



MAJLIS  
ATFALUL AHMADIYYA  
UNITED KINGDOM

# Spring Reading Challenge

From the Diaries of Abid Khan Sahib

Prepared by the Talim Department of Majlis Atfal-ul-Ahmadiyya UK

## **Introduction**

Abid Khan Sahib is the Press Secretary of Huzoor-e-Anwar (aba) and has had the blessed opportunity to travel on tours with Huzoor-e-Anwar (aba) around the world.

He writes regular diaries called 'Personal Accounts' where he narrates his experiences of spending time in the blessed company of our beloved Huzoor (aba) and notes down experiences of people he meets on those tours including Ahmadi Muslims and those not part of the Jamaat.

This short booklet contains a few incidents to give you a glimpse of what's in store when you go to the below link and pick up one of the diaries to read.

All diaries are available on:

<http://www.pressahmadiyya.com/personal-accounts/>

They offer great insight and knowledge. If you haven't read them before, make sure to read them all when you finish this booklet.

This short booklet has been compiled by the Talim department of Majlis Atfal-ul-Ahmadiyya UK. For comments, questions, suggestions or feedback, please contact us at [talim@atfal.co.uk](mailto:talim@atfal.co.uk).

## **A Sudden Inspection**

I was seated, as in many previous tours, in the car of Nadeem Amini along with Abdul Qadous Khawaja and in the first few hours of the trip, we had an experience that was as pleasant as it was unexpected! The Qafila arrived at Folkestone at 11.40am and stopped for a short break before taking the Eurotunnel.

After a few minutes at the service station we returned to our cars and, just as I was putting my seatbelt on, the door on the other passenger side opened and to my shock the person opening it was Huzoor! Nadeem had recently purchased a new car and Huzoor had graciously come to inspect it. I was unsure if I should step outside or remain seated.

In the moment, I remained seated and Huzoor noticed that the passenger seat next to me was filled with luggage.

Smiling, Huzoor said:

***“This time your travel companion in the back is not a person but a lot of luggage!”***

For a moment, I wished the luggage had not been present, as perhaps then Huzoor would have entered the car and taken a seat for a few moments next to where I was sitting! Or perhaps that was just my wishful thinking!

After a few moments, Huzoor returned to his car and we hardly contain our happiness at the sudden and entirely unexpected visit! Nadeem, especially, was overjoyed that so early in the tour, Huzoor had blessed his new car.

(Europe Tour 2019, Part 1)

## **A Prince of Humility**

As we waited for the journey to resume, I spent a few moments in the company of Ashfaq Rabbani sahib, the Ameer Jamaat France. He told me how in 2018, on route to Spain, Huzoor spent an evening at a hotel in France. Having seen Huzoor in the hotel, a couple of foreign tourists approached Ameer Sahib France. The tourists, who were from the Far East, seemed enraptured by Huzoor and assumed he was a senior member of a royal family.

Thus, they had asked: “Who is that Prince wearing the turban? Which country is he from?”

In reply, Ameer Sahib had said: “He is our Jamaat’s Khalifa and he is much greater than any Prince.”

Later, Ameer Sahib narrated this conversation to Huzoor.

Upon hearing it, Huzoor smiled and remarked:

***“Aap ko kehna chahiya tha ke ‘aik ghareeb mulk ka ghareeb insaan’.”***

Meaning: “You should have responded by saying that he is a humble person of a humble nation.”

As he recounted this, tears streamed down from the eyes of Ameer Sahib France as he reflected upon the utter humility and modesty of Huzoor’s words. No doubt, Huzoor’s words illustrated how, despite the unique and great status bestowed upon him as Khalifatul Masih, he continued to view himself as a humble and simple person.

(Europe Tour 2019, Part 1)

### **A Few Moments with Huzoor**

Later in the evening, following Maghreb and Isha, I was able to meet Huzoor for a few minutes in the basement area of his residence. Rather than take a seat, Huzoor stood on the stairs leading up to his residence, whilst I stood in the dining area.

As I looked up towards Huzoor, I informed that I had started to re-read the book the ‘Introduction to the Study of the Holy Quran’ as he had instructed me the night before. I mentioned that in my late teens and early twenties, I had read a lot of Jamaat literature but having read many books once, I had not read them again. Upon this, Huzoor said:

***“It is extremely important to re-read the books of the Jamaat as you get older. In particular, you should read the commentary of the Holy Quran, the books of the Promised Messiah (as) and of his Khulafa again and again. As you get older, you gain more life experience and your thought process matures and this enables you to grasp new points that you were not able to understand when younger. You are able to comprehend the deeper meanings, the***

***intellectual points and the wisdom underpinning the words of the Promised Messiah (as) better as you get older.”***

I thanked Huzoor for his guidance and direction before mentioning I had enjoyed an incident Huzoor had narrated in his concluding address earlier in the day about an Ahmadi lady in Belize.

