

GOLDEN
TREASURES

THE TRUE STORY OF A PRINCE

Sahibzada Abdul Latif Shaheed
(May Allah be pleased with him)

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In the name of Allah, Most Gracious, Ever Merciful

Foreword

In a time when social temptations are on the increase, never more is the need for spiritual inspiration. In this booklet, you will be introduced to a true role model.

This booklet is about the humble life of Sahibzada Abdul Latif Shaheed (may Allah be pleased with him). Readers will truly be inspired and if God wills, see a change within their own lives.

This booklet was originally written in Urdu by
and published by

in August 1983. It has been translated into English by Lajna Ima'illah UK with the kind permission of our beloved Hudhur, Hadhrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad (may Allah be his Helper). I would like to acknowledge and give heartfelt thanks to Lajna Ima'illah UK Isha'at team under the leadership of Mrs. Zahida Ahmed for undertaking and supervising its completion for the benefit of our younger members.

I pray that those who read this book are truly inspired. Indeed, firm faith in Allah the Almighty is the only route to salvation. May we always be guided by Allah the Almighty, Ameen.

Nasira Rehman
Sadr Lajna Ima'illah UK
2013





Alhamdulillah, with the blessings of Khilafat, this is a great honour for Lajna Ima'illah UK to design and produce stories of prominent personalities in Islam and Ahmadiyyat, at the time when we are celebrating 100 years of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community in the UK.

Hadhrat Musleh Maud (may Allah be pelased wih him) established Lajna Ima'illah for the training and education of Ahmadi Muslim women in 1922. He envisioned a broader and active role for Ahmadi women. He felt their participation was of great importance for the success of the Jama'at. Women play an important role in the moral and spiritual development of their children. They are responsible for raising the leaders of tomorrow.

Keeping this in mind, we are presenting this booklet for the younger members of our community so they can be inspired by these special personalities.

Zahida Ahmed
Secretary Isha'at, Lajna Ima'illah UK
2013





**THE TRUE STORY OF A PRINCE
Sahibzada Abdul Latif Shaheed
(may Allah be pleased with him)**

*“O Abdul Latif, may thousands of blessings of
Allah be upon you as you have proved your sincerity
and loyalty for me in my lifetime.....”*

(The Promised Messiah (on whom be peace))





THE TRUE STORY OF A PRINCE

Sahibzada Abdul Latif Shaheed

(may Allah be pleased with him)



Dear Children! Today we will tell you a true story of a prince of Afghanistan.

Once upon a time about 150 years ago, in a village called Syed Gah in the province of Khost, a child was born. His parents named him Muhammad Abdul Latif. He was later known as Shehzada Abdul Latif.

He was a descendant of Hadhrat Data Ganj Bakhsh (may





Allah have mercy on him), and his ancestors migrated from India and settled in Afghanistan. He was a Syed by caste, which is why his village was named Syed Gah. His family kept spreading in this region and gradually became one of the wealthiest landlords. In those days, his family owned 30,000 acres of land, worth hundreds of thousands of rupees. The government of Afghanistan also had great respect for this family. One of its family members was granted a pension from Ameer Abdul Rehman, the King of Afghanistan. As an honour, members of this family were given the title of 'Sahibzada' (Respected). The Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) used to address him as Shehzada (Prince), so we will also refer to him as Shehzada in this story.

Shehzada Sahib's family was well known in the entire region for its righteousness and its religious knowledge. One of their unique qualities was hospitality. Sahibzada Abdul Latif was born in this wealthy family which Allah had blessed greatly.

Since childhood, Shehzada Sahib was more inclined towards religion than worldly affairs. He used to say, *"Since my childhood, I have loved reciting the Durood and I always enjoyed it very much."*

Shehzada Sahib gained his early education in Khost and then travelled to Peshawar for further education. He stayed





in Peshawar for many years and gained his education from well-known scholars. He then travelled to Lucknow and various other cities to gain religious knowledge. A well known scholar from Lucknow, Maulvi Abdul Hayee Lakhnavi was his teacher and he loved Shehzada Sahib dearly. Once Maulvi Sahib's students complained to him that he treated Sahibzada Sahib with a lot of love. Maulvi Sahib replied that he loved him because his name was Latif (intelligent) and so was his mind.

After studying for many years in India, Shehzada Sahib returned to Afghanistan where he got married to a relative named Shah Jehan Bibi. She was very pious and punctual in her prayers. After some time following his marriage, Shehzada Sahib travelled back to India because of his love for knowledge and studied in some famous religious schools in Delhi and Lucknow. His family used to send a special person to provide him money for his basic necessities.

