



MY JOURNEY TO AHMADIYYAT

A compilation of faith-inspiring accounts by Lajna converts

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Produced by the National Lajna Tabligh Department UK

"We have been commanded to convey the message and we cannot hold back from this, nor will we do so. We will complete what we must do. Only God Almighty knows who will be guided and will not. We will fulfil the task given to us but at the same time it is the promise of God that He and His Messenger will prevail, God willing, that is why we have hope that one day the majority will come into our fold".

-Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V, may Allah be his Helper, Friday Sermon, 8 September 2017



BY: EMMA AHMAD SAHIBA
LEICESTER

“I knew that I had to seriously look into Islam and the direction my life should move in would be that of a life of spirituality and service to Ahmadiyyat.”

My journey to Islam began when I was 21. Earlier in my life, I was brought up in a Catholic household and we went to Church regularly. However, in my late teens, I began questioning my faith and went away from religion due to not feeling like I could completely connect.

During my childhood, I grew up in an area that was not very diverse. My time at university was a great period of growth for me, as I was able to study alongside students from many different ethnic and cultural backgrounds. I found this very fascinating and it was clear that I was impressed by their lives as my friendship group consisted of mostly international students. I had one particular Muslim friend who taught me the basics of the religion, and this was my first introduction to Islam.

My interest in Islam began when I had just completed my undergraduate studies at university and was preparing to enter the next chapter of my life. The only problem was that I did not feel that I had any meaning to my existence.

I moved back with my parents, had no job prospects and due to personal circumstances did not want to further my studies, therefore felt that I had come to a dead end. On one occasion, I let these negative feelings overwhelm me, and I felt a strong urge to pray.

In my bedroom, I knelt down at the side of the bed, cupped my hands, and sincerely prayed to God for a sign of what to do next in my life. To this day, I cannot explain why I felt compelled to do this, as it had been years since I had prayed and at that point in my life it was the most genuine prayer I had ever performed!

After the prayer, in which I cried to God for help, I felt like a huge weight had been lifted from me, but soon forgot about this incident and carried on with my day.



It wasn't until the next day that I was contacted by someone from the Ahmadiyya Mosque that was local to me – previously I had tried getting in contact, but had no response. This simply could not have been a coincidence; the one time in my life I prayed for a sign, it was given to me that very next day.

From that moment on, I knew that I had to seriously look into Islam and that the direction that my life should move in would be that of a life of spirituality and service to Ahmadiyyat.

Although I was now aware of the purpose of my life, this didn't mean that the journey would be a smooth one. I am a very cautious and calculated person; therefore, it took me a whole year before I actually took the plunge to complete my Bai'at.

I personally decided to research Islam, and Ahmadiyyat in particular, to ensure that I really was making the right decision. This involved creating flow diagrams to learn the prayers, including the transliteration and meaning behind them so I could fully understand what I was saying at each point in the prayer.

I started modifying my dress, to include longer items of clothing. This was not so much a struggle for me as fortunately maxi dresses and long cardigans were in fashion at the time, therefore widely available! I even had to relearn the etiquettes of eating with my right hand, as this is discouraged in British culture and was made even more difficult by the fact that I am naturally left-handed! By the time I started regularly meeting up with a contact from Lajna, I had already implemented these changes in my life.

I was then further assisted with the introduction to Jamaat literature, which I took great interest in reading, and by the time I had completed my Bai'at form, I had already read over 15 Jamaat books. The most useful book that I found was a guidebook written by Lajna Ima'illah USA, titled 'Pathway to Paradise' which gave a really useful overview of the basic teachings of Islam, and the rights and expectations of a Muslim woman.



After some time, I started attending my local Mosque. The first time I ever went was for Isha prayer.

I found this very daunting and I struggled to follow the Imam as his recitation was far quicker than I could have ever pronounced at the time!

I arrived with a family from the Jamaat and was very impressed to see that the Imam and his family were English converts, who were very welcoming and happy to assist.

Through time, I attended more Jamaat events, including local general meetings, bazaars, and even had a Mulaqat with Beloved Huzoor (aba).

Attending Jalsa was the final event that I felt I needed to experience before completely accepting Ahmadiyyat. So, in 2015 during the International Bai'at ceremony, I officially became a member of the Jamaat, Alhamdulillah.

Ever since, I have been a proud Ahmadi Muslim. I hope and pray that I can continue devoting my life to the cause of Islam and Ahmadiyyat, and help other converts to do the same, Insha'Allah.



BY: MARIA BUTTERWORTH SAHIBA
FAZL MOSQUE

“I found that Islam covered all the topics of human life and gave guidance on how to achieve peace in this world and how to connect with our God, our Creator. I prayed and asked for guidance from God, and after having true dreams and many prayers answered, I decided to become an Ahmadi Muslim”

I was born into a Christian Catholic family in the middle of Spain. I was raised as a practising Catholic. I attended a school run by nuns, received my first communion, and was also baptised.

As I was growing up, I felt that Christianity didn't answer all of the questions I had about religion. I didn't understand why Christianity taught the notion that Jesus (as) was the Son of God, or that Jesus (as) had to die in order to save humanity from original sin.

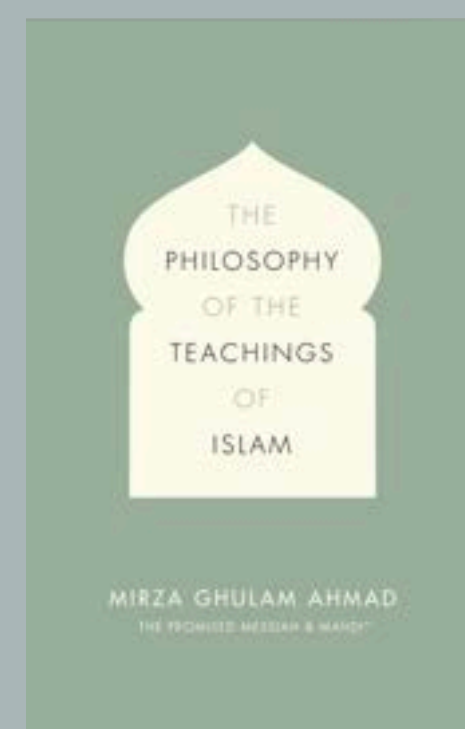
I was never taught how to connect with God, and I never had any of my prayers answered. As I grew up, I became disconnected from religion, and I almost disbelieved in the existence of God.

It was when I came to London that I found out about Islam and the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community.

I became friends with an Ahmadi family, and they taught me that there is only one God, who is the Creator of the Universe, and He sent down Prophets to guide us to Himself.

They gave me few books which were essential in my discovery of my new faith.

They were ‘The Philosophy of the Teachings of Islam’ and ‘Jesus in India’, both written by the founder of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, the Promised Messiah (as).



I learnt a lot of things after my reading and my investigation of Islam. I learnt that it was humanity that created different religions, and we made innovations in the original teachings of the Prophets.

I then started studying Islam deeply, and I realised that many of my questions were answered, and everything made sense to me. I found that Islam covered all the topics of human life and gave guidance on how to achieve peace in this world and how to connect with our God, our Creator.

I prayed and asked for guidance from God, and after having true dreams and many prayers answered, I decided to become an Ahmadi Muslim and accepted the Promised Messiah (as) and his Khulafa. Alhamdolillah. Allah is all-powerful, and only He can guide whoever He desires.

Thanks to God Almighty and His continuous help, the process of my conversion was smooth and easy for me.

I had one challenge during that time: how to tell my family that I had changed my religion and that I would no longer identify as a Christian Catholic.

Sadly, the image of Islam portrayed by the media had a negative impact on my family, and they were concerned that I would become an extremist Muslim. With prayers and time, after realising that I was a peaceful Muslim and after learning that Islam wasn't what they had assumed, they were happy with my conversion.

Alhamdulillah - All Praise belong to Allah Almighty, Lord of all the Worlds. May Allah Almighty have mercy on us, protect us and guide the world towards Islam Ahmadiyyat, Ameen.



BY: AMINAH UPPAL SAHIBA
BLACKBURN

“I met beloved Huzoor (aba) and instantly upon meeting him my heart felt peace and I knew I needed to convert”



My journey to Ahmadiyyat started when I was in high school. I grew up in a big Sunni household. I was taught to believe that Ahmadis are not Muslims and we should not associate ourselves with them.

I went to an all-girls high school and my best friend was Ahmadi. I was very close with her, and her mum was also very fond of me. I would regularly go round to her house and spend time with her family. After spending more time with her family, I noticed everything my family said about Ahmadis was wrong and they were exactly like us and my family.

I had never been to an Ahmadi's house before, so I didn't know what to expect. I noticed when prayer time came, they prayed the same as us - nothing was different. During Ramadan, I noticed they practised Ramadan like us too and fasted the same as us too. Nothing was different.

A few months later, my best friend's brother was getting married and after a lot of persuading, my parents allowed me to attend the Walimah. This was in Baitul Futuh. It was my first time attending an Ahmadi Masjid, so I was very intrigued to see what it would be like.

I was happy to hear the Adhan at prayer time, following which some women chose to go to the prayer hall to pray. I also went with them, but my parents had told me that I wasn't allowed to pray behind them as they're not Muslim. I attended this wedding with my sister, and at this point, I knew Ahmadis pray the same as us, so we prayed with them.

I was also told by my parents to only eat vegetarian food as Ahmadis do not eat halal food. After spending more time with my best friend, I knew her family only ate halal food.

So, my sister and I were able to enjoy the wedding food. It was a very nice and simple wedding, and with time I noticed everything my family told me was wrong and were just misconceptions.

My friend's mum gave me my first book on Prophet Muhammad (saw) and after reading this, I understood Ahmadis also give a lot of importance to our beloved Prophet Muhammad (saw).

I was always taught to believe that Ahmadis do not believe in the Prophet Muhammad (saw), and no importance is given to him. So, after reading this book, I was more and more intrigued because everything I was taught was wrong, and I was noticing the opposite myself.

Another friend also gave me a book on the Introduction to Ahmadiyyat, the true Islam. This was a very nice book which explained the differences between different sects, and I just wanted to learn more and more.