As I narrated the incident back to Huzoor, it turned out that I had misunderstood part of the incident.

After clarifying exactly what had happened, Huzoor said:

***“You still need to improve your Urdu. I have seen that you can translate things quite well from Urdu to English but, despite this, you still misunderstand some things I say in my sermons.”***

I wholeheartedly agreed and felt a sense of disappointment in myself.

A day before, Huzoor had highlighted the need for me to better my religious knowledge and now it was clear that my level of Urdu was not as good as it ought to be. Perhaps the sense of regret I felt showed on my face because, immediately, and very graciously, Huzoor told me that I was not alone in failing to understand some of the points made in his sermons.

Huzoor said:

***“There is an Ahmadi lady in the United States who has an excellent standard of Urdu, yet she wrote to me once that she always listens to my addresses or sermons at least two or three times because there are many things she misses on the first listen.”***

Giving his own example, Huzoor continued:

***“I think that when I used to listen to the sermons of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih IV (rh), I probably only grasped 25% of his message on the first listen and so I would also re-listen or re-read his addresses and sermons and so do not worry too much.”***

As Huzoor returned up to his residence, I felt determined to try to improve my standards and to make him proud.

(Europe Tour 2019, Part 1)

## **Blessings of Prayer**

The next morning, Huzoor held a session of family Mulaqats with Ahmadis from across Holland. One person to meet Huzoor was Naeem ur Rashid Mir. Along with his wife and young family, he had also met Huzoor in 2015. His young son and daughter were both born with genetic diseases which had meant they were not growing properly and that there was a high chance they would eventually become paralysed. Naeem sahib told me how in 2015, he had sought Huzoor's prayers and Huzoor had touched them affectionately and prayed for them.

Naeem sahib said: "After praying for them, Huzoor said that the doctors would place a 'rod' into my son and after that he would be ok. I was stunned because, despite many medical consultations, not a single doctor had mentioned inserting a metal rod. Yet, the very next month, doctors suddenly told us that the best option for our son was to place two metal rods, which would help him grow and develop. The rods were duly inserted and ever since my son's health has improved a great deal."

Naeem sahib continued: "The recovery of not just my son but also my daughter has been incredible to see since the day they met Huzoor in 2015. We, as a family, are witnesses and proof of the miraculous results of the prayers of Khalifatul Masih. Our children are living relatively normal lives, which seemed completely impossible just a few years ago. This is due solely to the prayers of Huzoor."

(Europe Tour 2019, Part 1)

## **A Sinister Looking Mark**

I also met with another Ahmadi, Irfan Ijaz who shared a similar story testifying to the healing powers of prayer. He told me that he and his family had moved to Holland in 2011 from Pakistan. Two years before, in 2009, they had been blessed with a son, however he had been born with only two chambers in his heart, rather than the four chambers that are normal. This affected the blood flow across his body and was considered a life threatening illness.

Irfan sahib said: "When our son Imran was born with this life-threatening defect we wrote constantly to Huzoor for prayers. Our agony and pain was beyond words, yet we were reassured by Huzoor's love and prayers and so we never gave up hope. Finally, a team of Ahmadi doctors from the USA examined our son at the Tahir

Heart Hospital in Rabwah and they came up with a treatment plan based on the latest medical advances in the USA. Based on their advice, our son had two surgeries in Rabwah and with the grace of Allah they were successful.”

Irfan sahib continued: “Now, years later, my son had surgery here in Holland last month when a pacemaker was inserted. Though the surgery was initially rendered successful, at a follow-up the doctors said that the stitching had not healed well and there was a big risk of infection. A sinister looking mark was also apparent on my son’s stomach around the stitching. At that point I felt desperation that my son will now have to have more treatment.”

Irfan sahib further said: “Last Thursday, we had a Mulaqat with Huzoor here in Holland and we explained the situation to Huzoor and sought his prayers. Huzoor gave our son a lot of attention and love. He talked to him and said he should keep a good diet. Specifically, Huzoor told him not to drink those juices that were not fresh or pure. Then, Huzoor called him towards him and very lovingly gave him a gift.”

