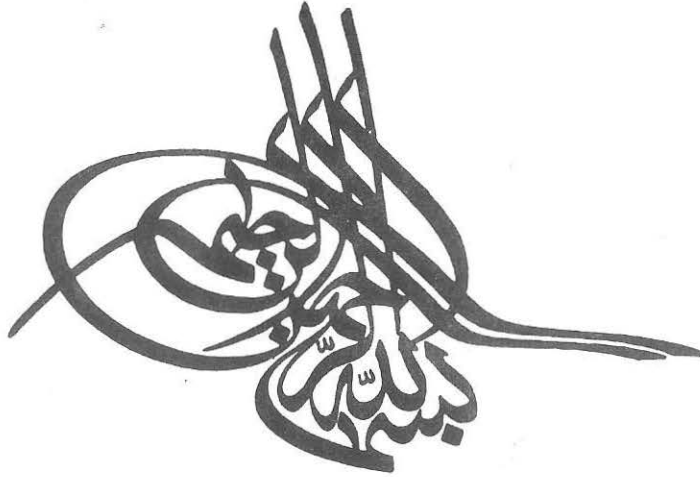


**BRIGHT
LIGHTS**

of the

**AHMADIYYA
MOVEMENT**



In The Name of Allah, The Gracious, The Merciful

This book is dedicated to
Hazrat Sahibzadi Maryam Siddiqah
whose guidance and love have always
been an inspiration

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BRIGHT LIGHTS OF THE AHMADIYYA MOVEMENT

(a series of stories for children compiled from the annals of Ahmadiyya publications)

Edited by Aisha N. Sharif, Assisted by Farzana Quader

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INTRODUCTION

My Dear Nasiratul Ahmadiyya,

Assalamu alaikum wa rahmatullahi wa barakatuhu.

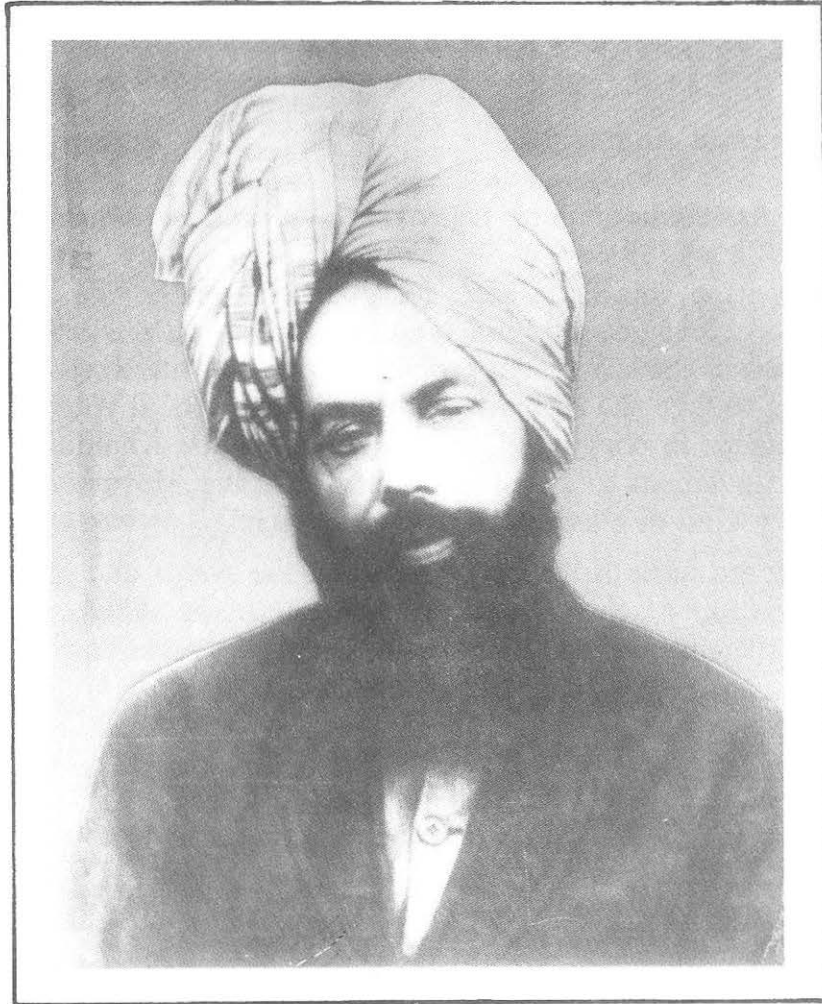
We have written this little book for you because we, the ladies of Lajna Imaillah, U.S.A., love you very much and pray that you will grow up and carry the Divine work of the Movement far beyond what we have been able to do. We also want you to love the Ahmadiyya Movement with all your heart and find ease and pleasure in obeying the instructions of our Khalifatul Masih. The Ahmadiyya Movement is Allah Almighty's Divine Movement and He has attached every kind of blessing to belonging to it.

In this book are some of the very special people, events and places that make up the foundation of this Divine Movement. *Insha Allah*, you will enjoy reading about them over and over again. Perhaps you will be so excited that you will share them with your friends and neighbors.

Yours in Islam,

Aisha N. Sharif

National Publications Secretary



Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad
The Promised Messiah and Mahdi
(1835-1908 A.D.)

THE PROMISED MESSIAH AS A CHILD

(Nusrat Jahan Bashir)

All Ahmadi Muslim children know about the Promised Messiah, peace be on him, and love him very much. His name was Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad and he was a very good, kind, and truthful person. He was, in every way, an excellent man. Allah especially loved him because of his very good qualities. Even as a young child he had these good qualities. That is why Allah Almighty made him a Prophet. It is just like a beautiful flower. In order to get a beautiful healthy flower, you must plant a good healthy seed. Prophets are like that also. They do not wake up one day good. They are good from the very beginning.

From early childhood one could see that Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad was very special. He was born in Qadian, India, on a Friday morning on February 13, 1835. His father's name was Mirza Ghulam Murtaza and his mother's name was Charagh Bibi. Everyone was very happy at his birth and all were struck by the heavenly light that seemed to glow from him.

Even as a young child, little Ahmad had a great love of God. He once asked a girl playmate of his to pray for him that he might "be granted the grace of prayer." How remarkable! Even at a young age he was so pure and desired the nearness of Allah.

In the time of the Promised Messiah there were no schools and most children did not get an education. But Ahmad's father did get a tutor for him when he was six or seven years of age. A tutor is a teacher who teaches children at home. He was taught the Holy Quran, and some Persian and Arabic. But this

was a very simple education, not at all like all the subjects and things you learn today in school. Basically, he just learned reading and writing.

Little Ahmad was always very respectful to all of his teachers. He loved to study and used to spend a lot of time in the mosque reading the Holy Quran.

He did not like worldly things, not even sports or games, although he could swim and ride. When he was a young boy, many people kept and used weapons such as swords and guns and bows. But Ahmad never liked such war-like sports and he never participated in them. You can already see what a gentle and loving nature he had.

As Ahmad grew up he continued to show that he was a truthful and good person. Everyone was impressed with his pure and good nature. He always preferred religion and spiritual matters to things of the world and his real happiness was found in prayer and reading the Holy Quran. He loved God and the Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings of God be on him, very much and he always defended Islam against any attack.

Allah blessed him with a special understanding of the Holy Quran and gave him great spiritual knowledge. The same young boy who had only a very simple and basic education grew up to impress others with his deep knowledge and understanding. Allah Almighty also gave him a special knowledge of Arabic language and his Arabic vocabulary grew to 40,000 rootwords in a single night. What a miracle! His knowledge of Arabic grew so much that he even wrote books in Arabic that were so outstanding, no one could match them. The books were so good that some people even said that Arabs had written them in secret. We know better! They did not know how Allah blesses His loved ones with special favors.

Just think how much Allah loved the Promised Messiah. He comforted the Promised Messiah when he was worried, provided for his every need, protected him from his enemies, spoke to him through dreams, visions, and words, revealed to him things that were going to happen, and blessed his efforts with success. We are so lucky that the Promised Messiah was so good and that Allah loved him so much. Allah Almighty loves us very much also and that is why He sent the Promised Messiah. He wanted us to follow the Quran and the Holy Prophet Muhammad, so He sent the Promised Messiah to guide us and to show us that Islam is the true religion. Aren't we lucky to be Ahmadi Muslims? Aren't we lucky to be followers of the Promised Messiah and to share in Allah's blessings?

QUESTIONS:

1. What were the names of the Promised Messiah's parents?
2. When and where was the Promised Messiah born?
3. Tell something about the childhood of the Promised Messiah.
4. What were some of the blessings Allah Almighty bestowed on the Promised Messiah?

