

HUZOOR'S TOUR OF GERMANY

APRIL 2017

PART 2

A Personal Account

By Abid Khan

Introduction to Part 2

During part 1, I wrote about the first few days of Huzoor's tour of Germany in April 2017 and during this second part, I will mention events from the second and final week of Huzoor's tour.

Meeting the Hamburg Khuddam

On the evening of 15 April 2017, following the Maghreb and Isha prayers, I had the opportunity to speak with a group of around 80 Khuddam who had travelled from Hamburg so that they could pray behind Huzoor.

I had been nervous all day, as it was the first time I would deliver a speech in Urdu. Anyway, as the talk began, the nerves continued for the first three or four minutes but then I felt much calmer and more relaxed. I am certain I made many grammatical errors but it proved to be a good experience for me. During the talk, I shared some incidents I had personally experienced with Huzoor, including a number from his recent tour of Canada.

Knowing my Urdu was weak, I had asked Sadr Sahib Majlis Khuddamul Ahmadiyya not to record the talk but I did make a recording on my phone, which I later shared with Huzoor. The reason I did this was so that Huzoor would know how I spoke and could judge whether I should give any further talks in Urdu or only stick to English in future.

Alhamdolillah, it was good to challenge myself and a good experience and as a result I was much less nervous the next morning when I gave a similar talk to members of Germany's Jamaat Lawyer's Association.

A few precious moments

On the morning of 16 April 2017, following a session of family Mulaqats, Huzoor called me to his office. To my surprise, Huzoor had already listened to the speech I had given the night before.

To my great relief, and out of sheer kindness, Huzoor said that I had done well.

Huzoor smiled and said:

“I listened to your talk and your Urdu language was beyond my expectations and you even used some advanced vocabulary at the right places. Years ago, when you dedicated your life for the Jamaat, I sent you to Qadian to learn Urdu but I think your vocabulary has improved many times over since you came back to London and served with me. As you take notes of my speeches and interviews, your language has improved a lot.”

For me personally, those few seconds were amongst the happiest of the entire tour. The reason I had been so nervous was only because I did not wish to let Huzoor down in any way.

Thereafter, Huzoor told me an incident pertaining to a friend of mine, Amer Safir, a Waqf-e-Zindighi (life devotee) currently serving as the *Editor of the Review of Religions*. When Amer dedicated his life, several years ago, Huzoor sent him to Pakistan for a year to learn Urdu. With the *Grace of Allah*, his Urdu has now reached a level where he often live translates Huzoor’s Friday

Sermons or other addresses. However, with a smile, Huzoor told me his Urdu was not always at such a level.

Huzoor said:

“When I first sent Amer to Pakistan, one day he received a message in Urdu that ‘Wakil-e-Ala, Chaudhry Hameedullah sahib aap ko yaad farmaa rahay hain’, meaning ‘The Wakil-e-Ala’ is remembering you’, which is a common and polite way in Urdu to call someone. Upon receiving this message, Amer said ‘Jazak’Allah’ and stayed in his room. Then after ten or fifteen minutes, the same person came back and repeated the message and again Amer said ‘Jazak’Allah’ and remained in his room. Thereafter, the third time the person came and gave the same message. Amer was very happy thinking that Chaudhry sahib is missing him so much that he keeps sending these messages of affection! It was only on the third or fourth such occasion that the messenger finally explained to him that this was not an expression of remembrance, rather Chaudhry sahib was actually calling to his office!”

As Huzoor concluded recalling this story he laughed a lot.

Huzoor asked me where the Khuddam, who I had met the evening before, were from and so I told him that they were from Hamburg.

Upon this, Huzoor said:

“Generally, the Lajna members in Hamburg are very sincere and devoted.”

Masha'Allah, it was a very affectionate comment and compliment for Hamburg's Lajna.

The previous day, Huzoor had met over 800 members of the German Jamaat in a group Mulaqat and so I mentioned that I had been amazed by Huzoor's stamina.

In response, Huzoor said:

“After some time, I did start feeling some aches and pains in my back but I had to meet all of the Ahmadis and so I just continued until every person had the opportunity to meet.”

Thereafter, Huzoor spoke with great affection for his young grandson *Saad* (son of Sahibzada Mirza Waqas Ahmad).

Huzoor said:

“The school where Saad goes recently arranged a four-night camping trip but generally I am not in favour for young children to go on overnight trips with their schools. Thus, I told him that instead of going on the trip, I would get him a tent and he could camp at Hadeeqatul Mahdi, which he did last night with a friend.”

Huzoor said that Saad had even gathered some wood and started a small fire and had enjoyed a full camping experience.

As a father of young children, I appreciated Huzoor's guidance about school trips. Where Huzoor did not think an overnight trip for such a young child was appropriate, he did not want the child to feel as though he had missed out and so arranged for a similar experience in a safe environment.

Later, Huzoor told me that Saad was very happy that he had camped at Hadeeqatul Mahdi instead of going on the trip, as he later learned that during the school trip it had rained constantly and so the children did not even have the opportunity to camp outside and remained indoors throughout.

Whilst in the presence of Huzoor, I shared my personal observation that where Huzoor had addressed Parliaments and large external gatherings in the United States, Canada, UK and elsewhere, no such event had yet been organised in Germany.

In response, Huzoor said:

"This is not something to worry about, as these days the Jamaat is laying the foundations for the spread of Islam in Germany. During the past few years, there has been a huge increase in the media coverage received by the Jamaat here and a lot of interest is developing. For the first time, our Jamaat is being introduced on a large scale to the public."

Huzoor continued:

"Hazrat Musleh Maud (ra) once said that there will come a time of great progress of the Jamaat in Germany and it will spread. Also, my own mother (Hazrat Sahibzadi Nasira Begum) saw in a dream that she was

presented with the keys to Germany. Thus, Insha'Allah, one day there will be a breakthrough of Islam and many of the local people will come to embrace its true teachings. However, for this, it is essential that our Ahmadis work diligently and set the best possible example at all times."

Thereafter, Huzoor mentioned the Mosque opening in Waldshut a few days earlier. Huzoor said that the Priest seated next to him had spoken at length with him following the conclusion of the formal event.

Smiling, Huzoor said:

"As we sat together, the Priest tried to preach Christianity to me and so in response, I told him that there was no way he was going to convince me to become a Christian! I informed him that where the Quran says that 'there should be no compulsion in religion', it subsequently states that 'Surely, the right way has become distinct from error' and so it is our belief that Islam is the perfect teaching and a complete religion. Thus, we will continue our mission to spread its teachings far and wide no matter what."

As Huzoor stood up to leave the office for Namaz, I also mentioned that I had received a message from an Ahmadi pertaining to Huzoor's Friday Sermon in Raunheim.

The Ahmadi had said it was clear Huzoor had not been satisfied with the German Jamaat's preparations and so he felt that the senior office bearers in Germany should hand in their resignations.

Hearing this, Huzoor said:

“To offer your resignation is the reaction expected in worldly organisations but we are a spiritual and religious organisation. Our way is not to resign but to strive to improve and to learn from our mistakes and most importantly to bow down before Allah the Almighty and seek His forgiveness and His help. That is the way of a spiritual Jamaat.”

Huzoor’s answer was extremely beautiful. We often hear the media demanding that politicians or chief executives resign and that is the way of the world. Yet, the way of a spiritual community is to show patience and turn towards Allah the Almighty.

An affectionate few moments

On the evening of 16 April 2017, Huzoor presided over an *Aameen* ceremony in the Mosque during which around 30 young boys and girls had the opportunity to sit with Huzoor and to read a portion of the Quran. As always, Huzoor met the children extremely affectionately and would correct their mistakes very lovingly.

Following its conclusion, Huzoor remained seated for a few minutes and spent those moments talking to members of the Jamaat present in the Mosque. Huzoor paid particular attention to some young children seated near the front.

Huzoor noticed that one of the young boys had an eye problem and asked him about it. The boy informed Huzoor about his condition and said that he

took homeopathy medicine, which Huzoor encouraged him to continue for some time. Thereafter, a six-year-old boy asked Huzoor to pray for him as he was suffering from diabetes and had to take insulin three times a day.

Huzoor then turned his attention to a very small boy, aged 4 or 5 and asked if he went to *Kindergarten*, the equivalent of a nursery in the UK.

After the boy confidently confirmed he was in *Kindergarten*, Huzoor smiled and said:

“Tum hoshyar lagtay ho” meaning “You look clever!”

Some older Ahmadis were also able to introduce themselves to Huzoor and to seek his prayers for their personal problems.

One person requested Huzoor’s prayers for his relatives who were amongst a number of Ahmadis stranded in Thailand waiting for their asylum cases to be processed.

Hearing this, Huzoor said:

“Yes, the circumstances in Thailand for our Ahmadis are difficult these days.”

Another Ahmadi, originally from the Pakistani city of Mirpur, informed Huzoor that the local Mayor where he now lived in Germany had encouraged him to enter politics.

In response, Huzoor said:

“You are from Mirpur and the Mirpuris understand politics well and so you can go ahead if you want and try to pursue it.”

One Ahmadi then requested Huzoor’s permission to come forward and to have the honour of *musafa*.

In response, Huzoor said:

“If I let you come forward then everyone else will also want to come forward as well.”

A few minutes later, a very young boy asked Huzoor if he could be permitted to do *musafa* and though Huzoor had not permitted the adult, he permitted the young boy to come forward. Immediately, other children rushed forward and Huzoor permitted them all to meet him and he lovingly touched them with the ring of the Promised Messiah (as). It was a very beautiful and impromptu display of mutual love and affection between the Khalifa-Waqt and young Ahmadi children.

As Huzoor stood up for Namaz, the adult who had earlier requested *musafa* asked again but Huzoor smiled and said:

“Those who I permitted were under the age of twelve and you are older.”

Thus, Huzoor declined but Huzoor did not forget the man’s request.

Emotions of Ahmadis

On the morning of 17 April, Huzoor held a session of family Mulaqats.

Amongst the people to meet Huzoor were *Tahir Kareem (36)* and his wife *Tehmeena Qamar*.

Moments after their Mulaqat, Tahir sahib, who had met Huzoor for just the second time in his life, said:

“Nothing else in the world has any value or meaning compared to the blessings of Khilafat. For the rest of my life, I will tell the whole world about this blessed experience. The blessings of those few minutes will last a lifetime.”

Tehmeena sahiba, who had just met Khalifa-Waqt for the very first time in her life, said:

“I am in a state of shock and I feel my body is shaking. I cannot believe what just happened. Today has been the best day of my life because when I lived in Pakistan I could never ever have imagined that one day I would meet Huzoor. The Jalsas that used to take place in Rabwah occurred before my birth and so it never occurred to me that I could be so fortunate as to meet my Khalifa in person.”

