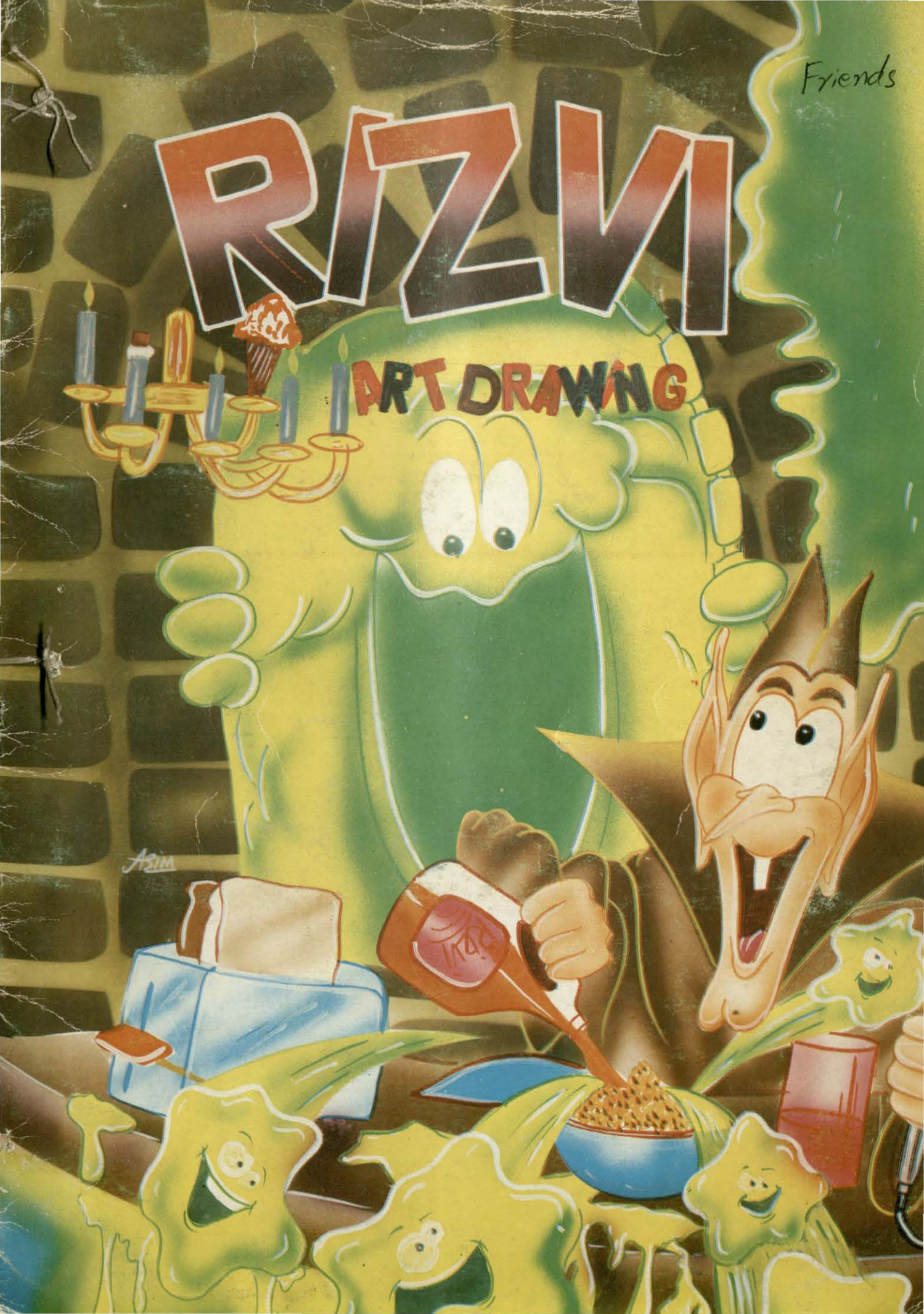


Friends

RIZVI

ART DRAWING



ASIM

April 14, 1986

My dear Maryam,

Wa alaikum as-salam wa rahmatallahi wa barakatuhu. I'm sorry to be so late in replying to your good letter. There are so many commitments and so little time!

