

L A J N A I M Ā I L L Ā H C A N A D A

An-Nisaa'



Blessed Women

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Lajna Jubilee Essay Competition

Topic: Seerat Hazrat Syeda Nusrat Jahan Begum^{ra} (Hazrat Amma Jān)

Language: Urdu/ English/ Other languages will be considered

Date of Submission: August 2021

Length: 20,000 words

Format: typed, font size: 12, font: Times New Roman or Arial, double-spaced, 1" (2.54 cm) margins at the top, bottom, right and left sides of the page

Give following information on the title page: title of the essay, author's name, name of Majlis, date of submission, signature of the local president

No Plagiarism Please! (plagiarism means to present someone else's work, words, or ideas as if they are your own). No plagiarism will be tolerated.

References: all direct or indirect quotes must have references. References may be given as footnotes, endnotes, or parenthetical citations.

Criteria for Marking (Total Marks: 100)

- ◆ **Organization** (i.e. essay is well structured with a beginning, body and conclusion, does not digress from thesis, appropriate transitions between paragraphs, etc.) = 20
- ◆ **Content** (from authentic resources with excellent understanding of all aspects of the topic) = 20
- ◆ **References:** authentic, appropriate to context (i.e. Holy Qur'ān, Ḥadīth, writings of the Promised Messiah^{as} / Khulafā' / other scholars) = 20
- ◆ **Writing Style** (Scholarly with excellent word choice, appropriate tone, sentence structure, author's voice, etc.) = 20
- ◆ **Grammar, Spelling, Punctuation** = 10
- ◆ **Formatting** (word count, font, line spacing, margins, etc.) = 10

In the Name of Allāh, the most Gracious, the ever Merciful!

Lajna Imāillāh Canada's

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Imāillāh Canada.**

Amīr Jamā'at Ahmadiyya Canada:
Lal Khan Malik

President Lajna Imāillāh Canada:
Amatul Salam Malik

National Secretary Ishā'at:
Kishwer Chaudhry

Editor:
Sadiqa Hifsa

Proofreader:
Ansa Talat

Layout & Formatting:
Sadiqa Hifsa

Cover-page by:
Wardah Ahmer

Graphics & Template Designing by:
Farzana Sanory

Manager:
Laiqa Ahmad

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From the Holy Qur'an

The English translation of the Arabic verses is rendered by Hazrat Maulvi Sher Ali Sāhib^{ra}.

إِنَّ الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ وَالْقَنَاتِ وَالْقَنَاتِ وَالصَّادِقِينَ وَالصَّادِقَاتِ وَالصَّابِرِينَ وَالصَّابِرَاتِ
وَالْخَاشِعِينَ وَالْخَاشِعَاتِ وَالْمُتَصَدِّقِينَ وَالْمُتَصَدِّقَاتِ وَالصَّابِرِينَ وَالصَّابِرَاتِ وَالْحَفِظِينَ وَالْحَفِظَاتِ وَالذَّكِرِينَ وَالذَّكِرَاتِ
كَثِيرًا وَالذِّكْرَاتِ أَعَدَّ اللَّهُ لَهُمْ مَغْفِرَةً وَأَجْرًا عَظِيمًا

Surely, men who submit themselves *to God* and women who submit themselves *to Him*, and believing men and believing women, and obedient men and obedient women and truthful men and truthful women, and men steadfast *in their faith* and steadfast women, and men who are humble and women who are humble, and men who give alms and women who give alms, and men who fast and women who fast, and men who guard their chastity and women who guard *their chastity*, and men who remember Allāh much and women who remember *Him* — Allāh has prepared for *all of them* forgiveness and a great reward. (33:36)

Ahadīth: Sayings of the Holy Prophet^{sa}

عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ قَالَ قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ
عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يَنْظُرُ إِلَى صَوْرِكُمْ
وَأَمْوَالِكُمْ وَلَكِنْ يَنْظُرُ إِلَى قُلُوبِكُمْ وَ
أَعْمَالِكُمْ (مسلم)

Narrated by Ḥaḍrat Abū Hurairah, Allāh be pleased with him: Said the Prophet of Allāh (peace be on him and blessings of Allāh): “Allāh does not see towards your shapes and your wealth but He sees towards your hearts and your actions.” (Muslim).

(Forty Gems of Beauty, page 41)

Spiritual Treasures from the Writings of the Promised Messiah^{as}

The following excerpts are taken from The Essence of Islām: Volume III, pg. 323—325 (available online at www.alislam.org/books); a compilation of extracts from the writings, speeches, announcements and discourses of the Promised Messiah^{as}, translated into English by Hazrat Chaudhry Muhammad Zafrulla Khan^{ra} and revised by Munawar Ahmad Sa'eed.

Importance of Inculcating Piety in Ahmadī Women

It is incumbent upon the members of my Jamā'at that they should inculcate piety in their women in order to ensure their own piety, otherwise they will be guilty of a sin. If a wife is in a position to point out the shortcomings of her husband to his face, how can she have fear of God? If the parents are not righteous, their children would not be pure. Piety of children requires a long line of virtues; without it, the children would be bad. Therefore, the men should repent and should set a good example for the women. A woman keeps a watchful eye on her husband, and a man cannot hide his faults from her. Moreover, women are wise without showing it. Do not ever think that they are fools. In a subtle way, they are influenced by everything you do. If the husband is righteous, she will not only be respectful to him but also to God.... The wives of the Prophets and the righteous were pious, because they were the recipients of their husbands' benign influence. The wives of the wicked and vicious are also like their husbands. How can the wife of a thief ever think of getting

up to pray Tahajjud in the latter part of the night, when she knows that her husband has gone to steal. This is why it is said:

'Men are guardians over women.' — Al-Nisa', (4:35)

Women are influenced by their husbands. To the extent that a husband excels in piety and righteousness, his wife will also partake of it. Similarly, if the husband is wicked, the wife too will share his evil. [Malfuzat, vol. 5, pp 217-218] If you desire to reform your own selves, it is essential that you also seek to reform your women. Women are the root of idol worship, for they are naturally devoted to decoration and ornaments. This is why idolatry started with women. They are also less courageous. Under the slightest stress of hardship, they begin to cringe before their fellow creatures. Hence those who are completely under the influence of their women gradually acquire their characteristics. It is, therefore, necessary to constantly try to reform them. God Almighty says:

'Men are guardians over women.' — Al-Nisa', (4:35)

This is why men have been bestowed greater faculties than women. One marvels at the modern man who insists on the equality of the sexes and asserts that men and women have equal rights. Let these people raise armies of women and send them into battle and see the result for themselves. How would a pregnant woman discharge her duties in the battlefield? In short, women have fewer and weaker faculties than men. Men should, therefore, keep them under their care. [Malfuzat, vol. 7, pp. 133-34]

Noble Example of the Wives of the Holy Prophets^{sa}

No one can claim a higher status than that of the wives of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allāh be upon him.) Yet they performed all domestic chores and swept their chambers. With all that, they were also diligent in worship, so much so that one of them had invented a method to keep her from dozing off during worship. One part of a woman's worship is to discharge her duty to her husband and the other is to offer her gratitude to God. [Malfuzat, vol. 6, p. 53]

A Note from the Editor

In 1886, the Promised Messiah^{as} received the revelation from Allāh which started as following:

“Your house will be filled with blessings and I shall perfect My favours unto you and you will have a large progeny from **blessed women**, some of whom you will find hereafter,...” (Tadhkira, pg. 179)

As promised in the above revelation, the household of the Prophet of God, the Promised Messiah^{as} was bestowed with many blessed women. Some of these blessed women were the wife and daughters of the Promised Messiah^{as}, while others were his daughters-in law and granddaughters, many of whom became part of the family after the demise of the Promised Messiah^{as}. In this issue of An-Nisaa', we have endeavoured to shed some light on the lives and accomplishments of some of these pious and blessed women. To name a few, these blessed women include Hazrat Syeda Nusrat Jahan Begum^{ra} (wife of the Promised Messiah^{as}), Hazrat Nawab Mubarka Begum^{ra} and Hazrat Nawab Amatul Hafeez Begum^{ra} (daughters of the Promised Messiah^{as}); Hazrat Syeda Umme Nasir^{ra}, Hazrat Syeda Amatul Hayee^{ra}, Hazrat Syeda Umme Tahir^{ra}, Hazrat Sarah Begum, Hazrat Aziza Begum, Hazrat Syeda Maryam Siddiqah and Hazrat Mehar Apa^{ra} (all wives of Hazrat Musleh Mau'ūd^{ra}).

I thank the writers who conducted research and wrote their articles, some translating and sourcing information from Urdu books. Your efforts benefit a lot of members who are unable to read Urdu. May Allāh reward your efforts.

I apologize if your article could not be published due to shortage of space. Please share your ideas and feedback with the An-Nisaa' team by emailing at ishaat@lajna.ca

Sadiqa Hifsa

Women's Responsibilities: Fulfilling the Conditions of Bai'at

Address at Lajna Imāillāh UK Ijtimā' 2015

On October 25, 2015, after reciting *Tashahhud*, *Ta'awuz* and *Sūrah Al-Fatihah*, Hazrat Khalīfatul-Masīh V^{aa} said:

“With the Grace of Allāh, today the national Ijtimā' of *Lajna Imāillāh* UK is reaching its conclusion. You, who are the members of *Lajna Imāillāh*, are those ladies and girls who have accepted the Imam of the Age, the Promised Messiah^{as}. Always remember that the Jamā'at founded by the Promised Messiah^{as} is that Jamā'at, which according to the commands of Allāh given in the Holy Qur'ān and according to the prophecies of the Holy Prophet^{sa} of Islam, was to be established in the latter days. At the time of the Promised Messiah^{as} the written text of the Holy Qur'ān was preserved in its original form and there were still vast numbers of people who called themselves Muslims in the world. There were a vast number of people who had memorised the Holy Qur'ān. However, in truth the vast majority had completely forgotten the true teachings of the Holy Qur'ān. Thus, Allāh the Almighty sent the Promised Messiah^{as} to establish a Community who would once again mani-

fest the true teachings of Islām in the world. Indeed, the Promised Messiah^{as} said that Allāh desires for his Jamā'at to be an example to all others. He explained that to be an example means that when others see or hear you, they are influenced and seek to imitate what they have witnessed.

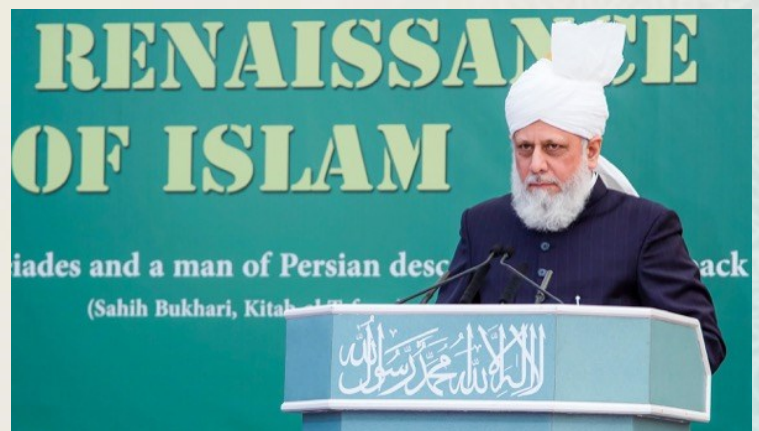
So today you are those people who, having entered the fold of the Promised Messiah^{as}, have pledged to live your lives according to Islām's true teachings and to spread them far and wide. On another occasion the Promised Messiah^{as} said that his followers should forsake all types of personal desires and emotions, because having claimed to be Ahmadis and having claimed to follow the true teaching of Islām, others would surely look at them extremely critically. He said that others will assess the standards of his followers and so it was imperative that Ahmadi Muslims maintained the very highest standards of morals and kept only good habits. He said his followers must always follow the commands of Allāh so that no one could cast aspersions on them, or say that they were not good

Muslims or there was no difference between Ahmadiis and others. Therefore, every Ahmadi, man and woman, should understand their heavy responsibilities. If they do not set a positive example for others then it will not only reflect badly upon them, but upon the entire Jamā'at. Whether a person is a member of *Lajna Imāillāh*, *Khuddāmūl Ahmadiyya* or *Majlis An-sārullāh*, they must always seek to abide by the true teachings of Islām. Certainly, if their own examples are weak then their *Tablīgh* and efforts to convey true Islām will have no impact and no one will listen to them. The Promised Messiah^{as} has also said that if his Community wishes to be considered a true Jamā'at then it is essential that all members set aside their personal desires and wishes for the sake of their faith.

Indeed, on countless occasions the Promised Messiah^{as} has given us instructions and most beautiful guidance that we must always keep in view. *Lajna Imāillāh* includes the books of the Promised Messiah^{as} in its educational syllabus and many members do read them, and some even give test papers about them. We also regularly quote the books of the Promised Messiah^{as} at *Jalsas* [Annual Conventions] and *Ijtemas* [gatherings] in our addresses and speeches.

However the real question is, to what extent are we acting upon his words and his instructions? For example, the Promised Messiah^{as} said that every Ahmadi should read his book *Kishti-e-Nuh* (Noah's Arc) repeatedly. This book also contains a lot of guidance for Ahmadi women, because the Promised Messiah^{as} has written about the qualities and virtues that women should seek and how they should live their lives. Remember, there are three types of people. Firstly, there are people who do not have knowledge or information and so if they make mistakes they

can be forgiven. Secondly, those people who have knowledge of what is right; and yet they still act in the wrong way and so they will obviously be held to account for their actions. The third type of people are those who have knowledge of what is right but knowingly act contrary to those teachings whilst still instructing others to reform themselves. This can only be classed as pure hypocrisy. It is therefore essential that before looking at others, every Ahmadi Muslim looks at himself and assesses his or her own state. They must question if they are truly following the teachings of the Promised Messiah^{as}, they must truthfully assess whether they are abstaining from immorality and sin? First and foremost, it is the duty of the Jamā'at and *Lajna* office bearers to spiritually and morally reform themselves.



Only if they pay attention to this can they ensure the *Tarbiyyat* and moral training of other Ahmadiis and set an example for others to follow. However, if office bearers do not uphold the correct standards it will negatively impact the entire Jamā'at. So again I reiterate that first of all the office bearers must realize their personal responsibilities and look at their own standards. Our system is such that if every office bearer from the grass roots level to the regional and national levels is able to bring about a positive change in

themselves, automatically it will mean that around 50% of our membership will be those who are following the true teachings of Islām. They will be a means of inspiring our young girls and other members towards goodness and virtue. They will show others that giving precedence to your faith over all worldly matters means to set aside your personal desires for the sake of Allāh the Almighty. I have already mentioned that the Promised Messiah^{as} said that it was essential that Ahmadis read his books for the sake of their own moral training. He also said that it was imperative that every Ahmadi reads the Holy Qur'ān repeatedly and seeks to understand its true meanings and to live their lives according to its commandments. Furthermore, the Promised Messiah^{as} said it was essential to seek the nearness of Allāh the Almighty and the way to do this is to develop a great love of worship and prayer within one's home.

