ATFAL
WINTER
READING
CHALLENGE

ABIDKHANSB'SNEWDIARY

UNDER THE SHADE OF KHILAFAT

Moments of Grace & Guidance

بسم الله الرحمان الرحيم

The importance of reading these diaries is apparent from the fact that during Huzoor's(aa) visit to Germany in 2015, a 16 year-old-boy approached Abid Sahib and said that until he had learned about Huzoor(aa) from the diaries, he did not love Khilafat in the way that an Ahmadi should; but having read them he had seen just how much Huzoor(aa) loved the Jamaat and why we needed Khilafat. (Diary of Germany Jalsa 2015, Part 1)

Respected Parents and Atfal Brothers,

I hope and pray that you and your families are in the best of health, Ameen.

We are excited to announce the Winter Reading Challenge for Majlis Atfal-ul-Ahmadiyya taking place during the half term holidays from 19th December 2025 to 18th January 2026.

The aim of this challenge is to provide Atfal with an opportunity to keep themselves busy during the holiday period with the help of a short compilation of faith inspiring and exciting stories from the recent diary of Respected Abid Khan Sahib.

Once you have read the Diary, please fill in the confirmation form below to receive a certificate at your Local Ijtema.

Join your Atfal brothers from across the UK in taking part in this challenge!

Jazakallah Wassalam

National Atfal Ta'lim Department UK

A Meeting Deferred, A Message Delivered

Earlier this year, in April, Pope Francis died after a period of illness. During his Papacy the Jamaat, under the guidance of Khilafat, developed a relationship with the Vatican. Huzoor himself had written to the Pope on several occasions, and representatives of the Jamaat were invited to meet with him.

Furthermore, Huzoor had appreciated certain statements made by Pope Francis.

For example, in 2015, Pope Francis spoke out against insulting the faiths of others, unnecessary provocation, or mocking people's beliefs. He famously gave the example that if someone cursed his mother, they could "expect a punch in the face." This was something Huzoor mentioned publicly, appreciating the underlying sentiment of respecting each other's faiths and beliefs.

Given that the sentiments and attitude displayed towards Islam by the Pope were generally positive, in February 2024, Marwan Gill sahib, our Jamaat's Missionary in Argentina, requested Huzoor if a meeting between Huzoor the Pope might be arranged.

In response, Huzoor permitted Marwan sahib to explore the possibility and feasibility of such a meeting and instructed him to liaise with me on this matter.

Very soon after approaching the Pope's office, Marwan sahib received a positive response - the Pope duly invited Huzoor for a private meeting at the Vatican scheduled for 7 November 2024.

Upon receiving it, Huzoor tentatively accepted and permitted the Italy Jamaat to prepare a proposed itinerary for a week-long visit to Italy in November.

Further, in advance of the November meeting, Huzoor graciously permitted me to join a small delegation from the Italy Jamaat to meet Pope Francis in June 2024.

Thus, on 26 June 2024, along with the Sadr Jamaat (National President), the Missionary in-Charge and Sadr Khuddam from Italy Jamaat, I travelled to the Vatican to meet the Pope.

Where the halls and buildings within the Vatican were spacious and grand, the Pope's office itself was much more intimate. I was later told that the Pope had an additional, much larger, office for receiving guests but, generally, he preferred to work and receive visitors in the smaller room.

It was a very interesting experience. I was struck by how there were certain practical similarities in the way the Pope's meetings were arranged and those of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih (aba).

For instance, we learned that the Pope held his official office meetings in the morning. Thus, upon arrival at 8am, we were escorted to a waiting room, where a Cardinal and a European Ambassador were already present, waiting to meet the Pope.

First, the Cardinal was received, followed by the Ambassador. Then, the Pope's Private Secretary invited us into the Pope's office.

The Pope's staff gave the impression that the Pope would meet us very briefly for a minute or two at most. However, upon entry, we found Pope Francis to be warm and relatively informal. He knew the Jamaat quite well remembering his previous interactions with our representatives.

The Pope seemed genuinely pleased to learn about the Jamaat's efforts to promote interfaith harmony and dialogue and expressed appreciation upon hearing of how Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V (aba) sought to convey Islam's true teachings of peace and justice around the world. Then, when our 15-minute meeting concluded, small gifts were exchanged, and official photos were taken. It was apparent that after witnessing the Pope's friendly attitude and the fact that he had granted us more than the allotted time, his Private Secretary and staff were noticeably warmer towards us post-meeting.

