

HUZOOR'S TOUR OF GERMANY

MAY – JUNE 2015

A Personal Account

PART 2

By Abid Khan

Effect of meeting Huzoor on local Ahmadis

On, Saturday 30 May, we entered the second week of Huzoor's tour of Germany in 2015.

During the day, Huzoor met Ahmadis in *family Mulaqats* and, as always, it was clear, just what a transformative effect meeting Huzoor had made on the Ahmadis of different ages.

That morning I met an Ahmadi called *Mian Abdul Abkar (40)*, who said that when he saw Huzoor and witnessed first-hand his pure character, he felt "*ashamed*" at his own weaknesses. He added that when he met Huzoor he realised more than ever before that "*the Jamaat is nothing without Khilafat*".

His wife, *Shana Arooj (25)* had just met Huzoor for the first time and she said that even though the weather was warm, she felt herself shivering in Huzoor's presence. She said that her overriding emotion after meeting Huzoor was to try and reform and improve herself.

An unexpected lunch invitation

During Huzoor's tours to Germany, the food service for members of *Qafila* and other guests is normally very efficient.

The local *Ziafat* (hospitality) team arranges for the food to be served in large serving dishes and the dishes are then placed on a long rectangular table at the side of the dining room.

The *Qafila* members and guests are then able to serve themselves. *Masha'Allah* the food is generally very good and tasty, however eating it twice a day can get a little heavy. Thus, some days I would leave lunch and instead just drink a cup of coffee or eat some fruit or snacks.

On Saturday, however, I felt quite hungry and so went to the dining room and began eating lunch, along with Majid Sahib and Mubarak Sahib.

After a few minutes, Bashir Sahib entered and asked why we were eating in the dining hall. We were all quite confused by his question and so he told us that a local Ahmadi, *Abdus Sami Sahib* has invited us all for lunch at his home.

Majid Sahib and Mubarak Sahib had been personally invited but I think they thought it was in the evening and so they had come to the normal dining room.

On the other hand, I had no idea about the lunch, and so I continued with my own lunch for a few more minutes. However, Bashir Sahib repeated that I too had been invited and should come.

I was confused, because I did not want to go to someone's house without invitation but on the other hand I did not want them to think I had refused to accept their invitation!

After a few moments Majid Sahib and Mubarak Sahib got up to go to Abdus Sami Sahib's house and due to their encouragement I also decided to attend.

Abdus Sami Sahib's house was about 15minutes drive and so when we arrived he took us to his back garden where his sons had set up a barbecue. The food was good but throughout our stay at their home I continued to feel uncomfortable as I still was not sure if I had been invited or if the other *Qafila* members had wrongly *assumed* that I was invited!

We returned back to the Mosque after a couple of hours. Later in the day, when I had the opportunity, I mentioned to Huzoor that I had been to Abdus Sami Sahib's house.

In response, Huzoor said:

"I knew that the Qafila members were going today for lunch and it is good that you went as well."

Huzoor said that it was good that I was able to have a change from the standard *Langar* food that we were served daily.

I felt relieved and reassured after hearing Huzoor's words and it was also very true that it was nice to have a change from the *Langar* food for one afternoon!

Students' classes with Huzoor

Later, in the evening, Huzoor held two classes with Ahmadi University students in the *Baitus Subuh* Mosque. The first class was with *Khuddam* and the second class was with *Lajna*.

During the Khuddam class, I was seated at the side of the Mosque. The class began with *Tilawat* and then the National Secretary Taleem presented a report.

Thereafter, Ahmadi students gave two presentations. The first presentation was about how to treat a specific form of heart disease, whilst the second one was about how to safely store nuclear waste.



Both presentations, were quite advanced and if I said that I had understood 50% of what was presented I would probably be exaggerating!

Later, I spoke to some of the other *Qafila* members and they too admitted that they had struggled to follow all of the points discussed. Nonetheless, it was clear that Huzoor completely understood each and every point made during the presentations.

Huzoor asked follow-up questions regarding the research and when other students were invited to ask questions, sometimes Huzoor would answer on behalf of the presenter. On these occasions, it was clear that the presenter was relieved that Huzoor had saved him from a difficult question!

Huzoor's tips for good health

After the presentation about heart disease, Huzoor gave advice and tips about how to maintain good health. He said that olive oil was good for the heart and that new research also suggested that yoghurt was also beneficial.

Huzoor narrated that when he lived in Ghana, he used to see that people would walk 6 or 7 miles to get to work and this naturally kept them fit and healthy. However, in the *Western* world people were confined to their cars or public transport and so were not as naturally active. Therefore, Huzoor said that it was important people made time for physical activity or exercise.

Huzoor said that horse-riding was a good activity but that it was difficult for people living in cities to horse-ride and so such people should at least go for regular walks or go cycling.

Huzoor said that he knew of some *Khuddam* in the United Kingdom who had transformed their physical health after taking up cycling.

Huzoor also said that those people who smoked cigarettes were causing themselves great harm and so if there were any Ahmadi youths who smoked, the *Jamaat* should advise them of the dangers and help them to quit this bad habit.

In the second presentation, a *Khadim* explained the research he was doing into a new material for containers used to store nuclear waste underground.

Huzoor answering Ameer Sahib's question

Following the presentation, Huzoor said that he hoped the world would increase its development of safe energy sources, such as solar energy and become less dependent on potentially harmful sources such as nuclear power.