At school, there were a few other Ahmadis, we would always have debates on each other's beliefs, and whenever an Ahmadi person would explain to me what they believed, it always just made so much sense.

Growing up in my family, I was taught the basics about Islam but not the details, nothing about Imam Mahdi, and not much about Hazrat Isa (as). Because I wasn't really taught much about this, I started to look into what Sunnis believe, and their beliefs just didn't make sense to me. However, the Ahmadi belief made so much more sense and had a proper explanation with proof from the Holy Qur'an and Hadith.

I started reading more books online in secret so my family wouldn't find out, and I would also ask them many questions but they would not have the answer, or they would tell me to stop asking so many questions and believe what I was brought up with.

Of course, I could not do this because I knew when I die and on the Day of Judgement, I will be questioned on everything - what I believed, what was in my heart, what I researched myself, and what I did after finding out about the Jamaat.



So, I continued to watch videos in my spare time. I would watch MTA, watch Khalifa Rabe's 'Question and Answer Sessions' – these were my favourite as they were very simple answers, and I felt a connection with him and I just wanted to keep learning more. I also had two dreams of Huzoor (aba) which were beautiful.

I was also given the opportunity to meet Huzoor (aba). I was firm in my belief but, in my head, I still hadn't told myself that I wanted to convert yet.

I met beloved Huzoor (aba) and instantly upon meeting him my heart felt peace and I knew I needed to convert. I had an amazing meeting with him, I just wanted to burst into tears, and as soon as I left his office, I said I wanted to convert and wanted to sign the papers despite him just telling me during the Mulaqat that, despite my situation, I do not have to convert at all and Allah knows what is in my heart. However, I wanted it to be official. I wanted to be part of the true Islam. This was the best day of my life and it has been eight years now.

I was still living at home and at university at the time so I could not tell my family, and I lived as an Ahmadi in secret for many years until I graduated and was ready to tell my family.

They did not take this well, they have disowned me, and they have not spoken to me for the last 5 1/2 years, which has been very, very difficult because I come from a very big family and I miss them so so much.

My parents were my world and I have tried many times to do Tabligh to them, but they just won't listen. Despite losing my family, I have gained a lot more from the Jamaat, and I have now gained a new beautiful family which I am very lucky to be a part of. Alhamdulillah for Islam Ahmadiyyat.



BY: MARIA ANWAR
BRADFORD NORTH

“When I started reading the Holy Qur’an, I instantly felt like God was speaking to me directly. It made a huge impact on me”.



I grew up in a European, non-religious household, but a home where religious and philosophical discussion was encouraged.

My parents took a stand against the culture at the time and chose not to Christen their children as was the norm. As a result, my sister and I were the only children in our school who did not belong to the state church.

In many ways, this made me self-aware, and I started questioning religion – Christianity in particular – from an early age.

I could not understand the Christian view of God, of the Trinity and that Jesus (as) was – God forbid – the Son of God. I openly challenged it, and said, this is simply not possible, it’s against all kinds of logic.

From childhood, I was very interested in ‘the unseen’ and ‘life after death’ and used to read my father’s books on this topic. As a teen, I moved towards Atheism, yet my fascination with and interest in world religions grew.

A time comes in most people’s lives when they start questioning their purpose on this earth. This also happened to me. Was life simply a cycle of school, work, food, having children and eventually death? Did I not have any other purpose? I dived deeper into the study of world religions, but discarded Christianity from the outset.

I could not believe in Jesus (as) being God and the Son of God and alive in heaven.

I found that there was much good and praiseworthiness in all religions, but there always came a point where I could not accept it, as if something supernatural or far-fetched always seemed to be attached to faith.

After 9/11, I became more curious about Islam and wanted to read the Holy Qur'an to see what all the fuss was about! I saw Muslims every day, and they seemed peaceful, not at all like they were portrayed in the media. It was not until a few years later that I was given a copy of the Holy Qur'an from an Ahmadi lady, the wife of my mum's colleague.

I will mention three points that I found very persuasive and led to my acceptance of Islam Ahmadiyyat.

Firstly, the Holy Qur'an. When I started reading the Holy Qur'an, I instantly felt like God was speaking to me directly. It made a huge impact on me. As a Muslim, you will know that the Holy Qur'an is the literal word of Allah. As I was reading it, I tried my best to change my life according to Allah's wishes.

Secondly, the Ahmadiyya viewpoint on the second coming of the Messiah.

As I mentioned, I could never accept that Jesus (as) was anything but a man. And if Jesus (as) was alive somewhere in heaven for more than 2000 years like non-Ahmadis believe, then how could he be human?

Moreover, how could Jesus (as) be alive in heaven whilst the Holy Prophet Muhammad (saw) was dead and buried? The Promised Messiah (as)'s explanation that the second coming of Jesus (as) would be metaphorical, not literal, made all the sense in the world, and silenced both the Christian and non-Ahmadi Muslim arguments.

Thirdly, that all major religions in the world await a reformer or a Messiah figure. Since there is only One God and one truth, this must be the same person, not many different ones.

When it came to questions I had about Islam, I was always able to find answers in the Ahmadi literature that would satisfy my heart. Alhamdulillah.



BY: CHRISTINE SHARIF SAHIBA
LUTON

“I naturally became aware of the hatred towards Ahmadiyyat by other groups, so I read their accusations and explored them further, but they only helped my knowledge of Ahmadiyyat and I accepted it as the true teachings of Islam”.



I first became aware of Ahmadiyyat and its teachings in 2000, and I began to learn more about it. During that time, I was in contact with some very nice Ahmadi Muslims and attended many gatherings, including Jalsa Salana, the Peace Symposium, and some local meetings. I finally took Bai'at several years later after fully accepting the teachings as the truth and I would like to share my journey to Ahmadiyyat.

When I was growing up my family celebrated Christmas and Easter, as we were Christians, but we did not attend Church or read the Bible. I did not know very much about religion except what we were taught at school. My favourite subject at school was science, and as I got older, I did not have any understanding or real interest in religion. I believed it was for people who could not think for themselves, and due to my understanding then, I believed that science was right, and that religion didn't support science and it was just stories. I became agnostic, because I needed proof to believe in God.

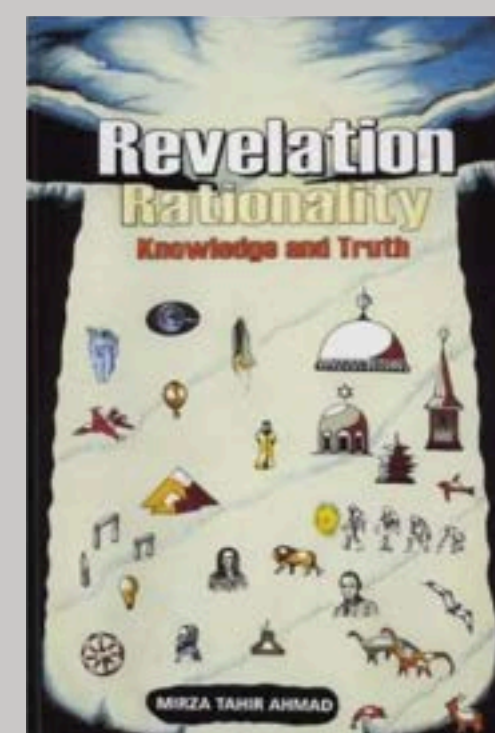
When I got married, my husband was a Muslim, and I wanted to learn more about Islam. I visited Pakistan and read various books about Islam, but I got angry and saw the information as giving more rights to men and against women. I decided that on my return to England I would read more books, as I could see that cultural practices were confusing Islamic teachings, so I did not give up.

In England, I read more books, but again what I read didn't seem fair to women or non-Muslims, and I started to feel bad about myself, as according to 'Islam' I wasn't walking properly, eating right, cutting my toenails correctly etc. It seemed as though the order of things was upside down; I was thinking: "where is the humanity, the basic morals?" So, I left it alone for a while.

Because I always wanted to learn, and keep asking questions, I decided to go straight to the source of Islam, The Qur'an. I did not find it an easy book to read, but I could see how it could be interpreted in different ways.

One day, I was at the library, and I came across a book called 'Revelation, Rationality, Truth and Knowledge'. I read it, and it was amazing!

It was the first time that science and religion had come together, and because of the scientific detail in the book which was supported by Islamic teachings, I instantly believed in God! Now, I had to read more books by Hazrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad (rh).



I had no idea about different groups in Islam, like Sunni, Shia, let alone who or what Ahmadiyyat was. I found a Mosque in Birmingham, where I met Imam Bajwa, who suggested some books.

The more I read, the more I wanted to read and so I did. Then I came to learn, that there were different groups in Islam with different teachings – it was so confusing! Nevertheless, I tried to learn more, but how would I decide what was the truth with so much information saying different things? Then I decided to pick a subject I knew a lot about and look at what they all had to say about it – 'women'; that was my subject, after all I have a good understanding of me!

I read so much information from various Islamic sects about women in Islam. Some were very strict and unfair to women, while others weren't, but none ever explained in as much detail as the Ahmadiyya teaching did. I began to question the purpose of Prophets and thankfully realised, through God's blessing, that they set the example, they teach, they lead and without them we could easily misunderstand The Holy Qur'an and let bad cultural practices affect its teachings.

I naturally became aware of the hatred towards Ahmadiyyat by other groups, so I read their accusations and explored them further, but they only helped my knowledge of Ahmadiyyat, and I accepted it as the true teachings of Islam.

No other teaching explained anything in such detail, which made sense. Nothing even came close. That was it, the Ahmadiyya teaching was in my heart and mind.

I am still learning and need lots of improvements to become a better Muslim, but one thing I have learned is that if you continue asking questions, praying for and looking for answers, Allah eventually reveals the truth that satisfies your mind and heart.

BY: RAFFAELLA WOOLMER SAHIBA

CHEAM

“When I read about how the Promised Messiah (as) would use the Holy books of other faiths to prove the truth of Islam, I realised in my heart that he was a man of God, and decided I wanted to do Bai’at”

I was raised in a devout and practising Christian family. We used to go to Church every week and I went to Catholic schools for most of my life. I hardly interacted with people from other faiths, so my only experience of religion was through Catholic Christianity. However, I never felt connected to Christianity. I didn't agree with its teachings and thought that religion was old fashioned. Because I had no interaction with any other religion, this led me to become an Atheist.

