
Islam: My Religion

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General Religious Knowledge for Children

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Table of Contents:

- Islam
- Five Articles of Faith
- Five Pillars of Islam
- Ahmadiyyat - Revival of Islam

ISLAM

Q What does the word 'Islam' mean?

A Islam is an Arabic word which literally means obedience and peace. So 'Islam' would mean the path of those who are obedient to Allah and who establish peace with Him and His creatures.

Q What is a follower of the religion of Islam called?

A He is called a Muslim.

Q Who gave the name of Islam to our religion?

A Allah gave the name of Islam to our religion.

Q Can you quote the verse of the Holy Quran where the name of Islam has been given to our religion.

A Yes. In chapter 5 verse 4, Allah named our religion as Islam.

Q What are the main qualities of Islam?

A Islam is a perfect religion. Its teachings are simple and can easily be practised by everyone. It gives reason for each of its commandments and teachings. The Holy Quran, which is the religious scripture of the Muslims, is the word of Allah. This book is exactly the same as it was revealed to the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be on him). Allah has promised to safeguard it.

FIVE ARTICLES OF FAITH:

I believe in Allah, His Books, His Prophets and the Day of Resurrection.

Q What is Iman?

A *Iman* means belief or faith. One Who believes is, therefore, a *Momin*.

Q What are the main Articles of Faith (Iman) in Islam?

A The following are the main Articles of faith in Islam:-

To believe in the Oneness of Allah.

To believe in all His Angels.

To believe in all His Books.

To believe in all His Prophets.

To believe in the Day of Resurrection.

:Allah

Q Who is the Creator of all the worlds?

A Allah created everything.

Q Tell me more about Allah.

A Allah is One and Almighty. He alone is worthy of worship. He has no partners. He begets not nor is He begotten. He is Eternal. He listens to our prayers and accepts them. He gives life and causes death. He created us in the best form. He has neither wife nor children. He is Perfect. He loves us all and shows mercy to us. He has knowledge of everything. He sends His guidance to us through His Prophets. He is Master of the Day of Judgment. No sleep or slumber ever overtakes Him. He has neither beginning nor end. He is All-Knowing, All-Seeing and Just.

Q What are His principal attributes?

A There are four principal attributes of His mentioned in Sura Fatihia, the first chapter of the Holy Quran, namely, Rabbul Aalameen, Ar-Rahman, Ar-Rahim, and Malik-i-yaumiddeen.

Continued:

:Allah [Contd.]

Q What are the meanings of these phrases?

A Rabbul Aalameen means 'Lord of all the worlds'. Ar-Rahman means 'the Gracious'. Ar-Rahim means 'the Merciful', and Malik-i-yaumiddeen means 'Master of the Day of Judgment'.

Q How can we establish relationship with Him?

A By obeying Him and praying constantly to Him.

Q Does Allah speak to people?

A Yes. He responds to our prayers. Those who obey Him and do good are favored with answer to their prayers.

Q In what language should one pray to Him?

A One can pray to Him in any language one likes. He knows all languages. He is the Creator of all languages.

Q Where is Allah?

A Allah is everywhere. He sees us at all times but we cannot see Him with our physical eyes.

:The Angels of Allah

Q What are angels?

A Angels have been created by Allah. They are spiritual beings. They obey the commands of Allah. They are numerous in number and have been assigned various duties by Allah. They are also sent by Allah to help His prophets and their followers.

Q Name some of the most important Angels of Allah?

A There are four most important angels of Allah namely Jibraeel, Mikaeel, Israfeel and Izraeel.

Q Do we worship angels?

A No, not at all. We only worship Allah and none else whatsoever.

Q What is the name of the angel who brought Allah's revelation to the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be on him)?

A Hazrat Jibraeel.

:The Books of Allah

Q 'What do you mean by Books of Allah'?

A Allah sends His guidance to mankind from time to time. This guidance is conveyed to mankind through Prophets of Allah. It contains laws for our day to day life. These laws and rules are called the Books of Allah. We must believe in all books of Allah.

Q What are the well known books?

