

UK JALSA SALANA 2016

PART 4

A Personal Account

By Abid Khan

Introduction to Part 4

This is the concluding part of the personal account I have written in relation to Huzoor's activities during the days of *Jalsa Salana 2016*, as well as the week preceding it and the week after.

This final part will include further meetings held by Huzoor with various groups, as well as media interviews and various other activities.

Tunisia delegation

On Wednesday 17 August 2016, Huzoor's meetings with delegations of Ahmadis and non-Ahmadi guests from different countries continued.

One group to meet Huzoor that morning was a delegation from Tunisia.

At the very start of the meeting, the Tunisian delegation placed a fruit tree on Huzoor's desk as a gift.

Upon accepting the gift, Huzoor said:

"Is your Jamaat also giving me the fruit of increasing numbers of pious Ahmadis?"

In reply, the Tunisian group replied all together saying:

"Insha'Allah"

Huzoor then said:

“In our Jamaat we should seek the best fruits which are of piety and spirituality.”

Thereafter, an Arab Ahmadi, who was attending the UK Jalsa for the very first time, became very emotional.

He informed Huzoor that he had recently seen a dream in which he saw the Promised Messiah (as), who handed the Ahmadi a copy of his book *Brahin-e-Ahmadiyya* printed on green paper.

He was then handed another book by the Fourth Khalifa (rh), which was about Islam, and printed on white paper.

Thereafter, the Promised Messiah (as) told the Ahmadi to give these books to the Arabs.

Upon hearing this dream, Huzoor said:

“This dream means that the Jamaat should further intensify its efforts to spread the message of Ahmadiyyat to the Arab people and that the Arab Ahmadis themselves should be at the forefront of this effort of spreading Islam.”

Another Tunisian Ahmadi requested prayers that his son would find a suitable match for marriage.

In response, Huzoor said:

“Whilst you are looking for a wife for your son do not focus on physical beauty, rather you should prioritise piety above all else because this will be the means of ensuring that Ahmadiyyat continues in your family for generations to come.”

Another Arab Ahmadi addressed Huzoor and as he did so he became very emotional. He said:

“We swear that we will never depart from obedience to Khilafat-e-Ahmadiyya.”

In response, Huzoor prayed:

“May Allah always be with you and may He always help you.”

Egypt delegation

Huzoor’s next meeting was a delegation of Ahmadiis who had come from Egypt.

An Egyptian Ahmadi said that he had been left overwhelmed by the spirituality he had felt at Jalsa and desired to attend every year.

Upon this, Huzoor advised:

“As soon as you return home you should start saving and try to put a little money aside each day because this is the method that the Promised Messiah (as) taught.”

Another Egyptian Ahmadi, *Fatih Sahib*, mentioned his own feelings and impression of Jalsa. He said:

“At this Jalsa it felt as though Allah had blessed us with a house made only of love and peace. I felt as if a spiritual painting was being painted and, whilst Huzoor was the person whose blessed hand was being used to paint, the real artist was our Creator, Allah the Almighty.”

Very beautifully, Huzoor responded by saying:

“It is this spiritual painting that we must spread to all parts of the world and to show all people.”

Another Egyptian Ahmadi said:

“At this Jalsa I saw with my own eyes how Khalifatul Masih is alleviating the spiritual ailments of the world through love, compassion and mercy.”

Never to be forgotten days

As the meetings concluded, Huzoor called me and asked if I was tired after attending so many meetings over the past few days.

I responded by saying:

“Huzoor these are the best and most enjoyable days as I am close to you all day and every day.”

It was true, and indeed as I write up this diary, having returned to my normal daily routine, I miss those days of *Jalsa Salana UK* immensely.

The atmosphere around the *Fazl Mosque*, knowing that Huzoor is never more than a few metres away, is completely different to anywhere else.

Emotions of Ahmadis

Later that day, I met with some Ahmadis moments after they had met Huzoor in personal family *Mulaqats*.

I met a lady from Mauritius, *Amtul Quyyum sahiba*, along with her son *Jamshed*.

Amtul Quyyum sahiba said:

“There are no words to describe how I am feeling now. The love that Huzoor has shown us and indeed all Ahmadis is indescribable After meeting him. I have made a resolution to try even more to be a sincere Ahmadi, to follow every command of Allah the Almighty and to obey each instruction of Khalifatul Masih.”

Jamshed said:

“To meet Huzoor is extremely humbling because we are nothing and Khalifa-Waqt still receives us and meets us. He is so kind, so soft and so humble. Meeting him really plays on your heart and your mind and so these two or three minutes spent with Huzoor have made me determined to be a faithful servant of Ahmadiyyat.”

I met an Ahmadi, *Noman Basharat Noon* (39), from Belgium, a few minutes after he had met Huzoor.

Speaking about his experiences of meeting Huzoor and the Jalsa Salana, he said:

“During the Mulaqat we had the opportunity to have a photo with Huzoor and Huzoor held my hand. That was the most precious moment of my life. I felt I was in a different world, I felt I was in heaven. No one else can impart the feelings of spiritual joy that Khalifatul Masih can.”

Noman sahib continued:

“When I moved to Belgium from Pakistan many years ago, I was single and alone. Neither my father, nor my mother was with me and I was not married and so it could have been very easy for me to go astray and to forget my faith. However, the fact that from time to time I would have the opportunity to meet Khalifatul Masih when he visited Belgium ensured that I remained closely attached to the Jamaat always. In this way Khilafat-e-Ahmadiyya saved me.”

A welcome drink

It had been an extremely hot day and as I stood outside *Masjid Fazl* meeting people, I really felt like something cold!

To my pleasant surprise, and just as I was thinking about this, Ahmad bhai (*Muhammad Ahmad Nasir*), from Huzoor's security team, came up to me and handed me an ice-cold chocolate *Frappuccino*, the cold and sweet ice-coffee drinks served at Starbucks.

I drank it slowly to ensure I could enjoy every last sip!

Emotions of Ahmadis

On the evening of Thursday 18 August, Huzoor met 91 Ahmadi families in *Mulaqat*, even though Huzoor had to deliver the *Friday Sermon* the next day.

An Ahmadi from Norway, *Abdul Qudus Amir (48)*, told me about how it felt to meet Huzoor and also narrated his Jalsa experiences.

Abdul Qudus sahib said:

“You can see the smile on my face, it feels as though I am flying. This is all due to the elation of having met my Khalifa today. When you are with Huzoor or when you pray behind him you forget the rest of the world entirely.”