Insha'Allah all is well with you. I share your concern about the anti-Islamic demonstrations and attitudes in Pakistan. Now that Begum Bhutto has returned, Allah only knows what turn events may take but it doesn't seem to be a good thing, to put it as mildly as possible. The Bhutto people I know here seem the worst kind, and nothing has changed except probably more bitterness. May Allah protect us all.

And now this Libyan business. I don't quite know what to think but it is true that if America (or any other country) had tried to checkmate Hitler early in his game he might never have become what he did. And there is no doubt that Gaddafi is on the same course. We seek refuge with Allah for such terrible fitnahs.

Well, there is such good news. Taher is remarried, to a lady slightly older than himself, with one child. She is originally from the East coast but has been living in New Mexico, and is warm and generous and giving and very solid. They had their walimah two days ago in the same Unitarian Church in Boulder which my mother attended for years. I saw again the copper doors she made, depicting the various religions of the world, and her chandeliers, and the little natural rock garden behind the church which was called the Elsa Deutsch Memorial Garden. I doubt many people remember here, but there was such a feeling of love, of blessedness, in that walimah that many people remarked on it. I think it was the barakah of her and of our sheikh; although of course she was not Muslim but she was an earnest seeker after truth and Allah alone knows what her maqam was. I was so happy that night. As for Saleha, she has gone to train to be an air hostess with TWA, something I'm not very unhappy about as I feel it will suit her very well. I still love her and feel for her so much; all during the walimah my happiness was tempered with deep sadness about her. But Allah has her soul in His hands and will bring her back to Himself as He sees fit, and I don't need to think or to worry as it is all being taken care of, insha'Allah.

Tahera, Taher's wife, is also a Naqshbandi, although very new. Her parents, typical East-Coasters, came and we had a chance to get very nicely acquainted. Oddly enough, her stepfather, the present husband of her mother, is a Jew by birth although not by religion. And my niece, my sister's second daughter is also married to a similar kind of a Jew. My sister Etta came to visit me a couple of weeks ago. We had a nice and relatively simpatico two and a half days together. She's a lot more open and mellow now as she works exclusively with refugees and immigrant people and so knows now, what she didn't earlier, that we aren't the only weird people around. She told me that her youngest child, Beth, a sort of quasi-career girl for the moment, feels more than any of the others the absence or loss of connection with my family. So I'm going to try to see Beth on my way to (or back from) London next month and establish some sort of a connection, as she feels drawn to us. May Allah guide us all.

I won't be writing again until after 'Eid as I'll insha'Allah go to London in mid-May and return just before 'Eid, with the two children. The book (1985) is still far from complete, and I'll only be able to photocopy the pages and bind them, no question of printing. The proofs of the 1984 book came from Karachi, full of mistakes (theirs and mine) and I read it carefully and sent it back to them. What a pity it won't be ready by Ramadan, but then, Allah knows the best and He does the best, always, every time.

ple. as he knows he is correct, as he knows what the rest of us do not know. And what are we doing? Nothing, al-

Must end this now, dear Maryam, praying that Allah grants you an easy
blessed month without undue hardship, and a most happy 'Eid al-Fitr. I'll be thinking
of you and storing up things to tell you. May He bless you and bless you and
bless you and your dear ones always.

Love,

Zia

Additional message area

Landsat view

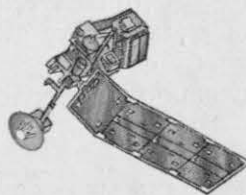


② Second fold

AEROGAMME * VIA AIRMAIL * PAR AVION



Maryam Jameelah Begum
c/o Mohammed Yusuf Khan
15/49 Sant Nagar
LAHORE, PAKISTAN



USA 36



3720 ROYAL DRIVE
Fort Collins, Colorado
80526

January 25, 1987

Dear Maryam,

Wa alaikum as-salam wa rahmatallahi wa barakatuhu. Alhamdulillah to receive your letter of Jan. 25 a few days ago. How wonderful to hear that you and Fatima met at last! A rare and unforgettable treat. She'd written me that she was hoping to go to the Sirah Conf. but I assumed that perhaps her medical problems might make it impossible. I'm glad you met Zainab Uba'dullah, whom I know. I've also met Zainab al-Ghazali and understand how you must have felt when she criticized your dress. I think this may be a kind of reaction on her part to what she feels to be too strict an interpretation of Islamic rules, but since the burqa has an indigenous development in relation to Pakistani society, I don't think it was really in place for her to voice such an opinion. Who knows what went into it for her reason. I have reason to believe that sometimes she does things to teach lessons to people, focussing on individual examples to convey a broader lesson.

