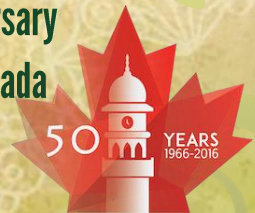


Hazrat Aziza Begum^{ra}

Department of Ishā'at, Lajna Imā'illah Canada
in commemoration of 50th Anniversary
of Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamā'at Canada



Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamā'at

*In commemoration of 50th Anniversary
of Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at Canada*

Sahābiya of the Promised Messiah^{as}

Hazrat Aziza Begum^{ra}

Married to Hazrat Munshi Ali Sahib^{ra}.
On seeing the good excellences of her husband,
the companion of the Promised Messiah^{as}, she
accepted Ahmadiyyat

Other Books in this Series by Calgary Region:

- Hazrat Asmā' bint Hazrat Abū Bakr Ṣiddīq^{ra}
- Hazrat Umm-e-Ammārah^{ra}
- Hazrat Fāṭimah bint-e-Asad^{ra}
- Hazrat Ghulam Fāṭimah Begum^{ra} &
Hazrat Maimūnah Begum^{ra}
- Hazrat Zainab Bibi^{ra}
- Hazrat Sakinatun Nisa^{ra}
- Hazrat Sarwar Sultan^{ra}
- Hazrat Maimoona Soofia^{ra}
- Hazrat Umme Tahir^{ra}
(Translated by Brampton Region)

An English Adaptation of an Urdu Book

By:

Mehmooda Akhtar

Published by:

Lajna Imā'illah Pakistan



Translated by:

Labiba Majeed

Graphics by:

Khalida Noori

Sehar Malik



Foreword

By special grace of Allāh, 2016 is the year of the 50th anniversary of Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamā'at Canada. To commemorate this historical milestone, department of Ishā'at; Lajna Imā'illah Canada presents the second series of ten books on lives of Sahābiyāt. Three of these Sahābiyāt are from the time of the Holy Prophet^{sa} and seven from the time of the Promised Messiah^{as}. The first series of books on lives of Sahābiyāt was published in 2015. Alhamdulillah!

These books are part of an ongoing project to provide the stories of great Muslim women to English speaking children and youth. May Allāh make our humble efforts inspiring and beneficial to all our readers! Ameen!

My heartfelt thanks and congratulations to the dedicated team of Calgary Region! Under the passionate supervision of Mrs Amtul Qayyum Anjum Sahiba, Regional President, all team members worked with great enthusiasm and sincerity to accomplish this project. I am also grateful to Mrs. Naima Iqbal Sahiba, Local President Brampton Flower Town and her team for helping us passionately to accomplish the project on time. May Allāh reward all team members abundantly! Ameen!

Last but not least I am indebted to Mrs Amtul Noor Daud Sahiba, National President Lajna Imā'illah Canada and Abdul Noor Abid Sahib, Missionary Jamā'at Ahmadiyya for reviewing these books and giving valuable suggestions. Jazakum Allāh wa Ahsanal Jaza!

Amtul Qudoos Farhat
National Secretary Ishā'at
Lajna Imā'illah, Canada



Message from Sadr Lajna Imā'illah Canada

It is the sheer grace of Allāh Almighty that once again He has enabled department of Isha'at Lajna Imā'illah Canada to publish the story books on Sahābiyāt of Holy Prophet^{sa} and Promised Messiah^{as}. In this effort Lajna Imā'illah Calgary has put forth an extensive contribution from translation to format and layout of the books.

The purpose of publishing these books is to bring the noble character of Sahābiyāt into the knowledge of our Lajna and Nasirat so that they may develop these characteristics within themselves. Hazrat Khalīfatul-Masīh V^{aa} has drawn our attention many times that we must build a relation with our creator. These Sahābiyāt had deep love of Allāh in their hearts. I hope reading about their lives would inshaAllāh create a desire in our hearts to gain nearness of Allāh as well.

