

104th Anniversary of AAII

Introduction:

It was on Saturday 2nd May 1914¹, few months prior to the commencement of World War I² that Maulana Muhammad Ali and his close associates decided to split away from what was then known as Ahmadiyya Movement³, and then immediately registered a new and absolutely correct to Islam religious body, the AAII⁴. What prompted this split⁵ in the Ahmadiyya Movement is explained in a few paragraphs below. This event happened in Lahore, which in 1914, was a major city in British India⁶ with high dominance of Muslim population.

Discussion on the 104th Anniversary of AAII:

- 1) It is both respectful and prudent that firstly, some dedicated consideration must be given to the founder of the AAII, Maulana Muhammad Ali. This recognition is for his determined drive and resilience to correct the wrong approaches taken by the Ahmadiyya Movement.
- 2) Maulana Muhammad Ali was unanimously elected and had continuously remained as the Ameer (also spelt *Amir*) of the AAII from 1914 till his sad demise in 1951⁷. It is indeed prudent to mention a brief history of Maulana Muhammad Ali⁸.

¹ The AAII was registered on 2nd May 1914 and on 3rd May 1914, there was a meeting of the newly appointed Council of Trustees. Hazrat Maulana Muhammad Ali was elected Ameer of the new community and President. In all 59 members were elected, which is including the Trustees.

² World War I: 28th July 1914-11th November 1918. This stopped migration of Indian indenture workers.

³ The precursors for the Ahmadiyya Movement actually commenced as early as 1869, after Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad received his first divine revelation from the Most High, but through His angels. The formal founding was however, done in 1889 in what was then the British Indian administration.

⁴ AAII = Ahmadiyya Anjuman Ishaat-i-Islam (Lahore). It is very important to clarify why the name Ahmadiyya was selected: Ahmad was the original birth name of Prophet Muhammad (*pbuh*), but his grandfather changed his name from Ahmad to Muhammad, when Ahmad was orphaned at age of 6.

⁵ Booklet "The Split in the Ahmadiyya Movement" in English language, first published in 1918 (then in British India). Reprinted in 1994.

⁶ The British Government wrested control of India from the Mughals Emperor and British India was governed 1857-1947.

⁷ All Ameer in AAII have continued and so far have been: Maulana Muhammad Ali (1914-1951), Maulana Sadr-ud-Din (1951-1981), Dr Saeed Ahmad Khan (1981-1996), Dr Asghar Hameed (1996-2002) and Dr Abdul Kareem Saeed Pasha (2002-current).

⁸ Maulana Muhammad Ali has been the first Muslim to translate the Holy Qur'an into English in 1917 and as the author of the world-famous book 'The Religion of Islam' in 1936. Most conspicuously, Maulana Muhammad Ali is also the author of several highly-acclaimed books on Islam both in English and Urdu languages. As a person, Maulana Muhammad Ali was always a noted institution in Islam.

- 3) This concise clarification is important, as there were few other people with identical names. Maulana Muhammad Ali MA LLB was born in British India, which was in Murar, Kapurthala State (now in Ludhiana district, Punjab, India) in 1874. He died in Karachi on October 13, 1951, and is buried in Lahore, Pakistan.
- 4) After the partition between Pakistan and India of August 1947⁹, Maulana Muhammad Ali had chosen and remained at Lahore, which then became politically part of Pakistan. Initially, by profession, he was a professor, lecturing in mathematics, but he continued to study at another university and later qualified as a lawyer with LLB degree in 1899, at the age of 25.
- 5) Born in 1874 in Punjab (India), Maulana Muhammad Ali joined the Ahmadiyya Movement in 1897. As he stood on the threshold of a lucrative career in law in 1897, the 14th *Hijri* Reformer (Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (b.1835 – d.1908)) the Founder of the Ahmadiyya Movement, called on him to devote his life to the service of Islam. Maulana Muhammad Ali forthwith abandoned his worldly plans as a qualified lawyer, and went and joined the 14th *Hijri* Reformer (Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad) in Qadian.
- 6) The decision to join the Ahmadiyya Movement and not to commence with his newly established Law Practice was Maulana Muhammad Ali's very own. Here Maulana Muhammad Ali learnt those gems of Islamic truth which were uncovered in this age by the 14th *Hijri* Reformer (Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad) the Founder of the Ahmadiyya Movement and through which, Islam was now going to attract the hearts of people all over the world.
- 7) In order to get AAIIIL history into correct chronological flow, it is best to narrate with the life of the 14th *Hijri* Reformer, Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad. The 14th *Hijri* Reformer or *Mujaddid*¹⁰ (Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad), was one of several persons who were Divinely programmed to serve the Muslim communities of the world. Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad was successor to the 13th *Hijri* Reformer or *Mujaddid* Syed Ahmad Bareilvi (b.1786-d.1831)¹¹.

