

# JALSA

A HISTORICAL REVIEW



يَأْتِيكَ مِنْ كُلِّ فَجٍّ عَمِيقٍ

PEOPLE WILL COME TO YOU  
FROM EVERY DISTANT TRACK

Revelation of the Promised Messiah <sup>as</sup>, Oct 30, 1906, Tadhkira, p 925





# Why ATTEND

The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>, in an announcement, articulated the following aims and objectives for the attendees of the Jalsa Salana

01

The visit will be solely for the sake of Allah, to listen to heavenly discourses, and to participate in prayer to their utmost ability.

02

The voicing of such truths and verities will be the occupation of this Jalsa, which is important for the progress of belief, certainty, and enlightenment.

03

Friends that join this Jama'at in each new year shall, by attending on the appointed dates, get to meet their brethren and, as a result, become friends.

04

Also, for anybody who passes away during the year, a prayer for their forgiveness shall be made at this Jalsa.

05

It shall be endeavored to spiritually unite all brethren and to remove disassociation, unfamiliarity and hypocrisy from among them





# Foreword

In the Name of Allah, the Gracious, the Merciful

It is with immense gratitude to Allah Almighty that we present this souvenir commemorating the **75th Jalsa Salana USA—an extraordinary milestone in the history of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community in the United States.**

What began as a modest gathering decades ago has, by the Grace of Allah, blossomed into a vibrant spiritual convention that annually draws thousands of devoted participants from across the nation and beyond. The Jalsa Salana serves as a unique platform to rejuvenate our faith, foster brotherhood, deepen our understanding of Islam, and reaffirm our unwavering commitment to peace, service, and justice.

This 75th Jalsa is not only a celebration of our past but a call to action for our future. It honors the sacrifices of those early pioneers who laid the foundation of this blessed movement on American soil, often in the face of great adversity. It also acknowledges the enduring guidance of Khilafat, which continues to steer our community with wisdom, love, and vision.

We are reminded of the timeless words of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>:

*“It should be your principle to have sympathy for all human beings. Safeguard your hands, your tongues and your thoughts against all impure objects and disorderly ways and all kinds of deceit.” (Essence of Islam, Vol. I, [Kashf-ul-Ghita’, Ruhani Khaza’in, Vol. 14, pp. 187-188])*

As we mark this historic occasion, may this souvenir serve not only as a record of celebration but as a source of reflection and inspiration. Let us strive to strengthen our spiritual bonds, serve humanity with humility, and carry forward the legacy of Ahmadiyyat with sincerity and resolve.

I take this opportunity to thank Respected Mirza Maghfoor Ahmad sahib Amir Jamaat USA and Bashir Malik Sahib Afsar Jalsa Salana who provided the guidance and the following members who contributed in various ways to complete the project of this souvenir:

Murabbi Shamshad Ahmad Nasir sahib, Syed Sajid Ahmad Shah sahib, Hidayatullah Ahsan sahib, Tahir Rameez sahib, Mahmood Ahmad Nagi sahib, Dawood Ahmad Shaikh sahib, Rizwan Akbar sahib, Ijaz Khan sahib, Kaleem Bhutti sahib, Roomana Rameez Sahiba and Mahnoor Muhammad Sahiba. May Allah reward them for their services.

We pray that this Jalsa continues to be a source of blessings for all who attend and that the message of Islam—of peace, love, and compassion—shines ever brighter through our words and actions.

**Falahud Din Shams**  
Chairman Souvenir Committee



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# From The Holy Qur'an

وَاعْتَصِمُوا بِحَبْلِ اللَّهِ جَمِيعًا وَلَا تَفَرَّقُوا ۚ وَادْكُرُوا نِعْمَتَ اللَّهِ  
عَلَيْكُمْ إِذْ كُنْتُمْ أَعْدَاءً فَأَلَّفَ بَيْنَ قُلُوبِكُمْ فَأَصْبَحْتُمْ بِنِعْمَتِهِ  
إِخْوَانًا ۚ وَكُنْتُمْ عَلَىٰ شَفَا حُفْرَةٍ مِّنَ النَّارِ فَأَنقَذَكُم مِّنْهَا  
كَذَٰلِكَ يُبَيِّنُ اللَّهُ لَكُمْ آيَاتِهِ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَهْتَدُونَ (١٠٤)

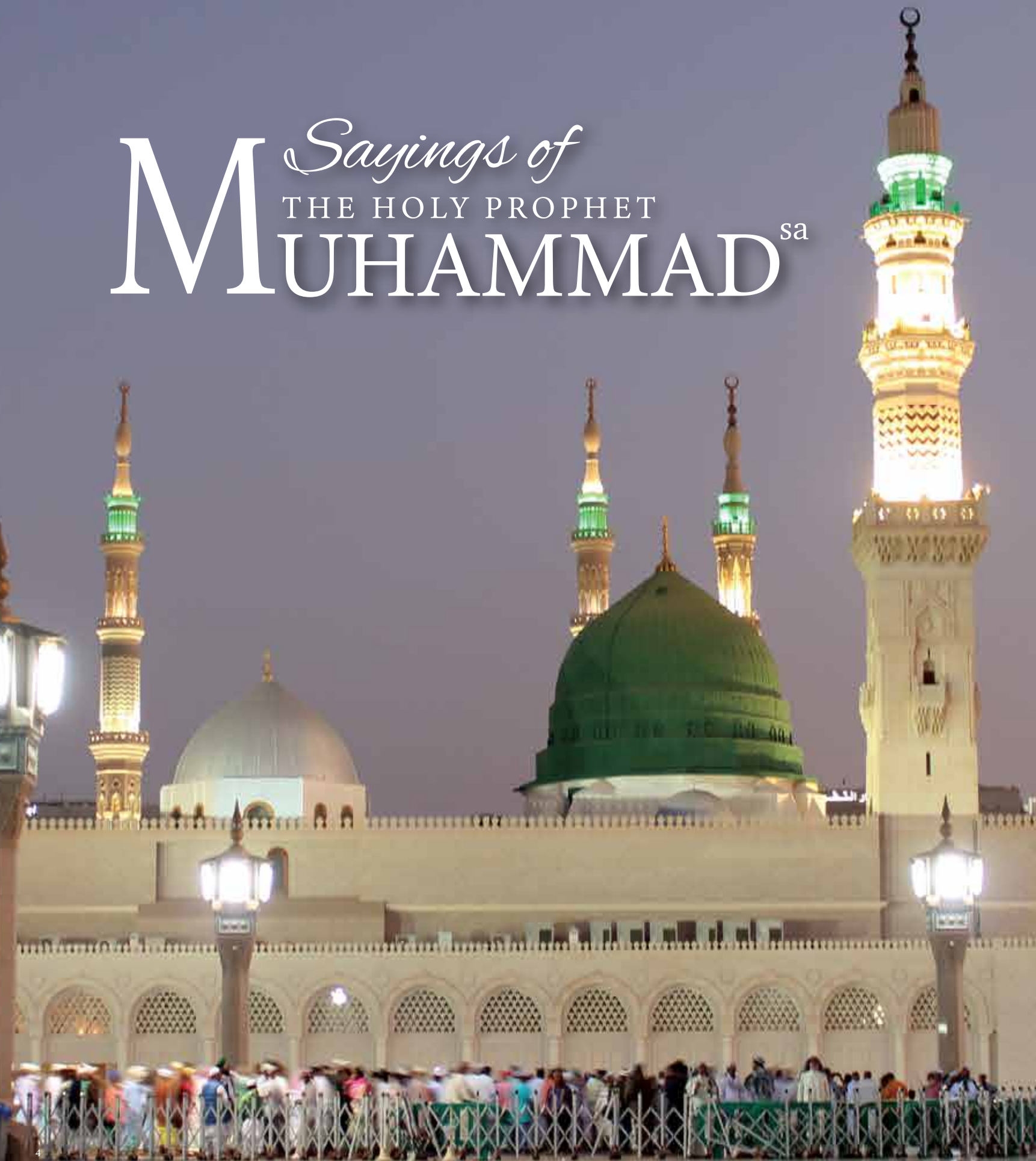
And hold fast, all together, by the rope of Allah and be not divided; and remember the favour of Allah which He bestowed upon you when you were enemies and He united your hearts in love, so that by His grace you became as brothers; and you were on the brink of a pit of fire and He saved you from it. Thus does Allah explain to you His commandments that you may be guided.

(3:104)





*Sayings of*  
THE HOLY PROPHET  
**MUHAMMAD**<sup>sa</sup>





## The Virtues of Gathering to Remember Allah (Adh-Dhikr)

عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ، عَنِ النَّبِيِّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ قَالَ "إِنَّ اللَّهَ تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَى مَلَائِكَتُهُ سَيَّارَةٌ فُضِّلَ  
يَتَّبَعُونَ، مَجَالِسَ الذِّكْرِ فَإِذَا وَجَدُوا مَجْلِسًا فِيهِ ذِكْرٌ قَعَدُوا مَعَهُمْ وَحَفَّ بَعْضُهُمْ بَعْضًا بِأَجْنِحَتِهِمْ حَتَّى  
يَمْلَأُوا مَا بَيْنَهُمْ وَبَيْنَ السَّمَاءِ الدُّنْيَا فَإِذَا تَفَرَّقُوا عَرَجُوا وَصَعَدُوا إِلَى السَّمَاءِ قَالَ فَيَسْأَلُهُمُ اللَّهُ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ  
وَهُمْ أَعْلَمُ بِهِمْ مِنْ أَئِنَّ جِئْتُمْ فَيَقُولُونَ جِئْنَا مِنْ عِنْدِ عِبَادِكَ فِي الْأَرْضِ يُسَبِّحُونَكَ وَيُكَبِّرُونَكَ  
وَيُهَلِّلُونَكَ وَيَحْمَدُونَكَ وَيَسْأَلُونَكَ. قَالَ وَمَاذَا يَسْأَلُونِي قَالُوا يَسْأَلُونَكَ جَنَّتِكَ. قَالَ وَهَلْ رَأَوْا جَنَّتِي  
قَالُوا لَا أَيْ رَبِّ. قَالَ فَكَيْفَ لَوْ رَأَوْا جَنَّتِي قَالُوا وَيَسْتَجِيرُونَكَ. قَالَ وَمِمَّ يَسْتَجِيرُونََنِي قَالُوا مِنْ  
نَارِكَ يَا رَبِّ. قَالَ وَهَلْ رَأَوْا نَارِي قَالُوا لَا. قَالَ فَكَيْفَ لَوْ رَأَوْا نَارِي قَالُوا وَيَسْتَغْفِرُونَكَ قَالَ  
فَيَقُولُ قَدْ غَفَرْتُ لَهُمْ فَأَعْطَيْتُهُمْ مَا سَأَلُوا وَأَجْرْتُهُمْ مِمَّا اسْتَجَارُوا قَالَ فَيَقُولُونَ رَبِّ فِيهِمْ فُلَانٌ  
عَبْدٌ خَطَاءٌ إِنَّمَا مَرَّ فَجَلَسَ مَعَهُمْ قَالَ فَيَقُولُ وَلَهُ غَفَرْتُ هُمُ الْقَوْمُ لَا يَشْقَى بِهِمْ جَلِيسُهُمْ"

Abu Hurairah relates that the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> said: Allah has angels who travel constantly looking for companies who foregather for the remembrance of Allah. When they find one so occupied, they sit down with them and cover one another with their wings so that the space between them and the sky is filled. When the company disperses, the angels get up and ascend to heaven. Allah, the Lord of honour and glory, asks them (and He Himself knows best): Whence do you come? They answer: We come from some of Thy servants in the earth who proclaim Thy Holiness and Greatness and Unity and praise Thee and supplicate Thee. He inquires: What do they ask of Me? They answer: They ask of Thee Thy Paradise. He inquires: Have they seen My Paradise? They answer: No, Lord. Then He inquires: What if they were to see My Paradise? They say: They also seek Thy protection. He inquires: From what do they seek My protection? They answer: From Thy Fire, Lord. He inquires: What if they were to see My Fire? They add: And they ask Thy Forgiveness. Then He says: I have forgiven them, and bestowed upon them what they ask for and have granted them My protection against that from which they seek protection. They say: Lord, there is among them one, So and So, a sinful creature who only passed by and sat down among them. He says: Him also have I forgiven. They are a company whose associate shall not be frustrated.

(Sahih Muslim 2689)

# *Purpose of* **JALSA**





The primary purpose of this Convention is to enable every sincere individual to personally experience religious benefits; They may enhance their knowledge and – due to their being blessed and enabled by Allah, The Exalted – their perception [of Allah] may progress. Among its secondary benefits is that this congregational meeting together will promote mutual introduction among all brothers, and it will strengthen the fraternal ties within this Community.

*(Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, Ishtihar,  
Dec. 7, 1892, Majmoo'ah  
Ishtiharat, vol. I, page 340)*







“It is necessary for all those who can afford to undertake the journey, that they must come to attend this Convention which embodies many blessed objectives. They should disregard minor inconveniences in the cause of Allah and His prophet (peace be upon him.). Allah yields reward to the sincere persons at every step of their way, and no labour and hardship, undertaken in His way, ever goes to waste. I re-emphasize that you must not rank this convention in the same league as other, ordinary, human assemblies. This is a phenomenon that is based purely on the Divine Help for propagation of Islam.”

*(Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, Ishtihaar, Dec. 7, 1892, Majmoo'ah Ishtiharat, vol. I, page 341)*



“

I conclude with the prayer that everyone who travels for [attending] this Convention that is for the sake of Allah, may Allah, the Exalted, be with him, reward him in abundant measure, have mercy on him, ease up for him his circumstances of hardship and anxiety and eliminate his anguish and grief. May He grant him freedom from every single hardship and lay open for him the ways of [achieving] his cherished goals, and raise him up, on the day of Judgment, among those of His servants who are the recipients of His blessings and Mercy. May He be their Guardian in their absence until after their journey comes to an end. O Allah! O Sublime One and Bestower of bounties, the Ever Merciful and One Who Resolves all problems, do grant all these prayers, and grant us victory over our opponents with scintillating signs because You alone have all the prowess and power. Aameen! Aameen!!”

(Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, Ishtihar, Dec. 7, 1892, Majmo'ah Ishtiharat, vol. I, p. 342)





# The Foundations of Jalsa Salana

Laid by

## Hadhrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad

### The Promised Messiah and Mahdi<sup>as</sup>

An announcement of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>  
published in The Heavenly Decree in 1891

In this announcement, Hadhrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>, lays out the essence of Jalsa, its objective, and the benefits that his community can derive by attending this gathering.

“All sincere individuals who have entered the fold of covenant with me should remember that the purpose of covenant is to neutralize the love for worldliness and to allow the love for the Exalted Lord and the beloved Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, to dominate the heart; to create such a condition of indifference [to this life] so that the journey to the Hereafter is not detested.

However, to achieve this objective, it is important to stay in my company and to spend part of one’s life in this endeavor, so that, if God wills, by witnessing an incontrovertible argument, frailty, weakness, and laziness be removed, and after experiencing perfect certainty, fervour, eagerness, and keen love be imbued. So, for

this matter, continuous mindfulness should exist that God enables this to happen, and until such a situation does not arise, an individual should occasionally meet me.

If, after entering the fold of covenant, an individual does not care to meet me, such a covenant shall be without blessings and a mere ritual. And since it is difficult for everyone to spend time in my company or endure hardships in this way a few times a year due to physical inability, lack of means, or large distances; since most do not yet harbor such enthusiasm to accept difficulty and hardship for the sake of meeting me, hence, it seems appropriate to appoint three days a year for this gathering, in which all sincere individuals – if God wills and if health, resources, and lack of any major hindrance permits – can visit on the allocated dates. So, in my view, it is better that such a date be fixed as Dec. 27 to 29.

This means that after today, Dec. 30, 1891, if



Dec. 27 comes again in our lifetime, then our friends should visit on this date solely for the sake of Allah, to listen to heavenly discourses, and to participate in prayer to their utmost ability. The voicing of such truths and verities will be the occupation of this gathering, which is essential for the progress of belief, certainty, and enlightenment. Special prayers and attention will be directed towards such friends, and [we will endeavor and hope] that the most Merciful Lord, God Almighty, draws them to Himself, accepts them, and grants them a pure chance.

One immediate benefit of this gathering shall be that the many friends that join this community in each new year shall, by attending on the appointed dates, get to meet their brethren, and after gaining familiarity [with them], such a relationship and acquaintance will progress. Also, for anybody who passes away during the year from this temporary abode, a prayer for their forgiveness shall be made at this gathering, and it shall endeavor to unite all brethren spiritually and to remove disassociation, unfamiliarity, and hypocrisy from among them if the Most Merciful Lord wishes.

In this spiritual undertaking, there shall be many more spiritual benefits which shall, if the Omnipotent God wills, be made apparent every now and then. It shall be better for those with less means to be mindful beforehand that they need to attend this Jalsa. If they, through planning and saving, put aside some



money or wealth each day or on a monthly basis, then means for their journeys shall be easily available. [It shall be] as if their journey was free. And it shall be better that whoever out of [my] close ones accepts this suggestion, they inform me through writing so that a new list of names of all those be recorded, who, exerting their best efforts and power, pledge for the duration of their lives to attend on the fixed dates and wholeheartedly and with determination visit me unless such hindrances arise in which travelling no longer remains in one's power. May Allah grant a goodly reward to those who underwent the travails of travel to attend the convention which was held on 27th December 1891 for the purpose of religious consultations. May He reward every step they look upon this journey. Amen, Amen."

*(Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, Majmua-Ishteharat, vol. 1, p 302-304)*







## Message of

# HADHRAT MIRZA MASROOR AHMAD

KHALIFAT-UL-MASIH V<sup>aba</sup>

HEAD OF THE WORLDWIDE AHMADIYYA COMMUNITY

Dear Amir Sahib Jama'at USA,

السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكُمْ وَرَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ وَبَرَكَاتُهُ

By the grace of Allah Ta'ala, Jama'at Ahmadiyya USA is holding its 75<sup>th</sup> Jalsa Salana. It is the grace of Allah the Almighty that the Ahmadiyya Jama'at, despite passing through many trials and tribulations, continues to achieve milestones of progress. Therefore, always remember that if the grace of Allah the Almighty is present, a person can overcome even some of the most unfavourable circumstances. However, at the same time, nations that progress also remember their history and derive valuable lessons from the past.

The early Missionaries who came to the USA made efforts and, by conveying the message of Islam to the local populations, brought them into the fold of Ahmadiyyat, the true Islam. Many sincere individuals arose from amongst them, but later, their future generations were not nurtured as they should have been. It is therefore essential for you to keep this lesson in mind, and learning from this, you must keep your coming generations attached to the Jama'at. The Jalsa Salana is held for this very purpose: that we gather together for the attainment of intellectual, spiritual, and moral progress. Here, we should listen to the addresses on various topics, then act upon them, and also strive to make our future generations act upon them.

By now, people from various nations have gathered here, unlike the early days when only local Americans were members of the Jama'at. Rather, the Jama'at has now formed an integrated unity of people from diverse backgrounds. If we fail to understand its significance, do not attach our future generations to the Jama'at in a true sense, and do not strive to achieve this objective, then the outcome could also be like that of the generations of those early people who became distant from the Jama'at. Hence, this is a matter of great concern.

Likewise, many Ahmadis have now migrated from Pakistan to the United States. To the immigrants who have come from Pakistan, I would like to say that upon arriving here, do not become immersed merely in worldly priorities, but rather fulfil your pledge of giving precedence to your faith over worldly affairs. Maintain a living connection to your faith and set examples for your children, as

otherwise, future generations will face spiritual ruin. Always remember that you came here because there was no religious freedom in Pakistan. Therefore, constantly keep this matter before you. Our foremost priority is faith, and-as I have already said-our J alsas are held for this very purpose.

In order to fulfil the pledge of Baiat to the Promised Messiah (as), always remember his words that "Do not consider this Jalsa to be a worldly festival." Thus, when you regard this gathering as a means for attaining religious blessings, you will fully reap the benefits from its programmes, not only during these three days but also throughout the remaining days of your lives.

May Allah the Almighty enable you to advance in your relationship with God Almighty and improve your spiritual and intellectual states. May you be those who are saved from the dazzle of the world. May worldly pleasures not be your aim. May you be those who present righteous examples before your future generations. May you be those who convey the message of Islam to every corner of your country. May you be those who bring the world under the banner of the Holy Prophet (sa), so that the world may become a cradle of peace, affection, and love. May the discords of the world cease, and may you continue to become the inheritors of the bounties of Allah the Almighty, and may the sovereignty of the One God be established throughout the entire world. May Allah enable all of you to be those who strive wholeheartedly to fulfil this objective. Amin

Wassalam

Yours sincerely,



**Mirza Masroor Ahmad**

*Khalifatul-Masih V*





*Message of*

**MIRZA MAGHFOOR AHMAD**

AMIR JAMAÁT - USA

Alhamdulillah, Jamaat USA is holding its 75<sup>th</sup> Jalsa Salana this year. The first Jalsa Salana in the US was held on September 5th, 1948 in Dayton, Ohio. 90 people attended this first Jalsa. Members came from Chicago, Pittsburgh, Indianapolis, Cleveland, Youngstown, New York, and Kansas City. Since then, the US has been holding annual Jalsas except for the two years during the pandemic. The maximum attendance in recent years reached close to 10,000. This may be an occasion for celebration, but this also serves as a moment for reflection. It is true that we have come a long way, but it is also true that we have fallen short of the goals we set during that first Jalsa and short of Hazrat Musleh Maud's<sup>ra</sup> expectations of Jamaat USA.

At the first convention, four resolutions were passed in realms of faith, spirituality, and belief.

1. Going forward, yearly annual conventions will be held.
2. Each Ahmadi will pledge to convert at least one person to Ahmadiyyat every year.
3. Every Ahmadi will give 1/10th of their income as chanda.
4. Ahmadis in the US will join other Ahmadis of the world to use all means for the return of Qadian, the Jamaat Markaz.

As you browse through the exhibition and gaze upon the souvenir, one cannot help but notice the change in the cultural makeup of the attendees of the convention over the years. With this context in mind, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V's (may Allah strengthen his hand) message upon this occasion should give us pause. In 25 years, the Centennial celebration of the Jalsa Salana will be observed. Are we confident that our children or descendants will attend that event? Are we making efforts to guarantee that our next generation understands the importance of Jalsa Salana and attachment to Khilafat and Nizam-e-Jamaat? If we do not learn from the past and the present mistakes, our success in the future will elude us and our celebrations of the Centennial Jalsa will remain hollow.

I end with the words of Hazrat Musleh Maud, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup>. Hazrat Musleh Maud<sup>ra</sup> addressed the Jamaat USA through a message in 1955. The message was about Nizam-e-Wassiyat and he urged the USA Jamaat members to join this blessed scheme. The last paragraph of this message reads as follows:

“Brethren, we are weak, but our God is Strong and Almighty. We can do little, but He can do everything. Be assured that His help is speeding towards you. Indeed, He Himself stands at your door waiting to enter. Spring up therefore and open wide your doors for Him to enter. When God enters your homes and fills your hearts, life will become radiant for you, and you will be glorified on earth as He is glorified in the Heavens. May God be with you. Ameen.”



*Message of*  
**BASHIR AHMAD MALIK**  
AFSAR JALSA SALANA - USA

In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, Ever Merciful

Alhamdulillah, with deep gratitude to Allah the Almighty, we are blessed to commemorate the 75th Jalsa Salana (Annual Convention) of Jama'at Ahmadiyya of the United States of America. This souvenir is a small representation of all the Blessings and Grace that have been showered on our community for past more than 100 years. Our hearts are filled with nothing but praise of Allah Ta'ala.

This sacred gathering, rooted in the divinely guided vision of the Promised Messiah (as) has served as a source of spiritual nourishment, unity, and moral transformation for generations. From humble beginnings in the USA, in 1948, to a national convention that now welcomes thousands, Jalsa Salana is a testament to the blessings of perseverance, prayer, and divine support across the Globe.

The theme of this 75th Jalsa is not just a celebration of the past—it is a renewed call to service, to spiritual growth, and to a deeper commitment to the mission of Islam Ahmadiyyat: to spread the message of peace, truth, and compassion across the nation and connecting with the Lord of the Ka'aba.

Behind this blessed event stands the tireless effort of thousands of volunteers, from every walk of life, for more than the past three quarters of a century, working day and night in humility and obedience to Khilafat. Their spirit of service reflects the essence of our faith—where love for Allah and service to humanity go hand in hand.

As Afsar Jalsa Salana, I am humbled by the responsibility and inspired by the dedication of all those who have contributed to making this Jalsa a success. May Allah accept our efforts, overlook our shortcomings, and enable us to carry this legacy forward with sincerity, unity, and devotion (Ameen).

I pray that every attendee leaves this Jalsa renewed in spirit, strengthened in faith, deeper commitment to the cause of Ahmadiyyat and above all connection with God Almighty.





# Introduction of AHMADIYYA COMMUNITY

FALAHUD DIN SHAMS

## Prophecies of the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> about the advent of the Messiah

The Holy Prophet Muhammad<sup>sa</sup> prophesied:

“How will you fare when the son of Mary descends among you and he will be your Imam from among you?”

