

**HUZOOR'S TOUR OF GERMANY**

**APRIL 2017**

**PART 1**

**A Personal Account**

***By Abid Khan***

## **Introduction**

On 8<sup>th</sup> April 2017, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V (aba) embarked on an extremely blessed 16-day tour of Germany, where he would inaugurate two new Mosques, lay the foundation stones for two others, as well as preside over a number of Jamaat events and meetings.

For this tour, the Qafila travelling from London was significantly larger than normal because Huzoor had graciously accepted the request of eight graduates of Jamia Ahmadiyya Canada to travel with him to Germany.

Thus, apart from Khala Saboohi (*Huzoor's respected wife*), there were 23 members of Qafila who travelled with Huzoor from London that day.

There were six security staff – Major Mahmood Ahmad, Nasir Saeed, Sakhawat Bajwa, Mahmood Khan, Khawaja Qudoos Ahmad and Mohsin Awan.

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

The eight young Missionaries from Canada were Rizwan Syed, Abdul Basit Khawaja, Sajid Iqbal, Saqib Zafar, Serjeel Ahmad, Ferhad Ghaffar, Atif Zahid and Hamad Mobeen.

Nadeem Amini, Nasir Amini, Mohammad Ahmad, Imran Zafar and Abdul Rehman were also part of Huzoor's Qafila. They had each volunteered to

drive their personal cars as Qafila cars and Huzoor had graciously accepted their request.

### **Finding out**

Just over a week before the tour, one afternoon I was in Huzoor's office and just as I stood up to leave, Huzoor smiled and affectionately asked:

***"Do you want to come to Germany with me?"***

Without a second's hesitation, I responded:

***"Yes of course Huzoor."***

Thereafter, Huzoor said:

***"Get ready then. Insha'Allah, we will be leaving next Saturday and so take your family to get some groceries before you leave so they do not have any problem whilst you are away."***

I left the office extremely joyful that I would have the opportunity to travel with Huzoor.

The Qafila members were not officially informed of travel until a number of days later and so I was also fortunate that I had a longer to get ready.

### **An example of Huzoor's kindness**

The same day, my son Mahid broke up for his Easter holidays from nursery and because I would be away during the second week of his holidays, I sought Huzoor's permission to take off a few hours from work on two separate days during the forthcoming week so that I could take my family out. In my request, I mentioned that I would still report for Mulaqat as normal in the afternoon.

However, in reply, Huzoor said:

***“Permission is granted and you do not need to come in for Mulaqat on those two days, rather you can spend the entire day with your family.”***

Huzoor's love and concern for all aspects of our lives is amazing. Though, I felt regret that for those two days I would not have the opportunity to report to Huzoor, my wife and children were very happy that we would have the full day to go out and spend some family time before the Germany tour.

Upon my return to the office after the two days break, Huzoor immediately enquired from me about where we had been and how we had spent the two days. I informed that on the first day we went into the city of London and visited the *Natural History Museum* and some other places, whilst on the second day we went to the children's theme park, *Legoland*.

Huzoor informed that before being elected as Khalifatul Masih he himself had visited some of the tourist sites in London. However, he said he had never been on the *London Eye*, the giant rotating *Ferris* wheel that gives a

view of London from above. Huzoor suggested that I take my family there at some point in the future.

As I left Huzoor's office that day I also informed him that I had purchased a new suitcase in advance of the Germany tour. With a hint of pride, I stated that I had gotten a very good deal, whereby I had acquired a large suitcase on sale for £70, where the original price was double.

Huzoor smiled and said:

***"I recently also purchased three good suitcases at a total cost of £180!"***

As Huzoor said this, I laughed and said:

***"I thought mine was a good purchase but the individual cost of Huzoor's suitcases works out cheaper still!"***

Anyway, most kindly and so that I did not feel any regret, Huzoor said:

***"Even so, your purchase was also good value."***

### **Not a precedent**

The evening before departure, I mentioned to Huzoor that I had spoken to a couple of the Jamia Canada graduates and they seemed overwhelmed and extremely excited by the fact that Huzoor had permitted them to travel with him to Germany.

In response, Huzoor said:

***“It is not a precedent that each year I will take a Jamia class with me on one of my tours. It just so happened this year that they were here in London at the time of my tour. The main reason I have permitted them is that they were not present during my tour of Canada as I had sent them to Africa as part of their training. Thus, now they will have the opportunity to experience this tour instead.”***

Huzoor’s words were another manifestation of his love for the Missionaries of the Jamaat. He knew that the young Missionaries would have been extremely sad to not be present when Huzoor visited their home country for what proved to be a very historic tour.

At the very time Huzoor was in Canada, they were serving in some of the most remote parts of Africa upon Huzoor’s instruction. Hence, in reward for their obedience and patience, Huzoor granted them the tremendously rare opportunity to accompany him abroad.

### **Departure from Masjid Fazl**

On the morning of 8 April 2017, I made my way to the Fazl Mosque in London and at exactly 9.50am, Huzoor came out from his residence to depart for the Germany tour. As always, many Ahmadis had gathered to see off Huzoor and joined him in a silent prayer before departure.

For most of the tour, I was seated in the car directly behind Huzoor’s own car. Our driver was Nasir Amini and also sitting with me was one of Huzoor’s

security guards, Mohsin Awan and Serjeel Ahmad who was one of the Canadian Missionaries.

Upon arrival at Folkestone just before midday, the Qafila soon entered the *Eurotunnel* shuttle and spent the next 35 minutes crossing the *Channel Tunnel* before disembarking in Calais.

During the journey, Huzoor and Khala Saboohi (Huzoor's respected wife) remained in their car, whilst the rest of us stepped out of our cars and stretched our legs.

### **A sweet for Amir Sahib**

We arrived in Calais at 1.35pm and shortly after the Qafila stopped at a nearby service station, where Huzoor was greeted by several members of the Germany Jamaat including Amir Sahib Germany.

Huzoor was wearing a light-brown *achkan* coat and had covered his head with a cream coloured *Afghani topi* (cap).

Upon meeting him, Huzoor noticed that Amir Sahib Germany had lost his voice and enquired after him.

In reply, Amir Sahib whispered very softly that he was suffering from a virus and because of this he was unable to speak normally.

Huzoor returned to his car and took out a sweet and gave it to Amir Sahib. Later in the day, Huzoor again enquired after Amir Sahib and there had been some limited improvement.

I am sure that Huzoor will have prayed for Amir Sahib and due to Huzoor's prayers by the following day Amir Sahib's voice had returned back to normal, whereas a local doctor later told me that under normal circumstances it would have taken three or four days at least for Amir Sahib's voice to return.

### **A message for the Canadians**

After a minute, Huzoor entered the shop at the service station and called me towards him and asked how the journey had been so far.

I mentioned that Serjeel, the young Canadian Missionary sitting in my car, appeared extremely delighted and excited to be joining Huzoor on this journey.

Hearing this, Huzoor said:

***“Tell him and the other boys that they should not be too excited, rather they should spend as much time as possible in prayer and in the worship of Allah.”***

Huzoor's comment was extremely beautiful. He knew that the young Missionaries would, very naturally, be very excited, however the purpose with which Huzoor brought them was to increase their spiritual level and connection with Allah.



Whenever Huzoor travels to different countries, it is with the objective of elevating the spiritual levels of the local Ahmadis and certainly Huzoor desires the same of those who travel with him.

### **Break for lunch**

After the short break, the Qafila continued its journey towards Frankfurt before stopping for lunch at 3pm.

In the past, during the tours in which I have been present, if we stopped for lunch on the way to Germany, we would eat at a service station. However, on this occasion, the Jamaat had arranged for the break to take place at a hotel in Belgium.

Personally, I thought it was a good arrangement, as it enabled Huzoor and Khala Saboohi (*Huzoor's respected wife*) to have some privacy during the lunch break. They were able to eat their lunch in a hotel room, whilst the rest of us ate in the dining hall.

Before lunch, the *Zuhr* and *Asr* prayers were offered in a room at the hotel, following which, Huzoor met the Canadian Jamia graduates briefly and asked which of them had been to Germany before.

One of them, Ferhad Ghaffar, immediately raised his hand, to which Huzoor told him to put it down as Ferhad had actually been born and brought up in Germany and only later gone to Canada when much older.

As Huzoor left the room we used for Namaz, he called me for a second and said:

***“It seems the German Jamaat has chosen a better place for lunch this time but you should tell the Canada Missionaries that normally we stop at a simple service station.”***

Huzoor never wastes a single opportunity to do the *Tarbiyyat* of those around him. Thus, where the arrangements for lunch were good that day, Huzoor did not want any of those travelling, especially those travelling for the first time, to have higher expectations.

Rather, he desired that *Waqf-e-Zindighis* (life devotees) and those who did duty for the sake of the Jamaat to happily accept even basic arrangements.

### **Serving lunch**

*Alhamdulillah*, I had the opportunity to serve Huzoor and Khala Saboohi their lunch, although this equated only to taking a trolley into Huzoor’s room at the hotel.

A little while later, the local Jamaat gave me two bowls of ice cream and fresh fruit to present and so I nervously knocked on the door of Huzoor’s room.

A few seconds later, Huzoor opened the door and I mentioned that I had brought dessert but Huzoor said they did not wish for any.

Thankfully, food in the *Qafila* never goes to waste and so some of Huzoor's security guards and some of the local Khuddam enjoyed the dessert and I also took a few bites!

At 4.30pm, Huzoor and Khala Saboohi came out of their hotel room for departure. As I walked just behind, Huzoor asked me what I had eaten and I mentioned I had tried some fish and some steak.

Hearing this, Huzoor said:

***"I heard the steak was not cooked properly. Wherever you go, you end up eating a steak that is not good! Like during the Canada tour, you paid 40 dollars for a steak which you could not even eat!"***

Huzoor's memory, as always, was very accurate! He recalled that in Calgary last winter, I had bought a steak that I found to be inedible! Thankfully, the one in Germany that day was at least better than the one in Canada!