When I was 16, I moved to a non-religious school for my A-Levels, and met people of different religions for the first time. I was curious when I met Muslims because they took their religion seriously and were proud of their religion. They would talk openly about their beliefs and practices, would pray during lunch breaks, and fast during Ramadan. This was very different from my experience with Christianity, where most girls my age considered themselves Atheist, did not practice their religion, and even saw being religious as 'embarrassing'.

I was curious to understand what was so special about Islam that makes Muslims love their religion, so I decided to read the Holy Qur'an in English. I thought that it was beautiful, and I was moved by the way it feels like it is speaking directly to you.

I started listening to Tilawat, because it was calming and I watched videos to learn about Islam. I was especially interested in learning about the signs of the latter days, as so many of them had come true, which made me even more curious.

By the time I was 21, I couldn't stop thinking about everything I had learnt. I had a strong urge to learn as much as I could, because it did not feel right knowing deep down that Islam was true, yet I was doing nothing about it, and 5 years after I first became curious about Islam, I became a Muslim.





I continued to read about Islam after becoming a Muslim, but only a month later, I had one big problem that bothered me. I had accepted Islam as a fact because of its ‘fundamental Islamic beliefs’, but I could not understand how Isa (as) was going to come back as a follower of the Holy Prophet (saw).

Logically, it made no sense, because Isa (as) came before him (saw) – so how would he know about the Holy Qur’an, and salat, and the other teachings of Islam to come back as a follower of Muhammad (saw)? Would Isa (as) come back without knowledge of Islam and quickly learn it before taking up his role as the Messiah?

I bought books about it and researched online, but I only became more and more confused, which bothered me a lot. I asked my friends, and their responses did not satisfy me as they were not based on the Qur’an or Hadith.

For example, one friend told me Allah would probably teach Isa (as) everything in heaven before coming back – but why would He do this favour for Isa (as) but not even for the greatest Prophet, Muhammad (saw)?

I was attending a Sunni Mosque at the time, and had asked a Sheikh a question, because somebody in my university had mentioned something about Islam that was different from what I had learnt.

However, the Sheikh was angry that I had spoken to an Ahmadi and shouted at me. He told me never to speak to Ahmadis and to treat them badly. He told me many lies about Ahmadiyyat and the Promised Messiah (as). I was shocked after this phone call and asked the Ahmadi if what the Sheikh had told me was true.

Each allegation was refuted one by one, and I noticed a pattern that they were all either lies, or the truth simplified and twisted to look bad.

Eventually, I didn’t need every allegation to be explained as I knew what the pattern was.

I was explained the Ahmadi beliefs on Isa (as), that he had died and therefore could not come back, and was explained the true meaning of 'rafa'a' in the Holy Qur'an as well.

I was relieved because for the first time, I had an answer to my questions on Isa (as) which was based on the Qur'an. But I was not yet fully convinced.

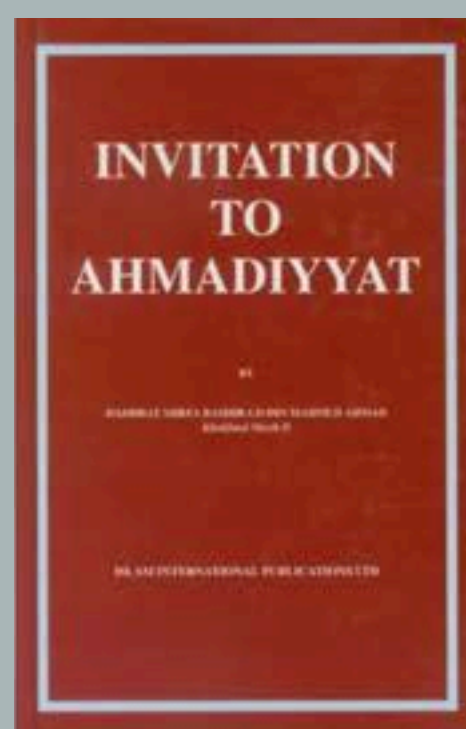
I started reading Invitation to Ahmadiyyat, which I really enjoyed and found easy to read and understand from a Sunni Muslim perspective.

When I read about how the Promised Messiah (as) would use the Holy books of other faiths to prove the truth of Islam, I realised in my heart that he was a man of God, and decided I wanted to do Bai'at.

Alhamdulillah I was fortunate that I did not eat pork or drink alcohol before I was Muslim, so in some ways my journey was easy as I did not have to give anything up. I wanted to, and love wearing the hijab, but I have to hide it from my family, which is difficult.

It isn't easy being the only Muslim in my family, but I think about the Holy Prophet (saw), and his companions, who went through much bigger hardships for the sake of Islam. The Holy Qur'an says that going through trials is an important part of life (29:3).

I am confident Ahmadiyyat is true because it is logical and based on evidence from the Holy Qur'an and Hadith, and since becoming an Ahmadi, I have had several religious dreams which have helped to confirm that it is the truth.



BY: ROMANA IMTIAZ SAHIBA
BORDON

*“All the dreams I had were eye opening signs
and made my decision of conversion certain”*

My journey began at the age of 23, when I was living with my strict Sunni family in Ilford, East London. My parents moved to the UK in 2013 from Italy. My extended family is all based in Pakistan.

Being the eldest among my siblings, from a very young age, I was a responsible and obedient child. My parents always trusted and valued my opinion. My parents are very strict practising Sunnis. I was told and made to believe that Sunnis are the true Muslims.

My siblings and I regularly used to take Qur'an Classes from Sunni Madrassas from a young age. My parents used to organise regular 'Milad' programmes and we were strictly told to attend all of them. I never knew any other sect other than Sunni, Shia or Wahabbi until Allah Almighty showed me an entirely different path - Ahmadiyyat.

I found out about Ahmadiyyat during 2019, when I heard the Adhan while at university - Medway School of Pharmacy in Kent. The Adhan was from an Ahmadiyya Mosque – The Nasir Mosque in Gillingham.

At that time, I didn't know it was an Ahmadi Mosque until I came home with excitement to share this news with my parents that there's a beautiful Mosque near my University.

My dad did a quick search online and said “stay away from this place”. I was told that God forbid, these people do not believe in Khatm-e-Nabuat and that they have their own new prophet.



As a daughter, I heard what my dad said and initially believed him. However, my mind couldn't fully process the information received from my dad and I had a strong need to understand and research more about this sect of Islam. But I also had a fear of being caught, as I had never seen my dad this upset about something.

During my time at University, I also met some fellow Ahmadi students, whom I initially thought were Sunnis until I had a discreet discussion about Islam. Initially, I wanted to get more information regarding Ahmadiyyat and help them understand that Sunni Islam was the right path. This led me to secretly start researching more about Ahmadiyyat.

During my research, I found out that I had many questions that were unanswered. I was not getting any satisfactory explanation from non-Ahmadi sources which therefore led me to ask more questions to my Ahmadi fellows, who then guided me to check Ahmadi websites.

Taking the guidance, I started watching YouTube videos and searching Ahmadiyya websites.

I came across Hazrat Khalifat-ul-Masih the IV (rh) videos which I watched, one by one. Long nights I would spend reading and watching videos in hopes of finding the answers I sought.

Hazrat Khalifa-tul-Masih IV (rh) Friday Sermon videos and question and answer sessions beautifully answered all of my questions.

I was at a point where my heart fully accepted that true Islam was not what I believed, it was rather Ahmadiyyat that was the right path.



I spent a long time praying and asking Allah the Almighty to show me a sign. During this time, I saw many dreams which pointed towards the truthfulness of Ahmadiyyat. In one dream:

I'm travelling in a car with my sister and one of my Sunni friends and I see a river flowing with high speed next to the road. Through the car window, I see from afar that on the other side of the river is Hazrat Khalifat-ul-Massih IV (rh) walking and entering a hall. I come out of the car and want to cross and meet Huzoor (aba), but because of the fast flowing river, I cannot cross, thinking I will drown. In my own thoughts I suddenly hear Huzoor (aba)'s voice "Khuda Tala apne bande ko Tanha nahi chorta" and I see the river disappear and I'm on the other side.

All the dreams I had were eye-opening signs and made my decision to covert certain.

Alhamdolillah, I signed my Bai'at form officially on 23rd July 2020 with the help of National Tabligh Secretary Ibrahim Ikhlaq Sahib and his wife.

Throughout this process, I was very worried and scared about how I would disclose this information to my family and live without them as they were very against Ahmadiyyat.

Despite this, I didn't stop researching and Alhamdullilah Allah gave me the strength to take this step and blessed me with inner peace.

Jazak'Allah



BY: SALIMA BHUNNOO SAHIBA
NEW MALDEN

“I was searching for a more spiritual community, who could help me build a true relationship with my Creator.”

I was brought up in France, by a Sunni Muslim agnostic and a non-practising father and a Christian Atheist mother. As a child, I went to Catholic school so I studied the Bible, but at home we only celebrated Eid and Christmas festivals culturally.

Nobody was really practising any faith at home, nor were we taught any practice. Very young, I started believing in God and studied different religions and philosophies. I prayed to God that if Jesus (as) was to come, I would like to be among his followers.

At the age of 16, I decided Islam was my religion, so I started fasting during Ramadan. Then I started reading a French translation of the Holy Qur'an, and researched it until I was 18 years old at university- this had a huge impact on me.

I had true dreams about my future and saw myself wearing full hijab and among people speaking a language I didn't know at the time (Urdu).

I decided to start practising Islam fully and learn salat and started wearing more modest clothes. But I wasn't satisfied with the politics mixed with religion amongst some Sunni groups, moreover my father was strongly opposed to them.

Out of respect for him, and my feeling of unease, I never join any local Muslim female women's groups, especially from the countries of my ethnic background: Algeria and Morocco.



For decades, there have been political parties that claimed to represent the religion of Islam. They were influencing the diaspora of North Africans in Europe, especially in France, in a very rigid fashion and wanting to gather money to make trouble with the Algerian government back home.



My father was worried I would be influenced by such Muslims but I quickly realised they didn't represent what I was looking for. I was searching for a more spiritual community, that could help me build a true relationship with my Creator.

