

HUZOOR'S TOUR OF GERMANY

JUNE 2014

A Personal Account

PART 1

By Abid Khan

Introduction

On 2nd June 2014, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V (aba) and his entourage set off for a 15 day tour to Germany, where Huzoor would grace the *Jalsa Salana* with his presence.

Apart from Huzoor and Khala Saboohi (*Huzoor's respected wife*), there were 13 members of the *Qafila*. There were six security staff, Muhammad Ahmad Sahib (Ahmad bhai), Nasir Saeed Sahib, Sakawat Bajwa Sahib, Mohsin Awam Sahib, Sardar Humayun Sahib and Khawaja Qudoos Sahib.

The office staff were Munir Ahmad Javed Sahib (*Private Secretary*), Abdul Majid Tahir Sahib (*Additional Wakil-ul-Tabshir*), Bashir Ahmed Sahib (*PS Office*) and me travelling on behalf of the central *Press & Media Office*.

As Huzoor was travelling to Germany by road there were also three designated drivers, Nadeem Amini Sahib, Nasir Amini Sahib and Rana Maqsood Sahib.

Finding Out

I was not expecting to have the honour of travelling with Huzoor for the *Germany Jalsa Salana 2014*. Although, I had the privilege to accompany Huzoor on a number of tours in the past, I had never travelled to Germany as a part of Huzoor's *Qafila*.

And so it was to my very great surprise when on 20 May, Huzoor's *Private Secretary*, Munir Javed Sahib, said to me that I should "get ready". At first I did not understand and so he repeated the phrase and then it clicked in my mind that he was referring to Huzoor's forthcoming tour.

A few minutes later, I had an office *Mulaqat* during which Huzoor asked me if I knew that I would be travelling to Germany to which I replied that I had just found out. With a smile, Huzoor said I should get my coat dry cleaned in preparation.

Dropping off my luggage

I packed my suitcase the night before travel and then early morning on Monday, 2 June I placed the final few items in my suitcase and drove the few hundred metres from my home to the Fazl Mosque and dropped my luggage before returning home for a few more minutes.

Departure from home

Travelling with Huzoor is a huge honour and privilege and the associated blessings are impossible to quantify. Naturally, however you do miss your family and you hope and pray that they remain safe and well.

My son *Mahid* had just turned 1 year old and had just reached the stage where sometimes when I leave the house he starts to cry and wants to come with me.

On that morning he also started to cry as I left the house. I was worried that he would not understand where I had gone but thankfully Mala (*my wife*) told me that within a few minutes he was fine and playing as usual.

As I left my home, I repeated the same prayer that I do whenever I travel with Huzoor. I thanked Allah for the opportunity and prayed that he saved me from any mistakes or from doing anything that was not appropriate.

Sadness of Ahmadis in London

When I arrived at the *Fazl Mosque*, I saw that dozens, if not a few hundred Ahmadis, had come to see off Huzoor. I knew how they felt, as many times I had been there to see-off Huzoor and each time I used to feel a great deal of sadness that our beloved Khalifa would be away for some time.

I spoke to a friend of mine, Abdul Quddus, a recently qualified *Missionary* from *Jamia UK*, who said very simply that whenever Huzoor left it seemed as though London had been left '*hollow and empty*'.

Huzoor working until the very last minute

As we waited to depart, I went into Private Secretary Sahib's office for a minute and I saw that the light outside Huzoor's office was on and Huzoor was in his office. Thus until the very last minute, Huzoor was working.

When about to travel most of us would spend our last few minutes getting ready or seeing our family, but Huzoor spends every last minute working for the Jamaat.

Departure from Fazl Mosque

We left the *Fazl Mosque* at 10.50am after Huzoor had led a silent prayer. I was in the front car, along with Nadeem Amini, who was our driver, and Sakawat Sahib and Mohsin Sahib.

I had known Nadeem, who is from Bradford, for many years and knew he would keep us entertained during our car journeys as he is a natural talker and so it proved.

Both Sakawat Sahib and Mohsin Sahib were also good company and so in this way during that first journey and for the rest of the tour we enjoyed our car drives together.

Arrival at Channel Tunnel

Huzoor was travelling to mainland Europe via the *Channel Tunnel* from *Folkestone* and we arrived at the port at 12.15pm.

Our train was not scheduled to depart until after 1pm and so initially we waited in the car park.

As we waited I saw a car drive past and from a distance the passengers looked very familiar. As I looked more carefully I saw it was some family members who by chance were crossing the *Channel* on the same train as us.

The journey time from *Folkestone* to *Calais* was just 35 minutes.

Our Qafila cars entered into the same carriage one behind the other. Throughout the journey Huzoor and Khala Saboohi remained in their car.

Arrival in Calais

We arrived at Calais at 2pm, which was 3pm local time. As we were travelling to Germany, members of the German Jamaat led by Ameer Sahib, Abdullah Wagishauser, had come to receive Huzoor.

Meeting point confusion

There was some initial confusion about the meeting place and so our Qafila cars continued on the motorway, whilst the German delegation was parked at a petrol station to the side of the motorway.

Nadeem, who was driving our car, is by nature very relaxed but for those few minutes he became quite tense because his car was now the lead car and he was not sure whether to proceed towards *Frankfurt* or to revert back towards *Calais*.

Anyway, as his tension increased with each few hundred metres, finally a message came on the *walkie talkie* that a white *Mercedes* filled with German Khuddam had caught up with us and would lead us to where the German Jamaat had made arrangements for lunch and *Namaz*.

Lunch in Calais

After a few minutes we arrived at small restaurant in Calais called *Courtpaille*. As Huzoor entered, the chefs and staff stood as a mark of respect to welcome him.

Huzoor and Khala Saboohi were seated on one side of the restaurant, whilst the rest of us gathered at two large tables near the entrance.

For years I had always heard of German efficiency and, even though we were still in France, it was there for all to see in the way we were served our lunch.

As soon as we sat down, Ameer Sahib informed that he had ordered fish for everyone to save time and so within a minute all of us had been served our lunch which consisted of a two pieces of grilled fish, a jacket potato and a side salad.

When we had finished our lunch, Huzoor walked by and looked in my direction and asked if my lunch had been ok, to which I nodded and replied "*Yes Huzoor, Alhamdolillah*".

Namaz at the restaurant

The German Jamaat had arranged for *Zuhr* and *Asr* prayers to be offered just outside of the restaurant.

Later, their *General Secretary* Ilyas Majoka Sahib told me that there had been a lot of rain that day and so they were quite concerned prior to Huzoor's arrival about the *Namaz* arrangements because there was no canopy or cover.

However, the rain stopped around the same time as Huzoor arrived in Calais and thus we were able to offer *Namaz* without any problem.



After Namaz, Ameer Sahib mentioned to Huzoor that the food we had just eaten was not at all spicy. Ameer Sahib said this somewhat

apologetically, however Huzoor responded with a smile by saying “*It was a good thing!*”

Stop at Petrol Station

Thereafter we drove through France and Belgium before entering Germany after a few hours. At around 8pm the Qafila stopped again at a petrol station to refuel the cars.

