

IALSA SALANA UK 2017

A Personal Account – Part 2

By Abid Khan

Introduction to Part 2

In Part 1, I wrote about Huzoor's activities during the days preceding the start of Jalsa Salana UK 2017 and concluded by narrating some of Huzoor's activities on the first two days of Jalsa.

In Part 2, I will mention Huzoor's activities during the final day of Jalsa and the first couple of days after its conclusion.

Overcoat of the Promised Messiah (as)

It was 30 July 2017 and we had reached the concluding day of Jalsa Salana UK and throughout the morning, there was a sense of deep anticipation for the *International Bai'at* ceremony.

At 12.30pm, I walked to Huzoor's residence and waited outside alongside various other members of staff and the security team and at exactly 1pm, Huzoor came out of his residence wearing the overcoat of the Promised Messiah (as).

Since the *International Bai'at* started in 1993 it has been a tradition that Hazrat Khalifatul Masih has worn the overcoat of the Promised Messiah (as).

For many years, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih IV (rh) and then Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V (aba) wore the same green coat of the Promised Messiah (as). However, in the past few years, Huzoor has worn a different coat of a beige-brown colour.

Several people had asked me about why Huzoor had started wearing the different coat and if there was any significance attached to it.

Regarding this, one day I asked Huzoor about this, whilst sitting in his office at Masjid Fazl.

In reply, Huzoor said:

“Over time the green coat of the Promised Messiah (as) had become very worn and frayed and so I decided that it was better to wear the other coat of the Promised Messiah (as).”

Huzoor continued:

“Whilst it is a tradition to wear the coat of the Promised Messiah (as) at the International Bai’at ceremony it is not something that is necessary. If this coat becomes frayed or damaged then the ceremony will go on without it.”

An unforgettable moment

Despite being amongst thousands of others, the Bai’at ceremony, for me at least, is an incredibly personal experience. This year, as I did Bai’at, I was perhaps a metre or a metre and half from Huzoor, with two people between me and Huzoor.

Probably, it was the closest I have ever been to Huzoor during an *International Bai’at*. Being able to see Huzoor directly and to see the purity

of his face whilst repeating the words of *Bai'at* was something that will remain etched in my mind for a very long time.



It evoked emotions that only Khilafat-e-Ahmadiyya can evoke in this day and age. Then came the time for bowing down in prostration during the *Sajdah-e-shukar* (*Prostration of gratitude*). Whilst, it is called the '*prostration of gratitude*', every year at the UK Jalsa as I bow down, I feel as though I can see my sins and mistakes of the past year scroll past my eyes.

Thus, the vast majority is spent offering *Istighfar*, seeking forgiveness from Allah for all my mistakes and weakness and praying that *He* continued to cover my faults and sins. It was only in the last few seconds that I remembered to pray for those whom Huzoor had instructed us to pray for and for my family.

True humility

As the *Bai'at* concluded, Huzoor proceeded to the stage area to lead the *Zuhr* and *Asr* prayers.

Whilst the *Azan* was being called, Huzoor stood with his eyes looking down and his hands together, in the same position that we would normally place our hands whilst repeating the pledge of the *Jamaat* auxiliary organisations.

I normally try to avert my eyes from Huzoor at such moments, as I do not wish to be discourteous by staring unduly in Huzoor's direction. However, for those few minutes whilst the *Azan* was being called I could not take my eyes off Huzoor.

Partly, it may have been the emotion I was already feeling after the *Bai'at* but, even more so at that moment, Huzoor looked incredibly beautiful, as he repeated some prayers to himself.

I have seen Huzoor on many occasions standing whilst the *Azan* is being called but on this occasion, Huzoor's posture and countenance seemed to be filled with even more humility and love for Allah.

Normally, I take notes of certain moments or scenes to ensure that I do not forget but I did not take any notes of that moment.

However, the humility, grace, dignity and radiance emanating from Huzoor's face at that moment is imprinted in my mind unforgettably.

Experience of a journalist

In attendance at the *Bai'at* were some journalists, including a lady called Rina Wolfson.

Earlier in the day, she had commented that the lack of music at the Jalsa was an oversight on our part. Her view was that music was a means of eliciting emotion and so it was important to have music at spiritual events. Yet, her opinion changed after attending the Bai'at ceremony.

After observing it, she said:

"I don't know what came over me. I've never seen such raw energy and emotion in my life and so I just started repeating the words myself. I now know that it is not necessary to have music to evoke heartfelt emotions."

Later the same journalist wrote a very interesting piece published in the *Jewish Chronicle*, in which she wrote:

"The hospitality of my hosts was extraordinary. Heavy rain had produced Glastonbury-esque areas of mud which my flimsy shoes were not prepared for. No matter. Within minutes of my arrival, a pair of boots had been found in exactly my size. Before I knew I needed anything, it was provided."

The journalist further wrote about her experience of attending a lecture given by the *Turin Shroud* expert, Barry Schwartz at the *Review of Religions* exhibition.

She wrote:

"I sat with a group of over 200 Muslim women whilst Schwartz explained the history of the shroud to them. It was a surreal experience to watch as

Hijabi women listened attentively to this bearded Jewish man as he described his 40-year fascination with a Christian icon.”

Writing about attending the Bai’at, the journalist wrote:

“I arrived on the final day, in time to witness a remarkable moment. As people gathered in the huge central marquee, with thousands more outside watching events on screens, the Caliph arrived. He kneeled on the ground and put out his hands. The men around him held on to his fingers, and those behind them held on to their shoulders.

Each man held on to the man in front, to form unbroken lines of human contact, stretching from the Caliph out into the crowd... After the pledge, the men bowed in prayer. Slowly, some began to cry. Then sob. The sound of grown men crying reverberated around the huge marquee. It was astounding.”

An Arab-European

During the *Bai’at*, it is a tradition that a few Ahmadis have the great and distinct honour to place their hand directly on the blessed hand of Khalifatul Masih.

Those lucky few are considered representatives of the people of their part of the world and in this way, all nations where the Jamaat is established are represented.

Following this year's Bai'at, I met an Ahmadi, *Muhammad Ibrahim Ikhlaf*, who was blessed with the opportunity to partake in Bai'at directly at the hand of Huzoor.

Ibrahim sahib, who is originally from Morocco, now lives in London with his family and is serving as a Waqf-e-Zindighi (*life devotee*) in the *Markaz* (central Jamaat) and is also the UK Jamaat *National Tabligh Secretary*.

Ibrahim sahib told me of the moment when he found out he would have the opportunity to take Bai'at directly at the hand of Huzoor.

Ibrahim sahib said:

“On the 24th of July 2017, I received a letter from the office of Tabshir in which I was given the glad tiding that Huzoor-Aqdas had chosen me to be among those most fortunate ones in the entire world to take the Bai'at at his blessed hand. When I read the letter, I was overwhelmed by emotions and engaged in so much Istighfar as I knew that I did not deserve it.”

Very emotionally, Ibrahim sahib continued:

“After receiving the letter, I went to my car and tears started streaming down and I prayed to Allah the Almighty that all my wishes have been fulfilled and that just one wish had been left unfulfilled. The unfulfilled wish for which I have prayed for the last two decades is to become a martyr of Ahmadiyyat. I will indeed be the most fortunate one if Allah could give me the opportunity to die for the sake of Khilafat, even if I would be cut in pieces by the opponents. I then beseeched Allah: “O, Allah,

I am not worried about my wife and children as I am sure that You will take care of them.”

Ibrahim sahib also told me Huzoor had instructed that he would represent not one region but two – Europe and the Arab world.

Speaking about this, Ibrahim sahib said:

“I was amazed and astonished. How did Hazrat Khalifatul Masih know that I always felt myself to be European, as I was raised in Europe, whilst at the same time I am an Arab and consider myself an Arab. Subhan’Allah that Huzoor knows our true condition.”

Ibrahim sahib continued:

“On the day of the International Bai’at Ceremony, I wore the Achkan coat instead of the Arabic or European dress, as I felt that I couldn’t wear one dress at the cost of the other nation’s dress. The best way was to wear the Pakistani dress which also reflected Huzoor-Aqdas’ clothes.”

With great emotion, Ibrahim sahib recounted the *Bai’at* itself and how it felt to place his hand on the hand of *Khalifa-Waqt*, whilst at the same time, repeating the words of *Bai’at*.

Ibrahim sahib said:

“I saw Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V (aba) enter the Jalsa Gah and walk towards us briskly, just as the Holy Prophet Muhammad (sa) used to walk, while Huzoor was wearing the mantle (overcoat) of the Promised

Messiah (as). Throughout this time, I continued to pray and was looking to the mantle of the Promised Messiah (as) as it was the first time I had ever seen it. In my heart, it felt as though I was about to take the Pledge not only from Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih but also from the Promised Messiah (as) and ultimately from the Holy Prophet (sa)."



Ibrahim sahib continued:

"After a few moments, Huzoor stretched his hand to put his blessed hand on the hands (palms) of the representatives and so I felt Huzoor take my hand and put his most blessed hand on my worthless hand. All the time Huzoor's ring finger was on my ring finger. I have no words to describe my feelings and emotions at that moment. I prayed simultaneously that Allah the Almighty enables me to submit myself completely to Khilafat and to continue to be drowned in Allah's Love."

Speaking of the lasting impact and blessings of that day, Ibrahim sahib said:

“This is indeed a great blessing, which I and my family will take with us through our whole lives. I was in another world. I didn't know what happened to me. I couldn't comprehend nor describe the experience.

