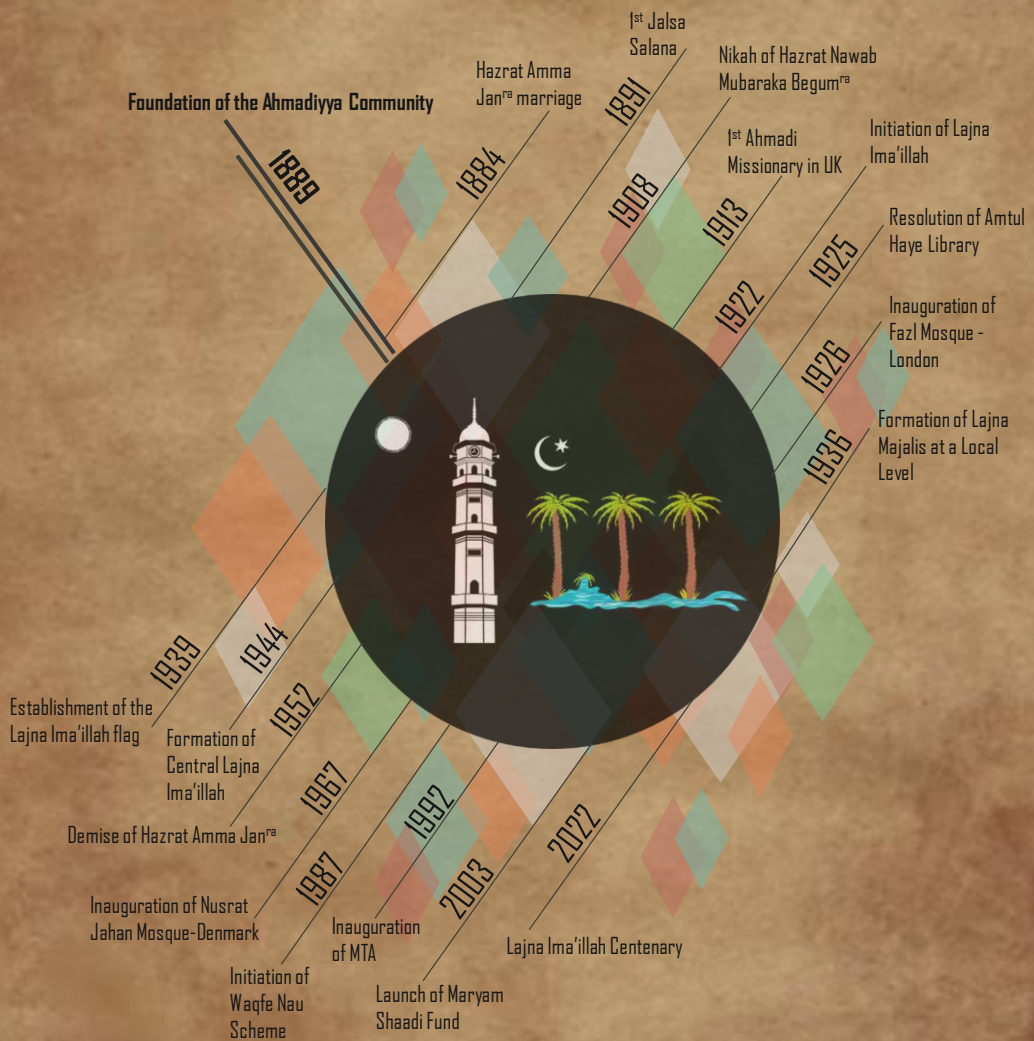


# History of Lajna Ima'illah

## Volume - 1



# History of Lajna Ima'illah

Volume 1

(From the time of the Promised Messiah – 1958)

Isha'at Department –Lajna Ima'illah UK 2023



# History of Lajna Ima'illah

Vol 1

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## Abbreviations

The following abbreviations have been used. Readers are urged to recite the full salutations:

- sa: sal-lallahu 'alaihi wa sallam, meaning 'may the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him' is written after the name of the Holy Prophet Muhammad<sup>sa</sup>.
- as: alaihis salam, meaning 'may peace be upon him' is written after the names of prophets other than the Holy Prophet Muhammad<sup>sa</sup>.
- ra: radi-Allahu 'anhu/'anha/'anhum, meaning 'may Allah be pleased with him/her/them' is written after the names of the companions of the Holy Prophet Muhammad<sup>sa</sup> or of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>.
- rh: rahmatullah 'alaih, meaning 'may Allah shower His mercy upon him' is written after the names of deceased pious Muslims who are not companions of the Holy Prophet Muhammad<sup>sa</sup> or of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>.
- aba: ayyadahullahu ta'ala bi nasrihil 'aziz, meaning 'may Allah support him with His Mighty Help' is written after the name of the current Khalifah of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>.

The Arabic texts used, have their translation in brackets.

A glossary is appended at the end of the book for all non-English terms.

\*\*\*

## Note to Readers

The readers will note a variation of spellings of some names and titles in the book. This is due to different spellings used in quotation we have taken from other publications. Urdu and Arabic words can be transliterated differently.e.g. Hazrat/Hadrat. A list of some of the spellings is underneath.

The reader may also notice that some portions are in Italics. They are added to describe the background of the events.

<b>Spellings used in the book</b>	<b>Spellings can be found in the book by different authors</b>
Noor	Noor/ Nur
Hazrat	Hadhrat / Hazrat
Huzoor	Hazoor/ Huzoor
Amatul	Amatul/ Amtul
Muhammad	Mohammad
Ahmad	Ahmad / Ahmed
Hayee	Hayyee / Hayee/Hai
Maulvi	Moulvi/ Maulvi
Nooruddin	Noor-ud-Deen/Nur-ud-Din/ Nooruddin
Hakeem	Hakeem / Hakim
Amma Jaan	Ama Jaan/ Amman Jaan
Salaam	Salam

## Publisher's Note

Please note that, in the translation that follows, words given in parentheses ( ) are the words of the original debaters who penned the papers. If any explanatory words or phrases are added by the translators for the purpose of clarification, they are put in square brackets [ ]. Footnotes given by the publisher are marked '[Publisher]' casual conversational paraphrasing was distinguished using italics.

In general, we have adopted the following system established by the Royal Asiatic Society for our transliteration.

- ا at the beginning of a word, pronounced as a, i, u preceded by a very slight aspiration, like h in the English word honour.
- ث th – pronounced like th in the English word thing.
- ح h – a guttural aspirate, stronger than h.
- خ kh – pronounced like the Scottish ch in loch.
- ذ dh – pronounced like the English th in that.
- ص s – strongly articulated s.
- ض d – similar to the English th in this.
- ط t – strongly articulated palatal t.
- ظ z – strongly articulated z.

ع '– a strong guttural, the pronunciation of which must be learnt by the ear.

غ gh – a sound similar to the French r in grasseye, and to the German r. It requires the muscles of the throat to be in the 'gargling' position to pronounce it.

ق q – a deep guttural k sound.

ء '– a sort of catch in the voice.

Short vowels are represented by:

a for      (like u in bud).

i for      (like i in bid).

u for      (like oo in wood).

Long vowels by:

ā for      or      (like a in father).

ī for      or      (like ee in deep).

ū for      (like oo in root).

Other vowels by:

*ai* for اَ / (like i in site).

*au* for اُ / (resembling *ou* in sound).

The consonants not included in the above list have the same phonetic value as in the principal languages of Europe. While the Arabic ن is represented by n, we have indicated the Urdu ن as *n*. As noted above, the single quotation mark ' is used for transliterating ع which is distinct from the apostrophe ' used for ء.

We have not transliterated some Arabic words which have become part of the English language, e.g. Islam, Quran, Hadith, Mahdi, Jihad, Ramadan, and Ummah. The Royal Asiatic Society's rules of transliteration for names of persons, places, and other terms, are not followed throughout the book as many of the names contain non-Arabic characters and carry a local transliteration and pronunciation style.



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## Message from Sadr Lajna Ima'illah UK

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

My dear sisters,

السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته

Alhamdulillah, Allah the Almighty has enabled Lajna Ima'illah UK's Isha'at team to produce a book on history of Lajna Ima'illah in English. There is a lot of demand out there, especially among our youth to learn about the history of Lajna Ima'illah but they struggled to find many resources in English. The Isha'at team has taken out some important historical events and incidents in early history of Lajna Ima'illah and translated them in English for your benefit. It does not cover the full 100 years period but I hope and pray that we continue this work and bring to you the rest of the history in the future inshaAllah. Lajna Ima'illah was a great gift of Hazrat Musleh Maud<sup>ra</sup> upon Ahmadi women and Lajna Ima'illah flourished under the blessed guidance of Khilafat during the last 100 years worldwide.

Lajna Ima'illah is an important part of our daily life, our heart and soul, an organisation we adore, a safe haven, a community that has given us sisters for life, friendships stronger than our kin, a platform where we learn new skills, flourish and pass on our knowledge, where old and young both learn from one another, all parts of the tree of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>, all under one Khilafat.

While we celebrate our achievements, it is very important that we remind ourselves of its history. As someone famous once said:

“Study the past if you would define the future”

Studying history of Lajna tells us the great vision behind its inception; the thirst for knowledge and service of faith that was evident in the early members and the sacrifices they made. My own thoughts and prayers keep reverting back to that young girl age 13 ( Hazrat Sayyeda Amatul Hayee sahiba) who 3 days after her father (Hazrat Khalifatul Masih Awal<sup>ra</sup>) passed away wrote a letter to Hazrat Khalifatul Masih Sani<sup>ra</sup> to continue Dars-e-Quran among ladies like her father did. Hazrat Musleh Maud<sup>ra</sup> praised her courage and passion for writing this letter to him. He also acknowledged that she was the driving force behind the foundation of Lajna Ima'illah later on when she became his wife, as her zeal and passion for gaining religious knowledge and spreading it among her sisters was second to none.

Hazrat Musleh Maud<sup>ra</sup> wanted Ahmadi women to realise their responsibilities towards their faith, and to equip themselves with religious knowledge so they could raise the next generation of pious and devoted Ahmadis and also to play their role in defending Islam and in spread of Islam. He said “... The future progress of the Jama'at is also greatly dependent upon the role played by our women.” He invited Ahmadi women to come together for this great mission, helping and supporting each other, keeping the spirit of unity and sisterhood at its forefront.

Recently at our Ijtema our beloved Huzoor<sup>aba</sup> reminded us again of our responsibilities as Lajna Ima'illah and said:

“If our Ahmadi women can fulfil their duties and objectives, then InshAllah they can and they will bring about a great moral and spiritual revolution in their homes, in their cities, in their nations and the entire world.”

So, let us start this revolution by revisiting the founding principles of this beloved organisation of ours and bring about the great moral change within ourselves, our homes, our nations and the entire world.

Hazrat Musleh Maud<sup>ra</sup> has guided us how to do it. While founding Lajna Ima'illah he said:

“As Allah is the Source of all help, blessings and successes, it is necessary that we fervently pray to Him and also request others to pray that HE KINDLY INSPIRES US WITH SUCH AIMS which fulfil the purpose of our creation. We should further pray that He enables us to choose the best available means and use them to the best of our ability for achieving this purpose. We should also pray that we are granted a blessed end and that our future generations are also recipients of His guidance, through His grace, and that, according to God’s Will, He always sustains this work, until the end of times, Ameen.”

Please remember all those sisters who worked hard in translating and compiling this book in your special prayers.

Wassalam

Your sister

Fariha Khan

Serving as Sadr Lajna UK

## Acknowledgment

The translation team and I are truly indebted to Allah the Almighty for enabling us to complete this project which has been a long-awaited goal.

Lajna Ima'illah UK is privileged to receive the nurturing support and direct advice of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V<sup>aba</sup>. This inspires our women always and we earnestly pray that we continue to enjoy this Grace of Allah for a very long time. Ameen

I am grateful to Sadr Lajna Ima'illah UK, Dr Fariha Khan Sahiba for her numerous prayers and steady guidance on this project.

My special thanks to Mrs Saliha Whittinger Sahiba and Mrs Hadiqa Asma Sahiba who devoted enormous time and effort to complete this project. The following ladies also deserve our gratitude and prayers for their assistance with the translation, formatting and related issues. Mrs Shaukat Bhatti, Mrs Tahira Khawar, Mrs Asra Haleem, Mrs Sameera Shahid, Mrs Faiza Usama, Mrs Hiba Ahmad, Mrs Bushra Tahir, Mrs Mahwish Habib, Mrs Nadia Akbar and Mrs Atifa Ahmad.

Finally, I wish to mention Mrs Nasira Rashid Sahiba, who began the first phase of this project with her team. This noble work did not reach the last stages at the time, but I hope she will find solace that some aspects of her team's hard work were not lost, and have been incorporated in this book. May Allah the Almighty give the best of rewards to the aforementioned and grant abundant blessings both in this world and in the hereafter to all those who have assisted in any way; for He alone knows and sees best of all.

Wasalam

Lubna Sohail

(Serving as Secretary Isha'at Lajna Ima'illah UK)



## Lajna Pledge

أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ

وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ

I bear witness that there is none worthy of worship except Allah. He is one and has no partner. And I bear witness that Muhammad<sup>sa</sup> is His servant and His Messenger.

I affirm that I shall always be ready to sacrifice my life, property, time and children for the cause of faith and nation. I shall always adhere to truth and shall always be prepared to make every sacrifice for the perpetuation of the Ahmadiyya Khilafat, Insha'Allah.

## Introduction

لَقَدْ كَانَ فِي قَصصِهِمْ عِبْرَةً لِّأُولِي الْأَلْبَابِ ۗ مَا كَانَ حَدِيثًا يُفْتَرَىٰ وَلَٰكِن تَصَدِيقَ  
الَّذِي بَيْنَ يَدَيْهِ وَتَفْصِيلَ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ وَهُدًى وَرَحْمَةً لِّقَوْمٍ يُؤْمِنُونَ (١١٢: ١١٣).

“Assuredly, in their narrative is a lesson for men of understanding. It is not a thing that has been forged, but a fulfilment of that which is before it and a detailed exposition of all things, and guidance and a mercy to a people who believe.”

Across the world, milestones and triumphs commemorating achievements are celebrated in a variety of ways. By the Grace of Allah the Almighty, Lajna Ima'illah, the women's auxiliary branch of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamaat, approaching its first Centenary, has much to celebrate. Members of Lajna Majlis-e-Shura (Elected Ahmadi ladies) from all over the UK gathered in 2012 for the purposes of deliberations and voting on various proposals.

The significance of the occasion was highly poignant as ladies sitting in the UK would be devising a plan for an organisation which was initiated 100 years ago in Qadian, a little-known town in India. One of the Shura proposals for the House was to discuss and make recommendations on how to celebrate the centenary of Lajna Ima'illah. Thus, the idea of recording the history of this institution was agreed upon. It is in the light

of this spirit that Lajna Ima'illah UK has attempted to acknowledge the achievements of its pioneering members of Lajna Ima'illah.

With the advent of the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> and the teachings of Islam, we can fill volumes on how in such troublesome times, our Holy Master<sup>sa</sup> did not weary of holding this torch for women in the darkness of their plight. The magnitude of light from this torch was such, that even now as we write this text, it can be declared with certainty that no country, no other philosophy or religion can parallel the rights given by Islam 1400 years ago. With the advent of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> fortunes of women were again revived. Their true status of being nurturers of the human race and trainers of the next generation was re-established according to the teachings of the Holy Qur'an.

Speaking on women's rights and responsibilities, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V<sup>aba</sup> states:

“It was for the very sake of making our Ahmadi women understand their responsibilities and to remove any doubt regarding the importance of women to be involved in religious matters and other activities that Hazrat Musleh Maud<sup>ra</sup> established Lajna Ima'illah, so that every Ahmadi lady could become an active member of the Jamaat ...”

(Women's Rights and Equality- 24th November 2017- Review of Religions)

This book is a selective translation of the history of Lajna Ima'illah from the book Tareekh e Lajna. It contains some advice for women, rendered by the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> and his Khulafa. It is coloured with anecdotes and personal examples to improve Lajna in their moral and spiritual development. In a world tinted by varying shades of darkness and furthering into the abyss, women are at times being bombarded with constant expectations from all dimensions, confusing their aims in life. We also hope that this book serves as a guide to empower women and make them aware of their rights and responsibilities. It also helps to re-set the needle in the compass of their lives, paving a way for generations born to declare that

*'We are here to light up the world.*

'May the reader make use of the wisdom and knowledge contained within this book. Ameen



**Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad<sup>as</sup>**  
**The Promised Messiah & Mahdi**

# Part 1

**This part sheds light on the blessed era of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih I<sup>ra</sup> and Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup>. It also highlights the sacrifices made by the sahabiat in that era.**

# Chapter 1

## **The Time of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>**

- Prophecy of the White Birds
- Marriage
- Introduction about Hazrat Amma Jaan<sup>ra</sup>
- Advice by the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> regarding the treatment of women
- Advice by the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> to women regarding polygamy
- Sahabiat

The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> states:

“I hereby proclaim, without any hesitation, that, by the grace and bounty of God,

**I am the Imam of the age.**

He has brought together in my person all these signs and conditions and sent me at the turn of this century, of which fifteen years have already passed. I appeared at a time when all Islamic teachings, without any exception, were riddled with differences.”

(The Need for the Imam – P39)

*The glory of Islam had been totally wiped out from the world. Islam was depicted as a backward religion and attacked by followers of all religions. Any aspiration to revive this paradise on earth seemed nothing but an illusion. It was during such times of fear and loathing for Muslims that from a remote small town of Qadian (India) the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> made a claim to be the Messiah and Mahdi who had been appointed to bear the torch of Islam and revive it. Men and women alike accepted his claim.*

*With the second coming of Jesus, the faith of Islam was to shine in the West, which for centuries had been consumed in spiritual darkness. The rays of illumination started in the very lifetime of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>, which attracted the inhabitants of the West towards the Light of Islam.*

*Among other revelations, the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> received the following revelation:*

*“We believe in the rising of the Sun from the West. But it has been disclosed to me in a vision, that the meaning of the rising of the Sun from the West is that the western countries, which from ancient times have been enveloped in the darkness of disbelief and error, will be illuminated by the sun of truth, and will partake of Islam”*

(Izala-e-Auham, <https://www.alislam.org/library/books/The-Promised-Son.pdf>)



## **White Birds**

*The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> also relates a vision of his in the following words:*

“I saw in a vision that I was standing on a pulpit in the city of London and was setting forth the truth of Islam in the English language, in a very well reasoned address. Thereafter I caught several birds who were sitting upon small trees and were of white colour and their bodies resembled the bodies of partridges. I interpreted this vision as meaning that though I would not be able to travel to that country but that my writings will be published there and many righteous English people will accept the truth.”

(Tadhkirah, p.239-2009 Edition-<https://www.alislam.org/friday-sermon/printer-friendly-summary-2014-02-28.html>)

*It signifies that at the appropriate time, the West will embrace Islam through the teachings of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>. Nevertheless, the seed had been sown in his own lifetime when in 1892 John Waite an Englishman stationed as a Magistrate in Madras, pledged his allegiance to the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>.*

*This was only the beginning. Indeed, preaching in the UK had started with the blessed hand of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> himself when he had written numerous letters to various prominent members of the British aristocracy, in which he outlined his claim and invited them to accept Islam.*

*More and more people including women were joining Ahmadiyyat. Our master, the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> had been a torch bearer for women's rights. The obscurity of circumstances facing women's rights demanded the re-ignition of the torch and light from Allah. With the advent of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> this torch was passed to the Messiah and Mahdi of the age. The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> took keen interest in the rights of women and advised them whenever an opportunity presented itself.*

*The roots of educating women stems from the time of the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup>. Provision of education and its objective is to acquire intellectual knowledge that leads to the nurturing of the moral and spiritual consciousness. The Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> wished to take women on board this journey whilst also ensuring the stability of family life.*

The first helper of Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> and believer in Islam was his wife Hazrat Khadija<sup>ra</sup>. She not only supported the Prophet in every way, but bore him his entire lineage.

The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> was foretold of his 'Khadija' in Hazrat Amma Jaan.

أَشْكُرُ نِعْمَتِي رَأَيْتَ خَدِيجَتِي

Be grateful to Me that you have found My Khadija.

(The Essence of Islam - Vol 5, P 43

[https://www.alislam.org/library/books/Essence-5\)](https://www.alislam.org/library/books/Essence-5)

*Hazrat Ama Jaan<sup>ra</sup> also became the means to not only support him but also to educate and nurture women at personal, family and spiritual levels. Perhaps the most respected and caring universal role that women enjoy in all societies is that of a mother; thus the wife of a prophet is referred to as Ummul Momineen.*



**The Blessed children of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>**

# 1884

## Domestic Life of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>

### Hazrat Amma Jaan's Marriage:

*Hazrat Sayyeda Nusrat Jahan Begum<sup>ra</sup> affectionately known as Hazrat Amma Jaan<sup>ra</sup> was the virtuous wife of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>. The literal meaning of her name is "Helper of the World", which proved to be the essence of her life, being a devotee of Allah and the companion of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>.*

*The family of Hazrat Amma Jaan<sup>ra</sup> was a well-known Sayyed family of Delhi. Hazrat Mir Nasir Nawab sahib<sup>ra</sup> and his family happened to stay in the house of the Promised Messiah's brother in Qadian for a while. He and his wife became acquainted with the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>. He left a lasting impression on Hazrat Mir Nasir Nawab sahib<sup>ra</sup>. When the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> published "Barahin-e-Ahmadiyya", Hazrat Mir Nasir Nawab sahib<sup>ra</sup> bought a copy. He later wrote to the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> to pray for him on various matters, including that Allah may bless him with a righteous son-in-law.*

'In response to Mir Nasir Nawwab Sahib's letter, Mirza Ghulam Ahmad<sup>as</sup> replied that Allah Almighty had revealed to him that He would arrange a second marriage for him in an excellent Sayyed family, which would be blessed. Hence, Mirza Ghulam Ahmad<sup>as</sup> proposed to marry his daughter and urged Mir Nasir Nawwab Sahib to take time to consider the

sincere proposal. Mir Nasir Nawwab initially hid Mirza Ghulam Ahmad's letter from his wife Sayyedah Begum. He was aware that she would have reservations due to Mirza Sahib's first marriage (which in practical terms had ended), and the age difference.

Meanwhile other proposals came for Nusrat Jahan Begum<sup>ra</sup>, but Sayyedah Begum was not completely satisfied with any of them, despite some being from affluent families... Mir Nasir Nawwab Sahib expressed his frustration that his daughter who was now 18 years old may be left a spinster, if his wife continued to reject all her suitors. In response, Sayyedah Begum replied "Better than any of these would be Mirza Ghulam Ahmad<sup>as</sup>". At this point, her husband promptly showed her Mirza Ghulam Ahmad's letter, and said that she should now make a decision quickly. She replied; "Very well, you may write to him." Hence Mir Nasir Nawwab immediately took out his pen and did so.'

(Hazrat Amman Jan – An Inspiration for Us All-p3-4)

*Hazrat Amma Jaan's marriage was conducted in a very simple manner, but she never complained. The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> brought no clothes or jewellery for his bride (traditionally done by the groom's family) due to the hostility of his family to his second marriage. No family members were ready to welcome the new bride and celebrate her arrival to Qadian. In protest to their marriage, the family left no female attendants for her. There was no food to welcome them and their simple room only had a bed with a small cloth at its foot. Indeed, a very difficult situation to be faced by a new bride.*

In their twenty- four years of marriage everyone close to them commented that there was never a raised voice, let alone an argument between husband and wife. So harmonious was their household that it was like a heavenly earth, fulfilling the revelation that the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> and his wife would live in an earthly “Heaven” together. Hazrat Mirza Bashir Ahmad<sup>ra</sup> speaking of his mother has noted that it was a Divinely ordained match which significantly took place in 1884, the year in which the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> claimed to be the Mujaddid (Reformer) of the time. Thereafter, Hadrat Amma Jaan<sup>ra</sup> was with him as his life long friend and companion. She would affectionately remind the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> that; “With my living in your house, the period of your blessings began”, at which the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> would respond smiling, “Yes, you are right.”

(Hazrat Amman Jan – An Inspiration for Us All-p21-22)

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**1888**

**Hazrat Amma Jaan’s Ardent Prayer for the Fulfilment of the Promised Messiah’s Prophecy:**

Hazrat Amma Jaan<sup>ra</sup> had an incredible belief in the omnipotence of Allah the Almighty. The testimony of this is presented here. When the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> prophesied about Muhammadi Begum entering into marriage with him, Hazrat Amma Jaan<sup>ra</sup> faithfully and earnestly begged that Allah

fulfils this prophecy. She submitted this plea many a times to God and expressed that:

“Although my womanly instincts are disgusted, yet with a truthful heart and contented mind I urge that the Words of God are proved true in such a manner that the honour of Islam and the Muslims shines forth. That falsehood declines and is abolished.”

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol-1 p6-7)

*From the time of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> to the very end, there was no financial sacrifice in which Hazrat Amma Jan<sup>ra</sup> was not first to participate. She would sell the property she had inherited including the land and jewellery and she would offer any money she had towards each and every appeal that was made. These included the building of Minaratul-Masih, Langar Khana, various Lajna projects, the London Mosque, Tehrik-e-Jadid and others. She always tried to fulfil her monetary promises immediately, commenting that one should never have any reliance on life and should pay “debts” immediately.*

*Hazrat Amma Jaan<sup>ra</sup> was a lady of high fortitude and resolve. This can only have been acquired through having a strong bond with Allah. She faced several trials and tribulations in her life including the deaths of her children; which no doubt were celebrated by the opponents of Ahmadiyyat and increased her pain. Yet she accepted the Divine Will with fortitude.*

### **Observance of Salat:**

The greatest testimony to the weight and importance Hadrat Amman Jan<sup>ra</sup> gave to the observance of prayers on time, ... is

Hadrat Amman Jan's astounding behaviour at the time of the death of her son "Bashir-e-Awwal". Few mothers could not even contemplate thinking of anything else but their child if he happened to be critically ill. ... It is hard to conceive a more stressful situation for a mother, the devoted spouse of a prophet and the mother of a spiritual community. Hadrat Amman Jan's character was truly exemplary. Her son's condition was absolutely critical but she still thought not to miss her prayers, when the time arose. Hadrat Amman Jan<sup>ra</sup> did her ablutions and performed her prayers with perfect serenity, happy to be fulfilling Allah Almighty's Commandments. After completing the prayers she enquired how her son was, to be told that the little one had taken his last breath. Hadrat Amman Jan<sup>ra</sup> responded "Inna lillahi wa inna ilaihi raji un". After this she was silent. There was no wailing or weeping. There were no shrieks or lamentations of regret at the loss of her child, - a true indication that she was indeed one of Allah Almighty's loyal servants.

(Hazrat Amman Jaan - An Inspiration for Us All-p34-36)

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*A most noble personality, who became acquainted with the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> before his claim to prophethood, was Hazrat Maulvi Hakeem Noor-ud-Deen, who later became the first to take his ba'ait and also became his first Khalifa. We find below an interesting narration about his marriage.*

### **Hazrat Maulvi Sahib's Marriage:**

*It was not unusual for Muslim men at the time to take a second wife. Thus, Hazrat Maulvi Sahib was contemplating a*



*second marriage. The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> had also been looking to find him a suitable match. We find the details in this regard from the following letter written by the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>.*

“In the name of Allah, the Gracious, the Merciful. We praise and send blessings on His noble Prophet.

My Respected Brother,

Assalamo Alaikum wa Rahmatullahe wa Barakatuhu

... I strongly feel that you should not take the matter of your second marriage lightly. Rather, you should consider it essential to remove indisposition and sorrow. We hope that Allah through His Mercy will grant you pious progeny from the second marriage. In my view, it is not essential for the (proposed) wife to be already educated. I believe that if a man or woman has an untainted mind and nature as well as good faculties, then being uneducated is not an impediment. They can swiftly grasp knowledge about worldly and religious matters. The important point is that she should be intelligent as well as good looking, in order to develop (mutual) love and compliance. Please do explore about these conditions in the proposal under consideration. If it is agreeable, then praise be to Allah. Otherwise full concentration should be given to continue the search. Man can make the effort, but it is Allah the Almighty's task to provide the desired results. Nonetheless, efforts achieve good fruit in this world. Thus far I have not written to anyone to search (for a match) because I have not yet received a solid answer from you. I am therefore giving you the trouble to kindly finalise the matter

in hand soon and inform me if there is a requirement for a fresh search..." (29 February 1888)

(Hayate Noor-p145-146)

### **The Promised Messiah's Directions for Marriage:**

*In another letter of 23<sup>rd</sup> January 1889, the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> discussed what the Islamic injunction permits.*

"... The girl's appearance should also be known. It is best to see her yourself; but there is a problem with the purdah observed nowadays that they (girl's family) do not agree to it. ..."

(Hayate Noor-p148)

*Correspondence between the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> and Hazrat Maulvi sahib on this subject continued. Eventually Hazrat Maulvi sahib's marriage was finalised with Sughra Begum sahiba, the daughter of Hazrat Sufi Ahmad Jaan of Ludhiana. The marriage took place in 1889.*

### **A Subsequent Letter from the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>:**

*The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> undertook a journey to Ludhiana. Thereon he travelled to Hoshiarpur to attend a wedding in Sheikh Mehr Ali's family. Here is another letter written by the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> to Hazrat Khalifatul Masih I<sup>ra</sup>.*

My Respected Brother,

Assalamo Alaikum wa Rahmatullahe wa Barakatuhu

I was pleased to receive your letter. May Allah intensify the love and harmony between you and your new wife, and may He grant you pious progeny. Ameen

If your first wife has said something unpleasant, then you should endure it. As a result of a weak nature and distrust to the extreme, the first wives shatter the peace in their lives. Allah is the only entity Who has no partners. Nevertheless, women do not like partners either. A holy person relates that once he had a neighbour who mistreated his wife. Later he decided to take a second wife. His wife was very grieved and told him that she had tolerated all his cruelty, but she could not tolerate to share her husband with another woman. He said that he felt pained to hear these words and searched for something similar in the Quran. He found this verse.

وَيَغْفِرُ مَا دُونَ ذَلِكَ

(But He will forgive whatever is short of that) (4:49)

This issue appears to be very delicate. It is observed, a man does not wish anyone to share his wife; likewise, a woman does not wish to share her husband. However, I am fully aware that there are no flaws in the teachings of the Almighty, nor can they be against people's natural abilities. ... This includes the point containing high spiritual knowledge that the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> told Umm Salma<sup>ra</sup>. She had apologised that she did not wish to get married to the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> on the ground that he already had several wives and will take more in future. As a woman with pride, she was unable to tolerate another wife. The Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> told her that he will pray for her so that Allah removes this sense of pride from her and gives her forbearance.

Thus you should also pray. It is vital to console the new wife. She is like a guest. You should treat her exhibiting high morals.

You should unreservedly have relationship with her and love her. Ask Allah the Almighty to create pure love between you; which is in His Power. You have entered a new phase of life with this marriage. Man is not to remain in this world till eternity, so there are expectations for the blessings of a new generation from this relationship. May Allah make it full of blessings for you.

I have heard a great deal of praise for her from people in the neighbourhood who know her well. She is a pious and chaste woman in nature, and is wrapped in high morals. Please take care of her education and moral training. Do teach her, as she seems to possess high capabilities. It is Allah's great blessings to have brought you together as a couple. Otherwise, it is almost rare to find such opportunities these days. ...

Humbly

Ghulam Ahmad

(Hayate Noor-p150-152)

**A Fortunate Lady:**

*Sughra Begum Sahiba had the exceptional honour of having been proposed for marriage to Hazrat Maulvi Hakeem Noor-ud-Deen sahib by the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>. Huzoor<sup>as</sup> and Hazrat Amma Jaan<sup>ra</sup> graciously attended their wedding. This proved to be a match made in Heaven.*

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# 1891

*The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> initiated the Jalsa Salana in December of this year. From there on Hazrat Amma Jaan<sup>ra</sup> earnestly fulfilled the role of a kind hostess for the guests of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> on a yearly basis.*

## **Hospitality of Hazrat Amma Jaan<sup>ra</sup> During Jalsa:**

With the advent of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> the Jamaat was established which was steadily increasing. The Companions of Huzoor<sup>as</sup>, including women started to visit Qadian. Furthermore, when the Jalsa Salana was established women also started to attend. The entire responsibility for their hospitality fell on Hazrat Amma Jaan<sup>ra</sup>. She used to cook the meals herself or supervise the process. (Hazrat Sayyeda Umme Mateen sahiba relates) that she was told by Hazrat Amma Jaan<sup>ra</sup> that a flat metal pan was heated and women collectively used to prepare chapattis themselves. The majority of the guests were housed in the house of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>. She always met the guests graciously, took care of them on a personal level, considering their individual situations. She would attentively listen to any issues they had and update the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> accordingly. Another area in her remit was to arrange meetings for the guests with Huzoor<sup>as</sup>. ...

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p7)

*Since the time of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> till the very end, there was no financial sacrifice in which Hazrat Amma Jaan<sup>ra</sup> was not the first to participate.*

### **Hazrat Amma Jaan's Sacrifice to Provide Food for Jalsa**

#### **Guests:**

In the early days, the cost of Jalsa hospitality was absorbed by the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>. Hazrat Amma Jaan<sup>ra</sup> used to be hand in hand readily present in this deed. Hazrat Munshi Zafar Ahmad sahib Kapurthalavi<sup>ra</sup> relates:

“Once on Jalsa Salana there were no funds available. The Jalsa Salana fund had not yet been established. The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> personally took care of the expenses. Thus, Hazrat Mir Nasir Nawab sahib<sup>ra</sup> mentioned to Huzoor<sup>as</sup> that there was no curry to serve to the guests for their evening meal. Huzoor<sup>as</sup> advised him to ask Hazrat Amma Jaan<sup>ra</sup> to donate a piece of her gold jewellery to meet the expenses. Consequently, Mir sahib either sold the jewellery or pawned it and made the arrangements for the guests.

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p8)

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**1897**

#### **Hazrat Nawab Mubaraka Begum<sup>ra</sup>:**

*Hazrat Nawab Mubaraka Begum<sup>ra</sup> was the elder daughter of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> and Hazrat Amma Jaan<sup>ra</sup>. She was*

*born on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 1897 on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of Ramadhan of that year.*

She relates: “Hazrat Amma Jaan<sup>ra</sup> told me on many occasions that the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> had told her that he had been devotedly praying the whole night. When it started to drizzle, Huzoor<sup>as</sup> thought that this was the exceptional time for the acceptance of prayers during Lailat-ul-Qadr and (he) prayed extensively.”

(Seerat-o-Sawaneh Hazrat Syeda Nawab Mubaraka Begum Sahiba-p30)

*The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> always treated Hazrat Nawab Mubaraka Begum<sup>ra</sup> with immense love and dignity. He never ignored her needs. She was a bright and talented child who completed her first reading of the Holy Quran at the age of four and a half years. Special arrangements were made for her education by various scholars. She was honoured that the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> taught her Persian for a brief time. The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> would always listen to Hazrat Nawab Mubaraka Begum's wishes with full attention and earnestness.*

“If Hazrat Amma Jaan<sup>ra</sup> would ever say anything to her to discipline her, Huzoor<sup>as</sup> would stop her commenting that she was like a guest who would one day leave to go to her own house; meaning that she should have good memories from her maiden life before she was to get married.”

(Hazrat Amman Jaan - An Inspiration for us all-p52)

### **Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria:**

*In June 1897, the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria was celebrated throughout the British Empire. At the time, India*

*was also a part of the Empire. The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> took the opportunity to write a special booklet for this occasion. It was a gift for the Queen, propagating the Unity of God and inviting her to the teachings of Islam. He named it "Tohfa-e-Qaisariyyah" (Gift to the Empress). This was followed by "Sitara Qaisariyyah" (The Star of the Empress) in 1899.*

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## **1900**

*Monetary collections were made by the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> according to different needs of the time. How fortunate that in this age too, a Muslim is given the opportunity to purify their wealth through additional financial sacrifices.*

### **Hazrat Amma Jaan's Financial Sacrifices:**

Hadrat Amman Jan<sup>ra</sup> was always at the forefront of making financial sacrifices for the Jam'at. A most remarkable example of this was when on May 28, 1900, the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> made an appeal to raise funds for the building of Minar-a-tul Masih in Qadian. He estimated that 10,000 rupees would be required and so appealed for 100 people to ideally contribute 100 rupees each to fulfil this target. Hadrat Amman Jan<sup>ra</sup> immediately responded by selling the property of her inheritance in Delhi. She gave 1000 rupees for this noble cause, excelling others in fulfilling this appeal- a great proof of her faith in the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>.

(Hazrat Amma Jaan- An Inspiration for us all-p68)



*Nowadays much is said about women's rights and how they should be upheld. However, what happens behind closed doors is a different matter. We observe daily how violence or abuse against women is rampant across the world. At times we are struck numb at the barbarity of some men and societies when we hear the atrocities they commit against women. The solution to the abhorrence needs to be aimed towards the perpetrators of domestic violence, 'the men'. The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> relates clearly how men should treat their wives.*

**The Promised Messiah's Advice Regarding the Treatment of Women:**

*Huzoor<sup>as</sup> advises men in relation to the treatment of women:*

“With the exception of lewdness and obscenity, they (men) should be tolerant with regards to their (women's) petulance or bitter attitude. We truly feel shameful, when we see that despite being a man, they feel the need to have a confrontation with women. God has made us men. Undoubtedly it is a grace upon us; thus as gratitude we should treat women with courtesy and kindness.”

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p2-3)

*The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> further points to the expected conduct of men as follows:*

“One should ingrain in the hearts of women ones dislike for any deeds which are against the dictates of faith. At the same time, they should

neither be so tyrannically overbearing that they cannot afford to overlook the mistakes on her part.”

*A couple is an entity of two souls. When a man endeavours to reach further in spirituality in life, he should lovingly pull his other half in the same direction, nurturing gently a change within the wife through his own improved conduct. The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> states:*

“If you wish to reform yourself, then it is incumbent that you also improve the women of your home.”

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1- p3)

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## 1902

*The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> was a prophet for both men and women alike. He came to reform all mankind. Thus, he had a deep desire for women to improve their moral conduct as well as develop in spirituality. Huzoor<sup>as</sup> stated some specific advice for women in his book 'Noah's Ark' which encapsulates shunning evil rituals and non-Islamic cultural traditions that had warped into the thoughts of Muslim women at the time. However, the advice of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> is pertinent to Ahmadi women of all ages, in order to help them objectively scrutinize their inner state and strive for betterment.*

### **Advice for Women on Polygamy:**

*The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> states:*

“There are some un-Islamic innovations in this era which have also engulfed women. They deeply frown at the thought of (their husbands) taking more than one wife. It appears that they do not accept in this idea. They are not aware that God’s Sharia embodies cures for all maladies. If Islam did not teach the tenet of taking more than one wife, the situations that arise for men to take a second wife would have no curable solution. For example, if a woman becomes insane or suffers from leprosy, or if she becomes indisposed to an illness which leaves her inadequate or something else presents itself in which the wife deserves sympathy, yet she remains inadequate at the same time. The man also needs sympathy if he is not content to be celibate. In such situations, it would be unjust to him that he should refrain from taking a second wife. The fact is that considering these matters God’s Sharia has opened this path for men. ... In similar circumstances, there is an opening for women as well. If a man becomes inadequate, then she can seek ‘Khula’ through a judge which is equivalent to ‘Talaq’. The Sharia of God is akin to a pharmacy. If the shop is not capable of dispensing medicine for every ailment, then the shop cannot flourish. So, is this not a fact, that some men face such dire problems where more than one marriage

becomes an extreme necessity? What benefit is a Sharia that does not encompass a comprehensive cure for all possible tribulations. Look, in the Gospel the only condition for divorce was adultery. There is no mention of other hundreds of scenarios, which lead to both men and women to become bitter enemies of each other. For this reason, the Christians could not tolerate this imperfection (in their teachings) and in the end America had to pass a law (for divorce). So now, with the introduction of this law, where should we place the Gospel? O ye Women! Do not get concerned; the book you have been given is not like the Gospel that requires any human intervention. In this book the women's rights are protected precisely as the rights of men are protected. If a woman is angered at the notion of the husband taking more than one wife, then she is at liberty to obtain 'Khula' through a judge. It was incumbent for God to mention solutions for different scenarios that could be presented in the Muslim Ummah. Thus these solutions needed to be mentioned in the Sharia, so that the Sharia would not be deficient in any way. So, O ye women! Do not blame God upon your husbands' intention of a second marriage. In fact you should pray that God protects you from trials and tribulations. Without any doubt, a man who takes two wives and does not do justice [between them] is certainly cruel and accountable.

However, you on your part must not disobey God and invite His Wrath. Each one of us will be questioned in relation our deeds. If you become pious in the eyes of God, then your husband will also be made pious. If for different reasons in the Sharia it is acceptable to take more than one wife, remember that the Court of Allah is also open for you (through prayers). If the law of Sharia is unbearable for you, then plead and make use of the Court of the Almighty God through prayers, because the Court of the Almighty God of Divine Decree overpowers the law of Sharia. Become righteous. Do not attach yourself too much to the world and its attraction. Do not take pride in your nationality; do not mock or laughingly degrade other women. Do not pester you husbands with demands beyond their capabilities. Try your best to become pure and innocent so that you enter your graves in this state. Do not be negligent in Salat, Zakat, etc as they are the obligatory commandments of God. *With your heart and soul become your husbands' confederates*, as a great deal of their honour lies in your hand. Thus, you should uphold this responsibility in a manner that in the Sight of God you are counted as a pious and virtuous soul. Do not be a spendthrift or waste your husbands' wealth. Do not breach their trust, steal or remonstrate with them. One woman should not slander another woman or a man."

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1–p 3-5)

*Diamonds are commonly referred to as a Western woman's best friend, just as gold jewellery holds immense sentimental value for South Asian women. Apart from adorning themselves, these precious possessions serve as a safeguard during difficult times or as an investment for their daughters' weddings. However, when the call for the propagation of Islam arises, Ahmadi women have readily sacrificed such savings for a higher Divine purpose. In the early days, those who joined the fold of Islam were individuals of modest means but abundant generosity, and thus, their sacrifices often meant enduring periods without even the most basic necessities.*

### **Sacrifice from a Silent Couple:**

Women are very fond of their jewellery. Let's look at a narrative of a dedicated female companion of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>. She was the wife of Hazrat Munshi Zafar Ahmad of Kapurthala, a devoted companion of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> ... The Jamaat of Kapurthala was a dedicated Jamaat and was ahead in every sacrifice. The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> mentioned to him that there was a requirement to fund 60 Rupees for the publication of a notice for preaching purposes and enquired if his local Jamaat will be able to fulfil this requirement. What a spectacular display of sacrifice by Munshi Sahib and his wife! Let's hear his personal account:

'I replied to Huzoor<sup>as</sup> that God Willing we will the funds. So I immediately went to Kapurthala and without mentioning this to any other members of

the Jamaat, we sold a piece of my wife's jewellery for 60 Rupees and presented it to the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>. Huzoor<sup>as</sup> was extremely pleased and prayed for Kapurthala Jamaat. After some time Munshi Arora Khan<sup>ra</sup> visited Ludhiana and Huzoor<sup>as</sup> jovially said: "Your Jamaat helped at a crucial time." Munshi Sahib was perplexed and asked: "Huzoor what help? I am not aware of it." Huzoor<sup>as</sup> replied: "When Munshi Zafar Ahmad<sup>ra</sup> came with 60 Rupees on behalf of Kapurthala Jamaat". To this Munshi Sahib replied: "Huzoor, Munshi Zafar Ahmad did not mention anything to me or to the Jamaat; I will question him as to why he did not inform us". Later, Munshi Arora Khan<sup>ra</sup> came to me rather offended and questioned me on this matter exclaiming: "Huzoor<sup>as</sup> required some assistance and it was not mentioned to me?" I explained to him that as it was only a modest amount thus I donated it by selling my wife's jewellery.'

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p10-11)

*Although these noble women's sacrificial contributions may seem insignificant to the prosperous, their value is greater than mountains of wealth, because their pain in parting with it must be greater. Thus, their actions mount to earn greater blessings, if Allah so Wills. Undoubtedly, if we could gather all their examples as stars, there would certainly fill a constellation in the Heavens.*

### **Sacrifice with Endearment:**

Hazrat Munshi Imam Din Patwari<sup>ra</sup>, was one of the earlier companions of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>. He and his wife Hazrat Karam Bibi<sup>ra</sup> had a profound love and affection for the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>. Hazrat Karam Bibi had opened a school within her home for teaching the Holy Quran to women and children. She had a great passion for serving the needy and was ever ready to help the poor and destitute in the village. When Hazrat Musleh Maud<sup>ra</sup> made an appeal for donations to build a mosque in London, she had a substantial amount of jewellery. She retained a single item from it as a memento from her mother and readily donated all the rest. ...

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p13)

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## **1903**

*An exceptionally sad event took place in the history of Ahmadiyyat this year. Hazrat Shahzada Abdul Latif<sup>ra</sup>, a renowned religious scholar and the advisor to the king of Afghanistan, was brutally martyred in Afghanistan for having accepted the claim of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>. He became the first martyr of Ahmadiyyat. The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> was extremely grieved to hear the details of the cruel treatment he had received. Shahzada sahib's wife showed immense patience and faith at his agonising death.*



**Hazrat Shahjahan Bibi<sup>ra</sup>:**

Hazrat Shahzada Abdul Latif Sahib's wife Hazrat Shahjahan Bibi<sup>ra</sup> and his orphaned children faced many troubles and were even imprisoned after his martyrdom. But, they stayed loyal to Shahzada Sahib's<sup>ra</sup> admonition and demonstrated great patience. Similar to her devoted husband, Hazrat Shahjahan Bibi Sahiba<sup>ra</sup> would repeatedly express that if she and her children are also threatened with death for accepting Ahmadiyyat, she would not recant her faith; instead, she would be evermore thankful to Allah for the blessings of martyrdom.

