

SINGAPORE TOUR

(September 2013)



A Personal Account

By Abid Khan

Introduction

On 21 September 2013 Huzoor and his entourage set off from London for a seven and a half week tour.

Apart from Huzoor and Khala Saboohi there were nine of us who had the honour to travel with Huzoor. There were four security members, Muhammad Ahmad Sahib (Ahmad bhai), Nasir Saeed Sahib, Sakawat Bajwa Sahib and Khalid Akram Sahib and there were five members of office staff, Munir Ahmad Javed Sahib (Private Secretary), Abdul Majid Tahir Sahib (Add Wakil-ul-Tabshir), Mubarak Zafar Sahib (Add Wakil-ul-Maal), Bashir Ahmad Sahib (PS Office) and me. I was travelling on behalf of the International Press Desk.

Finding Out

I had only learnt I had the honour to travel with Huzoor just over a week before the tour began. Many weeks earlier, Huzoor had asked me one day if my wife Mala would be ok without me for a long period of time. I remember at the time hoping and praying that it meant Huzoor might be planning on taking me but for many weeks after I heard nothing further.

In fact, on a number of occasions I had the opportunity to discuss Huzoor's forthcoming tour with him, however not once did Huzoor mention that he had included me in his Qafila. This is not really surprising, as I have learned over the years that there is no better secret keeper than Huzoor!

Leaving Home

I remember the day of travel very vividly. It seemed to go on for a long, long time, because the flight was in the evening and so we did not leave the London Mosque until late afternoon. I remember on the same day a terrorist attack on a large Kenyan shopping centre had begun and was all over the news.

As I watched the coverage two thoughts entered my mind. First, I thought that yet again innocent people were being killed in the name of Islam and so our religion would once again be tarnished and branded a religion of terror.

Secondly, and in the immediate term, I wondered if the attack would increase security at the airport or delay the flight. In the event, thankfully, I do not think it had any impact on Huzoor's flight.

As, I left home that day, I felt sad that I was not going to see my young baby son Mahid for many weeks and I reflected that upon my return he would probably have forgotten who I was.

On the opposite side however, my heart was racing with excitement at the prospect of spending the best part of the next two months accompanying Huzoor and in the knowledge that I would have the opportunity to witness the blessings of Khilafat and visit countries that I could never have dreamed I would ever had the opportunity to travel to.

Flight to Singapore

Amongst the Qafila members I was the youngest and certainly I knew that there were many, many people much more talented than me. Yet, I had the opportunity to travel in the same *Qafila* as Hazrat Khalifatul Masih. No matter how much I thanked Allah for these blessings it could never be enough.

The flight to Singapore was over 11 hours and because of the time difference of 7 hours by the time we arrived it was the afternoon of the 22nd September.

I was told afterwards that for a period of time during the flight there had been a great deal of turbulence and that they had cancelled serving breakfast in the main cabin because of this. However, throughout that period I was sound asleep and so I have no recollection of that whatsoever! Nonetheless, afterwards it remained a topic of discussion amongst some of the other Qafila members over the next couple of days.

Arrival in Singapore and ride on airport buggy

As we came off the plane after landing in Singapore, there were some airport officials waiting for us with buggies to transport us across the airport terminal. Huzoor and Khala Saboohi were in the front buggy, whilst I was in the second buggy along with Majid Sahib and Mubarak sahib.

Despite being quite tired after the flight, I remember feeling thrilled to have arrived in Singapore. As we moved across the airport I scanned left and right

not wanting to miss any part of our new surroundings. The buggy travelled much faster than I expected and so we were zooming across the airport as though we were taking part in a motor racing event!

Our driver was an elderly Indian man and as we drove across the airport he told me his son was a famous Bollywood star who was really good at singing. As I listened to him I could not contain my laughter. It felt truly surreal that I was in Singapore with Huzoor, sat in a buggy, listening to an Indian man telling me I should watch the films in which his son had apparently starred!

Anyway, we were all in good spirits and thankful that with the Grace of Allah, Huzoor had arrived safely in Singapore. *Alhamdulillah.*

Welcome at Airport



Huzoor was welcomed at the airport by Jamaat officials, not just from Singapore but also from the neighbouring countries of Indonesia and Malaysia.

It is a sad fact that our Jamaat has and continues to face persecution in both of these countries and so currently it is not practically possible for Huzoor to travel to those countries.

Thus, over the next week literally thousands of Ahmadis travelled from these countries to meet with Huzoor. Over the week I became friendly with many of them and they all used to express their longing that Huzoor could one day soon visit their countries. May Allah make it possible, Insha'Allah.

Huzoor's Residence in Singapore

From the airport we travelled to the residence. On the 20minute drive I immediately noticed that Singapore was a very, very clean country. I had already heard about the infamous law that chewing gum was a crime in the country and as I looked through the window I could see the benefits of such discipline. Lush greenery was visible everywhere, as were beautiful palm trees and as Singapore is an Island, water surrounded the land.

Huzoor and his *Qafila* were staying in a building comprising a number of 'service apartments' located very close to our Mosque *Masjid Taha*. The *Jamaat* had booked apartments on various levels in the building. On the fourth floor was Huzoor's room and on the same level were the security rooms.

On the floor immediately below was an apartment in which there were four bedrooms. I was given one room in the apartment whilst the other rooms were allocated to Private Secretary Sahib, Majid Sahib and Mubarak Zafar Sahib.

Checking of Qibla direction

The apartment's living room was also used as a common room for the *Qafila* to gather at meal times. As the time for prayers was getting late on that first afternoon, the Zuhr and Asr prayers were also offered in our apartment.

When Huzoor came down to the apartment he immediately asked for the *qibla* direction to be checked. I used the app on my phone as did a few other people and it was realised that the direction we had was quite different to the way the local Jamaat had laid the prayer mats.

Upon questioning, the local Jamaat admitted that they had guessed the direction and had not checked it properly. Anyway, the direction of the prayer mats was changed and thereafter Huzoor led the prayers.

Huzoor's guidance about food

When we arrived at the residence we are all quite hungry. Although we had been served breakfast on the plane it had been quite light and a number of hours had passed. For some reason, the local Jamaat had assumed that the *Qafila* would have eaten already and so they had not prepared lunch.

When they realised that we had not eaten they organised for some food to come from the Mosque and also I think they ordered some from a local restaurant. Nonetheless, it took quite some time.

After, Namaz had concluded Huzoor spoke to Mubarak Chowdhury, the local Kharija Secretary, and said that it was a basic necessity for food to be provided for Huzoor's Qafila members. Hearing this, Mubarak Sahib said ***"Huzoor tonight we will provide very delicious and excellent food."*** I really loved Huzoor's reply to his. He said:

"We do not need any posh or lavish food. We are very happy to eat Daal Roti – that is quite sufficient and adequate. The point is that food should be provided for Qafila members but there is no need for any extravagance. We will very happily eat Daal Roti."

