

IECRC Observes the Memorial of Ala Hazrat (1856 – 1921 CE) (May Allah have mercy on him)

The Holy Prophet Muhammad (Countless Blessings & Salutations Upon Him & His Blessed Family) informed us in an authentic narration that every one hundred years a great personality will be raised from amongst the Muslims who will renew the religion of Islam. Such a person is called a *Mujaddid*. By universal consensus the stellar name that was conferred the title of *Mujaddid* for the 14th century Hijri / 20th century CE is that of Hazrat Imam Ahmed Raza Khan Afghani Bareilvi (may Allah have mercy on him & sanctify his secret.) As per its tradition of educating about the intellectual and spiritual luminaries of Islamic history, the Northern California based Islamic Educational & Cultural Research Center (www.iecrcna.org), held an annual Memorial (*Urs*) gathering on Sunday, March 26, 2006 to remember and honor this great scholar and spiritual savant lovingly known as Ala Hazrat (may Allah have mercy on him.)

The scholarly family of Ala Hazrat (may Allah have mercy on him) hails originally from the *Pathans* of Afghanistan setting roots in Bareilly Shareef in what is now Uttar Pradesh, India. Ala Hazrat (may Allah have mercy on him) was born in 1856 CE, a year before the famous Indian War of Independence of 1857. The great scholar exhibited signs of genius from a very young age. He completed the recitation of the Holy Quran at the tender age of 4, delivered his first public lecture on the love of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) at the age of 6, wrote his first book on Arabic grammar at the age of 10, and completed his Islamic education at the age of 13, which is also when he issued his first legal ruling (*fatwa*). He was astonishingly well versed in more than fifty branches of learning, pertaining to Ancient, Current & Oriental Sciences and left contributions in all these academic disciplines. He was a prolific writer authoring over 1000 books and treatises and commenting on 150 books of other erudite scholars. He also memorized the entire Holy Quran (over 6000 Arabic verses) in just one month memorizing one chapter every day. It is said that Ala Hazrat (may Allah have mercy on him) possessed an IQ of 200, almost double that of an average individual. Needless to say, Ala Hazrat (may Allah have mercy on him) was well above average, excelling in all aspects of the human personality, be it spiritual or intellectual. He passed away into the realm of Divine Beatitude in 1921 CE, corresponding to the 25th of Safar in the Hijri calendar.

Ala Hazrat (may Allah have mercy on him) authored the famous *Mustafa Jaane Rehmat pe Lakhon Salaam* also called the *Salam-e-Raza* which is a pearl in his poetic anthology *Hadaiq-e-Bakhshish*. The *Salam-e-Raza* is recited with much devotion & fervor at IECRC's weekly spiritual gatherings of *Dhikr*, both in Fremont and Sacramento, California. It is considered the longest poem sending salutations to our Beloved Holy Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him) in any language, surpassing even the famous *Burdah Shareef* in this regard. Ala Hazrat's (may Allah have mercy on him) main message of loving Allah Almighty (Most Glorified and Exalted is He) and His Beloved Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) came across strongly through the many heartfelt narrations by young children who presented their pieces at this memorable occasion in Fremont, California. These children attend IECRC's weekend Islamic school where the great honor, respect and love for our Beloved Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him) is strongly emphasized.

The informative talk for the evening was delivered by Mr. Ayyaz Yousaf Qadri, Managing Director of IECRC and spiritual successor to Prof. Dr. Mohammad Ahmed Qadri, the Founding

Director of this 4 year old non-profit, community service organization. Mr. Ayyaz Qadri educated the audience of about 60 who had come from far off cities of Fresno, Sacramento, and Antioch, about the life and contributions of Ala Hazrat (may Allah have mercy on him). He explained how Ala Hazrat's (may Allah have mercy on him) foundational message of love and respect for our Beloved Holy Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him) is the need of the current times. It is this love that in turn is the impetus for Muslims to follow in the Blessed Prophetic Footsteps (*Sunna*), purifying the human condition of its vices, which is the making of a better Muslim society and therefore a better world.

The evening concluded with the usual *Dhikr* recitation, followed by communal prayers and a community dinner (*Langar*) that is always served gratis as per the tradition of our pious predecessors (*Buzurgan-e-Deen*.) IECRC's weekly *Dhikr* & frequent Memorial gatherings are always open to the public and free of charge and conducted regularly in Fremont and Sacramento, California.