Mentioning what had transpired when they returned home, Irfan sahib said: “Later, when we went home, my son started to laugh. I asked why and he said that the disturbing looking mark had disappeared and the stitching appeared fine. It was later confirmed by the doctors that no further treatment was now required! We are sure this was only due to the blessings of Khilafat and now, Insha’Allah, our son will lead a healthy life.”

At this point, Irfan sahib called his son Imran who showed me the scars of his various surgeries. Without any sense of self-pity, the young boy told me how well he was doing and said that he firmly believed that his good health was due to the blessings of Huzoor’s prayers. He also told me how his father had bought him a ‘Shezan’ mango juice earlier in the day and he had reminded his father that he could not drink it as Huzoor had instructed him to drink only fresh and pure juice!

(Europe Tour 2019, Part 1)

### **Speaking in Haste**

During the morning, I spent some time with two members of Khuddam who had attended the Khuddam Amila meeting with Huzoor the day before. They were reflecting on their good fortune of having been in Huzoor’s blessed company and receiving his direct guidance. They also mentioned how they had sympathy for the

Khadim who responded to Huzoor by saying 'Ji Sadr Sahib' by mistake, as they had personal experience of saying the wrong thing in front of Khalifatul Masih.

One told me how his close friend once had Mulaqat with Huzoor and he had told Huzoor that when he was in Pakistan he had worked for WAPDA, which is Pakistan's 'Water and Power Development Authority'.

Upon this, Huzoor had joked with the Khadim and said:

***“If you worked in WAPDA then you will have taken bribes?”***

Without thinking the Khadim had responded with great enthusiasm: “Ji Huzoor!” He told how the Mulaqat had continued for a few more minutes when suddenly it came to his mind what Huzoor had asked and he was mortified.

Even though the conversation had moved on, the Khadim suddenly said: “Huzoor, I want to clarify I did not take any bribes!”

Another Khadim who was with us told of how he was part of a Khuddam delegation that went to London to meet Huzoor a couple of years before. The delegation was granted a group Mulaqat with Huzoor and during the meeting Huzoor asked if any of the Khuddam had more than one wife. The Khadim said that without thinking and probably due to his sheer excitement at being in the presence of Huzoor he immediately raised his hand without even registering what Huzoor had asked.

He said the other Khuddam in his group were looking at him very confused, as he only had one wife that they knew about!

After the meeting they all came to him and asked why he had raised his hand. When they explained to him what Huzoor had asked he was shocked! We laughed, as it was clear that these mistakes were made innocently and only out of the common sense of nerves and excitement that every Ahmadi feels when meeting Huzoor.

(Europe Tour 2019, Part 1)

### **Win Their Hearts and Minds With Love**

During his meeting with the Ansar National Amila, the Qaid Tarbiyyat informed Huzoor that many members of Ansar are unwilling to give a personal report about Salat. They argued that their personal worship was between them and Allah and so they were not bound to give a report to Majlis Ansarullah.



In response, Huzoor said:

***“When a person has done Bai’at and pledged to abide by its conditions it means that even some of their personal matters become of interest to the Jamaat and so they should not object. At the same time, you should ask people with sensitivity, without becoming too intrusive and make it clear that your questions are not for the purpose of embarrassing anyone. Rather the objective is to acquire data through which you can then better cater for the moral training of the members.”***

In answer to a question about Ahmadis who were not paying their Chanda at the prescribed rate, Huzoor spoke about the need to be ‘persistent’ in reminding them about the value and blessings associated with financial sacrifice.

Furthermore, Huzoor said that sometimes people did not pay Chanda due to grievances or due to other problems. Describing the importance of sensitivity and understanding, Huzoor said:

***“If a person has any grievance you should try your best to address it. If they have a personal problem or are facing any difficulties you should be there to listen to them with patience and sincerity. It should not be that you only visit the members when it is time for Chanda collection, rather you should be their friends and have a regular contact throughout the year.”***

Huzoor continued:

***“In terms of financial sacrifice, you must try to win their hearts and minds with love, ensuring they realise that it is not a ‘tax’ but is offered according to the command of Allah. Always remember the principle that it is very easy to push someone away from the Jamaat and far harder to bring them towards it.”***

(Europe Tour 2019, Part 1)

### **An Unexpected House Tour**

It was 10.45pm when, whilst unpacking, I heard a door open and, given where the sound was coming from, I knew it was the same door that Ahmad bhai had warned me not to open a little while before! So, I knew it must be Huzoor who had opened the door. I could hear footsteps and so, as quick as I could, I ran to the corridor.

I looked up and saw beloved Huzoor, who was wearing a white shalwar kameez and a white cloth topi (hat), walking towards me. After briefly inspecting the room in which I was staying, Huzoor proceeded to inspect the rest of the building. Huzoor entered another room on the same floor and because it was almost pitch black, I asked if I should switch the light on.