Upon returning to England, I informed Huzoor about the visit and what transpired. I showed him a photo of the meeting, which Huzoor very briefly glanced before resuming his work. I was hopeful of the possibility of Huzoor meeting with the Pope later in the year. At the same time, despite Huzoor having tentatively accepted the invitation, I knew it did not mean it was certain to go ahead.



I had long observed that before any major visit or tour, Huzoor would pray and reflect before reaching a final decision to proceed. Thus, there have been occasions when a planned foreign tour or a meeting with a world leader was cancelled by Huzoor following a period of prayer and reflection.

The proposed Vatican meeting remained in question for several months until, one afternoon in early October, when, during my Mulaqat, Huzoor said:

"I have decided to send apologies for the visit to the Vatican. I do not think this is the right time (for the meeting). Moreover, during this period of Khilafat, I have written several letters to the Pope and to his predecessor in which I conveyed the true teachings of Islam and presented the claim of the Promised Messiah (as) - the message has been delivered."

Huzoor duly instructed me to inform Marwan Gill sahib to convey his apologies to the Vatican.

Thus, while most people, in order to elevate their status in the eyes of the world or to feed their egos, would not pass on the opportunity to meet some of the world's most powerful or influential people, Huzoor has no such desires or objectives.

Rather, Huzoor's desire is only to guide people towards God Almighty and to further the message of the Promised Messiah (as) and to defend and promote Islam's true teachings across the world.

A meeting between Huzoor and Pope Francis was not destined to take place. However, Huzoor's regard for the Pope was evident in a statement of condolence he gave upon the Pope's death.

Huzoor said:

"I was deeply saddened to learn of the passing of His Holiness Pope Francis. Throughout bis life, Pope Francis sought to serve the poor and vulnerable, demonstrating immense sympathy for those suffering under the heavy weight of warfare, persecution, and injustice. He was a man of compassion, humility, and faith who strived to build bridges between people of different faiths and beliefs."

From Hearts to Huzoor - Clarity through Technology

Viewers of 'This Week with Huzoor' may have noticed an iPad is often visible on the table in front of Huzoor.

The reason is that, sometimes the accents of those who come to meet Huzoor are quite strong and distinct. Additionally, due to nerves, they often speak too quickly or quietly. As a result, their words or questions are sometimes unclear.

Over the years, in such situations, Huzoor often asked me to clarify the question or point being made. If it was a short question, I would manage reasonably but where questions were long or complex, it was sometimes difficult for me to convey the point quickly and accurately.

As a result, during the Covid period, when Virtual Mulaqats began, I proposed to Huzoor that I could connect an iPad to my laptop. The idea was to type the questions on the laptop, allowing Huzoor to view them on the iPad if an accent was unclear. After I demonstrated the setup - showing how the typed text appeared instantly - Huzoor graciously approved the idea.

By the Grace of Allah, this system has generally worked well, aside from a few occasions when the iPad and computer connection failed during a Mulaqat.

Arguing with Purpose, Not for Ego

In terms of administration, Huzoor also graciously guides us if ever there is a difference of opinion between departments or people.

Earlier this year, I received a letter from a senior member of the MTA International management about the scheduling of 'This Week with Huzoor'.

It mentioned that a matter had been presented to Huzoor regarding its scheduling and Huzoor had given an instruction that was being sent to me for implementation.

When I read the letter, I felt that a pertinent detail had been misunderstood and inadvertently misrepresented before Huzoor.

I felt moved to respond to the letter.

In what feels like another lifetime, I was once trained as a lawyer and trained to find loopholes or inaccuracies. Moreover, we were taught to draft arguments in a legal way and, occasionally, in my Jamaat work, I have the opportunity to exercise some of the latent legal skills I learned at university. This was one such occasion!

As a result, I wrote a detailed response to the letter, in which I highlighted what I considered to have been misrepresented.

I drafted and redrafted the response at least three times.

The first version was strongly worded and emotional, the second less so, and the final version was written with what I hoped was due respect and cordiality.

Nonetheless, I later received a call from another MTA Director who said he could sense my distress and emotion just from reading the letter.

Hearing that my supposedly 'neutral' final draft conveyed this impression, I was extremely relieved that I had not sent the initial draft!

Given that the matter had already been presented to Huzoor, I also sent a copy of my response to Huzoor.

The next day, as I was leaving Huzoor's office after Mulaqat, he called me back momentarily.

Smiling, Huzoor said:

That: "You are currently engaged in a dispute about the scheduling of 'This Week."

Huzoor then informed me of the concern presented to him by the senior member of MTA to him.

