

از الذییر عند اللہ السلاحة

The REVIEW OF RELIGIONS

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Our New Brother in Islam
Bashir Ahmad Orchard of Bristol, England.

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نور محمد نصابی علی رسول اللہ ﷺ

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Mr. BASHIR AHMAD ORCHARD IN QADIAN

[Address presented on behalf of the Tahrik-i-Jadid, Qadian, to Mr. B. A. Orchard of England on his arrival here by J. D. Shams, Propaganda Secretary for Europe and America —Ed]

It gives me great pleasure to welcome this evening our esteemed brother, Mr. B. A. Orchard on behalf of the Tahrik-i-Jadid, Anjuman Ahmadiyya, Qadian. Using the Arabic expression of welcome as between two friends with common interest I take the opportunity to say أهلاً وسهلاً ومرحباً These three words of welcome stand for three sentences which means you have come to your home. We hope you have found no difficulty in coming over here and we welcome you warmly and you will find here everything in plenty.

Mr. Orchard needs no introduction from me as he has been here twice. He has many friends in this holy city.

He learnt for the first time about Ahmadiyyat while he was serving in the Army in India and accepted the truth of Islam two years ago in Qadian. Those who have seen Mr. Orchard closely know well that he is very enthusiastic in preaching and does his best in conveying the message of Ahmadiyyat to others. After his release from the Army, when he arrived in England,

he stayed for two days only at Bristol with his relatives and on the third day he was at the Mosque in London. During his conversation with me he expressed his willingness to live at the Mosque and become a Muslim Missionary, I explained to him the responsibilities of a Missionary and the required qualifications for missionary work. Eventually I promised him to see to his case sympathetically and would write to him on this matter. He was a little bit upset from my reluctance in accepting his offer readily. After a few days he, however, dedicated his life for the service of Islam unconditionally like other Waqifeen. I sent his application to Hazrat Amirul Momineen with my opinion that he might be a useful Missionary. I asked him to come to stay with us and to begin the study of Islam. Hazrat Amirul Momineen graciously accepted his Waqf and Mr. Orchard began to work with other Missionaries. He began to render his services very sincerely and with success. In last December, when he was asked to proceed to Qadian for advanced studies in Islam, he welcomed this opportunity and expressed his delight to come to Qadian for higher studies.

True believers in Allah feel happy and they rejoice when they see the Word of Allah fulfilled. The Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace be on him) 1360 years ago prophesied that Islam would be preached in the West in the days of the Promised Messiah when the West would be completely submerged in materialism and would be at the height of its worldly pomp and glory. The Promised Messiah is the only person in the history of Islam who proclaimed this interpretation of the prophecy طلوع الشمس من المغرب of the rising of the sun from the West. In 1891, that is two years after his claim to divine apostleship, the Promised Messiah wrote in his book ازاله اوهام : The rising of the Sun from the West as predicted by the Holy Prophet of Islam means that the Western countries which have been in utter darkness of unbelief and error shall be illuminated by the benign rays of the Sun of righteousness and shall share in the blessings of Islam. Once I saw myself in a vision that I was standing on a pulpit in London

preaching the beauties and excellences of the teachings of Islam. In the vision the Promised Messiah caught small white birds which were perching on small trees. He interpreted this vision to mean that though he might not be able to proceed to London himself, his teachings would spread there and many righteous Englishmen would accept the truth. This vision undoubtedly is applied to all those righteous Englishmen who believe in the Promised Messiah (P. B. H.). Every righteous Englishman who joins the blessed Ahmadiyya Movement is certainly one of those white birds which were shown to the Promised Messiah by Allah. Mr. Orchard has the right, therefore, to be happy and grateful to Allah for the blessings of belief which He has bestowed upon him. The joy of one whom a King remembers knows no bounds, and how overjoyed he should be who is mentioned by the King of Kings, the Lord of the heavens and the earth. They are indeed fortunate who were shown to the Promised Messiah in the form of white birds which indicates that their hearts shall become clean and pure from all sorts of impurities and they will have highly elevated souls of Spirituality. They will not remain contented by acceptance of truth but will fly like birds and will convey the message of Islam to the peoples of other countries as did the disciples of Jesus. It is interesting to note that Jesus's disciples were called birds metaphorically and Jesus considered them as a sign of his divine apostleship. As we read in the Holy Quran that Jesus moulded those persons who bent completely on material desires to soar like birds into the spiritual regions, they dedicated their lives and lived like birds as he asked them to do. He said, therefore, I say unto you take not thought for your life what ye shall eat or what ye shall drink nor yet for your body what ye shall put on. Behold the fowls of the air, for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns. Yet your heavenly father feeds them. Are ye not much better than they? Likewise God showed to the Promised Messiah his followers from amongst the righteous Englishmen in the forms of birds to indicate that they will dedicate their lives and become Missionaries of Islam to preach

the divine message to other nations. Mr. Bashir Ahmad Orchard, who has dedicated his life to serve Islam is certainly one of those birds, who deserve to be happy and, for this, we congratulate him and welcome him whole-heartedly.