I had the opportunity to touch the blessed hand of the greatest and holiest man on earth, the man appointed by Allah the Almighty. When the ceremony ended and we went for Namaz. I literally felt that I returned from another world to this world. I didn't know what happened to me, it was a unique phenomenon.”

It was very emotional to hear Ibrahim sahib's comments and to learn about an experience that all members of the Jamaat would surely dream of.

Later, when I told Ibrahim sahib that I may mention some of his comments in my diary, I also asked him his age. Whilst I do not ask ladies their age, I prefer to write the age of the men I meet for the sake of context. In Ibrahim sahib's case, I was particularly interested to find out because he has long been a dear friend, yet he had always managed to conceal his age!

Whilst, normally never short of an opinion or comment, when I asked, for once, Ibrahim sahib was uncharacteristically reticent. He merely said:

“My dear brother Abid, all you need to know is that I am a young Khadim at heart!”

The secret remained!

Concluding Session of Jalsa Salana UK

The concluding session of Jalsa Salana took place on Sunday, 30 July 2017. Huzoor arrived in the Jalsa Gah at 4.25pm and, after some short guest addresses, Huzoor began his concluding address at 5.15pm.



During his address, Huzoor spoke about Islam's true teachings and explained with much detail how Ahmadis should respond to those who claimed Islam was a violent or extremist religion.

Huzoor quoted various verses of the Holy Quran and presented the blessed example of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (sa) proving that such claims were entirely false.

Huzoor said:

“Islam denounces all forms of discrimination based on creed, caste or colour and states that all people, no matter where they hail from, are born equal. Indeed, the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him)

categorically proclaimed that no Arab bore superiority over a non-Arab and nor was there any difference between the people of any differing race or ethnicity.”

Huzoor continued:

“According to Islam, God has sent prophets to every nation and Muslims believe in all of the prophets of God. This unique point illustrates that no faith can rival Islam’s commitment to religious freedom and tolerance... Whilst other people use vile terms against the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), Muslims at the same time send salutations of peace on the prophets and founders of other religions. This is the true Islam.”

Later in his address, Huzoor condemned the international *arms trade* and said that Western powers were fuelling wars in the Muslim world by selling weapons to certain Muslim countries or providing them to some rebel groups.

Such weapons often ended up in the hands of terrorists and extremists and causing death and destruction.

Concluding, Huzoor said:

“The world has exhausted all worldly means and schemes in order to establish peace but sadly these efforts have all desperately failed. Rather, we see how disorder, hatred and conflict have continued to burn and escalate. The truth is that until the world adopts true Islamic principles of love and justice at all levels of society they will not be able to achieve

peace. The means to peace are to recognise One's Creator and to serve humanity."

Conclusion of Jalsa

Huzoor's address concluded just after 6.20pm and after a very emotional concluding *dua* (prayer), Huzoor announced that more than 37,000 people had attended the Jalsa from 107 countries of the world.



Thereafter, as has become a tradition, various groups sang *Taranay* (poems) in different languages, interspersed with extremely passionate *naaray* (slogans).

This year, one poem was called '*White birds*' and sung in English by some of our Western converts. I am sure those who took part would be the first to

admit that they were not necessarily natural singers, yet it was very touching to hear those people, born and brought up in the West, proclaiming the fact that they had entered the 'Garden of Ahmad'.

Thereafter, Huzoor waved to the Ahmadiis present and those watching on MTA one final time from this year's Jalsa. With great emotion and fervour, thousands of Ahmadiis waved back towards their beloved Imam and raised powerful and emotional slogans of love.

Huzoor returned to his residence where he graciously met Amir Sahib UK and Nasser Khan sahib (*Officer Jalsa Salana*) who offered *mubarakbaad* to Huzoor on the completion of Jalsa.

Huzoor seemed very pleased that, with the *Grace of Allah*, the Jalsa had concluded successfully, though he did note that this year's Jalsa attendance was around one thousand less than 2016, which had been celebrated as the UK Jamaat's 50th Jalsa Salana.

Subsequently, thousands of Ahmadiis returned to their homes or their places of residence, whilst many others remained behind to assist in the wind-up operation and to continue their duties for some time.

Photos with delegations

After a few minutes in his residence, Huzoor returned to his office at Hadeeqatul Mahdi, where he accepted the request of various groups for a photograph. The groups included the *Alislam.org* team, the *IAAAE* and representatives of *Majlis Khuddamul Ahmadiyya* from around the world.

During one of the photos, a very elderly Ahmadi, rushed to take a position on the floor directly in front of Huzoor.

It was immediately apparent that Huzoor was concerned that the elderly man was seated on the floor, however, the man insisted that he did not wish to stand or be seated on a chair. His desire was to be seated on the ground before his beloved spiritual master.

Upon this, Huzoor very lovingly placed his hands on the shoulders of the elderly man.

Meeting with Turin Shroud scholars

Huzoor then met with various delegations from abroad, which included dignitaries, non-Ahmadi guests, media and new converts to Ahmadiyyat.

Following a meeting with a delegation from Sweden, Huzoor met a delegation of academics who had given talks and presentations at the Turin Shroud exhibition hosted by the Review of Religions.

The group included Barry Schwartz, a Turin Shroud expert, who was attending the Jalsa for the third time from America, as well as several other renowned experts.

During the meeting, Mr. Schwartz said that he felt this year's Review exhibition was the best yet. He also spoke of the warm reception he received at the Jalsa.

Mr. Schwartz said:

“I get more love here at the Jalsa than I get from my family! In fact, I now consider myself as part of the Ahmadi family and as a Jewish member of Ahmadiyyat!”

Mr. Schwartz continued:

“I get treated better here at the Jalsa than I do anywhere else in the world! When I came for the first time I was very apprehensive, but I soon realised there was no need for any concern. You are truly peaceful people! I have already now confirmed my attendance at next year’s Jalsa.”

Huzoor smiled and then gestured towards Amer Safir, the *Chief Editor of The Review of Religions*, before saying:

“Amer was worried that people may become tired or bored of the Review Exhibition as it was now in its third year and so I am glad that some new academics and scholars attended as they will have given a fresh perspective.”

In response, one of the female academics said:

“Your Holiness, I have to say that your Ahmadi women are extremely intelligent and they do not come and listen silently, rather they asked us extremely challenging and intellectual questions. It was amazing to see this!”

Huzoor smiled and it was apparent that he was pleased that the Western academic had seen first-hand the intelligence and high educational standards of Ahmadi women.



Huzoor said:

“Our Ahmadi women have more interest in religious studies than our men. For example, we have a team that studies ‘comparative religions’ and 90% of the team are made up of women.”

Thereafter, Mr. Schwartz said:

“Your Holiness, I am very grateful to meet you this evening because I wanted to show you that I am wearing a Jalsa duty badge on my arm because last year you said I should wear one.”

Huzoor smiled and said:

“It is good you are wearing it and you should consider yourself as an official part of our Jalsa organising committee.”

Huzoor then pointed towards Amer Safir, before jokingly saying:

“Next time you will get to wear his blue badge!”

Everyone laughed and enjoyed Huzoor’s comment that Mr. Schwartz could assume the blue badge worn by the department head.

Thereafter, one of the female scholars said:

“I have seen a great love of Jesus (as) amongst Ahmadi Muslims and, as a Christian, I have really appreciated this.”

In response, Huzoor said:

“Yes, we believe Jesus (as) to be a man of God and this is why I said in our address that we can never speak ill of him or of any Prophet of God.”

As the meeting concluded, Mr. Schwartz reminded Huzoor of the comment he made when attending the Jalsa for the first time in 2015. Whilst giving a short address on stage, Mr. Schwartz had said that, whilst Ahmadis were doing great and positive work, ***“nobody in America had ever heard of them”***.

At the time, some of our Ahmadis in America, who served in the Jamaat media and public relations teams, felt this criticism was slightly harsh and unwarranted. However, it certainly highlighted the fact that there was still a great deal of work ahead for the USA Jamaat in terms of spreading the message of Ahmadiyyat.

After reminding Huzoor of his earlier comment, Mr. Schwartz said:

“I am now starting to hear more about the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community in the United States and in this current era of President Trump it is even more important to hear the Ahmadi message of peace and tolerance.”

Meeting with Buddhist delegation from Los Angeles

Thereafter, Huzoor met a delegation of more than two dozen guests from the United States, who were members of the *Compassionate Service Society*, an organisation based in California, based upon Buddhist principles, and which defines its mission to develop ‘spirituality’ and ‘unity’.

The group was led by a Buddhist Monk who wore a tan coloured robe and was accompanied by members of his organisation, who wore matching turquoise shirts.

As they entered the office, each came forward to pay their respects to Huzoor by bowing their heads one by one and Huzoor acknowledged their gesture with great humility. It was a very beautiful scene.

The Buddhist Monk informed Huzoor that the members had travelled from Orange County in Los Angeles but most of them were originally of Vietnamese heritage.



The Monk further said:

“We believe that compassion is the root of success and is necessary for us to live in harmony. This is why we are proud to have made an association with Ahmadi Muslims because we have seen you are compassionate people.”

The Monk continued:

“We have been overwhelmed by the love we have received at this Jalsa. We have never seen people who host their guests with such generosity and open hearts. You are beautiful and very friendly people and also

extremely organised. It is our view that this spirit and these values we have witnessed are a result of your wisdom as the Khalifa and we will convey this to the people of America.”

In response, Huzoor said:

“We must always honour and respect human values and realise that we share the common value that is humanity. This is why we say ‘Humanity First’.”