### **Arrival at Baitus Sabuh**

The Qafila continued onwards to Germany and we arrived at Baitus Sabuh at 8.40pm, where Huzoor was welcomed by hundreds of local Ahmadis. The men raised *naaray*, the Lajna recited poems and children waved flags welcoming Huzoor to Germany.

After a few minutes in his residence, Huzoor came down to lead the Maghreb and Isha prayers.

Following Namaz, the Qafila members went to the dining room for our evening meal.



As soon as we entered we saw that the local *Ziafat* team had changed the set-up of the dining hall. In the past, there had always been one long boardroom style table which we would sit around for our meals at Baitus Sabuh. However, this time, they had set up several separate and smaller tables.

I really liked the new set up and, as far as I could tell, it was universally popular amongst the rest of the *Qafila* as well.

### **Emotions of Ahmadis**

The next day, 9 April 2017, Huzoor spent the day meeting Ahmadis in family Mulaqats. The majority were meeting Huzoor either for the very first time or after many years.

One person to meet Huoor was a young Missionary, *Rehmat Ullah*, who had moved to Germany a few months earlier in January, having grown up in Pakistan. He had now been posted as a teacher in Jamia Ahmadiyya Germany.

Speaking about meeting Huoor, Rehmat Ullah sahib said;

***“In the past, I heard from others about the noor (radiance) of Khilafat and then I read about it in books as well. However, today I saw for myself that whatever I have heard or read did not do justice to the true beauty of Khalifa-Waqt and the effect meeting him has. In my entire life, nothing comes close to these prized moments in the company of my beloved Khalifa.”***

I also met a Khadim called *Zaka Ullah (29)* who had met Huoor for the first time moments earlier along with his wife.

Zaka Ullah sahib said:

***“My parents never had the opportunity to meet their Khalifa but due to their prayers me and my wife have been blessed today. Meeting Huoor was a life changing experience and will benefit us forever. Just seeing Huoor for those brief moments has made me determined to serve the Jamaat and to stay closer to it than in the past.”***

I also met a young married couple, *Muhammad Shezad (35)*, a convert to Ahmadiyyat, and his wife *Saadiya Munir*.

Speaking after his first Mulaqat, Muhammad Shezad sahib said:

***“When I informed Huzoor that I had converted to Ahmadiyyat in 2009 he said that sometimes converts have difficulties and he prayed that I did not weaken in faith. With his prayers, Insha’Allah my faith will only ever continue to increase.”***

Saadiya sahiba, a born Ahmadi, said:

***“Today was a miracle for us because we have a 2-month old baby boy who was born 2 months premature. In fact, the original due date was today or tomorrow. Anyway, I was desperate to take our baby to Huzoor and to seek his prayers and blessings and with the Grace of Allah, our child was released from intensive care just a couple of days ago. Nonetheless, the journey here was difficult for him and he was crying and restless all the way.”***

Saadiya sahiba continued:

***“Even whilst we were in the waiting room before Mulaqat the baby was crying a lot and I was very worried. Therefore, as soon as we went into Huzoor’s office, I requested Huzoor to put some honey in my child’s mouth and Huzoor kindly accepted this request. Ever since that moment, our child has been calm and not cried once. You can see yourself now that he is ok and content. These are the instant blessings associated with Khilafat and undoubtedly the blessings will continue forever.”***

### **Service by the son of a tailor-master**

During the day, I saw some rolls of cotton thread and sewing needles on the desk of Majid sahib (*Additional Wakil-ul Tabshir*) and I also noted that he was very carefully checking them.

As I looked across from my desk, I was quite curious why Majid sahib was suddenly taking such interest in a sewing kit.

I received my answer later in the day, when Majid sahib received a message that Huzoor was calling him.

Normally, when we receive such a message we pick up our *topi* and our notepad. However, on this occasion, along with his *topi*, Majid sahib picked up a couple of rolls of thread and some sewing needles.

Some 10minutes later, Majid sahib returned to his desk and informed us that earlier in the day Huzoor had mentioned that the internal lining to his pockets in his *achkan* coat had become loose. Thus, he had asked Majid sahib to sew them back together. .

Majid sahib told how Huzoor took off his *achkhan* coat in the office and handed it to Majid sahib who then proceeded to do the required maintenance.

Suitably impressed by Majid sahib's hidden skill, I asked him if he had received any training.

In response, Majid sahib said:

***“My father was a tailor-master in Pakistan and this type of thing enters a person’s blood and so even though I did not take any formal instruction from him, I learned the basics in tailoring and sewing.”***

To my mind it was a very beautiful incident that illustrated the simplicity and humility of Khalifatul Masih.

Rather, than send his coat for alteration, he invited his own staff member to do a quick fix in his presence.

### **A few moments with Huzoor**

On the evening of 9 April, Huzoor called me to his office for a few minutes.

Upon seeing the watch I was wearing, Huzoor asked me if I had changed the time to the local German time.

I mentioned that it had taken me some time to figure out how to change the time on it, as every time I turned the dial it changed the date, rather than the time.

It was only after repeated attempts that I realised that to change the time, I had to pull out the side button (crown) further.



Hearing this, Huzoor said:

***“Yes – to change the date you need to pull the side button once until it clicks and to change the time you need to pull it twice!”***

I said that whilst I was struggling to work out how to change the time, it had occurred to me that Huzoor knows these things and I would need to ask him for help!

Thereafter, I mentioned that earlier that day, a terrorist group had done an attack in Egypt targeting Coptic Christians, in which dozens of people had died.

Hearing this, Huzoor said:

***“Yes I heard about this attack earlier. In Arabic and Urdu rather than ‘Coptic’ we pronounce it ‘Qabti’. One of the wives of the Holy Prophet (sa) was previously a Coptic who had converted to Islam and so she was one of the Ummul Momineen (mothers of the believers). She was known as Maria Qabti. Where today, terrorists are killing Coptics in the name of Islam, 1400 years ago the Holy Prophet (sa) won their hearts through peace.”***

### **Departure for Waldshut-Tiengen**

On Monday 10 April, Huzoor and the Qafila embarked on travel for a period of three days and two nights.

The journey extremely busy, during which Huzoor inaugurated two new Mosques and also met with many dignitaries, non-Muslim guests, as well as members of the local Jamaats.

The Qafila departed from Frankfurt at 10.45am following a silent prayer led by Huzoor and headed to Waldshut-Tiengen, which is a very small town in the south-west of Germany.

The town, whose population is just 23,000, is located right by the Swiss border.

Whilst hardly famous or well-known in worldly terms, on that day Waldshut-Tiengen became the location for the 50<sup>th</sup> Mosque opened by the *Jamaat* in Germany.

The fact that Huzoor travelled to the remote town, was an example of how his priorities lie in service to the *Jamaat*, rather than in a desire to travel to famous attractions of the world.

### **Break at services**

After nearly two hours of travel the Qafila made a short stop at a service station.

During this period, Huzoor took a seat at a table at the service station and kindly invited me to sit with him for a few minutes.

Nearby they were making fresh coffee and upon smelling its aroma, Huzoor said:

***“The smell of the coffee is very tempting, it seems as though they are advertising the coffee through the smell.”***

I asked Huzoor if I could bring him some coffee but he declined. Knowing that I enjoy coffee a lot, Huzoor asked me if I wanted some but given that Huzoor was not taking any, I also did not take any.

However, I was happy that Huzoor had at least enjoyed the smell of the coffee prepared at the services.

The local Jamaat had planned to make a break at a service station further along the motorway but Huzoor had decided to break at the earlier one.

In fact, the two Qafila cars in front of Huzoor’s car had gone ahead, unaware that the Qafila was stopping.

Upon observing the services, Huzoor said:

***“This is a very good service station and has a lot of facilities and so I do not know why the local Jamaat was recommending the services that were far away! This is perfectly good!”***

I mentioned to Huzoor that one of the young Canadian Missionaries, had asked me if there was any prospect of Huzoor doing some sightseeing during

the course of the tour, particularly given that we were travelling to a town on the Swiss border.

I said I had responded by saying that Huzoor often observes the landscape from his car window.

Hearing this, Huzoor said:

***“Yes, earlier this morning there was some heavy traffic and we were travelling very slowly and so at that point I looked out of the window and was able to observe the greenery and scenic landscape. That is enough sightseeing for me!”***

I also mentioned that the forthcoming programme for the next couple of days was very congested and busy, whereby even on the days where there was long travel, the Jamaat had organised formal Mosque inaugurations, where Huzoor would deliver addresses and meet many guests.

Upon hearing my concern, Huzoor said:

***“It does not matter if I have travelled all day, I will go and open the Mosque and speak about Islam’s teachings in front of the guests so that they are able to learn what Islam is.”***

Again, it was a sign of Huzoor’s humility that he was not at all concerned about his personal well-being, all he desired was to remove the misconceptions about Islam that existed.

Where Huzoor delivers a speech or a talk, he has the weight of the world on his shoulders, knowing that his every word is being listened to and carefully observed.

Recently, Huzoor told me how during last year's Jalsa Salana UK a non-Muslim politician complimented Huzoor on his ability to deliver numerous speeches at the Jalsa.

Upon this, Huzoor said to the politician:

***“It is not hard to give speeches, all politicians like you also give speeches regularly. The hard part is to ensure that what you say is a word of wisdom and truth.”***

Thus, where others seek fame or to please their audiences, the Khalifa-Waqt has to ensure that every word he speaks is in accordance with Islam's teachings.

As Huzoor got up to return to his car, he noticed a family eating ice cream cones. As he saw this, Huzoor smiled and said:

***“The local people look like they are enjoying the ice creams a lot!”***

It was another example of Huzoor enjoys even the most simple things and so he enjoyed seeing a family enjoying their outing.

Thereafter, the Qafila drove onwards to Waldshut-Tiengen and the nearer we got to the Swiss border the more picturesque the drive became.