In the end, I entreat earnestly to Hazrat Amirul Momineen to pray for his steadfastness and his success in the Mission for which he has been called here.

REPLY TO THE ADDRESS BY Mr. BASHIR AHMED ORCHARD

In the beginning I thank Almighty God for showing me the truth of Ahmadiyyat and for giving me this opportunity of serving Islam. I also thank the members of Tahrik-i-Jadid for kindly giving me this party and I thank Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II Ameerul Momineen who has kindly graced this occasion by his presence.

When I first came to Qadian I only stayed for two days and during the period I had discussions with several people whose friendly faces I see among those who are sitting around me now. However I well remember that at the time of my departure I said that I still held the same views as when I came. And it was not until the train had left Qadian a few miles behind that I began to think of all that I heard and saw and it was then that I began to appreciate all the kindness, sympathy, patience and affection that had been extended to me. As the train reached Amritsar I was thinking very deeply about my experience of Qadian.

From that time onward whenever I visited any large city I used to make it a point of visiting the local Jamaat and found in every place that I visited that I was greeted with the same respect. Eventually I accepted Ahmadiyyat. Since then I have spent a year with the London Jamaat where I continued to receive the same brotherly affection from my brother missionaries. The spirit of brotherhood that exists between every member of the community is a sufficient sign in

itself to establish the truth of Ahmadiyyat and if Ahmadiyyat were not true then why is that there exists such a strong relationship among the Ahmadies. Such a brotherhood cannot be found among the followers of any other religion or community. It is not necessary therefore that one need be a scholar of religion before one is able to find the truth. When Jesus Christ was speaking to his disciples about his second advent he gave them a very clean and simple sign by which it could be known when the prophecy would be fulfilled. He said that a corrupt tree beareth forth corrupt fruit and a good tree beareth forth good fruit. He gave a warning against being misguided by false claimants by going on to say, 'Only by their fruit ye shall know them'. Again it is not necessary that one need be a religious scholar in order to make others understand the truth of Ahmadiyyat. By our practical lives we can attract others to the truth of Ahmadiyyat and it was in this manner that you people attracted me towards Ahmadiyyat. The example you set had a great impression upon me.

Now I request that you will all pray that I may carry out my duties faithfully according to the will of God.

SPEECH BY HAZRAT AMEER-UL-MOMINEEN

Hazrat said, Mr. Bashir Ahmad Orchard does not know Urdu, therefore, I will try to express myself in English so that he might be able to grasp fully what I want to say.

Time was when the Christians acted upon the tenets of Christianity and along with it they were foremost in worldly attainments. But after a time they forgot Jesus's teachings and gave themselves up wholly to materialism and worldly affairs. Occasionally there flitted up a very faint idea of God Almighty in their minds but it had no permanent hold on them. Again they became engrossed in worldly affairs. God, therefore, deemed it necessary to send a prophet to them. On the other hand the

Muslims, too became distracted, they split up and forgot the teachings of their religion. Only a Prophet was needed to bring them to a common platform. Such a Prophet was the Promised Messiah (peace be on him). You, Mr. Bashir, are the first person from the British nation to accept this Prophet and the first to have the good fortune of dedicating your life for the propagation of the religion he brought forth. We pray God to grant you steadfastness and perseverance and additional increase in your sincerity and zeal for Islam.

Great and noble is the aim for which you stand, but in sooth, not even the men of your own country know you at this stage, what to speak of the world at large. But the time comes when the name of One God shall have been established on the face of the earth, and there shall be nothing but Ahmadiyyat, here, there and everywhere. Then will the people of your country turn over the pages of history to find if there was any Englishman in the early period of Ahmadiyyat who had accepted it. When they will find that there was a certain Bashir Ahmad Orchard who had embraced Ahmadiyyat then their hearts will be filled with glee and they shall have the satisfaction to feel that the English nation had done their part well. At this time you are unknown, no doubt, and unheard of, but soon the time is coming when nations will feel proud of you and sing your praises. So mind, you do not take lightly what you say and what you do. Do not think that your movements are only personal, no, but they pertain to the whole British nation. The posterity will imitate your movements and follow them to the letter.

Have you not observed that the disciples of Jesus Christ hold such a lofty position that the whole British nation feels proud to follow in their footsteps? Similarly the Muslims hold in high esteem the Companions of the Holy Prophet and try to follow in their footsteps.

If your movements and activities will be in accordance with Islam, and noble and grand, then

they will be instrumental in raising the moral tone of your nation, but if they are below the mark and not in strict accordance with Islam, your nation will be the loser thereby; try, therefore, to set a noble example for the posterity otherwise God will have another man to fulfil this task. When Ahmadiyyat will have spread all over the world and spread it must, no power on earth can impede its destined progress, then will there be reverence for you in the hearts of the people, greater than the one which they have for the greatest of Prime Ministers.

