



Name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful

..... **The HOPE Bulletin**

Health, Ongoing Projects, Education



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AAIIL Worldwide Edition

Editor: Akbar Abdullah

CALIFORNIA JAMA 'AT PROJECT: APPROVED BY THE CENTRAL ANJUMAN, LAHORE

INTRODUCTION

Editor's Note

The month of September has not been a happy one for many of us. First, the Muslim country of Pakistan faced heavy unprecedented flooding due to heavy monsoon rains that left over 1700 dead while countless are still unaccounted for. Over 20 million people have been affected by this disaster—more than the 2004 Indonesia tsunami, the 2005 Pakistan earthquake, and the 2010 Haiti earthquake combined.

Even today many of the survivors are struggling with hot weather as well as ongoing rains. Some are fortunate to find shelters and live in schools, government buildings, and tent villages, while the majority are living under trees and open skies.

The losses to agricultural crops, homes and infrastructure would run into billions of dollars. *Jazak Allah*, we are indeed pleased to note that Hazrat Ameer-i-Qaum's appeal for relief funds met with an encouraging response both from national and international *jama'ats*.

Unhappy news also came around the middle of Ramadan when we were informed that Brothers Mehboob Raza Sahib and Arshad Alvi Sahib would undergo heart bypass surgery on September 1st (beginning of the last ten days of Ramadan) in New Zealand and Pakistan respectively.

Hazrat Ameer, members of the Central *Jama'at*, and the members of our global "Prayer Circle" conducted fervent prayers, unprecedented in recent *Jama'at* history, for the complete success of these two operations followed by full *shifa* and speedy recovery.

All praise is due to Allah! Our prayers were heard that both operations were successful, and now Brothers Mehboob Raza Sahib and Arshad Alvi Sahib are home to recuperate or receive further treatment. May

Allah (*swt*) bless them, and with His graceful mercy restore our dear brothers to sound health soon. *Aameen*.



JAMA'AT NEWS

UK Jama'at's fundraising for victims of devastating floods in Pakistan

Sister Jameela Khan, President of AAJIL, United Kingdom, wrote:

...You might be interested to know that we collected £6500.00 as a *Jamaat* for the flood victims. Individuals gave their own donations earlier.

Jazak Allah for the generous contribution of *sadaqa jaariah* from the members of UK *Jama'at*, and we hope and expect our other global *Jama'ats* to do the same.

Azhar Ahmad of the UK Jama'at circulates Hazrat Ameer's message

Our brother Azharuddin Ahmad Sahib of the UK, worthy son of our venerable member, Fakhruddin Ahmad Sahib of the Rawalpindi *Jama'at*, Pakistan, circulated Hazrat Ameer's message on 'Quran Burning' among officials of Surrey County.

Alhamdulillah, he received a response from Surrey County Councillor, Mr. Robert Jones, which follows:

Dear Azhar Ahmad,

I read with interest the comments made in the attachment, which I am pleased to say I agreed with. The writer refers to verse 2:62 in the Holy (Noble) Qur'an concerning Jews, Christians and Sabians in order to encompass a multi-faith approach to some of our World-wide problems. This verse is endorsed by verse 5:69, however, verse 3:85 rather contradicts both of these conciliatory verses and my concern is that this gives credence to those who have a less than generous view of those of us of different faiths.

I wish you well.

Yours sincerely, Cllr Bob Jones

Verse 3:85 referred by Councillor Robert Jones states as follows (in Maulana Muhammad Ali's translation of the Holy Qur'an with commentary):

“How shall Allah guide a people who disbelieved after their believing, and (after) they had borne witness that the Messenger was true, and clear arguments had come to them? And Allah guides not the unjust people” (3:85).

In the footnote, Maulana Muhammad Ali explains:

“The persons meant are those who believed in the former prophets and disbelieved in the Holy Prophet Muhammad. Having clear signs of the Prophet’s truth with them, and professing a belief in the prophets who had foretold the advent of the last of the prophets, they still disbelieved in him. How should Allah guide a people who thus rejected guidance?”

Report from Berlin Mosque compiled by Nasir Ahmad, United Kingdom

[Circulated by Amir Aziz, General Secretary AAJIL, Pakistan]

DISPLAY OF PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE BERLIN MOSQUE AT THE ‘RECONSTRUCTION EXHIBITION’ ORGANISED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY, MUNICH AT THE MUSEUM OF ARCHITECTURE

Yasir Aziz (Masters in Marketing), Sweden

The University of Technology, Munich organised an Architectural Reconstruction Exhibition from 22nd July to 31st August, 2010 in Munich. It was held at the Architectural Museum situated in the Pinakothek der Modern area of Munich. The subject was “The History of Reconstruction”. Mr. Johannes Peter Kifinger, a Research Assistant of the team working for organising the Exhibition, wrote to our website www.ahmadiyya.org to provide photographs of the Mosque in Wilmersdorf, Berlin which can give the visitors a glimpse of the Mosque built in 1927, the damages done to it during World War II, and how it stands now after necessary repairs have been done.