Abdul Qudus sahib told me that in 1986, when he was a young *Khadim*, he had the honour of spending a week in the company of Huzoor in *Sindh* where Huzoor was visiting to inspect some land.

Abdul Qudus Sahib said:

“Back then I was very young but the personality of Huzoor had a great impact upon me even then. One thing I always remember is that at meal times, Huzoor used to call us all together and he would eat alongside us. He would eat the same food and in the same plates as the rest of us, even though many of us were young boys. He never considered himself superior or sought to separate himself from the rest of us. I look back on those days as a truly golden period in my life and it is because of that time that Huzoor knows who I am.”

Reflecting on the *Jalsa*, Abdul Qudus Sahib said:

“The Jalsa Salana this year was marvellous. In spiritual terms, nothing can beat it and in terms of administration it was also wonderful. I come to the UK Jalsa each year and look carefully to see what improvements can be made and then I write whatever suggestions I have directly to Huzoor.

For example, in the past I used to think the floor in the main Jalsa Gah was extremely hard and uncomfortable but that is no longer the case. Anyway, this time I have nothing to write in terms of what I think should be improved!”

Another Ahmadi, *Fazal Ahmad Taujoo* (58) from Mauritius said:

“Huzoor’s presence leaves you entirely awestruck and overcome with emotion. It increases your faith in the truth of the Promised Messiah (as) and in the teachings of Islam. It feels like he writes his addresses knowing exactly what is in our hearts and what our personal weaknesses are.”

I also met *Afzal Ahmad Rauf*, a Missionary of the Jamaat currently serving in Uganda, though he told me he was soon being posted in Nigeria.

Speaking about his experiences, Afzal sahib said:

“Those who are far away think that life in Africa must be extremely difficult for us, however we never feel difficulty because we have been sent here by Khalifatul Masih. We consider the opportunity to serve here as a blessing and we are constantly reassured by the fact that we have the prayers of Khalifatul Masih to guard us and protect us.”

Friday Sermon

On Friday 19 August, Huzoor delivered his weekly *Friday Sermon* from the Baitul Futuh Mosque.

During the sermon, Huzoor recounted the blessings of the *Jalsa Salana UK* and narrated its impact on several guests.

Very graciously, Huzoor also mentioned the media coverage in some detail.

However, Huzoor also said that for the Jalsa to prove truly blessed it was essential that people continued to maintain the spiritual fervour and emotions felt during Jalsa throughout the rest of the year.

Huzoor also praised the organisation of the Jalsa Salana and the selfless service of volunteers, including those who had worked for weeks beforehand doing *Waqar-e-Amal* and those who had been involved in the post-Jalsa wind-up operation.

A blessed opportunity for the Canadian *Waqf-e-Arzi* Team

Later in the afternoon, Huzoor met with 154 Khuddam volunteers from Canada who had travelled to the Jalsa to do *Waqf-e-Arzi*. The Canadian team had been allocated wind-up duties following the completion of the Jalsa at *Hadeeqatul Mahdi*.

Very kindly, Huzoor met them personally in the *Mahmood Hall* and they also had the opportunity to have their photos taken with him.

As the Khuddam filed past and had the opportunity to shake Huzoor's hand, Huzoor asked *Sadr Khuddam Canada* how many Khuddam were part of their delegation.

In reply, Sadr Sahib said: ***"Around 150"***.

Hearing this, Huzoor said:

"You should have exact figures, not just approximate."

Later, I met with one of the Khuddam, *Ghulam Maqsood*, who shared some of his experiences of Waqf-e-Arzi. He said:

“I was one of the Khuddam who had the opportunity to do Waqar-e-Amal and to take part in the wind-up of Jalsa Salana. We were given many different physical tasks, such as lifting chairs, carpets and flooring. I also spent time in the langhar and learnt new skills there. Apart from this, we also picked up litter or cleaned toilets.

For people outside our Jamaat it may seem strange that we are volunteering for such tasks but we considered this a great opportunity to serve the guests of the Promised Messiah (as). What could be a better honour than this?”

Ghulam Sahib said:

“If I tried to do even ten percent of the physical activity I have done here at other times in my life then I would be exhausted and drained. Yet whilst we were doing these duties at Jalsa it seemed as though Allah was constantly giving us energy. These were the best days of our lives and Allah has rewarded us by allowing us to meet Huzoor. Alhamdolillah.”

Another Ahmadi who was part of the *Waqf-e-Arzi* team from Canada, *Rumi Sahi (34)* said:

“This Jalsa was extremely spiritually uplifting for me. I slept at night in the Jalsa Gah and I saw with my own eyes how people would brave the cold and would jump out of bed to offer Tahajjad prayers. Seeing their

example, made me want to improve myself and to become closer to Allah.”

He continued by saying:

“Being part of the Waqf-e-Arzi experience was something I will never ever forget. I observed a spiritual change in myself and in every member of our team. Then, in Huzoor’s Friday Sermon he even mentioned us and this was truly astounding and we all feel as though we are part of history now.”

A very memorable interview

A journalist from Bolivia, who had interviewed Huzoor as part of an international delegation a few days earlier, had made a subsequent request to have the opportunity for a *one-on-one* interview with Huzoor.

Huzoor graciously accepted this request and so the interview took place, late afternoon on 19th August in Huzoor’s office.

Amongst the many interviews of Huzoor that I have sat in on this was one of my favourites. The reason being that in answer to certain questions, Huzoor narrated extremely personal incidents from his life, which were both emotional and faith-inspiring to hear.

The first question the journalist asked Huzoor was why so many people were joining the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community each year.

In response, Huzoor very beautifully said:

“Religion is a matter of the heart and so the reason they join us is because their heart is satisfied with our teaching. They feel peace and contentment from our message.”

Thereafter, Huzoor continued by giving a rare insight into his personal faith.

Huzoor said:

“I was born an Ahmadi Muslim, but I do not follow its teachings blindly. Rather, I believe in Islam with all my heart and soul having witnessed countless signs. On so many occasions, I have prayed for something and my prayers have been accepted – sometimes they were accepted after just a few minutes. On other occasions, they have been accepted after a period of days, weeks or months.”

The journalist followed up by asking Huzoor if there was a particular experience that had made him believe in the truth of Islam.

I found Huzoor’s answer to be utterly captivating.

Huzoor said:

“On one occasion, when I was around 17, I wanted something from my father but I did not wish to ask him directly for it. Thus, I prayed sincerely that Allah puts this thing in the mind of my father within a very short period as there were only 25 to 30 minutes left for me to attain that thing

which I wanted. With the Grace of Allah, within that period my father called me and fulfilled my wish without me having to ask him directly.”

