

# AL-HILAL



WE WELCOME YOU HUZUR

A MAGAZINE FOR CHILDREN

US \$2

2006-2

# Letter from Al-Hilal Staff

Assalāmu ‘Alaikum, Dear Huzur,

Across the country, anticipation has been steadily growing, as we all pray and prepare for our beloved Khalifah’s first visit to the United States of America. This issue of Al-Hilal is just a small sample of the love and excitement so many children (and adults) nationwide share as we anxiously await the US tour of Hadrat Khalifatul-Masih V (may Allah be his support).

Although it would be impossible to visit every state, or conduct a children’s class with each Tifl and Nasirah, young people have written, sharing about their hometowns, sights they wish Huzur could see, and most importantly, what they, our next generation and most precious resource, have been learning about Islam and Ahmadiyyat.

Insha’allah we will all get the opportunity to see you at Jalsa, write to you regularly, and pray for your health, strength and success, continually.

Wassalām,

Aliya Latif, Editor

## **We want to hear from you!**

Children are encouraged to send their writings for publication in this magazine. Please mention your full name, age, city and state. If you want to send a picture or artwork, please send the original. If you want the original back, please write your address on the back of the artwork with the note: “Please send this back to” followed by your address. 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.

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*Front Cover Design Courtesy of Sumera Choudhary*

# Excited For Hazoor's Arrival

Asifa Bhatti ~ Age 13 ~ York/Harrisburg

Whenever the United States would have a Jalsa Salana,  
I would pray that Huzur could come to ours Insha'allah.

I would watch the Jalsas broadcasted on MTA,  
And notice how all the places were very far away.

But now that Huzur is able to come,

I say Alhamdu Lillah, to Allah the One.

Huzur, welcome to America, enjoy the tour

I hope this experience will have you come back for  
more.

Huzur I can't wait, I already have a big smile,  
I want to meet you again, since the last  
time's been a while.

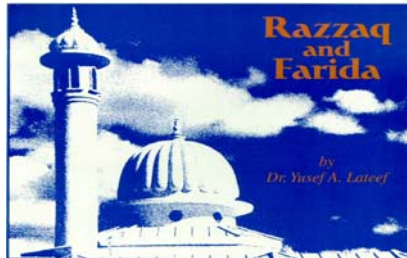
Your presence here, will please me so,  
Tears when you arrive,  
And tears when you go.



## Razzaq and Farida

A story for children written by Dr. Yusef A. Lateef. Published by Majlis Ansarullah, U.S.A. Children and new Muslims, all can read and enjoy this story. It makes a great gift for the children of Ahmadi, Non-Ahmadi and Non-Muslim relatives, friends and acquaintances. Every page of the story is accompanied by a colorful drawing.

Send \$1.50 per copy to  
Chaudhary Mushtaq Ahmad, 15000  
Good Hope Rd, Silver Spring, MD  
20905 with your mailing address.



# Section 1

## Places to Go



# Dear Huzur...

# Sightseeing in the United States

**Mishal Akbar**

**Age 14**

**Virginia North**

**Dear Huzur,**

I know you will not be able to see all the amazing and beautiful features of America during your tour. However, I might be able to help by giving you a brief description of just a few of the architectural works and landmarks we have here. We hope you enjoy your tour.



## **Statue of Liberty**

Huzur, this was a gift given to us by France. It is located on Liberty Island in New York Harbor. It is approximately 305 feet high including the base. The construction of this began in 1875. It symbolizes the liberty and freedom of the United States.

**The White House** has been known as the “President’s Palace,” the “President’s House,” and the “Executive Mansion.” President Theodore Roosevelt officially gave the White House its current name in 1901. The White House receives approximately 6,000 visitors a day. It has 132 rooms, 35 bathrooms, 6 floors, and 18 acres of land.



## **Empire State Building**

It is the second tallest building in the US, after the Sears Tower in Chicago. It is located in New York and is 1,454 feet tall. It took 1 year to build. The



Empire State Building is mostly filled with rentable space for businesses. The building is also used as a tourist attraction and offers views from the 86th and 102nd floors.



### **The Golden Gate Bridge**

This bridge is known to be one of the most beautiful. It is 1.7 miles long filled with beautiful lights, a view of the water below, and the towers surrounding your car window. The bridge is painted orange, because the painter thought it went well with its surroundings. They say, “It’s not just a bridge.”



### **The Gateway Arch**

This is the tallest memorial in the nation. It is made of steel in St. Louis, Missouri. It has an underground museum beneath it. It is known as the ‘Gateway to the West’ as settlers heading west towards California would often stop in St. Louis on their way.

### **Grand Canyon**

The Grand Canyon is a beautiful and rocky canyon stretching to 1,218,376 acres located in Northwestern Arizona. It contains the rare, endangered national bird, the bald eagle.



### **Mount Rushmore**

The face of Mount Rushmore includes the busts of the Presidents George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt, and Abraham Lincoln. The sculpture represents the first 150 years of American history.

My very dearest Huzur,

Assalamu ‘Alaikum Wa Rahmatullahi Wa Barakatuhu,

I am very happy that you will be visiting us soon in Texas. My name is Hamza Ahmed and I am seven years old. I joined the Atfal of my Houston Jama‘at and like it a lot.



I live in Houston Texas and would like to share some of the interesting places to visit. Houston has a very large Museum District that has museums of science, arts, music and medicine. We have had exhibits such as the Dead Sea Scrolls.

I would like to share with you my favorite spot by the Gulf of Mexico which is just a few minutes from where I live. It is a beautiful waterfront where people can take a stroll or a ferry ride on the Gulf. There are roller coasters as well as seafood restaurants. I think this is a very relaxing and beautiful place to experience.

I would also like to share a miracle of prayer that I witnessed that is linked with the Gulf of Mexico. Last year my family and I had to put all our faith in Allah and evacuated our home when a category five hurricane Rita was forecast to landfall at this gulf about thirty minutes from my home. We all prayed a lot even during our drive out of town that turned out to be 24 hours long instead of two hours. Through prayers and Allah’s help we saw a very strong hurricane that would have destroyed our suburb of Clear Lake, downgraded to a category that could not destroy anything. We were able to return home 2 days later to find our home safe, by Allah’s grace.

I am looking forward to your visit, Insha’allah.

Your humble servant in Islam,

Hamza Ahmed

Houston Texas



Dear Huzur,  
Assalamu Alaikum Wa Rahmatullah!