I am thankful to National Secretary Isha'at Lajna Imā'illah Canada Dr. Amtul Qudoos Farhat Sahiba and her team of Lajna members of Calgary for working hard on this project. I pray that may Allāh accept their humble efforts and reward them abundantly Ameen!

I hope and pray that these books will be beneficial for children inshaAllāh!

May Allāh accept this humble effort of Lajna Imā'illah Canada and enable us to further excel in our abilities Ameen!

Amtul Noor Daud
Sadr Lajna Imā'illah Canada
August 24, 2016



Message from Sadr Lajna Imā'illah Calgary Region

By the Grace of Allāh the Almighty we are celebrating 50 years of the establishment of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamā'at Canada, and the department of Ishā'at Lajna Imā'illah Canada is progressing by leaps and bounds. When I first saw the short Urdu books on the lives of the Sahābiyāt, I had a strong urge to obtain, read and translate them into English for our next generations. National Sadr Sahiba's gracious acceptance to assign this task to us made this wish come true. I am thankful to Respected Amtul Noor Daud Sahiba, National Sadr Lajna Canada, and Respected Amtul Qadoos Farhat Sahiba, National Secretary Ishā'at, for giving Lajna Imā'illah Calgary the opportunity to translate some of these Urdu books.

I am thankful to our Calgary team who helped in making this possible and who worked expertly on the translation, editing and graphics. May Allāh the Almighty accept this effort of our entire team, whose names are included with each of the 10 books in this series which have been translated by Lajna Imā'illah Calgary. My special thanks go to Khalida Noori Sahiba, Asma Chuadhry Sahiba, and Sehar Malik Sahiba for their untiring and valuable input throughout this endeavour.

May Allāh accept our humble efforts, and May He help our youth understand and follow the excellent example of the Sahābiyāt and live their lives according to the true teaching of Islām. Ameen.