(Sahih al-Bukhari, Kitab ahadith al-anbiya, Hadith 3449)

A prominent sign of the Promised Messiah and Mahdi is mentioned in this hadith that he will come from the Ummah of the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> and will be their Imam from among them. This also clarifies that the latter-day Messiah will be a servant and follower of the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> who will come as an embodiment of Jesus, son of Mary<sup>as</sup>.

The Holy Qur'an and the Ahadith are replete with countless signs of the last age and the Mahdi. For example, solar and lunar eclipses, the falling of stars and comets, the abandoning of camels, the appearance of the antichrist and God and Magog, pandemics, earthquakes, etc.

In fulfillment of the prophecies, **Hadhrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad<sup>as</sup> announced that he was the Messiah and Mahdi** that was to come in the latter days.



Solar & Lunar Eclipse

## Historical Background

It is essential to review the religious and political atmosphere in British India in the 19<sup>th</sup> century in order to appreciate the circumstances in which the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community was born. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, there was an enormous effort to convert Muslims in India. At one point there were 70,000 Christian missionaries working actively in British India. It was not just a religious phenomenon because the British Empire was also supporting these efforts for political purposes. Prime Minister Gladstone even gave a statement that if India converted to Christianity, it would ensure the longevity of the British Empire there. Obviously, religious brothers would have a more challenging time trying to look for freedom from the Empire.

At the same time, Islam was so weak at that time that there were no scholars who could possibly fight and resist this great army of missionaries. They were witnessing helplessly Muslims converting to Christianity in large numbers. The Christian missionaries were looking at a total victory over Islam in a short time. Dr. Barrows was an American missionary who traveled to India and delivered lectures in many cities. Just one quote from one of his lectures would suffice to understand how close he felt Christianity was to destroying Islam once and for all. He said:

“Now, I would like to bring to your attention the ongoing progress of Christianity in Islamic countries. As a result of this progress, the light of the Cross is shining in Lebanon on one end, and on the other side, it is shining on the hills of Persia and on the waters of Basforus. These conditions are a reflection of the coming events and revolution when the cities of Cairo,

Damascus, and Tehran will be filled by the followers of Jesus Christ. After that, the light of the Cross will run through the desert and reach the Arabian Peninsula. At that time, our Lord Jesus Christ, along with his disciples, will enter the city of Mecca and particularly in Ka’aba, and finally, the truth will be declared, ‘the everlasting life is that they accept you as one God and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.’ (Barrows lectures, page 42)

Hindus looked at this pathetic situation of Muslims and started their own plans against Islam.

Under these circumstances, Christians planned that the Province of Punjab would be a good base not only to convert India but the whole of Central Asia. Mr. Robert Clark of London wrote in the book “The Missions” (1914 edition, page 245) that Punjab seems to be a natural base for the propagation of Christianity in Central Asia.

Finally, in 1835, a Christian mission was opened in the city of Ludhiana, in the Province of Punjab, to be used as the base for the spread of Christianity.



*British Empire in 1885*



## Founder of Ahmadiyya Community

God had His own plans. In the same year of 1835, in the same Province of Punjab near Ludhiana, a person was born by the name of Mirza Ghulam Ahmad<sup>as</sup> in the village of Qadian. God was to appoint him to defend Islam and challenge the onslaught of Christianity. He authored a book, *Braheen-e-Ahmadiyya*, and declared that the only living religion is Islam and the only living prophet is Prophet Muhammad<sup>sa</sup>. He challenged all Christian scholars and missionaries to debate him and announced that he had received revelation from God and that he was the Messiah and Mahdi that people had been waiting for over the centuries.

His argument was that one can receive revelation and even achieve the status of a prophet only by following a living religion and a living prophet. Since other religions cannot and have not produced any person who receives revelation, therefore, their religion cannot be a living one. He openly and clearly declared that his status in the eyes of God was only achieved by following the Holy Prophet Muhammad<sup>sa</sup>. He states this in the following quote:

“It would not have been possible for me to have attained this grace if I had not followed the footsteps of my lord and master, the pride of all the prophets, the best of mankind, Muhammad<sup>sa</sup>, the Chosen one, peace and blessings of Allah be on him. Whatever I have achieved, I have achieved by following him, and I know from verified reliable experience that no man can reach God and obtain a deeper understanding of His ways without following that Prophet, may peace and blessings of Allah be on him.”

(Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, *Roohani Khaza'in*, Vol. 22: *Haqqeqatul Wahi*, pp. 64-65)

He also announced that Jesus, son of Mary<sup>as</sup>, was saved from the cross and died a natural death, and his tomb is in Srinagar, Kashmir. He will not be coming down from the skies. Hadhrat Ahmad<sup>as</sup> claimed and proved that all the prophecies, whether in the New Testament or mentioned by the Holy Prophet Muhammad<sup>sa</sup>, were fulfilled in his person.

## Message of the Founder

It is remarkable to note that this claim and this voice were raised in the small village of Qadian. There was no post office, no bus stop, no train station, telegraph or telephone service. Amazingly, this voice was heard throughout the world even in the United States of America. Guests started arriving to visit him from all over the world. This was the fulfillment of the prophecy “**wherever the carcass is, eagles shall gather together**”. In a short time, Qadian was full of life and activity. Young people started to devote their lives and became missionaries. It was an unheard concept of Muslim missionaries to go anywhere to challenge Christianity. They were taking the trains, on the decks of the ships, and even walking to faraway lands of Africa, the Middle East, Europe, and even the Americas. They were giving the glad tidings that the Messiah had come, and peace was at hand for mankind.

“

He challenged all Christian scholars and missionaries to debate him and announced that he had received revelation from God and that he was the Messiah and Mahdi that people had been waiting for over the centuries!

”

## Community established

Officially Ahmadiyya Muslim Community was established on March 23, 1889, ironically in the same city of Ludhiana where the Christians had established their base some years earlier. At the time Hadhrat Ahmad organized the Community and openly declared that he was the Messiah, he announced his purpose and mission in the following words:

“God almighty has raised me, a humble servant, in this age so that the Islamic teachings may be published and propagated to all nations and all countries and thus leave no excuse for them. For this purpose, God has provided me with hundreds of heavenly signs, knowledge about the hidden things, sciences, and facts, and I have been provided with hundreds of logical arguments. God Almighty has provided me with the means and methods of publicizing the religion, the arguments, and proofs to the extent that no other nation in history was equipped with these blessings. All of the hidden opportunities that have been provided to me were not given to any one of them. It is the blessing of Allah, and he gives it to whomever He chooses.”

(Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, *Braheen-e-Ahmadiyya*, page 575)

### Name of the Community:

The name of the community “**Ahmadiyya**” was chosen by its founder for a very specific reason. Many people may think that the name is used because the name of its founder was Ahmad but it is the farthest from the truth.

Holy Prophet Muhammad<sup>sa</sup> had two names: Muhammad and Ahmad. The name Muhammad reflected his majestic attributes and Ahmad referred to his attributes of peace and harmony. When the



Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> declared God’s message, his first thirteen years of life in Mecca was a reflection of the name Ahmad. He was persecuted; the Meccans punished his followers in diverse ways. His response was of peace and harmony and showed patience and perseverance. His life in Medina of ten years was the reflection of his name Muhammad when he defeated his enemies and finally became victorious and God established his majestic attribute.

The attribute of name Ahmad was also to be revived in the latter days according to the prophecies. This reason for choosing the name of the community was clearly stated by its founder:

“There was a prophecy that the name Ahmad would be manifested again in the latter days and that a person would appear through whom the qualities of beauty, which characterized Ahmad, would be manifested, and all fighting would come to an end. For this reason, it has been considered





A historical group photo of the Promised Messiah with his companions From Right: (Standing) Munshi Karam Ali, Maulvi Abdullah Arab, Maulvi Muhammad Ali, Mian Miraj-ud-din Omar, Hakeem Fazal Din Bhervi, Hakeem Muhammad Hussain, Shaikh Yaqoob Ali Irfani, Mufti Fazal-ur-rahman, Bhai Abdur Rahim. (On Chairs) Mufti Muhammad Sadiq, Sahibzada Mirza Bashir Ahmad, Sahibzada Mirza Bashir-ud-din Mahmood Ahmad, Hazrat Aqdas Masih-e-Mau'ood The Promised Messiah, (Sahibzada Mirza Sharif Ahmad on his lap), Hazrat Hakeem Maulvi Noor-ud-din, Maulvi Abdul Karim Sialkoti, Pir Manzoor Muhammad. (On Floor) Pir Siraj-ul-haq Nomani, Maulvi Hakeem Qut'b-ud-din, Malik Sher Muhammad, Maulvi Sher Ali, Unknown r.a.a. , June 1899.

appropriate that the name of this sect should be the Ahmadiyya Sect, so that everyone hearing this name should realize that this sect has come into being for the spread of peace and harmony and that it would have nothing to do with war and fighting.”

(Majmu'ah Ishtiharat, vol. 3, pp. 364-366)

## Highlights of beliefs

Pointing to the words of the Holy Qur'an that there is no compulsion in religion, the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> explained that Jihad of the sword is applicable as a defensive measure in very strictly defined conditions, and those conditions do not exist today. Therefore, our interaction with other faiths has to be through discussions, dialogue, and exchange of ideas. He declared a Jihad of the pen against all religions and forces who were trying to destroy Islam.

He also taught his Community to show patience in the face of persecution. Just as Jesus<sup>as</sup> was to be

crucified for preaching peace and humility, the followers of the second Messiah faced the same circumstances. They showed humility, perseverance, and patience and, in turn, prayed for their enemies. Whether it be in Pakistan, Bangladesh, or Indonesia, the example of this characteristic of the Ahmadiyya Community is manifestly clear.

The Founder of the Community was successful single-handedly in resisting the Christian forces backed by the British Empire in his lifetime. Upon his passing away, one of the Indian Muslim leaders Maulana Abul Kalam Azaad wrote the following that is a testament to his success: “The literature produced by the Founder of the Community not only shattered to bits the influence of Christianity, which it really had due to support from the government, but it saved thousands, nay millions of Muslims from this dangerous attack which could have succeeded but the talisman of Christianity itself was blown away like smoke.” (Vakeel, Amritsar, May 1908).



He further wrote: “This service rendered by Mirza Sahib will place the coming generations under the debt of gratitude in that he fulfilled his duty of the defense of Islam by joining the front rank of those engaged in Jihad by the pen, and he left behind him as a memorial such literature as will last so long as Muslims have blood flowing in their veins and the urge to support Islam remains their prominent national characteristic.” (*Vakeel, Amritsar. May 1908*).

## Second Manifestation

In 1908, when Hadhrat Ahmad<sup>as</sup> passed away, another phenomenon took place that the world had only experienced at the passing away of other great prophets in history. The system of Khilafat was established in the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community. God has promised in the Holy Qur’an:

“Allah has promised to those among you who believe and do good works that He will surely make them Successors in the earth, as He made Successors from among those before them.” (*The Holy Quran, 24:56*)

According to this verse of the Holy Qur’an, God establishes Khilafat in the community because He considers it to consist of believers and people who do good works. No other community has Khilafat among them based on the revelation received by a prophet. Under this system, the Khalifa is elected through voting procedures, but it is not a position that anyone desires. No one runs for this position or runs a campaign. If anyone does that, it disqualifies him just on this basis. So, there is no payback after one is elected. The voters discharge their trust given to them by God. It is not a favor to the one they are voting for. If they vote for someone not deserving, then they are answerable to God for their mistreatment of the trust.

## Message of humans as one community

It is through this system of Khilafat that the Ahmadiyya Community is established in over 200 countries. British Empire is back in its own Island where it had started to expand with a great force. Now the sun does not set on the Community of the Messiah. It is established across geographical, racial, and national boundaries. It gives the message to humans of love and invites them to be one community under one religion and one prophet, the Holy Prophet Muhammad<sup>sa</sup>. All the prophecies in Islam and Christianity point to Messiah in the latter days who would gather all humanity under one banner and establish paradise on earth.

## System of love and authority

Throughout the last 136 years, not a single terrorist has come from this Community in any part of the world because of its teachings of peace and humility. On the other hand, it has produced persons like: Sir Chaudhry Mohammad Zafarullah Khan<sup>ra</sup>, Professor Mohammad Abdus Salam & Mirza Muzaffar Ahmad.

All this progress is happening under a system of Khilafat, which is of love and authority. Every member of the Community has access to and contact with the Khalifa and is voluntarily obedient to him. No army and no police have kept this relationship. It is based on love for anyone to choose if they wish. It is under this system that the Community makes financial sacrifices in the way of God, and all its work is done by volunteers and life devotees without any aid from any government.

## An Invitation to Christianity

We invite our Christian friends, in particular, to come and examine this community because it is in the fulfillment of the prophecies of Jesus son of Mary<sup>as</sup>. **“As the lightning cometh out of the East and shineth even unto the West”**, this community, which started out in the East, has shown its light in the West as you





**Sir Chaudhry Mohammad Zafarullah Khan<sup>ra</sup>**, (Feb. 6, 1893–Sep. 1, 1985) was a Pakistani diplomat and jurist who served as the first foreign minister of Pakistan. After serving as foreign minister, he continued his international career and is the only Pakistani to preside over the International Court of Justice. He also served as the President of the UN General Assembly. He is the only person to date to serve as the President of both the UN General Assembly and the International Court of Justice.



**Professor Mohammad Abdus Salam** (Jan. 29, 1926 – November 21, 1996) was a Pakistani theoretical physicist. He shared the 1979 Nobel Prize in Physics with Sheldon Glashow and Steven Weinberg for his contribution to the electroweak unification theory. He was the first Pakistani and the first scientist from an Islamic country to receive a Nobel Prize and the second from an Islamic country to receive any Nobel Prize, after Anwar Sadat of Egypt.



**Mirza Muzaffar Ahmad** (February 28, 1913 – Jul. 23, 2002). Commonly known as MM Ahmad was the former executive director and Vice President of the World Bank. He

was educated first at Government College, Lahore, and later at the University of London and the University of Oxford in the United Kingdom. He joined the Indian Civil Service in 1939. Following the Partition of India and Pakistan in 1947, he joined the Civil Service of Pakistan; this was to mark the beginning of an illustrious and distinguished career within the Pakistan Civil Service.

MM Ahmad also became Executive Director of the World Bank and helped in the servicing and rescheduling of the loans after the dismemberment of Pakistan in 1971. MM Ahmad also played a key role in acting as a go-between China and the United States, facilitating a meeting between the then U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and the Chinese Leadership.





can experience it today. The second Messiah is offering you the Heavenly bread you prayed for over 2,000 years. It is yours to take. Just as Noah<sup>as</sup>, Abraham<sup>as</sup>, and Jesus<sup>as</sup> were light for their time, Hadhrat Ahmad<sup>as</sup> is the light, the way, and the truth of this age.

Jesus<sup>as</sup> gave instructions as to how you will know when the true claimant showed up in the latter days. Jesus<sup>as</sup> clearly explained that false prophets would be known by their fruits. Jesus<sup>as</sup> said:

"Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns or figs of thistles? Even so, every good tree bringeth forth good fruit, but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit; neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. EVERY TREE THAT BRINGETH NOT FORTH GOOD FRUIT IS HEWN DOWN AND CAST INTO THE FIRE.

(Matthew 7:15-19)

Now, if every prophet in the future were to be false, would there have been any need to set such a standard?

Come and taste this fruit and you will find that it will give you life and a spiritual uplift and you will fulfill the words of Jesus<sup>as</sup>. Come and join the elect of the latter days. You will find comfort and happiness that no amount of psychiatry or drugs can provide.

### **The message of Ahmadiyya Muslim Community:**

#### **“Love for all, Hatred for None”**

Ahmadiyya community today reflects the teachings of Prophet Muhammad<sup>sa</sup> through the second Messiah, emphasizing the commandments of love

and compassion.

We hear beautiful teachings in the mosques and churches such as: **“Love thy enemy.”** What does it really mean and where and how is it practiced? For most people it is a good slogan, makes them feel good but has no practical implication. The community of the second Messiah is the one that has put it into practice.

An incident took place a day before the devastating earthquake occurred in northwestern Pakistan. In the small village of Moong in Pakistan, a few members of the Ahmadiyya Community were in their mosque before sunrise performing their morning prayer. Some individuals came riding on motorcycles and showered bullets at them and fled away. The floor of the mosque was full of blood and bodies of the dead and injured. Among the innocent people who lost their lives that day were young, old and children. Since it was a small community, everyone was related to each other, so every house was in mourning. Some lost their father, uncle, son or cousin. Even for Pakistan it was a gruesome crime against humanity. These were peaceful poor people who were not involved in activities that could be used as an excuse for this kind of action.

It was such a shocking cold-blooded murder that even the conscience of the Government of Pakistan was shaken. Although persecution and discrimination based on religion takes place all over the world, in Pakistan it takes place under the law with the full support of its constitution, courts and the police. So, to affect its conscience is a rare occurrence. The government decided to send one of their high officials with large checks for each family affected in the village. The checks were for hundreds of thousands of rupees. Under the TV cameras running and the news reporters all around, the official offered these checks to the relatives of the deceased. However, the official got the shock of his life. The members of this community said that



God will take care of them, and they would like all this money to be donated to the victims of the earthquake in northwest Pakistan.

The area where the earthquake took place was centered in the city of Muzaffarabad. It is the city where the opposition and persecution against Ahmadis started a long time ago. The very first resolution in 1974 by a Provincial Assembly to declare the Ahmadiyya community as non-Muslim was in that city. Slowly over the years, Ahmadis moved away from that area because of the persecution. That was one reason that Members of Ahmadiyya community were safe from the earthquake.

This is how you love your enemies. The very people who persecuted and showed their animosity were the recipients of gift when they needed it. This is the teaching of the Messiah in practice: ***“Love thy enemy.”***

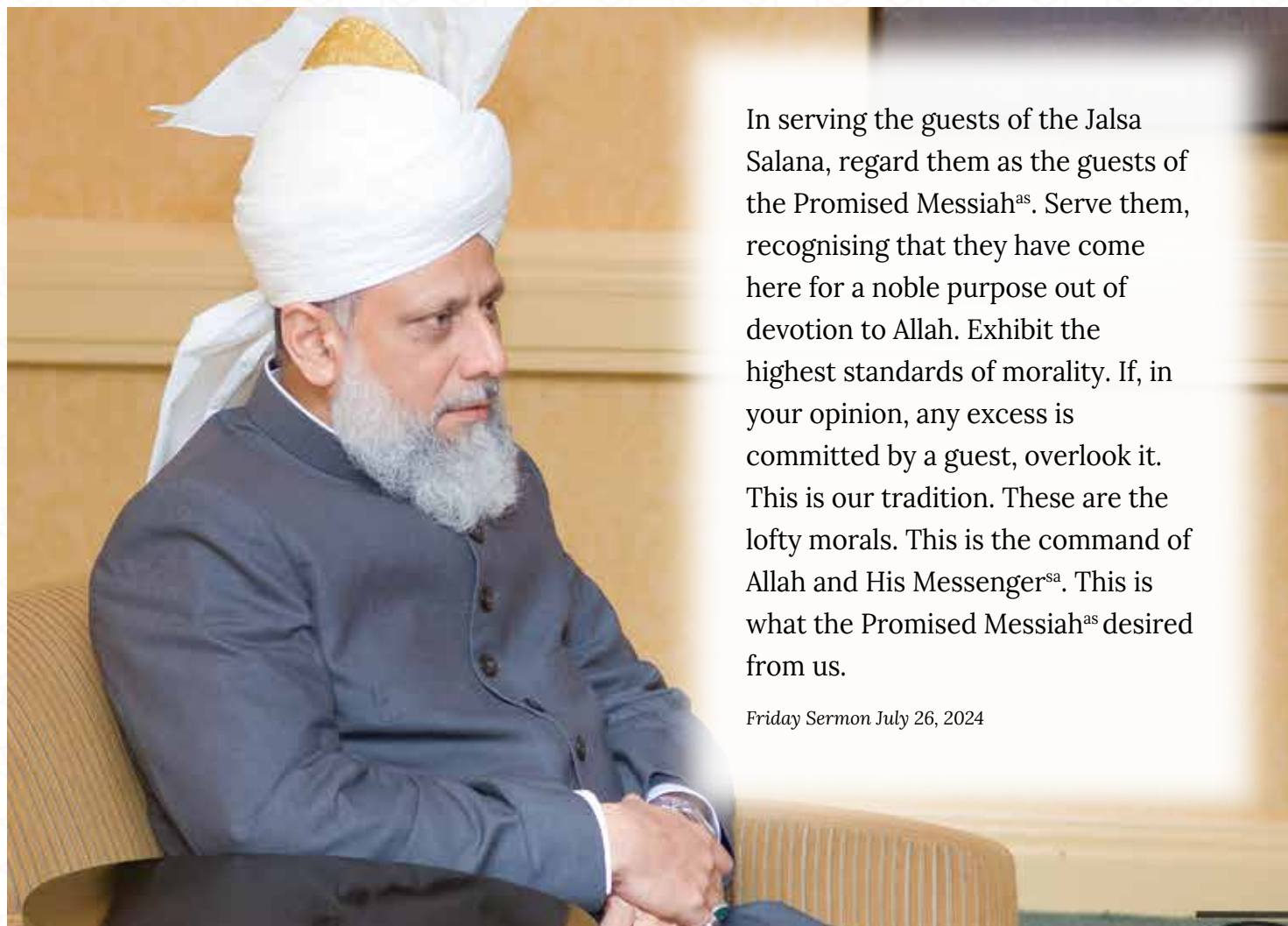
## Invitation to All

We invite all of you to come and taste this fruit and find for yourself that it will give you life and a spiritual uplift. You will find the practical application of the teachings of peace, mercy and compassion.

By following the Messiah of the latter days, you could achieve the spiritual status so much so that every morning of your life would bear witness that you spent the night righteously and every evening of your life would bear witness that you spent the day in fear of God, making sure that none of His commandments were broken.

We hope and pray that the day will come soon when all of humanity would get together under one banner and we would have not just one country but the whole world as ‘one nation under God’ and everyone would not just sing but actually practice the slogan:

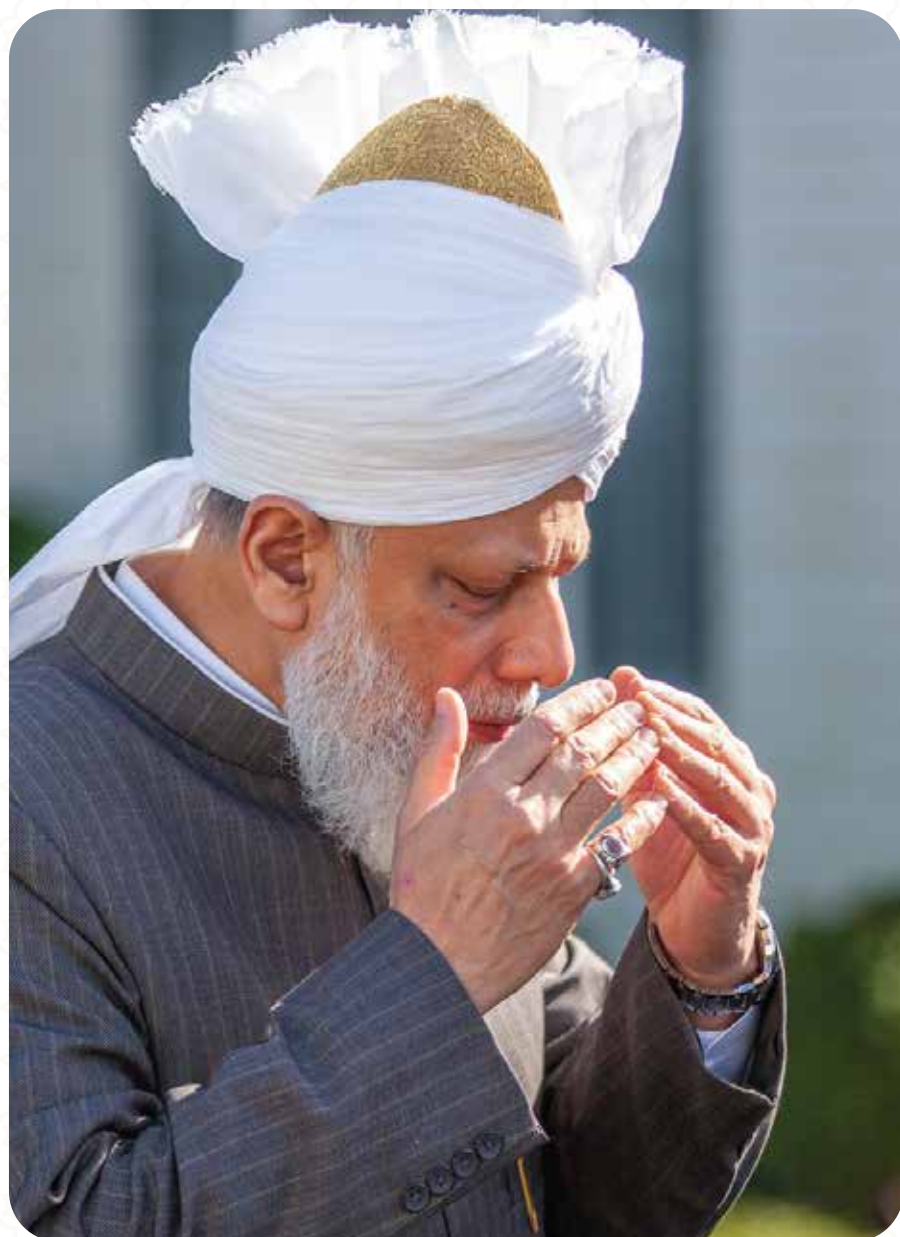
**“LOVE FOR ALL, HATRED FOR NONE”.**



In serving the guests of the Jalsa Salana, regard them as the guests of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>. Serve them, recognising that they have come here for a noble purpose out of devotion to Allah. Exhibit the highest standards of morality. If, in your opinion, any excess is committed by a guest, overlook it. This is our tradition. These are the lofty morals. This is the command of Allah and His Messenger<sup>sa</sup>. This is what the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> desired from us.