My name is Sumbul Jattala. I am in the LA East Jama'at in Southern California. The Los Angeles area is so big they have to make L.A. East and West Jama'ats. In our Jama'at we have 39 nasirat and 10 of them are in Waqf-i-Nau scheme and by the grace of Allah I am one of them. We are all waiting for you to come to the United States. I am counting the days until you come. I know that you are going to Washington, DC and some other states. Since you can not visit every state, I will give you a mini tour of the United States and the wonderful things here.

Let's start with my state, California:

The first attraction in California is the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco.



It is a marvel of engineering. Its design was created by Joseph Strauss and the bridge was opened on May 27, 1937.

Next you should go to Sea World in San Diego. There you will see a wonderful whale named Shamu. Many other sea animals are also kept at this wonderful place. The name "Shamu" is actually a stage name shared by many adult killer whales at SeaWorld. The first Shamu, a female, was captured in Puget Sound in Washington state in 1965 and died on August 23, 1971. The first Baby Shamu was born on September 26, 1985.



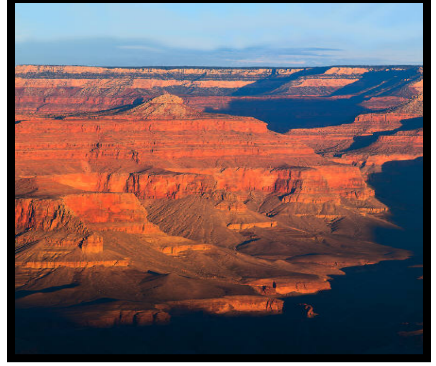
Next in California you should go to Disneyland. It



opened on July 17, 1955 and an estimated 515 million visitors have visited the park since its opening. Disneyland Park has become the world's most famous theme park and one of the most visited sites in the

world.

The next state you should visit is Arizona. The Grand Canyon is a very colorful, steep-sided gorge, carved by the Colorado River, in northern Arizona, USA. The canyon appears on many versions of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World list, although none of these lists are by any means authoritative. It is largely contained within the Grand Canyon National Park—one of the first national parks in the United States.



The canyon, created by the Colorado River cutting a channel over millions of years, is about 277 miles. Nearly two billion years of the Earth's history has been exposed as the Colorado River and its tributaries cut through layer after layer of sediment and as the Colorado Plateaus have uplifted.

My dear Huzur I hope and pray you will come to the Los Angeles Jama'at soon. I hope and pray that you will be able to come to California and visit Baitul-Hameed Mosque. I can't wait for your plane to land in America and to hear the girls singing a Nazm.

I pray you will have a great time in America. Insha'allah.

Sumbul Jattala

Rancho Cucamonga, California, U.S.A.

سیر اکھان ترے، جی آیان نون

سو بسم اللہ، جی آیان نون



Beloved Huzur,  
Waiting,  
heart filled with excitement  
for your arrival  
to America and incitement  
A scenic country  
many places to visit  
so glad you came  
I pray your stay is exquisite  
Hoping and praying  
for a chance for Mulaqat  
to be in your presence,  
love fills my heart  
Watching you on MTA  
visiting many places  
seeing many sites  
and many more faces  
Seeing many children classes  
wishing I could attend  
to sit in your presence  
where my mind would transcend  
Always in need of your prayers  
and always praying for you  
may Allah grant you strength  
for all the good things you do.

**Sarah Azam ~ Age 15 ~ Research Triangle NC, Jama'at**

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**National HQ: Al-Hilal, 15000 Good Hope Road,  
Silver Spring, MD 20905 USA**

Dear Huzur,

We are all anticipating your arrival very eagerly, and hope that you have a very nice time in America. While you are in the Virginia area, there are a lot of great places and sights to go and tour to learn more about America!

One such place is Shenandoah Valley. Shenandoah Valley is located in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Luray, Virginia.

Shenandoah Valley is a wonderful place to go. The scenery is very beautiful, filled with forests, streams, waterfalls, and many different kinds of wild plants. This park is truly a place to see much of nature's beauty and enjoy a day without the franticness of everyday life.



This is a scene from Shenandoah Valley

Another place is Luray Caverns. Luray Caverns is located right in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. Luray Caverns is known all



This is a picture taken inside of Luray Caverns

over America for being one of the largest and most breathtaking caverns. In addition to this it is also known as one of the most spectacular natural wonders of the world. This beautiful cavern is filled with many unique formations such as dripstones that cover the ceilings and floors. It was discovered in the year 1878 by a photographer and a tinsmith, and ever since then millions of people have been visiting this sight.

These are only some of the places that are very well known and nice to spend time at in Virginia. We all hope that you enjoy your visit and everything goes well here, Insha'allah!

Hurmet Ahmed ~ Age 13 ~ Northern Virginia

Dear Huzur,

Assalamu Alaikum Wa Rahmatullahi Wa Barakatuhu.

I sincerely hope that you are in good health by the grace of Allah. My Northern Virginia Jama'at and I are very excited that, Insha'allah, you will be visiting America for the U.S.A. Jalsa this year. America is a stunning country and I hope that you will enjoy your visit here. Virginia, the state that I live in is a very unique place with a remarkable history.

The Commonwealth of Virginia (named after Queen Elizabeth I of England) is one of the original thirteen states of the United States that revolted against British rule in the American Revolution. It is located in Southern United States but is sometimes included, geographically, in the Mid-Atlantic States. It is one of the four states that use the name commonwealth. Virginia was the first part of the Americas to be colonized permanently by England in 1607.

There are many things and places in Virginia to see and do. It is an incredible place with edifying museums and beautiful architecture, as well as an abundance of wildlife.

A very interesting museum to visit is The National Air and Space Museum (NASM) of the Smithsonian Institution, which maintains the largest collection of aircrafts and spacecrafts in the world. It is also a vital center for research into the history, science, and technology of aviation and space flight, as well as planetary science and terrestrial geology and geophysics. Many notable exhibits reside in this educational museum.



Some famous exhibits are:

- ◆ The original Wright **Flyer** – that made the first controlled powered flight in 1903.



- ◆ The **Spirit of St. Louis**, in which Charles Lindbergh made the first solo flight across the Atlantic Ocean



- ◆ The command module of **Apollo 11**, the first mission to land astronauts on the moon

The **Washington Monument** is a breathtaking monument to see and experience. It is in the center of the National Mall in Washington, D.C., the capital of the U.S., and it is a United States Presidential Memorial built for George Washington, the first President of the United States and the leader of the revolutionary Continental

Army, which won independence from the British following the American Revolutionary War.