In 1994, my father bought a satellite dish to watch Algerian TV. Amongst the many satellite channels, I found the 12-hour broadcast of MTA on the same channel of the Vatican. I started watching it, and I was amazed by Hazrat Khalifatul Masih (IV) (rh) humility and closeness to the members of his community, speaking in a gentle voice, especially to women. I thought it was a huge change compared to other Islamic channels and Imams.

I started listening to a few programmes and understood the difference of belief between Sunni Islam and Ahmadiyyat, especially about Jesus (as) and also about the finality of Prophethood. I agreed with every explanation about religion. I also saw the picture of the Promised Messiah (as) and found that he had the face of a truthful person.

Everything made sense to me; therefore, I started praying to be guided if it was the truth and got true dreams and a strong sense that I have found what I was looking for.

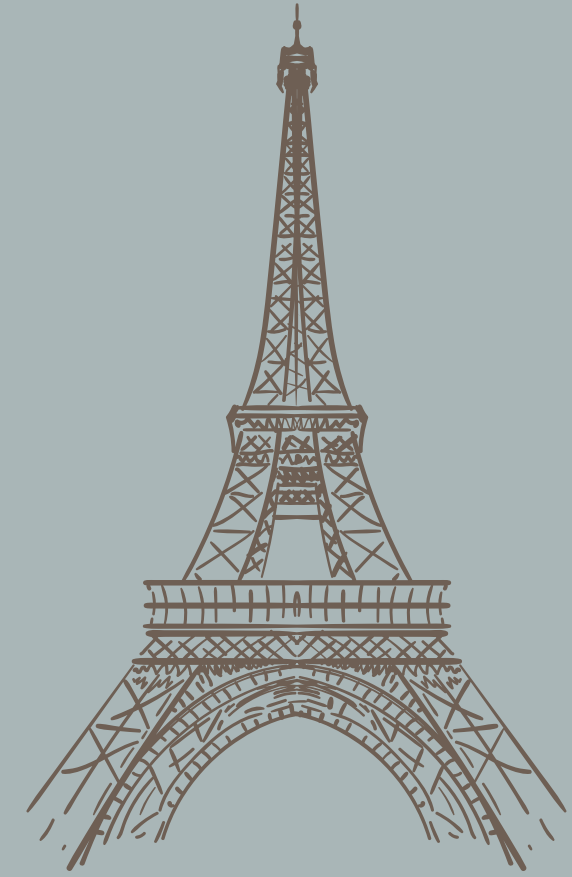
One of the dreams especially, was about my father telling me, "You have chosen the right path" pointing at Hazrat Khalifatul Masih (IV) (rh), while in reality he was very against it, and as Islam teaches to respect parents, I was stuck in my decision until I saw that dream. I understood after this that we obey our parents only in good things.

My father wasn't happy and was concerned about me becoming "fanatical about religion". To me, I had found my "raison de vivre" and tried to explain to him the Jamaat's beliefs, since a lot of programmes were in English, and that it was a community with whom I share the values.

I wrote to Hazrat Khalifatul Masih (IV) (rh) and asked him to do me the honour of accepting me into his community/accept my oath of allegiance.

I asked Hazrat Khalifatul Masih (IV) (rh), to link me with a pen friend from the French community, in Paris, to get literature, ask questions or learn more about Jamaat literature and eventually meet members, which he did.

I went to Paris to meet the daughter of the then Amir Sahib France, and we became friends. In 1997, I finished my contract, working as an administrator in the National Employment Agency.



I then decided that my English was good enough and it was my dream to go to London to meet Hazrat Khalifatul Masih (IV) (rh), so I took the Eurostar to London directly to Fazl Mosque after Hazrat Khalifatul Masih (IV) (rh) invited me in October 1997 to stay in the guest house.

It was my first time praying in a Mosque, and wearing my hijab full time, as in France it was complicated when working for the government and my parents didn't approve. There, I met ladies who welcomed me so well and we shared the flat opposite the Mosque.

I decided after my invitation to stay and start a new life to be close to the community with the permission of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih (IV) (rh). I was participating in many MTA programmes and did French translation for MTA and translation of some literature. I was involved in a lot of tabligh and got a job teaching French to primary school children.

After 9 months, I met my husband. Hazrat Khalifatul Masih (IV) (rh) organised my wedding, after I told him a dream I had about marriage. My husband was a participant of the French Mulaqat, and we got married in 1998. My parents were not happy that I decided to stay in London, and even less when I told them I was getting married so soon.

But eventually, they had to accept my decision and when they met Khalid and family, they liked them and saw that I was still living my life, doing sport, working, caring for my hair under the hijab and wearing nice clothes.

Also when some members of my family came to the Mosque in London, they realised it was a community of educated people, with manners. My mother knew about Sir Zafrullah Khan, she was impressed by him and my father learnt he helped Algeria at the time of independence, so they accepted my choice of a new life.

BY: JAZIBAH YOUSUF SAHIBA
BORDON

“The first book I read cover to cover was Jesus in India. For me, to have your childhood theories validated and the Promised Messiah (as) as the author solidified in my heart that there was no going back, I was now a fully believing Ahmadi”

I've always been conscious of my natural fitrah, the inclination to worship, and curiosity about the world. I asked about everything and learnt a lot about people, science and nature. I regularly attended church where I questioned the Trinity, because I had strong faith in the One and Only Supreme Creator of the Universe and craved a tangible connection. When I was upset or confused, I would cry and pray to God in private.

We had Muslim neighbours who would invite us to their celebrations. At school, there was remarkable diversity, with students coming from homes where 70 different languages were spoken. The lunch queue had 3 lines: vegetarian, meat and halal, so there was lots of exposure and experiences related to Islam that were very familiar to me from a young age.

By the time I finished primary and entered secondary school I wasn't attending church regularly, although I loved being part of a community, I wanted to connect on a deeper level with those who had the same core beliefs. Alhamdulillah, I was blessed with being friends with different groups of students including some who were Muslim.

By the time I was 13, I was really inclined towards the Islamic faith, as it brought an air of peace.

However, the only concept that held me back from being a Muslim at heart and reciting the Kalima was the belief in Prophet Jesus (as) being alive and that he would physically return.

It just didn't make sense to me that he had this privilege and yet the Holy Prophet Muhammad (saw) died a natural death and was definitely not coming back.



When I was 16, a school friend who was always modest in her speech and dress told me that she was an Ahmadi. I asked about the differences and discovered that there were millions of people around the world that had similar beliefs to me!

This began what became the 3 year journey to Ahmadiyyat, and I delved deep into research (as I was both interested and cautious to only practice a religion with aligned beliefs and values).

The first book I read was 'Revelation, Rationality, Knowledge and Truth' which really satisfied me intellectually, combining science and theology. I would recommend bite sized topical discussions.

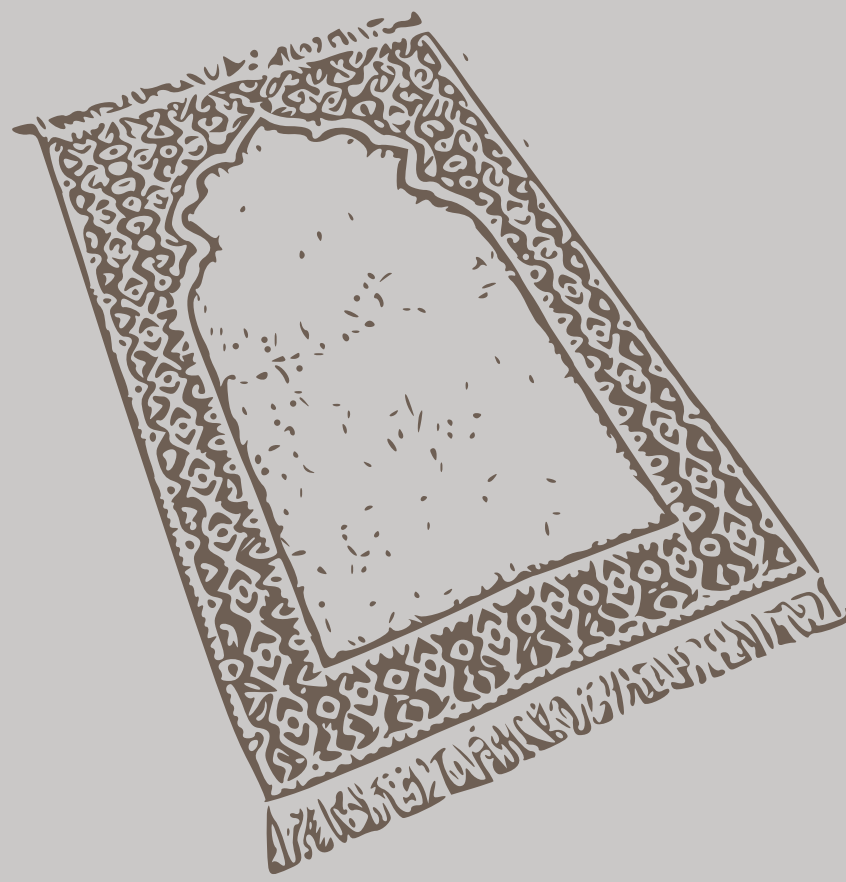
As I felt a deep yearning for peace and spiritual fulfilment, I wanted to have a strong understanding and deep connection with Allah through the Holy Qur'an. This was sometimes challenging to grasp in context without help so I would ponder and analyse to find the blessed guidance within.

I found the book 'The Philosophy of the teachings of Islam' a beautiful spiritual gateway to better understand the transformational impact that the Holy Qur'an has, especially on the moral and spiritual development of a believer.

The first book I read cover to cover was 'Jesus in India.' For me, to have my childhood theories validated and the Promised Messiah (as) as the author solidified in my heart that there was no going back, I was now a fully believing Ahmadi.

From theoretical belief to practising Islam, now the real Jihad-e-Akbar began. I knew what I had to do, but this took time because I didn't have all the resources and I wasn't yet under the tender supportive wing of a Da'i ilAllah doing Tabligh.





I brainstormed the list of challenges that I felt were holding me back from taking Bai'at. I wanted to learn my salaah in Arabic and learn how to read the Holy Qur'an in Arabic.