KISHTI NUH

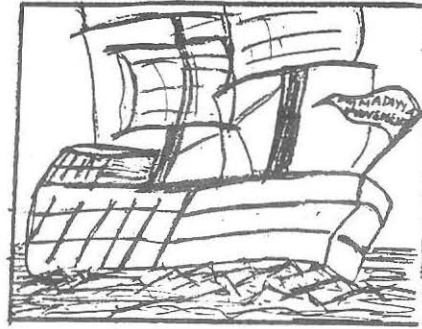
(Nusrat Jahan Bashir)

The Promised Messiah (peace be on him) wrote a book called *Kishti Nuh*. *Nuh* is the Arabic word for Noah and *Kishti Nuh* means *Noah's Ark*.

Noah, peace be on him, was a Prophet of Allah. He told the people of his time not to worship idols but to worship Allah alone. They laughed at him and told him that he was crazy. They hated him and what he said but Allah loved him and comforted him by telling him not to worry.

Allah said that he was going to punish the enemies of Noah. He told Noah to build a large ark or boat. People laughed even more when they saw Noah building the ark, but Noah didn't care. He told the people to believe in Allah and save themselves but they wouldn't listen. When the ark was finished, Allah caused it to rain and rain and rain. The water became so high that floods came and drowned everyone who was not in the ark with Noah. But Noah and all those in the ark with him safely rode on the very waves that destroyed those wicked people.

During the time of the Promised Messiah, there was a terrible plague that was killing many people. The Promised Messiah had told the people earlier that a plague would come to punish them for their disbelief. Like Noah's people, they did not believe him. Also like Noah, the Promised Messiah said that whoever was in his house would be protected from the plague, just as the followers of Noah were protected from the flood. He said that not only those who actually lived in his home but also those people who followed him and thus were part of his spiritual household would be saved. All of these followers were



told not to have shots to protect them from the plague for Allah would protect them. This was a great thing. No one knows when he will get sick. Just think if everyone in your school had measles, could you say that you would not get them? The Promised Messiah could say this because Allah spoke to him and promised him that his followers would be saved. And miraculously none of them did get sick! This terrible plague lasted for three years and many, many people joined the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community during this time because they could see that Allah was the Protector of the Promised Messiah and his followers.

Another great thing is that you and I, and all those who accept the Promised Messiah, are also considered to be on his ark. As long as we believe in Allah, obey and love Him, and as long as we follow the Holy Prophet Muhammad (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) and the Promised Messiah and his Khalifas, we will be protected just like the people of Noah.

QUESTIONS:

1. Why did Noah build an ark?
2. What people would be saved from the plague?
3. How are the people of the Promised Messiah like the people of Noah?

IS ALLAH NOT SUFFICIENT FOR HIS SERVANT

(Farzana Quader)



Is Allah not sufficient for His servant

saw a very important dream. Allah in His Divine Mercy informed the Promised Messiah through this dream of the fast approaching death of his father, Mirza Ghulam Murtaza. Concerned about him, Mirza Ghulam Ahmad quickly left for Qadian. There, he found his father suffering from dysentery (a severe kind of stomach disorder). However, in spite of his illness, his general condition was stable and he remained steadfast.

By the next day, all the members of Mirza Ghulam Murtaza's family were with him. The Promised Messiah was constantly there. It was the month of June and the heat was intense. About noon, his father asked him to have some rest. As he rested in his room upstairs, with a servant massaging his feet, he fell into a light sleep.

Before I take you any further, do you know what the word revelation means?

Have you ever wondered about the story behind the engraved rings many Ahmadi Muslims wear? The story is based on a very special experience of the Promised Messiah. Once, in the year 1876, the Promised Messiah, Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (peace be on him) was in Lahore (then in India) on a visit. While he was there he

Revelation is God's way of speaking to a person through a dream, vision or direct speech. Special people like the prophets can receive revelations in the form of clear words from God.

The Promised Messiah, while sleeping, received the following revelation in Arabic: "*We call to witness the heavens where all decrees originate, and We call to witness that which will happen after sunset.*" He immediately understood what this meant—that his father would die the same day after sunset.

The Promised Messiah's father was a sad man during the last days of his life. He had spent a great deal of his time and money in trying to get back his ancestral lands. These lands had been taken away from his father, Mirza Ata Muhammad. However, Mirza Ghulam Murtaza was not able to recover the lands. His last days were saddened by the thought that he had spent so much of his time on worldly affairs and had not done enough in the way of Allah. Towards the end of his life he had a central mosque built in Qadian which was called the *Masjid-i-Aqsa*. He requested that he be buried in a corner of the mosque. He felt that buried there, he would always hear the praises of Allah and thus in some way receive forgiveness and mercy from Allah.

When the Promised Messiah had this revelation he felt that Allah was showing His sympathy for him; especially since his father was dying so sad about not doing enough for Allah. You may find it strange that Allah should sympathize with Mirza Ghulam Ahmad in His own words, but it should be remembered that when God treats someone mercifully, He deals with him like a friend.

Although the Promised Messiah had a high spiritual status he was still a human who had to live in the real world like everyone else. His father used to receive money and other benefits from the British Government but these would stop with his death. Naturally, Mirza Ghulam Ahmad began to worry about the

problems that he and his family might face. He was especially concerned with financial difficulties that he might not be able to overcome.

In this worried state of mind the Promised Messiah received another revelation in Arabic: "*Is Allah not sufficient for His servant?*" These revealed words of God greatly comforted and soothed him. In his book, the *Kitabul Bariyyah*, he writes that this revelation gave him great comfort. It found a firm place in his heart. He calls upon God Himself to witness the manner in which He has fulfilled the revelation. Mirza Ghulam Ahmad writes that Allah has taken care of him as no father would have taken care of anyone. He has continuously received Divine favors in large measure which he finds impossible to count. Have you ever thought of the countless gifts you have received from Allah?

The Promised Messiah wrote down the revelation: "*Is not Allah sufficient for His servant?*" He handed it over to a Hindu named Malawamal for engraving. Malawamal took the help of Hakeem Moulvi Mohammed Shareef of Kalanour and they got it engraved on a semi-precious stone and set it in a ring. Mirza Ghulam Ahmad selected these two men for the job to let them know of this very important prophecy.

As foretold, his father, Mirza Ghulam Murtaza died the same day after sunset. He was buried in a corner of the Masjid-i-Aqsa.

QUESTIONS

1. When did the Promised Messiah see the dream which foretold his father's death?
2. What did the first revelation mean?
3. Why are these engraved rings worn?

TWO MARTYRS

(Nusrat Jahan Bashir)

Do you know the story of Abdul Rahman and Sahibzada Abdul Lateef? They were two great men who became martyrs by giving their lives for Islam. It happened like this:

In 1893, God told the Promised Messiah (peace be on him), "Two goats will be slaughtered and everyone who is here will meet his end." This revelation meant that two loyal and innocent followers of the Promised Messiah would be put to death, and death and destruction would follow the killing of these two martyrs.

About twenty years after this, some books written by the Promised Messiah found their way into the country of Afghanistan and into the hands of an Afghan citizen named Sahibzada Abdul Lateef. He was very well known and was much respected for his goodness, piety and knowledge. He read the books and was so touched by them he decided the Promised Messiah was true. He wanted to perform *Baiat* (take the pledge of loyalty) so he sent a pupil of his, Abdul Rahman, to Qadian for him. Once in Qadian, Maulvi Abdul Rahman signed the Baiat for the Sahibzada and also for himself. He too believed in the Messiah of God.

Maulvi Abdul Rahman returned for home with more books written by the Promised Messiah. He was so impressed with what he had seen and come to know that before going to his house he went to the King to tell him about the Promised Messiah. But what Abdul Rahman did not know was that some other people had gone to the King before him and had filled the King's mind with bad thoughts about the Promised Messiah and Abdul Rahman. They told the King that Abdul Rahman had gone against Islamic teachings by accepting the

Promised Messiah and so the King decided to have Abdul Rahman killed. Abdul Rahman was strangled to death and so the first innocent goat was slaughtered.

A few years later, Sahibzada Abdul Lateef decided to go to Qadian. Once he was in the company of the Promised Messiah his love and devotion for the Messiah of God grew deeper and deeper, and his heart became filled with the light and love of God. On his return to Afghanistan he also wanted to share this light with the King by telling him what he had seen at Qadian. But once again some evil-minded people turned the King against the Promised Messiah and the Sahibzada. The Sahibzada was ordered to be killed by stoning. The King asked him to give up his belief in Ahmadiyyat and the Promised Messiah and thus save his life. Do you know what the Sahibzada said? He said that Ahmadiyyat was the true Islam and he could not go back on the truth. He would rather die than give up his belief and go against the truth and the Prophet of God. He was brutally stoned in front of a large crowd. The second innocent goat was slaughtered.