The point Huzoor made was that food ought to be provided but Huzoor did not want or require anything lavish, just basic food so that nobody went hungry.

During the rest of the tour sometimes local Jamaats would provide local cuisine or some special dishes, but I can say truthfully that none of it ever tasted better than the days when we had *gharam gharam daal* with *roti*!

I actually thought about this a few times during the tour that the *daal* tastes so good and I believed that it was due to the blessings of Huzoor's words on that very first afternoon in Singapore.

First visit to Masjid Taha

In the evening at 7.45pm, Huzoor travelled to Masjid Taha which was about three or four minutes drive. As Huzoor arrived there were hundreds of Ahmadis - men, women and children - who had lined the Mosque area to greet

him. They were all desperate to see Huzoor and to get a glimpse of their beloved Imam. You could see the love and joy on their faces. Huzoor smiled and waved at them and walked through the hall and up the steps to the main Mosque where he led the Maghreb and Isha prayers.



Even on that first day I could sense that this would be no ordinary tour but something very, very historic.

To be there with Huzoor and to see the love the local Ahmadis had for Huzoor and to see all the Ahmadis who had travelled from countries such as Indonesia, Malaysia, Burma, Philippines, Thailand and others was extremely humbling.

Huzoor's Mulaqats in Singapore

Over the next few days the majority of each day was spent at the Mosque as Huzoor conducted Mulaqaats with the Ahmadis.

With each day that passed the number of Mulaqaats increased to the point that on the final few days the door to Huzoor's office was constantly open and rather than sit at his desk, Huzoor would stand in front of it and the Ahmadis would enter, meet Huzoor, have their photo taken and then the next family would come in.

Whilst this process was going on they would say whatever they wished to say and Huzoor would respond with prayers and with his guidance. The scene reminded me of a revolving door often seen in hotels where people are constantly entering and leaving.

I used to sit downstairs in an office along with Majid Sahib and Mubarak Zafar Sahib but every so often I would go up to where the *Mulaqats* were taking place.

Each time I went it seemed as though there were more and more people who had arrived. There was so much excitement and emotion on the faces of the Ahmadis at the prospect of meeting their Khalifa that it's hard to describe in words.

Many of them would be in tears, both before they went into Huzoor's office and when they came out. You could see how much it meant to them to be in the vicinity of the Khalifa. It was an indescribable experience for them - something they would never ever forget.

One of the guests who had travelled from Sri Lanka, Anees Ahmad (38) told me about the obstacles he had faced to come and meet Huzoor. He said:

"We were getting ready for this journey from Sri Lanka ever since we found out Huzoor is coming to Singapore. I have been saving money since April so I can come with my family. It was very tough. My three-year-old and seven-year-old were both desperate to see Huzoor. In the end I did not have enough money to bring them with me. So I have been crying for weeks, but I had no option but to come on my own..."

The Mulaqat I had with Huzoor was so wonderful. Seeing Huzoor with my own eyes brings an electric current. His face is like a star in the sky. May Allah let us stay attached to Khilafat until our final breath."

I remember vividly talking to Anees Sahib as we sat in Masjid Taha. As he recounted how he had been unable to bring his family, tears flowed from his eyes literally like a running stream.

I did not really know how to respond and so I just comforted him by placing my hand on his shoulder and I said to him that you tried your best and so Allah knows your intentions and will reward you and your family for that.

Dedication of a Khadim

One morning, I also talked to the *Sadr Khuddam* in Singapore. He was a very kind and sincere Ahmadi. Although he was aged 32 he looked younger and certainly looked younger than me, even though I am 30. He told me he had quit his job for Huzoor's tour. He said:

“By quitting my job, I now have the ability to dedicate the full-time required for Huzoor's tour. I did not have to think twice to quit my job. This week being Sadr Khuddam, serving the Jamaat, serving Huzoor is better than any job, no matter how much it pays in the world. If I do not set the example as Sadr Khuddam then who else will do the work? I do not need a worldly job – all I need is to serve the Jamaat and to serve my Khalifa.”

I have given his example, but the truth is I met many such *Khadim* during that week. Whether they had come from Malaysia or Philippines or they were from the local *Jamaat* or from other *Jamaats*, their spirit was the same. Their spirit makes a person feel ashamed at his own poor behaviour, laziness, and the fact that sometimes we take blessings for granted.

MTA News coverage

One afternoon, as Huzoor arrived at Masjid Taha he called me over. Huzoor said to me that *MTA News* had still not shown footage of his arrival and I could tell that Huzoor was not at all pleased by the delay. I felt terrible. I had requested MTA's help in producing the footage, but for whatever reason they had been unable to assist up until that point. Huzoor is always extremely kind

and loving and overlooks so many of our mistakes. Thus on those occasions when he gives an indication of his unhappiness at something it makes you feel so much worse and the guilt is extreme.

I immediately spoke to Munir Odeh Sahib and I asked him to help and assist immediately. I was grateful that he and his team did sit down with me over the next few hours and we were able to produce a report about Huzoor's arrival in Singapore which we sent straight to London and it aired the same day.

An amusing conversation

One afternoon in Singapore, an Ahmadi came up to me and said: "***Aap kay kitnay bachay hain?***" – meaning "***How many children do you have?***"

So I said '***eik***', as in one, and he came up to me and hugged me and burst out with joy: "***Mash'Allah! Mash'Allah!***" He said that: "***Looking at you I would never have guessed this.***" I was surprised by his reaction. I said rather embarrassed: "***Acha.***"

He went on and said: "***You have so many children for someone of your young age and size!***" At that point I knew something was not quite right so I said: "***One child! One child!***"

Upon this he said: '***Oh***', quite disappointedly. He said: '***I thought you said eight not eik***'. I laughed and smiled and I said: "***No I am not the father of eight children - just the one***".

Blessings of Khilafat – a personal reflection

As a side note, on many occasions during the tour people would ask if I had children. It was very nice to be able to reply that: “*Yes by the Grace of Allah I have a son*”.

For many years people used to, quite naturally, ask this question. Whenever it was asked, I used to say ‘*Abhi nahin*’ in a quiet tone, meaning ‘*Not yet*’. Invariably, my reply would lead to an awkward silence and sometimes a look of confusion, where I could sense the person was wondering if we had purposely chosen to delay having children.

Such conversations always left a slightly uncomfortable taste and so it was nice to now be able to answer affirmatively. Because of our personal history and the efforts and difficulties we faced over the past few years I can never thank Allah enough for blessing us with a child.

Throughout the tour this was something I reflected upon a lot. Allah had accepted our prayers and even more-so I firmly believe He had accepted the prayers Huzoor had made for us and granted us a healthy baby boy born in May this year.