At the end of the presentation, Huzoor encouraged the research student by saying that his research was a form of service to humanity, because he was seeking to safely contain nuclear waste in a way that would not pose a threat to life.

Thereafter, Huzoor asked the students if they had any questions for the Ahmadi researcher.

Though not a student, Ameer Sahib Germany, who was seated to my left, raised his hand up and sought Huzoor's permission to ask the Ahmadi student a question.

Ameer Sahib said that a couple of years ago, the German Government announced that it would seek to end its use of nuclear energy once and for all. And so he asked the Ahmadi researcher if he was in favour of this.

Upon hearing Ameer Sahib's question, Huzoor smiled and answered the question himself. Huzoor said:

“Whether he is in favour or not – I certainly am in favour of it and recommend this policy!”

Ameer Sahib was very happy with this answer and there was no need for the Ahmadi researcher to add anything after Huzoor's statement!

Huzoor's comment about his own academic career

The students then had the chance to ask Huzoor questions.

One student asked Huzoor about what type of student he had been in his youth.

In response, Huzoor replied by saying:

“I was very weak in my studies and it was only due to prayers that I always used to pass!”

Huzoor's love for a grieving family

As Huzoor walked back towards his residence, he was introduced to an Ahmadi called *Nadir Altaf*. I was walking a few paces behind and I could see that Nadir Sahib was crying uncontrollably.

As tears flowed from his eyes, he informed Huzoor that his infant son, born just 18 days earlier, was critically unwell in hospital and was surviving on a life-support machine, which the doctors were ready to switch off.

Huzoor tenderly placed his hand on the arm of Nadir Sahib and asked the details of his son's illness. After a few moments, Huzoor then returned to his residence.

After meeting Huzoor, Nadir Sahib said he had been reassured and was now ready to accept *Allah's Will*.

Very sadly, a couple of days later, we received the news that the infant child had passed away (*inna lillahey wa inna illehey rajeoon*).

A few days later, the *Janaza* prayer of the child was arranged at the Mosque, which Huzoor led before the *Zuhr* and *Asr* prayers.

When Huzoor came to lead the prayer, Nadir Sahib was standing with his two other young children. Whilst introducing his children to Huzoor, he became extremely emotional.

As he wiped tears from his eyes, he informed Huzoor that they too were also suffering from ill health – in particular his daughter who was 2 or 3 years old.

Nadir Sahib, requested Huzoor's prayers and then asked Huzoor if he would hold his daughter so that she could be a direct recipient of the blessings of *Khalifa-Waqt*.

Upon, this very lovingly and with the utmost affection, Huzoor held the young child in his arms and kissed her on her forehead.

To see Huzoor's love and affection towards this innocent child was extremely emotional and a scene I will not forget.

Huzoor then proceeded to lead the *Janaza* prayer of the child. As I walked past the coffin, I was struck by how small it was and I felt so sad that such a young child had passed away.

Ahmadi Muslims are witnesses to the fact that the love of Khilafat is a means of alleviating even the most desperate and devastating pain and grief. Thus, following the conclusion of the *Janaza* prayer of his child, Nadir Sahib said that his family's heartache and sorrow had vanished at that moment when Huzoor had held his daughter lovingly in his arms.

Surely, only the love of *Khalifa-Waqt* can transform such grief and pain into hope and contentment.

Huzoor meeting another Ahmadi family

During, Huzoor's stay in Frankfurt, he was also introduced to a very active *Khadim* called *Kashif Janjua* and his wife.

They had brought their 3week old son to meet Huzoor. As Kashif Sahib held his tiny son in one arm, I could see from his and his wife's expressions that they too were consumed by grief.

As Huzoor met them, he was told that the infant had been born with a rare genetic disorder, which meant that his immune system was extremely weak. Doctors had said that even a cold would be life threatening.

Huzoor very lovingly met the family and again it was clear that meeting Huzoor was a means of reassurance and contentment for them.

A few weeks later, following our return to London, I heard that the infant child had also passed away, (*inna lillahey wa inna illehey rajeoon*).

The next day, I informed Huzoor of this sad news and immediately, Huzoor prayed:

“May Allah have mercy and grant patience to the family. May He grant them healthy progeny in return for this loss.”

These two incidents, had a strong and very deep impact upon me.

Sometimes, we take things for granted, including the health of our children but these incidents reminded me that it was only through Allah’s *Grace and Mercy* that we and our families remained healthy and well.

These incidents also reinforced just how fortunate we Ahmadi Muslims are to be protected by the love of *Khalifa-Waqt* which shield us from even the most devastating forms of grief.

Feelings of an Ahmadi family after meeting Huzoor

The next day, I met *Naveed Ahmad* (32) and his wife *Amtul Shakoor*, following their *Mulaqat* with Huzoor.

Amtul Shakoor Sahiba, had just met *Khalifa-Waqt*, for the very first time in her life. Recounting those moments in Huzoor's presence, she said:

"I could never have imagined that I would see this day where I would be seated so close to Allah's Khalifa. It is only the shade of Khilafat that protects us and is our only means of staying on the right path. Seeing Huzoor has instantly made me feel closer to Allah and I pray that this feeling remains forever."

She had also met Khala Saboohi (*Huzoor's respected wife*) earlier in the day.

After meeting her, Amtul Shakoor Sahiba said:

"It was a great honour to also meet Aapa Jaan. She was so loving and kind and when you meet her you realise that she too has the very highest moral standards and that she has a lot of knowledge about Islam through which she guides us."