Hardly a month after the stoning, the people of Afghanistan were struck by a terrible illness called cholera. Not a single home was spared. Death and destruction hit all, rich and poor alike. The people correctly feared that God was punishing them for the murder of these two innocent ones.

The deaths of these two martyrs were sad ones indeed for all Ahmadi Muslims. Their courage and love for God and His Prophet had touched all their hearts and the fulfillment of the Promised Messiah's prophecy (made many years earlier) was a very great sign of his truth.

QUESTIONS:

1. What prophecy of the Promised Messiah was fulfilled in this story?
2. From what country did the martyrs come?
3. What are their names?
4. What is a martyr?

THE PHILOSOPHY OF THE TEACHINGS OF ISLAM How Was This Book Written

(Farzana Quader)

Dear Children, the Promised Messiah, Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (peace be upon him), wrote many books. Some of these are: *Braheen-i-Ahmadiyya*, *Victory of Islam*, *Favors of the Benificent*, and *Jesus in India*. Some of these books have wonderful stories attached to them. Have you heard any of them?

One such book is *The Philosophy of the Teachings of Islam*. This is one of the most important books written by the Promised Messiah. However, this was not written as a book at first, but as a very long speech. He had written it as a long paper to be read out at a meeting of a group of religious leaders.

A Hindu religious leader named Swami Shugan Chandra had arranged a Conference of Great Religions. Do you know the word conference? Well, it is a meeting where all the people taking part in it read out their papers and talk about them. This meeting may go on for two or three days or even longer. This conference was arranged to be held in the Islamia College of Lahore (it was in India then) on the 26th, 27th and 28th of December, 1896. Learned men belonging to different religions were all invited. Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad was invited to read a paper on Islam in this conference. However, as he began writing it he had a severe attack of diarrhea. He did manage to complete the paper but was not able to attend the conference. So he selected one of his devoted and loyal followers, Maulvi Abdul Karim Sahib of Sialkot (at that time in India) to read out his paper.

Five days before the opening of the conference, the Promised Messiah made a great announcement called the Great News for Seekers after Truth. In it he said that his paper was not just the result of his efforts, but that it was a living sign of God and it was written with Allah's special help and grace. This paper showed the truths of the Holy Quran and that it was the true words of God. Allah also told the Promised Messiah that his paper would be the best among the papers to be read out in the conference.

During this time the Promised Messiah saw a vision in which an invisible hand had struck his house. As it struck, a shining light shot out and spread in all directions, some of it falling into his own hands. Then someone who stood nearby spoke in a loud voice: "*Allahu Akbar, Kharibat Khaibar.*" (Great is God, Khaibar is in ruins). The vision meant that his house was his heart and the light which spread in all directions was the truth of the Holy Quran. Khaibar meant the other religions which were influenced by false ideas and idol worship. The Promised Messiah received yet another revelation. In Arabic, Allah said: "Verily God is with you, verily God stands where you stand." This was a very sure sign of Allah's help.

On the 28th of December, the Promised Messiah's paper was read out by Maulvi Abdul Karim. A large crowd of people attended this conference and they all listened closely to his paper. It was so interesting that they wanted to hear more. The second speaker gave up the time given to him for reading his paper to Maulvi Abdul Karim. But by 4:30 in the afternoon the first part still had not been completed. Still everyone wanted to hear more. So it was decided to extend the conference till 5:30 in the evening and even for one more day—till the 29th of December.

After the paper was read, most of the listeners agreed that it was the best

paper read out in the conference. In the official report of the conference it received very high praise. The English translation of the paper, called the Teachings of Islam was very warmly received in Europe and America. It was praised by the famous Russian writer, Count Leo Tolstoy.

In the year 1910, it was made into a book. Since then, people all over the world in many countries have been able to read the words of the Promised Messiah in their own languages.

QUESTIONS

1. In what form was the *Philosophy of the Teachings of Islam* first written?
2. Who read out the Promised Messiah's paper?
3. What was the vision that the Promised Messiah saw and what did it mean?

THE WHITE MINARET

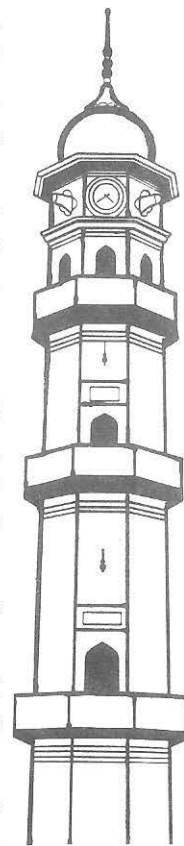
(Shahida Muhaimin)

Children, have you ever wondered why the White Minaret is so important to those of us who are Ahmadies? Of the many claims of the Promised Messiah, Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (peace be on him), the White Minaret was a sign to the entire Muslim world. The Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) had said, "The Promised Messiah will come by the White Minaret to the East of Damascus." Did you know that Qadian, India is to the east of Damascus? Do you remember from the first story that the Promised Messiah was born in Qadian, India?

In Arabic the word 'minarah' (minaret) means time and light. White means pure and spotless and a truly bright shine. When we put these two meanings together, we can see that the Promised Messiah would once again show to the entire world that Islam is the only true religion for the whole of mankind. The light of the Holy Quran would shine forth and brighten every kind of darkness.

Have you ever seen a picture of the White Minaret? Look at the picture and I will explain what it stands for:

1. The *Adhan* would be called out five times a day announcing loudly to all that there is only one God -Allah and that He alone is worthy to be worshipped.
2. Bright lights would be fixed on the top that would provide safety for the people by lighting the streets. The lights would be a



kind of signal that a new age of spiritual work has begun.

3. A clock on the top will tell the hours of the day to help the people. The clock would also show that this is a time when the doors of heaven are open.

Now you can see how the White Minaret stands for time and light and how it also announces the coming of the Promised Messiah as told by the Holy Prophet.

On the first of July, 1900, the Promised Messiah asked the people to give money to help build the minaret. He said that the names of those who gave the money would be put on the Minaret. After the Eid on Friday in the year 1903, the first brick of the Minaret was brought to the Promised Messiah as he sat in the Mosque. He placed the brick on his thigh and prayed for a long time with his followers. Then the brick was put in place by an Ahamdi mason (a mason is someone who works with bricks) named Fazal Din. Now the work of building the White Minaret had begun.

At first some government officials tried to stop the building of the Minaret but this difficulty was overcome. Then there was not enough money to finish the work. Finally, with the help of Almighty Allah, the Minaret was completed in 1916.

QUESTIONS:

1. What is the Arabic name and the meaning of the word Minaret?
2. What two things are on top of the Minaret?
3. Qadian is east of
4. What is the Hadith or saying of the Holy Prophet about the White Minaret?

JOHN ALEXANDER DOWIE

(Nusrat Jahan Bashir)

The Promised Messiah (peace be on him) lived very far away in Qadian, India, but Allah showed a great sign of his truth to people here in America also?

There was a man named Alexander Dowie who lived in America during the lifetime of the Promised Messiah. Dowie said that he had the power to heal people and that he was the forerunner of Jesus Christ. He founded a city in Illinois called Zion and he said that Jesus would come to his town of Zion. Many people believed him and followed him.



Soon, he began to say bad things about Islam. He said that if the Muslims did not become Christians they would meet with destruction. When the Promised Messiah heard this he wrote to Dowie telling him about the beauties of Islam and challenging him to a prayer-duel. For about a year (from 1902 to 1903) many newspapers in Europe and America printed information about this challenge. About two to three million people came to know about this challenge. But Dowie ignored the challenge of the Promised Messiah and he continued to pray for the destruction of Islam. He even went so far as to write in his paper, 'I pray to God that Islam should soon disappear from the world. O, God, accept this prayer of mine. O God, destroy Islam.' He would not stop making these awful attacks on Islam.

The Promised Messiah wanted people to find out the truth about Dowie. He

wanted them to see the truth of Islam and his claim to prophethood. He wrote that God had a sign to show to the American people. If Dowie should enter the prayer-duel, both would pray that the false one would be destroyed by God. The sign was that God would cause Dowie to die in great pain and misery. But Dowie just laughed at this claim of the Promised Messiah and said that the Promised Messiah was as unimportant as a gnat or fly whom he could easily step on and crush. Then in 1903 Dowie said that an angel had told him that he would be victorious over his enemies. By saying this he had accepted the prayer-duel. Now, the Promised Messiah waited for God to punish Dowie.