We provided a brief history of the construction of the Mosque and its activities and to what extent repairs have been done and who have been the donors. It may be pointed out that after the Second World War major damages were caused to the dome and minarets of the Mosque and to some extent to the adjoining residence of the *Imam* as well. Necessary repairs to the Mission House and the Mosque were done with the generous contributions of the members of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Community in Pakistan. But major repairs of the Mission House, dome and the reconstruction of one minaret were done by the Monument Department of the City Corporation of Berlin. For the last two years the young and energetic *Imam*, Mr. Muhammad Ali, and the German Foundation for Conservation of Ancient Monuments (Deutsche Stiftung Denkmalschutz) have been jointly organizing Open Days at the Mosque. The Foundation has ambitious plan to collect funds for the necessary repairs of the Mosque. In this regard we highly appreciate dedicated efforts of Mr. Gunter Paetz, resident Director of the Foundation, and his equally energetic and hard working colleague Ms. Anika Forbst.

In response to the request of the Exhibition management we sent one copy each of the brief and also the exhaustive history of the Mosque in German with photographs with exhaustive footnotes and sources very ably translated from English, edited and compiled by our learned friend, Mr. Manfred Backhausen of Cologne, by post along with some photographs and a CD.

Later, Mr. Kifinger, the Research Assistant, forwarded to us a copy of the Press Release dated 21st July, 2010 by Ms. Katharina Horn, In-Charge, Press and Public Relation Officer of the Exhibition, giving details about its dates, timings and also outlining the purpose of holding the Exhibition. Here we would like to thank curators of the Exhibition, Dr. Markus Eisen and Mrs. Hilde Strobl, who are mainly responsible for the realization of the Exhibition Project.

The Press Release runs as follows:

Opening: 21 August, 2010 to be held from 22nd July to 31st August, 2010

For years “reconstruction” has been the subject of a heated debate. However, reconstructions can be found since Antiquity, as throughout history buildings have been destroyed and rebuilt if required, for a variety of reasons and with alternating perceptions and definitions of “reconstruction”. A look at the history and a differential view at the concepts can help to set the problems and arguments in a wider historical context, thus relieving the current discussion of its emotional aspect.

As exposed witnesses of the past and in front of everyone’s eyes, buildings have always played a particular part in the formation and imprint of “cultural memory” (*Jan Assmann*). With a deliberate recourse, the lost ‘place of remembrance’ is restored as an important bearer of the most diverse meanings by means of reconstruction. Many reconstructions have never been debated, such as the re-erection of the Campanile at St. Mark’s Square in Venice after its collapse in 1902; others have integrated into the history of the respective building and have long been historical documents themselves.

By means of 85 representative case studies and 200 reconstructions – ranging from Japan to Canada and from ancient Greece to the present day – the Exhibition is presenting and analysing the various motives in favour of reconstructing lost buildings. The spectrum embraces reconstructions carried out for reasons of religious continuity or due to national motives, as well as in response to aesthetic concepts or commercial demands. Models, plans, photographs and animations provide a comprehensive insight into a fascinating subject.

An extensive publication with 16 essays and a catalogue of renowned scholars accompany the Exhibition.

Architekturmuseum der TU Munchen in the Pinakothek der Moderne
Katharina Horn
Press and Public Relations Officer
Arcisstrasse 21, Munich 80333

[Three photographs of the Berlin Mosque displayed may be viewed in the “Photographic Presentation” segment of this magazine. – *Ed.*]



PRAYER & HEALTH NEWS

Du‘a from Hazrat Ameer, Dr. Abdul Karim Saeed Pasha Sahib

Dear Akbar,

As-salamu alaikum wa-rahmat-Ullah wa-barakato.

The whole *Jamaat* and I are regularly praying for the health of two of our very esteemed and useful members and brothers who are both to have cardiac surgery: Mehboob Raza and Arshad Alvi.

Brother Mehboob was already scheduled to have his operation on the 1st of September; it was only disclosed to us half an hour back that Brother Arshad Alvi is also to have a Coronary Artery Bypass Grafting on the 1st of September. So this date will be an important time for all the readers of *HOPE* and Lahore Ahmadees to join in for prayers for our two brothers. I pray that Allah grants them both complete health and recovery to serve the *Jamaat* for which they have already devoted their lives. *Aameen*.