(Shahzada's Agonising Sacrifice in the Way of God-P23)

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**1904**

*Below we find another example of a spiritual gem from the time of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>. Her strong faith in Allah and courage to accept the truth puts her with the shining stars on the horizon of Ahmadiyyat.*

*(The information below has been extracted from 'My Mother' by Sir Muhammad Zafarullah Khan<sup>ra</sup> pages 18-23.)*

### **Hazrat Hussain Bibi Sahiba<sup>ra</sup>:**

Hazrat Hussain Bibi sahiba<sup>ra</sup>, the mother of Hazrat Chaudhri Zafrullah Khan sahib<sup>ra</sup> accepted Ahmadiyyat through one of her dreams. She dreamt that she was busy in her home making preparations to welcome a large number of guests. Suddenly she perceived a glow of light in a room, which surprised her as she could not recall that a lamp had been placed in that room. She entered the room, found it brilliantly lit, and saw an esteemed personage with a bright countenance sitting writing in a note-book. She silently moved towards his back, so not to disturb him. Perceiving that someone had entered, he prepared to depart. She begged him to stay a little longer as his presence had brought her inexpressible joy. He stayed for a short while. When he was about to depart, she asked him: "Huzoor, should anyone ask me who is the esteemed personage you have seen, what shall I say?" He replied: "Say you have met Ahmad." When she related her dream to her husband, he commented that Ahmad is also the name of the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> and she may have seen this person in the vision of Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup>. She replied: "I do not have that feeling. I feel he is a contemporary personage through whom God is pleased to guide me."

In 1904 the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> accompanied by members of his family and a few companions came to Sialkot. With her husband's permission Hazrat Hussain Bibi sahiba<sup>ra</sup> went to visit him as she was keen to see if he was the personage she had seen in her dream. Her husband advised her not to make any commitments; to that she replied: "I feel that God, out of His Grace, has chosen His Own way to guide me. If I find that His Guidance points in this direction, I must proceed

accordingly.” Accompanied by her young son, Chaudhri Zafrullah Khan<sup>ra</sup>, she went to Hazrat Amma Jaan<sup>ra</sup> and begged her to arrange that she might have a glimpse of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>. As soon as she saw Huzoor<sup>as</sup>, she humbly requested him to take her Ba’ait. Huzoor<sup>as</sup> graciously asked her to repeat after him what he says. Commenting on the event, Hazrat Chaudhri Zafrullah Khan<sup>ra</sup> says: “It seemed that there was complete spiritual accord between the seeker and the sought. My mother's soul was at rest; her quest had led her to her spiritual heaven. She never saw him again, except in her dreams.” Upon their return, her husband asked if she had made the visit. She affirmed that she had and she had also taken the Ba’ait. Hearing this he remarked: “That was not well done.” Her reply was that she had complied with the demand of her faith and would be grieved if this displeased her husband.

After making some further enquiries, a few days later her husband Chaudhri Nasrullah Khan sahib<sup>ra</sup> also took Bai’at at the hand of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>.

## 1905

### **The First Ahmadi Woman Advances with the Sword of the Pen:**

*(The information below (in Italics) has been extracted from ‘Hazrat Sakinatun Nisa’, published by Lajna Ima’illah Canada pages 2-3.)*

*Sakinatun Nisa sahiba<sup>ra</sup>, the wife of Hazrat Qazi Muhammad Zuhuruddin Akmal<sup>ra</sup> was born in the village of Goleki (Pakistan) to a family of Sufi background. She took ba'ait alongside her family when she was twelve or thirteen years of age. Subsequently, she visited Qadian three or four times during the lifetime of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>.*

### **The Dream of Two Hairs:**

Hazrat Sakinatun Nisa Sahiba's two children passed away at a young age before she had moved to Qadian. She wrote a letter full of agony to Hazrat Masih Mau'ud<sup>as</sup> requesting prayers. Huzoor<sup>as</sup> replied, "Allāh will bless you with more, in place of what you have lost." After receiving this news of good fortune, she saw a dream. In her dream, she saw that Huzoor<sup>as</sup> gave her two Hairs from his head. She relayed this dream to Hazrat Khalīfatul-Masih I<sup>ra</sup>, who was lying in the sunlight with a cloth over him. He removed his cloth and immediately said, "Allāh the Almighty will give you two sons. Congratulations." Later, two boys were born and Hazrat Khalīfatul Masih I<sup>ra</sup> named them.

(Hazrat Sakinatun Nisa-p16-17)

Ustani Sakinatun Nisa Sahiba was amongst the rare blessed women who were educated at the time. In her town of Goleki she had started a school for children. At the young age of about thirteen to fourteen, she had started sending articles to magazines and newspapers for publication. ...

The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> declared the Al-Hakam and Al-Badr as his two hands. She initially wrote to Al-Badr to express the

desire for matters of interest pertaining to women to be included and also that they should be written by women.

‘Most Respected Editor Al-Badr,

Your newspaper (Al-Badr) is very dear to me. I swear to God that I find comfort in it. Thus, today I thought of making a humble request to you as follows. ... ‘If you would be kind enough to dedicate a column for women in al Badr, then our sisters can partake in writing articles.’

The Editor of Al-Badr acknowledged her contributions by stating the following:

“Since the column for ladies has been initiated, three sisters have dedicated to its articles. Mrs Karam Ilahi Sahiba, Mrs Akmal Sahiba and the daughter of Ghulam Muhammad Pulwari.” May Allah bless these ladies abundantly.

(Tareekh Lajna Ima’illah Vol 1-p9-10)

*By 1905, she was writing for Al-Badr and Al-Hakam. This was in addition to her household duties of a young village housewife and teacher. She successfully established a column in Al-Badr for women or a page dedicated to women’s issues. Thus, she was serving the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> in her capacity as a woman performing ‘Jihad of the pen’.*

*We follow with the narration of another lady who had the good fortune of being one of the female companions of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>.*

*(The information below (in Italics) has been extracted from Mohsinat pages 22-23)*

**Syeda Saeedatul-Nisa sahiba<sup>ra</sup>:**

*Another exceptionally pious and saintly lady was Hazrat Saeedatul-Nisa sahiba<sup>ra</sup>.*

*Hazrat Dr. Syed Abdul Sattar Shah<sup>ra</sup> sahib, the husband of Saeedatul-Nisa sahiba<sup>ra</sup> states that once his wife saw the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> in a dream. The Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> raised his index and middle finger together and said 'The Messiah and I are the same.' She had been blessed with true dreams prior to accepting the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>. She was fortunate to have seen prophets, saints and angels in her dreams. She was convinced of the truth of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> through her dreams. Thus she asked her husband to take leave from work in order to visit Qadian. She was anxious that due to general unpredictability of life, the visit should not be delayed. They must go and spend time with this holy personage as soon as possible.*

*Hazrat Saeedatul-Nisa Sahiba<sup>ra</sup> had the honour of staying at the house of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> as a guest. Her eldest son Syed Walliullah Shah Sahib relates that once the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> told her that she should feel able to express her needs to him without hesitation. Huzoor<sup>as</sup> commented that there were three connections between him and her family. Firstly, they were Huzoor's disciples; secondly, they were descendants of the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> and there was another connection. Huzoor<sup>as</sup> went silent after that. She was surprised at this and mentioned it to her husband. He replied that the*

*third must be some spiritual connection. This connection was revealed much later also in the sense that a baby girl Sayyeda Maryam Begum (Hazrat Umme Tahir) was born to them who was later married to Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup>. Hazrat Sayyeda Umme Tahir was the mother of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih IV<sup>th</sup>.*

Once Al-Fazl published an article on various aspects of her life in which it stated,

“During one of her journeys to Qadian, the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> called Hazrat Khalifatul Masih I<sup>ra</sup> and Hazrat Maulvi Abdul Kareem<sup>ra</sup> and said, "As a result of Dr. Sahib's wife's initiative, I felt an urge to start sessions of Dars on the Holy Quran. I will deliver them and you should also take turns to deliver them during the week. Before delivering his first Dars, Hazrat Maulvi Abdul Kareem<sup>ra</sup> specifically addressed the Ahmadi women of Qadian and said: "Congratulations to Shah Sahib's wife. As a result of her request, the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> initiated the Holy Quran Dars sessions.”

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p131)

*The Promised Messiah's magnitude of love was not limited to his family only. The rays of his warmth were also felt by other ladies living in Huzoor's household. One of these fortunate ladies was a young lady previously called Fatima.*

**Hazrat Amatul Rehman - The Daughter of Hazrat Qazi Ziauddin<sup>ra</sup>:**

Fatima was the young girl who moved to Qadian with her father Hazrat Qazi Ziauddin<sup>ra</sup> and had the good fortune to reside in the living quarters of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> for three years. Huzoor<sup>as</sup> changed her name to Amatul Rehman as an omen saying that Fatima had seen many adversities in life. She then spent three years in these sacred surroundings. She was treated with kindness both by the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> and Hazrat Amma Jaan<sup>ra</sup>. One of the tasks she was entrusted with was to deposit any monetary gifts presented to the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> in a designated safe.

Two endearing examples below demonstrate the kindness shown by the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> during the years she spent under their benevolent care. Amatul Rehman sahiba once accidentally smashed an expensive china cup which was part of a tea set that belonged to the Promised Messiah's household. The other working ladies of the household made a loud commotion in scolding her. This came to the attention of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> who was occupied with his work. Huzoor<sup>as</sup> came out of his room to investigate. The ladies complained about the damage that had been caused. The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> picked up the broken cup and lovingly said: "It was our cup, and we broke it". Hazrat Amatul Rehman relates that upon Huzoor's benevolent statement, the surrounding heat and anger aimed at her evaporated.

*(Her granddaughter, Safia Sheikh sahiba narrated the above incident (in writing and audio) in 2006 to her own*



*granddaughter Shaukat Bhatti sahiba. There are no records to establish the exact years of the above incident)*

*As this young lady's time of marriage approached, she felt sad at the thought of having to leave the household of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> where she had been loved and cared for like a daughter. This departure lay heavy on both sides.*

Hazrat Amma Jaan<sup>ra</sup> relayed her own sentiments to Huzoor<sup>as</sup> who replied: "Do not worry! We will lengthen her 'Muqḷawa."

(Reference Ashabe-Ahmad Vol 6-p80-81)

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## **1907**

### **The Demise of Sahibzada Mirza Mubarak Ahmad sahib:**

*This year the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> and Hazrat Amma Jaan<sup>ra</sup> had to endure the loss of a fifth and much loved child Mirza Mubarak Ahmad<sup>ra</sup>. During his final illness both parents spent much of their time and energy trying to care for their son with prayers and medication. None the less, the Will of Allah prevailed.*

Hazrat Amma Jaan's first utterance on the death of this son was

إِنَّا لِلَّهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ

"To Allah the Almighty we belong and to Him we shall return."

The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> especially appreciated Hazrat Amma Jaan's fortitude on this occasion, remarking "I am very happy about this". Hazrat Amma Jaan<sup>ra</sup> replied, "I am happy with Allah's Decree". Her exemplary patience was also Divinely appreciated, and communicated to the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> in a revelation;

"Allah the Almighty is well pleased".

Upon learning this, Hazrat Amma Jaan's response was truly outstanding and inspirational. She said, "This revelation has caused me so much happiness that even if 2000 Mubarak Ahmads were to die I would not care."

Subsequently, the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> delivered a speech acknowledging his wife's exemplary fortitude and reminding his followers that indeed Allah Almighty has declared in the Holy Quran;

إِنَّ اللَّهَ مَعَ الصَّابِرِينَ

Surely, Allah is with the Steadfast'.

Thus, when Allah the Almighty has reassured the patient ones that His Company is with them what else do they require?

Indeed, Hazrat Amma Jaan's was a shining example of one who desired nothing but Allah's Pleasure.

(Hadrat Amman Jaan- An Inspiration for us all-p152-153)

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## 1908

*(The information below (in Italics) has been extracted from 'Seerat-o-Sawaneh Hazrat Nawab Mubaraka Begum Sahiba' - pages 102-107)*

### **The Nikah of Hazrat Nawab Mubaraka Begum<sup>ra</sup>:**

*The Nikah of Hazrat Nawab Mubaraka Begum<sup>ra</sup> and Hazrat Nawab Muhammad Ali Khan<sup>ra</sup> was performed on 17 February 1908 by Hazrat Maulvi Hakeem Noor-ud-Deen sahib<sup>ra</sup>. He delivered a long sermon on this occasion. The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> led the silent prayers following the Nikah.*

*The background to the marriage was that after the death of his wife, when Hazrat Nawab Muhammad Ali Khan<sup>ra</sup> was ready to remarry, Hazrat Maulvi Hakeem Noor-ud-Deen sahib<sup>ra</sup> suggested this match. Out of respect for the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>, neither of them found the courage to ask Huzoor<sup>as</sup> directly. When the request was made indirectly, initially Huzoor<sup>as</sup> was not in favour of it. Huzoor's view was that Hazrat Nawab Mubaraka Begum<sup>ra</sup> was too young. Later, after having earnestly prayed in this regard, Huzoor<sup>as</sup> agreed to the*

*proposal; stating that only that the Nikah should be performed that year and the send off ceremony should be held at a later date.*

*Hazrat Nawab Muhammad Ali Khan<sup>ra</sup> belonged to the Nawab family from the princely state of Malerkotla. He was one of the earlier companions of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> and a person of great spiritual status.*

*(The information below (in Italics) has been extracted from 'Hazrat Maulawi Hakeem Noor-ud-Deen'-pages 147-148)*

### **A Sad Dream:**

*Hazrat Amma Jaan<sup>ra</sup> had been ill for some time and she suggested to travel to Lahore with the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> for treatment. Huzoor<sup>as</sup> occupied himself with supplications seeking guidance in respect of this journey. Huzoor<sup>as</sup> also told his elder daughter, Hazrat Nawab Mubaraka Begum to pray as he was about to make an important decision. Next day she told Huzoor<sup>as</sup> that she had been praying sincerely and had dreamt that Maulvi Hakeem Noor-ud-Deen<sup>ra</sup> was seated in an upper room holding a book in his hand. He said to her: "This book contains revelations received by Hazrat Sahib<sup>as</sup> concerning me. I am Abu Bakar". The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> told her not to mention her dream to her mother. Huzoor<sup>as</sup> must have interpreted the dream to mean that his death was imminent and he did not wish to alarm Hazrat Amma Jaan<sup>ra</sup>. They made preparations for the journey and left for Lahore.*

### **The Demise of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>:**

*(The information below (in Italics) has been extracted from Mohsinat pg 55-56)*

*26<sup>th</sup> May 1908 was a very sad day in the history of the Jamaat. On this day the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> passed away in Lahore after a short illness. Members of the Jamaat were shattered with grief, more so because his death came after a very short illness. Many Muslims as well as non-Muslims expressed their sympathies and recognised Huzoor's great qualities and services to Islam. At such moments we can appreciate the state of mind of Hazrat Amma Jaan<sup>ra</sup>. However she was no ordinary lady. Her reaction can only be expected from a lady of exceptional spiritual status. During Huzoor's last moments Hazrat Amma Jaan<sup>ra</sup> remained in full control of her emotions and focused completely on prayers. She beseeched Allah: "O my beloved Allah,! he is leaving us, but please You never abandon us,"*

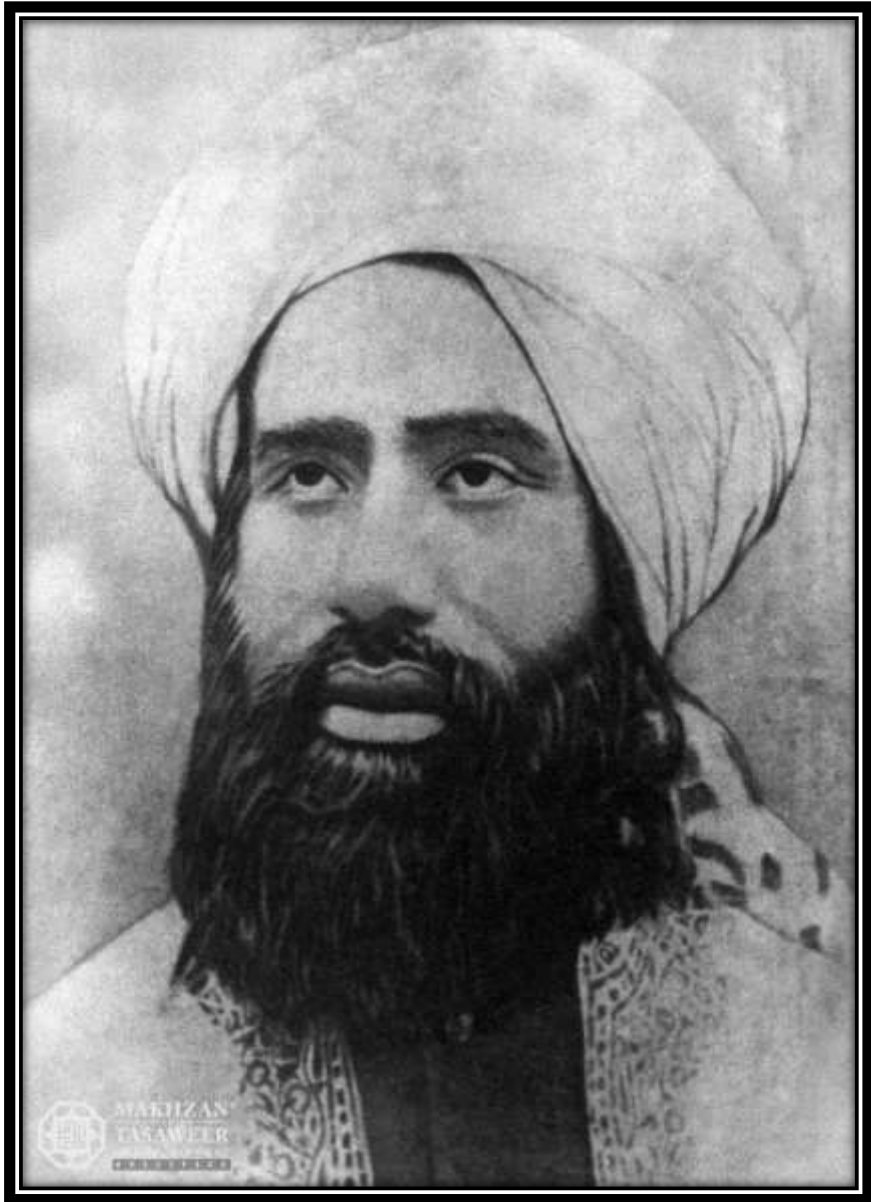
*When Huzoor<sup>as</sup> breathed his last, she did not express despair; nor did she engage in any kind of lamenting. She recited:*

إِنَّا لِلَّهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ

*"To Allah the Almighty we belong and to Him we shall return."*

*She showed displeasure when some other ladies started to cry... She gathered her children, consoled them and said:*

*"Children, never for a moment think that your father has left an empty house behind. He has in fact left a substantial treasure of prayers in Heaven for you; from which you will be served at appropriate times."*



**Hazrat Haji Hakeem Maulana Hakeem Noor-ud-Deen, Khalifatul Masih I<sup>ra</sup>**

# Chapter 2

## 1908 – 1914

- Hazrat Haji Hakeem Maulana Hakeem Noor-ud-Deen<sup>ra</sup>
- First Female Teacher
- First Ahmadi Travelled to England
- Historical Letter by Hazrat Amma Jaan<sup>ra</sup>
- Golden Accolade for Financial Sacrifice for Al-Fazl
- Financial sacrifice of Hazrat Amma Jaan<sup>ra</sup>

*The seed had been sown; the seedlings sprouted. Now they required watering and nurturing in order to flourish into full bloom or grow into strong trees. This task was duly undertaken by the Khulafa of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>.*

### **Hazrat Haji Hakeem Maulana Hakeem Noor-ud-Deen<sup>ra</sup>:**

*Hazrat Hakeem Maulvi Hakeem Noor-ud-Deen<sup>ra</sup> was born in a small town of Bhera in Punjab in 1841. He was the first successor of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>, thus the first Khalifa of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamaat. An eminent physician and a religious scholar of his time, he was also renowned for his*

*knowledge of Arabic and Hebrew. He had the honour to stay in Mecca and Medina for a couple of years enabling him to perform Hajj. On 23<sup>rd</sup> March 1889 when under Divine guidance, the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> initiated the Ba'ait, Hazrat Maulvi Hakeem Noor-ud-Deen<sup>ra</sup> had the privilege of becoming the first person to take the Ba'ait.*

*During the period of his Khilafat, (26<sup>th</sup> May 1908-14<sup>th</sup> March 1914) he carried out some extraordinary accomplishments. The first foreign mission was established in London and the Holy Quran was translated in English for the first time. Noor Hospital and Masjid Noor were inaugurated in Qadian. Various publications started during the blessed period of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih Awal<sup>ra</sup>. Some of them are:*

- ✓ *Al Fazal and Noor from Qadian*
- ✓ *Al Haque from Delhi*
- ✓ *Paigham-e-Sulha from Lahore*

*His exemplary dedication and services to the Jamaat will be a beacon for generations to come.*

The famous Persian couplet that appeared in Nishaan-i-Aasmani (p.47) epitomized the excellences of Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih I<sup>ra</sup>.

**“How fortunate would it be if everyone of the Community were Noor-ud-Din (light of guidance).**

**If every heart is full of truth, then the goal is achieved.”**



This is the testimony of his own master, at whose feet he spent sixteen years (1892-1908).

(Hakeem Noor-ud-Deen-The Way of the Righteous-p194)

### **The Khilafat of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih I<sup>ra</sup>:**

*After the sad demise of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> the Jamaat was to witness the second manifestation of God's Power by way of Khilafat. The most devoted follower of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>, a scholastic commentator of the Holy Quran and Hadith, Hazrat Maulvi Hakeem Noor-ud-Deen<sup>ra</sup> was unanimously elected as Khalifatul Masih I. His unparalleled services in the cause of Islam set a solid foundation for the Ahmadiyya Khilafat.*

### **A Significant Dream:**

Hazrat Nawab Mubarka Begum sahiba<sup>ra</sup> relates: "On the third night after the demise of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>, I dreamt that Huzoor<sup>as</sup> was standing on a raised platform in the courtyard. The platform was shaking while Huzoor<sup>as</sup> said the following words in a majestic voice: 'Tell my Jamaat to frequently recite the following dua:

رَبَّنَا لَا تُزِغْ 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".

When I woke up, I related this dream to the girl who was standing next to my bed. She had probably come to wake me up for prayers. ... I then got up and related my dream to Hazrat

Khalifatul Masih I<sup>ra</sup>. He responded that he will pay emphasis on this prayer himself and he will also mention it in his Dars.”

(Seerat-o-Sawaneh Hazrat Syeda Nawab Mubarak Begum-p63)

*When Hazrat Maulvi Hakeem Noor-ud-Deen<sup>ra</sup> was elected the first Khalifa after the demise of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>, Hazrat Amma Jaan<sup>ra</sup> was among the first to accept him. From thereon, she held immense respect for him as Khalifatul Masih.*

*An interesting incident exhibiting her respect for him is narrated below:*

‘Once Hazrat Amma Jaan<sup>ra</sup> sent a message to Hazrat Khalifatul Masih I<sup>ra</sup> that she would like to personally do some service for him to seek the pleasure of Allah. Hazrat Khalifatul Masih I<sup>ra</sup> sent her an old quilt that belonged to one of his students to mend. She undertook the task of mending it personally and returned it in a good condition.’

(Mohsinat-p248)

### **Hazrat Sayyeda Sughra Begum<sup>ra</sup> :**

*The wife of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih I<sup>ra</sup> became known as Hazrat Amma Jee<sup>ra</sup> in the Jamaat. Having had the affection of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> and Hazrat Amma Jaan<sup>ra</sup>, she was now the wife of a Khalifa, and her responsibilities increased. Hospitality was what she was renowned for. Her hospitality knew no bounds. It would be fair to say that her house was a permanent Guest House during the lifetime of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih I<sup>ra</sup> and also afterwards. Hazrat Amma Jee<sup>ra</sup> took exceptional care of orphans and children in need. She never made them feel inferior in any sense rather she gave*

*them self confidence in life. She also provided shelter to some deserving women in her own house.*

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## 1909

### **The First Ahmadi Female Teacher Moves to Qadian:**

*(The information below (in Italics) has been extracted from 'Hazrat Sakinat-un-Nisa sahiba' published by Lajna Ima'illah Canada pages 2-13.)*

*Hazrat Sakinat-un-Nisa sahiba<sup>ra</sup> lived in Goleki. Although she frequently travelled to Qadian, she yearned to move to Qadian and would cry in her prayers that Allah would fulfil her desire. Her dream was fulfilled when she settled in Qadian after Jalsa Salana 1908. She took this step against her mother's wishes but felt that she was giving precedence to her religious affairs by doing so. She lived in Hazrat Khalifatul Masih í's house, where her husband had already been living. Hazrat Sakinat-un-Nisa sahiba's handwriting was so beautiful that once Hazrat Khalifatul Masih I<sup>ra</sup> remarked: "I have travelled all over India, but I have not come across any woman whose handwriting is as beautiful as hers."*

*Hazrat Sakinat-un-Nisa sahiba<sup>ra</sup> related that when she met Hazrat Khalifatul Masih I<sup>ra</sup> for the first time, Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> said: "My wife says that someone else writes your articles for you.*

*Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> then asked her to write something in his presence. She wrote one line and Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> turned to Hazrat Amma Jee<sup>ra</sup> and said: "Well, now you can't tell me that it is not possible for a woman to have such beautiful handwriting!"*

*She had the privilege of learning the Holy Quran from Hazrat Khalifatul Masih I<sup>ra</sup> together with Hazrat Sayyeda Nawab Mubaraka Begum sahiba<sup>ra</sup> (The daughter of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>.) They formed a strong bond from thereon. She later became a teacher in the Madrassa for girls.*

*\*\*\**

*Since the beginning of Islam, education for women and men has always been obligatory. One of the reasons the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> made alliances through marriages was to educate the tribes associated with his wives. With the advent of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> women were encouraged to increase their knowledge for their own benefit and for those they would nurture in their laps.*

*Hazrat Khalifatul Masih I<sup>ra</sup> had always been keen to promote religious knowledge, and especially Quranic teachings among women too. During the time of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>, the small group of women was trained under the moral guidance of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> and his life companion Hazrat Amma Jaan<sup>ra</sup>.*

*In the time of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih I<sup>ra</sup>, these classes continued with Dars of Quran and Ahadith. This proved to be the foundation for the future achievements for Ahmadi women. The weekly Al-Hakam and Al-Badr mention women's awakening in that period. According to 'A Brief History of*

*Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamaat', a magazine for Ahmadi women titled "Ahmadi Khatoon" was also initiated in 1912.*

### **Madrassa for Girls:**

*To put into perspective, this was the era when Europe itself was just waking up to the idea of women acquiring knowledge.*

Although the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> started a religious school for girls in Qadian it had not taken a formal structure. In 1909 during the Khilafat of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih I<sup>ra</sup>, regular classes started to take place.

The resources were made available but during this time in India interest in education for women was not prevalent. The records of the early days show the total attendance of girls in the small town of Qadian numbering just 35. In classes 3 and 4, only 5 girls were registered in total. The rest of the students were in the first three classes. There were only two teachers. There was no official building for the school. However, Hazrat Amma Jaan<sup>ra</sup> had donated one of her own properties for this purpose.

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p22)

### **An Interesting Wedding:**

*(The information below has been extracted from 'Hazrat Amman Jaan<sup>ra</sup> - An Inspiration for Us All' page 107)*

*On 14<sup>th</sup> March 1909 an unusual wedding took place. Hazrat Amma Jaan<sup>ra</sup> walked her daughter Hazrat Nawab Mubaraka Begum<sup>ra</sup> over to the house of Hazrat Nawab Muhammad Ali*

*Khan<sup>ra</sup> in Qadian. She emotionally placed her beloved daughter's hand into his care to start her new life as his wife and returned home. This was an exemplary wedding in compliance with the Islamic principles with no elaborate rituals or unnecessary expenses. The Nikah had already been performed during the lifetime of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>.*

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## 1911

### An Esteemed Teacher:

Chaudhry Fateh Muhammad Siyal Sahib has related that his wife Hajira Begum was blessed with a good knowledge and insight of the translation and meaning of the Holy Qur'an. Thus she was requested to teach it to Hadrat Amatul Hafiz Begum<sup>ra</sup> and Sayyedah Amatul Salam Sahibah<sup>ra</sup> (daughter of Hadrat Mirza Bashir Ahmad<sup>ra</sup>). Upon completion of the Holy Qur'an by the two girls, the couple were amazed when Hadrat Amman Jan<sup>ra</sup> bestowed a gold necklace upon Hajira Begum as a "thank you" gift. They had never previously taken any payment for their help, yet they accepted the distinguished gift (Siyal Sahib estimated that it would be worth a minimum 300 rupees). They considered it invaluable as a special sign, a means of receiving blessings and a reward from Allah Almighty. This incident illustrates the extent to which the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> and Hadrat Amman Jan<sup>ra</sup> valued and respected teachers. Indeed they recognized that there can be

no greater gift that a person can bestow than the knowledge and understanding of Allah Almighty's book, - the Holy Qur'an.

(Hazrat Amma Jaan - An Inspiration for Us All-p123)

### **First Completion of the Holy Quran by Sayyeda Amatul**

#### **Hafeez Begum sahiba:**

*When Hazrat Sayyeda Amatul Hafiz Begum sahiba<sup>ra</sup> finished her first reading of the Holy Quran in June 1911, a celebration was held to mark the occasion. The newspaper 'Al-Badr' published a prominent note as follows:*

#### **Ameen (First Completion of the Holy Quran):**

“The daughter of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> Amatul Hafeez Begum has completed her first reading of the Holy Quran. On this auspicious occasion a party has been arranged for the Jamaat to show gratitude to Allah for this blessing. Hazrat Mir Nasir Nawab sahib and Sahibzada Mahmood Ahmad sahib have written poems in the style of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>. On this occasion it will be an immense pleasure to reap both spiritual and bodily benefits simultaneously. May Allah continue to bless the family of this Prophet with descendants who have the knowledge and understanding of the Holy Quran and may He enable them to deliver it's teachings. May they also become guides and leaders of the world Ameen.”

(Hayate-Noor-p511)

\*\*\*

# 1912

*The Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> had prophesised that the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> would bring faith back from the Pleiades. However, establishing this faith was not limited to the lifetime of the Promised Messiah. Ahmadis have witnessed that the religious progress of this Divine Jamaat and spreading the message of Islam has continued after demise of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> through the institution of Khilafat.*

## **A Historical Letter Written by Hazrat Amma Jaan<sup>ra</sup>:**

*The short letter below encapsulates the pure intentions that resided in the heart of Hazrat Amma Jaan<sup>ra</sup>. It primarily highlights the obedience to Khilafat, and how a mother subtly empowers her illustrious son to the pious expectations in a higher Divine belief and aspiration. The letter sheds a light as to what an Ahmadi woman should aim for in expounding to her progeny. The responsibility of every mother is to teach her progeny to prioritise faith over the pleasures of the world and this should be our only aim; thus dispelling any fears related to worldly perils.*

Hazrat Qazi Muhammad Zuhur-ud-Deen Akmal<sup>ra</sup> published the copy of a letter written by Hazrat Amma Jaan<sup>ra</sup> to Hazrat Mirza Bashir-ud-Din Mahmud Ahmad. It was written when he was planning to visit Egypt and also perform Hajj. (Although the letter was written in 1912 prior to him becoming Khalifa, however it was published in the newspaper in 1917)



*The translation of the letter is as follows:*

Assalamo Alaikum wa Rahmatullah,

I have received your letter which informs me of the situation. Maulvi sahib (Referring to Hazrat Khalifatul Masih I<sup>ra</sup>) has advised that you should go for Hajj first. My answer to this is that I have already dedicated you to God for the service of faith, I therefore possess no claim on you. Those who travelled for pleasure rather than to serve the faith could possibly be in danger; whereas you are not in danger. God, the Merciful will take care of His servants Himself. I have assigned you to God... Rest is all well.

Mother of Mahmud Ahmad. \*

4 October 1912

\*(Tradition used by ladies in the Indian subcontinent as a replacement for their given name)

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p47-48)

*It was during the first Khilafat that Mirza Bashir-ud-Din Mahmud Ahmad initiated the newspaper by the name of Al-Fazl.*

*Al-Fazl's inception is linked to two respected ladies and their invaluable sacrifices. They shall forever be remembered in the history of Ahmadiyyat and the history of Lajna with golden accolade.*

*Mirza Bashir-ud-Din Mahmud Ahmad<sup>ra</sup>, who later became Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup>, was a young man of 24 years at the time. He had an earnest desire to launch a journal, so the deceitful propaganda against Ahmadiyyat could be stopped.*

*Unfortunately, the Jamaat's funds at that time were very limited. However, Allah Himself took the initiation forward. Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> emotionally mentions the two special women who assisted him to fulfil his dream of publishing Al-Fazl, his first wife Hazrat Umme Nasir sahiba and his mother Hazrat Amma Jan<sup>ra</sup>.*

### **Golden Accolade for Financial Sacrifice for Al-Fazl:**

“Allah filled my wife’s heart with passion just the way Hazrat Khadija’s heart was filled with passion to help the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup>. She was aware that investing in the newspaper at that time was tantamount to throwing money down the drain. Whilst also being aware that the person initiating this newspaper was no other than Mahmud, who was perhaps seen as the most degraded on the face of the earth. Nonetheless, she gave me two pieces of her jewellery to sell and fund the newspaper. One of them was her own gold bangles and the second set of bangles was from her childhood, which she had kept to pass on to our daughter Nasira Begum.\*. I immediately went to Lahore and sold the jewellery for 475 Rupees. This was the initial investment for Al-Fazl, which will forever remain a memory of my destitution and my wife’s willing sacrifice. Personally for me, each issue of Al-Fazl depicts a range of emotions. I am repeatedly reminded of the period when the Jamaat required a newspaper. I am also reminded of my wife’s sacrifice, which was neither the result

of any special treatment rendered to her before or afterwards... Her enormous sacrifice is engraved on my heart... Her elegant behaviour not only provided me the practical strength to serve my religion, but also gave me a new motive in life. In fact, it has created a huge source of life for the Jamaat too. It has been well said that 'a woman is a silent helper'. Her example is of a rose from which perfume is made. People only remember where they bought the perfume from, but they do not ponder over the life of the rose that died to give them that pleasure (perfume). I wonder still, what I would have done if Allah had not arranged this specific help for me. Which other door would have opened for me to eliminate the ever-growing dissention that was growing within the Jamaat."

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p18-19)

*\*Allah says: "Those who spend their wealth in the cause of Allah are like grains of corn which produce seven ears, each bearing a hundred grains." (Quran, 2:261). A living illustration of the reward and positive effects in the long-term for the whole Jamaat, as a result of spending what is most dear to us in the cause of Allah, is our present Khalifa. Hazrat Umme Nasir<sup>ra</sup> was the maternal grandmother of our beloved Khalifatul Masih V<sup>aba</sup> and Hazrat Nasira Begum sahiba was his mother. Their sacrifice was rewarded in the gift of the robe of Khilafat in their progeny.*

*Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> further writes how Hazrat Amma Jaan<sup>ra</sup>, was also instrumental in helping him to fulfil the*

*mission of propagating the true teaching of Islam to a wider readership through Al-Fazl.*

Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> states with deep affection:

“The second campaign was instilled into the heart of Hazrat Ummul-Momineen (Mother of the Believers) by Allah. She sold a piece of land worth approximately one thousand Rupees and donated it towards Al-Fazl. Mothers are indeed one of the countless blessings bestowed on this world, but my mother has been especially endowed with the characteristic of graciousness, and I on the other hand am forever indebted to her. Other children grow up and support their mothers, but either I do not have the ability to support her or have been deprived of a grateful heart to pay homage to her as she deserves. In any case, she is still the gracious one and I am full of regret and reproach. Even now she takes on my burdens and I am in many ways an encumbrance for her. In this world people support their parents financially or physically; I am able to do neither. I do not have the finances to support them or maybe am not gracious enough to offer true sacrifice. I have a body but what kind of body it is! From dawn to dusk I am occupied in never ending duties which continue even after nightfall. I am obliged to carry this burden. When I ponder over this situation, I cry tears of regret and reproach thinking 'Oh Allah! Was there ever an incompetent person the like of me who has never shown graciousness to anyone but is indebted to everyone around him for showing him benevolence. Was I only born to be indebted with favours from others'.”

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p19-20)

The first edition of Al-Fazl was published on 19<sup>th</sup> June 1913. Whilst explaining the aims and objectives of Al-Fazl, Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> specifically mentioned in the order of the contents that two columns within it will be “Exclusively for Women”

(Tareekh Lajna Ima’illah Vol 1-p20)

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## 1913

### **First Ahmadi Missionary onto British Soil:**

*(The information below is from Alfazl Online, 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2020)*

*The first Ahmadi missionary Hazrat Chaudry Fateh Muhammad Sial sahib<sup>ra</sup>, started his blessed journey on 25th July 1913. He stepped onto the British soil to illuminate the earth with heavenly stars. It was at this stage that preaching began in earnest in the UK, and an organised structure was established. He had been sent specifically by Hazrat Khalifatul Masih I<sup>ra</sup> to assist Khwaja Kamaludin sahib in what was then the Woking Mission. Hazrat Sial sahib was a man of high resolve, integrity, and intelligence and was blessed with many converts. The first person to embrace Islam Ahmadiyyat at the hands of Hazrat Sial sahib was a journalist by the name of Mr Bashir Corio.*

### **Regular Classes for Women:**

*The importance of educating women was deeply infused in the heart of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih I<sup>ra</sup>. Thus, Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> undertook this task diligently in his lifetime. This took the form of regular classes on the commentary of the Holy Quran and Ahadith. At times, Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> would take specific subjects pertinent to women's issues and expound on them.*

### **The Sad Demise of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih I<sup>ra</sup>:**

*Hazrat Khalifatul Masih I<sup>ra</sup> fell seriously ill in January 1914 and his health deteriorated from then on. On Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March 1914, Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> passed away peacefully at the age of 74 years.*

إِنَّا لِلَّهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ

"To Allah the Almighty we belong and to Him we shall return."

*The Jamaat lost their spiritual father and the world a great sufi and scholar of Islam. Although members of the Jamaat felt instant fear of been left vulnerable, Allah guided them to elect their second khalifa. It is our belief that a khalifa is appointed by Allah through His Divine guidance. Sometimes He guides certain people through dreams and visions about His choice. One of these fortunate people was Hazrat Sakinatun Nisa sahiba<sup>ra</sup>. Hazrat Khalifatul Masih IV<sup>th</sup> mentioned her during his Jalsa Salana speech in 1993.*

'The wife of Hazrat Qazi Zahurud Deen Akmal sahib<sup>ra</sup> was a venerable woman who prayed a lot. A few days before the death of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih I<sup>ra</sup>, she had seen a dream. In the dream, Maulvi Sahib had passed away and Hazrat Mirza

Mahmood Ahmad<sup>ra</sup> came riding on a horse. There was a sound: 'This is the Khalifa that has been chosen!' And so, she took Bai'at with full confidence at the hands of Hazrat Mirzā Mahmood Ahmad<sup>ra</sup>.

(Hazrat Sakinatun Nisa-p16)

*A Khalifa has a fatherly influence over his Jamaat. This gift is unique to the Khilafat of the Promised Messiahas as it was unique to the Khilafat-e-Rashida. Such benevolence is hard to define in writing. One has to experience the pleasure of such tender care and compassion. Fortunately this affectionate compassion from the Khalifa is a daily experience for members of our Jammat. Naturally, when the Khalifa departs from this world, he leaves behind a Jamaat enveloped in sorrow, yet forever indebted in profound gratitude.*

**Expression of Gratitude from the Women Empowered by their Khalifa:**

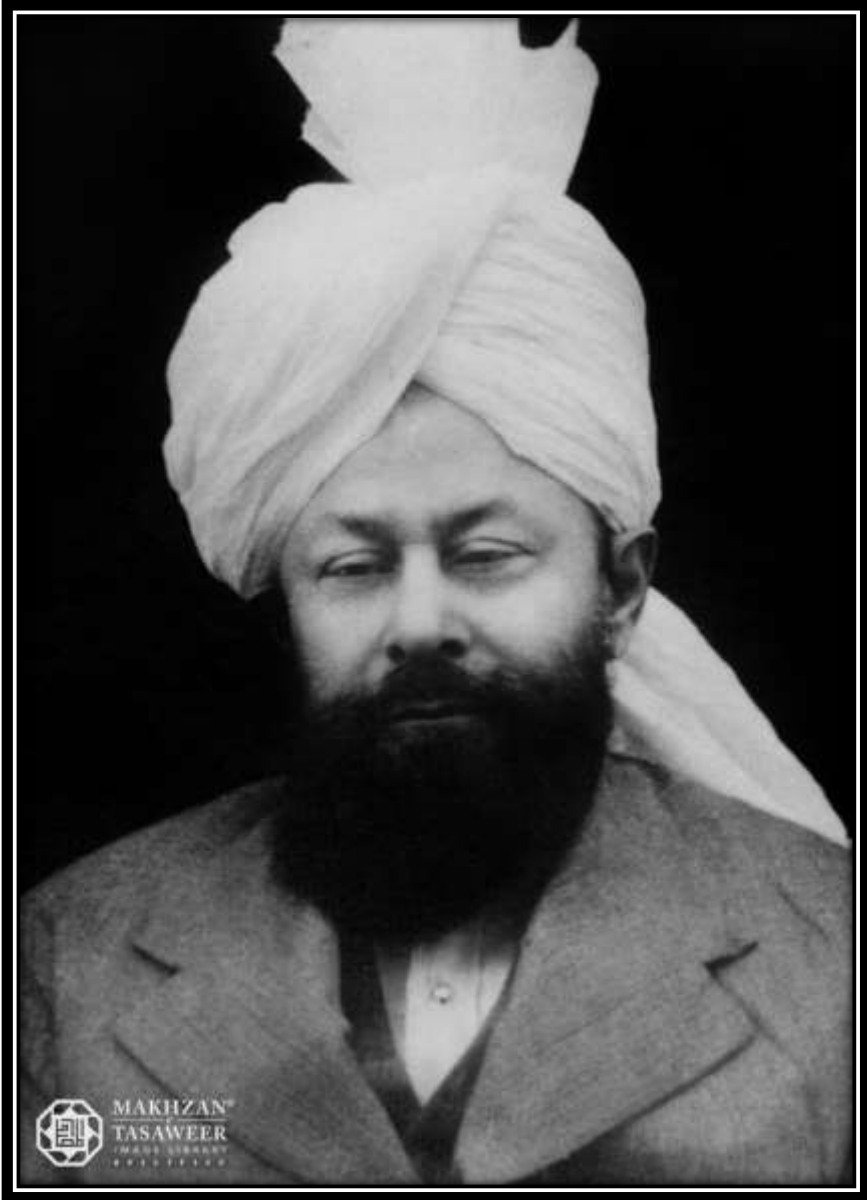
At the demise of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih I<sup>ra</sup>, Hazrat Sakinatul-Nisa wrote emotively expressing their grief at the loss a blessed teacher and their guardian.

“The demise of a revered teacher and mentor Hazrat Noor-ud-Deen came as a shock to us women. A person of Huzoor’s stature, a protector, a unique scholar who had a pious temperament and caring nature is beyond comparison and rarely born to this world. The feelings of tenderness and sympathy Huzoor held in his heart for us, as a necessitous and delicate gender is indeed unique. I have observed first-hand how he restored many broken homes and united many despondent wives who had been deprived of the love and

kindness of their husbands. Additionally, this heavenly enlightened scholar instilled a deep interest in religion in women for them to follow the commandments of the Holy Quran and to stimulate an appetite for the Word of Allah. Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> initiated the Dars for women from Bukhari.

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p25-26)





**Hazrat Mirza Bashir-ud-Din Mahmud Ahmad,  
Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup>**

# **Chapter 3**

## **1914– 1921**

- Beginning of the Second Khilafat
- Continuation of Quran Classes
- Obliterating Illiteracy
- The Second Marriage of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup>
- First Jalsa Salana for Ladies
- Gift of Education for Girls
- The First Financial Appeal for Women
- UK Missionary Returns to Qadian
- Sacrifice - A Means to Success
- Queen Responds to our Missionary in the UK
- Tabligh in the UK

### **Hazrat Mirza Bashir-ud-Din Mahmud Ahmad<sup>ra</sup>**

In January 1886, the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> went to Hoshiarpur (India), where he spent 40 days (Chilla) in intense devotional prayers in the seclusion of a house. Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> was given a grand prophecy during this time that in the next 9 years, Allah

will bless him with an illustrious son with extraordinary qualities, who would bring magnificent progress to Islam.