First Dowie's feet, the very feet that he said would trample down the Messiah of God, became paralysed. Dowie had lied and had attacked the beloved Messiah of God and the anger of God followed him. Dowie's followers began to doubt him. They found out he was not a good man, that he used to drink, that he stole the town's money and that he did other evil things. His followers began to leave him. He was paralysed and had to be carried from room to room by servants. he became almost insane and could barely talk and make sense. His last followers left and he finally died— penniless and in great pain and misery!!!

See how Allah showed the truth of Islam and the Promised Messiah? Even the newspapers in America had to declare that the Promised Messiah had won the prayer contest. On the next page is a small part of one of those articles that appeared in a Boston newspaper in 1907.

What a great sign for all Ahmadi Muslims and for American Ahmadi Muslims in particular!

QUESTIONS:

1. Where did Alexander Dowie live?
2. What did Dowie say about Islam?
3. What did the Promised Messiah want Dowie to do?
4. What happened to Alexander Dowie?

A MARRIAGE ARRANGED BY ALLAH ALMIGHTY

(Aisha N. Sharif)

Hazrat Mir Nasir Nawab, a member of an important family from Delhi, India, happened to be near Qadian, India, one time because of his job. While he was there his wife became sick. Having met the older brother of the Promised Messiah, Mirza Ghulam Qadir, Hazrat Nawab asked him for help. Mirza Ghulam Qadir suggested he see his father (and, of course, the father of the Promised Messiah) who was known for his medical experience.

In this way, Hazrat Mir Nasir Nawab happened to see the Promised Messiah (peace be on him). He was very impressed by the Promised Messiah's trust in God and righteousness. Hazrat Nawab had a daughter at home so he asked the Promised Messiah to pray for a righteous husband for her.

Now the great and amazing thing is that while Hazrat Nawab was praying for a righteous son-in-law, the Promised Messiah was getting revelations from Almighty Allah about a new and blessed marriage. In fact, the Promised Messiah had been told by God of his marriage a long time before this. Allah in His Mercy told Hazrat Ahmad that He would arrange everything for his marriage. God Almighty also told him that his wife would be the mother of a blessed generation that would spread the truth of Islam all over the world. For this reason Allah named her Khadija. What a wonderful message!

What kind of person could fulfil such a revelation? Who could be the wife of the Promised Messiah and Mother of a blessed generation?

Let us now see what kind of person the daughter of Hazrat Mir Nasir Nawab was, for whom he was trying to find a husband. His daughter's name

was Syeda Nusrat Jehan, may Allah be pleased with her. It seems that when she was born her father knew that she would be a special person and begged Almighty Allah to arrange everything for her.

Her family was a noble Syed family which means they were descendants of the Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings of Allah be on him. One of her great, great grandfathers was a great saint whom Allah had told that his spiritual work had begun with the Holy Prophet and would end up with the Promised Mahdi (Reformer). Hazrat Ahmad is known as the Promised Messiah and Mahdi.

For this reason and because of the revelations he had received, the Promised Messiah offered himself as the one to become the husband of Hazrat Nawab's daughter. The wedding of the Promised Messiah and this noble lady was very, very simple. In fact it was so simple that the relatives made fun of it. There was no big ceremonies or exchanges of jewelry and clothing. How little did those who laughed realize that the blessings of two worlds would come from this Divine marriage!

When Hazrat Nusrat Jehan first came into the Promised Messiah's house she was a complete stranger in Qadian. She was used to living in a large city with great sights and happenings but now her home was a small village. The language was different, the customs were different and her parents were far away. The family hardly even greeted her at all. But, children, by the Grace of God, by the end of her great and pious life, she was the 'Mother of the Faithful' and not only loved by all those in Qadian, but by all who came to the Annual Gathering (Jalsa Salana). Her new home became a thousand times dearer to her than Delhi had been. The loving and respectful title by which she was called was Amman Jan.

Amman Jan was one of the greatest supporters of the Promised Messiah, and

believed in all of his announcements and warnings with all her heart. She made all of her prayers on time as well as night prayers and extra prayers.

With this Divine marriage Allah Almighty revealed that the greatness of the Promised Messiah's family would start anew. All of their children were born after the Promised Messiah had received glad tidings from Almighty Allah about their birth. When the Promised Messiah passed away from this life, he left behind three sons and two daughters from this marriage. One of them is Hazrat Nawab Mubarak Begum whose story you may read next and another was Hazrat Mirza Bashiruddin Mahmud Ahmad who later became the second Khalifa. His story can also be found in another place in this book.

When Allah the True makes a promise to one of his chosen ones you can be sure dear children that it is going to come true in all of its greatness and glory.

You must try to read more about Hazrat Amman Jan as she is a great, shining example for all Ahmadi Muslim girls to follow. May Allah Almighty grant her a high station in Paradise.

QUESTIONS:

1. Who was Hazrat Mir Nasir Nawab?
2. What did Allah Almighty tell the Promised Messiah about his marriage?
3. How did the people of Qadian feel about Amman Jan after she had lived there for a long time?

SYEDA NAWAB MUBARAKA BEGUM THE PROMISED MESSIAH'S DAUGHTER

(Aisha N. Sharif)

It is not an ordinary thing when God Almighty announces the birth of a child. Such was the case with Hazrat Nawab Mubaraka Begum. The Promised Messiah, peace be on him, received a revelation, or a message from Allah, that he would get a blessed daughter who would be brought up among ornaments. This meant that she would have a long life and good fortune. The Promised Messiah also had a dream in which he was told that his blessed daughter would rise to a high rank and have a title of honor. So right from the beginning Allah, the All Knowing, was showing everyone that Hazrat Nawab Mubaraka Begum would be a very special person.

The most outstanding thing about her was her great love and devotion to Allah Almighty. Dear Children, even if someone is very rich or very famous, only closeness to God and obedience to His Laws bring the greatest kind of success. Hazrat Nawab Mubaraka Begum worshipped Allah day and night and wrote beautiful poems praising Him. When other people read her poems about Allah Almighty, they would feel the same thing in their own hearts because of her special way of writing.

Allah in His Wisdom again showed that she was a special lady by giving her a very important dream, even when she was a child. Hazrat Maulvi Nur-ud Din was the first follower of the Promised Messiah and then Khalifa after he passed away. In this dream Hazrat Mubaraka saw Hazrat Nur-ud Din. He was sitting

with a book in his hand and he told her that the book contained revelation of the Promised Messiah about him. He also said that he was Abu Bakr. When Hazrat Mubaraka told her father of the dream in the morning he was satisfied but he told her not to tell her mother. Let us see what is the great thing that God Almighty showed her in this dream. When the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be on him) died, Hazrat Abu Bakr took over the leadership of the Muslims as their first Khalifa. The Promised Messiah knew that when Hazrat Nuruddin said he was Abu Bakr, this meant that Nur-ud Din would become the first Khalifa upon the passing away of the Promised Messiah. What an important and great thing Allah showed to Hazrat Nawab Mubaraka even as a child.

Her love for the Holy Prophet was very great and she wrote beautiful poetry about him. She was completely devoted to her father, the Promised Messiah and to his Divine Mission. She recorded many important events from his life. When the Promised Messiah passed away from this life, Hazrat Mubaraka Begum did a great service for the Ahmadiyya Jamaat (Community) by delivering speeches and writing articles about the life of her beloved father. She told these events in a way that stirred the hearts of her audience with love and remembrance of their Messiah.

Hazrat Nawab Mubaraka Begum was also very close to her brother, Hazrat Mirza Bashiruddin Mahmud Ahmad, who later became the second Khalifa. They were very close and shared their secrets and deepest thoughts. He was the first to see all of her poetry. But she obeyed him as the Khalifa in an outstanding way as though she were the humblest of followers.

Devoted daughter, loving sister, loyal follower, ...what kind of wife would such a person be? Her husband, Nawab Muhammad Ali Khan, found her to be

totally devoted and he would always seek blessing from her! Once he asked her to write some lines of poetry on a New Years' Calendar. She wrote:

“The Mercy of God may protect us always, everyday may be blessed and every night may pass in peace.”

He was so pleased with it that he printed it on every new calendar in the future.

May Allah Almighty grant this lady a special place in Paradise.

QUESTIONS:

1. Who was the father of Hazrat Nawwab Mubaraka Begum?
2. What was the most outstanding thing about her?
3. What great dream did Hazrat Mubaraka have when she was a child?

KHILAFAT

(Zainab B. Asad)

My dear children, have you ever noticed that no matter what situation you are in, there is always a leader who makes decisions and helps things work out? To begin with, you are a member of your family with two very important leaders at its head — your mother and father. Although they sometimes have to make decisions that may not always please you, try to imagine your family without the love and support they provide. If you are in school, the teacher is the leader of your classroom, your principal the head of the school. And I'm sure you could list many more leaders within your school system.