As mothers you can only inculcate a love of worship within your children when you yourself fulfil the rights of worship and perform all your prayers, and manifest true devotion to God. The Promised Messiah^{as} has repeatedly counselled the members of his Jamā'at to show love and compassion to each other because without this the unity of our Jamā'at will be compromised. He taught that each Ahmadi should display true love and affection to others and that if they did so, Allāh would show love to them. Certainly Allāh's love is the means to true peace and contentment. Therefore, always seek to spread compassion and kindness within society.

You should not just hope for the best for yourself and your families, but should desire that all people are able to live with peace, security and in comfort. We claim to show love for all and so our love should not just be exhibited towards

others but we must display love amongst ourselves. Thus, do not speak ill of others but instead help and care for one another.

Do not spread rumors or highlight the weaknesses of others, rather share their burdens and try to remove their difficulties and provide ease for them. Always remember that Allāh has said in the Qur'ān that true believers are those who maintain a spirit of compassion and sympathy. And so those who wish to be counted amongst true believers and who wish to follow the true teachings of the Holy Qur'ān must always display love, empathy and kindness. If you respect others and are openhearted you will see that many bad habits such as speaking ill of others will naturally die away and this is extremely important in today's society.

Recently, I laid the foundation stone for a new mosque both in Holland and in Germany. In both countries female non-Muslim guests commented that what the Khalifah has said is excellent and is a means of spreading peace and love in the world. However, they also said that they would now wait and see if the Ahmadis lived up to his words and followed these beautiful teachings. Therefore, do not have any doubt that people's eyes are on you and they wish to see if Ahmadis practice what they preach. Thus, all Ahmadis and all *Lajna* members must understand the expectations that the Promised Messiah^{as} had of us and try our utmost to fulfil them so that we can be ambassadors of true Islām. With great anguish the Promised Messiah^{as} also said that until an Ahmadi understands the reality of what is meant and required by their *Bai'at* they cannot attain true freedom and salvation. He said that we should not just superficially note the words of the *Bai'at*, but should seek to understand its true essence and meaning.

He said that only when an Ahmadi truly understands what *Bai'at* represents can they fulfil its requirements.

Regarding the conditions of *Bai'at*, I gave a series of sermons that were later published as a book and earlier this year I also gave a sermon about how to live your life in light of the conditions of *Bai'at*. These are all easily available. Certainly we should constantly reflect upon the conditions of our pledge and the *Lajna* administration should also ensure that the requirements and conditions of *Bai'at* are discussed and taught at *Lajna* events and meet-

enough to only forgo deceit, but it is also the duty of an Ahmadi to establish truth. If all our Ahmadi women sought to abandon all forms of falsehood collectively and to establish nothing but truth, it would lead to the widespread reformation of the members of our Jamā'at. This is because our women train their children and if they are able to inculcate the importance of truth within them it will have a huge, a long-lasting effect, *InshaAllah* [God-Willing].

The Promised Messiah^{as} has also said that Ahmadi should abstain from saying anything that can cause conflict or disturbance to others. Re-

"So again I reiterate that first of all the office bearers must realize their personal responsibilities and look at their own standards. Our system is such that if every office bearer from the grass roots level to the regional and national levels is able to bring about a positive change in themselves, automatically it will mean that around 50% of our membership will be those who are following the true teachings of Islām."

ings.

If we look at the very first condition of *Bai'at*, each Ahmadi pledges to avoid all forms of *Shirk*, which is associating partners with Allāh. There are actually many types of *Shirk*, and so we must avoid them at all costs. In our daily lives things that may be considered as relatively insignificant can also be classified as *Shirk* and so we must be extremely watchful. For example, if you praise someone in order to fulfil your own purpose or to gain benefit, it is a form of *Shirk*. Another example is where a person pursues his own personal desires to such an extent that he forgets the duties he owes to Allāh.

Another condition of *Bai'at* is that an Ahmadi must avoid all forms of falsehood. It is not

peatedly he spoke about how we should never seek to usurp the rights of others or to act unjustly. The Promised Messiah^{as} spoke about the importance of obedience and to abide by the *Nizaam* of the Jamā'at.^[4] Thus there is a great responsibility on each Ahmadi to obey the Khalifah of the time and through him the *Nizaam* of the Jamā'at. The Promised Messiah^{as} has said his followers should seek to suppress their personal aspirations, because Satan uses such desires to try and push people into the wrong direction.

This too is an extremely important teaching that you should always keep in view. In the conditions of *Bai'at* the Promised Messiah^{as} also stipulated that an Ahmadi must never seek to cause pain or harm to anyone whether they are Ah-

maḍī or not. Always remember that the conditions of *Bai'at* and the instructions of the Promised Messiah^{as} are the means for true salvation and are the means of peace and harmony in our lives. These are the values that are required more than ever in today's society. These are the means for bringing people closer to their Creator. They are the means of establishing peace in our homes. It is these values that we must treasure and inculcate into our children so that our future generations grow to become those who value their faith and who bear the highest moral standards. These are the values we must instill in our children so they prove to be shining examples of Islām's true teachings.

In my recent tour I spoke about these Islāmic values at a function in Germany and upon hearing my words a local German lady said she was extremely delighted to hear that these were Islāmic principles and values. She said there was no doubt that such values were the keys to peace both in a person's home and in the wider society. She said these were the very values she wished to instill in her children. However, unfortunately in school sometimes they taught things contrary to this in the name of freedom. All of you who are part of *Lajna Imāillāh*, who claim to be the servants of Allāh, must therefore understand your responsibilities towards your children! You must establish the very highest standards and values within your homes. You must act according to Allāh's commands. This is of particular importance considering you are living in a society where it is easy for our children to be misled or misguided.

Sometimes children can pick up wrong things or habits from their schools or outside. And so you must give ample time to your children. You must explain to them what is right and what is

wrong. You must instill within them those values that are to be cherished and protected. You must explain Islāmic teachings to them and tell them that these are the commands of Allāh and it was to re-establish these values that Allāh sent the Promised Messiah^{as}.

In terms of their school education, of course you should encourage your children to learn and to attain the highest standards. However, if in the name of freedom the schools ever teach things that are contrary to Islām then you should explain clearly to your children what your values and beliefs are. This is a great responsibility laid before you, because one day the world's reformation will be the task of your children. Certainly Allāh has given the task of the reformation of the world to the Jamā'at of the Promised Messiah^{as} and so we must pay heed to this great responsibility. Only then will we be able to protect our societies and to guide others towards the true teachings of Islām. Only then will we be able to save our children and future generations.

With the Grace of Allāh the world's attention and focus is moving in the direction of our Jamā'at. People are starting to recognize us and listen to our message. Each day Allāh is opening new avenues of *Tabligh* and this is something some of you will have experienced yourselves. However, as these doors open, it becomes even more important that each Ahmadī seeks to bring about those pious changes that the Promised Messiah^{as} desired from his followers. Through such changes the doors of *Tabligh* will continue to open *InshaAllah*.

In this era Allāh the Almighty has also enabled our Jamā'at to benefit from modern forms of communication and the media. This is proving a great means of spreading the message of Islām

far and wide. For example, through MTA the message of our Jamā'at is reaching all corners of the world.

However, this also increases our responsibilities because those who are hearing our message will also look in our direction to see if we are practicing what we preach. If they observe that the teachings we are conveying are pure, but the standards of the Ahmadis themselves are weak, then instead of having a positive impact it may have the opposite effect. It is also possible that if others hear our message, but feel that old Ahmadis are not living up to their required standards they will take it upon themselves to spread the true teachings of Islām and live their lives accordingly. In that case the success and progress of our Jamā'at, the Jamā'at of the Promised Messiah^{as}, will be aligned to those pious newcomers and those left behind will be deprived of these blessings. Thus, do not let yourselves fall behind. Rather, seek to be at the forefront of conveying the truth of Ahmadiyyat, not only with your words, but with your conduct and deeds. Be the sources of light that illuminate the truth of Islām.

As I have said today we are able to utilize modern technology to convey our teachings. Apart from MTA we also have Jamā'at websites in which programs and books filled with knowledge and information are easily available. You must seek to avail these resources and constantly increase in your knowledge.

In terms of MTA, every *Lajna* member should attach themselves to it and be regular in watching its programs. At the very least they should ensure they watch my Friday Sermons and the other programs of Khalīfatul-Masīh. And they should make sure their children also sit and listen. Those girls who have grown up here in the

UK should also ensure they are closely attached to MTA and the Jamā'at websites. They should make sure they watch the programs of Khalīfa Waqt as this will be the means of their spiritual and moral development and will increase their religious knowledge.

In all parts of the world people are joining the fold of Ahmadiyyat, having recognized its truth by watching MTA. For example recently a man from an extremely tiny and remote island near France wrote that somehow he had come across MTA and my sermon was being broadcast. In the sermon I spoke about the death of Jesus Christ^{as} and after listening to it the man said he was quite certain it was the correct teaching. He then went on the Internet to research the Jamā'at and watched our programs on YouTube; and after doing so he said he was sure of the truth of Ahmadiyyat. And so with the Grace of Allāh he did *Bai'at*. There are also many Ahmadi women who join our Jamā'at and are extremely strong in their faith. For example, when I was recently in Holland, I met an Ahmadi lady who had two children and who had come from France to meet me. She told me that after accepting Ahmadiyyat her husband had rejected her and removed her from her home. However, she remained firm and resolute in her faith in Ahmadiyyat. Naturally most women wish to live comfortable lives with their families and to live with comfort and ease. Yet still, there are women who are ready to bear all forms of hardship and difficulty and persecution for the sake of their faith and belief in the Promised Messiah^{as}. That is the state of a true believer; that he or she is willing to sacrifice all forms of comfort and to patiently bear all trials and tribulations for the sake of their faith.

The vast majority of you are those who were

born Ahmadī and so you don't face such difficulties or problems. Thus, you should always be extremely thankful to Allāh for the blessings He has bestowed upon you. And the way to be thankful is to increase your religious knowledge and to act upon Islām's true teachings and to inculcate them within your children. You will display true gratitude only when you are amongst those who give priority to their faith over all worldly matters. In conclusion, I say again that you should seek to develop those righteous changes within yourself that the Promised Messiah^{as} desired of us. Whatever he taught was in accordance with the true teachings of the Holy Qur'ān and the means of becoming closer to Allāh. Remember Allāh has said that he rewards those who are near to Him in ways that they can never imagine. If you give precedence to your faith then surely Allāh will bestow upon you the blessings of both this world and the next. He will remove your difficulties and concerns and a true feeling of contentment will enter your heart. When a person reaches this state they no longer have worldly desires and all that remains in their heart is the love of Allāh and their faith. When a person reaches such a standard it can be said that they have truly fulfilled the purpose of their creation. May all of you prove to be members of *Lajna Imāillāh* not just in name, but in deed and conduct, and to be true servants of Allāh.

May all of you always fulfil the expectations of the Promised Messiah^{as}. May you become torchbearers who shine a light on the true teachings of Islām and may Allāh enable you to spread the true teachings of the Holy Prophet^{sa} of Islām and forever abide by the true teachings of the Holy Qur'ān. May Allāh bless *Lajna Imāillāh* in all respects.

After this, I would also like to say a few words for those who speak Urdu. I have mentioned quite a few points in very simple words. These points are those which the Promised Messiah^{as} has advised us upon on various occasions. *Lajna Imāillāh* will also translate them and provide it to those who can read Urdu. Currently, many people are migrating here from Pakistan. I have said this on many occasions and continually remind those who have recently come here that the reason why you have come here is so that you can freely express your faith. And also, so that you can freely practice your faith. Thus, always remember that the reason for your migration was faith and therefore this places a responsibility upon you and you must fulfil this responsibility.

You have come here to acquire the freedom to express your faith, therefore instead of expressing your worldly freedoms, your conditions should in fact reflect the expression of faith as much as possible. It should not be the case that after coming here you forget your faith and become immersed in worldly pleasures and begin to give precedence to worldly freedoms over your faith. Your focus should not simply be on earning money or urging your husbands to earn more money to bring home, rather you should create a religious atmosphere in your home. You should try to provide your children with such a spiritual atmosphere whereby religion is always given precedence. You should try to instill this realization in your children that faith is always to be given preference over worldly affairs. As I mentioned earlier that if women were to reform their household then future generations will also be reformed. Similarly, if women are righteous then majority of the men can also be reformed. Nonetheless, the future generation will certainly be reformed. The Jamā'at and the

Khalifah of the time will at least be assured that the future generations are being taken care of. It is your responsibility to take care of the future generation, and this is a huge responsibility which you must pay attention to.

I gave the reference of *Kishti-e-Nuh* in which the Promised Messiah^{as} has advised women numerous times. This advice includes that you should not make unlawful demands from your husbands. It is true that some husbands do not take proper care [of their wives] but at the same time it is also true that there are wives who make unlawful demands from their husbands, even if they are only a few. Also, pay attention towards children. I also mentioned this in my address that attention should be paid towards their school education and it is important to educate them. However, you must give them the religious knowledge too. When you send them to school, focus on them. Do not think that they are now in school and are acquiring an education therefore our responsibility has finished. Complaints have started to emerge that previously when Ahmadi children were attending school they were the most disciplined and paid focus to their studies, however the mothers are no longer paying any attention to them. Even when the parents are called in, they do not go and because of this children are being neglected. The children realize and feel that the other children's parents are coming in, while theirs do not. Therefore, those who have recently come, irrespective of whether you know the language or not, you must go to your children's school and find out how they are doing. If you do not know the language then take someone with you

from the *Lajna* or any of your own friends, so that you know how your child is doing, and if the school has any complaint about the child or if any extra attention needs to be paid to the child then that can also be given. Therefore, this is very important, otherwise children will fall into an inferiority complex and consequently they will neither be able to acquire school education and nor will they focus on their religious education. Therefore, the mothers which have newly come need to give a lot of attention to this.

Also, many young girls are coming; either for education or they have migrated or sought asylum. Some of them are young and unmarried; there are also some who are very young and have come with their parents. They should also remember that after coming here they have to give precedence to their faith over worldly matters. They should try to understand this and continue to emphasize that religion is our priority and worldly affairs are secondary. If not, then we have broken our pledge of *Bai'at*. Thus, it will be hypocritical if on the one hand we make the pledge of initiation and on the other hand we fail to adhere to it. Therefore, this is a very important responsibility. Do not think that after coming here you have acquired freedom. Indeed you have been granted freedom so that you may practice your faith. However, you have not been given freedom so that you can escape from religious obligations and follow worldly pursuits. Therefore, pay particular attention to this. May God Almighty enable you all to do this.

