

**HUZOOR'S TOUR OF HOLLAND AND GERMANY**

**OCTOBER 2015**

**A Personal Account**

**PART 2**

***By Abid Khan***

## **A memorable morning**

On Saturday, 10 October 2015, Huzoor's tour of Holland entered its 6<sup>th</sup> day.

I had arranged with Nadeem Amini to visit the city of Den Haag in the morning, as the previous evening Huzoor had graciously said that I should go to see the famous *Panorama* painting.

Our plan was to leave shortly after *Fajr*, however in my heart I was slightly apprehensive. The reason being that the previous evening Huzoor had also mentioned that if he had time on Saturday he would go cycling in Nunspeet. Our trip to Den Haag would take at least 4 or 5 hours and so I was worried that I could miss the opportunity to cycle with Huzoor.

However, as I returned from *Fajr*, that morning, Ahmad bhai conveyed a message from Huzoor that we should delay our trip until later in the morning and instead get ready for cycling!

I was overjoyed that I would have this special opportunity and also so grateful that Huzoor had remembered that we were due to leave for Den Haag and so had particularly sent a message to wait.

I had not cycled properly for a number of years and so I have to admit I was a little worried that I would embarrass myself on the bike! I recalled how in 1997, when I had visited Nunspeet with the Urdu Class, I had once become too confident whilst cycling and had increased my speed to the point I no longer had control.

I vividly recalled flying off the bike in the forest and landing head first in the ground and being taken to hospital where they had to dress and bandage up the gaping wound in my head! Thus, this time I decided that I would keep my speed to a normal pace throughout and just enjoy the opportunity to cycle with *Khalifatul Masih*.

After getting ready quickly, I walked outside and unlocked the bike I had used a couple of days previously. Most of the other members of the Qafila were also present, as were a few members of the Holland Jamaat. Each person was standing next to their bikes and wiping down the seats in anticipation.

Mahmood Khan sahib, from Huzoor's security team is an avid cyclist and so he had proper cycling clothes and gear, whilst the rest of us wore a mixture of jeans, tracksuits or *shalwar kameez*!

At around 7.45am, Huzoor came out from his residence and he walked towards where we were waiting. Huzoor was wearing an Afghani round *topi*, a brown coloured *shalwar kameez*, a very smart black two-thirds length *Berghaus* rainproof jacket and brown shoes. With the grace of Allah, Huzoor looked so smart and beautiful.

A bike had been readied for Huzoor by his security staff and immediately Huzoor got on the bike and without a second's pause, Huzoor started cycling out of the Mosque complex and onto the road.

There were two members of Khuddam who were cycling at a far distance ahead but otherwise Huzoor was at the front, followed a few metres behind

by his security team and then the rest of us. It felt like we were a proper cycling peloton being led by *Khalifatul Masih!*

Huzoor rode at a very good speed and without pause or break continued to cycle. First, we went past the beautiful Nunspeet lake and through the Dutch countryside.



Whilst my bike was swaying slightly due to my inexperience of cycling, I saw that Huzoor cycled with complete balance and in a very relaxed way. Sometimes Huzoor would even cycle one-handed. Huzoor changed gears when needed, for example where the track was uphill.

As we passed the lake I saw that the two Khuddam at the front turned left but Huzoor turned right and so they were left behind! It took them around 10 minutes to catch up!

After around 30 minutes, Huzoor stopped for one minute and upon doing so I heard Huzoor ask ***“Where is Abid?”***

I got off my bike and approached Huzoor, who asked me how I was finding it and if I was tired! I said that the cycling had been more intense than the leisurely cycle I had taken a couple of days before but that I was enjoying it very much and that the pace had been faster than I had expected.

After a minute's break, Huzoor got back on his bike and continued to cycle for the next 15 or 20 minutes, whilst we all continued to follow behind.



For the rest of the journey, I cycled alongside Huzoor's security staff and directly behind Huzoor. I kept looking in Huzoor's direction and observing how he cycled.

As the fresh air blew in our faces I wondered if there could be anything more enjoyable than cycling after *Fajr* with Huzoor.

It was a great privilege and honour for all of us who had this blessed opportunity and utterly unforgettable.

That day Huzoor cycled a total of 6.4miles and *Alhamdolillah* for the rest of the tour each day after *Fajr* we had the blessed opportunity to cycle with Huzoor.

### **Huzoor's attention to detail**

As he was about to return to his residence, Huzoor asked me when I was leaving for Den Haag and so I said that if Huzoor granted permission we would leave straight after showering.

Huzoor kindly gave permission and then called Nadeem and asked what he would feed me for breakfast! Huzoor's love and kindness and attention to detail is so unique.

Speaking to Nadeem, Huzoor said:

***"Are you going to just feed Abid bread or a croissant?"***

Nadeem replied:

***"No Huzoor, we are going to have a full heavy breakfast!"***

Despite Nadeem's confidence, Huzoor's words came true because when we stopped at a service station, the options were extremely limited and so I had toast, whilst Nadeem had a croissant!

## Visit to Panorama

After getting ready, Nadeem and I ended up leaving for Den Haag at 9.30am. Huzoor had instructed that I should visit the *Panorama Mesdag*, which is a vast 120metre panoramic landscape painted by the famous Dutch painter Hendrik Mesdag in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The painting depicts a view of the famous coastal area of Scheveningen. It is not an ordinary painting but rather has illusionary effects. It has been displayed with real sand at the front of the painting, whilst the top and bottom of the painting are kept out of view so it appears as though it is a real scene.

It was extremely impressive and as I viewed it, I thought to myself how it was due only to the kindness of Huzoor that I had the opportunity to see this famous landscape.

After visiting the *Panorama*, Nadeem and I walked into the city centre and went to a few shops. I bought some coffee to take back to London and thereafter we went to a local café and had an early lunch. I ate a salmon salad, whilst Nadeem ate a chicken Caesar salad. The salad was good but, if anything, a bit too light and healthy!

When we returned, I told Huzoor we had eaten the salads for lunch, to which Huzoor replied:

***“You should have gone to the beach and eaten fish and chips whilst viewing the sea!”***

As Huzoor said those words, my mouth watered and I wished that we had done exactly as Huzoor had said! Anyway, it had been an extremely enjoyable few hours.

We tried to return in time for *Zuhr* and *Asr* but got delayed by traffic and as we arrived *Namaz* had just finished. Nonetheless, I was very happy to be back close to Huzoor again.

### **Emotions of local Ahmadis**

That evening, as Huzoor met local Ahmadis in family Mulaqats, I took the opportunity to meet some of the Ahmadis fortunate enough to meet Huzoor.

I met two young brothers, aged 22 and 17, who had come to Holland with their family in 2009 from Pakistan. They both told me that in the past they had been irregular in offering the five daily prayers, but after seeing Huzoor they were determined to overcome this weakness forever.

The younger brother said:

***“Before this tour, I was very weak in offering the five daily prayers but since Huzoor has come I have offered every prayer behind him and instead of feeling lazy or tired, I feel like I could stand in prayer all day and all night behind Huzoor. Insha’Allah in future I will always offer my prayers and I will pray that one day I can become one of Huzoor’s bodyguards.”***



His elder brother said:

***“After meeting Huzoor I feel very emotional and as though I want to improve myself. I have also been weak in offering Salat but after praying behind Huzoor I now understand how important it is to be regular in prayer. After seeing Huzoor, I have also realised how lucky we are because Huzoor keeps us united and together and if we did not have Khilafat probably our Jamaat would split up and divide.”***

I met a *Khadim* called *Muhammad Ataul Ali (28)* who told me how Huzoor’s prayers had protected and blessed his family. He said:

***“My son, who is five years old, is a heart patient and I swear by Allah that he is only alive due to Huzoor’s prayers. When he was younger the doctors said he was critically ill and they could not guarantee he would survive. We watched as other children who had the same condition died but, with the Grace of Allah, our son has completely recovered.”***

He told me how during their *Mulaqat*, Huzoor had looked at their son and asked if he was the boy who had a heart condition.

Muhammad Ataul Ali sahib added:

***“How is it possible that Huzoor can recognise my son amongst the hundreds of thousands of people that he meets? Truly, Khilafat is the shield that protects us and we can only survive if we stay closely attached to it.”***

I met an African lady, *sister Zainab*, originally from Sierra Leone, who had lived in Holland for the past 10 years.

She was a non-Ahmadi Muslim who had come to learn about the *Jamaat* through the *Tabligh* of an Ahmadi lady. Very articulately, sister Zainab spoke of her experience of meeting Huzoor. She said:

***“I have not yet converted to Ahmadiyyat but after meeting Huzoor I can say that I am almost ready to. My heart is very satisfied by the truth of Ahmadiyyat. Meeting Huzoor was a totally unique and overwhelming experience for me. When I saw him I saw a spirituality that I had not felt before and so I immediately asked him to pray that I and my children become close to God.”***

Sister Zainab added:

***“Although I have not yet become an Ahmadi, I can truthfully say that the Ahmadiyya Jamaat is a like a friend who is always there to give you direction and that draws you closer to God.”***

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

That evening after *Maghreb* and *Isha*, I returned to my room and called home to see if Mala and Mahid were ok.

After a few minutes, I heard the door from Huzoor’s residence open and heard Huzoor’s blessed footsteps once again walking down the steps.

Huzoor was wearing a beautiful robe over his *shalwar kameez* and looked so graceful and filled with *noor*.

After sitting down on a sofa chair, Huzoor asked me in detail about my visit to the *Panorama* earlier in the day.

Huzoor mentioned how he had first seen it in 1988 and had been twice more after *Khilafat*. Huzoor said that once you entered the viewing area it appeared as though it was real.

Huzoor also mentioned how once he had been given a special tour, in which they took him down to the base and from there it was clear that it was a painting that comprised hundreds of individual canvass paintings assembled together side by side.

That day there had been significant media coverage of Huzoor's tour and some of the journalists who had interviewed Huzoor had published their stories.

Regarding this, Huzoor said:

***“Certainly, there has been improvement this time in terms of media coverage. But this should inspire the local Jamaat to work harder and to build upon the coverage it has received this time.”***

## Cycling in the bitter cold

The next morning, after *Fajr*, Huzoor again went cycling in the Nunspeet countryside. I think a few of those people who had cycled the day before were feeling a bit stiff and tired.

Thus, in the minutes before Huzoor came out of his residence, Dr Athar Zubair, a doctor from Germany who was with the *Qafila* throughout the tour, conducted a proper warm-up session.

However, despite Dr Sahib's best efforts, he was unable to prepare us for what was to come. The temperature was far colder than the day before and so throughout the cycle all of us who did not have gloves felt as though our fingers would fall off.

I had honestly never felt such cold in my fingers before and I remember thinking if my numb fingers would ever regain normal feeling!