Amtul Qayyum Anjum
Sadr Lajna Imā'illah Calgary Region

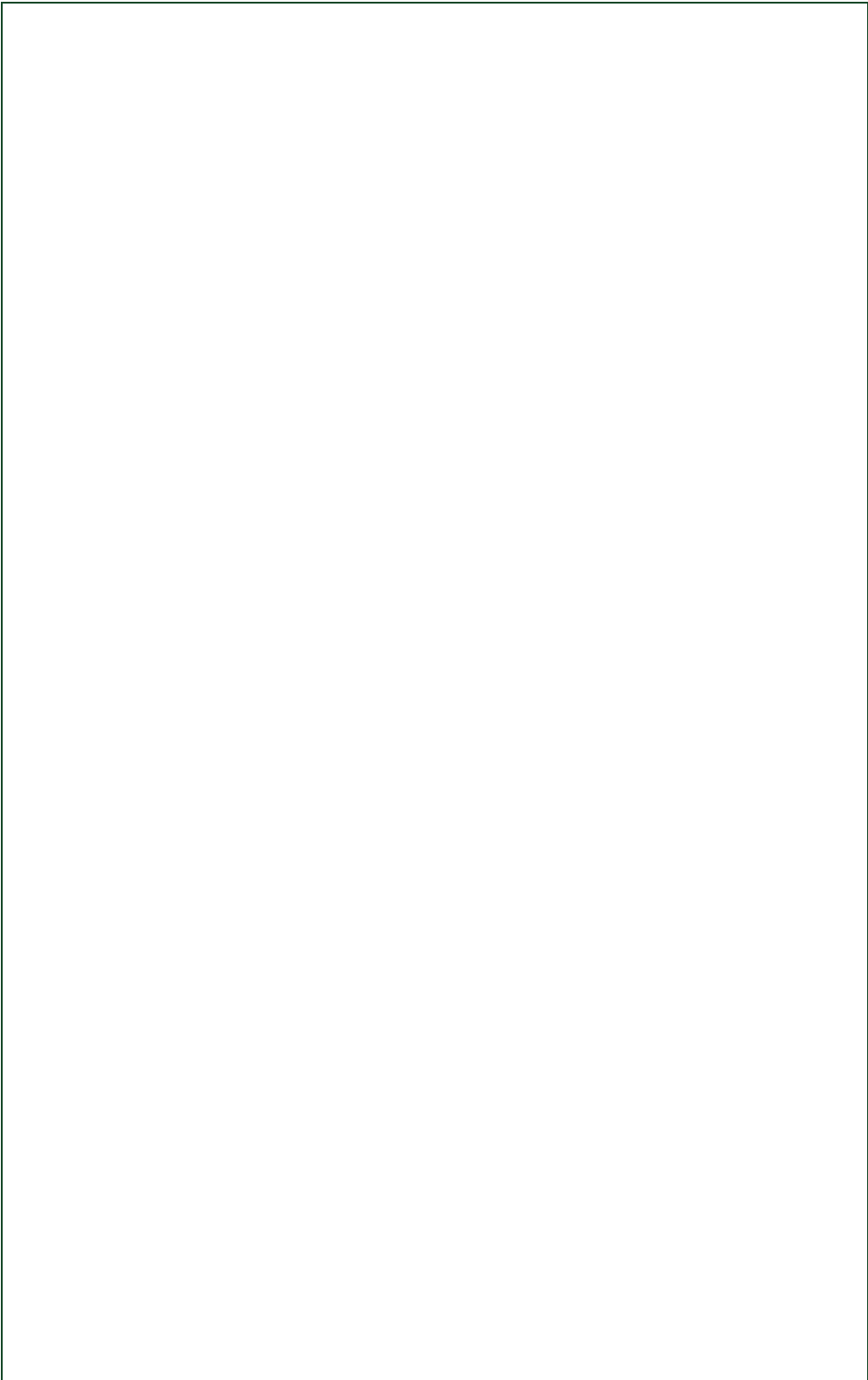


Sahābiya of the Promised Messiah^{as}

Hazrat Aziza Begum^{ra}

Married to Hazrat Munshi Ali Sahib^{ra}.

On seeing the good excellences of her husband, the companion of the Promised Messiah^{as}, she accepted Ahmadiyyat



In the name of Allāh, the Gracious, the Merciful

Hazrat Aziza Begum^{ra}
Wife of Hazrat Munshi Barkat Ali
Shimlivi Sahib^{ra}

Dear Children,

As you know, our beloved Promised Messiah^{as} is the spiritual light of our era. In the presence of his inspirational company, several admirably pious personalities came to life and went on to become brilliant stars in the dark skies of these after-times. Evidently, several learned male companions of the Promised Messiah^{as} experienced a spiritual rebirth; in the same manner, women were not left behind.

Today, we will be discussing one such devout person, who underwent a magnificent spiritual

transformation because of the Promised Messiah^{as}. Her name was Hazrat Aziza Begum Sahiba^{ra}, wife of Hazrat Munshi Barkat Ali Sahib^{ra}.

After marrying Hazrat Munshi Barkat Ali Sahib^{ra}, Hazrat Aziza Begum Sahiba^{ra} became the first woman of her family to accept Ahmadiyyat at the hands of the Promised Messiah^{as}. Her father's name was Munshi Maula Baksh, he worked for the city of Hoshiarpur. Her



The Promised Messiah^{as}

parents and relatives were unaware of Ahmadiyyat, but when Hazrat Aziza Begum Sahiba^{ra} married Hazrat Munshi Barkat Ali Sahib^{ra} and stood witness to his righteousness and excellent morals, she was convinced of the truth of the Ahmadiyya Jamā'at and accepted it for herself.

The Company of the Promised Messiah^{as}

Hazrat Munshi Barkat Ali Sahib^{ra} relates the following:

"In the year 1906, I took my mother, my wife Aziza Begum^{ra}, and my six-year-old daughter to

Qadian for about 12-13 days. The apartment we resided in was located inside the city. At times, the press would also be present there.