Hazrat Mirza Bashir-ud-Din Mahmood Ahmad was born on 12th January 1889 in fulfilment of the prophecy. According to the above prophecy he was also given the title of Musleh Maud which translates as the Promised Reformer. His abilities as foretold by Allah were astonishing. At the age of only 19 at the demise of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> in 1908, he stood by his bed and made a pledge that: **“Even if all the people leave you and I am left alone I would stand by you and would face all opposition to and onslaughts on your Mission.”**

[\(https://www.alislam.org/articles/hazrat-mirza-bashiruddin-mahmud-ahmad/\)](https://www.alislam.org/articles/hazrat-mirza-bashiruddin-mahmud-ahmad/)

*Indeed, later as Khalifatul Masih, Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> also fulfilled his covenant till the end of his life and worked towards the progress of Islam in adverse circumstances. At the young age of 25 he was given the responsibility as the second Khalifa of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>. During his Khilafat it became quite apparent that the prophecies about the Promised Reformer were fulfilled in his person. In 1944, Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> declared that he was indeed the Promised Reformer. Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> established the entire organisational structure of the Jamaat as it is known at present. After having led the Jamaat for over 52 years, Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> passed away on 8<sup>th</sup> November 1965. May Allah elevate his status in Jannah. Ameen*

*Let us now take a look at the extensive period of his Khilafat in relation to women.*

*Before 1918 women in Europe did not have the right to vote. Their constitutional rights differed from men. Ordinary women in the UK took remarkable actions to make their views heard. They even went to the extent of picketing, organising vigils, hunger strikes, smashing windows and committing arson to fight for women's rights and to achieve parity with men. The Suffragettes movement vowed to make a change for women through deeds not words. Yet on the other side of the world, in South Asia, women were in a semi state of slumber as regards to their needs. The fortunate ones were awoken by a Divine voice of a Khalifa asking them to rise.*

**Continuation of Quran Classes:**

*Hazrat Khalifatul Masih I<sup>ra</sup> sadly passed away on the on 13th March 1914. On 14th March Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> was elected as the second Khalifa of the blessed Jamaat. On the first day of his Khilafat, 360 women pledged their initiation to him. Amongst them were Hazrat Amma Jaanra and Hazrat Amma Jee<sup>ra</sup> (the wife of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih I<sup>ra</sup>).*

*As previously mentioned Hazrat Khalifatul Masih I<sup>ra</sup> had left instructions in his will that the task of delivering Dars to ladies should continue by his successors. His daughter, Hazrat Syeda Amatul Hayee sahiba conveyed these wishes as follows:*

“In the name of Allah, the Gracious the Merciful  
Most Respected Leader of the Faithful,  
Assalamo Alaikum wa Ramatullah wa Barakatuhu  
I humbly state that two days before my father's  
demise, he told me that he wished to advise me

on some matters. I promised to him that God willing, I would do my utmost to act upon them. Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> said: "Try your very best to learn the Quran and also to convey it to others. If after me the next Khalifa is Mian Sahib\*, then please pass on my message to him that the Dars for women should continue." Thus, I convey this dialogue to you and hope that you will accept the request.

It is my wish as well as the wish of several other women and girls that Mian Sahib should continue with the Dars. I most humbly request that you kindly start the Dars from tomorrow morning.

I would assuredly remain most grateful to you.

Amatul Hayee daughter of the late Noor-ud-Din"

(Hazrat Khalifatul Masih I<sup>ra</sup>)

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p25)

\*(Referring to Mirza Bashir-ud-Din Mahmood Ahmad<sup>ra</sup>, Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup>)

The first step taken by Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> for the education of women according to the will of Hazrat Maulana Noor-ud-Deen Khalifatul Masih I<sup>ra</sup> was to start Dars of the Holy Quran (for women). Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> commenced with the Dars of Surah Al-Ma'idah from the point where Hazrat Khalifatul Masih I<sup>ra</sup> had left it. ... Approximately 100 women attended this class. ...

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p27)

*Education for women and its advancement has always been a significant priority for the Jamaat. Empowering women with knowledge equips them to confidently navigate life's challenges, such as the tragic loss of their husband or father, enabling them to stand independently on their own two feet. Further, an educated mother gives rise to an educated progeny, elevating societal standards and fostering a generation of knowledge seekers. Such perceptive thinking by our Khulafa has resulted in the fruits we witness today in the Jamaat, whereby women have in general surpassed the male members in the Jamaat in higher education.*

**Obliterating Illiteracy:**

On 12<sup>th</sup> April 1914, representatives from Punjab, (India) gathered in Qadian. Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> emphasised to them that there should not remain a single illiterate person, male or female. ...

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p28)

**The Marriage of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> with Hazrat Sayyeda Amatul Hayee sahiba:**

The second Nikah of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> with Hazrat Syeda Amatul Hayee<sup>ra</sup> was performed on 31<sup>st</sup> May 1914. She was instrumental in establishing Lajna Ima'illah. Her passionate work towards the welfare of women was remarkable.

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p30)

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### **First Jalsa Salana for Ladies:**

*Jalsa Salana is the formal Annual Convention of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamaat, initiated by the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>. Whilst expounding on the fundamental purpose of establishing this Jalsa, Huzoor<sup>as</sup> had said that it should be a means for the Jamaat to always increase their knowledge in order to recognise Allah the Almighty - women are no exception.*

*A note published in Al-Fazl dated 15<sup>th</sup> December 1914 reads as follows:*

“Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> has made arrangements to deliver speeches to women. It is hoped that the Jamaat ladies will endeavour to benefit from this opportunity.”

This year the Jalsa was held for 4 days, from 26<sup>th</sup> December to 29<sup>th</sup> December. However, the speeches for ladies were arranged on three days only. The ladies’ attendance at the Jalsa was 400. ...

No formal arrangements for hospitality were in place and Hazrat Amma Jaan<sup>ra</sup> took care of all the guests. Accommodation and meals were organised at her house. Under her supervision, members of her family and other ladies looked after the guests.

(Tareekh Lajna Ima’illah Vol 1-p31)

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# 1915

*There are diverging opinions within Muslims about women offering Salat in mosques. It is not mandatory for women to offer Salat in the mosque. However, it is noted that women used to offer the daily Salat with the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup>. Mosques in Qadian also had the facility for women to offer Salat in a separate area.*

## **Blessings of Ramadhan:**

(This year) Arrangements were made for women to attend the Traveeh prayers in Masjid Aqsa during the month of Ramadhan.

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p35)

## **Dars-ul-Quran Continues:**

*As mentioned earlier, the Dars of the Holy Quran for the ladies had started during the Khilafat of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih I<sup>ra</sup>.*

There was a short break in this due to the ill health of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup>. When Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> was able to resume the Dars, it was delivered every other day.

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p35)

*Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> had a deep desire to further women's education. In the following, Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> lay the responsibility on men to contribute to this worthy cause.*



**Extract from the Speech of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> on  
Women's Education:**

“The way you (men) feel that education is vital for you, you should also educate the women in the same spirit. This would result in your home not to turn in to one where only you know the Quran, whereas others remain ignorant. Your women should also fully understand the commandments about God, Angels, God's Decree etc. Allah has declared women to be part of men. Thus, where any commandment applies to men, it equally applies to women. Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> stated in his speech that despite his hectic schedule, he makes time to educate the women of his own household.

He further stated: “We have seen the bitter experience of those people in our Jamaat who did not care to teach their women any religious knowledge. Once they pass away, their widows and their progeny abandon Ahmadiyyat. The reason for this is only that (their men) did not teach them anything. The women had remained Ahmadi only because of their husbands; once their husbands passed away, the wives turned away from Ahmadiyyat”.

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p36-37)

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*This year four ladies were among those fortunate ones who entered the fold of Islam Ahmadiyyat in London.*

*(The information below is from Al-Fazl dated 12<sup>th</sup> August 1915.)*

Mrs Hassan Rohash along with her husband entered Ahmadiyyat in July. Mrs Violet Mary Croxford (Salma) having heard many lectures and reading many books was convinced of the truth of Islam Ahmadiyyat. She joined in late 1915. Along with them were Mr Steward, Mrs Hameedah Steward and Mrs S. Bashir Corio.

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## **1916**

*It was a privilege to see the Khalifa of the time expressing an interest in every field of advancement for women.*

### **Gift of Education for Girls:**

Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> in his speech of 12<sup>th</sup> April 1914 had expressed his desire for establishing primary schools. He was keen to provide both secular and religious education to the Jamaat and also the gift of education to the next generation. Under this scheme, during the last year, 12 primary schools were established in various areas of Punjab. During this year (1916), the number of school reached 30 including 3 schools for girls.

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p37)

*With this kind of encouragement, the men also started to support women to achieve higher goals.*

### **Al-Fazl's First Supplementary for Women:**

The editorial board of Al-Fazl decided to add some supplementary pages on a monthly basis to aid the education and moral training of women. This first supplement for women was published on 16<sup>th</sup> December 1916 and consisted of 20 pages.

Ladies were encouraged to participate in submitting articles. An award was set at a value of 5 Rupees. The elected topic was "Hospitality" to be tackled with four of the following subheadings.

1. The importance of hospitality and its effect on society.
2. The essential qualities required to respect a guest.
3. What matters should the host consider to provide comfort to their guests?
4. Are there any negative aspects to hospitality; if so, what are they?

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p38-39)

### **The First Financial Appeal Aimed at Women:**

Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> personally wrote an article in this supplement. While enjoining women to make financial

sacrifice, Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> announced the first financial appeal for women. Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> stated:

“Allah has inspired my heart with a plan which I present before you. Do act upon it. In this way, two major objectives will be achieved simultaneously. You will be fulfilling your promise and (at the same time) the misuse of your gender’s name will be cleared.

At the moment, the men are donating 8,000-10,000 Rupees per month, which meets the various religious requirements. The men are outstretched to their limits and therefore they cannot afford any further donations at present. The expenses required for preaching in England are forever increasing. Currently the expenses are estimated at 500 Rupees per month. There is only one person who is serving there, yet there is a desperate need for two people. ... So women should endure this 500 Rupees bill which will be approximately 1/16 of men’s donations. This way they can fulfil their promise that they will give precedence to faith over worldly matters.”

(Tareekh Lajna Ima’illah Vol 1-p39)

*Generally, the followers of all prophets are initially those whom the world considers as poor in worldly standing. However, as a result of the sacrifices from these humble, simple, poor but devoted Godly souls a spiritual nation arises.*

### **Sacrifice of the Daily Bread:**

Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> initiated a campaign for the ladies living in rural areas to start an “Atta Fund” (Flour Fund). He instructed that everyday ladies should take out one handful of flour and place it in a separate container. They can then sell whatever is collected during the week and send the money to Qadian. They can contribute the money towards the ladies’ Preaching Fund (for England). In this way, a lot of money can easily be collected from every village.

(Tareekh Lajna Ima’illah Vol 1-p40)

*The first responder to the call of a good deed heeds the resonating call of his pure heart, paving the way for subsequent responders. Like the first swallow that heralds the arrival of spring, others gradually join in and follow suit.*

### **Announcement of Women’s Contribution - The First Swallow:**

Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> mentioned that the first person to contribute in the campaign (*England Tabligh Fund*) was the wife of Chaudhry Fateh Muhammad Sial sahib, who was the granddaughter of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih I<sup>ra</sup>. She contributed a piece of her jewellery worth 22 Rupees.

(Tareekh Lajna Ima’illah Vol 1-p40)

### **The UK Missionary Returns to Qadian:**

*Hazrat Sial Sahib appeared to have won people's hearts through his noble character and good example. He was given an emotional farewell.*

Chaudrey Fateh Muhammad Sial sahib<sup>ra</sup> stayed in the UK from 1913–1916. He returned to Qadian after having diligently performed his duties as a missionary in England.

(Seerat Hazrat Ch Fateh Muhammad Sial Sahib Pg -29).

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## **1917**

*The propagation of the Divine message of Islam has always been at the forefront for Khulafae-Ahmadiyyat. Hazrat Khalifatul MasihII<sup>ra</sup> was keen to witness the fruit of the efforts of the missionaries in the UK. Alhamdulillah with his sincere prayers, Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> was receiving good news from the UK.*

Hazrat Qazi sahib<sup>ra</sup> bravely continued with his efforts of propagation of Islam during World War I despite difficulties (Al-Fazl, 4<sup>th</sup> December 1919). In April 1917, another companion of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>, Hazrat Mufti Muhammad Sadiq<sup>ra</sup> arrived in the UK, and served with Hazrat Qazi sahib<sup>ra</sup>. He served in London till 1920. With prayers and earnest hard work, he was also able to spread the message of Islam according to the needs of the time.

**List of ladies who accepted Ahmadiyyat in 1917:**

*In Al- Fazl dated 14<sup>th</sup> August, 29<sup>th</sup> September and 10<sup>th</sup> November 1917, reports of new converts were published. Amongst the lists were:*

Mrs George (Maryam)	Miss Cill (Maimoona)	Mrs E. City (Jameela)
Miss George (Masooma)	Mrs Nelly Ralph	Ms K. Reagan (Haseena)
Miss Milly (Mubarika)	Miss Dora Wilson (Saeeda)	Miss C. Wick (Fatima)
Mrs Doris (Ayesha)	Mrs Koreez	Mrs Berslin (Majeeda)
Mrs Netmouth (Barkat)	Mrs Mawsley	

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# 1918

*Some people believe that accumulating wealth is the key to happiness. Others find spending it in the way of Allah brings them contentment of the heart. Indeed, only actions for the sake of Allah can bring peace of mind that the world yearns for.*

## **Sacrifice - A Means to Success:**

Babu Amir Muhammad sahib writes to Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> from Egypt:

“I send my wife some of money for her personal needs every month. She donates towards chanda from it; probably by now she also subscribes to Al-Fazl. According to her latest letter, she intends to contribute for the Shimla Appeal, which will be in addition to her regular monthly donations. ... While she mentioned “the Shimla Appeal”, she commented that she hopes that I will (also) donate my full wages for this month towards it .She believes that our worldly affairs will somehow be managed, but it would be a very small sacrifice on our part, if we are able to please Allah only by donating one month’s income.”

(Tareekh Lajna Ima’illah Vol 1-p49)



### **Princess Responds to our Missionary in the UK:**

Princess Mary, the daughter of His Majesty the Emperor of India, King George V always took a keen interest in the public good. The public also showed her great respect and love. It was her birthday in April. On this occasion, Mufti Muhammad Sadiq sahib<sup>ra</sup> wrote her a letter on behalf of Jamaat-e-Ahmadiyya, congratulating her and presenting a brief introduction of the Jamaat. Along with the letter, he sent a book in proof of the truth of Jamaat-e-Ahmadiyya, for which he received a letter of acknowledgement.

(Al Hakam 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2018)

*The efforts of our missionaries to propagate Islam continued. In Al - Fazl dated 14<sup>th</sup> August, 29<sup>th</sup> September and 10<sup>th</sup> November 1917, reports of new converts were published. Amongst the lists were:*

<i>Al - Hakam 27<sup>th</sup> April 2018)</i>	<i>Al - Fazl 22<sup>nd</sup> June 1918</i>	<i>Al - Hakam 29<sup>th</sup> September 2018</i>	<i>Al - Fazl 1<sup>st</sup> October 1918</i>
Mrs. Edith Etheredge (Hikmat)	Miss Mary Morgan (Maryam)	Laila Farida  Miss Spitan (Hasina)	Miss Flori (Fatima)  Miss Anni (Naima)

*Islam, a religion built on revelation and intellect commands us that during a plague, we should not travel between places spreading the disease. We have recently in 2020 witnessed Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V<sup>aba</sup> instruct the Jamaat to offer daily Salat at home and to adhere to the Government guidelines to contain the spread of Covid-19 virus. The Jamaat was faced with a similar situation in 1918 as recorded in Lajna History.*

**Jalsa Salana Postponed:**

This year an epidemic of influenza spread across all of India. Therefore, Jalsa Salana did not take place in December. However, it took place on alternative dates in March 1919.

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p49)

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## **1919**

*Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> was very passionate about educating women to enable them to truly understand their spiritual and worldly responsibilities. It was indeed an arduous task. Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> performed it with care and attention to bring even the reluctant flowers to bloom. Huzoor's passion for the education and moral training of Ahmadi women knew no bounds.*

Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> continued delivering Dars to the ladies every other day until he was taken ill with Influenza. ... Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> made an announcement in his Friday sermon that he

considered the teaching of Quran an utmost religious duty. Despite not having fully recovered, he would restart delivering Dars to the ladies, albeit once a week. This continued till 1955 when Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> was seriously taken ill. ...

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p50-51)

### **Purchase of Land for London Mosque:**

*Chaudhry Fateh Muhammad Sial sahib<sup>ra</sup> returned to London in August 1919 and was set the task to purchase a piece of land for the London Mosque.*

After strenuous attempts, he purchased a piece of land together with a house, at 30,000 Rupees in the neighbourhood of Putney in London and Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> was notified.

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p54)

*It will be noted with interest that after the end of World War I in 1919, the British Pound had become dramatically devalued against the Indian Rupee.*

Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> commented: "The British Pound has been devalued at present. If the Jamaat is able to collect 30,000 Rupees, it will be exchanged to the value of 50,000 in England; thus the benefit will be an (extra) 20,000 Rupees.

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p52)

### **Tabligh in the UK:**

*In England, the servants of Ahmadiyyat continued with the propagation of Islam. The efforts of Hazrat Qazi Muhammad Abdullah sahib<sup>ra</sup> and Hazrat Mufti Muhammad Sadiq sahib<sup>ra</sup> were paying dividends, but with this continued success came*

*a heavier workload. With both missionaries occupied in the field of propagation and both suffering from ill health this year as mentioned in Al - Hakam, it left them little time to write or to reply to the hundreds of letters that the Mission House was receiving. However Allah blessed them with converts during this period.*

This year has been very fruitful. The following ladies were among the fortunate souls who joined the fold of Islam during the year.

Al - Fazl 29 <sup>th</sup> March 1919	Al - Fazl 13 <sup>th</sup> May 1919	Al - Fazl 21 <sup>st</sup> - 24 <sup>th</sup> June 1919	Al - Fazl 7 Oct 1919
Miss Burrows (Fazl)  Miss Williams (Maryam)  Miss Tasker (Saeeda)  Miss Nellie Taylor (Nur)	Miss Parker (Nur)	Miss Bobby South (Maryam)	Mrs Halima Best Khan  Miss Best Majeedah  Mrs Muhammad Fatima  Mrs Shah  Miss Azizah  Miss Inayat  Miss Berry
Al - Fazl 27 <sup>th</sup> November		Mrs Fatima Catherine	

## 1920

*As more fortunate souls were entering the fold of Islam Ahmadiyyat, now Tarbiyyat, Taleem, and indeed Tabligh activities were organised parallel and on par with the work carried out in Qadian and in the rest of India. The dedicated missionaries were striving hard to support members of their congregation without any formality and with sincere prayers. The new converts also encouraged these activities. It must have been a struggle against all the odds and resistance posed by the Christian society around them, but they continued to strive hard to keep themselves filled with the love of Allah and their commitment to Islam.*

Following is the list of ladies who accepted Islam during the year as per the Review of Religions July 1920.

The Review of Religions July 1920

Mrs Amina Thompson (Norwegian by birth)	Miss Anne Coy (Amatullah)	Mrs Amy Ahmed (Khadeejah)
Mrs Martha Deane (German by birth)	Miss Beatrice Roberts (Barkat)	Mrs Mary Jean Sheir (Fatimah)
Miss Yetta Feit (Converted with father from Judaism in Birmingham)	Miss Lena Blair (Amina)	Miss Lily Sellich (Aminah)
Mrs Maggie Roberts ,Majidah (a Scotch lady)	Mrs Jennie Nagi (Hameedah)	Miss Kathleen Pearson (Maryam)
Miss Frida Deane	Miss Edith Short (Fatimah)	Miss Edith Gertrude Bean Noor (Ayesha)
Miss Ivy W Gale (Saeedah)	Mrs Eliza Cripps (Saleemah)	Miss Bessie Gale (Zainab)
Miss Cognes Davies (Amina)	Mrs M Alice Morgan (Khadeejah)	Annie (Fatimah)
Mrs G Bottomly (Hameedah)	Mrs Hetty Thomas (Sairah)	Rebecca (Saeedah)
	Rachel (Mubaraka)	Mrs Martha Deane (Mahmudah)
	Mrs Isobel Wooley (Saliha)	

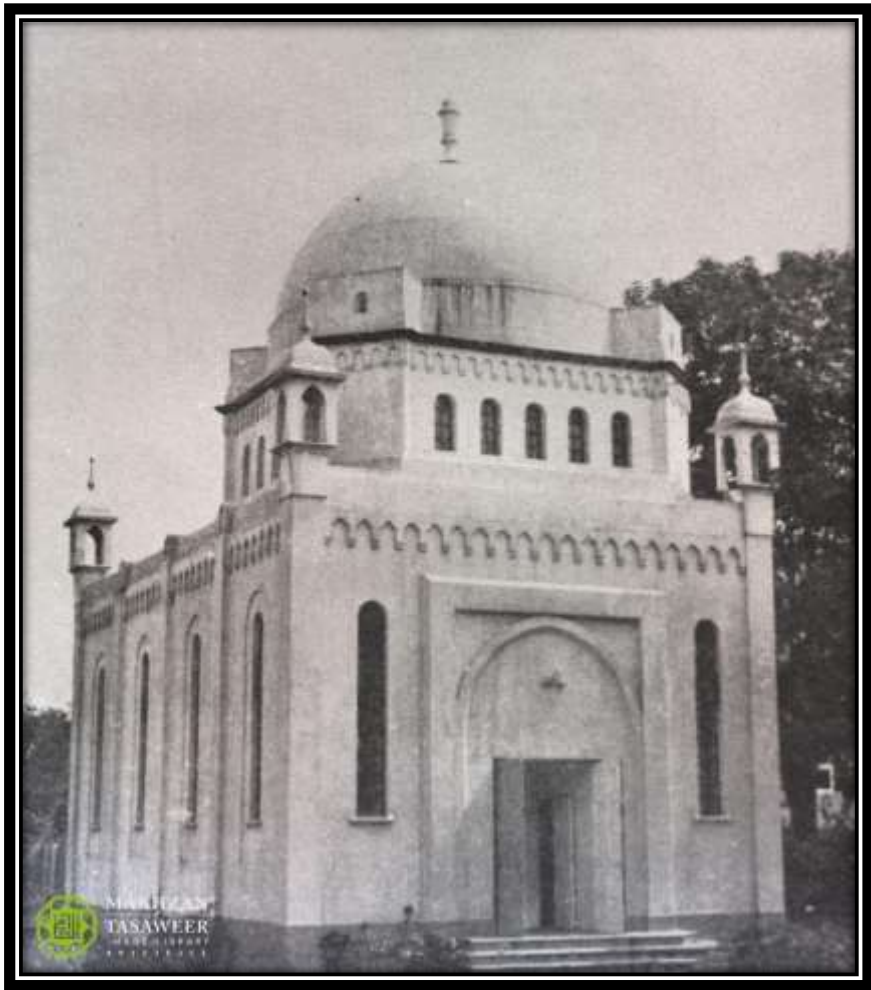
## **Fazl Mosque**

*A mosque is a sacred place within Islam. It is considered the House of Allah and is open to anyone to pray in it as long as they observe the etiquettes of the mosque and do not perform “Shirk”. The Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> has placed great importance on mosques. There is a beautiful Hadith stating that “Whoever builds a mosque for Allah, Allah, the Exalted shall build a house for such a person in Paradise.”*

*(<https://www.alislam.org/mosques/ahadith.html>)*

*In the light of this Hadith, we can judge how rewarding it is for every Muslim to attend the mosque as well as the reward for building a mosque.*

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**Fazi Mosque, London**





**Hazrat Musleh Maud<sup>ra</sup> standing outside of 61 Melrose road, London. Standing on the steps to the right is (Hazrat) Sahibzada Mirza Tahir Ahmad.**

### **London Mission House:**

The building at 63 Melrose Road, London which had been purchased for £2,225 (30,000 Rupees) was used as a Jamaat Mission House. From 29<sup>th</sup> September 1920, all Jamaat activities were transferred to this location. However, the property at 4 Star Street London, also served as a mission until January 1921.

(Al - Fazl 7th October 1919)

### **An Appeal to Build a Mosque in Europe:**

*From the numerous European locations available, it seems little wonder now, why Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> chose London for this privilege. To date more Khulafa of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> have led prayers in this little London Mosque than any other European mosque. O Allah! Bless those women, who gave handfuls of flour from their daily bread to those who gave whatever valuables they saw as treasure for Your sake alone; for none lived to see the grandeur of their deeds. Yet, we the Ahmadi sisters of this time, bear testimony to their pious acts and beg You to make their progeny further the cause of Islam, so the soul of their departed ancestors remain closer to You. Ameen.*

*Below is the sequence of events that unfolded in making London Mosque a reality. The story begins with the command of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> and the reaction of the Ahmadi ladies; specifically their dedication and devotion. A particular point from the narrations below demonstrates that these ladies may be poor in the worldly sense, but their hearts were drenched in faith and unparalleled devotion.*

1920 holds a special significance in both the History of Ahmadi women and Lajna Ima'illah. On 6<sup>th</sup> January after the Maghrib prayers, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> appealed to the Jamaat to build a mosque in England. He gave an estimate of 30,000 Rupees for its purchase. Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> made the same appeal to the women the following morning on 7<sup>th</sup> January.

Initially this initiative was not for women alone. Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> had instructed the participation of the entire Jammaat. The pages of Tareekh Lajna will unfold that later Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> instructed that the ladies should solely uphold this task. May thousands of merciful blessings be on Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> who provided Ahmadi ladies with such a magnificent opportunity to reap the Blessings of Allah.

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p51-52)

### **Huzoor's Address to the Ladies:**

“... It would be considered of immense value even to possess a small house and a mosque in London; and this would be so significant that it would remain till the end of time. ... The estimated cost is approximately 50-70,000 Rupees. ... The ladies should also participate in this (appeal). Each chanda has its own category. With some chanda collections men strive more while women may strive more with others. For example men contribute more for the publication of a book. If you suggest the need for a mosque, a well, or a guest house then women think ‘yes this is certainly a noble deed’. You will often notice that in cities there will be an abundance of wells

dedicated by women, compared to men. Therefore, I hope that women will specifically participate in this appeal.”

... By the Grace of Allah, upon hearing the speech of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup>, a large number of women participated immediately, and the donations reached almost the sum of 2500 Rupees. A few days after this sermon, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> personally penned an appeal for the mosque in London in Al - Fazl. Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> endearingly mentioned the effect of this appeal on women of Qadian in his article in the following words:

“The men, women and children could all be seen to have amalgamated and melted into a special intoxication of dedication. The women’s chanda alone exceeded £2000; and almost all of it was paid immediately. A number of women took off their jewellery (and donated it). Many after donating once, were so overwhelmed with emotions that they started donating on behalf of their children. They still could not suppress or contain their zeal and made further donations on behalf of their deceased relatives.

(Tareekh Lajna Ima’illah Vol 1-p52-53)

*Hazrat Amma Jaan<sup>ra</sup>, the wife of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> has always been among the top of the list of contributors towards any schemes initiated by the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> and his*

*Khulafa. An appeal to build a mosque in the West for propagation of Islam was no exception.*

**Contribution with Devotion:**

*This passion of spending in the way of Allah was by no means limited to a few affluent ladies in the Jamaat.*

Hazrat Hafiz Roshan Ali sahib<sup>ra</sup> went to the district of Syed Abdul Sattar Shah sahib<sup>ra</sup> to appeal for donations towards the London mosque. His wife donated 10-15 silver coins for this fund with a request to Hafiz sahib: "This is all I have, please keep this matter confidential." She had kept them for her daughter Sayyeda Maryam Begum sahiba (Hazrat Umme Tahir) hoping to give them to her on her wedding day.

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p54)

*Little did the lady know how Allah would bless her in this world as well as the Hereafter. Her grandson became Hazrat Khalifatul Masih IV<sup>rh</sup>. Further as a Khalifa he led the most Salat in this blessed mosque.*

**Fazl Mosque Named:**

At the time, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> was staying in Dalhousie (Summer resort in India). On 9<sup>th</sup> September, a gathering was held to celebrate Huzoor's presence there. The name for the mosque, "Fazl Mosque" was also suggested on this very occasion.

Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> composed the following eight verses which were read out.

**From the abode of idolaters was raised the  
Oneness of God.**

**You will see, you will see, the Sun shall rise from  
the West.**

**In the face of light, where now shall darkness  
reside.**

**Know this that the injustice of the chieftains will  
depart.**

A segment of another on the same topic, is presented below:

**That city, where the disbelievers centre**

**In which the faith of the first Messiah is  
displayed proud**

**In God's name we will unite them as one**

**We hereby declare, we will make a mosque for  
them.**

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p55)

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## **1921**

An important event that had an impact on Lajna Ima'illah this year was Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup>'s Nikah to Sayyeda Maryam Begum Sahiba, the daughter of Hazrat Dr Syed Abdul Sattar Shah Sahib<sup>ra</sup>. Both her parents were prominent Companions of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>. The Nikah was solemnised on 7 February 1921 by Syed Sarwar Shah Sahib (a Companion of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>). In his sermon he said,

“I am now advanced in years and would soon pass away, but those who live would witness the advent of servants of the faith born in this wedlock with a Sayeda as occurred before. This is my resolute conviction.”

And so, this Servant of the faith was born on 18th December 1928. He grew to be righteous and virtuous under the guidance of his illustrious father and devout mother and with divine blessings. He was elected as Khalifatul Masih IV<sup>th</sup> and left a poignant legacy of his Khilafat; a tribute to a well deserving mother. Syeda Maryam Begum Sahiba commonly known as Hazrat Umme Tahir remained at the forefront of Lajna Ima'illah activities till her last breath.

(Hazrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad- An introduction-Al Islam)

# **PART 2**

**This part includes the revolutionary changes to the administration of the women in the Jamaat by Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup>, which turned the fate of the Ahmadi women.**



# Chapter 1

## 1922 - 1930

### 1922

- **Initiation of Lajna Ima'illah**
- **The Fundamental Aims of Lajna Ima'illah**
- **First 14 Members**
- **Responsibilities of Lajna Ima'illah**

*A humble Jamaat already strained, is asked to bear further burden. However, when we witness the unparalleled devotion from this small Jamaat, both tears and laughter escape the eyes and the lips. We are reminded how financial contributions are always required from any Divine Jamaat. Collections were also made in the time of the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup>. Thus, Jamaat-Ahmadiyya is no exception as it continues in the footsteps of the early Muslims.*

#### **Special Chanda Appeal:**

1922 proved to be a difficult financial year for the Jamaat. The Department of Finance was in debt of a staggering 100,000 Rupees. Therefore, during the Majlis-e-Shura on 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> April, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> presented a motion of

‘Special Alms Campaign’ to the Jamaat to ease the financial strain on the Administrative Body of the Jamaat. Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> instructed that a large sum of money be collected within a two months period. ... Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> divided the amount, and gave the responsibility to the women of Qadian to collect 1000 Rupees. This scheme took foot by Hazrat Amma Jaan<sup>ra</sup> donating 100 Rupees. At the Majlis-e-Shura, the sub-committee recommended that the women should be given the responsibility of contributing 10,000 Rupees. Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> accepted this proposal. Therefore, the total sum of contribution from the women was set at 10,000 Rupees; out of which the women of Qadian were to contribute 1000 Rupees. Additionally, in the same Majlis-e-Shura it was also decided that Chanda Aam will now be regularly collected from the women as well. Previously, the women were contributing as they wished; and this was spent towards the expenses of the London Mission.

(Tareekh Lajna Ima’illah Vol 1-p65-66)

### **Initiation of Lajna Ima’illah:**

*The time was ripe for women to have their own dedicated organisation. They could attach themselves to it and collectively strive in order to offer their services for Ahmadiyyat. Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> recognized the need and beckoned the women of the Jamaat to form a new institution; an organization to aid the needs of the female members of the Jama’at.*

## **25<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER - A BLESSED DAY FOR AHMADI**

### **LADIES:**

*The history of Lajna Ima'illah starts from 25<sup>th</sup> December 1922. This day dawned to mark the birth of an auxiliary organisation for Ahmadi women. No one at the time could predict that this very foundation would play a pivotal role in Islam Ahmadiyyat and in aiding the success of the Jamaat. These women would soar in intelligence, academia, humanity and pious deeds above others. They would be coated to the core with high resolve for sacrifice, a necessity for women to possess for a successful Jamaat. These women would become a beacon to end the reign of idolatry and raise the voice of Oneness of God in a Majestic way.*

*Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> later organised women to have their first Shura, a parliamentary consultation body under this very institution. This gave women a voice in the Jamaat's administrative affairs to discuss issues pertaining to women; thus making the Ahmadi women become proactive in serving the faith. The blessed son of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> initiated Lajna Ima'illah, a women's organisation run by women for women.*

### **The Fundamental Aims of Lajna Ima'illah:**

*(The information below (in Italics) has been extracted from Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-page 74)*

*Hazrat Sayyeda Amatul Hayee<sup>ra</sup> was the daughter of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih I<sup>ra</sup>. The effect of a pious father who had a strong desire that women should rise with the knowledge of the Quran, naturally left an indelible mark on his daughter.*

*When she married Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> this seed grew further in her. She was presented with the perfect opportunity to fulfil her desire when Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> initiated the institution of Lajna Ima'illah. She had an incredible passion to serve humanity and the nation. On her impetus, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> presented a specific structure before Lajna, which he penned as the Lajna Constitution. Not all women automatically became Lajna members; any woman who wished to become a member of Lajna was instructed to read and sign the constitution. The criteria was laid out as below by Huzoor<sup>ra</sup>:*

“The purpose and objective of our existence is such that as men should strive to achieve its goal, similarly women should strive to do the same. As far as I believe, so far women have not had the awakening for what Islam demands of them. How should they live their lives; and which ways should they adopt, that may please Allah to become the recipients of Allah’s blessings not only in the hereafter but also in this world.

If we ponder over it, many women will not think that in addition to their day to day work, there is any other work worth doing. However, it is the women who have the ability to instil a spirit to defend against the enemies of Islam. If there exists something that can negate the ill thinking and the misgivings hurled at Islam, then it is only women who can do this. If there is a way to instil the duty of sacrifice in children, that too can only be achieved through the mother. Thus, in addition to her spiritual and secular advancement, the future success of the Jamaat is dependent on womens’ efforts. Another reason was that the way a child absorbs and accepts an influence in its youth, cannot be equal to what is instilled

in their childhood. Similarly, the reformation of women can be done through women... Keeping these views in mind, I invite those sisters who may serve in supporting and follow these views, to join and work to fulfil these aims.

If you are unanimous on these instructions, please inform me, so that we can quickly start the work in hand.

There is a need that:

i) Women should strive together to enhance their knowledge and spread the knowledge they have attained to others.

ii) A body is to be established for this purpose so that this work can be carried out systematically.

iii) Certain rules and regulations are formulated to run this body which should be binding upon all the members.

iv) The rules and regulations should conform to Islam as interpreted by Silsila Aliya Ahmadiyya and be contributory to its progress and strength.

v) Papers regarding various aspects of Islam particularly those pertaining to contemporary issues be read in their meetings and events and be written by the members themselves so that they should learn to use their knowledge.

vi) In order to increase knowledge, this body should arrange lectures on selected topics which it deems necessary to be delivered by those versed in Islam.

vii) In order to preserve the spirit of unity in the Jamaat, the affairs of this body shall be conducted in conformity with the schemes prepared of whoever is the Khalifa of the time.

viii) You shall endeavour to be constantly active in promoting unity among the Jamaat as enjoined upon every Muslim by the Holy Qur'an, The Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> and the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> and you should always be prepared to offer every sacrifice for this cause.

ix) You should always pay attention to enhancement of your moral and spiritual standard and should not merely restrict your focus to just eating, drinking and clothing yourself. You should fully help each other in this matter and think of and devise ways and means to achieve this.

x) You should especially realise your duty regarding the Tarbiyat of your children and shall not let them be alienated, negligent or lazy in religious matters. Instead, you shall try to make them active, alert and able to bear hardships. Teach them all the matters about religion which you are aware of and inculcate in them the love and obedience of Allah, The Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup>, the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> and the Khulafa. Instil in them the passion to spend their lives for the sake of the true religion and in accordance with their desire, and to devise suggestions to make this possible and act upon them.

xi) When you start working together, you should overlook the faults of each other. Efforts to reform should be carried out with patience and perseverance. In no case should resentment and anger be allowed to create differences and divisions amongst you.

xii) Since every new project is ridiculed by people at the outset, it is necessary, therefore, that you should disregard their mockery and the lesson to bear taunts and insults with fortitude and bravery (whether given privately or in public),

should be learnt beforehand so that by seeing your example other sisters should also come forward to perform their duty.

xiii) In order to strengthen this scheme and to sustain it permanently, you should go on to convince other sisters to think along the same line and this endeavour can only be achieved if every sister who joins the body considers it her duty to develop the same way of thinking in other sisters.

xiv) To save the programme from disruption it is necessary that only such sisters should be allowed to become members of the body who are in full agreement with these aims. If, God forbid, at some stage a member feels that she disagrees with these aims, she should voluntarily disassociate herself from the body or else be removed from it.\*

**\*Note:** At a later stage Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> decided that membership of Lajna Ima'illah should be compulsory for all Ahmadi women.

xv) The Jamaat (Ahmadiyya Jamaat) does not infer any special denomination of people. It includes all classes of people; young and old, poor and rich and therefore there should be no discrimination between the rich and the poor in this body. Instead love and equality should be inculcated amongst the poor and the rich and the feelings of contempt and superiority should be eliminated from their hearts, because despite the differences in status, all men are brothers to one another and all women are sisters to one another.

xvi) Suggestions should be presented to form plans for the service of Islam and to help the poor and needy brothers and sisters in a practical manner.

xvii) As Allah is the Source of all help, blessings and successes, it is necessary that we fervently pray to Him and also request others to pray that He kindly inspires us with such aims which fulfil the purpose of our creation. We should further pray that He enables us to choose the best available means and use them to the best of our ability for achieving this purpose.

(Constitution of Lajna Ima'illah-p2-6)

### **The Fourteen Founding Members:**

Below are the names of the founding members of Lajna who inspired by Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> fully safeguarded the institution of Lajna Ima'illah.

- 1 Hazrat Ummul Momineen Nusrat Jehan Begum<sup>ra</sup>, the wife of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>. (Passed away 20<sup>th</sup> April 1952)
- 2 Hazrat Sahibzadi Nawab Mubarka Begum<sup>ra</sup>, the daughter of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> and the wife of Nawab Mohammad Ali Khan sahib<sup>ra</sup> (Passed away 23<sup>rd</sup> May 1977)
- 3 Hazrat Sayyeda Mehmooda Begum sahiba, the wife of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> (Passed away 31<sup>st</sup> July 1958)
- 4 Hazrat Sayyeda Amatul Hayee sahiba, the daughter of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih I<sup>ra</sup> and the wife of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> (Passed away 10<sup>th</sup> December 1924)



- 5 Hazrat Sayyeda Maryam Begum sahiba , the wife of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> (Passed away 5<sup>th</sup> March 1944)
- 6 Hajirah Begum sahiba, the wife of Chaudhry Fateh Mohammad Sial sahib<sup>ra</sup> (Passed away 10<sup>th</sup> December 1927)
- 7 Saleha Begum sahiba, the wife of Mir Mohammad Ishaq sahib<sup>ra</sup> (Passed away 8<sup>th</sup> September 1953)
- 8 Maryam Bibi sahiba, the wife of Hafiz Roshan Ali sahib<sup>ra</sup> (Passed away 12th July 1985)
- 9 Hameeda Khatoon Khursheed sahiba, the daughter of Sheikh Yaqoob Ali Irfani sahib<sup>ra</sup> (Passed away 5<sup>th</sup> July 1928)
- 10 Razia Begum sahiba, the wife of Mirza Gul Mohammad sahib (Passed away 7<sup>th</sup> September 1962)
- 11 Kulsoom Bano sahiba, the wife of Qazi Muhammad Abdullah sahib (Headmaster Taleem-ul-Islam High School) (Passed away 7<sup>th</sup> October 1971)
- 12 Memuna Khatoon Soofia sahiba, the wife of Maulvi Ghulam Mohammad sahib (Passed away in 1980)
- 13 Saira Khatoon sahiba, the wife of Maulvi Raheem Baksh sahib (Post Master) \*(Passed away 7<sup>th</sup> January 1983)

14 Bushra Begum sahiba, the daughter of Sheikh Abdul Rehman sahib (Previously Mehr Singh) (Passed away 11<sup>th</sup> September 1943)

\*Her husband was later named Abdul Raheem by Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup>. Maulana Abdul Raheem Dard sahib served as the Imam of the Fazl Mosque London in its early period.

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p78-79)

*It is said that behind every successful man is a woman. However, we observe that behind every auxiliary of the Jamaat was a man, who marched with determination and with the strength of a Divine power behind him. Lajna Ima'illah was formed by Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> and consisted of simple women of a small town of Qadian. No one in the world could envisage that most of these women who knew only about their daily household chores were being trained very gently by a Divine reformer to rise for a greater cause.*

**Initial Meeting for Naming of Institution and allocation of duties:**

Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> held an initial meeting with the above mentioned fourteen members. He gave them advice on the management of Jalsa Salana and suggested a name for the institution.

Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> said:

“Due to lack of time, for now I am suggesting the name of Lajna Ima'illah for this institution and I will now give brief

instructions regarding Jalsa. InshaAllah I will address the other matters at a later date. The Lajna are akin to a club; implying like-minded women working together. Only those who comply with each other's views should be members. If at a later stage anyone is unable to be complaisant with the regulations of the club, should withdraw themselves. Firstly, a Head should be elected through majority of votes who has the following qualities:

1. She should urge others to adhere to the rules. She should be authoritative over others but be subservient to the Constitution.
2. She should not be of an angry temperament but still be able to control others. She should be active in carrying out tasks and not just display authority. She should be able to put her aspirations forward but also be open to suggestion.
3. A Secretary should also be appointed. She should take notes and notify people regarding events etc. This position is referred to as Private Secretary as well.

At present we are dealing with the Jalsa arrangements. My objective is that Lajna should undertake this task. Therefore, I will give brief instructions in this regard.

- i) Consider any oversights from previous years.
- ii) There should be continuity in the visiting speakers.
- iii) Women should not interfere in men's lectures.
- iv) Tasks should be divided amongst you. You must not amass collectively towards the one task or involve other

ladies. You should be subservient and work in unity within the organisation.

v) The same person must be in charge of the stage and Jalsa Gah.

vi) Following the rules and regulations a report should be registered of any argument or dispute within the Jalsa Gah.

vii) Event organisation entails dealing with people of different social standings and temperaments. Do not maintain that you are in the right if a mistake has been made by you in any matter. If there are any disputes within the organisers or other people then they should be taken aside and dealt with in private.

viii) Do not behave in a manner which exhibits your authority. Dignity lies in soft, kind, gentle and loving speech. Never use harsh words.

ix) Draft a temporary plan. This can be useful as an alternative to the male speaker. Select some extracts from 'Noah's Ark' and other key articles to be read by ladies who have clear loud voices. Do the same for reciting nazms (Poems).

Form relationships with the ladies who arrive as guests staying at our home, or with the family of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih I<sup>ra</sup> or any other families. Form a relationship with them and enquire about their situation; how large is their Jamaat and about the children's education there. Expand on your information in this manner.

After these instructions, members joined to deliberate and appointed Sayyeda Mahmooda Begum sahiba (the first wife

of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup>) as the President of Lajna and Sayyeda Amatul Hayee sahiba, (the second wife of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup>) as the Secretary for Jalsa. Only a few administrative matters were determined.

According to the narratives by Sakina-tul-Nisa, the wife of Zuhur-ul-Deen Akmal sahib, Maryam sahiba, the wife of Hafiz Roshan Ali<sup>ra</sup> and Razia Begum sahiba, the first Lajna meeting mentioned above was held under the presidentship of Ummul Momineen<sup>ra</sup> the wife of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>. After the election of the president, she held Hazrat Sayyeda Mahmooda Begum sahiba by the hand and led her to the presiding chair. Hazrat Mahmooda Begum sahiba then had the distinct honour of serving Lajna from 1922 to 1958. The only exception being the two years, when she was unable to fulfil her duties due to ill health.

In addition to the offices of the President and the General Secretary, Maimuna Soofia sahiba was given the duty of collecting chanda and Maryam Bibi sahiba was appointed the Trustee.

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p79-81)

### **Lajna Ima'illah is Assigned its First Responsibility:**

The first responsibility assigned to Lajna Ima'illah as an organisation was to make the necessary arrangements and organise the Jalsa Salana for ladies. Alhamdulillah, they managed it well.

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p85)

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# 1923

## The Second Meeting of Lajna Ima'illah:

Under these settings the second meeting of Lajna Ima'illah was held on 29<sup>th</sup> January 1923. Whilst stating the objectives of Lajna Ima'illah, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> gave further directions to Lajna. Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> also promised to personally give religious lectures to ladies in the future. This speech is also presented below:

“One cannot instantly become proficient in any matter. There is no skill which we can observe or listen to only once and acquire competence in it. Rather, practice is the key to it. Thus, do not be under any illusion that you will understand the workings of Lajna in a day or even a few weeks. It will be a gradual process. At present, you deem this work as something of little significance, but God willing you will witness its truth unfolding in the future.

I expound on the three important purposes of this institution.

- 1) Collective learning of knowledge
- 2) Teaching it to others
- 3) Concentrating on the reformation of children

... Progress should be based on the principles set up by the Jamaat. Our aim is not to achieve any worldly progress. Unless both men and women work together, success can be achieved. The primary responsibility of women is to look after the moral training of the future generation. This is the

fundamental principle. You should write speeches to increase your knowledge. Through researching you get the opportunity to open your mind and acquire new ideas. ... Unity is essential for the progress of the Jamaat. The Muslims are facing humiliation by not understanding this point. ...

At the time of the battle of Uhad, some companions were of the opinion that the battle should take place in the city. However, the opinion of those who had not participated in the battle of Badr was that the battle of Uhad should be fought in the open area. Thus, the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> compromised his own opinion for the sake of others. If the consensus of opinion results in a mishap, then to repeatedly draw attention to the mishap, eluding that 'if it had been executed according to our opinion, the result would have been positive' is as good as creating dissention. You should also be obedient to the Khalifa of the time ... irrespective of whomever God appoints ...

Once there was a city in Europe where the plague spread. The residents of the city made a resolution that no one will leave the area nor will anyone come to assist them, not even physicians. ... Eventually the entire population of that place succumbed to death. Not a single person survived ... A large group sacrificed themselves for the greater good of their nation. To commemorate the love and sacrifice of these people, their country erected a monument in their memory.

There is a dire need for morality and spirituality. Of course, theft and murder is something that rarely takes place. However, moral sins are generally committed by each of us and at all times. Therefore, pay special attention to them.

Listen to one another and inculcate the habit of tolerance. If someone points out a flaw, don't become hostile in return; instead be grateful. ... Under no circumstances should the person correcting these flaws, point them out in gatherings or in the presence of others; it should be done in private.