I'm baffled about the Zeba in ISLAMIC HORIZONS, as I don't remember writing anything recently. If you'll remind me, perhaps I can respond as to why my letter (or article) was so unlike the Zeba you know.

As for Radhia, I had a letter from her from Cyprus - same address - a few days ago. She is terribly hurt and bitter; nothing seems to have changed by her being away. I suppose (as I don't know the circumstances beyond what I saw in London) that the ultimate feeling is betrayal by the only one she has in this world apart from her non-Muslim family, and worry about her future. Perhaps you will write. *She plans to return to N.Y. soon.*

You write that if children are raised in American schools and environment it's almost impossible to keep them from drugs, sex and bad company. No, I wouldn't say it's as stark as that because I know many Muslim youngsters who have kept a clean and straight way. But it's so difficult, a fine line of not being too strict and not too lenient, and having total understanding and cooperation between parents in example and standards. It's just not that cut-and-dried, but mostly it's walking around on the fringes of the prohibited which may lead people into many harms. But on the other hand our policy of strictness, don't-have-anything-to-do-with-the-kufr-society has been productive of so much reaction, when young people realize that the so-called kufar are just people like ourselves and that the so-called Muslims are in many ways worse than the "kufar" - this is the "big lie" which many of us feed our children and the reaction to this may be to scrap Islam entirely in favor of a more open way of life and more interesting individuals than can be found among Muslims. I realize that Sheikh Nazim is salvation not only for myself, as my life has been bombarded with so many confusing elements over the past few years which might have destroyed me, but even more for the children, who are kept to their path by the love they have for him. But it needs continued exposure, and I am dying to find a means to take them to London again this year; without that they may "wobble". Unfortunately our financial situation is not good and although Moin intellectually may understand the necessity for this, I don't think he really does, or he would be more strongly disposed to send us. But the bottom line at this point seems to be money, and I am asking Allah to open a way for us.

I certainly never heard about the racket of killing adopted children to sell their organs, and if it happened and was found out about it would make such an outcry. There are endless numbers of right-thinking people in this country who take the right side of various issues, but the problem is that they are often confused in their over-all direction. The strict Christians will be anti-Islam and on the wrong side of many issues, while the non-affiliated religious people (who are very numerous and constitute a strong spiritual force, in my opinion) are often misguided about various matters also. The thing which is so terribly frightening now is the toys which are on the market, with the most disgusting and satanic forms and messages. One trembles for the future of the world when children are brought up with such playthings from an early age. Satanism and witchcraft are rampant and one has continually to keep so strongly with Allah and His holy people to keep from being affected. Please pray for me, dear sister, and my family, that He keep us strictly on His straight path. Sheikh Nazim says Mahdi will be here probably in a year and a half. If we can hang on until he comes, perhaps all will be all right. I totally believe he is correct, as he knows what the rest of us do not know. *He knows that time is running out. And what are we doing? Nothing, al-*

Moin and I were at Dar-al-Islam last weekend for the school board meet^{is}
It was good to sense some progress in the school, with many ups and downs, and^{lk}
the old friends. They are looking urgently for a Qur'an/Arabic teacher (Hafiz)
ound out their program.

As for the rest, I am working in all my available time on the 1986
and it is going reasonably well although quite a bit behind schedule. Will
ize the 'Asr talks first and get them in print in London, insha'Allah, before
inuing with the morning talks to murids, which will take so much more work and
ial attention as the tapes were very poor and hard to understand.

All my prayers, dear Maryam, for continued good health, peace
tranquility of life, and coming nearer and nearer to Allah Most High.