As soon as Huzoor said these words, I felt intense curiosity about what it was that Huzoor had prayed for all those years ago, and I even considered asking him. However, I thought better of it but remained grateful to have been present whilst Huzoor had narrated this extremely personal story.

On a later occasion, Huzoor did tell me a little more detail about this incident.

Huzoor said:

“The prayer I mentioned was not offered during Namaz but rather I was standing outside. I offered that prayer with great desperation and from my heart.”

You could see that the journalist also was intrigued and interested by Huzoor’s words. Thus, in a follow-up question, he asked Huzoor the significance of that moment and whether he considered it to be a ‘*turning-point*’ in his life.

Huzoor responded by saying:

“Even before that there were other incidents which all showed me that Allah the Almighty listens to us if we pray with sincerity. For example, once I had a maths exam and I did not do very well and I left the exam hall sure that I had failed. Nonetheless, there were still two months until the result was issued and so I prayed a great deal that somehow I pass.”

Huzoor continued narrating this story by saying:

“There is a Mosque in Rabwah called the Mubarak Mosque and, as a young teenager, I prayed in one corner weeping before my Lord. The way the words of prayer came from my heart were enough for me to realise that they had reached Allah the Almighty and with the Grace of Allah I did pass that exam. Later, I found that the Education Board had made a late decision to award some extra marks to students in ‘grace’ and it was only due to those extra marks that I passed.”

11 days in Jail

The journalist also asked Huzoor about the period he spent in Jail in 1999, when Huzoor was arrested on fabricated charges, along with three other Ahmadis in Rabwah. At that time, Huzoor spent 11 days in prison for the sake of his faith.

Referring to that time, Huzoor said:

“At that time of arrest, I was the administrative head of our community in Pakistan. The story was that at a nearby bus-stop somebody had tampered with a verse of the Holy Quran that had been displayed.

I do not know who did it but the likelihood is that it was done by Mullahs or their supporters or other anti-Ahmadiyya agents in order to frame me and a few other Ahmadis. It was pre-planned and because of this we were arrested.”

Elaborating further, Huzoor said:

“At that time, I wrote a letter to my predecessor, the Fourth Caliph of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, to request prayers and I also wrote that I do not think I will be released and so it is my belief that it would be better for him to appoint someone else as the administrative head in Pakistan. However, in reply he said that I would remain in my position and that I would be released.

With the grace of Allah, after 11 days, I and those arrested along with me, were released and it truly seemed like a miracle and that Allah the Almighty had Himself intervened in our favour.”

Hearing this the Bolivian journalist was moved to respond by saying:

“Beautiful!”

Volunteer spirit

Thereafter, the journalist spoke about the *Jalsa Salana* and said he had been personally amazed to see thousands of people volunteering.

In reply, Huzoor said:

“I did not tell them that they must all do duty at the Jalsa, rather our Ahmadis have an inner urge to serve the Jamaat and their own hearts compel them to serve in this way. This feeling of love they have for the community is entirely natural and comes from within them.”

A moment with Huzoor

As the meeting concluded and the journalist left the room, Huzoor gestured to me to stay in his office for a few further minutes.

I immediately said that I had enjoyed this interview more than many others because Huzoor's answers were extremely personal and based on his own experiences, some of which I had never heard before.

I said that it had been particularly emotional to hear about Huzoor's childhood and the incidents of prayer that had affected him in his youth and the way Huzoor described his time in jail in 1999.

It appeared Huzoor had also enjoyed the interview, as he said:

"I think the journalist will now write a good and interesting story."

Alhamdulillah, Huzoor's comment proved true, wherein the journalist wrote an extremely interesting article that was published not only in Bolivia but was also reproduced in several other Latin American countries.

Meeting with Missionaries and National Presidents

At 5.55pm, on 19 August 2016, Huzoor held a meeting with all Missionaries attending the *Jalsa Salana* from all parts of the world, as well as all those *National Amirs* (Presidents) who attended the Jalsa. Senior representatives of a number of central Markaz offices were also present.

In total, around 320 Jamaat representatives attended the meeting. For the first time, I had also been invited to attend the meeting by *Wakalat-e-Tabshir* and so it was a new experience for me as well.

In such meetings, you see what a masterful administrator Huzoor is and his ability to process information much faster than others. It was an education just to observe and listen to Huzoor's guidance to the different Jamaats.

It was also apparent how very senior members of the Jamaat became extremely nervous and hesitant when Huzoor asked them questions or sought clarifications. Such nerves were a result of the intense love that Khilafat inspires.

The meeting, which lasted over two hours, took place in a marquee that had been erected behind some of the *Jamaat* Guests Houses on Gressenhall Road.

It started with a silent prayer led by Huzoor and thereafter Huzoor initially spoke to several representatives from African Jamaats. Huzoor asked about their *Tabligh* progress and what *Tarbiyyat* programmes they had in place for African Ahmadis.

For example, Huzoor asked Sierra Leone's Amir Sahib for a progress report.

In reply, Amir Sahib Sierra Leone said:

"With the Grace of Allah, during the past year we had around 50,000 Bai'ats in Sierra Leone and we also held over 70 Refresher Courses in order to facilitate the Tarbiyyat and training of our new converts."

Huzoor also asked several Jamaats about the number of their *Chanda* payers and other financial details. After hearing the reply of the local Jamaat representative, Huzoor would ask the *Additional Wakil-ul-Maal*, Mubarak Zafar Sahib to check if the figures quoted were in line with official figures and details received by the *Markaz*.

The Nigerian delegation informed Huzoor that many of their members were unemployed and so it was not possible for them to pay *Chanda Aam*.

Hearing this, Huzoor said:

“Even unemployed people should be encouraged to participate in the Tehrik-e-Jadid or Waqf-e-Jadid schemes. Even if they contribute just one Naira it is ok or in rural areas they can contribute an egg or some yam or others such things.

The Jamaat does not need their contributions but by being involved the Ahmadis will themselves reap the benefits and blessings of financial sacrifice and will come to understand its importance as a part of faith.”

Huzoor was informed by Amir Sahib Ghana that there were currently 114 central Missionaries of the Jamaat serving in Ghana.

In response, Huzoor said:

“You should mobilise the Missionaries to ensure that all Jamaats and all Ahmadis benefit. Thus, they should spend only around 6 months in their

home bases and should be sent out to villages and other regions for the other 6 months."