Thereafter, the Monk presented Huzoor with a gift, encased in a wooden box made from a 1500 year old Vietnamese tree. Very carefully, Huzoor opened the box and inside were some prayer beads, which Huzoor rotated in his hand. The Monk informed Huzoor that the Vietnamese people considered such beads to be a national treasure.

Speaking of his desire that Huzoor visits America, the Monk said:

“Your Holiness, we have seen first-hand that you are kind, straightforward, honest and you are a man of integrity and so we need you to come to the United States to guide our people. I would request you to come and meet my fellow Buddhists and to guide us.”

Huzoor thanked him for the invitation before saying:

“The basis of Islam’s teachings is to respect and honour one another and each other’s beliefs. We even consider Buddha (as) to be a Prophet and a very righteous person.”

Thereafter, Huzoor asked the Monk about the differences between various Buddhist sects. He was informed that some sects considered the Dalai Lama to be their spiritual leader but others did not.

The Monk said:

“I had the opportunity to organise some lectures delivered by the current Dalai Lama in Hawaii and he is not as friendly as you are your Holiness!”

Huzoor smiled and said:

“On TV the Dalai Lama comes across as very friendly!”

Huzoor also spoke with the other members of the delegation. A Priest mentioned that he had read the Promised Messiah's (as) book *'The Philosophy of the Teachings of Islam'* and it had a profound impact on him. He said that he wished to translate it into Vietnamese.

In response, Huzoor said it was possible that the Jamaat had already translated it and if so, he would send a copy to the guest.

The Buddhist Monk said:

“I would not mind at all if some Vietnamese people became Ahmadi Muslims as this would surely benefit them and our nation.”

As the meeting concluded, the delegation had the opportunity of a photo with Huzoor.

As they filed out of Huzoor's office, the Priest turned to me and said:

"Your leader (Huzoor) is a saint and a sage! Take care of him."

A spinning chair and a hasty response!

As the meeting finished, I noticed that Huzoor's chair had started spinning around and so I quickly moved forward and tried to bring it to a halt before Huzoor took his seat. However, in my haste, I managed to make it rotate even faster!

By now, Huzoor had returned to his desk and had seen my failed attempt to control his chair!

Upon this, Huzoor said:

"When you rush or try to do things too quickly you make mistakes. In everything, we should always show patience and calm."

Whilst feeling slightly embarrassed at my unnecessary haste, I was very grateful to receive this valuable and precious guidance from Huzoor.

Meeting with Canadian Parliamentarian

Huzoor's next meeting was with a Canadian National Member of Parliament who had a keen interest in tackling human rights abuses across the world.

Thus, as soon as the meeting started, he informed Huzoor that he had recently wished to travel to Algeria where the Jamaat has been suffering from severe persecution over the past year or two.

The MP informed that, despite being a serving Parliamentarian, his visa application was rejected and he had been specifically asked if he was seeking to help Ahmadis.

The MP also informed Huzoor that he had a keen interest in studying different financial systems and wished to attain greater knowledge of how a financial system, based on Islamic principles, would function.

In response, Huzoor suggested he read Hazrat Musleh Maud's (ra) book '*The Economic System of Islam*'. Huzoor said that in today's society, interest had consumed the world's economic system, to such an extent that it was unrealistic to suggest that it could be eliminated altogether in the short term.

However, there were certain measures, based on Islamic principles, which could make the world's financial dealings and transactions much fairer and solve many issues.

Meeting with Mayor of Brampton

After meeting the MP, Huzoor met with the Mayor of Brampton, Canada, as well as another member of the local Council of Brampton.

They had travelled from Canada to observe the UK Jalsa and to assess its scale because the Canada Jamaat had purchased a large area of land in

Brampton, which they hope to utilise for their Jalsa in future years. However, before it can be used they required permission from the city authorities.

Upon being informed of the purpose of their visit, Huzoor said:

“Here at Hadeeqatul Mahdi, the wind-up operation has already started and within a week it will be completely cleared but I do not know if the Canadians are as efficient!”

The Brampton Mayor spoke of how well-organised the Jalsa was and how she had been particularly impressed to see the way Lajna had been running the ladies side of the Jalsa.

The Mayor said:

“The Ahmadi ladies were shining throughout”.

Very beautifully, Huzoor responded by saying:

“Our ladies are independent. We have no interest in keeping them constrained under the shadow of men, rather we want them to flourish and excel!”

A cause of regret

Huzoor’s next meeting was a group from Jamaica. It included a *Rastafarian* leader, as well as a Jamaican journalist. Sadly, on this occasion, I felt that the conduct of both guests was disappointing.

During meetings, Huzoor is often asked challenging questions and certainly, no one expects that non-Muslim journalists or guests will not ask difficult or challenging questions. However, in this meeting, the tone of the guests was often disrespectful, occasionally sarcastic and unnecessarily quarrelsome.

The guests repeatedly asked about the segregation of men and women at Jalsa.

Very patiently, Huzoor responded by explaining the concept behind segregation and how our Ahmadi Muslim women were running their affairs independently.

Thereafter, the guests asked Huzoor why there were no Ahmadi women speakers at the Jalsa and why the women were not addressing the men. In response, Huzoor explained that Lajna had their own session with speeches by ladies and that he himself delivered a speech on the Lajna side.

Of course, it is not expected that guests or journalists will agree with every answer given or suddenly accept Islamic teachings. Yet, a level of respect and cordiality, especially as a guest, can reasonably be expected. However, the guests became increasingly argumentative and one of them rolled their eyes.

Amir Sahib Canada was also present, as Jamaica Jamaat is currently under Canada Jamaat in terms of administration. Thus, as the meeting continued, I tried to gesture to Amir Sahib to wrap up the interview, however, it continued for a few more minutes. Throughout, Huzoor remained a model of patience and calm. He kept reinforcing Islam's true teachings without any sense of anger or irritation.

Thereafter, Huzoor stood himself and very graciously said that if any of the guests wished for a photo with him they could come forward and they all did come and have their photo taken with him.

In the many interviews of Huzoor I have attended, this was the very first one where Huzoor gave any hint later that he had not appreciated the style of the journalists.

Yet, even so, during the interview itself, Huzoor remained fully courteous and patient throughout.

Regardless, I was extremely disappointed that Huzoor had to endure this meeting and so the next day I met Amir Sahib Canada and mentioned my concerns about the interview. I said there was nothing wrong with bringing journalists or guests who were critical to attend our events but at the same time there was no obligation to request an interview or time with Huzoor.

In the UK, our media team receives many requests from journalists to interview Huzoor, however, due to Huzoor's status and due to the heavy constraints of his time, we only request Huzoor to meet a small percentage of them.

The other journalists, we meet ourselves and offer other members of the Jamaat for interviews. I requested that if, in future, Canada Jamaat recommended an interview with Huzoor Amir Sahib and his team should at the very least be sure that the journalists will maintain a respectful demeanour.

Belize, Iceland and Belgium meetings

Thereafter, Huzoor held further meetings with groups from Belize, Estonia, Iceland and Belgium.

During the meeting with guests from Belize, a journalist from Belize mentioned how the Jalsa had a profound effect upon him. He said:

“The best thing about this Jalsa were the speeches delivered by Your Holiness because they conveyed a true message of peace. In every address, you spoke of the need to be compassionate and to treat everyone as your brothers and sisters.”

Coming immediately after the Jamaica delegation, I thought to myself that this was an example of how Allah the Almighty is always mindful of the honour of Khalifatul Masih. Where the previous group had not been respectful, here was a guest who openly stated how much Huzoor’s words affected him.

In between the meetings, a lady from eastern Europe met Huzoor but she was not part of a delegation and had come to personally seek Huzoor’s advice. As a result, I went to the back of the office so that she could speak to Huzoor privately.

However, I could not help but overhear her tell Huzoor that an Ahmadi had proposed to her and she was wondering if she should accept Ahmadiyyat based on his marriage proposal.

In response, Huzoor said:

“Do not accept Ahmadiyyat just for the sake of marriage. Rather, you should only accept it when you truly believe the teachings of Ahmadiyyat to be true and you believe in the claim of the Promised Messiah (as).”

The lady seemed instantly relieved, reassured and grateful.

Return to London

The meetings concluded at 9.35pm and thereafter Huzoor went back to the Jalsa Gah to lead the Maghreb and Isha prayers. Though the Jalsa was now finished, the marquee remained at least half full with Ahmadis, who offered Salat behind Huzoor.

Following Namaz, a number of Nikah (marriage) ceremonies took place in the presence of Huzoor before Huzoor was finally able to return to his home at Masjid Fazl in London. After a relentless few days, in which Huzoor had delivered a series of addresses and held dozens of meetings, the coming week would also prove to be filled with countless examples of the blessings of Khilafat-e-Ahmadiyya.

Arab delegation

I must admit getting out of bed the morning after Jalsa was a challenge! I was tired and my body was aching after the three days of walking miles at Hadeeqatul Mahdi!

Thankfully, I did manage to get up on time, get ready and arrived at Masjid Fazl early morning, as Huzoor had a number of meetings scheduled with various delegations.

The larger groups met Huzoor in the Mahmood Hall, whilst the rest were able to meet Huzoor in his office.

The first meeting was with a large group of Arabs during which various Arab Ahmadis expressed their joy at attending the Jalsa and narrated some of their treasured experiences.

