I'd-al-Adha at the Mosque Woking

Faris Glubb, son of Ex-Commander of Arab Legion in Jordan
General Glubb Pasha embraced Islam

"This incident in the history of Woking Mosque will ever remain green in their memory, and that they will have the pleasant memories of this institution, wherever they will be."

— Begum Ikramullah

By GHULAM RABBANI KHAN, Imam, the Shah Jehan Mosque, England.

Saturday the 28th June was announced as the I'd-al-Adha Festival day. Thousands of invitation cards were sent to the four corners of the United Kingdom. On Thursday a big marquee was erected on the front grounds of the Sir Salarjang Memorial House, and the other tents to serve as the Food Stations were also erected at their proper places. The staff of the Mosque was busy making the necessary arrangements for the decoration of the Marquee as well as the catering for the thousands of guests expected on Saturday morning.

Mr. Muhammad Yahya Butt Asst. Imam was in charge of the supplies and in this connection he had already arranged for the necessary quantity of meat, rice and other articles for preparing a good curry and plaza.

As Thursday and Friday were very bad days from the point of view of weather the management was confronted with the great difficulty in supplying the necessary material required for preparing the big meal.

Mr. Ghulam Khan and his team of cooks arrived at about 8.00 p.m. on Friday evening and started their cooking arrangements immediately. It will not be out of place to mention that Mr. Ghulam Khan is a well off person, and since the year 1920 he has been in charge of the catering. He is a very devoted and zealous worker for the cause of the Woking Muslim Mission.

Mr. Turney, the Superintendent of the office, an old man of 69, who has been in the service of the Mission for 10 to 12 years, was very busily equipping the Marquees with the National flags and all the Muslim countries of the world.

We all wondered as to what would happen on Saturday if the weather be so unkind. Mr. Turner said that it is a miracle of I'd in this country, that it would be brighter tomorrow, and told me not to worry about it. I did pray to God at night for the grant of a bright day on the I'd, also for the gift of some important persons to embrace Islam on the occasion of I'd congreagation. To our surprise at about 6.00 a.m., the atmosphere began to clear up, though it was a bit overcast with cloud, but it started becoming pleasant till at about 10 o'clock the people for the I'd prayer began to pour in.

The guests were received near the Mosque by Syed Mahmood Hussain, and when they came nearer to the Sir Salarjang Memorial House, I proceeded forward to welcome them.

This was a very pleasant reception to all those who came from far and wide to participate in the celebrations.

Soon the spectacular collection of men, women and children right from the continent of Africa, Cyprus, Syria, Tunisia, Iraq, Turkey and from the different parts of the United Kingdom, were seen greeting one another with the spirit of the universal brotherhood of Islam.

The prominent people amongst the visitors were H. E. Mr. Ikramullah, High Commissioner for Pakistan, H. E. Begum Ikramullah, and family; H. E. The Ambassador of Tunisia, and a dozen Chiefs from Nigeria in their National Costumes, C.S.P. Officers from Oxford, Prominent Muslims from Bristol, Liverpool, and London, and the representatives of various non-Muslim and Muslim Embassies, besides the prominent English ladies and gentlemen including Sir Sinclair Baronet from Tunbridge Wells.

The representatives of practically all the newspapers along with the Pathé Newsreel were conspicuous taking snap-shots of the interesting and glorious gathering.

At 11.30 a.m. the big Marquee was arrayed with the Muslim men and women for the I'd Prayer. The non-Muslim guests were seated on chairs towards the North and South of the big canopy. The prayer was lead by me, and after the prayer I delivered the I'd Khutba and expressed my views on the Festival of I'd-al-Adha in the light of the Holy Quran, and traditions. Before and after the Khutba the big canopy responded with the takbiras in loud voices — "God is great, God is Great" etc.

When the sermon was over a young English girl from Manchester advanced towards me from the visitors, and embraced the faith of Islam. It was a very inspiring incident when I asked her to recite the Kalima, and thus join the faith Islam. The whole congregation with one voice congratulated her and expressed their greetings with loud cheers. The congregation gave her the Muslim name of Fethia. No sooner she had resumed her seat when I received a Mr. Mujad Khan, C.S.P. from Oxford, informing me that an Englishman Faris Glubb a student at Exeter College, Oxford University, the son of General Glubb Pasha ex-Commander-in-Chief of the Arab Legion in Jordan, wished to embrace Islam. I requested him to come forward to the dias and asked him to repeat the Kalima, and to my surprise I found him very well versed in Arabic. He could speak Arabic
NEW-COMERS IN ISLAM

The following have embraced Islam:
Mr. K. C. G. Oliver, Mrs. P. Ahmad, Miss M. J. Jamieson, Mr. B. Harrison, Mr. A. L. Fitchett, Mr. F. A. C. M. Eggers, Mr. C. E. C. Cavendish, Mr. S. Smith, Miss B. A. Manvers, Miss W. E. Norris, Miss M. Ward, Mr. W. L. Johnson, Miss J. F. White.

Imam’s Lectures

The Imam delivered the following lectures:
2. At the 8th Group of the Clifton Congregational Church on 11th May at 8.00 p.m. The meeting was presided over by the Chairman Mr. Bernard R. Webster, B.Sc.
3. At the Marriage Group of the Jewish Society on Islam on 15th May, at 8.00 p.m. at the Jewish Institute for Social Research, 33, Bernoe Street, London. The talk lasted for 2 hours, including the time of questions. The audience learned about the first Imam Ali, as well as Jesus Christ who had gone to Kashmir, and that Pathans and Kashmiris are the descendants of the 10 lost tribes of Israel.

One of the members of the audience asked questions as to how it is that they accepted Islam en-masse in Kashmir. The Imam remarked that the lost tribes had preserved intact the prophecies and traditions of their ancestors foretelling the advent of the Last Prophet, and in the light of those prophecies they sent a deputation headed by Qais, to wait upon Prophet Muhammad, (Peace and Blessings of God be upon him) and identified him as the one foretold in the old scriptures, and accepted him as the Last Prophet of God. They came back with the glad tidings of the advent of the Last Prophet, and the Nation accepted the Last Divine Messenger.

4. The Imam attended the World Spiritual Council Conference of the year 1955, which was held at Tunbridge Wells, from the 16th May, and lasted up to the 18th May.

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