

# KHITAAB



A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF AHMADIYYA ANJUMAN  
ISHAAT - I - ISLAM (LAHORE) FIJI

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## BUDDHA'S MESSAGE TO THE WORLD

(Delivered in San Francisco, California on March 18, 1990 by Swami Vivekanand)

"..... And then comes Mohammed, the Messenger of Equality. You ask, what good can there be in his religion?" If there were no good, how could it live? The good alone lives, that alone survives. Because the good alone is strong, therefore it survives. How long does the influence of an impure man endure? Is it not a fact that the pure man's influence lasts much longer? Without doubt, for purity is strength. How could Islam have lived had there been nothing good in its teachings? There is much good. Mohammed was the Prophet of Equality, the brotherhood of all Mussalmans.

Now, ignorant fools start twenty thousand stories and put forward, according to their own mental development, explanations to suit their own ideas, and ascribe them to these great teachers. They take their teachings and put their misconstructions upon them.

Mohammed by his life showed that among Muslims there should be perfect equality and brotherhood. There was no question of race, caste, creed, color or sex. The Sultan of Turkey may buy a negro from the mart of Africa and bring him in chain to Turkey, but should he become a Muslim and have sufficient merit and ability, he might marry the daughter of the Sultan.

Compare this with the way in which the Negroes and American Indians are treated in this country. And what do Hindus do? If one of your missionaries chanced to touch the food of an orthodox person, he would throw it away. Notwithstanding our grand philosophy, you note our weakness in practice; but there you see the greatness of Islam beyond our faith, showing itself in equality, perfect equality, regardless of race or color." (An extract from the speech)

## FIJI JAMAAT CELEBRATES DIAMOND JUBILEE

The Ahmadiyya Anjuman Ishaat-I-Islam of Fiji commemorated its sixtieth year in Fiji with a special Diamond Jubilee celebration at Masjid Noor on Saturday 10 December. The Jamaat was first registered here at 10.15 a.m. on 3rd October 1934 under the Religious Bodies Registration Ordinance No. 3 of 1881, marking the beginning of Ahmadiyyat in Fiji.

In his message to the Fiji Jamaat, Hazrat Ameer Dr Saeed Ahmad Khan Sahib said:

"In the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful.

1. Praise be to Allah, the Lord of the worlds,
2. The Beneficent, the Merciful.
3. Master of the day of Requital.
4. Thee do we serve and Thee do we beseech

for help.

5. Guide us on the right path,
6. The path of those upon whom Thou hast bestowed favours,
7. Not those upon whom wrath is brought down, nor those who go astray."

I begin my message with Al-Fatiha to thank the Almighty Allah that today the Ahmadiyya Jamaat, Fiji celebrates 60th year of its existence. I feel very privileged to be able to participate through this message in your joys, achievements and celebrations. This day marks your relationship with Ahmadiyyat. The message of Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad of Qadian, the Promised Messiah and Mujaddid of the fourteenth century was received by people of Fiji 60 years back and

since then you have adhered to it and made its spread the primary goal of your lives. You have remained devoted to and given due respect to the "MOTHER CENTRE" in Lahore from which you received your first nourishment when you felt the spiritual hunger. Since then you have yearned for more and received spiritual guidance to quench your desire to imbibe more from the fountain of religious knowledge.

I appreciate how you have always welcomed and looked after the spiritual figures including Mirza Muzaffar Beg Sate, Maulana Abdul Haq Viddiyarhi, Maulana Ahmad Yar and Hafiz Sher Mohammad. You spared no effort to learn what these great scholars had to impart and immediately put it into practice. The result was a great Ahmadiyya Jamaat.

It was rewarded by ALLAH, among other things, with Masjid-e-Noor, which is a symbol of your devotion and love for Islam. Its pure white dome reflects the light within you and the burning desire to spread it far and wide.

I pray for your progress to higher spiritual goals. May the 60 years that have passed by be a source of inspiration in your future efforts. Amen!