Whenever I think about this it reinforces just how lucky we Ahmadis are to have *Khilafat*. I have given my own experience, but when I spoke to the Ahmadis in Singapore, I could see that they each had their own stories of how the love of the Khalifa had protected them and blessed them in so many ways. Truly *Khilafat-e-Ahmadiyya* is a unique privilege and gift from Allah.

Huzoor's Mulaqat with Majlis Ansarullah

On the evening of 25 September, Huzoor held meetings with the *Majlis Ansarullah* Amilas from Philippines, Thailand, Nepal, Indonesia, Singapore and Malaysia.

I watched and listened to the meetings from the side. Whenever I am fortunate enough to sit and observe such meetings I find them extremely educational. I always learn so much listening to the guidance Huzoor gives to the local office bearers.

Huzoor questions the *Amila* members about various activities and asks them their forthcoming programmes. Throughout the meetings Huzoor imparts very inspired guidance about how they should conduct their activities.

On this occasion, with the exception of Indonesia, the other Jamaats were quite small and so they required even more guidance than more established Jamaats.

Huzoor very clearly reminded them that they must read and understand the Ansar Constitution as that is the first foundational step in performing their respective duties.

Huzoor explained the rationale behind the formation of the auxiliary bodies of *Lajna*, *Khuddam* and *Ansar* and the reason why they reported directly to Khalifatul Masih rather than to the National Ameer. Huzoor said that when Hazrat Musleh Maud^{ra} set up these organisations it was with the intention and

objective that if there was any weakness in the central *Jamaat* structure it could be covered up by the auxiliaries, so that the progress of the *Jamaat* would never be slowed down. Thus the auxiliaries were set up as a line of defence and in this way the decision of Hazrat Musleh Maud^{ra} to form these organisations was both very profound and wise.

Guidance to Indonesia

With regards to Indonesia, Huzoor told the *amila* that they should target the smaller islands in Indonesia to do *Tabligh* because there is a lot of persecution on the mainland. Huzoor said that because those small islands were not under the control of the *mullahs* in the way the mainland was, we should try to spread and propagate Ahmadiyyat. Huzoor said the *Jamaat* should not hide away in fear, but rather should find avenues where it can be successful.

Huzoor said: **“Wherever the land is soft, target those areas.”** By ‘soft’ Huzoor meant that Ahmadi should seek to find those areas where the local people are accommodating and where there is less risk of attacks. Huzoor said the *Jamaat* should find and explore those areas and really seek to exhibit the message of our *Jamaat* and the beauty of Islam.

Guidance for Malaysia

With regards Malaysia, Huzoor told the *Amila* that they should strive for 1,000 new converts in the next year and they should make sure that each year they increase their *Tabligh*. Huzoor said that each and every *Amila* member should

seek to convert people and that this would inspire other members of the Jamaat towards Tabligh.

Guidance for the smaller Jamaats

Further, when addressing the smaller *Jamaats* such as Burma, Nepal and a few others, Huzoor said to them that even though they were small they must not neglect their duties to spread the message of Ahmadiyyat. He said they should not shy away from their responsibilities, but rather they must seek to increase the size of their respective Jamaats.

Huzoor said to them:

“May Allah help you in every ambitious plan you make.”

I really loved this point by Huzoor because it emphasised that the Khalifa Waqt has such a broad vision for the Jamaat.

Whilst often we become concerned about how we can achieve even small things, Huzoor did not limit the Jamaat to small goals but rather he prayed that Allah helps the Jamaat in every *‘ambitious’* plan they made.

Through this prayer, Huzoor was encouraging the Jamaat to take bold steps to try and spread Ahmadiyyat.

Huzoor's Mulaqat with Majlis Khuddam-ul-Ahmadiyya

Huzoor also had a Mulaqat with *Majlis Khuddam-ul-Ahmadiyya* and again it was with multiple *Jamaats*.

One, Khadim asked if the Khuddam could use its financial reserve to set up a business and so try and make profit for Khuddam activities. Huzoor very emphatically rejected this idea. Huzoor said reserve funds could be used for buying property or to give to charity, but to set up a business with *chanda*-payers money and to take that element of risk was absolutely unacceptable.

As an expression of love for Khilafat, a Khadim from Malaysia said to Huzoor that: ***"We are very jealous that our brothers in Singapore are having this opportunity to directly host Huzoor."***

In response Huzoor said: ***"Even the Khuddam from Malaysia are doing duties here in Singapore. However, you should pray that the conditions improve in Malaysia so that I can come to your country in the future."***

One Khadim mentioned that a lot of Chinese people were leaving Buddhism for Christianity. Huzoor said if they are not satisfied with their religion then why should they go to Christianity? Huzoor said it showed that we were not doing our job in conveying the true teachings of Islam. Huzoor reiterated that Khuddamul-Ahmadiyya should go onto the streets and promote true Islam. Huzoor said that the message of Ahmadiyyat would satisfy people's hearts more than any teaching and so we had to fulfil our responsibilities to convey its teachings far and wide.

Huzoor's special guidance for Khuddam

Huzoor said one thing that concerned him was that he had found that some Khadims were much less active than others. Huzoor said there were three points to follow to remedy this.

Firstly, Huzoor said active Khuddam must make sure they set high standards and are regular in coming to the Mosque. Huzoor said that you cannot preach to another person unless you yourself are observing what you require from him.

Secondly, Huzoor said there was no benefit to being harsh and strict - rather people should be treated with love and compassion. They should be *persuaded* rather than *forced* into realising the benefits of staying close to the Jamaat.

Thirdly, Huzoor said it was imperative that Ahmadis prayed for their fellow brothers.

Singapore Reception

On the evening of 26 September, the main external event of the Singapore tour took place. The venue was the Mandarin Oriental Hotel in the city centre. I had been a day earlier along with Ahmad bhai and MTA to see the arrangements for the event. I had been struck by the beauty of the building and the hall where the event would take place.

Pre-Meetings

Huzoor arrived just before 6pm and immediately Huzoor went to a room to hold a series of meetings with dignitary guests. Huzoor was seated at the far end of the room and next to him was another chair for guests to sit on.

I was sat just to the side with my pen and notepad so that I could take notes of the meeting. Often, people ask me why I take notes rather than using a recording device. There are two answers to this question.

Firstly, not all guests are comfortable for a recording device to be placed in front of them and secondly the truth is I enjoy writing. I find that when I am making notes I concentrate extremely strongly and so the act of writing allows me to understand and memorise the conversation much better.

The first guest was a senior representative of the High Commission of India. He addressed Huzoor very respectfully and Huzoor spoke him to about Qadian. Next, was a female representative of the British High Commission in Singapore and then later the First Secretary of the French Embassy.

