

**HUZOOR'S TOUR OF GERMANY**

**AUGUST 2017**

**A Personal Account**

**Part 2**

**By Abid Khan**

## **Introduction**

In part 1, I wrote about the first few days of Huzoor's tour of Germany in August 2017. In part 2, I will narrate incidents from the final few days of Huzoor's tour, including the days of Jalsa Salana Germany.

### **Inspection of Jalsa Salana Germany**

On 24 August 2017, Huzoor departed from the Baitus Sabuh Mosque in Frankfurt at 5.35pm and travelled to the city of Karlsruhe, where the Jalsa Salana Germany would take place.

Two hours later we arrived at the familiar *Messe Karlsruhe* site, which had been the home of Jalsa Germany for the past few years.

As Huzoor arrived, thousands of Ahmadis were already present to welcome him, all of whom were waiting with great anticipation for Huzoor to conduct the Jalsa inspection.

Thereafter, at 8pm, Huzoor was given a tour of the Jalsa site by Amir Sahib Germany and the *Officer Jalsa Salana*, Illyas Majoka and so during the next hour, Huzoor visited the various *Nizamats* (departments) of Jalsa Salana.

As is often the case, Huzoor spent a significant amount of time visiting the *langhar khana* (kitchen) and the area where food and meat was being stored.

Huzoor tasted various dishes that were to be served during the Jalsa days, including *aloo ghosht* (lamb and potato curry), *daal* (lentils) and *zarda*

(sweet rice). After tasting, Huzoor complimented the taste of the *daal* and also spent time talking with the cooks and raising their spirits.



Huzoor also visited the accommodation camping area, where Ahmadis were able to pitch tents during the Jalsa. Huzoor met some Ahmadi ladies and asked if the tents were comfortable and suitable to their needs.

Thereafter, the security team which guides the route, turned left, however Huzoor noticed that many Ahmadis had lined the road ahead and so he continued to walk straight so that they would not be left disappointed.

Even though it was a longer route, Huzoor walked past the Ahmadis waving and smiling towards them. You could see the happiness on the faces of the

Ahmadis, who knew that Huzoor had taken the longer route especially for their sake.

After visiting *Lajna Imaillah*, Huzoor returned to the men's side and visited several departments, including the *Humanity First* exhibition, where Huzoor took out some money from inside his *achkan* (coat) pocket and donated money directly.

Huzoor also asked Athar Zubair sahib (*Head of Humanity First Germany*) if the *Al-Ain* mobile eye clinic, which Huzoor had inaugurated in April, had reached Africa yet.

In reply, Athar Zubair sahib informed Huzoor that the truck remained stuck in customs in the West African country Benin.

Later, Athar Zubair sahib told me that a few hours prior to Huzoor asking, Amir Sahib Benin had informed him that it would take a minimum of three days for the mobile eye clinic to be released.

However, later that evening, Amir Sahib gave an updated report in which he said that the clinic had somehow suddenly cleared customs and was now in the possession of the Jamaat.

Athar Zubair sahib said:

***"We are extremely fortunate because every day we see the blessings of Khilafat. Amir Sahib had very clearly told me that it was impossible for the Al-Ain clinic to be released until Monday due to holidays in Benin, yet***

***seemingly within a moment of Huzoor asking about it in Germany, the truck was released and so the desire of Khalifatul Masih that it should start serving the local people will be fulfilled.”***

### **Being proactive**

Huzoor also visited an exhibition about Germany’s ‘100-Mosque project’, where he was greeted by Germany’s *National Secretary Jaidad* (Property). Huzoor asked for an update on which Mosques were close to completion or ready to progress.

In reply, the *National Secretary Jaidad* said that Huzoor had instructed on his previous tour of Germany that he himself would personally decide which projects were to proceed because the German Jamaat had gone into debt whilst building Mosques in recent years.

The *Secretary Jaidad* said he had written to Huzoor about this and was waiting for a reply.

Upon this, Huzoor said:

***“Will you continue to wait indefinitely? I mark such letters to Wakalat-e-Maal (Central Finance Office) and give them my instructions and so you should stay in regular contact with them. I want you to develop the habit of staying in regular contact with the Markaz (Centre) and following up. Thus, you should contact Wakalat-e-Maal immediately and they will guide you according to my instructions.”***

Huzoor's point was very interesting. I have heard myself Jamaat officials in different countries say they were waiting for instructions from the *Markaz* or a reply to their letter.

Often, it is said in a way to suggest that they have done all that they can and if there is any delay it is due to the *Centre* and, even if they do not say it in as many words, the impression is given that Huzoor has not given a reply.

It may be the case that sometimes, Huzoor asks for a report from a Jamaat department or official and they may be delayed in submitting it but Huzoor himself is the most efficient person I have ever seen.

Furthermore, as Huzoor said to the *Secretary Jaidad*, it is also important for the local Jamaats to stay in regular contact with Markaz.

### **A message to office bearers**

Upon completing the inspection, Huzoor walked towards the main Jalsa Gah to deliver an address to the duty workers.

As he entered the hall, Ahmadis raised extremely passionate and deafening *naaray* (slogans) in praise of Allah and expressing their gratitude at the presence of Khalifatul Masih.

After a few minutes, Huzoor took to the stage and addressed the volunteers of Jalsa Salana Germany.

Huzoor said that the volunteers were well trained and many had become experts in duties that were completely different to their day jobs.

Huzoor said it was a great favour of Allah the Almighty that *He* continued to bless the Jamaat with very dedicated and selfless people, who sought to serve the guests of the Promised Messiah (as) at Jalsa Salana to the best of their abilities.



In a direct message to the senior office bearers of the Jamaat, Huzoor said:

***“If I have any worries or concerns it is not about the general workers or volunteers. Rather, my concern is that the senior office bearers and people who are in-charge should also show the same spirit of selflessness, humility and devotion and they should co-operate with one another.”***

Huzoor continued:

***“No Jamaat office bearer or person should ever think that the success of their department is due to them, rather they should consider every success to be a result of the blessings of Allah the Almighty. Thus, today I have no need to address the general volunteers because I trust them to***

***work diligently and with the spirit required. My words are directed to the senior officer bearers and I ask them to conduct their duties with love, consideration and with a spirit of mutual co-operation with other departments.”***

Huzoor’s words were certainly of great value. In Germany, some office bearers had even come up to me and told me that other departments or senior members did not co-operate with them and had caused problems.

Given Huzoor’s words, it was clear he had noticed that there was a degree of friction amongst senior people in the German Jamaat and that this was against the spirit of the Jamaat. Thus, Huzoor asked for all such people to work together in a united way and to remain selfless and humble.

### **Sacrificing in the way of Allah**

After a silent prayer, Huzoor led the *Maghreb* and *Isha* prayers before returning to his residence at the Jalsa site.

As he walked towards his residence, Huzoor called the *Officer Jalsa Salana* and asked if they had arranged for some lambs to be slaughtered as a form of *Sadqa* (charity) during the Jalsa days.

*Officer Jalsa Salana*, Illyas Majoka sahib replied:

***“Huzoor, we have arranged for seven lambs to be slaughtered and distributed as Sadqa to poor people.”***



Upon this, Huzoor said:

***“You should not sacrifice just seven for the full Jalsa, rather seven lambs should be sacrificed on each day of Jalsa. These can be done in Qadian, Rabwah and in Africa.”***

Huzoor’s tone whilst giving this instruction was very serious and it exhibited Huzoor’s conviction that human efforts would only take the Jamaat so far and that ultimately the Jalsa could only prove blessed through the Grace and Mercy of God.

### **Friday Sermon at Jalsa Germany**

The next day, 25 August 2017, was the first day of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Jalsa Salana Germany and, as per tradition, Huzoor inaugurated the Jalsa by raising the Liwai-e-Ahmadiyyat (Flag of Ahmadiyyat) and leading a silent prayer.

Thereafter, at exactly 2pm, Huzoor proceeded to the Jalsa Gah to deliver the Friday Sermon.

During his sermon, amongst other things, Huzoor spoke of the rise of atheism in the West and how more and more people were abandoning religion.

Huzoor said:

***“In this day and age, belief in God has very much declined in Europe and atheism is increasing. Regrettably, many in the Muslim world presume***

***that the material success of Western and European nations is due to this abandonment of religion. However, they are wrong and should know that there can be no benefit in forsaking their religion.”***



Huzoor continued:

***“God Almighty desires for those who advocate atheism to be refuted through rational dialogue and answers and therefore He established the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community. We have taken on the mantle of enlightening the world of the true peaceful teachings of Islam. Thus, it is imperative that Ahmadi Muslims do not themselves adopt materialism or move away from God Almighty. Rather, our objective and our mission is to prove the existence of God, to show the teachings of Islam and the reality of the acceptance of prayer.”***

### **Press Conference at Jalsa Germany**

Following the conclusion of *Jumma*, Huzoor held a thirty-minute Press Conference with members of the German media in a conference room within

the Jalsa premises, during which he was asked about various contemporary issues.

One German journalist stated that she believed that Ahmadis considered themselves to be 'liberal' and in this context, she asked Huzoor his views on homosexuality.



In reply, Huzoor first clarified that Ahmadis did not claim to be 'liberal', rather our only claim was to follow Islam's true and original teachings.

Thereafter, without any fear or hint of trepidation, Huzoor said:

***"I am a religious person and so I follow the teachings of my Holy Book, which states that homosexuality is not a good practice. Also, it is worth mentioning that it is not only the Quran that speaks against it, in fact, the Bible has spoken out even more against homosexuality. Based on my religious teachings, it is impossible for me to like something that is not***

***liked by Allah the Almighty. Nevertheless, even if I do not agree with this lifestyle, I firmly believe that no homosexual person should ever be mistreated in any way or persecuted."***

In a similar vein, Huzoor was asked his views on a so-called 'liberal' Mosque that had opened in Berlin, where men and women prayed side-by-side and where gay people were welcomed.