A The well known books are the following:-

The Holy Quran which is the last and perfect Book. It was revealed to the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings Allah be on him). It took nearly 23 years to be revealed. It came in bits and small portions. The Torah was given to Prophet Musa (Moses) (peace be on him). The Psalms or Zaboor given to Prophet Daud (David) (peace be on him).

The New Testament or Injeel given to Prophet Isa (Jesus)(peace be on him). The Mus'haf was given to Prophet Ibrahim (Abraham) (peace be on him).

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:The Books of Allah [Cont.]

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Q What are the main features of the Holy Quran?

A The Holy Quran is a book of guidance for us all. Every word of the Quran is the word of Allah. The Quran has been preserved in its original form as promised by Allah in the in itself (15:10).

It was preserved by the Holy Prophet Muhammad and his companions (peace be on them all) by committing it memory. There have always been hundreds of people in ages who have learnt the whole of the Holy Quran by heart. This practice still continues. The Quran is in Arabic language. The style and language of the Quran are excellent. The Quran has been translated into many languages including English. It contains many prophecies about the future of mankind and also a complete code of conduct for us. Those who follow the Holy Quran become the most successful people in life. We should read and ponder over the meaning of the Quran more often so that we could achieve success in life. The Quran has 114 chapters and is also divided into 30 equal parts.

Continued:

:The Books of Allah [Cont.]

Cont.

Q Will there be other Books after the Quran canceling some or all of its teachings?

A Not at all. Quran is the perfect and most complete Book. There is no need for mankind to look forward to anything else because the Quran gives guidance in all aspects of life. The Quran is a living Book and will remain so for ever.

Q What other Revealed Books exist today in their original forms?

A None. All other books have been changed partly by their followers and are not the original ones. Some of them have not even been preserved in their original languages, such as the New Testament. We only have belief in the fact that these books originally had contained the message of Allah but the present day version of these is open to criticism.

:The Prophets of Allah

Q Who is a Prophet?

A In Arabic there are two words used for a Prophet. *Rasul* means 'one who is sent' or 'messenger', and *Nabi* means 'one who receives and conveys Divine Commands'. Both these words are used for a person who is chosen by Allah for the reformation and guidance of mankind.

Q Mention some of the qualities of a Prophet.

A The Prophets of Allah are chosen from among human beings. They set the best examples of moral and spiritual conduct. They lead mankind to Allah by conveying to them the Divine revelation and also by their own example of purity and righteousness. They are the most truthful of men. Their hearts are full of love of Allah and His creatures. All of them proclaim the Oneness of Allah and ask people to submit to Him completely.

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:The Prophets of Allah [Contd.]

Q Who is the chief of the Prophets?

A Muhammad (peace be on him) is the chief of the Prophets. He is *Khatamun-Nabiyyeen* i.e. the Seal of the Prophets. He brought perfect guidance for us from Allah. He came as a blessing for mankind. He is an excellent Exemplar. He showed mercy not only to human beings but also to animals.

Q Name some of the other Prophets of Allah.

A Adam, Ibrahim (Abraham), Nuh (Noah), Musa (Moses), Daud (David), Suleiman (Solomon), Isa (Jesus), Ahmad (May peace of Allah be on them all.)

Q When was the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace be on him) born and when did he die?

A He was born on 20th April, 570 A.D. at Mecca in Arabia, and died at the age of 63 at Medina. He is buried at Medina.

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:The Prophets of Allah (Cont.)

Q Tell me more about the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace be on him).

A Muhammad (may peace be on him) was left an orphan, and was brought up by his grandfather Abdul Muttalib, and later, by his uncle Abu Talib. Abdullah is his father's name and Amina is the name of his mother. His mother died when he was only six years of age. Muhammad (peace be on him) was twenty five when he married Khadija, who was forty. She bore him several children. Muhammad (may peace be on him) used to retire for meditation to the cave of *Hira* which is a few miles from Mecca. At the age of forty he received revelation from Allah that he had been appointed a prophet whose duty it was to reform mankind. He started his divine mission but was opposed by all except a few. They even tortured him and killed some of his followers. They laughed at him and ridiculed him when he spoke to them about his sacred mission. Even his own relatives turned against him. He continued his work under these circumstances until such time as Allah ordered him and his followers to leave Mecca and migrate to Medina. The Meccans were so opposed to him that they would not even let him leave the town. He along with his dear friend and follower, Abu Bakr, decided to leave Mecca. One night they left Mecca in the dark and took refuge in a cave called Thaur for nearly three days. During this time the Meccans left no stone unturned to trace him but to no purpose.