The **Washington Monument** is made of marble, granite, and sandstone. It was designed by Robert Mills, a prominent American architect of the 1840s. The actual construction of the monument began in 1848 and was not completed until 1884, almost 30 years after the architect's death, due to lack of funds and the intervention of the American Civil War. A difference in shading of the marble, (visible approximately 150 feet up), clearly defines the initial construction from its resumption in 1876.



The **Smithsonian Institution** is an educational and research institution and associated museum complex and is a beautiful place to see. It is administered and funded by the government of the United States. With most of its facilities located in Washington, D.C., it comprises nineteen museums and seven research centers,





and has 142 million items in its collections.

The **Smithsonian Institution** was founded for the promotion and dissemination of knowledge by an inheritance to the United States by the

British scientist James Smithson (1765–1829). In Smithson’s will, he stated that should his nephew, Henry James Hungerford, die without heirs, the Smithson estate would go to the United States of America for creating an “Establishment for the increase & diffusion of Knowledge among men”. After the nephew died without heirs in 1835, President Andrew Jackson informed Congress of the inheritance, which amounted to 100,000 gold sovereigns, or \$500,000 U.S. dollars (\$9,235,277 in 2005 U.S. dollars after inflation).

### **Well-known Smithsonian museums:**

- ◆ Anacostia Museum and Center for African American History and Culture
- ◆ Arts and Industries Building
- ◆ Cooper-Hewitt, National Design Museum
- ◆ Freer Gallery of Art
- ◆ Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden
- ◆ National Air and Space Museum
- ◆ National Museum of African Art
- ◆ National Museum of American History
- ◆ National Museum of the American Indian
- ◆ National Museum of Natural History
- ◆ National Portrait Gallery
- ◆ National Postal Museum

- ◆ National Zoo (Smithsonian National Zoological Park)
- ◆ Smithsonian American Art Museum
- ◆ Smithsonian Institution Building
- ◆ The National Gallery of Art

I hope and pray that you will enjoy your visit to America and Virginia, Insha'allah. May Allah bestow upon you a long and healthy life, Ameen.

Wassalam,  
Shumaila Ahmad Age 14  
Virginia North Jama'at

Dear Huzur,  
Assalamu Alaikum,

I am a seven year old girl. I joined Nasirat in January of this year. I like you very much and I am very excited to know that you will be coming to Jalsa Salana USA 2006. I hope that you can visit my home where I live with my sister and my mama and papa. I can take you to visit Great Falls Park in Virginia where I visited with my family last weekend. It has a river and you can see Virginia on one side and Maryland on the other. It has a great track for walking. I love to walk everywhere. Here is a picture of the place for you.

Please pray that I can become a good Ahmadi Muslim when I grow up.

Wassalam,

Naim-ul-Quloob,  
Age 7  
Virginia North



Asslamu ‘Alaikum and  
Welcome to  
Pennsylvania!

Dear Huzur,



When you  
come to Pennsylvania, Insha’allah, you will see many amazing  
places. One example would be Hershey Park. There are numerous  
things that will astonish, amaze, and astound you. We hope that  
Pennsylvania gives you the rest that you very well deserve!  
Wassalam,

**Tasneem Waliullah**  
Allah’s Servant in Islam

Here are some attractions in Central Pennsylvania:

**Knoebels**—Pennsylvania’s Hometown Park

**Lakemont Park**—Home to Over 30 Rides and Attractions

**DelGrosso’s Amusement Park**—Fun Facility with Rides

**Clyde Peeling’s Reptiland**—Interesting Reptiles & Amphibians

**Swigart Antique Auto Museum**—One-of-A-Kind Antique Auto  
Set

**Packwood House Museum**—Oldest Log Structures of its Kind in  
PA

**Shaver’s Creek Environmental Center**-Variety of Educational  
exhibits

**Frost Entomological Museum**—Features a very Large Insect  
Collection

**Earth and Mineral Sciences Museum**—Crystals, Gems,  
Carvings, and Fossils to admire

Tasneem Waliullah, Age 13  
York/Harrisburg Jama‘at

Dear Huzur,

It is a wonderful blessing that you may be coming to Dallas, Texas. The Dallas jama'at is very happy that you may be coming here. There will be a lot to see such as Kennedy Museum. Since you are coming in September it will be very hot. I am looking forward to having a Nasirat class with you. Everyone is excited to meet you. I hope this will be a wonderful trip for you, insha'allah. Allah Hafiz.

Sincerely,  
Zaha Cheema  
Dallas Texas



Dear Huzur,

May Allah give you a long and healthy life and may He lead our Jama'at through success under your leadership. Ameen.

Huzur, we are very happy and as of right now, can't wait for the Jalsa Salana and the time when our dear Huzur will be among us. We are very thankful to God Almighty for giving us this opportunity to host a Jalsa while you are among us. Huzur, we can't wait to see and meet you! If you get a chance, out of your very busy schedule, come and see our Jama'at. May Allah bless your trip to the United States. Please pray for our Jama'at, which is about two years old now. Please pray for all of us, that we increase our religious and worldly knowledge and succeed in life. Please pray for us and our families. Jazakallah.

Yours humbly,  
Nasirat, Southern Virginia Jama'at





Assalamu 'Alaikum,

I hope that when you read this, you are very well and happy. My name is Farah Azam. I am 12 years old and live in North Carolina. I am in 6th grade and am currently attending Davis Drive Middle School. I hope you like it here in the USA, and I wish that you could also come and visit North Carolina while you are here.

I hope and pray that you and your family are doing fine. I am looking forward to the upcoming Jalsa Salana USA. I can't wait to see your shining face again and to hear your beautiful voice when you deliver your enlightening speeches. I really hope that I can have a Mulaqat with you this Jalsa. I wish that I could be one of those lucky kids who get to attend children's classes with you, and also get blessed prizes from you.

May Allah grant you and your family many more years in this world so that you can keep guiding us on the right path. May you have a long, healthy, successful, and blessed life, Ameen.

With Love and Prayers,

Farah Azam, Age 12

Research Triangle North Carolina Jama'at

***Disclaimer:***

The material presented herein reflects the original content of the authors. To the extent possible, Al Hilal staff have attempted to screen the material for accuracy and appropriateness but some oversights may have occurred. If the reader identifies a mistake and/or would like to comment on some of the material, please contact Al Hilal staff.