We travelled along long and winding roads and vast forests that went on for miles and miles.

It was a great blessing to be able to witness Allah's natural beauty, whilst travelling with Allah's appointed Khalifa.

At 3pm, we arrived at Waldshut-Tiengen and the Qafila checked into a local hotel where would also spend the evening.

### **Huzoor's simplicity**

During the three days of travel, I had the honour to serve Huzoor and Khala Saboohi (*Huzoor's respected wife*) at meal times.

In truth, to say I was 'serving' was to give myself too much credit!

Rather, I would have the opportunity to take whatever food had been prepared to Huzoor's room and then collect it afterwards.

To be able to serve Huzoor and Khala Saboohi in this very small way was a true privilege for me and something I am immensely grateful for.

Even in this regard, Huzoor's humility and simplicity was always to the fore. Never once did Huzoor or Khala Saboohi ask for a particular dish or even to look at the menu.

Instead, whatever was served they would take without any complaint or question.

On a personal level, I know that if I go to a restaurant, I like to make my own choice about what to eat or at least to have a couple of options from which to choose.

Yet, Huzoor never once asked what the options were and he never made any comment about the food that we served, even though I saw that Huzoor did not take much food on any of the days.

A few days later, when we returned to Frankfurt, I myself asked Huzoor if the food during the tour had been to his liking.

It was then, upon my asking, that Huzoor told me that on one day they had enjoyed the food, on another day it had been reasonable and that on another day the food had not been to their taste at all and so they had hardly eaten.

I remember feeling incredibly sad that at certain times Huzoor had not eaten properly and yet even as Huzoor told me this he smiled and did not express even a hint of irritation.

In Waldshut, one of Huzoor's security guards, Khawaja Qudoos, arrived in advance, and he told me that that the room in which Huzoor was staying was small in size and that the dining table in the room was particularly small and so it would be difficult for Huzoor and Khala Saboohi to eat on it.

When I entered Huzoor's room to serve the food, I saw the table he had referred to and it was indeed very small.

Later, Khawaja Qudoos apologised to Huzoor about the table size.

Upon this, Huzoor replied:

***“For us it was perfectly fine and adequate.”***

After serving Huzoor lunch, I went down to the main dining hall where the rest of the Qafila members were eating their lunch.

We were served grilled salmon, which I enjoyed, followed by a selection of German cakes which I really, really enjoyed!

### **Inauguration of Germany’s 50<sup>th</sup> Mosque**

After the short lunch break, Huzoor travelled the short distance to the newly built Aafiyat Mosque in Waldshut-Tiengen.



Huzoor inaugurated the Mosque by unveiling a plaque, leading a silent prayer and then offering the *Zuhr* and *Asr* prayers.



The Waldshut Mosque had the distinction of being the Jamaat's 50<sup>th</sup> Mosque in Germany.



Thus, with the *Grace of Allah*, the German Jamaat had reached the halfway stage of the 100 Mosque scheme, under which Hazrat Khalifatul Masih IV (rh) had set the German Jamaat the target to be the first Western Jamaat to build 100 Mosques.

Following Namaz, Huzoor met all the local Ahmadis and they were able to have their photos taken with him in different groups.

### **Interview with SWR**

A journalist from the Germany media channel, *SWR TV* was present to cover the event and after *Namaz* she requested the opportunity to interview Huzoor.

In other countries, the media interviews with Huzoor tend to be more pre-planned, in the sense that a timeslot is approved in advance by Huzoor to conduct media interviews. However, in Germany at their Mosque events, often the local Jamaat makes the request there and then to Huzoor.

As a result, the interviews are frequently conducted at the back of the stage or at some other location that is far from ideal.

The same was true on this occasion, as Amir Sahib requested Huzoor's permission on the spot for an interview.

Thus rather than having a proper and quiet place to conduct the interview, it was held on one side of the small courtyard of the Mosque, with Huzoor standing outside and a large throng of people all around.

Hopefully, the German Jamaat looks to improve this in future.

Regardless of the location, Huzoor never misses any opportunity to spread Islam's teachings and so he accepted the request of the journalist, who was particularly interested in why the Jamaat would build a Mosque in such a small town of Germany.

In reply, Huzoor said:

***"The simple reason is that we needed a place for our local Ahmadi Muslims to join together for their worship. Just as Jews have synagogues and Christians have churches, similarly we also desired a place where our members could join together to worship God and to serve humanity."***

Huzoor continued:

*“The message that we spread is a message of peace, love and harmony and these are the true teachings of Islam. We do not just proclaim this message but we seek to act upon it and portray through our acts and through our conduct.”*



### **Aafiyat Mosque Reception**

Later that evening, Huzoor graced a special reception held near the Mosque in which more than 110 dignitaries and guests attended.

Following a welcome address by Amir Sahib Germany, some local dignitaries or faith leaders took to the stage.

One of the people to give an address was a local Priest and although the Jamaat had requested the guests to limit their remarks to two or three minutes, the Priest spoke for well over ten.

From the contents and tone of his speech, it seemed he had decided to use the opportunity to preach Christianity to us.

Some of the points he made were good, for example he spoke about the need for tolerance and religious freedom. He also said that he did not believe Islam to be an extremist religion and that extremists had plagued all religions.

However, at some points, it was a little difficult to understand what point he was trying to make or he went off at a tangent.

Anyway, when his address concluded, I was grateful that we would all now have the opportunity to listen to Huzoor's address.

Upon taking to the stage, immediately referred to the words of the Priest.

Huzoor said:

***"I wish to express my gratitude to the Priest because he has made my job far easier as many of the things I wished to say about religion and religious freedom he has already covered. Thus, I thank the Priest for this."***

With those words, Huzoor's humility was beautifully manifest.

There was no trace of irritation that a Christian Priest had spoken for much longer at our Mosque inauguration or that he had covered some points which Huzoor may have intended to.

Instead, Huzoor smiled and thanked the Priest, and as he did, I looked in the direction of the Priest and it appeared he was extremely appreciative of Huzoor's words and even a little taken aback.



Thereafter, during the rest of his address, Huzoor elaborated upon the teachings of Islam, the objectives of Mosques and the humanitarian efforts of the Jamaat.

Huzoor said:

***“We believe that prophets were sent to all nations and peoples and we believe in the truth of them all. Given that they were all sent by Allah, how could it be possible that He desired for conflicts and wars between the people of different faiths and beliefs?”***

Speaking of how the Holy Quran taught Muslims to defend the right of all people to practice their religions or beliefs, Huzoor said:

***“According to the teachings of Islam, it is compulsory for a true Muslim to stand ever ready to protect the places of worship of all religions,***

***whether they be churches, synagogues or any other. It is incumbent upon a Muslim to live peacefully alongside the people of other beliefs and to treat them with love and kindness.”***

The location for the new Mosque had been previously been used as a market and referring to this, Huzoor said:

***“In the past, there was a market here where people would come to purchase material goods which we have now turned into a Mosque. Hence in future, people will come here not to buy material items but to acquire spiritual treasures through the worship of God Almighty and we will use this Mosque as a centre for people to gather to serve humanity.”***

Huzoor continued:

***“Where previously, you had to pay money to purchase goods, now you will receive gifts of love and kindness without having to spend anything.”***

### **Impact of Huzoor’s address**

Following the conclusion of the event, I took the opportunity to meet some of the guests.

One guest, Mr. Horr said:

***“The Khalifa has shown that there are many more common factors between us than those things that divide us. He spoke in a way that made me emotional and I also liked how he thanked the Priest for covering***

***some of the things he wanted to. This showed both his humility and how he promotes inter-faith dialogue – we had an Imam praising a Priest!***

I met a guest, *Dr. Barfi Elisa*, an academic at a University in Switzerland, who had travelled to the event from Geneva.

Dr. Elisa said:

***“I was very impressed by how open the Khalifa was and his style of thinking. He spoke softly and very persuasively and addressed the issues of the time without fear. The fact that His Holiness came to such a small town is testament to the fact that he is willing to make big sacrifices for the sake of peace. It is not normal for a world leader, who is so busy, to come to such a small town. It shows that even if he wins the hearts one by one, he is willing to do it.”***

A guest, *Mrs. Loffler* said:

***“The Islam I saw and heard about today was at odds with the Islam so commonly portrayed in the media. The Islam I saw today was entirely peaceful and open. I particularly liked how the Khalifa described the new Mosque as a ‘spiritual market’ where people would acquire spirituality.”***

A lady called *Kristina Schwarz* said:

***“I came here with no expectations but found your Caliph to be out of this world! His profound words were a gift to us and I hope this gift is spread all over the world. He made it very clear that violent people have no***

***association with Islam and where they get so much publicity, I believe it is your Caliph who should be covered by the media everywhere.”***

### **Importance of congregational prayer**

As the event drew to a close, the time for the *Maghreb* and *Isha* prayers drew near.

Most of the local Ahmadi Muslims were present at the event and so it would take some time for them to reach the Mosque.

Given this, Huzoor said that he would come to Namaz a few minutes late so that as many people as possible could join in the congregational prayers.

Upon this, Germany’s Missionary-in-charge, Haider Ali Zafar sahib responded by saying:

***“Huzoor, there will be some people at the Mosque who come on time for Namaz and so they will be waiting for longer.”***

In reply, Huzoor said:

***“It is the duty of those who wish to offer their prayers to join together in the Mosque and thereafter spend any time until Namaz starts in prayer and the remembrance of Allah. Thus, I will still come a few minutes later so that more people can join.”***



### **Sad news**

For the past few months, I had heard that the wife of Sahibzada Mirza Khursheed Ahmad (*Nazir-e-Ala Pakistan*), Sahibzadi Amtul Waheed sahiba was seriously unwell.

She was the paternal aunt (*Phophi*) of Huzoor, who was known to me as 'Khala Bidi'.

In the days immediately prior to Huzoor's tour, it became apparent that her health was becoming increasingly critical.