More than the cold I was personally feeling, I felt sad whenever I looked in Huzoor's direction because it was clear that Huzoor was also very cold.

Throughout the cycle, Huzoor was cycling one-handed and would put his free hand in his jacket pocket to try and warm it up.

After a few seconds, Huzoor would switch hands and seek to warm his other hand. At one point, Huzoor stopped cycling for a minute and rubbed his hands together to try and heat them up somehow.

Upon our return to the Mosque, Huzoor called Bashir sahib and told him to bring Huzoor's gloves from his car. Thus for the next few days Huzoor cycled whilst wearing black leather gloves.

### **Omaisr's cycling skills**

On the second day, Omaisr Aleem sahib, in-charge of *Makhzan-e-Tasaweer*, also joined the cycle. When he had mentioned to me the day before that he intended to cycle, I asked him if he would be ok as he has had some health problems in the past.

Omaisr looked at me and smiled before saying:

***"Just watch me tomorrow, I will leave you all behind!"***

During the cycle his words were proved true. We would be cycling as a group and then suddenly every so often Omaisr would speed past us with no effort at all. It was like a cartoon scene, where everyone was going at one particular pace, whilst one person zipped past without a flicker of sweat or effort!

I don't want to give away Omaisr's secret but I think it is fair to say that he had a helping hand (a battery motor!)

### **Meeting with delegation of Ahmadi converts from France**

On Sunday 11 October, a delegation of 22 Ahmadi converts travelled from France to meet Huzoor at the *Baitun Nur* Mosque in Nunspeet.

It was a very emotional meeting in which the new converts shared their feelings with Huzoor and asked him questions about Islam or requested his prayers for the difficulties they faced.



The French delegation included local French converts and also those who originated from other countries such as Algeria, Mali, Mauritius and Morocco.

An Algerian convert asked Huzoor about how to spread Ahmadiyyat in France.

In response, Huzoor said the *Jamaat* should continue its leafleting campaign and include verses of the Holy Quran, sayings of the Holy Prophet (sa) and quotes of the Promised Messiah (as) and Khulafa.

Further, Huzoor said it was necessary that the *Jamaat* introduced true Islam to the French public through the media.

Huzoor said there was a general 'fear' of Islam in the West due to the conduct of extremists and so it was the duty of Ahmadi Muslims to eliminate such fears by displaying the very best and highest moral standards.

Huzoor said each Ahmadi should take personal responsibility. He said, generally speaking, every person had at least 10 friends or acquaintances and so they should inform each of their contacts about true Islam.

If the entire *Jamaat* did this then the message of Islam would reach hundreds of thousands of people very easily.

Huzoor added that no effort could ever prove successful if it was not accompanied by sincere prayer. Huzoor said:

***"It is our duty to convey the message of Islam and we leave the rest in the hands of Allah. We should never tire or become frustrated because one day the world will listen. In the life of any nation one generation is not at all a significant period of time and so we have to show patience."***

One convert spoke of how his family and friends had turned against him since he had accepted Ahmadiyyat.

Huzoor reassured him but also reminded him that such persecution or opposition should never weaken his faith.

Huzoor said:

***“Did not the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) and his followers give sacrifice after sacrifice for the sake of their faith? Did they not bear all forms of religious persecution? Thus, for the sake of his faith an Ahmadi Muslim must be ready to give all due sacrifices”***

Very beautifully, Huzoor also said the convert should continue to care for and love his family members. Huzoor said:

***“Even if your family or relatives oppose and persecute you because you are an Ahmadi Muslim, you should still treat them with love and compassion. You should still fulfil their needs and care for them because this is what Islam teaches us.”***

Another convert narrated how a few days previously he had seen a dream in which he was told in a very loud voice that he would meet *Khalifatul Masih*. He said he was astounded when the very next day he received a phone call from the French *Jamaat* that he should get ready because on Sunday they were travelling to Holland to meet Huzoor.

Huzoor asked about the convert’s wife and when told that she was not an Ahmadi, Huzoor said:

***“Do not pressure your wife to accept Ahmadiyyat in any way. Rather you should only treat her with love and after seeing your example and conduct, she will Insha’Allah also accept one day.”***



An Ahmadi convert, originally from the Comoros Islands, but who now lived in France asked about *Hajj* and whether it was permissible to pray behind the non-Ahmadi Imams.

In response, Huzoor advised that if an Ahmadi is at *Hajj* and feels trapped or threatened then he or she can pray behind the non-Ahmadi Imam.

However, Huzoor said they should pray with the intention that the person leading the prayers rejects the Promised Messiah (as) and so as soon as we are able to we will repeat the *Salat* privately.

Huzoor said that if some Ahmadis were able to they should try to form small groups and pray together if at all possible.

Huzoor also narrated an incident pertaining to Hazrat Musleh Maud (ra) when he went for Hajj during the era of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih I (ra).

Hazrat Musleh Maud (ra) had not wanted to pray behind a non-Ahmadi *Imam* but was told that Hazrat Khalifatul Masih I (ra) had said that it was permissible at Hajj. However, after performing *Salat* behind a non-Ahmadi at Hajj, Hazrat Musleh Maud (ra) later performed his *Salat* again privately as he had not felt at ease or comfortable.

When Hazrat Musleh Maud (ra) returned to Qadian, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih I (ra) told him that he had acted correctly and that his exact instruction had been that if an Ahmadi had to pray behind a non-Ahmadi at Hajj, he should repeat his *Salat* later on.

The most emotional part of the meeting for me was when an African lady convert, with two young children, took the microphone and narrated her story.

She told Huzoor how upon accepting Ahmadiyyat her husband had rejected her and removed her from their home. Thus she was facing severe personal trials but she said that she remained utterly strong in her faith and was ready to withstand any persecution or opposition for the sake of Ahmadiyyat.

Upon hearing her narration, very lovingly Huzoor said:

***“May Allah bless you and give you comfort. May Allah grant you the very best future and create ease for you in your home life. And may Allah keep you always strong and firm in your faith.”***

After the conclusion of the meeting, Huzoor led the Zuhr and Asr prayers and thereafter the French converts were able to take *Bai’at* at the hand of Huzoor in an emotional ceremony.

### **Emotions of local Ahmadis**

Later in the day, Huzoor met members of the Dutch *Jamaat* in *Mulaqat*.

One of the people Huzoor met was *Wadood Bajwa (42)*, who was the elder brother of *Master Abdul Qudoos Shaheed*, who had been martyred in Pakistan in 2012. I had met Master Qudoos sahib’s wife and children in Germany earlier in the year.

After meeting Huzoor, Wadood Bajwa sahib said:

***“It is a great favour of Allah that our forefathers accepted Ahmadiyyat otherwise we would be nothing. When you meet Huzoor you forget about everything else and are entirely captivated by his beauty and radiance.”***

Speaking about Master Qudoos Shaheed, he added:

***“My brother Qudoos fulfilled his pledge and if he was sent back to this world I know that he would go through the same torture and brutal cruelty without a second’s thought.”***

As I left, Wadood Bajwa sahib told me that his elderly father *Mubarak Ahmad Bajwa* was also present and so I went to meet him.

Mubarak sahib was very frail and as he spoke to me tears rolled from his eyes. He said:

***“Our family is extremely blessed because my son Qudoos was martyred for the sake of his faith. I personally have no value or quality but Allah has granted me this huge honour that I am the father of a person who sacrificed his life for the sake of his Jamaat. Every day I pray that Allah accepts his sacrifice.”***

Speaking about the love of Huzoor, Mubarak sahib said:

***“Some years ago, my daughter developed cancer and became extremely unwell. She was the wife of one of Huzoor’s security guards Ijaz ur Rehman and throughout her illness Huzoor showed great love to her and all of our family. It was God’s will that she passed away and thereafter Huzoor’s love increased yet further and he continued to pray for us and asked us to remain patient. The love and reassurance of Khilafat is quite unique.”***

I walked away feeling very emotional. I had met an elderly man who had first lost his daughter to cancer and then later his son had been martyred and yet he bore no anger or grievance.

Rather, he kept repeating that he and his family were fortunate and blessed. I felt that such examples of patience, dignity and strength of faith could only exist in Allah’s *Jamaat*.

I met an Ahmadi called *Abdul Haq Compier, (40)*, a Dutch man who had converted to Ahmadiyyat in 2000. He told me how Ahmadiyyat had changed his life. He said:

***“Ahmadiyyat has given me peace of mind and peace of heart. In terms of my mind, Ahmadiyyat has answered all the theological questions I had to my total satisfaction. And in terms of my heart, the beauty of Khilafat and indeed all Ahmadis has won me over. Ahmadiyyat was the thing that I searched for throughout my life and it has given my life purpose. I am a better man than before.”***

Continuing, Compier sahib said:

***“I have been fortunate to meet Huzoor on various occasions. Huzoor’s kindness and wisdom stands out. Sometimes Huzoor says something and it is only after some time that you realise the wisdom in what he said and how true it was. Huzoor is not just my Khalifa but he is also my friend. If I have problem then I share it with him and Huzoor thinks about it and then helps me solve it. And the amazing thing is that no problem is too small and so you can share anything with Huzoor.”***

I met *Waqar Ranjah (29)*, an Ahmadi who worked as a social worker in the city of Almere. He said:

***“We are all weak and so sometimes we say or do things that are not right or others will say things that we do not appreciate. Yet, when we see Huzoor we forget such trivial matters and we all come together. We realise that our teaching is beautiful and perfect and so we are drawn closer to our faith.”***

I met *Dr Zubair Akmal*, a dentist, who had been a long-serving member of Holland’s National Amila. He said:

***“Huzoor sees those weaknesses that we either ignore or don’t see ourselves. In the past Huzoor has attended some of our Amila meetings and I have seen for myself how he pays attention to every single department. He tells us to not look at others but to take personal responsibility for our duties. Not just as a spiritual leader but also as an administrator Huzoor is entirely unique.”***

## A new friend

Someone who I spent a lot of time with during the tour was *Safeer Siddiqi (26)*, a young *Missionary* who graduated from the first ever class of *Jamia Ahmadiyya UK*.

One afternoon he told me about his time in *Jamia* and his experiences since being posted as a *Missionary* in Holland.

Speaking about *Huzoor's* love and guidance during his years in *Jamia*, he said:

***“During our seven years in Jamia, Huzoor guided us in every sphere of our lives. The truth is that if any of us young Missionaries have any quality it is only due to Khalifatul Masih and his love and prayers. I am quite sure that every graduate from my class would agree with this statement.”***

He told me how during *Jamia*, *Huzoor* used to set the menu for the students and even came to his room and checked the quality of his bed and his wardrobe.