Friday Sermon July 26, 2024

# INSTRUCTIONS of KHULAFAH ABOUT JALSA





# Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih 1<sup>ra</sup>

Many Jalsas take place in the world with different purposes and objectives. Some Jalsas are of a kind where discussions take place about matters of the country and political matters. Some jalsas are for the purpose of pondering over the reformation of a particular nation. And some are for the purpose of reformation of morality and good manners

*Khutubat-e-Noor, Page 240*



Try to join  
the convention with courage,  
even if it may harm your work.

*Hadhrat Musleh-e-Mau'ud<sup>ra</sup>*





# HADHRAT HAKEEM NOOR-UD-DEEN

KHALIFAT-UL-MASIH I<sup>ra</sup>

“

Life is unreliable. It is not known who will be alive and who not until the next Jalsa Salana (Annual Convention). And whether those of you who shall be alive could come to the next Jalsa or not. That is why I want to tell you a few things as a will. Those present should listen carefully and convey to others. Hold fast to

لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ مُحَمَّدٌ رَّسُولُ اللَّهِ

(There is no God but Allah, Muhammad is the messenger of Allah.)

Know Allah as one in personality, His names and attributes. Allah says:

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ أَنْتُمُ الْفُقَرَاءُ إِلَى اللَّهِ وَاللَّهُ هُوَ الْغَنِيُّ الْحَمِيدُ

(O ye men, it is you that stand in need of Allah,  
but Allah is He Who is Self-Sufficient, the Praiseworthy.)

(The Holy Qur'an, 35 [Fatir]: 16)

That is Allah is Self-Sufficient and you are in need. Pray and ask forgiveness abundantly. Every need is fulfilled by forgiveness. Allah says in Surah Nooh through prophet Nooh (peace be on him):

فَقُلْتُ اسْتَغْفِرُوا رَبَّكُمْ إِنَّهُ كَانَ غَفَّارًا - يُرْسِلِ السَّمَاءَ عَلَيْكُمْ مِدْرَارًا  
وَيُمِدُّكُمْ بِأَمْوَالٍ وَبَنِينَ وَيَجْعَلُ لَكُمْ جَنَّاتٍ وَيَجْعَلُ لَكُمْ أَنْهَارًا -

“And I said, ‘Seek forgiveness of your Lord; for He is the Great Forgiver. He will send down rain for you in abundance, And He will strengthen you with wealth and with children, and He will give you gardens and He will give you rivers.

(The Holy Qur'an, 71 [Nooh]: 11-13).

That is by asking forgiveness, Allah will send rain and give you wealth and children and will give you rivers. It is incumbent upon Jama'at to do religious brooding of Salat ‘Alan-Nabi (Durood) and Surah Fatiha abundantly.”





Hadhrat Hakeem Noor-ud-Deen, Khalifatul-Masih I<sup>ra</sup> said:

“I have heard that there were many congregational prayers at one time in the guest camp outside. I was grieved about it. Had the organizers asked me, I would have given them great advice about it. The Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be on him) is especially used to emphasize followers of an Imam during congregational prayers to straighten the rows. I fear that your feet go back and forth from each other, but such differences may not arise in your hearts. Recite the Holy Qur’an. Ponder over

righteousness. To the best of the ability, where there is Jama’at [Ahmadiyya], there should be a mosque. If not a mosque, then maybe a straw roof. However, there should be a provision to pray in congregation. The one who separates himself from Jama’at is like a goat who is separated from the herd and puts itself in danger. Some people complain to me that he is alone in such and such a place and there is no Ahmadiyya Jama’at.”

Hadhrat Khalifatul-Masih I<sup>ra</sup> said:

“The believer has an emotion within himself due to which he cannot live alone. Earn a living



“That is Allah is Self-Sufficient and you are in need. Pray and ask forgiveness abundantly. Every need is fulfilled by forgiveness”

lawfully. Do not destroy your prayers. Treat women nicely. Treat your parents and relatives well. Imitate the noble and leave bad examples. The inhabitants of Qadian should show good examples to the guests.”

Hadhrat Khalifatul-Masih I<sup>ra</sup> said:

“One day, the Supreme Imam [the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>] was going while raining and mud all around. He said while seeing a boy running, ‘Young boy! Walk carefully in the mud, lest you fall.’” The boy replied, “If I fall, only I will get hurt, but Abu Hanifa (may Allah be pleased with him) [meaning the Promised Messiah; the follower of Imam Abu Hanifa] walk carefully, if you fall, millions of creatures of God will fall with you.”

Hadhrat Khalifatul-Masih I<sup>ra</sup> said:

“I always pray for you; you also pray for me.” In the end, he again urged [members of Jama’at] to stick to

لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ مُحَمَّدٌ رَّسُولُ اللَّهِ

(There is no God but Allah) and said, “Look, by making this will, I have fulfilled the Sunnah

وَلَا نَعْبُدُ إِلَّا إِيَّاهُ

(And we worship none but Him) of the Prophets (may peace be on them).”







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# HADHRAT MIRZA BASHIR-UD-DIN MAHMOOD AHMAD

KHALIFAT-UL-MASIH II<sup>ra</sup>

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Hadhrat Mirza Bashir-ud-Din Mahmud Ahmad, Khalifatul-Masih II<sup>ra</sup> gave instructions and advice to the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community for Annual Conventions in his Friday Sermons of his fifty-four-year Khilafat. These are summarized below:

Present your services to the Jama'at Ahmadiyya for Annual Conventions.

(Mirza Bashir-ud-Din Mahmud Ahmad, *Khutbat-e-Mahmud*, vol. 7, November 18, 1921, p. 125).

The shopkeepers can serve the guests of the Annual Convention by selling their commodities with a minimum profit. By taking exorbitant profits, people start thinking that they have been looted. The shop should be open when the guests are free from listening to the proceedings of the convention. They must close their shops during the convention's speeches.

(Mirza Bashir-ud-Din Mahmud Ahmad, *Khutbat-e-Mahmud*, vol. 7, Dec. 8, 1922, pp. 426-429)

Try to join the convention with courage, may it harm your work.

(Mirza Bashir-ud-Din Mahmud Ahmad, *Khutbat-e-Mahmud*, vol. 8, November 9, 1923, p. 234)

During the convention, everybody should try to limit the expenditure. He should perform his duties with optimum expenditure. Eating together results in saving food. It has been seen that fifty people eating together consume food of only thirty people.

(Mirza Bashir-ud-Din Mahmud Ahmad, *Khutbat-e-Mahmud*, vol. 9, Dec. 18, 1925, pp. 389-398)

Introduce saying: "As-Salamu 'Alaikum Wa Rahmatullah."

(Mirza Bashir-ud-Din Mahmud Ahmad, *Khutbat-e-Mahmud*, vol. 13, Dec. 16, 1932, p. 647)

Keep yourself busy and concentrate on prayers and Namaz [obligatory prayers] lest you forfeit your faith. The one who cannot spend his time in a better way should not be part of the convention.

(Mirza Bashir-ud-Din Mahmud Ahmad, *Khutbat-e-Mahmud*, vol. 23, Dec. 11, 1944, pp. 563-564, Reference for Nos. 7 to 10)

Bring those people to the convention who are seriously thinking of accepting the truth. Viewing, celebrating, or enjoying the convention is so useless that our friends leave their houses for this purpose and ask others to come here. Only those people should be brought to the convention; maybe they are from any religion, but the ones who are research-minded, not Mujawar [attendant of Shrines], who are devoid of research altogether. We suffered a loss due to them as our sincere Ahmadis were unable to attend the convention due to their hospitality. These people are tourists and not our guests, and to bring them to the convention is useless. Those who are searching for the truth are most welcome.

Present your (men and women included) services and houses for guests to stay during convention days. It is a matter of 4-5 days for guests staying in your houses. The guests are the guests of the Promised Messiah (may peace be on him), so, spend these days with hardship and pain. Hospitality is so rewarding that God does not destroy such man, think of a reward for serving guests of Him.

(Mirza Bashir-ud-Din Mahmud Ahmad, *Khutbat-e-Mahmud*, vol. 10, Dec. 3, 1926, pp. 286-292, vol. 13, Dec. 18, 1931, p. 304)





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# HADHRAT MIRZA NASIR AHMAD

KHALIFAT-UL-MASIH III<sup>rh</sup>

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Hadhrat Mirza Nasir Ahmad, Khalifatul-Masih III (may Allah shower His mercy on him) gave instructions and advice to the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community for Annual Conventions in his Friday Sermons. These are summarized below for our readers:

Spend the days of the Annual Convention listening to righteous things and praying with humility and devotion.

*(Mirza Nasir Ahmad, Khutbat-e-Nasir, vol. 1, November 26, 1965, p. 11).*

Our youth should consider themselves on a twenty-four-hour duty for the service of the Annual Convention guests.

*(Mirza Nasir Ahmad, Khutbat-e-Nasir, vol. 2, Dec. 20, 1968, p. 433)*

Guests should be fed with pride and dignity. They should be served as the guests of the Promised Messiah (may peace be on him). Every permitted need of guests must be adhered to.

*(Mirza Nasir Ahmad, Khutbat-e-Nasir, vol. 2, Dec. 20, 1968, p. 445)*

Hadhrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>, mentioned the Annual Convention as a Sign of Allah. Therefore, one should attend the convention. The travel is for the sake of Allah and is a sort of divine worship.

*((Mirza Nasir Ahmad, Khutbat-e-Nasir, vol. 2, Dec. 26, 1969, p. 1030)*

The Annual Convention is a beautiful bouquet of miracles in which a variety of colored flowers are assembled. During the days of the convention, one should be extremely careful. The children should be looked after properly.

*(Mirza Nasir Ahmad, Khutbat-e-Nasir, vol. 3, Dec. 18, 1970, p. 440)*

The Annual Convention is a testimony of Allah's love, blessings, and mercy. More and more people are attending the convention. So, Jama'at should build a stadium to accommodate two to three hundred thousand people.

*(Mirza Nasir Ahmad, Khutbat-e-Nasir, vol. 4, Dec. 22, 1972, pp. 592-604)*

Ahmadis should voluntarily register their names for services during the Annual Convention. Extreme care should be taken to avoid wasting the food.

*(Mirza Nasir Ahmad, Khutbat-e-Nasir, vol. 5, Dec. 7, 1973, pp. 389-400)*

Not only should you protect guests from trouble, but also be a role model for them.

*(Mirza Nasir Ahmad, Khutbat-e-Nasir, vol. 7, Dec. 8, 1978, p. 521)*





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# HADHRAT MIRZA TAHIR AHMAD

KHALIFAT-UL-MASIH IV<sup>th</sup>

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Jalsa Salana has now turned into an international event. All gatherings are generally excellent. People gather from far-flung areas just for the sake of God. There are many benefits, which are enhanced due to mutual love and many spiritual and heavenly blessings are bestowed. Some gatherings are such that they leave behind so much religious provision, that is, they leave behind such immense food for thought that is consumed during the whole year and is not exhausted... Spend these days while remembering Allah, spend your time thanking Him for the blessings and benevolences, and reap the fruits from Heaven. There is no Heaven better than the Heaven of thanks. Thanking is such a great blessing that the one who thanks really comes under the banner of graciousness and finds Heaven in this world as well.

*(Mirza Tahir Ahmad, Friday Sermon, Jul. 19, 1996)*

I request to remember in the prayers those who have arrived, are expecting to come, and those who could not come. Moreover, ignore human weaknesses in arrangements and as far as possible should be forgiven. God treats the one who treats his brethren with forgiveness in the same coin.

*(Mirza Tahir Ahmad, Friday Sermon, Jul. 12, 1996)*

There should be strict monitoring of Prayers during days of the Jalsa. There should be none outside the Salat congregation except for those assigned to duties. The Fajr Salat should particularly be monitored. The workers on duty should be reminded of the Prayers. Every administrator should tell workers to offer Salat apart from their departmental duties. God blesses a great reward for the workers.

*( Mirza Tahir Ahmad, Friday Sermon, Jul. 17, 1987)*

It is vital to create a world benchmark to inculcate and enhance international brotherhood in the arrangement of Jalsa Salana.

*(Mirza Tahir Ahmad, Friday Sermon, Jul. 8, 1994)*

Jama'at, as Jama'at Ahmadiyya, is the custodian of Islamic values. This virtue is becoming a trademark of the Jama'at and shall continue to be established further. This character building shall result in enhancing its values in the international community, and these features are not possible without this. These annual gatherings of Jama'at Ahmadiyya International play a pivotal role in character building and enhancement of the honor of our Jama'at.

(Mirza Tahir Ahmad, *Al-Fazl International* of Aug. 12-18, 1994, p. 6-7)

If you assemble for God's sake, then you will be those who shall give birth to the United Nations. The United Nations of Hadhrat Muhammad<sup>sa</sup> shall engulf the whole universe. It shall bind each and every heart and soul. All the nations shall be irrigated from this one stream. God may bring those days promptly. We should prepare for it. We have been committed to performing this job. We should recognize our reality. We should glance at the prospects expected of us

(Mirza Tahir Ahmad, *Inaugural Speech Jalsa Salana UK*, Jul. 28, 1995)

### SOME INSTRUCTIONS BY KHALIFAT-UL-MASIH IV<sup>rh</sup>

- ★ Guests should be treated with dignity and respect.
- ★ Laugh but carefully, that is, do not laugh in a loud tone so that people hearing them should not think that you are laughing at them.
- ★ Spend your time remembering Allah and reciting Durud (an Islamic complimentary Arabic phrase that contains veneration for Prophet Muhammad<sup>sa</sup>) and offer Prayers in congregation with commitment. There should be an arrangement of Prayers at 'Langar Khana.' The people on security duty must also offer Salat. It is the duty of their officers to take care of this matter.
- ★ Avoid unethical conversation. Listen to the proceedings of the Jalsa with dignity and silence.
- ★ Be punctual and arrive on time.
- ★ During deliverance of speeches, do not talk while standing outside the Jalsa venue.
- ★ Take care of cleanliness. Help maintain the cleanliness of the mosques, residences, and Jalsa venues. Keep with you or in your pocket an empty plastic bag to put used items/trash in it. These should later be disposed of in bigger dustbins.
- ★ After eating, put your disposable plates, etc., in the assigned garbage bins. One should keep in mind that not even a small portion of food is wasted. It was the tradition of Hadhrat Muhammad<sup>sa</sup> to put only as much food on his plate as he could consume. So put only so much food on your plate that you can eat. Take as many times as you desire. There is nothing to worry about food. Take food frankly. Do not hesitate to follow formality, as it is an artificial thing. So, avoid formalities.
- ★ All kinds of fixtures of the Jama'at and things should be taken care of. One should take utmost care while using them.
- ★ Men should not look at other women, and women should not look at other men (observing Ghadd Basar (Lowering the gaze), see *The Holy Qur'an*, 24 [Al-Nūr]: 31-32) and take care of coverings of women. Some women who, for some reason, cannot hide their



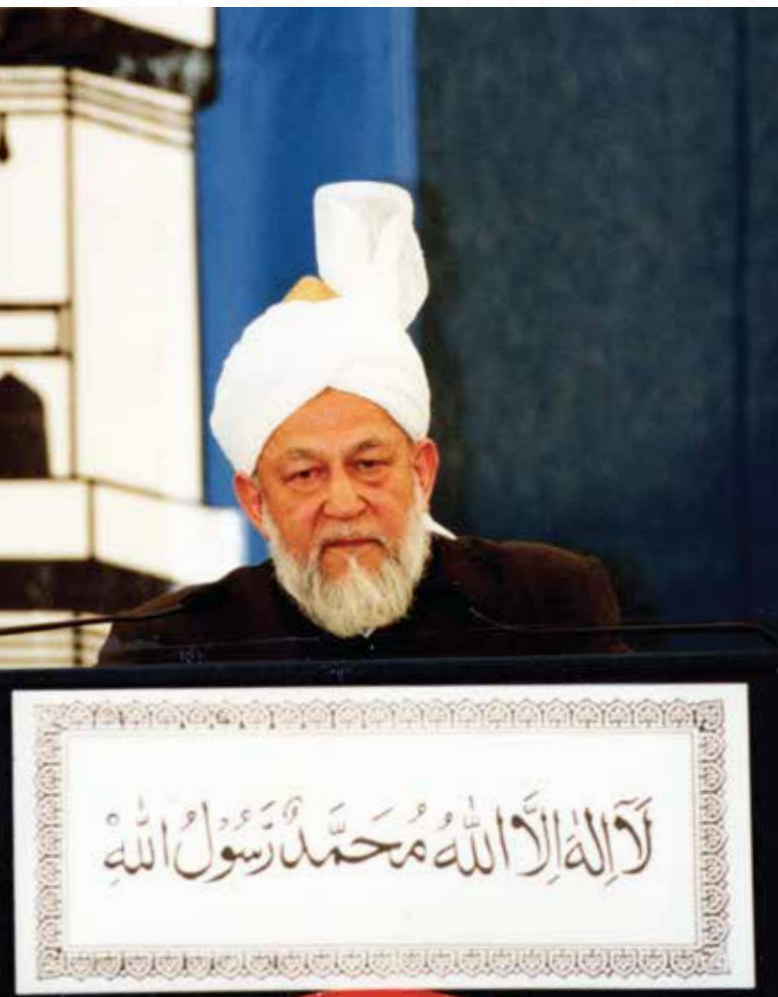


face, dress, and outlook act as their veil. For women who cannot cover their faces, it is not acceptable for them to move around while laden with cosmetics. Sometimes non-Ahmadi Muslim women come in the Jalsa beautified with cosmetics, etc., and guests would not know whether they are Ahmadi Muslim or non-Ahmadi Muslim. It would not be acceptable to prohibit or force them to comply with instructions. The one who likes to understand should comprehend. If they are to be instructed, then only workers from Lajna (women) should take them aside and let them know with love.

- ★ Always display your identity card, and if you find someone without it, then tell him/her

politely. Keep in mind security aspects. Remember that the protection shall come from God, but one should keep mind open as arrangements for protection are made due to the orders of God. Anyway, one should believe that the protection is from God. Keep an eye on friends who are sitting right or left of you. Many are not familiar faces. Sometimes it seems that a person has a criminal face. Insha'Allah, such faces are not familiar among Ahmadi Muslims, but God forbid if there is such a face, then have a vigilant eye on him/her and keep your mind open. If there is information that anyone is a stranger or his/her actions are not up to the mark, then the appropriate department (Security) should be informed.





- ★ You should remain with him/her till the appropriate department makes a proper arrangement.
- ★ Children make noise as they weep. The parents with such children should sit in the back rows, and if they make noise, then they should be taken outside.
- ★ Traffic rules should be followed as it is told every time. The rights of way must be adhered. Things that can hurt must be removed from the path, as this is also a part of our faith.
- ★ The bazaars (shops) shall remain closed during the proceedings of the Jalsa, but there is a requirement to keep some shops open.
- ★ The guests arriving from different places meet each other. They should mention signs and episodes from their places. God's signs have descended at every place in abundance. The Ahmadi Muslims, who are witnesses, are signs of God's confirmation. If there are signs of anger from God for enemies, then why should they not describe them? The people who state and those who listen have their faith increased.
- ★ Keep a good look at your precious belongings. Sometimes some mischief mongers also join in a big gathering. Some pickpockets (pocket fleece) disguise and also sneak into the convention. Anything lying should not be touched, but if you think that someone else may not pocket that, you should hand over the article to the Department of 'Lost and Found.' They shall announce and shall return the thing to the person concerned. Similarly, keep an eye on lost children. They should also be handed over to the concerned department for which an announcement shall be made from the podium.

(Friday Sermon, Jul. 28, 2000)





Now I want to advise guests who have come here from far away:

- ★ Do not waste your time and remember Allah as far as possible. It is unavoidable to converse with each other, but it should lead to the remembrance of Allah. It is of utmost importance to remember Allah while in the mosque.
- ★ Uphold a commitment to Prayers and also remain busy remembering Allah. The security personnel cannot join Salat with others. It is better that there is an arrangement for Congregational Salat for them as well. Anyone amongst them should lead the Prayers.
- ★ Speeches are prepared with great effort. Insha'Allah other scholars of the Jama'at shall deliver their speeches. They should be listened to as you listen to me attentively. Their efforts should not be put down the drain.
- ★ The custom of saying 'As-Salamu 'Alaikum' to each other should be followed. It is an order from the Prophet of Allah (may peace

and blessings of Allah be upon him) to say 'As-Salamu 'Alaikum' while coming, going, and roaming around.

- ★ Avoid confronting each other. Do not indulge in unnecessary discussions.
- ★ Co-operate with assigned duty workers.

I have been saying time and again to take care while traveling. If you feel drowsy, then do not opt to travel even if there is a danger of losing your job. Do not lose the life for which we suffer so much. The one who dies leaves behind so many miseries for his relations to bear. Sometimes, cars crash due to others' fault, and sometimes, they slip. As far as nature is concerned, one cannot fight with it, but it is mandatory for a person to take every caution and then leave matters to God.

*(Instructions given on the occasion of Jalsa Germany, Weekly Badr, Qadian, Oct. 11, 2001)*





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# HADHRAT MIRZA MASROOR AHMAD

KHALIFAT-UL-MASIH V<sup>ABA</sup>

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Hadhrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad, Khalifatul-Masih V<sup>aba</sup> gave guidance to the workers and guests attending the Annual Conventions.

## Guidance for WORKERS



★ Whatever duties have been assigned; volunteers should strive to fulfill them in the best possible manner. They should consider all guests to be the guests of the Promised Messiah (may peace be on him). They should exhibit the highest standards of morality. They should overlook whatever behavior may be displayed by the guests and should maintain their own high standards of behavior.



★ The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> used to say that the heart of a guest is like a mirror; it is fragile and must be carefully cared for. It can shatter upon the slightest thing and be put on trial over the most minor thing. This generally applies to newcomers or those not part of the Community. The volunteers must take special care to tend to these guests in the best manner, no matter what or where their duty may be.

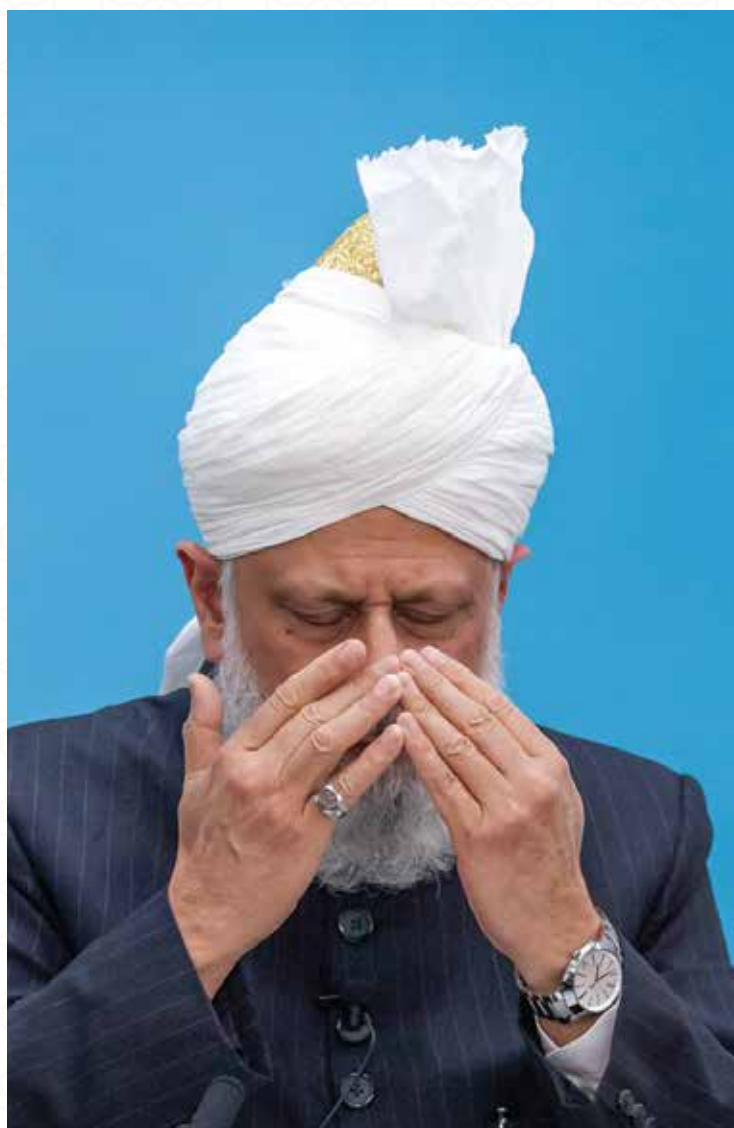
## Guidance for GUESTS attending the convention



★ Guests have come to the convention for a righteous purpose and have come as guests of Hadhrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>. Rather than trying to attain any sort of worldly rank or status, they must focus on attaining the lofty purpose of every Muslim, and for which they are attending this convention. Those who undertake a journey for the sake of God care very little about worldly comforts and care more about becoming

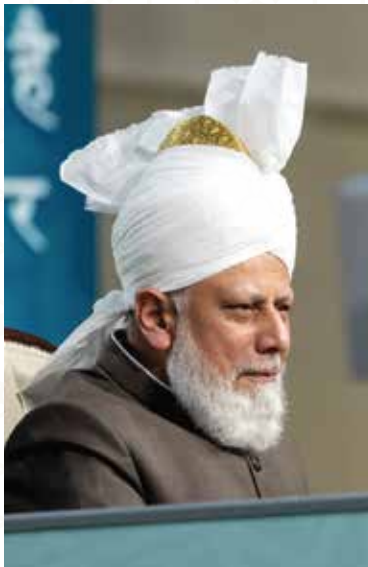
spiritually nourished. Thus, the guests of the Jalsa should never be considered as worldly guests. When this is the mentality, then minor weaknesses or shortcomings can be overlooked.