One Arab lady addressed Huzoor and said:

“This year’s Jalsa has had a huge effect on my heart and I feel as though I have been given a new life. We are so fortunate to have received the advice and guidance of Huzoor throughout and particularly whenever Huzoor spoke about the need for harmony within our homes it had a huge effect on me.”

Thereafter, a little girl called Ayesha, who appeared to be 6 or 7, recited a portion of a *Nazm* in front of Huzoor before running towards Huzoor and embracing him.

Whilst her parents looked on nervously, most lovingly, Huzoor embraced her. It was a beautiful and extremely affectionate moment.

An Arab lady asked Huzoor if there was any ‘spiritual’ reason why there had been so much rain at this year’s Jalsa.

In response, Huzoor said:

“The weather is controlled by Allah and even rain is a means of blessings.”

An Arab man asked Huzoor why the West continued to engage in the arms trade by selling weapons and fuelling wars across the world.

In response, Huzoor said:

“The arms trade is very dangerous and certainly the wars being fought in the Arab world are a means of dividing the Muslims and weakening Islam. Yet, as Arabs, before you seek to reform the United States or the West, you should seek to reform your fellow Muslims who fall into the traps laid by the anti-Islam powers.”

The Sadr Khuddam Kababir was also present and sought Huzoor’s prayers for his family.

Upon this, Huzoor said:

“Sadly, I receive reports that our young generation of Ahmadis in Kababir are not as involved in the Jamaat as their elders. As Sadr Khuddam, it is your duty and responsibility to activate them. In this regard, you have two main tasks – first, you should make sure that all the Khuddam are offering their five obligatory prayers and secondly you should strive to bring them closer to Khilafat.”

Thereafter, Huzoor noticed a young Arab boy sitting on one of the chairs.

Upon seeing him, Huzoor said:

“I recognise you because you are the boy who always waves at me. I pray that you try your best to be a good Ahmadi boy and then when you get older I would like you to become a good Ahmadi Missionary.”

Hearing Huzoor’s words and prayers, the young boy beamed with joy and delight.

A chartered plane

A Syrian Ahmadi present informed Huzoor that he had come from Canada and was part of the delegation of around 375 Khuddam who had travelled together on a chartered *Air Transat* plane from Canada.

Apart from travelling to attend the Jalsa itself, the Khuddam had all volunteered for Waqf-e-Arzi and had been instructed to assist in the wind-up duty of Jalsa Salana and so were spending the week after Jalsa at Hadeeqatul Mahdi.

Each Khadim had paid around \$1200 dollars to cover the cost of their travel expenses.

Upon learning this, Huzoor asked if he had taken permission from Sadr Khuddam Canada to leave the *Waqf-e-Arzi* and attend the meeting with Huzoor.

The *Khadim* informed Huzoor that he had taken permission and in reply, Huzoor said:

“Ok, but after this meeting concludes you should return and then you should volunteer an extra two hours to make up the time you have missed.”

It was a reminder of how Khalifa-Waqt expects Ahmadis to fulfil their duties and responsibilities. Even where the Khadim had taken permission to come and attend the group Mulaqat, Huzoor still wanted to remind him that he should not neglect the primary duty that he had come for.

Meeting with Gambian Minister

After the meeting with the Arabs, Huzoor returned to his office where he met with the *Minister of Agriculture* in The Gambia, who had travelled to attend the Jalsa.

Our Jamaat in Gambia had faced difficulties and persecution under the previous regime but this year a new Government came into power after last December’s general election. With the *Grace of Allah*, the new Government’s attitude had been much fairer and a demonstration of this was that the Minister had come to attend the Jalsa.

It was in this spirit that the Gambian Minister said:

“Your Holiness, when I return home I will ask our President to formally invite you to The Gambia because some of your predecessors came to

Gambia and now we want you to come as well. If you come then the whole world will see that the new Government of The Gambia considers your sect to have the same equal rights as all other religions and sects."

In reply, Huzoor said:

"Yes, we should all remember that religion is a matter of one's heart. Thus, everyone should have freedom of religion. I hope in your country the period of dictatorship has now ended for good and that all people are granted true liberty and freedom."

Huzoor continued:

"I thank you for your kind gesture and whether an official invitation comes or not, I will try to visit your country, Insha'Allah."

Also, during the meeting, Huzoor's farming expertise was exhibited throughout. Huzoor referred to various types of farming such as '*modern farming*' and '*co-operative farming*'.

Huzoor asked about the farming conditions in The Gambia and was informed that peanuts and rice were the main export but that The Gambia was currently only utilising fifteen percent of its farmland.

In response, Huzoor said:

"You have vast land available in The Gambia and so you should use more of it for farming so that your nation can be self-sufficient and have real

food security. You have a small population and so you should be able to feed yourselves without relying on others. Try to incentivise farming so that people are drawn to this trade. If you allocate even 1,000 acres to the Jamaat we will utilise it for modern farming and use the produce for the benefit of the nation.”

The Minister said that a long-standing problem in Africa was corruption and this had hindered the success of the Continent.

Hearing this, Huzoor said:

“When I lived in Ghana, corruption was also very prevalent at that time, to the extent that the locals used to describe corruption as ‘chopping money’. Thus, the resources and wealth of the nation were being wasted, rather than being used for the betterment of the people.”

Thereafter, the Minister also informed Huzoor about the Gambian health sector and how it also needed a great deal of improvement.

In response, Huzoor said:

“In The Gambia, though our Jamaat has already set up a hospital, in addition, we can set up small clinics that dispense allopathic medicine and homeopathy and small treatments can be conducted. In particular, we would like to focus on the extremely remote villages and areas where no such facilities exist.”

Thereafter, the Minister spoke about his experience of attending the Jalsa. He said:

“The spirit of volunteerism that I saw at your Jalsa was exceptional. In every department, whether it was transport, discipline, food or any other, I was extremely impressed. I did not see a single person on duty without a smile on their face and I can say that I have learned a great deal from the example of the Ahmadis here.”

An emotional moment

After the meeting ended and the Minister had left the room, Huzoor looked at me and said something that made me very emotional and which I thought about for the rest of the day.

Huzoor said:

“Yesterday, during the concluding session of Jalsa, my back started to ache and I had some serious pain. Even before my address, there were more than 90 students who received educational awards from me and the pain started soon after.”

I felt extremely emotional thinking how Huzoor was continually making sacrifices for the sake of us and sometimes we forget he is a human being.

As Huzoor said, he had stood to present over 90 students with awards the day before, which on its own is not an easy task and then he delivered the concluding address and held various meetings.

The cumulative effect of days and weeks without any rest whatsoever was bound to have some effect, even on Khalifatul Masih.

Private Secretary, Munir Javed sahib was also in the room and he responded by saying:

“The last three days Huzoor did the work equivalent of three months.”

Haiti delegation

Thereafter, Huzoor met a delegation from Haiti, including the ex-Mayor of Haiti’s capital Port-au-Prince and also a politician who was officially representing the country’s President.

Addressing the politician, Huzoor said:

“I was not in the Jalsa Gah when you delivered your remarks but, by chance, when I switched on the television you were speaking and so I listened to your speech live.”

In response, the politician said:

“Thank you, it is a great honour for me that Your Holiness listened to my words. I also wish to tell you that this Jalsa has had a very deep effect upon me and my impression of Islam has changed for the better. Any concerns I had have evaporated and I have realised that the stigma surrounding Islam is entirely unfair.”

Speaking about the Jamaat in Haiti and his vision for further humanitarian service, Huzoor said:

“Our Mission in Haiti is currently in its infancy but as we become more established I would like us to build schools and hospitals there, if the Government permits, so that we can serve the local people. In the past, we have run some temporary projects there but I would like us to develop some permanent means to serve the local society. We may be few in number in Haiti but we have big ambitions!”

The meeting concluded as the Haitian Minister said:

“Your Holiness, we would like you to come to our nation so that you can save lives and save souls in Haiti!”

Philippines delegation

Huzoor’s next meeting was with a group from the Philippines, including a member of the National Congress, a local journalist and a local Filipino Ahmadi Muslim.

The journalist asked Huzoor about increasing extremism and so-called Muslim terrorism in some small Islands that are part of the Philippines.

In response, Huzoor said:

“The authorities and government must remain vigilant at all times and if the army is taking action to stop the terrorists, it is right. The priority

must always be the peace of the nation and so if firm measures need to be taken to protect the people from terrorists and extremists it is justified, otherwise, there is a risk the extremism will spread further afield.

Croatia and Macedonia delegation

The next delegation to meet Huzoor consisted of guests from Croatia and Macedonia.

A Croatian student asked Huzoor about a story he had narrated during his Lajna Jalsa address, where a murderer had bitten the tongue of his mother as a final act before receiving the death penalty.

Upon being asked why he had conducted this vile act, the murderer said that if his mother had stopped him from committing small mistakes and wrongs when he was a child, he would never have developed into the evil being he did. The student asked if it meant that only mothers were to blame for the wrongs of their children.

In reply, Huzoor said:

“Of course, a person’s father and the society also have an influence and responsibility, however, a mother has the greatest influence upon her child and so if she trains her children in a positive way it will be a means of protecting them. If a mother reforms her child, she will not only be helping her family but also will be helping the society at large. This is why our Second Khalifa (ra) said that if 50% of women were themselves

good and pious, it would mean that 90% of the youth would be reformed and moral.”

Another guest asked Huzoor about his views on the United Kingdom’s decision to exit the European Union (Brexit).

In response, Huzoor smiled and said:

“I am not a politician but it is my personal view that if the European nations stay united it will be for their betterment. Thus, as a British national, I used my vote to vote against Brexit.”