Thereafter, during the reception in Waldshut, I saw Private Secretary, Munir Javed sahib step outside to take a call in which he received notification from Rabwah that Sahibzadi Amatul Waheed sahiba had passed away moments earlier. *Inna lillahey wa inna illehey rajeoon.*

Once the formal reception concluded, the Private Secretary approached Huzoor, who was talking to the guests seated either side of him, and quietly informed about her passing.

Upon hearing this news, Huzoor said only:

***"Inna lillahey wa inna illehey rajeoon."***

With that, Huzoor turned back to his conversation with the guests and continued to answer their questions about Islam.

It was an amazing example of patience and prioritising one's religious duties over all other matters. Despite the immense sadness Huzoor will have undoubtedly felt, he did not pause for a second in his duties and continued to meet the guests and soon conducted another media interview as well.

I was personally very sad to hear of the passing of Sahibzadi Amatul Waheed sahiba. I had met her on a few occasions and had always found her to be extremely warm and kind. Above all, she was the respected aunt of our beloved Khalifa.

One thing she was known for was making a very delicious type of *halwa* (Asian sweet) called *sohn halwa*.

After Huzoor became Khalifa she continued to send the *halwa* to Huzoor from time to time.

On one occasion, Huzoor graciously gave me a box of the *halwa* he had received from her and so me and my family were also able to partake and enjoy it.

Normally, I do not eat *mathai* or other Asian sweets, however the *sohn halwa* was truly exceptional!

### **Out of breath**

Following *Salat*, Huzoor returned to the hotel at around 10pm. Huzoor's room was at the far end of a small corridor on the fourth floor and the room in which I was staying was directly opposite.

The corridor in between was extremely narrow and so perhaps there was just two or three feet in between my room and Huzoor's room.

As, Huzoor went up to the fourth floor in a lift, I jogged up the stairs and arrived at the same time.

Upon seeing me, Huzoor asked about the reception earlier but unfortunately, having ran up four flights of steps, I found myself slightly out of breath and struggled to respond!

I think I just about managed to indicate that I had enjoyed it before Huzoor returned to his room. Anyway, I thought I should start doing some regular exercise as I had become out of breath a little too easily!

### **A very special knock**

It was a great honour and privilege to stay so close to Huzoor but I was also conscious that I did not do anything that, *God forbid*, could disturb Huzoor or Khala Saboohi in any way.

Thus, upon returning to my room, rather than watching the TV or calling home, I decided to do some work on my laptop.

After a few minutes of working, I heard a knock at the door. As I moved to open the door, I heard Huzoor call out my name and as he did, I felt the rate of my heartbeat increase instantly!

As I opened the door, I was greeted with the most beautiful sight, whereby Huzoor was wearing a white *shalwar kameez*, with a flat round white cloth *topi* covering his head. Huzoor looked extremely graceful and radiant.

I immediately invited Huzoor into my room and graciously he entered and took a seat on a small sofa bench at the side of the room. Most kindly, Huzoor remained in my room for the next fifteen minutes.

I felt embarrassed because in the rush, I did not have time to put on my own *topi* and so my head remained uncovered.

Huzoor spoke about the Mosque opening and the media interviews that had taken place.

Regarding the interviews, Huzoor said:

***“The interviews were short and simple and when time is less, it is best to convey the basic principles of Islam. Thus, I emphasised our teachings of peace, tolerance and love for all.”***

Thereafter, Huzoor mentioned an incident that had left me extremely embarrassed and regretful.

Upon arriving at the hotel earlier, I had briefly met Khala Saboochi (*Huzoor’s respected wife*) and I took the opportunity to offer my condolence on the passing of Huzoor’s aunt, Sahibzadi Amatul Waheed sahiba.

As I approached Khala Saboohi, she asked me if something was wrong and so I offered my condolences. However, entirely to my surprise, Khala Saboohi was not yet aware of the passing.

I felt terrible to have informed her of this sad news as she was leaving the car and with other people around. I had presumed that she would have known, as the news of Sahibzadi Amatul Waheed sahiba's passing had circulated amongst many people by then.

Regarding this, Huzoor said:

***"I had purposely not told Saboohi (Huzoor's respected wife) about the death and had planned to wait until we returned to the residence because she worked with Phophi Jan (dear aunt) in Rabwah in Lajna work and was close to her. Thus, I thought it would be better to tell her privately so that she was not shocked or upset outside."***

As Huzoor said these words, I felt extreme guilt at my blunder and at the same time I was amazed at the way Huzoor cares for the feelings of his family in every respect.

I apologised sincerely for my mistake and was very relieved to see that there was no hint of anger in Huzoor's tone or expression.

Nonetheless, it was clear that Huzoor was very saddened by the loss of his aunt, who had been the last remaining sibling of Huzoor's respected father, Hazrat Sahibzada Mirza Mansoor Ahmad sahib.

As Huzoor stood up to leave, he said:

***“Fajr is at 5.30am.”***

Hearing this, I responded by saying:

***“Jazak’Allah for informing me, as I thought it was 5.45am.”***

In response, Huzoor said:

***“No, it is 5.30am, make sure everyone is aware.”***

Thus, as soon as Huzoor returned to his room, I went downstairs and informed Private Secretary, Munir Javed sahib, as well as Major Mahmood sahib (*Head of Security*) and others that *Fajr* would be at 5.30am. Most had thought the time was 5.45am, but I think the local Sadr Jamaat had suggested 5.30am to Huzoor earlier that evening and Huzoor had accepted his recommendation.

### **An emotional meeting**

The next morning, 11 April 2017, the Qafila departed from the *Bercher* hotel at Waldshut-Tiengen at 10.50am to travel to the city of Augsburg where the Baitul Naseer Mosque was to be inaugurated later in the day.

As Huzoor was about to enter his car, Amir Sahib Germany informed him that a local German lady had expressed a desire to meet Huzoor. Thus, Huzoor walked towards the lady, who was visibly emotional.

The entire scene for the next minute or two was something that will live long in the memory.

The German lady, whose name was *Sophia*, had been receiving medical treatment at a facility nearby and had noticed the Qafila cars parked at the hotel.

She had asked a Khadim on-duty for information about why there were so many cars and so he told her about the Jamaat and gave her a leaflet in which there was a photo of Huzoor. He told her that Ahmadis believed that the Khalifa was divinely chosen and upon hearing this tears began to flow from her eyes.

Upon hearing all of this, Ms. Sophia asked if it would be possible for her to meet Huzoor and to seek his blessings.

As she met Huzoor, everyone could see that she was very overwhelmed and was crying constantly.

With tears flowing from her eyes, she addressed Huzoor and said:

***“Having met you I feel as though I have gained the entire world. This is the most precious moment of my life.”***

In response, Huzoor said:

***“Thank you. May Allah bless you.”***

It was a very emotional scene, whereby at a time when so many Western people view Muslims with fear and trepidation, here was a lady who, despite having no previous knowledge of our Jamaat, had become overwhelmed with emotion as she met Khalifatul Masih.

Later, the Khadim who had answered her questions, informed me that she had requested to kneel on the ground when meeting Huzoor and so had explained that Muslims believed only in bowing down on the ground before God Almighty.

### **Huzoor's concern for the Canadian Missionaries**

On the way to Augsburg, the Qafila stopped for a few minutes at a service station and whilst there, Huzoor called the young Canadian Missionaries who were travelling with him and asked how they were.

Perhaps Huzoor had been informed that some amongst them had been unwell because Huzoor asked:

***“Which of you has been suffering from a headache?”***

In response, two boys raised their hands.

Seeing this, Huzoor said:

***“If you get a headache or feel a little unwell then take a paracetamol and then continue with your duties as before.”***



Huzoor's comment showed how he wanted Ahmadis, and in particular his representatives, to be strong and determined. Rather than advise them to stop everything if they felt a little unwell, Huzoor said they should take medicine and continue with their duties as best as possible.

One of the young Missionaries who had raised his hand was *Sajid Iqbal*, who later told me:

***“At the service station, Huzoor advised me that I shouldn't worry about feeling slightly sick during the tour and if I ever did I should just take a paracetamol and continue doing whatever it was I was doing. It was a really heartwarming moment for me, as I saw that even through such a busy schedule, Huzoor remembers such small things about the Qafila members.”***

During that period, Huzoor also noticed that one of the young Missionaries was standing with his hands in his pockets.

Upon seeing this, Huzoor said:

***“You should take your hands out of your pockets. I am reminding you of this because such etiquette is also a part of your training.”***

The *Missionary* later told me that he was amazed at Huzoor's attention to detail and how Huzoor did not waste a single opportunity to train or improve the conduct and manners of those people who would become representatives of the Jamaat.

Another of the young Missionaries present was *Serjeel Ahmad*, who later told me:

***“Every single moment that we spent with Huzoor-e-Anwar was an unforgettable highlight in itself. Huzoor took so much care of us throughout the tour. For example, he would often ask his staff members how we were and we would not even know until much later.”***

Serjeel continued:

***“One incident that was very special for me was when Huzoor talked to us at a service station on the way to Augsburg and spoke to us about our feelings in tour. It was incredibly humbling and almost unbelievable that the Imam of the Time was speaking to us in front of a service station. Huzoor joked with us, and gave us so much love that it is unforgettable.”***

### **A unique display board**

The Qafila arrived in Augsburg in the afternoon and after a short break for lunch, Huzoor proceeded to the Baitul Naseer Mosque where he reached at 4.20pm.

Many of the local Jamaat members were extremely happy and excited at the opening of the Mosque.

They expressed their pride not only for the fact that the Mosque was opening but also because the Mosque had some unique features.

One feature was the way the dome and other parts of the Mosque lit up in different colours at night.

The other feature was an LED electric board located at the front of the Mosque premises displaying the times of the five prayers.



The local Ahmadis referred to it as a '*petrol board*' because it resembled the electronic display boards commonly seen at petrol stations. Certainly, it was an interesting feature, which enabled people to see the Salat times from a far distance.