Another married couple to meet Huzoor were *Rameez Bajwa (27)* and his wife *Ambreen Ahmad*. Whilst, Ambreen sahiba had met Huzoor once before, Rameez sahib met Huzoor that day for the very first time.

Describing those moments in Huzoor's company, Rameez said:

"I am at a loss to explain how it is possible that a weak person like me is able to meet the person who is most loved by Allah in the world. When Huzoor spoke to me, I could not control my emotions and already I feel a deep change in me. I want to serve the Jamaat and to act upon every instruction given to me by Khalifa-Waqt."

Thereafter, Ambreen sahiba said:

"Huzoor's prayers are our means of life and sustenance. Despite the great status of Khilafat, when you are with Huzoor he is so loving, friendly and kind. I cannot explain to you how happy, emotional and excited I feel. Meeting Huzoor is like being in a different world."

Meeting with German Missionaries

On the evening of 17 April, Huzoor held a meeting with all Jamaat Missionaries serving in Germany.

The Missionaries, who numbered more than 50, introduced themselves one by one to Huzoor and informed of where they were each posted.

The majority were posted in different Jamaats, whilst a few were serving in administrative office positions and others were serving as teachers in Jamia Ahmadiyya Germany. During the early part of the meeting, Huzoor focused on the importance of Missionaries leading the Friday prayers.

Huzoor said:

“The fundamental task of a Missionary is to go into the field and so on Fridays even the office based Missionaries should be sent into the field and they should lead Friday prayers each week.”

Huzoor also instructed the Missionaries serving in Jamia Ahmadiyya about how they should utilise their time during Jamia holiday periods.

Huzoor said:

“Whenever there are holidays the Jamia Missionaries should not sit idly but should be given proper duties and serve the Jamaat as required. The Principal of Jamia should inform the Missionary-in-charge when the Jamia teachers will be free and during those periods they should be utilised by the Jamaat. They can be sent into the field temporarily or they can assist the translation departments or be given other duties.”

Huzoor also advised Germany's *Missionary-in-charge* to utilise Jamia students during their holidays. For example, Huzoor said they could be sent for *Waqf-e-Arzi* (short-term service) in different Jamaats. Huzoor said that where this would benefit the local Jamaat, it would also be good training for the Jamia students.

Similarly, Huzoor said that the office based Missionaries could and should be sent to local Jamaats from time to time when there was a need. For example, if there was a meeting taking place in a local Jamaat, an office based Missionary could be sent to represent the Centre.

Huzoor said:

“In Rabwah, many of the Missionaries who serve in offices regularly go on tours or visits to attend Jamaat events or for Tarbiyyat programmes and this should be the case here as well. In my opinion, a Missionary who stays at home more than necessary is showing signs of laziness. A real Missionary and a real Waqf-e-Zindighi (live devotee) is a person who is working every possible minute of the day in the service of the Jamaat.”

Speaking about the importance of financial prudence, Huzoor said:

“Sometimes people make complaints that money is wasted during Jamaat tours and so in this respect you should be very careful as well. For example, if someone is going on a Jamaat trip then he should ensure that fuel or travel costs are kept to a bare minimum. Missionaries should set the best example in this respect as well.”

Huzoor continued:

“Before reforming other people, it is necessary that you reform yourselves. You cannot ask others to do what you yourself fail to do and so ensure your own moral and spiritual standards are of the highest order. Do not give anyone the opportunity to raise any complaints or allegations against you.”

Huzoor also reminded the Missionaries that it was their duty to ensure that Jamaat traditions were always respected.

Huzoor said:

“If you see something wrong is taking place against our teachings and traditions then you should try to stop it immediately. If the wrong activity continues you should inform Amir Sahib or the Missionary-in-Charge and if they do not deal with the issue satisfactorily then you must write to me directly. After that it will be the decision of the Khalifa-Waqt to decide if any further action is required but at least your conscience will be clear and your duty done.”

Huzoor said Missionaries should address contemporary societal issues without fear.

Huzoor said:

“There are many issues debated in today’s society where we may be asked our views. For example, some people speak against Hijab, whilst we are asked our views on things like homosexuality and gay marriage. Remember, it is not your job to be a diplomat and so you must respond to such issues according to the teachings of your faith. You must never be fearful of the media or government or feel any form of complex. Of course, you should speak with wisdom but should not show cowardice.”

Huzoor continued:

“I am often myself asked about these contemporary issues and I respond by saying that we believe religion is here to reform mankind, rather than for mankind to reform religion. Thus, always remember there is a fine

line between diplomacy and wisdom and you must always remain on the side of wisdom because diplomacy can incorporate an element of falsehood. We must never ever speak falsely in order to please others.”

During the meeting, Huzoor also emphasised the importance of engendering a respect for Missionaries within the Jamaat.

Huzoor said:

“The National Amir Sahib and Missionary-in-charge should defend the honour of the Missionaries and inculcate a spirit of respect for Missionaries, including the younger ones. Similarly, the Missionaries should understand that they themselves have to earn respect by ensuring that they practice whatever they preach. Remember, only if people respect their Missionaries will they listen to them.”

Thereafter, reiterating the importance of prayer, Huzoor said:

“Unfortunately, there are some Missionaries who even find it difficult to wake for Fajr, whereas it is imperative that you are all regular in offering Tahajjad. If you are determined to fulfil your duties then even one and half hours or two hours of sleep is enough to survive and be refreshed.”

Huzoor continued:

“When I was in Ghana, once (late) Wahab Adam sahib came to visit us after a long journey and by the time he arrived it was after midnight. At around 1.30am I woke up to use the bathroom and I saw that Wahab

sahib was in the Mosque offering Tahajjad. This is the example expected of our Missionaries.”

Huzoor also instructed the Missionaries to keep contact with local dignitaries and influential figures within their communities. Huzoor said they should contact local politicians, faith leaders, the police and local authorities. Huzoor said that such public relations were even more important given that Islam was being misrepresented in the Western world.

Thereafter, the Missionaries had the opportunity to ask Huzoor questions and to seek his guidance on many religious and administrative issues.

One Missionary said occasionally, if administrative action was taken against an Ahmadi, he or she would become even more distant from the Jamaat and they would also negatively influence their children.

In response, Huzoor said:

“Where the Jamaat takes any administrative action, the purpose is to reform and in the vast majority of cases people soon realise their mistake. However, if it not then you as Missionaries should continue to try to guide such people and pray for them. If still they do not reform then you should meet their children and try to bring them closer to the Jamaat.”

One Missionary asked if they could offer the coming Friday prayers behind Huzoor.

In response, Huzoor said:

“Those who offered their Friday prayers behind me last week should return to their local Jamaats, as they need their Missionaries. Go back and fulfil your duties. If there are some who were unable to attend my sermon last week then they can offer this week’s sermon behind me.”

Huzoor’s decision exhibited both his love for Missionaries and his love for all Ahmadis. Thus, he permitted those Missionaries who had not offered the previous Friday Sermon behind him to offer it in the coming week but instructed the others to return to their local Jamaats so that their local members were not neglected in any way.

A few days later, a Missionary who had hoped to offer Jumma behind Huzoor, but who had returned, as instructed, to his local Jamaat, told me that the local Ahmadis were extremely appreciative of the fact that he had led the Friday prayers in his local Jamaat, rather than behind Huzoor.

One Missionary said he had been approached by non-Ahmadis who wished to do *Etikaaf* during the final days of Ramadan in our Ahmadi Mosques. Huzoor said that such requests should be politely declined and narrated an incident from the time when he was falsely imprisoned in 1999.

Huzoor said:

“Whilst in jail, I met a prisoner who told me that he had been found guilty of murder. He said that he had been doing Etikaaf but whilst doing so he had kept a Kalashnikov by his side. One day, one of his enemies came in

the Mosque and so he took out the Kalashnikov and killed him. Thus, we do not need to take any undue risks not knowing who may try to stay in our Mosques.”

Another Missionary said that occasionally non-Ahmadis would ask Ahmadi Missionaries to preside their Nikah ceremonies.

In response, Huzoor said:

“There is no harm if you preside their Nikahs but our Ahmadis should never go to a non-Ahmadi for their Nikah. If non-Ahmadis trust us or prefer us it is ok. Once in Ghana, a non-Ahmadi gave me Zakat and so I asked why he had not given it to his own Maulvi. In reply, he said that he knew his Maulvis were corrupt and would keep the money for themselves, whereas he knew that our Jamaat would utilise the money with complete honesty.”

A misrepresentation

As the meeting ended, Huzoor stepped out of the Mosque to inspect the *langhar khana* (kitchen) before returning to the Mosque a few minutes later.

In the Mosque, Huzoor called Dawood Majoka sahib, the National *Umoor-e-Kharija* (External Affairs) Secretary and asked him about a news report published in a German newspaper.

In the article, the journalist, who had attended the Friday Sermon, had stated that Huzoor had ‘*complained*’ about the sound of airplanes flying past during

his sermon. The journalist had misrepresented Huzoor's words because Huzoor had not complained about the sound but had addressed the lack of planning by the Jamaat itself.

Speaking to Dawood sahib, Huzoor said:

"I never complained about the noise of the planes or asked why they were taking off. My message was to my Jamaat. Anyway, it does not matter as it is still Tabligh and people will have read about the Jamaat's teachings and beliefs which were covered in the rest of the article."

An example of Huzoor's love

A day earlier, an Ahmadi had requested to come forward and personally meet Huzoor. However, at the time, Huzoor said that if he accepted his request then others would also come forward. As the Mosque filled up that evening, Huzoor noticed the same person sitting in one of the rows and called him forward himself. The man, whose name was *Bashir Ahmad*, had tears in his eyes, as he came forward and met Huzoor.



Later, I met Bashir sahib (43), who told me about that moment when Huzoor called him.

Bashir sahib said:

“The other night in the Mosque I asked Huzoor if it would be possible to have the opportunity of musafa but he said that only children under twelve could come forward. Even though Huzoor did not permit me, I considered that moment a great blessing as I had the opportunity to speak to Huzoor. In fact, I wrote him a letter saying that I am the luckiest person in the world because my Khalifa spoke to me.”