However, Huzoor told me to leave it off and a moment later, I realised why. Huzoor walked towards the window facing outwards and looked at the Ahmadiis who were standing outside. If he had put the light on, it would have drawn the attention of the people outside towards the room but Huzoor wished to quietly enjoy the spectacle of seeing his people and the wider complex. I remember thinking that if the people outside only knew who was looking at them how overjoyed they would be!

Thereafter, Huzoor asked me if I had seen the lounge. As he walked down the stairs towards the lounge, Huzoor said:

***“The lounge and the other rooms downstairs are quite large. They must have reminded you of your home in Hartlepool!”***

Huzoor continued:

***“They have laid down a red carpet in this building which is similar to the carpet in your house in Hartlepool!”***

I was genuinely amazed at Huzoor’s recollection! Truth be told, it took me a few seconds to remember which carpet Huzoor was referring to in the house I had grown up in! I had forgotten how it was, yet beloved Huzoor, who had not been to Hartlepool for many years, remembered the style and colour.

(Europe Tour 2019, Part 2)

### **Nothing to Compare to Islamabad**

A few moments later, Huzoor permitted me to return upstairs with him and so I was able to see his makeshift office. It was in the small landing area directly beside his bedroom. It was literally just a small table and chair, but it meant that Huzoor did not have to waste time going from the upper level of his bedroom to the ground level to work.

Before returning to his room, Huzoor showed me the kitchen area and adjacent to the kitchen was a small patio, which led directly to the Mosque. Huzoor appreciated

the patio area and it seemed that he liked the countryside environment. Having observed this, I asked: "Huzoor, perhaps this place reminds you of Islamabad?"

Upon this, Huzoor said:

***"No! No! There is nothing to compare to Islamabad!"***

As he said this, Huzoor laughed! It was clear my comparison had rather short-changed the beautiful Islamabad complex in Huzoor's mind. Huzoor continued:

***"In the past, I used to really enjoy visiting Nunspeet in Holland and some other scenic places, as it enabled me to breathe some fresh air and to see some greenery and natural beauty that was not possible in London. However, now it is completely different. Ever since we left England, I have missed Islamabad."***

Huzoor rarely shows his emotions, yet in that moment I was able to get a glimpse of how it must have been for Huzoor and his family to be confined for sixteen years to a small flat and being unable to sit outside with any privacy or to take in some fresh air. On the other hand, I saw how, with the Grace of Allah, the Markaz was now in a place which afforded Huzoor greater space and the greenery and fresh air which before he only occasionally enjoyed whilst on tours abroad.

(Europe Tour 2019, Part 2)

### **A Wifi Code**

After Huzoor returned to his room, I finished my unpacking before getting ready for bed. I changed into my night-clothes and walked towards the bathroom to brush my teeth, which was at the other end of the corridor.

As I reached the bathroom, I heard the door at the other end of the corridor open again. A moment later, I heard Huzoor say:

***"Assalamo Alaikum"***

I ran back and was startled to see Huzoor again so soon. As I approached him, Huzoor said:

***"Do you now the WIFI password. The password they gave me is not working!"***

By chance, I knew the password because a few minutes before coming to my room, I was with Munir Javed sahib (Private Secretary) who had asked a local member of the Jamaat for the WIFI password.

As I was there, I had noted it down, otherwise, I had planned to use my 4G connection that night and to find out the password the next morning. As Huzoor now required it, I was glad I had been standing with Munir sahib when he asked for the password. I mentioned the password to Huzoor, which he then typed it into his phone. As he did so, I was hoping and praying in my heart that it would connect!

Thankfully, a couple of seconds later it connected to the WIFI. After seeing it connect successfully, Huzoor said:

***“Kamaal kar dia hai!”***

I was glad I could offer some, albeit tiny, assistance to Huzoor.

(Europe Tour 2019, Part 2)

### **Feeling Unwell**

Earlier that evening I had begun to feel the first effects of a cold and a fever. I was immediately alarmed because flu and severe colds had started to spread amongst the Qafila members in the preceding few days. My experience is that on all the longer tours, most of us become sick at some point. Probably because, in addition to the travel, we sleep less, often eat at irregular times and not always healthily. I fell asleep soon after lying down but woke up in a sweat just a few minutes later. I had a fever and my throat was extremely sore and for the rest of the night, I hardly slept and felt progressively worse. I managed to get ready for Fajr but even during it I felt seriously unwell.