Now you need to learn what good morals are. Often it is not known what they are ... So, give lectures on them, and listen to such lectures. Do not make your children disheartened. Inculcate the habit of serving the poor in them. Ignore each other's shortcomings. Resentment and anger will never serve any purpose. Do everything with love and affection. Do not worry about people's mockery and focus on your work. Some have natures that they become disillusioned and comment, 'what is this; this is nothing; it is only a passion of a few days; mere talk and no substance'. Never bother about such people but always be motivated to improve them. This task is a difficult one, so it needs to be done with cooperation. If it was easy, it could have been achieved by one individual alone and there would have been no need to establish an organisation.

Try to make ladies think alike. Once they are in full agreement with your ideas, then after consultations in everyone's presence, formally propose their name and they can then be included (in Lajna Imaillah).

The progress of a nation can only take place when the disparity between the rich and the poor is no longer there. Try to create equality ... Serve Islam in practical terms. Supplicate (Dua) in solitude and in congregation. There are many benefits in praying in congregation. It is disappointing that Muslims do not understand the importance of working as a



community. Christianity still continues with the tradition of praying in congregation.

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p87-88-90)

*The Islamic prohibition of shaking hands with the opposite sex is based on leading to provocation of desire. Islam believes that each person has the right to consent how any part of their body is touched. Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> over a hundred years ago, instructed his male followers to discourage physical interaction with women; as every part of their body is sacred.*

### **Shaking Hands in Light of Women's Rights:**

Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> did not only directly take care of women's moral training, but he also drew the men's attention towards the education and moral training of women. On 25<sup>th</sup> January 1923, Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> gave some instructions to Hazrat Maulvi Muhammad Deen sahib, who was travelling to America for the propagation of Islam. Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> said:

“The tradition of shaking hands with women should be stopped now; this feeling should come from within the women themselves. Once a group of such women is established, they will be able to take care of others. Keep in mind that women have a special congruity of faith in them. Educate a couple of sincere women and fully explain to them any matters related to women to a degree that it is embedded in their hearts. You will then observe how they become like a drawn sword and make other women in accord with them. This work cannot be done without the help of women.

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p95)

*Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> always had the welfare and feelings for the poor and deprived in mind. He advised Lajna Ima'illah to hold gatherings where they could invite women from impoverished backgrounds and widows to dine with them. Secondly, to arrange parties for orphans who equally deserve affection and care in their lives.*

### **A Social Gathering for Lajna:**

On 1<sup>st</sup> February 1923 Lajna organised a social gathering. On the same day, while sitting in the mosque after Asr prayers, Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> addressed Irfani Sahib, the editor of Al-Hakam and commented:

“Today I planned a social gathering for Lajna in which widows were invited. Members of Lajna organised all the tasks together themselves. Some cooked food to serve whilst others assisted each other with washing hands (A cultural tradition to wash the hands of the guests before the meal as a mark of respect). Then they all enjoyed a communal meal. My main reason for (arranging) this is for them to develop mutual love and bonding, which in turn will develop good morals. These kind of social gatherings facilitate to remove feelings of arrogance, and they create feeling of love and equality. Similarly my intention is that Lajna members organise a get-together for orphans now. ... As the orphans are deprived of parents to whom they can express their emotions of love and affection, these emotions get suppressed. When these ladies will sit with these children and shower their love and care upon them, their suppressed feelings will be revived. This will also have a positive effect on

these children's morality which will be a means for their education and moral training."

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p92)

*Normally, the privileged are accustomed to receiving gifts but those who live in deprivation can only hope to receive a daily meal, if they are lucky. The affects from a gift, a meal, clothes or toys on a festivity such as Eid produce a radiant smile from the heart and imprints a memory of humanity on one receiving it.*

Mrs. Dr. Hashmatullah Khan mentioned that after the establishment of Lajna Ima'illah, amongst the first task undertaken by Lajna was arranging dinner parties for the widows and the orphans. This was undertaken on the instructions of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup>. All the members would gather and sit together and eat from the same table. Then Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> instructed that on the occasion of Eid, members should sew clothes for the orphans and dress them with the clothes themselves. They should also buy toys and personally give them to the younger children. This will help with their (orphans) self-esteem. Thus, Mrs. Dr. Hashmatullah Khan sahib also participated in this campaign along with the other Lajna members to sew clothes and buy toys for the orphans.

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p92-93)

*Healthcare for women is an important aspect of society. A woman may need the services of a professional health worker during childbirth if not at other stages in life. Providing*

*comfort in any situation to God's creation appears to be at the forefront of the Jamaat.*

**Appeal for Ladies Ward in Noor Hospital:**

*(The information below has been extracted from Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p124)*

Noor Hospital in Qadian was already functioning during the life of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih Ira. Dr Hashmatullah Khan sahib, who was in charge of Noor Hospital in 1923 drew ladies' attention towards the appeal previously launched to establish a separate ward for women.

On 1st August 1923 Hazrat Amma Jaanra the wife of the Promised Messiahas laid the foundation stone for the Women's Ward in Noor Hospital. The General Secretary of Lajna Ima'illah Hazrat Sayyeda Amatul Hayeera presented the particulars and functions of the hospital. She also made an appeal for contribution for this purpose. Promises for the sum of 150 Rupees were made immediately.

*A special movement was instigated by the Arya Samaj Hindu sect in India during the early twentieth century to reconvert the Muslims and Christians to Hinduism. The Muslims in India were oblivious of the damage it was causing. Thus, the movement started to work on a large scale. Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> appealed for a sum of 50,000 Rupees in order to launch a counter campaign. His aim was to set up a network of missionaries to propagate the teachings of Islam. However, Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> like a caring spiritual father was conscious of the new sapling of Lajna Ima'illah, and understood their outstretched capacity, thus exempted them from this scheme.*

**Exemplary Sacrifice and Resolve by Ahmadi Women during the Shuddhi Campaign:**

Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> states:

“At present the women of our Jamaat are contributing towards the construction of the Berlin mosque and towards the spread of Islam there with procuring a fund of 50,000 Rupees. They have already donated 30,000 Rupees. ...”

Although Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> did not appeal to the women, but from later records it transpires that women did not wish to be left behind men, and participated in the financial sacrifice for this appeal.

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p118-119)

**Surprising Zeal Shown by Ahmadi Women:**

*Astonishingly the passion of some Ahmadi women was such that they even offered themselves to go and participate in active preaching.*

Saeeda Begum sahiba of Lahore wrote to Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup>.

“I have read that 20 Muslim women have converted to Hinduism. ... I confess that reading this news caused intense injury to the heart. I wish that I could fly and reach them and preach to them. If Huzoor allows and commands so, I declare that I am prepared for it. ...”

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p120-121)

*Some tenets of Islam are not incumbent on women. For example, to worship in the mosque is an obligation for men*

*alone. However, part of a woman's responsibility is to encourage her life companion to fulfil his obligations of faith in whichever form they take.*

**Women Encourage Men to Fulfil the Commandments:**

Sardar Begum sahiba, the daughter of Sheikh Muhammad Hussain, a Judge from Zeera, District Ferozepur in India writes:

“It frequently happens that men become disinclined from undertaking a noble action as a result of their women intervening in the process. My dear ladies, beware! Do not become an obstacle to the task in hand, otherwise you will be facing the gates of Hell. You should pronounce to your men ‘This is the time to defend the honour of Islam.’ ... The ladies who are unable to assist through sending their men should provide financial support. ... If you are able to utilise your wealth to establish Islam and to prevent Muslims from apostasy, then according to the Promise of Allah you will have made a tremendous achievement for the Hereafter.”

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p121)

*We hear of some couples constantly spending millions of pounds on renovations and extensions of their mansions in search for a more comfortable life. In contrast what a blissful home where couples are united in harmony and get pleasure by offering sacrifices in the way of Allah. For, the world may see them impoverished, but they attain together a peaceful heaven on Earth.*

### **A Pious Couple:**

Another example of the passion of sacrifice by an Ahmadi woman can be found in the letter written to Hazrat Khalifatul MasihII<sup>ra</sup> by Mian Nizamuddin, the General Secretary of Jamaat Qila Raipur in India.

“I am forwarding the sum of 13 Rupees and 8 Annas on behalf of a woman from an impoverished household. She lives in rented accommodation. She has donated all her possessions for this appeal. Some of her belongings have been sold and the remaining will be auctioned. The lady’s name is Zainab wife of Faqir Muhammad sahib. She states that she and her husband are both prepared to serve actively in connection to the apostasy movement.”...

(Tareekh Lajna Ima’illah Vol 1-p123)

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### **Remarkable Financial Sacrifice by Lajna Imaillah:**

The first financial appeal made solely to the ladies of the Jamaat after the formation of Lajna Ima’illah was for funds to build a mosque in Berlin. Hazrat Khalifatul MasihII<sup>ra</sup> had been very keen to have a mosque built in Berlin. He instructed Maulvi Mubarak Ali sahib to travel to Berlin from London and once a suitable piece of land for a mosque had been purchased Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> made an announcement in his Friday sermon of 2<sup>nd</sup> February 1923. He stated:

“After giving it a thorough consideration, I have decided that the mosque intended to be built in Germany, should be built with donations from the ladies. Undoubtedly, most ladies do not possess personal properties; nevertheless, they do posses

jewellery. ...They are able to donate their jewellery for Chanda .... My reason for the mosque in Germany to be built by ladies is that people in Europe have a common perception that we treat women no better than we treat animals. ... When Europeans will pass by a mosque and discover that this Mosque has been built solely by Muslim women they will feel rather embarrassed and surprised at their misunderstanding about Muslim women. The Mosque will in effect be always delivering the message that the information around the status of women in Islam had been deceptively falsified by their priests. ... I have assigned this task to the institution I have named LajnaIma'illah."

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p95-96)

*(The information below has been extracted from Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-pages 97-98)*

Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> especially addressed the ladies of Qadian and encouraged them to lead by example. After Huzoor's speech, instantly 8500 Rupees were donated.

Later Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> penned a note as follows which was then published in Al-Hakam on 15th February.

### **Appeal for Funds for Berlin Mosque**

After illustrating the importance of building an Islamic Centre through the mosque in Germany. ...Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> states:

"If this task is collectively completed only by the women then it will be one of the greatest services to the Jamaat. The faith of the next generations will be revived by remembering the passion and courage of our ladies and they will instinctively



pray for them which in turn will be the source of elevating their status in the Hereafter.”

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p97-98)

*In Qadian, there were indeed many women from impoverished backgrounds who made great sacrifices. We see these extraordinary examples of dedication, from Ahmadi women particularly in Qadian, but also other cities in relation to the proposed construction of the Berlin Mosque at the time, which was expected to be funded entirely from the contributions of women.*

**A Poor Lady - an Example of Transformation:**

Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> spoke in detail about the sacrifices of those women who are poor but are rich at heart. He narrates:

“A poverty stricken frail Pathan woman, who found it difficult to walk even with the support of a walking stick had migrated to Qadian to escape the atrocities of the cruel clerics; she donated two Rupees. Another elderly Pathan woman who walks extremely slowly, came to me and put two Rupees in my hand. ... She only knows a few words of Urdu as she is a Pashto speaker. In her broken Urdu she expressed to me that whatever little possessions she had, belonged to the Baitul-Mal. She touched each item of her clothing one by one saying, her shawl, her trousers, her shoes, everything belonged to the Jamaat. Even the Quran she reads had been given to her by the Jamaat. ... Each and every word she uttered brought a sharp pain to my heart; but at the same time, I was praising my Lord for His Benevolence. He had blessed a dead nation

with such living and passionate souls. I was overcome with gratitude. A voice came from within me: "O my Lord! What a magnificent person Your Messiah<sup>as</sup> was who was able to bring about such a radical change in these Pathans. They once had a reputation for robbing others, but he was able to transform them to the extent that they now consider it a blessing to offer their country, their loved ones and their possession as sacrifice for the sake of Your religion."

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p98-99)

### **A donation of Goat for the Mosque:**

Another faith inspiring incident regarding the chanda for Berlin mosque is narrated by Hazrat Irfani sahib<sup>ra</sup> in his notes.

"Yesterday, on the evening of 12<sup>th</sup> February 1923, as I was leaving my office, Hazrat Amma Jaan's maid Mae Koko came looking for the auditor. She told him: "Someone has donated two goats for the Berlin mosque. Hazrat Khalifatul Masih<sup>II</sup><sup>ra</sup> has asked me to give them to you but as I could not find you, I left them at your house." She explained that Mohammad Amil's wife, a refugee had brought them. She informed me that they don't have anything else at home, so please can these goats be accepted as a donation for the Mosque."

These examples express the sincerity, devotion and spirit of the sacrifices made by the Ahmadi women of that era. Apart from examples of the female companions of the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup>, such examples are not to be found anywhere in the history of the world. Allah blessed their sacrifice and furthermore their children also continued in their footsteps.

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p101)

### **The Pleasure when you Sacrifice what you Love:**

While discussing the financial sacrifices of women, one such example worth mentioning is that of Begum Shafi. Her husband, Dr. Shafi Ahmad sahib Researcher and Editor of the 'Daily Itefaq' writes this incident with deep felt emotions. Let us read it in his words:

“The Friday prayers are held in my office which is situated right on the main street. During the last Friday sermon, the missionary read out the sermon of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> which had been published in Al-Fazl. The Friday prayers were attended by men and the only female attendee was my wife. Whilst listening to this sermon I thought to myself that after completing the Friday prayers, I will request my wife to donate her gold anklet. The thought had hardly left my mind when I heard a knock on the adjoining door. I went to see and found my wife sitting on the prayer mat listening to the sermon with tears flowing down her face. She didn't say anything to me and handed over her five-string gold necklace. I took it from her and gave it to the missionary. I imagine it amounted to 300 Rupees at that time.”

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p104)

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*Women suffragettes tried with great hardship to be seen and understood amongst men in the West. They took violent rebellious measures to achieve their aims. In comparison Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> was awakening women from their slumber and inspiring them to think differently. Huזור's aim*

*was to motivate their minds for a greater cause. The historic year of 1923 marked the participation of Lajna in Majlis-e-Shura for the first time.*

**Women Attend the Consultative Body of the Jamaat -  
Majlis-e-Shura:**

This year the agenda of the Shura included education and moral training for women. It is important to note that this agenda was not put forward by the women; it was put forward by a divinely appointed man, who had been bestowed the status of Khilafat. Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> invited the women to be part of the deliberations. This was the very first year that Lajna members were permitted to join the Shura. A special section was prepared for them within the eastern gallery, where they were able to sit within purdah. They listened to the whole proceedings from there.

Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> commented:

“The educational level of women is insufficient. The question arises if education should be provided. Women are not a part of our Jamaat who suffer from paralysis. So, what kind of schooling should be rendered? ... It is evident that the first responsibility of women is within the home. The existence of the Jamaat is in the hands of women. Women can nurture their young in a way that they become sincere servants of the Jamaat. It is necessary that women are fully acquainted with their household duties and their other responsibilities. Ahmadiyyat is an important asset for us. If women can make our progeny strong in faith, then indeed it will be a great deed. Thus, it is our responsibility to educate our women significantly in religious knowledge, so that our future

generations can have stronger adherents of faith than us. Knowledge has advanced; they should be armed with beneficial knowledge, so they can impart it to their children.”

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p124-126)

The attentive care Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> took in leading the whole Jamaat, to focus on women gaining knowledge, is evident from his comments in the Shura. He desired women to be able to recognise their true status in society.

### **Duties of Women towards their Children:**

On 29<sup>th</sup> June 1923 in a speech delivered in a local area of Qadian, Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> said:

Children mostly spend time with their mothers; however even religious women are negligent of their duties towards their children. If Salat time has approached and the child is asleep, she will let them sleep. Until we imprint on the minds of a mother that the moral teachings of a child takes place at a young age, we cannot hope for any success.

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p129)

Mrs Dr. Hashmatullah Khan sahiba states that at that time Hazrat Sayyeda Amatul Hayee<sup>ra</sup> and Hazrat Sayyeda Umme Nasir<sup>ra</sup>, the two wives of Hazrat Khalifatul MasihII<sup>ra</sup>, taught several girls and Lajna members. She herself was among the students of Hazrat Sayyeda Umme Nasir<sup>ra</sup>.

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p130)

*When generation upon generation have been suppressed and are taught not to have an opinion, it takes time for such a group of meek people to believe that they can achieve*

*confidence in themselves. Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> understood this psychology of women in the Jamaat. We witness how constantly, yet determinedly Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> urges women to achieve more for God and humanity. He gives a voice to those women who within their culture had been told not to think or to speak. He completely goes against the thinking of the vast majority of men in South Asia, or even the world at the time. This noble appointed man of God, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup>, asks women to improve in education and speech in order to be heard in society.*

**Spiritual Nourishment for Women Continues - Programme for Jalsa Salana:**

During this year's Jalsa, in addition to the speech by Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup>, several male and female speakers delivered speeches.

From among the women, Hazrat Sayyeda Amatul Hayee sahiba and Mrs. Hafiz Roshan Ali sahiba delivered speeches. In accordance with the programme during the last day, on 28<sup>th</sup> December 3pm to 4:30 pm was reserved for discussions and instructions to the ladies regarding the regulations of Lajna Ima'illah. This was to enable them to work in their own localities during the coming year.

This Jalsa was held in the courtyard of Hazrat Sheikh Yaqoob Ali Irfani's<sup>ra</sup> house. The accounts of the proceedings, published in Al-Fazl, were written by Sakeena-tul-Nisa sahiba<sup>ra</sup>, the wife of Qazi Muhammad Zuhoorudin Akmal sahib<sup>ra</sup>. The summary is presented below.

Jalsa preparation started well in advance of the event. For the first time an (action) plan for Jalsa volunteers was printed and distributed. Food, medicinal and (nursing) care arrangements were made for sick women and children. Naib Nazima, Sayyeda Saliha Begum sahiba<sup>ra</sup> the wife of Mir Muhammad Ishaq sahib<sup>ra</sup> accomplished her services towards Jalsa with great dedication and enthusiasm. Ever since the initiation of the organisation of Lajna, Sayyeda Saleha Begum Sahiba<sup>ra</sup> also familiarly known as Choti Mumani Jaan (younger aunty) and Sayyeda Umme-Dawood<sup>ra</sup> amongst the women of the Jamaat had the honour of carrying out this service which began with the duties of Ziafat initially being assigned to the ladies until her demise. She not only performed her duty with hard work, immense dedication and devotion herself, but also trained thousands of volunteers for this duty at Jalsa Salana. The remarkable performance of Ziafat arrangements that Lajna Ima'illah provides today, is the result of her initial service and training. On occasions she would remain awake the whole night and meet women individually to assess their needs, and supervise the volunteers to ensure the work was carried out properly. During the Jalsa period despite her fragile health, she would be unconcerned about her health, own diet, appearance or relaxation. The only thought in her mind would be that the Jalsa guests are taken good care of and they don't suffer any inconvenience. She could be seen in different places in a short period of time enabling her to personally supervise the state of affairs. May Allah grant her a lofty status in Jannah. Ameen.

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p132-133)

### **Berlin Mosque - Women Who Exceed the Call of the Crier:**

The Malkana were Rajput Muslims. There was a campaign by the Arya Samaj sect of Hindus to reconvert Muslims to Hinduism. Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> started a special campaign to educate the Malkanas about Islam and to stop them reconverting to Hinduism.

At the time when Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> launched an appeal for the Berlin Mosque, there was another financial appeal in connection with the Malkana movement in India. Consequently, he extended the Berlin Mosque Fund for another three months. He also increased the fund required from 50,000 Rupees to 70,000 Rupees. If we convert the value of this money into recent currency, we will realise the enormous financial sacrifice undertaken by the Ahmadi women, in response to the appeal from their Khalifa. They practically presented anything they possessed in their houses.

The plot to build a mosque in Berlin had been purchased.... Mubarak Ali sahib, the missionary serving in Berlin announced the purchase of land for the Berlin mosque. In his Friday sermon of 27<sup>th</sup> July 1923, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> mentioned the women's sacrifices in a very encouraging fashion and announced that the foundation stone would be laid on 5<sup>th</sup> August and that Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> will also pray (dua) on that day. Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> said:

“When I entrusted the ladies with this collection scheme, some people wondered how it would be possible to collect such an amount. At first, I estimated the collection to reach 30,000; then I increased it to 50,000, which our Jamaat thought was far too much. When 20,000 had been collected



the external newspapers were in astonishment at what a grand amount the Ahmadi ladies had collected. Shortly afterwards the collection exceeded the promised amount and reached 60,000 Rupees.”

(Tareekh Lajnalma'illah Vol 1-p112-113)

### **Difficulties Faced in Building the Mosque:**

In his Jalsa Salana speech of 27<sup>th</sup> December 1923, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> especially praised the exemplary sacrifice made by the Ahmadi ladies. The blessings (of their sacrifice) was already coming to life. Approximately one hundred women accepted Islam as a result.

However, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> informed the Jamaat that there had been some issues raised by the government in relation to the building of this mosque. The land had been purchased in an affluent area and the officials were asking to build a five-story building there. The cost for this would be six hundred thousand Rupees. It was difficult for a small Jamaat to raise such a large sum of money. He suggested selling the plot of land and purchasing another plot in a less affluent part of the city. ... In any case, it was not Allah's Will that a mosque be built in Berlin. There were many obstructions, yet this did not dampen the passion of the Ahmadi women. Not one of them showed any signs of weakness. ... It was indeed a great expression of sacrifice demonstrated by our mothers. This will be an example forever for the generations to come. Families of these women as well as the Jamaat will remain proud of them. Although their sacrifices did not bear fruit immediately, nevertheless, they did not go to waste.

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p115-116)

# 1924

*To express gratitude is part of faith. Those who provide any service in the Jamaat's largest annual gathering, the Jalsa Salana feel that it is their good fortune to be able to render any kind of service. Nevertheless, the Jamaat's office bearers sometimes like to invite the volunteers to dinner and to thank them for their commitment.*

## **Special Dinner to Express Appreciation:**

After the Jalsa Salana concluded, the Nazima for women's Jalsa organised a gathering on 15<sup>th</sup> January 1924 for all the volunteers who had served during the Jalsa period. Approximately 60 ladies dined together. They were privileged that Hazrat Ummul Momineen<sup>ra</sup>, the wife of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> also attended this occasion.

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p135)

*It is not possible to live by philosophies and ideologies alone. Any institution that makes claims of following certain principles and beliefs but does not act accordingly loses all credibility and risks its own survival. The crux of each Ahmadi's belief and conduct should be a reflection of piety and righteousness as per the teachings of Islam. Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>o</sup> explains one of these points below.*

### **Polygamy - Women's Rights:**

*In the Majlis-e-Shura of 1924 Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> not only encouraged education and moral training of women, but Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> also tried his best to bestow women the full rights and the status Islam entitles them to hold. The failure of providing women their rights, present the opponents of Islam an excuse to criticise Islam. During the same Shura, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> made the following decision and stated:*

“Whoever takes a second wife, based on the promise that he will provide justice (between the wives); if he then goes against this, he should be boycotted. Sometimes a person becomes the means for only a couple of people to abandon Islam, but such a person (as above) drives millions to detest Islam and humiliates us in the sight of our opponents. ... The Jamaat will not make progress unless we express total abhorrence for such people.”

Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> further stated:

“A fundamental accusation made in Europe is that women are abused in Islam. We explain this to people who come here (Qadian), but their response is that they would like to see this in practice. If I give my own example, they say: ‘Of course you are bound to act in this manner, but please show us practical examples in the Jamaat.’ Therefore, those men who are unjust towards their wives are guilty and those who attend their weddings are also guilty. These are the people

who ruin the reputation of Islam. Will members of the Jamaat disassociate with such people and show resentment towards them? Shall I expect that in future you will act upon this?"

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p144)

*According to the administrative rules of the Jamaat, although women were not official members of men's Shura, they were in attendance and were able to voice their opinion. Later women were provided an individual platform to hold their own Shura. In comparison, only women can sit and preside in their Shura. No man is present or holds voting power.*

In the same Shura, future issues relating to women were discussed. While discussing the issue of giving representation to women in Shura, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> stated:

"Women cannot be members of Majlis-e-Shura, but it is proved through the tradition of the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> that in regards with any issues relating to women, he used to consult with his wives and some other women. Similarly, the Khalifa of the time must also consult with some selective women regarding matters that concern women.

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p145)

### **The Wedding Ceremony of Sayyeda Amatul Salaam Sahiba:**

*A baby girl was born to Hazrat Mirza Bashir Ahmad sahib<sup>ra</sup>, the second son of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> and his wife Sarwar Sultana sahib<sup>ra</sup>. The baby was named Amatul Salaam. The home of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> was filled with joy at the birth of the first grandchild.*

*The wedding ceremony of this special grandchild is noted later in Lajna History as follows. Both the bride and the groom were grandchildren of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>.*

On 15<sup>th</sup> May 1924 the Nikaah of Sayyeda Amatul Salaam sahiba, the daughter of Hazrat Mirza Bashir Ahmad sahib<sup>ra</sup>, with Mirza Rasheed Ahmad sahib, the son of Mirza Sultan Ahmad sahib\* was performed and the wedding ceremony was held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July. Among the grand daughters of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>, only Sayyeda Amtul Salaam has the distinction of being born during his lifetime. Sayyeda Amatul Salaam sahiba later became an active member of both Lajna Ima'illah Karachi and Lahore after Pakistan came into existence. She also served as the Lajna President for Lahore for a while.

*\*Son of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> from his first wife.*

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p151)

*Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> had long desired to have a mosque constructed in Europe. Initially, the plan was to construct a mosque in Berlin, but God through His mysterious ways had selected London for the first Ahmadiyya mosque to be built in Europe by members of Lajna Ima'illah.*

### **The Foundation Stone of Fazl Mosque:**

*Despite frail health and the arduous sea journey from India, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> chose to grace the UK to lay the foundation stone of the London Mosque. God knew the significance of the UK, which called the hand of the Khalifa to lay the foundation for the dawn of Islam in the West. It began*

*here, with the laying of this stone in London. A mosque made solely from the donations of Ahmadi women.*

1924 holds a special significance for Ahmadiyyat as on 12<sup>th</sup> July 1924, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> travelled to England to spread the message of Islam. Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> also laid the foundation stone of Fazl Mosque in London. This is the mosque for which he had appealed for donations in 1920, but construction work started in 1924. He had previously appealed for financial donations for a mosque in Berlin in 1920. Later Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> after consulting women, decided that the collection made for Berlin Mosque should be transferred towards the building of the London Mosque. The total sum collected by men and women amounted to 94,641 Rupees. The sum donated by the women was used to construct the mosque and the rest of the money was used towards constructing the Mission House and for other expenses.

Hazrat Dr. Mir Muhammad Ismail sahib<sup>ra</sup> recorded the total sum of £8000 towards the purchase of the land and for the construction of the London Mosque.

19<sup>th</sup> October 1924 was the historical day when Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> laid the foundation stone of Fazl Mosque, the construction of which took two years. It was later inaugurated by Sir Sheikh Abdul Qadir on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 1926.

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p152)

While laying the foundation stone for the mosque, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> named it "Fazl Mosque"... On 24<sup>th</sup> October Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> led the first Jummah (Friday Prayers) in this

mosque. In addition to men, three Muslim ladies including an Ahmadi poet and her daughter were among the people who offered the Friday prayers behind him.

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1- p152 - 153)

**The Text on the Plaque Fixed there Reads as Follows:**

**I seek refuge with Allah against Satan the accursed. In the name of Allah the Gracious, the Merciful. We praise and invoke His blessings on His prophet the exalted one. With the Blessings and Mercy of Allah; He alone is the Helper.**

**“Verily my prayer my sacrifice, my life and my death are for Allah, the Lord of all the worlds.”**

I, Mirza Bashir-ud-deen Mahmud Ahmad Khalifatul Masih II, Head of the Ahmadiyya Community which has its Headquarters at Qadian, Punjab, India, to seek the Pleasure of God so that His name be glorified in England and the people of this country may also partake of the blessings which have been bestowed to us, lay the foundation stone of this mosque today the 20<sup>th</sup> Rabiul-Awwal 1343 Hijra; and I pray to God that He may accept this humble and sincere effort of all the members of the Ahmadiyya Community both women and men and that He may provide means for increase in population of this mosque and may He make it forever a centre for spreading the spirit of righteousness, piety, justice and love; and may this place prove a sun of spiritual light of the Holy Prophet Muhammad<sup>saw</sup>, the Seal of the Prophets, and of Ahmad, the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>, the prophet of God the vicegerent and the reflection of Muhammad (may peace

and the blessings of God be upon them both), radiating forth  
in this country and other countries. Ameen

19.10.1924



**Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> leading silent prayer at a London Railway Station prior to his departure while on tour of the UK**





**Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> leading Salat prior to laying the  
Foundation Stone of Fazl Mosque, London, UK —  
19th October 1924**



**Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> leading Salat at the ceremony of laying the foundation stone of Fazl Mosque. The inscription of Huzoor's historic message at this occasion can be seen on the white plaque to Huzoor's right  
London, UK — 1924**

### **Lajna Welcome Back their Khalifa:**

*If you are accustomed to seeing the moon shine daily, it is depressing to know that you will be deprived of its gleam for a couple of months. Similar sentiments were felt by the Jamaat during the short absence of their beloved Khalifa. Their hearty welcome on Huzoor's return expresses their feelings.*

On Monday 24<sup>th</sup> November 1924 Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> returned to Qadian from his successful journey overseas after four and a half months. The Jamaat gave him a grand welcome. As no specific arrangements had been made by the Welcoming Committee for the women's gathering, the women gathered in front of the men at the roadside. Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> greeted them with "Assalamo Alaikum"; and they responded with "Wa Alaikum Salam". This provided them an opportunity to see Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> with great ease.

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p154)

*"Seldom will you find a couple more content than we were" is how Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> described his married life with Hazrat Sayyeda Amatul Hayee<sup>ra</sup>. The accolade below is as an illustrious introduction to this devoted lady.*

### **The Lady who was an Inspiration for Lajna Ima'illah:**

When Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> left for his journey to England, his wife Hazrat Sayyeda Amatul Hayee<sup>ra</sup> was unwell. On 11<sup>th</sup> November 1924 she gave birth to a son (Mirza Khalil Ahmad) but unfortunately, her condition deteriorated. On 10<sup>th</sup> December Hazrat Sayyeda Amatul Hayee<sup>ra</sup>, the first

Secretary of Lajna Ima'illah, succumbed to her illness and met with her Lord.

إِنَّا لِلّٰهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ

‘To Allah we belong and to Him shall we return’

In his message to the Jamaat on her demise, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> wrote the following:

“In addition to being the daughter of my most respected teacher, Hazrat Maulvi Noor-ud-deen<sup>ra</sup>, her heart was full of love for Islam and the desire to improve education for the women in the Jamaat. I feel there is no other woman of her calibre in the Jamaat.”

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p155-156)

The Editorial published in Al-Fazl on her demise reads:

“The death of Hazrat Sayyeda Amatul Hayee<sup>ra</sup> had created such vacuum for the women in the Jamaat that I do not see a replacement at present. Her death is equivalent to the death of a world.”

Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> spoke about Hazrat Sayyeda Amatul Hayee<sup>ra</sup> in his Friday sermon of 12<sup>th</sup> December.

“I have no hesitation in saying that women are specifically indebted to this wife of mine. After the death of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih I<sup>ra</sup>, I had no intention to continue delivering Dars to women. I feel that it was an extremely courageous act for Amatul Hayee to write to me only three days after

her great father's demise. She was not married to me at the time. She wrote: "The late Maulvi Sahib (Hazrat Khalifatul Masih I<sup>ra</sup>) always delivered Dars to women during his lifetime. Now Allah has by His Grace appointed you as Khalifa. During his last moments Hazrat Maulvi Sahib had advised me that after his death, I should convey his message to you to continue delivering Dars to women. I am conveying my father's last wish to you. Please continue the work that my father was doing."

It was this letter that formed the basis of my beginning to deliver Dars to women. Also, it was because of this letter that I thought that I should marry her. Therefore, if any of the women have benefitted from this Dars, then Amatul Hayee deserves the spiritual reward for it. I had no intention to continue delivering Dars to women. The truth is that she was the visionary of my delivering sermons, lectures, associations and for proposals and schemes related to women. At times, she would even be displeased with me, a way of her expressing love, that I was not paying full attention to matters related with women."...

In another speech that Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> delivered on 13<sup>th</sup> December 1924, Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> said:

"In my view a nation cannot progress unless its women are educated. ... Unless our women possess religious education, I will not be proud of it, irrespective of how progressive our nation

becomes. I married her (Hazrat Sayyeda Amatul Hayee<sup>ra</sup>) with a righteous intention; that it will make it easier for me to educate women through her. Thus, I decided to educate her quickly, but she proved to be more determined than I was. ... I am saddened and grieved that my plan for educating women has at present been shattered. I had prepared a special plan towards education in my trip to Europe and I was intending to begin work on it on my return.”...

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p156-157)

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## 1925

### **A Resolution for Amatul Hayee Library:**

Hazrat Sayyeda Amatul Hayee<sup>ra</sup> was the very first General Secretary of Lajna Ima'illah. A special meeting was called to pass a commiseration resolution in her memory, during which it was decided that a library be constructed in her memory and a scholarship awarded to a female student as Sadaqa Jariya.

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p163)

*Education is power. It was this power that Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> wanted Lajna Ima'illah to harness. Despite his busy schedule, Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> took a keen interest in the girls' school*

*which was established. Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> wished that girls enjoy the opportunity to study a variety of subjects. The girls' school proved extremely popular.*

### **The Aims and Objectives of the Madrassa:**

The foundation for a madrassa was laid by Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> on 17<sup>th</sup> March 1925. The initial objective was to educate and prepare a section of women who can in turn act as teachers for the girls in the Jamaat. The madrassa was originally intended for those women who had already acquired some basic education privately. The madrassa would avail them the opportunity to complete their education and swiftly achieve the objective of the madrassa. However, when the classes began, a large number of girls requested for admission. Taking into consideration the passion displayed by the girls, anyone who wished to join the madrassa was granted permission to do so. This gave all an equal opportunity to exhibit their individual ability. At the time only four subjects were taught; Arabic, English, Geography and History. ... These classes deserve to be congratulated on the basis that Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> personally taught the students. Hence, these are probably the first classes that had the honour of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> playing a direct role of a teacher. Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> took History and Geography classes. ...

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p171-172)

*Simple living is an integral part of Islam. The foundations of humble institutions are often built upon the immense sacrifices of its pioneering members. In order to strive and achieve a greater cause, the idea of simplicity can mean living very frugally at times. Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> wished to*

*develop such a spirit of sacrifice in both the men and women of the Jamaat.*

**Special Appeal to Lead a Simple Life:**

During the Shura Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> spoke about a special scheme he had in mind. This scheme eventually resulted as the Tehrik-e-Jadid Scheme. In relation to the scheme, addressing men as well as women of the Jamaat, Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> said:

“I am also preparing a scheme through which we can save maximum amount of money to spend on the Jamaat’s objectives. I don’t wish to reveal this at present. All I wish to do is to awaken the sentiments in men and women of the Jamaat. If the Hindus and Muslims are prepared to wear Khadi for the sake of Swaraj, then our Jamaat should be prepared to do the same for Islam. Our women can make it and our men can wear it. They can eat plain chapatti or simple food to save money until there is adequate number of members in the Jamaat. ... Although there is no such requirement yet, but men and women of our Jamaat should be prepared to eat simple food and wear simple clothes and donate the rest for the sake of Allah.

(Tareekh Lajna Ima’illah Vol 1-p180-181)



**Wedding Ceremony of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> with Sayyeda Sara Begum Sahiba:**

Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> and Sayyeda Sara Begum's Nikah was performed on 12<sup>th</sup> April 1925. She was the daughter of Maulana Abdul Majid Bhagalpuri<sup>ra</sup>, a companion of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> and a professor of Arabic. Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> decided to marry Hazrat Sayyeda Sara Begum for the special purpose of educating and the moral training of the women in the Jamaat.

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1- p180-181)

*(The information below is extracted from Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1- pages 328-330)*

*Hazrat Sayyeda Sara Begum sahiba was inclined towards acquiring knowledge from a very young age. She was well educated, having good knowledge of Arabic, Persian and the Holy Qur'an. This became a factor for Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> to marry her. He felt a void had been created in the education and moral training of women after the sad demise of Hazrat Sayyeda Amatul Hayee Sahiba and that Hazrat Sayyeda Sara Begum would be able fill that void. After their marriage, with Huzoor's guidance, she fully engaged herself in further education. She passed the 'Maulvi Fazal' examination in 1929 and secured 3<sup>rd</sup> position at the University of Punjab. Although she occupied herself greatly with further education, she was also involved with the work of Lajna Ima'illah.*

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*Hazrat Khalifatul Masih IIra explained the Islamic injunctions regarding 'Haq Mehr' after a person made an enquiry from Huzoorra in this regards. The Haq Mehr is to be given to the bride by her husband specifically for her future needs. Hazrat Khalifatul Masih IIra explained the negative impact it could have on a bride's future if the parents of the bride kept the Haq Mehr. Huzoorra spoke up to safeguard the rights of women whenever the opportunity arose.*

### **Islamic Instructions Regarding Haq Mehr:**

Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> was always mindful of ensuring women their rights. He never missed an opportunity to work towards this. On 24<sup>th</sup> July 1925, Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> delivered an important sermon introducing the Jamaat with the Islamic injunctions relating to women's 'Mehr. The basis of this sermon was in fact a letter he had received from a man. He had asked Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> whether it was lawful for a woman to request for her Mehr to be paid at the time of the Nikah to enable her to forward it on to her parents to assist them.

Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> stated:

“The Mehr is for a woman to fulfil her needs in her future life. At times there are expenses that she is unable to mention to her husband. Hence the Islamic law set up the Mehr. It is for her to fulfil her needs, some of which she is unable to ask her husband for. It could also be used for her to assist her deserving relatives; as she may feel that it is not appropriate to ask her husband for it. ...

The other point that we must take into consideration is the intention. If it becomes customary that the girl's parents take her Mehr, it will create a great danger that the girl's parents may not always keep to good intentions and her best interest in mind at the time of the marriage. ... Therefore, if it is made permissible for the parents to take the Mehr or keep a part of it for themselves, then irrespective of the moral side of it and what the Islamic law directs or the effect on the cultural side, the dangerous result emerging from it will be that the parents will not consider marrying their daughter to a suitable young man, but instead they will consider a partner who will bring them a larger sum of money. They will not judge whether the match is suitable or not."

(Lajna History Vol 1-p185-186)

### **Jalsa Salana:**

*As usual the Jalsa Salana brings this year to an end.*

In addition to male speakers ... this year two Lajna members Mrs Hafiz Roshan Ali sahiba and Mrs Qazi Zuhur-ud-deen Akmal sahiba also delivered speeches. The Lajna's General Secretary presented the Annual Report. The number of attendees reached almost 8000. ... This year approximately 350 women took Bai'at and 900 Rupees was donated as chanda. ...

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p187-188)

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# 1926

*One would think that the Supreme Head of the Community is at liberty in his wisdom to redirect the funds from one great cause to another. However, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> graciously puts his decision before the Jamaat's ladies and avails them of the opportunity to make the choices.*

In his speech of Jalsa Salana on 27<sup>th</sup> December 1926, Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> said:

“With regards to the London Mosque, it has been five years since I made an appeal; the Berlin mosque Fund was also included in it. Now I wish to make an appeal to the ladies to either donate it to the London Mosque fund or leave the amount as a loan for us to spend it on other Jamaat ventures. Out of the two, I leave the preference to them.”

Additionally Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> published the following notice in Al-Fazl.

## **“For the Attention of Women of Jamaat Ahmadiyya”**

“I have already announced that due to the lack of funds it was not possible to build a mosque in Berlin. Therefore, with the amount procured, a mosque was built in London instead. I asked the women whether they were content if their donations be attributed towards this mosque. Alternatively, men could make them a payment for this, and the women's donations can be used to build a mosque in another country. Since I have received no reply from the women, therefore I

feel the women of the Jamaat are content that the London Mosque, the status of which has reached global fame is attributed to them. It is my view that considering the grandeur of London, it is most appropriate that a mosque built by women be established in the heart of Christianity to repel the allegations that Christians level against women's rights in Islam. This mosque should stand as a practical response to this."

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p116-117)

The construction of the London Mosque began with the blessings and prayers of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> in 1924. Lajna Imaillah's financial contributions funded the construction of the mosque. Other expenses such as the building of the mission house were supplemented by contributions from the Jamaat. Lajna's dedication and financial contributions resulted in the speedy completion of the mosque in October 1926.

### **Inauguration of Fazl Mosque:**

Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> had laid the foundation stone of the Fazl Mosque on 19<sup>th</sup> October 1924. The construction of the mosque was completed in approximately two years. In the afternoon of 3<sup>rd</sup> October 1926, Sheikh Sir Abdul Qadir (a prominent Pakistani legal scholar, editor of two journals, and a Muslim community leader in British India) formally inaugurated the mosque by opening it with a silver key.

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p152)



**The inauguration ceremony of Fazl Mosque in London,  
United Kingdom – 3<sup>rd</sup> October 1926**



**The inauguration ceremony of Fazl Mosque in London,  
United Kingdom – 3<sup>rd</sup> October 1926**

*Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> had a profound vision for the progress and empowerment of women. Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> encouraged women to actively participate in the spiritual and intellectual fields. The impact of Huzoor's desires was slowly but surely taking bloom in the thinking of Lajna Ima'illah. Consequently, Lajna requested permission to begin a women's magazine. The ongoing existence and success of this publication is a testament to the environment of equality between men and women that Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> fostered in the Jamaat.*

### **Misbah - A Journal for Women:**

Misbah has its own exquisite distinction. Misbah means a lamp, a symbol for illumination. It was hoped that it would become a beacon of light to spread rays of knowledge and hope for the Ahmadi women.

Women were expressing their views about the need to have their own bulletin. Eventually Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> granted approval for it ... On 15<sup>th</sup> December 1926 the first bulletin of this magazine was published. It was named 'Misbah'.

The editorial of the first edition reads as follows:

“There has been a notion in Al-Fazl for a while that women should have their separate bulletin. ... Alhamdulillah, our Imam Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> instructed the Sadr Anjuman Ahmadiyya to publish a bulletin for women. Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> has named it “Misbah” ... It means a lamp; which illuminates a dark house. Rich and poor all equally need this in their homes to continue their daily business in life. Let us hope that by the



Grace of Allah this bulletin also serves the purpose of its name and it is able to spread the light of knowledge in every home.”

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p201-202)

*It is amazing how Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup>, could in his wisdom foresee the enormous benefits of establishing Lajna Ima'illah. While focusing on its spiritual benefits, the institution also encouraged Ahmadi ladies to be self-reliant and to learn skills and become useful members of the society. By way of example, art and creativity could be expressed through various handicrafts, and these items could also be sold to generate income. This was not only rewarding for the producer, but also good for the economy of a nation.*

**Initial Suggestion of Holding an Exhibition:**

*(The information below is extracted from Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1- pages 328-330)*

*Women now had the spirit to personally work and raise some income. They also saw this as a means to donate funds for the service of their religion. Their prayers were answered when on 20<sup>th</sup> August 1926, a Lajna resolution was passed for Lajna to hold an exhibition on Jalsa Salana where various handicrafts could be sold. All ladies were encouraged to make something for this exhibition. They could then donate proceeds from the sale towards spreading the message of Islam.*

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p208)

### **The First Lajna Handicrafts Exhibition:**

On Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> October Lajna Ima'illah arranged an exhibition in the compound of the house of Hazrat Mirza Bashir Ahmad<sup>ra</sup>. It exhibited cotton and woollen items produced by Ahmadi ladies. Ladies were encouraged to purchase these items. It had been decided that the income generated by the sale will be donated to the Tabligh Fund. ...

This was the first year for the craft exhibition to be held under Lajna Ima'illah. Since 1926 with the exception of a few years, this exhibition has been taking place every year. ... To make the crafts' exhibition more successful and popular, in 1927 it was announced for the first time that a medal will be awarded to the person with the best crafted item. ...

*Later a separate department of Handicrafts and Exhibitions was created. It continues to work within each branch of Lajna Ima'illah, with prizes awarded for the best produced items.*

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p210-212)

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## **1927**

*The institution of Lajna Ima'illah was gradually spreading outside Qadian. Ahmadi women became more active in the life of the Jamaat. Lajna Ima'illah was being recognised and praised even in its infancy period.*

### **External Praise for Lajna Ima'illah:**

With the Grace of God and the special attention from Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> Lajna Ima'illah had become so significant during its four years of existence that even non-Ahmadis started to observe its activities with interest.

Maulvi Abdul Majeed sahib Quraishi, the editor of 'The Tanzeem' newspaper in Amritsar acknowledged the Ahmadiyya Jamaat's religious services. He wrote an article, in which he mentioned some matters related to the Jamaat as well as the services that Ahmadi ladies rendered. He stated:

#### **'Lajna Ima'illah'**

"In the Messianic proselytising system, the status of women is not lower than that of men. It is a fact that men's job cannot be completed without the women's participation. If Indian women had worked with men during the movement of Tarke-Mawalat\*, then the state of the country would not have been so dire today. If you are not convinced about women's participation in politics, you will still have to admit that if not 100% then 95% of work of structure and reformation is associated with women. The reformation of the next generation, morals, religion, physicality and matters concerning with education are wholly reliant on women's open-mindedness. If women do not cooperate with men in bringing up people with better morals and better physiques, there would not be a positive result. "Lajna Ima'illah Qadian" is the name of the Ahmadi women's institution. Under this institution, branches have been established for women's

reformation in all places. Every scheme initiated by men is made successful with the support of women. This institution has practically associated every Ahmadi woman with the objectives of the Jamaat. Women's belief is more sincere and consistent; they can safeguard the passion for religion more in comparison to men. The number of tasks accomplished by Lajna Ima'illah published in the newspapers demonstrate that the coming generations of Ahmadies will be stronger and more passionate than the present ones. The Ahmadi women will always keep this garden revitalized which was bound to lose its natural freshness through the passage of time. Have the non-Ahmadi Muslims taken any steps for such an establishment for their women?"

