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بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

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A Grand Divine Sign

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In the Name of Allah the Beneficent the Merciful.

We praise Him and invoke His blessings on His Noble Prophet.

With God's Grace and Mercy He alone is our Helper

MY LIFE

I was a member of the Khoja community of Sir Aga Khan. My name is Abdullah. I was born in Bombay on the 12th October 1877, and my age now is 78.

The Khoja community, drawn from Hinduism, was converted to Islam by Pir Sadruddin, who attracted them on the basis of some resemblances between the teachings of Hinduism and Islam. They were not real Muslims but Muslims only in name. Gradually this community increased. Learned and well known personalities are also to be found in this community. But it is to be regretted that they are quite ignorant of Islam. These people do not regard Prayer, Fasting, Zakat and Pilgrimage as their religious duties. They do not have their mosque in any city nor do they need it; for when they do not perform Namaz or Prayer there remains no neceesity for a

mosque. In the place of mosque they have a house called Jamat Khana where they recite their self-made idolatrous Dua every morning and evening in the Sindhi language disregarding the fact that Islam lays much emphasis on Namaz (Prayer). For instance the Holy Prophet Mohammed (may peace and blessings of God be on him) says:— "Teach your child to offer Namaz when he is seven years of age and punish him if he does not offer his Namaz at the age of ten". Considering the fact that children studying in schools commit to memory lengthy poems, it is indeed a great sin to show negligence in so important a matter as Namaz. Their Imam enjoins upon them to say the Dua which he himself has taught in the place of Namaz He orders them:— "Always go to Jamat Khana for, though I may not be present there in person, my throne is there. If you prostrate yourself before it, it will be as good as your prostrating before me and I will forgive your sins". On the contrary Islam teaches that it is a grievous sin to bow down in prostration before any one except Allah and that no one except the Almighty Allah can forgive sins.

Regarding women their Imam Sir Aga Khan's teaching is not to observe Purdah. Consequently the women of this community do not observe purdah at all. If any religious minded woman goes to their Jamat Khana in purdah,

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she is driven out disrespectfully. Therefore the Aga Khani women mix freely in the Muslim and non-Muslim gatherings, well dressed in fine garments. They shake hands with strange men and exactly imitate non-Muslims.

From this it is quite clear that the Aga Khanees do not observe any Islamic tenets. As their Imam says in his book Kalame Imame Mubeen P. 81 'The Holy Quran has been in existence since 1300 years. It is for the Arabs. "Ginan" is since 700 years. For you is Ginan. You should do according to it."

His Highness the Aga Khan mostly stays in France. Once in a year or two he visits India and Pakistan. He has married a Christian lady. He claims to be the 48th Imam in the descent of Hazrat Ali. After him his eldest son will become the 49th Imam; whereas Islam strongly repudiates accession to Imamat on hereditary basis. According to the tenets of Islam, he alone could be the true Imam-ai-Zaman i.e. Imam of the Age who is raised by the Almighty Allah in the beginning of the Islamic century and who propagates the true Islam, according to the Holy Quran and the Traditions throughout the world.

Islam being one perfect religion there ought to be only one true Imam; for the Holy Prophet

Mohammed (may peace and blessings of Allah be on him) had already announced that Muslims will split the true Islam into 73 sects, but all those will be hellish. True Islamic sect will be one and there will only be one true Imam, who will be called "Imam-ai-Zaman" i.e. the Imam of the Age.

Gradually the intelligent section of the Khoja community observed that the Aga Khani sect does not at all observe the Islamic tenets. They therefore severed their connection with this sect and joined the Sunnat Jamat. After some years another group joined the Shia Isnashri Jamat. They then made their own separate mosques and commenced praying there. Now the third group has joined the Ahmadiyya Jamat.

I have to write this history of the Aga Khani Jamat because unfortunately members of my family are still involved in it. I was myself involved in it till the age of about 35.

My late father Mr. Alladin was a resident of Calcutta; from there he came to Bombay, and thence to Secunderabad in the year 1382. There was no Jamat Khana at that time in Secunderabad or Hyderabad. We were therefore relieved from this irreligious group. When we came to Secunderabad we came into contact with the Muslims residing here. This being an Islamic

state there are mosques in its every locality in which some offered prayers five times, others three times, and some others on Friday only; but all offered prayers on Id days.

The Muslims of this place are also involved in shirk i. e. polytheism. As is the case of Muslims everywhere, the Muslims here are also entangled in tomb-worship. There is a hill here by the name of Maula Ali's hill, where the "Panja" ceremony is performed and where Nawabs and other Muslims, both rich and poor, observe their vows and do tomb - worship. "Alam" and "Tazia" ceremony of Shias also used to be performed in our house where vows or wants were placed.

Our family also used to go now and then on the Maula Ali's Hill for the performance of vows. When I was married in the year 1903 members of our family took me, along with my wife, as bridegroom and bride to fulfil the vows. God forbid what a pity it is that Muslims are involved in such polytheistic rituals. May God have mercy on all of them and bring them into the fold of true Islam.

As we were Aga Khani Khojas we were absolutely ignorant about Islamic tenets. Because in this Khoja community there is no observance of Namaz or fasting etc, therefore

we neither observed Namaz nor kept fasts. We used to go to the mosque for prayers only twice a year on the occasions of Id. But my father was a holy man. In all his activities he had complete faith in God.

One of our business was of manufacturing inks. In order to test various sorts of inks my father used to write the following sentence thousands of times:-

"Oh Holy God Thy existence outshines everyone." In the morning after taking his bath, he used to stand before the window and facing Qibla he used to pray for half an hour. He used to admonish us always that we should trust in God in all our activities. When he was in Calcutta his friends used to persuade him strongly to have cigarette or bidi, but he never yielded to their persuasions. He has written his life story in a book entitled "The history of the Alladin's family", in which he has written regarding my late mother as follows:-

"She was not a flirt, like the girls of the present age, but was a righteous and virtuous lady and possessed fine and noble traits. She loved God so dearly that she used to be in bed till midnight with rosary in her hand. I used to observe this when I used to wake up. Even in her sickness she did not forget God. I used

to object to her endangering her health by keeping awake so long. Still in order to please me she used to keep aside her rosary and used to pretend as if she was asleep. But as soon as I fell asleep, she used to wake up again and start her devotion anew with the rosary. Ladies of such good nature are indeed rare.

"Just a day before the cruel hand of death seized her, she called me by her bedside and made me sit beside her, then taking my hand into her hands she took it to her eyes and breast and began to press it. In spite of the fact that she could not speak much, she forced herself to speak and prayed for me abundantly. She expressed her gratitude to me for the comfort I gave her and the service I rendered her, both myself and through the servants, during her sickness. Oh! what a pathetic scene I had to see and hear. I found it extremely difficult to control my tears and I could hardly restrain myself. I was not able to bear this and could not speak at all. I burst forth into tears. I ought to have consoled her and restrained my tears; instead this angelic lady wiped out my tears with her own hands and consoled me thus:-

"My Darling, do not be aggrieved for me, for angels and fairies have come to invite me, so I will go to heaven and be happy but you should not make yourself unhappy for my sake. After

a lapse of two or three months you should marry again so that you might soon forget me. What departing message can I give you now? I have nothing to say. I need hardly tell you to take care of our beloved son Abdullah. I do hope that you will continue your love and affection towards him."

Oh my dear God bestow Thy choicest blessings on my noble and affectionate mother and grant her an exalted position in the heaven. Ameen.

God the Almighty through His Grace and Mercy showed me in a dream that my deceased mother has been granted a distinguished rank in the heaven. Likewise I was shown that my deceased father is also happy in the next world. My heart is replete with gratitude to Allah for all these blessings.

I have given here an account of my parents because this matter will be dealt with again later on. I regard the bestowing of noble parents as the first divine bounty with which the Gracious God has blessed me.

A Most Important Divine Affair

Dear readers! I am now going to deal on a topic which is not only extremely surprising but is also of paramount importance to humanity and as such well worth knowing. The Merciful and Gracious God had decreed that I should come out from the Khoja community, which is one of the most irreligious sects and join the true Islam and that the true Islam should be propagated through me not only to the Gujrati knowing public in the world but also to the people belonging to various other communities. I am narrating these facts in obedience to the command of the Almighty God.