Once Namaz had finished, I returned quickly towards my room. As I entered the building, it so happened that Huzoor had entered at the same moment. I had come in from the front of the residence, whereas Huzoor had entered through the patio next to the kitchen.

My spirits were immediately lifted at seeing Huzoor. It was rare in the extreme for me to meet Huzoor straight after Fajr. He looked so graceful and immaculate in his achkan coat and paghri (turban). Huzoor mentioned that it had been quite cold at night and asked if it was the same in my room. In the past, whenever I have been

unwell on tours, I have tried to conceal it for as long as possible. Even though it cannot be helped, I do not wish for Huzoor, or anyone else, to think that I am not ready for duty. This is not exclusive to me and I have seen the same attitude amongst most of the Qafila members. However, something different went through my mind at that moment. Instead of thinking of my duty or work, all I could see was my spiritual father and so I told Huzoor that my night had been difficult, and I continued to feel quite unwell.

Very lovingly and affectionately Huzoor asked what symptoms I was suffering with. Just to hear the affectionate and sympathetic tone of Huzoor's words made me feel better. Huzoor then advised that I take homeopathic medicine and paracetamol. Huzoor returned to his residence via the stairs in the hall, whilst I returned to my room via the stairs on the other side of the building.

Three or four minutes had passed and I had just started to recite the Holy Quran when I heard the door open from Huzoor's residence and Huzoor called out my name. I rushed out to the corridor and upon seeing me, Huzoor said:

***“It occurred to me that you will not have homeopathy with you and so I have brought it for you. Also here is a packet of throat lozenges to soothe your throat.”***

With his hand, Huzoor poured a dose of the homeopathy into mine. He then handed me the lozenges which were cherry menthol flavoured. With that, Huzoor returned to his residence. I was completely overcome by emotion that Huzoor had come himself specially to give me medicine. How kind, how compassionate, how loving! I had seen first-hand how busy Huzoor was and how relentless his schedule was, yet upon learning that I was unwell, Huzoor had taken the time to come and personally give medication.

With the Grace of Allah, and Huzoor's prayers, the medication worked well and I was feeling much better soon.

(Europe Tour 2019, Part 2)

### **The Most Beautiful of Sounds**

A few moments later, I could not help but hear Huzoor reciting the Holy Quran in the most beautiful voice from the other side of the door in the corridor. To hear Huzoor's

recitation during Namaz is something that always soothes a person's heart and soul but hearing Huzoor's recitation, early in the morning, with no one else present was a gift that was beyond words.

For a few seconds, I wondered whether it was an invasion of Huzoor's private worship for me to listen. But short of my covering my ears, it was not possible not to hear. So, I cherished those moments, which were repeated over the next few mornings and considered it a great fortune to be able to listen to the Quran being recited in the most melodious way by Hazrat Khalifatul Masih (aba).

(Europe Tour 2019, Part 2)

### **Observing Some Old Photos**

On Thursday 3 October, at 1.20pm, I was extremely fortunate to spend some more time in the company of Huzoor. As he took a short break from his work, Huzoor entered the corridor outside my room and spent the next few minutes looking at various old photos that the France Jamaat had framed and hung on the wall. Most of them were from the 1950s. There was also an even older group photo in which Hazrat Musleh Maud (ra) was sitting with some other members of the Jamaat, including some children.

Underneath were the names of those present and the list included the name of Huzoor's father, Hazrat Mirza Mansoor Ahmad. Huzoor looked closely at the photo but could not identify his father and so he returned to his room and came back a moment later with his glasses now on. Thereafter, Huzoor was able to recognise his father, who was a young child in the photo.

As he looked at some further photos, Huzoor said:

***“You will see that in these photos Hazrat Musleh Maud (ra) is not wearing an achkan coat but is wearing an overcoat. The Promised Messiah (as) also used to wear an overcoat, rather than an achkan. It was during the 19 era of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih III (rh) that the tradition of the Khulafa wearing achkans began.”***

In the photos I had seen of Huzoor before 2003 and whenever I had met Huzoor prior to his Khilafat, I could never remember him wearing an achkan. Thus, I asked: “Huzoor, prior to your Khilafat did you ever wear an achkan?”

Huzoor smiled and said:

***“Haan, shadi par!”***

Meaning: “Yes, at my wedding!”

Huzoor added that he had also worn an achkan coat given to him by Hazrat Khalifatul Masih IV (rh) a few times, most likely on the occasion of Eid.