In reply, I briefly explained my perspective and point.

Thereafter, once again with a smile, Huzoor said:

That: "There is no harm to fight for something which is of benefit or can lead to an improvement, in fact it is a good thing."

Of course, Huzoor did not mean that conflict was desirable. Nor should one ever resort to bitterness or discourtesy. However, where there was a difference of opinion, in order to reach a better outcome, it was appropriate, and indeed a positive thing, to argue one's case, so long as one was motivated by seeking a greater good, not the fuelling of one's ego.

I took Huzoor's comment as a sign that he was happy for me to continue to argue my case, though he did not say whether he thought I was in the right or wrong.

Thus, as I left Huzoor's office, I said:

"In our Jamaat administration, even if we have our own personal beliefs or views, we are all happy and satisfied with whatever Khalifatul Masih decides. Whatever Huzoor decides will be for the better."

Thankfully, it was a relatively small and trivial matter which was resolved amicably and to the satisfaction of all parties within a few days, according to the guidance and direction of Huzoor. Alhamdulillah.

A Human Hand, A Heavenly Shield

Occasionally, during Mulaqats, I mention questions that I am asked by Ahmadis in relation to our beliefs or Nizam (administrative system).

Accordingly, in a Mulaqat earlier this year, I mentioned that a Khadim had asked me if it is a matter of faith for an Ahmadi to believe that everything the Khulafa say shall be fulfilled to the letter.

Most graciously, Huzoor set aside the file he was reviewing and answered this question at some length.

Explaining how the Khulafa come to form a view, Huzoor said:

"When the Khulafa of the Promised Messiah (as) state something about the world or make a prediction about the future it is based on various factors. For example, they may reflect on certain episodes from history, the current situation of the world and use their knowledge and intuition based on the teachings of the Quran, the Holy Prophet (sa) and the Promised Messiah (as). However, they do not claim to be making a 'prophecy' like the Prophets. This is an important point to note."

Huzoor further said:

"On most occasions, what the Khulafa have said has come to fruition, whether in the near future or at a later time. However, if ever, circumstances do not arise as they have suggested it is not something that should weaken the faith of an Ahmadi. Rather, it should be kept in mind that Allah is the Master (Malik) and so He has the ability to change His decision or decree at any time."

Thereafter, responding directly to question, Huzoor said:

"So, it is not necessary that every decision or statement of the Khulafa will always be perfectly correct. The Khalifa-Waqt is a human being and can make errors in judgement. He is not infallible."

Huzoor continued:

"However, it is our faith - and the history of the Jamaat bears witness to the fact that, if ever, the Khalifa-Waqt says something incorrect or makes a decision that may not have been right, it does not lead to long-term harm to the Jamaat or the mission of the Promised Messiah (as)."

Most beautifully, Huzoor further said:

That: "This is because every word that I have ever spoken has been uttered with the fear of Allah ingrained in my heart and it was the same with the past Khulafa."

Before returning to his work, Huzoor said:

"The Khulafa do not speak or act according to their personal interest, rather whatever they say is governed solely by their desire to fulfil the commands of Allah the Almighty and to further the blessed mission of the Promised Messiah (as). And the way Allah protects and shields the Jamaat from those who wish it harm is a great proof of how Allah's Help is with the Promised Messiah (as) and his Khulafa."

A Love Without Borders

In April, I travelled to the United States for a week to attend some events hosted by Majlis Khuddamul Ahmadiyya in various cities along the East Coast.

The visit coincided with the Easter break and so, with Huzoor's gracious permission, I took the opportunity to take my two elder children, Mahid and Moshahid, with me.

Whenever, I have been sent by Huzoor on behalf of the Markaz to visit another Jamaat, I find it to be challenging and often uncomfortable. Invariably, during such visits, as a guest of the Markaz, you are treated with respect and are asked to sit at the front, deliver speeches or take part in question and answer sessions.

Above all, when representing the Jamaat in any capacity, I am fearful of acting or saying anything that may reflect in a negative way on Khilafat.

Another source of tension prior to the visit stemmed from media horror stories about foreigners, even those with valid visas, being detained upon arrival in the United States.

Reports circulated of deportations or innocent people being incarcerated.

Indeed, a lawyer friend in the U.S. had warned me about these potential risks and even kindly offered to travel to New York (our arrival city) in case of any immigration issues. Given, especially, the fact that my children would be with me, I was somewhat anxious and so prior to the visit, I sought Huzoor's prayers.

In reply, Huzoor prayed that:

"May Allah the Almighty bless you and keep you all in His protection."