My mother and wife partook in Bai'at¹ at the hands of the Promised Messiah^{as} there. They used to visit the Promised Messiah's^{as} residence daily during our stay, and would return with anecdotes to share. Alas, I regret that I could not preserve the stories in writing at the time.

As far as I remember, they would tell me that His Holiness was often engrossed in writing and studying material. They say he would often place the inkstand in his room's windowsill and write while pacing the room. When his quill ran dry, he would dip it in the inkpot and continue to pace and write. In those days one did not have the luxury of ballpoint pens.



The Promised Messiah^{as} would never look up while working. Instead, he used to keep his eyes lowered and focused on his books.

Hazrat Sahibzada Mirza Mubarak Ahmad Sahib^{ra} would play around the Promised Messiah^{as} while

¹ Bai'at - the oath of allegiance

he was busy with writing or offering Salāt. Huzoor^{as} never scolded him for doing so. In fact, our daughter, who was around the same age as Hazrat Sahibzada Mirza Mubarak Ahmad Sahib^{ra}, also became the recipient of the Promised Messiah's^{as} affection as he would let her play around the room and sit in his lap.

In 1907, my daughter fell ill. I never got the chance to write a letter to the Promised Messiah^{as} requesting prayers, but my heart wished intensely for her speedy recovery. However, as per Allāh's will, at the age of seven and a half years, my daughter passed away. I was struck by extreme sorrow over the death of my daughter as I did not have any other children before her, nor did I have any after her.

A few days later, I read in the newspapers that the Promised Messiah^{as} had received another revelation, which read:

"I am listening to the sounds of their cries." I instantly felt as though these words were somehow referring to me. I wanted to have my daughter buried in the Bahishti Maqbarah graveyard. I wrote to the Promised Messiah^{as} asking for permission but he replied, "Children, no matter where they are buried, are heavenly. Permission to bring the procession to Qadian is not granted." (1)

A Husband's Account of His Wife

Hazrat Aziza Begum Sahiba's^{ra} husband Hazrat Munshi Barkat Ali Sahib^{ra} writes about her:

"My wife was the most loyal and empathetic companion I could have. She was very mindful about my health, my food and drink. Her service was so great that I would say it reached the limits of love. It was a known fact amongst all our relatives and friends that my wife was very concerned with my well-being. She was also exemplary amongst our acquaintances for her strong belief in God and *Taqwa*². She disliked attending large gatherings for the sole reason that being in the company of chatty and noisy women and children would make her anxious and she disapproved of their gossipy nature.



Aziza Begum^{ra} disliked having favours bestowed upon her, whether these were courtesy of a friend or stranger. If anyone was to treat her with kindness, she would not rest easy until she had repaid the favour with twice as much kindness of heart. Stripping people of their rights was unheard of to Aziza Begum^{ra}, instead she used to try her best to have the other reap

² Taqwa - righteousness

more than his/her share of rightful advantage. She also spent a great amount of time helping the poor and needy. (2)

My wife was very mindful about cleanliness and purity. She disliked even the smallest speck of dirt in the house. Though we had a maid to help around the house sometimes, my wife took every opportunity she got to make sure the house was clean and all chores taken care of. She used to wash all the clothes



and dishes by hand. Several times I noticed her reciting the Kalima Tayyeba while cleaning, for she believed that nothing was purely clean until the Kalima Tayyeba had been recited.

She was compassionate and empathetic towards the elderly, especially my parents and relatives. During the days of my late mother's illness, my wife was her constant companion and served her with the utmost care, as a result my mother was especially fond of her. My mother would trust her chores to my wife only, as she preferred Aziza Begum's^{ra} aid to anyone else.