Dear Huzur,

As a Nasirah my hobbies are reciting the Holy Quran, performing Salat, and reading chapter books. I attend the Nasirat class to learn more about my religion. The best thing I like about the Nasirat class is when the teacher reads books about Prophets. I also like to play Nasirat games.

This year several things happened. First, in the Nasirat field trip I visited the Planetarium where I learned about the sky and stars. Second, I won first place in the recitation of Holy Quran in the Local Ijtema. As a Nasirah I have learned a lot about the Holy Quran and Islam. Finally, I love that I live in the home town of Thomas Edison (who invented the eclectic light bulb), West Orange, New Jersey.



**Reconstruction of Thomas Edison's original Menlo Park Lab**

Wassalam,  
Aisha Arain  
North Jersey



Dear Huzur,  
Assalamu Alaikum,  
My name is Faiza, and I am 9 years old.

I am very pleased that amongst some of the Jama'ats in America you may be visiting the Dallas Jama'at. I will share with you a few of the many reasons why you it is a good choice in picking the Dallas Jama'at. This Jama'at is very active. I have a Nasirat class every Sunday. Also I am in Waqf-i-Nau, and so is my 6 year old brother, Salek. My Jama'at also has Urdu class, where we learn how to read and write Urdu. As you can see, we do a lot in our Jama'at. I am looking forward to your visit and if possible a class with you.

Love,  
Faiza Bashir  
Dallas, Texas



Bismillah-ir-Rahman-ir-Rahim.

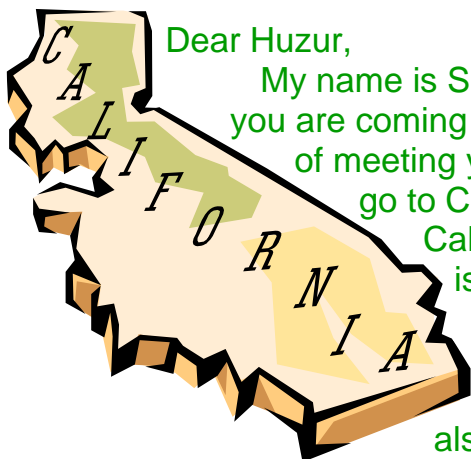
Dear Huzur,  
Assalamu 'Alaikum!

I hope you are feeling well and your family, too. I pray that you come here to America Insha'allah. There are wonderful things here. Hopefully you can come to our mosque in Mechanicsburg.

There are many things here like Hershey Park with many fun rides and there is the Hershey Chocolate World too. I go there about every year. Huzur, I think

you will like to see Hershey Chocolate World because they show you how they make chocolate. I hope you can come to America and see all of these wonderful places. Jazakallah!!  
Adeeba Sadaf Minhas Ahmad  
York/Harrisburg Jama'at, Age 10





Dear Huzur,

My name is Salliah Dar. I'm really happy that you are coming to America. I've always dreamed of meeting you, but I never got a chance to go to Canada. My hometown is in California. The capital of California is Sacramento.

I live in L.A. East Jama'at.

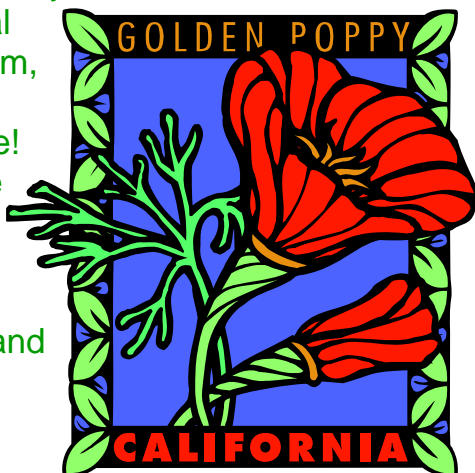
There are so many activities to do for Waqf-i-Nau. Nasirat is also fun. I hope to grow up to be a good Volunteer for the Jama'at. I live in

Upland which is in Southern California. It's really pretty in California. There are a lot of places to visit and see natural beauty. There are places like Yosemite Park, Redwood Park and Sequoia Park. These are the most often visited. In San Francisco, the national landmark is the Golden Gate Bridge. There is also a famous prison where major criminals were locked up. They don't use it any more. They just take people there for sight-seeing now.

There are also a whole bunch of theme parks such as Disneyland, Six Flags, Knott's Berry Farm, Scandia, California Adventures, Universal Studios, Pharaoh's Lost Kingdom, Sea World, Raging Waters, Six Flags Magic Mountain and more!

California is a great place to live in. I hope one day Huzur, that you can come and visit California. Huzur, it is my humble request to pray for me and my family.

Sincerely,  
Salliah Dar



## Respected Dear Huzur, Assalamu Alaikum!

My name is Mujdah Sadiq. I am 13 years old and I am a part of the L.A. East Jama'at in the U.S.A.

By the grace of Allah, we are all doing well here. We are eagerly awaiting your arrival here in the United States. I would like to invite you to Los Angeles where I live. We have a large Jama'at here and lots of Jama'at functions going on each week in our Chino Masjid.

We also have many beautiful and unique sights in our state of California like Yosemite National Park which is known throughout the world. It is a very beautiful place. We also have the Death Valley desert which has the highest temperatures in the world. But here in Los Angeles we have very good weather all year round. It is probably the best in



Yosemite National Park



Death Valley desert

Mujdah Sadiq

the United States. My mother says it reminds her of Pakistan. Some people say that it is a country in itself. We would be honored if you would grant us the pleasure of your presence. We would really feel blessed. Please remember us in your prayers, my parents, my brother and sister and also our Jama'at. Respectfully,

My Dearest Beloved Huzur,  
Assalamu Alaikum Wa Rahmatullahi Wa Barakatuhu,

My name is Adam Ahmed, I am nine years old and I am very excited to be a part of your first visit to the USA, Insha'allah. I live in Houston in the state of Texas. Masha'allah, with the grace of Allah, we have a beautiful mosque named Baitus Samee that also has two large halls to hold mosque functions. I like to help my father in Tabligh symposiums.



I would like to share some of the beauty and attractions of Houston Texas. I live near the famous NASA Space Agency in Clear Lake.

It houses a lot of the historic space rockets as well as a replica of the space shuttle for the astronauts to train in. It also has the first space rocket sent in space. My school also dedicated a

memorial to the last space shuttle disaster and I was a part to it along with my classmates.

I hope that Your Holiness will get the opportunity to visit these amazing sites and I would like to extend my sincere invitation to Huzur to come to our residence as I live a few minutes from the NASA Space Agency, and would be privileged to give Huzur this tour, Insha'allah. I look forward to your visit, Insha'allah.

