Lahore Ahmadiyya Convention, 1981

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Ameer-i-Qaum, Hazrat Dr. Saeed Ahmad Khan Sahib, addressing the Opening Session of the 67th Annual Gathering of Ahmadiyya Anjuman Isha'at-i-Islam, Lahore on 25th December, 1981 at Darus Salam, Lahore, Pakistan.
DAR-US-SALAM,
5, Usman Block, New Garden Town,
Lahore-16
30th January, 1982

My dear brother/sister in Islam,

Assalâmu alaikum wa Rahmat Ullâh wa Barakatuh!

This is to wish you, and through you all our brothers and sisters in Islam and members of our Jama'at in your country, a very happy and prosperous New Year. We pray to Allah that He may grant you a long and purposeful life and continue to shower His blessings and countless bounties on all of us. Ameer!

The following pages present a brief report of the 67th Annual Congregation of the Ahmadiyya Anjuman Isha'at-i-Islam, Lahore, which was held from 24th to 27th December, 1981. A new leaf in the life and history of our small community had been turned a month earlier, in the sad demise of our revered Ameer Hazrat Maulana Sadr-ud-Din Sahib, and his succession by Hazrat Dr. Saeed Ahmad Khan Sahib. As you are already aware, the late Ameer passed away on the 15th of November, and the new Ameer was unanimously elected on the 20th November. This was a great event for our Jama'at, but it came about so smoothly and spontaneously, as if this replacement was anticipated by every mind and all eyes automatically turned towards Hazrat Doctor Sahib, and none thought of any other person to be better suited for this onerous and honourable office. The General Council of the Anjuman unanimously elected him as the Ameer and head of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Community and President of the Ahmadiyya Anjuman Isha'at-i-Islam Lahore, and this decision was again unanimously confirmed by the Ahmadiyya Conference the same day.

The present Jalsa was the second Jalsa of the fifteenth century of the Muslim era. Last year we had the biggest ever number (50) of delegates from our Jama'ats in foreign countries and many useful decisions were made on 29-12-80 in a joint meeting of the Anjuman's Executive Committee and the
representatives of our foreign branches. A brief account of the implementation of some of these decisions was presented to the audience of this Jalsa by way of report and as an expression of thanks to the Almighty, Who had all along helped this small band of workers in His cause and blessed their efforts.

The main objective of this Anjuman, as you all know, is the propagation of Islam and translating the Holy Quran into various languages of the world. This was declared as the Jehad of this age by the Founder of the Ahmadiyya Movement. By the close of the fourteenth century Hijra, this Anjuman had translated and published many editions of the translations of the Holy Quran into Urdu, English, German, Dutch, Javanese and the Indonesian languages; and had also translated though not published the Sindhi, Bengali and Tamil translations. The Anjuman had decided in the beginning of the year 1981 to translate the Holy Quran into other three languages of the world and to publish these translations in five years’ time. Accordingly, it was decided to translate the Holy Quran into the Spanish, French, and the Japanese languages, and the work on Spanish translation which was taken in hand in March 1981, was nearing completion.

The present head of our Jama'at, Hazrat Dr. Saeed Ahmad Khan, who made a tour of Europe and America from June to August, 1981, had visited almost every place where a mission or a branch of this Anjuman existed or where even a single Ahmadedee family lived. But the main purpose of his tour in the U.S.A. was to interview University professors, scholars and linguists with a view to selecting suitable persons to whom the translation work could be entrusted. A worthy member of our Jama'at, Dr. N. I. Malik, of Columbus (Ohio), who is keenly interested in spreading the Quran all over the world, had done the entire spade work and arranged these meetings between Hazrat Doctor Sahib and the various scholars. He was further inspired by the visit of our President, and he also donated $50,000 towards the Quran Translation Fund. May Allah bless him for his munificence and religious zeal.

The 'Id-ul-Fitr of 1981 was celebrated on the first of August in San Francisco, where members of our Jama'at from all over the United States were invited to assemble to celebrate this
festival with the California Jama'at and under the leadership of Hazrat Dr. Saeed Ahmad Khan. It was a gathering of more than 100 people including many Ahmadi families and some non-Muslim guests who joined as observers. The worthy Doctor Sahib explained at length the significance of Taqwa, which was the underlying object of the institution of Fasting in Islam. "Fasting tames the animal within man, just as denial of food and drink tames the animal in a circus", said he, and added that "once a correct balance is established, inner conflicts cease and man is at peace with himself. Islam teaches how subtle balancing may be achieved." The religious service was followed by a grand Eid feast which was prepared by the ladies of the group. A detailed account of this function was published in the "Newark Times" and the weekly "Observer", two local Journals.