چمکی ہے فرزند تیری ان دنوں تقدیر ہے
تخت سلطانی پہ تیرے باپ کی تصویر ہے

I.e. "Oh son these are the days of the illumination of thy destiny

There is thy father's photo on the royal throne."

One day while I was ascending our double storied building, all of a sudden the above couplet came out from my mouth and I was astounded by this experience. We were worldly men, day and night absorbed in business. If we had gained a lakh or two by lottery or from any other source and had become rich I would have

considered my destiny to have been illumined, but that did not happen. I therefore regarded this event as of no significance and forgot it altogether. The term "Farzund" i.e. son contained in the above couplet needs explanation. God has no son. Neither in heaven nor on earth has He any relative or partner whatsoever. This is merely a term of endearment. For instance, a person does not become our real son if we simply call him, saying: 'Son, come here,' God has blessed my humble self with manifold bounties which will become clear as we proceed in this narrative. I regard the conferment of this term Farzund i.e. son as a great divine favour. All praise be to Allah.

As time went on, I was inundated with worldly as well as spiritual blessings one after another from the Almighty and Gracious Allah; I then remembered the above couplet. It then dawned upon me that this couplet was not meaningless but was a mighty prediction from the Almighty Allah heralding the illumination of my future destiny.

The Almighty Allah commences His programme to illumine my destiny

The Almighty God out of His special Grace and Mercy had decreed to bless my humble self with His mighty Grace and Beneficence. In the sight of the Almighty God, the true and abiding Grace, through which one can attain happiness in both the worlds is the Religious Grace; therefore He started to inundate me with His religious bounties.

I was absolutely ignorant of religious matters; He therefore, in a wonderful manner, secured for me the Teachings of Islam. This book is the English translation of Hazrat Mirza Saheb's Urdoo book entitled "The philosophy of the principles of Islam." I had never heard the name of Hazrat Mirza Saheb or of Qadian. When I read this book I realised that it was not an ordinary book but was a mine of spiritual treasures of Islam. Various matters dealing with Islam have been beautifully explained in this book with Quranic verses. By studying this book two or three times, I, who was hitherto in utter religious darkness, came into light by God's Grace. I felt as if I was born anew. I ordered several copies of this book and presented them to Muslims and non-Muslims. They all praised this book immensely.

The interest of my Khoja community led me to publish it in Gujrati. I therefore translated it into Gujrati and distributed hundreds of copies freely. I had a talk in this connection with my dear brother Khan Bahadur Nawab Ahmad Nawaz Jung. I expressed to him my desire that I wanted this book to be translated into various languages and to have it published, and I desired that he should also take part in it. He gladly complied with my request. But before doing so he sent a copy of this book to Nawab Sir Amin Jung Bahadur M A. who was the Chief Secretary of His Exalted Highness the Nizam and requested him to give his opinion about the book. Sir Amin Jung replied to him as follows:—

"Many thanks for a copy of your 3rd edition of the great Mirza's Teachings of Islam. I have read it more than once. It gives a quintessence of the Holy Book of Islam. It is so good and so free from any sectarian or denominational bias that I entirely agree with you in thinking that you would render a real service to Islam if you could publish it in several languages. The translation should be as simple and pleasant as the English translation itself."

Soon after I got this book translated into Marathi, Canarese, Telugu, Tamil, Hindi, Gurmukhi, Sindhi, Burmese, Malayalam etc, and had them published. All praise be to Allah.

God listens to our supplications and even answers them

One strange thing which I read in this book was that God listens to our supplications and even answers them. That God listens to our supplication is acknowledged by most people but as to whether He converses and replies to our queries is neither believed by Muslims nor by non-Muslims. All these people believe that in bygone ages God used to converse with His prophets but this system of Divine Communion has now long since ceased. But in this book great stress was laid on the fact that just as God used to speak in the past, similarly He holds communion even now and answers our prayers. This is the best proof of the existence of the Almighty Allah. In order to satisfy myself about this, one night after Namaz I prayed to the effect that "Oh Allah if it is true that Thou listenest and even answerest prayers, then I beseech Thee to grant one supplication of mine so that I may be convinced about the matter. Afterwards I prayed to Allah thus:— "Oh Allah reveal to me the condition of my father."

Many years had elapsed since the death of my father and I had never seen him in any dream. But when I prayed thus, I saw him in my dream within a couple of days. He said to me that he was happy and showed me a ring of

which one or two jewels were sparkling and the remaining one or two were black. At that time I could not interpret its meaning. But it was after some time that I realised that the four jewels represented his four sons. God alone knows its true significance. After seeing this dream I was convinced that verily God listens and even answers our prayers.

As I thought over the matter, I felt that if I were to narrate this to some one, he might say that because I was absorbed in that thought I had such a dream and as such there was nothing surprising in it. To such a person, I would ask: "Can you get a "Responsive Dream" by merely entertaining a thought in your mind thus? Never. Be that as it may. However to obtain complete satisfaction regarding this most important matter I implored the Almighty Allah once again thus:—

"Oh Allah as for myself, I am convinced that Thou listenest the prayers as well as answerest them, but perchance this may not convince others. I therefore entreat Thee to answer another prayer of mine so that I too may be fully convinced and it may serve once for all to settle this issue for others as well."

Almighty God Answers My Another Prayer.

My next prayer was "Oh Allah reveal to me the condition of my late mother." I was only three years of age when my mother died. I therefore did not at all remember her face. So I prayed thus:—

"Oh Allah if I am shown another dream in which I see a woman, how can I know whether that woman is really my mother, because I do not remember her face at all."

Because I did not receive an answer to this prayer in a day or two, I continued praying for several days; ultimately another dream was shown to me. I saw a woman seated on a throne around whom many people had gathered. I was also one of them. Some one asked me who that woman of distinguished rank was. I replied "This is my mother—my begotten mother." میری جنتی والدہ i.e. this is my mother who has given birth to me and I woke up from my sleep repeating the words "میری جنتی والدہ" "میری جنتی والدہ". When I got up from the sleep I could not understand why I was repeating the words "میری جنتی والدہ". Afterwards I recalled that I had asked the Almighty God in my prayer as to how I could recognise my mother, accordingly the All-Powerful and All-Wise God in a really wonderful manner, by

making me utter the words "میری جننی والدہ" had fulfilled my second prayer so convincingly as to leave no doubt whatsoever about the matter and had thus proved conclusively that He not only listens to our prayers but also answers them whenever He thinks fit. All praise be to Allah.

Another Gracious Programme of the Almighty God

I was totally ignorant of religion. In order therefore to enlighten me as to the true faith, Almighty God brought about such circumstances which led me to study the Teachings of Islam—an Islamic book replete with spiritual treasure. After reading this book two or three times, a profound interest for religious knowledge was aroused within me. When I was young I had studied the Gujrati translation of the Holy Quran. But I was given to understand that the Holy Quran was meant for Arabs who used to worship idols; we believe in one God and so we do not stand in need of it. Moreover there are contradictions in the verses of the Holy Quran. Only those who are well versed in Arabic can understand its true meaning.

If those who do not know Arabic study the Holy Quran they will not understand its real meaning and therefore instead of gaining reward they will commit sin. I therefore stopped reading Quran altogether. But when I had studied the Teachings of Islam, it dawned upon me that what all I had been told about the Holy Quran was completely wrong.

I realised that when a small book like this, comprising selections from the Holy Quran, could contain so much spiritual treasure, it would be impossible to estimate the invaluable treasure packed within the entire Holy Quran. In this way interest was aroused within me for reading and understanding the Holy Quran. I ordered a copy of the English translation of the Holy Quran and began its study. I found that there are no contradictions in the Quranic verses, nay on the contrary they support each other. It then occurred to me that just like myself many others might be involved in similar erroneous views concerning the Holy Quran. I therefore began to collect as many Quranic verses as possible on different subjects with a view to publish and distribute them to the people, so that people might realise that there are no contradictions in the Quranic verses; but instead they support one another. It also throws light on many other important topics which every person ought to know.

After compiling the verses dealing on several subjects I published them in the form of a book entitled "Extracts from the Holy Quran" and distributed it free.