In the end I should like to advise you to work sincerely and earnestly and set a noble example for those who follow. I earnestly pray to God for His Mercy on you and may He bring to a successful end what you have laid the beginnings of at this time, Amin.

A PARTING MESSAGE TO MY CHRISTIAN FRIENDS

BY BASHIR AHMAD ORCHARD OF BRISTOL, ENGLAND

I am addressing this letter to you with the request that you kindly give it your attentive perusal for the message that I wish to leave with you and invite you to that one and only true path that can lead you into the presence of God. The only path you should tread if you wish to receive His choicest blessings and the only path which can lead you into certainty of faith without which you will never be able to enter into divine communion with your Maker and purify yourselves of sin.

What is this message? It is none other than that you should follow the commandments of God and believe in His messengers who are the instruments through whom God has revealed His commandments to mankind since the beginning of creation. I am sure you agree with me that Moses was a great Prophet through whom God gave to the Israelites the Mosaic Law. Compliance to this law was the secret of their salvation for then they would have been conforming their lives to the will of God. An instance is related in the beginning of the first chapter of St. Luke concerning Zacharias and his wife, it is written :

“And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless.”

So we see that the secret of success is to walk in all the commandments of the Lord.

In accordance with the prophecies of the earlier prophets God bestowed the rank of prophethood upon Jesus whom He raised from amongst the Israelites to lead them back from their erring ways into the path of truth as shown to them by Moses. The Bible

itself bears testimony to the fact that this was the mission of Jesus. It is recorded that Jesus said :

“ I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the House of Israel.”
(Matthew 15-24.)

And again,

“ Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets : I am not come to destroy but to fulfil.

For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law till all be fulfilled.” (Matthew 5 : 17,18)

It is abundantly clear, therefore, that Jesus taught the same means of salvation as was taught by Moses. Jesus confirmed the truth of the Mosaic Law and impressed upon the Israelites that their only means of salvation was to follow the commandments of the law. This is again testified in the 19th chapter of St. Matthew where it is recorded that when a certain man came to Jesus and asked him what he may do to have eternal life, Jesus answered :

“but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments.” (Verse 17)

Now Moses was a prophet raised for the Israelites who were in his time suffering great hardships in bondage to the Egyptians. Jesus's message was also confined to the Israelites only and as I have said it was just a confirmation of the Mosaic Law. I have already quoted the words of Jesus wherein he says that he was only sent unto the lost sheep of the House of Israel. Again this is clearly indicated when Jesus is reported to have commanded his disciples in the following words :

“ Go not into the way of the Gentiles and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not. But go rather unto the lost sheep of the House of Israel.”
(Matthew 5 : 6.)

Before I proceed I should like to take this opportunity of clearing up one point which is often raised by

my Christian friends in support of the universal mission of Jesus. They frequently quote the 15th verse of the last chapter of St. Mark which records these words of Jesus :

“ And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature.”

A careful study of the Bible will shew that this verse can in no way be brought forward in support of such a view.

Firstly, if it is to be believed that these are the true words of Jesus, then how can they be reconciled with his other sayings where he has in direct contradiction stated that his message is solely for the House of Israel ?

Secondly, there is no reason why the words should be taken in the literal sense. I direct your attention to the first verse of the second chapter of St. Luke.

“ And it came to pass in these days, that there went out a decree from Cæsar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed.”

Now nobody for a moment supposes that this order included every country on the surface of the earth. It is absurd to suppose for instance that this order was extended to the Japanese people. I am sure you are in agreement with me on this point. When the author of this Gospel talks of the world, he is obviously speaking about the kingdom over which Cæsar Augustus ruled. Likewise when Jesus bids his disciples to go into all the world he does not mean that they should go to the four corners of the earth but rather amongst his own flock—the Israelites. It is clear that in both these instances the use of the word ‘ World ’ is applied in the same sense. The world of Cæsar Augustus was confined to those people for whom he was responsible—the citizens of the Roman Empire, similarly the ‘ world ’ of Jesus was confined to those people only for whom he was responsible—the Children of Israel.

Thirdly, the authority of this verse needs investigation.

“The last twelve verses (of Mark) were added (to the original account) later still, probably early in the second century, probably to take the place of the ending which had been lost, or which was regarded as defective.” (*Encyclopædia Britannica*, Ed. 11, Vol 17, page 730.)

So up to this point I have endeavoured to make clear to you that the Mosaic Law was only intended for the Israelites and that their salvation lay in their adherence to this law. The mission of Jesus was confined only to the Israelites and he came merely to fulfil the Mosaic Law, and for your satisfaction I have drawn my authority from the words of Jesus himself as recorded in the Bible.