Upon his return to Afghanistan after gaining religious knowledge, he began delivering Qur'an and Hadith classes. He became very well-known and people would travel from far away to learn from him. He had about 30-40 students and he provided them with free food and accommodation in rooms around the mosque.

Besides his students, a lot of guests including travellers, his





followers and the needy used to eat at his home. One day, the number of people at his house decreased to 80 and he wondered why this had happened. He gathered his family members and asked them to pray to Allah to increase the number of guests and travellers. Also, whenever there was a famine in the region, he would distribute all his wheat among the needy.

Shehzada Sahib was a great scholar. He had his own library with books on translations, explanations, Hadith, Fiqah and history. He loved reading and at times he would spend the whole night reading. Because of these qualities, many people became his followers. It is said they were approximately 50,000. They used to refer to him as **'Sahibzada'** or **'Shehzada.'**

Dear Children! In those days, Afghanistan was ruled by a King called Abdul Rehman. When he heard about Shehzada Sahib, he invited him to the capital, Kabul. When Shehzada Sahib went to meet the King, the King was touched and moved by Shehzada Sahib's knowledge and wisdom. Once he wrote, *"I wish we had three or four men like Shehzada Sahib who possessed knowledge as he does!"* The King became very happy with Shehzada Sahib's pious thinking and views. He appointed him as his religious advisor and a teacher to his son, Habeebullah Khan.

The King asked Shehzada Sahib to call his family over





from Khost to settle in Kabul. In 1894, representatives from Afghanistan and India were appointed to decide on setting the boundaries between the two countries. The head of this envoy from Afghanistan was the King's uncle, Sherandil Khan and his deputy was Shehzada Sahib. The King himself travelled with his army to the outskirts of Kabul to see them off. Shehzada Sahib, as an ambassador of the government, offered great services to Afghanistan. On this occasion, a memorable picture of Shehzada Sahib was taken with the officials of the two countries.

When the King of Afghanistan passed away the question arose of who would be the next king. Shehzada Sahib advised that the King's eldest son, Ameer Habibullah Khan should be appointed King as he was more knowledgeable and honest than his brothers. Following the traditions of Afghanistan, the eldest and most respectable person in Afghanistan was chosen to crown the King and so the person selected to do this was Sahibzada Sahib. On 3 October 1902, Shehzada Sahib crowned Ameer Habibullah Khan as King in the presence of a large crowd who had come from far and wide to attend the ceremony.

Shehzada Sahib was an honest and brave man. When Ameer Habibullah Khan became King, everyone pledged allegiance to him. The King called Shehzada Sahib to do the same and Shehzada Sahib replied bravely, *"I will pledge allegiance to you on the condition that you will not go against*





Sahibzada Syed Abdul Latif



*A group photo taken in 1894 at the time of the Demarkation
of Durand Line in Afghanistan*





the teachings of Islam.” He was such a courageous man that even in front of the King, he did not hesitate to speak the truth.

Dear Children! Now we will tell you how Shehzada Sahib became an Ahmadi Muslim. You have already learned that he was a great and famous scholar. He had read in Ahadith that in the latter days, when Muslims go astray, Allah will send the Imam Mahdi (on whom be peace) to guide them. By observing the situation of the Muslims, he understood that the time had come when the world needed a Mahdi. He used to mention this in his sermons and speeches. He was a pious man who had true dreams. Allah had told him many times in his dreams that the Imam Mahdi had come. He started to pray and began searching for the Mahdi (on whom be peace). Allah fulfilled his prayers and soon after, he learned about the Imam Mahdi (on whom be peace).

In 1894 an interesting incident took place. Shehzada Sahib was then a civil officer and representative of Afghanistan. He was among the officials who were appointed to make a decision on the boundaries between India and Afghanistan. There was an Ahmadi office worker, named Syed Chun Badshah, from Peshawar who was with the officials from India. One day while talking to Shehzada Sahib, he told him that Hadhrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad of Qadian had claimed to be the Messiah and Mahdi. Shehzada Sahib was already searching for the Mahdi and so upon hearing this, he asked





Chun Badshah Sahib many questions and got information about him. Seeing Shehzada Sahib's great interest, Chun Badhsah Sahib gave him a book of the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) called ***Aeena Kamalat-e-Islam (A Reflection of Islam's Excellences)*** to read. Shehzada Sahib was very happy and gave Chun Badshah Sahib some money as a reward.