As he continued to look at the photos, Huzoor said:

***“If you look at these photos, many of the people sitting with Hazrat Musleh Maud (ra) are not wearing topis (hats). Even in the time of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih III (rh) I recall that often Ahmadi men would come before Khalifatul Masih without covering their heads. It was in the era of 20 Hazrat Khalifatul Masih IV (rh) that he was stricter in this regard and encouraged people to wear topis in front of him.”***

As Huzoor was about to return to his room, I asked if his WIFI connection had been ok. Thankfully it had been fine and Huzoor took out his phone from his pocket to check it again. Thereafter, Huzoor graciously showed me some photos and videos he had taken of Islamabad.

As Huzoor showed me the photos, suddenly we heard a Nazm being played fairly loudly from the room next to mine which was being used by Ahmad bhai. A few moments later, after Huzoor returned to his room, Ahmad bhai came out into the corridor. Seeing me, Ahmad bhai asked: “Was Huzoor just here?”

I replied affirmatively and that Huzoor had been present for around twenty minutes looking at the various photos on display.

Grinning, Ahmad bhai said: “I was in the shower and then when I got out, I started to watch a comedy, whilst I got ready. However, after a few minutes, I heard a voice and it sounded like it was Huzoor and so I switched the comedy off and quickly put a Nazm on instead!”

(Europe Tour 2019, Part 2)

### **A Convert's Story**

Later in the evening, Huzoor held a session of family Mulaqats and one of the people fortunate to meet him was Abdel Halim Bridja (38), an Algerian convert to

Ahmadiyyat. He had accepted Ahmadiyyat in 2009 and now lived in the French city of Nice.

Telling me why he had accepted Ahmadiyyat, Abdel Halim Bridja sahib said: “My father was an avid viewer of MTA and, as a result, he came to accept the truth of Ahmadiyyat. He told us that Jesus (as) had died a natural death and was not destined to return physically to the earth. Initially, I was angry and confused but he then gave me a copy of the Promised Messiah’s (as) book ‘The Philosophy of the Teachings of Islam’, which was enlightening.”

Abdel Halim Bridja sahib continued: “I realised that the Holy Quran had not, God forbid, been changed or altered in any way by Ahmadi, though the interpretation of certain verses was different. For example, I learned that Ahmadi Muslims consider the Holy Quran to be a universal book to guide all of mankind, whereas I had previously been taught that the Holy Quran was only for Muslims. I really loved this and soon I realised that the path taken by my father was the right path and I also accepted Ahmadiyyat.”

Abdel Halim Bridja sahib told me that his entire family had now accepted Ahmadiyyat.

His sister was the last to accept it. Narrating what caused her to accept Ahmadiyyat, Abdel Bridja sahib said: “My sister did not take the Bai’at immediately. After the rest of us had accepted Ahmadiyyat, she was involved in a very serious car accident. The car was completely smashed, and shards of glass fell into my sister’s pocket, yet somehow, she survived without even a scratch on her face. She felt that the crash had been a warning from God, and it led to her to accept Ahmadiyyat immediately.”

Regarding his Mulaqat, Abdel Halim Bridja sahib said: “Huzoor is the brightest living light in the world today. Before accepting Ahmadiyyat I used to pray that I could live in the era of true Khilafat and I believe this is the reason Allah the Almighty guided me towards the Khilafat of the Promised Messiah (as). Today, the Khalifa of the Time is here in France and it means that it is the most blessed country in the world today.”

(Europe Tour 2019, Part 2)



## **The Majesty of Khilafat**

Another issue had arisen before the start of the tour. When the programme was first drawn up, it was agreed with the ambassador of an African country, who was officially hosting the event on behalf of UNESCO, that the event would start with the recitation of the Holy Quran.

However, a day before the start of the tour, on 24 September 2019, I received a call from Asif Arif sahib that the ambassador had now informed that the function could not begin with Tilawat, as it would contravene the secular instincts of the French Republic and UNESCO. He asked me to inform Huzoor of this development. Thus, during Mulaqat, I mentioned it to Huzoor, and he expressed his disappointment at the decision.

Huzoor said that the French Jamaat should still try to persuade the ambassador and to try to appeal to his heart.

Huzoor said:

***“Our Jamaat in France should remind the ambassador that he himself is a practising Muslim and so he should not be fearful but, rather, his love for the Holy Quran should give him the courage to make a stand and withstand any pressure he might face on this issue.”***

After giving this beautiful advice, quite suddenly, Huzoor asked:

***“Will they try to stop me starting my address with ‘Bismillah’?”***

I was taken aback by Huzoor’s question. In response, I said: “Huzoor, no one can ever stop you from saying Bismillah or reciting any portion of the Quran!”