With these prayers behind us, we travelled to the United States and arrived in New York late one evening in early April.

I had warned my children about the reports of people with valid visas being questioned or even detained just in case anything happened. Thus, after exiting the plane, both of them were nervous as we stood in a long immigration line. I reassured them that because Huzoor had prayed for us, Insha'Allah, everything would be fine.

Finally, when we reached the immigration counter, the immigration agent looked at my passport and that of Mahid and Moshahid. I waited for the inevitable first question about the purpose of our visit. And I wondered what questions would follow thereafter. Yet, to my genuine astonishment, that first question never came.

Instead, he smiled and said, "Have a good trip" and gestured for the next person in the queue to come forward.

We were at the immigration counter for all of 30 seconds.

The process was so quick that when we exited and met with the Regional Qaid of New York who had come to receive us, I asked him to confirm that there were no more immigration counters ahead and that we really had been granted entry.

As we drove towards the accommodation, stopping briefly for some New York pizza, which we ate in the car, I thought of how, with the Grace of Allah, everything had proven so easy and smooth.

No doubt Huzoor's prayers had protected us from any difficulty. Alhamdulillah.

On a much more trivial note, the slices of pizza were far and away the largest slices that we had ever encountered and, despite being extremely tired, Mahid and Moshahid's eyes popped wide open as they saw the pizza, which proved a delightful first taste of an array of American foods that they were able to sample during the visit!

By the time we had arrived at our accommodation it was midnight in the United States and so it was the middle of the night back in the United Kingdom. As a result, I did not inform Huzoor immediately that we had arrived safely. Instead, I decided to wait until it was morning time in the UK.

We soon fell asleep but due to jet lag, I woke up after two or three hours. I glanced at my phone and I saw a message from Huzoor enquiring if we had reached safely.

I was so grateful for Huzoor's love and concern, whilst feeling highly embarrassed that Huzoor had enquired himself about our arrival, rather than me informing him first.

Over the next week, Mahid and Moshahid enjoyed their visit a great deal. That they remained safe and well throughout the trip was no doubt a result of the continued prayers of Huzoor.

Indeed, during our travels, I received messages from Huzoor specifically enquiring after them, asking whether they were well and not suffering from jet lag or exhaustion. In terms of work, with the Grace of Allah, all events during our stay went well.

Though hosted by Khuddamul Ahmadiyya, each event was open to all members of the Jamaat. The format remained the same throughout - a talk followed by a Q & A session.

At each place, I mentioned that, prior to visiting the United States, I had mentioned to Huzoor that some Ahmadis, who lived in the United States or other countries far away from the Markaz, might wonder if Huzoor loved them in the same way he loved those Ahmadis who lived near him or he personally knew.

Upon hearing this thought, Huzoor said:

"If anyone - Khadim or any Ahmadi - wishes to know about the love that I feel for them, you should remind them of what I said in Germany several years ago, that whilst awake and asleep there is not a single Jamaat that does not pass through my mind and for whom I do not pray. This remains the case and always will."

Very beautifully, Huzoor said:

"The truth is that all of the Khulafa have always had sincere love for every Ahmadi, wherever in the world they may be, because they have associated themselves with the Promised Messiah (as)."

Thereafter, Huzoor gave a glimpse into his own feelings of love towards Ahmadis.

In words filled with immense emotion and love, Huzoor said:

"On my part, each day and night, from the depths of my heart, I pray for every single Ahmadi, whether they write to me or not, that may Allah have mercy on them and may He remove all of their distresses, their pain and their suffering. I pray that may Allah grant them success and all forms of peace and happiness."

Very movingly, Huzoor added:

"Thus, the love that the Khulafa have for members of the Jamaat is an innate and everlasting love that lies deep in the heart of the Khalifa... Nowhere in the world will you find such love as the bond that exists between the Khalifa and the members of the Jamaat of the Promised Messiah (as)."

It was evident at each event in the United States that these words of Huzoor had a deep impact upon the local Jamaat members. Many, many people came up to me after each event asking me to convey their gratitude to Huzoor and their love and loyalty for Khilafat.

In terms of the Question and Answer parts, I felt especially nervous and fearful of saying something wrong. Everyone is aware of their weaknesses, and I am no different. I am not, by any standard, a scholar and my religious knowledge is particularly weak.

When asked a question, I sometimes struggle to respond adequately in the moment. Many times, after I have given my answer, I have found that a much better one comes to my mind immediately after the discussion ends.