*\*A fatwa issued by Jamiatul-Ulama-e-Hind in 1920 regarding non co-operation with the British Government ruling India at the time in the process of claiming independence.*

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p213-214)

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## 1928

*Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> encouraged the Jamaat to hold special gatherings to highlight the high morals and teachings of the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup>. This was not only to increase love for the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> in members' hearts, but also as a means to introduce the Holy Prophet of Islam to the non-Muslims. Lajna*

*Imaillah enthusiastically rallied to host such gatherings as well.*

### **Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> Day:**

During his Friday Sermon of 20<sup>th</sup> June 1928, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> announced that public meetings should be held in all localities to celebrate Holy Prophet Day. In these events speeches should be delivered about the high character and compassion of the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> towards mankind. This will be a means to introduce the high morals and magnificent favours of this unique and great holy personality. It would also stop the enemies of Islam taking advantage of people being ignorant of his high qualities and character. ...

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p238)

### **Proposal of Opening a Female Hostel:**

*The world does not often see examples of men championing women's rights in educational, political or religious domains. Nevertheless, such examples are found in the true followers of Islam and Ahmadiyyat.*

In the 1928 Majlis-e-Shura, a proposal was made to construct a hostel for the female school in Qadian. ... It was suggested that an appeal should be launched for funds on behalf of Hazrat Amma Jaan<sup>ra</sup> the wife of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> and the funds should be used to purchase suitable plots of land to construct a school and a hostel for girls. Several men participated in the discussion. After listening to their views, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> stated:

“The matter under discussion significantly relates to women. I feel that they also deserve to put across their own views. ... If anyone wishes to speak, please do so! At the time of the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup>, women would come into his meetings and put their requests forward. Therefore, it will not be embarrassing for any woman to speak out now. If my wives had been present in this gathering and they spoke up, I would have been proud of them and not embarrassed. I am giving the opportunity to any woman who wishes to speak out.”

*After consultation among themselves two ladies, Mrs Maimuna Soofia sahiba and Maulvi Zulfiqar Ali Khan's daughter spoke on behalf of the women from behind the partition. The gist of the speeches was that women would happily agree to contribute towards the expenses and any other services required of them. The ladies wish to accelerate the matter for the construction of the hostel.*

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p240-242)

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*The need to spread the Word of Allah in the UK accelerated after the building of a mosque (Fazl Mosque) in London. Whenever Allah showers people with His Favours, invariably their responsibilities also increase. Hence, the concept of sacrifice in Islam is continuously encouraged. In the history of Lajna Ima'illah, it is seen that each time members were asked to sacrifice for the sake of Allah Almighty, they immediately strove to do so.*

### **Appeal for Further Finance:**

On 17<sup>th</sup> October 1928 Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> published an article under the title of:

‘For the Attention of Ahmadi Ladies’.

Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> assigned the collection of another chanda to ladies stating the following:

“Through the completion of this mosque (London Mosque) the Tabligh work has intensified in England. If after the completion of a mosque the requirement of sufficient staff is neglected, then the initial sacrifice to build the mosque would be in vain. Thus, I have suggested to send a second missionary there. ... Since the budget does not allow this additional cost and it is also essential for women to be a part of Tabligh activities to a certain degree, therefore I have decided that this additional cost should be carried by our women. The estimated cost of this is approximately 4000 Rupees per annum. ... At present the mission in England is already in debt of 5000 Rupees. As the budget is not able to stretch that far, I wish that this extra cost may be borne by the women of our Jamaat. If they would collect 9000 Rupees for both causes in this year, during the coming years they will only have to contribute towards the cost for the additional missionary. ... Since the London Mosque was built with women’s donations, it belongs to them. ... They should also bear all the running costs of this mission. Hence this year an appeal of 9000 Rupees is made to women.” ... As soon as the appeal was launched, smaller and larger Lajna Majalis began efforts to collect funds from their members. ... Some cities arranged special meetings, while members from others

presented cash and jewellery. ... Some teachers from Silakot presented their entire monthly salaries.

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol1-p244-247)

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## 1929

*Wealth may be a great attraction for some, however the righteous strive for spiritual gems. Since their faith is their greatest treasure, they never feel dejected at material loss. Below is an example of an enviable member of Lajna Ima'illah, fully devoted to her faith.*

### **Death of a Dedicated Woman:**

Aysha Bibi sahiba, the wife of Mir Kareem Bakhsh Pehlwan passed away during this year. She was a woman fully dedicated to her faith. She was serving as Sadr Lajna Ima'illah Lahore. On 24<sup>th</sup> June her body was brought to Qadian for burial in Bahishti Maqbarah. She possessed immense honour for Ahmadiyyat. Once she gave a fellow Ahmadi a loan of 1000 Rupees. When she asked for the return of the loan as agreed, contrary to his promise he said that he would repay it at a later date. She reminded him (of his promise) saying: "How can you be an Ahmadi and break your promise?" His replied that he would rather abandon Ahmadiyyat. Upon hearing this, Aysha Bibi sahiba showed full respect and determination for



Ahmadiyyat and replied: "I will let you keep my money, but for God's sake please don't abandon Ahmadiyyat."

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p283-284)

*To be the wife of a martyr is an extraordinary honour. However, to be the wife of the first martyr of Ahmadiyyat and to remain firm in one's faith and raise one's progeny attached to Ahmadiyyat, is a unique distinction. The loss of such an exemplary member from Lajna Ima'illah was indeed a sad day.*

### **The Wife of the Martyr of Kabul Passes Away:**

Hazrat Shahjahan Bibi sahiba, the wife of the first martyr of Ahmadiyyat Hazrat Syed Abdul Latif<sup>ra</sup> of Kabul, passed away on 1<sup>st</sup> November 1929. She was an extremely dedicated and devoted lady. She stood steadfast and expressed great patience at the brutal and heart rendering incident when Hazrat Syed Abdul Latif<sup>ra</sup> was martyred. She then devoted herself to teach Ahmadiyyat to her children and brought them all up as sincere Ahmadis.

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p284)

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### **New Initiatives:**

The handicrafts exhibition seems to have built momentum with the passing years. This year the handicraft exhibition was opened a day before and a day after Jalsa Salana. One of the days was allocated for men only. ...

Lajna, Amritsar was especially mentioned in the following Shura for their outstanding work in this department and starting a new scheme by forming a non-government

Cooperative Society under Lajna Ima'illah to teach Ahmadi women how to be prudent with finances.

*Islam promotes support and equality for people with any kind of disability. The following example shows how Lajna members integrated its disabled members into their activities.*

For the Handicraft exhibition among other prizes, a silver medal for painting was awarded to a visually impaired lady known as Bhabi Zainab sahiba, the wife of Pir Mazhar Qayum sahib.

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p287-288)

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## **1930**

*Meaningless customs and social obligations can be a burden on the impoverished. Such un-Islamic customs can put financial pressure on families and the ramification can be extreme anxiety for the lower and middle-class families. These rituals can transform a happy occasion like a wedding to lose all its charm. At a family wedding reception Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>o</sup> took the opportunity to endorse these points.*

### **Advice Against Rituals:**

On 12<sup>th</sup> April 1930 the wedding ceremony of Sayyeda Naseera Begum sahiba and Hazrat Mirza Aziz Ahmad sahib was celebrated. The groom was the grandson of the Promised

Messiah<sup>as</sup> whereas she was the daughter of Hazrat Mir Muhammad Ishaq Sahib<sup>ra</sup>. An article written by the father of the bride for this occasion was read out during the event. Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> then added some additional clarification in his speech. He drew the audience's attention towards the basic principles of reforming the cultural traditions of providing a dowry by the bride's parents and 'bari' to the bride by the groom's parents.

Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> stated:

Bid'at (innovation) is a practice adhered to by people despite having no definite grounding in Islamic teachings. People, however, perceive it as essential based on what others say about it. The purpose of it is ostentation and abiding by it is lavishness. In addition, God has declared that the one who indulges in extravagance is Satan's brother. Therefore, we should stay away from innovations and we should try to eliminate these destructive innovations as quickly as possible.

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p291)

# Chapter 2

## 1931 – 1940

- Sermon of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih<sup>ra</sup> refuting objections on Purdah
- Jalsa Salana: Women to take Advantage of their Rights
- Initiating Tehrik-e-Jadid
- Formation of Lajna Majalis at a Local Level
- Initiation of Theology Classes
- An Ahmadi Woman's Exemplary Bravery
- Meeting of the Female Companions of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>
- Khilafat Jubilee - A Blessing to Celebrate
- Creating of the Ahmadiyya Flag

*Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> desired Ahmadi women to appreciate their inclusive role within the Jamaat as their birthright. Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> had been nurturing women to escalate them to this esteemed platform. One sees that alongside changing themindset of women, Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> was simultaneously working hard at changing the thinking of men too, so they could allow this to happen. The world is still waiting for the mentallity of men to change. Here you see a Man of God commanding his Jamaat to pilot this change into action as of now.*

**Sermon of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih<sup>ra</sup> Refuting Objections on Purdah:**

The Annual General Meeting of the Indian Women's Association was held on 12<sup>th</sup> January 1931. On this occasion, several Muslim women from affluent families joined the non-Muslim women and protested against purdah. Similarly, resolutions were approved against polygamy. It was apparent that influenced by non-Muslim women, these Muslim women were raising objections against the exceptional rights that Islam has bestowed upon them.

It was necessary to stop this dangerous trend. Therefore, with this objective in mind on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> January, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> delivered a sermon and stated that this is an element of mental servitude. The reason for this is that men have not provided women their lawful rights. He directed women's attention to the fact that men alone cannot fight against the trend of atheism and heresy, thus Ahmadi women should stand alongside them. When the Ahmadi women will tell them (other women) that by abiding to the Islamic teachings, they are able to benefit from all their rights, then those women will also begin to think that they can do the same. With this purpose in mind, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> had raised the question of women having a vote at the Shura.

Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> further stated: "Many years ago I had warned you about the movement against purdah which has now been in motion since the last two years. I had also raised the question of women having a vote in Shura, commenting that it is our duty to grant women the rights that Islam has bestowed upon them. This would make them compassionate towards Islam.

Until they have these sentiments, they will not be able to invite other women to act upon the Islamic teachings or preach to them....

How would any woman who feels she herself is being victimised, be able to preach to others? Thus, both these matters are vital. Women must be given education as well as their rights within Islam. We should unreservedly entrust them with their valid rights so that they passionately involve themselves in the war against Islam as if it was their own battle. We should adhere to the freedom that Islam has rightfully given them. ... In fact men should not try to impose any restrictions other than those which have been commanded. Women possess the same mental capacity as us. ... The principles behind purdah should be fully explained to them. Once they feel content, they can join other women and eradicate the wrong concepts against Islam. Otherwise, if trend this influence spreads any further it will become difficult to control it.”...

(Tareekh Lajna Ima’illah Vol 1-p297-298)

In his sermon of 10<sup>th</sup> April 1931, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> mentioned events from the female companions of the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> to inspire bravery and courage in Ahmadi women. Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> stated: “Women from early Islam undertook great worked hard because they were given the opportunities to participate in wars. The Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> used to include them in the wars. He himself trained them and made them practice in arts of war. However, now the Muslims have abandoned these practices. (Although) I have inaugurated Lajna Ima’illah, but it is yet in its preliminary stage. There are times when

some women exhibit courage, but there are others who give up easily. It is our duty to encourage them to be courageous. If we are unable to prepare them to participate in a war, we should at least develop courage in them to the extent that if any of us goes to sacrifice his life for Islam, rather than be distressed, they feel proud to be of those who will share the merits of it (War).”

(Tareekh Lajna Ima’illah Vol 1-p300)

*The Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> expounded on the similarities of his companions to the companions of the latter days. We see that women at the time of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> were no exception, and they became ‘from among them who have not yet joined them’ (62:4).*

### **A Splendid Illustration of Financial Sacrifice:**

An extremely dedicated woman who was always in the forefront of offering financial sacrifices for the Jamaat was the wife of Hazrat Seth Abdullah Aladdin. When an appeal for the maintenance work at the London Mosque was launched, she felt very emotional towards it. She had saved 1000 coins from the money she received for the household monthly expenses. She intended to fulfil a special personal need with them. As soon as she learnt about this appeal, she offered her savings for it. She was told that as per the Islamic instructions, it will suffice for her to donate one third of her savings for this appeal. She will still be able to use the rest for her personal need. Nevertheless, she insisted on donating the whole amount. She explained that in the time of the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup>, people used to donate their entire household belongings. In

comparison, she was only donating the money that she had saved.

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p306)

*Sometimes charities organise cake sales or marathons in order to give an incentive for donations. At the same time there will be people who evaluating the need, will donate anonymously. However, for the purity of the soul Islam encourages charity openly and in secrecy.*

**Financial Sacrifices - Openly and in Secrecy:**

During his Jalsa address, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> praised the financial sacrifice made by women in the following words: "I must admit that the women of our Jamaat are worthy of praise. In comparison to all other women they have undergone tremendous sacrifices to contribute financially compared. Our women are very brave in contributing towards chanda. Contributing in secrecy and anonymously is a great source of blessing. To coercive contributions and donating as a means of showing off has become customary in our country. You should help the poor, but do it secretly. It will never result as a loss for you, nor would Allah let it go to waste. He is the Lord of both Worlds."

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p316)

*Another successful year for Lajna Ima'illah is brought to an end with the much awaited event of the year, Jalsa Salana.*



### **Jalsa Salana:**

On 27<sup>th</sup> December, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> came to the ladies' session of Jalsa to deliver a speech. Before beginning Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> said: "Last year I instructed women to read 'Kishti-e-Nooh' and 'Shahadat-ul-Quran' (Books of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>). However, those who are unable to read should ask other women to read it out to them. I would like those women who have complied with my instructions to please stand up." At this, a large number of women stood up. Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> then said: "I again instruct you to read and listen to Kishti-e-Nooh' repeatedly."

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p315)

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## **1932**

*If Ahmadi young men marry outside the Jamaat, then it will leave a disproportionate number of our girls unmarried. Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> showed his concern by devising a plan in the interest of women in the Jamaat.*

### **Striking the Balance:**

The Jamaat was facing many difficulties regarding suitable matches for Ahmadi girls. In the Shura of 1927, it had been decided that for the next three years no Ahmadi man should marry a non-Ahmadi girl. This issue was again raised during this year's Shura. After much deliberations, and in order to

help solve this problem, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> extended the time for such marriages not to take place till 1934.

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p319)

### **Tabligh - Exemption for No One:**

*The singular most important task of any Prophet is to preach the message of God. Since there is no Prophet in history who has ever been excused from this duty, similarly no one from the adherents of the Jamaat should exempt themselves.*

During the same Shura, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> instructed the Nazarat-e-Dawat-o-Tabligh to organise a Tabligh Day. Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> stated that there should be a scheme in which men and women should hold the Tabligh day under supervision. A Tabligh Day plan should be devised by every Jamaat so that each individual participates in Tabligh. Nazarat-e-Dawat-o-Tabligh reserved two days, 18<sup>th</sup> October 1933 and 5<sup>th</sup> March 1933 for this purpose.

Lajna Ima'illah held Tabligh Days on 18<sup>th</sup> October 1933 and 5<sup>th</sup> March 1933 as planned. They visited near by villages for the purpose of preaching and also distributed some leaflets. ...

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p319)

### **Jalsa Salana: Women to take Advantage of their Rights:**

*As per previous years, Jalsa Salana 1932 was held at the appointed dates. The ladies were again fortunate enough to listen to a special address by Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> in which Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> spoke to them of their rights.*

... Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> explained to women that the system of the world operates with the alliance of both men

and women; exactly as nerves and veins are interconnected. Women from all nations are fighting for their rights. However, the Ahmadi women must learn to use the rights Islam has bestowed upon them rather than join in the same struggle. They should read the Holy Quran, the Hadith and the books of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> to familiarise themselves with their rights.

Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> advised the women that in order for their rights to be beneficial to them, they need to make sacrifices. He drew their attention towards adherence to the Nizam-e-Jamaat. He gave them the responsibility of two specific matters for the following year.

1. Design a burqa that is suitable from the Islamic perspective as well as for health.
2. Improve the Annual Exhibition. In addition to sewing and stitching, there should be a plan to send other local handicrafts to the Annual Exhibition.

...Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> mentioned that although the number of Lajna attending the Jalsa this year was one and a half times more compared to the previous year, the organisers did not extend the Lajna Jalsa Gah.

When Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> saw that more women were arriving and there was no additional space available, he instructed the local women of Qadian to leave in order to accommodate women from outside Qadian. Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> instructed the ladies Jalsa Gah to be extended every year and a loud speaker to be provided also. ...

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p325-326)

## 1933

*Lajna Ima'illah had now successfully completed ten years of its journey. There is not much reported in the History of Lajna Ima'illah for this year except for the sad demise of Hazrat Sayyeda Sara Begum sahiba, the wife of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> and the General Secretary of Lajna Imma'illa. Hazrat Sayyeda Sara Begum sahiba's life was a noble one indeed. She sought no worldly acclaim or fame. She was constantly seeking the Pleasure of Allah and her education was intended for the benefit of others. If intentions and efforts are the measure of success, she deserves the highest merit and reward. She was a brave and heroic scholar indeed. She was indeed a lady dedicated to acquiring knowledge to assist Lajna Ima'illah. It was very unfortunate that only a few years after her marriage, Sayyeda Sara Begum sahiba, the wife of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> passed away in childbirth on 13<sup>th</sup> May 1933 at the tender age of 26 years.*

إِنَّا لِلَّهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ

*'To Allah we belong and to Him shall we return'*

Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> had gone to Rawalpindi when he was informed about her serious condition. Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> set off for Qadian but sadly, she passed away before Huzoor's arrival. She was buried next to Hazrat Sayyada Amatul Hayee sahiba. Her newborn daughter also passed away twenty-four hours later.

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p328)

In his speech of Jalsa Salana 1933, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> whilst explaining his point of view regarding female education expressed his gratitude to members of Jamaat for their messages of sympathy at the demise of Sayyada Sara Begum. Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> praised Sayyeda Sara Begum sahiba for her excellent qualities and enormous efforts towards further studying after her marriage.

Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> further stated: "I wish to remove some misunderstanding that may have been created as a result of some of my comments or their own misconceptions about her. I do not believe that the world is dependent on any individual irrespective of how talented or potentially gifted they may be. The prophets of Allah come to this world and then depart. The world carries on after them; rather it still continues in its progression. In my view, when Allah takes something away from us which may be extremely dear and precious to us, he bestows upon us something better in this world or the hope that we will have that connection to it again; if not in this world then maybe in the hereafter. Thus, it is not correct to deem that the death of my wife is an irrevocable loss. There is always wisdom in what Allah Wills. ... We cannot be true in our faith, unless we believe that any calamity from Allah on us is for our betterment. Nevertheless, after her death a thought came to my mind that our Jamaat is repeating the same mistake about women's education as earlier. They are following women's education according to the universities. We must not follow this. There is a vast difference between our circumstances. They don't give value to education outside the universities. In England, there are great scholars who have received education outside

universities. In our countries, a person educated outside university has no value at all. In comparison, if a person is ignorant and irrational but holds a university degree, he is valued. ... It is not a requisite for us to think that women must be educated at universities. An important task for a woman is to bring up her children and take care of their moral upbringing. It is essential to educate them to be able to bring up their children in a productive way and take care of their moral training. They should be able to read and write. Women who meet English women must learn English. They don't necessarily require degrees for this. ...I would like the Jamaat to understand my view and reform the present method of education. We have no choice but to send boys to colleges in order to get degrees because they cannot gain employments in government organisations without them. However, it is a fact that boys are under bad influences while at college. If they have mothers who also spent time reading romantic novels, then how will our children be reformed? We need mothers in our Jamaat who are acquainted with religion and possess religious knowledge, which will enable them to remove the bad influences their children receive.

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p340-342)

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*There is a perception within the people outside the Jamaat that only women cook at our functions. This may be the result of their belief that women are inferior in Islam. They are often surprised to learn that men are our main chefs in our Jamaat events. As a matter of fact, it has always been the men taking charge of the kitchens during our large gatherings.*

### **Large Cooking Pans for use During Jalsa Salana:**

The Ziafat department appealed for large pans for Jalsa use in the Langar Khana. ...The person in-charge reported that in response to the appeal for eighty large pans, ample money had been donated for the purchase of ninety-one pans. Out of this number, thirty-four pans were donated by Lajna Ima'illah.

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p345-347)

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## **1934**

*The spread of Islam globally is going to take place at the hands of the Jamaat of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>. This is destiny prophesied by the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup>. This year is significant in Ahmadiyya History as the men and women were informed of their important role by Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> in achieving this reality.*

### **Initiating Terik-e-Jadid:**

*The most significant event of this year was the initiation of Tehrik-e-Jadid. Inspired by Divine decree, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> launched a grand new scheme for the propagation of Islam. This was in response to the abusive and physical threats made by the Ahrar against Ahmadiyyat. Initially it was for three years and then Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> extended it with no time*

*limits. As a result of this Divine scheme the Jamaat has been able to establish its missions worldwide. Hundreds of mosques and schools have been built since. These organs facilitate to spread the message of Unity of Allah and the high status of the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup>. Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> explained it over a number of Friday sermons.*

In a sermon in 1935 Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> said: "I hope that Tahrik-e-Jadid will last for countless ages, just as the stars in the sky, so did Allah say to Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> that his progeny would be countless. And Hazrat Ibrahim's progeny greatly served the faith, and the same is being done through Tehrik-e-Jadid."

(Friday Sermon, 22 February, 1935)

*In his Friday sermon of 23<sup>rd</sup> November, Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> placed nineteen demands for sacrifice on the Jamaat for the fulfilment of its objectives. These were the fundamental pillars of Tehrik-e-Jadid. Within the Ahmadiyya Jamaat Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> urged men as well as women to make several specific sacrifices which they all willingly fulfilled.*

In his sermon Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> said: "We desperately require women to support us, otherwise our sacrifice will be in name only. Hence, I specifically request women to pay attention to these sacrifices and cooperate with men on issues I am about to mention. Without their sacrifice the men will be forced into reducing the (household) expenses they give them. As a result they will not only be deprived from receiving any spiritual reward, but it will result in contentions within the family. Our women should remember that there have been women in the past who have made incredible sacrifices.



It was always optional to participate in Tehrik-e-Jadid. Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> presented all the facts and solutions to the Jamaat. He did not suggest a penalty if anyone is reluctant to contribute. The decision of reward or penalty is left to for Allah so those who participated would reap greater spiritual rewards. Accordingly, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> gave clear instructions not to pressurise the men. ...Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> particularly indicated to the workers not to be concerned about the lack of funds. Allah wants to test the Jamaat. He is Majestic and is not in need of any wealth. This was Allah's test for the Jamaat. Allah holds Honour for Himself and He is not in need for anyone's money.

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p364)

Amongst the demands of Tehrik-e-Jadid made by Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup>, there were demands of self-restraint. These were mostly related to women. Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> demanded to bring such a change to their habits of eating, clothing, elaborations in decorating their homes and adorning themselves for three years which would make them complaisant in offering sacrifice. The first requirement was simplicity in eating habits. The second was to dress simple clothing. Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> advised women to purchase clothes on the basis of need rather than choice. During this period, they should refrain from purchasing ornamental brocade, laces or new jewellery. If they already have some, then they can use them. Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> strictly forbade cinemas and theatres visits. ...

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p365)

... The message by Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> brought about a revolution in the Jamaat in a short time. In the eyes of non-

Ahmadis, this was indeed a remarkable achievement. Arjun Singh Aajiz, the Sikh editor of an Indian newspaper 'Rangeen' published from Amritsar wrote:

"The Ahmadi Khalifa is always vigilant over their family life as well. Time to time he sends instructions and if acted upon them they lead happy lives. I will mention some of the instructions of their Khalifa here, which will reveal why this Jamaat is making progress. ... The Khalifa has instructed not to purchase any new jewellery or unnecessary clothes, and brocade laces etc for three years. It is astonishing to observe how the Ahmadi men and women instantly listen to the instructions issued by their Khalifa and relinquish all such things. This is a huge sacrifice. Certainly, it will result in this Jamaat excelling in comparison to others in India. People, who are able to control their emotions and relinquish their valid wishes will never fall prey to unlawful desires. It is obvious that a person is lead to deterioration when they are following their desires. Hence the Ahmadis hold a distinguished position in this respect."...

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p366-367)

**Jalsa Salana:**

*Lajna Imma'illah were gradually improving the arrangements made for ladies on Jalsa Salana. As a result of previous year's experience, the Jalsah Gah was widened. Marques were set up with new entrances and walkways mapped out. Various departments were formed to aid the smooth running of Jalsa with a person in-charge assigned the responsibility for each. Additionally two Lajna members were appointed for*

*inspection and producing reports. Alhamdulillah it proved successful and the patterns have been followed since.*

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## **1935**

### **The Silver Jubilee of King George:**

This year 1935 marked 25 years of King George V's coronation. An official announcement was made that all those countries that accepted King George V as their sovereign will mark this happy occasion on 6<sup>th</sup> May 1935. Official funds were regionally set up for this. Lajna Ima'illah also contributed to this fund.

*Despite being in a situation of scarcity and short of means themselves, the aim of the fund was to aid the destitute widows, orphans, or those in need of medical treatment affected by war.*

The General Secretary Lajna Ima'illah Hazrat Umme Tahir sahiba wrote a letter to encourage the Lajna to donate to this fund.

“... God is Self Sufficient, and the Master of innumerable treasures. If He had so wished He could have arranged a solution from Himself, but His Divine decree is such that He demands a sacrifice from this humble institution of men and women to offer their services. So He can gauge the level of dedication and genuine level of sacrifice and reward us

accordingly. So, my sisters, do not become anxious. I am personally aware of your situation. I pray to God that He showers His Blessings on you and envelops you in his Mercy. May He remove far all the obstacles in our path and enable us to strive for greater and better sacrifice. Ameen ...”

Humbly

Umme Tahir Ahmad

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p374 5-376)

Additionally, various celebrations were held in Qadian between 1<sup>st</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> May. On 4<sup>th</sup> May 160 ladies of limited means were invited to a celebratory dinner. On 5<sup>th</sup> May a social gathering was organised to celebrate the Silver Jubilee.

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p376)

*All true religions are sent by Allah; thus they are the branches of the same tree. Yet diversity in religions or even within the same religion is an undeniable fact. One would have thought that there would be some intra-religious intolerance practised at least among the followers of Islam. The Qur'an clearly says: "There is no compulsion in religion." (Sura Al-Baqarah 256) Sadly, the attitude exhibited by some Muslims is totally the opposite. The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> and also his followers have been subjected to various forms of harassment since his claim to Prophethood. We come across such an example in 1935, which involves the son of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>.*

### **Hazrat Mirza Sharif Ahmad<sup>ra</sup> Attacked:**

The Ahrar party (Indian Muslim Political Party who were bitter opponents of Ahmadiyyat) became extremely provocative during this period On 8<sup>th</sup> July 1935 Hazrat Mirza Sharif

Ahmad<sup>ra</sup>, the youngest son of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> was unexpectedly attacked and beaten by a member of this party whilst he was cycling home from his office. The news of his attack spread all over Qadian like a wild fire. All Ahmadis were extremely aggrieved.

In peaceful solidarity, Lajna held a special gathering on the 10<sup>th</sup> July to express their sadness and to condemn the attack.

The Ahrar were not content with their derogatory action. They wanted to go further and also attack Ahmadi women. Hence, it was decided to guard the Ahmadi homes and the road leading to the Ahmadiyya Chauk. There was a particular threat to girls when travelling to school. Additionally, Amoor-e-Ama cautioned women in general not to leave their homes due to the imminent danger that was looming at that time.

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p381)

**Wedding Ceremony of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> with Sayyeda Maryam Siddiqa Sahiba:**

The Nikah between Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> and Hazrat Sayyeda Maryam Siddiqa was solemnised on 30<sup>th</sup> September 1935.

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p383)

*She was the daughter of Hazrat Dr Mir Mohammad Ismail Sahib<sup>ra</sup>, the brother of Hazrat Amma Jaan<sup>ra</sup>. In the following years, she proved to be of immense benefit to Lajna Ima'illah. Her services to Lajna Ima'illah are spread over an extensive period. She not only served as the General Secretary for a number of years, but after the demise of Hazrat Umme-Nasir sahiba she took over the responsibilities as the President of*

*Central Lajna Ima'illah. Affectionately known as "ChottiApa", she faithfully fulfilled her role with great care and love for this sacred institution for a prolonged period of time.*

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## **1936**

*Lajna Ima'illah has now successfully completed thirteen years since its establishment. Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> like a kind father continuously kept watch over it and steered it in the right direction whenever required. During the early stage of Lajna Ima'illah, membership for Ahmadi women was not automatically registered. This was a step devised much later.*

### **Formation of Lajna Majalis at a Local Level:**

It is the fourteenth year since the establishment of Lajna Ima'illah. This is a significant year in its history. In the beginning of this year, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> directed the formation of local branches in Qadian. ... At the end of July 1934 Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> directed to increase of the number of Lajna members. ... By the end of 1935 the Lajna membership had exceeded 500.

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p392)

### **Humanity Versus Self Sufficiency - Keeping the Balance:**

*There are some in the West who believe that the reason people who are poor is due to their own laziness and incompetency. In the third world there are many entire*

*families who work horrific hours in appalling conditions just to feed themselves. Blessings are due from Allah. As per Islamic teachings, those who are gifted with means should share with those who are less endowed. Service to humanity is partially to make someone stand independently on their own feet. Until then, every human is entitled to be supported in respect of his basic needs. Hazoor<sup>ra</sup> instructed to keep in mind that every deserving woman and child must be provided with housing and two daily meals.*

**Directions:**

Hazrat Sayyeda Umme Tahir sahiba, the wife of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> was the General Secretary for Lajna Ima'illah Qadian. She wrote an article in the periodical Misbah under the following title.

**Guidance: for Lajna Ima'illah**

“Whilst instructing to establish Amila members in each local Jamaat, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> explained during the commentary of the verse of the Quran

وَلَمْ نَكُ نَطْعِمُ الْمَسْكِينِ

and said: “ You cannot neglect your responsibilities only by providing food for the one who is hungry and clothing for the needy. The principle laid by Islam is to provide food, clothes and shelter for the needy. Every hungry one, to clothe the unclothed and to provide shelter for every homeless etc. Generally, the needy in Qadian are well taken care of; which also has encouraged the habit of begging in them. I am willing to provide 500 Rupees for this cause. Lajna Ima'illah must

prepare a list of the needy and help them to earn a living, so the habit of begging, which is tantamount to death can be removed. It will be the most important task for Lajna to find a means of income for the needy. ...Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> has addressed us in these words. Let us hope that we are able to say to Allah that we discharged our duty fully only by His Grace; we were able to make sufficient arrangements that no one in our Jamaat remained hungry or unclothed. We fully acted upon Your Command. We need to look at the example exemplification of the companions of the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup>...

Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> also stated: "... Every person is entitled to food, clothes and accommodation. These three things are vital for everyone. It is the government's duty to provide these, but if they can't do it, then people should take up this responsibility. The principle that goes with it is that no one should sit idle. Everyone should work hard and earn their living and feed themselves and begging from another person is akin to death.

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p393-394)

*The Islamic principles for trade are based to benefit both parties, so both the vendor and the buyer should benefit in the transactions. Below is an example how to put this into practice.*

### **Organising Handicrafts Lessons:**

After the production of handicrafts and organising exhibitions, another scheme followed on from this. On 27<sup>th</sup> June 1936 Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> delivered an address at a Lajna Ima'illah's local gathering. He instructed women to



learn handicrafts and personally produce items. In response to this, handicraft work started on a large scale. Though, members were already active in creating handicrafts, but after Huzoor's instructions, it was decided to create a separate department for this. Thus unemployed women could also learn new skills and work for remuneration; as the products created would then be sold. ...

### **Trade and Minimal Profits:**

Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> personally provided a sum of money to initiate teaching handicrafts to women. The lady in charge for handicrafts, Arifa Begum sahiba states: "...The work started well. There were no paid workers. Volunteers were managing the work well. Maimuna Soofia sahiba used to purchase the material from outside Qadian. Everytime a new item was prepared with the material, I personally took it to show Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup>. Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> always advised to take minimal profit so the item is sold quickly. The items were also given to various presidents and secretaries of different Lajna Majalis. ..."

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p396-397)

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### **Initiation of Theology Classes:**

An important episode this year was the initiation of theology classes at Nusrat Girls High School. Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> felt that the syllabus prepared by the government for the girls' education was not beneficial for them. ...Thus, in April 1936, on under Huzoor's directive, Theology classes were started in Nusrat High School for Girls. ... The syllabus covered the

commentary of the Holy Qur'an, Hadith, Fiqha, History of Islam, as well as the books of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>. ... Additionally, the girls were also encouraged to practice public speaking.

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p400-401)

*A particular student worth mentioning who graduated from this class was Amatul Hafeez sahiba, daughter of the late Chaudhri Ghulam Hussain sahib. She later married the Nobel Prize winner Dr Abdus Salam sahib. She was fortunate to serve as the President of Lajna Ima'illah UK for approximately twenty two years. A much loved president by members of Lajna UK, she carried out her responsibilities with utmost sincerity and humility.*

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*(The information below is extracted from Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-page 403)*

### **King George V Passes Away:**

*On 30<sup>th</sup> January 1936 King George V passed away in England. As India was ruled by the British at the time, he was also the Emperor of India. Lajna Ima'illah sent a telegram of condolences to Lady Willingdon, who was the wife of the Viceroy of India. It expressed their sorrow at the demise of the King and also assurance to be faithful to his successor King Edward VIII.*

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*Generally speaking, physical strength in comparison to men is not endowed to women. In women's self-defence classes, one of the main jobs of the instructors is to help a woman realise her personal strength. However, only in adversity does our true strength shine. The example below is of a brave woman who gathered enough strength to overcome male criminals.*

**An Ahmadi Woman's Exemplary Bravery:**

An interesting incident happened during the night of 21-22<sup>nd</sup> February. While an Ahmadi Bashir Ahmad sahib Ludhianvi (District Sanitary Inspector of Muzaffargarh) was away from his house, two armed robbers forced their way in his house and tried to steal goods. They threatened to kill his wife Ghulam Fatima sahiba and children with a sword, but his wife showed a lot of courage and tackled the robbers and foiled their plot. When Bashir Ahmad sahib informed Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> of this incident, Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> personally wrote the following response to him.

“Although it was quite dangerous, but the wisdom and the courage shown by your wife transformed this event into a blessed one. Please convey my congratulations to her.”

Upon the extraordinary courage shown by this woman, the Lajna Ima'illah Qadian organised a special meeting on 15 March. It was suggested in the meeting to write the following letter to their sister on behalf of Lajna Ima'illah.

Our dear brave sister Assalamo Alaikum wa Rehmatullahe wa Barakatahu

It was a great pleasure to learn that by the Grace of Allah, you fought the armed robbers with great courage and punished

them as they deserved. We congratulate you from the bottom of our hearts for your courage and bravery, and pray that may Allah protect you from every evil. May Allah give the same kind of courage and confidence that you have expressed to every Ahmadi sister. Ameen sum Ameen

Wasalam

Members of Lajna Qadian

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p405- 406)

### **Tarbiyyat in Regards with Modern Fashion:**

*It is endearing to read, about how Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> challenges Tarbiyyat issues in his own home; encouraging through constant reminders. To bring about reformation in any community, one must pay attention to both minor and major points.*

Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> said about fashion:

“For the past two years I emphasised that the style of clothing exposing arms and low cut necks should not be worn by ladies in our household. Fashion is a contagious disease, which rapidly spreads everywhere.”

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p409)

### **A Well-thought Idea:**

*Like a General in action looking after all aspects of his army, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> observes and formulates new and inventive ways so that all of his followers march forward in splendour. In this case, Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> brilliantly articulates the inclusion of women to help their husbands in fulfilling their chanda dues.*

On 12<sup>th</sup> April 1936 during the third session of Shura, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> said:

“...Through Lajna Ima’illah ladies have been encouraged to inspire their husbands to pay the prescribed rate of chanda. For this reason Lajna should be established everywhere, so they can motivate women. Consequently in this way these women can help awaken their husbands. ...”

“I know of some sincere women from our Jamaat who ask their husbands to pay chanda before bringing their salary home. Thus, if there are reminders both from outside the house by the person collecting chanda and inside by the wife, then there is no possibility for the man not to pay the chanda. Women are sincere, and they can undertake a lot of work if they are provided the opportunity to do so.”

Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> in his speech mentioned about an Ahmadi woman’s devotion saying: “Only yesterday I was informed that some young men from the Core (Referring to National League Core) went to a gathering in Daska (for recruitment). A mother who was also a companion of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> said to her son:

“I will be happy to hear the news that you have been killed but I will not be able to bear the news that you fled rather than face the enemy.”

(Tareekh Lajna Ima’illah Vol 1-p410)

*Divine communities are never afraid of trials and tribulations in the way of Allah. They may even consider the experience to be a blissful pleasure. A true believer will have firm faith that*

*it is a test from Allah. They will remain patient and hope that Allah will reward them for it.*

### **Persecution by Ahrar Continues:**

The Ahrar party had started mischief again in those days. Two young children from the area of Darul Rehmat died. Their burial arrangements were in progress, but the Ahrar obstructed their burials. Similarly, on 3<sup>rd</sup> June there were murder attacks on the Ahmadis of Daska and on Chaudhry Shukarullah Khan sahib, a chieftain of Daska. The axe penetrated his head and he sustained a serious injury. The injury was so severe that he fell down. As he got up to his feet, another Ahrari man threw a brick at him. As a result he became unconscious and fell down. Meanwhile, some Ahmadis who had been offering Salat at the Ahmadiyya mosque came out and saved his life with great difficulty. There were further attacks on other Ahmadis as well.

### **A Protest Meeting:**

A protest meeting by Lajna Ima'illah Qadian was held on 19<sup>th</sup> June 1936. Hazrat Sayyeda Umme Tahir sahiba presided over it. The following resolutions were approved.

1. This assembly of the women of Jamaat Ahmadiyya and members of Lajna Ima'illah Qadian view the biased and unjust behaviour of Daska police and especially that of the Sub-Inspector of police with great sadness, anger, grief and revulsion. Distressing examples of this attitude were expressed earlier during and after the Town Committee elections in Daska. We request the

Government to transfer the aforementioned Sub-Inspector from Daska with immediate effect.

2. This special meeting of the women of Jamaat Ahmadiyya Qadian wishes to direct the attention of the higher authorities towards the heart vexing and revolting speech by Faiz-ul-Hassan Alu Mahari. In his speech, he incited the Muslims of Daska in the following words: "O Muslims of Daska! Sharpen your swords and cut off the heads of the Mirzais". We demand that the Government of Punjab activates its legal mechanisms to remove the negative effects of this peace shattering and hate inciting speech.
3. This meeting looks at this inhumane and peace shattering behaviour of the Ahrari protesters with extreme contempt. They passed by in a procession in front of our Ahmadi brothers' houses in Daska, equipped with spears, sticks and swords, and using foul abusive language against the Ahmadi holy personages and raising hate inciting slogans.
4. This special meeting expresses discontent at the biased and unjust behaviour of the Qadian Police in relation to the old graveyard in Qadian. Distressing examples of this attitude have been continuously expressed for three days.

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p416-417)

### **Antagonism of the Ahrar:**

*Women are inherently vulnerable, but they have an innate desire to protect what they love and honour. Just as any man would be prepared to surrender his life when it comes to the*

*love and safety of Khilafat, so do we find the same sentiments, zeal and eagerness in women.*

On 17<sup>th</sup> September 1936 Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> was returning home by car from the Railway Station after having seeing off his son Mirza Nasir Ahmad, who was returning to England after his short stay in Qadian. A malicious man threw a stone at the car Huzoor was travelling in. By the Grace of Allah it only damaged the roof of the car and Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> did not come to any harm.

All the Ahmadis were furious and pained by this incident. The Central Lajna Ima'illah Qadian held a meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> September 1936 presided by Maryam Begum sahiba, the wife of Hafiz Roshan Ali sahib<sup>ra</sup>. The following resolutions were approved in this meeting.

1. This large gathering of the Ahmadi ladies views the wicked and loath some nasty man who threw a stone at Huzoor's car with contempt. We are appalled by this shocking incident.
2. This attack on Huzoor's car was not a casual incident; rather it was a result of an organised conspiracy. Lajna have already approved resolutions to bring the cruel actions by the Ahrar to the attention of the Government. Now, since our National League has decided that we should not have any expectations from the Government, we will only take our plea to our Lord Who is the Ultimate Judge.
3. A submission should be made to Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> that we are purdah observing women, thus we are unable to make any physical arrangement for hisprotection. Nonetheless, we are



fully prepared to sacrifice our lives, our wealth, our honour and our children for Huzoor's sake.

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p421-422)

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## 1937

*We start this year with an extract from the Friday sermon delivered by Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> on 15<sup>th</sup> January 1936.*

### **Living Nations Never Rely On A Single Person:**

Speaking in regards to the promises for the third year of Tehrik-e-Jadid, Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> additionally said:

... "I again advise Lajna Ima'illah that any committee dependant on a single person can never be successful in the world; for if they are unwell, the work will come to a standstill. Only those committees are successful that are not dependent on (particular) persons. If one person dies or leaves, then another person is immediately prepared to take over. And if the second person also dies or leaves then the third person is immediately prepared to take over. In fact living nations and hard working people never rely on just one person."

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-428-p429)

On 12<sup>th</sup> May 1937 the Coronation of King George VI and his Queen was celebrated throughout the British Empire. At the time India was included in the empire as “The Jewel in the Crown”. King George and Queen Elizabeth were the last British monarchs to accede to the title Emperor and Empress of India. The cost of the coronation in London was estimated at £454,000. The coronation was also celebrated as a joyous occasion throughout India.

(Tareekh Lajna Ima’illah Vol 1-p437)

### **An Internal Mischief:**

The anti Ahmadiyya movements that had thus far been unsuccessful came together again with full force in 1937. Another internal mischief initiated by Sheikh Abdul Rehman Misri started at the same time. He eventually left the Jamaat. He had falsely claimed to have lots of influence in the Ahmadiyya Jamaat. In answer to his claim, the Jamaat renewed their pledge to Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup>. They assured Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> of their devotion and that they detested the false claim made by Sheikh Abdul Rehman Misri. In the same context Ahmadi women individually as well as members of Lajna Ima’illah after holding meetings, sent declarations of their loyalty and devotion to Huzoor<sup>ra</sup>. They wrote to him: “We are wholeheartedly prepared for every kind of sacrifice for the honour of Khilafat.”

### **Meeting of the Female Companions of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>:**

On 30<sup>th</sup> July a meeting of some female companions of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> and members of Lajna was held. Hazrat

Umme Nasir sahiba presided over it. Razia Begum sahiba presented the following resolution which was unanimously approved:

1. We are the female companions of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> residing in Qadian. We truly believe in Ameer-ul-Momineen's Khilafat. We believe Huzoor to be the 'Promised Son,' according to all of the revelations of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>. We deem that the key to our personal success and for the Jamaat in general, is to keep a strong connection with the true Khilafat. We will always be loyal to the Khilafat and be prepared to offer any sacrifice at all times.
2. We abhor the hypocrites and the enemies of Khilafat and consider their claims of knowledge ability and influence nothing but boasting. We especially abhor the lack of faith in those hypocritical women who joined their husbands in this malicious and vile mischief. We are pleased at decision that Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> had made to expel the element who spread vile and malicious influence, from our Jamaat.

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p439-440)

**Jalsa Salana Arrangements:**

On 24<sup>th</sup> December, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> inspected the arrangements made for Jalsa Salana space... Prior to this in his Friday sermon Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> also instructed men to be considerate of women. Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> said: "It would be best if men and women are allocated opposite sides of the streets and roads when walking. Men who need to use the roads frequently should be

reminded to use their side of the road. They should not expect women to make room for them to pass by. Instead they should keep to one side of the road.”

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p443)

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*Historically, the culture in South Asia has no recognition of women's rights with regards to inheritance. This was neither to be found in the Hindu scriptures, or the law of the land. The Western countries fared no better in this particular regard either. In England the inheritance went to the first born male, with the exclusion of all other siblings. Within this context the events below make an immensely powerful read for women's rights activists.*

*During the Shura in April 1937, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> had brought the attention of the Shura delegates to the matter of women's right to inheritance. Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> asked members to evaluate themselves in this respect.*

### **Women's Right to Inheritance:**

*In his speech delivered on 28<sup>th</sup> December during the Jalsa Salana, Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> stated:*

*“It has been fifty years now since the establishment of Jamaat-e-Ahmadiyya. Yet, there are still people in the Jamaat who do not give their daughters their prescribed share of inheritance. ... An Ahmadi who claims that he will transform the world, is not giving his daughters, his sisters, his wife, the share that Islam has enjoined him to give them. In my view the landowners feel that if they do so, their well-merited land will go to other families. If the whole of our Jamaat acts upon*

this, then this problem will also be solved. If one landowner's land goes in the possession of others, then another landowner's land will come to him as well. Thus there is no realistic cause stopping us to act upon this commandment. I feel the time has now come when every sincere Ahmadi should make a pledge that in future he will give his sister, his daughter, his mother the share of their inheritance that Islamic Sharia has enjoined him to give them. If he is not prepared to act upon this, then he should separate himself from us. ...

After explaining the importance of this issue and proving that the world can only be transformed with the revival of the Islamic Sharia and the Sunnah. I will say something today which I have not previously said. I ask those among you who are prepared to act upon this in the future to please stand up."

Upon hearing this all the participants present stood up and affirmed this by saying

لبيك يا امير المؤمنين

As soon as the women sitting in the women's JalsaGah heard this, they became emotional and raised slogans to express their love and appreciation for their beloved benefactor.

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p446- 447)

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# 1938

## A Historical Journey:

On 1<sup>st</sup> October 1938, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> travelled to Sindh. Thereon he proceeded to Karachi, Mumbai, Hyderabad and Agra. On his return journey, he visited Delhi and then returned to Qadian on 29<sup>th</sup> October. Huzoor's notable companions during this journey were myself (his wife Hazrat Maryam Siddiqah sahiba), his sister, Hazrat Nawab Mubarakah Begum sahiba and his daughter Amatul Quyyum sahiba.