Waqf-e-Nau classes

On the evening of 31 May 2015, Huzoor held a *Waqf-e-Nau* class with *Khuddam*, followed by a *Waqfat-e-Nau* class with *Lajna*.

During the *Khuddam* class, a young *Khadim* recited a *Nazm* (poem). Considering his young age, his voice seemed well developed and extremely pleasant to me.

However, I am not at all an expert in *Nazms* and so I was unsure if he was genuinely very good or if my lack of knowledge had clouded my judgement.

Upon completion of the *Nazm*, his talent was confirmed, when Huzoor looked at him and said:

“Masha’Allah, it seems there are some good voices emerging in Germany.”

Later in the class, the *Khuddam* had the chance to ask Huzoor various questions.

One boy asked Huzoor how Waqf-e-Nau children could increase their love for the *Jamaat*.

In response, Huzoor said:

“First all of all you should pay great attention to the pledge that your parents made before you were born. They pledged your lives for the service of God and so you should try to understand what it is that God wants from you.

First and foremost you must be regular in offering the five daily prayers and you must read the Holy Quran and try to learn its meaning.”

One *Khadim* asked Huzoor if he would return to live in Pakistan if the situation there improved.



In response, Huzoor said that if, in future, true religious freedom in Pakistan prevailed then he believed that the *Khalifa-Waqt* would certainly visit Pakistan regularly and also Qadian.

However, Huzoor said it was possible that the Khalifa's permanent base would remain in the UK or elsewhere in the developed world.

Another *Khadim* asked Huzoor how Allah the Almighty guided him as *Khalifa-Waqt*.

Huzoor responded by saying that Allah guides him by placing good intentions or ideas in his heart and mind.

Huzoor added that there were occasions when he had various different options or thoughts on a particular matter, but whilst performing *Salat* he would realise which was the correct path and what he should focus upon.

In this way, Allah the Almighty was guiding and inspiring the direction of the *Jamaat* through *Khilafat*.

Upon being asked, his views about the future prospects of the Germany *Jamaat*, Huzoor said:

“Insha’Allah, I expect the future of our Jamaat in Germany to be bright and that Ahmadiyyat will spread here. Indeed it is quite possible that this could be the first European country to accept Ahmadiyyat in very large numbers.”

A few moments with Huzoor

After, the two classes concluded, Huzoor left the Mosque and upon seeing me in the corridor, Huzoor called me to his office. The next few minutes in Huzoor’s company were extremely precious, *Alhamdolillah*.

Huzoor asked how my wife Mala was and also my young son Mahid. I said that *Alhamdolillah* they were well.

Very kindly, Huzoor asked if the food in Germany was adequate and if I was comfortable.

Huzoor's memory is also exceptional and so he remembered that the day before a few of us had gone for lunch to the home of a local Ahmadi and so he asked how it had been.

Huzoor asked me how I had found the *Waqf-e-Nau* class earlier that evening.

I responded by saying that it had been a very good class, *Masha'Allah*, but it seemed the *Khuddam* were very pre-occupied with 'death' because there had been a number of questions about this subject!

Huzoor laughed and said that yes there had been many questions about it.

Huzoor's guidance about the importance of prayer

Whilst in Huzoor's office, I asked Huzoor how his daughter-in-law, *Hibba*, was, as she was due to give birth soon.

In response, Huzoor said:

"It does not matter when the child is born, we should just continue to pray that whenever it is born, it is born healthily and safely."

Alhamdolillah, the day after Huzoor's return to London, Hibba and Waqas bhai (Mirza Waqas Ahmad) were blessed with their third child, whom Huzoor named Mirza Imaad Muawiz Ahmad. (*May Allah grant him a long and healthy life*).

Huzoor's words that day reminded me of when my wife Mala became pregnant with Mahid.

It had taken a number of years for her to get pregnant and we firmly believe that it was only due to Huzoor's prayers that we were blessed with our own progeny.

At that time, upon informing Huzoor of the good news, he said he wished to give us some advice and counsel.

Huzoor said:

"I know that both of you have the potential to become very excited but you must control your emotions. The next 9 months are a time for prayer and Istighfar."

As the days, weeks and months passed, I came to realise just how valuable and wise Huzoor's advice was.

I learned that during a pregnancy there were various issues that came up and different risk factors and so prayers are needed constantly.

A personal reflection

Thereafter, I mentioned to Huzoor how someone had emailed me to say that they had listened to Huzoor's *Friday Sermon* and that after hearing Huzoor's words they would seek to always remain obedient to *Khilafat*.

In response Huzoor said:

“You should have told that person about your own example, whereby a few years ago nobody knew who you were but now you are quite well known in our Jamaat and you have met many people and had many opportunities. This is not due to any personal quality of yours but only because you became attached to Khilafat.”

I had not expected this response and was slightly taken aback but I knew Huzoor was completely right. Indeed, as Huzoor said these words, I recalled what seemed to be a past life, but was in fact only a matter of 8 or 9 years ago.

At that time, I was a young lawyer, newly married, but struggling to find a job. I soon came to realise that a life as a lawyer was a life that I did not aspire to and a life that would not give me the peace of mind and contentment that I sought.

I had recently moved to London, having been brought up in the town of Hartlepool where my late parents had lived.

Since I had been living in London, I had the opportunity to meet Huzoor more regularly and to pray behind him daily. It was during those months that I came to realise that I wished to spend my entire life serving the *Jamaat* and *Khilafat*.