A lady informed Huzoor that she had converted to Ahmadiyyat after meeting him at the previous Jalsa.

She said that three members of her family had now accepted Ahmadiyyat but her son had not.

In response, Huzoor said:

“As his mother, Insha’Allah you can guide him towards Islam as well, Insha’Allah.”

Cyprus, Indonesia and Nepal delegations

Huzoor then held separate meetings with guests from Cyprus, Indonesia and Nepal.

During the meeting with guests from Cyprus, a young Cypriot lady said:

“Your Holiness, the Jalsa was fascinating and everyone was so warm. You cannot imagine how many invitations I received from Ahmadis around the world inviting me to their homes! I honestly do not know where to start but I know now that I will have a place to stay in almost every country!”

In his meeting with Indonesian guests, Huzoor was introduced to an Indonesian Professor of Islamic history.

Upon meeting him, Huzoor said:

“You should not rely on the historical version of events recorded by the Orientalists as they have misrepresented much of Islam’s real history. Always remember that the Holy Quran says, ‘There should be no compulsion in religion’ and so whatever terrorists like Daesh or Al-Qaeda do is completely opposed to Islam. The extremists want to hijack Islam and to control Muslim countries and so I hope Indonesia is strong enough to withstand this threat.”

Huzoor continued:

“The Holy Prophet (sa) said that whosoever repeats the Kalima is a Muslim and so it is not up to the Ulema to expel certain sects or to say some are Muslims and some are not. Islam is that religion that seeks to unite mankind. It is that religion that says to kill one person is akin to

killing all of mankind and so we Muslims must be those who give life to others, rather than taking it away."

Upon meeting a Buddhist academic from Nepal, Huzoor said:

"I think at the Jalsa you will have learned that whilst Buddhists are known to be peaceful people, Ahmadi Muslims are even more so!"

In reply, the academic said:

"Yes, Your Holiness that is actually true. I have not seen such a demonstration of peace ever before."

An Ahmadi convert from Nepal presented Huzoor with a traditional Nepali cap.

In response, Huzoor said:

"Jazak'Allah, I can wear this when praying in my home."

Another guest from Nepal said:

"We visited Jamia Ahmadiyya UK and saw that many of your young members have dedicated their lives for the sake of their faith. This was extremely inspiring because amongst Buddhists the concept of dedicating your life is only seen in much older people."

In response, Huzoor said:

“We believe that you cannot reform a nation without first reforming the youth and so that is why we focus so much on the moral training of our young ones.”

United States delegation

The meetings continued, as Huzoor met a large delegation from the United States in the Mahmood Hall.

The group included a number of converts and African American Ahmadis.



An African American lady said that the visit to the Jalsa had proven personally very beneficial to her. She said she felt closer to her faith and had come to know many members of the USA Lajna for the very first time.

Hearing this, Huzoor addressed Sadr Lajna USA and said:

“It took a trip to London for her to get to know her fellow Lajna members and this shows that there are not enough interactive Lajna events in America where the members are able to meet and get to know one another closely.”

Another young lady, Sister Amanda, said:

“Huzoor, we have enjoyed this visit a great deal but it has also been physically tiring. For example, we were checked on four separate occasions by the immigration authorities!”

In reply, Huzoor smiled and joked:

“You are lucky they checked you only four times and not six or seven!”

As a person who often gets ‘extra attention’ from immigration when travelling to the United States, I appreciated the truth in Huzoor’s comment!

Just recently, I travelled to America and I lost count of how many times I was pulled over for ‘random’ security checks!

An American non-Muslim guest, Alexia, also spoke of how much she had enjoyed attending Jalsa along with an Ahmadi friend. She said:

“It was an incredible and spiritually uplifting Jalsa. The best part was seeing such a loving community exist on such a large scale.”

Hearing this, Huzoor said:

“This is true Islam.”

Huzoor further said:

“I hope the bad weather did not cause any problem.”

In reply, sister Alexia said:

“Not at all! My shoes became dirty but I cleaned them later! The blessings far exceeded any weather issue!”

An African-American Ahmadi lady, Haleema Din sahiba requested Huzoor’s special prayers for Aliya Latif sahiba, an African-American Ahmadi lady, who for a number of years has looked after the American delegation of ladies that travel for Jalsa, as well as fulfilling a host of other Jamaat duties.

Haleema Din sahiba said:

“Huzoor, Aliya is wonderful.”

In reply, Huzoor very affectionately said:

“Yes, I know that Aliya is wonderful!”

Upon this, I looked in the direction of Aliya sahiba and saw her unable to hold back her tears. She later told me that Huzoor's response had left her completely astounded and humbled.

Upon seeing a guest called James from New York, Huzoor said:

"You look like an Ahmadi!"

In response, James said:

"I am very close to accepting Ahmadiyyat. This Jalsa has been a phenomenal experience for me and it has led me far down the path towards accepting Islam. Here, all the people I have met seem to have a higher purpose in life and this is profound."

Reflections of a convert

An African American lady called Nicole Williams from Las Vegas informed Huzoor that she had accepted Islam and become an Ahmadi in April 2017.

After the meeting, I spoke to Sister Nicole about some of her experiences.

Sister Nicole said:

"This was the first Jalsa I have ever attended and it all felt so surreal. The amount of spirituality at all times, Huzoor's addresses, the international Bai'at, the kindness of everyone, the great attention to detail, the graciousness of all the volunteers and hosts showed me what a genuinely

great blessing it is to be a part of the Ahmadiyya Community and for the first time I was able to witness the scale of our Jamaat.”

Sister Nicole continued:

“In particular, the Bai’at ceremony was so profound and beautiful and the emotions hit me like huge waves. There was not a dry eye in the ladies marquee.”

Sister Nicole added:

“I can say that during this trip, I was able to witness first-hand true Islam in all its beauty and I saw ‘Love for All, Hatred for None’ personified throughout. I have developed bonds with Ahmadi sisters from the USA and from around the world that will last a lifetime. It was an experience I will never forget, where I saw the growth of Ahmadiyyat to all the corners of the world.”

Speaking about meeting Huzoor for the first time, Sister Nicole said:

“There are no words to express how it felt to actually meet Huzoor. For the past year, I have eagerly watched the Friday Sermon with English translation and so to finally meet him during the USA group delegation was awe inspiring. When Huzoor entered the hall and took his seat I actually felt as though my heart had stopped beating. It was like a bright light had entered.”

Sister Nicole continued:

“To see how genuine, friendly and warm Huzoor was to everyone was a beautiful thing to observe. To know that he meets so many families, individuals and groups during the day, along with all the other tasks he has, is inspiring.

I was lucky enough to be able to introduce myself to Huzoor and when I told him I had recently converted to Ahmadiyyat he smiled. I will never forget that moment and I already understand that it is essential that I stay attached to the Khilafat.”

Experiences of a guest

Another person I spoke to was a non-Ahmadi guest, *Muhammad Abdur Rashid*. Though not an Ahmadi, he told me that the Jalsa had made him recognise the importance of religion.

Brother Muhammad Abdur Rashid said:

“I was in London for approximately eight days to attend the Jalsa and during that time I have grown closer to the Ahmadiyya Community and have been inspired to renew my study of Islam.

Whilst spending time with Ahmadis, I saw an incredible manifestation of what Islam truly means. The experience of Jalsa has changed my life forever. It has inspired me to be a better husband, father, friend and Muslim.”

Brother Muhammad Abdur Rashid continued:

“It was a wonderful experience to meet Huzoor and I was particularly pleased to see how much time he spent talking to the female members of our group and how much care he took to answer their questions and ensure they were all heard. The fact he took time out of his extraordinarily busy schedule to meet us was truly remarkable and a testament to his character.”

As I listened to Abdur Rashid sahib, I thought how the experience of meeting Huzoor has a profound effect not only on Ahmadis but on non-Ahmadis and non-Muslims as well. Abdur Rashid sahib spoke openly of how meeting Huzoor and attending the Jalsa had motivated him to be a better person and to treat his loved ones in a better way.

Indeed later, he told an Ahmadi contact, that his wife had said that she had felt a great change in him since he returned from the UK and he was now *“becoming the husband she always wanted him to be”*.

Hungary and South Korea delegations

Following the meeting with the American delegation, Huzoor held further meetings with groups from Hungary and South Korea in his office.

A young guest from Korea informed Huzoor that he was a teacher of language. He said that the Jalsa had proved to be a ***“healing experience”*** for him and that he had never felt such a sense of ‘brotherhood’.

In response, Huzoor said:

“At our Jalsa, people from all walks of life gather together and everyone considers all other participants to be their brothers and sisters. Even you have told me you do not believe in any religion and yet you still felt as though you were treated as our brother. This is the true brotherhood that Islam inspires.”

Huzoor continued:

“Now you should consider accepting a religion because it is religion that has taught us the values of humanity and to love and care for one another.”

The guest mentioned that in Korea there were thousands of churches but only a handful of Mosques spread across the country.

In response, Huzoor said:

“Insha’Allah, I hope one day we will have our Mosques in Korea.”

Nikah ceremony

Following the conclusion of the morning meetings, Huzoor proceeded to the Fazl Mosque to lead the *Zuhr* and *Asr* prayers, before performing the *Nikah* marriage ceremonies of a number of couples.

One *Nikah* was of Huzoor's nephew, *Mirza Nayyer Ahmad*, the son of Huzoor's elder brother, *Sahibzada Mirza Maghfoor Ahmad sahib*. His marriage was arranged with another member of the progeny of the Promised Messiah (as).