Afterwards I selected Traditions of the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be on him) bearing on those topics and arranged them together with the relevant Quranic verses so as to establish conclusively the fact that the Word of God and the Sayings of the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be on him) go together. Afterwards I published the second edition of this book under the title of "Extracts from the Holy Quran and Traditions". By God's Grace this book also won popularity both from the Muslims and non-Muslims and people sent letters of appreciation together with their heartfelt prayers eulogising the book. Afterwards I included in that book, important topics gleaned from the scriptures of other religions. In short by God's grace this book of 400 pages won such universal appreciation that it has run into 12 editions. All Praise be to Allah, the Lord of the worlds.

Another Wonderful Divine Programme.

According to the Holy Quran the true Islam is only one. But gradually Muslims divided themselves into different sects by incorporating erroneous beliefs, rites and ceremonies into Islam. I was also entangled in an erroneous sect, therefore the Almighty Allah planned, from the very outset, to guide me to the true Islam. It has been a Divine Law that, in order to show the truth and beauties of Islam the Almighty God had been raising at the beginning of every Islamic century a Divine Reformer through whom the true Islamic sect is established. Accordingly in this 14th century a Divine Reformer was raised through whom the Ahmadiyya Movement came into being. In order to make me understand the truth of Ahmadiyyat or the true Islam, the Almighty God made such a wonderful arrangement for me that a distinguished member of the Ahmadiyya community Hazrat Yaqoob Ali Saheb Irfani, a great lover of the Holy Quran and its commentator was sent to my place from Qadian which is at a distance of 1500 miles. He began to explain to me the truth of Ahmadiyyat from various points of view but at that time I was intimately connected with one gentleman, belonging to Ahle-Hadees sect, who was a partner in one of our business. I had great intimacy with him. He

prejudiced me against Ahmadiyyat to a considerable extent. I therefore did not accept anything about Ahmadiyyat which Hazrat Irfani Saheb preached me.

Finally Hazrat Irfani Saheb said that as you have studied "The Teachings of Islam" written by Hazrat Mirza Saheb and you have appreciated it much, you should read his other books as well. I agreed to do so. But I read them in such a way that wherever there was mention of the superiority of Islam and the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be on him) I read with much zeal, but I used to skip over those portions which dealt with the death of Jesus Christ or with Ahmadiyyat. In this way I read many of his books and I acquired much essential knowledge about Islam, but remained ignorant about his claims. As such Hazrat Irfani Saheb, who had come from Qadian, had to return without success.

Another Grand Programme.

The Almighty God sent Hazrat Irfani Saheb from Qadian to make me understand Ahmadiyyat i.e. the true Islam, but I did not accept it. But the Almighty God had already decreed that I must understand the true Islam and then render

such religious service that would illumine my destiny. For this purpose He schemed another grand plan for my humble self.

By means of a dream the Almighty God instructed the Head of the Ahmadiyya Community (2nd Khalif) to convey the truth of Ahmadiyyat to His Exalted Highness the Nizam, the then King of Hyderabad. To carry out this Divine Command he wrote a nice book entitled "Tuhfatul Malook" (Present to the Kings) and sent two distinguished Ahmadees for presenting him the book, who accepted it with thanks. After this hundreds of copies of this book were distributed to the public of Hyderabad. They preached for three months. But no one was fortunate to accept Ahmadiyyat; as such they had to go back. Because the Almighty God had planned all this for my humble self, He inspired His Kalif to send again new Ahmadiyya Missionaries to Hyderabad; accordingly two new learned personages Hazrat Mufti Mohamed Sadiq Saheb and Hazrat Hafiz Roshan Ali Saheb were sent. To help them Janab Syed Basharat Ahmed Saheb, who is an Advocate of the Hyderabad High Court and the Amir of Hyderabad Jamat, was nominated.

At first they delivered lectures in Hyderabad but no one was fortunate to accept Ahmadiyyat.

Afterwards they began to deliver lectures in Secunderabad. I also used to attend their lectures. Later on we also invited them to deliver a lecture in our Alladin Building. After this they used to come to our place every day for giving Darsul-Quran. Lest I become an Ahmadi and Ahmadiyya Jamat be established in Secunderabad, learned Moulvees of Sunnat and Shia sects also used to come and preach me against Ahmadiyyat. In this way I was able to listen to the arguments of both the parties. This programme lasted for three months. In order to make me realise the truth of Ahmadiyyat through the Holy Quran, the Traditions and Bible etc, Ahmadi Missionaries used to bring those books to me when necessary.

Finally by God's Grace and Mercy the truth of Ahmadiyyat became clear to me. Inspite of this I had not the courage to accept Ahmadiyyat and thus take the risk of incurring the displeasure of my relatives and my Ahle Hadees partner. Nay after this I even stopped the Darsul-Quran which the learned Ahmadi Missionaries used to deliver daily.

Jail punishment by the Almighty Allah

Almighty God had decreed for me the acceptance of true Islam and in order to make me understand its significance He first sent Hazrat Irfani Saheb from Qadian. Afterwords I received several books on Ahmadiyyat so that I might study and understand it. Distinguished Ahmadi Missionaries were sent for me from Qadian twice, who used to come to my place daily for a period of three months to make me realise the truth of Ahmadiyyat through Darsul Quran. By the Grace of God I became convinced of the truth of Ahmadiyyat but was hesitating to join the Movement and to declare my faith in Ahmadiyyat openly. Hence as a last resort in order to bring me to my proper senses, Almighty God now adopted a severe plan, That severe plan was this:- I was shown one night a dreadful dream in which my Ahle Hadees partner, along with another person was talking ill of some one. Just then the police arrived and arrested three of us and presented us before the Criminal Court of Secunderabad. We were sentenced for eight days jail punishment.

I was weeping in the jail and saying that it was my Ahle Hadees partner who had been speaking ill and I was entangled unjustly. I was then asked as to why I was keeping his company. From this dream I realised that my

Ahle Hadees partner being against Ahmadiyyat, was opposing the Ahmadiyya Movement; whereas I was associating myself with him inspite of being convinced of the truth of Ahmadiyyat. For this reason I was given the jail punishment in this world, and if I continued the same attitude I will be given the punishment of hell after death.

I narrated this dream to my Ahle Hadees partner and afterwards on Friday the 9th April 1915 I embraced Ahmadiyyat through Alhaj Moulana Mir Mohamed Sayeed Saheb, the Amir of the Ahmadiyya Jamat Hyderabad. All praise be to Allah.

Most Wonderful Divine Grace

Whenever a high official wishes to grant promotion to any one of his subordinates he himself suggests to him the kind of application he should submit to him. The official then accepts his application and grants him promotion. The Almighty God has taught this technique in order to help His servants. This is substantiated by Quranic verses. For instance God has taught us the following prayer:—

"Oh Allah give us good in this world and also good in the Hereafter and protect us from the doom of Fire."

Accordingly my Beneficent and Merciful God blessed me to offer a most magnificent prayer, which is as follows:—

"Oh Allah enable me to perform such a unique deed which no one else in the world has performed—a deed which would win Thy pleasure and be of service to Thy creatures as well. Moreover let that deed be of such a nature as to elicit from people of every age their heartfelt prayers for me, and also enable my progeny to continue the same deed and render such service that people of every age may pray for them also."

What a grand prayer is this! After all what am I and what is my worth. To an absolutely ignorant person like me such a thing was utterly impossible. But what could I do, for I had absolutely no say in the matter. As Almighty God alone had suggested me this prayer He alone found a way out to accomplish it. Gracious Allah, out of His Rahmaniyyat i.e. without my seeking most affectionately revealed to me that He was going to illumine my destiny. Accordingly He has been inundating me with His Divine Graces. All praise be to Allah.

When the Almighty Allah revealed to me the glad tidings of illuminating my destiny I was at that time quite unaware of its significance; for there were no signs or indications whatsoever of its fulfilment. But long before I accepted Ahmadiyyat, God through His appointed Khalif made known to him that He was going to shower His blessings and grace on me. This is evident from his esteemed letter to me dated the 24th March 1925 in which he writes:—

"Before you accepted Ahmadiyyat, probably Mufti Mohamed Sadiq Saheb wrote to me about you stating that you were inclined towards Ahmadiyyat and might perhaps soon join the Movement. I then saw in a dream that you were seated in a magnificent building, in the midst of which was a great verandah wherein a throne had been carved out. I saw you seated on the throne with divine effulgence falling upon you in the form of rain. I was then convinced that you would join the Movement and Allah would make your presence beneficial to humanity, and indeed it happened so. I trust in God that He will fulfil this dream of mine more clearly through your ownself as well as through your family."