Abdul Karim Saeed Pasha

Du'a from Shaukat A. Ali, Coordinator, Asia-Pacific Region

Dear Brother Akbar Abdullah sahib

Assalamu Alaikum wa Rahmatullahe wa Barakatuh.

Alhamdulillah; we are delighted to note that both our brothers Mehboob Raza and Arshad Alvi had successful operations and we are now praying for their speedy and complete recovery which leaves no ailment behind.

We also pray that Allah *Ta'ala* grant them long, healthy and happy life so that they can continue to serve the *Jamaat* established by Allah's *Mamur*, *Imam* of the Age, Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad - *aameen*.

Allah Hafiz.

Shaukat

Du'a from Nasir Ahmad, United Kingdom

My dear Bro. Akbar,

Assalamo alaikum.

Thanks for keeping us up to date about the health of our ill brothers and sisters. Our thoughts are these days with the health of Bro. Mehboob Raza and Bro. Arshad Alvi. Bro. Mehboob Raza, *Mashallah*, is recovering speedily. Bro. Arshad Alvi, because of his serious heart attack, is recovering gradually. He needs our fervent prayers so that Allah may in His special mercy make his recovery also speedy...

Du'a from Shahid Aziz, General Secretary, AAII, UK

Dear Akbar

Assalamu alaikum.

I asked the whole *jamaat* to pray for our brothers in New Zealand and in Pakistan during the Friday prayers and in their individual prayers until we receive the final news about the state of their health. Allah has answered our prayers regarding Mehboob Raza and I am sure the Beneficent will do the same for Arshad Alvi.

Shahid

Health update on Arshad Alvi, Lahore, Pakistan

Brother Arshad Alvi's heart operation was a bit complicated and so he would require a long period of post-surgery rehabilitation. At the moment he is at Darus Salam being monitored by Hazrat Ameer and by his physician, Dr. Zafar Ahmad, brother of Nasir Ahmad. Brother Alvi is still very weak to commence physical therapy treatment.

The members of our global “Prayer Circle” are requested to please join Hazrat Ameer and the *Jama‘at* in Pakistan in praying for the complete *shifa* and speedy recovery of Brother Arshad Alvi. May Allah bless him and bless all who are praying for his *shifa*. *Aameen*.

Throughout the ordeal of Br Arshad’s operation we kept in contact with Hazrat Ameer and it was only after his release from the hospital that Parveen and I spoke to his wife Bushra Alvi. We did not speak to Brother Arshad Alvi as the landline phone could not be extended to his bedroom.

Health update of Mehboob Raza in New Zealand

While Brother Mehboob Raza was recovering in Mercy Hospital in Auckland, New Zealand, Hazrat Ameer, Zafar Abdullah, and I managed to speak directly with him and he personally gave us the good news that from the superb quality of treatment he was receiving he was hopeful for a quick recovery from his heart operation. *Alhamdollillah!*

Visiting and meeting his relatives and friends in New Zealand during the *Eid* festivities left him tired. However, when I spoke to him last week he informed me that he is fine and on his way to full recovery. All praise is due to Allah.

I also spoke to Br. Abid Raza who asked me to personally thank Hazrat Ameer, the *Jama‘at*, and the members of our “Prayer Circle” for their fervent prayers during and after the surgery of Br. Mehboob Raza Sahib. Members are please requested to continue their prayers until full recovery is achieved.

Health update of Karim Asraf Sahib, SIV Executive member in Suriname

From the last update from Dr. Robbert Bipat, President, AAAIL, Suriname, on the health condition of Br. Karim Asraf, we learnt that the latter is making steadily improving from his illness.

The members of our global “Prayer Circle” may please continue to pray for the full *shifa* and speedy recovery of our dear brother. May Allah have mercy on him. *Aameen*.

Ailing members in our worldwide Jama‘ats

We urge the global members of our “Prayer Circle” to join Hazrat Ameer and the *Jama‘at* at the Center in praying for the health of the mothers of Br. Muhammad Ali (Pakistan), Brothers Jalal Ud Dean and Nizam ud Dean (Fiji), Dr. Zahid Aziz and Shahid Aziz (United Kingdom), and for all the ailing brothers and sisters in our worldwide *Jama‘ats*. May Allah bless them and have mercy on all of them. *Aameen*.



“And your Lord says: Pray to Me, I will answer you” (40:60).

“Surely my Lord is the Hearer of prayer” (14:39).