During the ceremony, Huzoor said:

“The first Nikah is of the son of my elder brother and he is from amongst the Waqf-e-Nau scheme and so I pray that Allah enables him to fulfil his Waqf and to fulfil the objectives and expectations of the Promised Messiah (as).”

Later, Huzoor said:

“Those who get married should remember that they should not focus just on worldly pursuits but should seek to always prioritise their faith over all worldly matters and to morally train the next generation.”

Offering *mubarakbaad*

After the *Nikah* ceremonies were concluded, Huzoor returned to his residence for lunch. I went to the *41 Guest House*, across the street from the Mosque, to offer *mubarakbaad* to the families who had just had Nikahs performed by Huzoor.

Dozens of people came to offer their congratulations and we all enjoyed lunch that had been kindly provided by the parents of those who had just had their *Nikah* ceremony.

After around half an hour, I left the guest house and prepared some notes before reporting for *Mulaqat* in Huzoor's office.

As I entered, I gave *mubarakbaad* (congratulations) to Huzoor on the *Nikah* of his nephew and informed him that I had just been for lunch.

Despite being so busy, Huzoor asked me what had been served for lunch, whether I had enjoyed and who else was present.

Of course, Huzoor was too busy to join, as he had many more meetings scheduled during the day, yet as an uncle and brother, he was interested in how the family event had transpired.

Such are the sacrifices of *Khalifa-Waqt* that he rarely has time to attend even events of his closest family members, as his priority is always fulfilling his ever-consuming responsibilities to the Jamaat.

A historical journey

One of the people attending this year's Jalsa, was *Mirza Fazal Ahmad (50)* from Rabwah, the *Nazir Taleem Pakistan (Director of Education)*.

Mirza Fazal sahib is also Huzoor's nephew, the son of Huzoor's sister, Sahibzadi Amatul Qudoos sahiba.

In the afternoon, I spent some time with Fazal bhai and was interested to hear some of his recollections of Huzoor.

Speaking about the way Huzoor works, Fazal bhai said:

"Before his election as Khalifatul Masih, one thing I always observed in Huzoor was that he was very thorough and paid attention to every detail in Jamaat matters. It is not really a Pakistani trait to be so thorough but Huzoor was extremely meticulous. If something was decided then he would ensure that it was fulfilled and not just left as an open-ended plan."

Fazal sahib had also been part of the same delegation as Huzoor himself that had travelled to London for the *Intikhab-e-Khilafat (Election of Khilafat)* following the passing of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih IV (rh) in April 2003.

It was captivating and emotional to hear him recount some details from that historical journey and of that period where the Jamaat faced great uncertainty and devastation.

As Fazal bhai spoke, my own memories of that time came flooding back. I recalled how I was at home alone in Hartlepool when I received a call from a cousin informing me that Hazrat Khalifatul Masih IV (rh) had passed away.

Although Huzoor had been unwell for some years, the news came as a complete shock, especially given that he had delivered the Friday Sermon just a day before.

Over the next few days, I felt a shocking void and grief that I had never felt before. This was the feeling shared by the entire Jamaat.

However, at the same time, the senior office-bearers of the Jamaat, had to put aside their own grief to ensure that the *Nizam* (system) of the Jamaat remained intact and that the necessary arrangements for *the Intikhab-e-Khilafat* could be made.

Fazal bhai, who at the time was *Wakil-ul-Maal* Rabwah (*Director of Finance*) said that he received a call on the afternoon of 19 April 2003 from his father to come to the office immediately, as a meeting had been called.

Upon arriving, it occurred to him that the health of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih IV (rh) may have deteriorated but still he had no idea of his passing until a few minutes later when someone came and whispered the news to him.

He went outside to the roof of the building and remained there whilst he composed himself, before returning to the main office, where Huzoor was already working.

Fazal bhai said:

“Huzoor, who was then Nazir-e-Ala in Pakistan, was present and he, and a few other people, were drafting the statement that would be played on MTA announcing the demise of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih IV (rh). They were also making the arrangements for the meeting that needed to take place later that day in order to prepare for the Intikhab-e-Khilafat.”

Fazal bhai continued:

“At that time I saw that Huzoor remained calm and probably did not even have time to consider his own personal grief and his only worry was protecting the Jamaat at that time of crisis.”

Whilst, I was amazed at the remarkable way Huzoor set aside his personal grief for the sake of the Jamaat, I was not at all surprised.

For, I have seen time and time again, how Huzoor’s first priority, at all times, no matter how desperate or devastating the circumstances, is to fulfil his duties to the Jamaat and to ensure that the mission of the Promised Messiah (as) never, *God forbid*, draws to a halt.

Yet undoubtedly Huzoor will have felt the pain and grief of the demise of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih IV (rh) more than any other Ahmadi because he was the most humble and devoted servant of Khilafat.

Fazal bhai said:

“Later that day, we were getting ready to travel to London and so we were collecting our passports and quickly doing our packing. For some reason, I had to go to Huzoor’s house. I cannot remember if I was collecting something or dropping something off. Anyway, when I arrived Huzoor was offering Namaz.”

Fazal bhai continued:

“I could hear Huzoor engaged in the most fervent and desperate prayers and could hear his utterly emotional state. Whilst in prostration, bowed before Allah, he was crying uncontrollably. I had never seen Huzoor in such a state ever before. Yet, when Huzoor returned to the public he was composed again and, as far as I am aware, he remained so until the moment of his election as Khalifatul Masih V.”

A delicate moment

Fazal bhai said that there were fourteen senior office-bearers in that first group who left Rabwah for London.

Amongst them were some elderly people who suffered from various ailments, such as diabetes or just general ill health.

It was evening time by the time they left Rabwah and after some time they had to stop at a service station to use the bathroom facilities.

Narrating what happened next, Fazal bhai said:

“I was also part of Majlis Khuddamul Ahmadiyya and so I had arranged for some tea and biscuits at the services. It had already been a very long day and I knew no one had eaten and the elderly people would need something. However, when the tea was served, suddenly one of our senior and elder office-bearers became very angry and said ‘Is this any time to be drinking tea?’

Emotionally what he was saying was right that nobody wanted to eat or drink but the reality was that some of the elders could have collapsed if they did not eat or drink anything. Anyway, Huzoor observed this entire incident and I was worried that he too might admonish me, but without saying a single word he picked up a cup and started to drink from it.”

Fazal bhai continued:

“Huzoor handled the delicate situation beautifully and with great wisdom. He neither said anything to the office bearer who had scolded me, as he knew emotions were running very high, but at the same time, he also knew that people would need to eat or drink.

Thus, just from his personal example and without saying a single word, Huzoor gave us the green light guiding us that it was permissible and necessary to take something to eat even at that time of grief and worry. Later on, a few of the elders came up to me to thank me and said that they felt on the verge of collapse until they had taken some tea and food.”

A cup of tea

With the *Grace of Allah*, the delegation from Rabwah arrived in London without incident. Fazal bhai said that immediately, Huzoor and other senior office-bearers held meetings with Amir Sahib UK and the senior central office-bearers based in London.

As Fazal sahib narrated this, I recalled the moment when Huzoor arrived in London on 20 April 2003. I was given a duty to clean some of the guest houses where the guests from abroad were staying and also to serve tea.

I vividly remember that as soon as Huzoor and the rest of that first delegation arrived in London, I was asked to bring tea for them.

The first person, I presented tea to was Huzoor himself and I always feel grateful that I had that opportunity to serve Huzoor after his journey from Pakistan.

Reflections of the *Intikhab-e-Khilafat*

Fazal bhai was a member of the Electoral Committee for the Fifth Khilafat, which took place on 22 April 2003.

Speaking of those unforgettable moments, Fazal bhai said:

“When I entered the Fazl Mosque for the election I had no idea of who I would vote for. Not a single person had entered my mind, yet once the election process begun within seconds everything changed. Within

seconds, all my attention was diverted towards Huzoor and I knew that he was the person I must vote for as Khalifatul Masih. At that moment, I felt as though Allah had moved my heart in his direction and I felt Allah was controlling me throughout that election.”

A new relationship

Also, present that afternoon was *Mirza Adeel Ahmad (44)*, a *Waqf-e-Zindighi* (life devotee), serving in the Jamaat’s Legal Affairs Department in Rabwah.

Adeel sahib is Huzoor’s cousin, as his (late) mother, *Sahibzadi Amatul Waheed sahiba*, was the younger sister of Huzoor’s respected father, (late) *Hazrat Sahibaza Mirza Mansoor Ahmad sahib*.

I asked both Fazal bhai and Adeel bhai about their relationship with Huzoor as his close relatives.

Fazal bhai said:

“As a family member and nephew of Huzoor, I honestly believe that my fear of disrespecting Khilafat in any way is not any less than people who are not related and if anything it is even more.

It has never been my style to be too formal with my relatives, even the older ones and so before his Khilafat, whilst I had much respect for Huzoor as an elder, I used to be able to speak quite freely without fear. Yet since the moment he was elected Khalifatul Masih everything changed. To say it is like night and day is nowhere near enough.”

Fazal bhai continued:

“All the time, I think that Huzoor is Allah’s representative and my everything. If he smiles, I smile, if he is serious or upset then it is like I have died. Nothing else matters. The relationship of uncle and nephew now has little or any value, the only relationship that matters is that he is my Khalifa and I am his servant.”

Upon this, Adeel bhai smiled and said:

“I agree with everything Fazal bhai has said. I also feel as though my family relationship with Huzoor ended on 22 April 2003.”