Let us now pray."

The Women Behind the Veil

By: Natasha Rahman, Windsor

At the establishment of *Lajna Imāillāh*, the Maid-servants of Allāh, Khalīfatul-Masīh II^{ra} wrote to the women of Qadian, emphasizing the critical role of women. He believed that women had not yet realized the power they held in their hands and he urged them to actively engage in other important work outside of their household duties. While stressing that societal progress is dependent upon women and that reformation of women can only be achieved by fellow women, he invited all sisters who agreed with him to join this blessed scheme.

THE PROGRESS OF SOCIETY IS DEPENDENT ON WOMEN.

THE REFORMATION OF WOMEN MUST BE CARRIED OUT BY WOMEN.

In my opinion, these two points mentioned by Khalīfatul-Masīh II^{ra} should be engraved in the hearts of each and every Lajna member, that she may know her power, harness it and wield it with confidence. On this note, I want to share with you some incidents from the lives of three exceptional Ahmadi women and their influence in shaping the current Ahmadiyya Community. If reformation of women is to be carried out by women, then who better to learn from than the strong empowering women from early Ahmadiyyat?

The Poet Raised Among Ornaments

A devoted daughter, sister, wife and mother are

not the only points that define this woman. She is the highest revered female poet in the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community. Each member has heard her poems from *Durre-Adan* at Ijlās, Jalsā or Ijtemā. Her name is Nawab Mubarka Begum Sahiba^{ra}, daughter of the Promised Messiah^{as}.

Born on the 27th of Ramadan in 1897, it is no surprise she was named *Mubarka*, meaning ‘blessed woman’. The Promised Messiah^{as} received revelations regarding the birth of a blessed daughter who would “be brought up among ornaments” (Tadhkirah, p. 380). In this manner, the Promised Messiah^{as} was foretold of her high rank, honour and good fortune. Her rank and honour did not lie in riches or fame; rather, it lay in her great love and devotion to Allāh Almighty. Through her love for Allāh, she had deep affection for the Holy Prophet^{sa} and subsequently, her father, the Promised Messiah^{as}.

Hazrat Nawab Mubarka Begum Sahiba^{ra} poured out her deep feelings for Allāh, the Holy Prophet^{sa} and the Promised Messiah^{as} into her poetry. Readers and listeners of her poetry cannot help but feel the same in their own hearts. Her literary style deeply draws in the reader and listener until they, too, find themselves immersed in her ocean of sentiment. She has left behind perpetual and musing words with the strength to draw any man or woman to their Lord.

The Inspiration to Create Lajna Imāillāh

There are many inspirational individuals all

around us. Who inspires you? Perhaps your mother, your sister, your aunt, your grandmother or your friend. These individuals inspire us to take certain leaps in our lives or even to create certain initiatives. One such woman, in Ahmadiyyat history, is Syeda Amatul Hayee Sahiba^{ra}, daughter of Khalīfatul-Masīh I^{ra} and second wife of Khalīfatul-Masīh II^{ra}.

Hazrat Syeda Amatul Hayee Sahiba^{ra} was a bright and ambitious woman. She was so eager to gain knowledge of the Holy Qur'an that she would regularly attend the *dars* (commentary) delivered by Khalīfatul-Masīh I^{ra}. Her passion and dedication to acquire knowledge did not go unnoticed. Instructed to teach the Community women by his teacher, the reluctant Hazrat Mirza Bashiruddin Mahmud Ahmad^{ra} began delivering *dars* to the Ahmadi women. The enthusiastic Amatul Hayee Sahiba^{ra} attended these and passionately urged him to continue teaching women. Seeing her pure desire, intelligence and talent, he decided he would make her into a role model for the Community by her religious teaching.

In 1922, Hazrat Musleh Mau'ud^{ra}, inspired by Amatul Hayee Sahiba^{ra}, established *Lajna Imāillāh* for the education, empowerment and reformation of women. It is unfortunate that in 1924 she passed away after giving birth to a son. Although she was unable to see the progress of *Lajna Imāillāh*, her light lives on. *Lajna Imāillāh* is the longest established auxiliary of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, which started with one ambitious and zealous woman; thus, showing us that all it takes is one woman.

“In the history of Ahmadi women, her name will always be held in high esteem, and our hearts, filled

with love, will pray for her, because it was her extreme concern for the welfare of Ahmadi women that became the inspiration for the establishment of *Lajna Imāillāh*.”

— Hazrat Khalīfatul-Masīh IV^{rh}

The Maryam of the Maryam Shadi Fund

Mothers try to instil various admirable qualities in their children. Compassion. Kindness. Consideration. Selflessness. Resolve. Perseverance. Strength. Hazrat Umme Tahir^{ra}, mother of Khalīfatul-Masīh IV^{rh}, too instilled valuable characteristics in her children. She chose to demonstrate by action and example.

She was not a well-educated woman, as Hazrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad^{rh} says: “She was a simple lady at heart. Her religion essentially was love. She loved the Holy Founder of Islām, the Holy Qur'an and the Founder of the Ahmadiyya Community” (A Man of God, p. 19). Despite the lack of formal education, she was intelligent, quick-witted, loving and very popular among the children. She was extremely compassionate and caring, especially to the poor and she always taught her only son to also be considerate of the poor and needy. Khalīfatul-Masīh IV^{rh} relates that she would keep a few milking cows just so she could distribute milk and butter to the needy who would line up at her door. Additionally, she never missed an opportunity to provide needy families with clothing and jewelry for their daughters' wedding.

Thus, in memory of his loving mother, Hu-zoor^{rh} announced the launch of the Maryam Shādi fund in his Friday Sermon of February 21, 2003. This initiative provides financial and material support to less fortunate families to

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Hazrat Ammān Jān

Syeda Nusrat Jahan Begum^{ra}

By: Saleha Noor, Brampton Flowertown

This brief article is a tribute to Hazrat Syeda Nusrat Jahan Begum^{ra}. She had the special and exalted honour of being the wife of Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad^{as}, the Promised Messiah and Mahdi, expected by many religions, and the founder of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community. She was an inspiring and devoted lady. The literal sense of her birth name, "Nusrat Jahan," which was "World Helper," was to be a Divine intimation of the profound effect that this holy lady would have worldwide. She was a caring mother, a caretaker of orphans and a protector of the sick, a religious and faithful life-companion of the Promised Messiah^{as}. She was also a spiritual mother to all in the community, and was known as "Hazrat Ammān Jān (meaning; dear mother)." This article aims to give a very limited insight into a few traits of her great personality, which is a role model for all Ahmadi women.

Hazrat Ammān Jān^{ra}'s Appearance:

Hazrat Ammān Jān^{ra}'s appearance can be described as purity and simplicity personified. Her attire was simple, yet elegant and graceful. In the tradition of her family roots in Delhi she always wore a "fitted pyjama suit" (long tunic and narrow trousers), as opposed to "shalwaar kameez". Her attire was simple but not severe; showing an appreciation of that with which Allah the Almighty had blessed her. This meant that although her suit would often be plain white, it would be embellished with some embroidery or lace. She also wore her jewelry without excessive display.

Hazrat Ammān Jān's Kindness to the Poor:

One of the exceptional qualities of Hazrat Ammān Jān^{ra} was her compassion to the poor, which was an instinctive reflection of her caring and pious nature. Hazrat Ammān Jān^{ra} brought up orphans, young children, even babies. She would not only take one child; rather she would often "adopt" into her household an entire family of siblings.

Hazrat Ammān Jān^{ra}'s Behaviour towards Her Household Helpers:

The compassion of Hazrat Ammān Jān^{ra} towards her household assistants was exceptional. Sometimes, individuals in control believe that they are superior to their staff. On the contrary, Hazrat Ammān Jān^{ra} handled the workers of her household with the same love and affection, much like the other members of her family. She gave them similar clothes and shoes to her own so as to make them feel as equals rather than inferior - a rare practice in those times. Sensitive to her helpers' feelings, she joined in the household chores alongside them, creating a feeling of unity amongst all members of the household!

May Allāh reward this noble lady abundantly for the rest of eternity. To read more on the virtuous character of Hazrat Ammān Jān^{ra}, please refer to the book, *Hazrat Ammān Jān^{ra}, An Inspiration to All*, by Munavara Ghauri.

Source:

Ghaur, Munavara, , *Hazrat Ammān Jān^{ra}, An Inspiration to All*, available on <<https://www.alislam.org/library/books/Hadrat-Amman-Jan.pdf>>

Hazrat Nawab Mubarka Begum Sahiba^{ra}

By: Mubarka Bari

There are numerous personalities that have left their mark in the history of Islām Ahmadiyyat. One such distinguished and celebrated blessed soul is Hazrat Nawab Mubarka Begum^{ra} Sāhiba, daughter of the Promised Messiah^{as} and Hazrat Amma Jaan^{ra}. Her life is an illustrative example of a person who was in harmony with spirituality and devotion to fulfill Allāh's commandments through prayers and supplications. Hazrat Nawab Mubarka Begum^{ra} was one of the blessed children of the Promised Messiah^{as}. Allāh had revealed to the Promised Messiah^{as} that, 'his house would be filled with prosperities and His Blessings. Furthermore, he will have a large progeny from blessed women (Khuwateen Mubarka), some of whom he will find hereafter'.¹ This promise by Allāh Almighty came to existence on March 2, 1897, when Hazrat Nawab Mubarka Begum^{ra} was born on the night of the 27th of Ramadhan. In another Divine Revelation in 1901, the name "Hazrat Nawab Mubarka Begum", was relayed to the Promised Messiah^{as}, thus she was a source of multitude of blessings for everyone around her.² Growing up, she recalls observing her father, Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad^{as}, to be a true believer and lover of Allāh, whose heart was filled to the brim for the love of the Holy Prophet^{sa}. She never saw her father mentioning Prophet Muhammad's^{sa} life without string of tears flowing, as he would continue reminiscing and wiping his tears.³ Af-

ter the passing away of her beloved father, her mother Hazrat Amma Jaan^{ra} consoled the children by telling them that they shouldn't think that their father had left nothing for them. Rather he had entrusted them with a grand treasure of prayers in the sky which they would keep receiving time from time.

Hazrat Nawab Mubarka Begum^{ra} was 11 years old at the time of her father's demise. Years later, she still recalled this incident because it was a time of great loss to the children and their beloved mother. The grief stricken family had firm belief in the wisdom of the Promised Messiah^{as}, his prayers, the love embedded in their hearts for Allāh, the faith he taught them – that the true promises of Allāh were with them.⁴ Three nights after the passing away of her father Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad^{as}, she saw him in a vision standing in the courtyard, his blessed face radiating, as he vouchsafed a prayer for the people of the Ahmadiyya Jamā'at:

"Our Lord, let not our hearts become perverse after Thou hast guided us; and bestow on us mercy from Thyself; surely, Thou alone art the Bestower."⁵

She conveyed this message to Hazrat Khalīfatul-Masīh I^{ra}, who became extremely affected by the prayer and incorporated it in his daily life.⁶ Her elder brother Hazrat Khalīfatul-Masīh II^{ra} was very close to their mother. His affection and respect increased towards his mother after the

passing away of the Promised Messiah^{as}. Once when Hazrat Amma Jaan^{ra} became sick, he took his younger sister Hazrat Nawab Mubarka Begum^{ra} to the side and advised her to pray and continue praying for their mother, as he would also be praying—he didn't want any heartache to affect their mother from any of them.⁷ She was endowed with the most dignified and noble persona, and was a supplicant encompassing deep fear of God. She possessed utmost love for her parents the Promised Messiah^{as} and Hazrat Amma Jaan^{ra}, and was bequeathed by the Promised Messiah^{as} to be a devotee to Allāh and His Prophet Muhammad^{sa}, and have a passion for the Holy Qur'ān.⁸

Hazrat Nawab Mubarka Begum^{ra} was vigilant when offering prayers and would endeavour to indulge in special care whilst offering lengthy prayers. When praying for Maghrib Salāt, she would be so engrossed in her prayer that the time for Isha would approach, and then she would subsequently start praying Isha, followed by Nawafil (optional prayers). Her prayers would include the entire clan of the Promised Messiah^{as}, the members of the Jamā'at, and one of her Sajdah (prostration) would be dedicated for the mercy of Allāh towards the people; who were unable to write to her for prayers due to predicaments in their lives.⁹ She would become anxious and offer prayers if anyone in the family would be in any pain or sickness. Not only this, she would involve the members of Jamā'at in the prayers and would immediately write to Al Fazal newspaper, requesting for prayers from members of the Jamā'at.¹⁰ This evidently displays her compassion to help others due to her empathetic nature. Hazrat Nawab Mubarka Begum^{ra} would regularly read the Holy Qur'ān to understand its meaning. If she was unable to

comprehend the meaning of a particular instance, she would resort to reviewing it multiple times in order to recognize and grasp the true meaning of the verse.¹¹ This demonstrated that she tried to gain Allāh's love and become closer to Him by understanding the essence of the Holy Qur'ān. Her existence was that of a blessed light to everyone around her. She was pious, spiritual and a devout Ahmadī who had a strong belief in the treasure called Salāt and the never ending benefits of reaching out to Allāh. Even old age didn't deter her from her prayer sessions; rather, she would resort to laying down and praying.¹² Her exemplary life provides guidance to women of all ages showcasing that refuge and strength can be found only with Allāh, through Salāt. May Allāh be pleased with her and grant her an exalted status amongst the righteous. Amin.

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A Notable Personality:

Hazrat Nawab Mubarka Begum^{ra} Sāhiba

By: Mehvish T. Bani – Hamilton Mountain

There are many righteous and pious women in Islām who have set high standards for us to follow. Hazrat Nawab Mubarka Begum^{ra} is one such notable personality whose life not only inspires us but also reiterates the truthfulness of the Promised Messiah^{as}.

Life

One such trait of her personality of particular interest is her knowledge and how bright of a young child she was. At the young age of less than 5 years, she had completed the 1st reading of the Holy Qur'ān. Along with Urdu, she got the opportunity to read books in various other languages such as Persian, English, and Arabic, of both secular and religious nature.

She was also a poet and a literary figure of an extraordinary kind.¹ Her poems were spontaneous and had fluency which depicts her pious nature and love for Allāh. She was a great writer and had perfection in writing. With such an aptitude, she ended up becoming an accomplished poet authoring the famous *Durr-e-Adan* that we are all familiar with.