“Allah desires not to place a burden on you but He wishes to purify you, and that He may complete His favour on you, so that you may give thanks” (5:6).

“If you are ungrateful, you and all those on earth, then Allah is surely Self-sufficient, Praised” (14:8).

HEALTH INFORMATION

WATER

1. 75% of Americans are chronically dehydrated.
2. In 37% of Americans, the thirst mechanism is so weak that it is mistaken for hunger.
3. Even mild dehydration will slow down one's metabolism as much as 3%.
4. One glass of water will shut down midnight hunger pangs for almost 100% of the dieters studied in a University of Washington study.
5. Lack of water, the number one trigger of daytime fatigue.
6. Preliminary research indicates that 8-10 glasses of water a day could significantly ease back and joint pain for up to 80% of sufferers.
7. A mere 2% drop in body water can trigger fuzzy short-term memory, trouble with basic math, and difficulty focusing on the computer screen or on a printed page.
8. Drinking 5 glasses of water daily decreases the risk of colon cancer by 45%, plus it can slash the risk of breast cancer by 79%, and one is 50% less likely to develop bladder cancer.

Are you drinking the amount of water you should drink every day?

COKE

1. In many states the highway patrol carries two gallons of Coke in the trunk to remove blood from the highway after a car accident.
2. You can put a T-bone steak in a bowl of Coke and it will be gone in two days.
3. To clean a toilet: Pour a can of Coca-Cola into the toilet bowl and let the 'real thing' sit for one hour, then flush clean. The citric acid in Coke removes stains from vitreous china.
4. To remove rust spots from chrome car bumpers: Rub the bumper with a crumpled-up piece of Reynolds Wrap aluminium foil dipped in Coca-Cola.
5. To clean corrosion from car battery terminals: Pour a can of Coca-Cola over the terminals to bubble away the corrosion.
6. To loosen a rusted bolt: Apply a cloth soaked in Coca-Cola to the rusted bolt for several minutes.
7. To bake a moist meat: Empty a can of Coca-Cola into the baking pan, wrap the meat in aluminium foil, and bake. Thirty minutes before meat is finished, remove the foil, allowing the drippings to mix with the Coke for a sumptuous brown gravy.
8. To remove grease from clothes: Empty a can of Coke into the load of greasy clothes, add detergent, and run through a regular cycle. The Coca-Cola will help loosen grease stains.
9. It will also clean road haze from your windshield.

Note:

1. The active ingredient in Coke is phosphoric acid. It will dissolve a nail in about four days. Phosphoric acid also leaches calcium from bones and is a major contributor to the rising increase of osteoporosis.
2. To carry Coca-Cola syrup (the concentrate) commercial trucks must use Hazardous Material place cards reserved for highly corrosive materials.
3. The distributors of Coke have been using it to clean the engines of the trucks for about 20 years!

Now, the question is, would you like a glass of water? Or Coke?



FEATURE REPORT

MESSAGE ON THE ‘BURN A QURAN DAY’ (9/11/2010)

by Hazrat Ameer Prof. Dr. Abdul Karim Saeed

A Message to all the people of the World

Quran Burning

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

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

إِنَّا نَحْنُ نَزَّلْنَا الذِّكْرَ وَإِنَّا لَهُ لَحَافِظُونَ

‘Surely We have revealed the Reminder, and surely We are its Guardian.’ [The Holy Quran, *Al-Hijr* (The Rock) 15:9]

The insane threats of Quran burning by Pastor Terry Jones are an example of extreme bigotry against another religion. Islam, a religion which stands second in the world after Christianity based on the number of adherents, is being portrayed by this person as an extremist religion. The paradox is that he who dubs Muslims as extremists and sets out to burn the Holy Scripture of Islam forgets that he is an extremist himself.

The Muslims as well as non-Muslims, leaders as well as common people, scholars as well as the illiterates; citizens of many Nations and their peoples have condemned the very thought of such an act as ‘an act of intolerance’ and ‘provocation’ and ‘aggression’.

The world at large has taken a sigh of relief as the Pastor has ‘retracted’ his threat to burn the Holy Quran. He may have gained some mileage through his evil plan with some like-minded fanatics; but the majority of Muslims have a strong belief in the Quranic verse that I have cited above. The truth is that Quran is not a name of a collection of bound papers but a Book that is preserved respectfully in the minds, hearts and souls of every adherent to Islam. And it is also revered by many non-Muslims. So much is the love of this Book that as expression of love for it even the dots in Arabic scripture, the language in which the Holy Quran was revealed, have been counted to 1,015,030.