It was during this blessed journey that Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> had many spiritual revelations and huzoor started a series of lectures named as 'Spiritual excursion- سیر روحانی'. These continued intermittently from 1938 to 1958.... Huzoor wrote the following preface for the second volume:

"... I dedicate this book to Maryam Siddiqah, because I started this journey for her to show her around Hyderabad. With the Blessings of Allah, this topic was revealed to me during this journey. Although in this journey my sister Mubarakah and my daughter Amatul Quyyum Begum also accompanied us, reason for this journey was to show Maryam Siddiqah Hyderabad, where a number of her relatives reside.

I want her to always receive the spiritual merit reward for this book, both in this life and in the life hereafter. The Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> has said that only charity and prayers can reach the deceased ones. Hence, I will pay all the expenses of this book on behalf of Maryam Siddiqah so that whoever benefits from

this book will pray for her. She will be the recipient of receive the spiritual merit till eternity for all of the copies that will be published free of cost.

I instruct Shirkat-e-Islamia that as I will be making the payment for two hundred copies on behalf of Maryam Siddiqah, they should be sold to the poor and deserving to sell two hundred books to poor and needy at a subsidised of 1/8 of the actual price. This is because I will pay all the expenditure of its publication on behalf of Maryam Siddiqah. This book will be given to those who will promise to read this preface and ask others also to read it and pray. Five hundred books should be distributed amongst the deserving needy. A fund named after Maryam Siddiqah should be established with the revenue and profit of the remaining copies. This fund should be used evermore forever to publish Islamic literature. This perpetual Sadaqa should be maintained continued in practice.

Mirza Mahmud Ahmad

Khalifatul-Masih

17<sup>th</sup> April 1956

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p465-466)

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# 1939

*The year 1939, marked the Silver Jubilee of the Khilafat of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup>. The blessings of Khilafat are manifold. As a spiritual father, the Khalifa guides and leads the Jamaat closer to Allah by continuing to work towards the teachings of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>. He also keeps the followers united and strong in faith.*

*The completion of 25 years of the Khilafat of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> coincided with the completion of 50 years of the institution of the Ahmadiyya Khilafat. Lajna Ima'illah participated in collecting funds to celebrate this auspicious occasion.*

## **Khilafat Jubilee - A Blessing to Celebrate:**

On the occasion of Khilafat Silver Jubilee Hazrat Mirza Bashir Ahmad<sup>ra</sup> pointed out the services rendered by Lajna Immaillah in his publication entitled 'Silsala Ahmadiyya' (Institution of Ahmadiyyat) as follows:

## **Organisation and Moral Training of Ahmadi Women:**

“Women are equal to half the body of a nation. Although in some ways their role carries more responsibility than men, because they carry the influential weight of the future offspring of the nation in their laps. This is why the holy founder of Islam paid great emphasis on the upbringing of girls, so that they can be trained sufficiently in the imminent grand task that lies ahead of them. Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> had kept this idea in mind at the outset of his Khilafat, and



paid particular attention towards the women's organisation and their moral upbringing. Towards the end of 1922 or the beginning of 1923 Huzoor initiated Lajna Ima'illah in Qadian. This organisation was purely for women and continues to be to this day. Through it, women carry out their designated responsibilities such as the collection of chanda from women, preaching to women, education of girls, moral upbringing of women, and the administration of the organisation. ...

Once Lajna Ima'illah Qadian had been functioning for a while and became independent, Huzoor instructed to establish local Lajna (branches) outside Qadian as well. Therefore, by the Grace of Allah Lajna has been established in many cities with some of them working very efficiently. Consequently, this has become a means to stimulate the Ahmadi ladies who have developed an immense spirit to work for the Jamaat.

In 1925, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> expanded this work further and established a special school to educate and train older girls and women in Qadian. (The aim was) to select some women, educate them and prepare train them for teaching and other Jamaat tasks. A large number of Ahmadi women successfully accomplished 'Maulvi' qualification from this school. A girl from this school achieved first position in the whole of Punjabin the 'Maulvi' examination. Religious studies, parenting, moral training of children, some basic maths, history, geography and English lessons were part of the curriculum. A separate library for women was also established at the same time.

In 1926, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> started a special magazine by the name of Misbah for women. He appealed to women to write articles that enhance knowledge, assist with preaching and recommend ways of moral training. This magazine is still published and women take interest in it. During the same period, Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> also encouraged women to take interest in handicrafts. This was primarily for them not to waste their time and spend it doing something worthwhile; also earning something. The third advantage was for the handicraft industry to flourish in the country. A handicraft exhibition for women was initiated which continues on a yearly basis on Jalsa in Qadian. Ahmadi women exhibit their handicraft samples in it.

Under this organisational programme, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> also proposed that Ahmadi women should hold their own Jalsa Salana. This will provide the opportunity for women to practise public speaking, as well as enhance their knowledge and moral training. Furthermore, they will not be wasting their time while staying in Qadian. As a result, Jalsa Salana for women is held every year in Qadian. Thousands of women participate in this. In addition to women's speeches, some selected male speakers also deliver speeches with the facility of a partition (between the speaker and the female audience). Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> also personally delivers a speech to the ladies. Thousands of Ahmadi women benefit from these speeches and return from Qadian with a new spirit. ...

In brief, Ahmadi women have made tremendous progression in all fields of life under guidance and directions Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup>. In certain fields, their enthusiasm and

passion puts men to shame. This includes financial sacrifice where they hold a leading position. The following single incident can be produced as a showcase for their sacrifice when in the beginning of 1923 Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> made an appeal for only the Ahmadi women to raise funds to build a mosque in Germany. Women collected over 100,000 Rupees in the space of a few months. This was all through women's donations. There was no contribution from men included in this. God had destined not to have this mosque built in Germany. After consultation with women, this money was spent to fulfil other vital religious needs. Nevertheless, this incident is a magnificent example of women's sacrifice at the time. This amount was not the result of large donations; rather the full amount was achieved through small contributions. In most situations, women had donated their jewellery instead of cash.

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p69-72)

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*No Jamaat could wish for a more kind and considerate Khalifa than Hazrat Musleh Maud, Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup>. At every step of leading the Jamaat, Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> ensured not to burden the members in anyway, yet encouraged them to strive for the sake of Allah.*

### **Main Mosques in Qadian in Need of Extensions:**

... As a result of the growing population of Qadian there was a requirement to extend the two main mosques, Masjid Aqsa and Masjid Mubarak. On 3<sup>rd</sup> January at the concluding session of Jalsa Salana Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> launched an appeal

that every earning man or woman should offer a minimum of one Ana per head and a maximum of 10 Rupees per head for this appeal. Any children and women, who do not have any source of income, should pay only one paisa (penny) per head so that no member of the Jamaat is deprived of participating in this noble task.

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p472-473)

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*The Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> laid great emphasis and value on the education and moral training of women. Women hold the great responsibility of the upbringing of their children; therefore if girls are not encouraged to seek both secular and religious education, the future generations will suffer.*

### **Nasirat meeting:**

The students of Nusrat Girls High School formed an association and held its first meeting on 23 February 1939. Hazrat Umme Nasir, the first wife of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> presided over this meeting.

The In-charge of Sadr Anjuman Annual records the following in the Taleem-o-Tarbiyyat Report for 1938/39:

“Nasiratul-Ahmadiya has not been established for a very long period of time. However, their monthly meetings are regularly held at the school on the last Thursday of every month. This

establishment is expected to undertake constructive and beneficial work.”

Maimoona Sofia sahiba was the president of the establishment where as Sahibzadi Amatul Rasheed Begum sahiba, the daughter of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih<sup>ra</sup> was the General Secretary.

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p475-476)

*The legacy of a mother is her progeny. Those mothers that enter the fold of Ahmadiyyat are not satisfied that they alone have found the path to God. The yearning pain for their progeny to accept this truth never leaves them until Allah the Benevolent accepts their plea and rewards their attempts. The example below should arouse sentiments in every Ahmadi woman that the seeds of Ahmadiyyat are firmly rooted in their children.*

### **A Model of Faith:**

A devoted and passionate Ahmadi woman from Java, the mother of Mansoor Sahib wrote the following to Hazrat Khalifatul Masih<sup>ra</sup>.

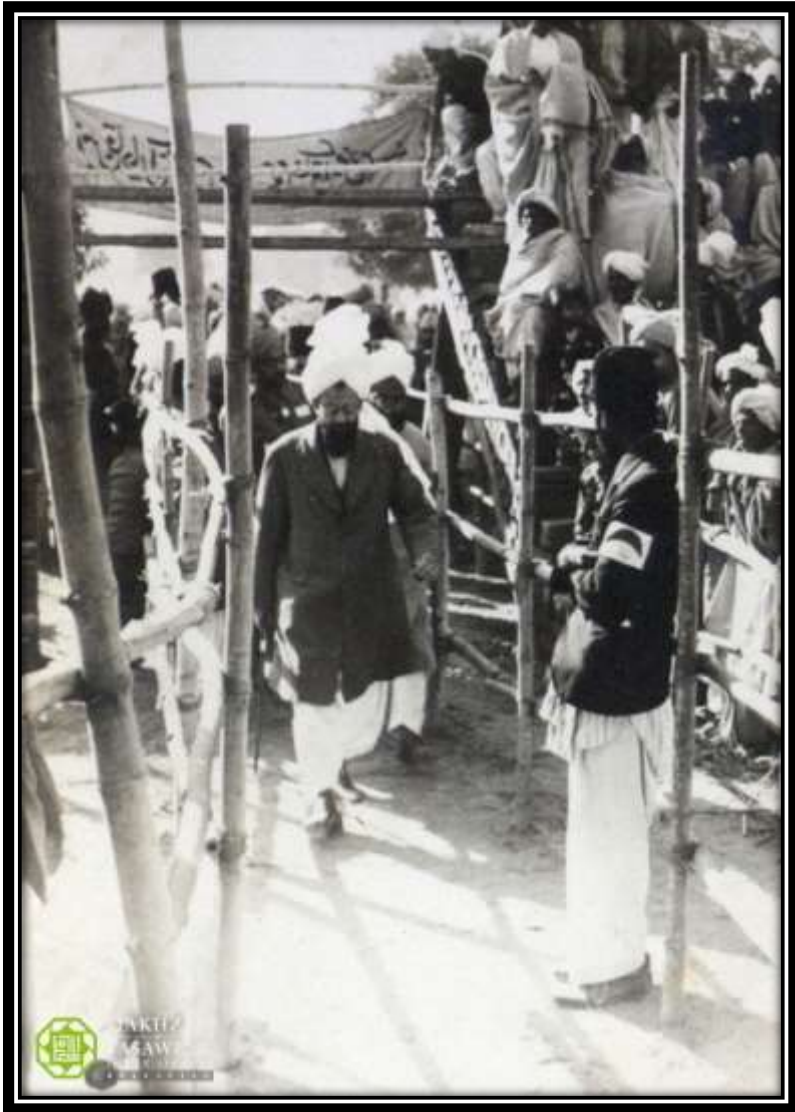
“My son Marah Mansoor was not Ahmadi. I travelled a long way from Padong to Bogor to convert him. Alhamdulillah, Allah supported me and my son has entered the fold of Ahmadiyyat. I had planned to return home, but I cancelled my plan to go to Padong where my daughter and son-

in-law reside. They were bitter opponents of Ahmadiyyat. I remained with them for two weeks and continuously preached to them. As a result, my daughter stopped opposing Ahmadiyyat. I am hopeful that she will soon enter the fold of Ahmadiyyat. Nevertheless, my son-in-law is still opposing Ahmadiyyat. My intention is to return to them and preach to him again. I request Huzoor to pray that may Allah guide them to accept the truth.”

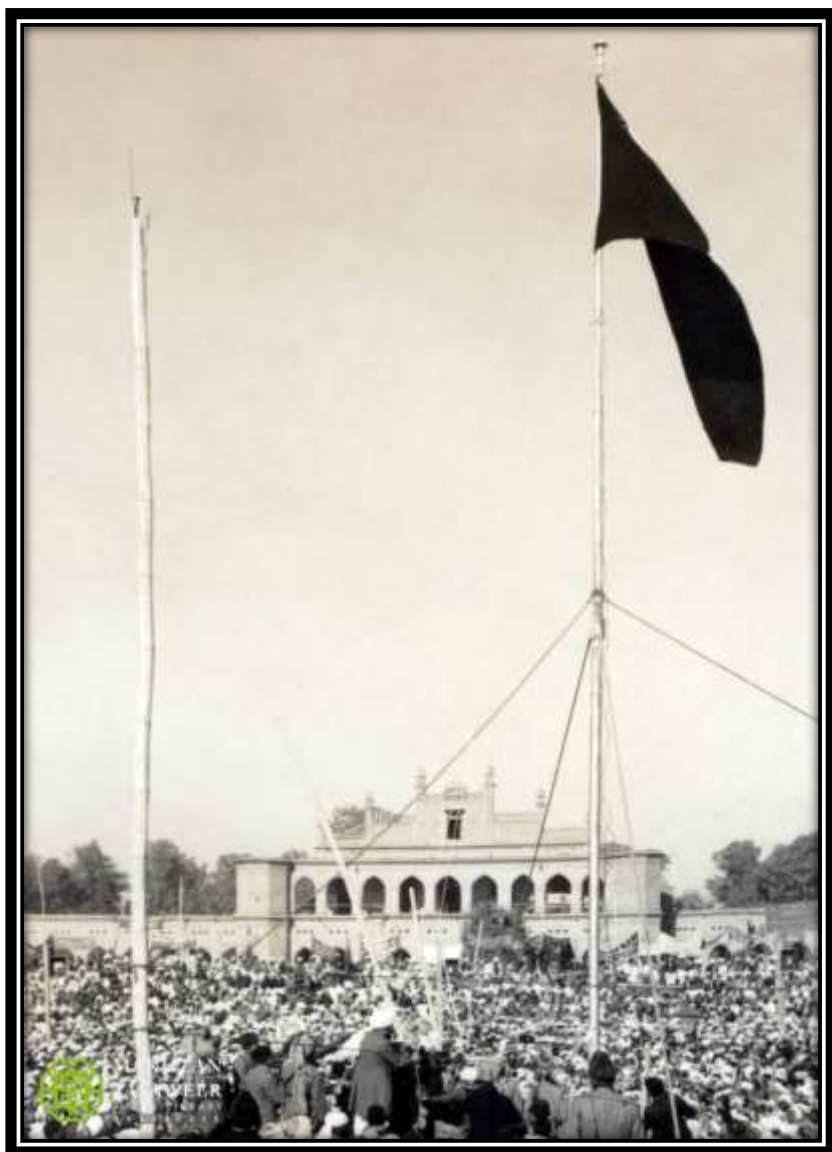
Hazrat Khalifatul Masih<sup>ra</sup> wrote the following note in response:

“Jazakumullah. You have indeed expressed the true model of faith.”

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p482)



**Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> going for the Golden Jubilee Jalsa after the flag hoisting ceremony in Qadian, India on 28<sup>th</sup> December 1939**



**Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> hoisting Liwa-e-Ahmadiyyat at  
the Golden Jubilee Jalsa  
Qadian, India on 28<sup>th</sup> December 1939**





### **Liwa-e-Ahmadiyyat being preserved - 2013**

*Flags, standards and emblems are symbols of unity, beliefs and values. They hold great significance in representing various nations, military forces and communities. The colours in a flag are also symbolic. The Ahmadiyya flag is black in colour, and is distinct with the Crescent, the full Moon and Minaratul-Masih in white. The black in the flag represents the full absorption of light; like a prophet who absorbs whatever he receives from God in its entirety. The white represents the reflection of light; like a prophet who reflects the total light he has absorbed from the Heavens when he speaks to others.*

### **Creating of the Ahmadiyya Flag:**

The Majlis-e-Shura had proposed that on the Jubilee of Khilafat, a flag should be prepared. Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> approved this suggestion and gave the following instructions:

“A collection from the companions of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> consisting of meagre amounts should be made. After this small amount is collected from these selected Companions, it should be used to purchase cotton and given to the female Companions of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> who should weave this cotton into yarn. Then the Companions who are tailors should make cloth from it.”

Allah fulfilled the noble wish of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> through a companion of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>, Mian Faqeer Muhammad, Amir Jamaat Ahmadiyya Wabkhwa, District Gurdaspur. He came to Qadian and presented some cloth to Hazrat Ummul Momineen saying that in accordance with the instructions of Hazrat Mirza Bashir Ahmad<sup>ra</sup>, he personally sowed some seeds, watered and harvested them. Then some companions were asked to spin it. This was weaved at his house. After getting this cloth, Maulana Abdur Raheem Dard<sup>ra</sup>, the Secretary Khilafat Committee sent a message to Amir Jamaat Wabkhwa to send some more cotton, which they had cultivated. On receiving this message, Bhai Abdur Raheem Qadiani<sup>ra</sup> brought an additional eight kg of cotton to Qadian. Maulana Dard Sahib sent this cotton to Hazrat Sayyeda Umme Tahir<sup>ra</sup> the General Secretary Lajna Ima'illah, with a request to ask the female Companions of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> to make cloth out of the cotton as directed by Huzoor-e-Aqdas<sup>ra</sup>.

Hence, with great care she got the cloth made by the female Companions of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> in Daare Masih.

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p487)

### **Hoisting of the Flag on Khilafat Jubilee Celebrations:**

On 25<sup>th</sup> December at 2:25, after raising the Ahmadiyya and the Khuddamul Ahmadiyya flags, Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> proceeded to the Ladies Jalsa Gah. While reciting the Arabic prayer of

رَبَّنَا تَقَبَّلْ مِنَّا إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ

“Our Lord, accept this from us: For Thou art All-Hearing, All-Knowing (Sura Al Baqarah – 2:128). Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> raised the Ahmadi ladies’ flag with his own hands. The pole for the flag was 35 feet high and the cloth was 3¾ yards long and 2¼ yards wide. In addition to the symbol of the Ahmadiyya flag, three date palms were depicted under which there was a fountain. The symbols on the flag were made from different coloured silk threads which were machine embroidered on a satin cloth.

On the entrance to the stage, the pole had been erected on the right hand side, next to the gallery. Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> stood underneath the pole, loosened the rope and raised the flag. Hazrat Umme Tahir sahiba stood behind Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> and held the flag at mid point. Next to her was Hameeda Sabira sahiba and the end of the flag was in her hand (As she was on security duty in the gallery). On that day the ladies were in such high spirits that without hesitation they proceeded to raise slogans extensively. Maimoona Sofia sahiba was leading the slogans.

Family members of the family of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> including Hazrat Ummul Momineen<sup>ra</sup> were present around Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup>. At the time of partition of India, this flag was carefully transported from Qadian. However, in April 1949 when the first Jalsa Salana was held in Rabwah, whilst the objects were being transported to Rabwah, the box containing this flag was accidentally left on the train carriage. It could not be located despite attempts to do so.

To mark the Khilafat Jubilee, Lajna Ima'illah presented a watch and a pen to Hazrat Khalifatul Masih<sup>ra</sup> upon which Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> thanked them.

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p509-510)

### **Message from the English Ahmadi Ladies:**

It was the first time for two English female converts, to attend the Jalsa Salana. Saleema Sahiba and Sakeena Sahiba arrived on 29<sup>th</sup> December. They were late arriving to into the Jalsa Gah. Upon seeing them, Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> graciously stopped his address and gave them the opportunity to speak first. The original address of Mrs Saleema Banks sahiba is as follows:

“Bismillah Hir Rahma Nir Rahim

Your Holiness

AssalamoAlaikum

It is with feelings of deep joy and gratitude that as an English Ahmadi I offer my humblest congratulation on the occasion of your Silver Jubilee.

English Ahmadies are proud of your Holiness for several reasons: First, because the English Ahmadiyya Mission was

founded by your Holiness. Secondly, because it is the first mission of the community abroad. Thirdly, because to our great good fortune, your Holiness undertook a journey of thousands of miles to visit England yourself. Fourthly, because your Holiness laid the foundation stone of our Mosque with your own hands, and it is the first and the only Mosque in London.

Words cannot express our thankfulness to your Holiness and as I am not a very learned person I cannot even find words, which might befit this great occasion.

We are also proud of the fact that the Promised Messiah, the Holy founder of our community saw a vision about us and we know that his vision is being fulfilled through your Holiness. We thank God for all this.

In the end I beg to leave to offer my sincerest congratulation once more and request your Holiness to pray for this unworthy disciple of yours and also for the rest of my brethren in faith in England that God may grant us all strength and firmness and make us the truest of Armadas. Praying for your long and happy life.

I am.

Yours in Ahmadiyyat.

Saleema Banks

27-12-39

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p508)

# Chapter 3

## 1940 – 1950

- Prudent Decision by Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup>
- Proposals to end Rituals on Weddings
- Revelation from Allah Regarding the Prophecy of Musleh Maud
- Establishing Nasiratul Ahmadiyya and its Objectives
- Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> moved to Rabwah
- Lajna established in London
- The launch of monthly Misbah from Rabwah
- Inauguration of Amatul Hayee Library

## 1940

*In Islam, the Mehr is a mandatory gift given by a husband to his wife. It can be paid promptly or deferred. The Mehr should be agreed upon whilst considering the income and situation of the husband.*

### Prudent Decision by Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup>:

To eliminate and stop the spread of false customs and rituals in the Jamaat, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih<sup>ra</sup> advised that the

Dower (Haq Mehr) should be according to the earning status of the groom and not for any pretentious reasons.

A case was presented to Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> from Qadha. A lady claimed that her Dower was agreed at 500 Rupees. The husband responded that he could not afford to pay that amount of money; so either it should be reduced, and whatever amount is determined should be paid in instalments. Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> made the following decision in this regard:

"In response to condition number 6, my view is that the respondent does not have the ability to pay 500 Rupees as a lump sum. However, as it is becoming a trend in our Jamaat to agree and demand large amount of Dower; which then contravenes the Islamic Law (Sharia) that the Dower must be paid as a lump sum and on demand. So for in this certain case, I have decided as a penalty, that if the complainant (wife) returns to her husband's house, then the respondent (husband) must pay the total amount of 500 Rupees within a month through Qadian General Affair Office. In case of non-compliance, my directions are to deal with them according to the penalty rules.

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p516-517)

*Lajna had now become fully trained and were able to organise the Jalsa with their own programme including speeches by female speakers. Huzoor's speech on the men's side could be heard by lajna through the aid of loudspeakers. However Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> also delivered a speech in the ladies area. Below are some extracts from that year's Huzoor's speech.*

### Jalsa Salana:

On 27th December 1941, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih<sup>ra</sup> addressed Lajna Ima'illah in the ladies Jalsa Gah. Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> recited the following verses from Sura Ibrahim Verse 24-26

وَأَدْخَلَ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ جَنَّاتٍ تَجْرِي مِنْ تَحْتِهَا الْأَنْهَارُ خَالِدِينَ  
فِيهَا بِإِذْنِ رَبِّهِمْ تَحِيَّتُهُمْ فِيهَا سَلَامٌ ﴿٢٤﴾ أَلَمْ تَرَ كَيْفَ فَرَّبَ اللَّهُ مَثَلًا كَلْبَةً  
طَيِّبَةً كَشَجَرَةٍ طَيِّبَةٍ أَصْلُهَا ثَابِتٌ وَفَرْعُهَا فِي السَّمَاءِ ﴿٢٥﴾ تُؤْتِي أُكْلَهَا كُلَّ حِينٍ  
بِإِذْنِ رَبِّهَا ۗ وَيَضْرِبُ اللَّهُ الْأَمْثَالَ لِلنَّاسِ لَعَلَّهُمْ يَتَذَكَّرُونَ ﴿٢٦﴾

and stated: ...

1. "You should not be content only upon the fact that you have recited the declaration of faith (Kalima) until the tree of 'The One God,' has not been watered with your deeds, it shall not bear fruits; rather it shall wither away."
2. Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> continued: "Tayyaba means good-looking, aromatic, and succulently sweet. These are four attributes which should be essentially internally, inherent within a Believer."
3. Your faith should be appealing and fragrant; your actions in faith, beneficial for others and your words should be so delightful to the heart, that they bring a spiritual revolution in others.

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p540-541)



# 1942

*Expensive rituals and ostentation particularly during weddings are not in accordance with Islamic values. This was discussed in a Majlis e Mushawarat (Advisory Body Meeting).*

## **Proposals to end Rituals on Weddings:**

During the Shura held in April this year (1942) the following suggestions were laid out regarding wedding rituals.

1. The custom to put on display the dowry from the bride's family and the gifts for the bride from the groom's family should be totally prohibited.
2. Any demands from the bride and the groom and their families should be prohibited, except for mehr .
3. The custom of the groom's relatives taking henna to the bride's house and its related customs should be stopped.

## **Important Speech by Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup>:**

After discussions were held on the above suggestions, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> said: "Any religious innovations related to weddings or other customs are essentially a delicate matter that a living Jamaat must address. ... There are three types of religions in the world. The first type lays stress on declaring things to be unlawful. The second type lays stress on all things to be lawful, like Christianity which declares everything to be lawful.. The third is Islam where some things are lawful whilst

others are unlawful. ...For example the walima (the wedding feast by the groom after the marriage has been consummated) is a commandment of Islam. On the other hand, extravagance is prohibited. This should not be overlooked at the walima ceremony.

I get the impression that our Jamaat members are extravagant in this regard. The rules we are making are not permanent. If, the future generation wish, they may make amendments to this. The rules made at present are to try to harness bad habits that are coming into our Jamaat .... Our Jamaat should always refrain from showing off and being ostentatious, as this has negative effects on other people.”

**Prohibition of Henna Party:**

*Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> accepted the suggestion that unnecessary demands and celebrations on weddings needed to be stopped. Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> wished to stop extravagance and customs which have no place in religion.*

Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> said:

"I have also verified with Hazrat Amma Jaan regarding this custom. She has confirmed that during the time of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> a Henna Party was never celebrated at our house, nor at the house of any other Ahmadi in Qadian. However, I have become aware that this custom is becoming rife and has become a ritual. Therefore it is our duty to stop this (custom). ... This religious innovation is taking such shape that there seems a danger that it may become a part of Sharia. Thus it is our duty to stop it.”

(Tareekh Lajna Ima’illah Vol 1-p549-551)

*Courage is an excellent moral quality and cowardice is a sign of weakness. When a country beckons her men to defend a good cause, only the hypocrite will shirk away.*

**The incentive by Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> to Join the Army:**

In his Friday Sermon delivered on 17<sup>th</sup> July 1942, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> urged women to encourage their sons to join the army and serve their country. Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> said:

"I have been informed that in some places when officers arrived to recruit our youngsters, some of them were willing to join the army but their mothers came forward weeping and exclaiming, "Oh no! My child will be killed." Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> said: "I ask such women that if the men who are fighting at present are unable to stop this evil, then what use would be their sons' lives to them. They would be killed in their houses. Would they prefer that their sons die like cowards sitting back in their homes rather than go to war and die an honourable death? The on lookers will then look at them and say how shameful were these men who could not fight to preserve the honour of their mothers, wives and sisters. Such mothers should also give a thought to the fact that those young men, who have already joined the army, also have mothers.

When I arrived home a young woman visited me. She already had her Nikah performed, but not her sending off ceremony yet. She is a city girl; not from a family of landowners ... She belongs to a family who perhaps have not produced a soldier in centuries. She belongs to a city which is famous for its

comforts and leisure in India. She came to me and informed me that she had written a letter to her father asking him to join the army. I was surprised because her father was an elderly man. Why did she write to her father to join the army? I told her that I was unable to understand what she wanted to say. She answered rather bashfully: "I have written to my father to ask his permission to join the army." Now I thought she was referring to herself. I told her that girls are not recruited in the army. She said that I had not understood her. She had asked her father's permission for her husband to join the army. At that I understood what she was attempting to say."

"If a gentle woman can show such courage, that she is ready to take the risk of losing her husband even before their marriage has fully taken place, then I expect similar courage from other members of our Jamaat.

**To Part with a Treasure for a Better Treasure:**

Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> shared another inspiring example in his same Friday sermon. Some people had told him that a woman who had only one child, brought him and wanted him to join the Ahmadiyya Company (Battalion). They advised her against it, as he was her only child. They rather wanted to recruit from families who had three or four sons. However the woman insisted that she must send her son. She said that Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> had made the appeal for the progress and benefit of the Jamaat, thus she did not wish to be deprived from gaining reward and blessings from Allah.

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p557-559)

# 1943

## **Wife of the Missionary in Palestine Passes Away:**

On 17<sup>th</sup> February 1943 a devoted Ahmadi woman, Fazl Begum sahiba the wife of Chaudhri Muhammad Sharif sahib passed way in Haifa, Palestine. She had accompanied her husband who was serving as a missionary there. She was the first Ahmadi woman to die while abroad. When an appeal was launched for donation to restore Darul Ba'it, (the house where the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> accepted the first bait) in Ludhiana, she was only eighteen and was not yet married. She presented the item of silver jewellery she had, to Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> without consulting anyone in her family.

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p567)

## **The Need and Importance of the Organisations in the Jamaat**

Explaining the importance of establishing the organisations of Khuddamul Ahmadiya, Ansarullah and Lajna Ima'illah, in his Friday sermon of 22<sup>nd</sup> October Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> stated: "Khuddamul-Ahmadiyya, Ansarullah and Lajna Ima'illah are the two links of the wider organisation of the Jamaat. The aim for establishing them is so they keep the wider organisation of the Jamaat alert. It is my view that if both, the ordinary members of the Jamaat as well as the office bearers fulfil their responsibilities, then by the Grace of Allah this will be a very useful and worthy strategy.

If the directorates which represent the organisation of the Jamaat and the Khuddamul-Ahmadiya, Ansarullah and Lajna

Ima'illah who represent the members work in parallel to awaken the members of the Jamaat, then there seems no reason of the Jamaat to completely fall or to lack in making progress. Whenever one of the two will fall behind, the other will be there to remind them.

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p577-578)



**Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> addressing Jalsa Musleh Maud,  
Dehli, 1944**



**Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> addressing Jalsa Musleh Maud  
in Delhi in 1944**

# 1944

## **The Man who was a Prophecy:**

*Every Prophet of God is granted miracles to prove the truth of their claim. A miracle granted to the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> was the arrival of a son who would rise to a high calibre spiritually. In 1944, Hazrat Musleh Maud<sup>ra</sup> was informed by God, to be that revered Promised Son mentioned in the prophecy, who was destined to propagate the message of the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> and the Holy Quran to the ends of the earth. In the 52 years of his blessed Khilafat, Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> fulfilled this in a majestic way despite all the obstacles and odds against him.*

## **Revelation from Allah Regarding the Prophecy of Musleh**

### **Maud:**

1944 is a significant year in the history of Ahmadiyyat. In his Friday sermon of 28<sup>th</sup> January Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> announced that Allah has revealed to him that he is the Musleh Maud according to the prophecy of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>. Although the majority of the members in the Jamaat were of the view that he is Musleh Maud as all the aspects of the prophecy seem to be evident in him. Nevertheless, members of the Jamaat were overjoyed at this revelation by Allah, and men and women renewed their devotion and dedication towards Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup>.

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p581)

*(The information below is extracted from Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-pages 589-90)*



### **Delhi Jalsa and the Prophecy about the Promised Reformer:**

*During the Jalsa Musleh Maud- held in Delhi on 16<sup>th</sup> April 1944, a separate Jalsa Gah for women was arranged with the facility of purdah. Lajna Ima'illah Delhi publicised the event through posters, inviting ladies to attend. Prior to this Jalsa, the non-Ahmadi scholars started to incite the public through hate provoking speeches and posters. On the day of the Jalsa lots of commotion from them started from the moment the Jalsa commenced. While the speech of Hazrat Musleh Maud<sup>ra</sup> was in progress, a crowd of non-Ahmadi men began to proceed towards the ladies' Jalsa Gah expressing anti-social behaviour. Gauging their intentions, Ahmadi young men on duty responded with standing in a row to obstruct their path. The opponents then pelted the Jalsa Gah with stones. It was decided to evacuate the ladies from the scene by buses. Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> (Musleh Maud<sup>ra</sup>) instructed to take special measures for the safety of the non-Ahmadi ladies. Later, while referring to the whole situation in his Friday sermon of 21<sup>st</sup> April Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> stated:*

*"I stood up and saw a crowd consisting of hundreds of people running towards the ladies' Jalsa Gah to attack them. This is a matter that no respectable nation would tolerate the police also rushed to stop them. These persons were running alongside the police, but they managed to get there before the police could. Two marquees had been erected around the ladies Jalsa Gah; an outer marquee, then an open space with another marquee inside where the ladies were sitting in. If this arrangement had not been in place, the results could have been catastrophic; with a possibility of lots of bloodshed. These men tore the outer marquee and pulled it down.*

Meanwhile the police arrived. It seems that when they (men) saw that there were no women inside the outer marquee, they probably assumed that the ladies had left. They did not proceed to the next marquees. Thus Allah saved us. ... I instructed that one hundred sturdy young men should stand outside the ladies' Jalsa Gah to guard it. Respect for women is absolutely vital and crucial. Thus, only a person ready to give up his life, should go. In fact, I went to the extent to say that if any of them were not ready to die they should not go. They should return. I am willing to go in their place. ...

The relatives of the non-Muslim and non-Ahmadi ladies present there (in the ladies Jalsa Gah) at the time sent messages that they were very concerned about their ladies. There was enormous danger, thus some arrangements must be made. Upon this, I made an announcement to comfort them that they should not get concerned. We will protect their ladies before our own. They stand witness that we have fulfilled that promise. My daughters accompanied some non-Ahmadi ladies to their houses before returning to their own home”.

Admiring the bravery of Ahmadi women, Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> said:

“The non-Muslim and the non-Ahmadi women were very aware of the danger; some were shaking with anxiety. Yet the Ahmadi women also exhibited great courage at that time and having made a circle around them said: ‘Please do not worry; even if someone comes in, we will confront them’.”

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p590-591)

*On 9<sup>th</sup> March 1944 Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> approved the extension of Mubarak Mosque, Qadian. As soon as Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> made an appeal for finances, women joined the men and donated with great passion.*

**Another Financial Appeal:**

In his Friday sermon of 15<sup>th</sup> March Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> also mentioned the financial sacrifice of a woman in regards with the extension of Masjid Mubarak: “The accounts of financial sacrifices by the poor and impoverished people of Qadian that you are witnessing are the blessings of Khilafat. There are no such examples in any other Jamaat. This morning a woman who had converted to Islam from Hinduism, came to me. She has a small business. Her entire capital must be worth no more than around one hundred and fifty Rupees. I was surprised when she handed me five 10 Rupees notes and told me that they were for the extension of the mosque. I thought that the amount must be half or one third of her entire capital; yet she presented that for building the House of Allah. Why should we not believe that Allah will also grant this poor woman a house in Paradise?”

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p598)

*Humans are the pinnacle of the noble creation of God. As a species they are gifted with the potential to do good consciously which can make them as pure as angels. How sad that they can also possess diseased hearts and carry out deeds that is not to be found even in the lowliest beast in the animal kingdom.*

### **The Body of a Deceased Ahmadi Woman Desecrated:**

The grave of an Ahmadi woman in Jalalpur Jattan was exhumed and her body desecrated as a result of the anti Ahmadiyya sentiments. The entire Ahmadiyya Jamaat was extremely distressed and infuriated at his abhorrent action. While resolutions were passed and sent to the government in protest by the Jamaat, Lajna also expressed their grief and sadness at the shameful incident committed by the enemies of Ahmadiyyat in Jalalpur Jattan. They (Lajna) requested the government to make a hasty enquiry in regards with this incident and severely punish the offenders accordingly

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p612)

*The incredible expansion of Lajna Ima'illah since 1922 meant that under the guidance of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih<sup>ra</sup>, in 1944 a new Central Lajna body (Markazi Lajna) was established in Qadian.*

### **Central Lajna Ima'illah - A Separate Entity:**

Another important responsibility assigned to Lajna Ima'illah was the formation of Central Lajna Ima'illah. In his speech of Jalsa Salana 1944, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih<sup>ra</sup> stated: "Until now, Lajna Ima'illah Qadian is considered the Central Lajna. However Lajna Ima'illah Qadian should have been a branch like branches in other cities and the Central Lajna should have been a separate entity. The Central Lajna should then appoint six or seven secretaries for various tasks. They should establish separate offices and correspond with those Lajna branches whose addresses are available."

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p620)

# 1945

## The Spinning Wheel Movement:

*Global adversities generally affect all supply lines that are dependent on imports. During the world wars as more resources were directed towards war efforts, some essential products were no longer available to export. Fabric for making clothes becomes scarce in rural areas similar to Qadian. Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> pre-empted the situation and proposes a solution to his Jamaat*

During World War II material (cloth) for making clothes becomes scarce. In this situation Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> in his Friday sermon of 27th April addressed women and said, "Allah had already informed me about these circumstances before they took place. I informed the Jamaat about them on different occasions. On one occasion in 1943, I advised that every household should have a spinning wheel, and they should weave their own cloth to make clothes. ... I also told my family to get a spinning wheel to make cloth. If they personally did not need the cloth, they could at least provide it to the poor. Every woman who has been blessed with the ability, should obtain a spinning wheel and after producing cotton, she should get the help of weavers and produce cloth, rather than waste her time (sitting idle) at home."

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p642)

### **Establishing Nasiratul-Ahmadiyya and its Objectives:**

*The aim of Nasiratul Ahmadiyya (Female Helpers of Ahmadiyyat) is to provide a good Islamic upbringing for Ahmadi girls, further their religious and secular knowledge as well as create a sense of unity among the girls. The Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> said that every child is born with a pious constitution; it is the environment the child is brought up in that makes him Jewish, Christian, or a hypocrite.*

*Whilst establishing Lajna Ima'illah, the idea of establishing an organisation for girls was also brought up. Nasiratul-Ahmadiyya will always be indebted to Sahibzadi Amatul Rashid sahiba, the daughter of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> who encouraged the idea of establishing an organisation for girls similar to Lajna Ima'illah.*

*Once established, a syllabus was designed for them to It was endeavoured that qualities such as religious attachment, trustworthiness, and truthfulness should be instilled in them and that they may learn to strive to serve mankind. To familiarise them from childhood with sacrifice, a chanda system was also recommended. Thus alongside Lajna Ima'illah young girls were also being taught and educated. Later, with the Lajna Ijtema, Nasiratul-Ahmadiyya programmes were simultaneously planned, in order to give them the opportunity to practise oratory and writing skills.*

### **Nasiratul Ahmadiyya:**

This department had started several years ago under various names. However, due to lack of supervision by Lajna Imaillah its activities phased out. On 24<sup>th</sup> April 1945, Nasiratul-

Ahmadiyya was formally established with Sayyeda Tayyaba Siddiqah Sahiba, the wife of Nawab Masood Ahmad Khan Sahib appointed its first Secretary. The age for Nasirat members was set as eight to fifteen years. Branches of Nasirat had been established in every neighbourhood of Qadian by May 1945. A syllabus was also devised.

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p633)

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## 1946

*In the West, women have historically been confined by societal limitations. However, the 1940s marked a turning point, as women sought independence and challenged the status quo. In parallel, in Qadian (India), Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> recognised and actively fostered the aspirations of Lajna Ima'illah. He wholeheartedly celebrated their achievements across various fields, forging a strong connection between spiritual teachings and worldly pursuits. His accolades served as a testament to their remarkable endeavours, empowering women to recognise their significant contributions to society.*

This year immediately after the Jalsa Salana, members of Central Lajna Ima'illah and Qadian had to undertake a lot of work because of elections. ... Polling took place and unless there were exceptionally compelling reasons, every Ahmadi woman voted. In his Friday sermon of 8<sup>th</sup> February 1946,

Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> commended women's effort and said:

“Women have offered a better model of sacrifice than men. Although, some errors in calculation were made due to their limited knowledge of assessment, however I became aware of them in time, and gave instructions to rectify them. They then worked very hard and whole heartedly. In my view, if men could instil the same spirit in themselves as the women have shown, then our victory would come a hundred years earlier... sp Women have done the work with so passionately that some of them seem unrecognisable (due to tiredness). They did not care about food, sleep or having taking rest. They worked so hard that I think some may have lost three or four kilos in weight.”

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p648-649)

*In the South Asian culture, women are generally advised to rest for 40 days after child birth. Great care is taken for postpartum mothers in that period. In light of such culture the examples below become magnificent.*

**Exceptional Examples of Sacrifice:**

In the same Friday sermon, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> stated:

“The sacrifice shown by women has made a huge impact on the public and also left an enormous impression on the representatives of the opposition parties as well as polling station officers. The ladies appointed by the government as helpers to polling officers were so impressed that several made encouraging comments that they will never understand what kind of devotional Jamaat this is, and what were the



circumstances that initiated this high spirit of sacrifice. Some of the women, who came to cast their vote, were pregnant and some were even in labour. Some fainted just after casting their vote. A couple of them had given birth less than twelve hours before and came to vote while being carried on a stretcher. If this was only a single incident, then one could ignore it; but there were more than a dozen ladies in such sacrifice, including those who were in labour. ...

Some of the ones who came to vote were so ill that they could barely sit and had to be carried by relatives. Some were brought with relatives supporting them from both sides in case they fell down. There were more than a dozen of such examples. ...

Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> at the end of the sermon said:

By exhibiting high level of sacrifice during the elections, women have proved that they deserve to be remembered forever. The examples of the sacrifice offered deserve to be mentioned in the history of the Jamaat time and again. They have exhibited an exemplary high level of devotion and proved that they have stridden ahead of men in undertaking national tasks.”

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p648-650)

*In the 10th Condition of Ba'ait, Ahmadi Muslims pledge true love and obedience to Khilafat. The following are inspiring examples of Lajna members who demonstrated this complete obedience to the Khalifa of the time.*

**An Exceptional Sacrifice of an Ahmadi Lady from a Small Village:**

In his Friday sermon of 22<sup>nd</sup> February 1946 Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> mentioned an astonishing sacrifice by a lady from a small village. Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> said:

"I later came to know of another exceptional instance which indeed outshines the examples coming from Qadian. One of our men who had gone to perform his election duty narrated an incident about an Ahmadi woman from a village. She wanted to cast her vote; but they were not aware of her. A couple of days prior to the elections, she suffered a miscarriage. As they (men) were unaware that she was eligible to vote they did not arrange any transport for her.

On that particular day after a couple of hours, a man informed them that a woman had been found unconscious and she had been taken back to her village. It appeared that she had come to cast her vote. Our men went to the location identified, but could not locate her there. ...The men then immediately arranged for transport from her village. They were informed later that the woman was ill but still started her journey from her village. She passed out after walking a distance of two miles. People from her village took her back to the village but when she regained consciousness, she again made attempts to proceed, saying that she must vote. Meanwhile

the transport arrived and she was able to come and vote. She told them that she had read in the newspaper that Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II has instructed that anyone who can manage must vote. Therefore she was trying her very best to vote.”

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1- p649-651)

*Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> urged mothers to instil a love of sacrifice for the cause of faith and Islam Ahmadiyyat within their children. In a Friday Sermon of January 1946, he requested mothers to especially encourage their sons to dedicate their lives for the community or to at least offer financial sacrifices.*

### **Mother's Love - the Fuel of the Future:**

In his Friday sermon of 25 January 1946, Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> encouraged mothers to instil the passion for sacrifice in their progeny. Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> said:

“To some extent it is also the duty of the members of Lajna Ima'illah to instil the spirit of sacrifice for religion. If they do this, then as the saying goes ‘the earth brought forth its heart’, they must also bring forth their hearts within the year. In women’s case their heart is their children. If our mothers motivate their children to participate in religious activities and dedicate their lives, I believe many young men will dedicate their lives ... Women are generally more emotionally charged and sentimental. It was the duty of members of Lajna Ima'illah to explain to women that Islam today needs the youth; Islam today needs their husbands, Islam today needs

money. It is their duty to present everything for Islam without any wavering. I believe that if such approach was shown, then people with weaker faith would also be motivated to exhibit greater devotion.

A person told me that his wife has turned him into a practising Ahmadi. Whenever he brought home his salary, the first thing his wife would ask was whether he has donated his Chanda. He would reply that he will do it the following day; At this she would instantly respond that she will not cook food from that money. At times he would have to go and pay his chanda at midnight and show her the receipt; only then she would cook any food. ... She would say that she was not prepared to cook food with any unlawful money.

Hence, if women support us and tell their children that unless they devote their lives, they develop the spirit of religion, the mothers will not vouch that they have fulfilled their duty to their mothers. They will tell God that their son had not fulfilled his duty to her. She disowns him. He did not obey her. If mothers take this stance, in a short period of time the situation will be turned over and 99% of young men will be reformed. 99% of young men will study harder and the spirit of sacrifice will be awakened. Here I would like Ahmadi women to invigorate the sense of devotion in the lives of their sons for the sake of religion. Those who do not accept it, should be motivated to monetarily contribute from their savings for the propagation of Islam Ahmadiyyat. If however, their sons seem unwilling to do this, then every mother should tell her son that he has not fulfilled his duty towards her and on the Day of Judgement, she will plead before God that her son was disobedient. My observation is that now the

time for great advancement for the Jamaat has arrived. Nonetheless, we will not be successful in it without the cooperation of women. The reformation of young men will become easy the day women adapt this stance. They (women) will energetically begin to work in every walk of life.”

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p654-655)

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*Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> appealed to the Lajna to collect grains for the poor and needy in the community in order to prevent starvation. He asked the ladies to save wheat from their daily cooking in particular, and paid tribute to their passion for financial sacrifice. The Khalifa's success in all his missions are intrinsically linked with the Divine Help of God and proclamation from the Jamaat of 'Labaik', we obey. Lajna members often raced to sacrifice their jewellery for the cause of faith and to win Allah's Pleasure.*

During his sermon of 10<sup>th</sup> May 1946, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> had spoken about the need to save wheat for the poor. This year he again reminded Lajna of this responsibility. Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> said:

“I hand over the responsibility of saving wheat to the ladies. They can do wonders if they try. Sometimes women like to please their husbands and offer to make them fresh hot chapattis, when there are already chapattis made earlier. There are se are minor points, and if the ladies look at these and try to save, they can reduce their expenses and they are well capable of doing it. Thus they will have the opportunity

to personally participate in this appeal and earn the Pleasure of God.