A meeting of the Jama'at was also held in the evening in which Hazrat Doctor Sahib exhorted the members to do their best for the propagation of Islam and for widening and strengthening their brotherhood. He also made an appeal for donating funds for the establishment of a suitable centre in London, and the gathering responded in a befitting manner. A sum of $40,000/- was collected, which included a donation of $20,000/- from Dr. N. I. Malik. May Allah reward him and the rest of our brothers and sisters.

Prior to his visit to the United States, the worthy Doctor Sahib, accompanied by Begum and Mian Fazl-i-Ahmad, Begum and Chaudhry Fazle Haq, and Syed Sultan Ali Shah, prominent members of the Lahore Jamaat, had visited Holland, Germany and the United Kingdom. A week's busy programme in Holland included opening ceremonies of a newly-built Mosque and Community Centre, four prominent gatherings in the various branches in the Nederland—, an expression of great religious zeal and sincerity of purpose by our brothers and sisters in Holland. Hazrat Doctor Sahib spent four days in Berlin and a fortnight in England before he left for the States on July 1, 81.

The most important feature of our Annual Gathering is the spiritual tempo that pervades the atmosphere during these four days and nights, and the devotion and sincerity of purpose
which the members exhibit in spending good deal of money, bearing discomforts of travelling in severe cold weather, and sitting the whole day long and even late into the evening listening to religious discourses with rapt attention. Not only during the five daily prayers, but also during Tahajjud, which was a regular feature during these days, the cries of devout worshippers seemed to be ascending the heavens to beseech Divine mercy. The supplications of the Imam and the congregation in the morning prayers included prayers for the material, moral and spiritual welfare of all members of our Jama'at, and for the glory of Islam and its ultimate triumph over all other religions. The "Dars-i-Qur'an", after the morning prayer, enriched the people with moral and spiritual truths of the Holy Book, and the thought-provoking and inspiring speeches made by various learned speakers further invigorated the spirit and faith of the audience.

The Ladies Session

The first day of the Congregation is always devoted to the Ladies Session exclusively. It was a very well-attended session and the audience was bigger than in the previous Jalsas. A few ladies had also arrived from the U.K., Holland and the Fiji Islands particularly to participate in this Jalsa. This meeting was held in two sessions. The first session was presided over by Mrs. Pearl G.N. Dean of Fiji Islands, and the second by Mrs. Khurshid Raja of Sialkot. Eminent ladies including Mrs. N.A. Faruqui, Mrs. J. N. Rabb, Mrs. Muhammad Ahmad, Mrs. Sabeeha Saeed, and Mrs. Razia Madad Ali made thought-provoking and invigorating speeches and young girls read poems and recited the Holy Qur'an. A symposium was held on the significance of the Ahmadiyya Movement, and the ladies also got together in a third session to know each other.

A permanent special feature of the ladies Annual Gathering is an Exhibition of handicrafts, which is arranged every year for the last half a century. The basic idea of this healthy activity is that our women-folk should spare throughout the year a few moments out of their daily routine of work for the sake of their Religion and spend this time in knitting, stitching, and embroidering and making beautiful articles of daily use,
which are sold during the Jalsa in the form of an exhibition and the proceeds are donated to the funds of the Anjuman for the propagation of Islam. Young ladies and house-wives also arrange tea-stalls, and sell candy, fruits and other eatables on the day of Ladies Jalsa, and the income thus acquired is also diverted to the Anjuman’s funds. The ladies were thus able to offer Rs. 39, 742/- as the total income of their activities. 

The Men’s Gathering

The men’s Jalsa began on Friday the 25th December, 1981 and was opened by Hazrat Ameer Dr. Saeed Ahmad Khan Sahib, who welcomed the participants, thanked them for the trouble they had taken and invoked Divine blessings for their material and spiritual advancement and for the triumph of Islam and the solidarity of our Jama’at. This day being the birth anniversary of the Father of the Nation, prayers were also held for the strength and glory of Pakistan and for blessing the soul of Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