When I was a lot younger, I recall being sent to the United States to attend a Jamaat Media Conference. As a guest of the Markaz, I was asked to speak in front of everyone. I did not wish to expose my ignorance and so tried in vain to pretend I knew all the answers. The result was that I spoke quite incoherently.

Conversely, over the years, I have seen how Huzoor responds to every question asked of him. The vast majority of times, Huzoor answers the question beautifully, according to Islam's teachings and to the questioner's satisfaction. Occasionally, though, I have seen Huzoor, with true humility and without any complex, respond by saying he will research the topic further and then provide an answer later.

Thus, I have learned from Huzoor that if I do not know the answer to something, it is better to simply admit it and to avoid pretence of any kind.

During the events, I soon learned that having my children present was a good means of keeping me humble and grounded!

At all times, even when I was delivering speeches or taking part in formal events, I would try to keep an eye to make sure that they were behaving, content and, above all, safe and sound!

The thought of something bad happening to them in any circumstances is greatly distressing but, when I had specially sought Huzoor's permission to bring them with me and also separated them from their mother for a few days, the pressure and fears were incalculably intensified.

A Missed Moment. Yet Forever Cherished

One Monday, in late April, a few days after our return from the United States, Huzoor called me to his office at 11.15am and, over the next 90 minutes, gave me dictation for his forthcoming addresses at the Waqf-e-Nau and Waqfat-e-Nau Ijtemas.

I spent the next few days typing up and revising the draft according to the instructions received from Huzoor.

After an intense few days of work, I submitted the drafts to Huzoor on Friday afternoon. Since the work meant I had hardly seen my family that week, when my wife Mala mentioned a list of urgently required groceries, I told her that because I was now free, I would go and get them.

She had also had a busy week at home, so when I volunteered to get the groceries, she decided to rest for a few minutes.

Though my trip to Sainsbury's was well-intentioned, it was one I soon came to regret.

Those familiar with Sainsbury's in Farnham may know that phone and internet reception is often sparse. Consequently, WhatsApp messages or calls are usually not received until one has exited the store. Thus, after completing my shopping and exiting, I noticed several missed calls and messages from home.

Just as I was about to call back, I saw the phone ring again. It was Mala and as soon as I picked up, she seemed breathless and flustered.

She said: "You made a big mistake going to Sainsbury's!"

I was panicked wondering what had happened.

She then said: "And I made a big mistake falling asleep!"

I was even more panicked wondering what was going on and if our children were ok.

I said frantically: "What has happened? Is everyone ok?"

In reply, she said: "Huzoor came! Huzoor came to our house! You were not here and I was half asleep!"

She then added: "Huzoor came to see the shed!"

Amid the confusion, I was overwhelmed with emotions. I was relieved that everything was well. Where I was delighted to hear Huzoor had visited, I was also desperately sad to have missed him.

Once I got back home, Mala and our children told me how Huzoor's visit had unfolded.

A few months earlier, in December, we had a new shed built in our backyard. Once it was built, I furnished it and requested Huzoor if he would come and inspect it.

During the winter period, Huzoor had not taken any walks in the Islamabad premises and so the possibility that Huzoor might visit us was not at all in my thoughts. Likewise, when I had Mulaqat just an hour before Huzoor had visited, he had not given any hint of a visit.

My son Mahid told me how, soon after I had left, they had become aware that Huzoor had come out for a walk and so he and his brother Moshahid rushed outside and both were lucky enough to receive a chocolate from Huzoor.

A few moments later, Huzoor called Mahid back and asked if our daughter Jaweria had received a chocolate or not. Mahid said she was still at home. Thus, Huzoor most kindly said that Mahid and Moshahid should go and get their sister so she could too receive a chocolate

Mahid told me that because Huzoor had given him this duty, he ran faster than he had ever run before!

As soon as they reached home, they woke Mala and exclaimed, "Huzoor is calling Jaweria".

Shoes quickly put on, her brothers led Jaweria outside and, upon doing so, they saw that Huzoor was approaching our house.

By now Mala, perhaps still a little startled, as a minute or two before she had been deep asleep, opened the back gate leading to the backyard and offered "salam" to Huzoor.

Most graciously, Huzoor entered our home and proceeded directly to the shed and inspected it. Unfortunately, it was a little messier than normal as Mahid had been doing his homework a few minutes earlier and so his bag and books remained strewn across the desk and floor. Yet, kindly ignoring this detail, Huzoor appreciated the shed and said that it had been very well decorated.

Thereafter, Huzoor noticed a chess board set up and asked Mahid if he played.

Mahid said that he did and so Huzoor asked if he could beat me in a game.