I wanted to be consistent in my values and to be an Ahmadi Muslim with recognisable purdah in addition to praying Fajr Salaah on time as this is the sacrifice and discipline of a true believer who prioritises their faith over the world.

Alhamdulillah at this point I had started attending the Mosque and the local Murrabi and his family had graciously taken me under their wing. Once I achieved my goals, I then took the pledge of allegiance and officially became an Ahmadi Muslim.

I was keen to serve which acted as a form of support and I even did duty at my first Jalsa. In this way I was able to establish a connection of Islamic sisterhood with other Lajna and older Nasirat.

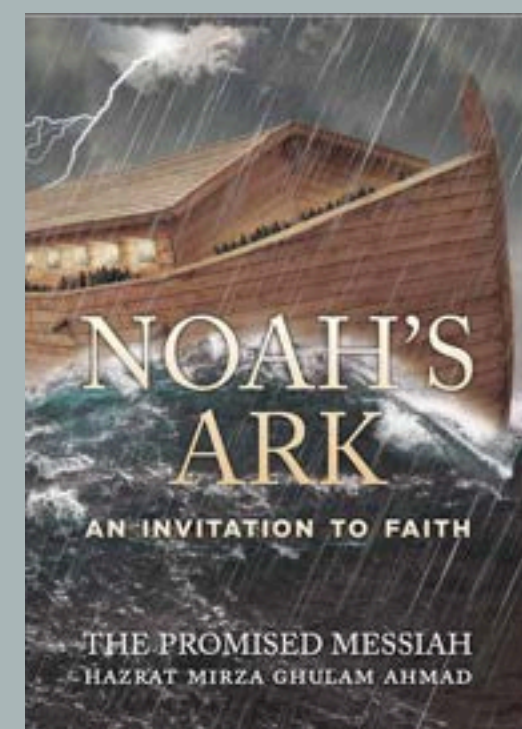
Ahmadis can demonstrate Islam in their manners, modesty, support and service towards others and this is how my sister was first introduced, started her journey and took her pledge a few years later.

No one would have guessed when I was 13 that I was interested in Islam, and yet I watched my friend from ages 11-18 embody Islamic teachings which were a magnet for my spiritual curiosity.

I am also aware that I represent my faith in every environment and try my best to present Islam with a smile and the best of manners. May Allah enable us all to be confident in our Muslim identity and show others the beauty of true Islam, Ameen.

BY: ASMA RANA SAHIBA
GILLINGHAM

“I started watching ‘Friday sermon’ and ‘This week with Huzoor (aba)’ and this really opened my mind a lot. After reading the evidence and truth about Islam Ahmadiyyat (in the book Noah’s Ark), I was left speechless”



I moved to Georgia at the start of 2020 to start my medical journey. It was there that I discovered Islam Ahmadiyyat. In April 2020, I was sitting with a group of British Pakistani Muslim friends who were talking about the persecution of Ahmadis in Pakistan.

Hearing this, I felt heartbroken for all of the innocent people in Pakistan that were being killed for having a certain belief, so I said to my friends, “If our Prophet (saw) was alive today, He would have been very disheartened by this action”.

I had no idea what the Ahmadi beliefs were or who they were. This was the first time I encountered the word ‘Ahmadi’. Moving to Georgia was very difficult. I had left my family behind and Covid meant we weren’t allowed out as much and weren’t allowed to go to University. We continued our studies online. This period was very tough.

There was an individual who helped people settle into the country. After a few months of being there, I required their assistance with a few academic matters after which we started to converse about Islam and the death of Isa (as) which for me was an interesting topic. This individual asked me what my thoughts were on Isa (as). I said as a Muslim, we believe that he will come down from heaven on a horse in the latter days and save the Muslim Ummah from Dajjal by fighting against him. To this, the individual said, “I will send you a few verses of the Holy Qur’an to study”.

The verses were:

“And Muhammad is only a Messenger. Verily, (all) Messengers have passed away before him. If then he die or be slain, will you turn your back on your heels? And he who turns back on his heels shall not harm Allah at all. And Allah will certainly reward the grateful”

-The Holy Qur’an Chapter 3 verse 145)



“And We have not sent any Messenger except with the language of his people in order that he might make (things) clear to them. Then Allah lets go astray whom He wills, and guides whom He will. And He is the Mighty, the Wise”

-The Holy Qur'an Chapter 14 verse 5

“Every soul shall taste of death; and We prove you with evil and good by way of trial. And to Us shall you be returned”

-The Holy Qur'an Chapter 21 verse 36

“I said nothing to them except that which Thou didst command me- ‘Worship Allah, my Lord and your Lord’. And I was a witness over them as long as I remained among them, but since Thou didst cause me to die, Thou hast been the Watcher over them; and Thou art witness over all things”

-The Holy Qur'an Chapter 5 verse 118

I was sent these verses during Ramadan in April 2020 and the entire Ramadan I was searching for the meanings of these verses. Our Prophet (saw) is the greatest man to ever walk the earth. Why would Allah keep Isa (as) alive when He caused Muhammed (saw) to die?

Chapter 3 verse 145 tells us that every Messenger that came before Muhammad (saw) has passed away and nowhere in the Holy Qur'an does it mention 'except Isa'.

Chapter 14 verse 5 tells us that Allah sent every Prophet on this earth to fulfil their duties towards God, so was Isa (as) sent for 'Bani Israel' as a Messiah to fulfil the commandments of Mosaic Law.

Chapter 21 verse 36 tells us that every soul shall taste death, every human must die and return to our Lord. Just like Prophet Muhammad (saw) was human and so was Isa (as).

When I read Chapter 5 verse 118, I was astonished because this verse clearly indicates that Isa (as) passed away.

Something overtook my heart, and I just couldn't stop searching for the truth. My heart was torn between what I grew up knowing and what I was finding out now.



I contacted the individual and asked for more evidence and this individual kindly shared a few books with me, the first being 'Jesus in India'. While I was halfway through the book, I decided to see who the author was and what I read was "This is an English version of Urdu treatise written by the Holy Founder of the Ahmadiyya Movement In Islam, Hadrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (1835-1908)" and I said to myself 'Ahmadiyya'-

I heard this word somewhere before. I was able to remember it was my friends who I heard this word from first, so I picked up the phone and contacted the individual. I said "What is Ahmadiyya? And who is this author?". The individual said not to worry about the word Ahmadiyya and the Author and just to read the book and everything will be clear in the end. As I was reading the book, I was praying and asking Allah to guide me towards the right path. After finishing reading the book, I felt I had been lied to my whole life.

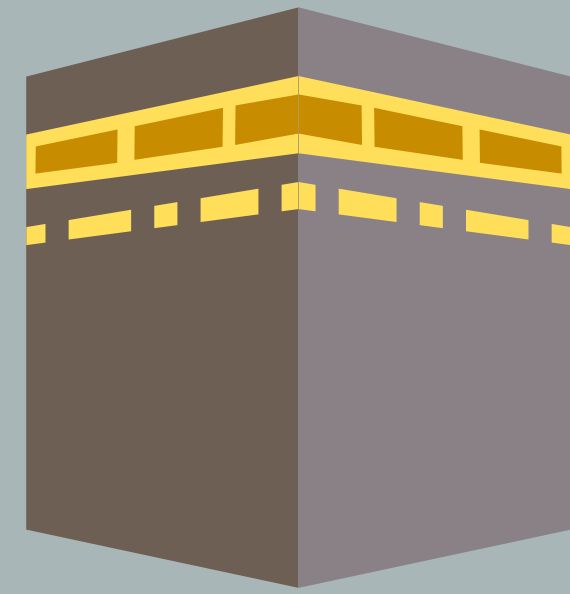
I was finding it very tough to come to terms with the fact that Isa (as) has passed away because all my life I believed that Isa (as) was still alive somewhere in the heavens and he would come down on a horse in the latter days to slay Dajjal with his sword.

I had a lot of questions running through my mind. I got in touch with the individual again and the person kindly sent me 'The Philosophy of the Teachings of Islam'. I started reading this book and I absolutely fell in love with it and with its teachings, truthfulness and guidance. I was startled as I had never read anything like that before.

It was just so beautifully and eloquently written. Both 'Jesus in India' and 'The Philosophy of the Teachings of Islam' moved me emotionally and spiritually. I asked questions after I had read both books upon which the individual disclosed to me that this was the teaching of the Promised Messiah (as) and gave me answers to all my questions from Jamaat Ahmadiyya literature.

In my heart, I knew the truth, but I didn't want to accept it. I carried on with my own studies and started watching MTA to increase my understanding of Ahmadiyyat and prayed to Allah to guide me to the truth. Thereafter, my dreams occurred. I truly believed that Isa (as) has passed away, but I was finding it extremely difficult to accept the fact that the Promised Messiah (as) had come and gone, and the Muslim Ummah isn't aware of it.

I started asking my friends if they knew anything about Islam Ahmadiyyat and they told me to stay away from Ahmadis. One of my friends told me they're not even allowed to enter Mecca. This didn't stop me from carrying out my research. I kept asking Allah to show me the right path. I would wake up for Tahajjud and cry to Allah as I felt very lost and vulnerable.



I started watching MTA and Ahmadi Answers. At this point, I had acquired a lot of knowledge about Ahmadiyyat. I knew about the Khulafa and the Promised Messiah (as). Every time I would see Beloved Huzoor (aba), I would burst into tears. I was listening to other people's conversion stories, and they really moved me.

Before I accepted Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (as) - the Promised Messiah & Imam Mehdi (as), I had three dreams, which indicated to me that Ahmadiyyat was the truth.

In my first dream, I was in a Mosque I used to attend as a young girl. I was surrounded by children who were learning Arabic. I asked the children if they knew about the Ahmadi Jamaat but I knew the children weren't Ahmadis themselves. So I began to tell them about Jamaat Ahmadiyya and that the Promised Messiah (as) had come.

Whilst I was telling them about the Promised Messiah (as), the Imam of the Mosque entered the same room and began opposing my views and tried to silence me from telling the children. I carried on defending Ahmadiyyat and said that the Imam could not stop me from telling the children. I also saw my brother Khaled Ahmad in this dream defending my Ahmadi beliefs.