Much, love,

Bism

Mrs. Zeba Siddiqi
3720 Royal Drive
Fort Collins, CO 926

Additional message area



② Second fold

AEROGamme * VIA AIRMAIL * PAR AVION

**Celebrate
America**

Maryam Jameelah Begum
c/o Mohammed Yusuf Khan
15/49 Sant Nagar
LAHORE, PAKISTAN

USA36

25 JAN 1987

May 8, 1987

Maryam,

Assalamu alaikum wa rahmatallah wa barakatuhu. Many thanks for your good letter of April 18. I am grateful for all your love and concern for me. But I think insha'Allah there is no cause to worry, as I am strong and have a lot of vitality much of the time, and insha'Allah Allah preserves me from broken bones and being a helpless invalid like my aunt in old age. What can we do? These are genetic problems plus due to lifestyle, and so we must accept them and do the best we can.

I pray to Allah that your Ramadan is tolerable and may be a source of blessings for you and your family. Every year it is a new chance to say "No!" to our nafs and to give it some training. Yet I feel sad when I think what Ramadan could and should be if our iman is deep enough - a time of total devotion to Allah first with our hearts and then with our deeds and words. But we are not angels but just human beings, and there are so many demands on our time and energies from every direction. May Allah accept whatever we can do and make it easy for us. I pray that you will stay healthy and that your 'Eid will be very happy and blessed.

Taher and his wife Tahera went to visit Sheikh Nazim in London and only returned this Sunday; they were gone 9 days. I had their four young children, and believe me, it was quite a time. Taher's own children are fairly low-key, gentle children, but the other one, little Yusuf, is an entirely different case, being a most outgoing, assertive, strong-charactered little guy who is equal to three of the others in demandingness. But I love him very much; he is unique and very interesting. Alhamdulillah, I fulfilled that commitment, although not without a great deal of shouting and scolding on my part, may Allah forgive me.

This week I have been shopping for a new machine. Typewriters with memory and versatile functions like full-scale word-processors are quite common now (although expensive). Everyone urged me to get a typewriter with memory and a TV screen, but I have consistently refused to do so, as I have a great mistrust and dislike of that sort of technology and consider it to be very harmful to health, no matter what anyone may say. Instead it's possible to get the same machine but with a one-line screen built into the machine for reviewing and editing, which is much nâcer, to me. But it appears that for the present I must stay with this old faithful conventional machine as we just can't afford to pay cash for a new one, and any other arrangement involves interest. I mention this because of the total acceptance of this new computer-culture - progress is unquestionably the best, according to the marketplace mentality. Count the costs later, as long as it brings in money now. And then one is left with the question: where does one draw the line? A machine with a built-in screen with LCD printout is all right but not a TV screen? An electric stove and oven are fine but microwaves no? I'm not clear about such reasoning, but my body seems to have its own logic and it reacts to such extreme technology with aversion, as if it's something unclean or satanic - which very likely it indeed is.

As for the remedy to the diseases of the West and westernism, it is indeed the disease of all mankind in one way or the other today. And Sheikh Nazim says there is no remedy; only a heavenly intervention can resolve the situation, and that is on the way. That makes it much easier to deal with; one doesn't feel that one has the responsibility of dealing as it is beyond the scope of human beings to stem the tide, which is the vanguard of ad-Dajjal and powered by Satan. But Allah preserves those whom He has chosen to come through that terrible storm which is ahead, and insha'Allah we will be with Mahdi, a.s., and with Jesus Christ, a.s., when he comes. We must pray for their coming every day, and ask to be with them.

Alhamdulillah, I completed another Sheikh Nazim book, although only in xerox-ed form. I will send you a copy with my in-laws this summer, insha'Allah. Please let me know your reaction to the book which I sent by Salma (I suspect she was reading it all this time, as she said she would) - ideas, language, understandability, etc. Now I will begin editing the manuscript of KAREEM AND FATIMAH, the children's book I wrote and illustrated years ago, which is still unpublished - alhamdulillah for that, because re-reading it now, I find it didactic, moralising and preachy, very heavy stuff for young children.

And what are we doing? Nothing, al-

I'm taking care of the Nat. Geographic order forthwith.