Bashir sahib continued:

“When I entered the Mosque tonight, I continued to do Istighfar and Durood and kept my eyes down as I did not wish to do anything that would be outside the domain of obedience. However, my Khalifa himself noticed me and called me towards him and at that point my most heartfelt desire was fulfilled. I have never felt such intense emotion as I felt at that moment and I swear I have never observed such love as I saw in my Khalifa. I am the weakest of the weak and yet Huzoor overlooked my faults and out of thousands and thousands of Ahmadis here in Germany he remembered me.”

Bashir sahib then told me about the persecution his family had faced in Pakistan.

Bashir sahib said:

“In 2008, the situation in Kotri in Sindh where we lived was very difficult and we were persecuted a great deal only because we were Ahmadis. For example, my brother was arrested and was tortured and beaten so badly that for a long time he could no longer stand. At that time, I prayed with all my heart that may Allah reward our family for the sacrifices by enabling one of us to meet Khalifatul Masih. Today, I am witness to the fact that Allah is All-Listening and accepted my prayer.”

Bashir sahib told me that during Huzoor’s visit he was determined to spend as much time as possible in the Mosque and so had volunteered to clean the toilets and offices.

Bashir sahib said:

“When my cleaning duty finishes, I go straight to the Mosque, sometimes three or four hours before Namaz time, so that I can be seated at the front of the Mosque and offer my prayers very close to Huzoor.”

As he wiped away tears by now streaming down his cheeks, Bashir sahib said:

“My only prayer is that I never cause any pain or distress to Khalifa-Waqt and I swear that the only objective of my life is to serve Khilafat and to serve this blessed Jamaat. I swear to God Almighty that me and my children will be ever ready to sacrifice our lives for the sake of the institution of Khilafat.”

Press Conference at Baitus Sabuh

On the morning of 18th April 2017, a Press Conference was held at the Baitus Sabuh Mosque in which several German media outlets came to interview Huzaor.

In *part 1* of this diary I mentioned that sometimes media interviews arranged by the German Jamaat were not properly planned and arranged at the last minute. However, on this occasion, the request for the media session had been sent to Huzaor in advance and so it was far better arranged.

I normally advise local Jamaats that the best place to hold interviews is in Huzaor's office, as this is what Huzaor himself normally prefers. However, Huzaor's office in Baitus Sabuh is very small and so it was not possible to hold the press conference in the office.

Instead, it was held in the lobby area adjacent to the office. Nonetheless, it was a much more appropriate setting than some of the interviews that had taken place at the Mosque openings the previous week in Waldshut and Augsburg.

During the press conference, one journalist asked Huzaor if it was prudent to teach Islam in *Western* schools.

In response, Huzaor said:

"Yes of course, it is good to teach Islam and all the major religions in schools, however it is essential that the true teachings of each are taught."

It should be made clear that religion is not a political ideology and children should understand from a young age that religion and politics are separate.”



Huzoor’s answer was brief but full of wisdom. At a time when terrorists and extremists seek to justify their hate-filled acts in the name of Islam, Huzoor said schools should teach children what religion truly is – a spiritual and moral code of conduct for people to peacefully live their lives by.

Generally, interviews with Western journalists tend to focus on political issues such as terrorism and extremism, hence I was pleased that the next question was different, where a journalist asked Huzoor, why he believed in God.

Giving a very personal and faith inspiring response, Huzoor said:

“I believe in God because I have seen His existence through various different means. For example, I have seen Him through the acceptance of

prayers. There have been occasions when I have prayed fervently to God and have asked that my prayer be answered within 15 minutes and they have been fulfilled."

Huzoor continued:

"I believe in logic and it is logical to assume that everything has a Creator. Religion is in full accordance with nature. For example, there are certain things that humans naturally have a revulsion to, such as murder, theft or incest. These are in-built instincts and if there was no God then from where do such instincts arise?"

Thereafter, Huzoor was asked about the Jamaat's 100 Mosque scheme in Germany. Huzoor's answer was extremely revealing in terms of the long-term vision of Khilafat-e-Ahmadiyya.

Huzoor said:

"As the membership of our Community in Germany increases we require more places for them to join together to worship and to further the cause of humanity. However, 100 Mosques is not our final target, rather it is likely that eventually we will far exceed this number. The local people should not fear or worry about this as our Mosques are symbols of peace and a means of fulfilling the rights of the people of all faiths and beliefs."

Another journalist asked Huzoor if it was appropriate for women to become Imams.

In reply, Huzoor said:

“In Islam, women are excused from prayers during the days of menstruation or in the days after child-birth. Similarly, when pregnant women cannot fast and so if women were Imams there would be regular intervals where they would be unable to fulfil their basic duties.”

Huzoor continued:

“Islam teaches a division of labour, whereby men and women have been attributed certain duties. However, this does not mean that women are undermined or oppressed in any way. In fact, I consider that the respect Islam affords to women is unmatched anywhere else because the Holy Prophet of Islam (sa) said that paradise lay under the feet of one’s mother.”

Speaking about the demands placed upon an Imam, Huzoor said:

“Being an Imam is extremely difficult and is a huge burden because the Holy Prophet (sa) said that if a person leads the prayers and something wrong enters his mind then he will be punished and the weight of all the sins of the people who are following him will be placed upon his shoulders. I know my own sins are such that if I am forgiven by Allah it will be due to His Grace alone, rather than me also bearing the sins of others.”

I was seated just a couple of feet to Huzoor’s right and hearing him describe himself as ‘sinful’ was extremely emotional. I have seen Huzoor almost every

day for years and all I have seen is truth, purity, kindness and a complete devotion to Islam. He is the person chosen by Allah the Almighty to continue the mission of the Promised Messiah (as) to reform mankind. Yet even so, the *Khalifa of the Time* still considers himself to be a sinner.

Raunheim Foundation Stone Ceremony

Late afternoon on 18 April 2017, Huzoor travelled the short distance to the German town of Raunheim, where he had led the Friday prayers a few days earlier. On this occasion, Huzoor was visiting to lay the foundation stone for a new Mosque at the site.

The event was attended by more than 135 guests, including several local dignitaries and politicians.

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

During his address, Huzoor spoke about the increasing uncertainty in the world, in light of the terrorism being perpetrated in much of the world and as a result of increasing hostilities between different nations.

Huzoor said:

“We are passing through extremely precarious times. There remains great danger posed by some so-called Muslim extremist organisations, whilst we are also witnessing hostilities increasing rapidly between certain countries. Whether it is conflict in Europe, Korea, other parts of

the Far East or America, there are many fronts from where a war can break out.”



Huzoor continued:

“It is my hope and prayer that all those who value humanity understand the grave situation the world is facing and work towards bringing mankind together and developing true peace in the world. Certainly, politicians and people of influence should endeavour to persuade their governments to focus on peace-building efforts, rather than inflaming conflicts and taking us further towards the abyss.”

Speaking about the fact that the German guest speakers had both spoken about how well integrated Ahmadis were, Huzoor said:

“The reason we are integrated is because we follow the true teachings of Islam and once this Mosque is built you will see even more the virtue and high moral conduct exhibited by the members of our community. You will come to see that rather than spreading hatred or sowing division, the

minaret of this Mosque will be a symbol of peace, unity, love and compassion.”

Huzoor also refuted the allegation that Islam was somehow incompatible with democracy. Rather, Huzoor explained that Islam promoted true democracy, based on the national interest.

Huzoor said:

“Islam emphasises democratic freedom and teaches that when electing leaders, those people should be chosen who are more likely to fulfil their responsibilities and trusts with integrity and truth. The best candidates are those people determined to serve their nation and who are willing to discard personal interest for the sake of the greater good. Islam teaches that one’s party affiliation should not be the deciding factor in deciding who to vote for, rather a person should vote for the candidate he or she believes will be more likely to serve the nation and to help it progress.”

Impact of Huzoor’s address

Alhamdolillah, Huzoor’s address had a very positive effect on the guests, many of whom I was able to meet and talk to.

One guest was a German man, *Torsten Lehnert*, who said:

“I feel as though for the very first time, I understand what true Islam is. It is a religion that promotes democracy and loving one’s neighbours. It is a religion that promotes religious freedom.”

Another guest, *Andrea Mellberg* said:

“The Khalifa defended his religion in the best way possible because where people say Islam is against democracy, he told us that Islam is in favour of it and that we should vote for policies and not people. This was very enlightening.”

I also met a man called *Jens*, who was a non-Muslim, but his three German daughters had accepted Ahmadiyyat.

Jens said:

“My three daughters accepted Ahmadiyyat some years ago and so I already knew that you are peaceful people but seeing and hearing the words of the Khalifa first-hand has had a deep impact upon me. There is no other Muslim leader who represents Islam as well as your Khalifa does.”

Jens continued:

“People say that Islam oppresses women but I am witness to the fact that this is wrong. I have seen how it encourages women to excel because my daughter is a doctor and last year she received a special prize directly from the hand of the Khalifa. That moment had a huge impact upon my heart and was very emotional.”

A Syrian, non-Ahmadi guest, told me:

“Other Muslims told me that Ahmadis used a different Quran but today I found out that this was a complete fabrication. Seeing the Khalifa and hearing him has had a great impact upon me. His face is beautiful, he is calm and when you see him you see truth and peace. I have never heard anyone speak so beautifully about Islam. I still need to do some more research but just seeing his personality has meant that I am considering accepting Ahmadiyyat.”

A guest originally from Italy, Dima Caesar said:

“I think your Khalifa is very sophisticated, he is a religious leader but also knows about the world. He understands the different dangers and understands the fears that some people have about Islam. He does not avoid difficult questions, rather he confronts them and explains them in the best possible way. If you want to see a true Muslim then you should look at the Khalifa!”

A question answered

The next morning, on 19 April 2017, I met some of the young Canadian Missionaries who were travelling with the Qafila. They were talking amongst themselves wondering if there was a cut-off point after which an obligatory (*farz*) prayer that had been accidentally missed could be offered.

They asked several people and were receiving different answers to their question. Later in the morning, Huzoor called me to his office and so I

mentioned that this discussion had been taking place. Despite being so busy, Huzoor called the Canadian Missionaries immediately to answer their question.

Huzoor said:

“If a person misses a prayer for some reason then he can offer it within the next 24 hours. However, if it goes beyond that it is too late and then the person should offer sincere Istighfar seeking the forgiveness of Allah the Almighty.”

One Missionary asked Huzoor when the *Tahajjad* prayer could be offered until.

In response, Huzoor said:

“You can offer Tahajjad up to around 90 minutes before the sunrise. It is my practice that I complete the Tahajjad prayers around 30 to 40 minutes before Fajr prayer and during the remaining time before Fajr I recite one part (sapara) of the Holy Quran.”

