



Ahmadiyya Anjuman Isha'at Islam Lahore

April, 99 Bulletin

Dar-us-Salaam, 15 Stanley Avenue, Wembley, UK, HA0 4JQ

April 99 Meeting

Assalamu alaikum

Venue: Dar-us-Salaam

Date: Sunday, 4th February 99

Time: 3 p.m.

Topic: Spirit of sacrifice

Announcements

'Id al Adha

'Id al Adha will be celebrated on Sunday 28th March 1999. Prayers will start at 11 a.m. sharp. Lunch will be served.

REMEMBER CLOCKS GO FORWARD THE PREVIOUS NIGHT.

Special appeal

In the last Bulletin a special appeal was made for donations to pay off the interest free loan secured to purchase 17D Stanley Avenue, Wembley. 100 members were asked to make a special donation of £200 for this purpose. **It has been pointed out that for one off donation of £250, the jamaat will be able to reclaim Tax of approximately £57.**

do it now!

Fill in and return the deed of covenant for your existing subscription.

Fill in a new standing order increasing your subscription and another deed of covenant for the new

The spirit of sacrifice

The following is almost the complete text of a letter I received shortly after the last Bulletin in which I made an appeal for funds.

"In accordance with the Special Bulletin of March 99 AAI Lahore (UK) has purchased another flat. Felicitations to us all!"

1: On your appeal I am sending £200.00 in the form of postal orders.

2: I am increasing my monthly subscription from March 1999."

I have left out the writer's name because I am sure he would not want publicity. I have given the text of the letter because, even without mentioning his name, I want to tell you some thing about this person.

He joined our jamaat many years ago and regularly attended our meetings at Dar-us-Salaam. He then fell very ill and because there was no one to look after him in London, he went up North where he had some close relations. When his relations discovered that he had become an Ahmadi they threw him out on to the street despite the fact that he was very ill. He then spent many months in hospital, no one ever caring enough to visit him. The jamaat lost touch with him and (may Allah forgive me for the sin of mistrust) I thought that having used the jamaat this person had disappeared.

Then one day the phone rang out of the blue and our dear brother explained his situation. He **apologised** for not paying his subscription for so many

months and for not contacting the jamaat.

He then paid his full subscription despite the fact that he had been very ill and he was in receipt of government benefits and support. I know that he is still very ill and cannot work. I know that he is still receiving government help (and we all know how little that is). From the allowance given to him he had made meagre saving for emergencies. **He donated these savings so that the jamaat's property may become loan free.**

WHAT A WONDERFUL SPIRIT OF SACRIFICE HAS OUR BROTHER SHOWN! He has neglected his own needs. He has perhaps put himself in a position where he may have to suffer because he cannot purchase some necessity of life. Despite all of this he has put the jamaat's needs before his own. I can only wish and pray that I, too, had the same spirit of selfless sacrifice that this brother has shown. Words that can praise such generosity, when you give away for the sake of Allah what little you have, do not exist.

Another member, also receiving government allowance to survive, promised to pay £200.00. I know that he has no savings and no assets and at times he has had to borrow money from people just to survive.

Of course, others have said that they will contribute and **will bequeath something to the jamaat in their wills.** There are those who sacrificed their time and labour such as Hameed Chaudry, Khalid Iqbal, Mahpara Iqbal, Mrs A Anwar, Zaman Shaw, Mushtaq Ahmad Khan, Sher Afghan Baig and Rahmat Ali; all of whom helped in the

repairs and decoration of the new property. Their sacrifice helped the jamaat save a considerable amount of money. I was so moved by the example of our two brothers who, despite having nothing at all, donated the same amount as others that I wanted to share it with you. I wanted you to see that, even in this day and age, there are still people in this jamaat who put jamaat's needs before their own. For so long as we have such members, we need not fear for the future of the jamaat. I pray to Allah to make the sacrifices of our members a glowing example, not only for our own jamaat, but also for the *ummah* (muslim community) in general.