She was quite enthusiastic and had varied interests. She used to make colours and get her scarves dyed. She could stitch and weave, though she was fond of reading and not much interested in above activities. She learned cooking right from her own home and developed a great interest in cooking especially after her marriage. She used to enjoy trying out various new

dishes. In one instance, she even called a confectioner and learned to make different sweets. In order to abide by Parda, she stayed behind the curtains while fulfilling her desire to learn.

Worship and Service to Humanity

Another beautiful aspect of her life was the high standard of worship in this day and age which is also an admirable example for modern women. At a young age of just 4 years, she had already started offering Tahajjud prayer let alone other mandatory prayers. It is known, for example, that her worship was outstanding at all times and she offered her daily prayers with such humility, love and devotion that those watching could not help but be affected.

Following the tradition of her mother; she kept orphan girls under her wings, teaching them various skills such as cooking and got them married in good households where they lived a happy life.²

Obedience to Khilāfat

After the demise of Musleh Mau'ūd, Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih II^{ra}, she was deeply saddened. However despite her state of extreme grief; she open-heartedly pledged allegiance to her son-in-law and nephew, Hazrat Mirza Nasir Ahmad^{ra}, Khalifatul-Masih III^{ra}.³

Kindness

She always prayed for everyone when people wrote to her for prayers; due to her empathetic

nature she would pray for them with utmost honesty and intensity. In fact, her daughter relates that she carried the weight of Jamā'at in her prayers.⁴ Another beauty of her kind nature was that whenever she used to advise, she was always polite, provided references from the life of the Promised Messiah^{as} and Hazrat Ammān Jān^{ra}.

Loving Relationship with the Promised Messiah^{as}

She had a loving relationship with her father, the Promised Messiah^{as}. For example, one day during her younger years as a child, she was hungry and repeatedly kept asking for a "Paratha". Hazrat Amma Jaan^{ra} replied that she had to be patient until the stove was free — this made the young Mubarka very upset. As soon as the Promised Messiah^{as} found out that she was lying upset, he immediately asked Hazrat Amma Jaan^{ra} to cook for Hazrat Mubarka^{ra} and then took the "Paratha" to her himself. She right away got up and was surprised to see the Promised Messiah^{as} there for her, who in fact, stayed until she finished eating.

Loving Relationship as a Wife

Hazrat Nawab Mubarka Begum^{ra} Sāhiba was married to Hazrat Nawab Muhammad Ali Khan^{ra} of Malirkotala, a companion of the Promised Messiah^{as}. She had a very successful married life. Nawab^{ra} Sāhib used to treat her with lots of respect and was very appreciative of her. He considered her to be blessed due to her being the daughter of the Promised Messiah^{as}.

Despite so much love and affection from her husband, she never took advantage of this. She always respected him and took care of his likes and dislikes in his presence and as well in his absence. Her husband was so grateful to her that he actually wrote in his diary stating that he got

both inner and outer beauty along with extraordinary knowledge. She was blessed with 5 children and as a mother, she instilled great respect in her children for their father.

In spite of getting married at the tender age of 12 years, she took great care of her 3 older step-children as a guardian and treated them with love and affection. Nawab^{ra} Sāhib's eldest daughter testifies this by saying that while she was ill, Hazrat Nawab Mubarka Sahiba^{ra} never said a thing which could have hurt and in fact, always took care of her like a mother.

She had very good relations with all of her relatives including her in-laws. Her brother in-law Nawab Ali Zulfikar Khan Sāhib's children always remembered her with much love and respect and in fact, his daughters considered their aunt as their friend.

Steadfastness

At the time of her husband's last illness; her daughter, Sahibzadi Aapa Mahmooda Begum Sāhiba, relates she took care of their father with much patience and steadfastness. Taking care of him for a prolonged period without rest also took toll on her health, but she never complained about it in any way. At the time of her husband's passing away, she showed great strength where her daughter writes that not even once she witnessed impatience nor weakness in their mother's behaviour.⁵

This blessed and beautiful soul of Hazrat Nawab Mubarka Begum^{ra} Sāhiba departed from this materialistic world forever during the night of May 23rd, 1977 at 12:05 am. Inna lillahi wa inna ilayhi raji'un ("We are from Allāh, and indeed, to Him we return."). May Allāh elevate her status in heaven. Amīn.

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Hazrat Nawab Amatul Hafeez Begum Sahiba-

By: Reema Malik, Brampton West, Flowertown

Born into the blessed family of the Promised Messiah^{as}, Hazrat Nawab Amatul Hafeez Begum Sahiba^{ra} was the youngest of five children. She was born in fulfillment of a prophecy of the Promised Messiah^{as}. He was told that he would be blessed with a daughter who would be pious and pure. That prophecy was fulfilled in every way. Her character and conduct displayed all the qualities of righteousness and piety throughout her life.

Born just four years before the demise of her beloved father, Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad^{as}, she hardly had time to comprehend his mission in his lifetime. She was, however, much loved by her father. The Promised Messiah^{as} was affectionate and tender hearted towards her. He was also very particular about her tarbiyyat and paid special attention to her upbringing. He overlooked what may seem to be trivial and innocent mistakes of a young child but was quick to show displeasure over what may prove harmful later in life.

Hazrat Nawab Amatul Hafeez Begum Sahiba^{ra} finished the first recitation of the Holy Qur'an at the age of 7 and then began her formal education which included studying Arabic and Urdu. She was married at the age of 13 to Nawab Abdullah Khan Sahib and then continued to study after marriage. She was a lifelong learner and particu-

larly enjoyed reading English and Urdu books. She was known to visit the library every three to four days to get new books.

Her pious nature was evident through all stages of her life. She never asked anyone for her needs but instead put her trust in Allāh and exhorted her children to do the same. In the early years of her marriage, she had little financial means. Her husband's only source of income was pocket money that he received from his father. Despite this, she lived within her means without complaint and was extremely hospitable. When the opportunity to purchase land in Sindh was presented, she sold her jewelry to help her husband buy the land.

Hazrat Nawab Amatul Hafeez Begum Sahiba^{ra} had a very special relationship with Allāh and she often had true dreams and would know of events before they occurred. She was regular in offering *nawafal* (optional) prayers and expressed to her children the importance of worship and reliance on Allāh. One day when she had a desire to have honey, her daughter suggested that they could get it from someone they knew. To this she replied that she only presents her wishes to Allāh. By the Grace of Allāh, the next day someone came to their house and gave her a bottle of honey.

Most parents appease their children by celebrat-

ing their birthdays with cake and presents but Hazrat Nawab Amatul Hafeez Begum Sahiba^{ra} always gave preference to the pleasure of Allāh. She would write letters to her children with goodly advice. On her daughter, Fauzia's, 14th birthday she wrote a letter in which she advised her to make prayer and sympathy for her fellow beings her habit and to pray for a pious and righteous life. She also emphasized the importance of putting her trust in Allāh and presenting her needs before Him. She also advised her not to hurt anyone with her words or hands. This was the blessed way that she gently guided her children away from worldly customs and towards seeking the pleasure of Allāh.

In 1948 Hazrat Nawab Amatul Hafeez Begum Sāhiba's^{ra} husband suffered from a severe heart attack. The doctors feared that he would not survive. By the Grace of Allāh and the prayers of his loving wife and Hazrat Amma Jaan^{ra}, his blessed mother-in-law, he not only recovered but lived for another thirteen years. His health, however, remained frail and his wife dedicated herself to his care. For months she stayed in his room by his side, day and night. The loving relationship between husband and wife was one of mutual respect and kindness. As the daughter of the Promised Messiah^{as}, she never took undue advantage of her lineage. She lived a simple and humble life and fulfilled her responsibilities with due care.

After her husband's death in 1961, and seeing that her daughter, Fauzia, was deeply affected, she decided to send her to visit her older daughter in the U.K. Though she did not have plans to go herself, it was ultimately in the plan of Allāh that she would also go. It had been her long de-

sire to travel and Allāh fulfilled this in such a blessed way. Not only did she visit the U.K, she also visited many European countries. At the stop in Zurich, she was requested by the local missionary to lay the foundation stone for the Zurich mosque. Clad in her modest attire, in front of reporters, she had the opportunity to impress upon the European nations the high status of Muslim women.

Hazrat Nawab Amatul Hafeez Begum Sahiba^{ra} also had a deep love for Khilāfat. Both Hazrat Mirza Nasir Ahmad^{rh} and Hazrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad^{rh} were her nephews and much younger than her. Still, she had great love and reverence for them and always wore a head covering in their presence. When Hazrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad^{rh} became the fourth Khalīfa of the community, she placed the ring of the Promised Messiah^{as} on his hand.

The beloved and youngest daughter of the Promised Messiah^{as} lived to the ripe age of 84 years. She passed away in Rabwah on May 6th, 1987. She left behind six daughters, three sons and thirty-five grandchildren. She was a role model for her family and community. She led a life devoted to her Creator and fulfilled her worldly responsibilities with grace, and dignity. May Allāh elevate her status in heaven and help us to emulate her noble qualities. Amīn

Source:

Dukhte Karam, <<https://www.alislam.org/urdu/pdf/Dukht-e-Karam.pdf>>

Hazrat Syeda Amatul Hayee Sahiba^{ra}

By: Farah Ahmad, Hamilton North

Hazrat Syeda Amatul Hayee Sahiba^{ra} was the daughter of Hazrat Khalifatul-Masīh I^{ra} and the granddaughter of Hazrat Munshee Ahmad Jaan Sahib^{ra} from Ludhiana, in whose house the Promised Messiah^{as} took the first Bai'at (oath of allegiance). She was born on August 1, 1901. Hazrat Khalifatul-Masīh II^{ra} characterizes his wife, Hazrat Syeda Amatul Hayee Sahiba^{ra}, in Anwar-ul-Uloom Volume 13, pages 74/75 in the following words:

“Amatul Hayee was a very good wife by nature, but there was one more thing about her. She was the spitting image (or face resemblance) of her father Maulvi Noorud-din Sahib^{ra}, my role model, benefactor and beloved master. To an extent, to which a man's beauty can be projected onto a woman's face, reminded her of a reflection of her father. Out of her numerous siblings, only her brother, Abdul Hayee, resembled the First Khalifa^{ra}. I found this memory and this resemblance to be extremely attractive and admirable. In addition, I admired her knowledge as she taught other women despite her illness and weakness. She had an unquenchable thirst for knowledge that impressed me very much.”

Through her father's legacy she was gifted with the quality of being a great devotee for the service of faith. She possessed an immense love for the Holy Qur'ān. This passion inspired her to teach other women the Holy Qur'ān in order to

raise their level of knowledge and to enrich their knowledge. Her eagerness for knowledge was one of the reasons that Hazrat Khalifatul-Masīh II^{ra} agreed to marry her.

He said about her: “The women in particular owe her great gratitude. I did not intend to address to the women, after the demise of Hazrat Khalifatul-Masīh I^{ra}. However, I am convinced that it took a lot of courage to write a letter to me just three days after the demise of her great father (Hazrat Khalifatul-Masīh I^{ra}). At that time, I was not married to her. She wrote that her late father always taught the Holy Qur'ān to the women during his lifetime. But now Allāh had chosen me to be the Khalifa. Hazrat Maulvi Sahib^{ra} requested her in his last moments that after his demise, she should ask the successor to address the women and to continue this tradition. Therefore, she had brought me her father's legacy and his last wish. I shall now continue her father's work.

“This letter was the reason I began to address women. If women have experienced any benefit and progress, indeed these good deeds shall reach her soul. The truth is that every lecture, every speech, every action towards the women's organization, arose through her initiative. I believe, she felt great love for every member of the community. This love is found in very few women. She fulfilled so many rights towards me that

I cannot absolve myself of them and I am subjugated under the weight of her good deeds. I believe, that her sincerity, her commitment and her love for every single woman from the Jamā'at has set an admirable example also for many men. "(Khutbat-e-Mahmood, Volume 8, Friday Sermon December 12, 1924, p. 539 -540)

Hazrat Syeda Amatul Hayee Sahiba^{ra} was the second wife of Hazrat Khalīfatul-Masīh II^{ra}. The well-known scholar Hazrat Maulana Syed Sarwar Shah Sahib^{ra} announced their Nikkah on May 31, 1914 with the dowry money of 1,000 rupees, accompanied as a witness by her brother Hazrat Abdul Hayee Sāhib. (Sawaneh Fazl Umar, Volume 2, p. 45)

Hazrat Khalīfatul-Masīh II^{ra} said: "When I married her, it was my intention to pass on my knowledge through her to the women of the community. So I decided to teach her knowledge immediately, but her insatiable thirst for knowledge quickly overtook me. In the beginning I occasionally neglected or skipped lessons, but she persistently followed her curriculum every day and made great progress. She was very good at teaching the translation of the Qur'ān, as well as "Balugh al Maram", an interpretation of the Qur'ān and a collection of traditions in Arabic. She also taught women other contents of various books. She consulted with me about teaching "Mashkwaat" even 4-5 days before her death. She was keen for knowledge which was not visible in many women. "(Anwar-ul-Uloom, Volume 9, p. 8/9)

She was the cornerstone of the auxiliary organization of Ahmadiyya Muslim Women's Community in terms of faith and knowledge acquisition. She was the first secretary of this organization

since the establishment of the institution of Lajna Imāillāh until her death. She was a great asset to the Lajna Imāillāh and by far the most effective and devoted member. It was her efforts that led to the fact that on the occasion of the annual gatherings of the Jamā'at (Jalsa Sālāna) the women received an independent accommodation so they could further educate themselves through their own speeches. She herself addressed to women and also published articles in women's magazines. Even her illnesses could not stop her. (Misbah, August 1989, Al Fazl Digest, Part 1, Lecture 4)

Hazrat Khalīfatul-Masīh II^{ra} mentions about her righteousness (taqwa) and her deeply rooted beliefs as follows: "The Holy Prophet^{sa} said that souls are connected and anchored with one another. Some of them are related to each other. And I believe that my wife's soul is very close to me. She had a very firm belief in the Promised Messiah^{as} and the truthfulness of Islām. This type of bond is found in very few women. She was very strong in all matters of faith. Even most men could not match her level of steadfastness. Her love for faith, her love for the Promised Messiah^{as}, her solidarity and her commitment in every aspect of the Jamā'at has affected my sensitive heart indeed. She left me deeply impressed and softened my heart". (Khutbat-e-Mahmood, Volume Khutbat-e-Nikah, pp. 204/205)

Huzoor^{ra} further said, "I prayed for her and provided her with every care that I was capable of during her last days, at least what my heart could endure. The entire Jamā'at, including myself, had prayed a lot for her. She was buried in Bahishti Maqbarah. Who is as blessed as she was? Three years before her demise I saw in my

dream that she came to me wrapped in a white cloth and greeted me with "Assalamu alaikum" and said that she would now go away. After that, she left the house in a hurry. I asked Muhammad Ismail Sahib^{ra} to follow her and when he returned he reported that she had gone in the direction of the Bahishti Maqbarah." (Anwar-ul-Uloom, Band 9, S. 10-13)

She passed away on December 10, 1924 at the young age of 23 years.