The first sitting was held under the Chairmanship of Col. Hanif Akhtar Malhi, and illuminating speeches were made on the following topics: (i) Extracts from the writings of the Mujaddid of the fourteenth century were read by Mr. Zahid Janjua. (ii) “We are Muslims by the grace of God”, a speech by Mirza Muhammad Lateef, in which he proved that all the requirements of Islam were fulfilled by members of our Jama’at. (iii) “In memory of Hazrat Maulana Sadr-ud-Din”, the writer of this report gave an account of the life-story and achievements of our late Ameer Maulana Sadr-ud-Din Sahib, and (iv) “How Islam shall triumph?” by Dr. Allah Bakhsh Sahib, who identified the ways and means of the glorification of Islam. The Friday prayers were led by the Ameer-i-Qaum, Dr. Saeed Ahmad Khan Sahib, who, after the prayer was over, took the whole gathering into confidence, and reiterating the unanimous decision of the General Council and the Majlis-i-Ama on the 20th November, asked them if anybody differed from that decision? The entire assemblage replied with one voice that they all agreed, and only three or four persons, who had all along abstained from participation, disagreed with the mode of election. This objection, however, was not valid as the election was held in accordance with our Constitution and past practice of the Movement. Thus a reassurance and ratification by the
entire Jamaat was again obtained.

The second sitting was presided over by Ch. Fateh Muhammad Azz, Advocate, and the topics discussed were (i) "A faith in the Holy Prophet alone brings salvation", by Sheikh Nisar Ahmad Sahib (ii) "A strange story" by Ch. Shukrullah Khan, Advocate and (iii) "Religion and the gift of wisdom" by Raja Muhammad Bedar. The third sitting was arranged by our young men and was chaired by Capt. Dr. Jameel-ur-Rehman, in which excellent speeches were made by members of Shubban al-Ahmadiyya on subjects relating to Islam and the Ahmadiyya Movement.

The first sitting on the second day was presided over by our esteemed friend Mr. G.N. Dean, president of the Fiji Jama'at, and the following topics were discussed: "Malfoozat" were read by Mr. M.A. Arshad, "Unity among Muslims" by Sheikh Hafiz-ur-Rehman, the "Shariat and Tariqat" by Hafiz Sher Muhammad Sahib, "Annual Report of the Anjuman", by the Secretary, and an address by Hazrat Ameer on "The Triumph of Truth is an eternal Reality". Hafiz Sher Muhammad Sahib, our missionary in Fiji, in his scholarly speech showed that the claims of the Founder of the Ahmadiyya Movement were not different from what other Saints and Reformers in the Umma had claimed, and he gave many illuminating quotations. The General Secretary gave a brief resume of the activities of the Central Anjuman, its foreign missions and its branches all over the world. The financial position of the Anjuman was satisfactory and work was progressing in every direction by the grace of Allah. Total income of the Anjuman from all sources during the year 1980-81 amounted to Rs. 16,31,340.17 and the expenditure stood at Rs. 16, 69, 193. 57.

The Secretary also explained how the work of the Spanish translation of the Holy Quran was progressing. A very competent, hard-working and scholarly American lady had agreed to come over to Pakistan and undertake this onerous task. She translates the English translation of the Holy Quran by Hazrat Maulana Muhammad Ali into Spanish language. A sample of her translation was checked by experts of the Spanish language, as well as the schedule of her work is so arranged that our esteemed brother Mr. N.A. Faruqui sits with her for four hours
a day and the Lady retranslates her Spanish version into the English language and satisfies Mr. Faruqui that it is free from error. The Lady has been working from early morning till late in the night during the last summer with an enviable spirit of devotion and has almost finished the translation of the Arabic text. She has lived here as the guest of Mian Fazle Ahmad, who very kindly made every possible arrangement to make her stay comfortable. At the moment she has gone to the States to look to her personal errands and also to explore the possibility of the printing of this translation.

Hazrat Ameer, Dr. Saeed Ahmad Khan, profusely quoted from the Holy Quran that Truth always prevails over the untruth, and it is a veritable fact of history. The prophecy for the prevalence of Islam over all other religions extends into the distant future, but Arabia had seen its fulfilment in the lifetime of the Holy Prophet, may peace and blessings of Allah be on him. Islam is going to prevail over all other religions in this age, and it is to come about with the efforts of this small group of people. The signs of this ultimate triumph of Islam are already visible, and the literature produced by our Jama'at has paved the way for that victory. There is no reason for getting despaired. Although we are oppressed in many ways, yet we should take heart and have a firm belief in the prophecies made by the Holy Prophet and as given in the Quran that Islam as the religion of Truth must prevail over all other religions. Our Leader then exhorted the audience to gird up their loins and make added efforts for the supremacy of Islam and for bringing the day of Victory nearer. Such an appeal is a regular feature of our Annual Jalsa and it met with a good response. The Almighty Allah made it very effective and the members of the Jama'at vied with each other in offering money for the propagation of Islam and for the future plans of the Anjuman. The total amount collected was Rs. 1, 88, 842/-.