Shehzada Sahib said, *"I started reading the book and I couldn't sleep the whole night. By morning, I had read a large portion of the book. After reading it, my heart accepted the claim of the Imam Mahdi (on whom be peace). This made me very happy."* He read this book to some of his followers and said, *"This is the man that the world awaited. He has now come. Looking at the situation of the world, I observed that a person was needed for guidance but no-one could be seen. However, after reading this book, it seems that Allah has sent this person. He is the one about whom the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) stated that wherever the Mahdi appears, go to him and give him my salam. Whether I live or die, whosoever listens to me should go to him and accept him."*

When Shehzada Sahib returned to Kabul, he started to send his special students to Qadian to find out about the situation there. In December 1900, he sent Maulvi Abdul Rehman Sahib along with some of his students to visit the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) and gave them a





letter addressed to the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) declaring his Bai'at (pledge of allegiance). He also sent a gift of beautiful and valuable clothes to the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace). Upon his request, his special student, Maulvi Abdul Rehman Sahib travelled many times to Qadian. He also accepted Ahmadiyyat and took Bai'at at the hand of the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace). Maulvi Abdul Rehman Sahib travelled to Qadian for the last time in 1900. On his way back, he brought a few books written by the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace). Someone complained to the King that Maulvi Abdul Rehman had gone to Qadian without his permission. The King ordered his arrest and handed his case over to the Muslim religious leaders who declared him a kafir (non-believer) and passed a death sentence against him. Maulvi Abdul Rehman was arrested and martyred (killed for his belief) by being strangled with a cloth until he was unable to breathe. ***Inna lillahe wa inna ilaihe raajeeon (Surely, to Allah we belong and to Him shall we return) (2:157).***

Shehzada Sahib asked the King, Habeebullah Khan's permission to go for Hajj. The new King who was Shehzada Sahib's student happily gave him permission and sent him off from Kabul with camels, horses and some money. Shehzada Sahib left Afghanistan and travelled through Bannu to India. Some of his students also accompanied him on this journey. When they reached a place near Atak, Shehzada Sahib met a person with whom he started to





talk. After their conversation, Shehzada Sahib felt that the man had happily accepted the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace). Shehzada Sahib gave him his own horse as a reward.

When Shehzada Sahib reached Lahore, due to the spread of plague (a serious disease) and some other reasons, it was difficult for him to continue his journey for Hajj. So he decided that instead of staying in Lahore, he would travel to Qadian to meet the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace).

Shehzada Sahib travelled from Lahore to Batala and from Batala, he walked to Qadian (about 12 miles). First he met Hadhrat Maulana Hakeem Maulvi Nooruddin (may Allah be pleased with him). After Zuhr prayer, he met the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace). He had already taken his Bai'at by letter but upon seeing the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace), he took Bai'at at his hand as well. The Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) has written about their first meeting in the following words: *"I declare this on the oath of Allah, Who is the Master of my life, When I met him, I found him to be exceptionally sincere and honest in his obedience to me and in accepting my claim."*

The Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) asked Shehzada Sahib why he had accepted him. Shehzada Sahib replied, *"Firstly, it was the Holy Qur'an that showed me the way. I*





saw that people had gone astray from religion. They were involved in Shirk (associating partners with Allah) and other sins. People from other religions were also opposing Islam in different ways. I thought that the time had come that Allah should send a Reformer. I had heard that a man in Qadian had claimed to be the Messiah and Mahdi. I managed to get some of your books and when I read them in depth, I found every teaching of yours to be true and in accordance with the Holy Qur'an. This is why after I found you to be truthful, I accepted you."

Shehzada Sahib travelled to Qadian in 1902 and stayed there for about three and a half months. He would offer daily congregational prayers in Masjid Mubarak (mosque). He had great love for the Holy Qur'an and he would spend his time reciting it outside his room in the guest house.

The Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) used to go for morning walks every day and Shehzada Sahib would accompany him. On their return, Shehzada Sahib would wait until he thought that the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) had reached his own house and brushed the dust off his clothes. Then Shehzada Sahib would clean his own clothes. This was because he had deep love and respect for the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace).