Then again while delivering a lecture in the Annual Gathering at Qadian in the year 1933 he said:—

"The Jamat Ahmadiyya of Hyderabad is an old one. It dates from the time of the Promised Messiah (may peace and blessings of God be on him) but it is very backward in propagation. Nevertheless there are some who can challenge other Jamats. Seth Abdullah Alladin is such a person whom when I see I feel doubly pleased. In the first place I feel glad when I see his propagative activities. Secondly it gives me pleasure when I recall that before he joined the Movement Sheikh Yaqoob Ali Saheb wrote to me that there is one Seth in Secunderabad who is inclined towards Ahmadiyyat and requested me to pray that Allah might enable him to join the Movement. I then prayed to God and saw in a dream that there was a throne on which Seth Saheb was seated. His face which I saw in the dream was exactly the same as that which I had observed when I first met him. At that moment a window was opened from heaven and I noticed that angels were casting divine lustre on him. When he joined the Movement I was pleased to see my dream fulfilled. He spends so much time and money in the propagation of Ahmadiyyat that no one else can be compared with him."

I myself was quite unaware of the Gracious God's scheme to brighten my destiny but He wonderfully revealed it long before to His Khalif. All praise is to Allah, the Lord of the Worlds.

Knowledge essential for rendering religious service.

Almighty God is most jealous, He therefore does not like that any one should boast that he has accomplished any deed by his personal ingenuity, knowledge, influence, money or power etc. It is for this reason that whenever He raises a Prophet or a Divine Reformer He selects quite a simple and ordinary person whose claim is rejected by the people at the very outset. But afterwards the Almighty God gradually manifests His power and establishes the truth of that claimant. In the same way the All-Powerful and All-Wise God, out of His loving kindness, desired to make my humble self an example of one of the manifestations of His power. Accordingly for the purpose of serving His religion, He selected a person like me who was absolutely ignorant about religion. What service to religion can such a person render? Is it conceivable that he can render a service the like of which no one else in the world has done? This seems quite an impossible matter. But is there anything impossible with the All-Powerful God of Islam? He is such a Being that whatever He wills, He does it in a twinkling of an eye."

Another strange thing is that the Almighty God, out of His loving kindness had decreed from

my birth to make me His servant; therefore He inspired my parents, out of His Grace, to name me as Abdullah i.e. a Servant of Allah. Thousands of people no doubt name their children as Abdullah but the Almighty God had destined that my humble self should become His servant in the real sense of the term. In order to substantiate this fact, God the Almighty planned another event. A Barrister, who had been converted to Islam from Hinduism came to us as a guest. He was working together with another gentleman, who was my friend in a certain case. Some misunderstanding occured between these two; he therefore had a talk with me about it. I consoled him and told him not to worry about the matter, God willing I will bring about reconciliation between them. Afterwards I settled their dispute; thereupon he said the night before he had dreamt that a dispute had arisen between another gentleman and himself and that his friend, whose name was Ramdas had effected reconciliation. He added that his dream was fulfilled through me and he could say so because Ramdas means servant of God and the meaning of my name Abdullah also means the same. All praise be to Allah.

The best of all good deeds is to be of service to humanity i.e. to rescue people from their sinful or hellish life and guide them to the path of virtue and heavenly life. The Holy Prophet

Mohammed (may peace and blessings of Allah be on him) says that one عالم i.e. a learned religious person, is better than a thousand worshippers; because a worshipper's virtue is limited to his own self while that of a preacher's is all embracing, being a source of guidance to others as well. Another tradition is to the effect that one مجاهد Mujahid i.e. one who goes for Jehad in the cause of Allah, is better than a doer of thousand virtues, because in the case of Jehad one has to endanger his very life, while in the other case one can perform virtuous deeds and yet remain in comfort at home. Again he says that one مبلغ Muballig i.e. one who propagates the Divine Message is better than thousand "مجاهد Mujahids" because a propagator of the Divine Message can be a source of guidance to thousands of people. Thus in order to illumine my destiny the Almighty and Gracious Allah had ordained for me the noble work of تبليغ Tabligh or the propagation of the Truth of the Divine Messenger of this age. This indeed is a highly esteemed and most pleasing deed in the sight of the Almighty God as it enables people to quit their sinful life and adopt a virtuous one. In order to accomplish this Almighty God taught me a grand and unique prayer which has been also fulfilled by His Grace and Mercy.

My prayer was fulfilled thus:—The Almighty God enabled me to publish religious literature

in English, Urdoo, and Gujrati and other languages which won universal appreciation. Some of my books have run into ten to twenty editions. "The Extracts from the Holy Quran" a book of 400 pages has been particularly popular and has gone into 12 editions. From every corner of the globe people who have read this book, have sent letters of appreciation with their heartfelt prayers which are published in the last pages of this book. Apart from the people of this mundane world, I have received appreciation of this book from Heaven as well. This is evident from a letter dated 27th February 1927 received from Hazrat Irfani Saheb who was at that time in London in which he writes:—

"I am writing this letter to convey glad tidings to you. Between the 12th and 13th night I saw in a dream that the First Khalifa Saheb (may God be pleased with him) came and praised "the Extracts" very much and said that the Promised Messiah (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) had appreciated it immensely. I have not seen it myself. He further expressed his disapproval of the attitude adopted by your opposing brothers and said that they will not be well off if they did not give up their opposition. In short I congratulate you that this book has won approval in heaven and God-willing it will become very popular and a source of blessing."

The "Extracts from the Holy Quran" also contains many proofs of the truth of Ahmadiyyat. God the Almighty, out of His kindness, thus showed in a vision His approval of the book.

Another very important point following from this vision is:—that Ahmadiyyat is true. It is for this reason that the Almighty God warned my two younger brothers Gulam Hussain and Qasim Ali that if they did not give up their opposition to Ahmadiyyat it would not be good for them. From the above, every reader, ought to realize that this is a warning message from the Almighty God regarding the truth of Ahmadiyyat and if he fails to accept it he shall also have to repent.

Once I wrote a book in Urdoo entitled "How can Muslims progress?" After I had written this book, I was told in a dream that I was M.A. As a matter of fact far from being M.A; I am not even a Matriculate. M.A. means Master of Arts. I am not an expert in any worldly knowledge and the little religious knowledge that I possess is but a special gift of God. By God's Grace this book became so popular that by now it has gone into 21 editions. It seems as if the title of M.A. which God the Almighty conferred on me was just to show me that He has fulfilled the prayer which I have been doing viz "Oh Allah enable me to render such service to religion which will win Thy pleasure." The conferment of the title of M.A. is just to assure me that my work has won Divine approval. All praise be to Allah.

The Benefits of Ahmadiyyat.

I have already mentioned that as we were the followers of Sir Aga Khan, we were exempted from prayers and fasting and all other Islamic tenets. But after accepting Ahmadiyyat there was a grand transformation in us. At our place Azan (Call to Prayer) is said five times daily. I lead the five daily prayers with Jamat. I offer 62 Rakats everyday comprising Farz, Sunnat, Nafeel, Tahajud etc. Besides this I spend one hour in the morning and hour in the evening in "Zikr Ilahi" i.e. Remembrance of God and I observe all the fasts of Ramzan. As keeping fast every alternate day is very pleasing to God I observed fast alternately for several months in order to win Divine pleasure. Being prohibited to observe many fasts in old age, I now fast only on Thursdays. As per the Islamic tenets, annual Zakat must be sent to the "Baitul Mal" (Central Treasury); which we have been sending regularly. By the Grace of God in the year 1921 I performed the pilgrimage along with my family. All praise be to Allah.

The essential teaching of Ahmadiyyat is that every person should recognise and establish his connection with the Almighty Allah and this can be secured by supplicating and knowing His Attributes. The Almighty God says in the Holy Quran that He has bought the lives and

the property of the believers for which the reward is Paradise. In obedience to this Divine commandment we must always remember that our life and our property are a God's trust; as such we ought to utilize them in the service of religion. We should pass our lives in as simple a manner as possible and should spend whatever we possess in such a way as to win Divine pleasure. We must also remember that there are angels known as "Kiramin Katabeen" on our right and left sides, who keep record of all our deeds according to which we will be recompensed after death.