My sister Etta and her youngest daughter Beth paid a visit to my aunt in Rome. a moving, even shaking experience. I was so happy about it, but she may be ng such deep regret for all she missed all these years of having no contact our "matriarch." Etta said I may have to go to Rome again in August to fill or the absent attendees, and indeed I do very much need a vacation and would be unhappy to go at all.

No further news from Radhia. Just wait. Apparently the jama'ah in London is a bit bigger this year, with many Malaysians arriving. Sheikh visited Malay- and apparently had very cordial relations with the 'ulama. It feels quite ge in a way not to be in London, but it also feels like such a luxury to be . The real work that we have to do is here, with ourselves in our usual en- ments, not there, and I feel that until I can present something, some devel- at which is lasting and something real which I have done with myself, I should hamed to face him. But insha'Allah we can go next Ramadan.

Dear Maryam, Allah bless you and your dear ones with endless blessings in thi- n in which you are undergoing such sacrifices for His sake. Here it is so to fast; I hardly get hungry or thirsty but really feel well and strong. But you all it is a tremendous thing. Insha'Allah the rewards are proportional to effort. Many du'as and salams from all the family to you and your K.Sahib.

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AEROGAMME * VIA AIRMAIL * PAR AVION

Maryam Jameelah Begum
 c/o Mohammed Yusuf Khan,
 15/49 Sant Nagar
 LAHORE, PAKISTAN

“ I came in with Halley's Comet in 1835. It is coming again next year, and I expect to go out with it. It will be the greatest dis- appointment of my life if I don't go out with Hal- ley's Comet. ”



USA 3



Mrs. Zeba Siddiqui
 3720 Royal Drive
 Fort Collins, CO 80526

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

December 14, 1987

My dear Maryam,

Thank you so much for your good letter of Nov. 23. I am indeed glad to have your news, especially to know that everything seems to be all right with your boys. Allah will insha'Allah protect and keep them in perfect safety and taqwa. Don't be worried; so many people are surviving as Muslims here and in fact making good contributions to society as Muslims, and I feel sure they will do well.

Sheikh Nazim did not speak about the time of the Last Day at all, only about the coming of Mahdi, a.s. (which of course has its own time-sequence in relation to the Last Day). However, he has said, if I understand correctly, that the year 2100 will not come; it will all be finished by then. Believe me, so many people are longing for that because our hearts and nerves are worn out by all the fasad around us - unseen, terrible energies registering on our being at a totally unseen level and grinding us down. But I am perfectly content with the knowledge that all is as He has planned it since the beginning of the world and that He knows everything about us; His will ~~be~~ done, and we are only humble servants awaiting our Master's command.

I totally agree with you about the awful consequences of technology, yes, from cars and electricity on up to the latest, which I believe has not yet come and is yet to be invented. Now we are hearing voices here objecting to the horrendous array of violent toys, ^{some of} which are virtually indistinguishable from the real thing. Actually, people here must be totally mad or totally dead inside when, ^{almost} without a murmur, they agree to deliver up to their children, in the guise of "presents," the most disgusting and degrading playthings which are more suitable for the children of criminals and mobsters or people into occult arts than normal youngsters. It is frightening and terrible, and spells to me the signs of doom of this society more than anything else. Coupled with the nonsense of New-Age religious heresies, it is awesome in its potential consequences for blowing away the minds and hearts of this generation. God help us all!

So what do you think about the Summit? People here think that Gorbachev is the greatest public relations genius ever after he stopped in the middle of a crowd on a busy Washington street, got away from his secret servicemen and mixed with the crowd. Certainly he hoped to change the terrible image of the Soviet Union in this country, and perhaps he has done so to some extent. But people are still very wary of the S.U. - rightly so, since communism is communism. I watch it all with great interest, since any liberalization in the S.U. should dramatically effect Muslims. And I think that the Russians have such ^a deep and intense religious heritage, and any liberalization will certainly have far-reaching consequences for Christianity there, also, which in turn will shape the future there. Allah help them all - and their neighbors, the Sovietized peoples of Eastern Europe who are burning with the desire for freedom.