Fazal bhai said:

“Some people think that due to our family relationship I can confidently say things before Huzoor but it is just not the case. I cannot explain to you in words how I feel when I see Huzoor, but I know it and can feel it in my heart.”

Speaking of how he felt when he met Huzoor now, Adeel bhai said:

“Abid, you will have seen in Huzoor’s home sometimes I have been there and you were there as well and I remain silent and cannot bring myself to say a single word. In fact, my mother-in-law once said to me that when you meet Huzoor he asks you how you are and so you should talk to him but I cannot bring myself to speak because I am in total fear of saying something that is wrong or disrespectful in some way.”

It was true, I had seen Adeel bhai on occasions at Huzoor's house and invariably he would remain virtually silent. Anyway, I had enjoyed the hour I spent with Mirza Fazal sahib and Mirza Adeel sahib and hearing their perspectives as close relatives of Huzoor.

Emotions of a Ghanaian family

During the afternoon of 31 July 2017, I met some of the people who had the opportunity to meet Huzoor in Mulaqat.

An Ahmadi family who met Huzoor were *Umar Farooq Ail (53)* and his wife *Salma Farooq* from Ghana. Umar sahib was a born Ahmadi, whilst his wife had converted during the 1990s.

Speaking moments after meeting Huzoor, Umar sahib said:

"Whenever you meet Huzoor it is like a new experience and even better than you remembered. The smile that comes on my face when meeting Huzoor is bigger than at any other time. I was laughing when I left Huzoor's office because Huzoor made me feel so joyous and happy. Huzoor knows more about Ghana than we Ghanaians! He loves us so much!"

Speaking of her own feelings, Salma sahiba said:

"I told Huzoor that just seeing his face was enough because the light that emanates from him penetrates our heart and it proves that he is a true man and divinely appointed."

Salma sahiba continued:

“I accepted Ahmadiyyat around 20 years ago after doing a lot of research and study. Before accepting, I was a non-Ahmadi and after reading many books the light of Ahmadiyyat dawned upon me. I now know that it is our duty to convey the salam of the Holy Prophet (sa) to the Promised Messiah (as) and so I am extremely lucky to be part of this Jamaat.

I have never had any regrets about accepting Ahmadiyyat and I have never looked back since the day I did Bai’at. Rather, I have marched forward and I am now serving as Lajna National Tehrik-e-Jadid and Waqf-e-Jadid Secretary in Ghana and this is a great privilege.”

As our conversation ended, Salma sahiba started laughing and said:

“Abid sahib and please don’t fall over again as you did in Australia!”

I laughed as I realised she had read a rather embarrassing incident I had written in a diary about Huzoor’s 2013 tour of Australia in which I had mentioned that I had fallen, not once but twice, from a stage, whilst in the presence of Huzoor!

Bangladesh Jamaat official Mulaqat

We had reached 1 August 2017 and, as per the previous day, Huzoor held meetings with various delegations from around the world. However, Huzoor’s first meeting was a *daftari (office) Mulaqat* with senior Jamaat office-bearers from Bangladesh Jamaat.

During the meeting, Amir Sahib Bangladesh presented to Huzoor designs for a new Mosque in Ahmednagar.

After seeing the plans, Huzoor said:

“Of course, you should go ahead and build this Mosque but it is up to your Jamaat to finance it. Many other Jamaats now are standing on their own feet and now it is the time for Bangladesh Jamaat to also stand itself, rather than relying on continuous help from the Centre.

You say to me that normal Ahmadis are not involved enough or ready to make necessary sacrifices but the real issue is that the Jamaat administration in Bangladesh needs to be much more active and this will automatically lead to greater engagement from the Jamaat members.”

Huzoor continued:

“There are many Jamaats in the world much smaller than Bangladesh and have far fewer resources. Your Jamaat was founded more than 100 years ago and so there is no excuse. You must encourage the Ahmadi youth and bring them forward and give them responsibilities.

Each year, I give Germany Jamaat a target to raise 1million euros for Mosques and they achieve it with the Grace of Allah. You should learn from this and try to avoid debt or taking loans as it will become a habit. You can achieve great things with love, compassion and hard work. Thus, treat the Ahmadis lovingly and set a personal example for them to follow.”

Speaking of the way to motivate Ahmadis, Huzoor said:

“Instead of visiting people just to get Chanda, visit them to see how they are and if they have any problems or issues. Insha’Allah, as they become closer to the Jamaat they will realise themselves that Chanda is not a tax but is a means of Tarbiyyat. Of course, my prayers are with you but alongside them you must also work extremely hard and fulfil your duties.”

Huzoor continued:

“As I said love and compassion are the key because this is how Allah the Almighty told the Holy Prophet (sa) to treat the people who had accepted his message. If you show harshness people will run away.”

Later, Amir Sahib Bangladesh informed Huzoor that the Jamaat had established a regular system of providing help and aid to the poor and needy in Bangladesh.

In response, Huzoor said:

“I am very happy to hear this and you should continue to increase your efforts to help the weak and needy. No matter what it is our duty to serve others.”

Indonesia delegation

Huzoor’s next meeting was with a delegation from Indonesia, consisting of over 100 Ahmadis and guests.

During the meeting, the Indonesians had the opportunity to introduce themselves to Huzoor and seek his prayers.

I watched from the side as an Ahmadi lady broke down in tears informing Huzoor that she had not been able to conceive and desperately sought his prayers for a healthy progeny.

Others, became very emotional recounting their emotional and spiritual experiences at the Jalsa. Many asked Huzoor to pray that they and their families always stayed close to the Jamaat and were able to serve it in the best way. They also spoke of the sacrifices they had made to attend the Jalsa.

One Ahmadi man said:

“I had to resign my job to attend the Jalsa because my boss would not give me any holiday but it does not matter. I have firm faith that Allah will bless me for attending the Jalsa.”

In reply, Huzoor prayed:

“May Allah grant you an even better job than before.”

Meeting with Maori Ahmadis

In 2016, the first ever Maori Ahmadi convert travelled from New Zealand shortly after accepting Ahmadiyyat to attend the UK Jalsa.

Upon meeting him, Huzoor said that he should return in 2017 and take *Bai'at* directly at the hand of Huzoor during the *International Bai'at*. Two days after the *Bai'at*, the Maori Ahmadi and his wife met Huzoor in Mulaqat.

Upon entering Huzoor's office, the Maori Ahmadi presented Huzoor with a traditional clay shaped pot which he had brought from New Zealand. He said his wish was that Huzoor would keep his '*special possessions*' within the pot.

Thereafter, he asked Huzoor to pray that more Maoris came to accept Ahmadiyyat.

In response, Huzoor said:

"Yes, I will pray that more Maoris join the fold of Ahmadiyyat and now you should consider yourself as our Missionary to the Maoris."

The Maori said:

"Huzoor, I have already witnessed the blessings of your prayers because last year my seven year old son had a brain tumour and I sought your prayers when I came to London. With God's Help, he had a successful operation and has now recovered fully."

The meeting concluded as the Maori came forward and greeted Huzoor with the Maori traditional '*nose-to-nose*' greeting.

Burkina Faso delegation

Thereafter, Huzoor met a delegation from the African country, Burkina Faso, including the *Chairman Human Right's Commission*, who told Huzoor that he considered that there was peace and respect amongst different religious and tribal groups in Burkina Faso.

Upon hearing this, Huzoor said:

“If you are successful in achieving this then your nation will progress and succeed.”

The guest mentioned how Huzoor's addresses at Jalsa had a great impact on him. He said:

“Your Holiness, your address at Jalsa was like a charter of freedom for the entire world and is the need of the time because there is so much conflict in the world. I have no doubt that your words are the solution to the contemporary issues faced by the world today.”

Another member of the delegation was the National Secretary *Umoor-e-Kharija* (External Affairs) in Burkina Faso. Referring to his attendance of the 2008 Jalsa Salana Ghana, he said:

“Huzoor, in 2008 when you last visited Ghana, I was one of the Khuddam who cycled from Burkina Faso to Ghana to attend the Jalsa. It was an experience I can never forget.”

In reply, Huzoor smiled and said:

“I remember very well how you all came on bikes that were extremely old and half-broken but it did not stop you from travelling all that way.”

As Huzoor said these words you could sense his love for the Khuddam and the efforts they made to attend the Jalsa.

Representing America

Later that day, I met *Abdur Rahim Latif (46)* from New Jersey, USA. He was attending the Jalsa UK after three years and had been given the honour of representing America at the *International Bai’at*.

Thus, he had been one of the few people who had placed his hand directly upon the blessed hand of Huzoor.

With great emotion, Abdur Rahim Latif told me about his experiences. He said:

“This visit has had a great impact upon me and each day I have felt my burdens and worries wash away one by one. All those issues or difficulties that have arisen over the years have all disappeared due to the blessings of Jalsa and being close to my spiritual master.”

Describing his feelings at finding out he would take *Bai’at* at Huzoor’s hand, Abdur Rahim Latif sahib said:

“It was the night of the second day of Jalsa Salana and I was attending the Tabshir dinner. Another person was supposed to represent the United States during the Bai’at but unfortunately, he was taken unwell and so whilst I was eating I was informed that Huzoor had approved for me to represent the United States. It so happened that during the Tabshir dinner, I was seated across from Huzoor and so as I received this news I could see Huzoor directly.”

As he sat in front of me, Abdur Rahim Latif sahib became visibly emotional and tears fell from his eyes. He said:

“I was completely shocked and dumbfounded and could not control my emotions. I felt so unworthy and so overwhelmed and I could not stop crying.”