### **Inauguration of the Baitul Naseer Mosque**

Huzoor inaugurated the Mosque by unveiling a plaque and offering a silent prayer. Thereafter, Huzoor walked the short distance to the *Mehrab* to lead

the *Zuhr* and *Asr* prayers. The local Mayor and a few other guests followed Huzoor into the Mosque and stood to the side of the front row.



Upon seeing this, Huzoor called the local President of the Jamaat and said:

***“You should have arranged some chairs at the back of the Mosque for them to sit comfortably, rather than standing on the side.”***

Upon this, the local Jamaat quickly brought some chairs and the guests observed *Namaz* from the back of the Mosque.

### **Baitul Naseer Mosque Reception**

Later, a special reception was held at the nearby *Kongress am Park* centre to mark the opening of the Mosque.

The event was attended by more than 130 dignitaries and guests, including the *Mayor of Augsburg* and senior politicians.

Following a welcome address by Amir Sahib Germany and short remarks by dignitaries, Huzoor took to the stage to deliver the keynote address.



During his speech, Huzoor mentioned the humanitarian efforts of the Jamaat, such as the *Water for Life* project through which organisations such as the *IAAAE* and *Humanity First* were providing clean drinking water in extremely remote villages in different countries of the world.

Huzoor said:

***“The look of joy on the faces of the local people when they see clean running water for the first time is indescribable. The smiles on the faces of the young local children suggest that they have won a huge lottery worth millions and millions. It is to bring relief to such people and to help them that we endeavour to serve the communities in which we build our Mosques.”***

Prior to the formal reception, Huzoor had planted a tree at the Mosque premises and reflecting upon this, Huzoor said:

***“Where we plant physical trees to beautify and clean the environment and bear fruit, we also plant spiritual trees that yield fruits of love and humanity. Hence, we always seek to treat our neighbours and those around us with compassion and we endeavour to fulfil their rights in every possible way.”***



Huzoor continued:

***“Instead of conflict and division, we desire for people to live alongside one another in peace and harmony. We seek to build bridges of love that unite all mankind.”***

Huzoor also spoke in detail about the concept of *Jihad* and explained how all forms of extremism were directly opposed to Islam’s teachings.

Huzoor said:

***“People falsely assume that Muslims become terrorists because the Holy Quran teaches extremism. However, nothing could be further from the truth as the Quran repeatedly advocates peace, love and tolerance. Quite literally, Jihad means ‘to struggle’ in order end all forms of cruelty and evil and this is the true Jihad that the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community is carrying out in all parts of the world.”***

Huzoor continued:

***“The terrorist group Daesh has spread disorder and committed atrocities not only in the West but especially in Muslim countries. They have mercilessly killed thousands upon thousands of innocent people without reason. Thus, their leadership can never be classed as a Khilafat because in every respect it is violating the peaceful teachings of Islam.”***

### **Media interview**

Following the event, Huzoor was also interviewed by several journalists representing different media organisations.

In response to a question about how peace can be developed, Huzoor said:

***“The Holy Quran has clearly stated that ‘There should be no compulsion in religion’ and it says, ‘For you your religion and for me my religion’. These teachings are the basis of peace in society.”***

Huzoor continued

***“Of crucial importance is dialogue, understanding and respecting each other’s views. Even within a family, often two siblings will have completely different views on a subject but that does not lessen their mutual love or lead to hatred. Hence, as a society we should seek to live as a united family and respect our differences of opinion, rather than letting them lead to division or hatred.”***

### **Impact of Huzoor’s words**

Following the conclusion of the event, I met some of the guests and it was clear that Huzoor’s words had reassured the audience and given them a new perspective on Islam.

One guest was *Analisa Meyer* who said:

***“Today’s event was extremely inspiring and emotional. I feel as though your Khalifa has the equivalent status that the Pope has for Catholics. Throughout this address, the Khalifa spoke about only one thing and that was ‘peace’. Also, he explained ‘Jihad’ in a way that was very profound, whereby he said Jihad is a struggle to improve yourself and it does not mean war or terrorism.”***

Another guest, *Simon Klaus* said:

***“I was somewhat apprehensive about attending because I was worried that I might be coming to a meeting of extremists or that there could be***



*a terrorist attack. However, my friends had seen videos of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community on YouTube and so they reassured me it would be peaceful and so I decided to come and I am extremely glad I did. My perception of Islam has completely changed and I now know there is no need to fear it. Ahmadi Muslims are not taking lives but are actually giving lives through their humanitarian works. Your Khalifa comes across as extremely humble and entirely sincere.”*

A guest, Dr. E. Franz said:

*“It had always been my view that the only way for Islam to spread quickly would be through extremism and force but today I saw an Islam that is spreading not through hate but through love. I wish to praise your Khalifa because he has personally taken on the responsibility of leading the charge against extremism. Someone told me that your Khalifa himself lived in Africa for eight years and spent that time serving humanity and this shows that he has personally made big sacrifices in the cause of humanity.”*

Another guest, Mrs. Zeber said:

*“Today, I learned that whilst 1% of Muslims might be bad or extremists, 99% of Muslims are good and peaceful and, in truth, in all religions at least 1% have corrupted the religion’s teachings. Hence, those who say, ‘Islam is bad and other religions are good’ are being unfair and unjust. I really hope your Khalifa goes to all parts of Germany because a fear of Islam is building up and he is the person to remove it from our hearts.”*

Though Mrs. Zeber was reassured by Huzoor's message, she also told me that she was '*shocked*' that Ahmadi Muslim women were seated in different hall.

Over the next ten minutes I tried my best to explain to her the reason our events are segregated and repeatedly offered to take her to the ladies side so she could meet our Ahmadi ladies in person and speak to them directly. However, she kept repeating that in a 'free society' men and women must sit together.

I tried to explain that in a free society men and women should also have the right to sit separately if they preferred but on this issue her opinion did not change.

It was not surprising that she felt so strongly on this issue because it stemmed from an unpleasant personal experience.

She told me that some years ago her daughters made friends with a non-Ahmadi Muslim girl and they get on very well. However, one day when she went to pick up her daughters, a male relative of the Muslim girl instructed her that she must not associate with Mrs. Zeber's daughters and that they were '*not good*'.

Upon hearing this, I explained to her that the attitude of the Muslim man was entirely wrong and completely against Islam's teachings and that I found his comment to be offensive and derogatory.

Nonetheless, the fact she had this bitter experience meant that no matter what I said she did not like the fact that there was segregation at our event.

In the end, we wished each other well but I do not think her opinion had changed at all. Thankfully, her general impression of Islam had improved a great deal after listening to Huzoor's address.

### **Night stay in Munich**

Following the conclusion of the event, the Qafila departed from the reception centre at 8.05pm and travelled onwards to the Al-Mahdi Mosque in Neufahrn, near Munich, where Huzoor led the Maghreb and Isha prayers.

Even though it was almost 10pm and Huzoor's day had been extremely long and tiring, after *Namaz* he went to the Lajna side to meet the Lajna and Nasirat members.

As word spread that Huzoor was on the ladies side, I saw some members of Lajna sprint extremely fast to try and get there so they could have a glimpse of their beloved Khalifa.

Thereafter, the Qafila proceeded to a nearby hotel, where we spent the night.

### **A late night**

Fajr was offered in a hall that the Jamaat had booked at the hotel and many local Jamaat members came to the Mosque to offer *Namaz* behind Huzoor.

After, Fajr was completed, I accompanied Huzoor in a lift, as he went back to his room. As the lift proceeded up, Huzoor asked me how my night had been. I responded by saying that I had enjoyed a good night's sleep.

Hearing this, Huzoor said:

***“You were up until late though!”***

Unsure, exactly how Huzoor knew this, I smiled and said:

***“Yes, Huzoor you are right! I did not go to bed until 12.15am.”***

### **Emotions of Ahmadis**

The next day, on 12 April 2017, Huzoor returned to the *Al-Mahdi Mosque* and spent the morning meeting local Ahmadi Muslims in Mulaqat. As the Mulaqats continued, I met some of people to listen to their experiences.

One of the people to meet Huzoor that morning was *Amjad Ali Bhatti (31)* from Stuttgart.

Following his Mulaqat, Amjad sahib said:

***“By chance, I am going to Pakistan tomorrow and am returning to my homeland for the first time after 15 years here in Germany. When I meet my family there I will tell them that just a day before I met the Khalifa of the Time. I will tell them that I have seen with my own eyes that the noor (radiance) on the face of Huzoor is unlike anything I have seen before. I will tell them that our Khalifa is the most loving person in the world who forgives our weaknesses and guides us with love.”***

Another person to meet Huzoor that morning was a student called *Samar Ahmad Albrecht Mahmood* (26).

Speaking about his Mulaqat, Samar said:

***“Of course, meeting Huzoor is a great blessing for me and my family but at the same time the real source of blessings is being fully obedient to Khilafat. Having met Huzoor and felt his love directly, it will undoubtedly inspire me to be more obedient and so that is the real blessing of a Mulaqat – that it makes you understand the true status and value of Khilafat and motivates you to listen to everything that Huzoor says.”***

I also met an Ahmadi called *Ammar Latif* (31) who was from Augsburg. He said:

***“It took us eight long years to complete our Mosque in Augsburg and those eight years felt like many centuries, and at times, we wondered if our Mosque would ever be ready. Yet, yesterday Huzoor inaugurated it and the presence of Khalifatul Masih in our town was such a great blessing that it felt like all our difficulties and all the years of struggle had been wiped away in a second. Only Khilafat can transform difficulties and hardships into such joy and elation.”***

Ammar sahib continued:

***“Someone could present me with all the treasures and wealth of the world and it would pale into comparison to the joy and contentment I received from meeting my spiritual father today.”***

Ammar sahib also mentioned that he had once seen Huzoor in Rabwah, prior to his election as Khalifatul Masih.

