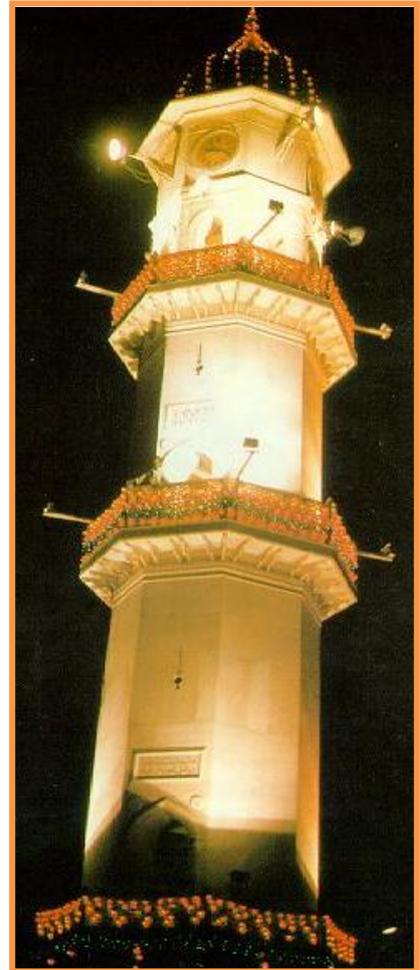


MINARA-TUL-MASIH

The Minara-tul-Masih is a beautiful white minaret in Qadian which was built by the Promised Messiah (AA), to mark the fulfilment of one of the signs of the coming of the Promised Reformer. The Holy Prophet (pbuh) prophesized hundreds of years ago that the Promised Messiah (AA) would be raised near a white minaret to the east of Damascus.

In 1900, the Promised Messiah (AA) received Divine Instruction to fulfil this prophecy in its literal form. Interestingly, Mashed-e-Aqua in Radian, where the minaret stands today, is directly east of Damascus and so the prophecy is really fulfilled in its literal and metaphorical sense. In light of the instructions he received, the Promised Messiah told his followers that the time had come to erect the minaret that was foretold in the prophecies and urged them to make financial contributions towards the construction of



every single aspect of the completion of this minaret. He also instructed that a lantern and a clock be built into the minaret, as a symbol of the time of spiritual enlightenment that had arrived with the coming of the Promised Masih and Mahdi.

Many critics claimed that such an expenditure on the raising of a minaret was wasteful, but the

Promised Messiah (AA) corrected them and boldly stated that the only reason and justification to erect this minaret was to fulfil a grand prophecy of the Holy Prophet (pbuh). As the funds started to pour in, the preliminary work on the minaret began. However, in 1901 India was hit by a terrible spell of plague and many of the builders who were expected in Qadian suffered from it. For over a year the construction of the minaret remained at a halt. Finally, on Friday the 13th of March 1903 the work on the minaret resumed. After Juma prayers, a few companions of the Promised Messiah (AA) came to him and requested him to lay the foundation stone with his own blessed hands. The Promised Messiah (AA) agreed and asked for a brick to be brought to him so he may pray before doing so. Once he was given the brick that later became the foundation stone of the minaret, he placed it on his leg and prayed with deep concentration for a long time. Afterwards he instructed his companions of the exact place where he wished the foundations to be laid.



The Promised Messiah (AA) was aware that many blessings would follow the completion of the minaret and so he wished deeply for it to be completed as soon as possible. However, due to financial difficulties the construction stopped and failed to resume during his lifetime. One of the companions once asked the Promised Messiah when the minaret would be completed, to which he replied, 'If we finish all the work in our lifetime then how will our followers gather any of its blessings?' And so it happened; the construction of the minaret remained incomplete during his lifetime and was not raised over 6 feet.

The Minara-tul-Masih is loved and revered by Ahmadis for many reasons. It is cherished as a fulfilment of a prophecy of the Holy Prophet (pbuh) and loved for the prayers and attention that the Promised Messiah spent towards it. Amongst other things, it also stands as one of the hallmarks of Khalifa-tul-Masih II's Khilafat and a symbol of the sacrifices that were made by our elders towards its making.

It was resumed by the Khalifa-tul-Masih II by laying a brick again on 27th November, 1914. The structure was finally completed, in the cost of Rs. 5,963 (excluding the 6 feet erected of first phase) in December 1915. It has three stages, 92 steps and the total height is about 105 feet. The clock was fixed in 1933. According to the wishes of the Promised

Messiah, the minaret is engraved with the names of the 211 companions who made financial contributions towards it, all of whom contributed a minimum of 100 rupees. In 1938-39, during the time of Khalifa-tul-Masih II, the minaret was coated with plaster of white marble. The white minaret stands today as a remarkable sign of peace and proclaims the advent of the Prince of Peace, The Promised Messiah (AA), Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad.