Hazrat Khalifatul-Masīh II^{ra} said, "With her death a void was left in my heart. May Allāh bless you and your father so much so that you may ask Allāh with astonishment why His gates of blessings are wide open for you both today and Allāh would reply to them that His servant Mahmood, lying at the feet of his Lord with a broken heart and tearful eyes, had asked to shower His divine blessings on them and that this was the blessing that was revealed upon them." (Anwar-ul-Uloom, Volume 13, pp. 73/74)

She had three children. Their names are:

1. Sahibzada Mirza Khalil Ahmad Sāhib
2. Sahibzadi Amatul Quyoom, wife of Sahibzada Muzaffar Ahmad Sāhib
3. Sahibzadi Amatul Rasheed Sāhiba, wife of Mian Abdul Raheem Ahmad Sāhib

May Allāh shower His countless blessings on this blessed wife of Hazrat Musleh Mau'ūd^{ra}.

More about Hazrat Syeda Amatul Hayee^{ra}

By: Rashda Tahir

Hazrat Syeda Amatul Hayee^{ra} was brought up in

a very spiritual and religious environment. Her father, Hazrat Khalifatul-Masīh I^{ra} loved the Holy Qur'ān and had great knowledge of its teachings. Growing up, she spent her days hearing the recitation of Holy Qur'ān, whether it was being read aloud, or being taught to others. She learned to recite from her father, and regularly attended his Dars ul Qur'ān in the mosque, and at home.

Even as a young child, she was interested in living a simple life. Hazrat Yaqoob Ali Irfani^{ra} Sāhib wrote, "Since childhood she had no interest in embellishment which is typical of many females. Instead, she got happiness in acquiring knowledge. For a long time, she hated colourful dresses. She used to wear white, and liked the field of Hikmat, and wanted to become a doctor." (Tadeeb-un-Nisa, Volume 3, Pages 6-9).

Hazra Muleh Maud^{ra} said about his marriage to Syeda Amatul Hayee^{ra}: "I haven't seen any happy and successful marriages other than this marriage" (Al Fazal Qadian, April 18, 1925, Page 4-5).

He was not happy with her because she was pretty or well dressed, but rather because she had a firm belief in the Promised Messiah^{as}, she loved the Holy Qur'ān, and due to her fair association with and obedience of khilafat. Her greatest asset was her ability to attain knowledge and teach it to others. Her house was like a school. Hazrat Amatul Hayee Sahiba^{ra} made plans to educate women, and as a distant result, Lajna Imāillāh was established. At the age of 21, when she expressed her desire for women to become educated in order to serve Ahmadiyyat, Huzoo^{ra} thought about it and later established the women's organization in 1922. In her first Lajna report in 1924, it was announced that four schools

were opened in Qadian.

She was very kind towards the poor and needy, and respectful of servants. Once she was busy in her Lajna duties when a servant came and asked if she should cook her food. She whispered back, "First, read Namaz, then you can cook the food." The servant did so, and upon returning discovered that the meat she had put aside to cook was eaten by the cat. When she told Amatul Hayee Sāhiba, she wasn't upset at all and replied, "cook some *daal* (lentil curry) instead" and resumed her work. In the meantime, she saw Hazrat Khalīfatul-Masīh II^{ra} standing there. He had heard everything and said, "yes, make some daal. The daal cooked in Amatul Hayee's house tastes better than Korma and Pulao for me." (Istafada Az-Harawal dasta 13 az Sitara Muzaffar Lahore).

She even used to distribute all the gifts she got among poor women. She was a humble and kindhearted person who didn't differentiate between rich and poor while showering love and affection.

She was also the one who suggested separate programs for women's Jalsa to better the Jalsa Sālāna arrangements. So, in 1917, for the first time, the women's Lajna program was held separately. Allāh blessed her with three children, 2 daughters and 1 son.

Her daughter Sāhibzādi Amatul Rashid told the way she did their Tarbiyat of her young kids in these words: "I was very small and didn't even know the words, but my mother used to make me stand next to her in Namaz and just repeat 'Bismillah'. She used to tie the dupatta around my head lovingly and say, 'Just read Namaz as the people in the front row do. She also taught us Azaan."

After Allāh blessed her with her son, Mirza Khalil Ahmad on November 10, 1924, she became very sick and passed away one month later, at the young age of 23 years old. She lived a very short worldly life, but Allāh blessed her with being remembered in the hearts of many to this day – an eternal life of sorts.

Hazrat Khalīfatul-Masīh II^{ra} said, "Till this day, I haven't read any such Namaz where I haven't prayed for Amatul Hayee" (Al Fazal, April 19, 1925).

May Allāh shower His blessings upon her and grant her high status in the paradise. Amīn.

Source:

Hazrat Syeda Amatul Hayee, <<https://www.alislam.org/library/browse/pdf/.urdu.pdf.Amtul-Hayee/#page/4/mode/1up>>

(Continued from page 13)

enable them to marry their daughters in a dignified manner. To this day, the Maryam Shadi Fund continues to provide support to families in need; but we should always remember the Maryam at the heart of the Maryam Shādi Fund.

SOURCES:

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- Tadhkirah (Revelations, Dreams and Visions of the Promised Messiah) Third Edition Revised 2018
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- A Man of God by Iain Adamson

Hazrat Syeda Maryam un-Nisa^{ra} known as Umme Tahir

By: Anisa Tahira Masood, Heart Lake, Brampton West

When we read about the life of Hazrat Umme Tahir, one marvels at her excellence of character and wonders which aspect of her life one should pick to write and which to skip - one after the other inspires you. She was an ultimate believer in Allāh the Almighty and would always be ready to do anything to please Him. Her manners and habits were exemplary. Hazrat Umme Tahir^{ra} was born in Raia District, Sialkot in 1905. She came from a very devoted Muslim Syed family - that is she was from the lineage of the Holy Prophet^{sa}. Her father was a companion of the Promised Messiah^{as}. The Promised Messiah^{as} used to call his family "Bahishti Tabbar" that is a "heavenly family". She was named Syeda Maryam Un-Nisa. Her father's name was Dr. Abdul Sattar Shah Sahib^{ra} and her mother's name was Syedatul-Nisa. Due to her virtuous self, Syedatul-Nisa Sāhiba was known by the name of "Parsa" (noble) from her childhood. She swore allegiance to the Promised Messiah^{as} on the basis of a dream. Hazrat Umme Tahir^{ra} had three sisters and five brothers.

Her respected father Dr. Syed Abdul Sattar Shah Sahib^{ra} once came to see the Promised Messiah^{as}, who was seated on a bed. Shah Sāhib tried to sit at the feet of the Promised Messiah^{as} but the Promised Messiah^{as} abruptly said, "You are a Syed so come and sit beside me, this is your place." On another occasion, he told Hazrat Dr.

Abdul Sattar Shah Sāhib that "we have three relations with you. One is that you are our disciple, the other is that you are from Sadat (the lineage of the Holy Prophet^{sa}) and yet there is a third relation with you." Having said that he maintained silence. This relationship was later established with the marriage of Hazrat Syeda Maryam to his son Hazrat Musleh Mau'ūd^{ra}.

Before Hazrat Umme Tahir^{ra} was born, her father Dr. Syed Abdul Sattar Sāhib saw in a vision that a son will be born to him. He conveyed this inspiration to one of his employees named "Baba Inder". But when a girl was born he was surprised as to maybe he misunderstood the revelation. When he spoke to his employee about this Baba Inder said, 'it might be that this girl proves to be more than a boy.' Later this was proven so true. She was blessed to be the daughter-in-law of the Promised Messiah^{as} twice. Once in her childhood when the Promised Messiah's son Mubarak Ahmad, was just eight years old and fell ill, the Promised Messiah^{as} had a dream that Mubarak Ahmad was getting married. In order to fulfil this dream, the Promised Messiah^{as} arranged for Mubarak Ahmad's marriage to fulfil the dream materially. Hazrat Syeda Maryam, who was 2 and a half years old then, was chosen as his bride. It was a symbolic marriage. But Hazrat Dr Abdul Sattar Sāhib showed much devotion in this relation, and readily agreed to it. It also shows his love

for the Promised Messiah^{as} and his family. Sadly by God's will Mubarak Ahmad passed away. After his demise, the Promised Messiah^{as} said to Hazrat Ammān Jānr^a (his wife) that inshallah we will have her for the other son of ours. Later, on February 7, 1921, Hazrat Musleh Mau'ūd^{ra} married Hazrat Maryam to fulfil the words of the Promised Messiah^{as}. She was his third wife. Furthermore, because of this blessed relationship, she became the wife of a Khalifa and then later, the mother of a Khalifa (Hazrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad, Khalifatul-Masīh IV^{rh}). In this way, Allāh Almighty blessed her with a greater rank.

On her love for the Holy book Qur'ān, her husband Hazrat Musleh Mau'ūd^{ra} narrated that Umme Tahir^{ra} used to recite the Qur'ān with a great joy. She comprehended scientific and intellectual things very much. At another time, he stated about her fragile health, that even though she was often unwell, if there was ever a need for Jamā'at work, she would disregard every discomfort to herself and her children and would accomplish that task with much passion. A year before her death, she was in Dalhousie when the chef gave up making "prathas" for everyone at dawn due to "ghee" (refined butter) being scarce in Ramadan. There was financial hardship in those days. When a servant who would fetch water for the household's complained that it is difficult to fast with dry roti in the morning. Upon hearing this, she took it upon herself to make the "prathas". She wisely managed to make "prathas" for everyone in the same ghee. She said, "I can't stand people fasting with a dry roti (dry flat bread)." She was more concerned for the health of the people that were fasting in Ramadan, even more than her own well being. The man who complained was only an employee of the households and not her fam-

ily member; however, she felt his agony and tried to make matters comfortable for him, for the rest of the month of Ramadan. What a great lesson for us women to learn!

She loved keeping buffaloes at home. This enabled her to give poor people living around the area free lassi (buttermilk) and butter.

Her heart was filled with the love of God and His Holy Messenger^{sa}. Her son Hazrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad, Khalifatul-Masīh IV^{ra} once mentioned that his mother was very fond of the following Arabic couplet written in praise of the Holy Prophet of Islam^{sa},

Balaghal Ula bekamaalihi
Kashafad-duja bejamaalihi
Hasunat Jamee'u Khisaalihi
Sallu alaihi wa aalihi

Translation:

He reached the heights of excellence with his perfection

By his beauty all the darkness faded

His qualities were excellent

Peace be on you (O' Prophet) and your followers

She would recite these couplets drenched in the love of the Holy Prophet^{sa} and recite them to her children as well . Hazrat Khalifatul Maish IV^{rh} also recited these couplets for MTA in a very sweet manner.

Umme Tahir^{ra} had immense respect for the family members of the Promised Messiah^{as}. Hazrat Musleh Mau'ūd^{ra} stated that once when he narrated a hadith to Hazrat Umme Tahir that if one has true love for Allāh and His Messenger in his/her heart, even if there are some weaknesses

in him or her, they will not be parted with the people that are dearest to them. At listening this the face of Hazrat Umme Tahir^{ra} began to glow with joy. She said, that my heart is always full with the love of Allāh and His messenger.

She also loved the Holy Qur'ān very much. She used to recite it in a very sweet voice.

Whenever there was a scheme initiated in the Ahmadiyya community, she would take extraordinary interest in it and also motivate the Lajna members. Maulvi Abdul Rahim Dard Sāhib, who used to be the Imam of London Jamā'at, once said that if Umme Tahir^{ra} had not taken a keen interest in making the flag of Lajna, this flag would not have been made at all. She got the design approved by Hazrat Musleh Mau'ūd^{ra} which he happily not only approved but insisted to get it done.

She was very passionate about serving the people. In the last days of her life, she said, I wished that if God would give me health, I would be able to make up for any shortcomings in my services for the Jamā'at.

She would become restless to see orphans, the poor and needy, pain-afflicted, sick and the helpless people. Countless needy people would line up to seek her help. She was not only Umme Tahir but also the mother of many widows and orphans. Rather, she was Umm ul-Musakin (mother of motherless) and Umm ul-Yataama (the mother of fatherless).

After the death of Hazrat Musleh Mau'ūd^{ra}'s wife, Syeda Amatul Haye^{ra} Sāhiba, she undertook the upbringing of her children like a kind mother. She was only nineteen years old at the time.

Her financial sacrifices were exemplary. In 1923,

she gave her dowry money from her husband's side for the cause of Jamā'at, the sum of one thousand rupees in cash. In those days it was a huge amount. Not only this, she bequeathed one-sixth of her jewelry and one-tenth of her inheritance, which she later increased to one-third. She paid Rs. 150 including jewelry for the construction of Fazal Mosque in London. Later she also contributed financially for its repair. In World War II, on the initiative of Hazrat Musleh Mau'ūd^{ra} to offer grain, she provided five mann (around 190 Kilo grams) of grain.

She passed away on March 5, 1944 at the tender age of 38 years. She had wished that she would be a part of the Promised Messiah's family in the hereafter as well. Allāh Almighty granted her this wish and she was buried in a very special place near the holy grave of the Promised Messiah^{as}. May Allāh Almighty fill her grave with His light and grant her a place in the highest status of Paradise. Amen.

Source:

Hazrat Umme Tahir, written by Nudrat Muz-zafar, available at: <<https://www.alislam.org/library/browse/pdf/.urdu.pdf.Ume-Tahir/#page/3/mode/1up>>

Pure Character of Syeda Maryam^{ra}

By: Saria Rafique Brampton Flowertown

Her Pure Faith in Ahmadiyyat

Hazrat Maryam had true faith in Ahmadiyyat. She had a deep love and dedication for the Promised Messiah^{as}. She loved the Holy Qur'ān

and would recite it melodiously. Hazrat Musleh Mau'ūd^{ra} narrates:

"On Fridays, if the sermon was on a special subject, after the sermon, I would enter our house with the certainty that Maryam's face would be beaming with pleasure and that she would immediately overwhelm me with compliments, saying that she had really enjoyed it. This certainty would very rarely be proven wrong. I would always find her waiting for me at the door. Her whole being would be buzzing with ecstasy at such moments."

Miscellaneous Qualities

Hazrat Maryam was very good at finding enjoyment in little things. She could mend broken souls by putting a smile on their face. She loved the outdoors and found enjoyment in mountain hiking and crossing rivers. She had a deep passion for horse-riding; she was good at shooting and when her aim was precise, she would overwhelmingly rejoice.