Marburg Foundation Stone Ceremony

Later that day, Huzoor travelled to Marburg, a German university town around 80km from Baitus Sabuh, to lay the foundation stone for a new Mosque.

The event was attended by more than 160 guests and dignitaries, including the *Lord Mayor*, various politicians and academics.



During his address, Huzoor emphasised the importance of education and said that, in light of Islam’s teachings, our Jamaat promoted the education of girls to such an extent that they were now often outperforming Ahmadi boys in terms of educational achievement.

Huzoor said:

“It is important for any person, male or female, to gain an education and to use it to serve their nation. However, it is of even more significance for a girl to be educated because in later life she will then be able to educate and raise her children in the best fashion. In this way, a mother paves a spiritual path for her children guiding them towards heaven.”

Huzoor also explained the concept of ‘two heavens’, with one in this very life and one in the *Hereafter*.

Huzoor said that wherever a person manifested peace and morality it encouraged others towards goodness and resulted in a 'heaven on earth' and whilst engaging in such good works the person was also creating his or her place in heaven in the next life as well.

It was an extremely beautiful point and later many guests mentioned how they were struck by this portion of Huzoor's address.

Huzoor said:

"On the one hand, there are some so-called Muslims who are killing innocent people by attacking clubs or carrying out suicide attacks in Muslim and non-Muslim countries. They seek to destroy the heaven on this earth and turn it into a hell. On the other hand, there are people who are spreading peace and harmony and in this way establishing a heaven on earth."

Impact of Huzoor's address

Following the event, I met some of the guests and, whilst the feedback and comments of guests were extremely positive at all of Huzoor's events during the tour, it was my own impression that in Marburg the impact had been even greater.

Many of the guests were visibly emotional and affected.

One of the people I met was *Dr. Evelyn Korn*, the Vice-Chancellor of Marburg University and after listening to Huzoor's address, she said:

"I was completely overwhelmed and astounded when he spoke about there being two stages of heaven - one in this life and one in the next. I loved how he said that the way to attain heaven on earth is to look after and love each other. This was extremely beautiful and very deep. The Khalifa is a man who is achieving a great deal and winning hearts through compassion."

Another guest, *Miss Kersten* said:

"I felt emotional when the Khalifa spoke of women's rights and women being guardians for entry to heaven and how Islam focuses on education and does not restrict women. My only regret is that there are not enough people here to hear his message. The Khalifa should give speeches in stadiums with thousands of people so that he can change the world with his message of peace."

Another lady, *Miss Madeline Shahl* said:

"The words of the Khalifa were extremely open and filled with so much wisdom. Each line had meaning and brought joy. He has shown that Islam is compatible with German values and so the only question is whether we are open hearted and willing to absorb Muslims."

A German man, Mr. Schaefer said:

“The speech by His Holiness was very much needed in the world and we are lucky that he chose to deliver it here in Marburg. This message should also be presented in the world’s parliaments and centres so that everyone comes to hear it.”

A true word

Reflecting on Huzoor’s speech, a German lady, Miss Esther said:

“I felt regret that the Khalifa felt it necessary to repeatedly say that Islam is a religion of peace but at the same time I understand why he had to emphasise this message. The truth is that today he gave a beautiful lecture about Islam’s peaceful teachings but tomorrow some crazy group will do an attack in Islam’s name and people will again question the religion.”

Tragically, the words of this lady proved true. The very next day an attack took place in France, where a gunman opened fire in Paris and killed a French policeman and within minutes the attack was claimed by the terrorist group *Daesh*. The attack was given worldwide media coverage and proved another means for Islam and Muslims to be defamed in the eyes of millions of people worldwide.

Anyway, the comment of this lady really struck me because it illustrated the challenge faced by Ahmadi Muslims, where we must continue our mission of spreading Islam’s true teachings amidst a climate where terrorists and

extremists are giving daily fuel to the belief that Islam is, *God forbid*, a religion of violence.

Faith inspiring words

As I write these words, the UK has suffered two horrific terrorist attacks in the space of two weeks – one in Manchester and more recently in London. These attacks followed on from the *Westminster* attack in March.

When I heard about the latest terrorist attack at *London Bridge*, just a few nights ago, I personally felt extremely saddened and worried that such attacks were now taking place as a matter of routine in the UK.

Of course, terrorist attacks have long taken place but when they hit a person's home nation or city it is natural for it to have an even stronger personal impact.

Whenever such attacks take place, under the instruction of Huzoor, our Jamaat media team goes to the site of the attack and offers its condolences and makes itself available to the media for interviews.

However, after the latest attack, we were given some advice that perhaps we should not go to the site because local people were very emotional and there was potential for anger and hostility if they saw some Muslims present.

Nevertheless, because Huzoor had instructed us to immediately go and offer our condolences and sympathies after other recent attacks, I sent some members of our team.

Later, when I met Huzoor, he was already aware that there had been some discussion about whether we should visit the site of the attacks so soon. Huzoor's response was extremely emotional, powerful and faith inspiring.

Huzoor said:

“Even if anti-Islam sentiment increases or people start opposing us it does not matter, we must continue to send our members to offer condolences and to portray the true teachings of Islam. We must not have any fear but must show courage at all times. Even if they throw things at us or attack us, we must continue our mission of spreading Islam's teachings of peace.”

Huzoor continued:

“Our Ahmadis in Pakistan, and in other countries, have long faced opposition and have endured grave persecution and so if our members here in the West also now have to face some opposition then so be it. We must never take a backward step but must be ready for every sacrifice for the sake of spreading the true and peaceful teachings of Islam. It is from opposition that opportunities for Tabligh arise and so wherever such events take place we should be there with our banners of ‘Love for All, Hatred for None’ prominently displayed.”

Based on Huzoor's guidance, we sent even more *Khuddam* to London Bridge and the surrounding areas the next day. *Alhamdulillah*, rather than facing hostility, they were welcomed with open arms. People came out of their cars

to embrace our Khuddam or to shake their hands and thank them. Similarly, the media coverage received was far beyond our expectations.

Just as Huzoor had predicted opportunities for Tabligh arose, as members of the public began to ask questions about Islam.

Nonetheless, Huzoor has also warned us that, in future, we may also face opposition and that we should be ready for it and remember the fact that persecution had only ever increased the faith of our Ahmadi brothers and sisters in other parts of the world.

We Ahmadis are the lucky ones because we have the constant protection and guidance of Khilafat. One of my team members is in contact with some educated non-Ahmadi Muslims, who have joined together to try and show the peaceful teachings of Islam. Yet, after the London Bridge attack, rather than respond with any coherence or to have any plan of how to defend Islam, all they had to resort to were curse words expressing their frustration. Other than that, each had their own opinion and view, but there was no unity or direction in their comments. As I said, we Ahmadis, are the lucky ones.

Emotions of Ahmadis

The next day, on 20 April 2017, Huzoor held a session of Family Mulaqats and one of the people to meet him was a lady called *Amatul Kafay*.

She was extremely emotional having met Huzoor for the very first time in her life. Throughout our conversation she kept pausing to compose herself.

With tears running down her face, Amatul Kafay sahiba said:

“I have never before seen Khalifatul Masih and I now feel as though it was a dream. Our Khalifa is so loving, so beautiful, so kind and so caring. We are nothing yet he still gives us his time and talks to us and listens to our problems and prays for us.”

Another person to meet Huzoor was *Attaul Mannan Babar (37)*, who had the honour to serve as a security guard for Huzoor when he was *Nazir-e-Ala* in Rabwah.

Recounting some memories of Huzoor from before he was elected Khalifa, Attaul Mannan sahib said:

“When I served Huzoor and observed him in Rabwah, one thing that always stood out was his humility. Sometimes, I saw that Huzoor was called as the guest of honour for a Jamaat event but he would let others speak, whilst he himself would only speak for a minute. Another quality I saw in Huzoor was that he always looked after us and worried about our needs. Once he told me to put some lighting outside my house because he was worried about my security!”

I also met an Ahmadi, *Waseem Shah* who was meeting Khalifatul Masih for the very first time at the age of 60.

Having waited six decades for such an opportunity, Waseem sahib was understandably very emotional.

With tears in his eyes, he said:

“I waited all my life to see the true noor (radiance) and finally my lifelong thirst has been quenched. The kindness on Huzoor’s face and the kindness in his voice was unlike anything I have ever felt before.”

Recounting a childhood memory, Waseem sahib said:

“When I was a little boy my grandmother used to prepare saag (a form of spinach) and send us to deliver it to some elders of the family of the Promised Messiah (as). In return, they used to give us some apples or pears to take home but their real gift were their prayers for us. I am sure it is a result of the prayers of such elders that today I had the opportunity to meet Khalifa-Waqt.”

A few blessed moments

Following the conclusion of Mulaqats that evening, Huzoor called me to his office for a few minutes and he mentioned the event in Marburg the previous evening. It seemed Huzoor was pleased with how the event had been and he said that the audience, by and large, was very well educated because many of the guests had links to the local University.

Speaking about his own address, Huzoor said:

“My speech was somewhat different to those I delivered at the other events on this tour. Apart from speaking about Mosques and our

humanitarian projects, I also covered some deeper religious and theological aspects, such as the concept of ‘two heavens’.

It showed how Huzoor takes into consideration the audience when delivering a speech. In the previous events, Huzoor emphasised Islam’s peaceful teachings and the way it advocates service to humanity, given that many of the guests had little previous knowledge of Islam. However, in Marburg, where several academics and university students were present, Huzoor also covered some deeper elements of our faith.

Earlier, I had sought Huzoor’s permission if I could go for a meal with a fellow member of the *Qafila*, Nadeem Amini, after the conclusion of the day’s events. Most graciously, Huzoor had granted this permission and said that he hoped that I enjoyed it. Thus, I thanked Huzoor and told him that whilst I enjoyed the *langhar khana (kitchen)* food, I really felt like a change.

Huzoor also asked me how the Canadian Missionaries were and if they had enjoyed their day, as Huzoor had graciously sent them out to spend a few hours in Frankfurt. I told Huzoor that they had been out shopping and had lunch at a *donner kebab* restaurant.

Hearing this, Huzoor said:

“Before Khilafat, I came here once to Germany and I ate a Turkish-halal sausage, known as ‘Rindswurst’, made either of beef or veal and it was known as a speciality of Frankfurt. The sausage was served with mustard and tasted very good. When I was young I enjoyed such things but not now.”

After *Namaz*, Huzoor also asked one Canadian Missionary, Abdul Basit Khawaja directly about how their day had been.

Later, Abdul Basit Khawaja told me about that experience and his broader experience of travelling with Huzoor.