Before we had pledged allegiance to the Promised Messiah^{as}, she used to tolerate all sorts of irregularities and harshness on my behalf, but after we had become Ahmadi Muslims, she

would say, "I will not tolerate any bitterness. If you are to do anything of a hard-hearted nature, I will write to the Promised Messiah^{as}." Hence I would have to agree with her on several occasions. (3)

Aziza Begum^{ra} was a very generous and kind hostess. She did not approve of other's extravagant service to her when she would visit them, but in the event that she had a guest, she left no stone unturned in trying to make their stay a comfortable one. (4)

She was of such a kind-hearted and generous nature that she would not only regularly distribute alms amongst the needy, but also cook fresh meals and have them delivered to the poor. She would always try to save money for this purpose alone. Her *sadaqa*³ and monthly Chanda were always paid on time; in fact, she used to tell me to pay the Chanda without asking her if need be. She paid regular Zakāt for her jewelry and savings as well. If anyone ever asked to borrow an item from her household, she would gladly lend it, but hesitated to ask to borrow things herself. If she needed something, she would buy it instead of borrowing it from someone else.



³ Sadaqa - charity donation

Aziza Begum^{ra} would never mistreat anyone, nor did she ever harbour any ill will towards others. She always left everything, no matter what the situation, to Allāh.

(5) She was regular with offering her daily prayers, and never missed one. She was also punctual with keeping all the obligatory fasts during the month of Ramadhān. If she ever had to miss one, she would make sure she paid Fidyah⁴. She was very mindful of the meaning of the prayers read in Salāt. She used to pray a lot and the last *sajdah*⁵ of her Salāt was always a long one. I always heard her reciting the Tasbeeh underneath her breath. She never tolerated a word against the Ahmadiyya Jamā'at. Hence, even if someone was an enemy of the Jamā'at, they dared not to speak harshly in her company.



She had great compassion and empathy for the elderly. She particularly respected the Promised Messiah's^{as} family. Hazrat Amma Jān^{ra}⁶ and Aziza Begum^{ra} had a great and loving relationship. Aziza Begum^{ra} loved visiting her and always brought a token of her respect along.

⁴ Fidyah- compulsory alms to the needy

⁵ Sajdah - prostration

⁶ Hazrat Amma Jān^{ra} - Hazrat Sayyeda Nusrat Jahan Begum Sahiba^{ra}

Hazrat Amma Jān^{ra} would also bring Aziza^{ra} something to show her compassion when she came to visit. (6)

In 1949, the first Jalsa Salāna was held in Rabwah. I was ill then and, sadly, could not attend. The following year, my wife fell ill. And so, I was sure, that once more, we would not attend. However, in a matter of days, my wife passed away and I made my way to the Jalsa Salāna after all.

However, I am sad that she was not able to write a Will or express any of her desires before her death. (7) I myself was so upset at the time that I did not have the strength to ask her about her wishes. I had never in my dreams imagined that she would part with me so soon.

Throughout the ordeal, I kept myself in the hopes of Allāh granting her a speedy recovery.

While she was sick, she tried to communicate a few times, but would always say a few words and fall silent, citing a tremendous amount of anxiety and weakness, and that she would talk to me later or write down what she wanted to say. Alas, the timing of her departure did not allow her to do so. She fell unconscious for several hours before her passing away. A few minutes prior to, she awoke and mumbled a few words and said that she was feeling very weak. But at that

moment, her eyes froze and her pulse began to drop, and in seconds she left this world to meet her benevolent Creator. (8)

Aziza Begum^{ra} and I spent 52 years together. We, both husband and wife, had always prayed to the Lord Almighty to give us death in a place from where our caskets could depart to Markaz in Rabwah easily, that Hazrat Musleh Mau'ūd^{ra} would lead our

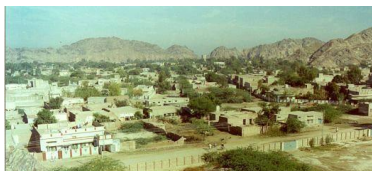


Hazrat Musleh
Mau'ūd^{ra}

funeral prayers, and that we would be buried in Bahishti Maqbarah. During the last phase of my wife's illness, I found my attention to be focused on this prayer a lot more. My wife's prayer was accepted by Allāh the Almighty in such a way that I saw the signs of God's acceptance of prayer in a shining, clear manner.