We must also remember that God the Almighty is "Samee" i.e. He listens to whatever we say. He is "Baseer" i.e. He sees whatever we do. He is not only Ghafoorur-Raheem (Most Forgiving and Merciful) but is also "Shadeedul Eqab" i.e. Severe in Chastisement). We must therefore always have His fear in our hearts so that we may abstain from evil deeds and perform good ones. Gracious God says:- لمن خاف مقام ربہ جنتان i.e. " He who fears that he has to stand before the Almighty Allah is blessed with two heavens " One in this world and the other in the next. These are some of the ways of winning Divine pleasure, which Ahmadiyyat commands us to follow. All praise be to Allah.

Finance essentail for Religious Service

In the year 1882 my late father came from Bombay to Secunderabad. He was a businessman of great experience and used to pass his life with simplicity. But God only knows the reason why he was not able to become rich. We were always in financial stringency. We became debtors and had to pay heavy interest. Suits used to be filed against us in the court, decrees used to be passed and warrants issued, atlast in the year 1904 at the age of 46 our father expired. "Verily we are from God and towards Him we have to return." Thus during the period of 22 years in Secunderabad he could not accumulate any money. He left for his seven heirs an Insurance policy of Rs. 2,500/- Because our business was not running satisfactorily I thought of entering into some service. But because I had studied only up to Matriculation, there was no likelihood of my securing any high salary; I therefore gave up this idea. This happened for my good, because God the Almighty had decreed from the outset that I should be only His servant and serve His religion and thereby my destiny be illumined.

At the demise of my father I was 27 years of age; my second brother Ahmed bhoy was 19 years old and my third brother Gulam Hussain bhoy aged 13, was studying in school; my

fourth brother Qasim Ali bhoy was only 5 years who later became an Ahle-Hadees.

To render religious service one needs money, but I had no money. There was only the business which my father had left behind him. In his 22 years of business he could not amass any money, then how was it possible for me to do so? But as God had destined for me the work of religious service from the very beginning, He began to grant us profits of thousands of rupees in the same business and went on increasing the profit every year. As a result, in a few years we were able to accumulate lakhs of rupees. I divided the whole amount equally among my brothers without taking any larger proportion for myself.

Forty years have now elapsed since I embraced Ahmadiyyat. After my father's death, in the first 22 years, Gracious God granted me so much wealth that I was able to spend Rs. 3 lakhs in the Divine service and in the next 18 years I was able to spend 9 Lakhs. In this way I was fortunate to spend 12 Lakhs altogether. Thus the Gracious God illumined my destiny in a wonderful manner not only spiritually but also from the worldly point of view. All praise be to Allah.

Time essential for rendering Religious Service.

Just as our life and our wealth are a trust from God Almighty and if we use them against His commandments we are liable for punishment, same is the case with time. It is regrettable that even Muslims do not realise the significance of time, not to speak of non-Muslims. God has created us for His Divine service. By all means we can work for our living but we ought not to waste time in frivolous amusements. But day and night, like other communities, Muslims waste their precious time in cinema and other worldly pleasures. At a time when our house is being attacked is it possible for us to waste our time in other matters? In this age Islam is subjected to attacks of various kinds by non-Muslims; yet Muslims are quite heedless of the situation. Day and night they are absorbed in worldly pursuits and entertainments.

The Reverend Imam of the Ahmadiyya Jamat has exhorted his followers to dedicate their lives for religious service and has strictly prohibited them to go to cinema etc. In this connection I like to mention an event that occurred in my family. I had betrothed my daughter Zainub Begum to a certain Engineer who was employed in Government service. He was a Khoja and had become an Ahmadi through my preaching. He was not well grounded in Ahmadiyyat at

that time. We had merely betrothed her and there remained 2 or 3 months for marriage. My daughter came to know that he had a habit of going to cinema. On her enquiry he replied that he was really fond of cinema and that it was not possible for him to give it up. Thereupon, without my consultation, my daughter broke away her engagement. Afterwards she was married, by God's Grace, to Mr. Mahmoodal Hasan, a staunch Ahmadi. He had come from London after securing his I.C.S. and was, at first, posted as Sub Collector and later as Collector. He then became the Chief Presidency Magistrate of Madras. A case pertaining to cinema once came before him, whereupon he passed such stringent remarks against cinema that a sensation was created throughout India. Many papers criticized his judgment while a good many appreciated it. I was dealing on the topic of time; this incident is just by the way. In short, time is also a "Trust" of the Almighty God, as such it ought to be utilized judiciously. For religious service time and leisure are greatly needed. But in those days our business was such that it used to keep us engaged from 5 o'clock in the morning till 8 or 9 in the night. But as Almighty God wished to take religious service from me, He relieved me from worldly matters in a wonderful manner. This happened thus:—God the Almighty inspired me with the idea of going to

pilgrimage. Having decided the matter I commenced my preparation and entrusted all the business, which I used to look after, to my brother Ahmed bhoy. All of a sudden the great World War of 1914 commenced. Inspite of making all possible efforts, I could not secure the tickets. This postponed my going for pilgrimage by seven years.

This was, in fact, a wise Divine plan for relieving me from my business activity and diverting my attention towards religious service. In this way I retired from business and engaged myself in religious service. Perchance it might have occured to any of my brothers that though their eldest brother does not take part in business yet he avails himself of the profit all the same (God alone knows what passes in human mind) therefore the Almighty God revealed as follows to Hazrat Irfani Saheb who was then in London:—

"Whatever We give to Abdullah's brothers WE give for his sake"

There is a Tradition bearing on this topic. At a time of the Holy Prophet Mohamed (may peace and blessings of Allah be on him) there were two brothers, one of them used to listen to the religious instructions imparted by the Holy Prophet (Peace and blessings of God be on him)

the other brother who was a business man, complained about his brother to the Holy Prophet (on whom be peace and blessings of God) replied thus:- "It is quite possible that whatever sustenance you are getting may be by virtue of your brother."

As I wanted money for religious service and this I could not get unless my three brothers got their three shares first. In this way my Beloved Beneficent God made this point also clear viz that the profits that accrued to our Firm out of which I used to receive the 4th share, were not on account of my three brothers, but on the contrary what they used to get was on account of me. All praise be to Allah.

Religious Condition of Our Family.

We were four brothers. Our's was a step motherly family; yet by God's Grace we loved each other as dearly as real brothers. In one of our businees a certain Ahle-Hadees was our partner. Due to our contact with him for a number of years, my youngest brother Casim Ali as well as myself became more or less like Ahle-Hadees and became opponents of Ahmadiyyat. But God the Almighty had decreed that I should come into the fold of the true Islam and render religious service, He therefore mani-

fested to me the truth of Ahmadiyyat. In this way I came out from utter darkness into light, and was blessed with true Islam. But the connection of my fourth brother Casim Ali with our Ahle-Hadees partner strengthened and gradually he became a staunch Ahle-Hadees and an opponent of Ahmadiyyat and alas died in the same faith at the prime age of 41. May the Forgiving Allah forgive him.

My third brother Gulam Hussain was his real brother, but he was not much interested in religion. According to him, Sunnees, Shias, Aga Khanees etc. were all equal. He therefore used to give his sons and daughters in marriage to them without any distinction. In this way he passed away at the age of 61 without understanding the true Islam. May the Forgiving Allah forgive him.

My second brother Ahmed bhoy was in close contact with me from his very infancy; as a result there was love and affection between us from our childhood. Even when advanced in age he used to give me fatherly respect. Whenever there was any work he himself used to carry it out without giving me any trouble whatever. May Allah reward him abundantly for this. Ameen.