Abdur Rahim Latif sahib continued:

“Upon seeing my emotional state, a teacher from Jamia approached me and asked if I was ok and why I was crying. When I explained he said, ‘I understand and so please continue to cry!’”

As Latif sahib told me the response of the Jamia teacher, I felt an urge to laugh at how he told him to continue to weep!

However, the overriding emotions of Latif sahib as he narrated the story were of gratitude to Allah and genuinely of shock that he had been chosen to represent his nation at the Bai’at ceremony.

Abdur Rahim Latif sahib then told me about the actual experience of taking Bai'at and how it had led to much soul-searching on his part and a state of deep reflection. He said:

"The moments where I took Bai'at were unbelievably emotional and I was consumed by fear. I kept thinking 'I want to do better in my life' and I kept analysing myself and focusing on my weaknesses.

If you sit in your living room thousands of miles away and repeat the words of Bai'at it is still very important, however, to take the pledge whilst representing a Jamaat and to have Huzoor holding your hand is a huge and indescribable burden. As I repeated the words of Bai'at, I kept promising to myself that I will improve and I will strive to fulfil every condition of Bai'at."

Reflecting on his visit to London more generally, Abdur Rahim Latif sahib said:

"This visit to London has changed my life. For example, I don't live too far from our Mosque but I was sometimes weak in attending it for congregational prayers but now I have no excuse. I must endeavour to improve myself and to eradicate whatever weaknesses I have."

Abdur Rahim Latif sahib continued:

"I also got to personally meet Huzoor on this trip and it was an unforgettable experience. When Huzoor is on MTA, the setting is normally quite formal and so Huzoor appears serious. Yet when you meet

him in person you realise how warm and open he is and you see his very soft and loving side. It is unbelievable to think that we have direct access to the person who is closest to Allah the Almighty on earth. He encourages, he welcomes us and he even hosts us when we come to see him. He lets us share our deepest concerns and worries with him and he takes them away."

Speaking of how Huzoor gives so much time to the Jamaat, Abdur Rahim Latif sahib said:

"One year when Huzoor came to the United States I had the opportunity to do security duty at the Mosque. Huzoor had only arrived the day before but from morning until evening he remained engaged in meeting Ahmadiis in Mulaqat.

Those of us doing security would take regular breaks but Huzoor just continued to meet Ahmadi after Ahmadi and the amazing thing was that every person who came out of Huzoor's office had the widest possible smile on their face. That was just one day and it continued throughout the tour!"

As my enjoyable conversation with Abdur Rahim Latif sahib concluded, I looked up at him and said:

"I always feel extremely small when I am in the company of the Latifs!"

He laughed knowing that he was probably a good foot taller than me, just as his other family members were.

Guatemala and Costa Rica delegation

On Tuesday morning, Huzoor's meetings continued when he met with a delegation from Guatemala and Costa Rica.

It included a Congresswoman from Guatemala and a Member of Parliament and journalist from Costa Rica.

The Guatemalan Congresswoman mentioned the effect Jalsa had on her. She said:

"I have learned so much about the Ahmadiyya Community in the past few days and I now understand the true philosophy of Islam. I feel comfortable and content with your religion and any fears of apprehensions have disappeared."

Upon this, the MP from Costa Rica added:

"I wholeheartedly agree with my colleague from Guatemala. All the false and wrong impressions we had about Islam have been entirely removed. My own personal views of Islam have completely changed and I appreciate your religion a great deal."

Huzoor smiled and said:

"At our Jalsa, you are witness to the fact that there was no disturbance, disorder or fighting. On such a large scale, I do not think there can be such a peaceful event anywhere else in the world."

In response to Huzoor's comment, the Costa Rican MP said:

"Yes, I agree. At the Jalsa people came from many different countries but they all spoke the same language and that was the language of love. Also, I realised that what I had heard about women and Islam was completely different to the reality.

I felt safe and secure on the ladies side and enjoyed being with the ladies only. I also went to the men's side but I enjoyed on the ladies side far more!"

In reply, Huzoor said:

"Yes – our women tell the men to move out of the way so they can flourish without any men restricting them!"

A young non-Muslim lady from Costa Rica then spoke and told of her experiences of Jalsa. She said:

"Your Holiness, I have received huge spiritual and educational benefits from listening to your speeches. I particularly liked how you said that a person should even pray for his enemies, should be forgiving and display love.

I live in a country of Catholics and Protestants and I know that it is not possible for such a comprehensive message of peace to be given by any of the Christian leaders that you have given. In essence, you have taught that if we are good with other people then God will be good with us."

Upon this, Huzoor said:

“People of many religions attended the Jalsa and we love and respect them all because these are the teachings of Islam.”

The Costa Rican journalist then took the opportunity to ask Huzoor about the rise of terrorism in the world and how the people of different religions and beliefs should act towards one another.

After giving a detailed answer in which he said that all forms of terrorism were against Islamic teachings and in which he explained the true concept of Jihad, Huzoor said:

“The Holy Quran has said ‘la ikraha fid-deen’ which means ‘There should be no compulsion in religion’.

What does this mean? It means that religion and faith is a matter of one’s heart. Of course, Christians, Jews, Muslims and the people of all faiths have the right to peacefully spread their message, however, at the same time, every individual has the absolute right to accept or reject that message freely and without any fear.”

Huzoor continued:

“We are preaching the teachings of Islam and those people who are persuaded are joining us. However, we hold no ill will towards those who do not accept it because we all remain from amongst the progeny of the Prophet Adam (as) and so it is our duty to love and respect one another.”

Huzoor also asked for an update about the *Nasir Hospital* being built in Guatemala by *Humanity First*. Upon this, the local Congresswoman expressed her desire that Huzoor himself comes to inaugurate the Nasir Hospital once it is complete.

Upon this, Huzoor said:

“I am grateful for your kind invitation and Insha’Allah I hope it is possible for me to inaugurate it.”

Russian delegation

Huzoor’s next meeting was with a small delegation from Russia, consisting of a Russian journalist and a Russian convert.

The journalist asked Huzoor a series of questions in a formal interview, however before doing so he mentioned how he had enjoyed the Jalsa a great deal and had been surprised to observe more than 30,000 Muslims ***“who followed all the rules and were extremely patient and disciplined”***. He added that the only problem he saw was the rain, which had caused some difficulties for the participants.

Upon this, Huzoor said with a smile:

“I challenge you to find me an event anywhere in the world where there are over 30,000 people, of any religion, who act with such discipline and morality at all times. You will only see such characteristics in the

Ahmadiyya Muslim Community! You saw how we remained patient even when the weather was adverse and conditions were difficult and this is only possible if you have a firm faith in your religion and value it."

In the formal interview, the journalist asked Huzoor's views on the rise of terrorism and the radicalisation of young Muslims across the world.

In reply, Huzoor said:

"I have spoken against radicalisation and terrorism more than anyone else over the past ten or more years and the reason I have spoken out against it is because I follow true Islam.

Now there are other people and groups who condemn extremism and are warning of the risks to world peace but let it be categorically clear that the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community was the very first to warn of these dangers."

Huzoor continued:

"As a journalist, you should ask yourself where the terrorists and extremists get their weapons. They are rarely produced in Muslim countries and are being imported from the West and Eastern Europe.

All sides, Muslim and non-Muslim must show wisdom and sense. It is not impossible to stop terrorists. For example, in the past year the world powers have become more serious in their efforts to stop Daesh and as a

result, they have been able to neutralize its growth and now it has been almost defeated as an organisation”

Most beautifully, Huzoor said:

“There are some worldly solutions to the problems of today but our Jamaat focuses on the spiritual solutions. Thus, we constantly bow down before Allah praying for the peace of the world and, according to Islam’s teachings, we are engaged in the moral training of the members of our community from childhood. As a result, Ahmadi Muslims, are with the Grace of Allah, spreading only peace across the world.”

Changing the subject, the journalist then asked if Huzoor was in favour of women Imams.

In response, Huzoor said:

“I follow the Sunnah (practice) of the Holy Prophet of Islam (sa) and if he said something is wrong then it is wrong, regardless of what the rest of the world may say or think! He is our master and our guide.”

Huzoor then reiterated many of the points he had made in his Lajna address at Jalsa about why, practically speaking, it was not possible for women to be Imams.

A source of blessings

As the meeting concluded, the Private Secretary, Munir Javed sahib informed Huzoor that his next meeting was with a delegation from Sierra Leone and would take place in the Mahmood Hall.

In reply, Huzoor said he would come out in a minute and he then turned to a trolley behind his desk, picked up a glass and poured a little water and took a couple of sips.

It was a rare and fleeting moment where Huzoor was able to have a minute to himself, before he stood and walked the few dozen steps across to the Mahmood Hall.

Over the past few days, I had seen once again how Khilafat is the source of true blessings in this era and the purest reflection of Islam's teachings.

Person after person, from country after country, had spoken of how Huzoor's words had impacted upon them and changed their understanding of Islam and removed any fears or worries they had.

One after one they attested to the fact that they had never seen anything like the Jalsa Salana before with its unique spirit and peaceful atmosphere. Huzoor's meetings and Jalsa activities were set to continue for several more days.

Just like the preceding days, they would prove to be extremely blessed and a pure manifestation of the mutual love between Khalifa-Waqt and the members of the Jamaat. I was very lucky to be able to once again witness such scenes.

End of Part 2

Any comments or feedback:

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