It was my great fortune that at that time of struggle, Huzoor took my hand and accepted me as a *Waqf-e-Zindighi* (life devotee).

He accepted me despite the fact that I had no quality or skill. I had not studied in *Jamia*. I had little religious knowledge. I was not well acquainted with the offices of the *Jamaat*. All I had was a yearning to be close to my *Khalifa*.

And ever since that day, when my *Khalifa* had mercy on me, my life transformed due to the shade and blessings of *Khilafat*. *Alhamdolillah*.

Thus, when years later, in Germany, Huzoor told me that I could have given my own example as proof of the blessings associated with *Khilafat*, I could only respond by saying:

“Huzoor you are 100% right.”

Huzoor’s simple life in Africa

One day after *Namaz*, I saw Huzoor meet an Ahmadi called *Dr Muzaffar Bajwa*, who was a dentist by profession.

Very affectionately, Huzoor held the hand of Muzaffar Sahib as he walked from the Mosque to the lift in *Baitus Subuh*. As they walked, I noticed how Muzaffar Sahib constantly had his head bowed in respect.

Afterwards, I met Muzaffar Sahib for a few minutes. He was well-known to the other *Qafila* members but I was meeting him for the first time. He was very friendly and down to earth.

He told me he was the son of *Mubashar Ahmad Bajwa Shaheed* who had passed away in a car crash more than 20 years previously, when returning to Germany from London, where he had been sent for *Jamaat* work.

Muzaffar Sahib, told me how he personally had been very close to *Hazrat Khalifatul Masih IV (rh)* but that his personal connection with *Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V (aba)* developed after he had visited Ghana in order to set up a dental clinic some years ago.

Muzaffar Sahib said:

“When I went to Ghana, (late) Wahab Adam Sahib took me to the places where Huzoor and Begum Sahiba had lived during their time in Africa. I was completely shocked and astounded at their living conditions - they were so basic and simple. Honestly, I do not believe that I, or many other people, could have survived in such conditions, yet Huzoor lived there for a number of years very happily and with such great humility.”

Muzaffar Sahib continued:

“The fact that a person who had lived such a humble life had later become Khalifatul Masih and had attained this great status was something that captivated me. Thus, after my trip to Ghana I endeavoured to increase my connection and bond with Huzoor and since then I have met Huzoor on many occasions, Alhamdulillah.”

Reflections of some Ahmadi families

I met a young Ahmadi family, *Zahoor Ahmad (30)* and his wife *Mansura Zahoor* minutes after their *Mulaqat* with Huzoor.

Mansura Sahiba, who was a member of the *Waqf-e-Nau* scheme, had just met *Khalifatul Masih* for the very first time in her life. They also had a young infant child who, like her mother, was *Waqf-e-Nau*.

Speaking about those moments they had just spent with Huzoor, Mansura Sahiba said:

“All my life I dreamed of meeting Huzoor and today my prayers were fulfilled. Seeing him has motivated me to identify my weaknesses so I can be a better person, Insha’Allah.”

Mansura Sahiba continued by saying:

“My parents pledged me to the service of Ahmadiyyat and so I am very fortunate to be part of the Waqf-e-Nau scheme. We made the same pledge for our daughter and so she is also part of the Waqf-e-Nau scheme.

Thus, I feel a double responsibility – one is to fulfil my own Waqf and the second is to train my daughter in a way that she is able to fulfil her Waqf. I feel this weight of responsibility very strongly and so I request Huzoor’s prayers that Allah helps me to live my life as an example to my young daughter.”

I met an Ahmadi lady, *Shahida Jameel*, who along with her husband, had just met *Khalifatul Masih* for the very first time.

After her *Mulaqat* she said:

“I have learnt that Khilafat is everything and that unless we have a connection with our Khalifa our lives are empty, hollow and worthless. The only way to describe the relationship between an individual and Khalifa-Waqt is as a heavenly relationship.”

Afterwards, she asked me who read my diaries about Huzoor’s tours. I told her that, with the *Grace of Allah*, Huzoor himself reads them first of all and it is only with his permission that I share the diaries with other people.

When she heard this, she said with great emotion and excitement:

“Oh how I wish that Huzoor reads our words and prays for us!”

I met a young Ahmadi, *Fawad Ahmad* (24) following his *Mulaqat* with Huzoor.

He told me he had many non-Ahmadi friends and he was always struck at how confused and dissatisfied they were. He said:

“My non-Ahmadi friends often tell me that one Maulvi or Mullah who they visit teaches them one thing and another Maulvi teaches them something entirely different. They openly say that this has led them to become entirely disillusioned with Islam. However, in our Jamaat every single scholar or

Missionary preaches the exact same message – and this is all because we are united at the hand of Khilafat.”

Meeting Sakhawat Sahib’s friend

One day as I was meeting different Ahmadis, Sakhawat Bajwa Sahib introduced me to an elderly Ahmadi called *Warraich Sahib*.

He was quite a heavy man and so it was difficult for him to be mobile, yet each day he travelled 70km to the Mosque so he could do *Langar* duty during Huzoor’s tours.

Speaking in Punjabi, he told me why he used to come every day. He said:

“If you look at bees they always hover around and encircle their Queen – in the same way, we Ahmadis want to hover around and encircle Khalifa-Waqt so that we can absorb his blessings. That is the only reason I come here every single day.”

An emotional Mulaqat

On 2nd June, Huzoor held another session of family *Mulaqats*. The final person to enter was an Ahmadi lady. I do not know who she was but I vividly recall her *Mulaqat*.