This week Moin and I observed our thirtieth wedding anniversary with a ~~lovely~~ lovely, very private celebration. Yusuf and Hediye did such touchingly sweet things for the occasion. How much I thank Allah that I am still married, and for the kind man at my side, although we have our differences about many vital matters - alf alhamdulillah. It almost seems that marriage is an impossible ~~state~~ state to remain in for people in this country at this time, and no difference between Muslims and non-Muslims in this respect - Muslims may even be worse, in fact. May Allah help us all!

The work on the books is going well but not very fast. I decided to complete the 1984 book, which was sent to a printer in Karachi and never came out, as it is a full and complete book which I have only to type into my new machine and xerox to be available to people. Hence I have halted work on the 1987 talks, which I had begun, to complete that. I am trying to use every free moment for that work, but the book of 1984 is 300 double-spaced pages long and so it takes a long time to type. But alf alhamdulillah for the new machine; it is proving to be a God-send!

Sheikh Nazim is I believe in Malaysia, Sri Lanka or Brunei, or all of them. He is traveling more and more, trying to reach more and more people. That time is running out. And what are we doing? Nothing, al-

...taining at all, and that nothing is taking all my time and energy. I wish
...y had 48 hours and I had an inexhaustible reservoir of patience, health and
...th, as he virtually has. No one can imagine that a man nearly 70 can do half
...t he does - busy and engaged with people and their problems and talks from
...g until very late at night, without any care for himself at all. Please ask
...Allah to give me more energy and health to be able to do something useful as
...as I am in this world.

Dear Maryam, I must go now, sending you my love and salams from all
family to you and Khan Sahib. May the Most Merciful Lord keep you and your
ones in safety, peace and doing whatever earns His exalted pleasure.

Much love,

Zulma



② Second fold

بنے اور فاک کی فوری

**Celebrate
America**

AEROGRAMME * VIA AIRMAIL * PAR AVION

Maryam Jameelah Begum
c/o Mohammed Yusuf Khan
15/49 Sant Nagar
LAHORE, PAKISTAN

USA36

Mrs. Zeba Siddiqui
3720 Royal Drive
Fort Collins, CO 80526

May 31, 1988

ar Maryam,

Wa 'alaiku as-salam wa rahmatallah wa barakatuhu. Just received your letter this afternoon and am hurrying to reply. Alhamdulillah that you are all right - I had begun to wonder. And masha'Allah, to be able to complete Ramadan! I am so happy for you. It must be so very, very taxing in such heat. But Allah knows what He is doing, and alhamdulillah for everything that He sends. I am thankful that I could fast without difficulty, as just before Ramadan I got so sick with my digestion - hyperacidity - and without a wonderful new drug, Zantac, there is no doubt that I could not have fasted at all.

I wish I could write about experiences in London, but you see, we did not go after all. Look at how Allah plans for us! Four days before the departure date, Hediye came down with chicken pox (something I had been fearing since it has been going around). As Yusuf had never had it, I telephoned Sheikh Nazim, and he indicated to me that I must not come with Yusuf. I could not leave my sick daughter, and when she recovered, none of us felt that we should go as Ramadan was already over. And then Yusuf got sick and is only now completely recovered. But I have followed events and the whole thing through Taher who went and through one of our dear brothers who recently returned. Quite a large group, with all kinds of crazy and nafsi behavior, so that it tests one's patience greatly, and in the middle of them all, that holy, serene wali with a voice like an angel calling everyone to their Lord. Ya Allah! Ya Allah! I am now thinking how I can best make certain that you are informed if/when he comes to Pakistan as at present I have no information about it. I will try to find some way, insha'Allah. One option is that you might write to the President, asking to be informed. I also asked my friend in Islamabad, Qaisra Shah, who is a personal friend (major gen.'l's wife) of Zia, to inform you, as she has access to the President/Begum Sahiba. Her address is 134 Race Course Road, Off Peshawar Road, R'pindi, in case you want to write to her yourself for the same purpose. I stayed with her for several days and feel she is a responsible person.