I do not think I will ever forget what Huzoor said next. Huzoor’s tone of voice and demeanour normally remains extremely calm. Yet, for a few seconds, Huzoor’s tone of voice and demeanour became much firmer. In words that, to this day, continue to ring in my ears, Huzoor said:

***“If at that time when I start my address in UNESCO anyone tries to stop me from saying ‘Bismillah’, I will walk out of the hall at that very moment without delivering my speech!”***

Huzoor continued:

***“You all might become embarrassed, but I will leave without a second glance!”***

There are many times when Huzoor says something and I remain quiet or respond in a way which I later consider to be inadequate. However, at that moment, I was completely inspired by the way Huzoor had expressed his unwavering love for the Holy Quran and how he would leave the hall without looking back if anyone tried to stop him from starting his address with the words 'In the Name of Allah, the Gracious, Ever Merciful'.

Thus, my response to Huzoor were words that will remain my response forevermore. I said: "Huzoor, never for a second will I be embarrassed or hesitate! Rather, I will walk out right behind you feeling nothing but pride!"

Hearing my response Huzoor smiled and I think he appreciated what was my heartfelt response.

Unfortunately, the recitation of the Holy Quran was not included by the ambassador in the formal programme but Huzoor began his address with 'Bismillah'. As he did so, I felt pride and joy knowing that nothing was going to stop beloved Huzoor from beginning his address by invoking the name of Allah.

(Europe Tour 2019, Part 2)

### **A Father, A Friend, A Brother And An Uncle**

Later that day, and again the following day, Huzoor met Ahmadi in family Mulaqat sessions. One of the fortunate people to meet Huzoor was Abdul Majid Yanfal, an Ahmadi who was originally from Ghana but had lived in the United States for the past twenty five years.

After meeting Huzoor in Philadelphia, Abdul Majid Yanfal sahib said: "All I can say is Alhamdulillah! Huzoor is calm and comfortable with all the members of the Jamaat. Huzoor talks to you like your father, your friend, your brother and your uncle. He provides you with everything you need and his love encompasses all members of the Jamaat. My mother is disabled and, even though his every second is precious, Huzoor made sure that she was comfortable and ensured that she was able to have her photo with him."

Abdul Majid Yanfal sahib said: "In 2008, I met Huzoor and told him that my immigration green card application had been stuck in the system for over nine years. I was extremely worried and frustrated but with a smile on his face, Huzoor

said: 'Don't worry, it will be done' and literally less than a week later I got called for the immigration interview I had been waiting over nine years for. Most people warned me the interview is extremely challenging and intimidating but my interview was so easy. They even handed me my approval letter there and then, which I was later told never normally happened. Without difficulty I could write a book about the blessings of Khilafat that I have personally seen or experienced!"

(Guatemala & USA Tour)

### **A Beautiful Spirit And A Beautiful Soul**

Another person to meet Huzoor in Philadelphia was an African-American convert to Islam, Mahershala Ali. Along with his wife and infant daughter, Mahershala had travelled across the country from their home in Los Angeles to meet Huzoor. I was interested to learn what had attracted him to Islam and the experience of meeting Huzoor.

Telling me why he had accepted Islam, Mahershala said: "What attracted me to Islam was that it made a clear differentiation between man and God. In Christianity, there is an emphasis on Jesus (as) over God and I personally was very attracted to the concept that God is All-Powerful and all people, including the Prophet of Islam (sa) were human beings. Over time, I learned more about the Holy Prophet (sa) and also the signs of the latter days. I was also very taken by the good character shown by the Ahmadiis I met. It seemed as though they did not just preach the message but lived their lives according to Islam. I have now been an Ahmadi for 17 years and I never had a single doubt or regret. If anything, my gratitude increases each day at how my faith guides me."

Speaking about his meeting with Huzoor, Mahershala said: "I have met Huzoor on four occasions including today and it is always extremely humbling. It is an opportunity to be in the presence of that person who has been called by Allah the Almighty to guide the world. There is a light in Huzoor's personality and great depth. I feel as though he can see through us and knows who we are and what we are. Huzoor is a beautiful spirit and a beautiful soul. As Ahmadiyyat grows and spreads, there might come a time when it is not possible to meet the Khalifa personally and so I feel very fortunate to live in this time where I can converse with Huzoor directly and not just through MTA."

It was very interesting to meet Mahershala and to learn about his life.

Through his personal career, Mahershala has become well known and famous and so, as he left the Mosque, a few young Khuddam approached him and sought to meet him and have their photo taken with him.