Now it is a very great error to suppose that the long chain of divine messengers whom God has been appointing in this world from time to time ceased at the advent of Jesus. It is also a great error to suppose that God has only been pleased to manifest Himself to one nation, the Israelites, and that he has not cared to make Himself known or bestow His favours on all the other numerous nations whom He has created and given abode to in different spheres of the globe. However, I shall deal with this latter misconceived belief further on.

Throughout the Biblical scriptures we can find a number of prophecies regarding a great Prophet who was to come after Jesus. I shall now dwell on a few of these prophecies and I request you to think and ponder over them with due earnest. Perhaps you have not come across them or if you have, then you may not have appreciated their full significance. I draw your attention to Deuteronomy 18 : 18 where we read that God said unto Moses :

“I will raise them (Israelites) up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put My words into his mouth ; And he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him. And it shall come to pass, that whosoever will not hearken unto My words

which he shall speak in My name. I will require it of him. But the prophet which shall presume to speak a word in My name which I have not commanded him to speak or that shall speak in the name of other gods, even that prophet shall die."

This Promised Prophet who is spoken of in this prophecy was none other than the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace be on him) whom God raised amongst the Arabians in the seventh century A.D. It is unfortunate that those Christians who have heard about this great Prophet do not care to hearken to his call. Rather they are only too ready to defame him and level the most insidious charges against him. They have not cared to take a lesson from the Jews who reviled and rejected Jesus. Instead they have adopted the ways of the Jews inasmuch as they are themselves rejecting and reviling the greatest of all the prophets—The Master Prophet Muhammad (Peace be on him). I feel that at this point you would like to defend the superiority of Jesus by saying that he was God Himself or the son of God. I shall discuss this matter in its appropriate place.

Most Christians with whom I have discussed about this prophecy say that it has been fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ. Perhaps you are also of the same opinion. However it does not require very much intellectual effort to see that this prophecy refers to none other than Prophet Muhammad (peace be on him) and that it was in no way fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ.

First of all Jesus never laid claim to this prophecy whereas Muhammad (peace be on him) claimed that he had fulfilled this prophecy.

Secondly, Jesus cannot be likened unto Moses. Moses brought a new law but Jesus brought no new law. In his own words he said that he had only come to fulfil the law (Matthew 5 : 17). Muhammad (peace be on him) on the other hand brought a new law which God revealed to him by verbal revelation and which is recorded in the Quran.

Thirdly, the prophecy says that the prophet would be raised from among the brethren of the Israelites. Now the brethren of the Israelites were the Ishmaelites. Jesus was not an Ishmaelite but Muhammad (peace be on him) was.

Fourthly, Jesus did not fight with his enemies. But as Moses, under divine commandment, was compelled to fight with his enemies, similarly Muhammad (peace be on him), under divine commandment, was compelled to fight with his enemies.

Fifthly, the prophecy states that God will put His words into his mouth. As I have mentioned above the Quran is that verbal revelation which God spoke to Muhammad (peace be on him). God says in the Quran :

“Nor speaks he of his own inclination. It is but a revelation which is revealed to him.” (Quran 53 : 3, 4).

Though I have not gone fully into the interpretation of this great prophecy I hope you will contemplate over it. I hope you will exercise the gift of reasoning which God has given you and thereby seek the truth with an unbiased and open mind. However, this Prophet is not only spoken of in Deuteronomy. In the New Testament we read of the expectations of the people, including the disciples, with regard to his coming.

Please read these verses very carefully :

“And this is the record of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, Who art thou ?

And he confessed, and denied ; but confessed, I am not the Christ.

And they asked him, What then ? Art thou Elias ? And he saith, I am not. Art thou that prophet ? And he answered, No.” (Verses 19, 20, 21).

“And they asked him, and said unto him, Why baptizest thou then, if thou be not that Christ, nor Elias, neither that prophet.” (John 1 : 25.)

You will readily gather from these verses that the Jews were expecting a prophet to come who was not to be identified with Ealias or Christ. Who was 'that prophet' of whom the Jews were speaking? It was certainly none other than the promised prophet spoken of in Deuteronomy 18 : 11. Not only the Jews but Peter, the disciple of Jesus, speaks of that prophet who was yet to come. Please mark very carefully the following words of Peter as recorded in Acts 3 : 20, 23.

"And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you :

Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.

For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me. Him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you.

And it shall come to pass, that every soul which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people."

Here Peter says that before the times of restitution of all things, before which the second advent of Jesus Christ cannot take place, all things that God has spoken by the mouths of his only prophets must be fulfilled which includes the fulfilment of the prophecy of that prophet about whom God informed Moses. Peter himself says that he is yet to come which completely refutes any question of the prophecy being fulfilled in the person of Jesus. It is crystal clear that this grand prophecy appertains only to the Holy Prophet Muhammad (may peace be on him) who fulfilled all the conditions demanded. Now that I have shown you from your own scriptures the truth of Muhammad (peace be on him) I hope you will again ponder over these things. In actual fact there are many other Biblical prophecies regarding his advent which I do not intend to discuss here.