In response, Huzoor said:

***"As far as men and women praying side-by-side in a Mosque is concerned, this practice is wrong because we follow the practice of the Holy Prophet (sa). In his time, men and women did sometimes pray in the same room, however, the men and women remained apart. In this era, most of our women prefer to have their own separate space to worship."***

Huzoor continued:

***"With regard your second point, if a homosexual person wishes to come and pray to Allah in the Mosque like other worshippers do, then he can do so. There is no restriction on this."***

As the questions continued to focus on the same topic, another journalist asked Huzoor if a Muslim would be classed as a 'murtad' (apostate) if they came out as gay.

Huzoor said:

***“A Muslim cannot call another Muslim a murtad unless that person himself declares that he is no longer a Muslim. The Holy Prophet (sa) said that no one has the right to declare anyone who repeats the Kalima as a non-Muslim. In every respect, we Ahmadi Muslims, follow the teachings and practice of the Holy Prophet (sa) and so we are orthodox Muslims, whilst those clerics who claim to be the champions of Islamic faith are the ones who have deviated from its true teachings.”***



Another journalist said that some Muslims were not vocal in their condemnation of terrorist attacks.

Upon this, Huzoor said:

***“I am responsible for myself and for my Community and we consider all forms of extremism and terrorism to be inherently evil and against the***



***teachings of Islam. Where peaceful protests or events take place to condemn extremism or where vigils are held to remember the victims of attacks, we Ahmadi Muslims consider it necessary to take part. For us, this is an expression of our solidarity with the society in which we live. It is our duty to stand up and reject all extremism and this is actually what integration into society means."***

As the questioning finally moved on, a journalist asked Huzoor how he viewed the Prophet Jesus (as) and Pope Francis.

In reply, Huzoor said:

***"We believe Jesus (as) to be a Prophet of God and we also believe that our Founder, the Promised Messiah (as) bore similar qualities to Jesus (as). Thus, where Jesus (as) was very peaceful and compassionate, so was the Promised Messiah (as). Given this, how could we ever think ill of the Prophet Jesus? Rather, we respect and love him as a true follower of God."***

Huzoor continued:

***"As for Pope Francis, using Islamic terminology, I consider him to be a Khalifa to Jesus Christ (as) because he is a successor of Jesus (as) according to the beliefs of the Christians."***

As Huzoor said this, the journalist seemed taken aback and I think some of the Ahmadis present were also surprised to hear Huzoor call Pope Francis a 'Khalifa'.

However, Huzoor's meaning was not that Pope Francis had been sent by God as a Khalifa, rather that according to the beliefs of Roman Catholic Christians, the Pope was sent as a successor of Jesus to lead and guide Christians.

Thereafter, the questions returned to a more accusatory level, where a female journalist said:

***"Your Holiness, I believed that Ahmadis were well integrated, however today I was told that you do not shake hands with women?"***

It was a question Huzoor had had to contend with on dozens of occasions in the recent past.

Thus, with a smile, Huzoor replied by saying:

***"In the past, I have been asked this question many times, and it is true that due to my faith I do not shake hands with women, however it is also true that if you or any other lady ever needs help or assistance in any way, shape or form I will be the first in line to offer to help you."***

Huzoor continued:

***"People raise this handshake issue as though it is the only thing that matters and that it is only in Islam that men and women keep a distance. Yet Jewish teachings are the same and in America, there are still some Orthodox synagogues where the Rabbis do not shake the hands of women. However, I have never heard anyone criticise them because they***

***do not want to be accused of anti-Semitism, yet you are very happy to point fingers at Muslims and criticise us for the same thing.”***

Huzoor’s answer was very beautiful. On the one hand, he made it clear that Islam did not seek to discriminate against women in any way and that true Muslim men were ever ready to serve and help women whenever needed.

Yet, at the same time, Huzoor also pointed the hypocrisy of the modern media, wherein the majority of media outlets chose to highlight issues pertaining to Islam, whilst ignoring similar teachings and beliefs held by others.

With the Grace of Allah, the way Huzoor defended Islam’s teachings was masterful. Despite the obvious attempts of some journalists to try and smear Islam or to try and corner Huzoor into changing his stance, Huzoor remained completely calm and did not deviate in the slightest from Islam’s teachings. If Huzoor was tired of the same questions, he did not once show it.

### **Happy to lose**

In Germany, I was happy to see that Qudus Malik, a friend of mine, had travelled from the United States to attend the Germany Jalsa and so during the Jalsa days, I was able to sit with him at meal times.

However, at one of our meals together, I became worried when Qudus said:

***“Abid bhai, I would like to talk to you about something that may irritate or even upset you. Do you give me permission to raise it?”***



For a moment, I was nervous wondering if I had made a mistake or done something to offend Qudus or anyone else. Thus, with a sense of apprehension, I told him to go ahead.

Qudus said:

***“A few weeks ago, England, who you support, lost to Pakistan, who I support, in the Champions Trophy cricket tournament! So, I wanted to remind you and ask your analysis of that match!”***

I felt relieved that it was only the cricket that Qudus wanted to discuss and nothing serious. I also think Qudus was surprised by my reply.

I said:

***“You may think that I will have been irritated or upset that England lost but actually that is one of my happiest memories of the year!”***

As I saw the look of confusion on his face, I explained by saying:

***“After England lost, Pakistan reached the final where they beat India and on that day, I was able to watch cricket with beloved Huzoor!”***

I told him how when I came to Huzoor’s office, I mentioned that Pakistan had won and that many of the Pakistani Ahmadis in the Mosque area were extremely happy.

Upon this, Huzoor said to me:

***“Saad (Huzoor’s grandson) was keeping an eye on the score in our home and was watching some of the highlights and so I saw some of the match with him. Masha’Allah Pakistan played very well.”***

To my surprise and joy, Huzoor put his work file to one side and took out his *iPad* and logged into the *BBC Sport* website.

Thereafter, Huzoor called me to his side of the desk, where for the next five minutes, I stood next to him as he watched the highlights.

One of the Pakistani batsmen had made a century and Huzoor appreciated his batting shots, whilst whenever the Pakistani bowlers took a wicket, Huzoor smiled and appreciated their efforts. Huzoor even commented on the excellent fielding of the Pakistani team.

In the past, I had occasionally mentioned some sports results to Huzoor but he had not expressed much interest and so I had not spoken of any such event for a long time.

However, on this occasion, I was extremely glad that I had mentioned the match because those few minutes were very precious and memorable.

In those moments, I also saw an expression of Huzoor’s love for his homeland. It is very rare that I have seen Huzoor put aside his work in his office, yet on that day for those five minutes, Huzoor enjoyed seeing the sporting success of the country where he was born and raised.

It was a small and simple example of how, even though Pakistan as a nation had persecuted the Jamaat and created conditions so harsh that *Khilafat-e-Ahmadiyya* had migrated to the UK, yet the love that Pakistani Ahmadis and especially *Khalifa-Waqt* held for their nation continued unabated.

### **Address to Lajna Imaillah**

On 26 August 2017, Huzoor delivered two speeches at the Jalsa Salana.

At midday, Huzoor addressed members of *Lajna Imaillah* directly in their Jalsa Gah, whilst later in the afternoon, Huzoor addressed around one thousand non-Ahmadi and non-Muslim guests in the main Jalsa Gah.

During his Lajna address, Huzoor said that non-Muslims continued to level false allegations against Islam and one of the main claims was that Muslim women were discriminated against and forced to stay within their homes at all times.

In great detail, Huzoor explained that this allegation was completely wrong and explained the true status of women in Islam. For example, Huzoor said that it was alleged that Islam permitted ‘forced marriages’, yet the Holy Prophet (sa) had established the absolute principle of freedom of choice when it came to marriage.

Huzoor said:

***“At the time of Nikah, it may be a father who consents to the marriage of his daughter but for him to do so, it is absolutely necessary that the girl***

***herself happily consents. If any parents force or coerce their daughters into marriage it is a grave cruelty and completely against the teachings of Islam.”***

Very emotionally, Huzoor said:

***“In an era, where people used to bury their daughters in shame, the Holy Prophet (sa) taught that daughters are a means of great pride for their families and all of their rights must be fulfilled.”***

Thereafter, Huzoor spoke about the duty of parents to guide and morally train their children. Huzoor said that some Ahmadi parents had the habit of distracting their children by handing them video games to play with endlessly or let them sit in front of the TV for hours upon hours. In the meantime, the parents were often distant and the family unit was becoming increasingly divided.

Towards the end of his address, Huzoor also mentioned the importance of *Purdah*. He said that generally the standards of *Purdah* were weakening, but at the same time, the standards of local German converts to Ahmadiyyat were very high.

Huzoor said:

***“It has reached the stage where I now have to ask the German converts to teach and guide our born-Ahmadi ladies about the importance of Purdah and the standards required.”***

## Huzoor's address to guests

After a short break for lunch, Huzoor returned to the main Jalsa Gah at 4pm to deliver an address in English to guests who had come to attend the Jalsa.



In his address, Huzoor said that racial tensions and prejudices were rising in certain parts of the world and so there was an urgent need to recognise that all people were born equal.

Huzoor said:

***“Islam proclaims that all people are born equal, no matter where they hail from or the colour of their skin. In words that were as timeless as they were enlightened... Brandishing an eternal torch illuminating the path towards universal human rights, the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) pronounced that all human beings were born equal and had the same rights.”***

Furthermore, Huzoor used his address to categorically condemn all forms of extremism.

Where Huzoor strongly condemned so-called Muslim clerics, who were radicalising Muslims in different countries, Huzoor also criticised Western policies of selling weapons to Muslim countries, which he said were fuelling wars and conflicts.

Referring to the radicalisation of Muslims, Huzoor said:

***“Extremist Muslim groups or clerics have preyed upon vulnerable Muslims and rather than guiding and helping these frustrated and misguided people, they have poisoned their minds with extremism and radicalised them... In a similar vein, we have long seen that some Muslim governments are mistreating their people and have inflicted untold cruelties and injustices upon them which has bred division and led to uprisings and bloody civil wars.”***

Speaking of the risks of the world’s arms trade, Huzoor said:

***“Western countries and arms producers have a vested business interest in maintaining a degree of conflict in Muslim countries. Such one-eyed policies and selfish motivations are entirely regretful and can only prove a means of destroying the peace of the world.”***

Huzoor continued:

***“The defining characteristic of the world’s efforts to ensure peace over the past seventy or more years has been intimidation and scare tactics, whereby nations have sought peace through the development of ever more deadly weapons. No matter what is claimed, the truth is that such***

***measures cannot bring about long-lasting peace and there is every chance that one day someone will press the button unleashing carnage and misery like the world has never seen before.”***

Huzoor said the solution to today’s problems was for mankind to recognise their Creator.

