

# THE AHMADIYYA JAMA'AT IN ISLAM

## AN INTRODUCTION

The Ahmadiyya Jama'at in Islam is a religious community and organization, international in its scope, with established branches in 174 countries in Africa, Americas, Asia, Australia, Europe and Oceania. At present, its total membership exceeds 200 million worldwide, and it is increasing day by day. Within the last 12 months (from August 2001 to August 2002) more than twenty million persons joined the Jama'at. This is the most dynamic denomination of Islam in modern history.

The Ahmadiyya Jama'at was established in 1889 by Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (1835-1908) in a small and remote village, Qadian, in the Punjab, India. He claimed to be the expected reformer of the latter days, the Awaited One of the world community of religions. The Jama'at he started is embodiment of the benevolent message of Islam - peace, universal brotherhood, and submission to the Will of God - in its pristine purity. Hazrat Ahmad proclaimed Islam as the future religion of man:

**"Remember that nothing happens on this earth unless it has been so willed in Heaven. And, it is God of Heaven who revealed to me that ultimately it will be the religion of Islam which will conquer the hearts of people."**

With this conviction, the Ahmadiyya Jama'at, within a century, has reached the corners of the earth. Wherever the Jama'at is established, it endeavors to exert a constructive influence of Islam through moral rejuvenation, social projects, educational institutes, health services, Islamic publications and construction of mosques, despite being bitterly persecuted in some countries. Ahmadiyya Muslims have earned the distinction of being a law-abiding, peaceful, persevering and loyal members of the communities and countries in which they reside. Some of them have earned international distinction for outstanding services. Amongst them are, the late Ch. Mohammad Zafrullah Khan who served as the Foreign Minister of Pakistan, President of the 17<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the U.N; President and Judge of the International Court of Justice, at The Hague, and Dr. Abdus Salam, the 1979 Nobel Laureate in physics.

The Ahmadiyya Jama'at in Islam was established under Divine guidance with the objective to rejuvenate Islamic moral and spiritual values. It encourages interfaith dialogue and diligently tries to correct misunderstandings about Islam particularly in the West. It advocates peace, tolerance and understanding among followers of different faiths. It firmly believes in and acts upon the Quranic teachings: **"There is no compulsion in religion"**. It strongly rejects terrorism in any form and for any reason.

The Jama'at offers a clear presentation of Islamic wisdom, philosophy, morals and spirituality as derived from the Holy Quran and the practice (*Sunnah*) of the Holy Prophet of Islam, Muhammad (peace and blessing of Allah be upon him). The Jama'at has been responsible for translating the Holy Quran in 53 major languages of the world to project the true message of Islam.

After the demise of its founder, the Ahmadiyya Jama'at has been headed by his elected successors, *Khalifas*. The present Head of the Jama'at, Hazrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad, was elected in 1982. His official title is *Khalifatul Masih IV*. He has launched several projects to help poor countries in Africa, and under his personal supervision the Jama'at has provided material and moral support to refugees in Bosnia, Rwanda and Somalia.

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