It is a privilege and an education to witness first hand such meetings. Whether Huzoor is asking questions or answering them his countenance remains extremely dignified no matter what. Huzoor shows respect to the guests but Huzoor is also very aware of maintaining the self-respect, honour and dignity of our Jamaat.

With other Ahmadis I have seen that sometimes they become awe-struck or overly-impressed when meeting non-Ahmadi guests to the point of subservience. However, Huzoor remains very calm, very dignified and at the same time very friendly.

You can see as meetings progress how the guests become won over by Huzoor's humility and kind tone. On many occasions I have seen how the attitude of a guest at the end of a meeting is completely different to his attitude at the beginning of the meeting. Over the course of just a few minutes their views and approach change completely for the better.

Ultimately, Huzoor does not waste any opportunity to spread the true teachings of Islam. He does not do it in a dominant way, which could offend others. Whilst non-Ahmadi clerics very forcibly tend to proclaim that they are right and others are wrong, Huzoor '*persuades*' emphasising the practical beauty of Islam's teachings.

For example, Huzoor may speak of the Jamaat's charitable and humanitarian efforts, but alongside it he will say that the Jamaat does not undertake such projects on its own volition – rather we do it because that is what the Quran

teaches, that is the example of the Holy Prophet (saw) and that is what the Promised Messiah taught.

The most senior non-Ahmadi guest to attend that day was Mr Lee Koon Choy who attended with his wife. I had actually been to visit him at his home two days earlier with the local Kharija Secretary, where we invited him to the reception.



Aged 90, I could see he was a man of vast experience having been a very high ranking diplomat. Furthermore, he was extremely revered in Singapore as he was one of the country's Founding Fathers and was the uncle to the current Prime Minister.

Prior to the event, he also had the opportunity to meet with Huzoor. As the meeting commenced he asked Huzoor his age and so when Huzoor replied “I

am 63”, Mr Choy smiled and said ***“That is very young! My own son is also only 63!”***

Mr Choy then said to Huzoor: ***“I have learnt a little bit about your community over the past few days and it is very good that you propagate a message of peace.”*** During this discussion Huzoor also presented Mr Choy with a copy of his book *Pathway to Peace* and Huzoor personally signed it.

Interviews with Indonesian Media

Finally, Huzoor held interviews with two famous Indonesian media outlets. One was *Compass* which is a national newspaper and the other was *Temple* which is a weekly national magazine.



One question asked concerned the purpose and objectives of Huzoor’s visit to Singapore. Huzoor responded by saying that wherever he goes, he spreads a message of peace because that is the message given by the Holy Quran and

given by the Holy Prophet (saw). Huzoor said that today's function was part of that effort to spread peace and he said he hoped that the non-Muslims would learn about true Islam in this way.

One of the journalists commented that to develop peace was very difficult. In response, Huzoor agreed that it was difficult but said that we have to try and we cannot give up. Huzoor said we have to try our '*level best*' to let people know the benefits of peace.

Huzoor said whenever he had the opportunity, he called on governments to establish peace and warned them that any other path was paved in great danger.

Huzoor was also about asked why Ahmadis in Indonesia were targeted for persecution. One point to note is Huzoor is always very accurate in his responses and does not embellish or exaggerate in any shape or form. And so, whilst confirming that Ahmadis were persecuted in Indonesia, Huzoor said that the situation was not as bad as Pakistan. Thus, rather than trying to garner sympathy for our cause by speaking of the vast persecution, Huzoor did not deviate from the truth and instead laid out an entirely accurate picture.

Thereafter, Huzoor did condemn the influence of extremist religious clerics, *mullahs*, in Indonesia and spoke very movingly about how in 2011 three Ahmadis were brutally murdered on the streets of Indonesia just outside our Mosque. Huzoor said that they were stripped naked and were beaten relentlessly whilst the police watched in silence, yet the Ahmadis never

retaliated because we firmly believe that we should not take the law into our own hands.

Huzoor expressed his hope that in the future Indonesia's government fulfilled its role to protect not only Ahmadis but the people of *all* religions and minorities. Huzoor said to the journalists that they too should play their role in promoting religious freedom when writing articles.

One of the journalists suggested that Ahmadis are considered to be living underground or to be cut off from the rest of Indonesian society. Huzoor said that this was entirely wrong. He said that Ahmadis are like an open book – because we preach exactly what we practice.

Huzoor said that all of our books are available online and so our beliefs could easily be understood. He added that the Jamaat would love for a peaceful, open-debate amongst the people of all beliefs to take place in a spirit of mutual respect, however due to the influence of the *mullah* this was very unlikely.

Singapore Reception – Main Event

The main event started at around 7pm. Mr Lee Choy addressed the audience by publicly appreciating the Jamaat's efforts to promote peace and to repair Islam's reputation.

Thereafter, Huzoor delivered a masterful address tailored perfectly for the people of Singapore. As a financial hub, Huzoor spoke about the world's

economic state and its effect on world peace. Huzoor reiterated the importance of equality at all levels by saying:



“Islam teaches that the world's natural resources are the combined property and wealth of all of mankind... The vast treasures that Allah the Almighty has endowed, both above and below the earth, are not just for a few selected individuals but are for the benefit of every single person, in every part of the world.”

Listening to this, I thought to myself that it was such a beautiful point – that the treasures Allah has bestowed in the world are the ***‘combined property and wealth of all of mankind’***.

When thinking in this way, it becomes clear that those who seek to monopolise wealth or who covet the wealth of others are acting in such a wrong and unjust

manner. Huzoor also said that it was not wrong to seek to profit or pursue business but all such efforts should be done in the right spirit and based on equity.



Huzoor also used his speech to call for universal access to education. Often, it is alleged that Muslims do not promote education amongst females and so the way Huzoor refuted this point by saying that education was mandatory for *all* people was something that resonated very much with the guests.



I was sat on a table with two women from the financial sector and they both said to me afterwards how hearing that Islam promoted education amongst women had been very enlightening and something they had not expected.

With the Grace of Allah, the event was a great success. More than 100 highly influential members of Singaporean society listened to the direct words of the Khalifa and as they met Huzoor after the event it became clear that his address had had a very profound impact.

I spoke to the First Secretary from the Indian Embassy, who had met Huzoor personally, earlier in the evening. About Huzoor's speech he said:

“The message of peace and harmony that he has delivered tonight is what the world stands in need of. We have to be ambassadors for His Holiness. We have to spread his message to others. We should convey his message everywhere.”



I also met the Indonesian female journalist who had interviewed Huzoor earlier in the evening. She said: ***“His Holiness has explained about Ahmadiyyat very***

clearly and this is what the Indonesian people want to know, the truth about your religion.”

She said to me she was very desperate to meet Huzoor again and ask more questions. I said that I could not make any promises because his schedule was so busy but I would try and find out if there was any opportunity. Happily, it so happened that two days later an event was organised with Indonesian guests and so at that time she was able to meet Huzoor again and ask some follow-up questions.