Upon learning that he had been posted to Holland, where he had grown up, *Safeer* told me he went to meet *Huzoor* one last time before entering the field as a *Missionary*.

Speaking of that meeting, Safeer said:

***“Huzoor told me that that you have two responsibilities – one is to grow closer to Allah yourself and continuously develop that connection with your Creator. The second duty you have is to develop a bond between the members of the Jamaat and God Almighty.”***

During the present tour, Safeer had been heavily involved in arranging Huzoor’s media interviews. Speaking about this, he said:

***“Each journalist who interviewed Huzoor said afterwards how impressed they had been by Huzoor. I was worried by one journalist in particular that he may say something inappropriate, because it is known that he is against Islam. However, he was the one who was the most positively affected and impressed by Huzoor’s message and answers. This reinforced to me that Allah is always with Khalifatul Masih.”***

As we ended our conversation, Safeer told me how since he had been posted to Holland, Huzoor had not visited the country and so a few members of the local *Jamaat* used to lightly tease him by saying Huzoor used to come to Holland regularly but since you have come he has stopped and so it must be your fault!

Safeer said that after some time he started to think that perhaps their theory was true! Thus, he was also extremely glad that Huzoor had come so that this idea could be put to bed once and for all!

## **A special banana**

On the evening of 11 October after *Salat* and dinner, Huzoor came down to the basement area where I was staying. Huzoor was wearing a brown *shalwar kameez*.

Unlike the previous days when Huzoor had sat down on the sofa, this time he took a seat at the same dining table where I had been working.

Whilst sitting at the table, Huzoor noticed some fruit and crackers that were in a bowl on the side table. In the fruit bowl there were bananas, grapes and pears.

Huzoor asked why we had not eaten them and so I said both Ahmad bhai and myself had wanted to eat them but were not sure if it was appropriate to take them without Huzoor's permission as we were staying in his residence.

From a distance, Huzoor said that the grapes must be spoiled by now. I walked over and looked at them and I said that it appeared they were ok but Huzoor was not convinced and said again that grapes go bad quickly.

Later, after Huzoor had left, I looked at the grapes closely and noticed how there was fungus on the bottom of each grape and so Huzoor had been entirely correct!



Huzoor then looked at the bananas and said they seemed over ripe but asked me to bring him one. I looked at the banana and saw that it was covered in dark brown spots and so assumed it had gone off.

However, when I handed it to Huzoor he told me that this was exactly how he liked bananas and that it would be fine from inside. He said in his home he also used to let bananas ripen for a few days before eating them.

I have to admit that given how many black spots were visible on the peel, I was unsure but when Huzoor peeled the banana I saw that it was absolutely fine.

Very casually, Huzoor split the banana in half with his own hand. Huzoor kept one piece for himself and handed me the other half and told me to eat it.

I had already eaten one bit, when Huzoor took the banana back off me with his own hands and said he had noticed one small black spot which he then removed with his fingers.

Whilst Huzoor was removing it, I went to the kitchen counter and brought a tissue so that Huzoor could wipe his hands.

Thereafter, Huzoor ate his half of the banana, whilst I ate my half. It was sweet and delicious and due to the fact I was sharing it with Huzoor meant it was certainly the best and most memorable banana I had ever eaten!

Thereafter, Huzoor looked at the Japanese crackers that were also on the counter and he asked if we had opened them yet.

I said that they had been attracting me for days but I had not opened them for the same reason that I had not previously tried the fruit.

Huzoor told me to pass the crackers to him and upon receiving them Huzoor opened them and took a few pieces in his hand which he began to eat. He handed me the rest of the bag and said that I should eat the rest!

I actually saved those crackers and brought them back to London where I shared them with Mala and Mahid. We all enjoyed them a lot.

Those few minutes were some of the most enjoyable moments of my life, *Mash'Allah* as I engaged in late night snacking with beloved Huzoor!

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

I then sat down at the table and Huzoor asked me about my day and who I had met.

I mentioned how the Jamaat's young *Murrabi*, Safeer Siddiqi sahib had told me that some members of the *Jamaat* had teased him about the fact Huzoor had not visited Holland since he had been posted to Holland.

Huzoor laughed and said:

***“Well they should be happy now because I have never stayed as long in Holland as I have on this trip. In the past, I have stayed for 4 or 5 days but this time I am staying for 10 days, Insha’Allah.”***

Huzoor then mentioned the diaries that I now write after Huzoor’s tours.

Huzoor said:

***“I think by now you will have enough material to write an interesting diary. Don’t try and write it in just one part but you should write it in at least two parts because it is easier for people to read then.”***

As Huzoor stood up to return to his residence, he asked me how I had found the cycling that morning. I said that I had enjoyed but it had been very cold.

Huzoor replied by saying:

***“It was not just cold – it was freezing! That is why I kept riding one handed so I could warm my free hand in my pocket! I have now taken out my gloves for tomorrow!”***

### **Huzoor’s unparalleled kindness and love**

The next morning after *Fajr*, I returned to my room to get changed for cycling.

At that moment Ahmad bhai called me over and handed me a pair of thick black woolen gloves. He told me that on his return from *Fajr*, Huzoor had given them to him and told him to give them to me.

I was so touched, amazed and happy at Huzoor's kindness and love. As I did not have any gloves my plan had been to cover my hands with a pair of socks.

Khawaja Qudoos sahib then told me how after completing *Fajr* prayer, Huzoor did not return to his residence but asked for the keys to his car and then Huzoor walked to the car which was parked at a distance.

Huzoor went inside his car and searched for some time before walking out with the gloves and giving them to Ahmad bhai to give to me.

When I heard this, I was left completely speechless. I felt so much love for Huzoor but also embarrassment that he had gone to so much effort and used his precious time to get the gloves for me. All I could say was *Alhamdulillah* and *Masha'Allah*.

The day before I had been upset with myself that I had not packed a pair of gloves but now I felt elation and relief that I had not done so!

### **Moments at the lake**

As per the previous two days, Huzoor came out of his residence at 7.45am and immediately began cycling.

We followed the same route as the previous day, however on the way back, Huzoor stopped at the beautiful Nunspeet lake.

Huzoor called me and asked if the gloves had made any difference. I responded by saying that they had made a huge difference and my fingers had remained warm throughout.



I asked Huzoor if the gloves he had been wearing had been effective, to which he replied that they had been and in fact by the end his fingers were feeling a little too warm!

Thereafter, Huzoor looked at Abdullah Saprah sahib and told him to run around the lake. Without a second for pause or thought, immediately Saprah sahib started to run as fast as he could.

It was an example of obedience to *Khilafat* that has since stuck in my mind because Saphrah sahib is in his 50s and yet upon hearing Huzoor's instruction to run, he ran as far as he could without worry of injury or any embarrassment. He was not wearing appropriate shoes or clothes but it made no difference to him.

Upon finally returning, he smiled and said to Huzoor:

***"Jazak'Allah for sending me on that run because I feel fresh now!"***

Huzoor smiled and said:

***"Yes that's why I sent you!"***

During those days Muzammal Dogar sahib, a friend of mine from London, who is *Waqf-e-Zindigi* and *Murrabi* who works in *MTA*, was also in Holland on a family visit.

That day he had also come cycling and so upon seeing him, Huzoor also instructed that he run around the lake. Huzoor also asked a few other members of the *MTA* staff to run around the lake.

As they started to run, Huzoor said to them to come back when they got tired, however none of them were able to hear this instruction and so they ran and ran until they had completed a circuit of the lake which was an extremely long distance.

Muzammil is very fit and often wins sports competitions at *Ijtemas* or during his time at *Jamia Ahmadiyya*, however even he found the activity extremely tough.

Thereafter, very graciously, Huzoor permitted for photos to be taken with those present. The first photo was of the members of Huzoor's own *Qafila* who had come from London.



The next photo was with the members of the Dutch *Jamaat* present; then a photo was with a few *Khuddam* who had come from Germany to do security duty and there was also a photo with the *MTA* boys after they had returned from their run!

Finally, Omair Aleem, who had been taking the photos, was able to have his photo taken with Huzoor.

In fact, each and every person present had the opportunity to have their photo taken with Huzoor that morning by the lake.

As we returned to the Mosque, I noticed how every person was smiling and extremely joyful. Only the love of *Khilafat* can inspire such contentment and delight.

### **Breakfast at *Uniek Bakery***

I was about to return to my room and was looking forward to a hot shower when Ahmad bhai called me and said that I should get back on my bike as some of the *Qafila* members and some of the local *Khuddam* were going to a nearby café.

I was quite tired and so did not feel like going but out of respect for my roommate, who had been very kind to me throughout the trip, I agreed to join them.

We cycled for a few minutes and arrived at a very nice looking local café and bakery called the *Uniek Bakery*. We spent the next hour there sipping hot coffee and eating croissants and local bread.

Knowing that I have a sweet tooth, Khawaja Qudoos sahib asked me to taste a piece of cake that he had ordered. Even for me it seemed a little



early in the morning for cake but as he had especially requested I did taste and it was delicious!

All the other guests in the café were local Dutch people and so I think the manager was quite astounded to see a group of around 15 Asian people suddenly enter his café.

Thus, he brought a camera and took a photo of all of us. Upon doing so he said he would post it on the café's social media sites! He was using us for free advertisement!

### **A unique shopping trip**

Very, very rarely have I seen Huzoor and Khala Saboohi (*Huzoor's respected wife*) have some free time.

Moments that the rest of us take for granted, such as going shopping or going out for a meal, are extremely rare.

Thus, I was extremely delighted when on Monday 12 October at around 12pm, Ahmad bhai sent a message that the *Qafila* cars should get ready as Huzoor and Khala Saboohi would be visiting a shopping centre in the nearby town of Zwolle.

At 12.40pm Huzoor, wearing his *achkhan* coat and *paghri* (turban) and Khala Saboohi came out of their residence and the *Qafila* proceeded directly to Zwolle.

We arrived at 1pm and Huzoor and Khala Saboohi were escorted to *V & D*, which was a huge, multi-levelled department store. Thereafter, for almost two hours Huzoor and Khala Saboohi browsed through various sections.

Just like any other ordinary shopper, Huzoor looked at various clothing and household items.

Sometimes, Huzoor would put on his glasses and look closely at the items or read the information tag.

On one occasion, when Huzoor and Khala Saboohi, were in the kitchen section, they called a local shop assistance and sought his advice about a particular product.

*Alhamdulillah*, at the end it did seem that Huzoor and Khala Saboohi had found some suitable things to purchase and that they had enjoyed this opportunity.

Whilst, we were in the department store, I reflected again on how rare such opportunities were.

I also reflected upon the fact that just as any other husband and wife, on this day, Huzoor and Khala Saboohi had the opportunity to look around the shop.