Huzoor said:

***“Rather than peace-building through the so-called ‘deterrent model’, we Ahmadi Muslims, believe that there is only one path leading towards lasting peace and that is the path of God Almighty... The time has come for mankind to recognise its Creator and to accept that God Almighty is indeed the Lord of all the Worlds, who sustains us, provides for us and is our ultimate Creator.”***

### **Impact of Huzoor’s address**

*Alhamdolillah*, the impact of Huzoor’s address was very far-reaching. I spoke to dozens of people who appreciated Huzoor’s words and expressed their hope that Huzoor’s message would reach an even wider audience.

One person I met was an academic from Spain, *Professor Jesus* who said:

***“This was a great speech because each of the Khalifa’s words had a deep meaning and in this way very different to politicians who give empty speeches and try to please audiences. Very boldly, the Khalifa told us that there is a great risk if the world stays on its current path. Yet at same***

***time he did not just warn us but he also gave us solutions based on the Quran. I really appreciated his honesty and commitment to peace.”***

Another guest, Mr. Gomer Artem said:

***“Today, the Khalifa showed that Islam is a peaceful religion. He is right that if Christians do bad things we don’t blame Christianity and so how is it fair to blame Muslims if Muslims are doing bad things? I also really like the part about Islam’s God being a God of all people and how all people are born equal and that Islam is against all forms of racism.”***

I also spoke to a lady called Mrs. Natiya, who said:

***“The Khalifa is a person who attracts others and he is blessed with great wisdom and intelligence. He is soft-hearted and has shown that this is a reflection of his religion. The way to summarise this speech in one word is ‘truth’ because he told us the truth about Islam and the reality of world politics. I cannot fault this speech and believe every word to be true. In the world, there is so much prejudice and racism, and so it was very emotional to hear Islam’s teachings in this regard, where Muhammad (sa) openly said that a white person is not superior to a black person.”***

A guest, Mrs. Tucker said:

***“I have come to the conclusion that some people do not want to hear this message of peace but the reason for this I do not know. They prefer to think that Islam is a religion of violence and injustice no matter what contrary evidence is presented. On the other hand, there are many good***



***people who want to know the reality and I hope that all of them will have the chance to hear how the Khalifa quoted so many verses and explained them eloquently.”***

Another guest, Mr. Jounas said:

***“Each word the Khalifa spoke had a meaning and purpose. I particularly liked it when he spoke of World War Two and the cruelties done at that time and then he asked us not to repeat those mistakes and warned us about the global arms race. Another beautiful part is when he said that people could curse the Prophet Muhammad (sa) and Ahmadis would feel great pain but they would not react with violence or by cursing our prophets. I also wish to say I felt emotional seeing him and his personality and style of speaking is very beautiful.”***

### **Media interviews**

Following the conclusion of his address, Huzoor proceeded to his office where he was interviewed by three German media outlets.

One of the journalists asked Huzoor if he ever feared for his own life, given the opposition and persecution faced by the Jamaat from extremist Muslims.

In reply, Huzoor said:

***“Even if there is a risk to my life, I cannot waste my time worrying about it, otherwise I would not be able to fulfil my duties as the Head of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community. Anyway, when I lived in Pakistan the***

***threat was greater because over there the law favours those who oppose us, whilst here in the West everyone is subject to the same laws."***

Huzoor was also asked about his views on the so-called '*Khilafat*' of the terrorist group *Daesh*.



In response, Huzoor said:

***"What has this so-called Khilafat achieved in the past few years? Nothing positive at all. All it has done is spread misery and conducted horrific crimes. It is said that the Daesh leader may already be dead and even if he is alive then he remains hidden. However, in Islam, a true Khalifa does not hide from the world!"***

Huzoor continued:

***"A few years ago, a journalist asked me if I was fearful of the Daesh leadership or that their so-called Khilafat would spread far and wide.***

***Back then, I said that this so-called Khilafat will die its own death and time has proved this to be true."***

Another journalist asked Huzoor a question, which he admitted, he already knew the answer to. He asked Huzoor:

***"Do you believe in God?"***

In reply, Huzoor said:

***"Yes of course. I believe in the One God who is the Creator of the Universe. I believe in the One God who listens to and accepts my prayers. I have personally experienced His existence time after time. Through my supplications, I have seen Him and I know Him. He is the One God who sent Prophets to all nations to guide mankind to the right path."***

### **Meeting with an Algerian Scholar**

Later in the evening, Huzoor held various meetings, including a private meeting with a scholar from Algeria.

In Algeria, the Jamaat has faced a lot of persecution over the past few years. Ahmadis have been arrested and imprisoned on completely made up charges, whilst officials and the media have sought to incite members of the public against the Jamaat.

They have even gone as far as to claim that Algerian Ahmadis, *God forbid*, have been involved in terrorism.

As Huzoor has mentioned in some of his sermons, the false propaganda and lies have not curtailed the growth of the Jamaat, rather the message of Ahmadiyyat has spread much further afield in the country.

Furthermore, the Ahmadis have shown great courage and the persecution has strengthened their faith, as opposed to weaken it. Thus, if the aim of the authorities was to undermine and eradicate the Jamaat in Algeria, the result has been the opposite.

Upon meeting Huzoor, the Algerian guest said:

***“I am angry with my Government for its treatment of Ahmadis in Algeria and I am asking the authorities to act with justice. I feel great pain at the way the Ahmadis are being treated in Algeria, however, on the other hand, I have seen that the message of your Jamaat has become much more well known during this difficult time.”***

In reply, Huzoor said:

***“We are used to being persecuted in Pakistan and in some Arab countries but at the same time we wish that Muslims would unite as brothers because we all follow the same Kalima. If Muslims realised this point then the sectarianism that is plaguing the Muslim nations would end and Muslims would be far stronger as a result. In today’s Muslim world, Iran is on one side, Saudi is on another. Further, now the Sunni countries have grouped together against Qatar, whilst they are also attacking Yemen. Thus, Muslims are attacking each other and dividing the Ummah.”***

Huzoor continued:

***“In your capacity as an unbiased Muslim scholar, you should tell the leaders to avoid all forms of sectarianism and instead of branding others as kuffar (disbelievers), they should remember that the Holy Prophet (sa) said that whoever repeats the Kalima is a Muslim.”***

Huzoor’s answer was an expression of the selfless nature of *Khilafat-e-Ahmadiyya*. Where the guest had focused upon the persecution of Ahmadis, Huzoor spoke of the need for all Muslims to set aside differences and to unite as brothers in Islam.

Thereafter, Huzoor smiled and said:

***“Our Ahmadis in Algeria are happy that the awareness of our Jamaat has increased as a result of the persecution, whilst I am sure the Government Ministry will be sad that people are accepting the religion it tried to ban!”***

The guest also referred to the fact that the Algerian nation owed a debt to Ahmadis because Hazrat Chaudhry Zafrullah Khan Sahib had advocated on its behalf.

It was clear that the non-Ahmadi guest was becoming increasingly affected and even emotional the more time he spent in Huzoor’s company. Thus, after a few minutes, he asked Huzoor for special prayers for his three year old son, who was yet to speak.

Very affectionately, Huzoor asked further details about his son's condition, prayed for him and advised that they should try *speech and language* therapy.

The guest thanked Huzoor and said that he hoped Huzoor would visit Algeria.

In response, Huzoor said:

***“If the other scholars in Algeria are like you then yes I can visit. I am a simple person and do not require any protocol or special treatment and I do hope that one day it is possible.”***

The guest presented Huzoor with a box of dates and he said that in his culture dates were given to those people who a person loved the most. As he did so, the guest became very emotional and suddenly kissed Huzoor's turban with great affection, seeking the blessings of Khilafat-e-Ahmadiyya.

Following this, Huzoor very graciously and lovingly embraced the guest. Especially given the current situation in Algeria, it was an incredibly moving and touching moment.

### **A second meeting**

As I write up my notes, it is now December 2017 and by chance a few days ago, the Algerian scholar travelled to London to meet Huzoor again at *Masjid Fazl*.

As soon as he entered, the scholar informed Huzoor that his son, who previously did not speak, was now much improved and was speaking well. He said that both he and his wife were overwhelmed with gratitude to Huzoor for his prayers and guidance during the meeting in Germany.

Upon hearing the good news, Huzoor said:

***“Alhamdolillah. I pray that may Allah continue to give him good health and a long life, Insha’Allah.”***

The Algerian guest said:

***“After meeting you in Germany, I have tried my best to tell people the truth about Islam Ahmadiyyat and to tell them that you are all peaceful and loyal citizens. I just feel sorry that I did not know about Ahmadiyyat earlier otherwise I would have helped your Jamaat at an earlier stage.”***

In reply, Huzoor said:

***“Do not worry, at least you know us now and we appreciate your efforts to assist us.”***

The Algerian scholar also asked Huzoor if he would be willing to address the *Organisation of Islamic Cooperation* (OIC), the 57-member body of Muslim nations.

In response, Huzoor said:

***“As Head of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, they will never invite me to address them. Perhaps, they might consider inviting me in a personal capacity as ‘Mirza Masroor Ahmad’ but I would not accept an invitation in that capacity. But yes, if they ever had the courage to invite me as Head of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community I would consider.”***

### **Lithuania delegation**

Immediately thereafter, Huzoor met a group of more than a dozen guests who had come from Lithuania to attend the Jalsa Salana.

One young man told Huzoor that he had been very impressed by all the Ahmadis he had met, however, he still felt a degree of fear about Islam due to the terrorist attacks in different countries in recent years.

In response, Huzoor said that he should look at Islam’s teaching, rather than the acts of a few misguided individuals.