Generals in the army, the President of the country, the team captain of the squad; all of these leaders and many more affect your life in more ways than you can imagine.

There have been times in history when men tried to come together and accomplish a task without a leader. They felt that if all could share equal responsibility, they could succeed. But it never worked. Without a leader to make decisions, everyone was soon arguing and the task went undone. Often many people suffered because of this, until finally someone would step forward and become the leader and 'save the day.'

So you see, leaders are important people in all of our lives. They are the main ingredient needed to make everything run smoothly and efficiently. Without someone to lead the way, progress would be impossible.

Why is it so important for you to understand this idea of leadership? Because by following the many leaders that guide you when you are children, you are

preparing yourselves to follow Allah's plan of leadership for our life here on earth. Allah knew that man would always need guidance to keep him on the right path so He designed a plan of leadership for all of mankind called Khilafat. I will explain this plan to you.

In the beginning Allah created man to worship Him. Allah knew that man would need a spiritual leader here on earth to guide him. A man who would have the most excellent character—the perfect leader, teacher, and guide. So, when man was ready, Allah began to send prophets. The first prophet was Adam, and the final prophet to bring a law was the Holy Prophet Muhammad, may the peace and blessings of Allah be on him.

Allah sent many prophets to guide man on the right path, but since a prophet is a mortal being, someone was needed to continue his work after his death. So Allah decreed that the prophet's work would be perfected by setting up after his death righteous and capable men one after the other as his successors. In Islam these successors are called Khalifas, for the word Khalifa means one coming after, or one succeeding another. You see, Allah designed Khilafat so that the world may never be without the blessings of Prophethood.

From ancient times every prophet has been having this succession of Khalifas after him. For example, Moses had Joshua as his Khalifa. Jesus had Peter, and the Holy Prophet was succeeded by Hazrat Abu Bakr, Hazrat Umar, Hazrat Uthman, and Hazrat Ali.

The four Khalifas who came after the Holy Prophet are known as the rightly guided Khalifas or the rightly guided Khalifas because they did what Allah intended them to—they carefully followed the teachings of the Holy Prophet and continued the work he had been sent to do. The period of their Khilafat lasted for 30 years. Islam was wonderfully successful during these 30 years and it spread far and wide. Many nations accepted the message of Islam. But after

Ali, the Khalifas began to stray more and more from the teachings of the Holy Prophet. And without the proper leadership, Islam began to fall apart. Although by this time, it had spread to the borders of India and China in the East and into North Africa and Spain in the West, the Muslims were straying from the truth.

Once again help arrived. Allah sent Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, the Promised Messiah, may the blessings of Allah be on him, to put new life into Islam and lead the Muslims back to the teachings of the Holy Prophet. When the Promised Messiah died in 1908, there was still a lot of work to be done in order to bring Islam to the whole world. More spiritual leaders would be needed who would follow in the footsteps of the Promised Messiah and so, with the election of Hazrat Maulvi Nuruddin as Khalifatul Masih I, the Ahmadiyya Muslim Khilafat was begun.

Hazrat Maulvi Nuruddin was the first Successor to the Promised Messiah. He died on March 13, 1914. The second Successor to the Promised Messiah was the Promised Son, Hazrat Mirza Bashiruddin Mahmud Ahmad, Khalifatul Masih II. He was Khalifa for almost 52 years and succeeded in spreading Islam all over the world. He died on November 8, 1965. Next came the third successor to the Promised Messiah, Hazrat Mirza Nasir Ahmad, Khalifatul Masih III. Hazrat Mirza Nasir Ahmad passed away on June 8, 1982, and our present Khalifa is Hazrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad, the fourth Successor to the Promised Messiah.

My dear children, Khilafat is a wonderful plan of leadership for the world, but you must remember that the Khalifa is quite different from other worldly leaders. The Khalifa is a spiritual leader, and although he is elected through the vote of the people, Allah is really supervising the whole thing. He guides the people so they will make the right decision and because the Khalifa is chosen by

Allah, his appointment is not for a time but for life.

In a democratic society like America, the president is bound in many matters to listen to the advice of the people. But in Islam, although the Khalifa must consult the people, he is not bound to listen to their advice. He can make his own decisions independent of their advice and his word is the final one. However, unlike any other worldly leader, he must always obey the laws of Islam. The Khalifa must always act as an example to his people; his Sunna (practice) is an example for others to follow.

Children, you can begin to prepare yourselves to enter into this Divine plan of leadership called Khilafat. To begin with, you must practice being obedient to your parents, teachers and others who would guide you rightly. Secondly, you are not too young to begin to attach yourself to the Khalifa. Ask for his prayers for the things that are important to you, for he is very close to Allah. Learn all that you can about what the Khalifa wants you to do and try your best to carry out his wishes.

Remember, only Allah Almighty appoints a Khalifa and no matter how learned you may become, true success lies in remaining firmly attached to him.

QUESTIONS:

1. What is Allah's plan of leadership for the world? How does it work?
2. Who are the four rightly guided Khalifas?
3. What is the job of a Khalifa?
4. What is the Ahmadiyya Khilafat?
5. How is the Khalifa different from other worldly leaders?
6. What can you do to prepare yourself for the divine plan of leadership?

HAZRAT MAULVI NURUDDIN

(Allah Be Pleased With Him)

(Shahida Amtul Muhaimin)

Well children, you have just read that Hazrat Maulvi Nuruddin was the very first Khalifa of the Ahmadiyya Community. Have you ever seen his picture?

Hazrat Maulvi Hakim Nuruddin was the youngest of nine children born to Hafiz Ghulam Rasul and Noor Bakht.

Did you know that Hazrat Nuruddin was from the family of Hazrat Umar? Hazrat Umar was the second Khalifa to the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be on him).

Just think, Hazrat Nuruddin and ten other male relatives memorized the whole Holy Quran. Do you think you could do the same thing?

His father, Hafiz Ghulam Rasul, would spend a lot of money to buy and give away the Holy Quran to anyone who would take it. He also wanted his children to have knowledge about a lot of things. Once Nuruddin said, "If my father were alive at this time he would have sent me to the United States in search of



knowledge.” What a wonderful feeling to know that your father loves you so much.

One of Hazrat Nuruddin’s hobbies was to collect books. Do you like to collect things like stamps or rocks? Do you have a favorite sport? Hazrat Nuruddin’s favorite sport was swimming. He loved swimming so much, he would even swim in winter.

When Nuruddin was twelve, he became sick. He was so interested in the way he was treated by the doctor that he wanted to learn medicine. But his oldest brother talked him out of it and told him to study Persian instead. However, his interest never died and later in life he did become an excellent doctor.

Because Hazrat Nuruddin loved different languages, his brother Maulvi Sultan Ahmad taught him to read and understand Arabic. Now Nuruddin could read and write a number of languages. How many languages can you read or write?

Once a friend of Nuruddin’s father came to visit. His job was selling books. Because he knew that Hazrat Nuruddin had a great love for books, he gave him a copy of the five main chapters of the Holy Quran.

At the age of seventeen, Hazrat Nuruddin started studying for his diploma in education. His progress was very fast, but unfortunately some of his classes had to be stopped. So in his spare time he would receive help from private teachers in other subjects. His knowledge was so outstanding that at the age of twenty-one he was the principal of a local school in India.

Because of his love and deep understanding of Allah and the Holy Quran, he began to have true dreams. When Nuruddin heard that a man living in Qadian, India, Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, claimed that God spoke to him, Nuruddin

himself. He prayed during the whole trip for Divine help. As soon as he saw Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad in person he knew that this was what he had been looking for his whole life and that he, Nuruddin, would be willing to die for this man, Hazrat Ahmad.

Hazrat Nuruddin became the first man to accept the baiat at the hand of the Promised Messiah, peace be on him. He had so much love and respect for the Promised Messiah that he was willing to give up anything and never once would he miss it. Nuruddin placed his faith above everything else in this world. The Promised Messiah loved Hazrat Nuruddin so much that he said, "I wish that everyone could be like Nuruddin."

So you see, all of his life Hazrat Maulvi Nuruddin proved that he was a special person. Because of this Allah, the All Knowing, made him the first Khalifa of the Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam.

May Allah Almighty grant him the highest terrace in Paradise.

QUESTIONS:

1. Name the parents of Hazrat Maulvi Nuruddin?
2. What was Hazrat Nuruddin's favorite sport?
3. What did Hazrat Nuruddin do when he heard about the Promised Messiah?