A Long Dinner

As is normal, after the event dinner was served. This too was an education of sorts for me. The menu had been catered by the hotel and it was 8 or 9 courses interspersed with fairly lengthy intervals.

As the courses came and went I became increasingly full and I think by the 4th course I was more than ready to conclude my meal. However, as the courses came we continued to eat and by the end I think I had ate enough to last me a week!

The dinner took extremely long – nearly 2 hours – which we were not at all used to. In weddings at Baitul Futuh in London or at Jamaat events dinner is served and often completed within 20-25 minutes and yet here it was more like a marathon rather than our traditional sprint! I asked some of the guests if they were finding dinner long and they looked at me with an element of surprise. They informed that 8 or 9 courses was actually nothing and at

weddings in Singapore often the meals would go on to 13 or 14 courses and would take the best part of an afternoon and evening! Hearing this I became thankful that our dinner had actually been relatively short! And certainly most of the dishes were quite tasty and one or two were genuinely delicious!

An emotional Friday Sermon

On 27 September the first Jumma of Huzoor's tour took place at Masjid Taha. It was extremely memorable for various reasons. It was very hot and humid inside the Mosque and we were all sat close together so that as many people could sit in the Mosque as possible.

Huzoor's Khutba was translated into Indonesian by Zafrullah Pontoh Sahib who was stood to Huzoor's left. Every few lines Huzoor would pause and Pontoh Sahib would translate the past few lines. Throughout much of the sermon his voiced faltered. You could see the emotion in his face and hear it in his voice. Similarly, all of the Ahmadis sat around me listened intently and the emotion of being sat in front of their Khalifa was etched on their faces.

During his sermon, Huzoor spoke about Indonesia and Malaysia and then later addressed the local Ahmadis from Singapore.

Whilst speaking about Indonesia, Huzoor spoke about the three Ahmadis who had been martyred in 2011. The way Huzoor spoke was so emotional that all around me people were wiping tears from their eyes. As Huzoor described the barbaric attack, I found a few tears rolling down my eyes as well which I quickly

wiped away. Huzoor said that the sacrifices made by our Jamaat would never go to waste.

He said that the horrific images of our Ahmadi brothers being dragged naked and beaten had been watched by people all across the world on YouTube. Huzoor said that many people had become aware of our Jamaat and become sympathetic to our cause because of that video. And so Huzoor said that each and every pain that we bear is a means for our Jamaat to progress and succeed.

Huzoor also spoke about how in Malaysia recently a Court order had been published, due to the pressure of local Maulvis, stating that only Muslims could use the name of 'Allah'.

Huzoor condemned this decision and said that whilst he was not surprised at the attitude of the ignorant Maulvis, it was a great shame that educated law-makers had also fallen prey to such ridiculous beliefs. Huzoor said that at the beginning of the Quran, Allah declares himself to be the '*Lord of All the Worlds*' and so no people, no government and no religion had a trademark or exclusivity for Allah.

A memorable *Bai'at* ceremony

After the prayers, Huzoor went downstairs to a hall within the Mosque area to lead a Bai'at ceremony. Truly, it was one of the most emotional Bai'at ceremonies I had ever had the privilege of taking part. You could hear the

Ahmadis crying so loudly as they repeated the words after Huzoor. Tears were streaming down people's faces.



Kneeling behind me was a young Singaporean Ahmadi, aged around 25, and he was so overcome with emotion that I remember that my own shoulder became soaked with his tears.



In the *dua* that followed the ceremony I could hear people crying and crying as they prayed. A few of the more experienced members of Qafila said to me afterwards that they had taken part in Bai'at ceremonies in many countries, often with thousands of more people taking part, yet this particular ceremony

would live long in their memories – because of the way that every single person took part with such a spirit of emotion and sincerity.

Waqf-e-Nau Class

Throughout the tour Huzoor held *Waqf-e-Nau*, Children's classes and Student classes. The first thing I noticed about the *Waqf-e-Nau* class that took place in Singapore was an immediate cultural difference, whereby all of the boys came to the class barefoot.

The *Nazm* was by a Malaysian boy. His accent and tune was different to what we normally hear but it was a very attractive and unique way of reciting a *Nazm*. I saw that he had committed the *Nazm* to memory. Whilst this may seem like a small thing, I admired his effort. In London, where the *Waqf-e-Nau* have so many opportunities to meet and learn from Huzoor, I have normally seen that the boys read from a script, rather than reciting from memory.

Importance of Waqf – Huzoor's guidance

Later in the class, Huzoor addressed the boys directly and asked them if they understood what being a *Waqf-e-Nau* meant. Huzoor asked them if it was ***“a title or a pledge?”*** One of the boys responded by saying ***“Huzoor it is a promise – it is a pledge.”***

Huzoor said he was right but that the pledge had been made by parents and now as the *Waqf-e-Nau* were reaching maturity it was incumbent upon them to decide for themselves if they wanted to continue with their *Waqf*. Huzoor

said that if they were not serious or had reservations then they should be honest and withdraw but if they wanted to continue then they should treat their pledge with the utmost seriousness and keep the Jamaat informed at every stage of their development.

Question and Answer Session with Indonesian guests

Huzoor's tour of Singapore was drawing to a close, but still his schedule was relentless. On the morning of 28 September Huzoor held a question and answer session with 21 guests from Indonesia including journalists, academics and people from various other fields.



The session lasted well over an hour and was very comprehensive. In response to various questions Huzoor explained the teachings of our Jamaat and Huzoor also spoke of the ways to resolve conflicts that were taking place in various parts of the world.

One person said that the Ahmadi slogan of 'Love for All, Hatred for None' was easy to practice and preach in Europe but not in Asia or Africa. Huzoor responded by saying that this was a universal motto and it was not something we had created ourselves but was given to us by Allah – because this motto encapsulates Islam's teachings.



In a very inspiring part of the session, Huzoor spoke about the future success of our Jamaat. Huzoor said:

“Huge objectives and goals cannot be achieved overnight and so if this generation does not see change, the future ones will. We seek to win hearts - it is a long process, but we will progress and we will succeed. Religion is a matter of the heart and so no one should ever be forced or compelled to believe but rather they should be persuaded.”

Huzoor was asked about democracy and how it tied in with our concept of Khilafat. Huzoor said that the Institution of Khilafat had nothing to do with

politics or the systems of government. He added that when a time came when Ahmadiyyat had spread far and wide, still the Khilafat would not interfere in political matters.

One of the members of the audience gave a suggestion that I had not heard before. In a friendly tone and perhaps with a degree of sympathy at our plight in Indonesia, he suggested that Ahmadis should change their beliefs slightly so that they would not suffer persecution.