During that break Huzoor also came out of his car for a few minutes and I saw Huzoor walk past. Huzoor was wearing his normal *achkan* coat but instead of his *paghri* he was wearing a cream coloured *Afghani topi*. Huzoor always looks extremely graceful, but in those moments he looked especially so.

As Huzoor walked past our car, Nadeem said *salaam* and Huzoor kindly stopped and talked to him for a minute. Afterwards, Nadeem told me that Huzoor had asked him if he was getting bored by the long drive. Nadeem said he responded by saying “*No not at all, I have Abid for company!*”

Having to pay to use the bathroom!

Many of us used the short break to go to the bathroom. When it was my turn I went and saw that there was a barrier outside the bathroom and you had to pay 50 cents to get in. I did not have any euros or local

currency at that time. I was annoyed with myself thinking that I should have kept some local money.

Anyway, as I turned back a local Khadim saw my predicament and kindly offered to pay the money. I felt a great deal of gratitude to him!

Cookie deliberations cause delay

As I was going back to the car, I saw Nadeem Amini in the petrol station shop. He called me and repeatedly asked what type of cookies he should purchase for the car! I was a bit anxious because I had a feeling we were running late but Nadeem continued his line of questioning!

Anyway, after a few moments I managed to make my excuses and returned to my car. At that point I saw that Huzoor and Khala Saboohi were already back in their cars and the Qafila was ready to depart waiting just for me and Nadeem! I felt much embarrassment that our cookie deliberations had wasted a minute or two of Huzoor's precious time.

Arrival in Frankfurt

We drove onwards towards Frankfurt and arrived at our Mosque there, *Baitus Sabuh*, at 9.40pm.

More than a thousand Ahmadis had gathered to greet Huzoor and the *naaray* they raised as Huzoor's car entered through the gates were extremely loud and full of emotion.



Feeling a little lost

As we got out of our respective cars I saw Huzoor go towards a lift with Khala Saboohi, whilst the rest of our Qafila members all seemed to know where they were going.

I had only been to *Baitus Sabuh* once before in my life and that was only for a few minutes and so I was very confused. I felt like a boy who had just moved to a new school and everyone knew each other apart from me! Thankfully that feeling of being slightly lost did not last more than a couple of hours.

Joy of Ahmadis upon Huzoor's arrival

After performing *Wudhu* we went to the Mosque and waited for Huzoor. As I looked around I could see the sense of anticipation and excitement etched on the faces of our Ahmadi brothers, young and old.

The feeling that their Khalifa was amongst them again had brought joy and contentment to all of the Ahmadis and this was something that many people communicated to me when I spoke to them over the next few days.

Dinner in the board room

After *Namaz*, we went straight for dinner. The system for dinner was very well organised. There was large, long room allocated for food. I think normally it is used for board meetings or *Amila* meetings as in the centre of the room was a long boardroom table surrounded by leather chairs.

At one end of the room were 3 or 4 large steel dishes with the food readied in a '*buffet style*'. At the other end of the room was another table where we were to leave our plates and cutlery after we had finished.

I tend to eat my dinner very quickly. This is something even Huzoor has noticed in the past. In fact I remember in 2011, Mala and I came for

Germany Jalsa and after seeing how I ate my meals Huzoor joked that it seemed like I was always in a rush!

Anyway, I completed my meal before the rest of the Qafila but I had no idea where I would be staying and so I remained in the dining room.

After some time, Ilyas Majoka Sahib informed that Majid Sahib and me would be staying in the same building and he took us to our rooms.

A room on the top floor

With the *Grace of Allah*, the *Baitus Sabuh* complex has a lot of facilities and a lot of guest rooms in different blocks. The block we were staying in was directly adjacent to the main entrance of *Baitus Sabuh*.

We were staying on the top floor which meant that each day we had a good walk up three flights of stairs. I was happy because it meant I would be able to burn a few calories of the heavy *desi food* we would invariably be eating but I felt a bit sorry for Majid Sahib having to go up so many stairs each time he went to his room.

Even though it was past midnight and I was quite tired and sleepy I resolved to do my unpacking before sleeping. I was done by about 1am.

I quickly phoned home to see if everything was ok and then set my alarm for *Fajr* which was to be offered at 4.20am.

Meeting Ahmadis

The next day, Tuesday 3rd June, Huzoor held *Mulaqats* with Ahmadis throughout the day.

During that day and many subsequent days, I took the opportunity to meet some of them - either before or after they had the opportunity to meet Huzoor.

The vast majority of people were meeting *Khalifa-tul Masih* for the first time in their lives. Some were young but others were in their 50s and yet had never ever before had the opportunity to meet Huzoor.

Most of them had come from Pakistan in the recent past. Seeing them and hearing their experiences and how emotional they were to see Huzoor was a very humbling experience for me.

It made me realise, more than before, how strong the bond between an Ahmadi and the Khalifa truly is. These were people who had never met the Khalifa in their lives and yet their obedience to Khilafat, their love for Khilafat and their trust in Khilafat was no less than people who had spent their entire lives in close proximity to *Khalifatul Masih*.

The first person I met was a 25 year old man, *Anees Ahmad Nadeem*, who had recently migrated from Rabwah to Germany.

As Hazrat Khalifatul Masih IV (ra) had left Pakistan in 1984, Anees Sahib had never had the opportunity to meet *Khalifatul Masih* before. And so as he stood in the waiting area moments before his first ever meeting with Huzoor he was understandably very nervous and emotional.

During those moments Anees Sahib said:

“There are so many millions of Ahmadis in different parts of the world who are desperate to see the Khalifa and yet today I am having this opportunity. I used to sit in my home in Rabwah and contemplate if it would ever be possible for me to meet Huzoor and although my heart was full of desire I used to think that perhaps it would be impossible.”

I asked him what he wanted to say to Huzoor upon which he replied:

“I just want to touch his blessed hand and have the honour of saying “salaam” to my beloved Huzoor. If I get the opportunity I will seek his prayers that I am able to serve the Jamaat throughout my life.”

Another person I met was *Mansoor Ahmad Virk*, aged 30, who had also moved to Germany recently from Rabwah and was also about to meet Huzoor for the first time in his life.

He told me that recently his asylum case had been passed and at the time he felt great joy and relief but that the joy was nothing compared to the delight and emotion he felt when he received a call telling him that his request for *Mulaqat* had been approved.

Speaking about how meeting Huzoor, even just for a minute or two, would impact his life, Mansoor Sahib said:

“This chance to meet Huzoor will not just save my life but will protect my future generations. The blessings of today will mean that me and my children and their children will forever stay attached to Khilafat and in this way will become closer to God Almighty.”

He also spoke about one of the major benefits of Huzoor’s tours:

“When Huzoor visits a Jamaat the Tabligh efforts in that country speed up because when people see Huzoor and listen to him they cannot help but be impressed and they believe that he speaks the truth. I honestly believe if one million Ahmadis did Tabligh it would not have the same impact as a few moments of Tabligh by Huzoor.”

An emotional meeting

One meeting I will not forget was with a man, a few months younger than me, called *Amir Mahmood Khalid*.

He told me that he had been in Germany for one year and that he would be meeting Huzoor for the first time in his life. He told me that he doubted he would be able to say anything in the presence of Huzoor and he just hoped he would be able to muster the composure to ask Huzoor to pray for him that he can always be obedient to Khilafat.

