Huzoor (aba). I remember saying Prayers behind Huzoor (aba) at Fazl Mosque in London.

Huzoor (aba) moved to Islamabad, Tilford while we were there. We had a family

mulaqat afterwards in Islamabad. At the end of our *mulaqat*, Huzoor shook my hand. It felt amazing holding Huzoor's (aba) hand. He also gave me a pen and chocolate. After the *mulaqat* we went to Masjid Mubarak to offer prayers.



During Huzoor's (aba) visit to Bait-ur-Rahman, Maryland, in October 2022, I was in the COVID testing tent watching my mom work. I saw Huzoor come out of the guesthouse for Prayers every day and I offered my Prayers behind him. On the day Huzoor (aba) left, I saw Huzoor (aba) in his car, leaving Bait-ur-Rahman to go back to England, waving goodbye.

THE BLESSINGS OF KHILAFAT

Anoosh Rizwan/ Age 14/ Virginia North

Khilafat means successorship. Allah says in the Holy Qur'an:

“Allah has promised to those among you who believe and do good works that He will surely make them Successors in the earth, as He made Successors from among those who were before them; and that He will surely establish for them their religion which He has chosen for them; and that He will surely give them in exchange security and peace after their fear: They will worship Me, and they will not associate anything with Me. Then whoever is ungrateful after that, they will be rebellious.” (Ch. 24, V. 56).



Allah promises that He will provide security and peace for those who follow Him and the successors that he sends. The Holy Prophet (sa) said that Khilafat would emerge on the precepts of prophethood that would not end. We Ahmadis should be grateful that we have a Khalifa because many people behave erratically when they have no one to look to for guidance. However, we Ahmadis are aware that Huzoor (aba) is our leader, and we must abide by his instructions, unlike those who have no leader to follow and are therefore confused about what



to believe in.

In the Qur'an Allah describes Muslims as,

"The best people raised for the good of mankind"

(Ch. 3, V. 111).



This verse really shows us how it's a blessing to be a Muslim and how Ahmadis are close to Allah because we follow His Khalifa. Whatever others may say about us for being Ahmadis, we must constantly keep in mind how fortunate we are to have a leader and a role model to guide our Ummah and how we will always be protected. There is a great difference between us and Muslims who have turned away from Khilafat. You should remember that one great difference is you have someone who has true

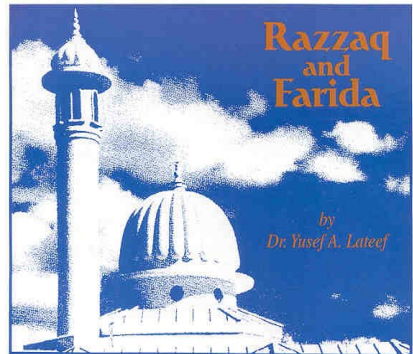
sympathy for you, who truly loves you, who considers your pain and sufferings to be his own, and who is always praying to Allah for you.

Razzaq and Farida

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A LASTING IMPRESSION

Aariz Noor Ahmad/ Age 11/ Kentucky

My meeting with Huzoor (aba) took place when Huzoor (aba) visited the United States in 2018. We went to Masjid Bait-ur-Rahman in Silver Spring, MD. I was seven years old. It was surreal, almost like a dream come true. I wanted to make a good first impression, so I was very excited and slightly nervous to be in his presence. I remember that the line was very long to meet him, but in the end it was worth it.



When we finally met him, all my thoughts and emotions washed away. It felt like we were almost floating in space. I was with my dad, mom, and my two sisters. He gave my two sisters a candy bar. However, when it came to me, he slid me an extra one. This brought a huge smile to my face. We stayed with him for a few minutes and talked about our school and our future. At first, Huzoor's (aba) presence was so overwhelming that we couldn't even speak. But the love in his eyes and his kindness gave us the confidence to speak.

This meeting left us all with a breath of fresh air. Beloved Huzoor (aba) was extremely kind and caring. Meeting him in person gave me a whole new perspective on how impactful he is to the Jama'at. The meeting was just for a few minutes, but it left me with a lasting impression and the importance and blessings of Khilafat. I cannot wait to meet him again, *In Sha' Allah*.



A Middle Name

Nymah A. Farid/ Age 10/ Minnesota

For a long time, my family and I had wanted to meet our beloved Huzoor (aba) so in December 2019 my father made a call to the *Mulaqat* Office in Islamabad, UK and booked a meeting for March third. Our first day in Islamabad was awesome. When we reached there, it was time for *Zuhr* Prayer. I sat with my dad and my brother Nauman on the men's side so I could see Huzoor and when I did, he looked right at me, and I felt so happy.



After lunch we went to see the graves of Khalifa IV (rh) and his wife where we prayed for them. Then we went to the *Mulaqat* Office where Nauman and I did volunteer work. I stamped people's letters from Huzoor with the official *Mulaqat* Office stamp while Nauman folded the letters of all the people who sent to Huzoor and put them in envelopes for him to read and write his response. We loved watching the process and helping with it since it was so much fun.

At *Asr* Prayer I sat on the men's side again so I could see Huzoor (aba) and again he looked at me and Nauman. After *Asr* Prayer we waited patiently to have our meeting. When the time came, I was so excited for the fact that I was going to meet our beloved Huzoor for the very first time in my entire life that I wanted to scream with joy!

We greeted Huzoor and took a seat in front of his desk. After he talked to my parents, he gave me and Nauman a Twix bar and a pen each. Then I asked Huzoor for

a middle name as I did not have one. He asked me why I wanted one and I told him that Nauman had a middle name, so I wanted one. He then asked me what Nauman's middle name was, and I told him 'Ahmad' so he said that my middle name should be Ahmad and I was so thankful.