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After three days he and Abu Bakr started on their journey to Medina. This is called the Hijra or the migration. He was welcomed warmly by the people of Medina. Soon after settling down in Median the news started coming in that the Meccans had started raising an army to attack Medina and to destroy Islam and its founder. The Prophet and his followers were worried when they heard this news but had full faith in Allah about their safety. The first battle that was fought by the Prophet and his followers is called the Battle of *Badr* as it was fought near a well of that name. The Prophet had 313 followers as against the Meccans who were more than 1,000 in number. They were well equipped whereas the Prophet and his followers had not much weapons and food. The non-believers were defeated at the hands of the Muslims and were routed.

After this battle he had to fight several other battles in self defence till eventually he entered Mecca as a conqueror in 630 A.D. and the hostilities ceased for the time being. The Holy Prophet died at Medina at the age of 63 and was buried there. Muhammad (peace be on him) is an excellent exemplar for us all. Allah wanted to make him a model for us all so He made him pass through various stages of human life. He showed kindness to his wives, mercy to his enemies and laid down standards of equality for men to follow. He commanded armies and was an excellent General. He was obedient to his elders and kind to the young.

:The Prophets of Allah (Cont.)

Q Has the advent of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace be on him) been mentioned in other scriptures?

A Yes. Prophet Moses (may peace be on him) told the Israelites that God had told him of the advent of the Holy Prophet in the following words:

I will raise them up a prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put My words in his mouth, and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him. (Deuteronomy 18:18)

This was a prophecy about the Holy Prophet made in about 1451 B.C. by the Prophet Moses.

Q Where can we read the events of the life of the Holy Prophet?

A In the Holy Quran where major events of his life have been mentioned by Allah Himself and from the Books of Hadith which consist of his sayings and doings. There are six major books of Hadith. These are Bukhari, Muslim, Tirmizi, Ibn Maja, qasaec, and Abu Daud.

:The Day of Resurrection and Judgment

Q What do you know about the Day of Resurrection and Judgment?

A On the Day of Resurrection-we will be raised again by Allah and will be given a new life. He will then judge us according to our deeds on earth. Those who have been doing good deeds and have been obedient to Allah and His Prophets would be awarded the everlasting life of happiness and peace in Paradise or Heaven. Others who have been rebellious to Allah and His prophets and had spent their lives in evil would be punished in Hell.

Q How long will a person remain in Heaven or Hell?

A Paradise is ever lasting.

Hell is like a hospital where patients are kept for a limited time to be cured of their spiritual ailments. They would be transferred to Heaven after having been cured of their spiritual diseases. Hell is thus for a limited period of time.

Q What is sin?

A Any action done deliberately against the command of Allah is a sin.

Q Is man sinful by nature?

A No. Every child is born quite sinless in this world. It is only when he consciously and deliberately breaks the law of Allah that he can be called a sinner.

Q Do the Prophets of Allah commit sin?

A No. Never. They are all sinless. They are the most obedient of men to Allah. They are the best examples for mankind and as such they do not break the laws which they bring for mankind.

Q How do we know what is good and what is evil?

A By reading the Holy Quran and the Hadith (traditions) of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace be on him).

Continued

:The Day of Resurrection and Judgment (Cont.)

Q Could you give a list of some of the deeds that are good.

A Yes. In the Holy Quran, Allah commands us to be regular in our daily prayers, show obedience to our parents and elders, tell the truth, extend hospitality to guests, love our Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace be on him), and his Companions and pray for them, ask others to do good and refrain from loose talk and from wasting our time in useless pursuits.

Q Can you name some of the deeds that are major sins?

A The following are major sins:

To believe in anyone as partner of Allah.

To show disrespect to parents.

To steal.

To bear false witness.

To backbite.

To abuse anybody.

To be dishonest.

To break one's promise.