As she entered Huzoor’s office, the door was left slightly ajar as *Private Secretary*, Munir Javed Sahib stood at the entrance of the office, ready to enter when Huzoor called him.

Even though, we were stood outside, we could not help but hear that the lady was crying uncontrollably in front of Huzoor. I could also hear that in response, Huzoor told her to pray for some time.

As her *Mulaqat* continued, I saw a little boy stood outside the office, perhaps aged 4 or 5, desperately trying to gain access into Huzoor's office. He kept moving forward, peering through the small gap in the door.

Very gently, the security guards tried to hold him back but he kept repeating the words: ***"Please, please, let me see and let me hear Huzoor."***

The boy himself was very emotional and I soon realised that it was *his* mother who was inside Huzoor's office.

After, a minute or two, Private Secretary Sahib opened the door of Huzoor's office and the boy suddenly ran inside. Upon this, the security guards told Private Secretary Sahib that he was the son of the lady.

The boy stayed in the office with his mother for a few more minutes before they came out. As they did, the mother wiped away tears from her eyes, whilst her young son held a chocolate Huzoor had given him.

I did not try to find out who the lady was or who her son was and they were gone within a minute but I do know that the emotion of their *Mulaqat* will stay in my memory. I hope and pray that having met Huzoor and sought his prayers whatever difficulties she faced are soon removed, *Insha'Allah*.

Thoughts of an Ahmadi about Khilafat

I met another Ahmadi, *Akhtar Mubarak (50)* a few moments before he and his family had *Mulaqat* with Huzoor.

Just before he entered Huzoor's office he told me:

“We are meeting Huzoor after a period of 11 years and nobody knows if they will be alive in another 11 years or not – so I do not know if we will ever have the opportunity to meet Khalifa-Waqt again in our lives. Thus I have told my children to consider this to be the greatest day of their lives and to request whatever prayers they need for the rest of their lives.”

As I looked at his young children the sense of anticipation on their faces was very apparent. I thought about what he had said and realised he was right, in that we do not know if we will be alive the next day, never mind in 11 years.

Thus, every single opportunity we have to be in the presence of *Khalifa-Waqt* is to be treasured.

Shopping for shoes

On the afternoon of 2nd June, Mubarak Zafar Sahib and I, along with Athar Baig, Nasir Amini and a local Ahmadi called Akmal Sahib, went to a nearby shopping centre in Frankfurt. This would prove to be my only opportunity to do some shopping for home and we only had 1 hour to do it – so I had to work fast!

I walked around with Athar and my aim was to purchase something for my son Mahid. At first, we went to a toy shop and I saw a children's toy *iPad*, which taught children numbers and vocabulary. I was about to purchase it when Athar reminded me that all the numbers and vocabulary were in German!

I thought that after trying to teach Mahid both *Urdu* and *English*, adding a third language would be little confusing at this stage and so in the end I did not pick it up.

As I walked into different shops, I found myself saying a few words in German to the local shopkeepers and assistants. I had studied German in school many years ago but had thought I had forgotten the language completely. However, I realised that there were still a few words and phrases I could recall.

The phrase I used the most though was "*Ich spreche kein Deutsch*", which means "*I do not speak German*". As I repeated this to various people in the mall, Athar reminded me of the irony of saying 'I don't speak German', whilst speaking in German!

We went to the clothing shop *C & A* and I saw some kids shoes which I thought were nice but before purchasing them I decided to seek the stamp of approval from home and so I called Mala on *FaceTime* and showed her the two pairs I was about to buy for Mahid.

With time running out, I was relieved when she said they were good and so I duly purchased them.

Thereafter, Athar wanted to buy a suit and so we went to their men's section. Athar proved himself to be a pretty decisive shopper and did not waste any time and so within 5 or 10 minutes he had chosen and paid for a brand new suit!

Anyway, I was glad to have managed this personal errand and returned home happy with my shopping.

Huzoor's unimaginable workload

The next day, on 3rd June 2015, Mulaqats started a little bit later than the past few days. I said to Majid Sahib that I think perhaps Huzoor will have been preparing his Jalsa addresses that morning.

In response, Majid Sahib said:

“Yes, at the Germany Jalsa, Huzoor has to deliver 4 separate addresses and this is on top of all of Huzoor's other commitments and work. If the rest of us have to give even one short speech at Jalsa, it takes us months to prepare!”

This was certainly true and in fact during the Germany tour, I saw Majid Sahib preparing for his speech at the *UK Jalsa* that takes place in late August!

Comprehension of a young girl beyond her years

Later that day, I met an Ahmadi man, *Rashid Kahlon* and his wife *Mansoorah Kahlon*, who had just met Huzoor with their 3 year old daughter.

Mansoorah Sahiba told me that when their daughter was still a baby, she developed a tumour in one of her eyes, which meant that her eye had to be removed and so she was blind in one eye.

She told me that just before the operation they went to see Huzoor and very lovingly he placed his ring on the child's eye and prayed for her. Thereafter, the operation was successful and the tumour was removed and she was still able to see with her remaining eye.

I then met the girl, who had been playing on a nearby swing. She was extremely loving and I was quite amazed by her level of understanding and her love for Huzoor.

Aged just 3, she said:

"I am so happy that I got to meet Huzoor today because it is only because of Huzoor's prayers that my eye operation was successful and it is only because of Huzoor's prayers that I can still see from my other eye."

Her mother told me that her daughter tells everyone she meets the same - that it is only because of Huzoor's prayers that she still has sight from one eye.