Thereafter, Huzoor smiled and said:

***“You should come to London for one month and be my guest and then I guarantee that all of your remaining fears about Islam will completely vanish!”***

Also amongst the delegation was a convert to Ahmadiyyat called *Thomas*.



He told Huzoor that he had first learned about Ahmadiyyat whilst working in Norway in 2013 and had read various books that had convinced him of the truth of Islam and of the Promised Messiah (as).

Thomas said:

***“In the past, I had always been taught that if a person does a mistake then it cannot be forgiven, yet the teachings of Ahmadiyyat showed me that God is Gracious and Merciful. I really like this religion and it has convinced me fully.”***

In reply, Huzoor said:

***“Our religion is Islam and so you should say that you really like Islam.”***

An elderly Lithuanian guest took the microphone and said:

***“Your Holiness, I consider you to be an ambassador of peace and love and the need of the time is for your message to spread.”***

The guest continued:

***“On a personal level, sometimes I worry that I will start to ignore my own weaknesses and not even care if I make mistakes or do sins. What is your advice?”***

In reply, Huzoor said:

***“My advice is the advice given by the Holy Prophet of Islam (sa). He taught that for true reformation we should always think that Allah the Almighty is watching over us at all times. Remember that you can hide from others and can even convince yourself that you are not doing anything wrong but you can never hide from God Almighty. Thus, for true reformation, a belief in God Almighty is imperative.”***

Also amongst the delegation, was a Lithuanian artist who presented Huzoor with a sketch he had made of Huzoor himself.

As someone, who consistently received poor marks in ‘Art’ in school, I am not the best person to comment on another’s artistic skills, however as I glanced at the drawing I did not think it looked anything like Huzoor at all!

It seemed that Huzoor also did not consider that there was much likeness, as he said:

***“If people see this drawing then they will begin to fear me!”***

Thereafter, Huzoor told the artist that he did not like drawings depicting people.

However, ever conscious of the feelings of others, Huzoor told the Jamaat’s Missionary to later explain to the artist the Islamic teachings in this regard and to make it clear that Huzoor appreciated that the gift was given as a gesture of kindness.

It was an example of how Huzoor always follows Islam's teachings to the letter. Where Huzoor clarified that such depictions of people were not desirable, he also was extremely sensitive and careful to the feelings of the guest.

### **Arab delegation**

Following the meeting with Lithuanians, Huzoor came out of his office and went to a large hall on the upper floor of the complex, where he held a meeting with more than 300 Arabs, of whom around 200 were non-Ahmadis.



During the meeting, the Arabs expressed their emotions at meeting Huzoor and their experiences of the Jalsa.

They also were able to ask Huzoor various questions.

One Arab man asked Huzoor if Ahmadi women were permitted to marry non-Ahmadi men.

In response, Huzoor said:

***“Occasionally, where there is some form of necessity permission is granted by me but I insist that the Imam who performs the Nikah should be an Ahmadi. Nonetheless, generally speaking, it is better for both the bride and groom to be Ahmadi, as this is the best way of keeping Ahmadiyyat instilled in their future generations and of ensuring that their homes are happy and peaceful.”***



Huzoor continued:

***“For the sake of unity within our Jamaat, it is our desire and effort for both parties to be Ahmadis. Our priority is our faith in the Promised Messiah (as) because our acceptance of him is based on the instruction of our master, the Holy Prophet (sa).”***

An Arab man asked Huzoor if there was any means of gaining the nearness of Allah the Almighty other than prayer.

In response, Huzoor said:

***“Prayer is the means that Allah the Almighty has taught and this is my way. I am not like the Muslim clerics or leaders in some countries who claim that they have direct phone access to God Almighty! My method has always been to follow the way of my master, the Holy Prophet Muhammad (sa).”***

### **A ‘quiet’ announcement**

After the meeting, Huzoor walked the few hundred metres towards the main Jalsa Gah for the *Maghreb* and *Isha* prayers.

At the point where Huzoor had entered the Jalsa Gah but was still some distance away from the front of the hall, an Ahmadi was giving announcements over the loudspeaker system about the etiquettes of waiting for Namaz.

Thus, an announcement was made that people should remain quiet, along with the caveat that if they had to say something then:

***“Khamoshi say baat karo”***

Meaning:

***“If you need to speak then do so in silence”***

Upon this, Huzoor smiled and asked:

***“How does someone speak silently?”***

Thereafter, upon reaching the front of the Jalsa Gah, Huzoor especially called the person who had made the announcement.

With a smile, Huzoor said:

***“How is it possible to speak silently? Please let me know this trick as well!”***

Rather than make any excuse, the person on duty responded by saying:

***“Huzoor, actually I was giving announcements and then I saw that you had entered the hall and I suddenly became nervous and forgot what I was saying!”***

Huzoor smiled and appreciated his honesty and then turned to lead *Namaz*. I felt sympathy for the person on duty as well, as I could personally recount dozens of times when my mind had become blank in the presence of Huzoor. Thus, where I am sure he meant to say ‘*whisper*’, he had said ‘*silent*’! Anyway, it was a light moment which Huzoor seemed to enjoy.

### **The wrong time for *naaray***

Following *Namaz*, as Huzoor left the Jalsa Gah, many of the Ahmadis waved towards Huzoor and he waved back.

In their emotion and passion, some Ahmadis started to raise *naaray* (slogans) and upon seeing this, Huzoor immediately gestured to them to stop.

As he did so, I thought of how in the same hall, *naaray* were often raised during the main Jalsa sessions but at this time Huzoor made it clear they were not appropriate.

My own interpretation was that during the period of *Salat*, the Jalsa Gah took on the role of a Mosque and so quietness and due decorum were required. Similarly, some people had started to offer their *Vitar* prayers and so they would have been disturbed.

At every moment, Huzoor guards the sanctity of worship and reminds us of what is and is not appropriate.

### **A unique duty**

As *Namaz* concluded, some of the other Qafila members asked me if I wished to join them as they were planning to visit the Jalsa *bazaar*. However, I preferred to return to my room in the nearby hotel where I was staying.

A *Khadim*, Syed Athar Maqsood, was kind enough to drop me at the hotel in his car. As we sat together, he told me that he had served in the German army for four years and had been deployed in active service in Kosovo, as part of a *United Nations* peacekeeping taskforce.

Athar sahib told me his plan was to have a long military career but the longer he served the more his mother became worried for his safety. Due to the stress it was causing her, he made the decision to retire and was now working as a private citizen.

Due to his military experience, Athar sahib had volunteered to do security duty during the Jalsa and so I asked him if there was any comparison between the military duty he did in Kosovo and the duty he was now doing at the Jalsa.

In response, Athar sahib said:

***“For normal people, serving in Kosovo, in a war zone, would be much tougher and more stressful, however being part of the security team serving Khalifatul Masih is completely unlike any duty or mission I have done before. Certainly, when I was in Kosovo, I felt a duty to my nation and to those around me, however the experience of doing duty with Huzoor is completely unique.”***

Athar sahib continued:

***“Whenever I see Huzoor walk past, I feel a rush of love enter deep inside me and due to that love, the responsibility is so vast and great. Of course, I am aware that Allah the Almighty is the true protector of Khalifatul Masih but still I feel a great personal weight of responsibility. Therefore, this duty is completely different and an unparalleled honour.”***



### **An emotional lady**

On the morning of 27 August, the final day of the Jalsa Germany, a Missionary from Germany Jamaat informed me that an elderly Ahmadi lady had asked to meet me and so he took me to see her.

When we met, she informed me that she was a widow, as her husband had sadly died at an early age and that her daughters remained unmarried.

As a result, she was extremely anxious, as any mother in her situation would be, that her daughters were able to marry and start their own families.

Thereafter, the Ahmadi lady explained why she wanted to meet me. She said:

***“Sometimes, in our house, we read the diaries you write about Huzoor and so we know that you are able to meet him and spend time with him. Thus, I ask if you would do us a great favour and seek Huzoor’s prayers for my daughters.”***

The lady continued:

***“Tell Huzoor that we do not care about money or wealth and our only condition in marriage is that their husbands should be righteous, close to the Jamaat and forever obedient to Khilafat. That is all we want and all we need.”***

The lady became emotional as she explained how worried she was and so I promised her that I would convey her request for prayers to Huzoor.

### Concluding session of Jalsa Salana Germany

The concluding session of Jalsa Salana Germany took place late afternoon on 27 August 2017, following a *Bai'at* ceremony, in which all Ahmadis present were able to renew their oath of allegiance at the hand of Khilafat.



Huzoor's concluding address commenced at 4.55pm and during his speech, Huzoor delivered a comprehensive rebuttal to those people who sought to brand Islam as, *God forbid*, an extremist and violent religion.

Very emotively, Huzoor described the persecution faced by the Muslims in the time of the Holy Prophet (sa) and said that they continued to tolerate such cruelties with patience for many years.

For example, Muslim women had both of their legs tied to different camels who were then made to run in opposing directions so that the bodies of the Muslim ladies were physically wrenched apart.

Other Muslims were mercilessly beaten or made to lie on the burning desert sands of Arabia as heavy stones were placed upon them.

Comparing the impeccable standards of faith displayed by the early Muslims to the terrorists of today, Huzoor said:

***“The Muslims who were tortured by non-Muslims in early Islam never wavered in their faith because they had been given the glad tidings of attaining heaven. However, the terrorists and unjust rulers of today, who perpetrate the most heinous cruelties, will never enter heaven, rather their only destiny is hell.”***



Huzoor continued:

***“Chapter 2, Verse 194 of the Holy Quran makes it clear that the Muslims were only permitted to engage in war in a defensive capacity, where they were attacked in order to destroy religion. Wars are not permitted to pursue vested interests or in order to seize the wealth of others or to conquer lands or people.”***

Presenting the incomparable example of the Holy Prophet (sa) upon his victorious return to Makkah, Huzoor said:

***“The cruelties and crimes committed by the Meccan non-Muslims over many years meant that the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) would have been justified in authorising all means of punishment. Yet, he who was the true ‘mercy for all of mankind’ and the ‘King of Peace’ proclaimed that all transgressions and cruelties were to be forgiven. He said that all those willing to live in peace were free and all would have the right to practice their beliefs without any fear.”***

### **Farewell**

Upon concluding his address, Huzoor led a silent prayer and announced that, with the *Grace of Allah*, the attendance at the Jalsa exceeded 40,000.