Abdul Basit Khawaja said:

“One of the most memorable moments of the tour for me was on April 20th. This was the day we had gone out to Frankfurt as per the instruction of Huzoor and after Isha prayers while walking to the elevator Huzoor spoke to me and asked what we did, what we ate, how long we went for and all the while had the most beautiful smile on his face. I was amazed how Huzoor took time out for us and for others despite his busy schedule.”

Abdul Basit Khawaja continued:

“During the tour, one thing that struck me was how Huzoor would keep an eye on every last detail. He was always working to improve everyone and everything around him. In everything, Huzoor was the role model I needed personally. In the two weeks, I felt as though I was able to improve mentally, physically, emotionally and most importantly spiritually. It opened my eyes to the responsibilities that a Missionary has and how hard we must work.”

Friday Sermon in Raunheim

On 21 April 2017, Huzoor delivered his weekly Friday Sermon in Raunheim, at the same location it had been offered the week before. This time, the German Jamaat had asked only members within a certain radius to offer their prayers in Raunheim. As a result, the numbers of people attending were proportional to the space available and so, unlike the previous week, nobody was turned away.

In his sermon, Huzoor spoke of how Ahmadi Muslims must be proud of their faith and seek to propagate it without any fear or inferiority complex.

Huzoor said:

“Once a person comes to know of Islam’s real teachings they cannot help but be impressed by its virtuous teachings and accept it as a peaceful religion. Therefore, we should never feel any inhibition or complex in speaking about Islam.”

Later in his address, Huzoor also spoke about the importance of humility and not judging others.

Huzoor said:

“Do not look at the faults of others, instead you should focus on your own weaknesses in order to reform yourselves. Remember, that no one can claim that they are completely free of any weakness.”

Visit to home of a local Ahmadi

Later that afternoon, Huzoor visited the home of an Ahmadi called Ghafoor Dogar sahib.

Ghafoor sahib, who lived a few minutes from Baitus Sabuh, had requested Huzoor to visit his family home for a number of years and Huzoor had said that he would come at some point in the future when possible.

As Huzoor arrived, dozens of members of Ghafoor sahib's family and extended relatives were waiting outside the home to receive Huzoor.

Thus, upon arrival, Huzoor smiled and said:

"Is there a Jalsa taking place here?"

Thereafter, Huzoor spent around half an hour in the home of Ghafoor sahib. It was an example of how Khalifa-Waqt always fulfils his word and promises.

Meeting with Lajna Imaillah

Upon return from the Mosque, Huzoor presided a meeting with Germany Jamaat's Lajna Imaillah office bearers. Those attending the meeting were National Amila members, Lajna Regional Presidents and Lajna Local Presidents.

During the meeting, the Amila members presented their departmental reports to Huzoor and he guided them about their future plans and activities,

whilst in the second half of the meeting the representatives of the different Jamaats and regions had the opportunity to ask questions to Huzoor.

After listening to the report of the National Secretary Tabligh, Huzoor said:

“Lajna Imaillah Germany should set itself a target of 100 Bai’ats during the coming year and, in my view, this is not excessive or overly ambitious but is attainable if you utilise all your members and work diligently. Many members of Lajna Imaillah have been brought up here in Germany and so they are well educated and speak German very eloquently and so they should be encouraged to enter the field of Tabligh.”

Huzoor continued:

“My fear is that the great potential of Lajna Imaillah is wasted and so you must understand your duties and utilise the potential of the Lajna members. Start from your home (centre) by giving each member of the National Amila a target of attaining one Bai’at each year.”

During the meeting, Huzoor also reiterated the importance of *Purdah* and modesty in Islam.

Huzoor said:

“I sometimes get letters from Ahmadi women here in Germany, who say that their local Amila members do not do proper Purdah. Always remember that modesty is an essential part of our faith and the Amila members should set the best example in this regard. Today, sitting in

front of me is a German convert and her Purdah is excellent and so if a local German bears no complex in relation to Hijab then why should our Asian-origin Ahmadi be prone to such complexes or worries.”

Whilst speaking to the Lajna Tarbiyyat Secretary, Huzoor emphasised the need for mothers to be close to their daughters.

Huzoor said:

“It is extremely important that Ahmadi mothers interact and communicate openly with their daughters. The relationship and bond between a mother and daughter is extremely important and should be one of a very close friendship.”

In relation to the marriages of Ahmadi girls, Huzoor said:

“Some mothers are very particular and have arrogance when it comes to the marriages of their daughters. They insist that their daughters only marry men from certain families but this is the wrong attitude and spirit. If a good marriage proposal is received from an Ahmadi family and if the girl herself is keen and wishes to accept then the parents should accept it. However, if mothers are insistent or put any pressure on their daughters it will only lead to problems in the long term.”

One Lajna member informed Huzoor that in her region, members of Lajna Imaillah attended the local and regional Ijtemas, however the attendance at the National Ijtema was much weaker in comparison.

In response, Huzoor said:

“You must continue to remind the members of the importance of attending the National Ijtema. However, you should also realise that there will be some families for whom it is financially difficult to travel. Thus, if there are some members who genuinely cannot afford to travel then Lajna, if it has the resources, should arrange transport on buses or other means.”

Huzoor continued:

“If a mother does not attend it is unlikely her daughters will attend and if a husband is unwilling or unable to take his wife then it may be difficult for some families. Thus, Lajna Imaillah should try to hold its National Ijtema at the same time and venue as the Ansar National Ijtema as this will reduce travel costs for families. The economy of the world is down and this also affects Ahmadis and so these things need to be taken into consideration. In Pakistan, the Lajna and Ansar Ijtema also used to combine their Ijtemas in this way.”

One local President informed Huzoor that two Lajna members in her Jamaat had lost contact with the Jamaat and had not attended any meetings or events for over two years.

Upon hearing this, Huzoor said:

“Do not give up but continue to try and reach them. Our job is to try and bring every single person towards Allah the Almighty and to develop a

close relationship with the Jamaat. Thus, keep trying and if they do not answer your calls or do not want you to contact them then try and find an Ahmadi lady who is not part of your Amila but who had friendship with the ladies in the past because they might be more receptive and willing to listen to her. Always remember that our job is to bring people closer to the Jamaat rather than to drive them away."

Personally checking

Following the conclusion of the Lajna meeting, Huzoor proceeded to the Mosque where he presided the *Aameen* ceremonies of around 30 children and once the ceremony was concluded, Huzoor called a young Missionary serving in Germany, and instructed him to check if people were ready for *Namaz* in the other halls.

The Missionary came back just a few seconds later and reported to Huzoor that everyone was ready.

Upon this, Huzoor asked him:

"Did you go yourself to check?"

In reply, the Missionary said that he had not personally checked but had asked someone and been informed that everyone was ready. Upon this, Huzoor sent him back to personally check.

When the Missionary returned a minute or two later, he informed Huzoor that he had checked himself and everyone was ready.

Upon this, Huzoor said:

“If you are asked to check something or to give a report then you should always personally go yourself and see what the situation is, otherwise it is just like Chinese whispers.”

Huzoor’s point of training was extremely valuable. There are times when a person has to delegate certain responsibilities but wherever possible a person given a task should try to fulfil it himself.

Certainly, where a task is assigned by *Khalifa-Waqt*, no matter how big or small, the person responsible should ensure the authenticity and accuracy of the report he presents.

Convocation of Jamia Ahmadiyya Germany

On the morning of Saturday 22 April, Huzoor travelled just over 50km to Jamia Ahmadiyya to preside the 2nd Convocation Ceremony of Jamia Ahmadiyya Germany.

The Convocation ceremony began at exactly 11.30am at a marquee erected on the site.

Following a report by a senior member of staff, Huzoor presented 16 graduates with *Shahid* degree certificates in recognition of the completion of their seven years of study at Jamia. In addition, a young Missionary from Bulgaria was presented with a *Mubashar* degree certificate, a shorter course.

Thereafter, Huzoor addressed both the graduates and current students of Jamia Ahmadiyya Germany and gave them a great deal of guidance for their future lives.

Huzoor said that Missionaries must never consider their studies to have been completed, rather they should seek to attain knowledge throughout their lives in accordance with the tradition of the Holy Prophet (sa) that the pursuit of knowledge should be sought from the cradle to the grave.



Huzoor said the Missionaries were placed with heavy responsibilities as ambassadors of the Jamaat and that both Ahmadis and non-Ahmadis would look at the conduct and example of Missionaries.

Counselling them to set the best example in every aspect of their lives, Huzoor said:

“Where your worship of God Almighty should be of a very high standard, similarly your morals must also be of the highest order. Whether it be your domestic life, dealing with the public, or even in terms of your dress

code, you should act in an exemplary fashion. People should be able to instantly recognise you as those people who are true representatives of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community.”

Thereafter, Huzoor emphasised the importance of staying firm to the teachings of Islam and, as he had mentioned previously on the tour, Huzoor said it was essential that Ahmadi Missionaries never sought to hide the true teachings of Islam from others. Rather they should exhibit them with conviction and without any complex whatsoever.

Huzoor said:

“It does not matter if media columns are written against you or even if an entire newspaper is printed in opposition to you. No matter the circumstances, you must remain firm in your convictions. Always remember, that Islam’s true message is destined to spread because this is the promise of Allah the Almighty.”

Huzoor continued:

“Remember, Allah foretold the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) that ‘I shall cause thy message to reach the corners of the earth’. When such a promise has been made by Allah, then we need not fear anyone. Thus, to hide or compromise your beliefs is not a sign of wisdom, rather it can only be described as cowardliness.”

I felt very fortunate to be present listening to such inspiring and emotional words delivered by Khalifatul Masih. In the past, I have often thought about

the fact that the vast majority of media coverage received by the Jamaat in the *West* is very positive, however I also worried about the fact that as the Jamaat became more well-known, there would be stories and columns written in our opposition as well. This is the way of the media.

In fact, I used to pray that for however long I had the opportunity to serve in the Jamaat's *Press & Media* office, we would receive only positive coverage. However, Huzoor's guidance over the past few years has shown me that I should not fear negative coverage, so long as we Ahmadis are adhering to the true teachings of Islam.

I have seen with my own eyes that where Khalifa-Waqt is filled with love, compassion and mercy, at the same time he is utterly courageous and fearless of all the powers of the world and fears Allah alone. Where others may fear opposition or negative publicity, Khalifa-Waqt sees it as an opportunity for Tabligh and for bringing mankind closer to Allah.