Kinship

Hazrat Maryam had outstanding respect for the relatives of Hazrat Musleh Mau'ūd^{ra}. She would hold their sincere opinions in high esteem and would take all possible measures to see that they were fulfilled. Hazrat Musleh Mau'ūd^{ra} narrates: "If anyone was suffering in our family, Maryam would be the first to respond and would not tire from spending night and day attending to them. During pregnancy, despite being severely ill herself, she would sit and hold her abdomen for hours without complaining in the slightest."

High Standard of Hospitality

Hazrat Maryam was a marvellous host. She

would try to accommodate everyone in her home and during the Jalsa period, she would refrain as much as possible in requesting food from the Langar Khana [Jamā'at's kitchen] for the guests at home. Instead, she would burden herself while doing all these tasks. Hazrat Musleh Mau'ūd^{ra} would say to her "why do you compromise your own health by overburdening yourself? Eventually, I will have to bear the burden of your illness." No advice would change her hospitable qualities.

Extraordinary Progress of Lajna Tasks

After the demise of Hazrat Sara Begum Sahibara, wife of Hazrat Musleh Mau'ūd^{ra}, Hazrat Maryam's passion for work was ignited and she took upon herself the workload of Lajna [Imaillah]. She put her heart and soul into her Lajna work with countless devoted hours. She catered for widowed wives, brought up orphaned children, enquired about the sick and helped in the organization of Jalsa. She broadened the scope of organization that we see in the Jamā'at today. May Allāh bless Hazrat Maryam with a beautiful place in Jannatul-Firdaus [the highest status of Paradise]. May Allāh also enable us to learn from the example of this virtuous individual. May we in every deed that we perform remember our purpose in life, which is our religion and enable us to be one of those who completely sacrifice their life in the cause of God Almighty. Amīn.

References

Meri Maryam, Anwar-ul-Ulum, Vol. 17, pp. 347-372; Al Fazl, 12 July 1944, pp. 1-8 Fazle Umar pg. 214-218

Hazrat Syeda Bushra Begum^{ra} (Mehar Aapa)

By: Amatul Qayyum Aijaz, translation is by Maria Mehmood, Ahmadiyya Abode of Peace

After the death of Hazrat Maryam^{ra} (Umme Tahir^{ra}), in line with some prophecies of the Promised Messiah^{as}, Hazrat Musleh Mau'ūd^{ra} thought that God might wish him to marry again to make it easier to look after the children. Hence, in fulfilment of that wish Hazrat Musleh Mau'ūd's last marriage was to Hazrat Syeda Mehar Aapa, daughter of Syed Aziz Ahmad Shah and granddaughter of Dr. Syed Abdul Sattar Shah^{ra} Sāhib. Huzoor^{ra} announced the Nikah himself on July 24, 1944 in which he detailed the need and reasons behind this marriage. The benefits of this union became even more apparent in the later life of Hazrat Musleh Mau'ūd^{ra} when Hazrat Maryam Saddiqa (Umme Mateen) and Hazrat Mehar Aapa cared for the Imam of the Community with great devotion, persistence, love and respect.

Hazrat Syeda Mehar Aapa was born on April 17, 1919. Hazrat Musleh Mau'ūd^{ra} had a dream about this marriage proposal that an angel is proclaiming to call out Mehar Aapa -- Mehar means one who is affectionate. This explains the reason behind why she was called 'Mehar Aapa', as her real name was Hazrat Syeda Bushra. In every respect, she also proved to be Mehar Aapa. Hazrat Musleh Mau'ūd^{ra} prayed for her that may she be compassionate towards the poor and the

needy and dedicate her life towards the service of Islām during the nikah sermon. Hazrat Syeda Mehar Aapa was incredibly compassionate towards the children and cared for them exceptionally. She was very gentle, kind and soft-hearted. She showed extraordinary compassion for the weak and the poor, especially the poor girls that worked in the household.

Hazrat Sahibzadi Nasira Begum Sāhiba, daughter of Hazrat Musleh Mau'ūd^{ra}, said that after her marriage, Hazrat Syeda Mehar Aapa met the expectations of Hazrat Musleh Mau'ūd^{ra} and in this way he had a lot of confidence in her. She cared much for the children and loved them as much as possible, and was always very kind to all of the children of Hazrat Musleh Mau'ūd^{ra}. Hazrat Mehar Aapa also engaged herself immensely in prayers, and read Tahajjud prayers regularly, furthermore she was very generous and hospitable as well.

May Allāh the Almighty elevate her status in paradise. Amīn.

Sources:

Fazal-e-Umar, Hazrat Mirza Bashiruddin Mahmud Ahmad, <<https://www.alislam.org/library/books/Fazl-e-Umar.pdf>>

Letter to a Beloved Daughter: Hazrat Mariyam Siddiqā Sāhiba (Written by Hazrat Doctor Mir Muhammad Ismail Sahib^{ra})

Translated By: Ansa Talat — Urdu article originally published in Al-Fazl on March 31, 2021

It is often said that daughters are a replica of mothers, but their hearts are connected with the heartbeat of their fathers. If we talk about paternal love, the Holy Prophet Muhammad^{sa} appears as the best role model and complete manifestation of love and kindness. He was the best exemplary figure of paternal love for all daughters of Ummah, not just for his own daughters. It is an innate instinct that fathers are more sympathetic of their daughters and feel their pain more. According to a tradition the Holy Prophet^{sa} is reported to have said, “Fatimah is a part of my heart (very dear to me), and whoever hurts her has hurt me.” (Daily Alfazl 21 September, 2010)

The Holy Prophet^{sa} not only established high moral standards through his exemplary role model, he also encouraged all male members of his Ummah to set best examples of paternal affection. History bears witness that by following in the footsteps of the Holy Prophet^{sa}, his companions and followers succeeded in setting extraordinary standards. The discourse below is reflective of such love and affection and describes the immense love of a father for his daughter and his natural feelings while giving away his beloved child in marriage. It also depicts the paternal kindness of a father’s desire to see his daughter happy, prosperous and well-settled. If one studies it carefully, it is not merely a letter to a daughter; it is a formula for leading a happy marital life written in the form of advice, following which a household can become idyllic and blissful. In my opinion the letter is not addressed to Hazrat Mariyam Siddiqā Sāhiba only; it is relevant for all young girls who are about to start their marital lives or have recently got married.

Hazrat Doctor Mir Muhammad Ismail^{ra} Sāhib wrote down some words of advice in a notebook for his daughter on her wedding. He noted down some divine glad tidings about Hazrat Musleh Mau’ūd^{ra} and then addressed his daughter:

Maryam Siddiqa!

Peace and blessings of Allāh be with you,

...You should be most appreciative of your good fortune...

Maryam Siddiqa when you were born, I named you Maryam with the intention of devoting you for the service of Allāh and His Jamā'at. For this reason, your second name was Nazr-e-Ilahi. This marriage has convinced me that my Lord had accepted my request and offering. He has blessed you with being the wife of a husband whose whole life, capabilities and time is devoted for the service and worship of Allāh. Thus, be grateful that Allāh accepted you as a devotee by accepting my intention. Alhamdolillah

After that respected Mir Sāhib penned the saying of the Holy Prophet^{sa} regarding obedience to husband and said:

“The main thing to understand is that a household where a husband or a wife is submissive to each other becomes blissful. On the other hand, if both consider themselves to be superior to each other, that household becomes worse than hell. If a kingdom cannot function with two kings, how can a household function with two leaders. Thus, a woman should make up her mind before going to her husband's home that through complete obedience, she has to make her home and afterlife paradise-like.

My dear Maryam Siddiqa! You are aware that your husband has three wives already. Before your marriage, everyone including you and me respected and honoured them because they were the wives of Hazrat Khalifatul-Masīh. Now you have also joined in that rank; always consider them as your elder and dear sisters. Respect them even more than before just like a younger sister loves and respects her elder sisters. Treat their children as a sister treats her sibling's children; actually your behavior should be even more courteous because they are the descendants of Hazrat Masīh Mau'ūd^{as}. May Allāh enable you to do so.

Maryam Siddiqa! You cannot imagine the amount of workload Hazrat Khalīfatul-Masīh^{ra} has in the service of religion, along with the immense responsibilities, worries and concerns and how he is standing alone against the whole world *to establish the truth of Islām*. Progress of Islām and advancement of Ahmadiyya Jamā'at is the focal point of his life. Thus if you are able to provide any happiness to his blessed personality, and if through your conversation, service and obedience you can relieve his fatigue and worries to even a little extent, it means that your marriage and your life are successful. You will be rewarded abundantly as those who strive in the way of Allāh.

A wife's first duty is to understand and learn about the will of her husband, his nature and temperament. After learning this, the next step which is making your husband happy, becomes easy. There are certain things that cause uneasiness for the husband; such things should be avoided. I will mention a few, asking the husband for expenses being one of them. One should ask for money for expenses wisely, rather than by demanding or bothering the husband; asking for money when husband does not have money is upsetting for him.

Other ways in which wives fail husbands are by being impolite or overly quiet, by not welcoming the husband warmly upon coming home, by interrupting him while talking, by using words that humiliate the husband in any manner, by being difficult or by expecting pampering. Or if a wife does not listen to the sincere call of the husband; for example if he asks her to have food with him, she declines by saying that she is not hungry, or if the husband suggests some medicine she refuses to take it by saying that it would not be useful for her or if he brings a dress or other gift she does not appreciate it. There are numerous such factors that cause women to fail as wives and make their life miserable.

Arguing for the sake of argument and contradicting erases the love of wife from a husband's heart as the eraser removes the pencil writing. This habit is very common in the educated girls of these days.

Maryam Siddiqah! Now your life is dedicated to get the approval of the Khalīfah and for the love of Allāh. Thus remove the liking of worldly things and ornaments from your heart so that instead of fancy dresses, nice shoes, beautiful jewelry, the purpose of your life revolves around the Holy Qur'ān, daily prayers, fasting, virtuous deeds, good moral values, studying of religious books, following the role model of pious Muslim ladies and participating in the activities for the progress of Ahmadiyyat. The artificial beauty of the world should not remain your focus.

Maryam Siddiqah! Recitation of the Holy Qur'ān daily after the morning prayers will illuminate your heart."

Then respected Mir Sāhib gave advice to his daughter about cleanliness that includes using Miswak three times a day and using perfume. He further said: "Artificial powders and lipsticks harm the skin, and some can be toxic as well; people who are overly fond of these things eventually become occupied in insignificant thoughts and instead of pursuing the moral excellence, their focus becomes limited to physical beautification. Thus much attention should not

be given to use of cosmetics except for occasional use.

Maryam Siddiqah! The woman who knows taking care of the house, cooking, sewing and home management can please her husband more as compared to the woman who spends her most time in reading novels or abstracts or keeps busy in beautifying herself."

Advising about not showing impatience or irritability during illness Hazrat Doctor Sahib^{ra} wrote: "Showing irritability is an undesirable act. Patience is a great virtue, especially for women; being patient when faced with hunger, illness, pain and suffering is the sign of truth, righteousness and steadfastness of faith.

Maryam Siddiqah! In every aspect of life, in pain and hardship, comfort and ease, Allāh will make your life very successful through His blessings. I pray to Allāh for your wellbeing and have always done so.

لِّلّٰهُمَّ اِنِّىْ اَعُوْذُ بِكَ وَدُرِّيَّتَهَا مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيْمِ- يَا مَرْيَمُ اقْنُتِيْ لِرَبِّكِ واسْجُدِيْ وَاَرْكَعِيْ مَعَ الرَّاْكِعِيْنَ

O Allāh, I seek refuge, and my progeny, from Satan the accursed. O Maryam, be obedient to thy Lord and prostrate thyself and worship *God alone* with those who worship.

About getting the opportunity to become the resident of Qadian, he said: "Be extremely grateful for this good fortune. Consider the feelings of the girls who were born in Qadian, grew up there but had to leave after marriage."

He stressed upon taking care of health and wellness in these words: "Deterioration in health or poor health brings about an unpleasant difference in a person's thoughts, behaviour and good deeds."

He ended his letter in these words:

اَوْصِيْكَ بِتَقْوَى اللّٰهِ وَالْمَوَاطَبَةِ عَلٰى ذِكْرِ اللّٰهِ

"I advise you to adhere to Taqwa and be steadfast in remembrance of Allāh.

May God be with you."

Mohammad Ismail

An Ahmadi's Responsibility: Spreading the Message of Islām

By: Sana Mahmood, Brampton McVean

In a period of great uncertainty as we are in today, the world is in dire need of a true religion to guide them out of these trying times. Not only are nations around the world being ravaged with war and disease, but the faith of many is deteriorating; all in all, the world needs a guiding light to lead them to their true Creator, Allāh. As representatives of Islām Ahmadiyyat, it is our duty to pass on to the world the beauty of Islām and the graciousness of our Creator.

Modern day society has made it so easy for one to fall into the trap of immorality. It is all around us, given that in our capitalistic nation, materialistic greed has become an influential pillar of society. With ill core values such as this, it is no wonder that religion is of little or no importance in the lives of many. As a result, it becomes difficult to stick to the right and virtuous path; the guiding light of religion one needs to navigate this world begins to fuse.

However, there is an even stronger influence that can keep us on the right path and reignite the guiding light: the teachings of Islām Ahmadiyyat. In the Holy Qur'ān, Allāh says: "And who is better in speech than he who invites *men* to

Allāh and does good works and says, 'I am surely of those who submit?'" (41:34). It is our responsibility to spread the message of Islām: we have this beautiful religion as a guiding light to this world. It is the command of Allāh for us to pass this light on to those in need in the dark.

Hazrat Anas^{ra} narrates that the Holy Prophet^{sa} said: "Make religion easy for others to follow; do not make it difficult. Similarly, present religion in a pleasing manner; do not make it repulsive to others." (Muslim).

Though it is our duty to spread the message of Islām Ahmadiyyat, we must be careful with how we undertake this responsibility. Gently spreading the teachings of Islām the way the Holy Prophet^{sa} says is the best way for us to uphold the commandment of Allāh.

However, in order to spread the message of Islām Ahmadiyyat, we must become well versed in it. Spiritual guidance and knowledge on Islām Ahmadiyyat can be attained through the multitude of resources the Jamā'at offers by the Grace of God Almighty.

Among these resources, the ones that provide the most insight as to how to apply Islām to the

21st Century are MTA and our beloved Imam's Friday Sermons. MTA is a great source as it helps us learn more about our beautiful religion with its programs on various aspects of Islām. In the Friday Sermons, Huzoor^{aa} takes these teachings and narrates contemplative allegories that help us navigate modern-day society in accordance with Islām Ahmadiyyat's teachings. The greatest advantage of these resources is the medium by which they are relayed: technology. It has never been easier to access the plentiful springs of knowledge that are available to us.