- ★ The volunteers strive their utmost to ensure everyone attending the Jalsa is treated equally and fairly, however, certain discrepancies can naturally arise. The guests should overlook any such instances. Where the hosts or volunteers are enjoined to care for the guests, the guests must also be mindful of their hosts and should try to afford them ease as well.
- ★ The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> used to care a great deal for his guests. During ordinary times, he would say that guests should express their needs without any hesitation. However, during the days of the convention, the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> advised that the arrangements should be the same for all as far as possible. Therefore, hospitality takes on a different form, and the organizers do their best to ensure that the basic and required needs are met.
- ★ The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> would emphasize to the guests that their purpose is beyond any worldly endeavor; instead, it is to learn the faith and to purify one's mind and heart while drawing nearer to Allah the Almighty. This is the mindset with which one should attend the Jalsa.
- ★ Everyone should sit quietly in the hall and listen to the speeches. A believer should use time wisely. Naturally, when so many people are gathering from around the world, there is a desire to meet one's acquaintances and family members from around the world, as is one of



the purposes of the convention. The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> said that one of the purposes of this convention is to strengthen ties of brotherhood. Of course, this requires meeting one another, however, the focus should be on attentively listening to the proceedings, and only afterward should one then take the time to meet others. Sometimes it has been noticed that these meetings will take so long that they will go late into the night, causing people difficulty in waking up for the morning prayer (Fajr). This also puts volunteers in a problematic position when people sit for extended periods in the food marquee or even for hosts at homes where guests are staying.





Hence, there must be balance.

- ★ The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> said that guests should not linger after having eaten so that the volunteers can have time to wrap up and prepare for the next meal. Hence, the guests must remain mindful of such things.
- ★ During large gatherings, disagreements can arise. It could be that a guest becomes displeased with a volunteer and says something to them, and then perhaps the volunteer also responds in a certain way which starts a back-and-forth. This behavior creates a negative aura and impacts the environment, even if such instances are rare. Allah the Almighty says that true believers suppress their anger. Hence, both the one being wronged and the wrongdoer should keep the sanctity in

mind. If, in the view of a guest, they have been wronged, then even then, they should exhibit patience. If a volunteer feels that a guest is being unjust in what they are saying, then they should remain patient and should suppress their anger.

- ★ In light of the state of the world, security becomes that much more critical. Some may find security checks and having to pass through various checkpoints to be inconvenient. This particularly impacts the women, as they have children with them and will often have multiple bags with them that are to be checked, which takes time. Hence, women should try to bring a minimal number of bags with them. As for those with children, they should bring with them only the necessities and not extra things.



Otherwise, the increased number of bags that require checking will hold up lines and take more time, causing difficulty to others as well.

- ★ The commandments for a believer by the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> are that they should maintain contact with even those who cut ties with them and to give to even those who do not give to them. Similarly, one should be kind to even those who speak in an inappropriate manner to them. Hence, these things point toward having more remarkable patience. This spirit must be exhibited by both the volunteers and the guests. By the wishes of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>, everyone should strive to establish an atmosphere of love and harmony.
- ★ The volunteers and guests should bear in mind that non-Ahmadi Muslims and non-Muslims may be attending the Jalsa as well. Hence, if they exhibit the highest level of morality, then this will serve as a form of silent propagation and impact the guests.
- ★ Those attending the Jalsa should establish the habit of saying Assalamu Alaikum (Islamic greeting of peace) to one another. This is an excellent prayer taught to us. Not only does doing so eliminate any sort of fear, but it also is a beautiful prayer that gives way to an atmosphere of peace and security.
- ★ Influenced by the esteemed personage of the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup>, the Companions strived to fulfill every commandment of the Holy Qur'an. One of the commandments in the Holy Qur'an is that if a guest is turned away by the host, then the guest should happily leave and return to their home.
- ★ The Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> emphasized that one should convey greetings of peace to those whom they know and also to those whom they do not



know. When this atmosphere is established at Jalsa, then it will have an impact not only on outside guests but will also serve as a valuable lesson for new converts and will also create a more comfortable environment for them to feel like a part of the community.

- ★ There are also various exhibitions at the convention. For example, there is an exhibition on the occasion of a hundred years elapsing from the time when the Second Caliph (may Allah be pleased with him) visited Europe and the UK. There are also exhibitions by The Review of Religions, the Archives and Outreach departments, and Makhzan-e-Tasaweer (Repository of Photos). These exhibitions should be visited.





The best form of security is for everyone to be aware of their surroundings. Doing so eliminates the possibility for any evil-doers to do anything harmful. Similarly, if there are any unattended bags, they should be pointed out to the relevant authorities as should be the case with any suspicious activity.





# HISTORY OF ANNUAL CONVENTIONS

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## 1891 1<sup>ST</sup> JALSA

During the first Jalsa Salana in 1891, Hadhrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>, announced that the newly initiated Jalsa would be held annually on the 27th of December.

Accordingly, in 1892, Jama'at members traveled to Qadian for the Jalsa Salana and benefited from the blessed company of Hadhrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, the Promised Messiah and Mahdi<sup>as</sup>.

## 1892 THE BIG JALSA

The Jalsa Salana of 1892 became known as “**The Big Jalsa**” among the attendees.

This Jalsa was held next to a pond in Qadian, the stage was built from the mud collected from and around the pond. The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> sat upon the raised platform covered with a carpet, and members of the community were seated around him on the ground.



# Annual Conventions Held in Qadian, India (1891-1946)



## •1891 - 1900

### Year : Attendance

1891 : 75 (First Jalsa)  
1892 : 500  
1893 : Cancelled by  
Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>  
1894 : NA

### Year : Attendance

1895 : NA  
1896 : Cancelled due to the  
Int'l. Religious Conf. held  
in Lahore  
1897-1899 : NA  
1900 : 500

## •1921-1930

### Year : Attendance

1921 : 7,192  
1922 : 9,000  
1923 : 15,000  
1924 : 18,000  
1925 : 14,384  
1926 : 15,617  
1927 : 16,520  
1928 : 25,000  
1929 : 20,316  
1930 : 17,316

## 1931-1940

### Year: Attendance

1931 : 25,776  
1932 : 20,752  
1933 : NA  
1934 : 25,000  
1935 : 21,278  
1936 : 25,856  
1937 : 31,820  
1938 : 38,479  
1939 : 47,950  
1940 : 33,000

## •1941-1946

### Year : Attendance

1941 : 27,209  
1942 : 23,760  
1943 : 39,256  
1944 : 22,600  
1945 : 42,435  
1946 : 47,786



Place of Second Manifestation - May 28, 1908



## •1901-1910

### Year : Attendance

1901 : NA  
1902 : Cancelled due to plague  
1903 : NA  
1904 : 250  
1905 : NA  
1906 : More than 1,500 (Last Jalsa  
of Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>)  
1907 : 3,000 (approx.)  
1908 : 2,500 (First Jalsa of  
Khalifatul Masih 1<sup>ra</sup>)  
1909 : 3,000  
1910 : 2,500

## •1911-1920

### Year : Attendance

1911 : 3,000  
1912 : 3,500  
1913 : 3,000  
1914 : 3,500  
1915 : 4,400  
1916 : 5,000  
1917 : NA  
1918 : 5,000  
1919 : 7,000  
1920 : 7,000



Masjid Mubarak Qadian



Masjid Noor Qadian



Bait-ud-Dua Qadian





Hadhrat Khalifat-ul-Masih V <sup>aba</sup> at Jalsa Qadian 2005



Annual Convention Qadian 2023



Annual Convention Qadian 2022



Mubarak Mosque Qadian



Arrival of Guests at Qadian Railway Station



People waiting in queue at Bait-ud-Dua

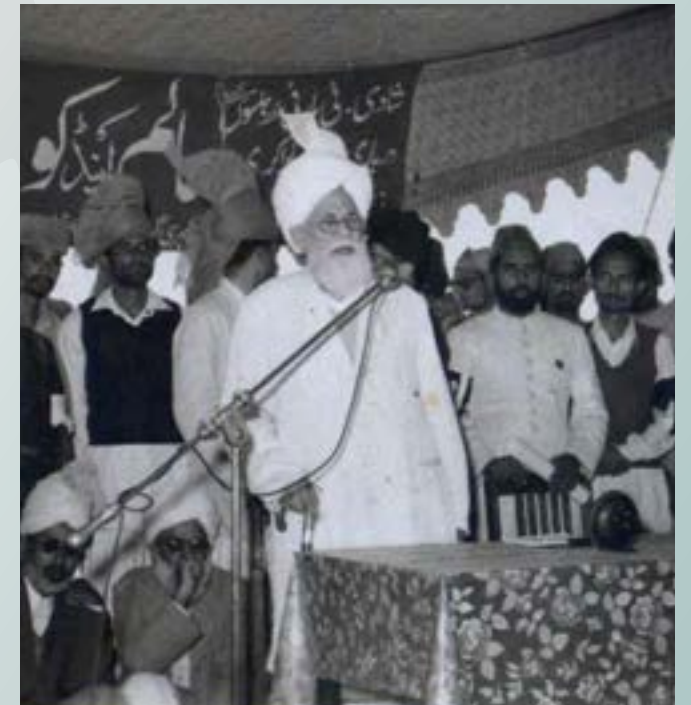


Roti (flat bread) Plant Qadian - Jalsa 2018



# Annual Conventions held in Rabwah Pakistan (1949-1984)

As the number of attendees continued to increase, the venue of Jalsa also continued to move to larger venues



Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> at 1958 Jalsa



## 1949-1955

### Year : Attendance

1949 : 16,000 (First Convention in Rabwah)  
 1950 : 30,000  
 1951 : 31,250  
 1952 : 41,600  
 1953 : 51,974  
 1954 : 6,308 (Men attendance not known)  
 1955 : 50,000



A camp at Rabwah in its early days



First Jalsa 1949, Rabwah



Rabwah in its early years, 1948-1949



Rabwah in its early years, 1948-1949

## 1956-1960

### Year : Attendance

1956 : 74,000  
 1957 : 70,000  
 1958 : 125,000  
 1959 : 70,000  
 1960 : 90,000

## 1961-1965

### Year : Attendance

1961 : 85,000  
 1962 : 90,000  
 1963 : 100,000  
 1964 : 100,000 (Last Convention of the second Khilafat)  
 1965 : 100,000 (First Convention of the third Khilafat)

## 1971-1975

### Year : Attendance

1971 : (Convention canceled due to the Indo-Pak war)  
 1972 : 170,000  
 1973 : 125,000  
 1974 : 125,000  
 1975 : 125,000

## 1966-1970

### Year : Attendance

1966 : 80,000  
 1967 : 85,000  
 1968 : 100,000  
 1969 : 100,000  
 1970 : 100,000

## 1976-1980

### Year : Attendance

1976 : 179,537  
 1977 : 150,000  
 1978 : 170,000  
 1979 : 235,660  
 1980 : 220,000

## 1981-1984

### Year : Attendance

1981 : 289,600  
 1982 : 291,600  
 1983 : 355,721  
 1984 : From 1984 onward, no annual convention could be held in Pakistan as permission was not granted by Govt. of Pakistan





First Jalsa at Rabwah, 1949



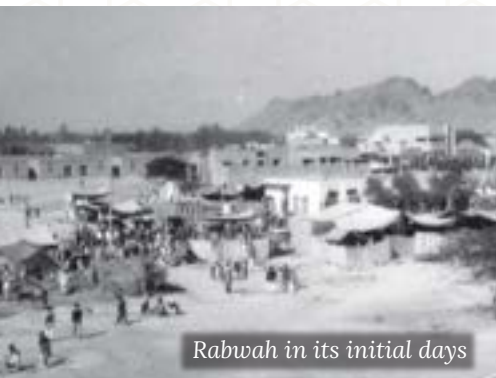
Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> addressing at the first Jalsa in Rabwah, 1949



Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> addressing 1955 Jalsa in Rabwah. Hadhrat Chaudhry Zafrullah Khan<sup>ra</sup> sitting beside the table



Concluding prayer in Jalsa at Rabwah



Rabwah in its initial days



Rabwah in its initial days



Rabwah in its initial days



The 1951 Jalsa



Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> addressing at a Jalsa



Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> presiding a Jalsa



Maulana Abdul Malik Khan helping Hadhrat Khalifatul-Masih II<sup>ra</sup> to wear shoes

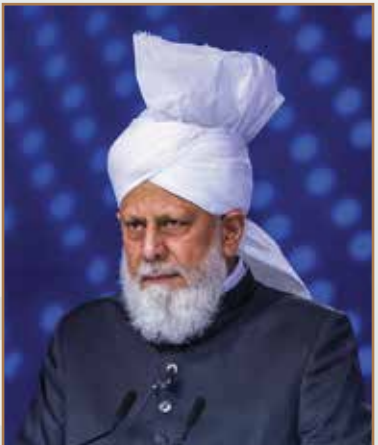


Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> addressing at 1958 Jalsa





*"The primary purpose of this Convention is to enable every sincere individual to personally experience religious benefits... promote mutual introduction among all brothers, and it will strengthen the fraternal ties within this Community.."*



*"Those who undertake a journey for the sake of God care very little about worldly comforts and care more about becoming spiritually nourished. Thus, the guests of the Jalsa should never consider them as worldly guests. When this is the mentality, then small weaknesses or shortcomings can be overlooked."*



#### 1948-1957

1948 : Dayton, Ohio  
1949 : Pittsburgh, PA  
1950 : Cleveland, Ohio  
1951 : Cleveland, Ohio  
1952 : Dayton, Ohio  
1953 : Chicago, IL  
1954 : Pittsburgh, PA  
1955 : Saint Louis, MO  
1956 : Cleveland, Ohio  
1957 : Dayton, Ohio

#### 1958-1967

1958 : Pittsburgh, PA	1963 : Cleveland, Ohio
1959 : Chicago, IL	1964 : Cleveland, Ohio
1960 : Newyork, NY	1965 : Dayton, Ohio
1961 : No Jalsa Held	1966 : Dayton, Ohio
1962 : Pittsburgh, PA	1967 : No Jalsa Held

#### 1978-1987

1978 : Dayton, Ohio  
1979 : Saint Louis, MO  
1980 : No Jalsa Held  
1981 : Washington DC  
1982 : Wayne, New Jersey  
1983 : Bellville, MI  
1984 : Madison, Wisconsin  
1985 : Madison, Wisconsin  
1986 : Washington DC  
1987 : Baltimore, Maryland

#### 1988-1997

1988 : Baltimore, Maryland  
1989 : Baltimore, Maryland  
1990 : Detroit, Michigan  
1991 : Ypsilanti, Michigan  
1992 : Long Island, New York  
1993 : Long Island, New York  
1994 : Bait-Ur-Rahman, Maryland  
1995 : Bait-Ur-Rahman, Maryland  
1996 : Bait-Ur-Rahman, Maryland  
1997 : Bait-Ur-Rahman, Maryland

#### 1968-1977

1968 : Dayton, Ohio  
1969 : Dayton, Ohio  
1970 : Dayton, Ohio  
1971 : Washington DC  
1972 : Lake Forest, IL  
1973 : Lake Forest, IL  
1974 : Boston, MA  
1975 : Wilberforce, Ohio,  
1976 : Madison, New Jersey  
1977 : Saint Louis, MO

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#### 2008-2017

2008 : Harrisburg, Pennsylvania  
2009 : Chantilly, Virginia  
2010 : Chantilly, Virginia  
2011 : Chantilly, Virginia  
2012 : Harrisburg, Pennsylvania  
2013 : Harrisburg, Pennsylvania  
2014 : Harrisburg, Pennsylvania  
2015 : Harrisburg, Pennsylvania  
2016 : Harrisburg, Pennsylvania  
2017 : Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

#### 2018-2024

2018 : Harrisburg, Pennsylvania  
2019 : Harrisburg, Pennsylvania  
2020 : No Jalsa Held due to Pandemic  
2021 : No Jalsa Held due to Pandemic  
2022 : Harrisburg, Pennsylvania  
2023 : Harrisburg, Pennsylvania  
2024 : Greater Richmond Convention Center (GRCC), Virginia

8

#### 2025

Greater Richmond Convention Center (GRCC) Virginia

#### 1998-2007

1998 : Bait-Ur-Rahman, Maryland  
1999 : Chantilly, Virginia  
2000 : Bait-Ur-Rahman, Maryland  
2001 : Bait-Ur-Rahman, Maryland  
2002 : Bait-Ur-Rahman, Maryland  
2003 : Bait-Ur-Rahman, Maryland  
2004 : Bait-Ur-Rahman, Maryland  
2005 : Chantilly, Virginia  
2006 : Chantilly, Virginia  
2007 : Chantilly, Virginia



## Journey of Jalsa Salana USA (1948-2025)





# ANNUAL CONVENTIONS IN THE USA

## First Annual Convention in the USA

Dr. Khalil Ahmad Nasir was an early missionary to the US, arriving in 1946 and becoming the missionary in charge in 1948. He is credited with starting the annual conventions in the USA. Although we may not know all the details of this blessed convention, it was held in Dayton, OH, in September 1948. Dr. Nasir published the following report in the fourth quarter print of the Muslim Sunrise in the same year.

## Ahmadi Muslim Community Opens a New Chapter in America

First Annual Convention of the U.S. Ahmadiyya Muslim Mission secretariat was established with the object of coordinating the work of different missions. The year of 1948 witnessed an important step forward in the history of the Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam in the United States. Foundations were laid for the consolidated efforts of various Ahmadiyya Muslim missions in America to further the noble cause of Islam at the first annual Ahmadiyya Convention held at Dayton, Ohio, last September.

Achievements at the Convention included a solid program of educational, social, propagational, and financial activities. A central

secretariat was established with the object of coordinating the work of different missions. Publication of literature received particular attention, and in this connection wider circulation of the MOSLEM SUNRISE was enthusiastically pledged.

Notes of deep fidelity to Ahmadiyyat and greater drive for the propagation of Islam rang all through the deliberations. One could not help to infer that the sincerity and zeal showing in the ardent Ahmadies was auguring a blessed era of determined conquest of the wide world around to bring

eternal peace and happiness to all the people through Islam.

If American Ahmadies act up to the ambitions to which they pledged their efforts at their first Convention, Allah, according to His promise, is sure to come to their help even as He did when the handful of faithful made similar pledges more than thirteen centuries ago with practically no means available to achieve their purpose: nevertheless, in less than half a century they succeeded in conquering major part of the then known world of Islam.

## Second Annual Convention in the USA

Pittsburgh, PA, September 17 and 18, 1949

The second annual convention was held in Pittsburgh, PA, on Sep. 17 and 18, 1949. Approximately 200 attendees, including Hadhrat Chaudhry Zafrullah Khan<sup>ra</sup>, attended. Hadhrat Mirza Bashir-ud-Din Mahmud Ahmad, Khalifatul-Masih II<sup>ra</sup> sent a message to the members of the USA Jama'at on this auspicious occasion.

## A Message to the Ahmadiyya Muslims on the Second Annual Convention of the American Missions - Sep. 17-18, 1949

York House, Lytton Road  
Quetta, Pakistan  
2nd September, 1949

My dear friends and spiritual children of the United States of America.

*Assalaamu Alaikum-wa-Rahmatullhi-wa-Barakuthu*

I have been asked by our Missionary-in-Charge in the United States of America, Mr. Khalil Ahmad Nasir, to write a message for you to be read in your Second Convention. It is a great pleasure for me to do so. Twenty-nine years ago, I sent Mufti Mohammad Sadiq, an old companion of the Promised Messiah (peace be on him), to introduce the Ahmadiyya Movement in your country. He, after reaching the United States of America, chose Chicago as the centre of his mission. His was a lonely voice raised in support of the truth about a quarter of a century back; and probably the people laughed when they heard him preach Islam and call them to Ahmadiyyat—the true and divinely inspired interpretation of Islam. Probably they thought that this grey bearded man was mad just as the peoples of old thought every prophet and his disciples were mad. But those who thought so were mad themselves. The sheep that does not recognize the



shepherd is mad and destined for destruction, for it becomes the prey of that old wolf—Satan; and loses all hope of Salvation.

My dear friends and children! No country and no people are absolutely without any seekers after truth. The voice which was taken as the babble of a mad man by many, began to attract some of those who were destined to be the pioneers and torch-bearers of truth in the United States of America. May be some of them are still alive, may be none are. Even if all of



them have left this world, their spirits might be hovering over your heads just now seeing in you the seed which is being broadcast by God in the wilderness, as well as in some well prepared soil, to grow in time and become a heavy crop to give a new life to millions and millions of people of your country.

My friends and children! Ahmadiyyat is the message of God Almighty and not a scheme conceived by any mortal being. So you should look upon it as such and try to follow it literally and with great care. No good citizen breaks the law of his country and so is the case of a true believer. He knows that the law of God is based upon infallible philosophy and is for his good and betterment. So always try and strive to know more and more about Islam and Ahmadiyyat, so that your actions may be in complete accord with the law chosen for you by your Creator. God Almighty says in the Holy Quran,

*"Today I have brought to perfection the spiritual code according to which you have to live and thus I have filled for you the cup of my blessings to its very brim."*

This verse shows that every order and injunction given by the Holy Quran is for the spiritual uplift of man and not as an arbitrary order to make the human beings feel their serfdom to God. God has

**“ So I advise you with all the love I bear for you, to avail yourselves of this great opportunity of being pioneers of the truth in your country and set a grand example of true obedience to God and His religion for your contemporaries and for the coming generations...” ”**

**“ Ahmadiyyat is the message of God Almighty and not a scheme conceived by any mortal being. So you should look upon it as such and try to follow it literally and with great care. ”**

nothing to gain if we follow 'The Law'. It is we who benefit from it and so the person who is lukewarm in his obedience to the law in letter and in spirit, is himself the loser. Woe to him who finds the door of heaven opened for him but turns his face and goes astray. So I advise you with all the love I bear for you, to avail yourselves of this great opportunity of being pioneers of the truth in your country and set a grand example of true obedience to God and His religion for your contemporaries and for the coming generations, so much so that you become in the eyes of God, the deliverers of your country and your people; and become like the first disciples of the prophets of old. Those disciples had no special claims on God; their only claim was that they were the first to believe, first to make sacrifices and first to live a life which was not in conformity with the lives of their countrymen. They bore and bore well all rebuke; they took with a light heart all ridicule and stuck to the way which God chose for them and thus they became the chosen people of God. Old orders and governments die out giving place to new ones but these disciples' good name has been kept alive all along. Mighty nations have perished; strong governments have succumbed but these people never died and are still living in the memories of millions of people who love them more than their own kith and kin.