Huzoor responded by asking why should we change our beliefs when we believe we are following the teachings of the Quran? Huzoor said if we believe that what we are doing is from Allah then how can we change?

Huzoor said that we have made sacrifices over almost 125 years of existence. Many of our members have been killed and if we were to renounce our beliefs, God forbid, or change them in any way then all those sacrifices would have been in vain.

Comments of a non-Ahmadi

After the session, I met the same Indonesian female journalist who had been at the Singapore event two days previously. She said she was delighted to have met Huzoor and to have listened to him. She added:

“I have nothing but good wishes for all of you Ahmadis and I truly wish that the persecution that you face ends completely and that you face no difficulties in future.”

I thanked her for her kind words and afterwards she stayed in touch via email. She did write something about the *Jamaat* and Huzoor's visit. She wrote positively and in our favour and to do this she told me she had to struggle with her editors who wanted her to pursue a different angle.

To her credit she had remained firm but this was another example of the difficulties faced by the *Jamaat*, whereby decent and honest people who wish to report the truth, are pressured by those who are heavily influenced by extremist *Maulvis*.

Conversation with Malaysian Khadim

Throughout the week in Singapore I had been sat in the same car along with Mubarak Zafar Sahib. Our driver was called Nadaus Salam and he was 34 and from Malaysia.

That day I took the opportunity to sit and talk with him. He said:

“Huzoor is leaving in two days. I am so, so sad about this. I just pray that Huzoor comes more regularly. It has been seven years since his last visit and that is far too long. When I see Huzoor my emotions inside completely change instantly. I am absolutely speechless when I see him. We are just so desperate that Huzoor would one day visit Malaysia. May Allah enable the circumstances to change so that it is safe for Huzoor to come and stay in our country.”

Getting ready in a hurry!

After Fajr on 29 September I went back to sleep after we returned from the Mosque. I set my alarm for 9am because Huzoor was due to leave at 11am and so that would give me plenty of time to get ready, have breakfast and to do some work that was pending.

I do not know what happened but I must have slept through my alarm and the next thing I knew I woke up to see that it was 10.51am! I was completely shocked and startled. I thought there was no way I would be ready in time but I quickly brushed my teeth, changed my clothes and ran downstairs by 10.59 and with a minute to spare.

As I got downstairs, I saw that the cars were still there and Huzoor had not yet come down. I breathed a sigh of relief and pretended that everything was normal and did not tell anyone the drama of the last few minutes!

Nonetheless, I felt desperate for a shower and so as soon as we reached the Mosque and Huzoor began Mulaqats, I asked our driver if he would take me back to the apartments. He was kind enough to do so and so I was able to quickly shower, have a super-quick breakfast and I was back at the Mosque within 20minutes.

An example of Huzoor's love

It was a good job that I showered because soon after I got back, I received a message that Huzoor was calling me to his office. If I had not gone back to the residence for those few minutes I would have felt very embarrassed to go up to Huzoor's office whilst still half asleep and in need of a shower!

Anyway, I immediately went to Huzoor's office thinking that Huzoor was calling me for some work, however when I entered Huzoor said in a very loving way that he had called me to ask how my week in Singapore had been. This was yet another example of Huzoor's love and kindness – despite being so, so busy – Huzoor took the time to make sure members of his *Qafila* were well and to see how they were experiencing the tour.

Huzoor told me that on the previous day he had met 1500 Ahmadis. I said that I had no idea how Huzoor managed to fit everything into 24 hours. It really is the case that when you see Huzoor's daily schedule from close-up, it actually makes your faith in Allah even stronger because you realise that only a person who has Allah's support could maintain such a relentless programme of events.

Huzoor asked me how I had found the local Ahmadis to which I responded that I had found them very soft-hearted.

In response, Huzoor said that Ahmadiyyat had made the locals very soft-hearted because generally Singaporean people were more reserved and serious. Huzoor said that Ahmadiyyat had made them extremely sincere, loving and kind-hearted.

Huzoor continued by saying to me:

“You were with me on my tour of Africa (in 2008) and so you have now seen the African Ahmadis and now you have seen the Far-Eastern Ahmadis and so you will have realised that the love for Khilafat is universal and not exclusive to Pakistani Ahmadis.”

I said Huzoor was absolutely right and that wherever I went I saw that the love for Khilafat existed in the exact same way - in fact sometimes it seemed even stronger amongst those people who had joined Ahmadiyyat later or in the countries that were distant.

Selfless nature of Khalifa-tul Masih

As I sat with Huzoor, I mentioned that Huzoor had been in Singapore for more than a week yet had not been out to see the city or any place even once.

Huzoor responded by saying:

“I go from the residence to the Mosque every day. That is more than enough. It is more important for me to meet Ahmadis than to do any sight-seeing or to visit the city.”

Hearing these words reinforced in my just how selfless the Khalifa is. If Huzoor ever indicated even slightly that he wished to see any part of Singapore or to do any sightseeing the Ahmadis would be delighted and honoured to take him. However, Huzoor’s priority lay elsewhere. Huzoor’s priorities lay in meeting the

local Ahmadis, spending time with them, listening to and solving their problems, praying for them and guiding them.

Huzoor's life was the Jamaat. Huzoor's life was caring for Ahmadis and guiding them towards Allah the Almighty.

Reflections of Ahmadis

Later in the day I took the opportunity to speak to some Ahmadis from Singapore and also some who had travelled from nearby countries about their thoughts on Huzoor's tour.

A young Khadim, called Khalid Ahmad from Indonesia who was 22 said:

"I feel so happy to have met Huzoor because before I only ever saw him on TV. Now I can say that I have met him in real life. He has such an aura and it evokes a sensation in me that I cannot describe. I wish so, so much that Huzoor can come to Indonesia and already I am sad that Huzoor is leaving tomorrow. I feel that after Huzoor's trip I have become a better person. Now I'm closer to Allah and it is all because of seeing Huzoor."

I also met Shafique Ahmad Sahib, an elderly gentleman from Sri Lanka. He started crying as I sat with him. He said that he could never have dreamed of having the opportunity to spend time in such close proximity to the Khalifa. He told me that many of the Ahmadis living in Sri Lanka faced personal difficulties and financial problems but that none of them cared about their personal problems - all they cared about was Khilafat-e-Ahmadiyya.

I also met Ahmad Hadaytullah, an elderly Indonesian Ahmadi, who did Bai'at in 1972. He too reflected on Huzoor's trip by saying:

"It is an amazing opportunity for us to be here in the presence of Huzoor. Avenues for Tabligh have expanded in just seven days. This tour will prove to be so blessed for not just the Ahmadiis but also for Singapore as a country. I hope and pray that in two or three years the situation in Indonesia improves so that Huzoor can come to our country. We are so desperate for him to come..."