⁹ That was also Independence from the former British Empire, which ceased as Empire in 1948.

¹⁰ A Reformer in English is same as a *Mujaddid* as an Arabic expression, which is taken to mean a Renovator of faith. The English language best equivalent is "Reformer."

¹¹ Syed Ahmad Bareilvi (1786–1831), belonged to Raebareli community in India. Raebareli was a part of historical United Provinces of Agra and Oudh. Thus he is named in historical and contemporary writings as Bareilvi with respect to his place of origin. He was the 13th *Hijri* Reformer or *Mujaddid* in India, during Mughal Rule period (1526-1857). Syed Ahmad Bareilvi was widely travelled throughout most of India preaching correctness of Islam. However, he was killed (beheaded) by the Sikh army of Maharaja Ranjit Singh in Balakot, then in Mansehra District, what is now called Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

- 8) As renovators of Islam, it was the responsibility of all past Reformers or *Mujaddids* to remove all the dross, which had crept into Islam and to return Islam to pristine originality as left behind by Prophet Muhammad (*pbuh*); and so for that knowledge to be passed over to other communities. Whilst the past 124,000 prophets were appointed by Almighty God through His agent archangel Gabriel, each of those past 124,000 prophets came for their own communities, rather than the world at large.
- 9) After the death of Prophet Muhammad (*pbuh*) in 632AD and over the period of 1,400 years, Almighty God had sent over, nineteen Reformers or *Mujaddids* for the repeated renovation of Islam, as lots of alien beliefs and practices had crept into Islam and at the same time help understand the Holy Qur'an better.
- 10) The 14th *Hijri* Reformer or *Mujaddid* (Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad) arose in British India (b.1835 – d.1908) at a time when the faith of Islam was under heaviest attacks by its critics. Islam was being misrepresented as a primitive, crude and violent ideology. Most Muslim leaders of the time throughout the world were falling short of defending Islam effectively, as they themselves featured with outdated knowledge, narrow vision and their own misconceptions about Islam.
- 11) They simply failed to meet up to the challenges of attacks by the well-educated critics of Islam.
- 12) Objectively, the 14th *Hijri* Reformer or *Mujaddid* (Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad) put forward several literature in the forms of posters, leaflets and books, which were mostly in Urdu, Arabic and some in Persian. None of the books authored by Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad was in English, although in 1900, the British Empire had over 200 countries as members. In almost all these countries, English was the official State language. There was dire need therefore to have somebody to translate those literature into English, plus writing some new leaflets and books.
- 13) It was therefore necessary through Divine assistance, to have someone who had excellent command of the English language; someone who was also excellent in logic - using mathematics as developmental base for logic; someone who wrote in English so perfectly, that it meant exactly what was written and no other meaning using legally based arguments¹². Maulana Muhammad Ali's works are so precise and do not have any room for other alternate meanings.

¹² It was then necessary to have a brilliant person of outstanding logic, cultured command of English language and knowledge of Islam and many other religions and scriptures, to translate and spread the same message to the wider communities of over 200 English-speaking countries. This was the main reason why Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad asked Maulana Muhammad Ali to abandon his intended private practice as a lawyer and join him in the service of Islam.