When I was very young, probably eight or nine, I remember my father, the late Dr. Hameed Ahmad Khan, once told me that during my life I, and other Ahmadis, would have stones thrown at us here in the UK and in the wider Western world. At the time, I did not understand what he meant and could never imagine that anyone would ever attack us. I knew that Ahmadis were persecuted in Pakistan but I could never envision that we would have to bear opposition here in the West as well.

It was only as I progressed into adulthood, and particularly during the past few years, that I came to understand how accurate his words were. We are

now living in an era where people are indeed throwing metaphorical stones at us and our religion.

Many elements of the Western media and influential figures are targeting Islam in every possible way. Yet we are so fortunate to have the blessed guidance of Khilafat, which is shielding us from the stones and enabling the Jamaat to go from strength to strength.

Examples of Huzoor's love

The formal proceedings at Jamia concluded with a silent prayer led by Huzoor.

Most graciously, Huzoor then visited the homes of some of the Jamia teachers who were living in apartments at the complex. Later, Huzoor told me *why* he had visited the homes of the teachers.

Huzoor said:

“After I last visited Jamia Germany in 2015, one of the teachers wrote to me that he had told his family that perhaps I would visit their home and so they should be ready just in case. However, due to the busy programme I was not able to visit. The teacher wrote that his children were left very disappointed and emotional and so I wrote back that I would come next time. I felt the burden of those children for 18 months in my heart and so this time I went and visited them. Upon seeing this, the other teachers living in Jamia also asked me to visit their homes and so I visited them as well.”

It was another example of how Khalifa-Waqt loves each and every Ahmadi, whereby Huzoor felt a burden in his heart that some young Ahmadi had been left disappointed.

Thereafter, Huzoor attended a lunch hosted by Jamia Ahmadiyya. During the meal, Huzoor noticed a Jamia teacher sitting many metres away and called him to the head table. Huzoor asked him how his wife's health was and if she had recovered from a serious illness from which she had suffered.

Such incidents never cease to amaze me, where Huzoor remembers the personal issues and worries of individual Ahmadis, even though he receives thousands of letters each week.

Following lunch and Namaz, Huzoor walked to his car, and as he did, all of the students and teachers of Jamia Ahmadiyya Germany stood in a line several hundred metres long and Huzoor graciously met each and every one of them before departing and returning to Baitus Sabuh.

A few moments with Huzoor

Later in the day, Huzoor called me to his office for a few minutes and asked me how I had found the Jamia event earlier in the day.

In response, I mentioned that a senior office bearer in Germany had told me that he had found one part of Huzoor's address particularly interesting, where Huzoor had described the Jamaat as 'financially weak' in comparison to worldly organisations.

Hearing this, Huzoor said:

“Yes, financially our resources as a Jamaat are comparatively very little and it demands that every penny of the Jamaat is spent with great caution.”

Huzoor then smiled and said:

“When I studied Economics, our professors used to repeat the maxim of ‘Minimum resource, maximum utility’ and that is what we should always seek to achieve in our Jamaat as well.”

I mentioned to Huzoor that Australia’s Jamaat had informed that they had been invited to attend a special commemoration to mark *ANZAC Day* which was an annual event held in Australia each year to remember those who had died in wars. The Jamaat had also been asked to lay a wreath of flowers at the event and so were seeking Huzoor’s guidance if this was permissible.

In response, Huzoor said:

“Yes of course, they should attend such events and there is no harm in laying flowers at such ceremonies and so they have permission.”

An accidental omission

Later that evening, a *Nikah* (marriage) ceremony was held in Huzoor’s presence at the Baitus Sabuh Mosque. The Nikahs were announced by Germany’s Missionary-in-charge, Haider Ali Zafar sahib.

The Missionary-in-charge sought to go through the long list of Nikahs as quickly as he could, however at one point it seemed as though he was in too much of a hurry. I say this because he concluded one Nikah and moved on to the next whilst making a rather important omission.

Thankfully, Huzoor had noticed and said:

“Imam Sahib, you forgot to ask the groom for his consent to his own marriage!”

Everyone laughed, realising that the Missionary-in-charge had in fact accidentally forgotten to ask the groom!

Huzoor smiled and said:

“I think Imam sahib decided to consent on behalf of the boy himself!”

A faith inspiring story

Over the past few years, one person I have gotten to know in Germany is *Hammad Martin Haerter (34)*, a German convert to Ahmadiyyat now serving as the German Jamaat’s National Secretary for new converts.

That evening, I spent some time with Hammad and he spoke about his own journey to Ahmadiyyat and the effect upon his family members. His was a very inspirational story, whereby following his *Bai’at* his two younger brothers also later accepted Ahmadiyyat.

Hammad told me that in the town he grew up in Bavaria there were hardly any foreigners and in his own school there was only one non-German student. However, that one student, a non-Ahmad Muslim, introduced him to the Holy Quran for the first time, which he began to read with great interest and soon he found that the Quran's teachings had a great effect upon him. As he entered university, Hammad's interest in Islam continued to develop but he observed a glaring contradiction between the teachings of the Quran and the conduct of the Muslims he met.

Hammad said:

"I moved to Munich to attend university and there I met some non-Ahmadi Muslims but I was left shocked because there was a huge gulf and difference in their version of Islam and what I had read in the Quran itself. I felt a great deal of confusion and so I prayed to God asking him if my understanding of the Quran was right or whether the Islam being practiced by the non-Ahmadis was correct."

Hammad continued:

"After a few days of very intense prayer, I accidentally stumbled upon an article entitled 'What does Islam want?'. I had searched online for 'Islamic State' because I was interested in researching something else but I decided to read the article anyway. As I read it, I was amazed and found that it had perfect answers to the questions in my heart and all the confusion that my contact with Muslims had aroused was removed. It was a huge relief and a remedy for my heart. The article was authored

by the very well-known German Ahmadi, Hadayatullah Hubsch sahib and so this was my first introduction to Ahmadiyyat."

Hammad told me that thereafter he started to research the Jamaat and started reading the German translated books of the Promised Messiah (as), as well as learning about the institution of *Khilafat-e-Ahmadiyya*. He also contacted some Ahmadis.

Speaking of that period of investigation and learning, Hammad said:

"In my heart, I deeply desired and hoped that the Ahmadiyya Community was true because the teachings of the Promised Messiah (as) and the explanations of Islam given by his Khulafa were extremely beautiful and soon won my heart. My greatest fear was that ultimately, I would find out that this was not a true Jamaat, however Alhamdulillah the more I read the more I became convinced of its truth. All my questions were answered and I knew that it was time for me to do Bai'at and to become a loyal servant of Khilafat and so in September 2005 I accepted Ahmadiyyat."

Hammad told me how his love of Khilafat has continued to grow ever since he became an Ahmadi and such love was at odds with the German mentality.

Hammad said:

"Here in Germany, we are raised to not overly respect or love any leader because of our nation's history where at one time one leader was given full authority and it led to devastating results. Indeed, our entire society is against believing and trusting in just one leader. However, Khilafat is

something else entirely. It is a leadership that cannot be corrupted or abused in the way that others have done. Hence, with each day that passes the feelings of love for Huzoor in my heart have become more and more intense. This is my experience and this is my reality."

Hammad continued:

"As I said my love for Huzoor has increased and so sometimes when I listen to recordings of my early years as an Ahmadi in which I spoke in front of Huzoor I am embarrassed and I wonder how could I speak in front of Huzoor so casually."

Thereafter, Hammad told me about his two brothers, *Stefan (32)* and *Daniel (18)* who had also come to accept Ahmadiyyat.

When I asked Hammad if it had been difficult for him to convert his brothers, Hammad said:

"I cannot say that I converted my brothers to Islam, rather it was the beauty of Islam Ahmadiyyat itself that won their hearts. It actually brought us more together as a family because Stefan and I had very little in common growing up. I had certain fields of interest and he had his and there was a barrier or divide between us."

Hammad continued:

"It so happened that Stefan came across some hard times and at that time I was able to give him some advice based on Islam's teachings."

Furthermore, Stefan had a very severe sports accident in which half his face was crushed and so I wrote to Huzoor for prayers and in reply Huzoor prayed that he be granted a 'miraculous' recovery. I showed the reply to Stefan and he told me that his doctor had himself used the word 'miraculous' to describe his recovery. This had a big impact upon Stefan."

Personally, when I see these three brothers in Germany joined together in their love for the Promised Messiah (as), I feel as though it is a glimpse into the future of Ahmadiyyat, when *Insha'Allah* Western people will come to accept Ahmadiyyat in droves.

Hammad told me that he now hoped and prayed that one day his mother would also come to accept Ahmadiyyat. He said that in the past she had considered Islam to be a '*rigid*' religion but a few days earlier in Munich, she had met Huzoor and now her view of Islam had changed completely.

She asked Huzoor if Islam taught that only Muslims would enter heaven and in response Huzoor explained that such matters were in the Hands of God and nowhere did Islam teach that only a Muslim could be granted Paradise.

I asked Hammad if he had any particular special memory from his time as an Ahmadi. His reply, reminded me that just the briefest of glances from Khalifa-Waqt can have an effect that lasts a lifetime.

Hammad said:

"Until a few years ago, Huzoor would permit the Nazimeen (senior office bearers) of Jalsa Salana to have musafa during the inspection of Jalsa

Salana. For many years this was the case but then Huzoor stopped it and I have to admit I was happy he did because I never liked the way the Nazimeen and certain Ahmadis would push forward and would fall over one another to try and get to the front of the line. I always thought this was not appropriate behaviour for an Ahmadi. Anyway, the last year Huzoor met the Nazimeen, I stayed back because I did not want to push like some of the other people, and so I did not have the chance for musafa. However, as Huzoor walked past he somehow noticed me and smiled in my direction and that one glimpse was such a beautiful gift for me that I can never forget."

As we concluded our conversation, I asked Hammad if he ever had any regrets or doubts about accepting Ahmadiyyat.

In reply, he said:

"Maybe the one and only regret I have is that I accepted Ahmadiyyat at the age of 23 and not before. On the other hand, perhaps I needed to pass through some bad experiences to truly appreciate, value and honour what Ahmadiyyat has now given to me. I feel such relief that I have been freed from the so-called 'freedom' of the West because Western freedom is a slavery to a person's lowest desires. I remember, before Ahmadiyyat, I used to join my friends when they would go out at night and it was all so senseless and so Islam has given me true freedom and unshackled all the ropes that had been tied around me growing up in this society."

Inauguration of Al-Ain Mobile Eye Clinic

In the very early hours of 23 April 2017 I heard an extremely loud noise outside that woke me. It sounded like a huge truck was trying to enter the Baitus Sabuh premises. I was too tired to look out of the window but I assumed that I must be mistaken as I did not think any truck would come in the middle of the night.

