

Khilafat Centenary Jalsa

After the memorable scenes witnessed at Bait-UI-Huda Mosque in Sydney on Tuesday, the 27th of April 2008 to mark the 100 years of Khilafat-e-Ahmadiyya, the Ahmadiyya Community of Australia held a Khilafat Centenary Jalsa on Saturday, the 31st of April 2008.

First Session

The first session of the Khilafat Centenary Jalsa was chaired by Ameer and Missionary In-Charge of the Ahmadiyya Community of Australia, Maulana Mahmood Ahmad. It commenced at 2:10pm with the recitation and translation of the Holy Quran by Syed Tariq Ahmad. A nazm (religious poem) was then delivered in the most beautiful tone by Saqib Mahmood Atif. Then Taseer Bashir presented a speech in Urdu introducing the Khilafat Centenary program. He stressed that as per history, the success of Islam is not possible without the existence of Khilafat. This was followed by a succession of small speeches on the five Khalifas since the demise of the Promised Messiah (as). Ata-UI-Awal Nasir spoke on Khalifatul Masih I, Fateen Khan spoke on Khalifatul Maish II, Muneeb-Ur-Rehman Sanori talked about Khalifatul Masih III, Usman Khan spoke on Khalifatul Masih IV and finally Ahmad Mirza talked about the current Khalifah, Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad (aba).

Nazms written by some talented members of the Australian Jamaat were presented next. Mrs. Rehana Khan, wife of Farhad Jan Khan wrote a beautiful poem on Khilafat after being inspired by the congregational Tahajjud prayers on Khilafat Day. This was read out by Dr. Omar Shahab Khan. Mohammed Amjad Khan then presented his poem on the Khilafat Jubilee, which was quite touching. The last poem was delivered by Tariq Bashir Malik, which was very creative and touching as well. Next, atfal presented a tarana.

Ameer Sahib's speech was next on the program. He began by emphasizing that the Khilafat Centenary celebrations should include the Jamaat being thankful to their Lord and at the same time re-thinking and re-focusing their responsibilities. He then highlighted that the Bait-UI-Huda Mosque is maintained all by volunteers from the Jamaat who make huge sacrifices for the sake of Allah and to be regarded as the true followers of the Promised Messiah (as). He pointed out that those members of the Jamaat who sacrifice their time, wealth or effort for Allah should never complain. Members of the Jamaat should pray for the further success of Ahmadiyyat, pray for an everlasting bond with Khilafat and pray for their beloved Huzur (aba) and Khalifah. Ameer Sahib advised the Jamaat to make trust in Allah their beauty and fear of Allah their garment. Finally, the Ahad read out by Huzur (aba) during Khilafat Day on the 27th of April 2008 globally on MTA, was re-played with the whole Jamaat repeating after Huzur (aba). The first session ended at 4:10pm with silent prayers led by Ameer Sahib.

Second Session

The second session of the Khilafat Centenary Jalsa began at 5:30pm after Maghrib and Isha prayers were offered in congregation at 5pm. This session was also chaired by Ameer Sahib and it was started by the recitation and translation of the Holy Quran by Muzaffar Mirza. Ameer Sahib then delivered the opening speech. There were a number of guests and dignitaries present in this session so Ameer Sahib first introduced and welcomed all the guests from outside the Ahmadiyya Community. He then highlighted the duties and responsibilities of Ahmadis taught by Khilafat. He pointed out that the love of one's homeland is a part of faith. Ameer Sahib praised the religious freedom existing in Australia and went on to thank the Australian Government and people for their support. After that, Taseer Bashir delivered a speech on the Khilafat Centenary. He explained that Divine guidance and help is always with the Ahmadiyya Jamaat due to the blessings of Khilafat. The Ahmadiyya Jamaat being spread in 190 countries and the members numbering around 150-200 million globally are signs of the success of the Jamaat as well as witnessing all the enemies of the Jamaat being perished or defeated. The speaker elaborated that the solution to all the problems and despairs of this World lay with Khilafat as this institution goes beyond race, colour, creed and politics. This was followed by Mirza Imran Karim Ahsan presenting the summary of Huzur's (aba) Sermon that he delivered on Khilafat Day on the 27th of April 2008.

Ramzan Sharif then read out messages from various dignitaries, including Hon. Kevin Rudd, the Prime Minister of Australia, Hon. Moris Iemma, the Premier of NSW and Cnr. Leo Kelly, the Mayor of Blacktown City Council.

Various distinguished guest speakers were then given a chance to express themselves. Louise Markus MP read out a message from Hon. Brendan Nelson, leader of the opposition Liberal party. Hon. Philip Ruddock, the former Attorney General of Australia spoke on the persecution and oppression the Ahmadiyya Community faced and then gave credit to the members of the Australian Jamaat for the service they carry out for their community and for humanity in general. Lastly, Hon. Roger Price, MP of Blacktown City Council praised the great contribution by Ahmadis in Australia. He also stated that preaching tolerance and understanding between faiths is vital and the Ahmadiyya Community always strive to practice this.

Finally, MTA Australia presented a very impressive documentary of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community's history in Australia using the aid of a projector and screen. The session was brought to a close at 6:55pm with silent prayers led by Ameer Sahib.

Large marquees were set-up for dinner, with separated areas for men and women. It was served at 7:30pm for everyone, including all the members of the Jamaat as well as all the guests and dignitaries from outside the Ahmadiyya Community. There was also a Exhibition and Bookstall marquee set-up, which included a large variety of religious books in different languages as well as a photo display of the history of the Ahmadiyya Community in Australia and world-wide. Commemorative souvenir items for the Khilafat Centenary, such as t-shirts, caps, pens, key rings etc. were also available for sale.