As he said these words tears began to stream down his face. I put my hand on his shoulder and tried to comfort him.

A few minutes later, Amir knocked on the door of the office where I was working. His eyes were red and more tears were rolling down his face.

Our office was quite busy and full of people and so I took him to a quiet corner and asked if he was ok. He told me he had just come out of his Mulaqat and described his experience.

He said:

“I went into Huzoor’s office and I looked for a second at his blessed face and I felt I had seen a Lion of Allah. Huzoor’s face was the most beautiful sight I have ever seen in my life as it was filled with such love and radiance.

Huzoor was so striking and so powerful that I could only look at him for a second before I had to lower my gaze. I could not say a single word. I was in Huzoor’s office only for a few seconds but those few seconds have changed my life.”

I was amazed at the sincerity and love displayed by this young Khadim. It is so easy to love Khilafat when you are physically close to it because you see the beauty of Huzoor’s character and the blessings attached to it every day.

But the fact that people who had grown up thousands of miles away from Khilafat could display such sincere emotions and have such a bond proved that Khilafat was a Divine institution and that the mutual love between *Khalifa-Waqt* and sincere Ahmadis was placed directly by Allah.

The impression of a young Khadim

I met a boy called Ahmad Rana, aged 15, and he described why Huzoor's presence in Germany was so important for people of a similar age to him. He said:

"When I pray behind Huzoor I feel the prayers that I offer are better. The reason is that when I pray behind Huzoor I feel more fearful of Allah. It is very hard to explain why but it is the truth.

Also, when Huzoor is here I see that most of my friends make a special effort to come to the Mosque and then their attachment to the Mosque increases and it becomes a habit. I also now go to my local Mosque every day no matter what."

A new acquaintance

It is a blessing of Huzoor's tours that those of us who travel with him are able to make new friends and acquaintances.

One person who I met for the first time and with whom I became friends was a young Khadim called *Sumair Ahmad*, aged 23, who was born in

Germany and lives in Frankfurt. I met him on that first day by chance and over the two weeks I got to know him better.

He told me that he had read the diaries I had written of Huzoor's tour to Australia, New Zealand and the Far East last year. I was quite surprised as I did not think that people in Germany would read English.

However, throughout the tour I met people who mentioned that they had read the diaries and appreciated learning about Huzoor and the activities of his tours.

Sumair said that he felt that each year, as he got older, the value of Khilafat was becoming more and more apparent to him.

He said:

“When Huzoor comes you see for yourself the blessings attached to Khilafat and you experience them in reality. And so you become aware that these are not just stories that our parents have told us but the truth is that everything good is attached to Khilafat.”

He narrated a personal incident from when he was 14 or 15 and was doing duty near Huzoor's residence in Germany.

He said that one day Huzoor stopped and talked to him and asked his family background.

Sumair said he was astounded that Huzoor would take the time to talk to him even though he was just a child. He said those few moments had lived with him ever since and he would cherish them forever.

Huzoor's privacy – a Khadim's opinion

One interesting point Sumair made was about a recent incident.

With the *Grace of Allah*, just a few days before Huzoor's tour, Huzoor's son, Mirza Waqas Ahmad Sahib, was blessed with a second child.

Sumair said that within a day there was a photo of the baby being circulated on *Whatsapp* and *Twitter*. He said that even in Germany many people he knew had seen the photo and were forwarding it to others.

He too had seen it but felt uneasy and even guilty doing so. He said Huzoor gives the Jamaat so much of his life and time but Ahmadis should at certain points respect Huzoor's privacy especially when related to his own family.

I found myself agreeing wholeheartedly with Sumair on this point.

I later mentioned what he said to Huzoor and it seemed that Huzoor appreciated his sentiments.

Huzoor's kindness

In the afternoon, Huzoor called me to his office for a few minutes.

During those moments, Huzoor asked me where I was staying and if the accommodation was comfortable.

It was yet another example of Huzoor's care that despite being so busy he took time out to specially enquire if I was ok because he knew that it was my first trip to Germany with him.

Badminton comeback

During the day, Ahmad bhai and Nasir Amini had mentioned how they were hoping to play badminton in the evening. They asked if I was interested and I said I would happily join. I used to play occasionally when I lived in Hartlepool but had not played for a long time so I knew I would be very rusty.

Anyway, in the evening after dinner and Namaz, I got ready and went downstairs. Unfortunately we did not have a venue and so before we could play we had to arrange that.

Thankfully, after some time one of the halls became empty and so we went and set up a net and started playing doubles.

I played with Nasir Amini and we played against Ahmad bhai and Munir Odeh Sahib (from *MTA*) and then later we played Ahmad bhai and Attaul Awal Abbasi (also from *MTA*).

I was, as I had predicted, very rusty! I played a few good shots but overall I was the weakest and I think it was because of me that we lost our matches, although generally they were reasonably close contests.

I enjoyed it a lot and looked forward to playing again during the trip. Unfortunately, it turned out to be our one and only badminton experience of the tour, as thereafter the hall became busy with Jalsa guests.

Love for Khilafat

I continued to talk to Ahmadis over the course of Huzoor's tour and I was always captivated by their emotions and their love for Khilafat. It made me feel that many of us take Khilafat for granted and do not value it anywhere near as much as we should.

I regularly met people who spent a minute or less in Huzoor's office and said that it seemed as though their lives had changed forever.

One young man I met was *Asjad Mahmood*, who was 22, and had recently come to Germany on asylum from Gujrat, Pakistan. I spoke to him moments before the first Mulaqat of his life and he was naturally very nervous.

He said that even though he had never met Huzoor before the love in his heart for Huzoor had always been stronger than his love for anyone else.

Another Ahmadi, *Umar Fazal Haq*, who was 33, told me that Huzoor's tours even had an impact on his non-Ahmadi friends.

He said:

“My colleagues see that I take holiday from work so that I can spend time near Huzoor and I can do duties. This has a great impact on them and they readily admit that they are very impressed that we have a leader who inspires us to be close to him and for whom we are ready to sacrifice everything.”

Umar Sahib continued by saying:

“I truly believe that if I want any success in my life and if I want my children to be successful then there is only one way and that is to stay attached to Khilafat. Making a relationship with Khilafat is the only way to save my future generations.”

A Lajna perspective

I often used to speak to entire families and so in this way I used to get a *Lajna* perspective as well.

One lady, *Shaqeela Sahiba* was very emotional after coming out of Huzoor's office. It was her first ever Mulaqat and so she described her feelings by saying:

"I was literally shivering whilst in Huzoor's office because I could not control my nerves and could not believe that I, of all people, was in the presence of Huzoor. The purpose of my life was fulfilled today."

She also narrated an incident displaying Huzoor's kindness. She said that during the Mulaqat she mentioned to Huzoor that her ring had recently been stolen and immediately Huzoor pulled out a ring from his drawer and gave it to her as a gift. She said that she was overwhelmed by this.

She added that she felt fortunate to live in an era where Ahmadis have the opportunity to meet the Khalifa because the way the Jamaat was progressing she could easily imagine a day where there would be so many Ahmadis in the world that it would not be possible for each Ahmadi to meet Huzoor.