In January 1903, the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) had to travel to Jehlum for a court case. Shehzada Sahib





accompanied the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) on this trip. On the arrival of the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) at Jehlum station, around 10,000 people came to welcome him. The Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) stayed for three days in Jehlum and 1,500 people took Bai'at at his hand and became Ahmadi. On 17 January, the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) went to court where a lot of people had gathered. He sat on a chair and out of respect Shehzada Sahib sat near his feet. Shehzada Sahib asked him a very good question. The question was: *“Hudhur! I have always seen your truthfulness to be as bright as the sun and I did not have any doubt about it. Will I be blessed for believing this?”*

The Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) replied sweetly, *“You saw the truth when no-one else could see it... You put yourself at risk and prepared yourself to go through every kind of pain. For this, Allah will never let your efforts be wasted.”*

It was during this trip that one night, Shehzada Sahib came and told his friends that he had a revelation over and over again, *“Surrender thy head, Surrender thy head.”*

After they returned from Jehlum, Shehzada Sahib spent a few days in Qadian and then travelled back to his home country, Afghanistan.





The Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) said about Shehzada Sahib, *“Although he didn’t get the chance to stay with me for very long, during his short stay, he learned a lot from me.”*

Shehzada Sahib had a lot of love and respect for Hadhrat Hakim Maulvi Nooruddin (may Allah be pleased with him), who later became the first Khalifa of Ahmadiyyat. When he was about to return to Afghanistan, he requested Hadhrat Hakim Maulvi Nooruddin (may Allah be pleased with him) to teach him a Hadith from Bukhari (book of Ahadith). He learned two to three pages from Bukhari. He told his students, *“I learned these pages so that I could become one of Maulvi Sahib’s students because after the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace), he will become the first Khalifa.”*

When Shehzada Sahib requested the Promised Messiah’s (on whom be peace) permission to return to Afghanistan, the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) along with some people walked to a canal near Batala (which is about one and a half miles from Qadian) to see him off. When Shehzada Sahib bid farewell to the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace), Shehzada Sahib dropped to the ground and grabbed hold of the feet of the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) and asked for his prayers. Hudhur (on whom be peace) said, *“I will pray for you. Please let go of my feet.”* Shehzada Sahib would not leave his feet out of love and sadness at having to depart. The Promised Messiah (on





whom be peace) said, *“A command is greater than respect. So I command you to let go of my feet.”* Upon hearing this, Shehzada Sahib let go immediately.

It seems that Allah had already told Shehzada Sahib that this would be his last meeting with the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) and he would not be able to meet him again. On this trip back to Afghanistan, a few of his students travelled with him. When Shehzada Sahib reached Lahore, he stayed for three to four days in a small mosque. He bought some books from Lahore and then travelled to Kohat by train. On this entire journey to Kohat, he spent his time reciting the Holy Qur’an. From Kohat he travelled to Bannu by hiring a Tumtum (a carriage drawn by one or more horses to carry people). At the time of Asr prayers, he stopped his journey to observe his prayer. While he was praying it started to rain. Despite this, he still completed his prayer.

During his journey, he came to a village called Khurram, where he spent the night in a guest house. He gave money to one of the workers at the guest house to buy and slaughter a goat for dinner which he shared with the other guests. Finally, Shehzada Sahib’s caravan reached Bannu where he owned some land. After spending a few days in Bannu, he travelled to Khost.

On his way to Khost he came across a village called Dor.





The head of this village was very happy with his arrival and slaughtered a goat for a feast in his honour. On this occasion, Shehzada Sahib gave a speech and advice to all who were present. That night when his followers learned of his arrival, they came on horses to welcome him back. Shehzada Sahib returned to his hometown, Syed Gah, accompanied by this large caravan.

The arrival of Shehzada Abdul Latif in Kabul

Before leaving for Kabul, Shehzada Sahib wrote to one of his students, Muhammad Hussain (who was the highest ranking officer in the Afghanistan army) requesting the King's permission to visit him. He did not go without getting permission as he had taken permission before as well to go for Hajj. However, he had not been able to go because of problems on the way and had gone to Qadian instead. In this letter, Shehzada Sahib wrote, *"I was on my way to Hajj. During the trip, I had the chance to see the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) whom Allah and His Messenger, the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) have commanded us to obey. That's why I stopped by Qadian."* He also wrote that the King should be told about what had happened at an appropriate time. Upon receiving this letter, Muhammad Hussain waited until the time was





right to give the letter to the King. But before he could give the letter, the King's brother Sardar Nasrullah Khan found out about it. Sardar Nasrullah was also the King's deputy and disliked Shehzada Sahib. He took the letter and gave it to the King.

Shehzada Sahib also wrote to his friends who were senior government officials and army officers, informing them, "*A person in Qadian has claimed to be the Promised Messiah and Imam Mahdi (on whom be peace). I observed him whilst staying with him and I have accepted him after I found him to be truthful. My advice to you is that you should also accept him in order to save yourselves from God's punishment.*"

All these letters were given to the King. The King called senior Muslim religious leaders to seek their advice. They declared Shehzada Sahib a non-believer. Sardar Nasrullah Khan sent a message to the governor of Khost on behalf of the King, telling him to arrest Shehzada Sahib and send him to the King along with 50 guards.