To commit adultery or fornication

FIVE PILLARS OF ISLAM:

The foundation of Islam are five:

- Bearing witness that there is no god but Allah and that Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah,
- observance of Prayer,
- paying *Zakat*,
- fasting during *Ramadhan*,and
- Pilgrimage to the house of Allah.

:The Foundations of Islam

Q What are the fundamental principles of Islam?

A There are five principles of Islam:

Affirmation of the creed:

There is none worthy of worship but Allah and that Mu-hammad is His Apostle.

Observance of *Salat* (obligatory Prayers).

Paying of *Zakat* (poor rate).

Observance of *Saum* (Fast) during *Ramadhan*.

Performance of *Hajj* (pilgrimage) to Mecca.

Q What is the first principle of Islam?

A The first principle of Islam is to declare that there is none worthy of worship but Allah and that Muhammad is His Apostle.

:Prayer (Salat)

Q What is the second principle of Islam?

A The second principle of Islam is to offer the Obligatory Prayers.

Q How many Obligatory prayers are there in Islam?

A There are five obligatory prayers. These are called: *Fajr*, *Zuhr*, *Asr*, *Maghrib* and *Isha*.

Q What are the timings of these prayers?

A *Fajr* or morning prayer is said an hour before sunrise.

Zuhr or noon prayer is said at the decline of the sun.

Asr or afternoon prayer is said two hours before sunset.

Maghrib or sunset prayer is said immediately after sunset.

Isha or evening prayer is offered after dark.

(The timings are approximate.)

Continued:

:Prayer (Salat) [Cont.]

Q What do you mean by *Nafl* prayers?

A These are optional prayers which could be offered whenever one likes except at forbidden times which are as follows:

During the rising of the sun.

When the sun is at its zenith.

During the setting of the sun.

After *Asr* prayer till the *Azan* of *Maghrib* prayer and after *Fajr* prayer till after the rising of the sun.

Q What is the person who leads the prayer in congregation called?

A He is called *Imam* which literally means leader.

Continued:

:Prayer (Salat) [Cont.]

Q How many kinds of prayers are there in Islam?

A There are three kinds of prayers:

Farz. This has been enjoined by Allah.

Sunnat. These were offered in addition to the *Farz* prayer regularly by the Holy Prophet.

Nafl. These are optional prayers such as *Tahajjud* etc.

Q What benefits could we derive from offering Prayer regularly?

A The Holy Quran says that regular Prayer wards off evil and indecency. It is the best means of self purification. It brings us nearer to our Creator and makes us obedient to Him. Prayer brings peace of mind and removes worries from our minds. It makes us punctual and regular in life.

:Zakat (Poor Rate)

Q What is *Zakat* (poor rate)?

A It is a cess paid in cash or kind by Muslims of means who possess for one complete year, money, gold, silver, or cattle beyond a minimum. The proceeds of *Zakat* are distributed among the poorer sections of the community.

Q What is the annual rate of *Zakat* on money, gold, and silver?

A The annual rate is two and a half percent

:Saum-I-Ramadhan (Fasting)

Q What is a fast?

A Fast means abstention from food, and drink from dawn to sunset for the pleasure of God.

Q Should everybody observe the fast?

A Yes, except invalids, insane, infants or those on a journey. But those who do not observe the fast due to illness or incapacity of any sort or because of being on a journey should observe the fast on an equal number of other days. Those who cannot observe the fast at all should arrange to feed a poor and needy person during the period of the fast.

Q What is the month of obligatory fasting called?

A It is called the month of *Ramadhan*.

Q Should we fast during this month only?

A We can fast whenever we like during the year. The month of *Ramadhan* is the month of obligatory fasting.

Q What are the benefits of fasting?

A Fasting is good both for our physical as well as spiritual health. It promotes self discipline, physical, and moral strength. It reinforces the bonds of human sympathy. It is a great virtue to endure hunger and thirst for winning the pleasure of Allah.

: Saum-I-Ramadhan (Fasting) [Contd.]

Q What was the practice of the Holy Prophet in respect of voluntary fasts?

A The Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace be on him) used to observe voluntary fast as follows:

Six in the beginning of the month of *Shawwal* (the lunar month after *Ramadhan*).

Three in the middle of every lunar month.

On the ninth of *Zul-Hajj*.

