



Above: Centenary Jalsa in Qadian, 1991

that I met Iain Adamson, a journalist and former Editor of *The Daily Express*. He promoted the event really well and Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih III رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى was very happy with the way he had helped the Jama'at. When I returned to the UK in 1986 as Wakil-ul-Tasneef, it occurred to me that I should again contact Mr Adamson to ask him to write a book about the Promised Messiah عَلَيْهِ السَّلَام. He said that although he did not know anything about the Promised Messiah عَلَيْهِ السَّلَام, he would still be honoured to do so. Huzur رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى granted permission for the Jama'at to help with material, which culminated in the publication of *Mirza Ghulam Ahmad of Qadian* (later republished as '*Ahmad the Guided One*').

When he completed the book I approached Mr Adamson with another idea. I asked him if he could write a book on Huzur رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى. Again he said he didn't know anything about Huzur رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى. I assured him, however, that if he was prepared to do it, I only had to go to Huzur رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى again for permission. I later went to Huzur رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى, assuming that he would welcome the idea – but he flatly refused! Huzur رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى said he didn't want anyone to write about him. After a month or two, I saw Huzur رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى and spoke with him on this subject again. I stated that a book on his life would be beneficial to our youngsters who were not so familiar with other Khulafa, as books about them were only in Urdu. Also, it would be beneficial to the rest of the world who knew they had a Khalifa but didn't know much about him. Huzur رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى again refused.

About a year later, somebody in the USA asked Huzur رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى to send a life history about himself as he wanted to publish something on Huzur رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى. Huzur رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى put that person in touch with me and I helped with whatever information I had. But I felt that the material was insufficient and again the urge

came to approach Huzur رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى about my original idea. I explained to Huzur رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى that people really desired to know more about him. I insisted that Mr Adamson should write this book. Huzur رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى reluctantly agreed, but on two conditions. The first was that Huzur رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى wasn't going to revise this book as he would feel uncomfortable reading about himself. So he gave me the full responsibility for every word of it. The second condition was that the Jama'at would not pay a penny towards the writing of the book, as it would give the impression that Huzur رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى was promoting the book. Although Mr Adamson initially had doubts about publishing the book at his own expense, I convinced him that the book would be a bestseller within the Jama'at and that he would get his money back. He agreed and started work on the project.

It was a very difficult task since there wasn't much material available. The first thing I arranged was interviews with Sahibzada Mirza Mubarak Ahmad Sahib, Aftab Khan Sahib (the then Amir) and other members of the Jama'at. But that was not enough. Eventually the time came when an interview with Huzur رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى proved crucial. I approached Huzur رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى stating that justice could not be done to the book unless we spoke to him personally. Although feeling uneasy, he finally agreed to give us time. We conducted 12 sessions in his office, during which we covered a wide range of aspects of Huzur's رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى life. We also obtained his permission to interview his wife and daughters.

When the book was written, there was one more issue to settle – its title. There were various ideas, like *Mirza Tahir Ahmad* and *Khalifatul Masih IV*, but Mr Adamson observed these would only appeal to Ahmadis. "I am a Christian," he said, "so he is not my Khalifatul Masih. However, there is a title in my mind which holds