I do not for a moment suggest that counting the dots was the purpose of the Revelation of this Book. The main purpose lies in acting on the injunctions laid down by the Book that matters. However it does mean that a person who counted loved the Revelation from the core of his heart and that is what matters. It is such hearts that have been hurt by the senseless stance the Pastor adopted.

As a Muslim, I would be swayed by my devotion to the Holy Quran but let me quote a non-Muslim source on this matter:

‘However often we turn to it [the Qur’an] at first disgusting us each time afresh, it soon attracts, astounds, and in the end enforces our reverence. Its style, in accordance with its contents and aim is stern, grand, terrible; ever and anon truly sublime. Thus this book will go on exercising through all ages a most potent influence.’ (Johann Wolfgang von Goethe: Quoted in TP Hughes’ *Dictionary of Islam*, p. 526)

This Book was revealed to Prophet Muhammad, may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, who God had chosen to guide the entire mankind and bring them out of darkness into light. Though in the name of freedom of press and speech this great person is much maligned; there are many fair-minded persons who revere him even when they are not Muslims. I quote below an example of a tribute paid to Prophet Muhammad, may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him:

‘My choice of Muhammad to lead the list of the world’s most influential persons may surprise some readers and may be questioned by others but he was the only man in history who was supremely successful on both the religious and secular levels.’ (Michael H. Hart, *The 100: A Ranking of the Most Influential Persons in History*, New York, Hart Publishing Company, Inc., 1978, p. 33.)

Then there is the matter of Muslims as fanatics. I fully agree that some of those who call themselves Muslims are misguided or exploited and do some mad things in the name of Religion. A ‘bad Muslim’ does not make Islam bad just like a ‘bad Christian’ does not make Christianity bad. In this matter I would quote another non-Muslim who plays the game by fair rules:

‘History makes it clear however, that the legend of fanatical Muslims sweeping through the world and forcing Islam at the point of the sword upon conquered races is one of the most fantastically absurd myths that historians have ever repeated.’ (De Lacy O’Leary, *Islam at the Crossroads*, London, 1923, p. 8.)

Now let me draw the attention of the fair-minded people to what the Holy Quran has to say about the various Religions of the world and I quote verse 2:62:

“Surely those who believe, and those who are Jews, and the Christians, and the Sabians, whoever believes in God and the Last Day and does good, they have their reward with their Lord, and there is no fear for them, nor shall they grieve.”

(My interpretation of Sabians is that it encompasses all the Religions of the world that believe in God and the Last Day. It excludes cults created as religion by men to serve their own interests and personal gain).

So, such is the teaching of the Holy Quran which the Pastor planned to burn. It is stated that one who wears dark spectacles sees everything dark. It is time that the Reverend removed his spectacle and read the Holy Quran with an open mind; not just study and quote ‘out of context verses’ to incite hatred and rebellion amongst the peoples of the world. This world is a place created for all and ‘God is far, far too big to fit into just one religion’ especially the ‘one’ the Pastor advocates and uses it to gain popularity by doing senseless acts.

I request all Muslims to practice the Holy Quran’s true teachings and not be misled by the false interpretations and misinterpretations of selected verses, out of context. Any religion that teaches hatred cannot be a religion from God Who has ordained Mercy for Himself; He has placed His two attributes, *Al-Rahman* (The most MERCIFUL) and *Al-Rahim* (The most COMPASSIONATE) in the beginning of this Blessed Book.

Questions I ask are:

‘Can a Merciful and Compassionate God advocate senseless killing?’

‘Can the One Who calls Himself as *Rabb-ul-Aalamin* (Lord of the Worlds) be partial to Muslims, Christians, Jews or Sabians only?’

As we revere the Holy Quran and follow its teachings we should also make an effort to remove all the misunderstandings about Islam that are being portrayed in the world, especially the West.

As the Holy Quran has been revealed by Allah for all mankind and its protection is assured by Him, as the verses above state, this message is not only for Lahori Ahmadis who have the sole mission of spreading Islam through the teachings of the Holy Quran, it is for all people who dwell in this global village.

If today, hatred for Islam has incited some people to plan the burning of the Holy Quran, this would only reflect the intolerance of the very people who stand there declaring that Islam is intolerant.

It is time for all the residents of this global village to realise that misinterpretation of Quranic verses by some of those who profess Islam do not make these verses ‘unholy’. All Scriptures have to be interpreted in the context of their revelation, otherwise, many, including the Bible and the Bhagavada Gita, have passages in them in which killing enemies while fighting is allowed. Just like we, as Muslims, interpret them in context it would be fair to ask the non-Muslims not to lose sight of the context in which the Quranic verses were revealed.