Commenting on the composition of the attendees, Huzoor said:

***“Around 2,750 Ahmadis from the UK have taken part in the Jalsa, however, I think this is still less than the number of German Ahmadis who attend the UK Jalsa!”***

The members of the German Jamaat were very happy to hear this comment.

Different groups were then able to recite *taranay* (poems) and members of the Jamaat raised extremely passionate and emotional *naaray* (slogans) that reverberated across the hall and across the world through MTA.

Not wanting Huzoor to leave the hall they continued until finally Huzoor waved lovingly towards them and bid farewell.



### **Meetings with new Ahmadi converts**

Despite the Jalsa concluding, Huzoor's duties continued, as he held separate meetings with male and female new converts in Germany. During the meetings, the new converts were able to introduce themselves to Huzoor, seek his prayers and guidance and ask him questions.

As the first meeting with Lajna members concluded, an Arab lady approached Huzoor and said:

***“Huzoor, please pray for me. I am scared and I am worried because I think Allah the Almighty is angry with me.”***

Upon this, very affectionately, Huzoor responded and said:

***“Do not worry, Allah is with you but just keep praying to Him. Sometimes, we have to face trials and tribulations but Allah will always reward those***

***who remain patient. I want you to listen to my Lajna address and try your best to follow the points that I made and then, Insha'Allah, Allah will be pleased with you."***

During his meeting with male converts, a new Ahmadi from Syria became emotional and nervous as he spoke to Huzoor. In fact, he became so nervous that another convert, seated next to him, started to massage his shoulders to help him relax!

As he composed himself and started to speak, it became clear that his personal story was deeply upsetting. He told Huzoor how four of his family members had been killed during the Syrian war and how his mother was now living in a refugee camp. Huzoor prayed for him and his family.

Thereafter, a German convert introduced himself to Huzoor and asked about 'obedience'.

He asked:

***"Huzoor, we are told that being obedient is part of our faith. Are there any limits to obedience?"***

In reply, Huzoor said:

***"We must follow whatever ma'roof decision is made by the Khalifa of the time, which means all decisions that are according to the Sharia. In essence, to follow the teachings of the Holy Quran is obedience to Khilafat because the Khalifa cannot, and will not, ask his followers to do anything***

***that is against the Quran. This is what is meant by 'ma'roof' and what is meant by 'obedience'.***

Huzoor continued:

***"On one occasion, during the time of the Holy Prophet (sa), an expedition was sent out and one person was appointed as the Amir (leader) of the group. During their journey, he ordered the Muslims to jump into a fire however they refused to do so. Later, they informed the Holy Prophet (sa) and he said that they were correct to disobey the order because it was not in keeping with Islam's teachings and obedience in that instance would have been a great sin."***

A Greek Ahmadi, whose ancestors were Turkish, informed Huzoor that he had done *Bai'at* in April and asked Huzoor if he would sign his personal diary.

The new Ahmadi said:

***"Huzoor, please write your message in any language because I just need your blessings – it does not matter if I understand the words you write or not."***

In response, Huzoor took out a pen and wrote:

***"May Allah the Almighty enable you to remain firm in your faith and fulfil your pledge of Bai'at with true loyalty."***

The meeting concluded as a young Syrian teenage boy told Huzoor that he had accepted Ahmadiyyat earlier that day.

Very emotionally he sought Huzoor's prayers and with tears running down his face, he said:

***"We have faced great difficulties and suffering. During the war in our country, our town was bombed and our home was destroyed and so we were made homeless. We were able to find a car and lived in that. O my leader! Please pray for us."***

In reply, Huzoor said:

***"May Allah bless you and your family and keep you always safe. May Allah be with you."***

### **Return to Frankfurt**

Following the conclusion of the meetings, the members of Huzoor's Qafila gathered by the cars, whilst countless Ahmadis gathered near the main entrance to see Huzoor off.

A few moments later, Huzoor and Khala Saboohi (*Huzoor's respected wife*) came down from their residence and, after a silent prayer, the Qafila departed for the return journey to Baitus Sabuh, following the completion of the extremely blessed Jalsa Salana Germany. We arrived in Frankfurt later and after *Namaz* and dinner, we all returned to our rooms for rest.



## **A day of delegations**

During the past few years, it has become a tradition for Huzoor to meet various delegations the day after Jalsa Germany. The delegations, which consist of dignitaries, general guests and Ahmadis, come from different countries.

Thus, during the course of Monday 28 August, the majority of Huzoor's day was spent engaged in such meetings. The smaller groups met Huzoor in his office, whilst others met Huzoor in the Mosque or in the reception area outside his office.

## **Slovenia delegation**

The first meeting was with a small group who had come from Slovenia.

A non-Muslim guest asked about whether Muslims would abide by the laws in the countries they lived in or whether Islam permitted them to disobey the law of the land in certain circumstances.

In reply, Huzoor said:

***“Allah the Almighty has said that we must obey Allah, His Prophet (sa) and our other leaders. In this era, the latter category refers to following the laws of the land and being loyal to the Government of the day. Hence, Muslims must be loyal to the laws of the land, except if the laws seek to prevent them from observing the basic aspects of their religion.”***

Huzoor continued:

***“For example, in Pakistan, it is prohibited by law for Ahmadi Muslims to repeat the Kalima, to offer prayers or even to say salam. These are the basic elements of our religious obligations to Allah and so in this respect, we cannot follow the law. However, apart from this, in all other respects, Muslims are duty-bound to be fully law-abiding and loyal citizens of the land in which they reside. If the laws become too harsh or you cannot tolerate something you should still not show rebellion but should migrate to a different place where the conditions are more favourable.”***

Huzoor further said:

***“The fact we continue with our religious practices in Pakistan, even though the law tells us not to, is in accordance with the teachings of Islam. In the early period of Islam, the opponents tried to stop the Holy Prophet (sa) and his companions from worshipping Allah but they did not refrain from their duties to Allah.”***

Another guest said that she had read a quote of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih IV (rh) about religion being inextricably linked to morality.

Upon this the guest asked:

***“Does it mean that an atheist can never do anything that is moral or good?”***

In response, Huzoor said:

***“I do not say that atheists are immoral or have no good in them and this is not what was meant by the quote that you read. The true meaning is that we believe that it was the Prophets of God who taught and instilled a moral code within society. Before God sent His representatives, man remained primitive, uncivilised and were living like animals. Thus, we consider that morality was taught by the Prophets but it certainly does not mean that atheists are immoral or have no good in them.”***



Another guest from Slovenia asked:

***“Your Holiness, why does man need to believe in an afterlife to be good and moral in this life?”***

In reply, Huzoor said:

***“In today’s world, the threat of punishment is used to deter people from wrongdoing. For example, there are people who may be tempted to steal***

*or to do wrong but refrain because they fear punishment or being sent to jail. The same logic applies to our religious belief in the afterlife, whereby for the sake of our betterment, there are religious and spiritual laws and we believe that if man transgresses them, then there are consequences.”*

Huzoor continued:

*“Our fear of Allah is a fear based upon love, just like how a child does not wish to displease his mother, we do not wish to disappoint our Creator. On the other side, God Almighty is extremely merciful and fair and so those who do good, even if they do not believe in Him or in the afterlife, will be rewarded for their deeds.”*

### **Singapore, Malaysia and Kyrgyzstan delegations**

Following on from the first meeting, Huzoor held further meetings with delegations from Singapore, Malaysia and Kyrgyzstan.

An Ahmadi from Singapore requested Huzoor to visit their Jamaat again and said that all the Singapore Ahmadis were desperate for him to return.

In response, Huzoor said:

*“I really like Singapore and I would love to come back, Insha’Allah. It is a good place to visit and an opportunity for me to meet the Ahmadis from your Jamaat and the nearby Jamaats.”*

The delegation from Kyrgyzstan included a local Kyrgyz youth who was studying at Jamia Ahmadiyya in Ghana. Upon seeing him, Huzoor immediately recalled that the student had struggled with the food served at Jamia, as it was very different to the food he was used to.

Huzoor said:

***“When I heard about your problems with the food, I asked the Jamia administrators to ensure that you are given food according to your tastes. I hope it is now better.”***

The boy thanked Huzoor and informed that the food he was served was now more to his liking.

After asking about the current conditions for Ahmadis in Kyrgyzstan, Huzoor prayed that Allah removed all obstacles faced by the Jamaat.

Huzoor further said:

***“I ask all of you to also pray that the conditions improve so that one day I can visit you all in Kyrgyzstan.”***

### **Albania delegation**

Later in the morning, Huzoor held a meeting with a large delegation from Albania, which included representatives of the Albanian Government and other non-Muslim guests.

Also present was a non-Ahmadi Imam from Albania, who asked:

***“The Holy Prophet (sa) said that a sign of the advent of the Imam Mahdi was that the Day of Judgment would be near. As Ahmadis believe the Imam Mahdi has come does it mean that the Day of Judgment is near?”***

In response, Huzoor said:

***“Does anyone know when the Day of Judgment will come? Nobody knows. For example, it is said that the companions of the Holy Prophet (sa) were themselves ready for the Day of Judgment.***

***Furthermore, if the Imam Mahdi was only meant to come at the time of the Day of Judgment then would he reform the entire world in a few days? This is not logical or according to nature. Thus, when we interpret the sayings of the Holy Prophet (sa) we need to use wisdom and logic.”***

Huzoor continued:

***“It is also said that the Imam Mahdi will break the cross but if we take it literally does it mean that the Imam Mahdi will spend his life going door to door breaking crosses wherever they exist?***

***Thus, look at the deeper meaning. The correct interpretation is that the Imam Mahdi will come at a time when the Day of Judgment is drawing closer but it does not mean that it will come tomorrow or in the next few years.”***

Huzoor further said:

***“Muslims should look at the person who has claimed to be the Imam Mahdi and consider if there are signs that support his claim, rather than just wait for the Day of Judgment to arrive. We live in a rational world and so, as an Imam, you should also remember that people need rational answers that do not defy logic, otherwise no one will ever accept Islam in today’s world.”***

### **An affectionate moment**

As the questions continued, a little girl, perhaps four or five years old, wearing a blue frock escaped the clutches of her mother and suddenly ran from the back of the hall towards where Huzoor was seated.