Dear friends and my spiritual children! Fortunately you have got the same opportunity, being the first bearers of truth in the United States of America, being disciples of the disciples of the Promised

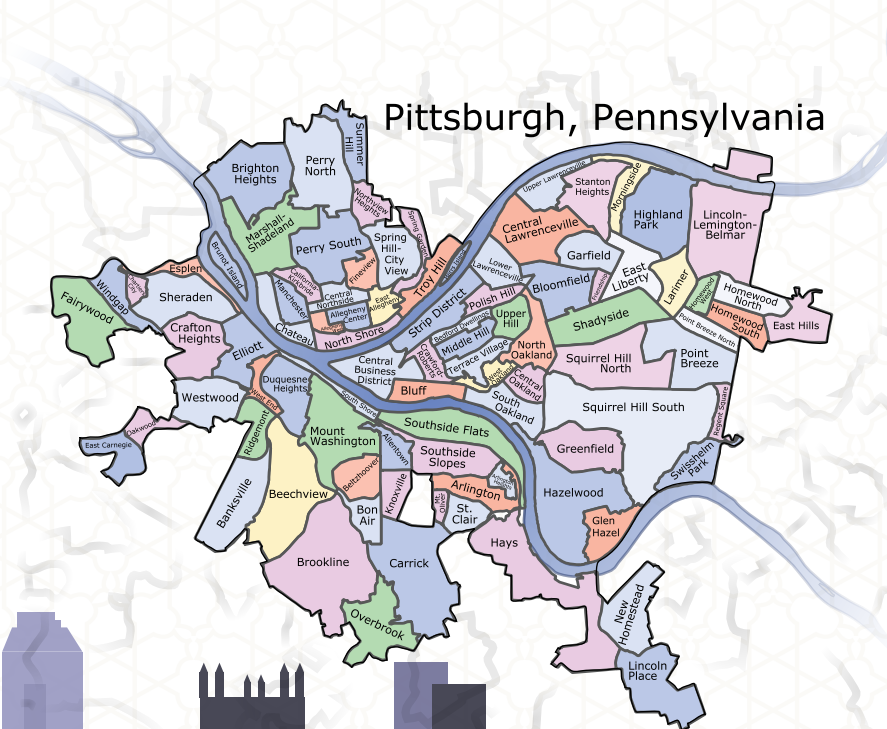
Messiah (peace be on him)–beloved of God, His only begotten son, in the same sense as the Christ was. God has no son but those who gain His presence and win His pleasure through steadfast love and never wavering faith, become like sons to Him. Nay even more than that. A father may forsake his son in certain circumstances but God never forsakes His beloved ones. You have a further blessing that you found the time of the Promised Son and so you are not mere disciples of the disciples of the Promised Messiah (peace be on him) but are also like the first disciples themselves. So rise to the grand occasion and act according to your exalted position. Do not forget that everybody is directly responsible to his God. Therefore, do not copy anybody's weaknesses but follow the word of God and His Prophets and try to live a life even more pious and cleaner than the lives of those who have come to teach you. I also hope that my representatives there, will set a good example for you and will not act in a way detrimental to the cause of Islam and misleading the seekers after truth. Woe to him who gets the opportunity of bringing people to the fold of God but delivers them to His eternal enemy--Satan. May God help. you, your preachers and your country, so that all of you gain the blessings of God and your country, through your untiring efforts

**“Do not forget that everybody is directly responsible to his God. Therefore, do not copy anybody's weaknesses but follow the word of God and His Prophets and try to live a life even more pious and cleaner than the lives of those who have come to teach you.”**

and the grace of God, becomes one of the first strongholds of God and His true and living religion--Islam, which is truly represented in our time by Ahmadiyyat. AMEN.

Yours very sincerely,

KHALIFATUL MASIHI II





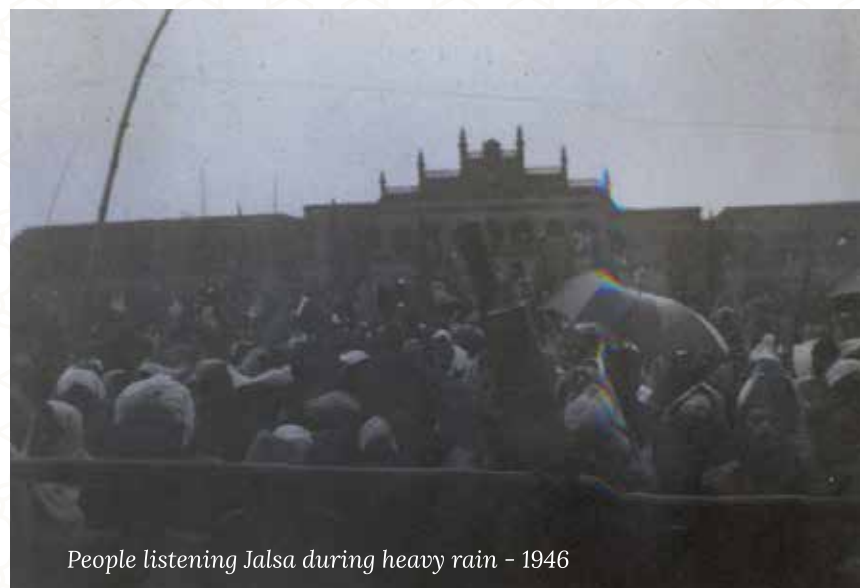
# PICTORIAL GLIMPSE OF SOME EARLY JALSAS HELD IN INDIA BEFORE PARTITION



*Jalsa at Eidgah, Qadian*



*People listening to Jalsa during heavy rain - 1946*



*People listening Jalsa during heavy rain - 1946*



*A bird's-eye view of Qadian - 1945*





*Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> arriving at Jalsa - 1939*





Jalsa - 1939



A view of Audience at Jalsa - 1939



Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup>  
arriving at Silver Jubilee Jalsa - 1939



Jalsa - 1940



Jalsa 1945 - Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> presiding the Jalsa &  
Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih III<sup>ra</sup> (Not Khalifa at that time) doing a speech





Chaudhry Zafrullah Khan<sup>ra</sup> talking with  
Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> at Jalsa 1939



Jamaat Hyderabad arriving with Flag alongwith a few  
companions of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>



Liwa-e-Ahmadiyyat at Jalsa with its security



Another view of Jalsa gathering

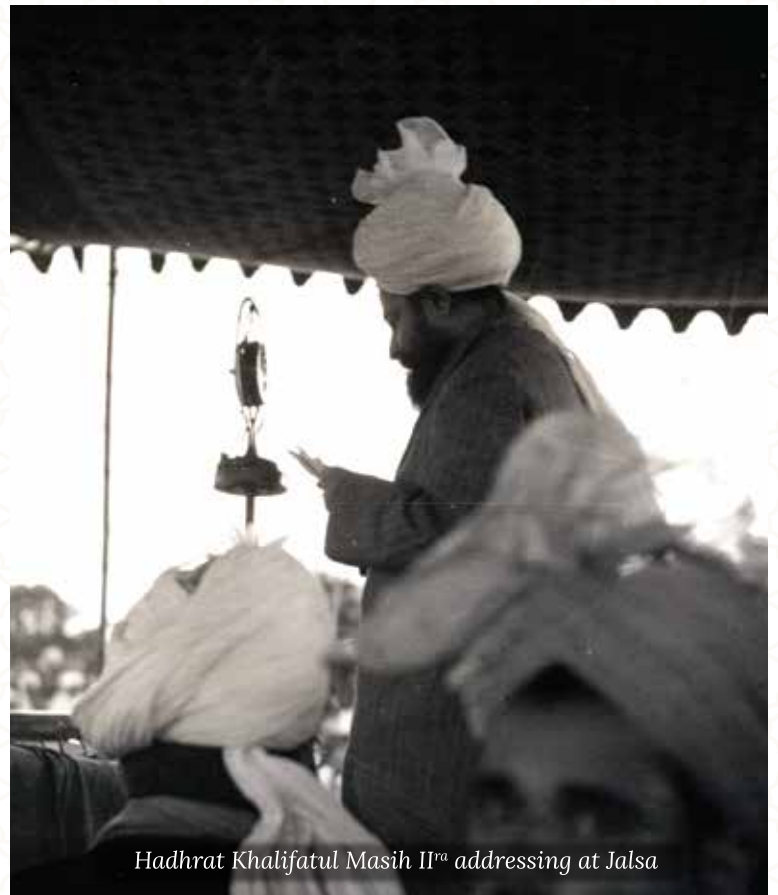


Hadhrat Khalifatul-Masih II<sup>ra</sup> performing Wudu



Different Jamaat entering Jalsa with their Flag Banners







# PARTITION OF THE SUBCONTINENT

PAKISTAN & INDIA - 1947

International conventions move to Pakistan with the move of the Ahmadiyya international headquarters to Pakistan



People migrating from India to Pakistan



People migrating from India to Pakistan

## History of Lahore Jalsa (1947-1948)

International annual conventions in 1947 and 1948 are held in Lahore Pakistan before they move Rabwah in Pakistan.

Date	Venue of Convention	Attendance	Remarks
27-28 Dec. 1947	Ratan Bagh, Jodha Mal Building	6,250	First Convention in Pakistan
28 Mar. 1948 Supplement	Ratan Bagh, Jodha Mal Building	4,250	Supplement convention to enable those who could not attend Dec. convention
25-26 Dec. 1948 Lahore Jamaat	Ratan Bagh, Jodha Mal Building	17,000	Convention Jama'at Lahore. Hadhrat Khalifatul-Masih II <sup>ra</sup> attended





# ANNUAL CONVENTIONS

## NOW ARE HELD IN ALL CONTINENTS



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The Al-Fazl (Urdu) and Al-Hakam (English) newspapers of recent years have mentioned the following annual conventions. They have listed only the conventions that were reported to them. Though it is not a complete list, it shows that by now, annual conventions are held in many countries all over the world.

Attendance at these conventions depends on the respective country's local economic and political conditions. Holding a convention in Pakistan has not been allowed for many years. Some other countries also have similar restrictions, and it has not been possible to hold a convention there.

These conventions are held for spiritual uplift only and do not have any political or commercial purpose. They are held under the guidance of the rightly guided Khalifa of the Hadhrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, the Promised Messiah and Mahdi<sup>as</sup>.



Flag	Country	Date	Convention No.	Attendance
	Albania	20-October-2024	15th	300
	Australia	12-14 July 2024	36th	3,688
	Bangladesh	13-15 February 2024	99th	7,000
	Belgium	5-7 July 2024	30th	1,509
	Benin	20-22 December 2024	33rd	3,757
	Bosnia	14-July-2024	20th	440
	Brazil	26-28 April 2024	30th	140
	Burkina Faso	27-29 December 2024	33rd	6,522
	Cameroon	17-18 February 2024		2,571
	Canada	5-7 July 2024	46th	25,211
	Chad	24-25 February 2023	1st	523
	Congo Brazzaville	24-25 June 2023	11th	605
	Denmark	1-2 June 2024	31st	334
	Fiji	16-17 December 2023	49th	235
	Finland	8-9 June 2024	11th	308



Flag	Country	Date	Convention No.	Attendance
	France	12-14 July 2024	21st	1,185
	French Guyana	8-9 December 2023	6th	
	Gambia	24-26 May 2024	46th	5,500
	Georgia	24-25 May 2024	2nd	38
	Germany	23-25 August 2024	48th	42,000
	Ghana	9-11 January 2025	92nd	39,000+
	Greece	28-April-24	5th	48
	Guyana	5-7 July 2024	40th	135
	Guinea	30-31 December 2023	10th	3,062
	Guinea Bissau	29-31 December 2023	13th	4,500+
	Holland	28-30 June 2024	42nd	2,812
	Holy Land/Kababir	20-22 July 2023	26th	1,300
	India/Qadian	27-27 December 2024	129th since 1891	16,091
	Ireland	24-25 August 2024	22nd	315
	Ivory Coast	22-24 December 2023	37th	3,800

Flag	Country	Date	Convention No.	Attendance
	Jamaica	23-24 November 2024	10th	
	Kenya	7-8 December 2024	97th	1,602
	Kosovo	26-May-24	11th	248
	Lesotho	12-13 April 2024	1st	165
	Liberia	16-17 February 2024	20th	4,000+
	Lithuania	13-14 October 2023	1st	123
	Luxembourg	18-November-23	2nd	43
	Madagascar	23-24 September 2022	16th	677
	Malta	20-October-24	6th	34
	Mauritius	8-10 December 2023	60th	2,000
	Mayotte	13-14 May 2022	3rd	
	Mexico	16-17 August 2024	5th	100+
	Myanmar	08-December-24	60th	173
	New Zealand	19-20 January 2024	35th	724
	Niger	27-29 December 2024	17th	



Flag	Country	Date	Convention No.	Attendance
	Nigeria	20-22 December 2024	70th	36,283
	Norway	22-23 June 2024	41st	1,050
	Paraguay	25-February-24	4th	115
	Philippines	28-30 June 2024	17th	350
	Principe	20-April-24	3rd	123
	Senegal	31-December-23	11th	3,930
	Sierra Leone	9-11 February 2024	59th	19,219
	Sri Lanka	09-October-23		1,000+
	Surinam	20-22 September 2024	43rd	350
	Sweden	21-22 September 2024	32nd	841
	Switzerland	13-15 September 2024	42nd	876
	Taiwan	02-June-24	1st	29
	Tanzania	27-29 December 2024	53rd	4,150
	UK	26-28 July 2024	58th	43,460
	USA	28-30 June 2024	74th	9,583

ANNUAL CONVENTIONS USA  
PRESIDED BY  
THE KHULAFAT

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# VISIT OF HADHRAT KHALIFATUL-MASIH III<sup>RH</sup>

## 29<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE US

Drew University, Madison, N.J., on 6-7 Aug. 1976



It was the first visit of any Khalifa to the US. Hadrat Khalifatul-Masih III<sup>rh</sup> delivered inaugural and concluding addresses at the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community of the US.

The main points are as follows:

- ★ Hadrat Khalifatul-Masih III<sup>rh</sup> showed serious concerns about the arrangements for seating men and women at the convention. He asserted that the Purdah/Hijab should be strictly observed.
- ★ It is a great responsibility that we pray that a significant number of mankind embraces Islam. Allah has destined Solar and Lunar signs for our Mahdi alone. It was not a sign of truth for any claimant.
- ★ The institution of Khilafat is a great blessing, and it entails blessings for you who believe in Islam-Ahmadiyyat. So, you should get the most out of these blessings while I am in your country.







★ In 1973, Khalifatul-Masih III<sup>rh</sup> launched the scheme “Leap Forward”—a scheme to save our progeny and nation. So, I give you a small plan:

- a) To save the coming generations of Ahmadiyyat in this country
- b) to save the people of America from total annihilation threatening them.
- c) Built vacation schools for children during vacations.
- d) Buy land, say twenty acres, which shall be used for training camps. Where we have organized communities, these lands should be developed.

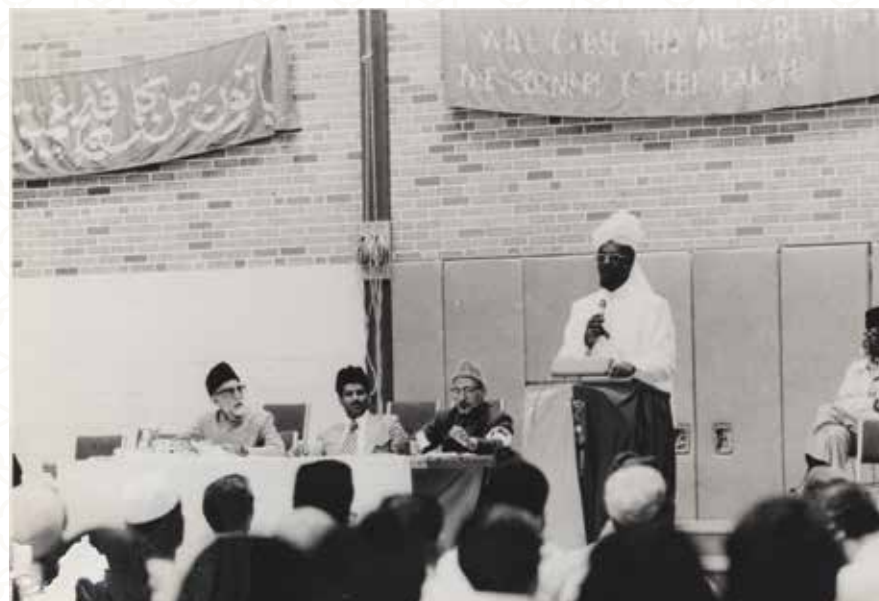
★ The living connection with our Creator in our actual life starts from the very beginning, during





childhood. For this, you are not required to wait until you get to the age of forty, fifty, or sixty years. It was foretold, and the Old Testament also mentions it, that at the time of the Mahdi and Messiah, even the children would be making prophecies. Allah says in the Qur'an: "Allah is the Light of the heavens and the earth." (The Holy Qur'an, 24:36) We should try to get that Light; otherwise, our lives would be just as dark as darkness itself.

“Allah says in the Qur'an: “Allah is the Light of the heavens and the earth.” (The Holy Qur'an, 24:36) We should try to get that Light; otherwise, our lives would be just as dark as darkness itself.”



★ Prepare literature for the children and the converts. I know that children are great readers. When they start reading, they are great readers. When you stop supplying them with the proper kind of literature, their minds go astray. We must have a good press for this purpose! Otherwise, the whole venture would be so expensive that it would not be within our means to achieve it.

★ Our brothers and sisters from this country have been going to Rabwah and participating in the activities of the Anmadiyya Muslim Jama'at at the Jalsa Salana (Annual Convention). This has





produced excellent results. I see transformations in the lives of those who have gone there once, twice, and perhaps three times.

- ★ I said, “Two-prong thrust to save the people of America from the total annihilation threatening them.” This is the truth. We are told of these by Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be on him), by the Qur’an, and by the Messiah and Mahdi Mau’ud (peace be on him) that in this age, if humanity does not come back to its Creator, it is going to be annihilated.
- ★ All the commands which run into more than six hundred in the Holy Qur’an, it is within the power of man to follow. The power has been granted by the Creator to him to obey all these six hundred-plus commands.
- ★ All humans who today do not recognize their Creator, those who have declared that they are going to wipe off the surface of the earth Allah’s Name and His Being from the skies, as the Communists in Russia have written in their literature, it is our responsibility to bring them to their Creator.
- ★ Unless one knows one’s Creator, one cannot really know moral values. The purpose of moral values is to have that beauty in one’s being that pleases Allah’s eye then Allah looks at His creation with love and affection.

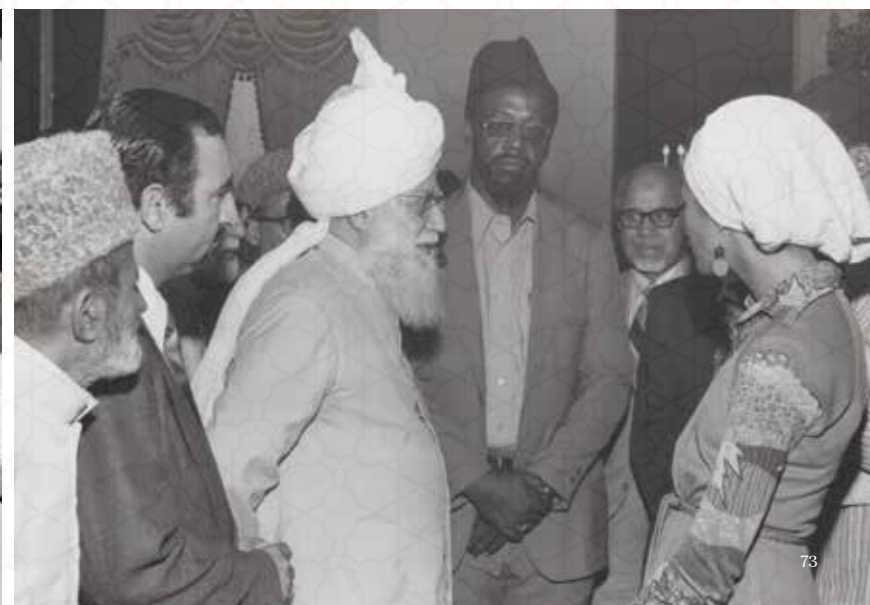


“Prepare literature for the children and the converts. I know that children are great readers. When they start reading, they are great readers. When you stop supplying them with the proper kind of literature, their minds go astray.”





# HIGHLIGHTS OF THE VISITS OF HADHRAT KHALIFATUL-MASIH III<sup>RH</sup>













# VISIT OF HADHRAT KHALIFATUL-MASIH IV<sup>rh</sup>

## 41<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE US

University of Maryland, Baltimore - Jun. 23 to 25, 1989

The Forty-first Annual Convention of USA Jama'at was held at the University of Maryland, Baltimore from Jun. 23 to 25, 1989. Our beloved Imam graced the occasion with his blessed presence in which more than 3,000 attended the event.

The program began with a Friday sermon by Khalifatul-Masih IV<sup>rh</sup>. The Khalifatul-Masih<sup>rh</sup> delivered his inaugural address.

After the preliminary session, Khalifatul-Masih IV<sup>rh</sup> gave his spiritually inspiring inaugural address. The Ahmadiyya Exhibition, the first of its kind was displayed. Khalifatul-Masih IV<sup>rh</sup> viewed the exhibition and appreciated the effort.

After the Jalsa program, in the evening, after leading Maghrib and 'Isha prayers, Khalifatul-Masih IV<sup>rh</sup> held Majlis-e-Irfan (Q/A session) on the main floor of the mosque with simultaneous transmission to the women's section and also to the rest of the world via MTA.

On Saturday, Jun. 24, 1989, Khalifatul-Masih IV<sup>rh</sup> addressed the women. The speech of Khalifatul-Masih<sup>rh</sup> was relayed live to the men's marquee.

Hadrat Khalifatul-Masih IV<sup>rh</sup> also presided over the concluding session on Jun. 25. A poem written by Khalifatul-Masih IV<sup>rh</sup> for martyrs in Pakistan was read by Missionary Zafar Ahmad Sarwar in his melodious voice. Khalifatul-Masih IV<sup>rh</sup> wept quietly as the painful tragedies were recounted in the poem. Then, he delivered his concluding address.

In his concluding address, Hadhrat Khalifatul-Masih<sup>rh</sup> reminded the US, citing from the Holy Qur'an, that mightier powers had existed before and

were destroyed by their waywardness. From the writings of the Promised Messiah (may peace be on him), he pointed out the way for the US to follow.

*(The Ahmadiyya Gazette, USA, Jul./Aug. 1998, pp. 17-19)*







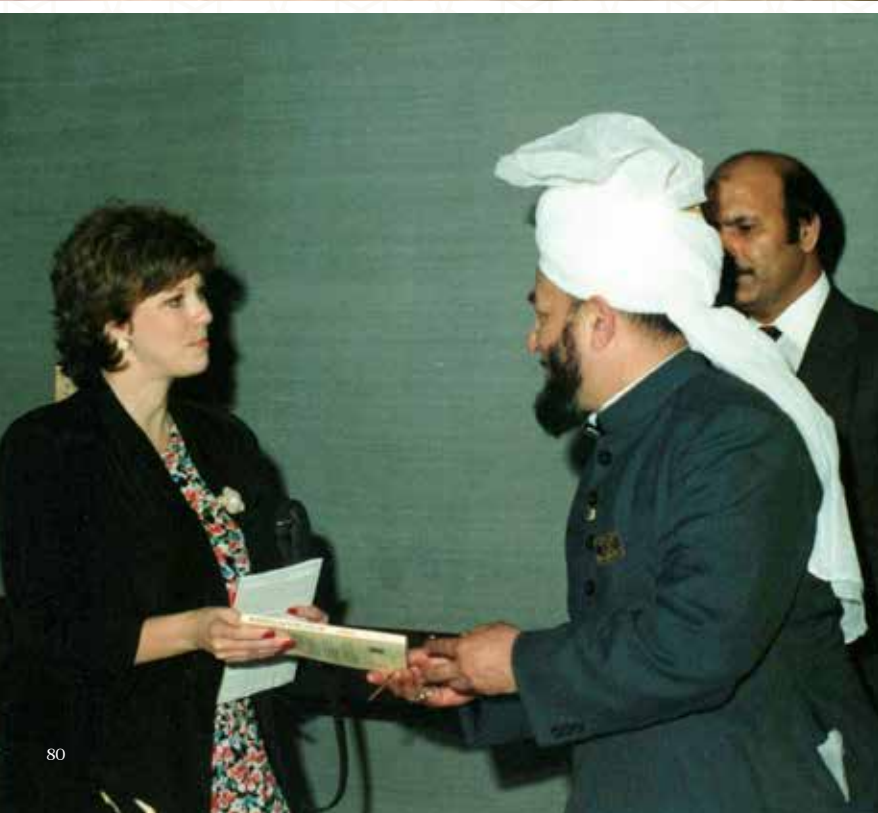














# VISIT OF HADHRAT KHALIFATUL-MASIH IV<sup>RH</sup>

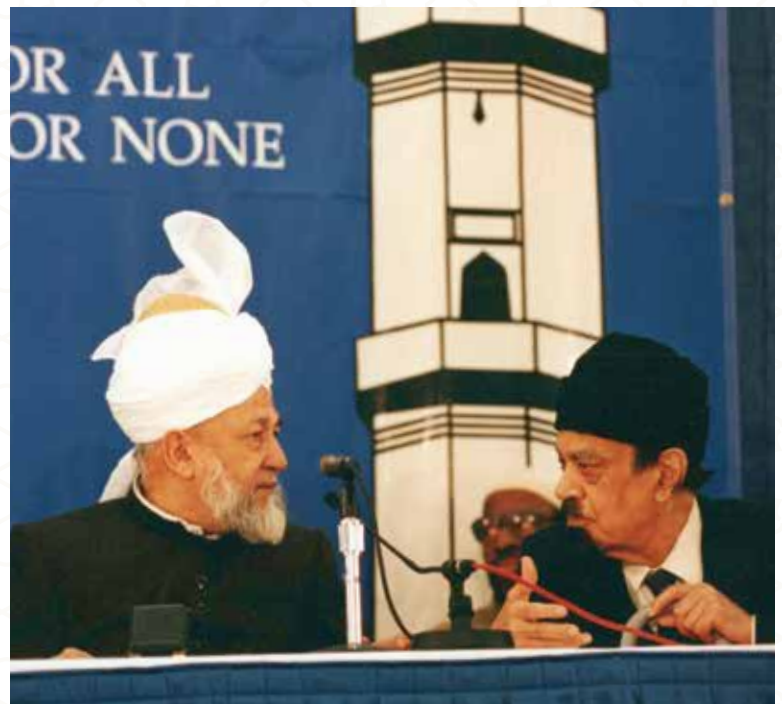
## 46<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE US

Bait-ur-Rahman Mosque, Maryland on 14-15 Oct. 1994



The forty-sixth Annual Ahmadiyya Muslim Convention, USA was held at Bait-ur-Rahman Mosque, Maryland on 14-15 Oct. 1994. Hadrat Khalifatul-Masih IV (may Allah shower His mercy on him) delivered inaugural and concluding addresses. More than 6000 attended the convention.