Describing that experience, Ammar sahib said:

***“Once I attended a Sports Rally in Rabwah, where Huzoor, who was Nazir-e-Ala at the time attended as the guest of honour and delivered a speech. At that time, I was just a young boy and of course I had no idea that the person giving the speech would one day become Khalifa. However, I vividly remember feeling complete and instant respect for him even at that time. Now when I think back, I feel extremely proud and fortunate that I received direct instructions and guidance from Huzoor even before he was elected as Khalifatul Masih.”***

Another Ahmadi, *Irfan Tariq (30)* said:

***“I grew up here in Bavaria and am now working as a Management Consultant in a company. When you are working externally it is easy to forget the duties you owe to your faith and so we are so lucky that Huzoor comes to Germany each year.***

***When we see him, it makes us self-aware of our environment and we realise that worldly occupations and materialism have no real value and it is our faith that truly matters and should be our primary objective. In my Mulaqat today, I asked Huzoor for some general advice for my life and he said that offering the five daily prayers is the key to and the basis to all success in our lives.”***

Irfan sahib continued:

***“The way Huzoor introduces our Jamaat across Germany whenever he comes is amazing. I have seen how before we used to have to almost implore the media to come and attend our events, yet now due to Huzoor’s blessings and guidance, the media comes to our events without us even asking.”***

### **A few blessed moments**

Following the Mulaqat session, Huzoor called me to his office for a few minutes. Huzoor’s office was actually a desk and chair that had been placed in the Mosque prayer hall because there was no other suitable room for Mulaqats to take place, as the Al-Mahdi Mosque complex is very limited in size.

During those moments, I mentioned to Huzoor my conversation with the female guest the night before in Augsburg, who had expressed her displeasure that our Jamaat events were segregated.

In response, Huzoor said:

***“In such situations, you should not enter a debate or become at all aggressive. Rather, the best way to handle such situations is delicately and with patience. If after explaining your point, she still did not agree, then you should simply have said ‘This is one thing where we have a difference of opinion and that is ok and normal and we should remember***

***that on most other things we agree.’ In such situations, remember that Islam’s teachings are to focus on common factors and to forge unity.”***

Huzoor asked how everyone in London was and I so I mentioned that some friends had asked me to seek Huzoor’s prayers as they were unwell or had relatives who were unwell.

In response, Huzoor said:

***“May Allah bless all of them with good health.”***

Huzoor also asked for an update on the latest world news and current affairs. I mentioned how in recent days the United States and the United Kingdom had sought to persuade the other members of the G7 to impose sanctions on Russia over its links with Syria’s Government but that Germany, France and Italy had rejected this attempt.

In response, Huzoor said:

***“Just a few weeks ago, Germany’s Chancellor met President Trump and it was said that he snubbed her or ignored her. Now she has taken a stand against his policy and so she has shown her nation’s strength to the United States.”***

### **A change in perspective**

Following *Namaz* and lunch, the Qafila departed from Munich to return to Frankfurt after three days of travel that had proven extremely blessed.



On the journey back, Mahmood Khan sahib, from Huzoor's security team, took a seat in our car and his company is always good and this journey was no different.

At one point, he spoke about how his own understanding of the status of Khilafat had continued to develop as he grew older.

Mahmood Khan sahib said:

***“A couple of days ago, I was talking to some of the young Missionaries and I told them that when I first joined Huzoor's security team going on foreign tours all seemed very exciting. Sometimes we would travel to Europe or North America or elsewhere and I could not help but feel excited that I was travelling to different parts of the world. Yet, as the years passed, that feeling of excitement began to erode and was replaced by tension and fear.”***

Mahmood Khan sahib continued:

***“With each tour, I came to understand better the great status of Khalifatul Masih and the unique bond of love between the Khalifa-Waqt and Ahmadi Muslims across the world. I realised that Khalifa-Waqt is the most beloved person of Allah on earth and so if I did not use all of my faculties and energy to serve him then I would personally be answerable to Allah Himself.”***

As I listened to Mahmood Khan sahib, I understood exactly what he meant.

It is only in the last few years that I have had the regular opportunity to travel with Huzoor but even in these few years, I also have felt a change.

During my first few travels, I also felt an inner sense of excitement and anticipation throughout.

To this day, hearing the news that I will have the opportunity to travel with Huzoor continues to elicit a feeling of great joy and is a privilege for which I know that I can never be deserving.

At the same time, just as Khan sahib described, the excitement has given way and has been replaced by a fear that I never do anything that ever reflects poorly on the *Qafila* or which causes any form of displeasure or discomfort to the *Khalifa-Waqt*.

### **Needing to stop!**

Not long after the journey started, I began to need the toilet but there was no suggestion that we would stop any time soon!

The journey continued and continued and I kept hoping and praying that somehow we would stop.

To my immense relief, at 6.10pm, the *Qafila* cars suddenly pulled into a service station.

As soon as Huzoor stepped out of his car, he looked in my direction and gestured to me to come forward.

As I approached Huzoor, he smiled and said:

***“Abid – you need the toilet, don’t you?!”***

I laughed and responded affirmatively and hearing this, Huzoor told me to go to the bathroom without delay!

This was an instruction that I was extremely happy to fulfil!

When I returned to car park a few minutes later, I spoke to some of the other Qafila members and it seemed as though I was not the only one who had been hoping for a bathroom break!

In fact, it turned out that some had been struggling even more than me!

### **Return to Baitus Sabuh**

Thereafter, the Qafila continued its journey to Baitus Sabuh, where we arrived by 8.30pm.

Though, Huzoor had been away for just two nights, the happiness and delight of the local Ahmadis in Frankfurt was as if they had not seen their Khalifa for many months or years.

They were all extremely joyous to have Huzoor back in Frankfurt, where he would reside for the remainder of the tour.

### **A unique Mulaqat**

On Thursday 13 April 2017, dozens of Ahmadi families were able to meet Huzoor in a session of Family Mulaqats.

As normal, the Mulaqats took place in Huzoor's office, however one Mulaqat, of the family of an Ahmadi called *Muhammad Afzal*, was different. His son, *Rawal Afzal (26)* had suffered all his life with muscular dystrophy and because of this was wheelchair bound.

When the time came for their Mulaqat, his family tried to help Rawal enter Huzoor's office but due to the wide frame of the wheelchair it proved difficult to wheel him in. Upon seeing the struggle, Huzoor told Rawal to wait outside, whilst the rest of the family entered Huzoor's office.

Thereafter, Huzoor himself walked out of his office and met Rawal in the waiting area outside.

Huzoor asked him about his condition and Rawal was able to have a Mulaqat in this unique fashion and the whole family was able to have a photo Huzoor outside of the office.

Later, *Muhammad Afzal* sahib told me:

***"How fortunate are we that our Khalifa showed such immense love and kindness to us and particularly to our son. Forgetting his own comfort and the fact he is so busy, our Khalifa went out of his way to show love to us. What greater blessings could we ever wish for than these?"***

I also spoke to *Rawal* himself, who told me about his condition and his experience of meeting *Huzoor*.

Rawal said:

***“I was born in Pakistan in a village near Sahiwal and there was no proper treatment or test available for my condition. In fact, we still do not know if I was born with this illness or if it developed a few months after birth. Nonetheless, I have never been able to walk, as my legs are completely paralysed and I can only move my hands to a very limited extent.”***

Rawal continued:

***“With the Grace of Allah, I have not let my illness get in the way of establishing a relationship with my Khalifa.***

***I write to Huzoor regularly and the way I do this is that I put a pencil in my mouth and then lunge forward and type on a normal keyboard using my mouth to control the pencil to type.***

***You would be surprised to see how fast I can now type in this way. I have learned that Allah gives a person the strength he needs to survive and to deal with any issues that he or she faces.”***

Later, Rawal sent me a video which showed me how he typed and it was extremely impressive to see how he used a pencil placed in his mouth. Definitely, his typing speed was faster than the average fully-abled person.

Speaking about the Mulaqat itself, Rawal said:

*“Just getting near Huzoor’s office was very difficult because my wheelchair is electric and extremely wide and heavy. Navigating through the Mosque entrance and through the corridors was difficult and caused me a lot of tension. When I finally reached the waiting room, I was filled with fear that having reached that point, I would be unable to enter Huzoor’s office and my desire to meet him would be left unfulfilled.”*

Rawal continued:

*“When our turn for Mulaqat came, I saw my family enter but my wheelchair would not fit and so I had to wait outside. I could hear Huzoor’s voice and thought in my heart that this is as close to him as I will get.*

*Yet, when my family’s Mulaqat ended, I saw Huzoor walk towards me and I can never forget or describe the feelings in my heart at that moment. I kept wondering if this was really happening that my beloved Khalifa was coming out specially to see me. How was it possible for the Khalifa of the Promised Messiah (as) to walk towards someone as insignificant and weak as me? Huzoor is undoubtedly the most gracious and loving person whose love encompasses every single Ahmadi.”*

Rawal further said:

*“When people see me, they assume that my physical disability will be the greatest challenge for me but this is not the case. Actually, it is the mental*

*challenges that accompany the disability that cause me the most problems. For example, in the past few months, I have been suffering from a lack of concentration and focus and been unable to sleep well. This has made me very upset and even depressed but after meeting Huzoor, I am already in better spirits and I am sure that ultimately his prayers will help me overcome these mental challenges and enable me to live happily and peacefully.”*

### **A few moments with Huzoor**

Later that evening, Huzoor called me to his office for a few moments and I informed him of a tragic incident in Pakistan that was being reported in the media.

A young Pakistani student, *Mashal Khan*, had been brutally murdered at his university by a lynch mob in the city of Mardan. According to the reports, he had been targeted because of false rumours that he was an Ahmadi or had promoted Ahmadiyyat online and was ‘guilty’ of blasphemy.