Huzoor's leadership is truly great. His leadership is by virtue of his heart, because he has opened his heart for all Ahmadiis and that is why we are all attracted to him. We are attracted by his love. We will be so sad when he leaves. I do not know when, or if I will have the chance to see him again."

A very emotional conversation

From my perspective one of the most emotional conversations I had on that tour was with Arif Rehman Hakim Sahib, a Khadim aged 32 from Indonesia. He was Qaid of the area where our three Ahmadi brothers were brutally martyred in 2011. He himself had been injured during the attack.

I did not know any of this when I initially sat down with him and so I was genuinely shocked as I listened and learned about his experiences.

As he recounted the incident I felt as though I had been transported to the village of Cikeusik on that fateful day in early February 2011. Yet the amazing

thing was that he did not look back on that day with anger, fear or horror but rather he looked back on that day with a sense of pride and honour. Arif Sahib said:

“I am a survivor of Cikeusik. I witnessed with my own eyes that event and I myself was injured, however it was not a sad or tragic event. In fact it was the most beautiful thing that ever happened in my life. Nothing can ever be better in my life than what I experienced on that day because to be attacked and injured for my faith and for the Promised Messiah^{as} is a great blessing given to me by Allah the Almighty.

I want Huzoor to know my feelings about that day. I had a Mulaqat a few days ago and I went in with the intention of telling Huzoor about what happened, however I could not express or say anything and I just started to cry. My heart was shaking and my heart was trembling. I wanted to tell Huzoor that I was proud to be there and I wanted to tell Huzoor that I was the Qaid of those three shuhada and they were my friends and my brothers. My only regret is that I could not protect them but I will never ever forget them.”

Arif Sahib went on to tell me how he knew the families of the martyrs very well and regularly met with them. I asked him to convey to them that they were not alone but had the prayers of Ahmadis in all parts of the world with them.

Visit to Mustafa Centre

During the first week of the tour, I did not have the opportunity to go out into Singapore at all. All of our time was spent either at the Mosque or at our residence.

As we entered the last few days of the tour I did begin to hope that I would have the opportunity to see a bit of the city itself. Singapore is very small and so I knew it would not take long to see if I had the opportunity.

One evening after the day's events were completed, Private Secretary, Munir Javed Sahib, said that he had arranged for the Qafila members to visit '*Mustafa*' which is a 24-hour shopping centre nearby.

On the day we left UK, Omair Aleem was one of the people who came to see Huzoor off at the airport and he had told me then to go to '*Mustafa*' if I had the chance. He said it stocked everything and anything you could ever imagine. Thus, I was quite interested to see it!

By the time we left it was around 10.30pm and the drive to *Mustafa* was around 30minutes and so we did not get there until 11pm. I knew we would have only around 45minutes to see the shop, which was located on 7 or 8 huge levels.

I was quite interested in seeing their electronics, but as soon as we arrived Munir Sahib and Majid Sahib said they wanted to see the luggage section because they were interested in men's bags or briefcases. The luggage section

was in itself very huge and so I soon realised that our entire visit would be spent in that section. I was a little disappointed, however my disappointment soon subsided as I observed Majid Sahib conducting his shopping activities.

Majid Sahib is a very soft-hearted man who works extremely hard. On every tour I have been on I have seen that he never wastes even a minute and is always writing up his reports. However, on that evening he had something else on his mind – he wanted to buy some '*taalas*' that is 'padlocks'.

Majid Sahib asked me to locate the padlock section which I duly did. He said he had come to Singapore with the intention of buying some padlocks because he had bought some on Huzoor's previous visit in 2006 and so now it was time to buy some replacements.

Over the next 20minutes Majid Sahib crouched in front of the padlock section and called us one by one to get our opinion on which padlock to buy and to assess the relative merits of each one.

As we watched, neither Mubarak Zafar Sahib nor myself could control our laughter. We laughed that of all the things available Singapore, Majid Sahib had come to buy padlocks! Thankfully, and after much deliberation, Majid Sahib found what he was looking for and purchased a series of padlocks costing 2 dollars each!

By recounting this story I do not wish to make fun of Majid Sahib in any way, rather I took it as a sign of his simplicity that on the one chance he had to do some shopping he still preferred something useful rather than something less

practical. Nonetheless, I had not laughed as much as I did that night for quite some time.

A rather strange ice-cream

As we left the *Mustafa* Centre it had passed midnight. On the way home our Missionary from Malaysia, Ainul Yaqeen Sahib stopped the car in front of an ice cream shop called '*Tooty Fruity*'. He went inside and then came back with these rather large tubs of ice cream covered in nuts.

We were all quite happy to receive our tubs but were less so when we tasted them! He had actually not purchased ice cream but instead very sour frozen yoghurt! I had ate frozen yoghurt in the past so at least I knew what it was but Majid Sahib, Munir Sahib and Mubarak Sahib were extremely confused and kept saying '*this is not tooty fruity, this is some strange yoghurt!*'

We each ate as much as we could, although I am not sure if anyone was able to finish their tub.

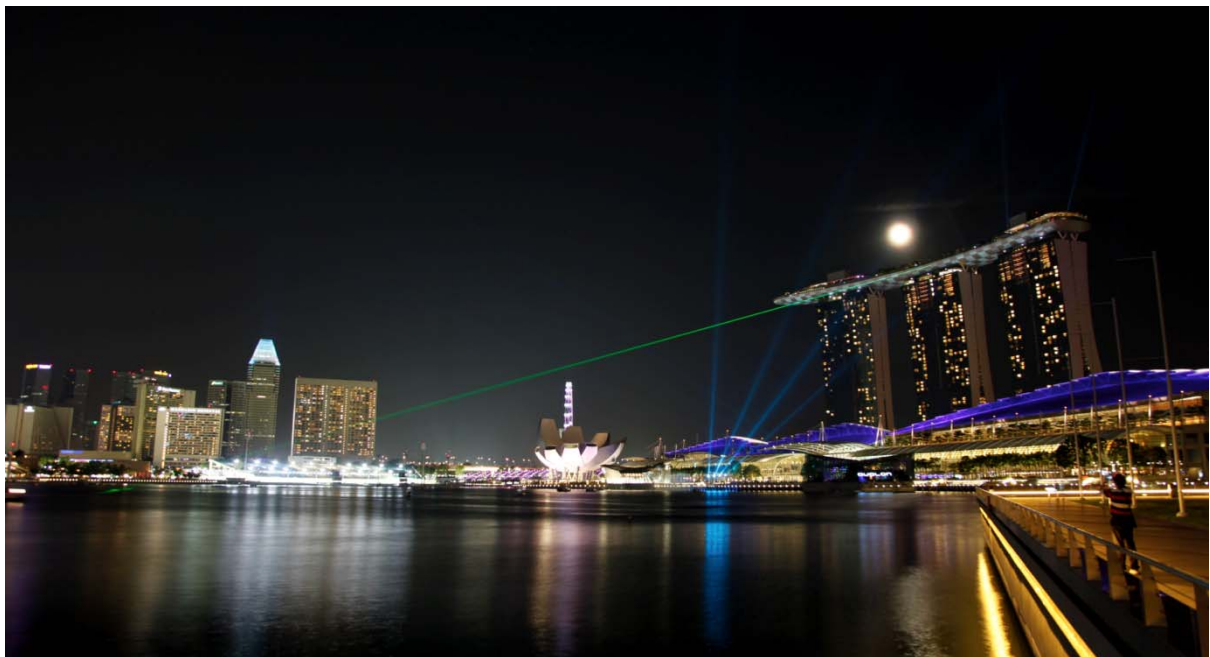
Over the next few weeks this incident proved to be the basis for a running joke. Whenever anyone offered to bring ice cream, one of us would say *that* '*we hope it is not a repeat of the tooty fruity episode!*'