THE BASKET OF MELONS

(Amtul Nur Ahmad)

My dear children, today I want to share with you a beautiful event of Hazrat Amman Jee's life. Do you know who she was? She was the respected wife of our beloved Imam, Hazrat Maulvi Nuruddin, Khalifatul Masih the First. Amman Jee's name was 'Sugrah Bibi', but we call her Amman Jee which means 'Dear Mother'. She was the very first lady to accept her *Bai'at* or pledge in front of the Promised Messiah (peace be on him) on the very first day the first *Bai'ats* were taken. That was the beginning of the Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam.

She was a very generous, kind-hearted lady and was always concerned about the welfare of the Jamaat. Once, a poor lady, who had no money came to her. Amman Jee gave her some money and advised her to buy a bushel of melons from a garden. She could then make some money selling the melons.

Dear reader, the next day the lady got up early in the morning and bought a bushel of melons. She came to Amman Jee and asked her to buy some melons and also to pray for her so she could have a blessed start. Do you know what Amman Jee did? She smiled and said, "Now where will you go to sell those melons? O.K., I will buy them all." Since the woman had sold all of her melons, her work was done for the day, so Amman Jee told her to rest for the day. And children, this became the lifetime routine of this poor lady, whose problems were now solved.

Now let us see, why did Amman Jee do this? She did it because she did not want to hurt the self-respect of a poor woman. What great love and concern!

My dear children, such was the lifestyle of the companions of the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him)!

QUESTIONS:

1. Who was Amman Jee?
2. How did she help the poor lady?

A GREAT NATION BUILDER

(Shakoora J. Nooriah)

One of the brightest days in the life of the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) was January 12, 1889. What made that day so special? The Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) was a faithful and obedient Prophet of God and he worked very hard to tell the whole world the truth about Islam. So God promised him in a revelation that a remarkable son would be born to him and his wife.

This grand prophecy came true on that blessed day in 1889 (9 Jamadi I., 1306 A.H.). This son was given the name Mahmud. Later he would be known as Hazrat Mirza Bashir-ud-Din Mahmud Ahmad, Khalifatul Masih II, Supreme Head of the Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam. As a child he was extremely intelligent, but not physically strong. Poor health kept him from attending school regularly and he was taught at home by Maulvi Nur-ud-Din. He learned to recite the Holy Quran and some Ahadith, sayings of the Prophet Muhammad.

He grew up with “amazing speed” and it became clear to many people that he was no



ordinary son. In fact he was to become, by Allah's grace, an outstanding leader who gathered people around the world under the banner of the True Islam. When he was only 25 years old he was elected to be Khalifatul Masih II after the death of Hazrat Noor-ud-Din, Khalifatul Masih I. Khalifa is an Arabic word meaning one who is a successor. Do you remember from our story about Khilafat that it is Allah Almighty's plan of leadership for the world?

Though a few people thought he was too young to be Khalifa at such an early age, the Ahmadiyya Community rallied around him and took Bai'at at his hand. Bai'at is an Arabic word meaning Oath of Allegiance. His people grew to love him dearly and called him "Hazoor", a title of affection.

Khalifatul Masih II, or Hazoor, worked very hard to purify his followers so that they would become shining examples of how good Muslims must act and think in obedience to God's Will. His goal was to make Islam supreme over all other religions in the world. He improved the training of missionaries and sent many of them out around the world to help bring people to Islam. More Mosques were built in Africa, Europe, America and Asia. Mission houses were also built in many cities. He reached the hearts of people by teaching with love, not with weapons.

He did many things in his busy program to contact non-Muslim people so they could learn about Islam as taught by the Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam. He organized Religious Founders' Day and invited people of different religions to speak about their religious leaders. He set up Holy Prophet's Day to teach Muslims and non-Muslims about the perfect life of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) so they might try to follow his example. He set up the Talimul Islam College and designed a better program for training Muslim scholars to become missionaries.

He set up schools, clinics, hospitals, and mosques in Nigeria, Ghana, Sierra

Leone, Liberia, Gambia, Ivory Coast, Mauritius, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and South Africa and other locations in Africa. In Europe the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community is located in London, Switzerland, Holland, Spain, Germany, and recently in Sweden and Denmark.

In the Americas, the Community has locations in the United States, Canada, Guyana, and Trinidad. In Asia, it has locations in Aden, Ceylon, Burma, Singapore, Indonesia, and North Borneo and Fiji Islands. Khalifatul Masih II had foreseen the need to raise funds for all of these building activities, so in 1934 he started the Tahrik-e-Jadeed plan. This plan takes pledges in money from Ahmadi Muslims around the world to finance the world-wide mission building program.

Furthermore, he had the Holy Quran translated into English, Dutch, Danish, Esperanto, Swahili, German and Lugandi.

Khalifatul Masih II was a genius at organizing the moral and spiritual training of each Ahmadi Muslim. He organized:

Majlis Ansarullah (Association of the Helpers of God) for all male Ahmadi Muslims over the age of forty years.

Majilis Khuddamul Ahmadiyya (Association of the Servants of Ahmadiyyat) for all male Ahmadi Muslims between ages 15 and 40.

Atfalul Ahmadiyya (Children of Ahmadiyyat) for male children between ages 7 and 15 years.

Lajna Imaillah (Association of the Handmaidens of God) for all female Ahmadi Muslims above age 15.

Nasiratul Ahmadiyya (Female Helpers of God) for all female children between ages 7 and 15.

The main purpose of these organizations is to train the community in moral

and spiritual growth by joining members together in loving brotherhood and sisterhood. These associations make the Community strong.

He set up an Electoral College to elect the new Khalifa, under Allah's guidance, whenever the previous Khalifa passed away from this life.

Huzoor was very concerned about educating the women and girls of the community and he himself set up classes for them to learn to read and write, to study the Holy Quran in Arabic and to learn Hadith and English. The women learned to vote in political elections in their districts. He taught his male and female followers to stop thinking so much about jewelry and clothes and theaters. In his wise way, he patiently explained to them that as the Community could not foresee all future events, it was important that they try to make the Ahmadiyya Community financially secure.

Khalifatul Masih II was very careful about the moral upbringing of all children, especially Ahmadi children. There are many examples in his life which show his feelings about children, women and poor people. One day his wife bought a beautiful new carpet which she liked very much. A poor woman from the village came to visit Huzoor. Her bare feet were streaked with mud. She entered the house and sat on the carpet. Huzoor's wife didn't say a word, but there may have been something in her silence which caught his attention. When the woman left, Huzoor told his wife that she had better put that carpet away somewhere else because he did not want it to come between him and his people.

Huzoor's daughter Sahibzadi Amatul Qayyum Ahmad recalled her childhood with her father. She said, "As a child I had the impression that Allah talked to him even as you and I are talking together. He was firm and strict, but friendly with all of his children. He checked on our daily Prayers, especially in the mornings. He liked outdoor life and often took us on shooting excursions for ducks, partridges and a large water bird which is called "mug" in Urdu. Even the girls

learned to shoot small birds with rifles. He did not really enjoy fishing, but sometimes he would take us to indulge in what he called a "lazy sport." His bodyguard taught us to shoot arrows and we became good marksmen. Survival skills of this type were part of our preparation for times when courage would be needed, such as during the Partition of India in 1947 when India became independent of British rule."

She went on to say that they looked forward to picnics at the hill station, a place for rest and relaxation in a pleasant summer environment. She related a story which shows how sensitive her father was about children's feelings.

"One day the children were making a chickpea dish for a picnic and they were so excited about helping that they wanted to taste the peas before they were done. When Huzoor noticed what we were doing, he instructed us not to eat the half-done peas because we would get sick. After a while, the warning was forgotten. I tried to stop them as they bent over the pot again to inhale the delicious smell. Just at the moment they were going to taste the forbidden, he returned. He scolded all of us and punished us by cancelling the picnic. We were all told to apologize for disobeying his order, but I refused to apologize because I had been accused of failing in my duty to my father whom I dearly loved and respected."

She continued her story: "A short time later, after he had been given a full explanation of what happened, he came to look for me. He humbly asked me to forgive him. He said, "I've been told that you want your father to apologize to you for misjudging you. So here I am. Punish me as you like!" He respected the honor of his people, including the children.

Sahibzadi Amtul Qayyum, now affectionately called Bibi Qayyum, told how her father cared for poor people. He had a plan to convert the Untouchables (a badly treated lower class of people in India) to Islam. If they became Muslims

their status would be raised to equality with the other people and they would be saved from shame. This would also have increased the number of Muslims in India. Many Untouchables did become Muslims but the enemies of the Ahmadi Muslim Community spoiled the plan. Her father was very benevolent towards all people, rich or poor.