Masjid Bait-ur-Rahman was inaugurated on Friday, Oct. 14. Friday sermon was delivered by Hadrat Khalifatul-Masih IV<sup>rh</sup>. Hadrat Khalifatul-Masih's<sup>th</sup> address focused on the status, purpose, role, and rights of mosques. He explained that the grandeur of a mosque is not from the grandeur of the physical building or the multitude of visitors. The grandeur of a mosque is from the spiritual and moral







grandeur of its visitors. Hadrat Khalifatul-Masih IV<sup>th</sup> explained that all mosques are open for the worship of the One and Only God by all people. Hadrat Khalifatul-Masih<sup>th</sup> also pointed out the wrong use of the term fundamentalism for persons trained to hate the followers of other religions.

Hadrat Khalifatul-Masih IV<sup>th</sup> addressed the ladies on 14 Oct. 1994. He<sup>th</sup> explained in detail the status, role, and responsibilities of women in the light of the Holy Qur'an and the observations of the Holy Prophet, Mohammed (may peace and blessings of Allah be on him). Hadrat Khalifatul-Masih IV<sup>th</sup> elucidated the importance of the role of the mother in the training and proper upbringing of the next generations.

Hadrat Khalifatul-Masih IV<sup>th</sup> addressed the audience on 15 Oct. 1994 and concluded the Jalsa with dua. Holiness<sup>th</sup> started his address by expressing his pleasure in the attendance. Hadrat Khalifatul-Masih IV<sup>th</sup> expressed his concern about the upbringing of the young and the state of preaching generally in North America. Hadrat Khalifatul-Masih IV<sup>th</sup> warned the Ahmadi Muslims to be aware of the American atmosphere polluted by the toxin of materialism, which is attacking the



human soul and heart spiritually. His Holiness<sup>rh</sup> said that the recent conversions have been from among the people who already were Ahmadis in their conduct and attitude. His Holiness<sup>rh</sup> defined such people as balanced, rational, and honest people who always belonged to Ahmadiyyat. His Holiness<sup>rh</sup> expressed his confidence that if members identify and contact such people in their communities to call them to the One God, they will be rewarded with success. Holiness<sup>rh</sup> explained that great things are happening internationally with respect to conversions, and Americans need to become part and parcel of the international community in this respect too. Holiness<sup>rh</sup> said that the love of Allah and humanity is the motivation for preaching. Once the heart is set on preaching, the mind is excited and generates the wisdom necessary for the task. Holiness<sup>rh</sup> explained the rest of the ingredients to success as fertile soil, a concerted and persistent effort, and earnest prayers. Holiness<sup>rh</sup> supported his narrative with examples of prophets. Holiness<sup>rh</sup> said: "You are situated in a very important country... If you win America, you win the whole world."













# VISIT OF HADHRAT KHALIFATUL-MASIH IV<sup>RH</sup>

48<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE US

Bait-ur-Rahman Mosque, Maryland held in 1996

















# VISIT OF HADHRAT KHALIFATUL-MASIH IV<sup>RH</sup>

49<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE US

Bait-ur-Rahman Mosque, Maryland held on June 20-22, 1997













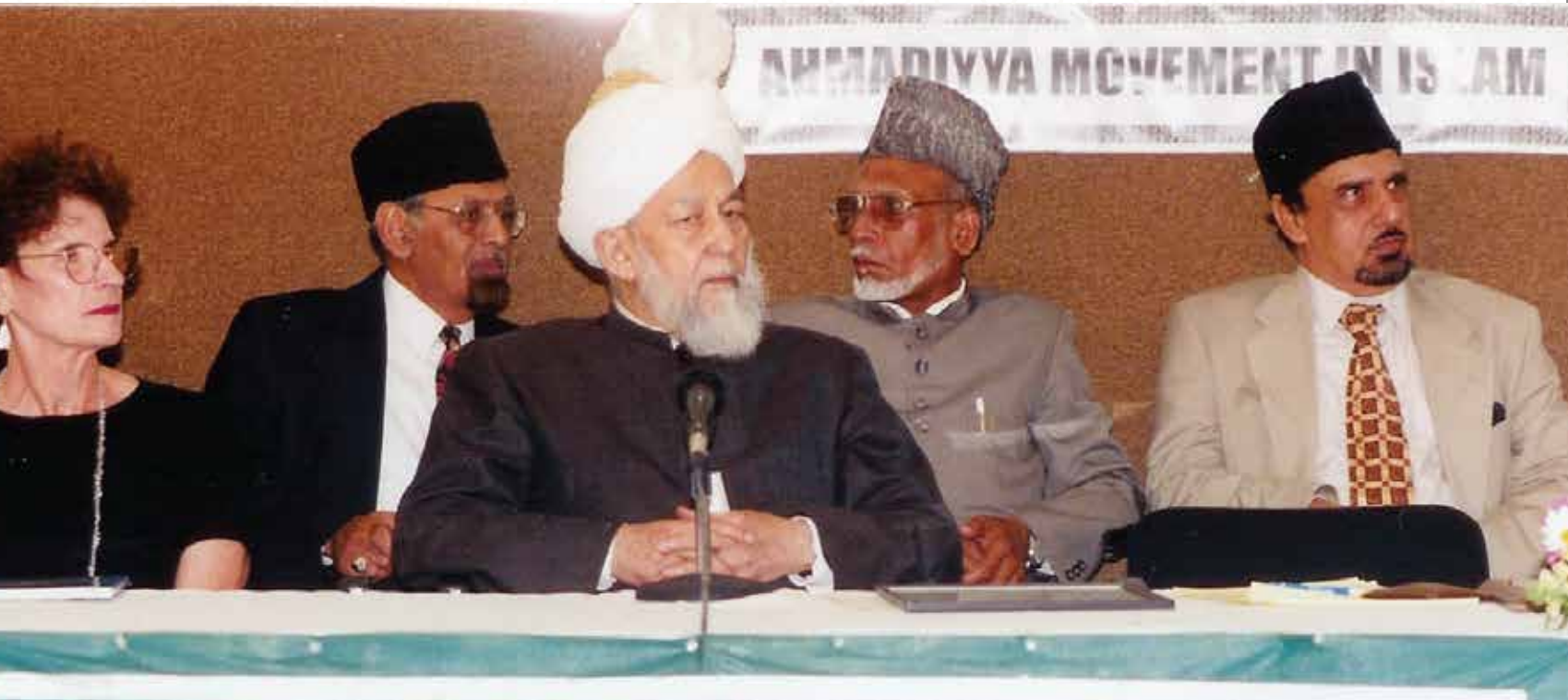




# VISIT OF HADHRAT KHALIFATUL-MASIH IV<sup>RH</sup>

50<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE US

Bait-ur-Rahman Mosque, Maryland on 26-28 June 1998



The 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Ahmadiyya Muslim Convention, USA, was held at Bait-ur-Rahman, Silver Spring, Maryland, on 26-28 Jun. 1998. Hadrat Khalifatul-Masih IV (may Allah shower His mercy on him) addressed all three days of the convention. Over 8,000 people, including delegates from many other countries from all over the major continents, attended.

The program began with the Friday sermon by Hadhrat Khalifatul-Masih IV<sup>rh</sup>, who said:

“Those righteous people are needed who spend in the way of Allah. Spending with devotion will result in mannerliness. Khalifatul-Masih<sup>rh</sup> recited Ayat 2 to 4 and 10 to 11 from Sura Al-Baqarah and explained his hypothesis.

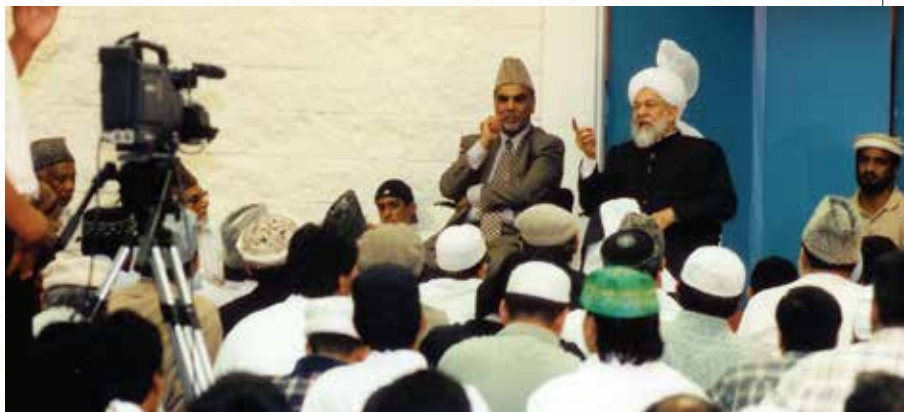
The fiscal year of the Jama'at is ending. Some Jama'ats ask me to pray so that God may help us to

fulfill our pledges (for the financial contribution). In this regard, I have analyzed well-to-do Ahmadi Muslims in the US. I was surprised to see that there are considerable numbers to whom my recited verses can be applied. They are ignorant. They do not realize on which boat they are sitting. It is the boat that is destined to drown. It is my duty to warn them. After this, they should understand that they shall be dealt with by God. But I have decided about it and shall say something about it because the people I know have much more exorbitant income than they declare for paying their dues (Chanda). I know for which I can indeed pledge on oath that they are telling a lie. God has given them much more than what they declare. What types of professions are they holding, it is incumbent that they have ten times or more income than what they are showing. I weighed this scenario. There are some sincere





friends for whom I can witness that they were never dishonest in any matter. They give Chanda and try to hide it, but the one who openly shows is much more what they pay in one year than their fellow's payments of ten years. When I asked them about their income, then I came to know that God has bestowed so much on some professionals that they do not tell a lie, contributing in the way of Allah. If all people follow them, then the whole needs of the USA Jama'at can be fulfilled from Chanda Aam (General Contribution), not only for today but also for the coming years regarding all the construction expenditures. Moreover, enough money should be saved for Tabligh (preaching) purposes for which you cannot visualize that God can provide so much money." (Translated from Khutbat-e-Tahir, vol. 7, pp. 432-433)







# VISIT OF HADHRAT KHALIFATUL-MASIH V<sup>ABA</sup>

## 60<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE US

Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg, on Jun. 20-22, 2008

The 60th Annual Ahmadiyya Muslim Convention, USA, was held at Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg, on Jun. 20-22, 2008. Hadrat Khalifatul-Masih IV (may Allah support him with His mighty help) addressed Lajna Ima'illah on 21st Jun. and delivered his concluding address on Jun. 22, 2008. Ten thousand participated in the convention.

### **Hadrat Khalifatul-Masih V<sup>aba</sup> addresses Lajna**

Khalifatul-Masih V<sup>aba</sup> explained that God has made all inventions of the age to serve the servants of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>. Now, the voice and pictures are transmitted in seconds via satellite. Programs in different languages on the message of Islam or training and reformation of the Jama'at, as well as sermons and speeches that rank



as guidance of the Jama'at, are being received instantaneously worldwide.

Women's financial sacrifices were a lot higher than those of men. Women's sacrifices of their feelings and emotions were higher, too. The sacrifice offered by women for their children was also higher than that by men. In short, no matter which field you look at, it was women who not only caused a revolution but also became the source of bringing about a complete change in the destiny of man.

### **'Purify yourself,' says Khalifatul-Masih<sup>aba</sup> at the concluding session**

Following are excerpts from the concluding address of Khalifatul-Masih V<sup>aba</sup>.





In view of the Khilafat Centenary, this Jalsa holds great importance. Hopefully, its atmosphere will have created an effect and, according to one's ability and faculties, spread various kinds of blessings to every member of the Jama'at. We should continue to improve in good works. It is indeed a favor of God Almighty on you, Ahmadi Muslims living here, that besides granting you admittance to the servitude of the Messiah of Muhammad<sup>sa</sup>, He has also granted you prosperity. Continue to repeat everything good that you hear here and make it an integral part of your lives. We should never forget the expectations that the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> had for us.

Every one of you is a witness to the fact that the Ahmadiyya Jama'at is making dynamic progress; even the opponents have to admit that this Jama'at enjoys the physical support of Allah the Almighty. Your spiritual and moral progress is entirely dependent on Khilafat. You should inculcate this principle in your future generations.

I shall now present some of the characteristics of true believers that are mentioned in the Holy Qur'an. In the Holy Qur'an, Allah says,

“who believe in the unseen and observe prayers and spend out of what we have provided for them” (*The Holy Quran*, 2:4).

That is, they believe in Allah the Almighty and make it such a belief that increases Irfan - literally 'knowledge, awareness, wisdom.' Moreover, they

**“ Women's financial sacrifices were a lot higher than those of men. Women's sacrifices of their feelings and emotions were higher, too. The sacrifice offered by women for their children was also higher than that by men.”**





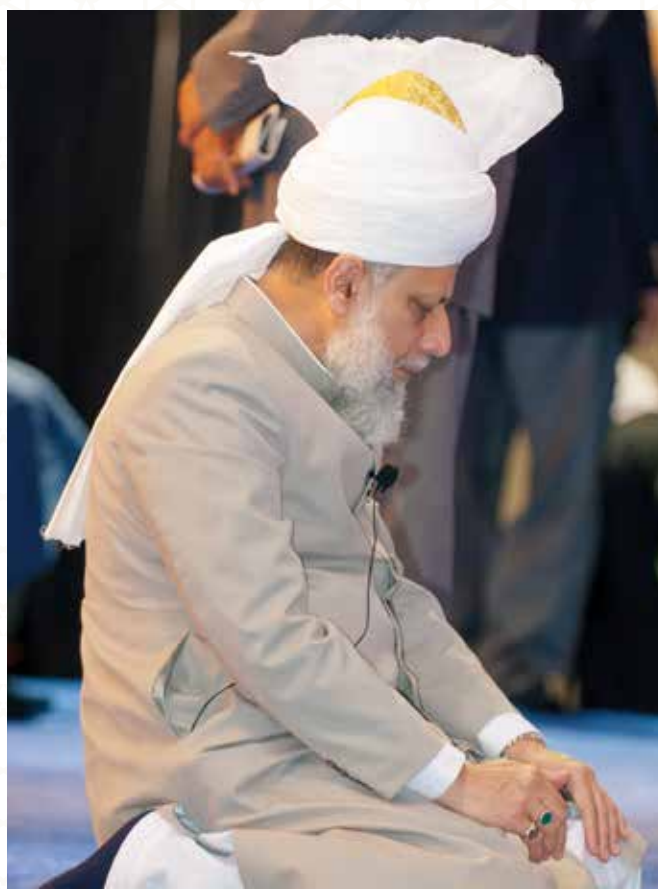
“Your spiritual and moral progress is entirely dependent on Khilafat. You should inculcate this principle in your future generations.”

offer five daily prayers with full attention to offering prayers in congregation, and this is what is meant by observing prayer as instructed by Allah the Almighty.

Allah the Almighty has promised Khilafat to those who progress in their beliefs and to the ones who perform good deeds as well. Allah the Almighty says in the Holy Qur'an,

“and turn not the cheek away from men in pride and nor walk in the earth haughtily, surely Allah loves not any arrogant boaster.” (The Holy Quran, 31:190)

Thus, it is clear that the boaster and the proud are arrogant and that is something greatly disliked by Allah the Almighty. The





Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> said do not disdain the least bit even though it is in greeting your brother with a cheerful face.

There are many films being shown nowadays about theft, robbery, violence, etc. The scriptwriters and filmmakers give the impression that if they show such scenes where the villains meet a sorry end, people will learn a good lesson. But in reality, children and elders do not learn from the ending; instead, they learn ways and methods of committing evil, theft, murders, robberies, and terrorism, thereby destroying the peace of society and destroying homes.

This is to say that everyone has a purpose, therefore, always keep this commandment in mind. It means that

you must keep an eye on your weak brothers in respect of those good deeds that you have attained and try to make your other brothers a part of it and take them along with you. Allah enable you to do this, may Allah enable you to reap all the blessings of this Jalsa, may He enable you and your descendants to act on the commands of Allah the Almighty and the Messenger, may Allah bless the Ahmadiyya Jama'at of America both collectively and individually and may He make you inheritors of the supplications of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>, may Allah be your Protector and Helper-now and along your journey, and may you always enjoy the benefits of the Jalsa and may I always receive good news from you. Amen.

**“ you must keep an eye on your weak brothers in respect of those good deeds that you have attained and try to make your other brothers a part of it and take them along with you.”**















# VISIT OF HADHRAT KHALIFATUL-MASIH V<sup>ABA</sup>

## 64<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE US

Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg, on 29-30 June to 1 July 2012

The sixty-fourth Annual Ahmadiyya Muslim Convention, USA was held at Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg on 29-30 Jun. to 1 Jul. 2012. Hadrat Khalifatul-Masih V (may Allah support him with His mighty help) addressed the convention. Eleven thousand four hundred participated.

### **‘Attain righteousness’ says Khalifatul-Masih V<sup>aba</sup> at the inauguration**

All conventions of the Jama'at are held in keeping with the Jalsa that was started by the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> and its purpose was that members of the Jama'at should partake of blessings in this world and the hereafter. These blessings are attained, first and foremost, through righteousness. When the Jalsa starts with all its blessings, it brings Ahmadis a valuable opportunity to reform themselves, overcome their weaknesses, strengthen their faith, and enhance their spirituality. We should endeavor to live up to the Promised Messiah's<sup>as</sup> desire that his followers should give preference to their faith over all worldly affairs.





## Address to Lajna Ima'illah on the second day of the convention

Khalifatul-Masih V<sup>aba</sup> then gave medals and certificates to the members who qualified for this year's talent awards for outstanding academic performances in various fields of education.

Khalifatul-Masih V<sup>aba</sup> reminded us of the gravity of our responsibilities after taking the pledge of allegiance at the hands of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>, for which we will be held accountable.



“ True Istighfar should be conducted whilst keeping in mind that Allah is the most forgiving, most compassionate, and that He bestows His Mercy in the face of true repentance. ”

Khalifatul-Masih V<sup>aba</sup> added, “Where on the one hand, each Ahmadi must pay attention towards fulfilling his covenant and promises, he must also realize that there is a great need for Istighfar, that is, sincerely seeking forgiveness from Allah. True Istighfar should be conducted whilst keeping in







mind that Allah is the most forgiving, most compassionate, and that He bestows His Mercy in the face of true repentance. When forgiveness is sought in this way, then a person is not only granted pardon for his errors, but his repentance also becomes a means of spiritual progress. And it is spiritual progress that leads to nearness to Allah.”

Hadrat Khalifatul Masih V (May Allah support him with His mighty help) while addressing the final session of the sixty-fourth annual convention of USA Jama’at reminded about the legacy left behind by the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him), said:

“The United States is one of the countries where the message of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> reached during his lifetime. The manner in which this occurred was no ordinary event.







In fact, the message of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> reached the United States as a result of a person called John Alexander Dowie. This despicable man repeatedly used the most hateful and abusive language against the Holy Prophet Muhammad<sup>sa</sup>. He also claimed that very soon the religion of Islam would be wiped off the face of the earth. He was utterly relentless in his abuse and falsehoods. Dowie did not just stop there, but went even further, for he presented himself to the world as the prophet of God. The unparalleled sense of





honor and love that the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> felt for the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) and for Islam was such that he could not bear the repeated claims, abuse and profanity uttered by Dowie.”

The world saw his humiliating end. A well-known American Newspaper wrote: “Mirza Ghulam is Great – The Messiah foretold the pathetic end of Dowie.”

He<sup>aba</sup> said: “Let us see and observe with what glory and magnificence Allah fulfilled His promise to the true servant of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) of continuously increasing his spiritual and physical progeny. Indeed, the attendance of all of you here today is clear proof that the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>

was, and is, most certainly truthful in his claim.”

His Holiness (may Allah support him with His mighty help) advised: “O people, who claim to have taken the pledge of the Messiah of the Age, become those who the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> described as the luscious and evergreen branches of his blessed tree, prove true the statement of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> that you are a truthful Community. Prove to the world that you will make the wealth and successes of the material world your slave and your follower, rather than yourself becoming a slave of the material world.”











# JALSA SALANA

## A LEGACY OF THE PROMISED MESSIAH<sup>AS</sup>

FALAHUD DIN SHAMS



## Establishment of Jalsa Salana

In 1891, in the village of Qadian, Hadrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad<sup>as</sup>, the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> issued an announcement on Dec. 7 for a special gathering of his followers. In his announcement he said,

“It is essential that all those who are able to afford to travel should attend the Jalsa, which is in so many ways a source of blessings. They should not mind minor losses in this regard. God gives ample reward to sincere believers at every step, and no hardship or trouble goes to waste. I would like to repeat that this Jalsa must not be approached like other ordinary gatherings. This affair has been based upon the succor and help of God.”

(Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, *Ishtihar*, 12-7-91)

Thus, the first blessed assembly or the annual convention for which we use the term Jalsa Salana (literally meaning of the word Jalsa, a gathering or assembly or convention, and the word Salana meaning annual) was held in the last week of Dec. 1891, and 75 men attended it at Baitul Qaza in Qadian. It is a blessing of God that this seed, which was sown by His Messiah, has spread to a level that Jalsas are taking place around the globe every year. The number of participants, which was 75 in the first Jalsa, has transformed into hundreds of Jalsas each year. As a matter of fact, at most of the Jalsas, the number of volunteer workers is more than the number of participants in the first Jalsa. Even during the life of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>, the last Jalsa took place in Dec. 1907, and more than 3,000 people participated in it.

## History of the Annual Conventions After 1907

This tradition of Jalsa, of course, continued after he passed away.



The number of participants kept on growing over time. The last Jalsa in Qadian before the partition of British India had 47,786 participants. This Jalsa took place in 1946 at Baitun Noor in Qadian. After the partition of British India, Ahmadi Muslims were scattered all over Pakistan, and most of them were trying to stabilize their lives and establish themselves in their new country. However, even in these circumstances, Hadrat Musleh Ma'ud, Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup>, continued the institution of Jalsa Salana with a new beginning in the new country, Pakistan. In 1947, the first Jalsa in Pakistan was held at Judhamal Building in Lahore, and 6250 Ahmadi Muslims were present along with Hadrat Musleh Ma'ud<sup>ra</sup>. The first Jalsa in the new Markaz, or the international headquarters of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, Rabwah, took place in 1948, and 17,000 members participated in it. The rapid increase in participation in Jalsas became so tremendous that by 1963, 100,000 people participated in it. This number of participants increased to 291,600 in 1982 and the last Jalsa at Rabwah in 1983 had 355,721 participants. Since 1984, the government of Pakistan has not allowed Jalsa Salana to take place in Rabwah, Pakistan.



**“ I would like to repeat that this Jalsa must not be approached like other ordinary gatherings. This affair has been based upon the succor and help of God ”**

In looking at the history of Jalsas, it should be noted that a 100-year celebration of the first Jalsa, or the Centennial Jalsa Salana, took place at Qadian in 1991, where more than 22,000 people participated. In addition to Pakistan and India, the Annual Conventions took place in London, Germany, Australia, Indonesia, African countries as well as in the United States of America.

Since we are celebrating the 75<sup>th</sup> Jalsa Salana of the USA Ahmadiyya Jama'at, it would be proper to look at the history of annual conventions (Jalsa) in the USA as well. The first Jalsa Salana of USA Jama'at took place in Dayton, Ohio, in 1948, and since then, the Annual Conventions have taken place here every year other than in 1961, 1967 and 1980. That is why the 2025 Jalsa is the 75<sup>th</sup> Jalsa. Otherwise, it would have been celebrated in 2022.

Many different cities in the USA have the honor of hosting the Jalsa Salana, such as St. Louis, MO, New York, NY, Lake Forest, IL, which is a suburb of Chicago, Washington, D.C., Detroit, MI, Madison, WI, Baltimore, MD, Silver Springs, MD, Harrisburg, PA and of course, Richmond, VA where the 75th Jalsa is being held. Although these cities and their citizens cannot perceive it now, as the prophecies of God come through, these cities will have the pride in history that they hosted the Jalsas in following the legacy of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>, Inshallah.