A case of mistaken identity

During the lunch break, I returned to my desk to do some work. After a few minutes the office phone rang and so I picked it up and the person on the other end said ***"Assalamo Alaikum, this is Muzaffar"***.

He wanted to speak to Majid Sahib but he had stepped out of the office for a few minutes.

Thinking it was Dr Muzaffar (dentist) whom I had met a couple of days before, I said:

“It was very nice to meet you 2 days ago and I really very much enjoyed your company.”

I was trying to be friendly but Muzaffar Sahib responded very apprehensively and reservedly, muttering the words “**Yes, ok**” before becoming silent.

After a few seconds of awkward pause, he began to speak again and said that he was coming to the office in a few minutes to meet Majid Sahib.

A few minutes later, I was dismayed to see that the person who had come to see Majid sahib was not Dr Muzaffar Sahib, but rather another Muzaffar Sahib who is the *in-charge* of *MTA Germany*! I had not met him for days and so I was extremely embarrassed, thinking he will be wondering what I was talking about on the phone!

As he walked past me, I noticed that he said *salam* to me extremely quickly and quietly before proceeding to meet Majid Sahib!

He probably thought that if he said *salam* too nicely or warmly then in a couple of days I would call him up and thank him again for his wonderful company!

After Muzaffar Sahib left, I narrated my mistake to the people who were seated in the office and they all laughed.

Then Majid Sahib told us a similar mistake he had made the night before at the *Walima* ceremony of a young *Missionary* called Nabeel Shad.

Majid Sahib said that he met a man at the wedding, who he thought was an Ahmadi from Hamburg and so Majid Sahib said to him:

“How come you have come to this wedding? Masha’Allah you have made a great effort to come here.”

In response, the man said:

“I am here because I am the father of Nabeel Shad! (groom)”

Majid Sahib said he was so embarrassed and immediately apologised!

We all laughed again thinking that Nabeel Shad’s father must have been extremely confused as to why Majid Sahib was wondering it was such a big effort for him to attend his own son’s wedding!

Meeting an Ahmadi convert and his family

One day, I met an Ahmadi man *Dari Abdullah* and his wife. Dari Sahib was originally from Kosovo and had converted to *Ahmadiyyat* in 1993 as a teenager along with his mother. His wife, *Sabah Sahiba*, was of Pakistani origin.

Dari Sahib narrated his first experience of *Khilafat*. He said:

“When I was 15, my mother said she was taking me to meet the Fourth Khalifa (rh). I was young and naïve and so I took it very casually and I remember thinking that meeting the Khalifa will be nothing special.

However, when Huzoor walked into the room and I saw him and heard his voice, I began to tremble and I felt as though I would collapse.

Nothing could have prepared me for the impact of his presence and love. That day completely changed my life and I have the exact same feeling whenever I meet Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V (aba), as I did earlier today.”

His wife, Sabah Sahiba, narrated her own feelings about Huzoor and as she did she began to cry. Her husband consoled her and handed her a tissue with which she wiped away her tears.

Still unable to compose herself, she told me:

“I am crying because I wish every day could be like today and that every day we could meet Huzoor.”

Both the husband and wife were very open and spoke about how they faced certain difficulties as they came from different backgrounds.

They asked me to write this in my diary so that they could receive Huzoor’s prayers.

Sabah Sahiba said:

“I request Huzoor’s special prayers that my husband’s family all come to accept the truth of Ahmadiyyat and that Allah removes all of our worries and difficulties.”

Dari Sahib also requested Huzoor’s prayers that the connection and bond between their two families increased and that they were able to bridge the cultural divide.

As, they left, I thought of how these two people were from completely different backgrounds and nationalities but had come together only because of their mutual love for *Khilafat* and for the *Jamaat*.

It was an example of how the *Jamaat* of the Promised Messiah (as) was bringing people together and uniting them at the hand of *Khilafat*.

A gift that caused me confusion

During those days, one of our fellow *Qafila* members, invited me to his room and upon doing so he gave me a *tie* as a gift.

I told him there was no need for the gift but he insisted and so I accepted it and thanked him. However, over the next day I began to feel increasingly uncomfortable about whether it was appropriate to accept such a gift, especially during Huzoor’s tour.

This state of confusion continued to increase and so on Thursday, I took the opportunity to mention the gift to Huzoor and asked if I should return it.

I felt embarrassed asking, because it was such a small personal matter and I knew that Huzoor was exceptionally busy preparing for *Jalsa Germany*.

However, Huzoor's kindness is such that he did not mind the question and resolved my dilemma in light of the teachings of Islam.

Huzoor said:

"The Holy Prophet (sa) taught us that a person should accept gifts from others. And he taught that, according to a person's capabilities, he should give a gift in return when possible.

A person should never express a desire for a gift or ask for something from others but if someone gives a gift themselves then they should consider it to be a blessing of Allah the Almighty."

Huzoor's guidance put my mind immediately at ease and so I wore the tie during the first day of *Jalsa Salana*.

Witnessing a very emotional Mulaqat

After *Maghreb* and *Isha* prayers on Wednesday evening (3 June), I noticed that there was a large family stood in the gallery outside the Mosque.

As Huzoor walked towards the lift in *Baitus Subuh*, Munir Javed Sahib introduced the family to Huzoor.

I whispered to one of the security guards to ask who the family was and they told me it was the wife and children of *Master Abdul Qudoos Shaheed* and some other members of their extended family.