I felt happy for Khala Saboohi also and thought about how she too has sacrificed so many elements of her private life for the sake of the *Jamaat* since Huzoor was elected Khalifa.

### Very special shopping advice

In between, I and the other *Qafila* members also took the opportunity to browse the different sections. I had been looking for a large rainproof overcoat for some time and so whilst we were in the department store I happened to come across one which I quite liked.

I showed it to a few of the *Qafila* members and they all told me that it looked good and that I should purchase it. Finally, I decided to show it to Ahmad bhai and he also said that it looked good.

At that very moment, it so happened that Huzoor walked nearby and so I thought that I should take the opportunity to also seek Huzoor's opinion and so I asked him how he thought it was.

Upon seeing it, Huzoor looked very carefully at the coat for a few seconds and then said:

***“The coat is good but it is a little tight and short.”***

I thanked Huzoor for his advice and immediately resolved to put the coat back on the rack and I did not buy it.

I actually learned an important lesson that men should also not wear tight fitting overcoats.

When I reflected upon this I realised that whenever I had seen Huzoor wear an overcoat it had always been slightly loose and never tightly fitted.

*Alhamdulillah* Huzoor's advice proved very blessed because upon returning to London, I found a coat much more to my liking and satisfaction and whose size was more appropriate.

### **Huzoor's inspection of Baitun Nur complex**

Early evening on 12 October, Huzoor came out and made an impromptu inspection of the Baitun Nur Nunspeet complex.

Huzoor visited the kitchen and met the volunteers and then visited the *Lajna* hall and *Lajna* kitchen.

Thereafter, Huzoor went and inspected each of the guest apartments, where the majority of the *Qafila* members were staying.

Huzoor visited the room that Munir Javed sahib and Majid sahib were sharing and asked them if the guest house standards had been maintained. Majid sahib responded by saying that everything seemed fine.

Upon this Huzoor said that it was important to look at such things in detail so that it can be assessed what weaknesses remain and what improvements can be made in future.

Huzoor particularly checked in detail the room where Omair Aleem sahib was staying. Huzoor looked carefully at the bedroom area, the bathroom and also the small kitchenette.

Huzoor also asked about the upper level area in the building where the *Baitun Nur* Mosque was previously located. The local *Jamaat* informed Huzoor that it was not in the best state currently.

Upon hearing this, Huzoor said it should be brought up to a proper standard as soon as possible and thereafter it should be properly maintained. Huzoor said the cleaning team should maintain the guest rooms throughout the year and not only when guests were coming.

Huzoor added that he expected that on his next tour to Holland, the *MTA* workers would be accommodated within the Nunspeet complex, rather than in the nearby hostel where they were staying on this occasion.

### **A few precious moments**

Later that evening, after *Namaz* and dinner, I returned to my room and at 9.45pm, Huzoor came downstairs to the basement area where I was staying. I thus had the opportunity to spend some time in Huzoor's blessed company.

Huzoor asked me how I had found the shopping trip earlier in the day. I said I was grateful that Huzoor had advised me that the coat I was looking at was a bit tight and that as the day went on the more I felt relieved that I had saved my money!

Huzoor said that the local Nunspeet market had a nice shopping area and in previous visits both he and Khala Saboohi had visited.

Even before Khilafat, when Huzoor had visited Holland, he said he used to enjoy visiting the Nunspeet shopping area.

In particular, Huzoor advised me that I should pay a visit to a shop called *Blokker*. He said that *Blokker* sold different types of things and at a good price.

The previous evening, I had had the opportunity to share a banana with Huzoor and on this occasion Huzoor looked again towards the fruit basket.

He noticed that there was still one banana left but that it was even riper and covered even more in dark spots than the previous evening.

Nonetheless, Huzoor told me to bring the banana to him. Huzoor looked at it for a second and then immediately said:

***“Insha’Allah this banana will be fine!”***

Sure enough, as Huzoor peeled it I saw that from inside the banana was perfectly fine and not at all over-ripe. Like the previous evening, Huzoor split the banana in two and gave me one piece and ate one himself.

On that day, there had been no *Mulaqats* in Huzoor’s schedule but Huzoor had still gone to his office both in the morning and evening to work. And so I mentioned to Huzoor that even on a day when there were no *Mulaqats*, he still was in his office morning and evening.

In reply, Huzoor said:

***“There may not have been Mulaqats today but I still had to go through all of the Jamaati reports and people’s letters and so it was necessary that I went to the office.”***

As Huzoor stood up to return to his residence, I thanked him for sending me a pair of his gloves that morning.

Huzoor smiled and said:

***“Insha’Allah they will keep your hands warm throughout the winter.”***

### **Listening to the recorder by the lake**

After *Fajr* on Tuesday, 13 October 2015, Huzoor again went cycling. After half an hour, Huzoor stopped at the lake, as he had the previous day.

Huzoor was introduced to an Ahmadi who worked in the *langar* (kitchen) as a volunteer. He said he played the recorder and requested if he could play it in front of Huzoor.

Upon being granted permission, for next five minutes, the Ahmadi played the recorder, as Huzoor paced back and forth near the lake.

The tune played by the Ahmadi was extremely melancholy and if I am honest it was not really to my personal taste, though a few other people seemed to like it.

When the Ahmadi man had concluded his tune, Khawaja Qudoos sahib informed Huzoor that Ahmad bhai also played the recorder!

Ahmad bhai clarified he did not play but on a few occasions had tried. Thus, he took the recorder off the Ahmadi and wiped it down and then played a couple of notes.

### **Emotions of local Ahmadis**

During the day, I met a few Ahmadis, including *Muhammad Afzal Malhi (45)* who was a volunteer in the *langar*. He had lived in Holland since 1998.

Expressing his feelings and emotions about Khilafat, he said:

***“The more you see Huzoor, the more you love him. Since Huzoor has been here we have all felt as though we were in a completely different and entirely spiritual world. I don’t want this tour to ever end but Huzoor is leaving tomorrow and I am starting to feel physically unwell at the thought of being parted from my Khalifa.”***

Malhi sahib added:

***“We live in a city around 120km from here and sometimes I have thought about moving to Nunspeet but my children always said that they preferred living in the city. However, this week my children came up to me themselves and said we should move to Nunspeet so that whenever Huzoor comes to Holland we can spend as much time as possible with him.”***



Another person I met was *Mirza Farhan Shokar (35)*, who was part of the Khuddam security team. As tears rolled down from his eyes, he said:

***“Before coming to Holland I was stranded for 3 years in Thailand waiting for my asylum case to be processed and it was extremely difficult. However, having seen my Khalifa, I have forgotten all my past troubles and all I can do is thank Allah for blessing me and my family in this way. I swear that my family, my children and I will be ever ready to give our lives for the sake of Khilafat. Truly we love Khilafat more than life itself.”***

I met *Sajid Majeed (29)* who had come to Holland from Pakistan over two years previously. He said:

***“During this tour I have had the opportunity to be part of the Khuddam security team and so will tell my grandchildren that I served the Khalifa-Waqt and I was with him. In these days we have given precedence to our faith over worldly matters and I can honestly say that the pleasure and contentment we feel is unlike anything we have ever felt before. I just wish Huzoor could stay here forever.”***

### **Visit to Blokker**

The previous evening, Huzoor had suggested that I visit the shop *Blokker* and so that afternoon after *Zuhr* and *Asr*, Ahmad bhai and I cycled to the Nunspeet town centre.

When we went inside Blokker, I saw it was not at all grand or fancy. Rather, it had various useful household or personal items at very low prices. In England there is a shop called '*Wilko*' and it was quite similar to that.

I thought of how world leaders generally shop in elite department stores such as *Harrods*, yet in stark contrast a shop Huzoor very much liked was extremely simple, low-cost and practical.

The fact Huzoor liked this shop was another example of his simplicity and humility.

Huzoor's suggestion proved very good because I was able to purchase gifts for both Mahid and Mala very reasonably.

I bought Mahid a children's keyboard which he absolutely loved but which caused us a lot of earache and I bought Mala some drinks glasses which she also really liked.

### **Huzoor visiting home of local Missionary**

During the afternoon, Huzoor visited the home of Safeer Siddiqi sahib and his wife for 35 minutes which lay within the Nunspeet complex.

I spoke to Safeer immediately after Huzoor visited him and I could see he was physically shaking and in shock that Huzoor had visited him and his family for such a length of time. He said the only way he could describe those few moments was as '*heaven on earth*'.

Safeer mentioned how Huzoor had spoken about his time in Africa and that Huzoor's financial allowance was less than some of the Ahmadi doctors or missionaries, however despite this their allowance would finish early and then Huzoor used to assist them.

Huzoor had also mentioned how in Africa, Khala Saboohi (*Huzoor's respected wife*), would sometimes have to cook for 40 or 50 guests at short notice and so Huzoor said to Safeer's wife that she too should always be hospitable and that it was the duty of *Waqifeen* (*life devotees*) to put their personal comfort aside for the sake of the comfort of others.

### **A few minutes with Ameer Sahib**

That evening, I also spent some time with Hibatun Noer sahib, the Ameer Jamaat Holland, who I found to be extremely softly spoken and kind. Now 73, Ameer sahib had converted to Ahmadiyyat in 1968 and had been the Ameer in Holland since 1985.

Ameer sahib said that each year he had personally witnessed how our *Jamaat* was developing. He said:

***“The era of the Fifth Khalifa has proved to be an extremely important era in the history of our Jamaat. At every level, the Jamaat is flourishing, Mash’Allah. Above all, I have seen that the devotion of Ahmadis towards Khilafat is ever increasing. In this very tour, a Monk came to our Mosque and he said to me that I have never seen a relationship of such love as I have seen between Ahmadi Muslims and their Khalifa.”***

Speaking about his experiences of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V (aba), Ameer sahib said:

***“Huzoor has this unique ability of touching the hearts of every person he meets. Even after all these years, I am shocked that Huzoor has such knowledge of my life and indeed the lives of so many Ahmadis. As a Jamaat, Huzoor encourages us with love and he motivates us with love. Also, he is extremely forgiving. I can only class myself as a bundle of mistakes but Huzoor’s love gives me confidence and hope.”***

### **Cycling one last time**

On 14 October, Huzoor and the members of the Qafila would depart from Holland and continue onwards to Germany for the remainder of the tour.

Many of us assumed that due to the long day ahead, Huzoor would not cycle on that final day but as per the previous few days, Huzoor came out to cycle after *Fajr*.

One person who did not cycle that day, or indeed on the previous days, was Munir Javed sahib, Huzoor’s Private Secretary.