As she approached, one of Huzoor’s security guards tried to gently divert her attention and guide her back to her mother but upon seeing her, Huzoor gestured affectionately towards her and so she came and sat at the feet of Huzoor.

For the next few minutes, Huzoor continued to answer the questions of the guests, whilst the young girl seemed extremely proud and overjoyed to be sitting next to Huzoor.

Throughout, the girl’s mother kept trying to beckon her daughter to come back but the girl ignored her mother’s pleas for a few minutes before returning to her. It was a very affectionate and memorable scene.

### **Kazakhstan delegation**

Thereafter, Huzoor met a delegation from Kazakhstan, which included two Kazakh boys, who were studying at Jamia Ahmadiyya Ghana.

Like their colleague from Kyrgyzstan, they too had struggled to adapt to the food served in Jamia. As he had done in the earlier meeting, Huzoor mentioned this issue.

Huzoor said:

***“I have asked for the Jamia administration to give food that is more suited to you and I know that in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan soup is popular and so I told them to prepare this for you.*”**

***Certainly, it is important for all Jamia students to eat well and to have a balanced and healthy diet. However, at the same time, you should remember that as a Missionary you should be ready to serve in all conditions and should not be overly particular or demanding.”***

Huzoor continued:

***“When I lived in Ghana, the conditions were much more severe and difficult than they are today and I had no option but to eat the local Ghanaian food, as at many times it was not possible to prepare Pakistani food.”***



Both the Jamia students spoke in Urdu and appreciating this, Huzoor said:

***“Masha’Allah the Jamia students from Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan are learning Urdu quickly and doing well.”***

Thereafter, Huzoor addressed the students directly and said:

***“You should come each year to meet me, either here in Germany or in the UK. If you come to the UK then I will be able to give you more time, Insha’Allah. In fact, you should come and spend a month with me each year.”***

Upon this, one of the Kazakh Jamia students said in Urdu:

***“Mein aap say bohat muhabbat karta hoon.”***

Meaning:

***“I love you very much”.***

As he said these words, the Jamia student became very visibly emotional and he kept biting his lip to try and control himself.

In response, Huzoor very lovingly said ***“Jazak’Allah”*** before giving rings to the two Jamia students and then giving the same gift to the other members of the delegation.

As the meeting ended, the boy who had expressed his love for Huzoor came forward and embraced Huzoor and, where he had just about controlled his emotions earlier, he could no longer do so and tears flowed from his eyes.

It was a very moving and emotional to see how the love of Khilafat had penetrated the hearts of the young boy and his fellow Jamia student. Despite being from a country where the Jamaat is small and faces opposition, it was clear that the love of Khilafat in the Ahmadi youth was exemplary.

### **Indonesia delegation**

Later in the morning, Huzoor met a delegation from Indonesia, including an Ahmadi man who had been a victim of persecution.



He told Huzoor that he was present when a mob attacked an Ahmadi Mosque in the village of Cikeusik in 2011 and that he himself had been severely injured.

He showed Huzoor a scar on his wrist and said that he nearly lost his hand but that during a seven-hour operation the doctors were able to save it and that ever since the doctors had been amazed by the speed of his recovery.

Upon this, Huzoor said:

***“Now your faith should be of an even higher standard given how Allah healed you and blessed you with such a miraculous recovery.”***

Thereafter, an Indonesian man said:

***“Huzoor, I have come to attend the Jalsa with my istri.”***

Hearing this, I was very confused! The word *istri* is used in Urdu for an ‘iron’ with which people press their clothes. Whilst, I was confused, Huzoor knew exactly what the Indonesian man meant.

Clarifying the meaning of *istri*, Huzoor said:

***“In Urdu, an istri is an iron but I know that in Indonesian istri means a wife! So, you have come with your wife, Masha’Allah!”***

Over the next twenty minutes, many Indonesian Ahmadis had the opportunity to speak to Huzoor and to seek his prayers.

Further, Huzoor called forward all the children in the delegation and gave them each a pen as a gift.

Upon this, the Indonesian adults also came forward and asked if they too could be blessed with a gift from Huzoor and graciously, Huzoor accepted their request.

### **Estonia, Portugal and Kosovo delegations**

The morning session continued as Huzoor held further meetings with delegations from Estonia, Portugal and Kosovo.

The Estonian group included an Arab lady who spoke with a mixture of excitement and emotion. She told how she had first attended the Jalsa Germany in 2016 and that after attending again she had now accepted Ahmadiyyat and taken *Bai'at*. She said her parents were in Palestine and so she asked Huzoor if she should tell them about her acceptance of Ahmadiyyat on the phone.

Upon this, Huzoor said:

***“It is better that when you next go to Palestine you should tell them calmly and explain to them your reasons. It is better to do it in person than on the phone if possible.”***

The group from Portugal included a dignitary who stood for the Presidency of Portugal at their previous election. Upon meeting Huzoor, he said:

***“Your Holiness, please come to Portugal and give your message of peace to the people of our nation because this is urgently required. Your***

***presence will help the integration of Muslims in Portugal and will help our nation, as you are the person who is showing Islam's true colours."***

In response, Huzoor said:

***"Yes, I look forward to when I can visit Portugal. The need of the hour is that we seek to remove the barriers that divide us, rather than erecting new ones."***

An African Ahmadi convert, originally from Guinea-Bissau, introduced himself and said:

***"Attending this Jalsa was the greatest experience of my life. I do not have the words to explain my emotions and only Allah knows the feelings of my heart whilst I have been here. In Guinea-Bissau, my brothers and a cousin were persecuted after they accepted Ahmadiyyat and today I feel as though Allah the Almighty has rewarded me for their sacrifice by granting me the honour of meeting you."***

A police officer from Portugal told Huzoor how impressed he was by the security at Jalsa and by the peaceful atmosphere throughout the event.

In response, Huzoor said:

***"The discipline you see at our Jalsa is due to the love Ahmadi Muslims have for their faith. We are able to self-police because we know that the real authority and real power is that of Allah the Almighty and He is All-Seeing and All-Knowing. Thus, we do not fear any man but we fear***

***displeasing our Creator and for this reason, Ahmadi Muslims abstain from wrongdoing.”***

Upon this, the Portuguese politician, who had spoken earlier, said:

***“This is the Islam that Europe needs to know of and not the other versions of Islam that people hear about!”***

The delegation from Kosovo included a Jamaat Missionary and two Jamaat Muallims (religious teachers). They informed Huzoor that the total *Tajneed* (number of Ahmadis) in Kosovo was around 130.

Upon this, Huzoor said:

***“As you have one Missionary and two muallims, the size of Kosovo Jamaat should have easily reached 500 by now. Further, each year the Tajneed should increase by 500 and once the Jamaat Tajneed reaches 2,000 it should double each year! Only then will I be satisfied that the Missionary and religious teachers are working well and fulfilling my hopes and expectations.”***

Thereafter, a Kosovan man said:

***“Huzoor, I did Bai’at two days ago and became an Ahmadi and it is impossible for me to explain my emotions to you. To be seated here before you is the single greatest honour of my life. Please pray for my father because he died without becoming an Ahmadi, even though he met you a few years ago.”***

In reply, Huzoor prayed:

***“May Allah have mercy upon him.”***

### **Women’s rights – an interesting discussion**

A few minutes later, Huzoor noticed that a non-Muslim Kosovan lady was seated at the back of the room and so Huzoor called her to the front and said that he hoped that nobody had forced her to sit at the back of the hall.

She replied that no-one had told her to sit at the back but she was grateful to come forward and speak to Huzoor.

The lady also informed Huzoor that she was a psychologist by profession and for the next 15 minutes, she engaged with Huzoor in a discussion about women’s rights in Islam.

The Kosovan lady said that everything she had heard at the Jalsa was good and she had especially liked Huzoor’s addresses.

However, she had not been comfortable with the segregation at Jalsa, with men and women having their own separate halls.

The Kosovan lady said:

***“I heard in your speech that there is equality between men and women but due to the segregation I did not see it in practice.”***

Without any hint of anger or irritation, Huzoor responded by asking:

***“Were our women or ladies oppressed or depressed?”***

The psychologist told Huzoor that she did not go to the ladies’ side and remained on the men’s side throughout Jalsa.

Hearing this, Huzoor said:

***“You should have observed both the men’s and women’s sides and spoken to both our men and women. Instead, you have reached a conclusion having only obtained half of the data and did not speak to the women who you think were treated unfairly.”***

Huzoor said that the psychologist should meet Ahmadi women during the remainder of her visit and was welcome to return in future years to analyse, in her capacity as a psychologist, whether there was equality or not.

The lady said she would be happy to do so, but qualified her statement by saying:

***“I cannot have full reassurance that there is equality until the men and women are mixed together.”***

As I heard her revert back to the same point, I thought of how free-mixing is so ingrained in the minds of Western people that they cannot even bear to think that there could be other systems or that equality could be based on something other than sitting together at every possible opportunity.



Thereafter, Huzoor explained the Islamic concept of equality between the sexes. He said that whilst women had been given the primary role of raising their children, all Ahmadi girls were encouraged to be fully educated and many were excelling not just in education but also in a professional environment.

The psychologist asked Huzoor about *Purdah* and said that she had been taught that eye contact was an essential part of communication and of integration.

In reply, Huzoor said:

***“No one is forced to become a Muslim, as Islam says that there should be no compulsion in matters of religion. However, if someone willingly and freely accepts Islam’s teachings, then they are duty-bound to follow the Quran and the Quran has said that it is better for men and women to lower their gazes. The nature of men is different to women and so to keep society and people safe it is better for there to be a certain distance.”***

It was clear that the psychologist continued to maintain her views but, as I write these words in December 2017, I do wonder if she will have paused to think about what Huzoor had said, given the widespread allegations of sexual abuse that have been reported in the Western world over the past few months.