In reply, Mahid happily informed Huzoor that he was better than his father at chess, which is true!

With immense love and kindness, Huzoor then entered our home. He enquired from Mala what she had cooked that day and spoke to her and the children for a few moments before departing.

Mahid and Moshahid were especially happy and excited. They kept narrating what had happened, moment by moment, and were trying to count exactly how many words Huzoor had spoken to them! Their joy was one to behold.

The type of joy that only Khalifa-Waqt can impart.

Though I was sad to have missed the opportunity to receive Huzoor, I felt overjoyed that he had blessed our home and family with his presence. Alhamdulillah.

Friday Walks: The Khalifa Among His People

Huzoor's walk that evening also heralded the start of a period of several months, when more often than not, Huzoor would come out early evening on Fridays and meet members of the Jamaat and distribute chocolates to children.

With each passing Friday, Ahmadis gathered in ever larger numbers, as word quickly spread that Huzoor would take a walk in Islamabad.

As the crowds grew, with people coming from abroad or across the UK purely to partake in such blessed moments, it became less a walk around the Islamabad complex.

Instead, Huzoor would very patiently and lovingly stop and gift chocolates to the increasing number of children and speak to and show affection to many Ahmadis who had come to meet him.

Those present observed the mutual bond of love between Khalifa-Waqt and each Ahmadi who met him, irrespective of age.

Elders would stand to attention, whilst Huzoor would affectionately tell them to remain seated.

Small children would express their love to Huzoor, who in turn, would smile and joke with them.



Jamia students would line up in the hope of catching Huzoor's eye and quite often Huzoor would meet them, enquire after them and made those who seemed a little serious or stressed feel immediately at ease through a smile or light comment.

All in all, each week Huzoor would spend up to an hour greeting and meeting the many Ahmadis who had come to see him.

Cookies, Compassion & Confidence

In early July, on behalf of my wife, I approached Yasir Wasim sahib, a Khadim who manages the Islamabad 'Tuck Shop' about whether he would be interested in stocking a 'cookie and cream' dessert that she had developed.

After testing a sample, he agreed and gave an order of 15 individual portions for the Friday that followed. He said he would see if the desserts sold and what the feedback was. If it proved popular, he would give further orders in future.

Friday soon came and so Mala duly delivered the desserts to him. And after Jummah, our children and I were charged by Mala to go and see if they were selling!

They were indeed selling, though some were bought by Mahid and Moshahid themselves! My mother-in-law had just arrived from abroad as well and she also sent Mahid to buy a couple of desserts as well to help get the ball rolling!

Later in the day, as part of the Friday afternoon walk, Huzoor briefly visited the Tuck Shop and spent a few minutes inspecting the products being sold.

Afterwards, Yasir told me that he had informed Huzoor that one of the new products that day was Mala's dessert. Huzoor enquired how much the pots were being sold for and what Mala's profit margin was! This was something she had not yet had the courage to discuss or ask about!

It was a blessing for Mala to know that Huzoor was aware of her new venture and aware of the costings, though Mala was slightly worried if it was something Huzoor considered appropriate for her to continue with.

The next day, I reported for Mulaqat and presented a briefing as normal.

At the end, just as I was leaving, Huzoor smiled and said:

"Yesterday, I visited the Tuck Shop and Yasir showed me a cream pudding that he had new in stock and I thought he said that 'Abid sahib has made it!' So I asked him in surprise: 'Did Abid make it?' and then he said 'Abid sahib's wife."

Huzoor said he had enquired the cost of producing it and the cost of sale.

In reply, I mentioned that she had not discussed the details with Yasir because it had just been a test to see if any were sold.

Huzoor smiled and said:

"She will make a small profit if she keeps making them. Tell her that, during the Jalsa period, instead of 15, she should make 25 or 30 servings, because there will be a lot of rush and so she can earn a little bit more during these days."

I thanked Huzoor and thought of how Huzoor so graciously supports Ahmadi women and encourages them to partake in small businesses or ventures, which do not cause them to neglect their family responsibilities.

Thus, where Mala was worried whether Huzoor may consider it appropriate, in fact, Huzoor encouraged her and gave her the confidence to continue something that might prove a means of support for her. When I told Mala she was relieved and delighted.

As I left, I also mentioned that even though Mala's desserts had sold out, the truth was that Mahid and Moshahid had gone and bought several from their pocket money!

Very tenderly and kindly, Huzoor said:

That: "The children are encouraging and supporting their mother."