Effect of meeting Huzoor

I met a man called *Muhammad Noor Bajwa*, his wife and children as they emerged from their Mulaqat with Huzoor.

He told me that before Huzoor became *Khalifatul Masih* he had the honour of driving Huzoor's car on 3 or 4 occasions in Karachi. He had not met Huzoor since.

He said that he felt the person he met today was unrecognizable from the person he had met many years ago. He said Huzoor's face was filled with radiance and as he said these words he started to cry and could not control his tears.

Another young family who met Huzoor were *Akhlaq Malik Sahib* and his wife.

Akhlaq Sahib said:

“When we were stood just outside of Huzoor's office waiting for our turn I heard Huzoor talking to his Private Secretary. It was the first time I had heard Huzoor's voice from so close and the power, purity and beauty of Huzoor's voice was something I will never forget. It meant that before even entering Huzoor's office I was filled with nerves and in awe of Huzoor so much that I could not speak in front of him.”

An emotional conversation

One meeting I had which made me very emotional was with a man called *Khan Afzal* and his wife.

Khan Sahib was 49, yet had never had the opportunity to meet *Khalifa-Waqt* before in his life.

When I thought about this I felt so grateful to Allah that I was able to live close to Huzoor and had seen the *Khalifa-Waqt* throughout my life.

Khan Afzal Sahib said:

“Today is a day of great joy for me and my family. I am 49 years old and today was the first time I ever met any Khalifa of the Promised Messiah (as). I used to always see Huzoor on MTA or from a great distance and used to wonder if I would ever have the opportunity to meet him myself. Today Allah accepted my prayer and I have never felt as content as I felt in Huzoor’s office and now I have left the office that contentment is continuing.”

I then spoke to his wife and I mentioned that I write a diary of Huzoor’s tours and that with the *Grace of Allah*, Huzoor takes the time to read them.

Hearing this she started weeping uncontrollably. I did not know what to do. When men have cried in front of me I have always tried to physically comfort them by putting my hand on their shoulder or arm but obviously with a lady this was not appropriate. So I just stood silently until she was able to compose herself.

After a few moments she said:

“I am a very simple woman from a very remote village in Pakistan. I am not at all well-read or educated but I just want my children to be regular in Namaz and in the reading of the Holy Quran. Thus please I request you to write this in your diary so if Huzoor ever reads it he can pray that this desire of mine is fulfilled.”

As she said these words she started to weep again and so I said to her that I would *Insha'Allah* include her words in my diary.

Another example of love for Khilafat

Another person who met Huzoor for the first time was a man called *Malik Fiaz* who was 29 years old.

He too was very emotional when he described his experience. He said:

“Those were undoubtedly the best few seconds of my life. The radiance on Huzoor’s face was extraordinary. The peace I felt in my heart as I was in the company of the Khalifa-Waqt is indescribable and there is no doubt that those few moments have changed my life forever. I swear that all I want to do now is to improve myself in every respect so that my Khalifa can be pleased with me. Truly, I did not know it was possible to feel such joy and such happiness.”

The impressions of a security guard

Those who accompany Huzoor on tours are fortunate that they get to witness the blessings of *Khalifa-Waqt* directly.

On this tour, one of Huzoor’s security guards was *Mohsin Awan Sahib*. I used to sit next to him in the car and so we would often talk to one another.

One day he told me that every time he had fortune to stand near Huzoor he felt the hairs on the back of his neck stand up.

He said he was very conscious at all times that he was standing near Allah's chosen representative and so he would spend his time doing duty silently repeating *Durood-Sharif*.

He said that he believed that the only way he could do his duty properly was through constant prayer.

Huzoor's regard for congregational prayers

One thing you see again and again on Huzoor's tours is his patience and his desire for all Ahmadis to be regular in congregational *Namaz*.

On 4 June, following Mulaqats, Huzoor proceeded to the Mosque where he presided over the *Aameen* ceremonies of a number of young children. They concluded by around 1.50pm but *Namaz* was not scheduled until 2pm.

The Mosque was almost full and the *Azan* had been offered and so Huzoor could easily have decided to lead *Namaz* immediately to save his precious time.

Instead Huzoor sat there waiting until the clock had turned exactly to 2pm. The reason was simply that Huzoor wanted every person possible to have the opportunity to attain the blessings of *Salat* in congregation.

Wiesbaden Foundation Stone laying

The first major public event of Huzoor's tour was the foundation stone laying of the *Mubarak Mosque* in the city of *Wiesbaden*.

I had never heard of Wiesbaden before but I soon learnt that it is an important and major city in Germany and was the capital city of the *State of Hessen*.

Change of weather

Weather wise the first couple of days had been quite hot and dry but on that particular day there was extremely heavy rain throughout.

Thus, shortly after the *Zuhr* and *Asr* prayers I saw *Ameer Sahib Germany* approach Huzoor and mention that the weather was even worse in Wiesbaden.

Ameer Sahib seemed very concerned, however, very calmly and with a smile, Huzoor responded by saying:

“Do not worry – I have laid foundation stones and attended similar events in heavy snow and ice!”

Throughout the afternoon the weather became progressively worse and the reports from Wiesbaden itself was that there was torrential rain and it could disrupt the entire ceremony.

When Huzoor came down from his residence at 6pm to depart from the Mosque again Ameer Sahib approached Huzoor and mentioned the weather.

In response, Huzoor again smiled and said:

“No problem, no problem.”

Huzoor’s trust in Allah is visible at all times and this was yet another example.

The drive to Wiesbaden took just under an hour and throughout the journey the torrential rain continued.

Having heard Huzoor reassuring Ameer Sahib I was not concerned about the event but I did have a slightly more selfish personal concern.

I had only brought one suit jacket and I thought that if the rain continues then it could end up in a very bad state at the beginning of the tour! In hindsight this was a very trivial point as the welfare of my jacket was not at all important!

The rain continued until about 5 minutes before we arrived and suddenly the weather changed and it became dry and blue sky was even visible.

The way it changed so close to arrival and so suddenly meant that I, and many others, all felt that it was a clear sign that *Allah's Help* was once again with His Khalifa.

With the *Grace of Allah*, it stayed dry throughout the event. At one point Ameer Sahib opened a *weather app* on his phone and said that the *app* said that there was thunder and lightning taking place in our location but in reality where we were it was totally dry, *Alhamdulillah*.

Main event in Wiesbaden

The event itself was wonderful. The Jamaat had organised for a large marquee on the site to be erected and when we entered there were hundreds of non-Ahmadi guests who had come to attend including many dignitaries.

Some of the dignitaries took to the stage and spoke about their appreciation of the efforts of the Jamaat to promote peace and inter-faith dialogue.

As they spoke in German, Huzoor listened to the translation through an earpiece.

Thereafter, Huzoor addressed both the Ahmadis and non-Ahmadis in attendance. Huzoor spoke in Urdu and simultaneous German translation was done for the guests.

Huzoor reassured the German guests and made it clear that Ahmadi Muslims practiced true Islam – of peace, tolerance and unity.