It seemed as though the lady was set to respond again but, at the point where it seemed that a mutual discussion was potentially moving towards an unnecessary debate, Huzoor stood up and smiled.

After standing, Huzoor said:

***“I have more meetings to attend and now is the time for people to come forward if they wish to have a photo.”***

The way Huzoor handled the encounter was wonderful.

Throughout he remained entirely calm and responded with logic to the questions and criticisms made. Only when it became clear that the conversation had stopped moving forward and the same points were being repeated by the guest, Huzoor politely concluded the meeting.

Furthermore, when the psychologist came forward to have a photo, Huzoor said:

***“It was a very interesting discussion and I enjoyed it a lot. Thank you.”***

In reply, the lady said:

***“Thank you for giving me time and answering my questions in detail.”***

When the meeting ended, there was still some time until Zuhr and Asr prayers and I was surprised that the delegations had finished early. However, I soon realised that Huzoor also had some personal Mulaqats with Ahmadiis in his schedule which took place until Namaz.

Subsequently, Huzoor led a *Janaza* (funeral) prayer and after Zuhr and Asr announced the Nikah (marriage) of more than a dozen couples.

### Three new friends

During the lunch break, I met the three students of *Jamia Ahmadiyya International* in Ghana, who had met Huzoor earlier in the day.

They were *Dauren Yecshanov Dawood (25)* and *Aitzhan Seidilda (21)*, both from Kazakhstan and *Ashirali Ugli Giezbex (25)* from Kyrgyzstan. They were all converts to Ahmadiyyat.

I asked each of them about meeting Huzoor earlier in the day, as well as their experiences as converts and as students of *Jamia Ahmadiyya* in Ghana.

Ashirali from Kyrgyzstan said:

***“Before I accepted Ahmadiyyat in 2009, I was a Wahhabi Muslim and had studied in Syria. I am absolutely certain that accepting Ahmadiyyat has saved my life and the lives of my family members. Previously we were so lost in our Wahhabi ways and mindset that probably I would eventually have joined a terrorist group and quite possibly I would already be dead. But Allah saved me! When I went to Syria to study, I was with nine other friends and four of them have now been killed as members of the terrorist group Daesh. The others are still fighting and stuck in Syria.”***

Ashirali continued:

***“Undoubtedly, Ahmadiyyat has saved me physically from harm but even more importantly it has saved my life in spiritual terms. It has given me an understanding of my faith and enabled me to love it. It has given me***

***true Khilafat, where we have a leader who loves us like we are his son and we love him like he is our father. In the past, when I studied Islam, I had no understanding of my faith and was just a brainwashed youth but now my life has a real purpose and my heart longs to serve my faith forever.”***

It was amazing to hear how Ahmadiyyat had reformed and guided this young man. Rather than taking part in merciless slaughter and brutal atrocities like some of his contemporaries, he had embarked upon a path of serving humanity and spreading peace in the world.

Referring to his Mulaqat with Huzoor, Ashirali said:

***“I used to see Huzoor on MTA and I was a little afraid because in his sermons he appeared very serious and I could see his great authority and status. After seeing him today, my respect for Khilafat has increased even more but at the same time, any fear I had has been replaced by love. With every second that passed and every glance that he gave in my direction, I could feel the love in my heart for Huzoor increasing.”***

Ashirali continued:

***“We are nothing, but from nothing our Khalifa wants to make us into something. His method is love and his love is more powerful than all the weapons in the world. His love and compassion can transform the world and I believe that we are proof of this, as his love has transformed our lives forever.”***

Dawood from Kazakhstan also told me about meeting Huoor. He said:

***“Today was the most emotional day of my life because I love Huoor so, so much. I have seen him in my dreams many times whilst studying at Jamia in Ghana and today those dreams were all fulfilled. I spoke in Urdu and Huoor complimented it and appreciated it and I was so happy! I was even able to hug Huoor and this was another dream of mine that I was able to fulfil.”***

The third student Aitzhan from Kazakhstan was also the youngest amongst the group.

Very passionately, Aitzhan said:

***“I have enrolled in Jamia Ahmadiyya for one reason because I want to spread Islam Ahmadiyyat in my part of the world. I want to be a spiritual soldier of Khalifatul Masih. Seeing Huoor today has reinforced my determination because I could feel his aura and at the same time, I felt my own heart pumping faster than I could ever recall before. I swear, for the sake of Khalifat, I am ready for any hardship or challenge. I will stand by my Khalifa no matter what.”***

As our conversation drew to a close, Dawood from Kazakhstan said:

***“The last thing I wish to say is Inni Maaka ya Masroor – we three are with you and will always be with you. Huoor, we are the soldiers who will be by the side of Khalifatul Masih forevermore as you spread peace in the world. We obey! We obey! We obey!”***

It has been wonderful for me to spend time with the three young men from Central Asia and to hear their stories and their love for Khilafat. Seeing their spirit and their love for the Jamaat was a true inspiration.

### **Hungary and Bosnia delegations**

After a break for lunch, Huzoor's meetings resumed as he met with groups from Hungary and Bosnia.

A female guest from Hungary introduced herself to Huzoor and said:

***"Your Holiness, I came especially from Hungary to listen to your speeches but unfortunately I became unwell. Nonetheless, the spirit I saw has won my heart because the way I was cared for by the Ahmadis was unforgettable. They cared for me as though I was a close family member and this spirit of love will stay with me forever."***

The same guest also said:

***"In Hungary, the Ahmadis gave disabled children toys at Christmas and it had a very positive effect and countered a lot of the negative stereotypes about Islam."***

In response, Huzoor said:

***"I am glad the Jamaat arranged this and they should do so again in future years."***

A lady from the Bosnian delegation told Huzoor that she had a three month old infant child and that whilst he slept he often smiled. She said that some people told her that he was smiling to the angels and asked if this was true.



In response, very beautifully, Huzoor said:

***“Infant children are themselves like angels and are completely innocent and pure. They sometimes have dreams and this causes them to smile.”***

Another lady, who was from Serbia, said:

***“During the Bosnian War I became acquainted with the Jamaat and did Bai’at and so I request Huzoor to especially pray that our Jamaat spreads in Serbia. My husband is actually working in Germany but please pray that he does not get a visa anymore so that he can perform service for the Jamaat in Serbia!”***

Upon hearing this unique prayer request, Huzoor laughed out loud and enjoyed her comment.

Thereafter, Huzoor lovingly expressed his appreciation at the spirit of the Ahmadi lady.

Huzoor said:

***“Masha’Allah, this is the standard of faith of women that we need in our Jamaat. It is clear that you have no interest in material pursuits and your focus is religion and to do Tabligh so that the Jamaat can spread further afield. As long as we have such mothers and wives in our Jamaat as this lady then our Jamaat will Insha’Allah continue to progress.”***

Huzoor continued:

***“As for your husband and his visa, I pray that whatever is most blessed for all occurs.”***

### **Macedonia, Bulgaria, Italy and Burkina Faso delegations**

The next delegations to meet Huzoor were from Macedonia, Bulgaria, Italy and Burkina Faso.

The group included a non-Muslim, Macedonian lady who asked:

***“Your Holiness, what is the most important aspect of Islam for you personally?”***



In reply, Huzoor said:

***“It is that a Muslim should try to develop a link with His Creator and the way to do this is by offering the five daily prayers. If a person has this link with Allah then he or she will be a good Muslim.”***

Another Macedonian lady narrated her experiences of Jalsa before asking Huzoor a familiar question. She said:

***“During the Jalsa, I went to the ladies’ side and I saw that the women were doing duties just as the men were and they were free and I felt they were equal.”***

The lady continued:

***“On the other hand, can there be true equality when Islam says that the primary role of a woman is to look after children and the home?”***

In reply, Huzoor said:

***“I have explained at the Jalsa about the concept of different roles for men and women and that this does not preclude equality.”***

Huzoor then smiled and said:

***“Did you know that at the Jalsa it was the men who were cooking for the women! Thus, the women were able to enjoy, whilst the men were cooking the food!”***

During the meeting with guests from Bulgaria, an elderly Bulgarian lady addressed Huzoor and said:

***“Your Holiness, I was very impressed by the etiquettes and morals I witnessed amongst the participants of Jalsa Salana. The spirit of love amongst the participants has had a deep impact upon me. You could not tell if someone was rich or poor because here they all seemed equal and everyone had a smile on their face no matter what.”***

In reply, Huzoor said:

***“This is true Islam.”***

During his meeting with the delegation from Burkina Faso, Huzoor asked about a member of the Jamaat in Burkina Faso who had recently left Ahmadiyyat.

The Jamaat’s Missionary informed Huzoor that there were indications that the individual now felt regret at his decision but was hesitant to come back due to personal pride.

Upon this, Huzoor said:

***“You should tell him to pray sincerely that Allah the Almighty guides him to the right path and that he should not let pride or ego stand in his way if he wants to come back to the Jamaat.”***

Thereafter, Huzoor said:

***“With the Grace of Allah, the Burkina Faso Jamaat is a very sincere Jamaat and in terms of loyalty to Khilafat, I think it is one of the best African Jamaats. I pray that this spirit never lessens but always continues to increase.”***

It was an example of Huzoor’s love and consideration. Whilst the delegation may have felt regret that Huzoor had noted that a person had left the Jamaat, Huzoor made it clear to them that he considered their standards of sincerity and love for the Jamaat to be an example to others.

### **A miscalculation**

As the meeting continued, the head of the delegation informed Huzoor that they hoped to build more Jamaat schools in Burkina Faso. Huzoor encouraged them and said they should particularly focus on building primary schools in villages so that the local African children could learn to read and write.

As the discussion continued, Huzoor started to assess the costs involved of building new schools. Upon this, Huzoor suddenly looked in my direction and told me to calculate a figure on my phone’s calculator.

I have to admit that for the previous few seconds, my mind had wandered and I had zoned out and so I was unsure what figures Huzoor wanted me to calculate!

In my panic, I convinced myself that Huzoor had said certain figures and so I typed them into the calculator, hoping and praying I had not misheard.