Friendship with Allah: Not One-Sided

One afternoon earlier this year, whilst in Mulaqat, I mentioned to Huzoor that when I meet young Ahmadis, sometimes they express that they do not feel as though they are deriving benefit from Salat.

Hearing this, Huzoor said:

"In the Holy Quran, Allah said to the Arabs who had newly accepted Islam that do not say that you have believed yet, rather say only that you have 'accepted' Islam because true belief has not yet entered your hearts. This illustrates that the standard of 'faith' (imaan) is far higher than simply reciting the Kalima."

Huzoor said:

"Similarly, to merely pray in a superficial way or to offer the various postures of Salat quickly is not true prayer or worship. Such prayers do not confer real benefit. Rather, proper Salat is that which is offered in a state of complete submission to Allah and when a person is consumed by the love of His Master and opens his or her heart before Him."

Huzoor further said:

"Proper Salat requires that a person expresses his love and gratitude to Allah the Almighty at all times and in all states, rather than only turning to Him when faced by a trial or when they desire something."

Thereafter, Huzoor explained that many people are guilty of expecting Allah to save them from all forms of pain or hardship, yet they themselves do not fulfil the demands placed upon them.

Huzoor said:

"Recently, I received a letter from an Ahmadi who said that Allah says that He is the 'friend' of a believer and, if this is true, how can it be that Allah permits His friends to face trials or sorrows? In response, I wrote that true friendship cannot be one-way. It cannot be that we expect Allah to fulfil our every need and to save us from every trial, if we fail to adhere or listen to His commands. Nor can it be that we fail to remain patient and to keep our trust in Him if and when we face some form of distress."

Continuing, Huzoor said:

"So, tell the Khuddam that there is no such thing as 'one-way' friendship - rather that is actually 'selfishness. As humans we must seek Allah's true friendship by praying with sincerity, humility and devotion whilst seeking to fulfil all his commands. Then, we will certainly see Allah's friendship towards us."

A Summer Break & Back to Islamabad

In mid-August, with Huzoor's permission, my family and I took a few days of holiday. We visited Wales and also enjoyed a day out in London.

The night before we went away, I reminded Huzoor of our plan and asked after how many days should I return to the office. I mentioned that in my formal application I had requested five days leave but that if Huzoor required it could be shortened.

Very graciously, Huzoor said:

"Take as long as you like."

Upon this, I mentioned how the previous summer in 2024, I had requested some leave and Huzoor had instructed to come back within three days because he required some work from me in relation to the Germany Jalsa.

Hearing this, Huzoor said:

"This year is no such work. So you can take 5 days as you have requested. Or you can even take 10 days!"

I replied:

"Jazak Allah, 5 days is more than sufficient for us."

Thereafter, Huzoor enquired where we planned to visit in Wales.

I mentioned I had made a hotel booking in Cardiff for a couple of nights.

Upon this, Huzoor said:

"If you are going to Wales you should visit some of the scenic parts not just the city."

If Huzoor had not said this, most likely, we would have just stayed in and around the city. Instead, we went on some extremely scenic drives deep into the Welsh valleys and countryside. We reached a part of the coastline where the view was captivating.

As we enjoyed the fresh air and exquisite natural beauty, I was so grateful and glad that Huzoor had encouraged us to go further afield than we otherwise had planned.

Upon returning to Islamabad, I was extremely glad to meet Huzoor and to narrate some incidents of our travel.

After telling him about visiting Wales and the blessings of following his advice, I also mentioned a day trip we took to London.

I mentioned how we had visited 'Harrods', the famous department store. Known for its luxury and high prices, I mentioned how, amongst the exorbitant prices and premium goods, there was a portion of smoked salmon that had been marked down to a relatively cheap price, as it had reached its 'Use by' date.

Having been purchased, the salmon remained unrefrigerated for several hours as we continued our day out.

The weather was hot and so when we returned home I wondered if it would be safe to eat or if it should be discarded. As it looked ok, I decided to take a bite. It tasted fine and so two of our children also eagerly ate some.

However, as soon as we had consumed it, I started feeling anxious and wondering if I had made a mistake in eating it. I was particularly regretful of having fed it to the children. I started looking up online the effects of eating salmon that had potentially gone off and soon came across some horror stories!

The next 24 hours proved to be an unpleasant waiting game, wondering if there would be any adverse effects.

I told Huzoor that I had prayed and done Istighfar and that, thankfully, with the Grace of God, we were all fine.

Hearing this, Huzoor mentioned a native, herbal remedy which helped alleviate stomach complaints or sickness and said we should keep that in our home.