Huzoor said:

“We, Ahmadi Muslims, do not hate anyone, but to those who oppose us or hate us we respond only with love and prayers because that is what the Quran has taught.”

One of the local dignitaries had earlier presented Huzoor a pitcher of water as a gift because Wiesbaden was famous for its hot water springs.

Huzoor referred to this very beautifully during his address by saying:

“Water is a sign of life and it is because we have sipped the heavenly water given to us by the Promised Messiah that we Ahmadi Muslims are motivated to spread peace, love and spiritual light to all corners of the world.”



After the address, Huzoor went outside the marquee to lay the foundation stone for the Mosque.

As Huzoor always does on such occasions, he touched the foundation stone with the two blessed rings of the Promised Messiah that he wears.

Huzoor laid the foundation stone and thereafter further stones were laid by Khala Saboohi (*Huzoor's respected wife*), Ameer Sahib Germany and various other members of the Jamaat.

Three non-Ahmadi dignitaries also laid stones which I thought was a very positive gesture and a great symbol of how our Jamaat integrates with non-Ahmadis under Huzoor's guidance and leadership.



A delicious vegetable samosa

After the foundation stone ceremony was completed we all returned to the main marquee where the German Jamaat had laid on coffee for all along with some *samosay* and *mathai*.

I was hungry and so I quickly ate one of the vegetable *samosas*, which was very delicious, before grabbing my notepad and going to meet some of the guests.

Language barrier and finding some young translators

Normally after such events I talk to as many people as possible to see how they found the event but here I soon realised that it would be difficult because of the language barrier.

A few guests did speak English but the majority did not. I studied German for 5 years in school but I only got a 'C' grade at *GCSE*! In the intervening 15 years I had all but forgot what I had learnt during that time.

I did however find a couple of Ahmadi boys who were 13 or 14 who I grabbed and asked to translate. Although they did not have any experience and were actually supposed to be doing another duty they proved to be excellent translators.

I told them my questions in *Urdu* and they then asked the guests in *German* before translating the answers back to *Urdu* so I could understand. I then translated the Urdu answers into English and noted them down!

Impressions of non-Ahmadi guests

Through these conversations I learned just how great an impact Huzoor's speech had had on the guests. Many spoke of how their views about Islam had instantly changed from negative to positive, whilst others spoke about how reassuring Huzoor's message was.

There was one gentleman, *Mr Warneck*, who was from the local *Church* who I approached through one of my translators. They asked on my behalf if he would be willing to talk to me for a minute or two to which he readily agreed.

As I asked the first question, he suddenly intervened and said: ***“I do speak English and so we could conduct this interview directly rather than through translation!”***

I then asked him myself about how he had found the event and he responded immediately saying:

“Today’s address was very special because His Holiness did not just deliver a message of peace but he delivered an invitation for peace. By this I mean that he is not just a peaceful man himself but he calls on everybody, no matter what their background, to promote peace and to respect one another. He sets the very best example and asks others to follow.”

I also met a lady called *Nicole Sphorn* who said that she had never heard the word ‘love’ be used so many times in one speech as had been used by Huzoor in his address.

She also said that she had researched about Huzoor on the internet but seeing him in person had a much greater impact upon her and that the memory of seeing Huzoor would live long in her heart.

Journalist meets Huzoor

As Huzoor was leaving the stage area, a local female journalist approached him and asked if she could ask Huzoor a question.

She asked what Huzoor's message was for Germany.

In reply, Huzoor said:

"Our message is of peace, affection and brotherhood. I would say that each person should appreciate the qualities and good points of one another, rather than seeking to identify their flaws and weaknesses – because this is the way to build love in society.

If I am to summarise my message in one line I would say 'look at your own weaknesses, before you look at the weaknesses of others' because in this way you will come to love and appreciate other people."

An impromptu visit to the home of an Ahmadi

Before returning to his car, Huzoor distributed chocolates to the local Ahmadi children.

Just before Huzoor was to depart, Ameer Sahib informed him that an Ahmadi had bought the house closest to the Mosque and pointed in its direction.

Huzoor asked where the owner of the home was and Ameer Sahib said that he was waiting at his home. Immediately, Huzoor started walking in the direction of the home and went to visit the family.



I saw from outside that members of the family were completely overcome that their Khalifa had honoured them with his presence in their home.

A female family member stood with tears rolling down her face uncontrollably. Huzoor spent a few minutes in their home.

As Huzoor came out and walked towards his car, I met the owner of the house, *Zia-ul-Haq*, who was very young.

He too was extremely emotional and seemed in a state of shock that he and his family had been blessed so much by Huzoor's kindness.

Weeping, Zia Sahib said:

“The greatest person living in the world today just entered my house. How is this possible? How is this possible? Those few minutes were the greatest moments of my life.”

I congratulated Zia Sahib and reflected again about how a few moments with Huzoor can change the lives of people forever. No doubt Zia Sahib and his family would forever remember that day and the kindness shown to them by Huzoor-e-Aqdas.

A very sincere Khadim

During the tour, I used to write up reports for *Press Releases* and for much of the tour a 22 year old *Waqf-e-Nau* called Zaheer, a volunteer in *MTA*, was appointed to provide me with photographs to include in the Press Releases.

I found him to be very softly spoken and sincere. Whenever I asked for any help he would be ready and sometimes he would work until the early hours getting the photos ready for me.

One day, I was quite stunned as he mentioned to me that even though he was only 22 he had a serious heart condition. I was shocked as otherwise he seemed very healthy.

He told me that just a few months previously he had been admitted to intensive care and that whilst his condition was now much improved the doctors had not yet been able to properly diagnose his ailment. He said that he often still felt severe pains in his chest.

He said the reason he was telling me was that perhaps one day I could request Huzoor's prayers for his recovery because all he wanted was to fulfil his pledge as a member of *Waqf-e-Nau* and to serve the Jamaat throughout his life.

With firm conviction he said that the prayers of Huzoor could cure him, even where the doctors had not been able to do so.

Meeting 2 young Jamia students

One day I sat with two students of Jamia Germany, *Sajeel Ahmad* and *Attaul Karim* who were both 20 years old and in their first year of Jamia.

Speaking about Huzoor, Sajeel said:

“When Huzoor is here I feel myself improving and when we pray behind him I feel as though the prayers I do during prostration (Sajdah) are much more sincere and come naturally from my heart. There are things I pray for which have never entered my mind before.”

Attaul Karim said:

“When Huzoor is here we think even more about what he expects from us and we become less lazy.”

Being unprepared

On 5th June, in the afternoon, Huzoor called me to the office and asked about the latest world news and events. That day, I had not read the papers and so I was entirely unprepared. I felt as though I had not done my job properly and had let Huzoor down.

However, Huzoor did not display any anger or irritation but instead smiled and asked how I was and how I had found the event in Wiesbaden the day before.

Huzoor’s graciousness certainly knows no bounds.

A memorable Friday Sermon in Frankfurt

Huzoor’s *Friday Sermon* of 6th June 2014 took place at the *Kalbach Sports and Recreation Centre* which was very near *Baitus Sabuh*.

All the way to the sports centre, Huzoor was given a police escort and traffic was stopped along the way so that Huzoor could travel without any delay.