It was some fifteen hundred years ago when *Hazrat Abu Bakr Sadiq* set this example for us. Once when Muslims were about to be attacked by the people of Makkah, the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) made an appeal for funds. *Hazrat Usman* (may Allah be pleased with him) brought his donation. The Holy Prophet asked *Hazrat Usman* whether he had left anything behind for his family. *Hazrat Usman* replied that he had brought a quarter of all that he owned and left the remainder for his family. On hearing this, the Holy Prophet prayed for *Hazrat Usman*. Then *Hazrat Umar* (may Allah be pleased with him) arrived. In all previous appeals by the Holy Prophet *Hazrat Abu Bakr* had made greater sacrifices than *Hazrat Umar*. This time, *Hazrat Umar* was determined to make a greater sacrifice than *Hazrat Abu Bakr*. The Holy Prophet asked *Hazrat Umar* whether he had left something behind for his family. *Hazrat Umar* replied that he had brought half his belongings for the community and left half behind for his family. On hearing this, the Holy Prophet prayed for *Hazrat Umar*.

While this was going on *Hazrat Abu Bakr* arrived with his contribution. In reply to the Holy Prophet's question about how much he had left behind for his family; *Hazrat Abu Bakr* replied: "Surely the remembrance of Allah and the name of His prophet

are sufficient." Upon hearing these words, *Hazrat Umar* fell to the ground and wept saying: "O Abu Bakr, how shall I compete with you in goodness."

So you can see that there was competition even amongst the companions of the Holy Prophet Muhammad. But it was a competition to see who excelled in goodness. It was a competition to see who made greater sacrifices for the sake of Allah. It was a competition to seek His nearness and the pleasure of His prophet. It was not a competition to see who had the most beautiful wife or daughter, who had the biggest house, who possessed silks and finery etc.

The greatness of these men and women lay in the fact that though they lived in this world, its riches and comforts did not tempt them. They were few in numbers but lack of numerical strength never caused them to doubt that they were on the right path and that they will succeed. They lacked material resources to defend themselves but their faith in Allah meant that this did not worry them.

At the time of the battle of Badr there were just over three hundred men, women and children who went out to defend Medina. They faced one thousand well armed men who also had cavalry. Men and boys fought. Women and girls carried the wounded to safety and looked after them. They also gathered up fallen swords, shields, spears and arrows etc. At the end of the day that small band of Muslims stood victorious. At the time of Uhud, Muslims were again outnumbered three to one. The enemy fell upon the position of the Holy Prophet Muhammad to try and eliminate him. First, the standard-bearer was attacked. The idea was that when the Standard falls Muslims will think that the Holy Prophet has laid down his life in the way of Allah and turn and flee. When the standard-bearer's right arm was cut off he took up the Standard in his left hand. When his left hand was cut off, he held the Standard between his knees keeping it upright with his body. "The Standard of Islam will

not fall until I have a single drop of blood in my body.", he kept shouting. And he was true to his word.

These examples are the standard by which we have to measure the sacrifices we make. These examples also give the measure of sincerity and the spirit in which you have to make these sacrifices.

This is what we celebrate on the day of *'Id al Adha*. The sacrifice the prophet Ibrahim made, or attempted to make, on Allah's Command. Commanded to sacrifice that which he held most precious, *Hazrat Ibrahim* immediately went to his son, *Hazrat Ismael*, and told him what Allah had commanded. What a wonderful son was it who replied that *Hazrat Ibrahim* will find him just as obedient to Allah. What a wonderful wife and mother was *Hazrat Hajra* that she did not protest at the impending slaughter of *Hazrat Ismael*, her only son.

When you find yourself thinking about the loss you will suffer if you make a sacrifice in the cause of Allah, think also of these people. They too were human. If they had enough faith in Allah in their hearts to make these sacrifices, why can we not do so?

Sacrifice does not just mean the sacrifice of money and time. As *Hazrat Ibrahim's* example shows, it also means a sacrifice of our desires. There will be times when you will find that a brother has been unjust to you. You will want that person to apologise to you. There will be times when someone's actions may hurt you. You will want revenge. If at these times you sacrifice your right to an apology or to vengeance then you are on the path to becoming a good Muslim. When we learn to forgive those who wrong us then we will start to build an *ummah* which will be the envy of the world.

We, the Ahmadi Muslims, have a special responsibility in this regard. We accepted *Hazrat Miraz Ghulam Ahmad* as the Messiah who was to establish again the glory of Islam. He instructed us to make ever greater sacrifices for its cause. Arise my