However, in the morning when I came down for breakfast, I saw that there had actually been a delivery of a large truck recently purchased by *Humanity First Germany*. The truck, which was to be sent to Africa, was a fully-functioning mobile eye clinic, in which various eye-related treatments and surgeries could be conducted.

Most graciously that morning, Huzoor came out into the courtyard of Baitus Sabuh to inspect and formally inaugurate the *Al-Ain Mobile Eye Clinic*.

Huzoor was given a tour of the new facility by Athar Zubair sahib (*in-charge of Humanity First Germany*). The truck included an operating room, a prep room, a room for eye tests and other facilities. Huzoor unveiled a plaque and led a silent prayer before sitting for group photos with the local *Humanity First* team.

Waqf-e-Nau classes

For the rest of the morning, Huzoor held separate *Waqf-e-Nau* classes with Khuddam and Lajna.

During the Khuddam class, a short presentation about the responsibilities of a Waqf-e-Nau was given by Germany's Sadr Khuddam, Hasanat Ahmad sahib. Hasanat sahib, himself was a Waqf-e-Nau, who was now serving the Jamaat full-time as a Waqf-e-Zindighi (life devotee).

When he came to deliver his presentation, Huzoor said they should have asked a different person to give the presentation, as Sadr Sahib was already very active and trained.

It illustrated how Huzoor wants as many members of the Jamaat, and Waqf-e-Nau in particular, to be well trained and to have different skills, rather than all duties being conducted by a few people.

During the class, one boy informed Huzoor that he had heard opponents of Islam raise an allegation about the spread of Islam, whereby they would say that Muslims believed the Quran to be an everlasting law and so they must also believe that the *Jihad of the Sword* continues till today.

In response, Huzoor said:

“It is true that the Quran is a universal teaching and for every era. It covers every possibility from the most remote to the most likely and is a complete law. However, in terms of Jihad of the Sword, you must remember that the Holy Prophet (sa) himself foretold that the Promised Messiah would bring an end to religious wars and that he came to establish peace. The wars fought today are for political gains and the proof of this is that the Muslim nations are continually suffering. If it was

a true Jihad then surely Allah would have sided with them but we do not observe this.”

Later in the class, another boy asked if the persecution faced by Ahmadis in Pakistan gave the Jamaat any licence to fight back as we were clearly being persecuted for our faith.

In response, Huzoor said:

“Where the law impedes our basic religious duties we do not accept it. For example, in Pakistan the law says we should not recite the Kalima or offer Salat and we cannot accept this. However, we cannot stand up and cause any disturbance in a country or take the law into our own hands. It is not our right to do war or to fight back. The Holy Prophet (sa) taught that if a person is unable to tolerate any cruelties or persecution then he should migrate.”

Another student asked Huzoor if organ donation was permitted by Islam.

In response, Huzoor said:

“Yes, a person can donate his organs. Those things that benefit humanity are permitted. Why should we reject something which is of benefit to mankind?”

Meeting with Germany Jamaat's National Amila and Presidents

Later that evening, Huzoor held a meeting with Germany Jamaat's National Amila, its Regional Presidents and all local Presidents from across the country. In total, around 300 people attended the meeting.

I have attended many Amila meetings presided by Huzoor over the past few years and no Amila can claim that it is working perfectly or that there is no room for improvement. Occasionally, I have seen Huzoor exhibit a degree of strictness in such meetings but more often than not I have seen that Huzoor has dealt with the different Amilas with great patience and kindness.

There have been meetings where the answers given to Huzoor have repeatedly been very inadequate or have indicated significant weaknesses and even laziness amongst some office bearers. On such occasions, I would often sit there expecting Huzoor to become angry and yet invariably his response proved to be an example of tolerance. Rather than admonishing the office bearers, Huzoor guided them towards future improvement.

During the meeting in Germany that evening, Huzoor again exhibited great patience, however I also saw and observed moments where Huzoor expressed a degree of anger and disappointment in the past conduct and work of some office bearers.

In this regard, the tone of the meeting was quite different to other such meetings I have attended. It was a reminder to me personally that the more love and nearness a person receives from Khalifatul Masih, the greater the expectations and responsibilities placed upon them.

Germany is a country that Huzoor has visited every year during his Khilafat and many years he has visited more than once. Thus, they have been the recipients of Huzoor's direct guidance and training more than any other Jamaat except the United Kingdom.

Where Huzoor ever does indicate disappointment or express anger it is done with the intention to reform and to improve the conduct of individual Ahmadis and the Jamaat at large. Thus, even the anger of Khilafat is based upon love and kindness.

The meeting lasted over 2 hours and during the first part the National Amila members presented their reports to Huzoor and during the second half the local and regional Presidents had the opportunity to share their concerns with Huzoor or to seek his guidance.

At the beginning of the meeting, Huzoor enquired from the national *General Secretary* about which Jamaats were regular in sending monthly reports.

Upon being informed about some Jamaats that were very weak in reporting, Huzoor said:

“It seems that such people value their offices in the Jamaat for the status they think it gives them or as a means of power over others. This is completely the wrong attitude. The root of the problem is that you consider yourselves to be ‘office-holders’, where in truth you are here to serve others. This is something that I see in both the National Amila and in some local office bearers. The paramount objective of an office bearer is to bring people closer to the Jamaat through love and kindness and

never to abuse their position by trying to assert their authority needlessly.”

Huzoor continued:

“What is the purpose of you being an office bearer if you do not fulfil your basic duties? If you do not have the time to fulfil your responsibilities due to your worldly activities then it is better to seek leave from your positions because if you continue to hold them and do not fulfil your responsibilities it is sinful.”

Huzoor further said:

“If the local office bearers have some problems or grievances with the National Amila it is not excuse for them to stop fulfilling their own duties. Remember, each and every one of us is accountable for our own actions before Allah and not for the actions of anyone else.”

Thereafter, Huzoor asked a local President directly if his local Amila was active. In reply, the local President said they were not and were guilty of laziness.

Hearing this, Huzoor said:

“What is your reaction? Did you take any action to motivate them? Or did you just continue to ignore it until now? If the Amila members are themselves lazy then what can they expect of the general members of the Jamaat?”

Huzoor asked the National Tabligh Secretary about the progress of the Jamaat's leafleting campaign. The National Secretary informed Huzoor that in the past year 1.5million leaflets introducing the teachings of Islam had been distributed in Germany.

In response, Huzoor said:

“What is the follow up? It is not enough just to hand over a leaflet but you have to repeatedly meet people, otherwise they will soon forget. Our Ahmadis have a close connection with the Jamaat and with Khilafat, yet still after a week of me delivering a sermon they will forget many of the points and so how can we expect that non-Ahmadis will be reformed after reading one leaflet. Thus, where you distribute leaflets you should also keep in regular touch with as many people as possible. For this, you need a lot of manpower and you should particularly involve the youth of the Jamaat.”

Later, Huzoor expressed his concern and regret that domestic issues between Ahmadi families were on the increase and that the rate of divorce within the Jamaat was getting higher.

Regarding this issue, Huzoor said:

“I even receive cases of Ahmadi families who have lived together for years and had four or five children and then decide to divorce. This is extremely regretful. More often than not, I have observed that the greater fault lies with the husband. Anyway, the Islahi (Reconciliation) Committee should not just take action after the event but should also take preventative

steps to try and guide people and provide counselling before issues develop or escalate.”

Another issue that was discussed in detail was the German Jamaat’s ongoing Mosque projects. Huzoor said he had received a report that showed that costs associated with future Mosque projects, far exceeded the amount of money the Jamaat had collected in its Mosque fund.

Huzoor said:

“The German Jamaat is building Mosques each year but you are living off debt. You already have taken a very substantial loan from the Markaz (centre). Why do you make such big plans if you do not yet have the means to fulfil them?”

Huzoor continued:

“Those local Jamaats who have made the greatest financial sacrifices to the Mosque fund should be given priority when it comes to deciding where to build new Mosques in future. From now on, I am taking your Mosque projects out of the hands of the National Amila and I will personally will decide which Mosques are built and what their scale should be.”

Another issue was that there was disagreement between certain local Jamaats who wanted large Mosques built in their towns and the relevant National Amila members who felt the scale of their ambitions were unrealistic.

In response, Huzoor said:

“Mosques should be built according to the local Tajneed (numbers of Ahmadis). It is better to build more small Mosques, than few large Mosques because any Mosque, no matter its size, is a means of introducing Islam to the local community.”

Huzoor was informed that the auxiliary organisations of *Ansar*, *Lajna* and *Khuddam* had committed to fund some Mosques but that much of the funds had not yet been received.

In response, Huzoor said:

“The responsibility of building Mosques lies with the Jamaat and not the auxiliaries. Thus, do not try to shift the blame upon them. If they do provide you with funds to build Mosques they will be doing so out of generosity and not out of duty. Thus, whatever funds they give to the Jamaat should be accepted with humility and gratitude.”

As the meeting ended, Huzoor addressed all the office bearers about the spirit with which they should fulfil their duties.

Huzoor said:

“All of you must always consider yourselves to be servants of the Jamaat and of all Ahmadis and not as office bearers. Furthermore, you must respect the Missionaries who are serving here, whether they are young

or old. If they are serving in your Jamaat then you should co-operate with them and care for them to the best of your abilities.”

Huzoor continued:

“The National office bearers should remain humble at all times so that the local office bearers and local Ahmadis consider you as their friends and trust you to help them and serve them. If an office bearer, whether national or local, does not have the capacity to serve with this spirit then it is better for everyone that they offer their apologies and resign from the position. Remember, you will earn respect through love, humility and kindness, never through arrogance or pride.”

Huzoor further said:

“When Allah the Almighty instructed the Holy Prophet (sa) to train and guide mankind with love, then who am I, and who are any of you, to act with harshness and severity?”

An emotional few minutes

Perhaps the most emotional part of the meeting were the words uttered thereafter by Huzoor.

Huzoor said:

“I have heard that some office bearers or Ahmadis here believe that I come under the influence of what others tell me and make my decisions

based on what others say to me. Remember, that such allegations are not something new but were even levelled at the Holy Prophet (sa) and this is mentioned in chapter 9, verse 61 of the Quran where it states that some people used to say about the Holy Prophet (sa) that 'He is all ear'.

Huzoor continued:

"For me it is an honour to follow the example of the Holy Prophet (sa) in any way and so if people say about me as well that 'I am all ear' and that I come under the influence of others then I do not mind. However, it is a cause of deep concern for those who say such things, be they office bearers or other Ahmadis, because those who made such allegations in the time of the Holy Prophet (sa) were the hypocrites."