In Germany on a number of occasions Huzoor was given police escorts for either the entire route or for part of the route and so in this way the local authorities were extremely respectful.

The sports centre was vast and almost 5,000 Ahmadis attended Jumma that day. *Ameer Sahib Germany* told me that it was the largest Jumma held in Germany outside of *Jalsa Salana*.



In many ways it proved to be a very historic *Friday Sermon* in which Huzoor spoke in detail about the *Institution of Khilafat* and obedience to it.

The love Huzoor has for his Jamaat is apparent in everything he says and does. He travels the world not for any personal gain or enjoyment but only to enrich the lives of the Ahmadi Muslims in different parts of the world and to give them all the opportunity to seek the blessings of Khilafat.

That is why day and night Huzoor works ceaselessly for the progress of the Jamaat and why he constantly prays for each and every Ahmadi Muslim.

However, being a supremely humble individual, rarely does Huzoor speak about his own personal feelings but on this occasion Huzoor did comment on his love for the Jamaat and the duties of Khilafat which he undertook.

For this reason, I, and surely countless Ahmadis worldwide, found Huzoor's sermon extremely emotional and captivating.

Huzoor spoke of how Khilafat was nothing like a secular leadership or dictatorship because Khilafat was a purely spiritual institution without any political or worldly ambition.

Huzoor said:

“Whilst worldly leaders have secular goals, the purpose of Khilafat is to draw the attention of all people towards fulfilling each other's rights. It is to instil a spirit amongst Ahmadi Muslims of giving precedence to their faith over all worldly matters and Khilafat makes every effort to peacefully establish the Unity of God in the world.”

Huzoor spoke of the personal connection between the *Khalifa-Waqt* and Ahmadis and said this relationship and bond was unique.

Huzoor mentioned very movingly about how much he loved each and every Ahmadi and how he worried for them and shared in their pain and grief.

Whilst the entire sermon was very heart-rending, I listened in particular awe and appreciation when Huzoor said the following words:

“Before sleeping at night there is no country of the world that I do not visit in my imagination and no Ahmadi for whom I do not pray whilst sleeping and whilst awake. I am not doing any favour because this is my duty and may Allah enable me to ever increase in assuming my responsibilities.”

The truth is that the English translation of these words does not do justice to the beauty of Huzoor’s original words spoken in Urdu. I found myself thinking about these words again and again over the next few days and even today I still do so.

To think that our Khalifa spends literally every second engaged in his worry and concern for the millions of Ahmadi Muslims spread across the world is something that we can never thank Allah enough for. No doubt many of our problems and many issues we face are resolved only because of the love and prayers of our Khalifa.

Hearing and seeing Huzoor’s love for Khilafat made me feel even more ashamed when Huzoor spoke of how there were some Ahmadi who did not obey Khilafat in the way that they should.

Huzoor said there were office bearers who displayed hesitation or who would seek to make their own wrong interpretations of Huzoor’s instructions. *May Allah have mercy.*

Huzoor responding to query of non-Muslim guest

At the end of Huzoor's sermon he also addressed the complaint of a non-Muslim who came to a past *Jalsa Salana Germany* and saw a quote attributed to Hazrat Musleh Maud (ra) on a banner stating that '*when Germany is conquered the rest of Europe would be conquered*'.

Huzoor said that the guest had commented that Ahmadis speak of *Love for All, Hatred for None* but then they also speak of '*conquering*' Germany or Europe.

Very eloquently, Huzoor explained how he had misconstrued the quote entirely. Huzoor said that this quote was actually in praise of Germany as it showed that Hazrat Musleh Maud considered the country as a standard bearer and leader of Europe.

Thus, by saying these words the *Second Khalifa* meant only that if the German people came to accept the peaceful message of Islam then surely other countries would follow because Germans had the capability of setting a positive example to other nations.

Huzoor said:

"Let it be clear that the word 'victory' does not in any shape or form mean that we, God forbid, intend to use force or to take over any government...."

Our success will never be based on force but instead will be achieved by winning people's hearts and minds by highlighting Islam's true teachings."

Upon return to *Baitus Sabuh*, Ameer Sahib Germany mentioned to Private Secretary Sahib and to me about how having heard Huzoor's sermon he remembered well the gentleman who had made the complaint.

Ameer Sahib said the guest had taken offence because *Hitler* used to say things like '*Europe will be conquered*' and so he had taken Hazrat Musleh Maud's quote completely out of context.

Both Munir Javed Sahib and I suggested that Ameer Sahib should send the German transcript of that part of Huzoor's sermon to the gentleman so that he could understand what was really meant by Hazrat Musleh Maud.

An interesting analysis

A couple of days later, a young Ahmadi Khadim from Germany who I had become friends with emailed me about Huzoor's *Friday Sermon*.

He said that on that very day, *6 June 2014*, the Western world had celebrated the *70th anniversary of D-Day* where the *Western allies* invaded German-occupied Western Europe and that the attack ultimately led to the fall of Hitler.

The Khadim said that he thought it was “*astonishing*” that on that very day Huzoor had spoken so clearly of the differences between Khilafat and dictatorship.

He also said he found it amazing that on a day when many countries were celebrating the defeat of Germany, Huzoor instead spoke about its positive characteristics as a nation and how it had the potential to set a good example to others.

When I read this email I found it quite thought-provoking and so I printed it and sent it to Huzoor and Huzoor also remarked that it was an “*interesting*” point.

3 new Ahmadis waiting to see Huzoor

Later on Friday afternoon, I saw three young men standing in the corridor of *Baitus Sabuh*.

I asked someone who they were and I was told that they were three Western people who had recently accepted Ahmadiyyat.

One was a former American soldier, aged 30 and from Texas, who had served in Iraq and had now retired and was living in Germany. He had taken the name *Isa* as his Muslim name.

One was called Paul, who was half-German and half-American and was aged just 22.

There was also a third German convert, who had taken the name of *Abu Hamza* after becoming Muslim.

Huzoor was scheduled to come to the office and so the three converts were stood in a line so they could see Huzoor walk past. Whilst they waited I spoke to them and all three spoke with great sincerity about how they had come to accept Ahmadiyyat.

Convert's impression of Huzoor

Isa, who was the former American soldier, very simply said that he had come to know that the Holy Prophet (saw) had prophesied about a *Messiah* to follow him and that the Messiah had come and so it was his duty to accept him and so he had.

After seeing Huzoor walk past he remarked:

“Even though I just had a brief glimpse of the Khalifa for a second I feel very, very fortunate to have just seen that man.

It may sound strange but the way I think about it is that there is only one person in the world who has a radio and that is the Khalifa.

Through that radio he is communicating with God Almighty and so it is our job to listen to the Khalifa and to gather around him so we can all come to know and hear God's message through him.”

I enjoyed hearing his analogy and it reminded me how we all have our own personal ways of understanding the divine nature of the institution of Khilafat.

A very interesting dream

The youngest of the three new Ahmadis was Paul aged 22. He told me that Allah had guided him to Ahmadiyyat through a dream.

Sharing his experience, he said:

“I was raised as a Catholic but I never felt true peace of heart. By chance one day I came across Ahmadi literature and when I read it I felt that it made great sense. So I myself made contact with the Ahmadiyya Community in Frankfurt. I continued to read Ahmadi books and I also started to read the Quran.