After having this dream, I still didn't want to accept Ahmadiyyat. My mind was almost tricking me, and I was being ignorant. Despite knowing the truth, I was acting blind. I began to pray, pray, and pray and ask Allah for guidance. This is when my second dream occurred.

In my second dream, I was sitting with 3 boys between what looked like the ages of 10 – 15 years old who were in a room reciting the Holy Qur'an in front of an Imam. The Imam looked as if he was of Saudi origin. One of the boys started telling me they wanted to go back to Jamaat Ahmadiyya but not to tell the Imam they had said this.

I responded to the young boy mentioning he should not fear anything and if he wants to go back to Jamaat Ahmadiyya, he should do so. The same conversation occurred with the second and third boy. One of the boys mentioned he wanted to go to Qadian and I told him he should not fear anyone and if he wants to go there, he should. I woke up feeling restless and breathless as to what is happening to me.

Since I mentioned the word 'Ahmadiyya' to my friends, they would ring me every day to ensure that I was not talking to any Ahmadis. I was told that they don't follow the teachings of Prophet Muhammad (saw) but so far everything I read or came across was all to do with the true teachings of our noble Prophet (saw). In fact, Ahmadis are the only ones that truly follow the teachings of our Prophet Muhammad (saw).

I started watching the 'Friday sermon' and 'This week with Huzoor' and this really opened my mind a lot. But I was stopping myself from accepting the Promised Messiah (as). I just wanted to know more about the Promised Messiah (as) so I got in touch with the individual again and asked if there were any more books that would help me to understand more. The individual sent me 'Noah's Ark'. After reading the evidence and truth about Islam Ahmadiyyat, I was left speechless.

A few days later, something bad happened. I cried and cried and extended my right hand towards Allah and said:

“Oh Lord of the world please hold my hand and guide me towards the right path”.

I read my Isha prayer and went to bed and that's when I had my third dream. In my third dream, I was holding our current Beloved Huzoor (aba)'s (aba) hand taking Bai'at and I saw a line of girls wearing black hijabs also taking Bai'at together at Beloved Huzoor (aba)'s hand, and whilst I was taking Bai'at, I asked Beloved Huzoor (aba) to lead my Nikkah.

Alhamdulillah with the help of the Almighty, I accepted Ahmadiyyat in my heart on the 25th of November 2020 and then it was accepted by Huzoor (aba) on the 28th of November 2020 and I officially took Bai'at in May 2021.



BY: MELISSA AHMEDI SAHIBA
BORDON



“From a young age I was shown the Jamaat through my older sister, who would take me on trips to the Mosque. The mosque became a home away from home; it was here I forged friendships with other young Lajna and Nasirat and developed a relationship with Allah.”

In 2022, I delivered my journey to Ahmadiyyat on stage at Jalsa in the ladies session (a very nerve wracking experience!) - I called the speech, finding peace of heart because that's what I found in Islam Ahmadiyyat.

I'm going to rewind you all the way back to when my life as an Ahmadi Muslim began, when I was 13. Probably, some of you are 13 as you read this. You are the next generation of gems who will spread Islam Ahmadiyyat far and wide. Perhaps you don't even realise it yet, but once you unlock your potential and your confidence, you'll realise exactly how much potential you have. I hope you all know what your power and potential is in the world.

Our role here is much bigger than just us. His Holiness (aba) when addressing the Lajna in Finland, said,

“Develop the realisation that we are the ones who are to (morally) reform the world and, it is our job to guide others rather than following the world ourselves.”

Allah intended for me to be an Ahmadi Muslim, as a young English girl from Manchester, just like Allah paved the path for my older sister Jazibah, before me. He planted the seed of faith in my sister, so she might teach me and guide me to it as well. I was fortunate too, that I attended a school where many of the girls were Muslim and this had a significant impact on me too. From a young age I was shown the Jamaat through my older sister, who would take me on trips to the Mosque, every now and again.

The Mosque became a home away from home, it was here I forged friendships with other young Lajna and Nasirat and developed a relationship with Allah.

It was Jalsa Salana of 2009, when I was 13 that life changed for me. It's not enough, I thought to just believe something to be true in my heart. I had seen the evidence of its truth for myself. I saw the peace and focus it brought to people's lives. I saw a community united together, striving for peace. I saw women and girls who felt empowered through their roles of serving their faith. I knew how calm and at peace I felt when I went to the Mosque. I knew it was the truth, so what was I waiting for?

I didn't attend Jalsa that year with the intention to convert; maybe I felt too young, un-ready, perhaps naive about my journey ahead. But little did I know those who loved me and knew me were praying that my heart would embrace Islam Ahmadiyyat – that was my first lesson in the power of prayers. The impossible becomes possible through prayers. I truly feel God put something in my heart that weekend.

On the Sunday of Jalsa 2009, I sat in the main Jalsa gah in the green area, when the Bai'at ceremony began, the atmosphere was electric. I don't think I've ever experienced anything like it before or since. I wished in that moment everyone could feel what I could feel. The air was so still, but it was a peaceful silence - it felt as if we were all connected, time had frozen, and nothing else existed or mattered except for that moment.

When I recited the prayers after His Holiness, (may Allah strengthen his hand) I felt like the moment had come to be honest with myself. My eyes were sore from tears and my throat lost air when I recited: *I ask forgiveness of my sins from Allah who is my Lord and I turn towards Him.*

I felt the weight of the world release itself from my entire body and when I sat up from the prostration, my body felt light and free. In almost a euphoric state, I felt spiritually uplifted in a way I'd never felt before.

It is here really, that my story actually begins. So, the following month, I returned in September of Year 9, at the age of 13 choosing to wear a headscarf. I remembered the butterflies in my stomach and the anxiety over what people would say and think before I went in to school. My hijab has seen me through many chapters in my life so far. It has taken courage, and resilience but mostly prayers in that journey.



The process of wearing my school uniform headscarf every day meant that it became a habit outside of school too. The thing that initially made me nervous was what will other people think? What will other people say? But I realised over time, why should that matter more than my faith and what I believe in? By God's blessings, wearing the hijab has always been an invitation for me and others to talk and be open about my faith and beliefs. I attach a strong sense of who I am to wearing it, and I feel that God has moved me forwards because of it. Allah comforted me in the knowledge that by taking one step towards Him, God always came running to me.

I remember my first mulaqat (meeting) with Beloved Huzoor (aba) following my conversion when I was 14. I remember being sat there speechless, while my sister explained. He focused on me and was making sure I was converting for myself and that it was my decision and my choice. I remember knowing from then on, whatever happened to me in my life, I knew he would always be there for me, looking out for me.

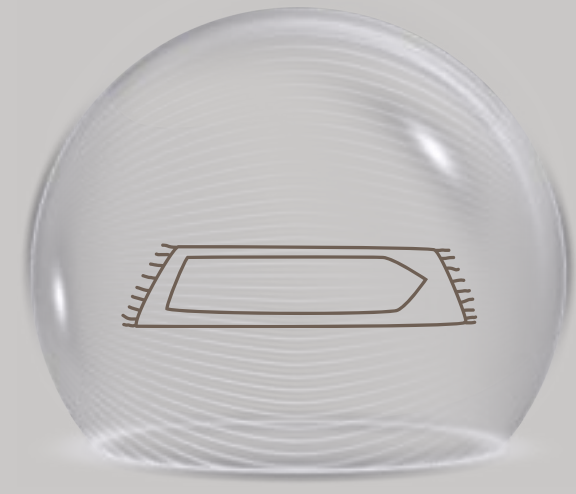
As I grew older, people's interest and intrigue about my conversion would grow, and people would ask me questions about it. If someone used to ask me a question about faith, or said something negative, at times I'd lack the courage and strength to stand up for myself. I'd often stay quiet. I'd come home frustrated and think of all the things I could have said. Not knowing things and having the answers made me feel really uncomfortable.

I went on a long journey of self-realisation, understanding that my job here is not to fit in or to be like anyone else. My job is to keep striving despite my path being different from most, knowing that God put me on this path for a reason.

Islam would prove to me that the rights Allah has bestowed on women and girls surpass every other worldly example. The Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) himself said that in Islam it's as though women have been placed on thrones (Malfuzat). Ahmadi Muslim women are amongst the most highly educated women in the world and surpass the men. I realised the real blessing is being a part of such a community whose every effort goes into showing through action, not just with words, that women are the real "nation builders" of the world.



Building my inner strength, resilience and confidence over time was like preparing body armour. Nobody is perfect, Allah tells us that, and Allah sees all our imperfections, and He still loves us. We can try our best to become better every day.



No matter what anyone said, I asked myself, have I built my confidence enough that things don't change the way I feel about myself or my relationship with Allah? We are all human and struggle at times, but praying for myself, to have confidence within my identity, for who I am as an Ahmadi Muslim woman and to have absolute courage and valour in that identity; I felt my prayers working for me, they became like a protective forcefield, that came to my defence even in my weakest moments.

Have you ever been in a situation where you've been saved from something that you didn't know how it would go? Allah is always your Helper.

It was also Allah's will that I would marry a missionary of the Jamaat, whilst I was studying at University, and he was studying in Jamia Ahmadiyya UK at the time. This is a big part of my story, as it was here my journey of understanding what being a life-devotee (waqf-e-Zindagi) is.

We all have been given the biggest gift of all, a personal relationship with Allah's representative on earth, the Khalifa of the time. Bai'at and Waqf are very similar; you try to lead your life in a way that is pleasing to Allah and to be obedient to the Khalifa of the time.

My life had come full circle when I realised that I had come back to the place I pledged my life. Every day, I am learning about the strength of those waqfeen who came before us, their stories and lives are a source of inspiration.

The life of Khalifatul Masih V (may Allah strengthen his hand), is a shining example of what it means to be waqf in the modern day.

I would encourage all the Nasirat to treasure your bonds with other Nasirat. You will grow into Lajna together, and the sisterhood you form now will be the sisterhood that follows you throughout your life, wherever you live.

May we Ahmadi Muslims rise to every task put before us by the Khalifa of the time as he is the one who selflessly prays for us and is there for us in our happiness and sorrows. May Allah strengthen his hand and give him a long and healthy life. Ameen.