After a few seconds, Mahershala stopped them and said, "It is not about me". In this way, very subtly, he reminded the Khuddam that their focus should remain on the blessed presence of Khalifa-Waqt.

(Guatemala & USA Tour)

### **A Night Time View**

Following the event, Huzoor proceeded to the Mosque to lead Maghreb and Isha and after Namaz, Huzoor walked out into the courtyard of the Mosque complex. For a few minutes, Huzoor enjoyed the view of the Mosque, which was lit up, amongst the night sky.

As he stood with Ameer Sahib USA and a few other members of the Jamaat, Huzoor looked up in the direction of the Mosque's Minaret. Huzoor said:

***"Someone had told me that the minaret was too wide but I think it is very attractive and appropriate."***

(Guatemala & USA Tour)

### **Brother's Car**

The next morning, several groups, including the local Amila, had the opportunity to have their photo taken with Huzoor. Huzoor also planted a tree at the Mosque, where hundreds of Ahmadis had gathered to see off Huzoor as he moved on to the next stage of his tour after three successful and blessed days in Philadelphia.

After a silent prayer, Huzoor left Philadelphia at 11.25am and the Qafila drove for a few minutes before arriving at the Laurel Hill Cemetery, where Huzoor prayed at the grave of Dr A. George Baker the pioneer Ahmadi Muslim mentioned by Huzoor in his Friday Sermon the day before. The local Sadr Jamaat informed Huzoor about how the Jamaat had found the grave of Dr Baker.

Huzoor enquired if the Jamaat knew of any of Dr Baker's descendants. In reply, Sadr Sahib said that the Jamaat had been able to trace his progeny up till the late 1950s but after that they were not aware of any members of his family.

As Huzoor returned to his car he walked over some grass that was somewhat wet and muddy. Thus, upon returning to his vehicle, a Khadim had placed a mat outside Huzoor's car door for Huzoor to clean and dry his shoes on. Immediately, Huzoor noticed that the Khadim who had put down the mat was the brother of the person whose car Huzoor was seated in. Thus, Huzoor smiled and jokingly said:

***“Did you put the mat there so that your brother's car does not get dirty?”***

(Guatemala & USA Tour)

### **Train The Atfal Well**

When the Mohtamim Atfal introduced himself, Huzoor sought a detailed report about the work being done to train the Atfal. Huzoor said:

***“It is of great importance that you train the Atfal well and give them a solid foundation so that when they enter Khuddamul Ahmadiyya they are already closely attached to the Jamaat. Otherwise, when they enter late teenage years it is possible they will become engaged in other things and become distant from the Jamaat.”***

Huzoor continued:

***“When I was in Atfal-ul Ahmadiyya, I became a Saiq, then I became Secretary in the Atfal Amila, then I served as a Zaeem in our Majlis, then I served as Nazim Amoomi in Rabwah Majlis and then I served as Mohtamim at a central level.”***

Huzoor further said:

***“So, my personal training started from the age of being an ordinary Tifl and I was able to progress through the various stages of Atfal and Khuddam. Now in these countries there are people who have hardly served at all in the lower levels but are appointed as a National Secretary in the Amila. The benefits of being trained at the grassroots level are vitally important.”***

Later in the meeting, Huzoor spoke of how members of Khuddam should try to find time each day for increasing their knowledge of religious and secular affairs. Huzoor said:

***“There is more than enough time in the day if it is used correctly. Most people now waste a great deal of time scrolling on their iPhones or iPads on unnecessary things and they complain that they do not have enough time for Jamaat work or to increase their knowledge. There are 24 hours in each day and if a person sleeps for 6 hours, it means there are still 18 hours left.”***

Huzoor continued:

***“During the day, Khuddam will be busy with school, college, universities or their careers but, if they do not waste time, they will still find two or three hours easily which should be used productively. Instead of watching dramas on TV or surfing on the internet, Khuddam should use those hours to increase their knowledge of contemporary issues. There is no harm in watching television but watch things that increase your understanding of the world and the political conditions of your country and the wider world.”***

Continuing further, Huzoor said:

***“Apart from this, a Khadim should dedicate some time, every day, to increasing their religious knowledge. Use the internet for good things, such as reading Jamaat literature.”***

Huzoor said:

***“If there are things that a Khadim does not understand he should research it and ask his local Missionary. If the Missionary does not give an answer that satisfies then the Khadim should write to me. And once a person has knowledge and understanding, he should seek to share it with other Khuddam so that the knowledge is used to help others.”***

(Guatemala & USA Tour)



**MAJLIS  
ATFALUL AHMADIYYA  
UNITED KINGDOM**