Your humble servant,  
Adam Ahmed  
Houston, Texas



Dear Huzur,

My name is Tooba Nadia Ahmed. I am a student in the Philadelphia Nasirat class. I am very pleased to hear that you are coming to the U.S. I am trying to do my very best by being a religious Muslim. I am also starting to read the Holy Quran with translation.

As I'm growing older I am starting to enjoy offering Salat and reading the Holy Quran. I also enjoy watching you on MTA especially in the children's classes. Please keep my family and me in your prayers.

A Man who teaches us,

From the very depths of his heart.

A Man who helps all Ahmadis,

On their journey towards Allah.

A man who loves Allah,

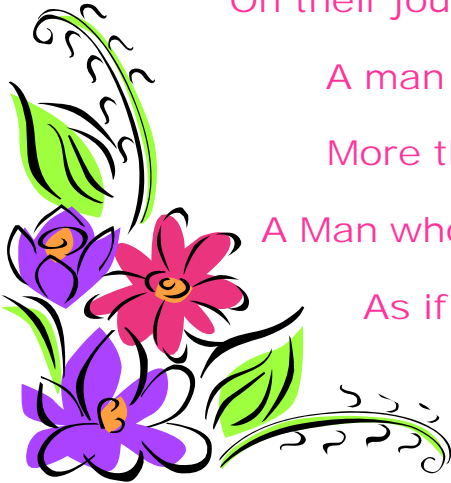
More than anyone else.

A Man who recites the Holy Quran,

As if angels are descending  
from

The Heavens...

our beloved Huzur.



Is

Love and Respect from,  
Tooba N. Ahmed, Age 11  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania



# EXCITEMENT

## IN NEW YORK

By: Farihin Ghaffar Age 18 Brooklyn, New York



**N**ew York—what is it about this state that makes it so fabulous? How did it earn the nicknames “the Empire State”, and “the Big Apple”? The answer is simple. New York is a cultural oasis. It has a variety of activities for families. What makes New York even better in the summer is that most of the activities are... (here comes our favorite word)... free!

Taking a trip to a museum is a fun and educational way to spend the day. Visit the famous Guggenheim, Metropolitan Museum of Art, or Museum of Natural

History (just to name a few) and learn something about the past, present, and even the future. Most of these museums have a suggested donation price. The annual Museum Mile Festival is an opportunity for the public to visit “museum mile” for free. This long strip of museums runs on Fifth Avenue from 82nd to 104th streets. Devote a day to exploring all that the most famous and esteemed museums in the country have to offer. [www.nycvisit.com](http://www.nycvisit.com) lists all the museums and their themes.



There are a countless number of street fairs and flea markets that sprout up throughout the city. This is a chance to explore different neighborhoods and find great bargains. They sell everything like books, clothing, and food to keep you going. Speaking of fairs, don't forget about the well-known Farmer's Market where you can purchase products directly from suppliers. Here, you can find organic vegetables, fruits, meat, fish, and baked goods. You can find this open-aired market every day of the week in different locations in Manhattan.

This brings us to food. New York has some famous stores for those with a sweet tooth. *Junior's*, located in Downtown Brooklyn, sells what is known as the "World's Most Fabulous Cheesecake." *Junior's* has been making and selling cheesecakes in Brooklyn since 1950. They have several flavors to choose from and people come from all over the country to try them. In Chinatown, you can find the *Original Chinatown Ice Cream Factory*. There's a reason why the line into the store flows unto the end of the block. There are hundreds of flavors to choose from. Flavors range from fruits to vegetables, and more. I recommend that you watch out for the new wasabi flavor. *Dylan's Candy Bar* is a small shop located in midtown Manhattan. It's candy galore where you can find every type of candy and even ones that you can't find anymore. However, it will cost you to please your sweet tooth because the store can be pricey. Of course, if you're looking for a place to sit down and enjoy a meal, you can find restaurants and cafés just about everywhere.

With food and entertainment aside, one of the best things about New York is that you can always feel right at home. With the many different cultural "pockets" in New York like "Little Italy," "Chinatown," and "Little India," come the many mosques situated all over the tri-state area. In almost every New York neighborhood, you can find a mosque loudly reciting the Adhan when it comes

time for prayer. Close by, you can find a store selling all religious items like prayer mats, books, outer coverings and even our own little clocks that recite the Adhan for us at home reminding us to pray. Atlantic Avenue and Bay Ridge in Brooklyn are two great examples.

The best-known free activities are at the parks. Throughout the summer months, popular parks such as Central Park, Prospect Park, and Bryant Park host musical performances, concerts, and theater productions that families can enjoy. In the evenings, Bryant Park and Prospect Park are covered with blankets and picnic baskets as an American classic film or a Hollywood hit from the 80s or 90s. North of Central Park is the Delacourte Theatre. Here, you can catch free performances of some famous Shakespearean plays. Visit [www.summerstage.org](http://www.summerstage.org) and [www.prospectpark.org](http://www.prospectpark.org) to find out what is playing. Don't just wait for the parks to put on a theatrical production, go watch a play on Broadway. The theater district is home to musicals, dramas, comedies, and more. You can watch your favorite Disney production live or an off-Broadway performance just as riveting.

These are just a handful of activities to fill up your summer calendar of events.

A word of advice, it's easier to get around on the train and bus than it is in a car. It is faster because you don't have to worry about the traffic or parking, which can take up hours of your time. So if you have nothing to do or time to spare, hop on the train and take a bite of the Big Apple. There's never a dull moment in New York.

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# Section II

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## What We've Learned



DEAR HUZUR,

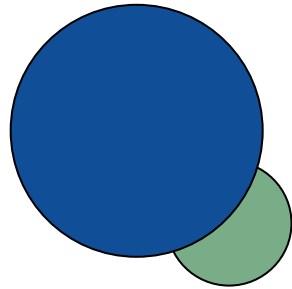
Dear Huzur,

I have learned the love for Allah. One of the most beautiful passages written by the Promised Messiah (Alaihissalam) on this very subject states:

"Our God is our paradise. Our highest delight is in our God for we see Him and have found every beauty in Him. This wealth is worth procuring though one might have to lay down one's life to procure it. This ruby is worth purchasing though one may have to lose oneself to acquire it. Oh ye, who are bereft, run to this fountain and it will satisfy you. It is the fountain of life that will save you. What shall I do, and how shall I impress the hearts with announcement that this is your God, so that people might hear? What remedy shall I apply to the ears of the people so that they should listen?"