Upon hearing a report about the Jamaat's forthcoming activities and proposed plans in Burkina Faso, Huzoor said:

"You always say 'Insha'Allah', that 'God Willing we will do this and that'. It is time that you also move to saying 'Masha'Allah' that 'With the Grace of Allah we have achieved this!'"

Although the comment was made to the Burkina Faso delegation, a minute later Ghana's Amir Sahib took the microphone and said:

"Huzoor next year we will come to meet you with a report of 'Masha'Allah' instead of only 'Insha'Allah.'"

In response, Huzoor said:

"I hope so!"

Huzoor then spoke to the delegation from Niger about how to integrate the thousands of Ahmadis who were joining the Jamaat each year.

Huzoor said:

"You should build Mosques in every Jamaat. This is the way to do the Tarbiyyat of the new Ahmadis. It is very important – otherwise how will you be able to guide them about removing their old traditions and

customs that are not in accordance with Islam? Furthermore, focus on the Tarbiyyat of women and children so that the future generations are not lost."

The delegation from Tanzania informed Huzoor they had achieved thousands of *Bai'ats* during the past year, especially from amongst those people who previously had no religious belief.

In response, Huzoor said:

"The most important thing is that you teach them Namaz. Everyone should know Surah Fatiha and at a minimum start with its translation and then teach them the rest of the prayers."

A short report was then given by Indonesia's Amir Sahib in which he said that a significant number of Ahmadis in Indonesia did not practice Ahmadiyyat openly due to fear of persecution.

Hearing this, Huzoor said:

"You should make a special programme to contact those people and to help them otherwise they will be lost from the Jamaat."

Huzoor continued by saying:

"There are some Ahmadis in Indonesia who have been living in a shelter for many years and so you must help them in every way possible and care for them."

The Missionary from Congo said that according to Huzoor's instruction the *Jamaat* had reached out to the country's *pygmy* population over the past year and because of this over 500 people had accepted Ahmadiyyat.

Upon hearing this, Huzoor said:

“Now you must send Jamaat representatives to show love and kindness to the pygmy people and bring them to the Jamaat centres and train them and do their Tarbiyyat. In this way, they will themselves be able to go and teach and train other members of their society. You must show those vulnerable people that they are equal citizens and of great worth and value.”

Further reports were given by many other Jamaats, including Madagascar, Burundi, Trinidad, Haiti, Equatorial Guinea and others.

Huzoor then turned his attention to *Jamaats* lying in the *Western* world including Canada, Germany, France, Holland and the United States. Huzoor advised them to strongly encourage Ahmadis listen to his *Friday Sermon* and to strive to increase attendance at congregational prayers.

Thereafter, Huzoor spent some time in discussion with the representatives from both Qadian and Rabwah.

For example, Huzoor asked about the publication of *Jamaat* literature in Qadian. Huzoor asked why there had been a delay in publishing some books and it was reported that one main reason was due to the time it took for books to be checked before they were ready for publication.

Without delay, Huzoor spoke to the parties involved and heard their issues before a solution was reached that would reduce the period of time for checking.

An affectionate moment with an elder

As the meeting concluded, Huzoor was about to return to his residence, when Mir Mahmood Ahmad sahib, former *Principal Jamia Ahmadiyya Rabwah* and an elderly relative of Huzoor, asked Huzoor if he would bless the room where he was staying with his presence.

Very affectionately, Huzoor accepted his request and so went and sat down with Mir sahib for a few moments in the guest house room in which he was staying.

Thereafter, and following the *Maghreb* and Isha prayers, Huzoor graced a dinner with all the delegates who had been present at the meeting.

Gambia delegation

On Saturday 20 August 2016, Huzoor met with a delegation of Ahmadiis from Gambia.

During the meeting, held in the *Mahmood Hall*, Huzoor enquired about the Ahmadiyya schools in Gambia.

Huzoor was particularly interested to hear about the standards of teaching and the experiences of past alumni.

Regarding this, Amir Sahib Gambia said:

“Many of the students who have graduated from the Ahmadiyya schools in Gambia have gone on to excel in the professional environment and are working successfully in many different sectors.”

Hearing this, Huzoor said:

“You should encourage the students of the schools and Ahmadi students generally that, apart from pursuing medicine or teaching, another career path of value is for them to enter public service.

This will ensure that there will always be people of influence within the public arena who will know and support the Jamaat and this will lessen the chance of Ahmadis being persecuted in Gambia during the coming years and decades.”

Interview with Benin Media

Huzoor then returned to his office where he was interviewed by a French-speaking journalist from Benin.

Amir Sahib Benin acted as translator, and at one point the journalist said:

“Merci beaucoup”

Just as Amir Sahib was about to translate, Huzoor interjected and said:

“I know merci beaucoup means ‘thank you very much’ so you don’t need to translate that!”

Whilst the journalist spoke in French, Huzoor utilised the time to check some letters that were pending on his desk. Huzoor then listened to the Urdu translation of the question, which he then answered, before returning to check his mail, whilst his answer was translated into French.

Such incidents show how precious Huzoor’s time is, whereby he does not have even a second to waste.

The journalist shared his own experiences of the Jalsa Salana by saying:

“I was amazed by what I saw at the UK Jalsa. It was such a huge event and yet there was no accidents or disturbances, which seems impossible. This had a great effect on me. How was this possible?”

In response, Huzoor said:

“The purpose of our Jamaat is to spread the true teachings of Islam and the Holy Quran has instructed mankind to fulfil the rights of one another and where this happens the natural result is peace, brotherhood and love.

I do not claim that no one ever becomes ill or that small accidents do not take place from time to time but due to the discipline and mutual respect Islam teaches, you will never, God Willing, see stampedes or fights at our events.”

The journalist said that having read Huzoor's book *"World Crisis and the Pathway to Peace"* and having witnessed the *Jalsa Salana*, he had concluded that there were two types of Muslims – those who were peaceful and those who were terrorists and extremists.

Upon hearing this, Huzoor said:

"The Holy Prophet (sa) foretold that the latter-day Muslims would fragment and be consumed by spiritual darkness and that at such a time the Promised Messiah (as) would be sent by Allah to revive the true teachings of Islam."

Thus, the Muslim world should reflect and ponder on this difference that you have noted, whereby you have seen that, on the one hand, we Ahmadi Muslims are spreading peace in the name of the Holy Prophet (sa), whilst on the other hand, there are other Muslims who are spreading hatred and violence in his name. This fact alone should be enough for other Muslims to realise the truth of the Promised Messiah (as)."