What was the mission of Muhammad? (peace be on him). What new law did he bring and what need

was there of a new law? These questions must have already arisen in your minds and I hope that, by the Grace of God, I may be able to make clear to you the purpose of his divine mission.

It was the design of God that the people of the world should be united in one brotherhood and under one religion. Up to this time God had deemed it fit to send His prophets at different times and to different nations with teachings suitable for the needs of the people at those respective times. The Quran tells us that since the beginning of creation God has been sending His prophets at different times to all the nations of the world, thereby providing access for all people to attain true knowledge of Himself. God says in the Quran :

“There has been no people unvisited by a warner.”
(35 : 24).

Here God says that there is no nation to whom He has not sent His messengers which appeals to the mind of every right-thinking person for it is absurd to think that God should create millions of beings to whom He would never make Himself known and leave in perpetual darkness for all times, never to know the purpose of their creation. And it is equally unreasonable to suppose that God would only favour one special people among His creation by continually sending to them His divine messengers and opening to them the gate of divine knowledge whereas He for ever closes the door to the rest of His creation. You will have to agree that this is the Christian belief though its authority cannot be attributed to any prophet of God. Christians believe that God has only raised His prophets up from amongst the Israelites since the time of Israel and not to any other nations. They are not prepared to believe for instance that God has raised prophets among the Indians or Chinese. But God has exposed the fallacy of this belief and sent a reminder that He is a Merciful and Compassionate God. The truth of His words are only too apparent because not only do they appeal to reason but also their veracity is manifested throughout all the nations of the globe. We find that

people of all nations, even though they may dwell in the remotest corners of the earth, are agreed upon the existence of God and it must be remembered that in earlier times many countries were completely unknown to one another and there were no means of communication. Yet despite their complete isolation from one another we find their inhabitants acknowledging the existence of the Supreme Deity in accordance with their own conception. Now from what source did they derive their knowledge of the existence of God? They came to know because God manifested Himself unto them and the fact that we find them all agreeing upon most of the attributes of God is a sure sign that God has revealed Himself to them by means of His divine messengers.

So we see that God has in the past given separate revelations to every nation as was necessitated to suit the circumstances and conditions of the people of those times. Now God desires that all nations should be welded under one religion and in order to clarify this great plan of God I think that I can do no better than quote the words of Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad who has been sent by God in this age to fulfil the prophecy regarding the second advent of Jesus Christ and about whom I shall be telling you something further in my letter. He says :

“.....but now He wills, to make them all one as He is one. To gather all into one fold, He sent the Holy Quran and revealed therein that a time shall come when He shall make all people one nation, and all countries one land and all languages one language. Now we see that the world is making an approach to this state and the relations between different countries are fast strengthening. The means of travelling have been extremely facilitated, and the interchange of ideas between far and distant lands has become very easy. The union of different nations has been rendered possible by free and easy intercourse. The construction of railways is deemed to render it possible to travel round the world in forty days. The communication of message has been rendered easy to a degree which

passes belief. From this it appears that it is the will of God to make all people one nation as they were one in the beginning, so that the circle of creation may be complete, and there may be one God, one Prophet and one Faith. The principle commends itself to every reasonable being that one different nations lived in different countries and had no means of easy communication, Almighty God sent His prophets among all the peoples and did not keep back His favours and grace from any people, but when their union was rendered possible, He comprised all truths and all the rules of guidance in one heavenly Book and revealed it in a language which is the mother of languages, i.e. in Arabic."

The distinguishing trait, therefore, between Muhammad (peace be on him) and all the prophets prior to him was that he came with a universal message whereas the others came only with messages for separate nations. God says in the Quran :

" This day have I perfected for you your religion and completed My favour on you and chosen for you Islam as a religion."

" Verily the religion with God is Islam alone."

In these verses God says that now the only religion acceptable in His sight is the religion of Islam. Only through Islam can true salvation be attained because therein lie the commandments of God. Islam means the 'resignation to the will of God' and unless one is not ready to resign himself with perfect submission to the will of God then the blessings and favours of God will never descend upon that person in their full abundance. I think it will already be clear to you that Islam recognises the truth of all the prophets of God from the beginning of creation up to the time of the advent of the Holy Prophet of Islam. Islam enjoins upon its followers that they must believe in all the prophets and if they do not then they cannot be counted as Muslims. However, with the advent of Muhammad (peace be on him) God abrogated His previous laws and in their place He established a new

universal law for the guidance of all mankind. The Islamic law is such that it is practicable and applicable to every individual irrespective of his nationality or status in life. It is also applicable and practicable for every age that is to say as it was practicable thirteen hundred years ago, so it can be applied in these times and also for all times to come. To illustrate the wisdom of the Islamic Law and its universal nature I will select one of its commandments concerning self-defence and compare it with the commandments given by Jesus Christ with regard to the same subject. Here I should like to make it clear that I am not condemning the teachings but only wish to point out that whereas they were suitable for that age they are no longer suitable for this age."