In the matter of religion, he too regarded all as same. Inspite of realising the truth of Ahmadiyyat he had not the courage to declare

his faith in it openly. In order to bring home to him the truth of Ahmadiyyat I told him that God fulfils the prayer of our present Khalifatul Massih II most remarkably. To assure him of this fact I told him that he should request Hazrat Khalifa Saheb to pray for such of his important works which he thinks are weighty and seemingly impossible. Accordingly when he requested him for prayers his undertakings were most wonderfully crowned with success. He began to get profits of lakhs of rupees; he therefore gladly used to send cheque of Rs. 10,000/ at a time as Nazrana to Hazrat Khalifa Saheb. Our real purpose was to show him the truth of Ahmadiyyat, but instead of accepting the truth he began to give large sums as Nazrana to Khalifa Saheb as well as huge sums to me. Regret much to say that this brother of mine also passed away on the 21st December 1954 at the age of 70. He gave lacs of rupees in different kinds of charities and also thousands of rupees for the propagation of Ahmadiyyat or True Islam. May the Forgiving and Merciful Allah forgive him and have mercy on him.

My father had to marry four times one after another. Our fourth mother was wise and clever in worldly affairs but in religious matters she was also like the other ignorant Aga Khanee women. She expired on the 31st August 1953. May the Forgiving Allah forgive her.

My Life-Partner.

God the Almighty has been bestowing His favours on my humble self in a most wonderful manner in every matter. Being an Aga Khanee Khoja, I was married to an Aga Khanee woman. What can one expect from the women of a community whose men are so utterly ignorant of religion? But God the Almighty from the very beginning has been conferring His bounties upon me in every way. In connection with my marriage also, He blessed me wonderfully. The house of my prospective wife's parents was a double storied building. In the lower story, God the Almighty secured a Muslim lady as a tenant who used to observe prayers and keep fasts. My would-be wife used to bring water for her to do "Wazu" (ablution) etc. whereupon she used to bless her with her prayers and instruct her in religious matters. As a result my future life-partner had begun to offer prayers and keep fasts while she was yet in her parent's house. Her relatives used to chide her for being so greatly devoted to Namaz about which her ancestors and relatives knew nothing. She was so particular about prayer that she had resolved that even if her husband were to oppose her praying, she would continue to pray secretly. Thus by God's Grace I was married to a pious lady.

She is also very shrewd in domestic affairs. Our's was a step-motherly family and she used to bear all sorts of domestic trouble and never used to let me be worried on any account. Six months after I had accepted Ahmadiyyat, she also embraced the same without caring the displeasure of our family members and of her parents. By God's Grace enthusiasm for preaching developed within her to such an extent that she became a most valuable asset to me in my religious affairs. She used to be foremost in establishing religious organisations of the Ahmadi ladies, in holding religious meetings and in arranging matrimonial alliances etc. She makes arrangements for guests, whether they come by day or night. Whenever either she or the children are sick she administers household medicines and if the case necessitates seeing a doctor she goes to the doctor personally and informs me later as to what had happened. In short she does not give me the least trouble or anxiety in domestic affairs. She prays fervently to God and also accompanies her prayer with fasts on important matters and by God's Grace her prayers are also fulfilled. God had her named as "Sakina". As her name implies she has ever been a source of peace and comfort for me. All praise be to Allah.

My wife has been also taking a good part in Religious Chandas (voluntary subscriptions).

When our London Mosque was in need of repairs the ladies of our Jamat were instructed to subscribe. Had she given one or two hundred rupees towards this fund it would have been sufficient but she gave away a lump sum of one thousand rupees. The remarks made by our respected Imam Hazrat Amirul Momeneen concerning this matter, which were published in the Alfazl dated the 11th September 1931 are as follows:—

"By God's Grace there is no scarcity of devotional ladies in our Jamat. Not only is there a large section of devotional men in our community, but also among women I find instances which are very impressive and soul-inspiring. For example in our Jamat there is Seth Abdullah Alladin, a most sincere and sacrificing person. In order to preach Islam he spends a large sum of money in publishing books and booklets such as, "The Teachings of Islam" written in Urdu by the Promised Messiah (may peace and blessings of Allah be on him) "Extracts from the Holy Quran and Traditions", and "Ahmed" which contains various extracts from the writings of the Promised Messiah and throws a flood of light on Islamic tenets. In a like manner he publishes other books too at his own expense. His books have gone into 5 to 7 editions and have been disseminated in thousands through out the world. I have learnt that his wife, who is an equally devotional and sacrificing lady as her

husband, has been saving money for good many years out of her pocket expenses, which has amounted by this time to Rs. 1,000/- Though I had mentioned at the very outset that this appeal was not so important as that of constructing a Mosque in London and had written that the ladies of all Jamats should contribute what they easily could towards the expenses for the repair of the London Mosque, and although she was advised by others that if she could give a part of her accumulated amount it would be quite sufficient; yet she gave the whole amount which she had been accumulating since the last so many years in the way of God for the repair of the London Mosque.

Her relatives also suggested to her to keep a certain sum for herself from the amount she had been saving for some definite purpose since the last so many years. In reply to this she said that such opportunities of doing good come rarely; hence instead of preserving the amount in this world, I should like to have it deposited in the bank of God."

Gracious God's Further Wonderful Graces.

Many Ahmadi dignitaries had dreams about me and had written to me as well, but alas I did not preserve them. I give below those letters that have been preserved:—

(1) Janab Hazrat Mufti Mohamed Sadiq the Missionary of London and America wrote to me in his letter dated the 20th August 1926 as follows:—

"On the night between Thursday and Friday last I had a vision:—It seems as though it is the time of the Promised Messiah. The Promised Messiah has ordered a gathering to be held as he has to consult on some important matter. Only the سابقین-اولین and مخلصین are to be admitted into the meeting. The meeting is held on the roof of the مسجد مبارک and there I saw your goodself also as a member of the meeting."

This shows that although you came late yet on account of your good deeds you are included in the اولین-

(2) Moulana Molvi Abdur Raheem Nayyar Missionary of London and Africa writes in his letter dated the 1st November 1943 as follows:—

"This morning when I was praying for you I saw that a troop of angels stood singing your

praises with one voice. The commencing and the concluding words of theirs which I could remember are as follows:—

"Nasirud-Dowlah, Nasiruddin. Sahebe Noon Wal Qalme Wama Yastoroon, this is Abdullah Alladin." From this it appears that Allah has granted you His great nearness for which you should glorify and praise Him. All praise be to Allah.

(3) Janab Hazrat Sheikh Yaqoob Ali Irfani, who is a commentator of the Holy Quran and the Editor of the well-known paper "Al Hakam" saw a dream on the night of 23rd July 1929 the gist of which, in his own words, is as follows:—

"By chance I have gone to Secunderabad, it seems that I have come to Secunderabad from Rajmundry. Your house is magnificent and very spacious. A river flows from it whose source is not known. Its water is sparkling like silver or mercury. There is a large room which is in charge of dear Ali Mohamed. There are also other ladies of your family but the mother of Ali Mohamed has arrived in purdah. All were happy. I sat near dear Ali Mohamed who showed me a book which seemed to be a dictionary of the Holy Quran. He said that he had compiled the book. Its name is "Aqdul Jawahir" and it is a very nice book. I told him that he

was fortunate in rendering a great service to the Holy Quran. This office soon became very extensive. The special room in which Seth Ali Mohamed worked also became very large and it appears to me that it has become a permanent establishment for carrying out intellectual and religious activities.

At that time Syed Basharat Ahmed Saheb came. Some one says that his name in heaven is Basharat Mirza. After this a topic arose concerning the Teachings of Islam. It appears that its publication has reached 30,000. At this stage I woke up from sleep and in my morning prayer I supplicated to the Almighty that He might fulfil this dream in its real sense. If God wills and if His Grace continues it seems that your preaching activities will regenerate the world like a river and Seth Ali Mohamed will also take part in it with great interest and the Almighty God will bless your activities more and more. By God's Grace I will also witness this progress. Irfani 24-7-1929.

4. Again in his letter dated the 13th January 1932 he narrated another dream, which in his own words, is as follows :—

"I saw in a dream that your name is Mirza Zafrullah Khan. I woke up and after prayers went to sleep. Then in a dream I saw First

Khalifa Saheb (may God be pleased with him) and I told him in the dream that your name was Zafrullah Khan and Abdul Basit. I also mentioned to him that your dress was clean and white. In the dream itself I was narrating the dream. When I woke up I was exceedingly glad; because this dream has its own significance. I say that on account of your deep love and attachment for the Promised Messiah you are called "Mirza" in heaven and the name of Zafrullah Khan shows that in a special manner God the Almighty has decreed success for you.