Huzoor further said:

"Personally, whenever I make any decision it is only after bowing down before Allah in prayer and offering Istighfar seeking forgiveness for my own shortcomings. Anyway, if any people here have such views or know of others who do then they should seek to reform because they alone will suffer for their hypocrisy. The Jamaat itself and the institution of Khilafat will never Insha'Allah be weakened and will continue to progress no matter."

As Huzoor said these words, I felt extremely emotional. I could not comprehend how any Ahmadis, who claimed to have done *Bai'at* of Khalifatul Masih and to believe that he was divinely appointed, could then make such unfounded and derogatory claims. I also thought of Huzoor's

reaction. Rather than anger, he considered it an honour for himself to be linked to the Holy Prophet (sa) in any way possible, even where people cast aspersions on his blessed character. And with those emotional words, Huzoor's tour of Germany was drawing to a close.

Departure from Baitus Sabuh

On the morning of 24 April 2017, a few minutes before 10am, Huzoor came out of his residence, where hundreds of Ahmadis had come to see him off.

Many, especially amongst the Lajna, were in tears as they waved at Huzoor and recited poems.

Rather than entering his car immediately, Huzoor spent around 10minutes outside amongst the Ahmadis and noticed a young boy, aged 12 or 13, filming with a video camera and called him towards him.

The boy informed Huzoor that he was filming for MTA and upon this, Huzoor took the camera from him and started filming the boy.

With great affection, Huzoor said:

“You have spent all this time filming others but no one will have filmed you and so I will do it!”

Thereafter, a silent prayer, the Qafila departed at exactly 10am from Baitus Sabuh to return to London.

Left behind in a drawer

Due to a problem with one vehicle, some of the Qafila members, including me, were asked to switch cars and so on the return journey I was placed in a car driven by Muhammad Ahmad sahib from London, along with one of Huzoor's security guards, Nasir Saeed sahib. Later, another security guard, Mahmood Khan sahib, also joined our car following the lunch break.

After around 10 or 15 minutes, I asked Nasir sahib if my passport was in the glove compartment where our passports were routinely kept whilst on the road. He checked and said that it was not there. I was not unduly concerned because I had switched cars and so presumed that it would have been in the glove compartment of my original car. Just to be on the safe side, we contacted the driver of the car I had previously been in to check. It turned out that my passport and those of three other Qafila members were not in the car but had been left in a drawer at Baitus Sabuh.

At that moment, my heart sank and I began to think that I would be left stranded unable to cross back into London with Huzoor and the rest of the Qafila. Thankfully, as we were not too far into the journey, a message was sent to the German Khuddam requesting that they collect the remaining passports and then catch up with the Qafila and hand them over whenever we stopped for a break. Thankfully, they found the passports and safely delivered them to us a couple of hours later and so I breathed easy again.

Later, when we did break, I mentioned the story to Huzoor and he asked me why I had not taken hold of my passport at the beginning of the journey. I responded by saying that it had always been the case that we would hand in

our passports at the beginning of a tour and would only take them back upon returning home.

Upon this Huzoor said:

“Let this be a lesson for you for future that you should make sure your passport is always in your own hand before departing from any place. If it is ever lost then you will be the person left behind and so you should take personal responsibility for it each time.”

An unfortunate accident

At 12pm, the Qafila made an unscheduled stop after an unfortunate car accident a few minutes earlier when two Qafila cars, positioned at the back of the Qafila, collided with one another on the motorway at speed. With the *Grace of Allah*, no one was injured, however one of the cars was quite badly damaged.

Upon stopping at the services, Huzoor called me and asked how the accident had happened and to confirm that no one was hurt.

Thereafter, Huzoor said:

“The drivers need to maintain a good distance all the time and not try to come too close because if they have to brake suddenly it requires reaction and thinking time.”

Huzoor then called Athar Zubair sahib, from Germany's Jamaat, and asked him if he had given any *Sadqa* before the start of the journey. Huzoor mentioned that he himself had given *Sadqa* and when I heard this, I was sure in my heart that it was because of the *Sadqa* given by Huzoor that the Qafila had been saved from any injuries or a more severe accident.

Thereafter, Huzoor personally went to check the vehicles involved in the collision before meeting the people who had been seated in the two cars to check if they were ok.

Huzoor then returned to his car and took out a box of homeopathy and called each person involved in the accident one by one and gave them homeopathy from his blessed hand. Upon this, some Khuddam and other people involved rushed forward to try to ensure that they did not miss out.

One person, Abdullah Saprar sahib from the Germany Jamaat, approached Huzoor eagerly and had his two hands held out ready to receive the homeopathy from Huzoor.

Upon seeing this, Huzoor smiled and said:

"It is not mathai (sweets)"

In response, Abdullah sahib said:

"Huzoor, for us this is the real mathai!"

Huzoor smiled again and then gave Abdullah sahib a dose of homeopathy as well.

Fitting in a pocket!

Whilst at the service station, Huzoor noticed an extremely tall and broad German person walking in the shop.

Upon this, Huzoor turned to me and said:

“Abid, you could fit in the trouser pocket of that man!”

With this, both Huzoor and I laughed a great deal!

Namaz and Lunch at Baitus Salam in Brussels

The Qafila then proceeded onwards for a further hour and then took a break for Namaz and lunch at the Baitus Salam Mosque in Brussels. It was the first time I had the opportunity to stop at our Mosque in Belgium as part of Huzoor’s Qafila.

Even though the purpose of the stay was simply to offer Namaz and to have lunch, still Huzoor found the time to meet each member of the Belgium Jamaat present individually and to inspect the complex and assess the changes made at the site since Huzoor’s last visit a few years before.

Before the Qafila departed from Baitus Salam, all the German office bearers and Khuddam present met Huzoor individually for the final time.

One of the last people to meet Huzoor was Amir Sahib Germany and I noticed that Huzoor affectionately embraced Amir Sahib. There had been some shortcomings during the tour which had incurred Huzoor's displeasure but at that last, final moment only his love, compassion and mercy was apparent.

As I looked around, I also saw some members of the German Khuddamul Ahmadiyya security team with tears flowing from their eyes as though they were young children. It was a very emotional end to the tour.

Break in Calais

Thereafter, the Qafila proceeded to Calais where we arrived at 5.50pm, well before our scheduled departure on the *Eurotunnel*. Hence, Huzoor and Khala Saboohi (*Huzoor's respected wife*) took the opportunity to visit the service station at Calais.

Initially, Huzoor took a seat in the waiting area near the main shopping area and he called me to sit with him for a few minutes. Huzoor asked me if I planned to do some shopping, which perhaps was Huzoor's kind way of reminding me in case I needed to get some gifts for home. I mentioned that I had already purchased some toys for my children Mahid and Moshahid.

After a few minutes, Huzoor and Khala Saboohi proceeded to another waiting room where they remained seated for the next 20 minutes. Huzoor had indicated that they would take some coffee and so my intention was to get some cappuccinos from *Starbucks*, however Major Sahib (*Head of Security*) was insistent that he prepare the coffee himself by mixing a cappuccino sachet with some boiled water and honey.

I suggested that we take both options to Huzoor and then he and Khala Saboohi could choose whichever coffee they preferred. However, Major sahib insisted that only the coffee prepared by him should be served.

He even prepared a cup of his coffee for me and told me I had to taste it. As I took a sip, Major sahib started intently at me before saying:

“Tell me now – this is better than Starbucks, isn’t it?”

In spite of feeling the pressure of Major Sahib’s eyes, I maintained my position and said:

“Major sahib it is good but, with due apology, I still prefer Starbucks!”

Anyway, once it was prepared, I took the coffee to Huzoor and Khala Saboohi and Huzoor immediately asked which coffee it was. In response, I said that I wanted to bring *Starbucks* but Major Sahib maintained that we serve the sachet coffee.

Hearing this, Huzoor smiled and said:

“It is good you brought this one because this is better.”

As Huzoor said this, I smiled and thought that it was a lesson that there is normally wisdom in the things our elders tell us and so Major Sahib’s opinion had proven right!

Thereafter, Huzoor said:

“Now go and tell the Canadian Missionaries and the other Qafila members to take coffee and cake from me.”

When I went and informed the Qafila members that Huzoor had kindly instructed us to take coffee and cakes from *Starbucks* everyone was delighted.

We really enjoyed those last final few minutes of the tour, *Alhamdolillah*.

An exceptional analysis

As Huzoor returned to his car, he called me for a second and handed me an article written by Hazrat Musleh Maud (ra) entitled *‘The Future of Muslims and the Responsibilities of Muslims’*. Huzoor told me to photocopy the article and to return the original to him.

I read the article upon returning to London and was amazed by its contents. It had been written in 1919 and the analysis of Hazrat Musleh Maud (ra) regarding anti-Islamic sentiment and the need for the Jamaat to be at the forefront of defending Islam was quite amazing.

After reading it, I mentioned to Huzoor how a century before, Hazrat Musleh Maud (ra) had given the Jamaat the same message that Huzoor had constantly given to us during his Khilafat, which was to defend Islam using the media and to make contact with as many people as possible.

In response, Huzoor said:

“Yes, the analysis of Hazrat Musleh Maud (ra) is exceptional and some parts are like a prophecy into the future. If our Ahmadis had fully acted upon his instructions over the past century and reached out in the way he hoped, we would not have seen Islam’s name be defamed as it is in the current era. Rather, many more people would have come to know the true teachings of Islam.”

Return to Masjid Fazl

The Qafila departed from Calais just after 7pm and arrived at Folkestone just over half an hour later and travelled directly to Masjid Fazl where Huzoor arrived at 8.45pm.

Hundreds of Ahmadis were there to welcome Huzoor back to London. After returning briefly to his residence, Huzoor came back down to lead the Maghreb and Isha prayers.

Conclusion

Alhamdulillah, Huzoor’s tour of Germany had once again proven extremely blessed and faith inspiring. Huzoor had opened two new Mosques and laid the foundation stone for two others.

Various media interviews had taken place in which Huzoor explained directly to the German public the true teachings of Islam.

During the tour, Huzoor focused particularly on the Tarbiyyat of the office bearers of the German Jamaat and I am sure that Huzoor's guidance and, at times, admonishment will prove a means of further uniting the German Jamaat and increasing the moral and spiritual standards of its members.

May Allah grant Huzoor a long and healthy life and enable all Ahmadis to fulfil the expectations of Khilafat-e-Ahmadiyyat. *Ameen.*

End of Part 2

Any comments or feedback: abid.khan@pressahmadiyya.com