One day, I asked him why this was, to which Munir sahib replied:

***“A person should know his limits. I am here on this tour to serve Huzoor and to fulfill my duties as Private Secretary. If I were to fall or to pull a muscle then I would not be able to fulfill my duties.”***

I was impressed by Munir sahib's response. Surely, all Ahmadis would love the opportunity to cycle with Huzoor but he had purposely sacrificed this opportunity for the sake of fulfilling his duties to *Khalifatul Masih*.

As we cycled that day, I rode in the middle of the group and directly in front of me was an elderly member of Holland's Jamaat, Tahir Mahmood sahib. At one point the track became narrow due to a steel poll that was placed in the middle of the track as a barrier.

As we approached the steel poll I waited for Tahir sahib to turn his bike away from the poll, however perhaps not realising, I saw him instead cycle directly into it and he fell off his bike at quite a speed.

Seeing him fall, I pressed tightly the brakes on my bike and came off my bike as well. Those around thought perhaps I had fallen too but I maintain that I was able to keep control and purposely stepped off the bike rather than fell!

*Alhamdulillah*, I saw that Tahir sahib seemed ok and he got back on his bike. I think Tahir sahib did hurt his leg a little but thankfully serious injury was avoided.

### **A walk with Huzoor**

On that final day, the cycle was somewhat shorter than on previous days, however on the way back Huzoor did stop at the lake once more.

On this occasion Huzoor began to walk on his own along the lake. *Alhamdulillah*, Huzoor was able to enjoy the scenery and breathe in the fresh air.

After a minute, Huzoor called me towards him and we started to walk together. I was able to walk alongside Huzoor for quite some time, whilst his security and the other members of the group remained behind.

I did not realise how far we had walked until later someone sent me a photo they had taken from a distance.



As we walked, Huzoor mentioned the Ahmadi who had played the flute the previous day. Huzoor mentioned that once a tambourine had been played in the presence of the Holy Prophet (sa) and he had permitted it.

Huzoor also told me a very funny story from Pakistan. He said that in the late 1980s, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih IV (rh) had given him the responsibility to manage the family farmland in Sindh.

Once when he had travelled to Sindh to fulfil his duties, Huzoor met a local non-Ahmadi who played the flute.

Upon meeting Huzoor, the non-Ahmadi said:

***“In the olden days Mian Tahir sahib (Hazrat Khalifatul Masih IV) used to come here to manage the farms and I would play my flute and he would listen to it but then unfortunately your community made him your Pir (leader) and took away his freedom!”***

I laughed out loud as Huzoor told me this and Huzoor himself enjoyed recalling the comments of that person.

Thereafter, Huzoor asked me if I could run and I said that I used to run a lot but in the past couple of years I had hardly exercised at all. I thought that perhaps Huzoor was about to send me on a run but thankfully he did not and I was able to continue walking at a normal pace with Huzoor!

As we walked, Huzoor said:

***“You are young and thin and so you should not have any problem exercising and cycling. However, sometimes after cycling I feel a strain in my legs.”***

I felt very sad to hear that Huzoor sometimes felt a strain and especially given that Huzoor, very rarely if ever, expressed any form of discomfort or pain.

As we walked back to where the rest of the group was, I mentioned to Huzoor that Tahir sahib had fallen off his bike earlier. Upon seeing him, Huzoor called him and asked him how he was. Huzoor said he should take *Arnica* homeopathy medicine as soon as possible.

Alhamdulillah, those moments, in the idyllic setting of the Nunspeet countryside, in the company of our beloved Khalifa were truly priceless.

### **A surprising few minutes at breakfast**

Later that morning I went to the *Qafila* dining room to have breakfast. The only other person in the room was Muzafar sahib, Holland Jamaat's national *General Secretary*.

I had met him on various occasions throughout the tour but had not really spoken to him in detail until then. I learned that his father, Chaudhry Abdul Hameed *shaheed*, was martyred in Pakistan in 1984.

Muzafar sahib asked me about my work and duties. I mentioned, how I believed that the opportunities I had were due to the prayers of my parents.

I was quite surprised and taken aback when I saw Muzafar sahib become somewhat emotional upon hearing this.

He told me that he had heard Hazrat Khalifatul Masih IV (rh) mention the *Tabligh* efforts of my parents and had considered them as his 'role models' ever since, even though he had never met them.



He said he had almost memorised every word Hazrat Khalifatul Masih IV (rh) had spoken about them and they reminded him of his own father because he too had a passion for *Tabligh*. He told me he regularly prayed for my parents.

I have to admit I was quite astounded and left the room thinking that this was another example of the blessings of Khilafat, whereby a person in Holland, had prayed regularly for two people he had never met and considered them as role models, only because he had heard *Khalifatul Masih* speak about them.

### **Repacking the car and farewell from Holland**

Many local Ahmadis had gathered to see Huzoor off as his blessed and historic tour of Holland reached its end.

As they lined the street outside Huzoor's residence, I saw many Ahmadis with tears in their eyes, whilst others recited the poem "*Khalifa kay ham hain, Khalifa hamara*" ("*We belong to the Khalifa and he is our Khalifa*")

After a few minutes, Huzoor came down from his residence to inspect the packing of his car and it was clear that it was not quite to Huzoor's satisfaction.

Thus, for the next 10 minutes, Huzoor stood in the rain and instructed that the boot should be repacked.

At certain points, Huzoor himself arranged the luggage with his own hands and only when he was satisfied that it was all in order did Huzoor permit for the boot to be closed.

After a silent prayer, the Qafila departed from Nunspeet at 11.55am as the local Ahmadis waved goodbye to their spiritual leader.

### **Arrival in Germany and foundation stone ceremony in Nordhorn**

At 1.05pm we crossed into Germany and from there the Dutch *Jamaat* ceased to lead the *Qafila* and instead the German *Jamaat* had the honour to escort Huzoor for the rest of his journey.

We had barely crossed into Germany when the first *Jamaat* function took place. The *Qafila* proceeded to the city of Nordhorn, a border town, where Huzoor laid the foundation stone for the *Sadiq Mosque*.

*Alhamdulillah* the event proved extremely blessed. More than 100 guests attended the evening, including various dignitaries.

After a short welcome address by Ameer Sahib Germany, short speeches were also made by the Mayor of Nordhorn and the Deputy District Commissioner for the region.

They both thanked the *Jamaat* for offering its immediate service following the sudden influx of refugees into Germany from Syria.

They said the local authorities had accepted this offer of service and in particular were grateful for the translation services the *Jamaat* was providing.

### **Huzoor's address**

As the guests spoke, I saw Huzoor was taking down notes and thereafter parts of Huzoor's address, which was given in Urdu, were based on earlier points made by the guests.



In his address, Huzoor spoke of how Mosques were beacons of peace that were a means of peace, not only for Muslims, but for the people of all faiths and beliefs.

Huzoor said:

***“We, Ahmadi Muslims, believe it is our duty to protect and love all those around us. Where our Mosques are a place of peace and comfort for us, we also wish to provide love, comfort and peace to all others.”***

Huzoor continued by saying:

***“As Muslims, we believe Allah to be the Lord of all mankind and so it is incumbent upon us to serve and care for all people. Thus, Ahmadi Muslims will always be ready to serve humanity in any way we can.”***

### **An example of Huzoor’s humility**

Due to the fact that the *Qafila* had encountered quite heavy traffic on the way to Nordhorn, Huzoor had arrived a few minutes later than was scheduled.

Thus in his address, Huzoor personally apologised to the guests for being late and thanked them for waiting for his arrival. Huzoor said that the fact they had waited proved they were ***“open-hearted, tolerant and kind people”***.

The fact that Huzoor personally apologised had a great impact on many of the guests. A number of guests mentioned how they greatly appreciated the fact that Huzoor had apologised and this proved his humility and distinguished him from other world leaders.

### **Impact of Huzoor’s address**

Huzoor then laid the foundation stone for the new Mosque and whilst the ceremony took place, I took the opportunity to meet some of the guests. They all spoke how Huzoor’s address had reassured them about the Mosque and about Islam.

A German lady, Eda said:

***“In truth, before today I did not know much about Islam but the manner in which the Khalifa explained its teachings was wonderful. I found him to be a very fine man. I found that he has true sympathy for mankind. He told us to care for our neighbours and to work towards peace. All these messages have had a huge impact upon me.”***

Another guest, Mr G. Viers said:

***“I am a practicing Catholic and today I learned about another beautiful religion which is Islam. The Khalifa explained that love, freedom and peace were the foundations of Islam.”***

Miss Anika Mollman said:

***“I am not at all religious and before today I did not know there was a Khalifa in the world but when I saw him and heard him I felt that this is a person who is a model citizen for others to follow. All questions or fears a person could have about Islam were wiped away by his speech.”***

Paul Sholand said:

***“I used to go church and always found it uncomfortable. I felt the priest always looked down at us and considered us to be sinners. However, today your Khalifa did not look down at me or anyone else and consider himself superior. He is so humble and treats everyone with respect. He is a true leader.”***

A local councilor, Mrs Juta said:

***“I felt emotional listening to the Khalifa’s words and just his voice itself was extremely soothing and pure. I felt a unique sensation upon seeing him that I had never ever felt before.”***

I met a journalist who told me he wanted to interview Huzoor but after listening to Huzoor’s speech he felt there was no need to interview him because Huzoor had answered every possible question or fear that others could have in relation to Islam.

### **Break at Riverside Hotel**

Following the conclusion of the event the *Qafila* proceeded to the nearby *Riverside Hotel* for about one hour. Huzoor and Khala Saboohi (*Huzoor’s respected wife*) were escorted to a room in the hotel, whilst the rest of us went to the hotel café.

I had not had time to take lunch earlier as I had been meeting guests and so I enjoyed a late lunch consisting of a cappuccino and a chocolate muffin.

After a short break, Huzoor came back downstairs and led the *Zuhr* and *Asr* prayers in a large room at the hotel.

Before starting *Namaz*, Huzoor double checked that the *Qibla* direction was correct.

### **A rather close call**

We left the hotel at 4.30pm and continued our journey onwards to *Baitus Subuh* in Frankfurt.

As we left the hotel, our driver Nasir Amini, asked Humayun sahib if there were any cars approaching and very confidently Humayun sahib said 'No'.

Thus, Nasir pulled out his car and turned right but as he did so we saw the largest and most powerful looking tractor any of us had ever seen go past us. It was so big that surely it would have flattened us if it had collided with us!

We all looked at Humayun sahib with shock but he remained very calm and was smiling happily. He said:

***"You asked if there were any cars approaching but that was a tractor and not a car!"***

We all laughed at his comment and relieved that we had remained unscathed! My own personal conclusion was that Humayun sahib must not have seen the tractor as it approached.

### **Arrival in Frankfurt**

The *Qafila* stopped once more at a petrol station so that the cars could be refueled. During the stop both Huzoor and Khala Saboohi went inside the petrol station shop for a few moments.