Be firm in your resolve to spread the teachings of the Holy Quran and the Prophet Muhammad, on whom be peace and blessings of Allah, as taught by Hazrat Mirza. This is the objective of every Ahmadi. MAY ALLAH BE WITH YOU. Amen!"

The jalsa at Masjid Noor featured Tilawat Quran by Maulvi Abdul Kuddus, Mrs

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From page 1

Malka Shah and Master Mashood Raza; nazams by Miss Shabana Sahu Khan, Miss Famida Raza and Miss Zakia Dean; speeches from our youth group - by Master Noor Dean and Miss Razia Dean.

The National President Dr M.S. Sahu Khan spoke on Ahmadiyyat in Fiji and internationally, Mr Mehboob Raza spoke on the work of Maulana Muhammad Ali while the General Secretary of the Anjuman, Muhammad Amin Sahu Khan spoke on the significance of Mujaddids and the claims of Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad. Vice-President of the Sydney Jamaat, Dr Muhammad Ali Sahu Khan, was also present at the jalsa and addressed the gathering. The program was compered by the Assistant General Treasurer, Mr Muhammad Imran Sahu Khan.

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## HAZRAT AMEER RECOVERING AFTER SURGERY

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On October 3, 1994, Hazrat Ameer Sahib underwent surgery in Sheikh Zaid Hospital in Lahore. By the Grace of God, the operation was successfully carried out. After about a stay of a week in the hospital, he returned home where he is now convalescing. All members and friends of the Jamaat are requested to pray for his health and long life.

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## EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR IN LAHORE

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The Annual Educational Seminar was held at Darus Salam, from July 23-31. The official opening was done by Hazrat Ameer with a short address and prayers for the students. Some of the topics discussed in the course were:

1. The prophesies of the Promised Messiah, about Muslih Mau'ood and Muhamadi Begum, by Mr Ijaz Ahmed.
2. Brief life history of the four Imams of Fiqah and their method of Ijtihad - by Maulana Shafqat Rasool.
3. Ch. Abdul Hameed Sahib presented a discussion on the prophesies about Imam Mahdi.
4. Raja Muhammad Baidar Sb. presented a discussion on the importance of prayer.
5. Concept of God, Doctrine of Trinity, Ijmah and Ijtihad, by Prof. Ghulam Rasool M.A.LLB

Students were also lectured and quizzed on the life of the Promised Messiah, and competitive speech programs were held in various categories. Participation and enthusiasm for the course was excellent.

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## ALHAMDULILLAH: CHILDREN'S BOOK

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The Jamaat's first illustrated children's book - 'ALHAMDULILLAH', written by Fazeel Sahu Khan, is based on the commonly used Islamic terms and phrases. The book tells a story about a little boy Sulaiman, his older sister Fatima and their Mother and Father, using appropriate Islamic terms to portray the various situations in a natural manner. Thus this serves to be both entertaining and educational for the young ones. The book is being printed in color and is made of cardboard, which is very commonly used for children's books to withstand wear and tear.

*[The Fiji Anjuman congratulates young Fazeel Sahu Khan on authoring this much needed book, a fine accomplishment on the part of such a fine man. May Allah reward him.]*

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## PAIGHAM SULH BACK IN PUBLICATION

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Paigham Sulh has been the official newspaper of the Ahmadiyya Anjuman Lahore since its very inception in 1914. Its name meaning 'The Message of Peace' appropriately reflects the contents of the paper. Intellectual articles of a religious nature, community news, and articles of general interest all find their place in it. Unfortunately, the Pakistan Government has made it impossible for the paper to be published in Pakistan for the last several years. There was an urgent need, however, not to let this important piece of Ahmady heritage be consigned to oblivion. After concerted efforts and planning, we are happy to announce that the Paigham Sulh is being published again, but now from U.S.A. on a bimonthly basis. The annual subscription is US\$19.00. All Ahmadies and other interested parties are requested to contribute to keep the effort going.