These resources not only expand our spiritual knowledge of Islām, but they purify our hearts with beautiful teachings to be in accordance with the words of our Reformer, who said: "he who claims to be a reformer and wishes to better the condition of the people, cannot be effective unless he has the Truth on his side" (Malfoozat Vol. III, page 143).

All Ahmadi Muslims are called to use these resources to their advantage in order to gain a deeper understanding of what God has prescribed for us to do on Earth. These resources are the truth that the Promised Messiah^{as} refers to; to be able to spread the truth, we must learn it. As a result, in order to fulfill our responsibility, we must educate ourselves with a pure heart first.

Although the aforementioned sources of knowledge are pivotal for our understanding of Ahmadiyya to be enriched, Salāt is the most important tool we need in fulfilling this responsibility. The task that Ahmadi Muslims are called to is by no means an easy one; it is a path of obstacles and hardship. However, by offering the five daily prayers, Allāh will help those undertaking this path by guiding them through the roadblocks they face. Allāh Almighty is mankind's

guiding light to this world; by worshipping him, all our difficulties are taken with ease knowing we have God Almighty alongside us.

Once one understands and receives the message, now comes the time for them to pass on the guiding light Allāh Almighty gave them to the world. With the vast amount of knowledge we gain from the multitude of aforementioned resources, social media is a great tool for us to relay what we learn about Islām. This way, we are using social media for the right purposes. Another benefit of using social media to spread the message of Islām is the demographic the message reaches. Young adults and teenagers are the most prominent users of social media platforms. Spreading the teachings of Islām on these platforms attracts the demographic that will carry on this message; it is up to our generation to keep the message of Islām Ahmadiyyat alive and prosperous. It is up to everyone to uphold their responsibility of passing on the guiding light. Amīn.

Reports of Interfaith Symposia



Women as Nation Builders- An Interfaith Symposium by Ahmadiyya Muslim Women Association, Prairie Region, Canada

In regard to International Woman's Day, the Ahmadiyya Muslim Women's Association of Prairie Region in Canada organized an interfaith symposium on March 6, 2021. The Prairie Region comprises of three central provinces of Canada including Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. More than eight Ahmadiyya Chapters are established in this region including Winnipeg, Regina, Saskatoon and Edmonton.

Because of existing pandemic situation, the symposium was held virtually. More than 500 ladies including dignitaries, politicians, councilors, and university professors representing various faiths and diverse backgrounds attended. The symposium was advertised by five radio and TV interviews through which the introduction of Jamā'at and the message of symposium reached to more than 100,000 people.

The topic of the symposium was 'Women as Nation Builders'.

In a truncated two-hour format, the symposium sought to showcase a united front in support of Women as Nation Builders. The goal of this pro-

gram was to reflect the vital contributions of women at every stage of life and every background in establishing peace, love and tolerance in society and presenting women's role as Nation Builders across various faiths.

The Moderators of the event were Shazia Rehman, the Regional Outreach Coordinator and Maham Anna Malik, Media correspondent of Prairie Region. The introductory remark said: "We believe that mutual exploration and a deeper understanding of what beliefs motivate us, will help dispel misconceptions and allow us to learn and draw strength and support from each other, uniting us in our common goal of not just surviving but achieving lasting success."

Event began with the recitation of the Holy Qur'ān Sura Al Nisa, v125-127 and the translation by Minahil Chaudhry.

Introduction to the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamā'at was given by a documentary highlighting the community projects of AMWA Prairie and the works done over the last few months. These activities include donations to food banks, sewing

and distributing face masks, offering pick and drops for grocery and medication, supporting the bereaved with regular calls, delivering hand-made letters and baked treats, wellness checks, toy drives and winter clothing donations along with various social media campaigns such as #UnitedInIsolation, #HealthyUpTheIsolation, #GreenUpTheIsolation and #SewUpTheIsolation

Virgin Mary in the Holy Qur'ān

A presentation titled the Virgin Mary in the Holy Qur'ān was up next. Along with the status of Hazrat Maryam in the Holy Qur'ān it was narrated that the Holy Qur'ān does not comment about physical appearance of any woman mentioned therein. It talks about their spiritual characteristics and nearness to Allāh.

Speakers and Their Views

Following four speakers delivered presentations on the topic from their faith perspective:

Gurmit Kaur Sarpal a qualified Nurse and the founder of the Royal Women Cultural Association was the first speaker of the evening. She highlighted that "Sikhism teaches about interrelation and interdependence. Men and Women have equal responsibilities in building the country. When a woman falls, a generation falls".

Dr. Brenda Anderson who is an Associate Professor in the University of Regina, teaching Religious Studies and Women and Gender Studies was the next speaker. She elucidated Christian perspective, by promoting, "interreligious dialogue and interfaith harmony". She highlighted the importance to breaking the ignorance around present-day intergenerational issues and emphasized on recognizing the worth of everyone within our community, regardless of age or circumstances, recognizing that we are all precious

in God's sight.

Dr. Lillian Gadwa-Crier an Indigenous knowledge keeper was the third speaker of the evening who presented the Cree Ways perspective. She said, "As an Indigenous Knowledge Keeper, teaching traditional language helps strengthen cultural identity. I strive to promote the Cree language in our school system, and it is imperative we protect, retain and strengthen our pimatisowin "the good life", whether it be in education and/or upholding our traditional beliefs and wear."

Dr. Fozia Zakaria who is a Family Physician and an Assistant Professor of Medicine at the University of Alberta gave the Islāmic perspective. With Qur'ānic and historical references she explained the role and responsibilities of Muslim women in raising, shaping and delivering the future generations of moral and successful nation builders. She highlighted the sanctity of family institution in Islām which is pivotal unit of any society.

Dignitary Speakers

Many dignitaries attended the event and some of them addressed the audience giving their viewpoint as well as thanking and praising contributions of Ahamdi women towards their communities.

Cindy Lamoureux, a member of legislative assembly (MLA) for Tyndall Park has worked at both provincial and federal levels of government. She thanked AMWA for having her and organizing such a great event. She promoted to "lead by example in women excellence" and further added that "it's important to set example and strive by encouraging workplaces to better accommodate families and their needs"

Honorable Christine Tell is a member of legislative assembly (MLA) for Regina and has served as a Minister in various capacities, currently serving as Minister of Corrections, Policing and Public Safety. She illuminated the audience, with "empowering women through supporting one another, encouraging one another and especially women in politics to close gender gap"

Nicole Sarauer a member of legislative assembly (MLA) for Regina Douglas Park and the first female leader of the Saskatchewan NDP.

Aleana Young a member of legislative assembly (MLA) for Regina University and the Deputy House Leader for the opposition.

Whitney Issik, a member of legislative assembly (MLA) for Calgary Glenmore and the Chair of the Members Policy Committee on Resources and Sustainable Development. She said, "At the end of the day we all share genuine desire as common goal to make the world a better place. We all have strength that we can bring to the role of being a leader. By having diverse perspective on an issue, we can make better decisions and help improve life of all of our citizens."

Councilor Lorelee Marin, Lloydminster appreciated such an insightful event and added that "as we celebrate Women as Nation builders, together we create connections that will help us reach greater understanding to strengthen our families and our communities. As we spend time together today, we start to build trust in this diverse and inclusive society." She further congratulated AMWA for the wonderful event.

Erika Ritchie, a member of legislative assembly (MLA) for Saskatoon Nutana and a long standing community leader said, "What a wonderful

afternoon of learning and hearing wisdom of women from various faith background. I can't say enough about how important our faith communities can be in providing us with the support, strength, and wisdom to be able to be representatives in our communities. I have benefited greatly from this event."

Heather McPherson a member of parliament (MP) for Edmonton Strathcona and currently serving as the Deputy House Leader valued the "very professional and wonderfully put together presentations." She expressed her concern on recent racial attacks on Muslim women in Edmonton. She said, 'Recently we have seen the devastating and racist attacks on the women in Muslim community. I can't emphasize enough how much we need to push back against racism and how together we need work to stop such atrocious and vicious acts of hatred. Thank you for the work that you (AMWA) are doing today, which is so important to bring equality for women and to also make a path for those who come after us.'

Kahoot Quiz Based on Presentations of the Event

Audience was engaged in a memory testing interactive Kahoot Quiz. More than 60 participated and the result reflected excellent contents retention.

Virtual Holy Qur'ān and Books Exhibition

The exhibition included the images of the Holy Qur'ān with its translation in more than 200 languages, Ruhani Khazain and books by five caliphs of Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamā'at.

Word of Thanks

A program of this magnitude could not be possible without extensive guidance and constant

support from the National President, National Out-Reach Secretary, Regional President, Regional Out-Reach Department, and all other team members at local, regional, and national level.

Concluding Remarks

The concluding remarks were given by the National President of Ahmadiyya Muslim Women Association of Canada Mrs. Amatus Salam Malik, who thanked all the faith speakers, dignitaries, and all attendees for making the event successful. She remarked:

"In Islām God All-Mighty has told us that there is equity between men and women. Women have the same fundamental human rights as

men and are given equal footing in Islām. There is a great emphasis on women and men to lead pious, fulfilled, and dignified lives and to lead with integrity so that we can consistently self-improve and be role models, nurturers, and educators for future generations. Therefore, both women and men are enjoined to contribute for the betterment of the society. Islām also recognizes that women have unique talents that make them ideal as nation builders. That is, they can contribute, in a positive manner in social, moral, cultural aspects of society as whole."

The event ended with silent prayer.

“The Role of Women In The Betterment Of Society”, Report of Interfaith Symposium, Québec Region

Report by: Kousar Asif, Regional Tabligh Coordinator Quebec.

By the Grace of Allāh, Lajna Imāillāh Québec Region organized and hosted a Virtual French Interfaith Symposium successfully on Sunday, March 7th, 2021.

Pre-Event Preparation

Hundreds of flyers and invitations of the event with the introduction of Jamā'at were distributed by emails and social media. Ten (10) press releases were sent to the different newspapers. About 300 tweets were posted/retweeted by Lajna on

twitter campaign the day before the event. Also, 145 tweets were posted during the event.

The purpose of the symposium was to highlight the various productive roles by the women in our society. Women perform their duties at homes, at work and in the society by nurturing new generations. The role of women cannot be ignored for establishing a peaceful and harmonious society. No society can become developed until and unless the status of its women are uplifted.

Event's Details

The event started with the recitation of the Holy

Qura'an followed by French translation.

Introduction of the Ahmadiyya Community was presented by moderator of Symposium Attia Chudhry Sāhiba.

Respected National President Lajna Imāillāh Canada, Amatul Salam Malik Sāhiba graciously accepted our invitation. She presided over the event for a limited time and delivered the inaugural address.

Following speakers presented 10-12 minutes' presentation on

"The Role Of Women In The Betterment Of Society" (From The Perspective Of My Faith)

1. Islām Ahmadiyyat – Manzida Chados
2. Sikh – Komal Kaur
3. Christian – Isabelle Laurin
4. Jewish – Ellie Israel
5. Bah'ai – Shohreh Ayoubzadeh
6. Buddhism – Silvestra Mariniello

Four dignitaries expressed their views regarding the topic

- Respected Patricia Lattanzio, MP of Saint Michel and Saint Leonard;
- Respected Giuliana Fumagalli, Mayor of Villeray-Saint-Michel-Parc-Extension;
- Respected Samaa Elibyari Chair/Chief Coordinator of Muslim Awareness Week and member of Canadian Council of Muslim Women (CCMW);

- Respected Najat Boughaba is Vice-president of the board of Utilizable organization which helps women;
- Dr. Mona Bahtit MD, M.Sc. Adm, CCRP, who is Consultant in various health projects, had recorded her message. Unfortunately, we didn't get to play her message due to shortage of time.

Exhibition of the Holy Qur'ān with its translation and introduction of various Jamā'at books which were written by Promised Messiah^{as} and Khulafā' Ahmadiyyat was presented virtually during the event.

Concluding remarks were presented by Respected Regional President, Fahmida Kousar Sāhiba followed by silent prayers. There were approximately 300 attendees of this virtual event.

We received positive feedback from all our guests. One commentator said:

"You and your Community organized a brilliant symposium. Although we did not physically meet, it was still an honour to participate and speak at the interfaith symposium. We could dedicate a whole day to the seminar. May-be we would even be able to elaborate a project to develop together. Wishing Ahmadiyya Muslim Women's Association all the best."

May Allāh bless all volunteers who made efforts to make this event a great success and enable all of us to serve Islām Ahmadiyyat in the best way. Amīn!

The Blessed Scheme of Waqf Jadīd

By: National Secretary Waqf Jadīd, Lajna Ima'iallah Canada

Waqf Jadīd: The New Dedication

Waqf Jadīd Scheme was initiated on December 27, 1957 by Hazrat Khalīfatul-Masīh II^{ra}. He planned to create a network of Mu'allimeen, who would be wholly devoted to the upbringing of the members throughout Pakistan.

The importance and benefits of this scheme can be judged from Hazrat Khalīfatul-Masīh II^{ra} own proclamation:

"I want such young men whose hearts yearn to march in the footsteps of Hazrat Khawaja Mo'een Uddin and Hazrat Sha'haab Uddin. I want the young members of the Community to be bold and sacrifice their lives for this purpose...and go out and create new Rabwahs and new Qadians...They need to go out and settle in designated places where, according to instruction, they may educate the people by teaching them the Holy Qur'ān and Hadīth and prepare students who can carry on this work in new areas..."

(Al-Fazal Feb. 2, 1958)

It was the desire of Promised Messiah^{as} that was fulfilled by his Promised son with the Will of Allāh. The following words of the Promised Messiah^{as} make it quite clear that he wished to start a scheme like the Waqf Jadīd within India.

He states:

"It is the wish of this humble servant that for

the spread of Islām, an excellent program should be set up such that within the country of India, everywhere our representative preachers and speakers are calling God's creation to the truth so that the teachings of Islām reach everyone on the face of the earth. However, this intention cannot be fully accomplished by this old and deficient servant."

(The Victory of Islām)

Hazrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad, Khalīfatul-Masīh IVth was connected to this scheme in the capacity of Nazim (Manager) Waqf Jadīd for many years. In 1985, during his Khilāfat, he extended the Waqf Jadīd scheme to all of Ahmadiyya Jamā'at around the world. Hence he declared it as a global Tahrik. He stated about Waqf Jadīd:

The reason for creating the Waqf Jadīd scheme was because of poor training and moral decline which for many reasons had grown to dangerous levels especially after the India-Pakistan partition. Hazrat Musleh Mau'ūd^{ra} because of his God given wisdom and intellect sensed this danger with great intensity. This could have taken a formidable form if not checked in the nick of time and become out of control. And before we could spread Islām in foreign lands and in other faith communities, there was this danger that God forbid; we ourselves would be in need of guidance anew. In this state, those very people who we would call to Islām would neglect our message and say to us with great

contempt,

‘Physician heal thyself!’.”