Having done so, I said:

***“Huzoor, the figure is around 8,000.”***

Upon this, Huzoor looked towards me and said:

***“That is not possible!”***

I felt instantly embarrassed as I received confirmation that I had mistyped the numbers into my calculator! I felt even more embarrassment when I realised I was not even close, as Huzoor worked out the actual figure in his head and the result was more than 29 million! So, I was just 28 million, nine hundred and ninety-two thousand off!

Upon this, Huzoor looked at me and said:

***“Abid, even with a calculator you cannot do maths!”***

Whilst I still felt regret at the fact that I had zoned out and misheard, Huzoor made me feel better a few minutes later when the meeting concluded.

With a smile, Huzoor said:

***“Perhaps you should start wearing bright rayshmee clothes like the African man in the last delegation!”***

Huzoor then started to laugh. I did not know what *rayshmee* meant but I had seen the bright luminous coloured shirt and had a strong premonition it would not suit me! Thus, I hoped Huzoor was joking!

When I later found out the meaning of *rayshmee*, I realised that, thankfully, Huzoor was joking, as *rayshmee* is a silk. Even though Islam does not permit men to wear silk, I found out that culturally it was very common, even now, for African men to wear silk.

As the long day drew to a conclusion, I felt extremely fortunate and blessed to have attended Huzoor's meetings. In each one, I learned a great deal from Huzoor's words and his advice to different people from so many different cultures and ethnicities. Similarly, I had been witness to the joyous emotions of countless people overcome with happiness at having the opportunity to meet Khalifatul Masih.

### **Attention to detail**

There remained a few minutes until Namaz and so Huzoor graciously called Qudus Malik, who is the *President of the Qaza (Arbitration) Board* in USA Jamaat, to his office.

Knowing that Qudus and I are friends, Huzoor graciously also called me at the same time.

During the meeting, Qudus had the opportunity to ask Huzoor about how best to fulfil his Qaza duties.

In response, Huzoor said:

***“Always remember that body language is very important. For example, if there is a divorce case, if the man makes a good point you might naturally tend to nod but due to Purdah, if the woman makes a good point you would probably not gesture to acknowledge. As a result, the woman may think that you are biased and are favouring the man.”***

Huzoor continued:

***“Thus, at all times when dealing with cases, your body language should remain entirely neutral. If someone makes a persuasive point you should note it in your mind but it should not be outwardly apparent that you agree. Similarly, if someone has a weak argument you should not gesture dismissively.”***

Huzoor further said:

***“Before Khilafat, I also served as a Qazi (Arbiter) and I used to make sure that I never made any expression that could be interpreted as a sign of favouritism. Of course, when people are presenting their cases there are some points you might agree with but you should not outwardly show it. Thereafter, your judgment must be reached fairly and objectively based upon the evidence.”***

I studied law and legal practice for several years, yet never did I receive such analytical and incisive guidance as Huzoor gave to Qudus.

In our law courses, we were always told to uphold the law and to be fair but never were we taught to control our facial expressions or gestures.

Yet, Huzoor, without any formal legal training, understood that even the slightest element of impropriety or favouritism could undermine and diminish any legal system.

I truly believe it to be a sign of the truth of Khilafat how Allah guides the Khalifa so that in all fields, Huzoor is able to offer insight and expertise.

Following *Namaz* and dinner, I returned to my room to pack my suitcase as we would be returning to London the next day. It had been a very faith-inspiring final day of what had proven to be an extremely blessed tour.

### **Return journey to London**

The following morning, 29 August 2017, the Qafila departed from Baitus Sabuh for the return journey back to London at exactly 10am, after Huzoor led a silent prayer.

As always, many local Ahmadis had come to see Huzoor off and waved until his car was out of sight.

At 11.20am, the Qafila stopped briefly at a service station and most people remained in their cars. However, Huzoor came out of his car and called me towards him, whilst he stood outside the entrance to the service station for a few minutes.

I took the opportunity to mention some of my favourite moments from the previous day's meetings. Huzoor very kindly listened and gave his own comments as well.

It was only three or four minutes, but those moments were personally some of the most enjoyable moments of the tour for me, as Huzoor seemed relaxed and pleased that the tour had proceeded smoothly and proven very blessed.

After the short break, the journey continued for a few more hours until we stopped for *Namaz* and lunch at the *Baitus Salam Mosque* in Brussels.

Though, the time was limited, Huzoor still met all of the local Ahmadis, including some new converts and distributed chocolates to the local Ahmadi children.

It was extremely hot outside and so I spent most of the break in a small room that was relatively cool. It was a room where there were several monitors from which *CCTV* footage at the Mosque could be observed. At one point, a local Ahmadi entered and thought I was on duty keeping an eye on the security footage!

Before departing from the Mosque, Huzoor also commented on the heat.

Speaking to the local Missionary, Huzoor said:

***"The heat is such that I feel like I am back in Africa!"***



After the afternoon break, the Qafila continued its journey and reached Calais at 5.15pm but due to heavy traffic at the terminal, we were unable to board the *Eurotunnel* train until 6.55pm.

The journey across the *Channel* took just over 35minutes and due to the one-hour time difference we exited the Eurotunnel at 6.30pm UK time.

Upon arriving back in the UK, the Qafila proceeded directly to the *Fazl Mosque* where Huzoor was greeted by hundreds of Ahmadis.

In those final moments of the tour, I remember thinking that after an extremely hectic few months, in which Huzoor had graced the *UK Peace Symposium*, travelled to Germany, followed by *Ramadan* and then the *UK Jalsa* and *Germany Jalsa*, perhaps Huzoor's schedule would now prove relatively lighter for a few weeks at least.

In the coming days, I realised I was wrong in this assumption!

Just a few days later was *Eid ul Adha* and then during the month of September, *Majlis Khuddamul Ahmadiyya UK* and *Lajna Imaillah UK* both had their *National Ijtemas* which Huzoor graced with his presence and delivered concluding address.

### **An extra day**

In one sense, the Germany tour still had one more day to run for me personally.

Huzoor was so busy in Germany that I had less opportunities to meet him than in some previous tours.

Thus, most kindly the day after our return, when I attended Huzoor's office for *Mulaqat*, Huzoor permitted me to stay in his blessed company for over ninety minutes.

During this time, Huzoor asked me about my experiences on the tour and the people who I had met.

I informed Huzoor how an Ahmadi in Germany had told me that the Jamaat institutions in Rabwah and the training that *Khuddamul Ahmadiyya* in Pakistan gave was still superior to the Jamaats in the West. I asked Huzoor if he considered this to be an accurate comment.

In reply, Huzoor said:

***“It is true that the training that people get in Rabwah is of a good standard but the most important thing is to actually act upon such training and always striving to improve yourself. Otherwise, there is no benefit to all the training in the world.***

***In terms of the Jamaat institutions in Pakistan, they are well-established and have good manpower but ultimately the decisions are made by the Khalifa-Waqt just as they are for all other Jamaats. It is not as though Rabwah has an exemption in this!”***

Further, Huzoor asked me what my wife Mala had cooked for me upon my return from Germany.

I informed Huzoor that she had prepared a pasta dish and that I was glad because I had eaten *aloo ghosht* (lamb and potato curry) or something similar almost every day during the Germany tour and so enjoyed the change.

Hearing this, Huzoor said:

***“I could eat aloo ghosht every single day of my life but not pasta even for a single day! Then again you are English and I am Pakistani!”***

Upon this I laughed and Huzoor also laughed.

I knew Huzoor liked *aloo ghosht* but I did not realise how much until then. Similarly, I had a feeling Huzoor was not keen on pasta and his comment confirmed it.

Throughout the Mulaqat, Huzoor continued to check his office mail and personal letters from Ahmadis. As he had been away, the number of files on Huzoor’s desk was more than normal and he went through each of them one by one.

As he continued to go through the files, Huzoor’s pen with which he was writing instructions on the different letters, ran out of ink.

Upon this, very carefully Huzoor refilled the ink in his fountain pen himself and told me that he liked using that pen because it was easy to sign his name with.

Very kindly, Huzoor took a piece of paper and then demonstrated his point by signing his name in both English and Urdu. *Masha'Allah* the signature was very clear and beautiful and I asked Huzoor if I could keep the paper.

Huzoor said I could and I now keep that paper in my work file and it always reminds me of those blessed moments in Huzoor's company.

As I left his office at the conclusion of my *Mulaqat*, Huzoor said:

***“Over the next few weeks there are going to be Ijtemas of the auxiliary organisations here in the UK and the speeches I give at the Khuddam and Lajna Ijtemas are in English.”***

I was very happy to hear this, as it meant that Huzoor might call me in advance of the Ijtemas to give dictation for his addresses.

That personal time with Huzoor was extremely precious.

### **An emotional comment**

Whilst the Germany tour was relatively short – just ten days – yet each day and each hour had proven blessed.

Huzoor had inaugurated a new Mosque in Giessen; he had given several interviews to German media; he had met hundreds of Ahmadi families in Mulaqat; he had met delegations from dozens of countries and organisations consisting Ahmadis and non-Ahmadis and above all he had delivered extremely faith inspiring and emotional addresses at the Jalsa Salana.

Our Khalifa continues to guide us at every step and continues to sacrifice every possible moment for our sake and for our betterment.

He continues to discharge the great weight of duties placed upon him by Allah the Almighty and all the while remains the most humble servant of Allah in the world today.

Huzoor's humility is something that I see and feel every single day.

For example, after I published *part 1* of this Germany diary someone wrote to me about an incident in which I had quoted a Jamaat Missionary testifying to Huzoor's humility even before Khilafat.

The person who wrote to me said:

***"The more I learn about Huzoor's life before Khilafat, the more I understand why Allah chose Huzoor as Khalifatul Masih."***

I mentioned this comment to Huzoor a few days ago and he immediately stopped his work and looked up at me.

In response, Huoor said:

***“Acha? Mujay tu abb taq samajh nahin aye.”***

Meaning:

***“Really? I still do not understand why (Allah chose me).”***

As Huoor said these words, the look of purity, sincerity, humility was utterly blinding so that I had to look down immediately.

May Allah the Almighty grant Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V (aba) a long and healthy life and enable Ahmadi Muslims to remain forever obedient to Khilafat. *Ameen.*

### **End of Part 2**

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