Shehzada Sahib had already received a revelation from Allah regarding his arrest and his martyrdom in the way of Allah. This is why he would repeat, "*The land of Kabul needs my blood.*"

One day before his arrest, Shehzada Sahib went on a walk with his students. On the way, he looked deeply at his hands





and said, *“Do you have the strength to wear handcuffs?”* Then he addressed one of his students, Ahmad Noor Kabli and said: *“I shall be killed. Inform the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) about the news of my death.”* Upon hearing this, Ahmad Sahib started to cry and said, *“I am also with you.”* Shehzada Sahib replied, *“Do you remember when we were leaving Qadian, you said to the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace): ‘I cannot leave Qadian.’ The Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) replied, ‘Go with him, don’t worry you will return.’ Shehzada Sahib continued: The Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) said, ‘you will return but he didn’t say that about me.”*

Before the King commanded Shehzada Sahib’s arrest, Shehzada Sahib had already told his friends about what was going to happen. They all advised him to go to Bannu where he owned land, but Shehzada Sahib refused to go.

The arrest of Shehzada Sahib

The time for Shehzada Sahib’s arrest was drawing closer. The day he was arrested, he wrote a letter to the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) relating all the incidents which had happened until then. He wrote with such respect and love to The Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) that Shehzada Sahib’s student said, *“Please give this letter to me, I will make a copy of it and give it back to you.”* Shehzada Sahib took the letter and placed it in his own pocket and





replied, *“This letter will come to you.”*

As the time of Asr prayer approached, 50 guards came from Khost to arrest Shehzada Sahib. The ruler of Khost had great respect for Shehzada Sahib, and he also told the guards to respect him. After Asr prayer, the guards told Shehzada Sahib that the ruler of Khost would like to meet him. He would either come to Shehzada Sahib or Shehzada Sahib could go to him. Shehzada Sahib replied, *“No, he is our leader, I will go to him.”* He asked for his horse to be prepared. Just then one of the guards got off his horse and offered it to Shehzada Sahib. Before leaving, Shehzada Sahib advised his family members, *“I am leaving now, make sure that after I go, you do not choose another path but follow the religion that I follow.”*

When Shehzada Sahib was leaving, he gave Ahmad Noor the letter he had written for the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) and did not say anything to him.

Ahmad Noor stayed with Shehzada Sahib until they were about to leave the village. Shehzada Sahib then advised him to go back. Ahmad Noor requested Shehzada Sahib to allow him to stay. Shehzada Sahib then recited the verse from the Holy Qur’an which stated that you should not put yourself in danger and advised him to go back home. Shehzada Sahib went ahead with the guards. The governor informed Shehzada Sahib that he had received an order





from Kabul, stating that no one was to meet him and he was not allowed to meet anyone. A separate house was given to Shehzada Sahib which was surrounded by guards. The governor gave special permission only to Shehzada Sahib's family and close friends to come and meet him.

One day some of his followers came to meet him at the house and said to Shehzada Sahib, *"We can free you and take you away from here, these guards will not be able to compete with us."* Shehzada Sahib replied to them, *"Please don't make any plans, Allah would like me to serve His religion."*

After a few days, the ruler of Khost became convinced that Shehzada Sahib was a good influence on his followers and that he did not have anything to fear from him. He sent Shehzada Sahib with eight guards to Kabul on horses. Shehzada Sahib had already received a letter from the King, stating that he should not fear or be scared of anything. If this claim of the Messiah were true, then he would also accept him. Before Shehzada Sahib arrived in Kabul, people had heard that Shehzada Sahib had been tricked to come to Kabul. As he passed through the markets in Kabul, the eight guards on horses were behind him. Some other people also joined them while they were passing through the market and Shehzada Sahib was sent to the King.





Shehzada Sahib during his arrest

People had turned the King against Shehzada Sahib so he treated him harshly. He ordered him to be put in a cell in a huge fort called 'Aruk.' The King himself lived in a part of this fort. He also ordered Shehzada Sahib to be bound in heavy chains, extended from his neck to his back. His feet were also bound in heavy chains. They were called 'Ghargharaab' and weighed approximately 120 pounds. Shehzada Sahib spent four months in this state in prison and suffered a lot. Despite such torture and suffering, he spent all his time in the remembrance of Allah and reciting the Holy Qur'an.