I saw them looking at different types of sweets and chocolates and at the end they purchased two small bags of sweets for the car.

During the journey there were some stretches with heavy traffic but *Alhamdulillah*, Huzoor arrived at the *Baitus Subuh* Mosque at 8.35pm, where hundreds of Ahmadis had gathered to welcome Huzoor.

After a few minutes Huzoor led the Maghreb and Isha prayers before returning to his residence. The Qafila members went to the dining hall for dinner and thereafter we all went to our rooms to unpack.

I was allocated the same room where I had stayed when Huzoor had visited Germany earlier in the year and, as was the case then, my roommate was again Mubarak Zafar sahib.

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

The next day, on 15 October 2015, after leading the Zuhr and Asr prayer, Huzoor was about to return to his residence when he was handed a letter by Private Secretary sahib.

There and then, and with no formality, Huzoor placed the paper on a reception desk in the lobby area outside the Mosque, whilst the rest of us stood to the side.

Huzoor carefully read the letter and then spent the next few minutes writing handwritten instructions on the same piece of paper.



Once Huzoor had written the instructions he returned the paper to Munir Javed sahib and returned to his residence.

It showed again that *Khalifa-Waqt* has no sense of grandeur but wherever and whenever there is work to be done Huzoor does it.

### **Majid sahib's paper expertise**

Later that day, I was working in the office which I shared with Majid sahib and Mubarak sahib when Majid sahib called a local Ahmadi and asked him to get a writing pad for him.

Very carefully Majid sahib described the type of pad that was most suitable for his work. He mentioned how wide the margin should be and that the paper should be of a certain type so that it did not smudge.

As he concluded his description, Majid sahib that the best type of pads are "*Pukka pads*"! Majid sahib looked in my direction and said: "***Abid you also have a Pukka pad***".

I looked at him and said I don't even know what type of pad I have. Majid sahib said that he had glanced at my pad the previous day and so he knew it was a 'Pukka pad' and so I then looked carefully at my pad and indeed it was a 'Pukka pad'!

I have to admit I was very impressed by Majid's sahib's knowledge of paper!

## Emotions of local Ahmadis

On the evening of Thursday 15 October, Huzoor met members of the Germany *Jamaat* in family Mulaqats and so I talked to some of those people who had the opportunity to meet him.

I met *Zafar Khan (49)* and his wife *Fariha Khan* who had met Huzoor with their two children.

When I met their son *Taabish Khan (16)* I noticed that his eyes were red as though he had been crying. He said he had asked Huzoor if he could embrace him and Huzoor had given permission.

Taabish said:

***“I am so lucky that I was able to embrace Huzoor and to be so close to him. I can never forget that moment of closeness with my Khalifa.”***

Fariha sahiba mentioned how she had been unwell for some time and that when she went in for *Mulaqat*, Huzoor had remembered this and asked how she was and prescribed some medicines. She said:

***“The love of Khalifa-Waqt is greater than the love of even your parents. Huzoor reassured me and told me I will be fine and so I feel as though I was cured by the blessings of that Mulaqat.”***

I met a man called *Mirza Abdul Karim (45)* and his wife *Sadaf Karim* who said:

***“When I got to touch Huzoor’s blessed hand I felt as though all the pain and difficulties of my life vanished in a second. In Huzoor’s presence I felt I was in a sanctuary and as though everything was calm.”***

His wife, Sadaf sahiba said:

***“Every word Huzoor speaks is a prayer for us. Whenever I face any problem or difficulty it vanishes as soon as I request Huzoor’s prayers. Sometimes it feels like a miracle has occurred and it proves that Allah answers the prayers of Khalifa-Waqt above all.”***

I met a lady *Quratul Ain Sadiq* who had just met Huzoor with her husband. Following her Mulaqat, she said:

***“Whilst, I was meeting Huzoor I thought to myself that our Khalifa is so pure and so if I have the honour to meet him then I should also seek to be more like him. I should be a better person because only then will I truly be deserving of this honour.”***

### **A faith inspiring conversation**

I met an Ahmadi husband and wife, *Naseer Nogueira (35)* and his wife *Semira Nogueira*. Naseer sahib was a German, whilst his wife was of Turkish and German origin.

They were both converts to Ahmadiyyat who, after some time had left the *Jamaat*, but then last year they had once again joined the *Jamaat of the Promised Messiah* (as).

It was extremely interesting to spend time with them and to hear why they had been drawn back to Ahmadiyyat.

Naseer sahib said:

***“We came back to Ahmadiyyat because Allah guided us back to this Jamaat Himself. He proved to us through dreams that the Ahmadiyya Jamaat is His Community and not a man-made organisation. When we left Ahmadiyyat it was not any Ahmadi who restored our faith but it was Allah the Almighty who opened our hearts to the truth. Since then we have been greatly blessed and our personal problems have also been solved.”***

He continued:

***“Today, I met Huzoor after 10 or 11 years and I have to admit I was extremely nervous. But Huzoor was very loving and kind and seeing him has strengthened our faith even more. Huzoor advised us that if we ever see weaknesses in other Ahmadis it should not influence us or weaken our faith but we should look at what our religion actually teaches.”***

His wife, *Semira* also explained her feelings. She said:

***“I feel so much better now that I am an Ahmadi again. It was very painful to leave in the first place and during the time we were not Ahmadi I used to always feel as though something was missing from my life. Now that void has been filled and as my husband said it was Allah who guided us back to the Jamaat and not any person.”***

### **Huzoor’s driving test advice**

I met a young Ahmadi lady called *Fauzia Shahid*, who had met Huzoor with her husband. She said:

***“In everyday life and worldly affairs I am a very confident person but in front of Huzoor I could not speak and I was shaking throughout. In Huzoor I saw a physical and spiritual beauty that I had never seen before.”***

She told me that she had wanted to request Huzoor’s prayers that she may pass her driving test but she was not sure if it was appropriate to do so.

I told her how my wife Mala had failed her driving test in the UK on a couple of occasions and that upon being told of this, Huzoor had said:

***“Next time she takes the driving test she should silently recite Sura Fatihah throughout and remain calm and leave the rest to Allah.”***

I said that in her next test, my wife followed Huzoor's advice and *Alhamdulillah* she passed without any problem. Upon hearing this story, Fauzia sahiba smiled and said she would now also follow this advice when she took her test!

### **A father's training of his son**

I saw one family walk past having just met Huzoor. Although I did not meet them personally, I remember seeing a little Ahmadi boy, probably aged 4 or 5, happily eating the chocolate that he had received from Huzoor.

I overheard as his father stopped him and said:

***"This chocolate that you have is a special gift from Huzoor and is filled with blessings. And so you must not eat it yourself, but you have to share it with every single person in your family and every one of your friends, so that they too can share in the blessings."***

It was good training for the young boy from his father in which he taught him to share his gift from Huzoor so that as many people as possible could enjoy it. I did however feel a bit sorry for the boy because as he covered up the rest of his chocolate bar and put it in his pocket he looked very sad!

### **Emotions of Ahmadis**

I met an Ahmadi husband and wife, *Muhammad Sharif (38)* and his wife *Razia Sharif*, who had come to Germany less than a year before and so had just met Khalifatul Masih for the very first time in their lives.

In particular, Razia sahiba was extremely emotional and as she spoke she continued to wipe away tears from her eyes.

Razia sahiba said:

***“Every month for as long as I can remember I have seen Huzoor in my dreams and today all of those dreams came true. My life has changed forever and now everything will be ok because Huzoor prayed for us.”***

I met a young Ahmadi, *Ameer ul Azeen (30)*, who said:

***“When I was in Pakistan, my visa was rejected and so I then prayed that ‘O Allah, my desire is only to meet my Khalifa’ and just two days later my visa was granted. And so today I have just met Huzoor for the very first time and I am still shaking and I still feel as though I cannot breathe. The impossible became possible today. Alhamdolillah.”***

### **An example of Huzoor’s grace**

That evening, after the *Maghreb* and *Isha* prayers, as Huzoor was leaving the Mosque, an elderly man suddenly called out in a loud and inappropriate manner asking that Huzoor should meet him. His style and manner was extremely disrespectful.

Upon hearing the man, Huzoor glanced back and looked in his direction briefly before leaving the Mosque without saying anything.

The rest of us were very upset at the way the man had addressed Huzoor. However, Huzoor remained entirely calm and did not manifest any anger whatsoever.

As Huzoor reached the lift at *Baitus Subuh*, he enquired from the local *Jamaat* who the man was.

Upon being informed, Huzoor turned to *Private Secretary*, Munir Javed sahib and said:

***“Arrange for him to be given time to meet me in my office.”***

When I heard these words I trembled and thought of how compassionate and gracious our *Khalifa* is.

Rather, than exhibit any anger, Huzoor’s only concern was to alleviate whatever issues or questions that the man had. Indeed, the next day I heard Huzoor confirm with Munir Javed sahib if the *Mulaqat* had been arranged.

A day or two later, Munir sahib told me that the man did meet Huzoor in his office and Huzoor gave him ample time.

As I reflected on this incident, I hoped and prayed that Huzoor was not approached in such a disrespectful manner ever again but I also thought of just how open-hearted Huzoor was and how his love for each and every Ahmadi and concern for their welfare was so incredibly vast.



## **Friday Sermon in Frankfurt**

On 16<sup>th</sup> October 2015, Huzoor delivered his *Friday Sermon* from the *Baitul Aafiyyat* complex which lies across the road from *Baitus Subuh* and had been inaugurated by Huzoor during his visit to Germany earlier in the year.

For the past couple of years, whilst in Frankfurt, Huzoor had delivered the *Friday Sermon* at a nearby sports centre. However, on this occasion the sports centre was unavailable as it was being utilised as a refugee shelter for Syrian refugees.



*Alhamdulillah*, the *Jamaat* now had use of *Baitul Aafiyyat* and so a large proportion of men were able to pray there, whilst some offered their prayers at *Baitus Subuh*, as did the members of *Lajna Imaillah*. In total, more than 4,900 people attended the Friday Sermon.

During his address, Huzoor spoke about the progress the *Jamaat* had made and was continuing to make. Huzoor said:

***“During his life, the Promised Messiah (peace be on him) said with total certainty that a time would come when the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community would be acknowledged and recognised throughout the***

*world and its spread would be a sign of Divine help. And today, that lone voice that emanated from a small village of India is resounding loudly in all parts of the world.”*

Huzoor continued:

*“Certainly, the persecution and opposition faced by the followers of the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) has been so vehement and unrelenting, that had this been a man-made community, it would surely have perished by now. However, God Willing, the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community will never perish, but with God’s Help will continue to succeed and progress.”*

#### **Huzoor’s observational skills**

That afternoon I met a young Ahmadi husband and wife, *Waqar Ahmad (30)* and his wife Hibba-tus Sami. Hibba sahiba had just met Huzoor for the very first time.