If the teachings of Christ were intended for all times, as is the general Christian belief, then every Christian to-day who wishes to be a true follower of Christ should observe his commandments. In his sermon on the mount he enjoins the following commandments upon his followers :

"Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth :

But I say unto you, That you resist not evil : But whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also."

(Matthew 5 : 38, 39.)

These verses require no explanation. I ask now, do you really think that this is a practicable universal teaching? Do you think that Britain should never have built up her strong wall of defence in view of the possibility of a German invasion? Do you think that the German army should have been allowed to have invaded England free of any opposition? If you do think so then you are true to your faith but if you do not think so then you must agree that this teaching is not practicable as a universal teaching and you will have to agree that it was not meant for all times. Christ, therefore, did not provide any solution for this present universal problem.

The injunction laid down in Islam in connection with this problem is perfect in itself and practicable on all occasions. Islam does not require that a Muslim should adopt either of the two extremes as said by Moses and Jesus. Rather, God says in the Quran that one should exercise one's judgment in deciding whether the offender should be punished or forgiven. If it is thought that a transformation for the better can be brought about by forgiving the offender, then the offender should be forgiven. On the other hand if it is thought that forgiveness cannot produce an impression on the offender then punishment is befitting.

Again Islam does permit one to take up arms in self defence when one's freedom and life is endangered. God says in the Holy Quran :

"Fight with those who attack you until such time as religious freedom is established."

(2 : 193 ; 8 : 39.)

Islam lays down a perfect and practicable solution in this matter. The United Nations themselves could not but help accept the wisdom of this Quranic injunction when they found themselves confronted by the Fascist armies. They realized that the teachings of Christ were out of date and that complete non-resistance of evil is not a universal solution for present world problems.

Before proceeding further I should like to take this opportunity of pointing out the error of a very misconceived belief that has been ascribed to Islam and which is prevalent among the Christians. It is used as a tool of propaganda by the Christian missionaries. The charge which they bring against Islam is that it was spread by the sword and encourages forcible conversions and aggressive warfare. Nothing can be more contrary to the truth and I beg of you to cleanse your mind of such erroneous ideas if you had been believing so. Those people who are responsible for propagating this mischievous propaganda either do so with malicious intentions or else on account of their

ignorance of the beautiful teachings of Islam. God says in the Quran :

“ Let there be no compulsion in religion.” (2 : 256.)

“ The truth is from your Lord : let him who will, believe, and let him who will, disbelieve.” (18 : 29.)

As I have just stated, Islam does permit one to fight in self-defence but emphatically prohibits and condemns all manner of aggression. God says :

“ Verily, God, enjoineeth justice and the doing of good and gifts to kindred, and he forbiddeth wickedness and wrong and oppression.” (16 : 93).

The words of the Quran speak for themselves in expounding the gentle and beautiful teachings of Islam.

Now why is it, you may be wishing to ask, that the Church has rejected Muhammad (peace be on him) if he was a true prophet of God and the Quran the revealed word of God ?

There are many answers to this question and I will now deal with one of the major factors that has led the Church to turn a deaf ear to the Holy Prophet of Islam. It is with respect to the divinity of Christ. The Church believes Christ to be divine. That is to say they believe that he was actually God Himself. In fact not only God, but also His own son. The Quran refutes the divinity of Christ and on many occasions emphasises his true nature, namely that he was a prophet of God and was a mortal being like all other beings. According to the Christians Muhammad (peace be on him) must be an impostor because Christ was divine. Let us see what the scriptures have to say about Jesus and let us read what Jesus is also reported to have said about himself.

It is written in Corinthians 1 : 8 : 6.

“ There is but one God, the Father.”

From this verse we learn that God is known as the Father. Christ also confirms this in the opening lines of the Lord's prayer :

“ Our Father, which art in Heaven.”

But we read that Christ clearly distinguishes himself as being quite separate from the Father in all respects for he says: "The Father is greater than I (John 14-28). If Christ was therefore God it appears that we will have to accept two Gods one of which is of a higher status than the other. Again Christ clearly dissociates himself from the Father when he says, "And call no man your father upon the earth for one is your Father which is in heaven." It is an absurdity in itself to pretend that Christ did not walk upon the earth. Here Christ plainly refutes his divinity.

I have often been told by various Christians that I do not try to understand the Bible as a whole and fail in doing so by selecting various verses from here and there and interpreting them in my own way. My answer is that they should themselves point out the error of my observations. I also ask them in return to produce their authority by which they establish the story of the reincarnation of God. I do not, however, deny the divinity of Christ on the authority of the Bible. I deny it on the authority of the Quran but have also shown that the Bible also denies such a theory.

Had the Church not ascribed divinity to Christ and taken him for what he really was and accepted the mission for which he was sent, then no doubt they would have accepted that Prophet about whom Moses prophesied and of whom Peter said was to come before the day of retribution.