Shehzada Sahib was kept in a room and the doors of this room were locked and no-one was allowed to meet him. Day and night guards would watch over him. The guards state that they would hear him reciting the Holy Qur'an day and night. All the guards believed him to be a saintly man and respected him.

During his arrest, he sent a message through someone to his home to arrange for some money to be sent for his needs. His student, Ahmad Noor, walked all the way from Khost to Kabul (approximately 93 miles) in the cold winter to bring him this money.





Shehzada Sahib's great patience

The King of Afghanistan called Shehzada Sahib and told him that it would be for his own good if he stopped believing in this person who claimed to be the Promised Messiah as it would save him from pain. But Shehzada Sahib replied, *“How can I deny what I have already believed to be true in light of the teachings of the Holy Qur’an and the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him)? How can I say that these things are false? It is better for me to die rather than reject these prophecies!”*

Although the King had once respected Shehzada Sahib a lot and had thought him to be innocent, he was also afraid of the Muslim clerics. During the four months of imprisonment, he kept telling Shehzada Sahib to reject the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) so he could live with respect and honour. But each and every time he said this, the brave Shehzada Sahib replied, *“I have accepted this person with full confidence after doing a lot of research. Now even if my life is sacrificed or my family is taken away from me, I don’t care. I will put my faith and my religion above everything else.”* The people of Kabul were amazed at Shehzada Sahib’s firm faith and courageous belief. This was a strange thing to be heard of in Kabul. A prince who had 50,000 followers, was the owner of 30,000 acres of land and had spent 50 years of his life in luxury was now living in such hardship in prison. By displaying a lot of





patience, he remained firm in his faith and kept saying that he was ready to give up his life, property and family but he would not leave the truth. The Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) said that compared to the promises of the King, Shehzada Sahib's answers were such that the land of Kabul would never forget him. The people of Kabul had never seen such an example of loyalty in their lives.

Debates with the Muslim clerics of Kabul

After four months had passed following the arrest of Shehzada Sahib, the King gave him a last chance in front of the court to reject the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) if he still wanted to save his life. But Shehzada Sahib bravely declared in front of everyone, *"It's impossible that I give up the truth. Let me have a debate with the Muslim religious leaders and if I can't prove myself, then you can punish me."* The King agreed to this and arranged a debate between Shehzada Sahib and the clerics in a mosque in Kabul. A lot of people gathered that day to listen to this debate. Shehzada Sahib was brought to the mosque in chains and handcuffs guarded by the police. In the mosque, eight famous clerics and scholars prepared for the debate along with 80 people who were ready to search for proof and evidence for their support. Shehzada Sahib was alone, but he had Allah's support. The debate was written, so no-





one would be able to hear it. The debate started at 7am and continued till 3pm. The topics discussed were the truthfulness of the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace), Jihad and the death of Hadhrat Isa (Jesus - on whom be peace). While the debate was going on, eight men with swords guarded Shehzada Sahib.

The clerics were ordered to ask Shehzada Sahib questions but Shehzada Sahib could only give answers. He was not allowed to ask any questions. Shehzada Sahib was asked a lot of questions which he answered very well. He was asked what he thought about the person who claimed to be the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace). Shehzada Sahib replied, *“I believe him to be true. He has come from Allah to reform the world according to the prophecies of the Holy Qur’an. I have seen him and haven’t found anyone else like him. No doubt he is the same Messiah and Mahdi.”* Upon hearing this, the clerics shouted, *“He is a non-believer and so are you.”* The brave Shehzada Sahib replied to them, *“You have two gods because you fear the King as though he was a god. But I believe in only One God. So I am not afraid of the King.”*

Shehzada Sahib was then asked questions about Hadhrat Isa (Jesus - on whom be peace) and his advent. He replied that the Holy Qur’an mentions his death and upon hearing this, the clerics started to swear at him and said there was no doubt that Shehzada Sahib was a non-believer.





The judge who conducted this debate, Dr Abdul Ghany Gujrati was against Shehzada Sahib. He and other clerics agreed that they would not show the written debate to the King. Instead they would spread the rumour that Shehzada Sahib had been defeated in the debate. They would only inform the King that Shehzada Sahib was false and declare him a non-believer. Otherwise if everyone found out about the actual written debate, they would become Ahmadi. Thus they did not send the papers to the King.

A person who witnessed the debate later said that the proof and evidence given by Shehzada Sahib were in accordance with the Holy Qur'an and Hadith. The clerics did not have much to say except to give a few references in their support because they did not have as much knowledge as Shehzada Sahib. One of the leaders of the debate, Abdul Razzaq, who was a well-known scholar, admitted that he did not have vast knowledge of the Holy Qur'an as compared to Shehzada Sahib.