I appeal to the worldwide community to abandon aggressive and extreme steps like the sacrilege of Holy Books to score points against one another. Burning of pages neither brings us closer together nor closer to our common goal of a peaceful world for all to reside in. Following the teachings of our Scriptures, however, will unite us, as all Religions teach love, peace and harmony amongst the people created by *Rabb-ul-Aalamin*, the Lord of the Worlds (Not *Rabb-ul-Muslimeen* [Lord of the Muslims] or *Rabb of another Religion*).

The protection of the Holy Quran we leave to Allah who says:

‘Surely We have revealed the Reminder, and surely We are its Guardian.’

All Muslims should make an effort to protect it and its honour by being good and practical followers of its teachings and teachings of Islam (literally meaning Peace and Submission to God).

I pray for a better understanding amongst all religions and all the peoples of the world. I pray for those facing difficulties resulting from misdeeds of some who call themselves Muslims but don’t practice Islam.

I pray for the souls of all those, Muslims and non-Muslims, who lost their lives in the tragic events of 9/11 and the relatives they left behind. *AMEN*.

Professor Dr. Abdul Karim Saeed
Ameer and President
Worldwide Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement



PUBLICATION

Web link to *The HOPE Bulletin* on Central Anjuman's official website

The aaiil.org Webmaster will place online, at <http://aaiil.org/text/articles/hope/hopebulletin.shtml>, some selected issues of *The HOPE Bulletin* and some articles and special photographic supplements which do not carry any sensitive or confidential matters of our worldwide *Jama'at*.

The Light – UK Edition

To access current and previous issues, kindly click on the following weblink: www.ahmadiyya.org

We strongly recommend the article on “**Teachings of Islam on fasting**”: “Importance of self-reform and abstention from base desires,” in the August, 2010 issue.

Ramadan Daily Quran Study

We commend Dr Zahid Aziz, Editor, *The Light*, UK Edition, for once again enlightening us with his Daily Quran Study during Ramadan. In spite of his other many commitments, he was able to fulfil this commitment.

See this link: www.ahmadiyya.org/WordPress/2010/09/06/ramadan-2010-daily-quran-study/ to read the entire archive.

New publication by the Ahmadiyya Muslim Literary Trust, TT

The Ahmadiyya Muslim Literary Trust, Trinidad and Tobago has published a booklet entitled *Lady 'A'ishah's age at the time of the consummation of her marriage to the Holy Prophet Muhammad (sas)*.

We reproduce below the Publisher's Note, and recommend you read the entire book, which is available at:

<http://www.aaiil.org/text/books/others/ghulamnabimuslim/aishahagetimemarriageholypromphetmuhammad/aishahagetimemarriageholypromphetmuhammad.shtml>

We commend the Ahmadiyya Muslim Literary Trust for their efforts in bringing out this comprehensive yet concise work on this controversial and misinformed subject and trust that this publication will go a long way in eradicating the misconceptions surrounding the age at which Hazrat Aisha's marriage was consummated.

We also urge you to publicise this book, among both Muslims and non-Muslims, so that the world at large will be educated on the facts of this matter.

Publisher's Note

The present booklet, *Lady 'A'ishah's age at the time of marriage to the Holy Prophet*, is an English translation of a concise and well-researched Urdu booklet, *Rukhsati ke Waqt Ummul Mu'mineen Sayeda 'Aishah' Siddiqi ki 'Umar* by a well-known writer of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement, Mr. Ghulam Nabi Muslim M.A.

Muslim and non-Muslim biographers, historians, and even some of the well-known commentators of the Holy Qur'an hold that the marriage of Hazrat 'A'ishah (*ra*) with the Holy Prophet (*sas*) was solemnised at

the age of seven and consummated at nine. This wrong and rather over-exaggerated love for the Holy Prophet (*sas*) to show ‘strange qualities’ in his holiness has led Western critics to revile and malign his unblemished character. It is most probably on this score that some Western critics have even charged the Holy Prophet (God forbid!) with child abuse. If, for the sake of argument, it is accepted that marriage was solemnised when Hazrat ‘A’ishah (*ra*) was quite young, even then the consummation took place, according to the ancient Arab custom, when she became a major. This is the line of argument taken even by a contemporary Christian writer, Karen Armstrong, in her book *Muhammad – A Prophet for our Time*. She says:

“There was no impropriety in Muhammad’s betrothal to ‘A’isha. Marriages conducted in absentia to seal an alliance were often contracted at this time between adults and minors who were even younger than ‘A’isha. This practice continued in Europe well into the early modern period. There was no question of consummating the marriage until ‘A’isha reached puberty, when she would have been married off like any other girl” (p. 105).