BY: ZOHA BILAL SAHIBA
HAYES

“I found that Ahmadiyyat made sense to me. The strong sense of community within the Jamaat and the concept of Khilafat were particularly appealing.”

Growing up, I came from a moderate Muslim family where I learned the basics of Islam but didn't delve into the details.

As I grew older, my interest in Islam and its teachings grew, prompting me to conduct my own research and learn more.

I often engaged in discussions about Islam with my Muslim friends.

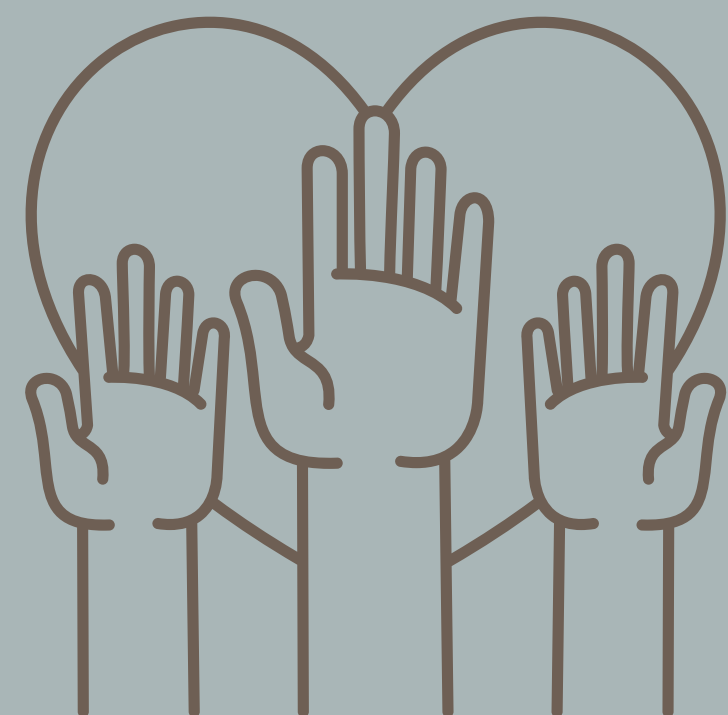
One day, someone asked me about my sect, which caught me off guard because I had never been told about sects within Islam.

This led me to explore and learn about the different sects eventually discovering that technically, I belong to a Sunni family, although my parents simply identify as Muslim without affiliating with any particular sect.

During my research, I primarily focused on the differences between Sunnis and Shias. However, I didn't completely resonate with either of them.

It was when I entered university that I met an Ahmadi girl for the first time. Intrigued, I began asking her questions about Ahmadiyyat and conducted my own research.

I found multiple sources online through the Al Islam website which answered a lot of my questions and concerns I had growing up.



The main source that I read before accepting Ahmadiyyat was the “Invitation to Ahmadiyyat” book, alongside watching multiple videos on YouTube from MTA, as well as following social media accounts promoting and teaching people about Islam Ahmadiyyat.

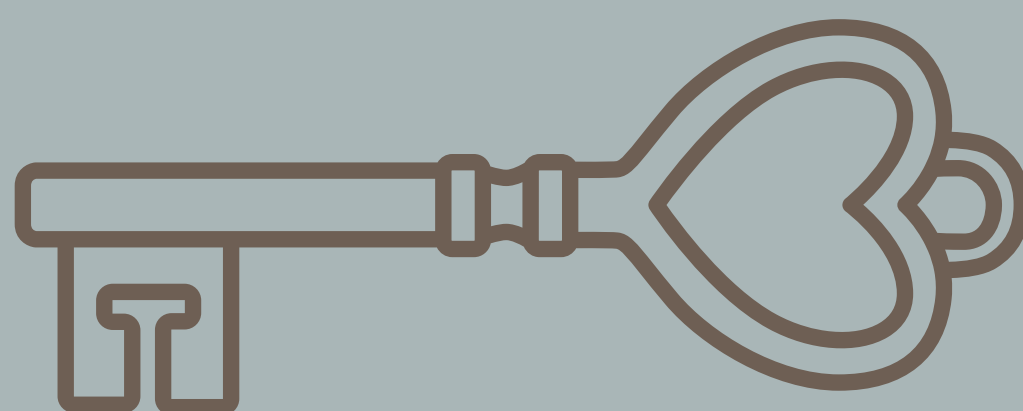
I found that Ahmadiyyat made sense to me. The strong sense of community within the Jamaat and the concept of Khilafat were particularly appealing. Growing up, I often struggled to find consistent answers in Islam, as different knowledgeable individuals would provide conflicting opinions.

This didn't sit well with me, as it seemed like people chose scholars who supported their own situations. After a year of studying Ahmadiyyat, I made the decision to take Bai'at and formally join the Ahmadiyya community.

With the help of my friends, I connected with various individuals within the Jamaat, and in December 2022, I took my Bai'at.

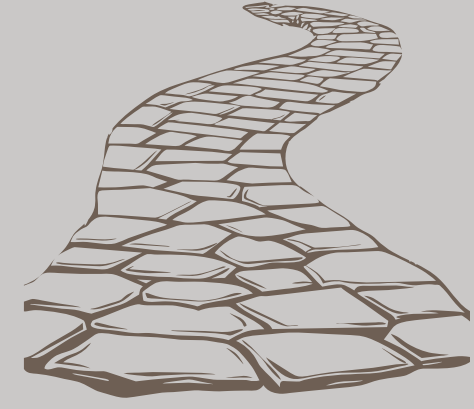
Since joining Ahmadiyyat, I have attended events at Baitul Futuh and even started participating in Jummah namaz, which was something I hadn't done before.

Accepting Ahmadiyyat has brought me closer to Allah. However, it hasn't been easy to get my parents to accept my journey and allow me to be more involved in the Jamaat. Nevertheless, I do my best and trust in Allah to open their hearts, Insha'Allah.



BY: HIRA RIAZ SAHIBA
DUDLEY

“During my research all my misconceptions (about Ahmadiyyat) were resolved and I prayed to Allah the Almighty to turn my heart to the right path.”



I was born in a Sunni Muslim family. I got introduced to Jamaat Ahmadiyya by my elder sister who had converted to Ahmadiyyat and is a very dedicated member of the Jamaat in the UK.

When she preached Islam Ahmadiyyat to me, I was in Pakistan and really didn't have enough knowledge about Ahmadis and their beliefs, except whatever false propaganda we heard about us in Pakistan.

Although my sister tried to convey the message but due to family pressure, I had no courage to start my own research. Also, the website alislam.org is restricted in Pakistan so it was hard for me to get access for books and other literature.

I got the opportunity to learn about the Jamaat when I moved to the UK. I started to attend Jamaat events with my sister and I studied the differences between Ahmadi Muslim beliefs and those of Sunni Muslims, for example the life and death of Prophet Jesus (as), the true meaning of the 'seal of Prophets', the need for an Imam and some other topics.

During my research all my misconceptions were resolved, and I prayed to Allah the Almighty to turn my heart to the right path.

Alhamdulillah after a few months of research I accepted Ahmadiyyat. I did my Bai'at last year in March 2023 by the grace of Almighty Allah.

Now my heart is filled with true peace. I am in my learning stage and the Jamaat provides me with the best platform for Taleem and Tarbiyyat.

BY: SUSHEELA MALIK SAHIBA
CLAPHAM JUNCTION

*“...there was speech (at Jalsa) by Huzoor (aba) in which he mentioned:
to help the community, treat everybody equally, fulfil your duties towards each
other with a smiling face, stay calm and be thankful to Allah in every breath.
This is what I was missing for many years...”*

I accepted Islam 30 years ago. My early experiences were not great; I had visited Mosques along with my friend who regularly went on Fridays to pray and I was shocked to see the crowds as there was no space to breathe nor walk, it was disorganised and overwhelming and since then I stopped going which was disheartening for me.

Last year, I happened to go to a salon which is run by one of the Lajna who spoke about the Jalsa Salana. I was interested in knowing more about how things functioned at Jalsa and was invited to attend.

Once I arrived at Jalsa, it was such a joy to see youngsters in today's generation interested in doing their duties towards their community, so full of enthusiasm.

Later, there was a speech by Huzoor (aba) in which he mentioned the basic thing which we as humans have forgotten, and that is to help the community, treat everybody equally, fulfil your duties towards each other with a smiling face, stay calm and be thankful to Allah in every breath.

This is what I was missing for many years as no matter what religion or culture we all follow, the basic principles should be followed by every soul on this earth. At Jalsa Salana I felt peace.

It's been a year since I have become Ahmadi Muslim and Alhamdulillah I can see that the community has been working hard to flourish and help everyone around us, including other communities as well.



BY: SHAZIA PARVEEN SAHIBA
DUDLEY

“The journey from a Sunni Muslim to Islam Ahmadiyyat was filled with extensive research, curiosity, fact-finding, questions and answers, dreams, and innumerable prayers.”



16th July 2016 is a very important date in my life. Allah the Almighty enabled me and my family to accept the true teachings of Islam and we took our pledge.

The journey from a Sunni Muslim to Islam Ahmadiyyat was filled with extensive research, curiosity, fact-finding, questions and answers, dreams, and innumerable prayers.

My husband and I used to talk about various Islamic and social issues. As we know, scholars from different sects of Islam have different opinions on the same issues, such as marriage, divorce, halal, haram, inheritance, rights of women, and many other things.

This discrepancy made us more curious about the original teachings of Islam. We always used to think that if God is the same, and our holy book, the Qur'an, is the same, then why is there so much contradiction in scholarly opinions on the same matter?

One day, when I was scrolling through some Islamic scholarly pages on my phone, I came across a verse from the Holy Qur'an about the death of Jesus (as) (3:56).

To learn more about this verse, I opened the Holy Qur'an with translation that I had in my house. I found that this particular verse had a different and conflicting explanation regarding the life of Jesus (as).

This made me more eager to learn about this topic. I spoke with my husband to know his opinion about it. While learning about this topic, we listened to different scholarly opinions, including Deobandi, Barelvi, Ahle Hadith, Wahhabi, Ahle Tashee, and some others as well.

Then my husband called his Ahmadi Muslim friend to learn what they believe about this topic. His friend explained it well and gave us the contact of an Ahmadi Mubaligh to ask more about it.