She seemed both emotional and excited as she spoke of her experiences of meeting Huzoor. She said:

*“One thing I noticed is how amazing Huzoor’s observation skills are! Just by looking at us he guessed our educational standards! Also, Huzoor is so loving and caring. I requested prayers for something and he immediately said that we should not worry and also that he will send us medicine and pray for us.”*

Hibba sahiba had mentioned Huzoor's observational skills and she was quite right. Huzoor notices the very smallest things.

For example, on a number of occasions, Huzoor has told me exactly where in the Mosque I was sitting during his *Friday Sermon* – even on occasions when I had been seated at a far distance. Many other people have had the same experience.

That evening, I experienced another example of Huzoor's good observation. When we lined up for *Maghreb* and *Isha*, I was standing in the front row but still at distance of a few metres from Huzoor.

Whilst Huzoor waited for all the rows to form I suddenly heard him call out to me and say:

***“Do you have the flu or a cold?”***

I looked up and said that yes I had developed a cold. I think Huzoor must have noticed as I took a tissue from my pocket and wiped my nose.

Huzoor immediately said:

***“Take Aconite 1000”***

Huzoor then turned around to lead the prayers.

## **Feeling unwell**

I had actually begun feeling unwell the evening before and throughout Friday, I felt a sore throat develop and worsen, I had a headache and my nose was running. I took Paracetamol and Vitamin C tablets.

The cold continued and indeed worsened the next day on Saturday 17 October. Whilst, the previous day I had been able to conceal the fact I was feeling unwell from most people, on Saturday everyone could see I was unwell.

At *Fajr* time, Mubarak Zafar sahib could see that I was struggling and so he said that if I was not up to it then I should offer *Fajr* in my room. However, I managed to offer prayers in the Mosque and then returned to my room to rest.

Throughout the day members of our *Qafila* and also the members of the local *Jamaat* asked me how I was feeling. If I am honest I felt very embarrassed by all the attention!

## **First ever Convocation of Jamia Ahmadiyya Germany**

That day, Huzoor was travelling to Jamia to attend the first ever Convocation ceremony of Jamia Ahmadiyya Germany. Despite being a little unwell I was looking really forward to visiting Jamia as I had never been before.

*Jamia Ahmadiyya Germany* was inaugurated in the *Khilafat Centenary* year of 2008. For the first few years the students studied at *Baitus Subuh* until Huzoor inaugurated the purpose built *Jamia Ahmadiyya* complex in the town of Riedstadt, which is about 45minutes drive from *Baitus Subuh*.

As we arrived at *Jamia*, I recalled how when Huzoor returned from his tour of Germany in 2012, he had said to me that:

***“The opening of Jamia Ahmadiyya Germany was very blessed and will Insha’Allah prove to be a very historic day in the history of the Ahmadiyya Community in Germany.”***

On 17 October, Huzoor arrived at *Jamia* at 11.50am and was given a tour of the complex by the *Principal Jamia*, Shamshad Qamar sahib. As we followed Huzoor, I was extremely impressed by the complex. *Alhamdolillah*, it truly was a first class educational institute and extremely conducive to learning.

The *Convocation* ceremony begun exactly at 12pm in a marquee erected on the site.

After a report by a senior member of staff, Huzoor presented the 16 graduates of the first batch of *Jamia Ahmadiyya Germany* with their *Shahid* degree certificates before delivering an address filled with many points of guidance for their future lives.

Repeatedly, Huzoor spoke of how the new Missionaries could only have a positive effect on others if their own moral and spiritual standards were of the highest order.

Huzoor said that in the past people ignored their mistakes or weaknesses because they were young students, but now people would look at them critically and so it was up to them to display the highest possible standards.



Huzoor said:

***“There should never be any conflict or discrepancy between what you preach and your own behaviour. You must make sure you are acting upon the advice you are giving to others. Only, when you practice what you preach will your words inspire others towards goodness and piety.”***

Huzoor continued:

***“You are the first class to graduate from Jamia Ahmadiyya Germany and therefore it is your duty to set the very best example and to be a positive role model for those who follow in your footsteps.”***

Huzoor told the students that they should continue to pursue knowledge throughout their lives and never believe that they have learned all they need to learn. Huzoor said that apart from religious knowledge, they should also know about current affairs and issues.

Huzoor concluded by reminding the Missionaries of their responsibilities as representatives of Khalifatul Masih. Huzoor said:

***“As Missionaries, you are the representatives of Khalifatul Masih and so it is your duty to convey the voice of the Khalifa to all parts of the world. The only way you can successfully relay his message is if you yourself hear what he says and implement his guidance in your own lives. Only then will you be ready to act as true ambassadors of Khilafat.”***

Following the conclusion of the ceremony, Huzoor and all of the guests were served lunch at Jamia. I particularly enjoyed the *keema karelay*.

### **Huzoor’s inspection of Jamia Ahmadiyya Germany**

Thereafter, Huzoor inspected the remaining parts of the building that he had not seen earlier. Huzoor visited the bedroom of one of the students and checked his bed, wardrobe and bathroom to ensure they were adequate.

As Huzoor continued to walk he called me and asked how I had found Jamia. I responded by saying it was much bigger and better than I had expected!

Huzoor said that it had been purpose built to our exact specifications and requirements.

However, Huzoor added:

***“There is one thing lacking and that is 30 acres of greenery and land like we have at our UK Jamia!”***

Huzoor was right and certainly *Jamia Ahmadiyya UK* is located in an extremely beautiful and peaceful location. Huzoor’s comment also displayed his continued love and affection for the *UK Jamaat, Alhamdulillah*.

### **Jamia Ahmadiyya exchange programme**

In 2014, Huzoor had instructed that *Jamia Ahmadiyya UK* and *Jamia Ahmadiyya Germany* should engage in an annual exchange programme, whereby students from each institution spent two weeks studying at the other *Jamia*.

Huzoor said this would help both the students and the teachers to improve and to learn from one another.

In line with this instruction, the entire 6<sup>th</sup> year (*Khamsa*) class from UK Jamia had arrived in Germany a couple of days earlier and attended the Convocation ceremony.

They were to spend the next week studying at *Jamia Ahmadiyya Germany*, whilst a class from Germany was to travel to the UK at a later date.



Thus, many of the UK students had the opportunity to meet Huzoor that day. Very affectionately, Huzoor asked how they were and how they were finding Germany.

### **Foundation stone laying of Mubarak Mosque**

On 18 October 2015, Huzoor travelled from Frankfurt to the nearby town of Florstadt to lay the foundation stone for the *Mubarak Mosque*.

Florstadt, is a very small town with a population of less than 10,000 and the site for the Mubarak Mosque is in the town centre, next to the local high street and market.

The formal event, attended by more than 150 guests, began at 11.45am and following a welcome address by Ameer Sahib Germany, guest remarks were given by a national *Member of Parliament* and the local Mayor.

Both dignitaries welcomed Huzoor to Florstadt and praised the efforts of the local *Jamaat* to integrate with the local community.

Thereafter, Huzoor gave the keynote address during which he reassured the local people that the Mosque would be a place of peace for all people.

Huzoor said:

***“The history of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community bears witness to the fact that our words, deeds and efforts have exhibited nothing but love, compassion and kindness towards all mankind. Thus, when this Mosque***

*here in Florstadt is completed, it will prove only to be a place of peace, tolerance and humanity.”*



Huzoor praised the local people for supporting the efforts of the *Jamaat* to build a Mosque and thereafter spoke about the *Jamaat's* efforts to serve humanity.

Huzoor said:

***“Any service or aid we provide is given without distinction and only due to our desire to serve humanity, which is an essential part of our faith.”***

Following the conclusion of his address, Huzoor laid the foundation stone for the Mosque.

### **Impact of Huzoor’s address**

After the conclusion of the formal proceedings, I met a number of guests who expressed their sincere appreciation of Huzoor’s address.

I met a young man called *Jens* who lived nearby. He said:

***“I am not at all religious but in comparison to the priests I have met your Khalifa impressed me far more. In fact his words touched my heart because he is an open person and kind hearted, whilst some of the priests I met were hard hearted. I have to say I am both happy and surprised!”***

I met a lady called *Gabby* who said:

***“I am an atheist and I am against all religion. However, I cannot deny that your Khalifa has proved that he is a very tolerant person and he has shown that Islam is a tolerant religion. His message was simple – be good to everyone and that is the message we need in the world.”***

A German man called, *Lars Faulseit* told me how meeting Huzoor had affected him. He said:

***“I have tears in my eyes after seeing and hearing the Khalifa. In fact I did not even need to listen to his words because just to see him is enough to know that he is a man of truth. Today was amazing and inspirational.”***

I met a journalist called *Stefan* who described Huzoor’s speech as “very inspirational” before adding:

***“The Khalifa has a great presence - in fact I would say I was awestruck when I met him. I noted every word of his speech and will now write a***

***feature article about it and the basic premise will be that the Khalifa has said we must all work together for peace.”***

I met a man called *Mr Wilkaning*, who was extremely emotional.

Initially he told me he wanted to meet Huzoor and so when Huzoor met guests at the end I said that he could now also meet him.

Upon hearing this he said:

***“I want to meet him with all my heart but now the moment has come I feel too shy to meet such a great person. The truth is that for many years I have searched for someone like your Khalifa and had an inner yearning to find someone who was a real man of peace. Today, I found what I was looking for. Honestly speaking, when I accepted the invitation, I could never have imagined that today I would meet such a great and blessed person.”***

### **Reflections of local Ahmadis**

That evening, I met an Ahmadi called Naseer Ahmad (41), who served in Germany *Hifazat-e-Khas* security team.

Prior to the tour, Huzoor had instructed that five German Khuddam should come to Holland do security duty there as well as in Germany and Naseer sahib was one member of the German team who had come to Holland.

Speaking about his experience in Holland, Naseer sahib said:

***“I felt extremely privileged and honoured to be part of the German team who travelled to Holland for security duty. The best moments that I will never forget were when we had the opportunity to cycle with Huzoor because he is the most beloved person of Allah in the world today and out of all the millions of Ahmadis, I had the fortune to cycle with him. And not only did we cycle but also on one day we were able to have our photo taken with Huzoor by the lake.”***

I met a young *Missionary, Iftikhar Ahmad (28)* who had been amongst the *Shahid* class who had received their degree certificates from Huzoor the previous day at *Jamia*. He was huge in size and towered over me like a bear!

He was also wearing a slightly over-sized *achkan* coat and he said that during his *Mulaqat*, Huzoor had asked him about it and then advised that the best place to get *achkan* coats made was in Rabwah.