Wassalam,

Amara Vance, North Jersey



Dear Huzur,

I have learned that one should show great respect to their parents. I would like to share a short story about respecting parents.

In the time of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), there was a man named Uvais Qarni. He lived far away from Mecca. His mother was blind. He took care of her all the time. His mother was very happy with him. When he heard about the Prophet from Arabia, he accepted Islam. He

wanted to visit the Holy Prophet Mohammad (peace be upon him) and learn about Islam from him.

However, since his mother needed him, he was not able to visit the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him). When the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) found out about Hadrat Uvais Qarni and his mother, he sent a message to him that he should not leave his mother to come visit him. He told Hadrat Uvais Qarni that he would be rewarded by Allah for taking care of his mother. The Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) sent his Salams to Hadrat Uvais Qarni. He felt a great honor when he received the Holy Prophet's message. So, if we want to receive rewards from Allah and enter paradise, we must always be obedient and respectful to our parents.

Wassalam,

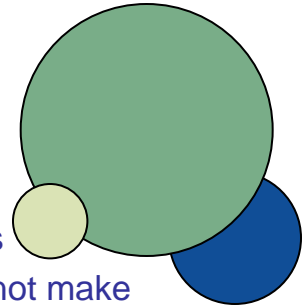
Tooba Ahmad, North Jersey

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Dear Huzur,

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I have learned that telling the truth is always good. Lying is bad and lying does not make anything better. Being honest is the best, and Allah likes honesty. I would like to share an incident from the life of the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him). In 1877 a Christian lawyer named Ralia Ram sued the Promised Messiah, 'Alaihissalam. The charge brought against the Promised Messiah, 'Alaihissalam, was that he had placed a letter inside a packet he had mailed, which was against the law. The



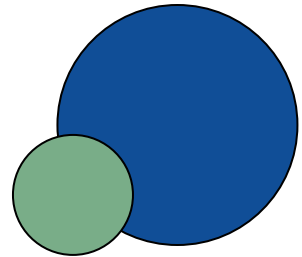
Promised Messiah, 'Alaihissalam, was unaware of this law, and that the violation of this law carried a penalty of 500 rupees or six months in jail. After consulting several people the Promised Messiah, 'Alaihissalam, was told that only course of action was to deny placing the letter in the package and then it would be Ralia Ram's word against his. The Promised Messiah, 'Alaihissalam, responded that regardless of the consequences he was not prepared to tell anything but the absolute truth. The case was brought before the district court of Gurdaspur. After hearing the case the judge ruled in favor of the Promised Messiah, 'Alaihissalam, acquitting him of all charges. Later the Promised Messiah, 'Alaihissalam, wrote that Allah helped him because he remained steadfast to the truth.

Wassalam,  
Mahum Vance, North Jersey

Dear Huzur,

I have learned to balance religion and worldly goals. In the current age it is difficult to balance our religion and our worldly goals. Mankind always competes with each other in terms of clothes, shoes and video games. The Holy Quran stresses the need to study the social conditions of the world in order to understand the different ways people live and the different cultures people have. The purpose of our life is to worship, but to fulfill that purpose we have to invite the whole world to Allah.

**“And I have not created the Jinn (chiefs) and the men (common people) but that they may worship Me.” (51:57)**





There are various ways to balance our religion and our worldly goals. I have learned different ways that can help develop a strong bond between human beings and with Allah. The six categories are the following: Charity, looking after orphans, moral qualities, worship, education, and languages.

I had a personal experience about collecting charity for the Pakistan earthquake. My friend and I started a fundraising project to help the victims. We got Gatorade bottles and put labels on them. The labels said what the money was for and had a picture from the earthquake. I was shocked to hear about the earthquake and I wanted to help. My friend and I talked to the supervisor in our school cafeteria and she let us put the bottles by the registers and we collected money for the earthquake victims.

Wassalam,

Iram Mehmood, North Jersey

“Dear Huzur...”

Assalamu ‘Alaikum, Dear Huzur, at last!

You’ve come to pay us a grand visit!

I’ve never seen you in the past,

So my excitement is beyond risen.

We hope you get to see the beauties,

Of this beloved country.

I also pray you complete your duties,

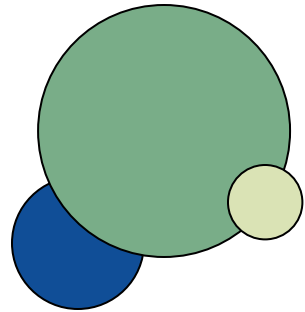
And bring blessings that are lovely.

For there could be nothing more bright,

Than to see your face light up.

And I pray to grasp some of that light,

And tuck it safely within my heart.



O dear Huzur! O dear Huzur!  
May Allah strengthen your hands.  
Assalamu ‘Alaikum, Dear Huzur, at last!  
You’ve come to pay us a grand visit!

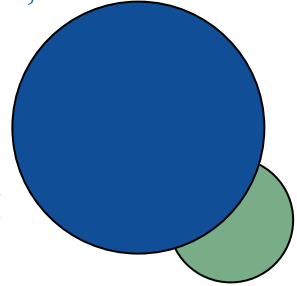
At last.

Annum Khan, 14

LA East Jama‘at, Chino, CA

Dear Huzur,

I have learned about our Planet Earth. I  
would like to share a poem about nature.



*The sea is blue like the sky.  
When I look up I wonder and ask why,  
Why people hurt animals like whales and fish.  
Just so they can put food in a dish.  
When I look down at the ground.  
I wonder and ask why,  
Why a turtle roaming on a beach in Cape May, could be in danger,  
Because people want it as a pet, and no one can stop them  
No one not even a Park Ranger.  
When I look out of a window and see  
Mother Nature, I wonder and ask why,  
Why people do not realize that they are harming nature!  
I hate seeing people polluting Cape Cod,  
Because they are messing up something belonging to God.*

Wassalam,

Mariam Aqeel, North Jersey



*I have learned the  
significance of Allah*

Allah is the creator of the entire universe. When we look around us, we see different things that have been made by different people. For example, the baker makes the bread, bees make honey, we make drawings and art work. Allah is the creator of humans. He created the Sun, the earth, the moon, everything, and us. We cannot see Allah but we can see many of the things that He has created.