The Mubaligh sahib helped us a lot to clear our misunderstandings and provided us with a link for Urdu question-and-answer sessions of Hazrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad (rh).

That was the turning point for us. We found the true peace of mind and heart that had been missing in us for a long time.

We watched and listened to many sessions of this programme, including the Finality of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), the death of Jesus (as), Prophecies and Identification of Mahdi and Dajjal, Love of the Promised Messiah (as) for Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), and so on.

I had a dream during my research in which I saw myself sitting in the Majlis Irfan where Hazrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad (rh) was explaining something, and I kept listening.

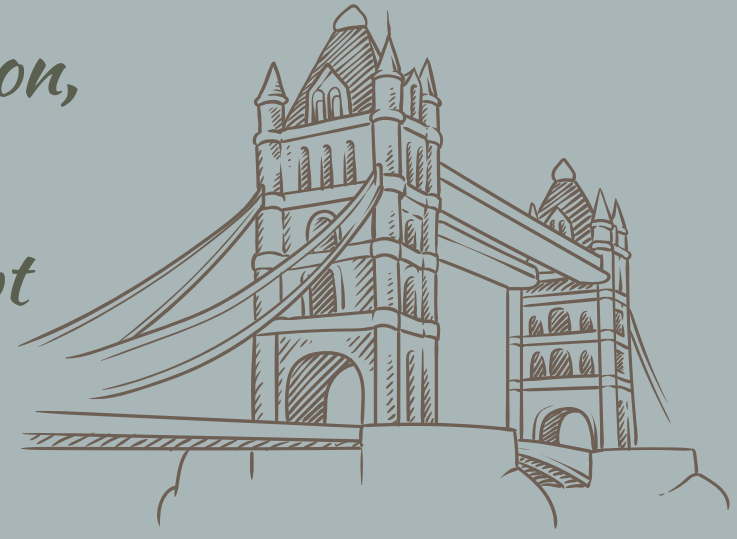
When I awoke, my heart was filled with unexplainable peace and satisfaction. On the other hand, my husband had already accepted the truth of Islam Ahmadiyyat in his heart.

We both decided to take a pledge, and then, Alhamdulillah, we entered into the fold of Islam Ahmadiyyat along with our three little children.



BY: ASMA MARIYAM AHMED NOORI SAHIBA
THORNTON HEATH SOUTH

“Within the first year of living and working in London, I made a friend, who made me change the way I was looking at life and the purpose of my life. This did not happen overnight. A long time (over 3 years!) of reading, research and experiencing was involved.”



Having been born and raised in the former German Democratic Republic, I was brought up as an Atheist. Not believing in any God was the norm. Yes, there were Churches around, but my family and I only visited them on Christmas Eve so my dad could decorate the Christmas tree by himself. We celebrated Christmas and Easter as family time.

Christianity, or any other religion for that matter, wasn't taught in school as the Communist Regime didn't want this.

I had a very good childhood and a loving upbringing. My parents taught me Islamic values without knowing it: kindness, to care for others, to help the needy, to be respectful, to think for yourself and make informed decisions, to name a few.

About 25 years ago, after the Cold War had ended and East and West Germany were reunited, I made the decision to move to London, to further my working career. I intended to stay for one year to become fluent in speaking and writing English. But I gained so much more.

Within the first year of living and working in London, I made a friend, who changed the way I looked at life and the purpose of my life. This did not happen overnight. A long time (over 3 years!) of reading, research and experiencing was involved.

My friend and her family and the way they had “adopted” me into their life made me extend my stay in London indefinitely.

I was intrigued by their way of viewing life and their beliefs. Being given books by them, I would read them at home and talked about what I had read when with my friend. I started praying, first with the “Salat” book next to me, but soon I knew the words by heart.

The scarf I wore during winter to protect from the cold stayed on becoming just that little thinner. And then I had a dream.

I had never experienced meaningful dreams or dreams worth remembering. But this one was different. I remembered. I remembered very clearly:



It was the first day of me attending a new college. I was running late and so I was very lonely when entering the college with its long empty corridors. I was wandering around, not knowing which corridor or staircase to take to get to the right classroom. I was getting anxious and upset. Then, suddenly, I saw an old man coming towards me. He didn't look like a teacher, but there was something about him. There was an aura of light around this man. He calmed me and pointed me in the right direction. Next, the college day had finished and I was leaving surrounded by friends feeling very included, happy, belonging and at ease.

And then the day came when my friend invited me to join her for the Eid sermon and prayers at Fazl Mosque, London. The Mosque and adjacent halls were bursting full and we listened to the sermon of Khalifatul Masih IV (rh) in the overflow space designated for ladies behind the back of Mahmood Hall.

When the sermon had finished my friend took me and we squashed into the back of Mahmood Hall in anticipation of Huzoor (aba)'s (rh) arrival to greet the ladies. I'm blessed being quite tall and was able to see the entrance of the hall. And then Huzoor (aba) (rh) entered... or, I should rather say, the same person I had seen in my dream!

The same aura, the same light, the same warm feeling was there again just as I had seen in my dream. Huzoor (aba) (rh) stepped inside and looked around wishing Eid Mubarak. And for one fraction of a second, I saw his eyes resting on me as if he knew, I was going to be there. This was the moment I accepted Ahmadiyyat with my heart. The actual signing of the Bai'at form came a little later, but it was just a formality.

The biggest challenge I faced was telling my parents that I had accepted Islam. They knew something was different when I went to visit them in the summer with a scarf on my head. And I would always wear a scarf when going outside. It bothered them that others would stare at me, and at them of course. They only knew the negative narrative from the media. But because I didn't let it affect me and the decision I had made, they came to accept, that this was and is my life now.

BY: FIZA KHALID SAHIBA
NORTH WALES

“The current Khalifa, Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad (aba) is a figure of immense wisdom and compassion, whose leadership has significantly influenced my decision to embrace Ahmadiyyat.”

My introduction to Ahmadiyyat came through a friend who was an Ahmadi Muslim. I met her in a grocery shop, and she mentioned that she is Ahmadi, adding that she believed people didn't like them.

I responded by saying that I respect everybody's beliefs and religion. She then gave me a basic introduction to the Jamaat and told me that the Messiah (as) has come. This conversation piqued my interest, and I began my research on Ahmadiyyat.

After some time, I reconnected with a friend from university who told me she is Ahmadi, which I hadn't known before. She provided me with detailed information about Ahmadiyyat and recommended some of Huzur (aba)'s sermons and clips from Majlis-e-Irfan.

After listening to them, I was convinced that the Messiah has indeed come and that the Ahmadiyya Jamaat was one of the 73 groups in Islam that is on the right path.

One of the most compelling aspects of Ahmadiyyat was the concept of Khilafat (spiritual leadership). The Caliph, or Khalifa, serves as a guide for the community, embodying the principles of love, justice, and humility.

The current Khalifa, Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad (aba) is a figure of immense wisdom and compassion, whose leadership has significantly influenced my decision to embrace Ahmadiyyat.



I met my Sadar Sahiba (local president), who was very kind. I had some questions in my mind, which she clarified, and then I filled out the Bai'at form. I was very emotional that day, feeling that I finally had a clear direction in my life and had found a leader-Huzoor (aba)- to follow. I felt I could now adhere to the true teachings of Islam.

Since embracing Ahmadiyyat, my life has been enriched in countless ways.

My faith has deepened, providing a sense of peace and purpose I had long sought. The teachings of the Promised Messiah (as) and the guidance of the Khalifa have helped me navigate life's challenges with greater wisdom and patience.

Moreover, being part of a community dedicated to serving humanity has given my life new meaning.

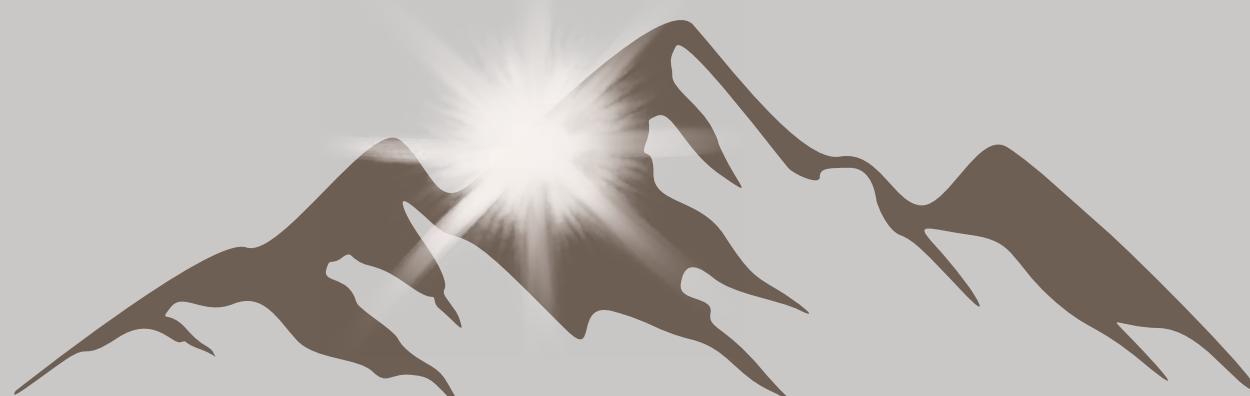
Deciding to join the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community was not without its challenges. Ahmadi Muslims often face persecution and discrimination in various parts of the world. This reality weighed heavily on my mind as I considered my spiritual path.

However, the courage and resilience of Ahmadi Muslims, their unwavering commitment to peace, and their strong sense of community provided the support and inspiration I needed.

My journey to Ahmadiyyat has been a path of discovery, challenge, and ultimately, profound fulfilment. It has transformed my understanding of faith, community, and the divine.

Through Ahmadiyyat, I have found a spiritual home that not only satisfies my intellectual and spiritual curiosities but also inspires me to live a life of service, compassion, and peace.

This journey, though deeply personal, reflects a universal quest for meaning and connection, one that I hope others may find inspiring in their own spiritual pursuits.





*"Our mission is to spread the true
teachings of Islam to every corner of
the world"*

-Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V, may Allah be his Helper, Friday Sermon, 7 October 2015



lajna.org.uk/tabligh