On the ninth or/and tenth of *Muharram*.

Q What is the congregational voluntary Prayer offered during the month of *Ramadhan* called?

A It is called *Taraweeh*. It consists of eight *Raka'ats*. It is offered immediately after the *Isha* prayers, but can also be offered in the latter part of the night.

Q What is *Itikaf*?

A One who can afford to spend the last ten days and nights of the month of *Ramadhan* in the mosque is called *Mu'takif*. To remain in the mosque for this period and to devote one's time wholly to the worship and remembrance of 'Allah is called *Itikaf*.

:Hajj (Pilgrimage)

Q What is *Hajj* or pilgrimage to Mecca.

A It is obligatory upon all Muslims who can afford the journey to perform Pilgrimage to Mecca at least once in their life time.

Q What is *Umra*?

A *Umra* is a visit to Mecca at any time during the year in the state of *Ihram* to perform the *Tawaf* (circuits) of *K'abah* and the *Sae'e* (Running between the hillocks *Safa & Marwa*).

Q What are the ceremonies of *Hajj*?

A To be in the state of *Ihram* and to recite *Talbiyyah*. The stay at *Arafat* from the afternoon of 9th *Zulhajj* to sunset. To perform *Tawaf*(circuits) from 10th to the 12th *Zulhajj*. To offer sacrifice of an animal on 10th *Zulhajj*.

Q What is *Ihram*?

A The state of *Ihram* means to be clothed only in two seamless sheets. *Hajj* or *Umra* can only be performed in the state of *Ihram*.

Women are not required to be in *Ihram*.

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:Hajj (Pilgrimage) [Contd.]

Q What is *Talbiyyah*?

A The frequent repetition of the response:

Here am I, O Allah, here am I;

Here am I, Thou hast no associate, here am I;

All praise and bounty are Thine, and Thine the Kingdom;

Thou hast no associate.

Q What is *Tawaf* and how is it performed?

A *Tawaf* means performing seven circuits of the *Ka'abah*, starting from the position in which the Black Stone is on one's right. At the end of each circuit the Black Stone should be kissed, if possible, and if not, then symbolically.

Q What is the *Ka'abah*?

A The *Ka'abah* is the first place set up for the worship of God in the world in pre-historic times. It was restored by Prophets *Ibrahim* and *Ismaeel* (may Allah's peace be on them both) some four thousand years ago. Muslims all over the world face towards the *Ka'abah* when they offer their Prayers.

AHMADIYYAT - THE REVIVAL OF ISLAM

“I have come to establish the truth of Islam and to convince men of its beauty, and to lead them to the fountain of its teachings and to refresh their souls with its waters. I have brought no new law or command. The Holy Quran is the final code of Divine laws and Muhammad (on Whom be peace and blessings of God) is His last Law-bearing Prophet. I am His messenger but without a new law; and I am a Prophet but without a book; and the sole object of my advent is to serve Islam and to propagate it and to remove from its bright face the dust that has been settled there as the result of the stormy thoughts of man during the latter days.”

AHMAD OF QADIAN
(The Promised Messiah and Mahdi)

:Ahmadiyyat

Q What is Ahmadiyyat and who founded it?

A The Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam was founded by Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad of Qadian in 1889. It was foretold by the Holy Prophet Muhammad (may peace of Allah be on him) that in the latter days when moral and spiritual values would be in decline among the Muslims, the Messiah and Mahdi would appear and revive Islam. He would present Islam in its original purity and beauty and would establish the superiority of Islam over all other faiths. It was also prophesied by the Holy Prophet Muhammad (may peace of Allah be on him) that through the Promised Messiah Islam would spread to the western world also. Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad of Qadian claimed that he was the Messiah and the Mahdi as had been prophesied by the Holy Prophet Muhammad (may peace of Allah be on him).

Continued:

:Ahmadiyyat [Contd.]

Q Tell me more about Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad of Qadian.

A Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad was born in 1835 at Qadian (India). He belonged to a noble family of Mughals. His father was the Chief of Qadian. He was born at a time when little thought was given to learning. There were no regular schools or colleges in smaller towns. His father was very eager for his education so he employed a tutor named Fazli Elahi for the purpose. From him he learned to read the Holy Quran and few Persian books. At the age of ten he had another teacher named Fazi Ahmad who instructed him in Arabic grammar and a few other books. He read some books on medicine, logic and philosophy with another teacher named Gul Ali Shah.