Huzoor was asked if he felt *"depressed"* upon seeing the division in the Muslim world.

In response, Huzoor said:

"I am never depressed because the prophecies of the Holy Quran, the Holy Prophet (sa) and the Promised Messiah (as) are being fulfilled. However, the fact that warfare is spreading and that there is division and discord"

is certainly a source of great regret. That is why I constantly urge world leaders to adopt peace and justice."

The journalist then made a comment that was a very accurate reflection of the relationship between *Khalifatul Masih* and Ahmadi Muslims worldwide.

He said:

"Whilst I have been here I have seen that your people love you very much. They do not worship you but their hearts are overflowing with love for the Khalifa and in the same way it seems that you sincerely love each and every Ahmadi and you have a personal relationship with them."

In reply, Huzoor said:

"This is a sign of the truth of Ahmadiyyat whereby there is an everlasting spiritual bond of love between the Khalifa and the Ahmadis. In the Holy Quran, Allah has said that mankind should love one another and so this relationship is entirely in keeping with Islamic teachings."

The journalist said that he had noticed that Ahmadis followed the lead of Huzoor in all aspects. He said: ***"when you sit, the Ahmadis sit and when you stand, the Ahmadis stand"***.

Hearing this, Huzoor said:

"No one is forced or compelled to act in this way, rather this connection and attachment is natural and has been implanted in the hearts of

Ahmadi Muslims by Allah the Almighty. It is a continuation of the two-way love that existed between the Holy Prophet of Islam (sa) and his companions.”

I was awestruck by the beauty of Huzoor’s words throughout this interview.

How fortunate are we Ahmadi Muslims to have the love of *Khilafat* which shields and protects us?

Meeting with Congo delegation

Thereafter, Huzoor met with a small delegation from Congo, including a senior *Judge* who had travelled to attend the Jalsa.

Upon meeting Huzoor, the Judge said:

“In my country, I am fighting for justice for all people. There is a war in our nation and we are in desperate need for peace.”

In reply, Huzoor said:

“May Allah bless your nation and its people.”

Speaking about her experiences at Jalsa, the Judge said:

“Your Holiness, your speeches at the Jalsa had a huge impact upon me and my impression of Islam has changed for the better. Previously, I thought that Muslims were extremists who did not respect the rights of

other people but I did not see any extremism amongst Ahmadi Muslims, all I saw was peace and compassion.

In all your lectures, I noted how you spoke about fulfilling the rights of others and you even said that a Muslim should treat all people as though they are your family members. This was a very beautiful and so I am certain that if you pray for us then it can only benefit our nation.”

Offering advice and guidance for the leaders of the nation, Huzoor said:

“It is the task of the rulers or Government to serve and protect the public and to fulfil their rights. The leaders must respect law and order, uphold the democratic institutions of State and follow the Constitution. I pray that Allah has mercy upon your nation.”

Meeting with Ashanti King

After Zuhr and Asr prayers, Huzoor held a meeting with the *Ruler of Ashanti, King Osei Tutu II* who had travelled from Ghana, where he is greatly revered by his people.

The King was invited to attend a lunch dinner hosted by the *UK Jamaat* and which was to be graced by the presence of Huzoor.

Before lunch began, Huzoor graciously met with the King for a few minutes in the office of *Sadr Majlis Khuddamul Ahmadiyya UK*. Also present were Amir Sahib Ghana, Amir Sahib UK and Tariq BT Sahib (Lord Ahmad).

The protocol staff and security staff of the King were very particular and had certain requirements. For example, prior to the meeting, they had been very insistent about the type of chair on which the King would sit.

I personally, thought that their demands were a little excessive and unnecessary, however as our guests the *Jamaat* sought to facilitate their requests to the best of its abilities.

During the meeting, Huzoor spoke of his enduring love and respect for the people of Ghana. Huzoor said:

“Amongst the African people, I consider that Ghanaians are the most disciplined people. Also, in terms of positive inter-faith relations and harmony, Ghana is a prime example and other countries should learn from you. Generally speaking, the Ghanaians are very peaceful people.”

Hearing this the Ashanti King said:

“Thank you for this compliment.”

Very beautifully, Huzoor then said:

“I consider myself to be half Ghanaian because I lived in Ghana for a number of years.”

Thereafter, Huzoor and the King sat together during lunch that was served in a marquee behind the central *Jamaat* guests houses.

Hundreds of representatives of *Jamaats* from different countries were present.

I personally was not at all hungry and so I went and stood outside and talked with a few young Ahmadi boys until Waqas bhai (Mirza Waqas Ahmad) saw me and said that I should sit with him for lunch.

As all seats in the marquee were now taken, we went and ate in the kitchen itself. Having not been hungry, I still managed to eat a fair amount of *lamb karhai*.

After a few minutes, we returned to the marquee where, following the conclusion of lunch, Huzoor presented the Ashanti King with a ring as a gift



As the lunch concluded, Amir Sahib UK asked the King if he would like some tea before he left.

The King turned towards Huzoor and said:

“If you are going to drink then I will as well.”

Although, I do not think it was part of the programme, and even though he was so busy, Huzoor said he would join the King for tea.

Thus, Huzoor and the King both returned to the office of *Sadr Sahib Majlis Khuddamul Ahmadiyya*.

Very tight security

As Huzoor and the King entered, the King’s security guards became very particular and stopped other people entering. In fact, one of his guards, who was very tall and rather wide, placed himself as a physical barrier to ensure that no one else entered the room!

At that point Huzoor saw me near the entrance and he said, loud enough for the security guard to hear, that I should come in the room and take a seat.

Hearing this, the security guard let me in, but remained very particular for the rest of the meeting and only those who were serving tea were allowed in thereafter.

Given that we were the hosts, I found the entire situation odd. I did not care that they tried to block access to us personally but I felt that it was not in keeping with the honour and dignity of *Khilafat* that, where Huzoor had invited the King, the latter’s staff should take full control.

Later, I mentioned this to Huzoor but he told me that it did not matter and that humility was always the better path.

Memories of Ghana

Whilst Huzoor and the King drank tea together they spoke about Africa and Huzoor narrated some of his experiences in Ghana and some of the regions he had particularly liked.

The King informed Huzoor how he would regularly meet the *President of Ghana* and the *Leader of the Opposition* and that he did not himself vote for any party because he was considered the “*father of the nation*”.

The conversation moved on to a discussion about agriculture and farming in Ghana.