Hearing about this incident, Huzoor was extremely saddened and prayed:

***“May Allah have mercy”.***

Thereafter, I mentioned to Huzoor that there had been some confusion over the inauguration of the Mosque in Waldshut-Tiengen a few days earlier.

In a Press Release published by our *Press & Media Office* we had written that it was the 50<sup>th</sup> Ahmadiyya Mosque in Germany. However, a *National Amila*

member had approached me that day and said our statement was mistaken statement and ought to be corrected.

In response, I showed him a document produced by the German Jamaat which clearly stated that the Waldshut-Tiengen Mosque was the 50<sup>th</sup> Mosque in Germany. I also mentioned that before we published the Press Release I had double checked with Amir Sahib Germany and he confirmed that the document was correct.

The National Amila member was still not convinced and so he went away to do his own research and having done so he returned a few minutes later and said:

***“You were right Abid sahib! It is the 50<sup>th</sup> Mosque in Germany! If we had known this in advance my team could have publicised this!”***

Huzoor also informed me that he had received a letter from a friend of mine in America, concerned about his very young son, because the boy had used some bad language in school. He had written to Huzoor to ask if, and how, he should punish his son.

In this regard, Huzoor instructed that I convey a message to my friend.

Huzoor said:

***“Tell him that he should not punish his son and if he has behaved in this way then the blame goes to him as a father and not to the son. It means***



***that the father had not spent enough time with his son. Further, tell him that he should bring his son to London to meet me.”***

I conveyed Huzoor’s guidance to my friend and a few weeks later he did bring his child to London to meet Huzoor.

Later, he told me how Huzoor had given special attention and care to his young son and answered his questions and talked directly to him for 10minutes. The boy and his father were both extremely grateful and delighted at Huzoor’s kindness.

This is our Khalifa, who guides and loves the young and old alike.

### **Friday Sermon in Raunheim**

On 14 April 2017, Huzoor travelled to the German town of Raunheim to deliver his weekly Friday Sermon.

During the previous few days, Munir Odeh sahib (*Director Production, MTA International*), had expressed his concerns to Huzoor and to the local German Jamaat about the suitability of the location for the Friday Sermon.

The site was extremely close to Frankfurt’s main international airport and so the sound of planes taking off was disconcertingly loud and so he was concerned it would cause disruption to Huzoor’s sermon.

However, the German Jamaat informed that there was no other option, as Baitus Sabuh was too small to accommodate everyone and the local council

had not given permission for the Jamaat to use the main hall at the Ansar and Lajna headquarters in Frankfurt.



Considering all of this, Huzoor spent the first ten or fifteen minutes of his sermon, speaking about the risk of background noise and said that he would try to speak louder so that everyone could hear.

During that initial period, there were several planes that took off, which caused some disturbance but thankfully the situation improved and thankfully there was no disturbance for a large part of the sermon.

Nevertheless, Huzoor very firmly stated the shortcomings of the Germany Jamaat administration.

For example, he said that they had purchased the Ansar and Lajna headquarters, known as Baitul Aafiyat, more than two years previously and still they had not been able to negotiate successfully with the local council to hold occasional large scale events at the premises.

Huzoor said that many of the problems were due to a culture of doing work at the “*last minute*” rather than working to a long-term and consistent plan.

Huzoor said that in certain countries, such as Pakistan and Algeria, Ahmadis were restricted in how much they could do due to the persecution in those countries.

However, in Germany, the Jamaat was free and had the full right of the law and so the issues faced were a result of “*laziness*” on the part of the Jamaat officials.

Huzoor’s tone throughout this part of the sermon was extremely firm and his displeasure at the arrangements were clear.

Thereafter, Huzoor spent the rest of the sermon speaking in tribute to three members of the Jamaat who had recently passed away in Pakistan and India.

Huzoor mentioned with great love and appreciation the services of *Professor Ashfaq Ahmad Shaheed, H. Nasir-ud-Din* and his own aunt, *Sahibzadi Amatul Waheed Begum*.

### **An inappropriate video**

Earlier that day, Huzoor had asked me to find out from Munir Odeh sahib who had produced a short video clip circulating online in which the newly opened Augsburg Mosque was shown with background sounds of a person humming.

Normally, in Jamaat videos we have the sound of *Nazms* or the *Azan* or other similar things used as background sound but in this instance the clip contained only humming.

As he left *Jumma*, Huzoor asked Munir sahib about the clip and he informed that it had been produced by the local Germany MTA Studios.

Upon this, Huzoor said:

***“This clip was total nonsense.”***

Huzoor called the Head of Germany’s MTA Studios and said:

***“Does MTA Germany not have anything better to produce than such inappropriate clips? You should delete it immediately and send me a report of any other similar videos that exist.”***

Later, upon receiving the report, Huzoor instructed that any content produced by *MTA Germany* should be checked by *MTA International* before being broadcast.

In every way, Huzoor ensures that the sanctity of our Islamic teachings are protected and that innovations do not enter.

Some people may not consider such things to be major issues, however it is because *Khalifa-Waqt* protects the Jamaat from even seemingly small issues that we are saved from bigger problems and is the reason why our Jamaat’s teachings and traditions have always remained the same.

### **Unable to attend Jumma**

As the Qafila departed from Raunheim, I noticed that there were dozens, if not hundreds of cars parked on the nearby roads with Ahmadi families inside.

It was strange to see because the Qafila was the first to leave from Jumma and so there was no way so many Ahmadis could have attended the sermon and then reached the motorway so quickly.

Upon returning to the Mosque, I was told that the numbers of people who attended *Jumma* were far greater than expected and because of this the *Jamaat* started turning people away.

It was estimated that two or three thousand Ahmadis were sadly not able to offer the *Jumma* prayers behind Huzoor. Some of those affected had made it to other nearby Mosques but some had missed *Jumma* altogether. Those who missed out, included people who had made the long journey from far-off cities such as Hamburg.

I do not know to what extent it is accurate but some people told stories of how they had travelled 6 or 7 hours to attend *Jumma* but were not permitted entry and were turned away without even being offered any drink or snack after their long journey.

The lack of organisation and administrative weakness was something that Huzoor would bring to the attention of the German Jamaat in the coming days.

## **Emotions of Ahmadis**

Later in the evening, a session of *Family Mulaqats* was held and one of the people to meet Huzoor was *Mazhar Arafat (35)*.

Having told me that he had last met Huzoor in 2005, Mazhar sahib suddenly became extremely emotional.

Wiping away his tears, Mazhar sahib said:

***“For the past twelve years, I have been spiritually starved. Each year, when Huzoor would come to Germany, I would submit a request for Mulaqat and each year I was informed that my turn had not yet come. It got to the stage that I wondered if I would ever meet my Khalifa ever again. I thought that perhaps I am not spiritually ready or good enough to have the honour to meet Huzoor and to physically touch his hand. Even today, I know that I am still not deserving of this honour and I consider myself to be the weakest of the weak but Allah has had mercy upon me.”***

Mazhar sahib continued:

***“Having met Huzoor, I feel that I am closer to my Creator. I know today that my Allah loves me because it is only because of His love that I could be blessed in this way.”***

I also met a lady called *Rizwana Pervez* and her teenage son *Saad*, who were both converts to Ahmadiyyat. She had been married in Pakistan but then got

divorced and was now living in Germany with her second husband who was an Ahmadi.

Rizwana sahiba told me that when moving to Germany, her previous husband objected and said that she could not take their son abroad and he filed a case seeking a restraining order in a Pakistani court.

Speaking about overcoming those challenges, Rizwana sahiba said:

***“During those court proceedings, I saw how Allah the Almighty helps Ahmadis and protects them. I prayed a great deal when my ex-husband took me to court and wrote to Huzoor for prayers. Suddenly, and completely unexpectedly, one day my ex-husband stood up before the Judge and said he no longer had any objection to me taking our son to Germany. Given his previous attitude, it was a great miracle of how Allah accepts the prayers of the Khalifa-Waqt and it increased my faith in Ahmadiyyat even more.”***

Rizwana sahiba continued:

***“Having accepted Ahmadiyyat and lived as an Ahmadi for some time now, I have no doubt that I have accepted the true Islam and that all the claims of the Promised Messiah (as) are true. I used to listen to non-Ahmadi Maulvis in Pakistan and the things they said were completely illogical and senseless. In complete contrast, every word I have ever heard Huzoor say in his sermons is completely logical and filled with wisdom and truth.”***

Speaking of her continuing spiritual journey, Rizwana sahiba said:

*“Even when we came to Germany, I was not so attached to the Jamaat, however one day my son Saad, told me that he was going to do Bai’at and join the Jamaat. He was only fifteen but he was completely determined. He proved a great support and encouragement for me, even though I am his mother and I should be supporting him. Seeing him enabled me to be more confident in my new faith.”*

Rizwana sahiba continued:

*“Before I never used to offer Namaz and now, with the Grace of Allah, I offer it five times a day. I read the Holy Quran every day and seek to learn its meanings and true interpretation. My brother-in-law reads our Jamaat’s literature to me and helps me understand the different points. I have only one desire now and that is to live my entire life as a true Ahmadi Muslim and I pray that my relatives, who have expressed their hatred for me, come to accept the truth of Ahmadiyyat. They may hate me but I love them and I want them to come under the shade of Khilafat.”*

I also spoke to her son, Saad Durrani (16), who told me why he had accepted Ahmadiyyat.

Saad said:

*“Most people become extremely happy if they are given material gifts or presents but we Ahmadis do not need anything worldly, as Allah has given us the greatest gift and that is the gift of Khilafat. I used to listen to*



***non-Ahmadi Maulvis in Pakistan and I hated the way they preached and felt sick being in their presence. However, as soon as I heard Huzoor speak and listened to his sermons, I fell in love with Khilafat and just listening to him was enough to convince that Ahmadiyyat is true. That is why I told my mother that I was going to enter the fold of the Promised Messiah (as) no matter what."***

That day, I also met an Ahmadi Missionary called *Basharat Ahmad Shahid*, who had recently come from Pakistan and had been posted in Eastern Europe. Some years ago, he had served the Jamaat as a Missionary in Kyrgyzstan but as a result of the opposition faced by the *Jamaat* in the country, the local authorities told him and one other Missionary that they had to leave the country.