(Fazle Umar, pg. 341)

Hazrat Khalīfatul-Masīh II^{ra} also stated:

“This is God’s work and shall be completed successfully. Because this scheme was God’s idea, I shall carry out this obligation even if I have to sell my homes and sell my clothes. God Almighty...shall send down angels from heaven for my support.” (Al Fazal Jan 7,1958)

A scheme that started with such conviction, confidence, faith and trust in God and which grew step by step bearing sweet fruits, it would not be incorrect to say that the Waqf Jadīd was initiated to fulfil an intention of the Promised Messiah^{as}. The intentions of a Prophet are not like the intentions of ordinary men. Their inclinations and aspirations are according to the Will of God Almighty and based on deep wisdom.

(Fazle Umar, pg. 341)

Mandates of Waqf Jadīd

- ◆ Tarbiyat (moral training) of Jamā’at members, and spreading the message of Islām through the system of Mu’allimin and Waqfin Zindagi
- ◆ Encouraging Jamā’at members to excel in their financial sacrifices
- ◆ Khidmat Khalq (Service of Humanity)
- ◆ Providing Homeopathic Medicines
- ◆ Tabligh
- ◆ Building Mosques and Mission Houses
- ◆ Building Water Wells

Khalīfatul-Masīh IIIth while addressing to the boys and girls said:

“Today, I am appealing to the Ahmadi Children, that O’ Children of Allāh and of His Holy Prophet^{sa} wake up and march forward. You should fill the gap and shortcomings that hindered the progress of Waqf Jadīd work because of the negligence of your elders”.

Standard for Muawineen Khasusi and Mujahideen

Lajna

Muawin Khasui Saf Awwal - \$1000 and above

Muawin Khasusi Saf Dom - \$500 to \$999

Muawin Khasusi Saf Som - \$300 to \$499

Nasirat, Boys, and Girls under 7

Mujahidah Saf Awwal - \$100 and above

Mujahidah Saf Dom - \$50 to \$99

Nanhay Mujahid - \$25 to \$49

You can also pay chanda Waqf Jadīd on behalf of your deceased family members. It will be Sadqa jaria for them.

In the concluding prayer of Ramadan, Huzoor^{aa} prays for those who pay their pledges before 27th of Ramadan.

You can pay on the behalf of an unborn child to seek blessings.

Waqf Jadīd year is from January 1, to December 31

Hazrat Khalīfatul-Masīh V^{aa} said in his Friday

Sermon on January 8, 2021: “As it pertains to financial sacrifices, there are none in the world who have more experience than Ahmadis. Their sacrifices are only for the sake of attaining the pleasure of God. They do not present their sacrifices bearing in mind that God will grant them more worldly wealth, rather they do so solely for the sake of God. There are even those who face strained financial circumstances, yet they still present financial sacrifices, trusting that God will take care of them and their needs. Yet God Almighty took their affairs into His own hands and rewarded them manifold. These examples of those who seek the pleasure of God are found only within the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community.:

Huzoor^{aa} mentioned in the same Friday Sermon an incident from a sister Rubina Irfan Sāhiba from Calgary Saddleridge Jamā’at Canada :

“One Lajna member said that three years prior, her husband was busy with his education so she had to work and also shoulder the various other responsibilities. This tiring routine left her exhausted and she would remain unwell for long periods of time. Subsequently, when the time came to make promises towards Waqf Jadīd and Tahrik Jadīd, she pledged twice the amount of her monthly income.

“A short while later, she lost her job and was in very straitened circumstances. All her spending would be done using a credit card and at the end of the year, when the time came to make her donations, she was left with no choice but to place her trust in God Almighty and make her donations using the credit card.

“God Almighty manifested a wondrous sign of His power whereby in those very same days, she

was informed by her bank that she had credit protection insurance and that since she had lost her job, she was entitled to apply for it. In this manner, all her expenditures were covered and on top of that, she found a new job, which was much better than the previous one. Her financial situation had improved, she voluntarily increased her promises towards voluntary *chanda* and at the same time, her husband completed his education and received a good job. Hence, she left her job and was able to manage from her husband’s income.”

May Allāh the Almighty always continue to treat members of the Jamā’at in this manner; may the members of the Jamā’at continue to offer such sacrifices with sincerity and loyalty and may Allāh the Almighty continue to manifest His grace.

(Friday sermon Jan. 8, 2021)

Alhamdulillah with the blessings of Allāh and prayers of our Beloved Imam, Canada Jamā’at presented humble sacrifices in this blessed scheme. May Allāh Almighty enable all of us to serve humanity in the obedience and guidance of Khilāfat (Amīn).

Alhamdulillah, Canada Jamā’at also achieved fourth position worldwide in Waqf Jadīd donations.

These are blessings of Khilāfat and the system of Jamā’at. Please pray may Allāh the Almighty enable all of us to serve Humanity together in the guidance and obedience of Khilāfat (Amīn).

Names of Boys and Girls Under 7 Years, Saff Awwal Waqf Jadīd — 2020

Name of Majlis	Child's Name	Name of Majlis	Child's Name
Abode of Peace	Labeena Shahid	Brampton Centre	Ruhail Ahmed
	Safwan Shahid	Brampton Heartlake North	Haziq Zuhair Ahmed Rafia Rehman
	Munifa Rahman	Brampton Lake-view	Zaiba Satwat Mysha Athar
	Shafia Ahmad	Brampton Mount Pleasant	Ausaf Ahmed
Abbotsford	Jamshaid Ahmad	Brampton Mubarak Mosque	Arham Ahmad Meerab Ahmad
Barrie	Benyamin Khurram	Calgary Baitun Nur	Arif Haris Aadam Nasir Chaudhary Abisha Virk
	Labeena Sajjad	Calgary Martindale Skyview	Ahmad Ata Ul Wahab Mudabbir Anwer Wali
Bradford	Umeed Rehan	Calgary McKnight	Faria Naeem Atta ul Munim Anaya Naeem Eessha Malik Najeeb Haseeb
	Issa Ahmad		Aayan Faris Ahmed- Mahmood Muneef Ahmad Mehvish Amtul Karim Aiza Ahmad Alveena Maryam Aazil Ahmad Ifra Ahmad Ifza Ahmad Naveed Ashaz Naveed Aayva Main Abdul Rahman
	Saamiya Zakria	Calgary NW	
	Erhaam Ahmad		
	Mufleh uddin Nasir		
	Habban Ahmad		
Brantford	Sabeeka Dar		
	Ebaad ul Rehman Dar		
	Hadeeqa Dar		
Brampton Castlemore	Rahma Ahmad		
	Qasid Ahmad Gondal		
	Matiullah Bashir Gondal		
Brampton Peel Village	Sammar Ahmad		
	Adnan Ayub		
	Sophia Maryam Khokar-		
	Zariyan Sāhib		
Brampton East	Ismail Balouch		
Brampton Caledon	Zohair Ahmed		
	Zarisha Owais		

Name of Majlis	Child's Name
Calgary Saddleridge	Aleeza Iftkhar
Calgary Taradale	Hafsa Ahmed Chatta
Calgary South	Samia Nasi Emma Mishal Ashraf
Durham	Hizqeel Basharat Mamoon Ahmad Nasim Zaahir Ahmad Nasim Ayaan Ahmed Inaya Umar
Edmonton W	Jasmine Maryam Malik Aatir Ahmed Noor
Edmonton E	Jawaid Dawar
Hamilton Mountain	Rehman Aiza Shehzad Rohaan Maqsood shaniy Shehzad jaziba
Hadeeqa Ahmad	Tamsila liaqat Muneeb Ahmed Ashaaz Farooq Malik
Kleinburg	Rohan bin Nofal Abeera Fazal Rahil Shah Chaudhry- Shaiq Vance
Lloydminster	Abeera Faiz
London	Hashir Rehman Furqaan Ahmad Memon Maryam Asif Shujaan Ahmad Memon Atif Ibrahim Sheikh

Name of Majlis	Child's Name
Malton	Rohaan Ahmad Khalil Mahibullah Choudhary Khan Zoya Salman Choudhary Qurat-ul-Ain Mitzi Shoaib Ahmad Miriam Ashir Ahmad Sidra Munawar
Milton W	Eqan Ahmed Noman Inara Umer Minhas Ibrahim Fateh Ahmed Zoya Awan Mikaeel Junaid Emaani Masood Syed Moiz Razvi Syeda Mashal Razvi
Milton E	Faiz Ahmed Malaika Ahmed
Maple	Kazeem Ahmed Randha- wa Fawad Ahmed Faris Daud Inaya Salman
Mississauga South	Noah Khalifa Sophia Khalifa Adam Khalifa
Mississauga West	Zara Ahmad Muneefa Ahmad Zoya Ahmad Rafsana Ahmad Mashal Ahmad
Mississauga N	Huzaifah Habib Ramla Sabeen Chaudhry
Montreal Centre	Maryam Fazal-Ullah Taemoor Waliullah Khan Taemoor Haroon Ahmed

Name of Majlis	Child's Name
Montreal W	Sofia Ahmad Labeena Ahmed Khan Myza Nasim
North York	Aneesa Mahmood Sarah Hassan
Ottawa East	Aaira Waheed Raima Waheed Sadeela Amir Rameez Ahmad Khan Shaeer Khan
Ottawa West	Safwan Samar Ahmad- Basima Nudrat Ahmad Ezzah Farah Ahmed Zain Ahmed Warraich Huda Adnan Chaudhry Bareerah Ahmad Shaikh Sohaib Ahmed Mahmood Humza Tariq Mahmood
Peace Village Centre East	Dewaan Ibrahim Yousaf- Safwaan Ahmad Eden Ibrahim Yousaf- Faris Murtaza Iqan Murtaza
PVSE	Mysha Ahmad Ayaan Ahmad Haziqa Naveed Ayza Naveed Sajeel Warraich Aila Warraich Isa Warraich
PVSW	Zubia Manan Ata-ur-Rahman Manan
PVE	Ahad Shayan sahi Ilhan Ahmad sahi Abdul Ahmad mal- hiTalal Ahmad malhi Faris Ahmad chathaGhulam Ahmad Maria Zakaria

Name of Majlis	Child's Name
PVCW	Nudrat Amir Sabaha Amir
Regina	Zayan Ahmad Aabis Ahmad
Richmond Hill	Navid ur Rehman
Rexdale N	Munawar Ayaan Wahab
St. Catherine	Madiha Ahmad Aisha Ahmad
Saskatoon North	Sabeer Ahmad Zafar Hassan Ahmad Inaya Zafar Shahzain Masroor Ahmed Aadeen Umar Danial Shafique Zohaar Umar Danish Ahmad Malik Danish Shafique Tamseela Sadat
Saskatoon South	Uzair Ahmed Naveed Ahmed Dar Haaris Ahmed Menaal Farooqi Farris Ahmed Hadia Haroon Ghumman Hammad Afazal MahmoodHania Amir Haniya Dar
Vancouver Panorama Heights	Amaar Majeed Ahmed Aiza Farhan Shaheen Hassan Ahmed Shaheen Lyla Shaheen Amtul Noor Shaheen Subhan Aslam Shaheen Aliyah Noor Shaheen Salaar Ahmed Ashar Hassan Wahla

Name of Majlis	Child's Name	Name of Majlis	Child's Name
Vancouver North Delta	Zoya Ahmed Zain Ahmed Tamseel Bajwa Mustfa Bajwa Humda sheikh	Vaughan East	Affan Ahmed Maleeha Ahmad Hania Ahmad
Vancouver Guildford	Nora Hundal	Weston Islington	Aaira Khan Shafia Sajid Aimal Imran
Vancouver Cloverdale	Roshan Ahmad	Windsor	Sabika Ali Fateh Ahmed Safura Ali Samara Ahmad Mahrosh Asif
Vancouver Surrey Central	Amana Bajwa	Winnipeg	Safir Ahmed Iddris Maaleyiri Abdul Jalilu Chante Abdul Jalilu Zaina Mehmood
Vancouver Baitur Rahman	Tahira Siddiqah Rehman Arya Sehar Ahmed Ayaan Rehman KhanFaatimah Ahmed Arhum Ahmed Syed Ahad Hussain Shah Anaya Shah Syed Zohan Hussain Shah Alizah Shah	Wood Stock	Alizeh Zahra Azeem
Vaughan North	Abdullah Shazad Sultan Ahmad Butter Farah Fateh Subhan Munib Awan Nudrat Sajjil Abrish Fatima Munib Awan	Woodbridge North	Amir Masood Ismail Asad Sardar Jaazib Ahmad Waraich Afshan Masood Mohar
		Woodbridge South	Saleh Mehmood

(Continued from page 18)

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Nāsirāt Corner

Hazrat Nawab Mubarka Begum Sahiba^{ra}

By: Barira Rabbani - PVCE

Hazrat Nawab Mubarka Begum^{ra} was the seventh child of the Promised Messiah^{as} and Hazrat Amma Jan^{ra}. Allāh Almighty revealed great news in Persian about her birth, and the Promised Messiah^{as} knew he was going to be blessed with a daughter. He named his daughter 'Mubarka', which means "blessed woman".

She was a gifted and bright child, who by the grace of Allāh completed her first reading of the Holy Qur'ān at the age of just four and a half years. She was educated through tuition. She used to read English and Persian books. She also learnt to read Arabic. She grew up to be a great poet, and 'Duree Adan' is the collection book of all her poems.

The Promised Messiah^{as} and Hazrat Nawab Mubarka Begum^{ra} had a lot of love and compassion for each other. Sometimes Hazrat Amma Jan^{ra} would say things to discipline her. The Promised Messiah^{as} would stop her and tell her that Hazrat Nawab Mubarka Begum^{ra} was like a guest of only a few days who would one day leave to go to her own house, so she should bring all happy memories with her.

Hazrat Nawab Mubarka Begum^{ra} would worship

with a lot of emotion, passion, and intensity. She inspired many people to strengthen their worship. She would pray for a long time and regularly throughout the day.

She not only prayed for herself but would heavily remember all others in her prayers as well. People would write to her to pray for them, and she would pray for them with empathy. Even when their troubles were over, she would continue to pray for them.

She married a noble man named Hazrat Nawab Muhammad Ali Khan^{ra}, a companion of the Promised Messiah^{as}. In his last illness, she took care of him with a lot of patience and devotion. Though she was in pain herself, she did not complain about helping him all day. At the time of his demise, she showed great strength and endurance.

She was a noble, kind, patient, and faithful woman. She is a role model for all, and her life is a shining example for everyone. May Allāh enable us to follow her footsteps, Amīn!

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