On another occasion it was shown to me that your personality had coalesced with that of Hazrat Khalifa Saheb and it seemed as if both of you had become one. His name was Nooruddin. The Almighty God has illumined you with His Divine light and He will so colour your personality as to make you a replica of Hazrat Nooruddin. Abdul Basit was the revealed name of the First Khalifa Saheb. Because of his benefactions to humanity and his generosity God the Almighty had named him Abdul Basit. During the dream I was shown your three faces or your three names viz Mirza Zafrullah, Nooruddin, and Abdul Basit. May the Almighty Allah, out of His Grace and Mercy, imbue you with the spirit of these names to the fullest extent, and may He also not deprive me and may the Almighty Allah bless every Muslim

with the distinctive trait of being completely lost in the love and affection of the Promised Messiah so as to deserve the appellation of Mirza and may He grant him success in all his activities so that he might become Nooruddin and Abdul Basit in the real sense of the term. Ameen. For a few days Hazrat Yaqoob Ali Saheb stayed with us as our guest. He then had a dream in which he saw that the late Hafiz Roshan Ali Saheb (may God be pleased with him) had come here. He was a wonderful man. By just listening to the Holy Quran once or twice he became a Hafiz of the whole Quran. He was a Professor in Jamai Ahmedia, wherein religious education is imparted. Many received religious teachings from him and became erudite scholars and expert missionaries. By God's Grace he also taught me for three months. As his name implies, he was an illuminator of Islam. Along with him Mufti Fazlur Rahman Saheb had also come from Qadian. Hazrat Yaqoob Ali Saheb asked them as to when they had arrived; thereupon they replied, we reside here only. From the "Names" it is quite clear that God's Grace and Mercy and spiritual light always remain here. Rahman means one who bestows mercy without being asked. This is also perfectly true that the God Almighty has been continuously showering His Wonderful Graces upon my humble self without my asking.

(6) Next he saw that my name is Abdul Qayum. Qayum is one of the Divine Attributes, it means one who is Self-Subsisting and All-Sustaining. From this also it is evident that God's Grace has ever been with me and will continue to remain in future as well. All praise be to Allah. Is there any limit to the Grace and Bounty of the Beneficent and Merciful Lord ? I myself wonder why God has been showering such unlimited mercy on a worthless person like myself. The Holy Quran provides answer to this :-

ذالک فضل الله یؤتیه من یشاء والله ذو الفضل العظیم

i. e. God showers His Grace on whomsoever He pleases; for He is the Bestower of Mighty Grace.

(7) Hazrat Yaqoob Ali Irfani informs me about another dream which is as follows :—

"I saw that there were many telephones lying on Abdullahbhoy's table and people were talking in different languages which we could not understand, but Abdullahbhoy understood them. I interpreted this dream to mean that people speaking different languages of the world wrote letters to him to which he replied.

(8) Now I narrate another event. I had a brother-in-law whose name was Abdullah Haji

Rahmetullah Jivraj. He remained an Agent of Sir Fazil bhoy Currimbhoy's Osmanshahi Mills for a number of years, andwas getting a monthly salary of Rs. 1,000/- After this he became the superintendent of His Exalted Highness the Nizam's Royal Palaces. He was a Shiah Isna Ashri Khoja. When he was in Bombay he was the secretary of the Jamat. When he came to Secunderabad and settled down here I used to preach Ahmadiyyat to him. He was very much impressed by my Tabligh and was ready to accept Ahmadiyyat privately through the Amire Jamat of Hyderabad. I told him that joining the Movement privately is as good as not joining it at all. Once he told me that one night he had dreamt as follows:—

"I am seated on a place which is dirty and stinking. At this moment you turned up and began to tell me:—

"Abdullah mian, in what a filthy place you are sitting. Do get up." Saying thus you grasped my hand and took me into your hall, where on the table was a flower pot and the book entitled "The Teachings of Islam" whose golden letters were shining like an electric light. Showing these to me you said "Abdullah mian, see how the true Islam shines". Addressing thus you went away to the upper story.

The interpretation of this dream is quite clear. By the dirty stinking place is meant his sect and by the glittering letters of the Teachings of Islam, which resembled electricity, is meant the shining of true Islam through "The Teachings of Islam" written by the Promised Messiah.

(9) Janab late Moulana Molvi Bahauddin Khan who was an Arabic teacher in the Darool Uloom High School and was an erudite scholar of Jamat Ahmadiyya, wrote years ago in his post-card dated the 21st Dai 1343 as follows:-

"At night I saw in a dream that I had entered the frontal hall of a very splendid palace. The floor of the palace was of glass like that of Prophet Solomon's (on whom be peace) mentioned in the Holy Quran. صرح ممرد من قوارير

When I stood up I saw the glass under my feet and below the glass there flowed a river of honey or milk. Ebrahimbhoy was standing near by and saying Abdullahbhoy is resting inside the palace. How shall I describe the magnificience and beauty of the palace which relished me till the morning. The interpretation is evident. May God keep us with the virtuous and enable us to die along with the virtuous."

Some of the letters of appreciation and prayers regarding my publication received from different parts of the globe

The Gracious and Almighty God has blessed my humble self to pray that He might enable me to perform such deeds that would win His pleasure and be of service to humanity and would earn for me the prayers of the people of every age. As Almighty God alone had granted me the Grace to offer such a supplication it was He who accepted and fulfilled it.

It is now 40 years since I have become an Ahmadi. As soon as the mighty significance of Ahmadiyyat dawned upon me, I commenced publishing literature in different languages. It was so much appreciated by the public that thousands of people began to send unsolicited letters with their prayers. Not a single month elapses in which I do not receive at least 20 to 25 letters. I give below a few specimen of letters of prayers received from foreign countries :

(1) Dr. Feruz Din Ahmed writes from Aden as follows :-

"Staying here in Aden, I am able to propagate Islam to the corners of the globe through your aid; I particularly convey the message of Islam everyday to the well known people of Norway, Holland, Poland, Denmark, England,

Scotland, America, Greece, Italy and France. In this noble work your literature has been of immense help to me. May God have mercy and may He enable you to keep the banner of Islam aloft in the whole world, so that the entire world may send their "Darood" to our Lord, the Holy Prophet Mohammed (may peace and blessings of Allah be on him).

(2) Janab Mahmood Ahmed writes from Andaman Port Blair, as follows:—

"Received your Telugu and Gujrati books. May the Almighty God reward you abundantly for the same. May the power of your pen increase. You have been blessed with the spirit of Sultanul Kalam, which was vouchsafed to the Promised Messiah (may peace of God be on him); for whoever reads your literature cannot but be influenced by it. I pray that the God Almighty may keep you and your family happy for a long time. Ameen.

(3) Janab Chowdhry Mushtaq Ahmed Bajwa B. A; the Imam of the London Mosque writes from London as follows:—

"Seeing you engaged heart and soul in religious service, prayers gush forth for you spontaneously. I have derived immense benefit out of your "Extracts from the Holy Quran".

May the Almighty Allah reward you abundantly for the same. "Ameen"

(4) Janab Molvi Karm Ilahi Zafar who has dedicated his life for religious service and who has been for a long time the Missionary of Spain, writes as follows:—

"Your personality is a source of blessings and of immense benefit to our Movement. Seeing your fervent zeal for the propagation of Ahmadiyyat, my heart over flows with prayers that the Almighty Allah may grant you a long life with perfect health and may you be blessed with more and more opportunities of serving religion.

(5) Molvi Mohammed Ebrahim Khaleel, our Missionary of Free Town Africa writes as follows:—

"It is needless to dwell upon the various ways in which the Almighty Allah has enabled you to render service to the Movement. It will be a mere formality to write that we are grateful and obliged to you. Almighty God alone can reward you for this work and He alone will do so. May Allah be your Helper and Guide. May He bless you in age, faith and sincerity, and may you earn an exalted rank in God's presence. Ameen.

Indeed you seem to be one of the forty through whom victory over the world will be achieved.