After the completion of this course of initial education he was asked by his father to take up some Government job. In obedience to his father he offered himself for a job in the Deputy Commissioner's office at Sialkot but he soon found that this was not the kind of work that suited his temperament. So he gave up his appointment and returned to Qadian. Now most of the time was devoted to the study of the Holy Quran, the books of Hadith and religious literature. He loved retirement and seclusion from the world and found his joy in meditation and worship of Allah.

:Ahmadiyyat [Contd.]

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He was just over 40 when his father died. Before his father's demise he was warned of the event through Divine revelation. His father's death was naturally painful for him and made him very sad. While thinking about his future, after his father's death a thought passed through his mind who would look after his needs. Thereupon he received another revelation.

Is not Allah All-Sufficient for His servant?

This brought him great comfort and he was reassured that Allah would not suffer him to perish.

Continued:

:Ahmadiyyat [Contd.]

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Since his early life Hazrat Ahmad had been deeply distressed at the terrible state into which the Muslims had fallen. Christians and Hindus were making outrageous attacks on the Holy Founder of Islam and on the Holy Quran. The Christians had even announced that within a short space of time the standard of Christ would be hoisted all over India and Arabia. Muslim divines, on the other hand, were woefully lacking in all spiritual knowledge. The Promised Messiah stepped into the breach to defend Islam. He wrote hundreds of books, pamphlets and handbills defending Islam and proving its superiority over all other faiths. His first book called *Baraheen-i-Ahmadiyya*, was enthusiastically received by the Muslims. They called him the Lion of Islam. The Christians and Hindus retreated before him everywhere.

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:Ahmadiyyat [Contd.]

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Hazrat Ahmad married twice and had seven sons and three daughters. Two sons and a daughter died in infancy. He prophesied about the birth of an illustrious son who was born on 12th January, 1889 and was given the name of Mirza Bashirud Din Mahmud Ahmad. Hazrat Ahmad challenged the followers of all other faiths to come forward and hold debate with him on the subject of the superiority of Islam over all other faiths. None turned up. He was given the miracle of penmanship. He wrote many books in Arabic, and challenged Arab scholars to produce the like of them. He made thousands of prophecies many of which were fulfilled in his own life time. Many have been fulfilled since and there are others yet to be fulfilled. Hazrat Ahmad spent all his life in the service of Islam. He was a great soldier of Islam. His knowledge of the Holy Quran was miraculous. He had a store of vast spiritual and religious knowledge bestowed upon him by Allah Himself. Hazrat Ahmad died on 25th May, 1908 at Lahore and was buried the next day at Qadian.

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:Ahmadiyyat [Contd.]

Q Who were Successors (Khalifahs) to the promised Messiah?

A Hazrat Alhaj Maulvi Nooruddin was the first Successor (Khalifah) to the Promised Messiah.

Hazrat Alhaj Mirza Bashirud Din Mahmud Ahmad was the second Khalifah.

Hazrat Hafiz Mirza Nasir Ahmad was the third Successor (Khalifah) to the Promised Messiah and

Hazrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad is the present Head of the Ahmadiyya Movement, and is the fourth Khalifah.

Q Tell me more about Hazrat Maulvi Nooruddin?

A Hazrat Maulvi Nooruddin was born in 1841 at Bhera (Pakistan). His father was Ghulam Rasul. He was a great scholar of Arabic and Persian. His quest for knowledge took him all over India. He spent a few years at Mecca and Medina where he studied Hadith and other theological subjects. He was a highly qualified physician and was personal Physician to the Maharaja of Kashmir for a number of years. At the death of the Promised Messiah he was elected to the most elevated position of Khalifah by all the members of the Community. He passed away on March 13, 1914, on a Friday.

Continued:

:Ahmadiyyat [Contd.]

Q Tell me more about Hazrat Mirza Bashirud Din Mahmud Ahmad.