Upon this, Huzoor said:

“There are certain areas of Ghana where the agricultural land is excellent and extremely fertile.

In the past, very flavourful mangoes used to be grown in Ghana, however the very best mangoes are those grown in Pakistan and India and so you should try to grow those types of mangoes in Ghana as well.”

The meeting ended as the Ashanti King invited Huzoor to visit Ghana again and said that he would be honoured to make arrangements for Huzoor’s stay.

Huzoor's attention to detail

As Huzoor walked back to his residence, he was approached by Zaheer Khan Sahib (*Director Scheduling, MTA International*) who asked Huzoor if it was permissible to alter the *MTA* schedule that day in order to broadcast a live episode of *Rah-e-Huda*.

In response, Huzoor asked what the previous schedule had been and upon hearing it, Huzoor said:

“Ok you can schedule Rah-e-Huda at 5.15pm.”

It was an example of the close eye Huzoor keeps on all elements of the *Jamaat*.

Nothing is scheduled on *MTA International* without Huzoor's approval and if there are changes that need to be made they are made only with Huzoor's permission.

Emotions of Ahmadis

Later that day, Huzoor met dozens of families in Mulaqat.

One of the people, Huzoor met was *Nasir Malik (67)* from Ohio in the United States. Moments after his Mulaqat, Nasir Sahib told me:

“It is a great blessing of Allah that he has instilled so much love for the members of the Jamaat within the heart of Khalifatul Masih because

Huzoor's love makes us feel at peace. The rest of the world is struggling and facing increasing difficulties and uncertainties but we Ahmadis constantly feel at ease. Due to the blessings of Khilafat, I honestly feel as though we Ahmadis live in a different world to others."

I met another Ahmadi, *Khalid Syed* from the United States, who said:

"When you see Khalifa-Waqt, when you hear him, when you feel his presence you realise that he is the spiritual King of the entire world."

All of the worldly wealth of the world pales in comparison and is completely insignificant in the face of the spiritual blessings associated with Khilafat-e-Ahmadiyya."

An Ahmadi from Canada, *Ghulam Ahmad Maqsood* (39) shared his experiences of participating in the *International Bai'at* for the first time at the Jalsa.

Ghulam Sahib said:

"Taking part in the International Bai'at was completely unique and I have never felt such strong emotions and attachment to my faith. It seemed like every race was there having accepted the Promised Messiah (as) and under the banner of Islam."

When the Bai'at concluded and we all bowed down with Khalifa-Waqt in Sajdah (prostration) submitting before God it was incredible. I did not want to get up or for that moment to ever end."

Speaking of his Mulaqat a few minutes earlier, Ghulam Sahib said:

“As soon as I entered Huzoor’s office and saw his blessed face it seemed like my life had stopped and frozen in time. All other things in the world have no meaning or value when you are with Huzoor. Khilafat-e-Ahmadiyya is our means of success and our means of hope and peace.”

Huzoor’s concern for a Khadim

Whilst meeting different people, I also met Saeed Rafiq for a moment. He is a young *Missionary* of the *Jamaat* graduated from *UK Jamia* and is now serving in *MTA*.

Mentioning an incident from Jalsa, Saeed said:

“During the concluding session of Jalsa, I was seated on the floor in the main Jalsa Gah. Later, Huzoor saw me and he said that if it was difficult for me to sit for long periods wearing a suit and tie, then I could wear shalwar kameez on such occasions. I was amazed that Huzoor had seen me amongst the thousands of Ahmadiis and had even noticed what I had been wearing. He is so kind to suggest wearing a shalwar kameez so that I am more comfortable.”

Meeting with Young Missionaries from United States

On 21 August 2016, Huzoor met with a delegation of young Missionaries from the *USA Jamaat*. They were all graduates of *Jamia Ahmadiyya Canada* and had been instructed to come to the UK Jalsa this year.

Also present was Azhar Hanif Sahib, who had recently been appointed as *Missionary-in-Charge* in the United States.

During the meeting, I saw how much love Huzoor has for the Missionaries.

He gave them more than an hour to ask whatever questions they had in their hearts or to narrate any problems or concerns they had and he gave them guidance and instructions about how to conduct their duties.

One piece of advice Huzoor gave to the Missionaries was in relation to *Salat*.

Huzoor said:

“You should emphasise the importance of attending Fajr to all members of the Jamaat, especially those who live near to the Mosque. You should identify which members have room in their cars and are willing to give other Ahmadis a ride to the Mosque.”

To another Missionary, Huzoor said:

“Even if no one else comes for Fajr you must ensure that you go to the Mosque and unlock it and offer your prayers there in the Mosque. You must set the example for others.”

Huzoor also emphasised the importance of Missionaries to be present in their offices throughout the day, unless they were out for *Jamaat* purposes. He said it was very important for local Ahmadis to know they could approach their Missionaries at any time and see them.

One Missionary said he used the social media app *Periscope* and would sometimes spend lengthy periods answering the questions of people about Islam through this medium.

In response, Huzoor said:

“That is good but try and make a habit of doing this from your office so that you remain present in case people come or need to see you.”

Another Missionary, *Adnan Haider*, who is posted in Mexico, informed Huzoor that some of the local Mexican Ahmadi converts came regularly to the *Jamaat* centre for prayers, whilst there were other people who would come to the Mosque because they enjoyed the food available.

Upon this, Huzoor said:

“Try to feed them spiritual food alongside the physical food as well!”

During the meeting, Huzoor also guided the Missionaries about their roles and responsibilities and the appropriate reporting structure.

Huzoor said:

“You all work under the supervision of Azhar Hanif Sahib, who apart from being Missionary-in-Charge is also Naib Amir USA. It is not the task of the other Naib Amirs to allocate duties or to give you instructions. You take instruction from Azhar Sahib, your National Amir Sahib or directly from the Markaz (Centre).”

Huzoor then addressed the Missionaries, who had been posted in small Jamaats such as Mexico, Marshall Islands and Micronesia and which currently were under the USA Jamaat.

Huzoor said:

“Once your Jamaat is well established then I may well make you independent from the United States Jamaat. For example, Malta Jamaat used to be under Germany but now it is an independent Jamaat.

This is the target for you and so you should make suitable plans and work towards reaching that standard. It is your duty as Missionaries to work towards this.

You are the ones who have done Waqf and pledged your lives and so you have to take personal responsibility for the growth of your Jamaats.”

Giving general guidance to the Missionaries, Huzoor said:

“You should plan your activities at least three months in advance and give those Jamaats which you plan to visit plenty of notice so they can make proper plans and arrange events which can be of benefit to their Jamaat.