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## MINISTER RECEIVES AAI DELEGATION

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A delegation from the Fiji Anjuman comprising our National President Dr Muhammad Shams-Ud-Dean Sahu Khan, General Secretary Muhammad Amin Sahu Khan and Assistant General Treasurer Mr Muhammad Imran Sahu Khan called on the Minister for Multi-Ethnic Affairs, Honourable Joe Nacola, on Tuesday 13 December and presented him with a copy of the Holy Quran, Manual of Hadith, Religion of Islam and other literature of the Anjuman. The Minister was briefed about the beliefs of the Ahmadiyya Lahore Jamaat and its aims and objectives.

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## JAMAAT SUES THE FIJI TIMES

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The Ahmadiyya Anjuman Ishaat-I-Islam (Lahore) Fiji has filed a writ in the Lautoka High Court claiming damages against the Fiji Times Limited for the publication of an article against Prophet Muhammad on October 15.

The writ was filed by solicitors for the religious organisation, Sahu Khan & Sahu Khan Associates of Ba.

The article under the heading "Factual Comparison Between Lord Jesus Christ and Prophet Muhammad" has been described as false, baseless, malicious, mischievous, slanderous, defamatory and blasphemous allegations against Prophet Muhammad.

The article suggested Prophet Muhammad was a sinful Prophet; a socially unconventional and sexually promiscuous Prophet; merciless and troublesome Prophet and not to be followed or trusted because he did not deserve to be called a Prophet.

In the statement of claims, the solicitors for Ahmadiyya Anjuman Ishaat-I-Islam (Lahore) Fiji said the action was being taken on behalf of its members and on behalf of all Muslims generally and the religion of Islam.

The claim said the article published was done so maliciously and without reasonable cause and with the intention to incite ill feelings and disharmony between the followers of Islam and

## JAMAAT SUES THE FIJI TIMES....CONT

Christianity and to humiliate the feelings of the religious body, its members and the Muslims generally.

The article, read in the natural and ordinary manner meant and was understood to mean that the religious body, its members and Muslims were:

- . the followers of a sinful prophet
- . the followers of a socially unconventional and sexually promiscuous Prophet
- . the followers of an incompetent prophet
- . the followers of a merciless troublesome Prophet
- . the followers of a selfish Prophet
- . the followers of a Prophet who was a total failure
- . the followers of a Prophet who was a promoter of war and was against peace and harmony
- . the followers of a dishonourable Prophet

. the followers who had all the characteristics of the allegations against Prophet Muhammad as set out in the article dated October 15.

It also said that the publication by the Fiji Times Limited continued to have a detrimental and defamatory effect on the integrity and authority of the Ahmadiyya Anjuman Ishaat-I-Islam (Lahore) Fiji, its members and the Muslims generally and the religion of Islam.

The Ahmadiyya Anjuman Ishaat-I-Islam (Lahore) Fiji has claimed for damages for false, malicious, unfounded, mischievous, baseless, defamatory and blasphemous allegations. Aggravated, punitive and exemplary damages.

An injunction had been sought to restrain Fiji Times Limited and their servant or workmen from further publishing either orally or in writing the allegations referred to in the Statement of Claim or otherwise.

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## NIZAM-UD-DEAN HEADS FIJI ELECTRICITY AUTHORITY

The Fiji Electricity Authority has appointed Mr Nizam-Ud-Dean its new Chief Executive; he replaces Mr John Pirie. Brother Nizam is the elder son of Mrs Jinnat Dean and the late Mr Fareed Kamal-Ud-Dean of Suva. He is a past secretary of the Anjuman's Suva branch and the former Editor of our quarterly publication, Paigham-E-Haqq.

Brother Nizam-Ud-Dean was born in Suva and educated at Saint Columbus Primary School and Marist Brothers' High School. He received an Australian Commonwealth scholarship for Electrical Engineers in 1966 to attend the University of Queensland where he completed his Bachelor of Engineering Degree in 1970. He then began his career with the Southern Electric Authority of Queensland and later worked as an assistant electrical engineer with the Fiji Electricity Authority on secondment to Suva City Council Electricity Department since May 1972. Mr Dean was the Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer

with the Suva City Council until June 1978 when the Authority acquired the SCC electricity undertaking. He then became the Distribution Engineer Central Division for the FEA. He became its District Manager, Suva, in January 1981 and in May 1983 was appointed Regional Manager Central Division. For the past twelve months he has been the Acting Chief Executive of the Authority.