The beautiful names of Allah are called the attributes of Allah. They are not just names. They explain the things that Allah can do. In Surah Al-Fatihah, His four main attributes are mentioned:

**Rabbil-Alameen**—Lord of all the worlds, which means that Allah creates everything and is in charge of all of it.

**Ar-Rahman**—The Gracious. Allah provides everything that is necessary for our development and progress.

**Ar-Raheem**—The Merciful means that Allah is the giver of the best and gives the highest reward to those who do

good voluntarily and that reward continues indefinitely.

**Maliki Yaumiddin**—Master of the Day of Judgment.

We can establish a relationship with Allah by obeying him and praying to him constantly. Allah responds to those people who obey him and do good. Allah is everywhere, so he sees us at all times, but we cannot see him physically.

Belief in God is a part of every religion. The Arabic word for God is Allah. In Islam the word Allah applies to only one God. Allah is one and he has no partner or equal. Allah has no form or physical being. In Islam, belief in Allah is one of the Six Articles of *Iman*. The word *Iman* means belief or faith.

In a Hadith, the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) said, “The most excellent way of remembering Allah is to proclaim: La Ilaha Illallah. There is no one worthy of worship except Allah. And the best supplication to profess is Alhamdu Lillah. All praise belongs to Allah.”

Allah is the sole Creator, Nourisher, and Sustainer of all living beings. Allah demands that man worship only him and nothing else. In the time of difficulty man only has Allah as his most perfect and reliable source.

The Promised Messiah (‘Alaihissalam) said,

“God is a lovely treasure. Hold

Him dear. Seek His help at every step. You are as nothing without Him. And nothing are your means and methods.

Allah is the light of the heavens and the earth. Every light that is visible on the heights or in the valleys, whether in souls or in bodies, whether personal or impersonal, whether apparent or hidden, whether in the mind or outside, is a bounty of His grace.

His being is the support of the universe and all that is high and low. No other being then Him is in himself present and eternal or is not the recipient of His grace. Nothing is outside His knowledge or outside His control or outside His creation.

He is near and yet far, and He is far and yet near. Foolish is the one who denies His power and blind is the one who is unaware of its depth.

He is one in His being and His attributes and His actions and His powers.”

Wassalam,  
Seher Mehmood, North Jersey

# God...

By Naila Ijaz

age 13

South Virginia Jama'at

You are the greatest, the highest, the best,  
You are always awake and don't need rest.  
You are the creator, the maker, the wise,  
You are one who lives and never dies.

You are the guardian, the protector for all,  
You are everywhere always and don't need a  
call.

You are the listener, the answerer too,  
You are the best, there's no one better than  
You.

You are our friend, one who never fights,  
You are the light, brighter than all other lights.  
You are our teacher, our instructor, our guide.



# The Reward of Khilafat

Afia Qureshi Age 12 York/Harrisburg Nasirat

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 give them in exchange security and peace after their fear.  
(The Holy Qur'an, 24:56)

In this verse Allah makes it clear that Khilafat is only given to those who believe in Allah and they do good works. Allah is telling us that Khilafat is a reward. After the demise of a prophet, Allah promises to establish the institution of Khilafat. The institution of Khilafat unifies the community to make progress. Khilafat also gives security and peace to the people. After the demise of the prophet, there is fear in the hearts of the people. I remember when Hadrat Khalifatul-Masih IV passed away, we all felt sad and some had feelings of fear. Nothing else seemed important in this world.

Then Hadrat Khalifatul-Masih the Fifth Ayyadahullahu Ta'ala Binasrihil-'Aziz was elected Khalifa by the grace of Allah. Our hearts felt peace and security and we knew we were united again. Hadrat Khalifatul-Masih II, radiyallahu anhu, said in his *dars* delivered on 1st and 2nd March of 1921, that the institution of Khilafat is the cure or pivot of Islamic unity.

We know when people are not united they cannot make progress spiritually or any other way.

The second Khalifa further says, “Khilafat is Allah’s rope. Hold it firmly. It would ensure your spiritual and religious growth and advancement. A rejecter of Khilafat would ruin himself.”

There are two types of Khulafa in Islam. The first are the Khalifatullah who are representatives of God. They are the prophets of Allah.

The second type is Khalifatunnabi. They are the successors of the prophets. They follow the footsteps of the prophet and lead the community on the same teachings as the prophets. The Holy Prophet (peace be upon him), said, “There has been no prophet who has not been followed by Khilafat.”

This is exactly what Allah did by the establishment of Khilafat-i-Rashida after the demise of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) and also the establishment of Khilafat after the demise of the Promised Messiah (‘Alaihissalam).

In conclusion we must all remember that obedience to Khilafat is the key to our success. We can not raise ourselves spiritually without being obedient to Khilafat.



# The Best Friend Allah

BY: TASNEEM WALIULLAH YORK/HARRISBURG AGE 13

Allah has many qualities that explain how He helps us. For example, Ar-Rahim—The Most Merciful and Al-Khalig—the Creator. For Ar-Rahim, Allah is truly the most merciful. Allah has granted his believers mercy for their mistakes and errors. One way Allah grants me mercy is that when I do something wrong, He will always forgives me for my sin, as long as I pray to Him and do not repeat the wrong. People can do many wrong things, some unknowingly. For Al-Khalig, Allah has shown He alone is the Creator and Destroyer of all things. In one Hadith, Allah has challenged us to see if we could make something as small as a fly's wing. No person, Muslim or non-Muslim, has ever accomplished this. Therefore, Allah is truly the designer of all things. As for the ending of things, Allah has said that He has been, is, and always will be the only one to decide when someone or something's end is nearing. However the focus of my article is another attribute of the All Mighty and Majestic Allah: Ar-Rafiq—the Best Friend.

In my opinion, Ar-Rafiq shows that Allah will stand by His believers. Allah will not abandon those who trust Him and are grateful to Him. This specific attribute also shows that Allah will always be there, even if the whole world is against you. Allah is our best friend because we can rely on him for protection, love, pardon, guidance, and appreciation. The main point of this quality of Allah is for Him to be there for His followers, throughout fun, sadness, happiness, sorrow and joy. This makes our Lord, Allah, Ar-Rafiq—the best friend a Muslim could ever ask for.

# K THE NEED FOR KHILAFAT



**M**y article is about the need of Khilafat. First of all what does Khalifa mean? Khalifa means leader, successor, lieutenant, etc.

Why do we need Khilafat? We need Khilafat basically to guide Muslims and keep us unified. All Muslims need one leader.

There are at least 73 sects in Islam. Since there is no one leader to unite them all, there is always confusion and disorder among the Muslims of today.