You are not sent to do ‘unannounced inspections’ of the local Jamaats, rather you are there to do their Tarbiyyat and to guide and help them.”

Huzoor continued by saying:

“As Missionaries, you must never be guilty of wasting time. Rather, if you are free you should use that time productively to read and to increase your knowledge.

In particular, read and re-read the commentary of the Holy Quran written by the Promised Messiah (as) and regularly read The Essence of Islam.

Without personal study, you will forget what you already know. Anyone who thinks he is a scholar after leaving Jamia is entirely misguided.”

Huzoor then spoke to Azhar Hanif Sahib and said:

“As the Missionary-in-charge, it is your duty to fulfil the basic requirements and needs of the Missionaries, within our resources, so that they are able to conduct their duties in the best way. For example, they should be given an office to work from.

Once they have these basic needs fulfilled then they have no excuse and they should work diligently.”

One of the young Missionaries mentioned that he had heard some Ahmadis comment that it may be necessary to “*compromise*” on certain aspects of our belief in order to do *Tabligh* in the West.

In response, Huzoor said:

“We must use wisdom in Tabligh but not compromise on our beliefs or teachings. We should preach with love and softness but we should not ever deny our own faith due to fear of others.”

In response to a question from a young Missionary about *Tarbiyyat* of the members of the Jamaat, Huzoor said:

“If all four organs of the Jamaat – the Jamaat, Ansarullah, Lajna and Khuddam – are all working well then the pace of our Jamaat’s progress will increase rapidly. They should all hold regular programmes.

However, you should not over-burden people and so rather than holding events separately and on different days, it is better if you hold Jamaat and auxiliary events on the same day whenever possible.

This is particularly important in the USA because of the long distances people have to travel.”

Huzoor continued by saying:

“The Jamaat and Missionaries should create ease for the Jamaat members.

The economic crisis facing the world today is affecting many Ahmadis as well and so by holding events on the same day it will be beneficial and helpful to them.”

Another young Missionary said that the students and graduates of *Jamia Ahmadiyya UK* had a “*special relationship*” with Huzoor and met him much more frequently compared to Missionaries abroad.

Hearing this, Huzoor said:

“I also have a special relationship with some of the Missionaries in this room who graduated from Jamia Canada. Some of you write to me personally regularly, though some of you do so less frequently.

Anyway, the reason I called you here this year was not to admonish you, which I think some of you were worried about. Rather, I called you here to meet you and Insha’Allah we will continue to meet in the future as well.”

In relation to this particular comment, one of the young Missionaries later told me that Huzoor was correct.

He said that due to certain recent circumstances they had all been extremely worried that they had been called to London to be admonished or reprimanded and yet, to their collective astonishment, all they received was Huzoor’s love and kindness.

As the meeting continued, very beautifully, Huzoor said:

“Whether I have a personal relationship with you or not, you should all know that I always pray for every one of you.”

Speaking of the spirit required by Missionaries, Huzoor said:

“You should be ready for every sacrifice for the sake of your faith. You can be sent anywhere in the world at any time.

In Africa, there used to be Ahmadi Missionaries and Waqf-e-Zindighis (live devotees) who had to live without the most basic necessities and sometimes went days without proper food. Later they were rewarded by Allah and their future generations have continued to reap the rewards.

Thus, you should all have this spirit as well whereby you never expect anything and you should understand that your life is in the Hands of Allah.”

Huzoor then appreciated the spirit shown by the younger Missionaries.

Huzoor said:

“I have sent some Missionaries from UK Jamia and Canada Jamia to very remote Islands or countries and initially I worried if they would be able to tolerate it but with the Grace of Allah so far they have done very well.”

Huzoor continued by saying:

“Always remember the advice given to us by the Promised Messiah (as). Firstly, that we should always consider ourselves to be the most humble of the humblest and the weakest of the weak. Secondly, always remember that Allah prefers humility and thirdly we should always pray for a

blessed and pious end, whenever or wherever it may come. No one is going to live forever and so we should not fear death but should pray to Allah that whenever He takes us it is in a pious and blessed state."

As the meeting concluded I was amazed at the guidance and love shown by Huzoor to each of the Missionaries. His guidance had been extremely moving and filled with wisdom.

As the young Missionaries came forward to have their photo taken with him, Huzoor smiled and said:

"I think that some questions that you had in your mind, but were apprehensive to ask, will also have been answered during this session!"

Just as they were leaving Huzoor's office, one Missionary asked Huzoor if they were permitted to travel to Germany to attend the German Jalsa.

In reply, Huzoor said:

"Yes, you can all go to Germany Jalsa if you like but on the condition, that when you return to your homes, you pledge to work even harder than ever before - to the extent that others also notice an improvement in your conduct and example."

Pan-African Dinner

On the afternoon of 21 August 2016, Huzoor attended a dinner hosted by the *Pan-African Association*.

During the event, Huzoor presented awards to three African Missionaries for their service to the Jamaat. The award is known as the *Abdul Wahab Adam Award*.

Huzoor also presented the *Abdul Raheem Nayyer Award* to three Asian Ahmadiis who had served the Jamaat for many years in Africa.

Thereafter, everyone was served a meal, which included both normal Asian food, along with some traditional African foods, including Yam and Plantain fries.

Meeting with Jamia Ahmadiyya Canada Graduates

Later that afternoon, Huzoor met with a group of young Missionaries, who had just qualified from *Jamia Ahmadiyya Canada* earlier in the year. The students were soon to travel to Africa, on Huzoor's instruction, to serve the local Jamaats and to get training for a few weeks.

During the meeting, the Jamia graduates introduced themselves and their family backgrounds. Invariably, Huzoor knew either their parents or other elders from their families.

One of the Jamia graduates, *Syed Rizwan* has a permanent skin condition and so Huzoor asked him if the heat and bright sunshine in Africa would be a cause of any irritation or distress to him.

The young Missionary replied by stating that his condition would be controlled using sunscreen and the wearing of sunglasses.

Hearing this, Huzoor said:

“Make sure you get the protective sunscreen and suitable glasses before you leave.”

Later, Syed Rizwan told me:

“The very fact that Huzoor asked this question and expressed his concern for me has filled my heart with so much happiness. My beloved Khalifa has so much to worry about and is so busy and yet he was still worried about my health and if I would be ok. His love is indescribable.”

Thereafter, Huzoor addressed the *Jamia* graduates collectively and said:

“The main purpose of today’s meeting was simply for you to introduce yourselves to me but as you will all soon be going to Africa. I also wish to give you some advice.