He was always thoughtful of others. When he was quite ill himself he heard about one of his foes who was a famous newspaper-man. The man was seriously ill and his children were neglecting him. Huzoor immediately sent his own personal physician to tend the man. He told his physician to go every day to see him and report on his condition. He helped the man in every way he could. He would wait anxiously every evening to hear the doctor's report. He did not like for people to know what he did for others and tried to keep it secret. But after he became ill, he was not able to keep his good works a secret because other people had to help him to do them.

Sahibzadi Amatul Qayyum said that she seldom saw her father sleeping at night. He would read and pray during the night by candlelight and sleep after morning Prayer. He used his pocket watch to time his five-minute naps and would wake himself up on time. He never came to meals on time, except for breakfast, because of his busy schedule. He ate little. He had a keen sense of smell and could tell if a glass was not properly washed, and he would reject it.

He was very clean but not fussy and liked perfume which he enjoyed making himself. He had two large cupboards with supplies which served as his laboratory. His office was separated from the main family area and his morning work began with the mail and the newspaper. He wrote a detailed Commentary on the Holy Quran called "Tafseer Kabeer" which is highly praised by scholars. In addition, he carried on a world-wide correspondance with Ahmadi Muslims and other people who admired him and sought his advice. He wrote many books

and tracts such as *Way of the Seekers* and *Invitation to Ahmadiyyat*.

Whenever he was worried about something he would walk up and down reading the Holy Quran. He kept up this habit of walking right up to the time of his death. To his followers he was a loving father who gave help, encouragement, and advice, but there were people who did not like what he taught.

One day a young man came to worship service and stood just behind Hazoor. Right after the Prayer, as Hazoor was leaving, the man suddenly got up and forcefully stabbed him in the neck with a long knife. It was a bad wound and there was heavy bleeding from it. Members of the congregation seized the crazed attacker and were about to hurt him when Hazoor firmly and coolly ordered them not to harm him in any way but to hold him securely for the police. The man was arrested and given a long prison term.

Sahibzadi Amtul Qayyum said that her father sent for her and her brother (who was later elected Khalifatul Masih III) to console them and calm them. Though he was in pain and suffering, he took the time to express deep fatherly concern for them. He gave them a serious talk, an inheritance that they would never forget. He told them, "Always be kind to the poor. Never break anyone's heart. Allah expects something from you because you are of the family of the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him). Your responsibility is more than that of other people. If you are good, Allah will give you good. Think deeply to continue the blessings of Allah. Strive hard for it."

He never fully recovered from the attack but he continued to work. Near the end of the year 1965, he became weaker but he tried to keep up with his responsibilities. He might forget small, day to day happenings, but not the important knowledge which he had spent his life acquiring. Hazrat Mahmud Ahmad had truly fulfilled God's prophecy that he was the Promised Son. The end came on November 8, 1965. People around the world were very sad. They knew a very



NOTE: Stars indicate existing Ahmadiyya Centers only, no number of members.

81. Portugal
82. Qatar
83. Rasal Khaimah U.A.E.
84. Russia (U.S.S.R)
85. Rwanda
86. Saudi Arabia
87. Senegal
88. Sharja
89. Sierra Leone
90. Singapore
91. Somalia
92. South Africa,
93. Solomon Island
94. Spain
95. Sri Lanka
96. Sudan
97. Surinam
98. Sweden
99. Switzerland
100. Syria
101. Tanzania
102. Thailand
103. Togo
104. Tonga
105. Trinidad (West Indies)
106. Tunisia
107. Turkey
108. Tuvalu -South Pacific
109. Uganda
110. Ummul Khairan U.A.E.
111. United Kingdom
112. United States of America
113. Vanuatli (South Pacific)
114. West Germany (Federal Rep.)
115. Western Samoa
116. South Yemen
117. Yugoslavia
118. Zaire
119. Zambia
120. Zimbabwe

great man had passed away from this life.

The great nation which he built is the world-wide community of the Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam.

Here is a paragraph from one of the many wonderful books that Hazrat Bashiruddin Mahmud Ahmad wrote:

“Life here is limited. Nobody knows how long each of us may last. Sooner or later all must be ready to go and stand in the Presence of the Almighty God. Nothing will then avail but true beliefs and good works. All of us whether rich or poor go empty-handed from here. Neither rich nor poor take away anything with them when they go from here to the hereafter. We all carry only faith and good works with us. Answer the call of Islam that you may become accepted of Allah. The duty that was mine has been done. I have delivered to you the Message. It is for you to accept it or not. The least I hope and expect is that you will go through this Message with care, and then if you find it right and true, you will not hesitate to believe. May Allah make it so! And our last words are: “All praise for Allah, the Lord of the Worlds.”

(from *Invitation to Ahmadiyyat* by Khalifatul Masih II)

QUESTIONS:

1. Who was the father of Hazrat Mirza Bashiruddin Mahmud Ahmad?
2. How old was he when he became Khalifa?
3. Name four countries where Khalifatul Mashi set up Ahmadi Muslim missions.
4. Name five organizations in the Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam.
5. What did Hazoor do to help the girls and women?
6. Give an example of how Khalifatul Masih II treated his enemies.
7. What advice did he give to his children after he had been stabbed?
8. When did Khlifatul Masih II pass away?

THE MIRACLE OF RABWAH

(Ruqaiya Sharif)

In 1947 there was the partition of India. Most of the Muslims left India and came to live in a new country called Pakistan. The Partition was a very hard time for the Muslims because they were treated very badly by the non-Muslims in India. They were made to leave their homes and their former lives and become refugees in a new place. They were crammed on trains until they overflowed. As they departed and on the way to Pakistan they were tortured and abused by the non-Muslims. While on the evacuation trains, Muslims were brutally attacked and murdered. When the trains stopped at stations on the way, non-Muslim mobs attacked them. Upon arriving in Pakistan, almost all who had survived were injured in terrible ways. People had their hands and feet cut off and children with their eyes torn out. Those who tried to cross the border to Pakistan on foot were, if possible, treated worse.

Hazrat Mirza Bashiruddin Mahmud Ahmad was the Khalifa at the time. He, himself, waited in Qadian, a town in India where the Promised Messiah was born, until the majority of Ahmadi Muslims had been evacuated. When he arrived in Lahore, Pakistan, the Khalifa ordered that the Ahmadi Muslims were to assist the non-Muslims who were leaving Pakistan on their way to India. The Ahmadis who had just been brutally treated by the non-Muslims now showed them love and mercy in their moving out from the new Pakistan. Not one Ahmadi during the partition killed, injured or harmed a non-Muslim in any way. Through their trials and hardships, the Ahmadi Muslims showed strength and faith.

The Muslims now began to build a new place for themselves and started

The Muslims now began to build a new place for themselves and started schools and mosques. The Ahmadi Muslims could not return to Qadian, so a search began for a site for the Headquarters of the Ahmadiyya Movement. An area was located of about one thousand acres of dry, barren soil. It was ninety-five miles west of Lahore. In June of 1948, the Movement purchased the land from the government. This town, to be built on a treeless, grassless, dry, uncultivable tract of land, was named Rabwah. This name was ironic because it was taken from the Holy Quran, Chapter 23 Verse 51: "*And We made the son of Mary and his mother a Sign, and gave them refuge on an elevated land of green valleys and springs of running water.*" The word 'Rabwatin' can be found in the Arabic of the verse.

A party of Muslims planned how the town would be and submitted their plans to the Government Town Planner who caused several difficulties. There were sixteen quarters of the town and he could not understand why a mosque had to be built in every quarter. He said that two central mosques were enough for the sixteen quarters. But the Rabwah group pointed out that they would need sixteen other mosques in addition to the center two because the mosque was the center of each quarter, therefore, one was needed for each. The Town Planner also objected that there was no cinema or theater. This was absurd, however, since Muslims are not allowed to attend the theater and no one could understand why one or more would be needed. So they took the matter to a government official who overruled the Planner's objections.