This is a year of hardship and we do not wish our poor brothers to die of starvation. So please do save wheat for the needy. ... At times mothers make little flour dolls to entertain their children instead of toys. If they start to save that flour, it will suffice to save hundreds of lives.”

In a subsequent sermon Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> again drew the Jamaat’s attention towards the poor. He mentioned the sacrifices made by some women.

“There are arguments within married couples when the wife asks the husband to get her some gold jewellery and the husband says he cannot afford it. Yet I have witnessed hundreds of arguments when the wife wishes to donate her jewellery in the way of Allah and the husband disagrees with it. He says that it may be come in use for a future. This is the standard of sacrifice bestowed upon our ladies by Allah. Normally ladies wish to acquire more jewellery, and here we have our ladies approaching me rather wishing to donate their jewellery.

When I launched the Waqf appeal, a lady brought all her jewellery to me. I told her that I had just launched the appeal and have not yet asked for donations. She agreed but said: “What if I am desperate and need to sell it for some other provision tomorrow. I do not wish to be deprived of the merit of donating it for the sake of God. If you do not wish to take it at present, I request you to keep it as a custodian. You may spend it whenever there is a need in the way of religion.” I insisted that I had not yet made such an appeal, but she

refused to take it back and said that she had donated it in the way of Allah and cannot take it back now.

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p664-666)

### **A Lady Expresses her Sincere Emotion to her Imam:**

*Prophets and their successors were previously gifted with devoted followers, who possessed great commitment and sincerity. Women have continuously set examples of sacrifices in all fields since the beginning of Ahmadiyyat. They answered every call from their Khalifa. Our progeny will forever be indebted to these ladies for their pious deeds.*

The following is the translation of an excerpt from a letter written to Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> by a young lady Amatul Aziz Sahiba, the daughter of Qazi Bashir Ahmad Bhatti Sahib. Unfortunately, she passed away at a young age just after the migration from India.

“Huzoor’s command to strive for Tehrike Jadid brought tears to my eyes. It shook me to even imagine that a humble person like me can possibly dare to refuse any command by my master; which I believe to be a command from God. I shall always be prepared to be at your service and fulfil every command of yours until my last breath. Although I am a weak person with no great means, but through Huzoor’s inspiration, I definitely have a strong belief. I am not amongst Moses’ followers that I would say:

فَاذْهَبْ أَنْتَ وَرَبُّكَ فَقَاتِلَا إِنَّا هُنَا قَاعِدُونَ (٥: ٢٥)

‘Therefore, go thou and thy Lord and  
fight, *and* here we sit.’

Instead I am honoured to be amongst the  
followers of Hazrat Muhammad<sup>sa</sup>, whose  
companions said:

وَاللّٰهُ لَا نَقُولُ لَكَ مَا قَالَتْ بَنُو إِسْرَائِيلَ لِمُوسَىٰ إِذْ هَبَّ أَنْتَ وَرَبُّكَ

فَقَاتِلَا إِنَّا هَهُنَا قَاعِدُونَ وَلَكِنْ إِذْ هَبَّ أَنْتَ وَرَبُّكَ فَقَاتِلَا إِنَّا

مَعَكُمْ مَقَاتِلُونَ۔

We swear to God that we will not respond to you  
as the Israelites responded to Moses that you and  
your God go and fight while we wait. Instead our  
response is that we will fight along with you from  
every corner of the field, no enemy will be able to  
reach you unless they step over our dead bodies.

During the course of the year Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> delivered a  
number of enlightening sermons regarding  
sacrifice; they shook my spirit too. My sentiments  
were that I may be destitute but if I have anything  
I will spend in the way of Allah and please my  
master. At that time I decided to double my  
Tehrike Jadid donation every year. This was a  
promise I made with my Lord. Oh Allah! Please  
enable me to fulfil this promise. During the first  
year of Tehrike Jadid I contributed 5 Rupees to the  
scheme and 10 Rupees in the following year. Now  
for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year I have promised to contribute 20



Rupees. Huzoor! I do not get any pocket money. I save the money I receive as gifts on Eid and other occasions. I will save these and present the meagre amount am humbly present it to Huzoor.  
..."

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p671-672)

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*The London mission activities continued and a new missionary and his wife arrived in England.*

### **A Farewell Party:**

Chaudhri Mushtaq Ahmad Bajwa sahib was appointed as the Missionary for England. He and his wife Kalsoom Begum sahiba travelled to England. Lajna Ima'illah members arranged a farewell party in her honour on 18 October 1946. Later she had the honour of serving as the first President of Lajna Ima'illah UK.

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p669)

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**Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> offering silent prayer at the grave of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> in Qadian, India, 1947.**

# 1947

*The Independence of India was acquired at the price of India divided into two independent countries with one of the largest migrations of people with violent and traumatic scenes displayed on both sides of the border. Due to the Partition of India and Pakistan, most of the Jamaat felt compelled to migrate from the centre in Qadian, India, to Pakistan. To be displaced and uprooted from one's country, leaving behind homes, possessions and memories and fearing death, is not a choice. This was the situation during the Partition of 1947. The reason for including this historical event in the history of UK Lajna, is to illustrate how despite the immense hardships and sacrifices suffered by the Jamaat, Lajna Ima'illah continued to strive and progress.*

## **A Sad Chapter in the History of Ahmadiyyat:**

*This was a sad year for Lajna Ima'illah when the Jamaat faced an unimaginable move.*

After having completed twenty four years of existence, now we enter the year in the history that shook the Jamaat to its core. India was partitioned and the vast majority of Ahmadies had no option but to migrate from their much loved Headquarters Qadian. ... Thousands of blessings be on Hazrat Musleh Maud<sup>ra</sup> who at this stressful time managed to arrange a safe passage for all the Ahmadi ladies from Qadian to their destination. ... Most of the Lajna record was left behind in Qadian. The Lajna workers were scattered. However, it was

not long afterwards that under the leadership of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> Lajna Ima'illah soon recommenced their work and by the Grace of Allah it has now transformed it into an international organisation.

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p676)

### **Appeal to Donate Property:**

In his Friday sermon of 11<sup>th</sup> April 1947 Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> emphasised the importance of sacrifice. Once again he brought the attention of the Jamaat members to the appeal of donating property. Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> stated: ... We often see that women usually own some jewellery. They are fond of wearing jewellery, even if it is worth one or two Rupees. Even the poorest of women will at least wear half a Rupee worth pair of earrings. Surely everyone is rewarded according to what they donate. A person who owns one hundred thousand Rupees and donates one thousand Rupees from it, will receive the same amount of blessings as the woman who wears half a Rupee worth of earrings and donates the same (percentage). The reward is equal for both. Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> also stated: "Women have written to me that they are prepared to sell their jewellery in order to fulfil the required amount. I have replied to them that they can make sacrifice according to what their share is. They cannot be burdened to fulfil the required amount ... Men come first and then the women. The first step forward is for men and then the second step to follow is for you."

Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> further states: "It is a blessing from Allah that we don't have men who sit back and tell the women to move forward. There is always a possibility that a time

comes when all men are killed. That will be the time for women to fight against the enemies until the very last drop of blood. That is what faith demands. However, until the men are present, it is not the tradition of our Jamaat that we get our women to raise slogans. When men perish then women can certainly step forward and fight until their very last drop of blood in order to keep the flag of religion raised.”

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p680-681)

### **Important Advice Regarding Weddings:**

*Marriage is a union between a couple and not an auction nor an opportunity for unrealistic demands by either family. Un-Islamic rituals can create excessive burdens for the people concerned. Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> posed a refreshing solution to this issue for his Jamaat.*

During the Shura, with regard to social reformation of the Jamaat, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> expressed his extreme dislike towards people who probe too much when looking for a suitable match; and for those who make demands of clothes and jewellery at weddings. Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> said: “It is absurd to probe too much in the matter of marriages. God has created man and woman in pairs. They are bound to get together. Marriage is part of the Divine Law and human nature. At times it is shocking to hear the absurd demands people make. For instance, some lay conditions that they will only settle for the wedding if they get a certain amount of dowry. This is all nonsense. I have repeatedly been bringing the attention of the Jamaat for years towards reforming these matters. If members of the Jamaat pay attention towards this,

reformation can take place rapidly. If they promise not to attend any weddings where such conditions have been laid from either party, then you will observe that in a short period people will feel ashamed and refrain from such useless activities. What could be more humiliating than girls treated as animals for auction. Our Jamaat needs to refrain from such degrading customs and assure that they will never attend such weddings even if it is their own brother or sister's.

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p682)

*A mother's love revolves around her child, but a Khalifa's heart revolves in compassion around his Jamaat; rather around the entire world. The anguish and the sleepless long nights that Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> spent in prayers during the partition was heart wrenching. His household members witnessed Huzoor's helpless pacing while continuously praying for the good news that each convoy that left Qadian arrives safely in Pakistan.*

### **The Khalifa and the Jamaat - One Heart:**

Those were the days when every woman was fully prepared to sacrifice her jewellery and her belongings at Huzoor's instructions. Keeping in mind the anticipated situation, a large number of women were given First Aid training under the Central Lajna Ima'illah. In every neighbourhood, First Aid training centres were set up. Women were also taught archery; how to use sling shots and given firearms training as far as possible.

### **Preparing for the Expected Situation:**

Khawaja Ghulam Nabi sahib has written about the sad and heart breaking incidents of in Qadian as follows:

“Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> was very anxious and deeply concerned for the whole duration while women and children were trapped in Qadian. Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> expressed some of his concern in a letter addressed to the people of Qadian. It was read out to everyone. Whereas after listening to this letter, every man and woman felt stronger and their moral was uplifted, they also realised how much Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> loved and cared for this vulnerable Jamaat of women and children. He was extremely concerned about them and for their safety. Evacuating thousands of women and children safely during such dreadful and distressing circumstances is one of the most magnificent achievements of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup>. It is not possible to truly comprehend its significance.”

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 1-p686-689)

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### **A New Era Begins for the Ahmadiyya Community:**

*After the painful migration from Qadian, the Jamaat had to then settle and continue their activities in the new environment as soon as possible. A gardener knows how painful it is to nurture a plant and then having to uproot and transplant it in harsh conditions. The predicament faced by Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> during the migration of the Community from Qadian to the newly created Pakistan was very similar. Yet Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> had full faith in Allah that despite*

*struggles, this Community will triumph in any soil, in any part of the world. Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> was vouchsafed by Allah: 'Wherever you are, Allah will bring you all together'. (2:149) was the revelation received by Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup>.*

### **Transplanting an Entire Orchard:**

31<sup>st</sup> August 1947 holds an important place in the history of Ahmadiyyat. Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> had no choice but to migrate “*داغ ہجرت*” from Qadian, the main centre of Jamaat Ahmadiyya. This was Divine destiny and the fulfilment of the prophecy of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>.

The migration was undertaken under extremely testing and grave conditions. The anguish Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> was suffering can be felt in his following words:

“The task ahead of me is not equivalent of digging up a tree and planting it in another place; rather it is like digging up the whole garden and replanting it elsewhere.”

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 2-p3-4)

*How does one console those who have lost their property, land, possessions, and evaded death? Yes, only a Khalifa, a man of God is endowed with inspiring hearts into consolation of such destitute people by focusing ones sorrows towards God.*

### **Consoling the Destitute:**

The very first edition of Al-Fazl after migrating from Qadian was published on 15<sup>th</sup> September 1947 from Lahore. On the



first page an important message from Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> was printed in bold, “Are you a true Ahmadi?” Part of his message is copied below:

“If you are a true Ahmadi, then make changes in yourself as of today. Pay emphasis on supplications (Dua) and Salat. If your wife is weak in Salat, encourage her to offer it. If she doesn’t improve, then divorce her. If your husband is weak in Salat, encourage him to offer it. If he doesn’t improve ask for divorce. If your children are weak in Salat, then stop talking to them until they reform themselves.”

These words portray the feelings that Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> had towards supplications and Salat in that difficult period. It demonstrates what he expected from the Jamaat’s men, women and children. ...

Upon reaching Lahore, under the special instructions and supervision of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup>, continuous efforts were made to move all women and children residing in Qadian to Pakistan safely and rapidly. Initially, Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> had wished that no Ahmadi leave their home (*Qadian*). However, when conditions became unmanageable to the extremes, he instructed that only women and children should be moved. Later when it became impossible for men to also remain there, arrangements were made to also move them to Pakistan safely . Only a few hundred men were instructed to remain behind in Qadian to protect the holy places.

The following announcement was made through Al-Fazl:

“Not only Ahmadies but all Muslims are provided aid. All efforts are being made to move women, children

and the elderly men from Qadian to different parts of Pakistan.”

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 2-p5-6)

*The state of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> as described by his household during the Partition, was one of heart-rending cries before God for the safety of every Jamaat member. (Sahibzada Mirza Muzaffar Ahmad, Amir and Missionary In-charge, Jamaat Ahmadiyya, U.S.A. Al-Nahl, Spring 1995.) Alongside prayers, a great deal of planning was required. Women and children were prioritised at all cost. The following is a glimpse of the activities during that turbulent time.*

### **Agonising Cries:**

On the Shura held on 7<sup>th</sup> September 1947, it was decided to make immediate arrangements to evacuate Ahmadi women and children from Qadian and take them to Pakistan. In his Friday sermon of 12<sup>th</sup> September 1947, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> drew members' attention towards the dire conditions and the steps to follow. Arrangements were initiated for acquiring at least 200 coaches for this purpose. Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> stated:

“There are 8000 to 9000 women and children who need to be evacuated; otherwise the situation with food and the matter of safety will become difficult to manage. The food situation is bad. There are no spices left. Although I have arranged for these things and have sent them over but still the situation is distressing. Flour could not be arranged. Ghee is finished. There is no

wood for fuel. Women and children need to be evacuated from there. Hence, whoever is able to, should arrange for a coach. Once this has been arranged, they should liaise with Mian Bashir Ahmed, so women and children are evacuated through a proper system.”

In his sermon, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> also mentioned a few dedicated Ahmadi women in Qadian who despite the dire situation remained very brave, and refused to leave.

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 2-p6-7)

*The volunteers worked diligently to protect each Jamaat member and to achieve logistic success, casting aside their rank and position to defend the vulnerable.*

### **Wisdom in Adversity:**

Khawaja Ghulam Nabi Sahib witnessed and narrated the following incident, providing great insight and details as observed at the time. His comprehensive and valuable report is presented as follows:

"When the brutality and the atrocities of the Sikhs started to rise in the surrounding villages of Qadian, a sudden increase in looting, and murders of innocent people, destruction of properties, and arson attacks began to emerge. These thugs and robbers were supported and aided by the police and the army. Their top priority seemed to harm the Muslims as much as possible. Danger was rapidly approaching Qadian. Hazrat

Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> particularly paid attention for security of Ahmadi women and children. Under his instruction, the female workers from Lajna Ima'illah prepared a list of the vulnerable that were either suffering from heart problems or other chronic health conditions. This group was to be given priority to move to a secure place outside Qadian. I am personally aware of ladies who despite suffering with chronic diseases were strong at heart. ... They desired not to be sent away from Qadian in fear of death. If they were destined to die, there was no better option than to die in Qadian. Additionally, their plight was that they did not wish to be deprived of serving the Jamaat at such a crucial time. Once they were explained that due to their health, their presence will hinder the men's activities and they won't be able to fight the enemies with full attention, these ladies reluctantly agreed to leave Qadian.”

Not only was it impossible to arrange safe transport for ladies and children outside Qadian, but the means of transport had also become non-existent and the journey was considered unsafe and dangerous. It was impossible to get hold of coaches and buses that were travelling under secured army supervision. Hence, considering the situation it was decided that as soon as transport becomes available, the sick, the frail, women with babies, teenage girls and young children should be prioritised and transported to safe places. The Lists of names were requested from the local presidents. After careful consideration Hazrat Mirza Bashir Ahmad sahib<sup>ra</sup>, issued the tickets with his signature depending on the

availability of space on the buses. Hazrat Mirza Bashir Ahmad sahib<sup>ra</sup> along with his team of carried out this work sometimes throughout the night.

As soon as a few buses arrived, arrangements for their return started. The situation worsened by the day. Under the circumstances all attempts were made to evacuate as many women and children as possible. For the same reason they were strictly instructed to take minimal and only very important items with them such as a few clothes and perhaps a set of bedding.

Another dilemma was that a large number of refugees had arrived from the surrounding villages. Some would force their way into the buses, making it very difficult for those who had been issued tickets to board. This was exacerbated by the interference of the army who were armed. Despite these difficulties, the sons of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> and the sons of Hazrat Mirza Sharif Ahmad sahib<sup>ra</sup> were personally present to overcome these difficulties and accomplish the task of putting the ladies onboard. This was the only way that this difficult task could be undertaken appropriately.

Nevertheless, not only the violence and brutality of the army and the police was increasing, but they were also creating substantial challenges in the transportation of women. On one occasion when ten to twelve buses were ready to leave with women and children on board, the army announced that half of the buses must be vacated immediately. They will then seat passengers in them as they wish. When people protested, the Hindu army took over all the buses and physically dragged out the purdah observing women and their

children maliciously. They then took away the empty buses. This resulted in not only some women and children being deprived of travelling under the protection of Ahmadi army officers; but they sustained injuries and their belongings were destroyed.

The government were making announcements that unless weapons were detected, the refugees' luggage was not checked nor taken away from them. Yet, in Qadian it was so painstakingly checked that at times some buses were unable to leave because the procedure that the luggage would end up being destroyed. They were so keen to search the luggage that on several occasions the buses were forced to remain there the whole night as the search had not been completed. On occasions women and children had to spend the entire night in open grounds in fearful conditions; also facing issues in terms of food and toilets.

Women and children would have left their houses at 4am or 5am to arrive at the designated areas to board the buses. Due to the massive rush of refugees, the organisers, who were mostly male members from the family of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>, faced great logistic problems.

In the early days, the sweltering heat from the sun was unbearable. Once the buses were filled to their maximum capacity, women and children were made to wait for instructions from the army officers. After a long tiring wait once the journey started, they were again stopped for inspection near the railway line. Their personal belongings were checked vigorously and scattered in the worst possible way; making it difficult to re-collect it later. These were mostly

women and children travelling without any accompanying male. There were occasions when women and young girls had to spend the night with the fear of Sikh thugs, the army and the police. They would be starving and tired which would cause them immense misery.

I myself witnessed two such convoys. Our young men not only helped to provide food to but it was Allah's special Blessing that these convoys were accompanied by heavily armed Muslim army including some Ahmadi officers. They certainly did justice to their roles.

The last convoy that left consisted of thousands of women and children. A diligent English officer was in-charge of it. Ten buses from this convoy had taken non-Muslim refugees to Gurdaspur. They had orders to bring these buses to Qadian to evacuate women and children from there. However, when the buses did not arrive in Qadian at the expected time, the committed officer himself drove his jeep to Gurdaspur and brought the buses to Qadian. It was later discovered that officers in Gurdaspur were not permitting the empty buses to travel to Qadian. They wanted to fill them with people from Gurdaspur itself. It was only because of the efforts of this English officer that the buses arrived in Qadian. The following day women and children were put on board these buses.

The dangerous situation in Qadian was clearly evident to him (the British officer). Armed Sikh groups of gangsters were lurking around. Even the military and police could not be trusted. The dutiful officer realised that it was his duty to protect the thousands of women and children, and thus he should make full arrangements and effort for their safety and

protection. We must acknowledge that as far as the worldly means are concerned, he fulfilled his duty wisely and ingeniously. He arranged about a hundred buses in a circle. He asked the people, who were travelling, to take rest in the middle of the circle and on the outer side of the circle he placed tight security. In addition to this he set up strong pickets at the nearby houses and deployed army officers to guard them. He was personally patrolling the area in an armed vehicle.

The military mainly consisted of Ahmadi young men, who were ready to face any danger throughout the night. The night passed without any unpleasant incident and the convoy left in the morning. This was the last convoy to take all the women and children out of Qadian.

Another convoy of private buses had arrived in Qadian under army protection to transport women. This was before the people in Qadian had been asked to leave their homes. The people who travelled on that convoy were badly exploited upon arriving at the check post. This convoy was still there when the following day another convoy of a few army trucks arrived in the supervision of Major Sahibzada Mirza Dawood Ahmed sahib, the son of Hazrat Mirza Sharif Ahmed Sahib<sup>ra</sup>. When this convoy arrived at the Indian check post, the previous convoy was still there and was being mishandled by the army. At that time Hazrat Sahibzada sahib adopted a method which proved very successful. He did not care about his stature and his prestige. The convoy was allowed to leave in his supervision. The designated officer in charge for searching the convoy was not present at the scene. He was in



Gurdaspur; and the person who was in charge was an officer of much lower rank. I saw Sahibzada sahib walking with him arm in arm. This gesture of his filled my heart with gratitude and happiness. I realised that the children of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> were trying their best to protect us.

After a little while Sahibzada sahib got permission to move the convoy without any search taking place. In this way due to his critical thinking and intellect he saved women and children from great trouble. Incidentally the other convoy which had arrived before them could not leave that day. It left the following day.

Women were facing an additional issue while getting on the buses. Almost all the Hindu army officers had some male and female refugees from outside (Qadian) with them. They were putting these people on the already overloaded buses by force. Despite the protest, from the passengers on board, they would put them on board. These were the helpless people who had already lost their houses, and then handed over their few belongings to these vicious people in order to save themselves. ...

Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> successfully management to evacuate thousands of men, women and children from Qadian despite all the challenges and hindrances is unparalleled in the whole of East Punjab. A testimony to this was that those who followed his plan and arrangements did not have to face the atrocities of the Sikhs nor a single loss of life during the lengthy, hazardous journey. Not to speak of the Hindu police, the Sikh robbers who were out of control even in Qadian. They randomly shot whoever they wished, looted

and robbed people without any fear and abducted women refugees in broad daylight. Anyone who resisted was shot dead or killed with a Kirpan.

In these treacherous circumstances, the rescuing of thousands of Ahmadi men, women and children who had been surrounded for many days, from the cruel hands of beast like enemies without any loss of life, is no ordinary accomplishment”

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 2-p9-15)

In the extract of Khwaja Ghulam Nabi sahib's article written above, he has mentioned that: “Many faithful Ahmadi women insisted upon not to be sent out of Qadian due to the imminent danger of death. If death was their destiny, there was no better place than Qadian”.

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 2-p17)

*During these challenging times, Ahmadi women not only showed great courage and resilience like faithful believers, but also advised their sons to be ready for every sacrifice for their faith and the protection of Ahmadi women. The mothers, sisters and wives of the Ahmadi men who were assigned the duty to protect the Headquarters (Qadian), also demonstrated a level of sacrifice and faith in Allah. Their examples deserve to be illustrated in gold.*

### **A Brave Mother – A Brave Soldier:**

The following remarkable incident of bravery, courage and martyrdom is worth mentioning. It reminds us of the sacrifices made in the early period of Islam. Hussain Bibi

Sahiba, the mother of a young Ahmadi man Ghulam Mohammad son of Mistry Ghulam Qadir Sahib had advised him that if he is ever put in a position to fight to protect Islam and Ahmadiyyat, he should never turn his back. This selfless and obedient young man fulfilled his mother's advice to the extent that he gave his life protecting the Ahmadi women of Qadian. He did not turn his back on the enemies. Before dying, this young man called his friend over and asked him to write down his last words, as follows:

"I have firm faith in Islam and Ahmadiyyat. I surrender my life having full faith (*Iman*). I left my house with the intention to offer my life for the sake of Islam. Please all of you remain witness that I have fulfilled my promise and also the purpose which I came for. When I left home, my mother advised me, 'Son, ensure you never turn your back to the enemy.' Please inform my mother that her son followed her advice and did not turn his back and died fighting."

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 2-p25-26)

*'You are created for the best of mankind.'*(3:111)*Both men and women are addressed in this verse alike. We witness women throughout Islamic history and indeed the history of Ahmadiyyat, who personified the best examples of mankind.*

### **Best of Mankind:**

Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> had instructed that the men should stay in Qadian and fulfil their responsibilities of protecting the holy places as far as possible. However, the women and children should be removed from Qadian as quickly as

possible. As a result of this instruction, all the convoys arriving successively mostly consisted of women and children. A lot of families came with only the females and children while their men stayed behind in Qadian. Subsequently, the Jamaat had to make arrangements for their food and boarding. The credit for organising this successfully goes to on Hazrat Sayyeda Maryam Siddiqah sahiba (The wife of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup>). Under the instructions of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> and together with the assistance from volunteers she fulfilled this difficult role round the clock. Her kind, loving and caring manner made the women feel at peace and at ease, despite the difficulties and trauma they had experienced. She would personally order the food for everyone from the Guest House and distribute it. She would arrange for clothes, bedding, allocate sleeping arrangements and treatment facilities for the sick. ...

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 2-p29)

*Later Amatul Lateef sahiba was appointed in charge of the arrangements. When she arrived for duty, Hazrat Sayyeda Maryam Siddiqah sahiba arranged a meeting with Hazrat Amma Jaan<sup>ra</sup> and Hazrat Nawab Mubarka Begum sahiba<sup>ra</sup> and informed them how Hazrat Sayyeda Maryam Siddiqah sahiba was now passing the responsibility to Amatul Lateef sahiba.*

Hazrat Sayyeda Maryam Siddiqah sahiba then gave her instructions regarding food. Only one chapatti per person was to be given from the Langar in the morning and evening. Great care was taken regarding cleanliness because contagious diseases were spreading fast. Stress was laid upon offering Salat in congregation and supplications.

Ladies who had come from Central Lajna Ima'illah Qadian, along with the Lajna Ima'illah Lahore served the migrant women and children. After a major attack in Qadian, thousands of women were arriving in Lahore. Marquees were erected in Ratan Bagh. Arrangements were also made at Jodhamal Building, Jaswant Building and Cement building to accommodate the migrant women. At times women arrived in terrible conditions; often without shoes, clothes, utensils or even their 'Burka'. All of them were accommodated in the camps. The volunteers including ladies from the family of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> served food. Bedding was arranged and the sick given medicines. Hundreds of people came looking for their missing relatives. Arrangements were made to help them locate their relatives. Others required money to be transported to their new homes. Although lots of ladies were able to leave the camp, yet a large number of elderly and sick ladies remained behind. ...

In addition to looking after the women, a large room was converted into a delivery room. Dr Amatul Hameed Mufti sahiba performed medical duties. Several babies were born every day. They needed to be taken care of, as well as the mothers' dietary requirements, clothes for the babies and other necessary items. Often medicines were requested from Huzoor<sup>ra</sup>.

Lajna from various localities arranged to collect clothes, shoes, burkas, utensils and beddings to distribute. About two thousand duvets, blankets and quilts were distributed.

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 2-p31)

*The proverb, 'time and tide wait for none' is indeed very true. In the challenging and complex situation that the Jamaat was experiencing, time was swiftly passing and it was time for Jalsa Salana.*

### **Jalsa Salana 1947:**

According to the instructions of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup>, Jalsa Salana 1947 was held by Lahore Jamaat for their members only, because boarding and lodging arrangements were difficult at this time. A set number of men from each district were permitted to attend. Women were asked not to attend unless they were able to stay with their relatives. The Jalsa Gah itself was in the grounds opposite Ratan Bagh. Seating arrangements for the ladies were made inside Ratan Bagh.

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 2-p63)

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## **1948**

*Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> appealed to all members to join the blessed scheme of Wasiyyat in May 1948, to silence the mockery of opponents who said that without Bahishti Maqbarah in Qadian, this blessed scheme would end. A few days later, a meeting of Lajna Markaz was held to convey this important message of Huzoor<sup>ra</sup>. Subsequently, many Lajna joined the blessed scheme.*

### **The Scheme of Wasiyyat:**

The centre Qadian had been taken away temporarily for the vast majority of the Jamaat. However, they firmly believed that Allah would surely fulfil His Promise and return Qadian back to them. To illustrate the belief in this Promise of Allah, in his Friday Sermon of 28<sup>th</sup> May delivered in Lahore, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> stressed upon joining the scheme of Wasiyyat. Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> said:

“At present my opinion is that at the very least there should be an appeal for each member of the Jamaat to join the scheme of Wasiyyat. There are specific timings to demonstrate matter to world. As a result of having to leave Qadian, the enemy are particularly concentrating on the fact that we have lost Bahishti Maqbarah which was the reason for people to join the scheme of Wasiyyat. They are saying that people will no longer continue to join the system of Wasiyyat. The only way to refute their claim is that every Ahmadi joins it, and demonstrates to the world that our faith and belief in Allah’s Promise is not reliant on whether Qadian remains in our possession or not.”

To accomplish the instructions from Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup>, the Central Lajna Ima’illah called a meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> May 1948. An additional position of a Secretary was added within the Central Lajna to deliver the instructions from Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> to the ladies. Professor Amatul Majeed sahiba, the daughter of Chaudhri Wazir Muhammad sahib was appointed to this office on 30<sup>th</sup> May 1948. She continuously made announcements in this respect in Al-Fazl and explained the ways to join the scheme of Wasiyyat as well as its conditions.

She specifically addressed 42 Lajna Majalis and appealed to them to join the scheme. She requested all the Majalis to enquire regarding the numbers of Moosiyat already in the scheme.

In this regard it was also announced that by that point only Lajna South Sikandarabad had the privilege that with the Blessings of Allah, all their members were Moosiyat. As a result of the new initiative, many ladies joined the scheme of Wasiyyat.

In his Friday Sermon on 4<sup>th</sup> June 1948 Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> stated: "When I returned home after delivering the last Friday sermon, I received many letters, both from men as well as women. They were either notifications of new Wassiyat or updated promises of donating additional chanda. I can see that this trend is continuously increasing. I believe that if the workers do their work properly, then within six to six months to a year, the whole Jamaat will reach these levels."

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 2-p73-74)

*Rabwah was now becoming more habitable. Hence, many Ahmadi families moved to their new Centre. Most Ahmadies desire to have a deep connection with their Headquarter, thus a large number of families who were able to live in Rabwah, took residence there.*

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**Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> leading the second Salat after the migration to Rabwah, 1948**

# 1949

*After the migration from Qadian, the Jamaat had to find a suitable place for their new Headquarters. The Government of Pakistan agreed to lease a piece of land to the Jamaat in the district of Jhang (Punjab). It consisted of over 1506 acres, but mostly barren. Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> named it 'Rabwah' which means an 'elevated place'. Although the formal inauguration of the town took place on 20<sup>th</sup> September 1948, but it was in 1949 that Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> permanently moved to Rabwah and the Jamaat became fully functioning. Thus, from this prospective 1949 became a memorable year for the Jamaat. As the Jamaat settled into its new surroundings, new circumstances required adjustments to achieve the original goals.*

## **Adjusting to the Times:**

Jalsa Salana was to be held in April this year. Hazrat Umme Dawood<sup>ra</sup> as Nazima Jalsa Salana made the announcement that women should not bring their jewellery and excessive money with them. The security arrangements were not the same as they used to be in Qadian, so there was a possibility to lose it. She also requested them to bring a plate and a glass for their use with them; and to convey this message to those who have not seen it. It should be noted that women were provided with clay plates and bowls in Qadian.

### **The First Jalsa in Rabwah - Held in April 1949.**

Jalsa Salana could not take place in 1948 due to the critical and tense situation after the partition of India and the migration from Qadian. Instead it was held in April 1949 at the Jamaat's new Headquarters, Rabwah. On this occasion the ladies' Jalsa also took place.

This was the first Jalsa Salana for ladies in the barren land of Rabwah. Ladies were guests as well as hosts. An announcement was made in Al-Fazl that the ladies who had previously volunteered during Jalsa Salana Qadian, should volunteer their names to Nazima Jalsa Salana for duties. Along with them many girls and ladies from Lahore also volunteered their names. Ladies arrived in Rabwah two days before Jalsa and started working according to the plans and the programme. ... Lajna Lahore provided a large amount of buckets, spoons and lanterns which proved immensely helpful. This was the first Jalsa in a new place, yet by the Grace of Allah it was well managed Lajna members from Ahmed Nagar and Chiniot also specifically participated in serving the guests.

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 2-p101)

Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> had advised every Ahmadi coming to Jalsa, to bring 3 kilo of flour or wheat with them. This amount would be enough for them and for one other guest. Along with the men, many women also brought wheat with them. In fact they continued to bring this for many years. In 1966 when there was a shortage of wheat, women coming to attend the Annual Ijtima of the Lajna Ima'illah, also brought wheat with them.

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 2-p106)

### **Settling Women in Rabwah and Educating them:**

After the Jalsa Salana in April 1949, under the instruction of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> Darul Khawateen was built. This consisted of 24 temporary rooms and a spacious courtyard. Families of Derveshan-e-Qadian were relocated there.

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 2-p103)

### **Hygiene Arrangements in Rabwah:**

In the beginning there were no sweepers available in Rabwah. People had to take care of the sanitation themselves. . In order to manage this smoothly, Lajna started their work under the supervision of Hazrat Sayyeda Nasira Begum sahiba (The respected mother of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V<sup>aba</sup>)... She used to guide and supervise women in cleaning their houses and their surroundings.

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 2-p120)

*Restabilising a dispersed institution of Lajna Ima'illah, required encouragement and re-planning. Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> initiated plans for a new Headquarters and a new Central President for Lajna.*

### **Lajna Ima'illah Rabwah:**

After Jalsa Salana of April 1949, on the instructions of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> around 100 ladies settled in Rabwah permanently. So with this, weekly Lajna meetings also resumed.

Meanwhile temporary houses were built on both sides of the railway line; thus this area was now populated. On the arrival of the office holders of the Central Lajna, the first meeting of

the Central Lajna was held on 10<sup>th</sup> October 1949. Rabwah was then divided into two localities (Majlis). ... By 1953, the Tajneed of Lajna Rabwah had reached 500 and was divided into eight (Majalis).

According to the instructions of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup>, in 1953 the management of Lajna Rabwah was separated from the Central Lajna. Hazrat Sayyeda Nasira Begum Sahiba was elected as President of Lajna Rabwah. ... She played a significant role in organising Lajna Rabwah and taking it to a significant position.

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 2-p120-121)

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*Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> settled in the barren land that he named 'Rabwah', which translates as 'an elevated place'. The naming was accompanied with prayers that the Jamaat would bloom and flourish in its new dwelling.*

#### **Khilafat Settles in Rabwah:**

Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> came to Rabwah temporarily on the occasion of Jalsa Salana April 1949 and then returned to Lahore. He returned to Rabwah permanently in 19<sup>th</sup> September 1949. He started living in a temporary, clay brick house which was built for this purpose. With consideration to the importance of this historic journey, Hazrat Mirza Bashir Ahmed<sup>ra</sup> travelled with Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> from Lahore to Rabwah. He penned down every detail of the journey and published it in Al-Fazl.

When Huzoor's car crossed the river Chenab and entered Rabwah, he started reciting the following Quranic prayers which were taught to the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> at the time of his migration.

رَبِّ اَدْخِلْنِيْ مُدْخَلَ صِدْقٍ وَّاَخْرِجْنِيْ مُخْرَجَ صِدْقٍ وَّاَجْعَلْ لِّيْ مِنْ لَّدُنْكَ سُلْطٰنًا

نَّصِيْرًا ﴿٨١﴾ وَّقُلْ جَاءَ الْحَقُّ وَرَهَقَ الْبٰطِلُ ۗ اِنَّ الْبٰطِلَ كَانَ زَهُوْقًا ﴿٨٢﴾

‘O my Lord, make my entry a good entry and *then* make me come forth with a good forthcoming. And grant me from Thyself a helping power. And say, ‘Truth has come and falsehood has vanished away. Falsehood does indeed vanish away fast.’ (17:81,82)

When his car arrived in Rabwah, men had gathered under a tent and women inside a house to greet Huzoor<sup>ra</sup>.

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 2-p130)

On Huzoor's arrival women recited the same verses melodiously which were recited by the Muslim girls of Madina when the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> entered Madina. Below are those verses.

طَلَعَ الْبَدْرُ عَلَيْنَا مِنْ ثَنِيَّاتِ الْوُدَاعِ وَجَبَ الشُّكْرُ عَلَيْنَا مَا دَعَى إِلَهُ دَاعٍ

### Translation

“The full moon is shining on us from Vida. (area of gardens). We must offer thanks to Allah so long as everyone prays to Allah “

That was an amazing sight. Hearts were full of joy and prayers were being recited. On this occasion Sadaqat were given by men and women of Rabwah. Along with an office for Huzoor<sup>ra</sup>, mud houses had been built for Hazrat Amma Jaan<sup>ra</sup> and the four wives of Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> where they stayed. Lunch was served by Darul-Ziafat and dinner was presented by the residents of Rabwah. ...

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 2-p131-132)

### **Darsul-Quran in Ramadhan:**

In the early days of Rabwah, a temporary mosque of clay bricks was erected. It consisted of a large room and a courtyard. Darsul-Quran started with the arrival of Ramadhan. Lajna also benefited from it. In the last ten days of Ramadhan some women were also able to carry out Etikaf.

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 2-p123)

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*1949 proved to be a significant year for Lajna Ima'illah UK, since it was the year when Lajna was officially formed in London.*

### **The Establishment of Lajna Ima'illah in London:**

During the Jamaat Annual Ijtima in London, a resolution was approved to establish Lajna Ima'illah in London. Accordingly a ladies' meeting was held on 11<sup>th</sup> December 1949 when Lajna office bearers were elected. Thus Lajna was officially established.

At the time Chaudhri Mushtaq Ahmad Bajwa sahib was serving as Imam of the London Mosque. His wife Kalsoom

Bajwa sahiba was elected the Lajna President. Mrs. Dr Mohammad Ramzan sahiba, the vice president, an English lady Miss Janet Wells, the General Secretary, Miss Hameeda Stafford the Secretary Khidmete Khalq and Mrs Liston, was the Secretary Finance. Thereafter monthly meetings were held. On a couple of occasions a small Meena Bazaar was also organised for fund raising. Ladies prepared items with their own money and the income received was used to cover the expenses. Once a dinner party was arranged on a large scale; a good number of non-Muslim ladies were also invited.

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 2-p134)

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*Patriotism is part of the Muslim faith. Lajna Ima'illah UK consisted of English and Pakistani members who shared the joy of the Royal family by sending a gift for their princess on her second wedding anniversary.*

### **The Best Gift:**

Mrs Kulsoom Bajwa sahiba sent the first volume of the translation of the Holy Quran as a gift to Princess Elizabeth, now the Queen of England on behalf of Lajna. She responded with a letter expressing her gratitude to Lajna for their choice of gift and closed the letter with her signature

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 2-p134)

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*Women are generally portrayed as being emotionally weak. Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> encouraged women to dedicate their lives for the faith and be more active in the field of Tabligh (preaching), assuring them that their way of preaching was very logical and effective.*

**Life Dedication Appeal to Women:**

During the Friday sermon of 14<sup>th</sup> November 1949, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> said that women should also dedicate their life to serve their religion and participate in preaching. They have become more of a barrier in the spreading of Ahmadiyyat in comparison to men. Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> said:

“A woman’s preaching will have reasoning and we believe that Islam supersedes with reasoning. A man’s arguments in preaching become emotional; thus emotion may prove a hindrance... When confronted by a man, women do not ponder over the arguments presented, thus all our arguments will be in vain. However, if the same argument is presented by a woman, then the argument will not be governed by emotions. Rather it will be considered as logical assertion. In that case, indeed our point of view will prevail. Secondly, women will preach to other women and attract them towards Islam. When these women will praise Ahmadiyyat at home rather than defy it, men will certainly develop interest in Ahmadiyyat rather than opposing it.”

Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> added:

“Ladies who participate in this appeal should marry men who have also dedicated their life (Waqf). Once they are married to life devotees, we will give precedence to such women and

will allocate their husbands to areas where women's services are more important."

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 2-p135)

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## 1950

*Within three decades of its inception, Lajna forged ahead with fresh and bold inspiration of its development. The early accomplishments of Lajna included the construction of another mosque in Europe, establishing its new Headquarters, making significant financial contributions and the publication of its periodical journal called 'Misbah'."*

### **Financial Contributions Continue:**

*(The information below has been extracted from Tareekh Lajna Vol 2-pages 148-150.)*

*This year was a memorable year for the various reasons mentioned above. Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> once again graciously gave the Ahmadi ladies the opportunity to participate in a noble scheme to build a mosque in Europe. On this occasion Holland was the fortunate country. This mosque was built in The Hague, Holland and will always stand witness to the sacrifices of Ahmadi ladies. This mosque was later named 'Masjid Mubarak'.*

*The Central Lajna record indicates that Lajna UK remained active during this period. Here is an example from a report sent to the Centre.*

### **Lajna Activities in the UK:**

On 17<sup>th</sup> February Lajna Ima'illah held their monthly meeting. Chaudhri Mushtaq Ahmad Bajwa Sahib, Imam of the London Mosque delivered a speech to Lajna. After his speech there was a discussion on the status of Hazrat Isa<sup>as</sup> according to the Holy Quran.

On 19<sup>th</sup> March Lajna Ima'illah held their monthly meeting. An Ahmadi Muslim convert, Ms Janet Wells delivered a speech on Islamic teachings. Mrs Arif Naeem read the translation of the Holy Quran and Mrs Ramzan, the Taleem Secretary delivered commentary of the verses in English.

On 11<sup>th</sup> June Mrs. Kalsoom Bajwa sahiba, the wife of Chaudhri Mushtaq Ahmad sahib, was given a farewell party at the London Mosque. She was returning to Pakistan in July. Her services for the Muslim women were appreciated. She arrived in Rabwah on 16<sup>th</sup> August where she was welcomed by Lajna Ima'illah. On 9<sup>th</sup> November she talked about her experience in the UK.

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 2-p203)

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*What greater blessing could Lajna Ima'illah have wished for than to have the foundation stone of the Lajna Imaillah office in Rabwah placed by Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup>, the same blessed personage who established Lajna Ima'illah. Upon Huzoor's<sup>ra</sup> direction, some respected companions of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> also laid foundation stones on that momentous day.*

### **Laying the Foundation Stone for Lajna Ima'illah's Central Office:**

On 31<sup>st</sup> May 1950 at 6:30am Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> graciously laid the foundation stone for the office of Lajna Ima'illah office in Rabwah... Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> placed three bricks with his blessed hands. ...

The following day on 1<sup>st</sup> of June 1950 members of Lajna congregated at 2:30 pm and Hazrat Amma Jaan<sup>ra</sup> laid a foundation brick followed by the female Companions of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>. Hazrat Sayyeda Ume Nasir sahiba<sup>ra</sup> and Hazrat Sayyeda Umme Dawood sahiba<sup>ra</sup> were the first ones to receive this honour, followed by the rest of the female companions. As bricks were not available for all the companions, they were asked to pair up and lay a brick together. This event ended with silent prayers.

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 2-p173)

### **Misbah re-Established:**

*The third most important event of this year after the migration from Qadian was republishing the ladies' monthly magazine Misbah from Rabwah.*

The publication was re-established in April 1950. (*This was the very first magazine to be published from Rabwah and is still in publication.*) From 1926 to 1947 Misbah had been published under the supervision of men, but in 1947 Lajna Ima'illah took charge of it. The first issue was already printed when the atrocities of partition of India began. Unfortunately, it resulted in the migration from Qadian. Misbah could not be published during the stay in Lahore. When the Central Lajna

office was moved to Rabwah, the first issue was published in April 1950. It consisted of 34 pages and Amatullah Khursheed sahiba was the editor. ...

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 2-p183)

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*"I come across thousands of couples and thousands of cases come to my attention. However, in all my years I have never come across a more successful and joyful marriage. ...I am proud that she married me (Fazle Ummar p213)". This is how Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> described his dear wife Hazrat Amatul Hayee sahiba. She embodied her father's deep desire for women to be educated, and she was taught by her husband to fulfil this very aim; she dedicated her life attempting to achieve this. Upon her sad demise, a library was established in her memory, initially in Qadian and later a branch was set up in Rabwah."*

### **A Loving Tribute to a Much Loved Lady:**

On 1<sup>st</sup> November 1950, Amatul Hayee Library in the office of Central Lajna Ima'illah was established... In her speech Hazrat Sayyeda Maryam Siddiqa sahiba said: "The library which is being inaugurated today is built in remembrance of Hazrat Sayyeda Amatul Hayee<sup>ra</sup>; hence named after her. While in Qadian, I had great desire to develop this library but due to lack of funds for this particular purpose, I was unable to put my wish into practice. The Library was at a very small scale. ... As a result of the disaster in 1947; people had to leave their homes and also left their books behind. Thus it was essential to build a library for ladies in Rabwah to motivate Lajna to

seek knowledge and read books to improve their knowledge. ...I hope that Lajna members will take advantage of the library so that this tiny plant grows out to be a large tree with strong branches to benefit future generations.

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 2-p187-188)

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*As the time for Jalsa Salana approached, once again preparations for it began. It is interesting to read the beneficial instructions given at the time which can equally apply today.*

#### **Ladies Jalsa Salana in Rabwah:**

The in-charge for the ladies Jalsa Salana, Hazrat Sayyeda Ume Dawood sahiba<sup>ra</sup> made an announcement through Al-Fazl and urged the Ahmadi men to pack their luggage separately from their ladies' luggage, and to refrain from meeting their ladies during their stay, except in the case of emergency.