Brother Nizam is a Fellow of the Institute of Electrical Engineers (UK), Member of the Institute of Electrical Engineers (Australia), Fellow of the Fiji Institute of Engineers and also Overseas Fellow of the Economic Development Institute of the World Bank. He is 49, married with two children.

*The Fiji Anjuman congratulates Nizam on his well-deserved promotion, truly a reward from Allah for his sacrifices in the cause of Islam, and wishes him mighty success in all his endeavours as Fiji's electricity boss.*

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## MUMTAZ SAHU KHAN MIGRATES

An active member of the Fiji Anjuman and a past Vice-President of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Women's Movement, Mrs Mumtaz Bano Sahu Khan, migrates to Australia on 7th January 1995. She is the wife of the Anjuman's General Secretary, Amin Sahu Khan.

Mumtaz resigned from the Fiji Civil Service in December, having served the Ministry of Education as a teacher of Home Economics in various schools for the past twenty four years. At Masjid Noor she conducted regular Sunday classes in Arabic and Urdu for some years now, and taught Islamiyyat to the Ahmadiyya Muslim Women's Movement.

The Ahmadiyya Muslim Women's Movement farewelled Mumtaz at a luncheon at Masjid Noor on Sunday 4 December and presented her with a copy of the deluxe leather edition of the

Holy Quran; she reciprocated with a donation of \$500.00.

At a special Quran Daras held at Masjid Noor and hosted by Amin and Mumtaz, the National Anjuman bid farewell to Mumtaz. Speaking on behalf of the Anjuman, the National President, Dr M.S. Sahu Khan complimented Mumtaz on her contributions to the Anjuman as a teacher of Arabic, Urdu and Islamiyyat. Miss Shabana Sahu Khan spoke on behalf of the youth group. The Imam at Masjid Noor, Brother Imran Sahu Khan, also paid tribute to the work rendered to the Anjuman by Mumtaz. In responding to the speeches she urged those present to ensure that the children of the Jamaat were encouraged to learn Arabic and Urdu and Islamiyyat, and to instill in our young the desire to acquire knowledge. Mumtaz concluded her address with a donation of \$2,000.00 to the Fiji Anjuman.

## DR SAHU KHAN BECOMES FIFA'S LEGAL ADVISOR

The National President of the Fiji Anjuman has won himself top soccer honours. As President of the Fiji Football Association, Dr Muhammad Shams-Ud-Dean Sahu Khan has been appointed on the Federation of International Football Association's (FIFA's) six-member legal committee. From FIFA's entire membership of 180 countries throughout the world, only six

can serve on the committee, and Dr Sahu Khan from this tiny island in the South Pacific, is one of them.

Oceania Football Confederation (OFC) Secretary Josephine King congratulated Dr Sahu Khan, saying "It's a great opportunity. He's got it from his presentations at FIFA congress in the past; he is an excellent administrator."

Dr Sahu Khan's appointment includes him among the selected few who advise FIFA on all legal matters and on the review of its statutes.

## OBITUARY

The Fiji Anjuman is deeply grieved at the passing away in Pakistan of Sahibzada Muhammad Ahmad, Senior Vice President, Ahmadiyya Anjuman Lahore. He was buried in his family cemetery in Bannu. The deceased was the grandson of the famous companion of Hazrat Mirza Sahib, Sahibzada Abdul Latif, who was martyred in Afghanistan. The Fiji Jamaat extends its heartfelt condolence to the members of the bereaved family.

The Fiji Anjuman announces with grief the demise of Mr Mohammed Ali (popularly known as Babu), son of Mrs and the late Mr Mira Sahib of Flagstaff, Suva, on Thursday 22 September at the CWM Hospital, at the age of 54. Mr Ali is survived by his mother, wife, two sons, four daughters, three brothers and five sisters.