One day, I was reading Surah Al-Baqarah and whilst reading I fell asleep. I then saw a very vivid and powerful dream that shook me to my core. I saw that I was inside a room and even though I was indoors there was thunder and lightning.

There was only one escape route and that was via a set of stairs and from the top of the stairs I heard the most beautiful Arabic words being recited loud and clear and I knew that they were the words of the Quran.

The dream ended and as soon as I woke up I knew that this was a sign that I had to accept Islam. Since the day I became an Ahmadi Muslim my life has completely changed and now I feel that peace for which I had been yearning and searching my entire life.”

Walima ceremony and a falling cup

After Mulaqats were completed that evening, Huzoor attended the *Walima* dinner of *Mustensar Ahmad*, a final year student at *Jamia Ahmadiyya UK*.

I was seated with Majid Sahib and a few other people at a round table just in front of the main table where Huzoor was seated.

As we arrived I saw that there was very little room on the table as each square inch had been covered with plates or dishes. I felt a bit nervous thinking that if I make even one wrong move then something is going to fall off the table.

I was just thinking this when I accidentally knocked a plastic cup off the table with my arm. Even though it was just a cup it made quite a loud bang. Immediately, I saw Huzoor look towards me with a very big smile.

I might be completely wrong but the way Huzoor smiled I felt that perhaps he had recalled me falling from the stage in Australia last year! Certainly that incident was the first thing that came to my mind! I was glad that it was only a plastic cup that had fallen this time.

Slightly ruefully, I said to Majid Sahib that *“On whichever tour I go something has to fall!”*

Nerves in front of Huzoor

After the *Walima* was completed, Huzoor went straight to the Mosque but there were still a few minutes until Namaz.

As Huzoor entered he stopped at the entrance and out of respect some of the Ahmadis in the front rows of the Mosque stood up.

Huzoor immediately told them to be seated and said that he had stopped at the entrance for the very reason that they should not feel the need to stand.

Huzoor called me and asked how my day had been. I mentioned how various people in different countries had emailed or texted me to say that they had watched Huzoor’s *Friday Sermon* earlier and found it to be very emotional and extremely inspirational.

Later, a friend of mine from Germany, said that he had seen the way I was stood in front of Huzoor and it appeared as though I was very nervous and in awe of Huzoor.

He said he was surprised and had assumed that by now I would not be nervous in front of Huzoor.

I told him that to not feel nerves in the presence of the *Khalifa-Waqt* was impossible, and if anything, the more time I spent with Huzoor the more nervous I became. I said the more you see the *Khalifa-Waqt* the more his true status dawns upon you.

Later in the tour, I was seated with Abdullah Sapra Sahib, a Pakistani Ahmadi, who now lives in Germany and Majid Sahib.

On that occasion we were also speaking about the status of Khilafat and Majid Sahib mentioned how he had served *Khalifatul Masih* directly for 25 years but even now whenever he entered Huzoor's office he found himself shivering with fear at being in the presence of *Khalifa-Waqt*.

Huzoor's concern for Qafila members and their families

Huzoor is always very loving and very caring of his Qafila members. It is something that I have seen in every tour and with the *Grace of Allah* is something that I have always felt myself as well.

Huzoor cares not just for the Qafila members but also for their families back home. Thus, during tours Huzoor has often asked about Mala or since his birth about Mahid.

Sometimes people say to me that it must be difficult to be away from your family for extended periods of time and I always reply that it is not difficult because spending time and travelling with the Khalifa is a great honour and source of joy.

If it is difficult for anyone then it is our families back home who miss us and of course Huzoor.

Thus, whenever Huzoor asks about Mala, I always inform her and immediately I see that her spirits are lifted and the tone in her voice becomes instantly more joyful.

An unlikely message

One day in Germany, Huzoor suggested to me that I should send Mala a text message saying *"I miss you"*.

I felt a little embarrassed as I am not naturally very expressive but because Huzoor had suggested it I sent her the message immediately.

A minute later, I received a message back from her saying *"Jazak'Allah and we miss you too"*. I could tell she was really happy that finally I had admitted to missing her!

However, our spouses know our true characters better than others and so after a couple of minutes she sent me another message which said:

"Did Huzoor tell you to send that message?!"

It was then that I admitted that yes my message had been sent on Huzoor's direction!

Hearing this did not dilute the effect of her happiness but in fact she became even more overjoyed and delighted.

If I had sent the message on my own volition her pleasure would have been nothing in comparison to the happiness she felt when knowing the message had been sent on Huzoor's suggestion.

However, she did not let me off entirely and reminded me that it had taken the *Khalifa-Waqt* to make me send such a message after 8 years of marriage!

I later recounted her response to Huzoor and with the *Grace of Allah* he too found it amusing.

Two events in one evening

On 7 June 2014, two very blessed events took place one after the other.

First, Huzoor travelled to the city of *Friedberg* to inaugurate *the Darul Amaan Mosque* and then later Huzoor travelled to the town of *Karben* to lay the foundation stone for the *Sadiq Mosque*.

The journey to Friedberg was very short and upon arrival Huzoor inaugurated the Mosque by unveiling a commemorative plaque before leading the *Zuhr* and *Asr* prayers.

Huzoor's comment at tree planting

After *Namaz*, Huzoor planted a tree to mark the occasion and a local dignitary also planted a tree.



Ameer Sahib Germany joked that he would send a report later about whether the trees had grown at the same speed or if one had grown faster than the other.

Hearing this, Huzoor smiled and said:

“They should grow at the same speed because that would be a sign of real integration!”

Main event at Mosque Opening in Friedberg

As in *Wiesbaden*, there were a lot of non-Ahmadi guests who had gathered in *Friedberg* also.

The visiting dignitaries who took to the stage all spoke of their admiration for the *Ahmadiyya Muslim Community* and how it had proved to be a force for good and an example of positive integration into Germany.



The main address was given by Huzoor in which he referred to the name of the Mosque '*Darul Amaan*' meaning '*The House of Peace*'.

Huzoor said:

“This Mosque does not just guarantee peace to those who enter it, but it will also prove to be a source of peace for all members of the local society, no matter whether they are religious or not.”



Huzoor also spoke about the humanitarian efforts of the Jamaat and how the German Jamaat had sponsored certain projects such as a new orphanage in *Benin* that was being run by *Humanity First*.

Huzoor said that where such projects were established the local people were informed about which country was funding the project.

Huzoor said that in this way the Ahmadiyya Community was acting as an “ambassador” for Germany and was “illuminating the name of the country far and wide.”

Impressions of non-Ahmadi guests

The reaction of the local people to Huzoor's address was very appreciative.

One elderly lady, *Mrs Neuerffen*:

“Before today I had been very scared of ‘Jihad’ but now I feel much better. I wish all Muslims were like your Khalifa and like the Ahmadiyya Community.

One thing I have observed is how obedient the Ahmadis are towards the Khalifa. In the world you generally see people being obedient to those who have money but Ahmadis are obedient to the Khalifa because he is a man of God.”