Falhamdulillah.  

The second sitting on the 26th December was presided over by Sahibzada Muhammad Ahmad of Bannu, and Dr. Jameel-ur Rehman, Mian Bashir Ahmad Minto and Prof. Sa'd Akhtar spoke on "The life story of the Mujaddid of the fourteenth century", "Convey what has been revealed to you", and "Good News for the Believers", respectively. The evening session on this day was conducted in English and was presided over by
Mr. Ross Mahmud, a very enthusiastic member of our U.K. Jama'at. Two learned speakers, Dr. Abdul Karim Pasha Saeed and Mr. Hamid Rahman spoke on "Al-'Asr or the Time" and "The Economic System of Islam". Dr. Pasha, in his learned discourse, traced out all the references to Time in the Holy Quran and developed what he called a check-list for a successful life. This check-list contained the essential ingredients of how time should be utilized to the greatest advantage, so that the purpose of creation namely a life of piety and Taqwa leading to communion with Allah may be achieved. Mr. Hamid Rahman referred to the efforts of Muslim countries to bring their laws in consonance with the Qur'an and the Sunnah and said that whereas the two existing systems of Capitalism and Marxism were based on the ideas of 'Freedom' and 'Equality' respectively, the proposed Islamic System had for its central Theme the idea of 'JUSTICE'. He said that neither pure 'Capitalism' nor pure Marxism could work, and these were now being diluted to bring in the concept of economic justice and incentives which were the hallmark of an Islamic Economic System.

The third day of the Jalsa (27 - 12 - 81) had only one sitting, and it was presided over by our illustrious friend Dr. N. I. Malik. Mr. Muhammad Azam Alvi gave his "Poem of the year" and the Indonesian student, Mr. Yatimin, read extracts from the writings of the Founder of our Movement. The speakers were Capt. Abdul Wajid Khan, Mr. G. N. Dean, Dr. Nazir-ul-Islam and Mr. N.A. Faruqui. Captain (Rtd.) Abdul Wajid Khan spoke on the "Existence of God" and traced at length the quest for God as made by eminent philosophers, and the idea of God-hood as presented by other religions. He said that recognition of God was possible only through the inner light which is granted to persons who follow the teachings of Islam and lead the Islamic way of life.

Mr. G. N. Dean, president of our Fiji Jama'at, expressed his pleasure on attending this Jalsa and on being able to visit Pakistan again after 17 years. He briefly traced the history of the steady growth of the Fiji Jama'at, and the commendable extent to which their activities have now expanded, and how zealously the various sub-centres besides the Central Jama'at at Suva were working. Dr. Nazir-ul-Islam (Ex-Imam of the London
Mission) spoke on the "Real meaning of Worship" and elaborated the meaning of 'Abd which is opposite of Malik, and said that man was required to spend every ounce of his energy in the way of the Lord and that worship did not imply just prayer and fasting.

Mr. N. A. Faruqui spoke on "The distinction between true Faith and Hypocrisy". He profusely quoted from the Holy Quran and the Hadith and stated that a hypocrite was worse than a Kafir. Allah punishes the hypocrites by creating in their hearts a love for wealth and stringency for spending it in the way of Allah. This is what leads them to hell. And a state of bliss and joy of heart is acquired through spending in the way of Allah and this is the biggest sign of a true believer. He developed his learned discourse in such a way that the audience felt motivated to offer more money for translating the Holy Quran into different languages of the world and a handsome amount of Rs. 1,37,035/- was collected in a few minutes. The total contribution made by the Jama'at during this Jalsa amounted to Rs. 3,65,619/-. The Head of the Movement, Dr. Saeed Ahmad Khan, then made the farewell speech and congratulated the audience on the very successful conclusion of the Jalsa and thanked the Almighty for His endless bounties. He exhorted them to keep on marching with faith, resolution and steadfastness. The whole gathering then raised their hands, and Hazrat Ameer praised Allah again and again for the Divine help and for showing that He is with us, however humble and insufficient our efforts to His cause may be.

I hope this glimpse of the Annual Congregation 1981 will be a source of satisfaction and pleasure for you. We solicit your prayers for the achievement of the noble objectives set before us. May Allah help us to serve the cause of Islam with added strength. Please convey our assalamu alaikum and best wishes to all brothers and sisters in your country.

Yours Fraternally,

30-1-1982

(MASUD BEG MIRZA)
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