"O Soul that art at rest, return to thy Lord, well pleased, well pleasing, so enter among My servants and enter My Garden."  
*(Holy Quran: Ch. 89. vs 27-30)*

## WHAT IS DYING?

A ship sails and I stand watching till she fades on the horizon and someone at my side says, "she is gone." Gone where? Gone from my sight, that is all; she is just as large as when I saw her. The diminished size, and total loss of sight is in me, not in her, and just at the moment when someone at my side says "She is gone," there are others who are watching her coming, and other voices take up a glad shout, "There she comes!" and that is dying.

Bishop Brent

# UPDATES FROM ABROAD

## From USA:

### OUR HOLY QURAN A BEST SELLER

A measure of our success in propagating the true picture of Islam is the demand for our literature, especially the Holy Quran. In the last two months 8000 copies of the Holy Quran have been sold.

*Alhamdulillah.* In view of our rapidly depleting inventory, an order for 25,000 copies of the Quran have been placed with the printer. We bow down in humble gratitude before Allah that He is blessing our minuscule efforts with such success. Allah, of course, rewards effort and the effort is not lacking, thanks to our dear sister Samina Sahu Khan.

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### MEMBERSHIP IN PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES

The AAAIL Inc. has become a member of the American Association of Publishers and the National Association of College Stores. Sister Samina Sahu Khan has been elected a member of the Middle Eastern Studies Association. These memberships provide a forum to project the Jamaat viewpoint and disseminate our literature.

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### COLUMBUS CONVENTION

The Convention was held from July 29th thru 31st, at the conference room of the Buckeye Inn, Columbus, Ohio. By Allah's Grace, the turn out of members locally and from abroad, along with the spiritually motivating speeches was exceptional. Over \$60,000 was donated during fund-raising, *Alhamdulillah.* May Allah bless the untiring efforts of Sister Samina Sahu Khan and Brother Noman Malik for making this convention a success.

## NEW YORK CONVENTION

The New York Jamaat held its Annual Convention from Aug. 27-28. This coincided with the formal opening of the Center Building, in Jamaica, Queens. The Center has a prayer hall and kitchen on the first floor, residential accommodation on the second floor and a large backyard.

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### From Vancouver:

Brother Yasin Sahu Khan continues to spread the true spirit of Islam in the prison system through the Friday sermon. He also delivers the Quranic Dars, alternating with Faisal Sahu Khan and Fazeel Sahu Khan. May Allah Bless them for their efforts. Ameen.

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### From Holland:

The International Convention in Holland was held in the city of Utrecht. The local Jamaat in Utrecht has bought a church which was for sale and converted it into a mosque. Alongside the church, the Jamaat using its own money and manpower, has constructed a large hall, kitchen and toilets. The convention was held in these premises. Foreign participants came from U.S.A., U.K., Germany, Pakistan and Suriname.

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### From India:

Due to the persistent efforts of Brother Shaukat Ali from Bangkok and Brother Abdul Razaq from Bombay, a Jamaat has been formed in Delhi. Brother Shaukat is trying to find a place for the religious meetings of these members and education of their children.

*JazakAllah.*

## From Australia:

The 5th annual meeting of the AAAIL, Sydney, Australia was held at the residence of Dr A.H. Sahu Khan. Various executive officers and board members were elected. Gen. Secretary, Brother Usman Sahu Khan emphasised the need to strengthen the financial position of the Jamaat and a sum of \$6,000 in pledges was made.

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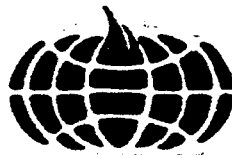
### From Trinidad and Tobago:

Sister Zarina in a letter dated Sept. 16th reports:

"At today's Jumuaah Saiaat, Brother Kalam Azad gave a brilliant and elucidating Khutba on the subject of 'Hijab'. The Muslims in Trinidad are struggling for the authorities to allow Muslim women to wear 'hijab' in the denominational schools.

The Fireburn Muslim group held a Family Day outing, and an afternoon of Islamic songs and tea to which other Muslim women's association were invited to participate.