I now place another very important aspect of the question before you with regard to the validity of the Holy Prophet of Islam. He claimed to be a prophet of God and that God commanded him to convey to the world the religion of Islam as laid down in the Quran. Your Bible lays down clear injunctions which distinguish whether a claimant to Prophethood is a true claimant or not. Let us see what we learn from the Bible.

"If there arise among you a false prophet or a dreamer of dreams: and giveth thee a sign or a wonder and the sign or the wonder came to pass,

whereof he spoke unto thee, saying: Let us go after other Gods, which thou hast not known, and let us serve them.

Thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams; for the Lord your God proveth you to know whether ye love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

Ye shall walk after the Lord your God, and fear Him and keep His commandments, and obey His voice, and ye shall serve Him and cleave unto Him and that Prophet or that dreamer of dreams SHALL BE PUT TO DEATH; because he hath spoken to turn you away from the Lord your God. (Deut. 13. 1 : 5).

“By sword and famine shall those false prophets be consumed.” (Jer. 14.)

“But the prophet who shall speak a word, presumptuously in my name, which I have not commanded him to speak or that shall speak in the name of other gods, that same prophet shall die.”

There are indeed numerous instances in past history of men who have claimed themselves to be prophets on false pretences and accordingly God has destroyed them. Let us read what happened to Hanamiah.

“Then said the Prophet Jeremiah unto Hanamiah the (false) prophet, Hear now, Hanamiah: the Lord hath not sent thee: but thou makest this people to trust in a lie. Therefore thus saith the Lord, Behold, I will send thee away from off the earth: this year thou shalt die, because thou hast spoken rebellion against the Lord. So Hanamiah the (false) prophet died the same year in the seventh month.” (Jer. 27: 15 17.)

Again there is another such account in the fifth chapter of Acts. *Theudas*.

“For before these days rose up *Theudas*, a false prophet boasting himself to be somebody: to whom a number of men about four hundred, joined themselves: who was slain; and all, as many as obeyed him, were dispersed, and brought to nought.

After this man rose up Joseph of Galilee in the days of the enrolment, and drew away some of the people after him he also perished and, all, as many as obeyed him, were scattered."

Had Muhammad (peace be on him) been a false claimant then certainly he would also have undergone a similar fate. But on the contrary he succeeded in his mission and was supported by the hand of God in everything he was commissioned to do. To-day there are scores of millions of his followers scattered throughout the world but where are the followers of all those false claimants to prophethood? I request you to consider over this matter. Read now what Thomas Carlyle says :

"Sincerity, in all sense, seems to me the merit of the Quran. . . No Christians, since the early ages, or only perhaps the English Puritans in modern times, have ever stood by their faith as the Muslims do by theirs—believing it wholly, fronting time with it, and eternity with it."

"To the Arab nation it was as a birth from darkness into light; Arabia first became alive by means of it. A poor shepherd people, roaming unnoticed in its deserts since the creation of the world: a hero prophet was sent down to them with a word they could believe: see, the unnoticed becomes world-notable, the small has grown world-great; within one century afterwards, Arabia is at Granada on this hand, at Delhi on that, glancing in valour and splendour and the light of genius, Arabia shines through long ages over a great section of the world."

I now want to pass on to you the glad tidings that in this age God has raised a prophet to guide all erring humanity back to the one and only true path which leads to Him. Since God created the world it has been His will to convey His message to His people through His prophets. We find that these prophets have always appeared when there has been spiritual corruption in the world and as a doctor is able to cure his patient through the administration of a dose of medi-

cine so likewise God sends his prophets with heavenly water to relieve humanity from their spiritual maladies. The present age is such an age that is in dire need of a spiritual transformation. Mankind has forgotten its Creator and is only engrossed in worldly pursuits. This age is certainly in need of religion and this is the age for the appearance of the Promised Messiah according to the prophecies of the scriptures. That is to say this is time for the fulfilment of the prophecies in connection with the 2nd advent of Jesus Christ which are to be found not only in the Biblical scriptures but in the scriptures of other religions as well. These prophecies have been fulfilled in the person of Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad of Qadian, Punjab, India, the Holy Founder of the Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam. In the year 1889 he announced that he had been raised by God as the Promised Messiah and that he had been commanded by God to invite all mankind into his fold. Concerning his mission he declared :

“ I have been commanded by God to invite mankind with humility and gentleness to God Who is the true Master, Eternal and Unchangeable, to Whom belong perfect Holiness, perfect Knowledge, perfect Mercy and perfect Justice.”