Anyway, if not for the shopping or dessert, at least for the humour that night proved extremely enjoyable!

Visit to city centre

We were due to fly to Australia on Monday 30 September and so on Saturday afternoon whilst Huzoor was engaged in Mulaqats I took permission to go on a short drive to the city centre.

A local Ahmadi, Khalid Sanchez, took me in his car. We first went to a shopping mall which to my slight disappointment was filled with British shops such as '*Marks and Spencer*' and '*Mothercare*'. I said to Khalid Sahib that I can visit these shops in London and so we left after just a few minutes.



As we walked out we happened to walk by a very beautiful waterside area from where you could see the skyscrapers of Singapore and the various coloured lights. It was a really beautiful scene and I took the opportunity to take a few photos before we returned to the Mosque in time for Maghreb and Isha. Those

few minutes were more than enough to satisfy my hope to see some of Singapore's beauty.

Visit to Sentosa Island

I had one more, quite unexpected opportunity, to explore Singapore later that night after the conclusion of the day's events. Mubarak Chowdry, who was the National Kharija Secretary, insisted on taking me and Ahmad bhai on a drive. He took us first to the local beach where a restaurant was open and he ordered a couple of types of seafood. They were absolutely delicious and perfectly cooked.

One of the things he ordered were crabs. I was quite alarmed as the waiter brought plastic bibs for all three of us but apparently that was quite normal because declawing crabs is a messy activity. So it proved, as we declawed our crabs our hands and bibs became covered in its natural water. However, the taste more than compensated for any mess as it was truly delicious.

After we had eaten, Mubarak Sahib took us to Sentosa Island which was about 15 minutes' drive away. The word 'Sentosa' means 'peace and tranquillity' and that is a good way to describe the Island.

It was stunningly beautiful filled with glorious palm trees, pure white beaches and surrounded by clear water. It was thoroughly clean and pristine and very secluded. It felt entirely different to the hustle and bustle of mainland Singapore. We walked quite some distance and across a footbridge until we reached a signboard that pronounced that we had reached the most southerly

point of Continental Asia. To stand next to that sign was in itself very satisfying and yet another blessing of the tour.



By the time we arrived back at the residence it was quite late. I was fearful of sleeping through my alarm at Fajr time. All the enjoyment of the evening would vanish if I slept through Fajr and would be replaced by guilt and regret.

Thus that night I especially prayed before sleeping that Allah wakes me up and that I am not late for Fajr. I also set a number of alarms on my phone and on my iPad.

As it turned out I woke up naturally a few minutes before my alarm was set and so I was grateful that Allah had answered my prayer and ensured that I was not late.

Final day in Singapore

On 30 September Huzoor's tour of Singapore concluded and Huzoor set off for the next part of the tour which was to be an entire month spent in Australia.

On a personal level I was very excited to move onwards with Huzoor because I knew many programmes and events were scheduled for Australia. However, at the same time I remember thinking that in every respect the tour to Singapore had been extremely blessed. In the history of the Jamaat it would be recorded that Singapore had become a hub for the Jamaat whereby thousands of Ahmadis from neighbouring countries had joined together to attach themselves with Khilafat.

An emotional farewell

Given the soft nature of the Ahmadis I had met in Singapore, I had a strong feeling that the farewell would be very emotional and so it proved. Before departing, Huzoor went to Masjid Taha one last time and as Huzoor waved many of the Ahmadi men, women and children became overcome with emotion and had tears streaming down their faces.

I particularly remember that whilst Huzoor was leading the *dua* I could hear our Missionary-in-Charge from Malaysia crying hysterically like a small child cries when he is in uncontrollable pain and is unable to convey to his parents what he is feeling.

That is exactly how our Murrabi, a grown-man, who is normally very jolly by nature, was crying. He was not in physical pain but being parted from his beloved Khalifa had let to such a state of devastation. Similar emotions echoed around the courtyard of the Mosque.

Final Farewell at Airport

From Masjid Taha we went straight to the airport and some local Jamaat officials came to see Huzoor off. They were desperate to get a final glimpse of Huzoor and to shake his hand one final time.

The majority of Qafila members went through security in advance, whilst Huzoor and Khala Saboohi remained in the lounge area until later on. As we went up to the airport security section the rest of the Qafila members squeezed into a lift. I decided to take the stairs and as I climbed the stairs I realised that the local Ahmadis could now only see me and suddenly they started waving at me and were continuing to cry out of their love for Huzoor.

For a few seconds, I was very confused. I did not know if I should just continue walking, if I should stop or what else. I felt very embarrassed as so many people were waving at me with tears flowing. Anyway, I very quickly waved back and then ran up the stairs and met the rest of the Qafila members as they came out of the lift.

A memorable scene in the airport terminal

We then proceeded to the security area and so the next time we saw Huzoor was when we were about to board the plane.

Later on, Ahmad bhai told me that when Huzoor and Khala Saboohi came from the lounge to the gate they travelled on a buggy. It so happened that dozens of Ahmadis were flying back to Malaysia and Indonesia around the same time and were waiting for their flights at their respective gates.

Ahmad bhai said that when they suddenly saw that Huzoor was being transported across the airport they started running trying to keep up with Huzoor's buggy as it moved across the terminal and kept putting their hands forward to try and touch Huzoor's blessed hand.

In response, Huzoor smiled and waved at the Ahmadis, whilst I am sure the non-Ahmadis at the airport must have been shocked and confused by the scene. Hearing about this after, I had to admit at feeling regret at the fact that we had had to go before and so had missed what must have been a really memorable scene.

With that final expression of love between the Khalifa and the local Ahmadis, Huzoor boarded a British Airways flight to Sydney for the next stage of his tour.

Singapore had been filled from start to finish with God's blessings and I was quite sure the next part of the tour would prove to be just the same.