The San Fernando Muslim Women's Assoc. held its annual children's day. All the children of the Jamaat were invited, along with children from the Islamic children's homes to an afternoon of tea, games and story telling. The annual fundraiser bazaar was also held on this occasion."



28 October 1994

**FREEDOM OF CONSCIENCE CONFERENCE IN MALTA BRINGS TOGETHER  
REPRESENTATIVES OF MOSLEM AND CHRISTIAN RELIGIONS**

La Valetta, Malta... In a ground-breaking conference, the International Academy of Religion and Belief sponsored a three-day meeting on Malta this month to discuss the issue of religious freedom among the nations of the Mediterranean basin. According to participants, some of the speakers who addressed the conference were under death threats at home, a situation that underscores the need for a greater understanding of religious liberty in the area.

The international consultation on Malta, October 16-19, broke new ground in the dialogue between Moslems and representatives of different world views.

Commenting on the meeting, Clifford Goldstein, editor of *Liberty* magazine, said that the meeting showed clearly the vast difference in understanding religious freedom in the minds of the Moslems and those of us from the West. Nevertheless, the event did help both groups come to a better understanding of each other's values and views on concepts of religious liberty.

Under a theme, "Building Understanding Among Mediterranean Communities", participants represented 18 countries, including Tunisia, Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon and Iraq, and brought together a high level of scholars, legal experts and government officials. Addressing the conference was Malta's President, Ugo Missud Bonnici, who spoke on the continued importance of religion in modern life.

According to Dr Bert Beach, Secretary-General of the International Religious Liberty Association, (IRLA) - one of the sponsors of the conference, among issues dealt with were the theological foundations of tolerance in the major religions of the area, the historical perspectives of different religious minorities in Europe and North Africa, as well as what steps could be implemented to guarantee religious freedom for all faiths.

Goldstein commented that the conference came at a particularly tense time, especially for some of the North African Moslems in attendance, because of a surge in religious fundamentalism that threatens religious freedom.

Though the participants from the Moslem countries agreed that Islam allows for freedom of conscience, some did admit that this freedom is not always easily put into practice. The conference also discussed the problems that Moslem minorities face in Western Europe.

The participants agreed on a Malta Declaration, to be sent to governments, United Nations, and non-governmental organisations, calling for full implementation of the applicable UN declarations in the area of religious freedom. "Among the factors which need to be emphasised", the declaration states, "is that freedom of choice continues to be a necessary bearer for social peace and understanding, and that economic development plays an important role to foster mutual understanding".

# LIGHTER MOMENT

## "Wedding ruled unlawful over sin of 2500 years"

Jerusalem, AP -

Rabbis have ruled a couple's 1982 marriage illegal because of a sin committed by the wife's family some 2500 years ago.

The Religious Affairs Ministry said Shoshana Hadad and Masoud Cohen could also face criminal charges of misleading the rabbi who married them, according to news reports yesterday.

The ruling is based on a historic rumour. Rabbis believe a distant ancestor of Hadad, a Tunisian immigrant, illegally married a divorcee in about 580 BC, the *Yedioth Ahronoth* newspaper and Israel Television said.

That transgression marked the entire family. Rabbis decreed that their daughters for generations - including Shoshana Hadad - could never marry a Cohen. Cohens are descendants of the original Jewish temple priests and are expected to follow certain laws in family

matters. When rabbis in Tiberias in northern Israel refused to marry them in 1982, Cohen and Hadad had a religious wedding in Meron, another Galilee town, Hadad said on Israel radio. She said that she believed that made it official despite the doubts about her family's past.

The newspaper indicated the couple only learned the wedding wasn't recognised when they recently tried to register their four-year-old son at the Interior Ministry. Hadad was told she was still listed as single.

The Religious Affairs Ministry claimed the couple were told from the start they couldn't marry. Hadad disputed that on Israel Television, saying they never knew about the problem.

"This is scandalous," Hadad told the newspaper.

"It's intolerable."