Speaking of that time, Basharat sahib said:

***"I remember when we were ordered to leave Kyrgyzstan, I sent a report to the Markaz and in response we received the most beautiful reply from Huzoor. Rather than display any irritation or frustration, Huzoor wrote that we should not worry and that wherever one door or avenue closed, Allah would always open thousands of others and would never let the mission of the Promised Messiah (as) be frustrated."***

Basharat sahib continued:

***"Huzoor's words proved true because we were able to set up a Jamaat website in the Kyrgyz language and it is extremely popular and, so even though we are not physically present, our Tabligh has not stopped but***

***has actually increased. We receive a lot of response and questions from the local people and similarly we are able to post Huzoor's sermons and activities on the website so that the local Ahmadis there are well aware of Huzoor's instructions and guidance and their Tarbiyyat continues."***

### **A few precious moments**

On the morning of 15 April, after a session of family Mulaqats, Huzoor called me to his office for a few minutes.

I had been asked by *Majlis Khuddamul Ahmadiyya Germany* to give a talk that evening, as well as another one with the *Jamaat's Lawyer's Association* the next day. They both wished me to narrate some stories or incidents about my experiences with Khilafat.

I had given a few such talks in the past, however on this occasion they had requested that I give a talk in *Urdu*. I felt very uncomfortable at the thought of this, knowing my Urdu is weak, and so I mentioned it to Huzoor.

I hoped that perhaps Huzoor would permit me to speak in English, as once a Khuddam group from Denmark had asked me to give a talk in Urdu but Huzoor said I could speak in English as most of their Khuddam understood English.

However, on this occasion, Huzoor said:

***"Yes, you will have to speak in Urdu because only around 10% of the German Khuddam are able to understand English."***

Huzoor continued:

***“You sometimes get the masculine and feminine mixed up when you speak in Urdu! I used to correct you and will have to start doing so again if you are now going to give speeches in Urdu as well! On this occasion though, you should ask Sadr Khuddamul Ahmadiyya Germany to correct you if you make any big mistake.”***

Thereafter, I mentioned to Huzoor that I had heard that the water in his residence had been cold.

Upon this, Huzoor smiled and said:

***“Yes, since we returned to Frankfurt I have been having cold showers every day. Today, I finally asked them to fix it.”***

In response, I said:

***“Huzoor, I have had cold showers for the past two days and I thought I was unfortunate but your situation was even worse!”***

In reply, Huzoor smiled and jokingly said:

***“Major sahib’s shower is fine and so I think the local Jamaat hosts think that if Major sahib is satisfied then everything is ok!”***

As Huzoor said this, I laughed out loud and Huzoor also laughed.

During the Mulaqat, I also mentioned some of the latest news events from around the world and particularly the increasing tensions between the United States and North Korea.

Upon this, Huzoor said:

***“You should make sure that you have some basic things and rations available in your home. If, God forbid, a nuclear war was to break out the repercussions and devastating consequences would spread far and wide.”***

### **A visit to the General Secretary’s office**

Following my *Mulaqat*, there remained 15minutes until *Namaz* and so Huzoor stepped out of his office and walked across to the office of the Germany Jamaat’s *General Secretary*.

Apart from Amir Sahib Germany, the *General Secretary*, Ilyas Majoka sahib and a few other members of the General Secretary staff were present.

Huzoor took a seat and over the next ten or fifteen minutes, Huzoor spoke very firmly about the problems at *Jumma* the previous day and particularly about the fact that many Ahmadi families were unable to enter the prayer area.

Huzoor enquired of the exact space available at Raunheim and calculated himself that there was space for a total of around 6,000 people to offer their prayers comfortably.

Yet, according to some reports, there had been between 11 or 12,000 Ahmadis who had travelled with the intention of offering Jumma behind Huzoor.

Huzoor said:

***“Given that it was the Easter holiday weekend there was bound to be a higher number of Ahmadis who came for Jumma and so you should have prepared for this in advance. There were hundreds of cars turned away and so this means that thousands of Ahmadis were unable to offer their Jumma prayers.”***

Huzoor continued:

***“Here at Baitus Sabuh there were no proper arrangements to show my sermon and I have been informed that people who came to offer their Friday prayers here watched my Sermon on their phones. When making plans, you have to go into great detail and consider all different possibilities and make contingency plans.”***

Huzoor further said:

***“In our Jamaat there needs to be proper team work and if you are not united and not working together then you will fail. Remember this and take what I am saying seriously. Insha’Allah the numbers of Ahmadis here in Germany will only continue to increase and so these issues are not going to go away unless you do proper planning and make proper arrangements.”***

Regarding the coming week's Friday Sermon, Huzoor instructed that a proper plan was made so that there was not a repeat of the problems.

Thereafter, Huzoor asked the General Secretary if the *Jamaat* had sent an apology to all the *Jamaat* members for the problems they faced at *Jumma*. In response, Huzoor was informed that they were still at the stage of drafting an apology.

Hearing this, Huzoor said:

***“It should not take so long to draft and formulate such an apology. You could and should have sent a text message immediately to the Jamaat messages apologising for the shortcomings and for the difficulties they faced. “***

Throughout the meeting, Huzoor's tone was serious. As I observed, I hoped and prayed that the local *Jamaat* would seriously act upon Huzoor's instructions, as it was very clear that he had been left displeased and saddened that so many people had been unable to offer their Friday prayers.

### **Hundreds meet their Khalifa**

After a break for lunch, Huzoor came down from his residence and walked to a large sports hall adjacent to the Baitus Sabuh Mosque.

The hall was filled with around 800 Ahmadi men, of all ages, who had never had the opportunity to meet *Khalifa-Waqt* in their lives ever before. It was the first time, I had witnessed such a large scale group Mulaqat of Ahmadis

in Germany. In the past, all personal Mulaqats took place in Huzoor's office, however through the group sitting, hundreds were able to meet him in one evening.

Upon arriving in the hall, Huzoor took a seat on the stage and then many of the Ahmadis had the opportunity to introduce themselves to him and to ask Huzoor questions or to seek his prayers.



Upon receiving the opportunity to speak, one Ahmadi said:

***“Huzoor, I just wish to convey to you, as Khalifatul Masih, the salam of my master, the Holy Prophet Muhammad (sa) which he conveyed to the Imam Mahdi.***

Another Ahmadi informed Huzoor that he and his mother had accepted Ahmadiyyat in Pakistan a few years ago but the rest of their family had opposed them.



He said the persecution was initially bearable but then after the death of his mother his problems and difficulties continued to increase and so he made the decision to leave Pakistan and migrate to Germany.

Hearing this, Huzoor said:

***“Always remember that the real purpose for you coming here is your faith and so always try to act upon the teachings of Ahmadiyyat. There is no benefit to go through the struggle of migrating here and then as soon as you are free from difficulty forgetting your teachings. Thus, make sure you always give precedence to your faith over all worldly matters.”***

After around 20minutes, Huzoor stood up and I thought he was standing up to leave the hall and so I was amazed to see that Huzoor stepped forward



and invited all the Ahmadis in the hall to come and personally meet him and to have the opportunity to shake his hand.



Over the next hour, Ahmadis continually came forward one by one to meet Huzoor. They would introduce themselves, mention their problems, seek his prayers and have their photo taken with him.

With amazing patience, Huzoor met each Ahmadi and listened to their problems and prayed for them.

Initially I stood near where Huzoor was but after a few minutes, I stepped away and stretched my legs and then came back a few minutes later and saw that the line of people waiting to see Huzoor seemed as long as ever.

Other people nearby were also becoming tired and fidgety.

For example, the local person responsible for taking photos handed his camera to someone else so that he could take a break for a minute or two.

Yet, the one person who stood throughout and displayed no sense of tiredness was Huzoor himself.

Huzoor met each person with a smile and showed great affection to everyone. Some who approached him had huge smiles etched on their faces, whilst others were unable to control their emotions, as tears rained down their faces.

One individual told Huzoor that he had come to Germany on foot from Pakistan. He said the journey had taken 6 months and he had faced many obstacles and challenges but with the *Grace of Allah* had arrived safely. He said that he knew of at least 26 other Ahmadis who were also attempting to reach Germany on foot and requested prayers for them.

Amongst the high emotion, there was also the occasional moment of laughter.

Upon meeting one Ahmadi Khadim, Huzoor asked:

***“What is your number?”***

By this, Huzoor was asking what position he was amongst his siblings, however the Khadim misunderstood and responded by saying:

***“Huzoor are you asking for my mobile phone number?”***

Huzoor smiled and waved him on, before meeting the next individual.

As the minutes passed by, it seemed that the numbers of people waiting were increasing. Rather than the hall emptying, it seemed to be getting even more jam packed.

Finally, after more than 35 or 40 minutes the hall began to empty somewhat and it seemed as though the crowd was thinning.

Then, after around nearly an hour, Huzoor met the final person before proceeding to another hall where he met many Ahmadi ladies.

Once he had met them, Huzoor returned to his office and held another session of *Family Mulaqats* before presiding an *Aameen* ceremony for dozens of children and finally leading the Maghreb and Isha prayers.

### **A blessed week**

With the *Grace of Allah*, the first week of Huzoor's tour of Germany was almost complete and during those first few days, all those present had been witnesses to the blessings associated with Khilafat and the magnificent way in which Khalifatul Masih continued to spread the true teachings of Islam both within the Jamaat and externally.

Whilst, I may not have been looking forward to giving a speech in Urdu later that evening, I was certainly looking forward to the rest of the tour!

### **End of Part 1**

***Any comments or feedback: [abid.khan@pressahmadiyya.com](mailto:abid.khan@pressahmadiyya.com)***