Remember, that if you treat the African people with love then they will be ready to die for you but if you show any form of superiority then they will not stand for it and will become angry.”

Huzoor continued by saying:

“When you go to the remote villages drink treated water or at least ensure that it is boiled. Apart from this you should eat the local food and mix with the local people and local communities.”

Recollecting a personal experience from Africa, Huzoor said:

“Living conditions in Africa are much improved now but when I was there, sometimes I would have to sleep outside and so if you get the chance you should also do this at least once.”

Huzoor concluded the meeting by stating:

“The African Ahmadis will look at you and follow your example. Thus, if you sleep in at Fajr they will assume that it is ok for all people to do this. You are now Missionaries and so always keep in mind that Allah is watching your every step and every act. Hence, strive to fulfil your duties with honesty and integrity.”

Huzoor’s wise words

Later that afternoon, I met Huzoor in *Mulaqat* and informed him that a well-known extremist Muslim cleric had been found guilty on terrorism charges here in the UK.

I mentioned that the media had been in contact with us and were asking if we were “happy” and “pleased” that he had been convicted.

In my heart, I was sure Huzoor would tell me that we were happy as he was an extremist.

Yet, Huzoor’s response was different, but at the same time even more beautiful, than I could ever have imagined.

Huzoor said:

“We can never be happy because his conviction means that a Muslim has broken the law of the land and spread hatred and terror and he has done it all in the name of Islam. How then can we be happy today? How can we be pleased at this news?”

Huzoor continued:

“Of course, it is good that he has been brought to justice and I hope this will serve as a warning to other people who are extremists or have the potential to be radicalised but we can never be happy that Islam has once again been defamed. We can never be happy that this person sought to spread hatred and incited other Muslims towards violence.”

A faith-inspiring recollection

A couple of days earlier, I had met with *Chaudhry Hameedullah* Sahib, *Wakil-e-Ala*, and he had told me that on the day of the election of the *Fifth Khilafat (Intikhab-e-Khilafat)* in April 2003, he had walked to the *Fazl Mosque* with Huzoor from the *Jamaat* Guest House known as “65” located on Melrose Road.

He said that as they walked together for the election itself, he had requested Huzoor, who was then the *Nazir-e-Ala Pakistan*, for prayers for the election.

Later, I mentioned this to Amir Sahib Kababir, *Muhammad Sharif Odeh* sahib and upon hearing it, he suddenly became very emotional and moved.

Sharif Sahib then told me:

“I know exactly the moment you are talking about! At that time, I was also getting ready to enter the Fazl Mosque for the election. It was an extremely difficult and emotional time.

I saw Chaudhry Hameedullah Sahib walking alongside someone who I did not recognise. Instantly, I felt something electric in my heart and a rush of love towards this person who I did not even know or recognise. All I could see was light.”

Sharif Sahib continued:

“A few minutes later the election started and I went in with the intention to vote for a particular person and his name was actually nominated.

However, it seemed as though my arm was paralysed for those few seconds and so when his name was called I could not raise it.

A few moments later, I saw the same person who had been walking outside with Wakil-e-Ala Sahib stand up as his name had also been proposed.

Without even a second's thought for pause my arm raised, almost automatically or involuntarily. I felt a surge of love in my heart for him as I voted for him as Khalifatul Masih. It was only then that I learned his name was Mirza Masroor Ahmad.”

Watching Huzoor work

On the morning of Monday 22 August 2016, I had a *Mulaqat* with Huzoor.

Normally, I report in the afternoon or early evening, however on this particular day Huzoor had instructed I report to him earlier.

As, I entered his office, Huzoor told me he had just concluded a meeting with *Wakalat-e-Tasnif* (Central Department of Literature Translations) and certain other members of a *Committee* that Huzoor had established to discuss whether *Jamaat* books should be translated with transliteration.

Thereafter, I spent around 90 minutes with Huzoor as he prepared his notes for a forthcoming address to non-Ahmadi guests at Jalsa Germany.

During that time, Huzoor gave me dictation for the address and so I had the honour to type it up and to later print it for him.

Just watching Huzoor work on such occasions is an education in itself. At times, Huzoor would consult the Holy Quran, whilst at other times he would read the writings of the Promised Messiah (*as*) before continuing to give dictation.

Every now and then, Huzoor would take a moment and talk to me informally.

At one point, Huzoor smiled and said:

“Abid – are you coming to Germany with me for the Jalsa?”

Hearing this, I could not help but smile, as none of Huzoor's staff members had been informed of who would be travelling to Germany.

In reply, I said:

"I hope and pray I am but I do not know!"

Huzoor smiled and it was after hearing this comment that I began to look forward to the prospect of the forthcoming Germany tour.

Later, when I came out of the office, I mentioned Huzoor's comment to Private Secretary Sahib and asked him the date of travel.

Hearing this, Munir Javed Sahib said:

"Abid you are lucky as no one else knows yet who Huzoor is taking with him as he has not yet given me the list."

A moment to remember

Towards the end of my *Mulaqat* with Huzoor he looked closely at my shirt and asked who had tied my tie that morning.

In response, I said:

"Huzoor, I tied it myself."

Hearing this, Huzoor said:

“The tie is all scrunched up and it is not a proper knot!”

Thereafter, Huzoor called me towards his chair and he suddenly lifted my shirt collar and undid the tie before proceeding to tie it himself.

Those moments were truly uplifting, overwhelming and joyous but at the same time being so physically close to my Khalifa was something that filled my heart with nerves.

As Huzoor concluded fastening the tie he told me to go and look in the mirror.

I walked over and saw that Huzoor had tied the perfect knot!

Alhamdolillah, that moment was the perfect end to what had proved an unbelievably blessed period.

The Mulaqat culminated the two-week period that I had spent with Huzoor during the Jalsa UK period.

Conclusion

During those two weeks, I had seen the blessings of *Khilafat* again and again.

Huzoor had personally met with thousands of Ahmadis; he had addressed all three days of Jalsa; he had met with dozens of delegations from abroad; he had conducted various media interviews and he had continued to guide the various offices of the *Jamaat*.

Above all, Huzoor's words, his love, his compassion, his generosity had touched people of all races and nationalities.

The blessings of *Khilafat* are never-ending and are witnessed worldwide.

Thus, as one chapter reached an extremely blessed conclusion, I looked forward to the opportunity of travelling to Germany with Huzoor and thereafter, I hoped, to Canada as well.

End

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