Aziza Begum^{ra} passed away in Rawalpindi at 1:00 PM in the afternoon of December 21. Due to some challenges, the casket was not ready until 8 PM that evening and her funeral reached Rabwah by the next evening. Before leaving for Rawalpindi, I sent a telegram to the head office at Bahishti Maqbarah informing them of our arrival. As it turned out, the office received our telegram after we arrived. As a result, there was nothing prepared for the burial that evening and we had to wait till the following day, a Friday,

for the burial to take place. The next day, Huzoor^{ra} led the Friday prayers and subsequently led Aziza Begum's^{ra} funeral prayers as well, which were attended by around 1500 members. Thus, the funeral prayers went according to my beloved wife's wishes, after all.



Rabwah

Another advantage of the telegram not arriving on time happened to be that since I had already wired all of Aziza

Begum's^{ra} beloved family members of her demise and my plans to take the funeral to Rabwah, they, thinking that the funeral would take place on Friday after the Friday sermon, made sure they arrived in Rabwah before Friday prayers. And, thus they were able to be a part of the proceedings and bid her farewell one last time.

As all wives wish for their husband's welfare, Aziza Begum^{ra} wished the same for me and this wish of hers was also fulfilled as she passed away in my arms, knowing that I was well and she was headed to her Lord in peace.

With regards to what she wanted, all her wishes came true except for one. Now I pray that Allāh the Almighty keep us both together in the Hereafter as he did in this world. I am sure that this wish will also be fulfilled as Hazrat

Khalīfatul-Masīh II^{ra} gave his permission for a lot of land to be reserved next to my wife's burial site so that I may accompany her in the next life.”
(9)

Hazrat Munshi Sahib's^{ra} record of his wife's life describes her as an angel of great virtues and qualities, and stands testament to the fact that she was a woman of faith, and hence never encountered any unfortunate events in her life as it proved to be a sample of Paradise on Earth.
(10)

Dear children, we must also try to emulate such great qualities in ourselves. May Allāh enable us to follow her great example! Ameen!

One interesting point to note is that Hazrat Munshi Sahib^{ra} served the Jamā'at without asking for compensation, and survived off a meager pension. Despite the harsh economic times, Hazrat Aziza Begum Sahiba^{ra} ran the household on a small income and led a simple but wholesome life. She never complained about having to live off a small amount of money. In fact, she donated 1/8th of her property to her Wasiyyat commitment, despite the fact that she did not own much. She was also able to successfully pay her donation in full before her death. We pray that Allāh accepts her sacrifices and elevates her status in Heaven. Ameen!



References

- 1- Ashaab-e-Ahmad Volume 3, pp. 225-227
- 2- Ashaab-e-Ahmad Volume 3, p. 230
- 3- Ashaab-e-Ahmad Volume 3, p. 231
- 4- Ashaab-e-Ahmad Volume 3, p. 233
- 5- Ashaab-e-Ahmad Volume 3, p. 234
- 6- Ashaab-e-Ahmad Volume 3, pp. 231-232
- 7- Ashaab-e-Ahmad Volume 3, pp. 228-229
- 8- Ashaab-e-Ahmad Volume 3, pp. 228-230
- 9- Ashaab-e-Ahmad Volume 3, pp. 234-235
- 10- Ashaab-e-Ahmad Volume 3, p. 249