### **Jalsa Salana Fund**

Another aspect of the improvement in USA Jama'at in reference to jalsa Salana is the collection of Jalsa Salana fund. This fund was established to pay for the



expense of Jalsa and is an obligatory chanda (contribution) for the members of Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at. In the fiscal year 1980-81, the total amount collected for the Jalsa Salana fund for USA Jama'at was \$97. As the awareness of this fund was brought to the attention of the members, the collection steadily increased. The reported figures within ten years in the fiscal year 1991-92 was over \$100,000, and in the fiscal year of 2023-24, the most current fiscal year ended, the contributions of USA Jama'at for Jalsa Salana fund were \$2,310,000, Alhamdulillah ("praise be to God").

### **Muslim Television Ahmadiyya (MTA) and Jalsa Salana**

Muslim Ahmadiyya Television (MTA) has played an important role in the field of revolutionizing the Jalsa Salana at the international level. Through MTA, people of all races and nationalities can watch the

**“**

**The rapid increase in participation in Jalsas became so tremendous that by 1963, 100,000 people participated in it. This number of participants increased to 291,600 in 1982 and the last Jalsa at Rabwah in 1983 had 355,721 participants.**

**”**



proceedings of Jalsa Salana particularly where Khalifatul Masih is present. MTA has provided the means for participating in Jalsa for people who cannot afford the time or resources to travel to Jalsa locations. They can see their beloved Imam through MTA giving advice and guidance on the affairs of the Jama'at. Members do not miss the regular format of our Jalsas, where on the first day, Hadrat Khalifatul-Masih inaugurates the proceedings of the Jalsa; the second day, he goes over the progress and highlights of the Jama'at activities, and on the final day, he gives his concluding address. Ahmadi Muslims in all corners of the world become participants in Jalsa through Muslim Television Ahmadiyya (MTA). In fact, each one of these Jalsas through MTA takes the shape of an international gathering with people of diverse nationalities, languages, and races participating as one family.

## Memories of the Annual Conventions

Jalsa Salana is an institution that has created memories for people who participated in them. Every time we sit down with some of our elders, they always reminisce and recall the various Jalsas they attended in Qadian. They recall how Hadrat Musleh Ma'ud<sup>ra</sup> would give speeches for 6 to 7 hours at a time, and people would sit there attentively, paying close attention to his speeches. Our elders show their pride that they were present at Jalsas in Qadian when Hadrat Musleh Ma'ud<sup>ra</sup> delivered his speech known as "Sair-Roohani" (Spiritual Journey) and "Real Revolution," etc. These speeches were later printed as individual books and became valuable masterpieces of literature in the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community for all times to come.

Our elders also recall how Hadrat Mufti Muhammad Sadiq<sup>ra</sup> would talk about Zikri Habib (talking about the loved one), recalling various aspects of the blessed life of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>. Various scholars of Jama'at would speak on topics of religion, economics, and social issues.

They also recall the social aspects of these Jalsas. How they would travel to Qadian as if they were



MTA department during Jalsa days

going to visit their relatives. How in the morning, they would stop by the tea shop of Abdullah Khan and others to have breakfast. There will be such a crowd that no one was keeping track of how many cups of tea and how many cookies, biscuits, rusks, or baqarkhanis, one ate. Everyone would pay based on what they figured out themselves. A genuine display of trust and atmosphere of family. No hotel rooms are to be reserved, and no special facilities for restaurants are expected. Many of them did not even know which house or which building they would sleep in. None of this mattered because they were there as part of a large spiritual family, and it did not matter on which floor they slept. They were there getting the blessings of Jalsa because that is what the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> had desired for them.

It is not only our elders, but even in our generation, we always talk about the Jalsas in Rabwah. How the schools and colleges were closed, the rooms emptied out, and the mound of hay spread out on the floors, the duties were assigned to us. How everything from food preparation to security was organized and arranged in the best manner possible by all volunteers. We also recall how great it was to see our relatives, whom we only saw once a year and at family gatherings, sitting around on the floor over layers of hay. How the whole town, every street, every corner had sounds of "Assalamo- Alaikum" ringing constantly. It was amazing how an assembly



**“There will be such a crowd that no one was keeping track of how many cups of tea and how many cookies, biscuits, rusks, or baqarkhanis, one ate. Everyone would pay based on what they figured out themselves. A genuine display of trust and atmosphere of family. No hotel rooms are to be reserved, and no special facilities for restaurants are expected.”**

of over 200,000 people could be arranged, food and shelter could be provided, and everything could be taken care of by volunteers. All these volunteers received valuable experience in time and people management as well as practical administration techniques in dealing with the public. This is all on top of the excellent and superb rewards of Allah for providing their services for His cause and serving the guests of His Messiah.

## Purpose of Jalsa

Other than the secondary benefits of Jalsa Salana stated above, we must address ourselves to know what was the basis and real reason the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> started the Jalsa, what was his goal, and what he<sup>as</sup> wanted to accomplish through it.

The primary mission of Hadrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>, was to establish the love of one God and the Holy Prophet Muhammad<sup>sa</sup> in the hearts of his followers. To free them from worldly concerns, so they devote a more significant part of their lives to achieving this goal. It seems that the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> used the institution of Jalsa towards this objective because he described the object of Jalsa Salana precisely what his true mission was. Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> states in his book *Asmani Faisla* (Heavenly Decree):

“Let it be known to all who follow me sincerely and have taken a pledge of allegiance to me that the purpose of the pledge is to suppress worldly desires

and to make the love of our benevolent Lord and His Apostle (Muhammad<sup>sa</sup>) prevail upon the innermost feelings. The objective is to achieve freedom from worldly concerns such that, when the journey towards the hereafter approaches, it will not at all feel burdensome. To achieve this goal, it is essential that you spend enough time in my company and devote a good part of your life to this cause. A time will come, God willing, when you will witness a powerful Divine Sign that will eliminate your weaknesses and create true faith, enthusiasm, and drive. Always keep this goal in mind and pray for its achievement. Until you reach that stage, make extra efforts to keep visiting me. To take the pledge without an accompanying desire to meet me suggests a pledge that is devoid of any blessings and amounts to a mere formality.”

In the same book, he further states,

“The major aim of this gathering is that the sincere members of the Jama’at should be able to derive religious benefits, and at the same time, they should acquire more knowledge and advance in their God-Consciousness. One advantage is that meeting their friends will broaden their circle of brotherhood and strengthen their mutual ties.”

[*Asmani Faisla* (Heavenly Decree) page 74]



This objective described by the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> is so fundamental and crucial to understanding that without it, the institution of Jalsa Salana is meaningless. Hadrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad, Khalifatul-Masih IV<sup>th</sup> explained this in one of his addresses to the workers of Jalsa Salana in 1994 in Canada. He said:



“So these are the two primary objectives of this Jalsa Salana. The first one is to be able to get closer to God. All Jalsa Salanas are held for this purpose. So, any administration that takes you away from God rather than closer to Him has failed. However well you cook your bread, however well you serve your food, still, if you fail in that ultimate objective, your institutions will have failed.

Secondly, in the sense of dedication with absolute moral excellence. Absolute moral excellence as far as possible. Now that absoluteness, of course, was achieved by Hadrat Muhammad Rasoolullah<sup>sa</sup> [Muhammad, Prophet of Allah]. He was a paragon of moral virtue. It will set an example for us. So absolute, when I stopped at the word absolute, I thought perhaps it is not possible for you to achieve absoluteness in this regard. But within our own sphere of capabilities, if we try hard to achieve that absoluteness with reference to the moral qualities of Hadrat Muhammad Rasoolullah<sup>sa</sup>, I believe that with the grace of Allah at whatever level we return to God, in His sight, we will have reached absoluteness... because what is essential is always moving towards the goal.”

It is our duty to keep these goals in mind and follow them because it is the legacy of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> that was passed on to our elders, who further passed on to us, and now it is our turn to pass it on to the next generation. It is our obligation to make ourselves the role models for future generations just as we found our elders. Hadrat Khalifatul-Masih IV<sup>th</sup> touched on this subject as well in reference to Jalsa Salana.

Hadrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad, Khalifatul-Masih IV<sup>th</sup> said:

“It is the sacrifice of such noble people of those days which bequeathed to us this most highly developed system of Jalsa Salana organization. We must continue to owe our

gratitude to them and remember them in our prayers. So, it is the piety, in fact, which has given birth to Ahmadi institutions, whether they be the Jalsa Salana institution or any other institution. It is your piety of today that is going to bequeath excellence to the future generations. So, keep this in mind and never forget it. Never permit it to deviate from this set path of nobility which has been set before us by Hadrat Masih Ma’ud<sup>as</sup> and those who followed him. The path is set by the one who learned from his holy master, Hadrat Muhammad Rasoolullah<sup>sa</sup>. It is one and the same path, only revived in the present times.”

## Secondary benefits of the Jalsa

In addition to these fundamental goals, Hadrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, the Promised Messiah and Mahdi<sup>as</sup> has explained other purposes and benefits of Jalsa Salana as well.

Hadrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, the Promised Messiah and Mahdi<sup>as</sup> says:

“A secondary benefit of this Jalsa will also be that the new brothers who have joined the Jama’at in the new year would come at the appointed date and get themselves introduced to the existing brothers. By meeting them face to face and introducing themselves, the level of relationship and acquaintance will keep on increasing.”

It was this purpose that resulted in Ahmadi Muslims getting to know each other and arranging marriages with other Ahmadi families over a period of time, the whole Jama’at was knit together through relationships. I say that if one Ahmadi keeps talking to another long enough, he will find that he is related to him somewhere down the line.

The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> announced that for any brother who passed away during the year, prayers for his forgiveness would be offered at the Jalsa (Asmani Faisla). He<sup>as</sup> also stated another objective of Jalsa Salana relating to the USA. In his Ishtihar, he



“It is our duty to keep these goals in mind and follow them because it is the legacy of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> that was passed on to our elders, who further passed on to us, and now it is our turn to pass it on to the next generation.”

stated,

“One of the components of this Jalsa is also that good suggestions should be presented there in the religious sympathy for Europe and America. Because it has been proven now that the white people of Europe and America are preparing themselves to accept the true religion [Islam].”

The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> was very eager to get the members of his community to visit him at Jalsa so they could be the recipients of all the blessings associated with it. One year in 1899, the number of participants in Jalsa was smaller than expected. On this occasion, the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> announced,

“If anyone thinks that he should not come here because he will be a burden on me, he is committing the sin of ‘Shirk’. My God is my provider. I find great pleasure in the company of my friends.”

Everyone needs to note that if we do not fulfill the purposes of the Jalsa as outlined by the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>, our participation in the Jalsa is of no value.

## Legacy of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>

Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> had set up a legacy for our behavior at Jalsa a long time before the Jalsa was established. In the early days, Ahmadi Muslims used to go to Qadian with practically no money with them, and everything was provided to them by the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>. The food was cooked by the most honorable, pious lady Hadrat Ummul



Momineen<sup>ra</sup> (mother of the believers), wife of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>, and he would serve his guests by bringing the dishes of food and bread in his blessed hands and offering to his spiritual sons. As more houses were built in Qadian, more hosts became available following the practice of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>. It was the establishment of a system of family gatherings where everyone became a host and a guest. All the houses in Qadian and then in Rabwah became guest houses to receive and honor the guests of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>.

Now there are thousands of Ahmadi Muslims who prepare food following the example of Hadrat Ummul Momineen<sup>ra</sup>, wife of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>, and hundreds of others who serve the food carrying dishes and bread just as the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> used to do. He has left a legacy for us to serve the guests in such a manner that by following it, we can achieve high morals. He cared for his guests in such a manner that worldly people could not even comprehend the love flowing behind it. On one occasion, a shortage of quilts and beds took place for the guests. Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> made sure that all guests were provided quilts due to the cold weather and kept on providing quilts from his own home as guests kept on coming. When one of the companions went to see him that night, he found the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> sitting on the bed with his overcoat on and





his hands tucked under his armpits to keep them warm. The companions did not even know that the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> had given his own quilt for the use of the guests. He told the companion, “I did not want the discomfort for the guests. The night will pass because I do not sleep that much anyway.”

### **Promised Messiah’s<sup>as</sup> Prayers for the Participants of Annual Convention**

In reference to Jalsa Salana, among all the legacies that Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> has left for us, none match in benefit for us to the prayers he has left behind for us who participate in each Jalsa. These are treasures that are in heaven and shower upon us each year, and they display the love he had for his followers, especially the ones who came to Jalsa just for his sake. He prayed in the following words:

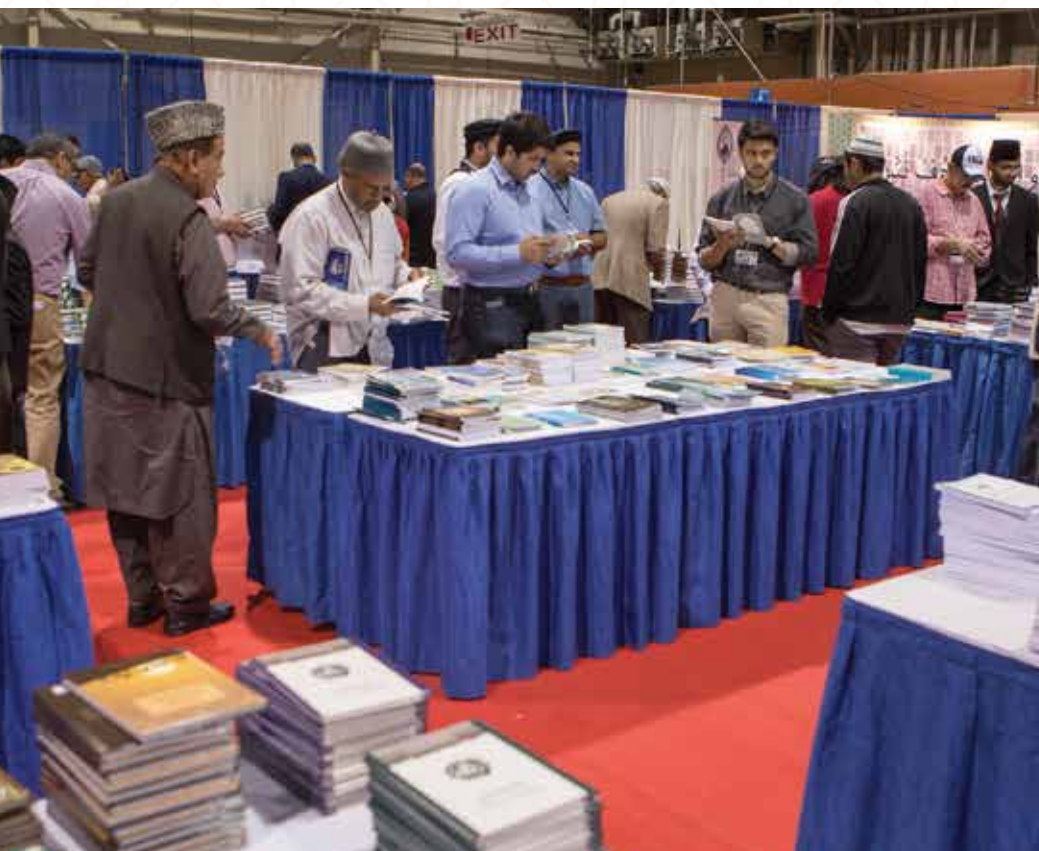
“I pray to God that He may be with all those who are coming to attend the Jalsa, that He may grant them great rewards, show mercy to them and remove their hardships and sorrows, may He let them have what they desire and raise them up on the Day of Resurrection along with those to whom He has shown mercy and His grace. O’ God, O’ Ye who are the



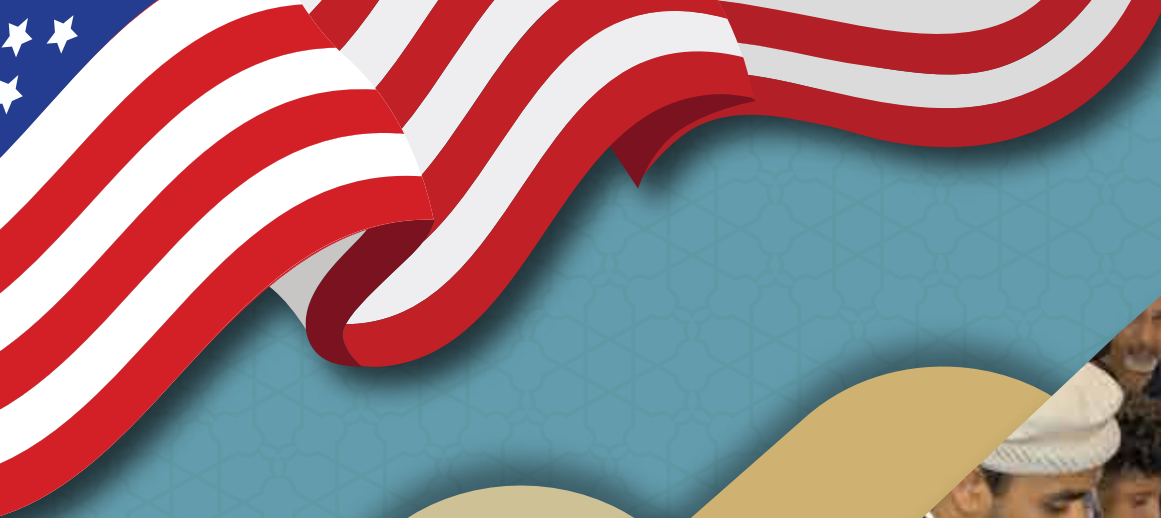


Greater Grantor, the Benevolent and the Merciful, and the Remover of Hardships, do listen to all these prayers of mine and grant us victory over our opponents with great glaring signs, for Ye have the power to do whatever Ye like. Ameen, once again, Ameen.”

“ On one occasion, a shortage of quilts and beds took place for the guests. Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> made sure that all guests were provided quilts due to the cold weather and kept on providing quilts from his own home as guests kept on coming. When one of the companions went to see him that night, he found the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> sitting on the bed with his overcoat on and his hands tucked under his armpits to keep them warm. ”







# HISTORY OF LANGAR KHANA IN THE UNITED STATES



The institution of **Langar Khana** (Public Kitchen) holds a special place in the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, providing free meals to all guests during various Jama'at events, including Annual Conventions (Jalsa Salana), Majlis-e-Shura, and others. The origin of Langar Khana dates back to around 1874 through a divine revelation vouchsafed to Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (as), the Promised Messiah and Mahdi. In a dream, he was given a radiant loaf of bread by an angel, symbolizing divine provision for him and his spiritual companions. This marked the divine foundation of Langar Khana, intended to serve those who placed faith above worldly pursuits.

As the number of followers grew, the Promised Messiah (as) established a formal public kitchen and guest accommodations to serve the increasing number of guests. Today, Langar Khana is a global hallmark of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, feeding millions during Jama'at events.

In the **United States**, the concept of Langar Khana was first seen during the **First Annual Convention in Dayton, Ohio, in 1948**, where around ninety participants were served meals. Though modest in scale, the Dayton Jama'at laid the foundation by providing excellent hospitality, setting the tone for

future conventions.

Until 1970, the number of participants at Jalsa remained between 200 and 300. By 1986, attendance surged to around 2,000, and by 1991, nearly 4,000 people attended the Jalsa Salana in Detroit. That year, meals were catered at a cost of \$7 to \$8 per person. However, at the conclusion of the 1991 Jalsa, Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih IV (rh) instructed that from the following year, **a full Langar Khana should be established in the USA**, similar to other parts of the world.

While there were initial concerns regarding county restrictions and logistics, Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih IV (rh) responded with resolve: "If permission to hold the convention can be granted in marquees, then Langar can also be started." Dedicated team of individuals, **Dr. Salahuddin, Abdul Hamid and Imtiyaz Ahmed Rajeki**, responded with a firm "Labbaik" to this call. Their dedication and efforts led to the formal establishment of the **National Langar Khana USA in 1992**.

Dr. Salahuddin, who had been serving Jalsa guests since the age of 10, dedicated his life to Langar service both in Rabwah and the USA. His devotion, such as preparing meals and eating leftovers to ensure guests were well-fed, stands as a beacon of humility and sacrifice. Many dedicated team members along side him, played a





foundational role in building and scaling the operations of Langar USA.

Over the years, the Langar team in the USA has made numerous **technological and logistical improvements** to enhance efficiency:

- Replacement of aluminum pots with larger **three-ply stainless-steel pots** imported from China, each with a capacity to serve thousands.
- Installation of **high-capacity burners** featuring 54 nozzles and producing 540,000 BTUs for faster and efficient cooking.
- **Streamlined inventory and vendor tracking** to improve procurement based on expected attendance.
- Decoupling Langar responsibilities from Ziafat, allowing the team to focus solely on cooking and food service.

These improvements have enabled the team to serve high-quality meals quickly and efficiently. For example, one pot of daal serves around **2,000 people**, while a pot of Aloo-Gosht can serve approximately **1,200**. The team has also prepared **300+ pounds of goat** in a single pot during Khuddam Ijtema, receiving excellent feedback.

During a **Mulaqat with Huzoor<sup>aba</sup> on February 2, 2025**, Tahir Chaudhry of Virginia had the honor of sharing detailed information about Langar operations, including pot specifications, burner output, and masala grinders. Huzoor instructed that these details be shared broadly, reflecting the importance and pride Jama'at takes in its Langar operations.

The journey of Langar Khana in the USA is one of divine origin, humble beginnings, and remarkable dedication. It stands today not just as a kitchen, but as a **symbol of service, unity, and spiritual brotherhood**, deeply rooted in the legacy of the Promised Messiah (as).







# JALSA AFSARAAN

(CONVENTION OFFICERS)

## 1985-2025

YEAR	AFSAR JALSA SALANA
1985-1989	Masoud Ahmad Malik
1990-91	Nasir Mahmood Malik
1992-93	Nazir Ahmad Ayaz
1994-95	Masoud Ahmad Malik
1996-97	Abdul Shukoor Ahmad
1998	Masoud Ahmad Malik
1999 - 2005	Abdul Shukoor Ahmad
2006 - 2014	Waseem Haider
2015	Abdul Hadi Ahmad
2016-2019	Bashir Ahmed Malik
2020-2021	NO JALSA DUE TO COVID-19
2022-2025	Bashir Ahmed Malik







# USA NATIONAL AMILA

NAME	OFFICE
Mirza Maghfoor Ahmad	Amīr Jamā'at USA
Murabbi Azhar Haneef	Na'ib Amīr & Missionary In Charge
Falahud Din Shams	Na'ib Amīr
Nasim Rehmatullah	Na'ib Amīr
Hamid-ur-Rahman	Na'ib Amīr
Wasim Ahmad Malik	Na'ib Amīr
Faheem Younus Qureshi	Na'ib Amīr & Secretary Tarbiyat
Bilal Rana	Na'ib Amīr & Secretary Umūr 'Āmma
Mukhtar Ahmad Malhi	General Secretary
Waseem A. Sayed	Secretary Tablīgh
Atif Mian	Secretary Ta'lim
Syed Sajid Ahmad	Secretary Ishā'at
Faheem Ahmed Pall	Secretary Isha'at Sam'i wa Basarī
Ahsan Mahmood Khan	Secretary Rishta Nāta
Amjad Mahmood Khan	Secretary Umūr Khārijīyya
Amjad Chaudhry	Secretary Diyāfat
Talha Chaudhry	Secretary Māl
Khaled Ahmad Ata	Secretary Wasāyā
Hafiz Mubarak Bola Kukoyi	Secretary Ta'limul Qur'ān & Waqf 'Ārzi
Anwer Mahmood Khan	Secretary Tahrīk Jadīd
Nasirullah Ahmad	Secretary Waqf Jadīd
Niaz Butt	Secretary Jā'idād
Mirza Harris Ahmad	Secretary Waqf Nau
Shoukat Pervaiz Choudhry	Secretary Zirā'at
Mujeeb Ijaz	Secretary San'at-o-Tijārat
Muhammed Owusu	Muhāsib
Bashir Ahmad Malik	Amīn
Nasir Mahmood Ahmad	Additional Secretary Māl
Habeeb Muhammad Shafeek	Additional Secretary Tarbiyat & Waqf Jadid for Nau Mubayi'in
Mirza Naseer Ehsan Ahmad	Internal Auditor
Mansoor Qureshi	Sadr Majlis Ansarullah USA
Murabbi Abdullah Dibba	Sadr Majlis Khuddamul Ahmadiyya USA





# JALSA ORGANIZATION - 2025

## AFSAR RABITA







Highlights of some  
**Annual Conventions**  
in the **USA**



# Themes of JALSAS IN THE USA

2024

**Theme:** Presenting to Americans that true peace lies in turning to Islam.

**Quranic Verse:** Flee ye therefore unto Allah. Surely, I am a plain Warner unto you from Him ( Quran 51:51)

2023

**Theme:** The Holy Quran, as a divine light and clear guidance for mankind

**Quranic Verse:** There has come to you indeed from Allah a Light and a clear Book (Quran 5:16)

2022

**Theme:** Khilafat, Importance of Khilafat in maintaining unity and guidance for the Ummah

**Prophetic Revelation:** "Surely, I am with you, O Masroor."

2019

**Theme:** Attribute of Allah – Al-Wali (The Friend)

**Quranic Verse:** Allah is the friend of those who believe: He brings them out of every kind of darkness into light. And those who disbelieve, their friends are the transgressors who bring them out of light into every kind of darkness. These are the inmates of the Fire; therein shall they abide (Quran 2:258)

2018

**Theme:** Attribute of Allah – Al-Baseer (The All-Seeing)

**Quranic Verse:** Whoso desires the reward of this world, then let him remember that with Allah is the reward of this world and of the next; and Allah is All-Hearing, All-Seeing (Quran 4:135)

2017

**Theme:** Attribute of Allah – Al-Haleem (The Forbearing)

**Quranic Verse:** O ye who believe! be heedful of your own selves. He who goes astray cannot harm you when you yourselves are rightly guided. To Allah will you all return; then will He disclose to you what you used to do (Quran 5:106)

2016

**Theme:** Attribute of Allah – Al-Hadi (The Guide)

**Sayings:**

- The Ummah can never perish which has me at one end and the Messiah, son of Mary, at the other – Ibn Maja, Bab Al-I'atisam Bis-Sunnah
- The time demanded the Messiah and no one else, had I not come, someone else would have come – The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>

2015

**Theme:** Khilafat on the precepts of prophethood (Khilafat ala Minhaj Nabuwwa).

**Quranic Verse:** And observe Prayer and give the Zakat and obey the Messenger, that you may be shown mercy (Quran 24:57)

2014

**Theme:** Focuses on striving for forgiveness and purification of the soul

**Quranic Verse:** Vie with one another in seeking forgiveness from your Lord (Quran 57:22)

2013

**Theme:** Highlights the noble character of the Prophet Muhammad<sup>sa</sup> as the ideal role model, with his life rooted in the teachings of the Quran.