Immediately, I recalled the martyrdom of Master Qudoos Sahib back in March 2012. He had been falsely arrested and then brutally tortured and mercilessly beaten for days on end by the police.

The attackers sought desperately for him to falsely incriminate some *Jamaat* office bearers in a murder case but despite the most unimaginable torture he remained firm on the truth and refused to give any false statement.

Finally, upon realising that though they could crush his bones, they could not crush his spirit or his faith, they released him from captivity.

However, despite days of intensive treatment he succumbed to his injuries in Rabwah (*inna lillahey wa inna illahey rajeoon*).

The next week, Huzoor delivered his *Friday Sermon* (6 April 2012) in tribute and memory to the noble sacrifice made by Master Qudoos. I will never forget Huzoor's words during that sermon, when he said:

“O Qudoos, we salute you! That you bore extreme and brutal torture but did not let the honour and name of our Jamaat suffer in any way.”

Now, for the first time since his martyrdom, his wife and children had the opportunity to meet Huzoor.

It was very emotional scene, whereby Huzoor met each of the relatives very lovingly and asked how they were. Huzoor gave them guidance for their future.

Huzoor then turned to Munir Javed Sahib and told him to make sure that proper accommodation was arranged for the family of Master Abdul Qudoos.

You could see just how concerned Huzoor was for their welfare and indeed the very next day, I heard Huzoor ask Munir Javed Sahib where they had stayed and if they had been comfortable. Huzoor also instructed that he would like to meet the family again after the conclusion of *Jalsa Salana*.

The reflections of Master Qudoos' family

After Huzoor returned to his residence, I went to meet the family of Master Abdul Qudoos. It was very emotional and faith inspiring for me to meet them.

The widow of Master Qudoos, *Rubina Qudoos Sahiba* said:

“Seeing Huzoor has given me contentment and a feeling of inner peace. Hearing his beautiful words has given me great reassurance.”

I asked her about Master Abdul Qudoos Shaheed and what memories she had of him.

In reply, she said:

“Every day I pray that may Allah elevate my husband’s status in heaven because ever since we were married he looked after us in the most wonderful manner. It was strange but even during his lifetime he would often ask me if I would remember him after he was gone. Certainly, I remember him every single day.”

The eldest son of Master Qudoos Shaheed, was called *Abdul Salam* and he was now 18 years old.

After meeting Huzoor he said:

“When I met Huzoor it felt like the pain and grief of the past few years has vanished in an instant. I cannot describe how I am feeling or how fortunate I consider myself.”

About the example of his father, *Abdul Salam* said:

“My father was very softly spoken but I remember that when I was 13 or 14 I once missed an Atfal duty because I was tired. When my father found out he became very angry with me and said that I should never consider service for the Jamaat to be ‘optional’ and rather I should always consider it as an obligation.”

Abdul Salam continued:

“If one day Allah chooses me for martyrdom like my father and I am the one who sheds blood for the sake of the Jamaat then I would consider myself extremely fortunate. I just pray I can imitate the courage and dignity that he displayed.”

Master Qudoos Shaheed’s younger son, *Abdul Basit*, was now 15. He also said that Huzoor’s love that evening had removed the pain of his father’s martyrdom and filled him with happiness.

Huzoor’s meeting with the Leader of the *Left Party* of Germany

On Thursday, 4 June, Huzoor met with the famous German politician, *Dr Gregor Gysi*, the leader of the *Left Party* in Frankfurt.

Dr Gysi did not speak English and so Huzoor spoke in *Urdu*, whilst the politician spoke in *German*. Dawood Majoka Sahib, the *National Umoor-e-Kharija Secretary* translated.

The meeting, which lasted for one hour, was extremely interesting. Huzoor and the politician spoke about various international issues.

I was struck and impressed by the fact that the politician did not have a typical *Western* viewpoint on every issue but rather based his opinions on reason and past experience.

For example, he seemed quite happy to concede that a number of Western policies had failed and were a root cause of much of the disorder and conflict witnessed in the world. He said that whilst he was normally an '*optimist*', he was quite '*pessimistic*' about the future, due to the increasing disorder in different parts of the world.

Huzoor said that a major factor that had contributed to the increased conflict in the world was the *financial crisis* of 2008. He said that the economic crisis had led to an increase in selfishness amongst nations and peoples. Huzoor said that selfishness and greed were extremely dangerous.

Huzoor said Islam promoted a spirit of *selflessness* and taught that we should help one another and not care just about our own rights.

Huzoor and the guest discussed the rise in terrorism and extremism in various parts of the world. Huzoor said he had spoken in November 2014 at the *UK Peace Symposium* about the need to target the financial and weapons supply lines of terrorist groups such as *ISIS*.

Huzoor said that sanctions were easily levied on certain countries and governments and so it ought to be possible to place controls or sanctions on terrorist groups.

It was a very interesting meeting and I noticed that on many occasions the politician would respond to Huzoor's comments by saying only "*Your Holiness, your analysis is completely correct*".

It seemed he was taking Huzoor's guidance very seriously and this was proved a few days later when Ameer Sahib informed Huzoor that a national newspaper had quoted Dr Gysi making foreign policy comments that were in accord with the guidance he had received from Huzoor.

Travel to Karlsruhe

Earlier in the day, I had been packing my belongings as the *Qafila* was travelling to *Karlsruhe* that evening for the *Jalsa Salana Germany*.