A He was the second Khalifah and the illustrious Promised Son of the Promised Messiah. He was born on 12th January, 1889 at Qadian. On the death of Hazrat Maulvi Nooruddin he was elected the second Successor (Khalifah) to the Promised Messiah on March 14, 1914. Hazrat Mirza Bashirud Din Mahmud Ahmad was a great scholar of the Holy Quran and his comments on the Holy Quran are unique. He was a great orator. He was also a very good writer. He wrote scores of books on various Islamic subjects. He was extremely intelligent. He organised the Community on a sound basis. It was during his time that the Ahmadiyya Missions outside India were established. He died on 9th November, 1965.

Q Tell me more about Hazrat Mirza Nasir Ahmad.

A Hazrat Hafiz Mirza Nasir Ahmad was born in November 1909. He was educated in India and Oxford. Before his election as Khalifah he served the Community in various capacities. He was a lover of nature. His knowledge of the Holy Quran and Hadith was remarkable. He was also an able administrator.

He launched Nusrat Jehan Scheme. Under this scheme, scores of medical centres and High Schools were opened in the West African countries of Nigeria, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ivory Coast and the Gambia. He died at Rabwah, Pakistan, in 1982.

:Ahmadiyyat [Contd.]

Q Who is the present Head of the Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam? *

A He is Hazrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad. He was born on the 18th of December 1928 at Qadian, Punjab, India. He received his early education in Qadian. He then joined Government College, Lahore, Pakistan.

In 1955 he went to London and studied at the University of London, School of Oriental and African Studies. He returned to Pakistan in 1957. Upon his return he was elected President of Khuddamul Ahmadiyya Association (International) and later President Ansarullah (International). He served the movement in various other capacities before being elected to his current position of Khalifatul Masih.

Hazrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad is a great scholar, a fine orator, a brilliant author and a spiritual guide. His Friday sermons are a great source of inspiration and knowledge for not only the members of the jamaat but for non Ahmadis also. These sermons are being transmitted live all over the world through radio, T.V. and satellite networks.

Hazrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad has travelled all over the world and has met Heads of State, intellectuals of international repute, politicians, writers and journalists.

Recently an English author Mr. Ian Adamson has written an excellent biography of Hazrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad. It is called 'A Man of God'. His speeches and discourses have been widely reported in the International press.

The Holy Quran has been translated into 50 languages of the world under his guidance. He also plans to publish the Holy Quran into 100 languages of the world.

He has launched schemes for the uplift of African people and other nations of the Third World.

Hazrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad is married and has four daughters.

Continued:

*Hazrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad (ra) passed away in 2003.

Waqfe Nau - USA

:Ahmadiyyat [Contd.]

Q What are the main organisation in the Ahmadiyya Jama'at?

A The Ahmadiyya Jama'at is organised into several associations. The Women's Association is called the 'Lajna Imaullah', which consists of two sections. Those up to the age of 15 are called Nasiratul Ahmadiyya. The male members of the Jama'ats are divided into three associations. Children between the ages of 8 and 16 are organised into an association called the Atfalul Ahmadiyya. Those between 15 and 40 are members of Khuddam-ul-Ahmadiyya. This is the most active of the three associations. Those above 40 are organised in an association called the Ansarullah.

Q Which is the first Ahmadiyya Muslim Mission established outside Indo-Pak continent?

A The first mission established outside India was the London Mission which was established in 1914 under Hazrat Chaudhri Fateh Muhammad Sial, the first Ahmadiyya missionary to England. In 1924, The London Mosque was built by the Ahmadiyya Jama'at, the first to be built in London. This project was financed entirely by the ladies of the Jama'at. The London mission has the distinction of having been visited twice by Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih III also visited the London Mission eight times during his Khilafat. The London Mission publishes a monthly magazine called the Muslim Herald.

:Ahmadiyyat [Contd.]

Q How many Ahmadiyya missions are there all over the world? *

A There are Ahmadiyya missions all over West and East Africa, in Singapore, Indonesia, Japan, the Philippines, Malaysia, United States of America, United Kingdom, Holland, Germany, Switzerland, Spain, Denmark, Sweden and Mauritius. There are Ahmadiyya Jama'ats in 120* countries of the world.

* The information is outdated. Please check www.AllIslam.Org for up-to-date information about facts and figures.