Thereafter, I mentioned to Huzoor that in Harrods we saw that they were selling grapes at a cost of £75 per bunch!

Apparently, the grapes were imported specially from Japan but they looked quite ordinary to us.

Hearing this, Huzoor said:

"Harrods fleece customers! It is just the 'name', otherwise the quality is not that high. In the past, I received some fruits and cakes from Harrods as a gift and the fruit was over-ripe and the cakes were also not very good. On the other hand, I have found that the food quality of Marks & Spencer is much better."

Joy in duty - Unwell but Unwavering

A few days later, on 19 August, I entered Huzoor's office for Mulaqat and could immediately see that he was not feeling well.

Indeed, as soon as I entered, Huzoor said:

That: "How are you? I have a severe bout of flu."

Huzoor said he was taking a combination of western medicines, homeopathy and some herbal remedies in order to alleviate the symptoms so he could continue working.

He said it was his intention to start preparing his addresses for the Germany Jalsa that day but that he was now unsure if he would be able to prepare.

Huzoor said:

That: "A person makes his own plan but sometimes Allah's Will is different."

Given that he was not well, I asked Huzoor if he would not take some rest at home, instead of remaining in his office.

In response, Huzoor simply said:

That: "No, I enjoy being in the office."

It was indicative of what I had always seen and known - that Khalifa-Waqt's enjoyment is not in leisure or rest.

Rather, his joy and contentment lies always in the service of Islam and the mission of the Promised Messiah (as).

Huzoor smiled and said that he had actually been unwell for three days before but no one had noticed because he had concealed it and continued as normal.

Thankfully, with the Grace of Allah, within a day or two, Huzoor was fully recovered and well.



Unceasing Service: The Devotion of Khilafat

Similarly, this year, Huzoor again addressed the Jalsa Salana Germany live from Islamabad on consecutive days.

With the Grace of Allah, as Huzoor delivered a faith-inspiring concluding address, my overriding emotion was of happiness and relief that Huzoor's health was much improved from a year before.

After delivering the concluding address on 31 August, Huzoor departed from the Masroor Hall in Islamabad at 5.10pm and returned to his residence.

Given Huzoor had just delivered the concluding address, I thought he would take some time to rest before returning to his office.

Indeed, I thought it unlikely that Huzoor would return to his office before 6pm and so I was somewhat relaxed thinking I had some time before I ought to report for Mulaqat.

However, just as I was thinking this, it occurred to me that I should not risk being late and so I went to the Private Secretary's office at 5.20pm.

Within a minute of my reaching, Huzoor came to his office and called me. Instead of taking any personal time or rest, Huzoor had returned swiftly to his office.

Often after such addresses or events, if I have the chance to meet Huzoor, he enquires if everything went ok.

So, it was on this occasion as well.

Huzoor asked:

That: "Did everything go ok?"

In reply, I said that everything was well and that, above all, I was grateful that, in contrast to a year before when Huzoor was in a state of unease, this year Huzoor seemed well.

Huzoor (aba) did not comment but gave a hint of a smile.

Thereafter, I added:

"Now, after the conclusion of the UK and Germany Jalsas, perhaps Huzoor may have some time to rest."

In reply, Huzoor said:

That: "In a couple of weeks, the Ijtemas of Lajna, Ansar and Khuddam will take place."

Hearing this, I said:

"Well hopefully Huzoor may find some time to rest in October then."

I made this comment without thinking and it came out somewhat involuntarily!

I felt afterwards it would have been better for me to remain quiet at that point but thankfully Huzoor did not seem to mind.

In reply, Huzoor (aba) stated:

That: "In October and November, there are also some engagements. Thereafter, the days will shorten and the nights shall be long."

Hearing this, I said:

"Huzoor, the truth is, and we have all witnessed this, that your work continues relentlessly in every month and season."

Huzoor smiled and then indicated that I should take leave and before I had reached the door to leave, he had resumed his work.

Conclusion

In this account, I have sought to highlight the immense blessings of Khilafat. It is a topic that no one can ever do true justice to. At every moment, Hazrat

Khalifatul Masih V (aba) continues to serve the mission of the Promised Messiah (as) with wisdom, grace, and profound humility. Every word, every gesture, and every prayer of Huzoor is devoted to bringing people closer to God Almighty and fulfilling the rights of His creation. Though the past few years have brought trials, the blessings associated with Khilafat have continued to ever increase. Alhamdulillah.

May Allah the Almighty grant Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V (aba) a long, healthy and active life in all respects. Ameen.