- 14)** Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad also claimed to be the Messiah, whom the Muslims were expecting and who would come at most critical times in history. He denied on oath to have made any claim of his being a prophet of any description whatsoever. On the contrary, he clarified that his mission was to preach Islam in its pristine originality as taught by Prophet Muhammad (*pbuh*) – the Final Prophet – and to identify salient aspects in the Holy Qur’an as valid responses, when probing questioned by his ruthless critics.
- 15)** It is now prudent to delve into the history of what prompted the split in the Ahmadiyya Movement in 1914. Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad continuously stressed with clarity that he was only a *Mujaddid* of the 14th *Hijri* and he was not a prophet of any description whatsoever.
- 16)** In this regard, Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad was widely accepted by most Muslims throughout the world as the *Mujaddid* of the 14th *Hijri*, inasmuch as all other past *Mujaddid* were widely accepted before him.
- 17)** On the contrary, the eldest son of Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (whose name was Bashir-ud-Din Mahmood Ahmad), made serious false statements and he was supported by the conspiracy of his close circle of friends, as a clique that his father (Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad) was indeed a full-fledged prophet: Bashir-ud-Din Mahmood Ahmad, then aged 25, added that most regretfully, even his father did not know that he (Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad) was really a prophet!
- 18)** This baseless claim is contradictory to the very injunction in the Holy Qur’an at **HQ33:40** “*Muhammad is not the father of any of your men, but he is the Messenger of Allah and the Seal of the prophets. And Allah is ever Knower of all things.*” The first part of that verse Divinely rules Prophet Muhammad (*pbuh*) as not having his family hierarchy descendants within humanity and he was the Seal and Final Prophet. However, the second part of the verse further seals off that Almighty God is Knower of all things: in other words Almighty God knows His sealing off and no more prophets will come. Almighty God does not make any mistake!
- 19)** Bashir-ud-Din Mahmood Ahmad further added that all those Muslims who do not accept his father Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad as a full-fledged prophet are no longer considered as Muslims. The quantum impact of this baseless assertion by Bashir-ud-Din Mahmood Ahmad about his own father (Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad) being a prophet, was outright rejection of Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad by mainstream majority Muslims throughout India and many other countries that he (Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad) was even not the 14th *Hijri Mujaddid* but an imposter.
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- 20) Most regretfully, this rejection has remained as a festering wound to this day.
- 21) The fundamental fact remained to this day that Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad did not ever personally claim that he was a prophet of any description whatsoever; he always upheld the sealed off closure and finality of prophets as stipulated as a Qur'anic statute at **HQ33:40**.
- 22) Consequently, Maulana Muhammad Ali convened several meetings¹³ with Bashir-ud-Din Mahmood Ahmad and his close circle of friends for them to heed to the Holy Qur'an at **HQ33:40**.
- 23) There was absolute deadlock in discussions and Bashir-ud-Din Mahmood Ahmad and his close circle of friends upheld their stubbornness.
- 24) Finally, looking forward and having all intentions of saving Islam from any further insult, Maulana Muhammad Ali left Rabwah in Qadian (British India) and took up residency in Lahore (British India) in April 1914. The AAAIL was then registered separately.
- 25) This was done at the British Government Registration Office at Lahore (then in British India in 1914), under Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860, with a budget of Indian Rs200, 000. The Act XXI was for the Registration of Literary, Scientific and Charitable Societies¹⁴.
- 26) It must be remembered that at the time of registration of the AAAIL, all the assets of property and funding held by the Ahmadiyya Movement¹⁵ were neither released to the AAAIL, nor shared with the AAAIL, but held back by Bashir-ud-Din Mahmood Ahmad's misguided rebel group in Qadian.
- 27) Maulana Muhammad Ali and the first Trustees then had to start all over from nothing: and they had to depend solely on their members' personal sacrifices.
- 28) It is for all correct thinking Muslims to guide and assist other Muslims; the Holy Qur'an has sanctioned that correct advice shall be given

¹³ There were several meetings between Maulana Muhammad Ali and Bashir-ud-Din Mahmood Ahmad's group prior to 2nd May 1914, on the stipulation in the Holy Qur'an at HQ33:40, until it came to conclusion that there was deadlock to the point of stubbornness by Bashir-ud-Din Mahmood Ahmad's group. That became the split of the Ahmadiyya Movement. The split meant taking a detour out of the Ahmadiyya Movement, registration of AAAIL whilst following the founding principles clarified by the 14th *Hijri Mujaddid* and then resumption of those Ahmadiyya Movement principles.

¹⁴ Because of the commonality of both groups having the name Ahmadiyya, it became necessary to add the suffix of (Lahore) to differentiate from the other. Consequently in common parlance, the AAAIL is referred to as Lahori Jama'at. The Bashir-ud-Din Mahmood Ahmad group were referred to as **Qadiannis**. They have over the years changed their name again to *Ahmadiyya Muslim Community*.

¹⁵ Mirza Ghulam Ahmad had inherited substantial property assets and funding from his father, who was a wealthy landlord in Qadian, India. He invested these assets into the Ahmadiyya Movement.

to those who need to be correctly guided. This is given in the Holy Qur'an at **HQ3:104**, as *“And from among you there should be a party who invite to good and enjoin the right and forbid the wrong. And these are they who are successful.”*

Conclusions on 104th Anniversary of AAIIIL:

- a) The Holy Qur'an stipulates at **HQ33:40** that Prophet Muhammad (*pbuh*) is Seal of Prophets and this means that no prophet of any description (whether old or new) would ever come after the death of Prophet Muhammad (*pbuh*) in 632AD. Prophet Muhammad (*pbuh*) was the Last and Final Prophet of the 124,000 prophets who came previously to various communities throughout this world, since creation of Adam and Eve.
- b) *Mujaddids* (Reformers) would continue to come every Islamic *Hijri* as renovators and refurbish Islam to pristine originality, as would have been in the life of Prophet Muhammad (*pbuh*) in 632AD, with advances in science and technology notwithstanding.
- c) Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad was only the *Mujaddid* (Reformer) of the 14th Islamic *Hijri* and he was not a prophet of any description whatsoever.
- d) Non-acceptance of Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad does not expel any person from the wider faith of Islam.
- e) The AAIIIL accepts all persons as Muslims of whatsoever sect or division followership, as practitioners of Islam.

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