### DESIDERATA

*Go placidly amid the noise & haste, and remember what peace there may be in silence. As far as possible without surrender be on good terms with all persons. Speak your truth quietly & clearly; and listen to others, even the dull & ignorant; they too have their story. Avoid loud & aggressive persons; they are vexations to the spirit. If you compare yourself with others, you may become vain & bitter; for always there will be greater & lesser persons than yourself. Enjoy your achievements as well as your plans. Keep interested in your own career, however humble; it is a real possession in the changing fortunes of time. Exercise caution in your business affairs; for the world is full of trickery. But let this not blind you to what virtue there is; many persons strive for high ideals; and everywhere life is full of heroism. Be yourself. Especially, do not feign affection. Neither be cynical about love; for in the face of all aridity & disenchantment it is perennial as the grass. Take kindly the counsel of the years, gracefully surrendering the things of youth. Nurture strength of spirit to shield you in sudden misfortune. But do not distress yourself with imaginings. Many fears are born of fatigue & loneliness. Beyond a wholesome discipline, be gentle with yourself. You are a child of the universe, no less than the trees & the stars; you have a right to be here. And whether or not it is clear to you, no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should. Therefore be at peace with God, whatever you conceive Him to be, and whatever your labors & aspirations in the noisy confusion of life keep peace with your soul. With all its sham, drudgery & broken dreams, it is still a beautiful world. Be careful. Strive to be happy.*

## FRENCH WRITER'S TRIBUTES

### Who would dare to compare any great man with Muhammad?

"If greatness of purpose, smallness of means, and astounding results are the three criteria of human genius - writes the distinguished French writer Alphonse de Lamartine in his *Histoire de la Turquie* (1854) - who would dare to compare any great man in modern history with Muhammad? The most famous men created arms, laws and empires only. They founded, if anything at all, no more than material powers which often crumbled away before their eyes. This man moved not only armies, legislations, empires, people and dynasties, but millions of men in one - third of the then inhabited world: and more than that, he moved altars, gods, religions, ideas, beliefs and souls. On the basis of a Book, every letter of which has become law, he created a spiritual nationality which blended together peoples of every tongue and of every race. He has left us as the indelible characteristic of this Muslim nationality, the hatred of false gods and the passion for the One and Immaterial God. This avenging patriotism against the profanation of Heaven formed the virtue of the followers of Muhammad; the conquest of one-third of the earth to his dogma was his miracle; or rather it was not the miracle of a man but that of reason. The idea of the unity of God, proclaimed amidst the exhaustion of fabulous theogonies, was in itself such a miracle that upon its utterance from his lips it destroyed all the ancient temples of idols and set on fire one-third of the world. His life, his meditations, his heroic revilings against the superstitions of his country, and his boldness in defying the furies of idolatry, his firmness in enduring them for fifteen years at Mecca, his acceptance of the role of public scorn and almost of being a victim of his fellow-countrymen: all these and, finally, his flight, his incessant preaching, his wars against odds, his faith in his success and his superhuman security in misfortune, his forbearance in victory, his ambition, which was entirely devoted to one idea and in no manner striving for an empire, his endless prayers, his mystic conversations with God, his death and his triumph after death; all these attest not to an imposture but to a firm conviction which gave him the power to restore a dogma. This dogma was twofold, the unity of God and the immateriality of God; the former telling what God is, the latter telling what God is not; the one overthrowing false gods with the sword, the other starting an idea with the words.

"Philosopher, orator, apostle, legislator, warrior, conqueror of ideas, restorer of rational dogmas, of a cult without images; the founder of twenty terrestrial empires and of one spiritual empire, that is Muhammad. As regards all standards by which human greatness may be measured, we may well ask: Is there any man greater than he?"

#### AAII RADIO BROADCASTS 1995

Duration 5 mins: 4.55 a.m. Radio Fiji 2

January 14	April 21	July 14	October 6
February 10	May 26	August 25	November 10
March 17	June 2	September 1	December 15

*This Newsletter is sponsored by*  
*Mr Jalal-Ud-Dean*  
*in memory of his beloved father*  
**MR FAREED KAMAL-UD-DEAN**  
*who passed away in Suva on Sunday 6 March 1994*