Huzoor's humility

The lady also wrote that at some points Huzoor was walking on the normal ground and not on the *red carpet* that had been laid. She said that she felt that a person of Huzoor's stature should always walk on a red carpet.

I mentioned this comment to Huzoor a few days later and Huzoor responded very humbly by saying that he never notices whether he is walking on a red carpet or not and did not care about these things at all.

Visit to Karben for Foundation Stone ceremony

From *Friedberg*, Huzoor then travelled directly to the small town of *Karben* to lay the foundation stone for the *Sadiq Mosque*.



Although a town with a very small population, *Karben* is known for being quite multicultural and is home to the people of many different backgrounds and ethnicities.

Huzoor himself referred to this in his address by saying that the local people were deserving of praise for creating an inclusive society.

Huzoor also mentioned that the name of the new Mosque would be '*Sadiq*' which attested to the fact that all people who entered the Mosque would be those "*who spread truth in every direction*".

Huzoor also spoke about how a distinguishing feature of Ahmadi Muslims was that they were entirely loyal to their country of residence and that this was based on the teachings of Islam.

Huzoor said that a Muslim who did not show loyalty to his country was *“not being true to his faith”*.

Comment of a journalist

Afterwards, one of the guests I met was a journalist from the German national newspaper *Frankfurter Rundschau*.

I asked him how he had found the event and he replied by saying:

“I feel like for the first time in my life I have seen a King and I have liked everything I have seen. I support everything that your Khalifa said in his speech. I hope that the Ahmadiyya Community continues to grow in Germany.”

Another example of Huzoor’s love for Jamaat

We returned to the Mosque at 9.05pm and Namaz was scheduled for 9.45pm.

It had been a long and extremely hot day and despite the fact that there was only 40 minutes until *Namaz* the local Jamaat had also scheduled an *Aameen* ceremony to take place before *Maghreb* and *Isha*.

Normally *Aameen* ceremonies take at least 15-20 minutes and so in reality the *Jamaat* had left Huzoor with just a few minutes to have his dinner and to do *Wudhu*.

I personally felt that considering Huzoor had spent the past few hours attending 2 major events that there was no need for the *Jamaat* to schedule *Aameen* ceremonies that evening.

Rather, it would be better to allow Huzoor to have a few extra minutes to eat his evening meal in peace as we all like to do.

However, Huzoor did of course come down and lead the *Aameen* ceremonies of the young children and sacrificed his own time once more due to his unparalleled love for the *Jamaat*.

As I sat there I thought again of Huzoor's sermon from the day before where he had spoken of his love and concern for all Ahmadi Muslims and this was another example of how Huzoor was giving his life, each and every day, for the sake of the *Jamaat*.

My morning routine in Frankfurt

Whilst in *Frankfurt* my morning routine generally used to follow the same pattern.

I would have breakfast at around 9am and would then go to the office which I shared with Majid Sahib by around 10am.

After working for around 90 minutes I would go back to my room for a few minutes. I had brought with me sachets of my favourite *Nescafe* coffee from London and so at that time I would make myself a coffee and read the newspaper on my *iPad*. Each day I used to look forward to those few minutes a great deal!

Being late for Huzoor's meeting with academics

However on the morning of 8th June I came to regret my morning coffee routine because when I came back down Private Secretary Sahib asked where I had been. He said that 2 German academics were meeting Huzoor in his office. I felt very embarrassed and said that I had been upstairs in my room.



Although the meeting had started, Munir Javed Sahib kindly let me enter and so I went inside and listened to the rest of the conversation between Huzoor and the 2 guests.

The academics were interested in whether religion was an essential component of being a good person with good moral values.

Huzoor responded by saying that it was possible for a non-religious person to be good, but to reach the very highest moral standards religion was a necessary pre-requisite.

Huzoor said:

“The Quran teaches that if you have to give testimony against yourself then you should do so in the interest of honesty and justice.

People who do not fear God will not be able to follow such high standards but a God-fearing person, who believes in the life after death, surely would.”

Huzoor also narrated an incident relating to China.

He said once during the era of *Chairman Mao*, a Pakistani Minister went and visited him and asked *Mao* how he had been able to oversee the reformation of his nation.

He asked the question with particular interest given that China was considered a *Communist State* without any state religion.

In answer Chairman Mao said:

“Why do you ask me the secret of our success and progress? If you want to know the answer then read your holy book (Holy Quran) and about the life history of your prophet (the Holy Prophet^{saw}). It is those values that I have tried to instil here in China.”



As the academics left Huzoor’s office I went and met them. They both stated that it was an *“honour and privilege”* for them to meet Huzoor.

One of them, a Professor from Frankfurt, added:

“His Holiness has great command over his subject. I had only just begun my question about ‘morality without religion’ and immediately he understood what I was alluding to.

Before I had even completed my question he responded with an extremely comprehensive answer that satisfied me entirely. I understood from him that a person can only reach a certain limited level of spirituality and morality without religion and so to go beyond that point religion is essential."

Age-guessing

During Huzoor's tour of Australia last year I met an Ahmadi who guessed my age as being 40 or 41!

Being only 30 at that time I was truly horrified by this comment and the pain of that estimate had stayed with me through the intervening months!

Anyway, one day in Germany I was seated with *Jeriullah*, a young *Missionary* who had recently qualified from *Jamia UK*, and who was now posted in Germany.

He asked my age and so I asked him guess and he said 27.

Perhaps he was just being polite, but he seemed genuinely surprised when I said I was now 31.

Regardless, hearing his estimate banished the pain of the Australia comment once and for all!

Huzoor's guidance during Waqf-e-Nau Class

On 8 June, Huzoor held classes with both *Waqf-e-Nau* and *Waqfat-e-Nau* children. There were around 300 attendees in each class.

During the *Waqf-e-Nau* class, a long *Hadith* was presented to the *Waqf-e-Nau* followed by Urdu translation only.

Having observed this, Huzoor told the local *Secretary Waqf-e-Nau* that the Urdu should remain simple and easy to understand.

Huzoor added that German translation should also have been provided to make sure all the children understood what was being said.

Initially the *Secretary Sahib* tried to give an explanation and upon hearing his justification Huzoor said that the objective of *Waqf-e-Nau* classes are not to impress viewers on *MTA* around the world but are to impart knowledge to the children in a way that they can easily understand.

Huzoor said again that German translation should be given and where Urdu was to be used it should be simple and designed to help the children improve their grasp of the language.

Upon this instruction the *Secretary Sahib* said his team would implement in future.

Children's intention to join *Jamia*

During the class the children had the opportunity to ask Huzoor a range of questions. Some children asked personal questions whilst some of the older children asked about Islamic teachings.

At one point Huzoor himself asked which of the *Waqf-e-Nau* intended to go and study in *Jamia* and the vast majority raised their hands.

Seeing this Huzoor said:

“This is a good thing and so I hope you all keep this good intention.”

Getting ready for Munich

The day ended with *Namaz* and dinner and with it the first part of Huzoor's tour had come to an end.

As always, each and every minute had been filled with countless blessings.

I went to my room to pack my clothes because early the next morning we would be travelling with Huzoor to Munich for the next part of the tour.

I looked forward to the blessing that were still to come.