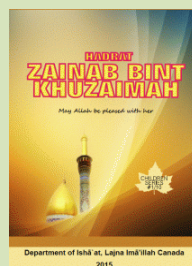
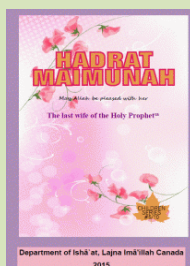
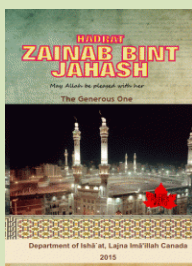
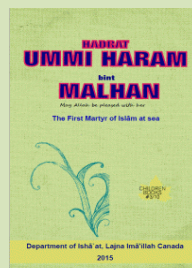
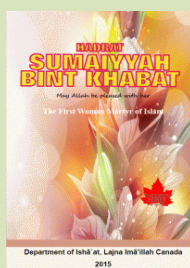
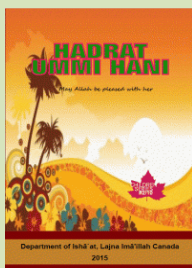
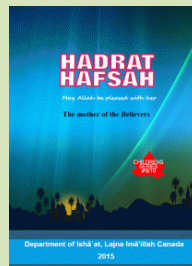
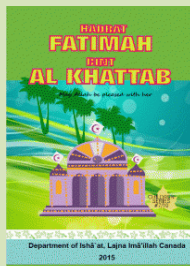
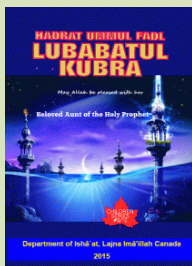


Acronyms and Meaning of Salutations

Name	Salutation in Arabic with English Meanings	As Superscript
The Holy Prophet Muhammad	Sallallahu `alaihi wa Sallam (May peace and blessings of Allāh be upon him!)	Muhammad ^{sa}
The Promised Messiah	`Alaihis-Salaam (Peace be upon him!)	Messiah ^{as}
The Companions (males)	Radhi-Allaho `anho (May Allāh be pleased with him!)	Abu Bakr ^{ra}
The Companions (females)	Radhi-Allaho `anha (May Allāh be pleased with her!)	Khadija ^{ra}
Hazrat Musleh Mau`ud	Radhi-Allaho `anho (May Allāh be pleased with him!)	Musleh Mau`ud ^{ra}
Hazrat Khalīfatul-Masīh III, IV	Rahimahullaho Ta`ala (May Allāh have mercy on him!)	Khalīfatul-Masīh IV ^{rh}
Hazrat Khalīfatul-Masīh V	Ayyadahullaho Ta`ala (May Allāh be his Helper!)	Khalīfatul-Masīh V ^{aa}

Series on Sahābiyāt of the Holy Prophet^{sa}

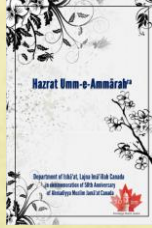
Following books on the Sahābiyāt of the Holy Prophet^{sa} were published by the Department of Ishā'at, Lajna Imā'illah Canada in 2015.



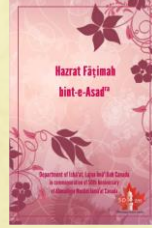
Books in this Series



**Hazrat Asmā' bint
Hazrat Abū Bakr
Ṣiddīqᵀ**



**Hazrat
Umm-e-Ammārahᵀ**



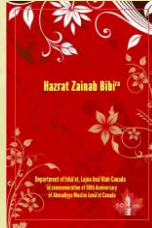
**Hazrat Fāṭimah
bint-e-Asadᵀ**



**Hazrat Ghulam
Fāṭimah Begumᵀ
&
Hazrat Maimūnah
Begumᵀ**



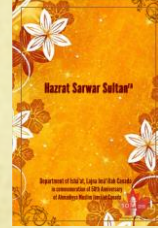
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Aziza Begumᵀ**



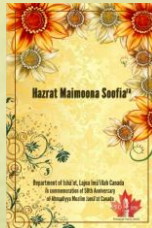
**Hazrat Zainab
Bibiᵀ**



**Hazrat
Sakinatun Nisaᵀ**



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**Hazrat Maimoona
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HATRED
FOR NONE**

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