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 2-p204)

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# Chapter 4

## 1951 - 1958

- Establishment of Jamia Nusrat
- Persecution of Jamaat in Pakistan
- Attempted Murder on Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup>
- Companions of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> Contribute to the Ahmadiyyat Flag
- Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> Illness and Trip to Europe
- Hazrat Sayyeda Maryam Siddiqa - A Selfless Aide
- Death of Hazrat Amma Jee, the wife of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih I<sup>ra</sup>
- Establishing Nusrat Industrial School
- First Annual Ijtima of Lajna Ima'illah Central
- First Ijtima of Nasiratul Ahmadiyya
- Hazrat Sayyeda Umme Nasir<sup>ra</sup> Passes Away

*Now the Jamaat had reached a sizable population for Lajna to pursue plans for higher education. Thus a college for higher education was established in Rabwah, which benefited generations of Ahmadi and non-Ahmadi young ladies and their families. This institution still has an excellent reputation for studies in Pakistan.*

### **New Avenues for Education:**

Having accomplished twenty eight years of its existence, Lajna Ima'illah is progressing towards its new destination. The activities of Lajna Ima'illah in the field of preaching, teaching and educational activities were proceeding as usual. The mile stone in Lajna history for this year was the establishment of a female only college, 'Jamia Nusrat for 'Women'. This provided the young ladies an opportunity to acquire religious education as well as high standard secular education to degree level while residing in the headquarters of Jamaat. Sixteen students enrolled in the first year.

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 2-p225)

On 14<sup>th</sup> June 1951, the inauguration of Jamia Nusrat took place. Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> attended the occasion and delivered an inspirational speech for the benefit of the students. ...Expounding on the aims for the establishment of Jamia Nusrat, Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> states: "The aims of this college are to amalgamate religious and secular education. There will be two categories of girls studying here. Some who will wish to complete their education and engage in worldly pursuits. There will be others who will wish to serve religion after completing their education. I tell both groups that serving religion cannot be separated from the world, nor can the worldly affairs be separated from religion. Islam is based on the love of God and serving humanity. ... A girl who studies in order to serve religion, is aware that serving humanity is also an integral part of religion. Religion does not only consist of merely reciting phrases like SubhanAllah. Religion also means to serve one's fellow beings and share their pain. A girl who



wishes to pursue material fields should keep in mind that Islam has also laid emphasis on the love of God. They must never disregard this; rather they should increase the love of God in their hearts while engaged in material exertions. ...

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 2-p227)

The most important challenge in way of organising the college was the lack of teachers. There were not many women educated at master's level; the few who had accomplished this standard were already teaching at other colleges. Hence, there was no option but to employ some part time and some full time male teachers. Mrs Farkhanda Shah sahiba offered her services for the College. ... Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> instructed her to study for a master's degree while Hazrat Sayyeda Maryam Siddiqah sahiba temporarily fulfilled the duties of the college principal and lecturer.

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 2-p231)

*Mrs. Shah then took over and continuously served as a conscientious, able and popular principal for Jamia Nusrat until her retirement.*

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*Like a keen gardener nurturing a young sapling, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> tends to this auxiliary organisation with constant guidance. Now after three decades Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> wanted Lajna to aspire to greater heights of virtues and morals. Below we find one of Huzoor's addresses to the office bearers of Central Lajna Ima'illah.*

### **Inspiring New Achievements and New Thoughts:**

Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> addressed the Lajna office holders on 20<sup>th</sup> February at 4pm in the temporary office as follows:

“Everyone has different lines of thoughts; and some among you must also have thoughts in regards with various matters. ... The question is what has your thinking been thus far? Lajna Ima’illah was established twenty-eight years ago, or perhaps even a year earlier. What attempts have you made and what have your thoughts been during these twenty-eight years; apart from being handed something on a plate. Donating chanda is something that everyone is keen to do. Emotions arise when we see that others are donating chanda, so we want to do the same... It is not a great accomplishment to collect chanda. The main point is for you to be mindful of the Jamaat you belong to and what your responsibilities are. You are a member of a messenger’s Jamaat and you have to bring the (Spiritual) victory of Islam in the world. Victories are not something that can be awaited for centuries. So, what have you done in twenty-eight years?

We have established Jamaats in America, Africa and England etc. How many branches of Lajna have you established there? Have you planned and calculated in how many years you will achieve the (spiritual) Victory of Islam worldwide? ... Your pattern seems to be that you come, sit, talk and then leave. Lajna are not exerting themselves to achieve goals of intellect and they are not struggling to accomplish anything.

In connection with improving the work of Lajna, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> instructed:

“You must appoint a secretary who is educated; someone who is familiar with English and is able to correspond in English. She should know Arabic and be able to correspond in Arabic. Tell me your plans concerning even the smallest countries. Literature is essential for Tabligh. You should publish small pamphlets.... If you had been in correspondence with America and asked them what kind of literature they required, then you could have forwarded them literature pertaining to special teachings related with women ...”

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 2-p266-267)

In light of Huzoor's address, the Majlis-e-Amila of Lajna Ima'illah called a special meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> February 1951. Some proposals were compiled and forwarded to Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> for his directions. These were as follows:

**Global Assignments:**

1. Mrs Kulsoom Bajwa sahiba, the wife of Chaudhri Mushtaq Ahmad sahib was to be appointed to supervise the Lajna of America.
2. Mrs Farkhanda Shah sahiba, the wife of Sayyed Mahmudullah Shah sahib for Africa.

3. As there was no Arabic speaking lady at the time, thus Sayyeda Umme Dawood was assigned the responsibility for Arab countries.
4. Masooda sahiba, the daughter of Chaudhri Abul Hashim Khan sahib and Mrs Amina sahiba, the wife of Chaudhri Bahaul-Haq sahib were appointed for East Pakistan (Now Bangladesh).

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 2-p267-268)

### **Publication of Lajna Ima'illah London:**

For the benefit of members' religious education and moral training, this year Lajna Ima'illah London started to publish a bulletin under the name of 'The Lajna Review'. It was well received by local Lajna members.

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 2-p275)

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## **1952**

*Hazrat Amma Jaan<sup>ra</sup> was the noble wife of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>. Her marriage took place in 1884 as a result of a glad tiding. This was the same year when the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> made the claim to be a 'Mujaddid'. She had the honour to be Huzoor's wife throughout the period of his claim as a Mujaddid and later as the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>. 1952 proved to be the sad year when the Jamaat lost this blessed soul on earth. Nevertheless, Hazrat Amma Jaan<sup>ra</sup> left behind a progeny who are dedicated to aid mankind. The Jamaat has*

*witnessed several prodigious Khulafa from her pious lineage, the illustrious Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> among them. May this eminence continue throughout her descendants. Ameen*

During the night of April 20<sup>th</sup>1952 Hazrat Amma Jaan, Nusrat Jahan Begum<sup>ra</sup> passed away in Rabwah at the age of 86.

إِنَّا لِلَّهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ

To Allah we belong and to Him we shall return.

On April 22<sup>nd</sup>1952 Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> led her funeral prayer. She was buried in Bahishti Maqbarah in Rabwah.

Hazrat Amma Jaan<sup>ra</sup> was the second wife of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> and dearly loved mother of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup>. Her marriage to the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> took place according to a special glad tiding from Allah. God Almighty blessed her with offspring who were destined to propagate the message of Islam among all the nations of the world and bring extraordinary prosperity to the Movement.

Hazrat Amma Jaan<sup>ra</sup> was a profoundly virtuous and revered lady. The literal meaning of her name is “Helper of the World”, which proved to be the essence of her life, being a devotee of Allah and companion of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>. She believed in Islam and Ahmadiyyat with all her heart and soul. The most shining aspects of her character were Divine worship, generosity, hospitality, helping the needy, cleanliness, perseverance, and complete faith in God under all circumstances.

<https://www.alislam.org/book/brief-history-ahmadiyya-muslim/demise-hazrat-amma-jan/>

# 1953

## Persecution of Jamaat in Pakistan:

*Sadly this year will be remembered for a year when the Jamaat faced severe persecution by the non-Ahmadis in Pakistan, adding to a long history of opposition and mistreatment. The events of 1953, marked by violent riots and casualties, were particularly distressing. However, the Jamaat has remained steadfast, guided by their faith and the benevolence of Allah. Ahmadi women once again demonstrated examples of remarkable courage and self-sacrifice in these challenging circumstances, serving as an inspiration.*

*The strong message of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> to the Jamaat was not to lose hope and to continue with prayers.*

Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> said:

“You continue to supplicate; I am also praying. God willing the victory will be ours. Have you ever witnessed God abandoning me during the last forty years? So, will He abandon me now? The entire world may abandon me, but God willing He will never abandon me. Rest assured He is hastily coming to my assistance. He is with me. He is within me. The danger is colossal, but with Allah’s Blessings, it will all fade away. Control your egos (nafs) and tread on the path of righteousness. God Himself will take care of the Jamaat’s work.”

(Tareekh Lajna Ima’illah Vol 2-p332)

### **Hazrat Umme Dawood<sup>ra</sup> Passes Away:**

On 8<sup>th</sup> September 1953, Lajna Ima'illah had to endure the sad demise of a lady of exceptional leading qualities. Hazrat Sayyeda Saliha Begum sahiba, known as Umme Dawood<sup>ra</sup>, was the soul and heart of Lajna. This noble and illustrious lady served as the vice president of Lajna. She passed away in Lahore on 8<sup>th</sup> September after a long illness. She was married to Hazrat Amma Jaan's brother, Hazrat Mir Muhammad Ishaq sahib<sup>ra</sup>, a renowned scholar of Hadith in our Jamaat. She was the grand daughter of a righteous and well-known scholar Soofi Ahmad Jaan sahib of Ludhiana. ... In addition to being a sahabia and a moosia she was blessed with having true dreams and spiritual experiences. She was among the first 14 members of Lajna. ...

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 2-p339)

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## **1954**

*Lajna Ima'illah has now completed thirty one years along its journey. Undoubtedly it continues with passion and facing new challenges along the way. No community or organisation can claim to survive and progress without being through trials and tribulations. In fact these hardest times often lead to overcome obstacles in the way of progress.*

*Education and the moral training of Lajna Ima'illah was always at the forefront of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II's mind.*

*Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> left no stone unturned to remind women of their responsibilities.*

**Special Instructions to the Ladies:**

In his Friday sermon of 22<sup>nd</sup> January 1954, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> stated:

“I have received a note today from a new convert about some complaints she has experienced with the ladies... She complains that women also bring children in the part of the mosque reserved for women. They create disturbance during the sermon and the Jumma prayers... I would like to draw the attention of Lajna Ima’illah to this, as it is Lajna’s responsibility to provide moral training to them and to think of techniques to get over this difficulty. As a result of children being noisy they (women) will be deprived of listening to the sermon.

(Tareekh Lajna Ima’illah Vol 2-p364)

*A painful and heart breaking incident that affected the entire Jamaat and shook them to the core took place in March this year. It also came as a reminder to all that only God is our Refuge and Protector.*

**Attempted Murder on Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup>:**

On 10<sup>th</sup> March 1954 after leading Salat Asr in Masjid Mubarak Rabwah, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> was returning home when a malicious man attacked him with a knife. By the Grace of Allah Huzoor’s life was saved, but he sustained a two inches deep and three inches long wound to his neck.



The assailant was immediately detained and handed over to the police.

Subsequently Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> sent the following message to the Jamaat:

“...Dear brothers, pray to Allah that if my time has come, then He may grant my soul peace and shower me with His Mercy. Also pray that Allah may bless you with a leader who is better suited than I am. I have always loved you all more than my own wives and children. I have always been prepared to sacrifice my dear and loved ones for the sake of Islam and Ahmadiyyat. I expect the same from you and from your future generations. May Allah always be your Protector and Helper.”

... Lajnat in various areas profusely offered individual and collective prayers and sadaqa for Huzoor’s health. Resolutions were also approved condemning the attack.

(Tareekh Lajna Ima’illah Vol 2-p359-360)

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**Companions of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> Contribute to the Ahmadiyya Flag:**

*An interesting important contribution from the female companions of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> this year was for the preparation of the Ahmadiyya flag.*

On 12<sup>th</sup> July 1954, the Central Lajna received three bags full of cotton from Central Majlis Khuddam-ul-Ahmadiyya for the preparation of the Ahmadiyya flag. The female companions of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> were to separate the seeds from the cotton wool. This cotton weighed 60kg. The instructions were strictly not to mix it with any other cotton nor use it for anything else. This cotton was sown and picked by the companions of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> July the female companions of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> started working on it under the supervision of Bhabi Zainab sahiba. ...

After spinning the cotton carefully, it was returned to the Central Majlis Khuddam-ul- Ahmadiyya.

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 2-p362-363)



**Hazrat Musleh Maud<sup>ra</sup> at a reception in  
Switzerland in 1955**



**Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> during his tour of Europe in 1955**



**Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> upon his arrival in London in 1955**

# 1955

Now we enter the year 1955. The most significant incidents of this year were the illness of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> and Huzoor's trip to Europe for treatment.

This trip is historically significant in many ways. The President of Central (Markazia) Lajna Ima'illah, Hazrat Sayyeda Umme Nasir<sup>ra</sup> sahiba and the General Secretary Hazrat Sayyeda Maryam Siddiqah sahiba received the honour of accompanying Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> on this journey. In their absence, Sayyeda Naseera Begum sahiba, the wife of Sahibzada Mirza Aziz Ahmad sahib adequately fulfilled the important responsibilities of the Lajna General Secretary ...

On 26<sup>th</sup> February 1955 Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> suffered a serious ailment of the nerves. On hearing this news sadaqat were offered immediately throughout Rabwah and special congregational prayers were offered the whole night for Huzoor's health. ... The Central Lajna Ima'illah as well as Lajna overseas also participated in this. ...

Following Huzoor's illness, his wife Hazrat Sayyeda Maryam Siddiqah sahiba, the General Secretary of Central Lajna Ima'illah, spent a great deal of her time taking extremely good care of Huzoor<sup>ra</sup>. This continued for the following ten years until Huzoor's demise... She usually replied to any messages, articles, letters and statements on behalf of Huzoor during this illness. Thus she was not only partially fulfilling the duties of Huzoor's Private Secretary, but alongside she fulfilled her responsibility of the General Secretary of Lajna Ima'illah with

full dedication. May Allah reward her in the best of manners.  
Ameen

In light of Huzoor's illness, initially he was treated in Lahore, but later the doctors and the Jamaat recommended that Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> should travel to Europe for medical advice and treatment. ... Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> departed for London with his family on 26<sup>th</sup> March 1955 and returned to Rabwah on 25<sup>th</sup> September 1955.

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 2-p375-377)

### **The Wife of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih I<sup>ra</sup> Passes Away:**

Among the notable personalities of the Jamaat who passed away in 1955, the name of Hazrat Amma jee, the wife of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih I<sup>ra</sup> comes on top of the list. She passed away on 7<sup>th</sup> August 1955 at the age of 83. ...

إِنَّا لِلَّهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ

To Allah we belong and to Him we shall return.

Her name was Sughra Begum and she was known as 'Amma-Jee' in the Jamaat for being the wife of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih I<sup>ra</sup>. She was the daughter of Hazrat Sufi Ahmad Jaan sahib Ludhianvi. He was the saintly man, who through his premonition recognised the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> before Huzoor<sup>as</sup> made his claim and wrote the following verses to Huzoor<sup>as</sup>:

ہم مریضوں کی ہے تمہی پہ نظر

تم مسیحا بنو خدا کے لئے

Hazrat Sughra Begum Sahiba<sup>ra</sup> was privileged that the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> had himself chosen her to marry a revered person such as Hazrat Khalifatul Masih I<sup>ra</sup>. ... The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> was also part of the 'baraat' (wedding party from the groom's side) who travelled to Ludhiana... She was the first lady to take bai'at at the hands of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> with the exception of Hazrat Amma Jaan<sup>ra</sup>. God bestowed an additional honour upon her that her daughter was later married to Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup>.

Hospitality was one of the highest qualities of Hazrat Amma Jee. Her house was used for accommodating ladies attending Jalsa Salana in Qadian. She took great care of the ladies staying there. She offered her house for guests after moving to Rabwah as well and always took pleasure in personally taking care of them.

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 2-p381-383)

Her funeral took place on 7<sup>th</sup> August after Asr Prayer. At the time Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> had travelled to London as part of his treatment, therefore, her funeral prayers were led by Maulana Jalaluddin Shams sahib<sup>ra</sup>. She was later buried in the part of Bahishti Maqbarah in Rabwah where Hazrat Amma Jaan's tomb is situated. ...

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 2-p385)

### **Gratitude For the Safe Return of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih**

#### **II<sup>ra</sup>:**

Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> safely returned to Rabwah on 25<sup>th</sup> September 1955 with his family. Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> was given the most heartfelt and cordial welcome by all the groups of the Jamaat.



They expressed their joy and pleasure by way of gratitude to their Lord. Lajna Ima'illah also joined other Central departments to welcome Huzoor<sup>ra</sup>. ... On the day Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> arrived, buildings were illuminated on a large scale. Nasiratul Ahmadiyya stood within the compound of Tehrike Jadid (Offices) facing towards the road reciting poems and holding flags to express their feelings of joy. ...

On 16<sup>th</sup> October a combined tea party was organised by the Central Lajna Ima'illah and Lajna Ima'illah Rabwah in honour of the female family members who had accompanied Huzoor<sup>ra</sup> on his trip. ... A welcome address written in honour of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> was read out by Amatul Rashid Shoukat sahiba who was representing both Lajna Central and Lajna Rabwah. ...

In response, Hazrat Maryam Siddiqah sahiba thanked Lajna Ima'illah personally and on behalf of the President (of Lajna Ima'illah). She briefly narrated some instances from their journey to Europe and gave some precious advice to ladies travelling abroad. The event came to a close with silent prayers.

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 2-p378-381)

### **Holland Mosque Inaugurated:**

*By the Grace of Allah, the construction of the first mosque in Holland was now completed. Lajna had been able to bear the entire cost of this mosque.*

The foundation stone of the first mosque in Holland was laid in Hague on the afternoon of 20<sup>th</sup> May 1955 by Hazrat

Chaudhri Zafrullah Khan Sahib<sup>ra</sup>. Representatives from many Muslim countries and renowned journalists attended the event on this occasion. ...

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 2-p163)

At the completion of the building work, the inauguration ceremony of the first mosque in Holland was held on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December 1955 by Hazrat Chaudhri Zafrullah Khan Sahib<sup>ra</sup>. ... In his speech made on this occasion he said: "...There is a possibility that not everyone is aware of the fact that this mosque was built with the funds raised by our Ahmadi sisters. The ladies who took part in raising funds for the mosque are not just poor but extremely poor. Thus, their devotion in light of such financial circumstances reflects their tremendous sacrifice. The announcement of the inauguration of the mosque will surely be a source of great pleasure for them, that their wish to build a mosque in a European country has finally come true. It is now time to fulfil the cause for which this House of God has been built. It will be appropriate to send a congratulatory message on this occasion to our sisters appreciating their sacrifices, hard work and devotion shown by them to accomplish the Islamic causes." ...

It is worth mentioning that Azaan and Salat were fully broadcast from the local radio station. This way the news immediately spread not only in that country, but throughout the world. Additionally, the Dutch press appeared to take great interest (in the occasion). Fifteen to sixteen newspapers published detailed news of the inauguration and the gathering with various photos prominently displayed, bringing this blessed event to a successful end. ...

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 2-p165-167)

*On this auspicious occasion, the Missionary in-charge in Holland sent a telegram of congratulations to Sadr Lajna Ima'illah.*

“SINCEREST CONGRATULATIONS ON OPENING OF HOLLAND MOSQUE CONSTRUCTED THROUGH DEVOTED EFFORTS AND SACRIFICES OF WOMEN OF JAMAT. PLEASE ACCEPT AND CONVEY TO SUBSCRIBERS SINCERE GRATITUDE AND APPRECIATION OF THEIR ZEAL”.

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 2-p165)



**Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> in Holland during his 1955 tour of Europe**

*In an institution where views and beliefs are in common, a pledge becomes a reminder of commitment and solidarity for its members. It is an expression that they are willingly making a promise to adhere to their faith and the rules of the institution. The pledge below was introduced in the same spirit.*

**Lajna Pledge:**

On 14 February during an Amila meeting, the following pledge for Lajna was approved. It has since been repeated at every Lajna event and meeting.

أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ

وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ

“I bear witness that there is none worthy of worship except Allah. He is One and has no partner, and I bear witness that Muhammad<sup>sa</sup> is His servant and His Messenger.

I affirm that I shall always be ready to sacrifice my life, property, time and children for the cause of faith and nation and I shall always adhere to truth, Insha’Allah.”

In 1956 to combat the mischief created against the Khilafat, the following phrase was added

“And I shall always be prepared to make every sacrifice for the perpetuation of the Ahmadiyya Khilafat.”

(Tareekh Lajna Ima’illah Vol 2-p392)

# 1956

*With the passage of time, Lajna Ima'illah was expanding in every field of life. Hazrat Khalifatul II<sup>ra</sup> wanted all Lajna members to be useful tools of society. He wanted them to be self-reliant in case of need, use all their potential, and excel in the field they were proficient in. A noteworthy enterprise was the opening of a female industrial school by Lajna Imaillah in May this year.*

## **Nusrat Industrial School Rabwah:**

Nusrat Industrial School was established during this year in Rabwah. A large number of students have thus far qualified with a diploma in stitching and handicraft. Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> had drawn women's attention towards learning stitching and handicrafts in 1936 with him personally also donating 500 Rupees to initiate this scheme. This scheme was initiated in 1936 in Qadian. The primary purpose for it was to enable women who had no means of income to work hard and earn a living. This enterprise continued till 1940 with Arifa Begum sahiba, the wife of Sardar Karamdad sahib and Bhabi Zainab sahiba a visually impaired lady playing a leading role.

After emigrating to Rabwah, this work resumed. Mrs Kulsoom Begum, the wife of Chaudhri Mushtaq Ahmad sahib who had served as Sadr Lajna in London, was now serving as Secretary Khidmete Khalq (Social Work). She organised a stall at Jalsa Salana 1950 for the first time which was then continued. The entire income would be donated for the above scheme. Mrs Bajwa also approached some charitable families for donation.

... In 1954 a decision was made to employ a qualified teacher to teach handicraft skills to young ladies and also organise some paid work for them. ...

Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> donated 450 Rupees to purchase a sewing machine for the school when it started. The school remain under the supervision of Mrs Bajwa until 1963. ... On the annual Ijtima of 1956 the Central Lajna made an appeal to all the Lajna regions to donate a sewing machine each for the school. ... In 1960 the students took the exam for the first time and qualified with a diploma. ... Later in 1961, arrangements were made to teach knitting and a machine was purchased. Lajna Ima'illah UK donated a second knitting machine. ... In 1963 an additional teacher was employed and lessons in leather work and painting started.

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 2-p406-410)

*Lajna Ima'illah expanded their activities in the field of religion as well as enhancing members' general well-being. Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> was eager to elevate Ahmadi women's spiritual and educational standards. The year 1956 holds a special place in Lajna's history on the basis that the first Central Ijtima was held this year.*

### **Lajna Ima'illah's First Annual Ijtima:**

This is an important year in the history of Lajna Ima'illah as the first annual Ijtima was held in the month of October this year. On this occasion the Shura of Lajna Ima'illah was also organised during the same period. On the Shura, held on Jalsa Salana 1955, it was decided that due to lack of time during Jalsa, the Shura will be held on Ijtima in future. Additionally,

the Khuddam and Lajna annual Ijtimas should be held on the same dates to enable the ladies to travel with their men. ...

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 2-p424)

The first day's proceedings took place in the Lajna hall and were presided over by Hazrat Sayyeda Umme Nasir sahiba ... Shura Sub-Committees were formed and academic competitions were held in the afternoon. ...

On the second day, the morning session was presided over by Hazrat Sayyeda Mehr Apa sahiba. Hazrat Sayyeda Maryam Saddiqa sahiba presented the annual report of Lajna Imaillah. The afternoon session was presided by Hazrat Sayyeda Umme Nasir sahiba and Majlise-Shura was held.

On the third day, the morning session started at 07:30am. This was presided over by Hazrat Sayyeda Umme Nasir sahiba. ... Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> arrived and graciously delivered a speech to Lajna. ... The Ijtima was concluded with a speech by Hazrat Maryam Siddiqa sahiba, the General Secretary, Central Lajna Ima'illah.

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 2-p425-438)

### **The First Ijtima of Nasiratul Ahmadiyya:**

Formal regular activities of Nasirat began in 1955. Their attendance and participation in various competitions confirmed it would be in their interest to hold a Central Annual Ijtima for them. On 25<sup>th</sup> October 1956, the first Nasirat Ijtima was held in Rabwah. ... Nasirat were required to wear a white uniform and a scarf matching the colour of their respective locality flag. Each locality was asked to produce their own flag. ...



On 25<sup>th</sup> October, Ijtima started at 8am and concluded at 5pm. Three hundred Nasirat attended this Ijtima. Tilawat and speech competitions took place as well as sports competitions at the end. Each Nasirat Secretary presented her annual report.

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 2-p546-547)

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## 1957

### **Lajna Activities in London Revived:**

Although Lajna Ima'illah had been already established while Mrs Kulsoom Bajwa sahiba was in the UK, but the activities had ceased with her return to Pakistan. In 1957 Mirza Mubarak Ahmad sahib (Son of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> who was in charge of foreign missions at the time) visited England. During his visit he formally re-established Lajna Ima'illah in England. The first Lajna meeting took place on 31<sup>st</sup> August 1957.

The second combined meeting of Lajna and Nasirat took place on 15<sup>th</sup> September 1957. Some members from outside London made a special journey to attend this meeting. It was presided by Amatul Qayyum sahiba, the daughter of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> and the wife of Mirza Muzaffar Ahmad (*known as M.M. Ahmad- Former Executive Director and Vice President of the World Bank*). Mrs Sarah Naseem sahiba, the wife of Dr. Muhammad Naseem sahib was unanimously

elected president and Mrs Rashida Begum sahiba, the daughter of Hamed Khan sahib the General Secretary.

On 15<sup>th</sup> December 1957, a meeting was held under the Lajna president Mrs Dr Naseem. She formulated the program for the upcoming year. Mrs. Ashraf also assisted the president diligently with Lajna activities for the next three years.

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 2-p472)

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## 1958

*The most grievous incident of this year was the sad demise of Hazrat Sayyeda Mahmooda Begum sahiba<sup>ra</sup> known as Umme Nasir. She was the daughter-in-law of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>, the wife of Hazrat Khalifatul masih II<sup>ra</sup>, the mother of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih III<sup>th</sup> and the Sadr Lajna of Central Lajna Ima'illah. She passed away on 31<sup>st</sup> July 1958.*

إِنَّا لِلَّهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ

To Allah we belong and to Him we shall return.

Hazrat Sayyeda Mahmooda Begum Sahiba (Umme Nasir) was the first wife of Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> and the only wife whose marriage occurred in the lifetime of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>.

She not only was she the wife of a Khalifa and the daughter of a Sahabi, she also was to become the mother of a Khalifa— her eldest son, Hazrat Mirza Nasir Ahmad<sup>th</sup>. In addition, she

was the maternal grandmother of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V through her daughter, Sayyeda Nasira Begum.

<http://www.lajnausa.net/web/webfiles/publications/ayesha/ayeshawinter2008.pdf>

Sayyeda Umme Nasir was one of the 14 pioneers of Lajna Imaillah and had the honour to be its first President. She retained the office till her death in August 1958. She was exceptionally good natured and exhibited great patience on the subsequent marriages of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II (ra). She was his sincere and faithful helper and made great sacrifices for him. She was held in great esteem by him and he often spoke of her sacrifices and gratitude.

Once referring to this generosity Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II (ra) said,

‘As God had incited Hazrat Khadija (ra) to help the Holy Prophet (saw) in the same way He incited my wife to my help. She knew fully well that to invest money in a newspaper, specially one brought out by Mehmud, who was in those days perhaps, the most condemned, was equivalent to throwing money in a ditch. Yet, she gave me two of her ornaments; one, her own pair of Karras: secondly a pair of gold bangles which she possessed since her childhood and which she had reserved for our daughter, Nasira Begum. I took the jewellery and went to Lahore where they were sold for Rs 475. This was the initial capital of the “Al-Fazl”. The “Al-Fazl” will always remind the people of my helpless condition and keep alive my wife’s sacrifice. So far as I am concerned, each paper of the Al-Fazl evokes

strange emotions in me. It reminds me again and again of the critical condition of the Jamaat in which the need of a newspaper was imperative; and it reminds me time and again of my wife's sacrifice. Neither my early treatment deserved it nor has my subsequent behaviour made me worthy of it. Till that time I had not given her even a ring and later on, I just made her one ring only. Indeed, her sacrifice has left an imperishable mark on my heart and even if I were to disregard her other sacrifices and considerations and overlook my own harsh and strict behaviour, this one kind gesture of hers is enough to overwhelm me. Her generosity as it were, gave me hands to serve religion; it turned a new leaf in my life and equipped the Jamaat with an effective weapon. How true is this saying? A woman is a quiet worker. Her example is that of the rose from which perfume is derived. People remember the shop from which they buy the perfume but no one thinks of the rose which dies to provide them pleasure. I wonder what would I have done, or in what way would I have rendered some service, or how the mischief that was gaining strength day to day would have been suppressed, had not Allah provided me in this way?'

(Lajna Souvenir 1922 to 1972 Page 29)

Hazrat Mirza Bashir Ahmad (ra) wrote on her death,

“Syeda Umme Nasir was very sociable, cheerful and affectionate in her treatment to everyone. She was the light of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II's house and at

the centre of women's attraction after the death of Hazrat Ummul Momineen (ra). She was harmless by nature; she never hurt anyone throughout her life. She was the very image of innocence and she ranked high in piety and righteousness. Probably, most people do not know that she donated all her pocket money and was among the earliest of Moosis (Those who volunteer to donate for the propagation of Islam at least one tenth of their income during their lifetime and one tenth of their effects and property after death.)”

(Lajna Souvenir 1922 to 1972 Page 30)

### **Election for the Central Lajna President:**

*After the demise of Hazrat Sayyeda Umme Nasir sahiba<sup>ra</sup>, there was a need for a new president to take over her responsibilities.*

Due to some unforeseen circumstances, the Lajna's Annual Ijtimia in Rabwah could not be held this year. Consequently it was decided that the Shura will be held during Jalsa Salana. All Lajnat were requested to send their representatives. In case of a genuine reason for non-attendance, they were requested to send their views in writing.

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 2-p519)

On the evening of 28<sup>th</sup> December 1958, the thirteenth Lajna Shura was held on the Jalsa Gah stage. ... Hazrat Maryam Siddiqa sahiba, the Lajna General Secretary was presiding over the meeting. It was proposed that elections should be held for the next president of Lajna. At this stage. Hazrat

Maryam Siddiqa sahiba vacated her seat for Maimoona Soofia sahiba<sup>ra</sup> to preside over the elections. The Lajnat who had sent their views in writing were also considered and Hazrat Maryam Siddiqa sahiba was unanimously elected the next president of the Central Lajna Ima'illah. After the approval from Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> was received, she assumed her responsibilities.

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 2-p520)

*Hazrat Maryam Siddiqa sahiba served Lajna most diligently and faithfully for about four decades. She worked tirelessly to bring Lajna Ima'illah to a level which was outstanding. Having a sound knowledge of the history of an organisation, its objectives and aspirations is most valuable. Therefore, it was vital to keep official records of the history of Lajna. Hazrat Maryam Siddiqa sahiba, Sadr Lajna Imaillah undoubtedly had this in mind when she introduced Annual General Reports to be produced by every locality of Lajna Imaillah and send it to the Central Lajna Ima'illah, Rabwah.*

### **Annual General Reports of Lajna Compiled:**

*(The information below has been extracted from Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 2 Page 530)*

*The compilation of Lajna Annual Reports was initiated by Hazrat Maryam Siddiqa sahiba. It was decided that the annual report of Lajna will be published in the form of a book. This was to be a means of keeping records of all Lajna activities for the future as well as to provide awareness of Lajna activities for other Lajnat. According to this decision, the first Annual*

*Report from October 1957 to September 1958 was published and was distributed on Jalsa Salana 1958.*

*There are names of some Sahabiat that have been mentioned in 'Tareekh Lajna Volume 2',. These have been copied below for the benefit of readers, followed by some faith inspiring incidents.*

1. Chiragh Bibi sahiba<sup>ra</sup>, the daughter of Hazrat Munshi Wazirul-Din sahib<sup>ra</sup>
2. Maai Imam Bibi sahiba<sup>ra</sup>, the wife of Thekedar Muhammad Akbar sahib<sup>ra</sup>
3. Ameer Bibi sahiba<sup>ra</sup>, the mother of Maulvi Qamarul-Din sahib<sup>ra</sup>
4. Maai Kako sahiba<sup>ra</sup>, the sister of the two Seekhwani brothers
5. Barkat Bibi sahiba<sup>ra</sup>, the daughter of Hazrat Munshi Wazirul-Din sahib<sup>ra</sup>
6. Sayyada Roshan Bibi sahiba<sup>ra</sup>, the wife of Sayyad Muhammad Ismail sahib<sup>ra</sup>
7. Ustani Maryam Begum sahiba<sup>ra</sup>, the wife of Hafiz Roshan Ali sahib<sup>ra</sup>
8. Ustani Rehmatu-Nisa sahiba<sup>ra</sup>, the wife of Master Maula Baksh sahib<sup>ra</sup>
9. Soobaan Bibi sahiba<sup>ra</sup>, the wife of Qutbul-Din sahib<sup>ra</sup>
10. Sardar Begum sahiba<sup>ra</sup>, the wife of Master Faqeerullah sahib<sup>ra</sup>

11. Sahib Biwi sahiba<sup>ra</sup>, the wife of Hazrat Maulvi Fakhrul-Din sahib<sup>ra</sup>
12. Sayyeda Amatul Latif sahiba<sup>ra</sup>, the wife of Hazrat Dr Mir Muhammad Ismail sahib<sup>ra</sup>
13. Nemat Bibi sahiba<sup>ra</sup>, the wife of Mistri Jaan Muhammad sahib<sup>ra</sup>
14. Ustani Muhammad Bibi sahiba the daughter of Hazrat Maulvi Shadi Khan sahib<sup>ra</sup>
15. Ustani Kaneez Fatima the daughter of Mirza Muhamamd Ismail sahib
16. Ustani Ayesha Ayyub sahiba<sup>ra</sup>, the wife of Muhammad Ayyub sahib
17. Sara Begum sahiba<sup>ra</sup>, the wife of Maulvi Chirag Din sahib
18. Maai Rajo sahiba<sup>ra</sup>, the wife of Mehboob Ali sahib
19. Raheem Bibi sahiba<sup>ra</sup>, the wife of Chaudhari Noor Muhammad sahib
20. Maryam Begum sahiba<sup>ra</sup>, the wife of Pir Mazharul-Haq sahib<sup>ra</sup>
21. Ayesha Bibi sahiba<sup>ra</sup>, the wife of Muhammad Ismail sahib

*The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> through his Messianic healing from God not only healed the spiritually sick but also the physically unwell. Here is an example of the miraculous healing by the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>.*



### **Laal Pari - Messianic Healing:**

Amatullah Begum alias Laal Pari sahiba was the daughter of Syed Sahib Noor Khan<sup>ra</sup> and the wife of Khan Mir Sahib Afghan. After Syed Abdul Latif<sup>ra</sup>, (companion of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> martyred in Afghanistan) was arrested by the Afghan government, Laal Pari sahiba's father migrated to Qadian along with his brother Ahmad Noor Sahib Kabuli. Laal Pari sahiba was privileged to serve the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> along with her mother. She also had the opportunity to serve Hazrat Amma Jaan<sup>ra</sup> and the wife of Hazrat Mirza Bashir Ahmad<sup>ra</sup>. She demonstrated immense perseverance when her son was martyred in the tribal areas in 1957 while her other son, Sher Ahmad sahib, was serving as a Darwesh in Qadian. Hazrat Mirza Bashir Ahmad<sup>ra</sup> mentioned an occurrence about Laal Pari sahiba in his speech during Jalsa Salana (1962):

“Now I will tell you about a poor migrant from Kabul, who was healed by the Promised Messiah's miraculous Messianic spiritual power (Dam-e-Isa). Amatullah Bibi, a resident of Khost in Kabul narrated to me that she migrated at a very young age with her father and uncle Syed Ahmad Noor. Her parents, uncle and aunt had migrated after Syed Abdul Latif<sup>ra</sup> was martyred. She suffered from a severe eye infection since her childhood. Her eyes used to get extremely red and too painful to open. Her parents had tried various treatments but nothing restored her health and her eyes became worse. One day her mother was about to put medicine in her eyes, but she was frightened and ran off saying that she will request the Promised

Messiah<sup>as</sup> to invoke a prayer and blow over her (Spiritual healing).

She narrates:

“I somehow managed to get to the residence of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> and exclaimed that I had excruciating pain in my eyes which was making me extremely restless; I was unable to open my eyes. Please invoke a prayer and blow over me. The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> looked at my eyes, which were terribly infected and I was whimpering in pain. The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> put some of his saliva on his finger, paused for a while, (He may have been praying during that time); then with tremendous love and affection, he slowly rubbed his finger on my eyelids. He then put his hand on my head and said, “My child, you may go now. By the Grace of Allah you will never suffer from this pain again.”

(Narrated by Amatullah Bibi-Migrant from Khost)

Amatullah Sahiba continues:

“I am now seventy years old; since then I have not once experienced any pain in my eyes. As a result of the blessings of the Promised Messiah’s spiritual treatment, I have remained pain free from this illness since. I was only ten years old at the time when the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> put his saliva on my eyelids. Thus, the spiritual healing of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> did wonders for sixty years that no medicine had done until then...”

### **Hussain Bibi Sahiba - Mother of Khalid-e-Ahmadiyyat:**

*The Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> foretold of the companions of the latter days as 'those who have not yet joined them' (62:4). The success of Maulana Jalaludin Shams sahib was due to a pious mother seeped in devotion and dedication of her faith; she instilled her faith into her progeny. Her son was honoured to be called Khalid-e-Ahmadiyyat (General of Ahmadiyyat) by Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih II<sup>ra</sup>. Just like Hazrat Khalid bin Waleed<sup>ra</sup> defended Islam in the battle field, Hazrat Shams Sahib defended Islam in his field of Tabligh.*

Hussain Bibi Sahiba was born in 1870 and took bai'at at the hand of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> in 1891. Her husband Hazrat Imamdin Seekhwani<sup>ra</sup> was amongst the 313 companions of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>. She converted to Ahmadiyyat alongside with her husband. She was Moosiya and paid 1/6<sup>th</sup> of her assets in Wassiyat (The minimum rate is 1/10<sup>th</sup>). She had a calm nature and sincerely followed her faith. She made huge sacrifices for her faith. She portrayed immense forbearance while her son Maulana Jalaludin Shams sahib<sup>ra</sup> was away for a long time in Palestine and then in England as a missionary. When her older son Bashir Ahmad was close to death, he expressed the wish to see his brother Shams Sahib<sup>ra</sup>, but she did not convey the message to Shams Sahib<sup>ra</sup> as she did not want to distract him from his duties of serving his faith. Her father and husband also passed away, but she showed exemplary courage. When Hazrat Khalifatul Massih II<sup>ra</sup> introduced Tehrik-e-Jadid, she donated her gold earrings. She had great passion for offering prayers and refrained from unnecessary rituals and customs. She passed away on

19<sup>th</sup>September 1960 at the age of 90. May Allah grant her a lofty place in Jannah. Ameen

**Zainab Begum Sahiba - An Insightful Lady:**

*All our senses are a gift from Allah the Almighty. However, a true believer is one who fully utilises their gift for the service of their faith. This lady characterizes dedication and perseverance that most able-bodied people fall short of.*

Her father was Ghulam Ahmad sahib and her husband was Pir Mazhar Qayyum sahib. She was born in 1888 and took bai'at at the hand of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> in 1902. (Known as Bhabi Zainab) despite being visually impaired she was a religious scholar. She had memorised a great number of religious issues and their answers. She was a public speaker while also proficient in cooking and handicrafts. She used to make and sell her arts and crafts and contribute to chanda with the earnings. She helped to form a list of female companions of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>. She served humanity throughout her life. Allah had bestowed her with great insight and she could recognise people by hearing their footsteps. On every Jalsa Salana she was appointed in-charge of security of the inner part of Huzoor's residence 'Qasre-Khilafat'. She had the ability to identify a person from their gait. She used to be appointed for the collection of chanda from local neighbourhoods as well as surrounding villages, to make arrangements for 'Adult Education' and to initiate meetings. While physically supported by another lady, she would be occupied all the time performing all these activities far more enthusiastically than a fully sighted person. ... She would exquisitely and sensitively resolve conflicts between women.

She passed away on 13<sup>th</sup> March 1960 at the age of 72. May Allah grant her a lofty place in Jannah. Ameen

(Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah Vol 2-p173-178)

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## **Glossary of Terms**

<b>Allah</b>	The personal name of God in Islam
<b>Ahrar/Majlis-e-Ahrar-e-Islam</b>	A religious political party formed in India on 1929 who were bitter opponents of Ahmadiyyat
<b>Azaan</b>	The formal call for Islamic daily Prayers
<b>Bai'at</b>	Oath of allegiance to a religious leader; initiation at the hands of a Prophet or his Khalifa
<b>Bahishti Maqbara</b>	Heavenly graveyard
<b>Baitul Maal</b>	Treasury
<b>Bari</b>	Dresses and jewellery given to the bride by the groom's family
<b>Chanda</b>	Monetary contributions or donations
<b>Dar-e-Masih</b>	House of the Promised Messiah <sup>as</sup>

<b>Dars</b>	Lecture on commentary of the Holy Quran
<b>Darul-Ziafat</b>	Jamaat Guest House
<b>Dua</b>	Supplication to Allah
<b>Fiqah</b>	Islamic Jurisprudence
<b>Hadith</b>	A saying of the Holy Prophet Muhammad <sup>sa</sup> . The plural is Ahadith
<b>Halqa</b>	Locality/area formed in the Jamat for administrative purpose
<b>Hazrat</b>	A term of respect used for a person of established righteousness and piety
<b>Ijtima</b>	Large public meeting to hold academic competitions
<b>Istighfar</b>	Ask forgiveness
<b>Jalsa Salana</b>	Annual convention
<b>Jalsa Gah</b>	Place/site where Jalsa is being held
<b>Jamaat</b>	Ahmadiyya Community
<b>Janaza</b>	Funeral

<b>Jehez</b>	Dowry given to the bride on the wedding by her parents
<b>Kalima</b>	The Muslim Creed
<b>Khalifa</b>	Arabic word, which herein means the successor. Ahmadi Muslims refer to each successor of the Promised Messiah <sup>as</sup> as Khalifatul Masih.
<b>Khilafat</b>	The institution of successorship in Islam
<b>Khidmet-e-Khalq</b>	Social work
<b>Khuddam</b>	Auxiliary organisation for Ahmadi men between the ages of fifteen and forty
<b>Khula</b>	Divorce instigated by the woman
<b>Kufr</b>	Denial of truth
<b>Lajna Ima'illah</b>	Auxiliary organisation of Ahmadi women above the age of fifteen years
<b>Langar Khana</b>	Community kitchen
<b>Madrassa</b>	A Muslim school



<b>Madrasahatul-Khawateen</b>	School for females
<b>Majlis-e-Amila</b>	Executive Committee
<b>Mehr</b>	Dower given to the bride by the bridegroom at the time of an Islamic marriage in any form
<b>Meena Bazaar</b>	Women's food and handicraft fete for fundraising
<b>Minaratul-Masih</b>	White minaret erected in Qadian, India as a sign of the second coming of the Messiah of the age. It was commissioned by the Promised Messiah <sup>as</sup> through Divine Guidance, as a fulfilment of a prophecy
<b>Mirzae</b>	Derogatory word used for an Ahmadi
<b>Mujadid</b>	A person who appears at the turn of every century of Islamic to revive Islam
<b>Musleh Maud</b>	The Promised Reformer
<b>Nafil/Nawafil</b>	Voluntary prayers
<b>Nazarat -Dawat-o-Tabligh</b>	Preaching Department

<b>Nikah</b>	The announcement of marriage in Isla
<b>Nizam -e-Jamaat</b>	Order/System of the Jamaat
<b>Qadha</b>	Judiciary
<b>Sadaqa</b>	Charity
<b>Sadaqa Jariya</b>	Perpetual charity for the soul of the decease
<b>Sadr Anjuman</b>	Executive body of the Jamaat
<b>Sahabi/Sahabia</b>	Male/Female Companion of the Promised Messiah <sup>as</sup>
<b>Sahib</b>	A term of respect for a man, similar to the English terms of Mr or sir
<b>Sajda</b>	Prostration
<b>Salat</b>	The second pillar of Islam. Five obligatory daily Prayers for Muslims in the prescribed form
<b>Shirkat-ul-Islamia</b>	Islamic Publications
<b>Shuddi</b>	A Socio-political Movement in the early 1900 to reconvert

	Muslims and Christians to Hinduism
<b>Shura</b>	Consultative Council
<b>Talaq</b>	Divorce instigated by the man
<b>Taleem</b>	Education
<b>Tarbiyyat</b>	Moral training
<b>The Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup></b>	A term used exclusively for Hazrat Muhammad <sup>sa</sup> , the Prophet of Islam.
<b>Ummul Momineen</b>	Mother of the Faithful; used for a Prophet's wife. Reference to the Promised Messiah <sup>as</sup> 's wife here
<b>Umoor-e-Ama</b>	Department of General Affairs
<b>Wassiyat</b>	Will (as per conditions set by the Promised Messiah <sup>as</sup> )
<b>Waqf</b>	Life dedication for the service of Jamaat/Islam
<b>Zakat</b>	The fourth pillar in Islam known as obligatory almsgiving

# History of Lajna Ima'illah

## Volume - 1

This book is a selective translation of the history of Lajna Ima'illah from the book Tareekh e Lajna. It contains advices for women, rendered by the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> and his Khulafa. It is coloured with anecdotes and personal examples to improve Lajna in their moral and spiritual development. In a world tinted by varying shades of darkness and furthering into the abyss, women are at times being bombarded with constant expectations from all dimensions confusing their aims in life. We hope that this book serves as a guide to empower women and make them aware of their rights and responsibilities; i.e it helps to re-set the needle in the compass of their lives, paving a way for generations born to declare that 'we are here to light up the world.' May the reader make use of the wisdom and knowledge contained within this book. Ameen