**Quranic Verse:** Verily you have in the Prophet of Allah an excellent model, for him who fears Allah and the Last Day and who remembers Allah much (Quran 33:22)

2012

**Theme:** Kalima, centers around the importance of the Kalima (the declaration of faith) in shaping the identity of a Muslim.

**Quranic Verse:** You are the best people raised for the good of mankind; you enjoin what is good and forbid evil and believe in Allah (Quran 3:111)

2008

**Theme:** Khilafat Centenary Celebration

**Context:** Marked 100 years of Khilafat.

2006

**Theme:** The Prophethood of Muhammad<sup>sa</sup> and his eternal spiritual legacy.

**Quote:** The claim of our Holy Prophet (sa) shines forth like the sun and is a great proof of his eternal life that his grace flows eternally – Promised Messiah (as)

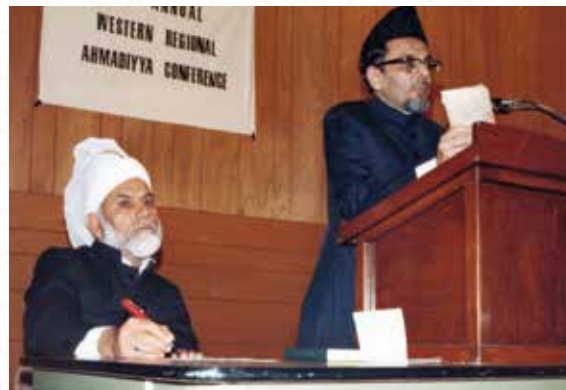
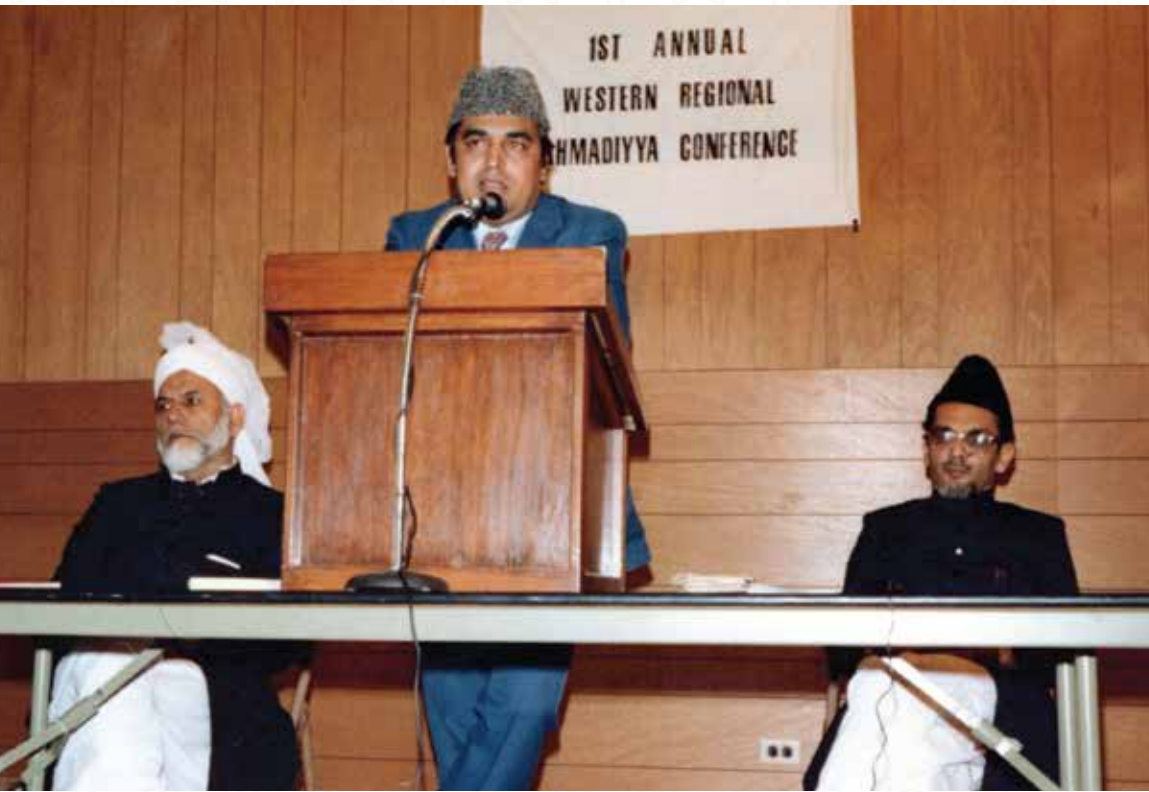
2005

**Theme:** Remembrance of Allah

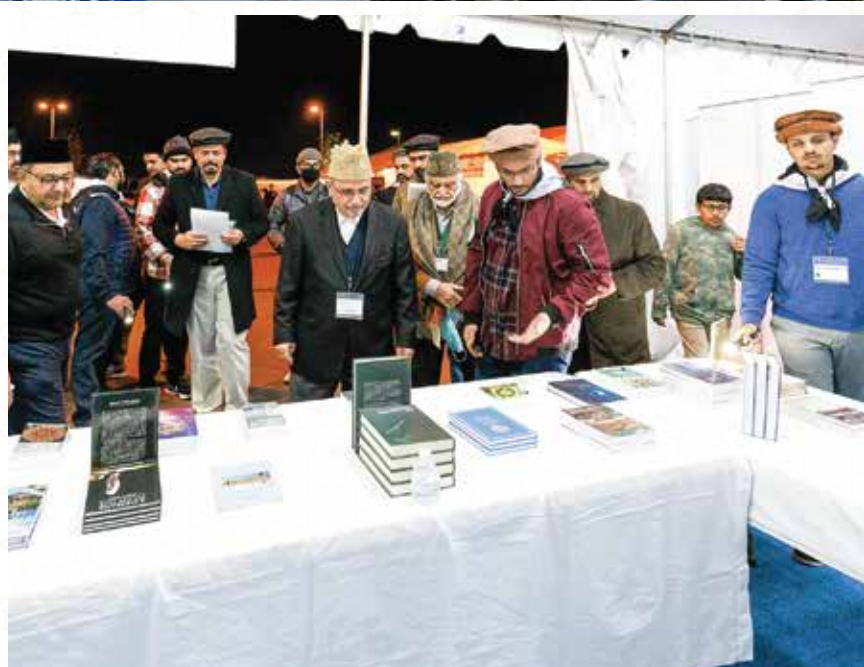
**Quranic Verse:** And remember the name of thy Lord morning and evening (Quran 76:26)



## Highlights of Western Regional Ahmadiyya Conventions

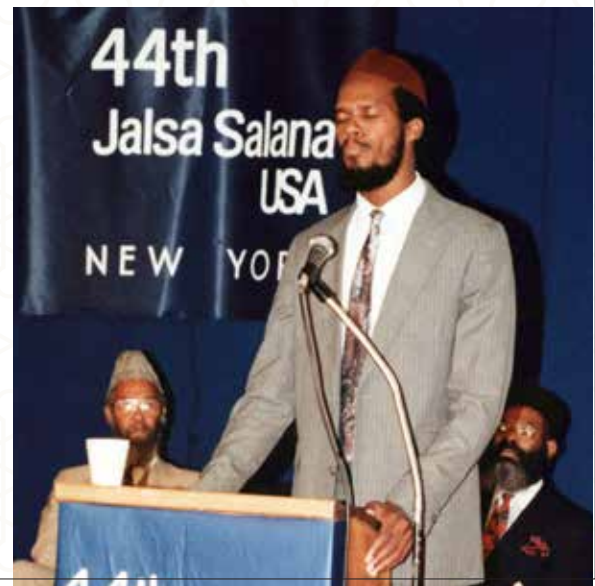




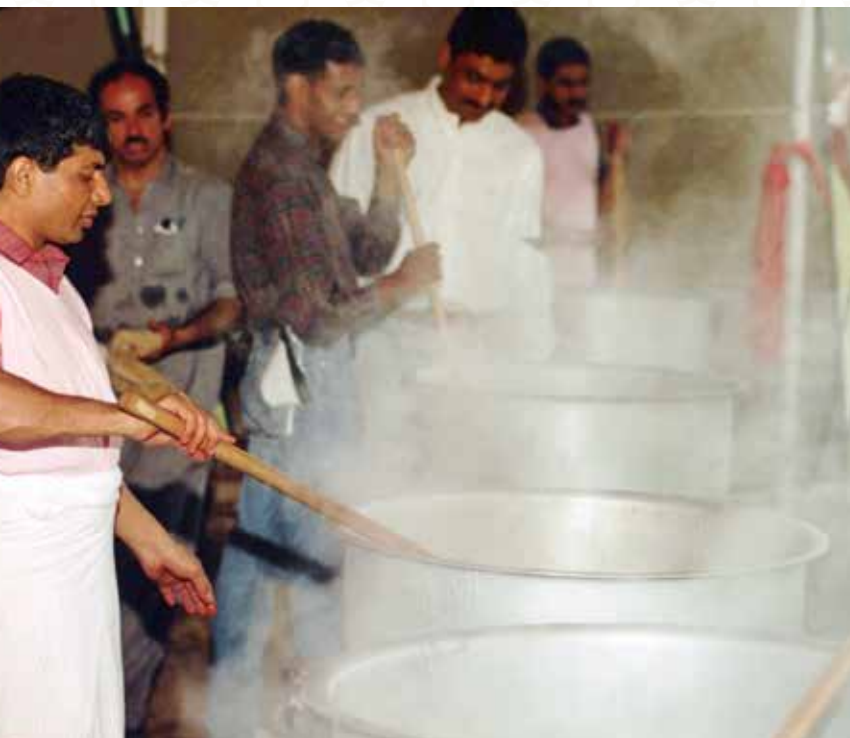




1992









1993

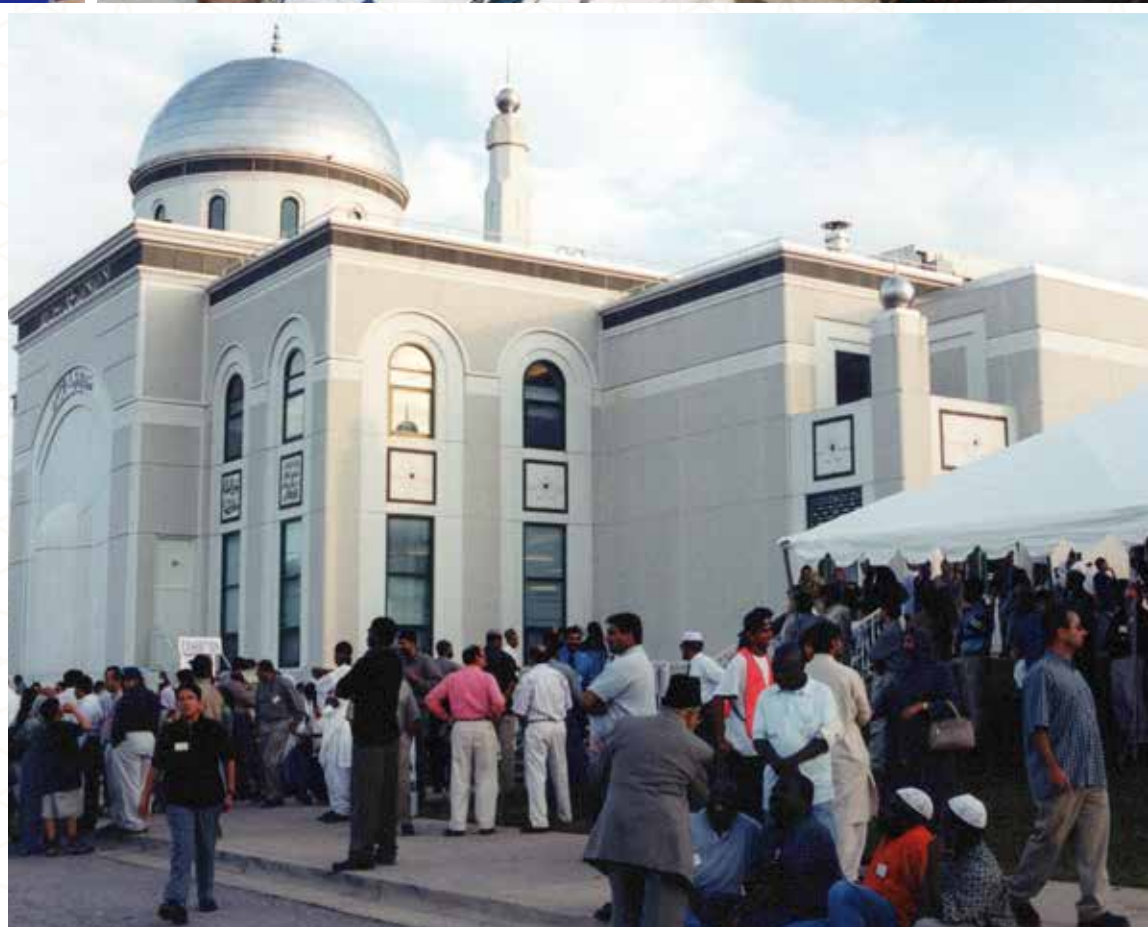
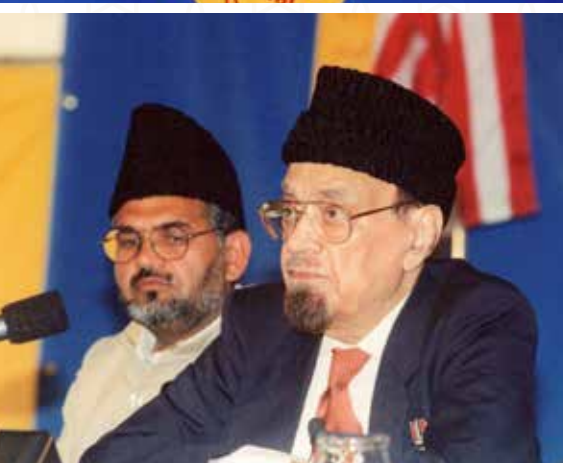








2001





2002





2003





2004





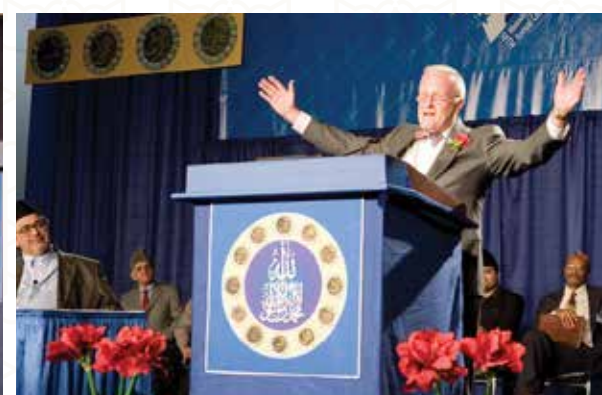
2005













2009









2011





2013





# JALSA SALANA USA 2014

2014

'Vie with one another in seeking  
forgiveness from your Lord...'  
[57:22]

سَابِقُوا إِلَى مَغْفِرَةٍ مِّن رَّبِّكُمْ  
[٢٢:٥٧]





2015









2017





2018





2019

وَهُوَ يَقُولُ الصَّالِحِينَ  
جِيسے ماں اپنی اولاد  
کی دلی ہوتی ہے  
وہی ہے وہ نیکوں  
کا دلی ہوتا ہے  
سیرت کی جو صورت ہے

Friend of  
those who believe: He brings  
them out of every kind of  
darkness into light.  
(Chapter 2: Al-Baqarah Verse: 258)

الْوَلِيُّ

Al Wali | The Friend

JAMA'AT AHMADIYYA USA

اللَّهُ وَلِيُّ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا  
يُخْرِجُهُم مِّنَ الظُّلُمَاتِ إِلَى النُّورِ  
(سُورَةُ الْبَقَرَةِ آيَت 177)

وَهُوَ يَقُولُ الصَّالِحِينَ  
جِيسے ماں اپنی اولاد  
کی دلی ہوتی ہے  
وہی ہے وہ نیکوں  
کا دلی ہوتا ہے  
سیرت کی جو صورت ہے





2022

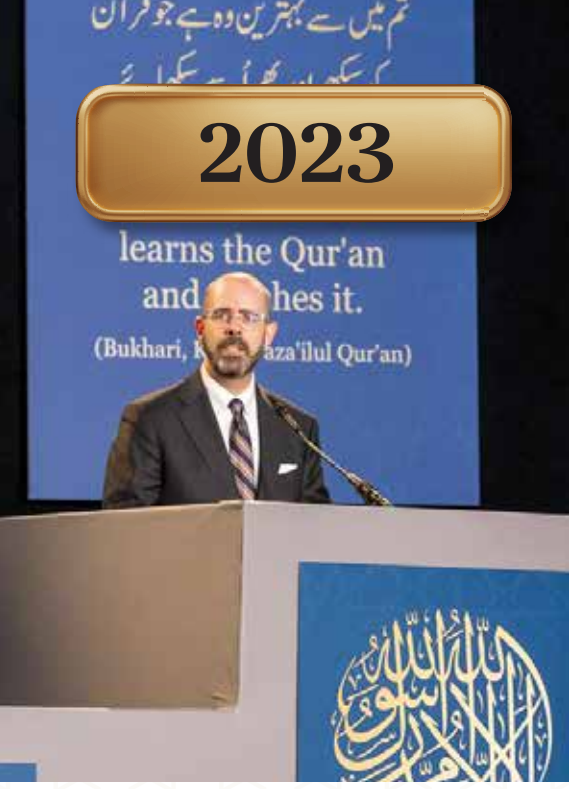
إِنِّي مَعَكَ يَا مَسْرُورٌ  
Surely, I am with you, O Masroor

AHMADIYYA MUSLIM COMMUNITY USA

إِنِّي مَعَكَ يَا مَسْرُورٌ  
Surely, I am with you, O Masroor





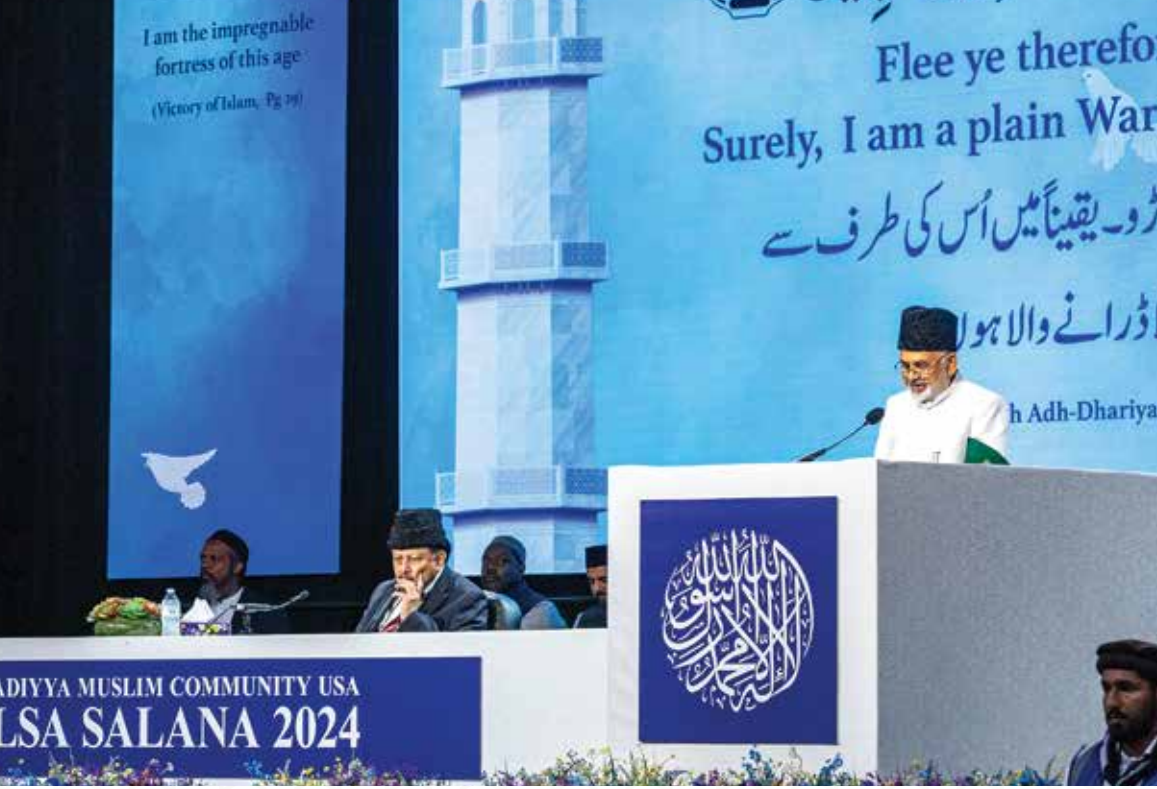




2024









بکھلا ڈرانے والا ہوں۔

Surah Adh-Dhariyat Chapter 51



روڑو۔ یقیناً میں اُس کی طرف سے

بکھلا ڈرانے والا ہوں۔

ariyat C



AHMADIYYA MUSLIM COMMUNITY USA  
JALSA SALANA 2024









# FATH-E-AZEEM MOSQUE, ZION, ILLINOIS





# PLEDGE

أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ

آج خلافتِ احمدیہ کے سو سال پورے ہونے پر ہم اللہ تعالیٰ کی قسم کھا کر اس بات کا عہد کرتے ہیں کہ ہم اسلام اور احمدیت کی اشاعت اور محمد رسول اللہ ﷺ کا نام دنیا کے کناروں تک پہنچانے کے لیے اپنی زندگیوں کے آخری لمحات تک کوشش کرتے چلے جائیں گے اور اس مقدس فرائض کی تکمیل کے لیے ہمیشہ اپنی زندگیاں خدا اور اس کے رسول ﷺ کے لیے وقف رکھیں گے اور ہر بڑی سے بڑی قربانی پیش کر کے قیامت تک اسلام کے جھنڈے کو دنیا کے ہر ملک میں اونچا رکھیں گے۔ ہم اس بات کا بھی اقرار کرتے ہیں کہ ہم نظامِ خلافت کی حفاظت اور اس کے استحکام کے لیے آخری دم تک جدوجہد کرتے رہیں گے اور اپنی اولاد در اولاد کو ہمیشہ خلافت سے وابستہ رہنے اور اس کی برکات سے مستفیض ہونے کی تلقین کرتے رہیں گے تاکہ قیامت تک خلافتِ احمدیہ محفوظ چلی جائے اور قیامت تک سلسلہ احمدیہ کے ذریعہ اسلام کی اشاعت ہوتی رہے اور محمد رسول اللہ ﷺ کا جھنڈا دنیا کے تمام جھنڈوں سے اونچا لہرانے لگے۔ اے خدا! تو ہمیں اس عہد کو پورا کرنے کی توفیق عطا فرما، اللھم آمین، اللھم آمین

“Today at the completion of 100 years of Khilafat-e-Ahmadiyya, we swear an oath to Allah to vouch to spread Islam and Ahmadiyyat and to make the name of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) reach the corners of the earth, we shall keep exerting till the last moments of our lives, and for the accomplishments of this cause and duty, will always keep of our lives dedicated to Allah and His Messenger (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), and will offer every sacrifice, no matter how big is that, to raise the flag of Islam higher, in every country of the world, till the last day of the earth. We also affirm that we shall strive till the last breath to safeguard the institution of Khilafat and its stability and shall direct our progeny after progeny, to always be bonded with Khilafat and be given the blessings of it, so that Khilafat-e-Ahmadiyya continues to go on safe and sound and the propagation of Islam may go on through Ahmadiyyat till the Day of Judgment and the flag of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) may fly higher and higher than all the other flags in the world. O God, grant us the capacity to fulfill this pledge.”





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MUSLIM COMMUNITY

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