Around us, Muslim countries are fighting each other. There is no sense of brotherhood among them. Because of the lack of unity, non-Muslim countries are taking advantage of this in many ways. If there was one righteous leader or Khalifa for all of the Muslims there would be unity and order.

Religious zealots, kings, princesses, and political leaders have tried to lead their people spiritually. But unfortunately they have not had much success. Now, the question is what caused this?

There is a Hadith that Hadrat Hudhaifah, Radiyallahu 'Anhu, reports that the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) said, "The prophethood will be

with you for as long as God wishes it to be with you, then the Rightly-Guided Khilafat will be with you as long as God wishes to be with you, there after the monarchical rule begins and will continue as long as God wishes it to stay with you.”

The Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) has talked about Khilafat in his book *The Will*.

The second manifestation he refers to is Khilafat which will follow prophethood. A perfect example of the second manifestation was Hadrat Abu Bakr (may Allah be pleased with him) who said, “Just because the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) is dead that does not mean that Islam is dead.” This made people think twice before becoming disunited. In Ahmadiyyat, the second manifestation is our Khilafat.

Allah says in the Holy Quran about Khilafat:

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 the rebellious. [24:56]

This means that Allah is going to make successors on the Earth. That successor is going to help make the people worship Him. These successors are the Khulafa.

*May Allah enable us to understand the value and blessings of Khilafat and help us obey the Khalifa.*

# Success Through Khilafat

By Asifa Bhatti age 12

York Harrisburg

In the Holy Quran, Surah Al-Nur, verse 56, Allah states:

**“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 the rebellious.”**

In this verse, the word successor refers to Khilafat and it is telling us that Khilafat is extremely important. Without it, we would be lost. I feel that without a leader, someone to guide me, I would go astray. Yes, we do have parents to let us know what we are doing wrong, but a Khalifa guides everyone, including our parents. Khilafat not only unites us, but also gives us peace and security.

Without Khilafat, there is no unity. Without unity, there



is no success in religion. A Khalifa is a successor to a prophet of Allah. A prophecy of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) was: “Prophethood shall remain among you as long as Allah wills.”

This prophecy states that Khilafat will remain as long as Allah wills. Groups may be powerful, but if they remain busy fighting, they will lose their strength. If you don’t believe in Khilafat, you are spiritually lost.

Hadrat Khalifatul-Masih the Fourth (Rahimahullah) stated:

**“It is the blessing of Khilafat which is the life of our Jama‘at. Therefore, if you desire to have life in you, then attach yourself with Ahmadiyya Khilafat in sincere devotion. As the secret of all your progress lies in it.”**

Hadrat Khalifatul-Masih the Fifth (Ayyadahullahu Ta‘ala Binasrihil-‘Aaziz) says:

**“If you want to make progress and wish to conquer the world, then my advice and my message for you is that you should attach yourselves devoutly with Khilafat. Hold fast to the rope of Allah. All our progress lies in our obedience and devotion to Khilafat.”**

Both of these quotations are proclaiming that we should follow Khilafat. If we want to succeed in this life, the only way to do that is to stay united.

***May Allah give us the strength  
to hold on to the rope of Allah.  
Ameen.***

# Dear Hazoor

Afia Qureshi, Age 12  
York Harrisburg

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

**Khilafat**

**Jalsa Salana**

**Barkatain**

**Namaaz**

**Waqf-e-Nau class**

**Children's class**

**Khutba Juma**

**Quran-e-Kareem**

**Majlis**

**Jama'at**

**Masjid**

**Langar Khana**

**Kind**

**America**

**Payaray Hazoor**

**Dear Hazoor**



# Glossary

Adhān {Azān} اذان : Call for formal Islamic Prayer.

al-ḥamdu lillāh الحمد لله : All praise belongs to Allah.

Aṭfāl اطفال : Members of Majlis Atfal-ul-Ahmadiyya.

ayyadahullāhu ta'ālā binaṣrihil-'azīz, ايدده الله تعالى بنصره العزيز : May Allah support him with His Mighty Help.

Ḥaḍrat حضرت [Hadhrat, Hazrat]: His Holiness

Ḥuḍūr [Huḍoor, Hoḍūr, Hoḍoor, Ḥudhūr, Ḥudhoor, Ḥodhūr, Ḥodhoor, Ḥuzūr, Ḥuzoor, Ḥozūr, Ḥozoor] حضور : His Honor, His Holiness, Your Honor, Your Holiness. In Urdu, it is spelled Ḥaḍūr [Ḥaḍoor, Ḥaḍūr, Ḥaḍoor, Ḥadhūr, Ḥadhoor, Ḥadhūr, Ḥadhoor, Ḥazūr, Ḥazoor, Ḥazūr, Ḥazoor].

Hazoor: see Ḥuḍūr

Ḥuzūr: see Ḥuḍūr

Hazrat: See Ḥaḍrat

inshā'allāh, ان شاء الله : God willing.

Jalsa Salāna جلسه سالانه : Annual Convention

jazākallāh جزاك الله : may Allah reward you (male).

jazākillāh جزاك الله : may Allah reward you (female).

jazākumullāh جزاكم الله : may Allah reward you (plural, male or female or both). Also used to address a single person to show respect.

khalīfah, khalīfā: Vicegerent. Successors to Hadrat Muhammad, sallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam, and the Promised Messiah, 'aliahisalam. Also calif, caliph, kalif, kaliph, khalif.

Khalīfatul-Masīh, Khalīfatulmasīh, Khalīfat-ul-Masīh, Khalīfah al-Masīh, Khalīfat al-Masīh خليفة المسيح : Successor to the Promised Messiah, 'alahissalam. First two should be preferred.

khulafā خلفاء: Plural of khalīfah.

māshā'allāh ماشاء الله : What God has willed! Well done!

Namāz نماز : ṣalāt

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

raḍīyallāhu 'anhu رضى الله عنه : May Allah be pleased with him.

raḥimahullāh رحمه الله : May Allah have mercy on him

ṣalāt صلوة : Formal Prayer offered according to a prescribed procedure. Thus, Salatut-Tahajjud, Salatut-Fajr, Salatut-Zuhr, Salatut-Asr, Salatut-Maghrib, Salatut-'Isha.

ṣallallāhu 'alaihi wa sallam صلى الله عليه وسلم : peace and blessings of Allah be upon him.

Sūrah سورة : A chapter of the Holy Qur'an.

waqf: dedication. devotion



*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 Islam and Ahmadiyyat to their daily lives.*

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