And soon after Huzoor's meeting with the politician concluded, the *Qafila* departed from *Baitus Subuh* and we arrived at the *Messe Karlsruhe (Karlsruhe Convention Centre)* at around 8pm.

As soon as Huzoor arrived it appeared as though the *Jalsa* had started there and then.

There were loud *naaray* raised by Ahmadis as Huzoor came out of his car and walked into the centre. It was clear how emotional and happy the members of the German *Jamaat* were that Huzoor had safely arrived for the *Jalsa*.

Jalsa Salana inspection and a very special taste test

A few moments later Huzoor began the inspection for the *Jalsa Salana* and so Huzoor visited the various departments and exhibitions that had been set up.

I noticed that on this occasion, Huzoor spent quite a long time in the *Langar*.

In the past, I had seen Huzoor taste food from one or two pans but on this occasion, Huzoor tasted the food from 7 or 8 different stations and he gave detailed advice about how to cook the food and to improve the taste.



This year, *Ilyas Majoka Sahib*, had been appointed *Officer Jalsa Salana* for the first time. He told me later the extent to which Huzoor had helped and guided him with the arrangements.

He said that in advance of the tour, he had informed Huzoor that there were different recipes being advocated for the *Langar*.

He said that there were some people who had recently come from Pakistan who had a particular recipe for *aloo gosht* and *daal*, whilst there were Ahmadis who had lived in Germany for a long time who had their own recipes and cooking methods.

These two dishes were of importance as they were the staples of *Jalsa Salana* to be served daily.

Upon hearing this, Huzoor advised that when he arrived in Germany, he should be sent both dishes, cooked with both recipes and methods.

Thus, on the first day of the tour, Ilyas Sahib sent two portions of *aloo gosht* to Huzoor's residence. One had been cooked with the 'Pakistani' recipe and the other had been cooked with the 'German' recipe.

Then, on the second day he sent two portions of *daal* – again one cooked according to the 'Pakistani' recipe and the other according to the 'German' recipe.

Ilyas Sahib told me that after tasting both versions of each dish Huzoor had instructed that during the *Jalsa* the German recipe should be used for *aloo gosht* and the Pakistani recipe should be used for *daal*.

This was another way in which Huzoor sought to ensure the comfort of the guests of the Promised Messiah (as) and I heard many people appreciate the high quality of *aloo gosht* and *daal* during the days of *Jalsa Salana*. I myself noticed that the food tasted better than last year.

Huzoor's guidance about the shortage of bedding

The other issue that evening was of bedding. The *Jamaat* had ordered substantially more mattresses than previous years but by Thursday evening they had run out because the numbers of people who had arrived early was far higher than expected.

Huzoor was notified about this and so during his address to the *Jalsa workers* that evening, Huzoor said that women and children were to be allocated the available bedding in priority. Huzoor said that if the men had to sleep without any mattress on the bare floor then they should be ready to do so.

Huzoor also said that he had instructed *Sadr Lajna* that if there was any shortfall on the ladies side then *Sadr Lajna* herself and her *Amila* members should be the first to give up their own bedding for the sake of others. Huzoor said he was conveying the same instruction to the men.

Some arrangements for emergency bedding were made and so much of the shortfall was made up but still there were some *Khuddam* who slept without bedding on Thursday night.

Sadr Sahib, *Majlis Khuddamul Ahmadiyya* later told me that in line with Huzoor's instructions, he and his *Amila* slept that night without any mattresses and he said it had been an honour to fulfil the instruction of Huzoor.

Alhamdulillah by the next day, the *Jamaat* had been able to order additional bedding and for the rest of *Jalsa* there was no shortfall.

I personally found Huzoor's instructions about the bedding to be extremely beautiful and a reflection of Islam's true teachings.

Many people allege that, *God forbid*, Islam does not treat women with due respect. Yet, our Khalifa instructed that if all the men had to sleep on the floor then so be it – priority was to be given to the ladies and to young children.

Furthermore, Huzoor instructed that the *Jamaat* office bearers were the ones who had to be the first to sacrifice their bedding and their comfort for the sake of others.

Thus, if anyone seeks to allege that office bearers are ever given preferential treatment, they should listen to the instructions of Huzoor, who said that office bearers should be the first to sacrifice their comfort for others.

And as we saw from the *Khuddam*, the office bearers took pride in heeding this call of *Khalifa-Waqt*.

Anticipation of Jalsa Salana

It had been almost two weeks since Huzoor had left London and finally the days of Jalsa Salana had arrived.

Those three days and the final few days of Huzoor's tour would prove to be truly memorable and historic.

NOTE - Huzoor's joke in Jamia

In *part 1* of the personal account I wrote about Huzoor's tour of Germany 2015, I mentioned how on one occasion I had the privilege to watch a short video clip in Huzoor's office. The video was taken during the recently held *Jamia Sports Day* in the UK.

I wrote how the clip was of a joke Huzoor had made during his address that day. After I published the diary some people asked me what the joke was and so I shall narrate it now.

Huzoor was speaking about the importance of physical health and fitness and he mentioned how recently a student from *Jamia Ahmadiyya UK* came to meet him.

Huzoor said he had told the boy that he had gained weight but the boy responded by saying he had not gained weight but rather it was actually his clothes that made him look far bigger!

Speaking to the Jamia students about the boy's response, Huzoor said:

"It seems that such clothes exist that are of such a magical nature that they even cause a person's face to expand! And they make a person's body become extremely wide!... If you touch the stomach it feels like pressing on a piece of cloth over some very soft dough or flour!"