“ I am the light of this dark age ; he who follows me will be saved from falling into the pit prepared by Satan for those who walk in the dark. I have been sent by God to lead mankind to the true God, through gentleness and humility, and to re-establish the reign of morals in Islam. God has provided me with heavenly signs for the satisfaction of seekers after truth. He has done wonderful things in my support ; He has disclosed to me secrets of the unseen and of the future which, according to the holy scriptures, is the sign of a true claimant of divine revelation, and He has vouchsafed to me holy and pure Knowledge. Therefore the souls that hate truth and love darkness, have turned against me. But it is part of my duty to serve mankind with true sympathy to the utmost of my capacity, and the best service that can be rendered to the Christians is to unite them in the recognition of

the God, who suffers neither birth nor death nor pain of any description."

"The time is come when the doors of heaven shall be opened and the dawn shall break forth. Blessed are they who rise up and seek the True God Whom no adversity can overtake and no revolution of time can affect and the lustre of Whose glory never grows dim."

"The task for which God has appointed me is, that I should by removing the obstacles which have been set up between man and his Maker, re-establish in the hearts of men love and devotion to God and by making manifest the truth, should put an end to all religious wars and strife and thus lay the foundation of abiding peace, and should acquaint the world with spiritual truths which it had forgotten, and should demonstrate to the world the true spiritual life which had been displaced by material desires, and should in my own life manifest those divine powers which have been endowed on man but which can be manifested only through prayer and devotion, and above all that I should permanently re-establish that bright and pure Unity of God free from all polytheistic ideas, which had entirely disappeared from the hearts of men."

Is not this a wonderful message? And to-day when the world is crying out for a spiritual revolution and the Christians are eager to see the day of the reappearance of Jesus, God has out of His mercy chosen this age to raise the Promised Messiah and has supported his truth by mighty signs from heaven. He claimed that he had come in the power and spirit of Christ in the same manner that John the Baptist came in the power and spirit of Elijah. No doubt you will remember that according to the Bible Elijah physically ascended into heaven.

"And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold there appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven."

Now the Jews rejected Jesus for what he claimed to be because they believed that Elijah would return

to the earth before the coming of Jesus, for it is written in the book of Malachi :

“Behold I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord.”

The Jews were in manifest error in supposing that Elijah would descend physically from heaven. This prophecy was not to be fulfilled by the physical re-appearance of Elijah but in the person of one in the power and spirit of Elijah. This prophecy was, therefore, fulfilled by John the Baptist as we learn from the first chapter of St. Luke in which the angel addressing Zacharias says ;

“And he (John) shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children . . .”

The Promised Messiah declared that in a like manner he fulfilled the prophecy concerning the second advent of Jesus and he has pointed out to the Christians their error in supposing that Jesus would return to this earth in the same body of clay as was similarly the error of the Jews in supposing that Elijah would return in his body of clay. Jesus himself indicated that somebody would come in his name when he said :

“Ye shall not see me henceforth till ye shall say “Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.” (23 : 38 Matthew).

This verse clearly shows that a man is to come ‘in his name’ and that those who are waiting a physical reappearance of the very same Jesus are waiting in vain.

I most sincerely request you to give heed to the call of the Promised Messiah and do not turn away with a deaf ear. The glorious Messiah has appeared with a message of peace for every living individual on the surface of the earth. There is no doubt of his truth. The Promised Messiah has laid open a challenge to those who refuse to accept him. Though he passed away in the year 1908 the challenge still remains open and I can do no better than reproduce the same as offered to His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales

in the year 1922 by Hazrat Mirza Bashir-ud-deen Mahmud Ahmad, Second Successor to the Promised Messiah and present Head of the Ahmadiyya Community addressing the Prince, he writes :

“ Then, O respected Heir of our respected Sovereign, if in spite of the signs and truths related above, you consider that in order to judge God’s relation to and love for, a man a fresh sign is needed, we request Your Royal Highness to use your influence to induce the Christian divines to pray for the achievement of a specific difficult object, in order to manifest the truth of their religion ; and the Ahmadees (followers of the Promised Messiah) will also pray for the achievement of a corresponding object ; for instance, let us take a certain number of sick persons whose lives have been despaired of, and divide them among the Christian divines and the Ahmadees by lot, and let the Christian divines pray for the recovery of those allotted to them and we shall pray for those allotted to us and then let the world see whose prayer is heard and on whom the doors of heaven are shut.

If however Christian divines do not come forward (and they certainly shall not for they perceive in their hearts that God has removed His blessings from them) then conclude, O Wise Prince, that God has forsaken Christianity and has confined His blessings to Islam.

In conclusion, I entreat you, Beloved Prince, to ponder over this matter in all sincerity.”

Before bringing my letter to a close I would also earnestly request you to consider over this matter in all your sincerity. Owing to my early departure to India I must confine this great truth to this short letter otherwise I would have been only too pleased to have written more fully. If, by the Grace of God, I have been able to kindle a desire in your heart to know more of this great truth I hope you will not delay in sending me a letter or perhaps, better still, pay a visit to the London Mosque, where my brother missionaries who have dedicated their lives to become disciples of the Promised Messiah, will be only too glad to receive you and to have a talk with you.