After the debate, Shehzada Sahib was taken to the royal castle to be presented before the King. A large crowd had gathered, consisting of Muslim clerics and a general crowd including the King's brother – Shehzada Sahib's enemy Nasrullah Khan. He asked, *“What was the verdict?”* According to the plan, the clerics and other people shouted that, *“Shehzada had been defeated and was a non-believer.”* The King said to Shehzada Sahib, *“The Muslim clerics’*





verdict was that you are a non-believer and you should be stoned, but if you ask for forgiveness you will be saved from punishment.” Sardar Nasrullah read out the verdict given by the clerics and said to the other people, *“Don’t worry, the King will not make any sort of decision against your wishes and will do as the clerics say. He just wants to give Shehzada Sahib a chance to repent.”* After this the crowd dispersed and Shehzada Sahib was returned to prison. In prison, Shehzada Sahib prayed:

رَبَّنَا لَا تُرْغِ قُلُوبَنَا بَعْدَ إِذْ هَدَيْتَنَا وَهَبْ لَنَا مِنْ لَدُنْكَ رَحْمَةً إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ الْوَهَّابُ ۝

‘Our Lord, let not our hearts become perverse after Thou hast guided us; and bestow on us mercy from Thyself; surely Thou alone art the Bestower.’

(The Holy Qur’an, Surah Al-Imran, Verse 9)

Last chance to be Saved

from punishment

The following morning, on Monday, 14 July, Shehzada Sahib was again presented before the King. A large crowd was also gathered there. The King again asked Shehzada Sahib to repent. With firm faith and courage he replied, *“Please, do not expect me to deny the truth!”*

People who were present say that Shehzada Sahib would answer the King with great courage as if he was ready to





sacrifice his life for the truth. Even whilst facing death, Shehzada Sahib remained firm in his belief. Even though the King insisted, Shehzada Sahib did not become weak. The King gave up and wrote on a piece of paper the decision given by the Muslim clerics, declaring Shehzada Sahib's death sentence. The paper was placed around Shehzada Sahib's neck. As instructed by the King, Shehzada Sahib's nose was pierced and a rope was put through it to drag him through the streets to the place where he was to be stoned. Even whilst he was being dragged with heavy chains, metal handcuffs and the rope, with the crowd laughing and swearing at him, Shehzada Sahib was still happy to be sacrificing his life. A Muslim cleric asked him, *"Why are you happy?"* Shehzada Sahib replied, *"The handcuffs you are looking at are not really handcuffs, but they are the jewels of the Holy Prophet's (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) religion. Although I am looking at the place where I will be stoned to death, I am still happy because I will meet my Lord."*

The King of Afghanistan, along with his ministers, secretaries and Muslim clerics went to see where Shehzada Sahib was going to be stoned. Thousands of people from Kabul had also come to watch the stoning.

The martyrdom of an innocent Prince

There was a graveyard inside a famous fort called 'Bil-





Ahsar' in the southern part of Kabul. A two and a half feet hole was dug in it. Shehzada Sahib was placed inside this hole and buried up to his back. The King went to Shehzada Sahib and said, *"This is your last moment. If you deny the claim of the Qadiani Messiah, I will save you. Have mercy on yourself and your children."*

Dear Children! Death was staring him, and half of his body was buried in the ground and people were ready holding stones. Even during this time, the brave Shehzada said, *"How can I deny the truth? What is life? What are children compared to the truth of my religion. I cannot give up my religion for them. But I can sacrifice my life for the truth."* The first stone was thrown by the Judge followed by the unfortunate King. Thousands of stones were thrown at Shehzada Sahib from every direction. So many stones were thrown at him that a huge pile of stones eventually buried his whole body, until he passed away. Inna lillahe wa inna ilaihe raajeoon (***Surely, to Allah we belong and to Him shall we return) (2:157)***

The prince was slaughtered like a lamb, but he showed such great patience and bravery that he did not even utter a single sigh of pain. This incident happened on 14 July 1903.

The Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) was informed of this martyrdom 23 years prior to this event, in a





revelation by Allah: Two goats would be slaughtered meaning, Shehzada Sahib and his student Maulvi Abdul Rehman Sahib. After the martyrdom of Shehzada Sahib, his wife and his three children were imprisoned and tortured but following Shehzada Sahib's advice, they showed great patience. Like Shehzada Sahib, his wife kept on saying that if for the sake of Ahmadiyyat she had to sacrifice herself, she would happily do so. She would thank Allah for this and would not change her belief. Due to these hardships, two of Shehzada Sahib's sons, Syed Muhammad Saeed and Syed Muhammad Umar Sahib, were also martyred in Afghanistan. Eventually, Shehzada Sahib's remaining family migrated to Bannu from Kabul on 2 February 1926.

The tomb of Shehzada Sahib

The place where Shehzada Sahib was martyred in Kabul was guarded by the government for three days following his death. A little while after his martyrdom, when his student Hadhrat Ahmad Noor Kabli found out from traders that Shehzada Sahib had been martyred, he decided to give a proper burial to Shehzada Sahib even if he had to put his own life in danger. Forty days later, with the help from the Ahmadis in Kabul, Shehzada Sahib's body was removed from the rubble of stones and buried in a nearby graveyard. One year later, another student, Mullah Meer Sahib decided that he would bring his teacher's body back to his village. So he went to Kabul and was successful in bringing Shehzada





Sahib's body back to Syed Gah and buried him there. It is a coincidence that in those days, the Promised Messiah's (on whom be peace) companion, Khan Ajab Khan was the Deputy Commissioner of Waziristan. When he found out about the grave of his dear brother, Shehzada Sahib, he built a beautiful tomb for him. Gradually Shehzada Sahib's tomb became famous in Khost and his followers started to visit it. When Sardar Nasrullah Khan found out about this, in January 1910, he ordered the removal of Shehzada Sahib's body and had it buried at an unknown place.

The Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) had a memorial stone made for Shehzada Sahib and placed in Bahishti Maqbara in Qadian. Following the martyrdom of Shehzada Sahib, the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) wrote, *"The land of Kabul will see how his blood will bear fruit and will never go to waste. The land of Kabul which has committed such a big crime has fallen in the eyes of Allah."*

Shehzada Sahib had also prophesied that after his murder, Afghanistan would face severe calamities. The day he was martyred, at 9pm that night, a severe storm struck which lasted for half an hour. The next day on 15 July 1903, the dangerous epidemic of cholera spread all over Kabul including the surrounding areas, even though it was thought that the spread of this disease would not happen until further four years. Each day between 300 and 400 people would die from the disease in Kabul and its





surrounding areas. The wife of the King's brother, Sardar Nasrullah Khan also died from cholera. Because of this, Sardar Nasrullah Khan nearly lost his mind and lived the rest of his life in a state of fear and angst.

When Amanullah Khan became the King of Afghanistan, he ordered the arrest of Sardar Nasrullah Khan and he was arrested and brought to Kabul and imprisoned in the same fort where Shehzada Sahib was kept. Because of this, Sardar Nasrullah Khan became insane and he was strangled to death.

King Habeebullah Khan was also not spared from the wrath of Allah. On 20 February 1919, he was killed by someone and the Muslim clerics who had a hand in Shehzada Sahib's death were also punished for their wrong doings.

Shehzada Sahib had a great deal of love for the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace). He wrote a Qaseedah in Persian in his praise. He writes, *“Even angels are amazed by your beauty and the lovely people in heaven cannot be compared to your beautiful face... You have come as an Imam because of the blessings of the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) who is the King of all time and you have unveiled those truths that were hidden before.”*

The Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) also loved Shehzada Sahib dearly. After his martyrdom, he wrote a





book about him called *Tadhkiratush Shahadatain* which means ‘The Narrative of Two Martyrdoms.’ In this book, the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) has written about Shehzada Sahib and his student, Maulvi Abdul Rehman Sahib and has praised Shehzada Sahib’s great qualities.

The Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) has written an incident that happened in October 1903. When he started writing this book, he had severe pain in his kidney and he immediately prayed to Allah, “*O my Lord, I want to write about the late Shehzada Sahib.*” Immediately it was revealed to him:

سَلَامٌ قَوْلًا مِنْ رَبِّ رَحِيمٍ

(*Peace. A Word from the Merciful Lord*) and before the next morning, he was cured of the pain.

Writing about Shehzada Sahib, the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) says, “*The late Shehzada Sahib has given a fine example to my community.*” At another place, he writes, “*Just as his face was saintly, so was his heart... And in reality he used to give preference to his faith over the world... His faith and belief were so strong that even if I compared it to a big mountain, I fear that my comparison would be flawed.*”

Once the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) wrote the following about Shehzada Sahib: “*It is said that Abdul Latif was killed but understand that he is alive and will never die.*”