Speaking about Huzoor, Iftikhar said:

***“One thing I am always amazed by is that Huzoor bears such a heavy responsibility and has the weight of the world on his shoulders, yet Huzoor always remains calm and content and never panics. This proves that his trust in Allah the Almighty is complete.”***

I met an elderly Ahmadi *Muhammad Anwer Butt (68)* and his elderly wife, who had recently come to Germany from Pakistan.

Whilst I talked to them, I found myself becoming emotional as they had waited their entire lives to meet *Khalifatul Masih*.

After meeting Huzoor that evening, both of them were unable to control their emotions and cried tears of joy and delight.

Barely able to speak, Muhammad Anwer Butt sahib said:

***“I have waited a lifetime for this. I have waited 68 years for this moment. To think that I have now breathed the same air as Khalifatul Masih and that I have prayed behind him is astonishing. I am now content and have everything I could ever need.”***

I also met a new Ahmadi convert called *Mark Anthony McKay (22)* who had just met Huzoor with his wife.

Telling me about his journey to Ahmadiyyat, he said:

***“Previously, I was a Christian but I never had the answers I was looking for but when I found Ahmadiyyat and learned about Islam I found the truth. I saw that the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community is not political but is all about God and being close to Him. Previously my life had no meaning but now every minute and every second has a purpose.”***

Regarding his Mulaqat, Mark said:

***“Each day I am coming to understand the importance of Khilafat more than before. Without Khalifatul Masih our religion of Islam would die***

***away. When I saw Huzoor today I realised instantly that he is such a pure spirit.”***

That evening, there was also a group of 5 young German and Turkish ladies who were in their early-20s met Huzoor.

Some of them were new Ahmadis, whilst the other were learning about Ahmadiyyat.

One of the ladies was called *Esra* who had done *Bai’at* two months previously. She was of Turkish origin but lived in Frankfurt.

After meeting Huzoor, *Esra* said:

***“I felt as though I was in a wonderland when I was meeting Huzoor. He is so loving, so merciful and I was able to talk to him freely. Meeting him has had such a great impact and increased my faith.”***

Another member of the group was *Jana* a German lady who had not yet accepted Islam. After meeting Huzoor, *Jana* said:

***“I feel extremely emotional after meeting the Khalifa. He was extremely loving and caring like a father. He answered our questions and he even made some jokes which made us feel even more welcome. There is no doubt that after meeting him I feel that I am very close to accepting Islam.”***

The third member of the group I met was *Jenny*, who was also German. She said:

***“The aura surrounding Huzoor is unbelievable. When I saw him, I felt a light and presence that I have not felt before. When you are with him you cannot look anywhere else but towards him because his spirituality is like a magnet. I am not yet an Ahmadi Muslim but after today I feel much closer to Allah and to Islam.”***

After this, one of the ladies from the group said that there was no time to speak to the remaining members of the group.

She said:

***“Sorry, we have to go now because we want to go and meet Aapa Jaan before it is too late!”***

The way they said ‘*Aapa Jaan*’ in reference to Khala Saboohi (*Huzoor’s respected wife*) was extremely warm and it felt as though they were all old Ahmadis, even though some of them had not yet accepted Islam.

### **Nikah ceremonies in Frankfurt**

On the evening of 18<sup>th</sup> October, Huzoor announced the *Nikahs* (marriage) of a number of Ahmadi couples.

Prior to announcing them, Huzoor delivered a short sermon during which he said that husbands and wives should always be aware of the



responsibilities and duties that they owed to each other and also understand their obligation to set the best possible standards for their children to learn from and follow.

Huzoor then announced the Nikahs of several couples. There was a young Ahmadi man who was representing his sister as a '*Wakil*' and so it was his duty to consent to the marriage on her behalf.

As Huzoor was about to announce the *Nikah* but before he had even read the name of the girl, the Ahmadi stood up and said "***Manzoor hai!***" – meaning '***I consent***'.

Upon this, Huzoor looked at him and said:

***"You will have to show a bit of patience and wait until I ask you for your consent!"***

Everyone laughed and thereafter Huzoor completed the formal announcement and the brother then repeated his consent at the correct time.

### **A visit to MTA**

Late that evening, a representative of *MTA Germany Studios* came to me and asked if I would be available for an interview. I was still not feeling well and I am not keen on interviews at the best of times but I did not wish to disappoint him and so I agreed.

Therefore, after *Namaz* I went to the *MTA Studios* and gave a recorded interview for around 15 minutes in which I was asked about Huzoor's various tours and activities.

After concluding the interview, I was about to return to my room to pack my suitcase when Muzaffar Ahmad sahib, who is the Head of the German MTA Studios, invited me to his office where the rest of the MTA executive committee members were waiting for me!

Upon seeing them all waiting for me I was quite shocked and wondered what was about to happen!

They then asked me to share some stories about Huzoor and my experiences with him. I was not all prepared but I tried my best.

Some people have a talent where if they are asked a question they can think easily on their feet.

Unfortunately, I do not really bear that skill and so often it is only after a meeting or interview is concluded that I think of a much better answer but by then it is too late!

One light hearted narration I did mention was that in the diary I wrote after Huzoor's previous tour of Germany earlier this year, I had written that Huzoor and Khala Saboohi had enjoyed eating popcorn in their car whilst travelling.

When talking to the MTA staff, I said that as Ahmadis we enjoy learning about Huzoor as much as possible and so in the days that followed the publication of the diary, I received a number of emails from Ahmadis in different countries and they all had only one question – “***Was the popcorn salty popcorn or sweet?!***”

At the time I had therefore mentioned to Huzoor that the ‘*burning question*’ currently was whether he preferred salty or sweet popcorn!

For the record, Huzoor told me:

***“I prefer salty normally but occasionally I will also eat sweet popcorn as well!”***

Although it was unexpected, I enjoyed my visit to the *MTA Studios* that evening and they served me some *kaava* which soothed my sore throat and so that was a good bonus!

### **An emotional observation**

On 19<sup>th</sup> October 2015, Huzoor’s tour was set to conclude and the Qafila was returning to London.

Thus, early in the morning I finished my packing and took my luggage to the car.

Whilst I was stood outside, I noticed that some members of *Khuddam* were polishing Huzoor’s car with a cloth.

Suddenly, I saw an elderly man, who must have been in his 60s approach them. He approached the Khuddam and said:

***“Please, please let me also have the honour of polishing the car of  
Huzoor.”***

A *Khadim* handed him a cloth and he bent down and wiped down the headlights on Huzoor’s car.

After polishing it with great care and pride for a few seconds, he returned the cloth and I then saw that he suddenly began to cry quite uncontrollably and wiped away his tears with his shirt handkerchief.

You could tell from his reaction that he considered the opportunity to wipe down Huzoor’s car as an indescribable honour and source of blessings.

I saw this scene by chance but it had been extremely emotional and it reminded me to never ever take the blessings of Khilafat for granted.

### **Departure from Frankfurt**

At 10.30am, Huzoor departed from the *Baitus Subuh Mosque* as hundreds of local Ahmadis waved him farewell.

Apart from a brief stop at a service station, the *Qafila* drove straight for a few hours so that we could cover as much distance as possible early.

### **Salat at the service station**

At 3pm, the *Qafila* stopped for lunch and *Namaz* at the *Pouzo* service station in Belgium.

As there was no other suitable location, *Namaz* was offered within the restaurant at the service station itself.

It was an extremely memorable few minutes, whereby Huzoor led *Namaz* within the food hall, whilst other diners continued to eat their meals or queued for food.

It reminded me of when Huzoor had led *Namaz* at *Applebees* restaurant in 2012 in the United States.

### **Serving lunch**

After *Namaz* concluded, Huzoor and Khala Saboohi ate together at a table on one side of the restaurant where there was a partition, whilst the rest of the *Qafila* members ate at nearby tables.

I again had the honour to serve lunch to Huzoor and Khala Saboohi along with Ahmad bhai. There were a few different options presented to Huzoor and he retained a dish of lightly fried cod served with pasta and a dish of baked salmon in a pastry roll.

Ahmad bhai told me to go and see what options there were for dessert.

I initially found a small counter which had some desserts that were individually packed. I chose some cheesecake, some chocolate mousse and also some bowls of fruit.

It was then that I realised I had actually taken the desserts from the *takeaway* counter and there was another counter with different cakes and trifles that were not packed but placed on nice dessert plates. I therefore took a few slices from there also and presented both plates to Huzoor.

Huzoor asked me what type of cakes they all were. If there is one thing that I know quite well it is dessert and so thankfully I could tell what each cake contained and was able to inform Huzoor.

Having looked at all the options, Huzoor took a slice of cheesecake and the fruit was enough.

I was glad therefore that I had accidentally been to the takeaway counter because Huzoor had preferred the options from there to the more posh looking cakes that I later discovered.

I took the unused plate of cake slices and handed it to one of the security guards and I think within a few minutes it had been shared by quite a number of people who gladly polished it off!

As Huzoor stood up after completing his meal, he walked past me and asked if I had eaten. I said I had and so he asked what I had eaten to which I replied that I had also eaten the fried fish.

I felt extremely fortunate to have been able to serve Huzoor and Khala Saboohi lunch.

Yet, Huzoor is so humble and considerate that later that afternoon he especially said to me:

***“Thank you for serving us lunch”.***

I responded by saying:

***“It is an honour and my greatest privilege to serve Huzoor in any possible way.”***

As we left the restaurant, the members of the German *Jamaat* had the opportunity to meet Huzoor for the final time. Huzoor graciously met each member of the *Jamaat* who was present individually.

### **Return to London**

The *Qafila* then continued its journey and we drove the final 100miles to Calais. As we approached Calais I saw a few refugees walking along the motorway.

It seemed as though they were trying to find a way to cross the *Channel* into the UK. I only saw a few people but seeing their state illustrated the difficulties such people were facing.

It was a good and timely reminder of the blessings most of us take for granted.

We arrived at Calais on time and took the 6.20pm *Eurotunnel* shuttle, which departed a few minutes later.

Due to the one hour time difference, we arrived in the UK 6pm and from there we drove straight back to the *Fazl Mosque*, where Huzoor was greeted by hundreds of Ahmadis as he returned to his home at 7.30pm.

I met my family who had come to welcome me. Mahid had a big smile on his face as I met him.

### **Conclusion**

It had once again been an extremely historic and blessed trip and one that I would never forget.

With the utmost grace and eloquence Huzoor had defended the true teachings of Islam at the Dutch Parliament; Huzoor had laid the foundation stones for three Mosques; Huzoor had conducted numerous media interviews and Huzoor had attended the Convocation Ceremony of Jamia Ahmadiyya Germany.

Huzoor had even found time to go cycling!

May Allah grant Huzoor a long and healthy life. *Ameen.*