Unfortunately, the majority of Muslim historians and biographers have written that Hazrat ‘A’ishah (*ra*) was solemnly married at the age of seven and consummation took place at nine. This is historically wrong and utterly incorrect.

The present booklet, being published by the Ahmadiyya Muslim Literary Trust, Trinidad and Tobago, brings to light solid historical facts that the most outstanding wife of the Holy Prophet (*sas*), Hazrat ‘A’ishah (*ra*), was married when she was 19 or 20 years of age. As far as we are aware, the first person to raise a voice against the misconstrued view of Hazrat ‘A’ishah’s marriage was Maulana Muhammad Ali of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement.

This humble contribution is an attempt to clear our Holy Prophet Muhammad (*sas*) of an alleged act ascribed to ‘the most successful religious Reformer’. It was first rendered into English by Masud Akhtar and was published in *The Islamic Review* (USA) in December 1980. It was recently reproduced by the Ahmadiyya Anjuman Isha‘at-i Islam (Lahore), Suva, Fiji in its monthly *Paigham-i Haqq*. Ours is a fresh translation by Kalamazad Mohammed in which we have included some additional references and material and have also added an Appendix from Dr Zahid Aziz’s contribution on this subject, “Western critics and the Bible on the marriage of young girls” (available at www.ahmadiyya.org/islam/aisha-age.htm).

Enayat Mohammed
Chairman,
Ahmadiyya Muslim Literary Trust, Trinidad and Tobago
August 2010



The Prophet (pbuh) said: “Whomsoever Allah intends to do good, He gives right understanding of religion.” And: “Knowledge is maintained only through teaching” (B. 3: 10).

These two sayings of the Holy Prophet are related by Bukhari in the heading of the tenth chapter of his “Book of Knowledge.” The latter part shows that stress was laid not only on the acquisition of knowledge but also on conveying it to others or on teaching it. (*A Manual of Hadith*, Maulana Muhammad Ali, p. 38)

WHAT OUR READERS SAY

Jalal Ud Dean, Suva, Fiji

Assalaamu'Alaikum Wr Wb

The attempt by Pastor Jones would have been in modern times the Abrahah, the Christian Viceroy in Yemen of the King of Abyssinia, who had the mindset to destroy the Ka'ba.

Abd-al-Muttalib asked Allah to help in saving His House. The rest is history in *surah "Al-Fil."*

We Muslims left it to Allah to take care of his Book and He did via the American Presidency.

The parallels are visible. *Ameen.*

Mr. J U Dean

Shaukat A. Ali, Coordinator, Asia-Pacific Region

Dear Brother Akbar Abdullah sahib

Assalamu Alaikum wa Rahmatullahe wa Barakatuh.

I pray that you, Bhabi sahiba and other loved ones are in best of health and high spirits by the grace of Compassionate and Merciful Allah.

I take this opportunity to congratulate you on the 5th Anniversary of the HOPE BULLETIN.

With scores of Bulletins being issued each year, it appears the service has gone on for lot longer than five years.

HOPE Bulletin has become a very vital publication for dissemination of spiritual and social information among the members of Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement. You have done a sterling job in keeping members informed of events and activities throughout the world on a frequent and regular basis with your monthly and special bulletins.

Our prayers are with you for a long, happy and healthy future. May the choicest blessings of Allah be always with you and your loved ones. You will no doubt be rewarded abundantly for the sacrifices you continue to make and for the excellent service rendered to the *Jamaat* established by Allah's *Mamur*, Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, *Imam* of the Age.

Please convey my Salaams and Ramadan Mubarak to all your loved ones as well.

Allah hafiz.

Shaukat

Arif Rahman, Trinidad

Dear Brother,

I live in Trinidad and I attended this Convention. It is nice to see that I feature in one of your photographs. We are extremely honoured that Hazrat Ameer graced our Convention with his presence. His address on

the second night was exceptionally remarkable. He spoke on Islam being the path to peace, love and harmony. This is the real message that needs to be communicated about our beautiful religion. I wish Hazrat Ameer all the best as he continues his noble mission.

Many thanks,
Arif Rahman

Abid Raza, President, AAIIIL, New Zealand

Dear Br. Akbar,
Assalam-o-Alaikum.

Have perused the pictures and it appears we have a large number of Ahmahees in Trinidad & Tobago. The captions are in Urdu and it will be nice if this was in English to know what each picture represents. Anyway it appears the convention was successful based on numbers but in the absence of any material on subjects covered by various speakers, like other conventions, for us to read and understand would have been nice.