After the *mulaqat* we had dinner and I then I ate my Twix bar, and it was the best thing I had ever tasted! I decided to keep the wrapper as a souvenir from Huzoor so I gave it to my mom to keep in her purse. Then we heard the call to *Maghrib* Prayer and once more I sat on the men's side and once again Huzoor looked at me and Nauman. Unfortunately, we had to leave before *Isha* but it was the best day of my life!

MY QUESTION

Affan Sindhu/ Age 10/ Silicon Valley

I am so happy with the time I had with Huzoor (aba). My dad got behind the wheel and we drove for eight hours to LA. The next day I woke up very early to get ready for our *mulaqat* with Huzoor (aba). When we reached the mosque, we practiced how to greet him. Then after an hour of practicing the *mulaqat* started. Everyone took turns and then it was my turn to ask my question. I greeted Huzoor



(aba) and asked, "What is Huzoor's view regarding hunting animals and fishing?" Huzoor (aba) answered, "Hunting is a good exercise and fishing as well but if you just leave the animal there it is a bad habit. If you're hunting for a purpose, it is okay to hunt. Remember, don't break the law." This was his answer. It was such a good feeling.



Blessings of Khilafat

Asifah Wahab Mirza / Age 14 / Virginia North

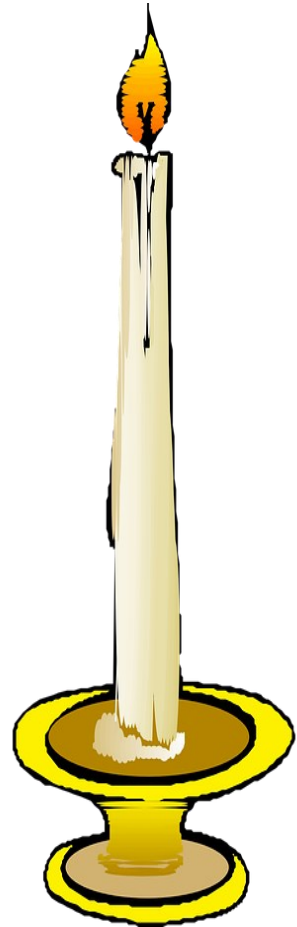


Khilafat is a light,
A light that shines so bright.
Brighter than the night!
Watch as it takes flight
Stronger than the silver knight!
Teaching what is right.

Security and peace after their fear,
Allah's message is crystal clear.
Every Friday of every year,
Spoken clearly in your ear.
Written by the dearest of dear,
Huzoor's sermon for you to hear.

The things we can learn
Others can only yearn
To quench the fiery burn.
Searching through the fern.
Trying, trying, trying, to discern,
What they think they need to earn.

But we already have
In Khilafat! *Al-Hamdu Lillah!*



Glossary

Abū Dāwūd ابو داود : A collection of Aḥādīth. The author of this collection.

Adhan: اَذَان Call to prayer

Al-Ḥamdu Lillāh اَلْحَمْدُ لِلّٰهِ : All praise belongs to Allah.

Al-Hilāl الهلال : The new moon.

Allah Hafiz: May Allah protect you

Āmīn [Āmeen, Aameen] آمين : So be it. Amen. Ceremony to commemorate the completion of the first reading of the Holy Qur'an.

As-Salāmu `Alaikum اَلسَّلَامُ عَلَيْكُمْ May peace be upon you. (The formation assalam-o or assalam-u is incorrect as there is no waw و after mīm م, hence the abbreviation AoA or A.O.A. or A-o-A is also incorrect.)

Bukhari: A collection of Ahadith. The author of this collection.

Chanda: چنده Monetary contribution, donation. (The ha at the end is to indicate a fath on dal, and is not pronounced, so should not be explicitly written in the transliteration of the word.)

Gurhti [Tahneek]: Very first food fed to a newborn

Ḥaḍrat حضرت [Hadhrat, Ḥaḍrat, Hazrat]: His Holiness

Aḥmad, Ḥaḍrat Mirzā Masroor (1950-...) حضرت مرزا مسرور احمد, may Allah be his Helper: Fifth successor (2003-...) to the Promised Messiah (peace be on him).

Ḥuḍūr [Ḥudhūr, Ḥuzūr, Huzoor] حضور : His Honor, His Holiness, Your Honor, Your Holiness. In Urdu, it is spelled Ḥaḍūr [Ḥaḍoor, Ḥadhūr, Ḥadhoor, Ḥazūr, Ḥazoor].

Iftā̄r افطار : breaking the Islamic formal fast at sunset

Iftā̄rī افطاری : eating to break Islamic formal fast.

In Sha Allah: اِنْ شَاءَ اللّٰهُ : God Willing

Mulaqat: Meeting

Na'ra: Raising a slogan

Nāsirāt ناصرات : helpers (feminine). A member of Majlis Nasirat-ul-Ahmadiyya, association of young Ahmadi girls.

Sadaqah صدقه : alms

Tarana: Song



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Ḥaḍrat Mirza Bashir-ud-Din Mahmud
Ahmad, the Promised Reformer
(may Allah be pleased with him)

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(May Allah be pleased with her)

Ḥaḍrat Nuh (peace be on him) and
the Great Flood

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(may Allah have mercy on him)

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(may Allah be pleased with her)

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Vol. 26



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KHILAFAT IS A SHIELD

We believe that our future is inextricably bound
to Khilafat,
which acts like a protecting shield
and leads the way to our prosperity
and well-being...

We must earnestly believe
that as long as Khilafat remains in our midst
no outside forces shall ever be able
to cause us any harm
and success shall meet us in every field
in fulfillment of the Quranic promise...

[The Institution of Khilafat, Sheikh Mubarak Ahmad]



AHMADIYYA
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Al-Hilal