(6) Molvi Mohammed Sadiq, who is our Missionary of Sierra Leone, West Africa writes as follows:—

"Many thanks for your graciously promising to send me literature worth £ 30/- and for being kind enough to promise to send me literature in future at half the price for the benefit of the Mission. May the Almighty Allah keep you in perfect health and bless you in age and honour, and may He grant you always His Grace to excel in virtues.

(7) Choudhry Inayetullah writes from Nairobi, West Africa as follows:—

"I have received your affectionate letter and your religious literature. May the Almighty Allah favour you with his mainfold mercies and blessings. Ameen.

God-Willing this literature will prove a Divine elixir for thirsty souls. May Allah bless you for ever and ever. Ameen.

(8) The Editor Review of Religions, in its issue of September 1942, wrote as follows:—

"The prophecy which the Holy Prophet Mohammed (may peace and blessings of Allah be on him) had made in connection with the Promised Messiah viz that he will distribute treasure in abundance but no one will accept it, was fulfilled in the time of the Promised Messiah by way of rewards of thousands of rupees which he offered, in order to prove to his adversaries the truth of what he believed and what he proclaimed. No one was however able to secure even a pie. May the Almighty Allah bless Seth Abdullah bhoy of Secunderabad in his health and wealth and may He enable him to deserve His special Grace; for he has maintained in a unique manner the work of the Promised Messiah of offering rewards. Recently he has collected together the various rewards which he had offered on different occasions amounting to a total of one lakh (at present one and a half lakhs) and has published them in the form of a book which seekers after truth will find most appealing and beneficial. These rewards are for Muslims, non-muslims and paigamees, therefore they can be disseminated extensively. This book can be secured free of charge from Seth Saheb.

(9) Hazrat Irfani Saheb published in Alfazl dated 29th May 1943, as follows:—

"May the Holy God grant excellent reward to Seth Saheb, for nowadays he has been pub-

lishing the best kind of religious literature. Recently he has published a very nice (Urdu) tract entitled "A Message to Every Person" which contains a spiritual message to the followers of every religion. The object of this book is to point out the way in which one can secure happiness and contentment in both the worlds. Every sentence of this book is imbued with the spirit of sincerity and fellow-feeling and the followers of every religion can acquire a most tranquil heart through it. This is because what has been written in this book has come out of the depth of the author's heart. Besides this, it is written in the light of the Holy Quran and the Traditions; as such the readers cannot but remain influenced by it. If humanity were to act upon this message the worldly discord will give way to peace and harmony." "Hazrat Seth Abdullah bhoy is really one who has sacrificed his life in the way of the Almighty Allah. Those living at distant and foreign lands cannot realise the way he struggles and the painstaking manner in which he applies himself to carry on his preaching work. Now and then he publishes religious tracts. The Almighty God Himself instructs him. The diverse manner in which He inspires him to do religious works is simply amazing. The Almighty God has so blessed both his speech and pen that the literature published by him has an irresistible appeal, and many who read his literature join the Movement."

(Irfani)

In short the above are a few specimen of Urdoo letters of heartfelt prayers received from our foreign missionaries. The last two opinions are the newspapers' review. As for those letters of prayers which I received from Ahmadees, non-Ahmadees and non-muslims of foreign countries in English as well as of Asia in Urdoo, English, and Gujrathi, are too numerous.

MY RESIDENCE

Darul Anwar i. e. House of Divine Light

(Letter from Hazrat Irfani Saheb)

I came to Secunderabad in the beginning of June 1932 and stayed in the mosque of Seth Abdullah Alladin's house. I can say on the basis of my personal experience that this place is efficacious for divine prompting in one's spiritual progress.

One morning I was reading the chapter of the Quran entitled "Noor" (Light) and I was in a state of ecstasy. When I came to the Rukoo, commencing with اللہ نورالسموت والارض (Allah is the Light of the Heaven and the Earth) and reached the verse فی بیوت اذن اللہ ان ترفع (This lamp is found) "in houses which Allah hath allowed to be exalted." I found myself in a semi-conscious state and felt as if my senses were not functioning. It was a state of "Kashf" —condition of spiritual wakefulness in which an individual witnesses phenomena. In this condition it was shown to me that "this house is also one of those houses."

When I recovered from this spiritual trance I named this place as "Darul-Anwar" i. e. House of Divine Light. This spiritual vision of mine is in conformity with the dream of Hazrat Amirul Momeneen (may Allah be his Supporter) in which he saw Divine Light being showered upon Seth Abdullah Alladin in a magnificent building.

—Irfani.

Reasons for my writing this history

How far can I narrate the Grace and Bounties of the Almighty God: for they are limitless. I had no idea whatever to write this history. One day my wife said to me that God had favoured me with His mainfold blessings so it was well that I should record them, but I ignored it. After a few days she again asked me whether I had commenced writing. Again I did not take any heed, whereupon all of a sudden the Almighty God reminded me of this verse of the Holy Quran وَاَمَّا بِنِعْمَةِ رَبِّكَ فَحَدِّثْ i. e. "Narrate the blessings with which Thy Lord has favoured thee."

Because I had been ignoring this matter the Almighty God reprimanded me and commanded me to do this work. It is for this reason that I had to narrate all the matters pertaining to my life. I was an absolutely ignorant person, but it was the will of the Almighty God to manifest the truth of Ahmadiyyat or true Islam through an ignorant person like my humble self. It was for this reason that He had named me as "Abdullah" i.e. "Servant of God." In order to prove that I was really a servant of Allah, He showed in a dream that I was Ramdas i. e. the servant of God. In this way from my very birth, as my name implies, God the Almighty had decreed that I should become His servant

and perform religious work. Afterwards with great affection He gave me the glad tidings that He was going to illumine my destiny. To accomplish this He taught me the following prayer:—

> "Oh Allah enable me to render such deeds as no one in the world has done, which would win Thy pleasure and be of service to humanity and would elicit prayers from people of every age."

These are indeed lofty ideals and seem quite impossible of accomplishment. But the Almighty God had willed it so, for He alone had schemed out such a grand plan for me to materialize all these noble objectives. Can any intelligent person still venture to deny the truth of Ahmadiyyat?

Can any one disbelieve the Visions of Almighty God's Khalif and several other dignitaries regarding the most wonderful Divine Graces showered on my humble self?

Can any one disbelieve the numerous letters of heartfelt prayers received from different parts of the globe regarding the appreciation of my humble self's literature?

Do not all these prove the truth of Ahmadiyyat or the true Islam?

Dear Reader!

I now conclude and request you to read this book not just once but more than once so that the truth of Ahmadiyyat or the true Islam may dawn upon you, and you and your family may thus enjoy eternal happiness. Ameen. I now most humbly supplicate the Almighty God:—"Oh my dearest Beneficent and Merciful Allah, how marvellously hast Thou blest Thy humblest servant. I was in a most rotten condition and Thou didst raise me to celestial heights. I was absolutely ignorant of such an important matter as religion and was steeped in darkness and ignorance. It was Thou Who brought me into glorious light. Of all religious works the best is Tabligh but I did not know at all what Tabligh was. True Islam being Ahmadiyyat, what a mighty arrangement didst Thou make to enable me to accept it. Through the teachings of Ahmadiyyat I realised the full significance of Tabligh (preaching) Thou hast blessed my preaching efforts in such a manner that I was able to compile literature which won appreciation throughout the world. People who studied this literature sent me unsolicited letters with their heartfelt prayers, and inspite of the lapse of many years I still receive letters almost every day. Not only the people of this mundane world but also Thou expressed Thy approval of my

English and Urdoo literature from heaven. I had no money whatsoever, but Thou blest me with lakhs of rupees. Is there any limit to Thy bounties? How far can I go on mentioning Thy favours. All praise be to Allah. All praise be to Allah. The Lord of all the worlds.

The comfort of this transitory life when compared with the everlasting bliss of the next world is but like a drop in the ocean, but alas how pitiable it is that people are so short sighted that they hanker after the trivial comforts of this mundane world. On the other hand by guiding me to the fountain of eternal bliss, God the Almighty made me supremely happy. No doubt God the Almighty has shown this path to everyone, but it is to be regretted that people instead of following it, regard the very Divine Messenger as having gone astray. Alas they do not realize that immediately after death what a painful fate will befall them. Oh my dear Lord have mercy on them and grant them the grace and courage to earn these blessings for without Thy grace they can never secure this boon. Ameen.

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