On a personal note, your various phone calls and emails regarding br Mehbub is appreciated. Please continue with your prayer vigil and thank the global members and our beloved Hazrat Sahib for his prayers and phone calls.

Allah Hafiz, Abid Raza

[Yes, indeed it is our fault; we should have translated the Urdu captions. In future, we will be more careful. – *Editor*]

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Parveen and I would like to thank Hazrat Ameer and other members of the *Jama'at* who phoned to congratulate us at the start of our third-year marriage anniversary.

Sister Jameelah Khan, President of AAIIIL, United Kingdom, wrote:

Assalam-o-Alaikum.

Congratulations to you and your lovely wife on your Anniversary...



Ibn Mas`ud said: “We used to fight along with the Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be on him, and we had not (our) wives (with us); so we said, May we not castrate, O Messenger of Allah? And he forbade us doing so” (B. 67: 6).

So in Islam there are no eunuchs for the kingdom of heaven. On the other hand, marrying and keeping oneself chaste is a means of attaining the kingdom of heaven. (*A Manual of Hadith*, Maulana Muhammad Ali, p. 269)

HOPE MEMBER SERVICE

Recipe of the Month

Chicken with sweet corn

Ingredients

- 2 tablespoons sunflower oil
- 2 medium onions, finely chopped
- 2 teaspoons ginger-garlic paste
- 600g skinless chicken breasts, cut into 2.5cm cubes
- 150g sweet corn, fresh or frozen
- teaspoon chilli powder
- 1 teaspoon garam masala
- teaspoon turmeric powder
- 225g ripe tomatoes, roughly chopped
- 1 tablespoon tomato puree
- salt, to taste
- 2 tablespoons finely chopped fresh coriander leaves, to garnish

Method of Preparation

- Heat the oil in a heavy-based, non-stick saucepan and fry the onions over a high heat until soft – about 5 minutes. Add the ginger-garlic paste and fry for 1 minute.
- Add the chicken and stir-fry for 5 minutes to seal the meat.
- Add the rest of the ingredients and continue cooking until the chicken is cooked through – about 15 minutes. You may need to add a little water to prevent the curry from drying up.
- Garnish with fresh coriander.



Zuhri said: “There is no harm in (eating) an animal slaughtered by a Christian of Arabia; if thou hearest him invoking another name than that of Allah, do not eat it, and if thou dost not hear him, Allah has made it lawful, and He knew their unbelief” (B. 72 : 22).

The view expressed here by Zuhri is supported by Ibn `Abbas (Ah. I, 302), who explains the word food in 5: 5: “The food of those who have been given the Book is lawful for you...” as meaning the animal slaughtered by them. Only if it is known for certain that a name other than that of Allah has been invoked, would it be unlawful. (*A Manual of Hadith*, Maulana Muhammad Ali, pp. 346-47)

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Jabir said, The Messenger of Allah (pbuh) said: “Of whatever thing a large quantity intoxicates, even a small quantity is prohibited.”



## PHOTOGRAPHIC PRESENTATION

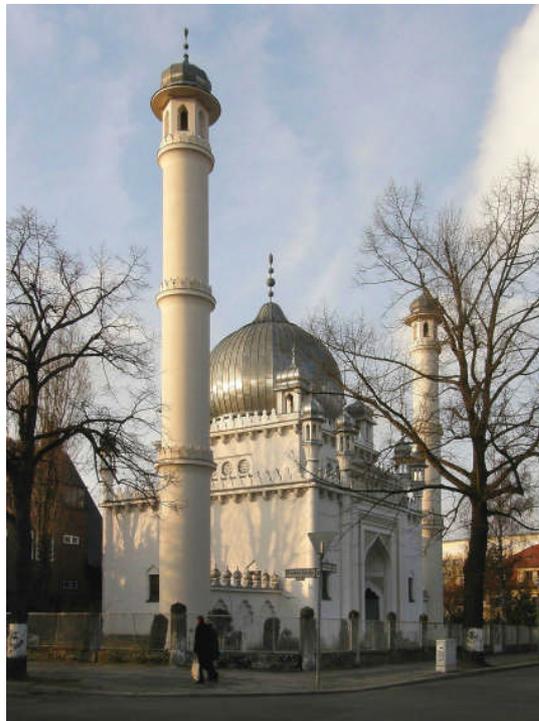
Three photographs displayed at the Exhibition are reproduced with captions in German. **1.** The Mosque in its original form. **2.** The condition of the Mosque after damages were caused to the Mosque with one of the minarets half destroyed. **3.** The Mosque with the minaret and the dome completely reconstructed and renovated.



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## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

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**“ISLAM” stands for “I SHALL LOVE ALL MANKIND”**