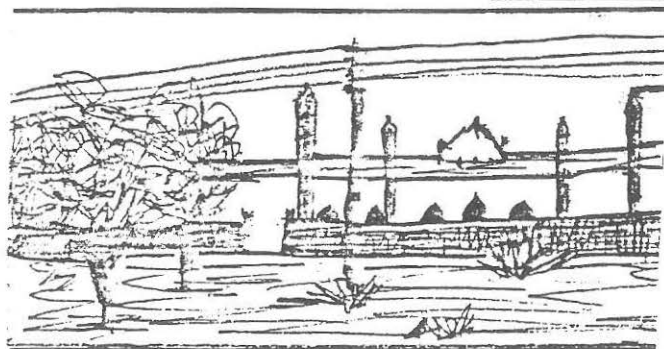
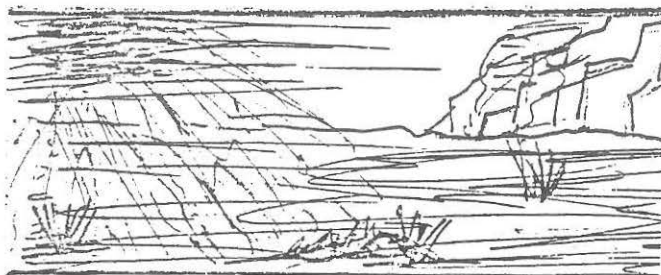
After official matters were settled, the little town began to take shape. Temporary offices were established for the Khalifa and Ahmadi Muslims began to settle there. That summer was very difficult though because there were few facilities and living was uncomfortable. Eventually sweet water became

available. Electricity was supplied, a phone system was set up and trees were planted which grew and provided shade along the busy streets.

Though it is still a simple place, hundreds of thousands of Ahmadi Muslims come there for the Annual Jalsa Salana and to be a part of the miracle of Rabwah.

QUESTIONS;

1. How were the Muslims treated during the Partition?
2. What kind of land was Rabwah built on?
3. What is the miracle of Rabwah?



MUFTI MUHAMMAD SADIQ

First Ahmadiyya Missionary to USA

(Yahya Sharif)

In order to bring the True Islam to us in America, a very fine and special Muslim was sent here from the International Center. He had a beautiful appearance and many people here liked him very much. His full name was Mufti Muhammad Sadiq and he was a Companion of the Promised Messiah.

Hazrat Sadiq came from a little town called Bhera, not far from Rabwah. Hazrat Nurud Din, our first Khalifa, was also from that town.

Hazrat Sadiq was descended from Hazrat Uthman, the third Khalifa of Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him. Sadly, his parents had lost other children before, so a lot of religious people prayed for his birth. He was born on January 11, 1872, and was the first person in his town to have the name Muhammad Sadiq.

As a boy, he was given much religious training. He was faithful in his prayers and studies, so much so that do you know, it is reported that



from his boyhood days, Allah was already answering his prayers.

He got to meet Hazrat Nuruddin in Bhera, and received from him a very nice gift of an engraved stand used for pen and ink.

In 1888, Hazrat Sadiq's father sent him to Kashmir to study the Holy Quran with Hazrat Maulana Nuruddin. He also learned about the Promised Messiah and was deeply impressed.

A year later he had a vision. This is a great spiritual dream from Allah, but it comes while one is awake. It is a great sign that one is a real Muslim on the right path. What was Hazrat Sadiq's vision?

He saw a star and it was rising fast in the sky. It was also getting brighter and brighter until it reached the highest place. Soon it became a big bright moon and the moon was traveling in circles. Every time the moon went around in a circle, on its next trip the circle was larger. Finally, the circle was so big it took the whole sky in view.

Hazrat Sadiq woke up and was deeply moved. He told the elders about his vision. They replied — these were clear signs about the Promised One who was expected on the earth. Do you know who that was?

In January, 1891, Hazrat Sadiq became an Ahmadi Muslim by joining the Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam. He was only nineteen years old and one of the first of the 313 Companions of the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him). How fortunate he was! He used to go to Qadian to learn from the Promised Messiah, sometimes for a few days at a time, and there was much love and affection between the Master and his Companion. Hazrat Sadiq was referred to as "an able and virtuous servant", and "a true beloved, sincere friend."

During the time of Hazrat Maulvi Nuruddin as our first Khalifa, Hazrat

Sadiq was sent all over India to give talks on True Islam. During the time of Hazrat Mirza Bashiruddin Mahmud Ahmad, our second Khalifa, he was the Headmaster of Talim-ul-Islam High School at Qadian.

It was during that time in 1920, that the Khalifa chose him to come to the United States.

There are many interesting stories about the work of Hazrat Mufti Muhammad Sadiq in America. He traveled here across the ocean in a boat. At one time the waves shook the boat and it was very rough at sea. Hazrat Sadiq stood on the deck of the boat. He said to the stormy Atlantic Ocean — “How dare your waters be so reckless. Do you not know that a disciple of the Promised Messiah is on board with a message to the American people? Calm down and away with your dangers.” By the Grace of Allah, the fury of the waters calmed down.

It is also said that he had some trouble getting into the United States. But with Allah’s help, while he was held up by officials, laws were passed in the U.S. Congress opening the way for him.

Hazrat Sadiq first went to New York but soon established an Ahmadiyya Muslim center at Chicago. From there he started a wonderful magazine about Islam for Americans. It is called the *Muslim Sunrise* and is still published as our main magazine here. In many issues, lists of new Ahmadi Muslims appeared in large numbers. Thousands of Americans came to follow the Promised Messiah through his blessed work.

Hazrat Sadiq was highly respected. Two American colleges bestowed honorary Ph.D degrees upon him for his work in the field of religion.

Hazrat Sadiq heard from many friends all over the world who supported his

work. One said, "You are the spiritual Columbus for America." What did he mean? Another said, "You have established the existence of God; God will establish your existence." So his work for Islam was very, very successful.

QUESTIONS:

1. How did Mufti Muhammad Sadiq learn about the Promised Messiah? How old was he when entered his Bai'at?
2. Was he successful in establishing the Ahmadiyya movement in America? Give examples.

AMERICA'S FIRST MOSQUE

(Aisha N. Sharif)

Dear children, the Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, told us that if we build a House for Allah Almighty in this life, Allah will build a house for us in the next life.

A House for Allah is a Mosque where we can gather together to worship Him. The first Mosque built by Ahmadi Muslims in America is in Dayton, Ohio. It was built by real sacrifices of a few dedicated, respected older members of our community.

Outstanding among them are Dr. Wali Kareem and his wife Lateefa who in the year 1952, donated a plot of land next to their home on which they wanted a Mosque to be built.

A ground digging ceremony was held and many members of all Jamaats were there. At first a basement was put in with one small kitchen, two bathrooms and an auditorium. There was no office or telephone.

About ten years later this basement building needed many repairs. There were just a few Ahmadi Muslims in the Dayton Jamaat at that time and very little money.

Major Abdul Hamid, a missionary in Dayton at that time, called the members together and suggested that it would be a great blessing for them to build a real Islamic Mosque where only a basement foundation was now. But there was no money to do this great thing.

So Major Abdul Hamid told a story from the life of the Holy Prophet Muhammad. This is the story he told:

Once the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of God be upon him) asked his companions to dig out trenches around Medina where they expected their enemies to attack them. The companions had gone through a lot of hardships and were very, very tired. They still tried to obey but at last they came to a stone that they could not break or move. The Holy Prophet asked for the hammer and hit the stone. A flash of light came out, and he shouted, "Allahu Akbar" (God is Great). The companions also shouted "Allaho Akbar!" He struck the hammer against the stone a second time. Again a flash of light came out and he shouted, "Allahu Akbar!" The companions also shouted "Allahu Akbar!" Then the Holy Prophet asked them why they shouted "Allahu Akbar." They said they were just following him, their Master. Then the Holy Prophet explained to them that when the first time he struck the rock and a flash of light came out, Allah Almighty told him that he had broken to pieces the Persian Empire. (A large group of countries ruled by the Persian king). Hearing this wonderful prophecy from God, he said "Allaho Akbar." (A prophecy is when Allah tells us something that is going to happen in the future). The second time he hit the rock, the flash of light came out and God told him that he had broken to pieces the Roman Empire. A short time after the Holy-Prophet's death, both of these things really did happen as God had shown him.

When the story was over Major Hamid said, "Our Lord God is still as Great as He was before, so let us trust in Him and take on this great job." At this moment Brother Wali Kareem shouted, "Allaho Akbar!" and announced:

"I swear by God that even if other members do not assist me, I will by the Grace of Allah build the Mosque on my own!"

In a few days Br. Wali Kareem and Br. Abdul Qadeer had each paid \$1,000.00 dollars. Sister Aliyyah Shaheed, President of Lajna Imaillah, pledged \$1,000.00 dollars on behalf of Naional Lajna. Other contributions started coming. In the end, Br. Abdul Qadeer had paid more than \$6,000.00 dollars.

Unfortunately, Brother Wali Kareem could not take any more active part in the construction of the Mosque as he passed away in 1964. It seemed, however, that because of his sincerity Allah Almighty caused His angels to help them to complete the project. Sure enough, the entire building was completed in less than a year and the Annual Convention of September, 1965, was held there in Dayton.

The Mosque has one white central dome and two white minarets on either side. The inside is nicely carpeted and painted and the kitchen is four times the original size. "Allaho Akbar!" With Allah, all things are possible.