Sheikh Nazim approved in principle our going to Kuwait, saying to Taher that even if there is danger for others, we will be protected because of our faith, and I have trust in his promise. Only this morning did we get word that Moin's appointment is now approved, and we are beginning to make our plans firm now. It will be a terribly hectic summer, I guess, as I could not refuse when my daughter-in-law asked me to keep their two older children for one month, during which time our daughter Ameena will be coming with her two children, and we will be trying to get everything ready for our departure. Taher/Tahera have quite a heavy and stressful load with his three and her one young children, problems cropping up often with the ex-wife, many health problems, etc., and it is important for us to do whatever we can to help. So it will be all right, insha'Allah. It seems clear that I must go to Rome on my way to Kuwait, and I think I may take Hediye, leaving Moin and Yusuf to wind things up and then we will meet in Kuwait when they arrive. But all that has to be determined a bit later.

There is a lovely, sincere, kind, deep young Saudi sister here whom I came to like very much. As she has a relationship with a sister who is a secret Sufi, I assumed she knew something about tasawwuf and opened the whole matter of Sheikh Nazim to her, even giving her one of his books. Her response shocked me. In a loving, gentle manner (with tears, even) she called and said that it was all very strange, bordering on shirk to say that any human being can know ghaib or be in touch with the souls of the dead, etc., etc. She had never heard such a version of Islam and was very fearful that I might end up like the Christians! And did not Ibn Taymiyyah and M. Abdul-Wahhab warn against such bidat as this? I must not follow him blindly but must try to see what this is leading to and how much of a deviation from Islam. I was quite taken aback and startled, never anticipating (in my foolishness) such a response, consistent with the brain-washing which must be standard in all Saudi schools, in which nothing has reality except their

history and version of Islam. I told her to go and discuss it with her
acknowledged Sufi friend when she returns to Saudi - this despite the fact
at a the son of a very highly-placed religious figure in Mecca told me
at there are countless secret Sufis in the territories of Saudi Arabia
ther (I believe he is the imam of Masjid al-Haram in Mecca) how blind,
ow deluded - and it is so painful in so gentle and lovely a person. I hope
t will be all right when she talks to her friend and will not divulge her
secret. How foolishly I behaved, may Allah forgive me!

I can't place Saliha Allah at all. As for Rashad Khalifa, he has
proclaimed himself a prophet. May Allah rescue "Virginia" and all who
follow him before His curse descends on this despicable man!

The present plan (in my mind, so far) is to leave for Rome/Kuwait in
the second week of August. So we will be in touch. Dear Maryam, can you
spare some du'as for us? It is such a daring and almost unimaginable thing
to be going, at present only for one year's appointment, at our age, to such
a distant and strange place (which alhamdulillah is altogether different
from Saudia and from all accounts, very dunyawi. Allah bless you and make
everything peaceful and easy for you, dear sister, and I will wait for your
next news.

Love, Zeba

Additional message area

...the perfect free



② Second fold

③ Seal top flap last

AEROGRAMME • VIA AIRMAIL • PAR AVION

Celebrate
America

Maryam Jameelah Begum
c/o Mohammed Yusuf Khan
15/49 Sant Nagar
LAHORE, PAKISTAN

USA36



Mrs. Zeba Siddiqui
3720 Royal Drive
Fort Collins, CO 80526

for an an tr ar p c

July 14, 1988

y dear Maryam,

As-salamu 'alaikum wa rahmatallah wa barakatuhu. Thank you so much for your aerogramme of June 13. I am glad to know that you are all right and especially that you are writing your biography. This is exciting news, and it must be wonderful to be writing a book again. I will be so interested in knowing how it goes, and if you would like some feed-back or anything of that sort, I'd also be glad to review it at any stage, time permitting, in Kuwait or wherever I may be. As it obviously involves the disclosure of details which may be hard for you or Khan Sahib to have publicized, you could finish it and put it away with directions that it be published posthumously if that seems a good solution.

I certainly am not suprised at your reaction to our going to Kuwait. Yes, it is everything you imagine - maybe much more. But still I believe that in some respects which are critical at present for my young daughter Hediye, it will be better than here. At the least, it will be an experience and an adventure. But I am more hopeful than that. I believe that Allah Subhanahu wa Ta'ala has arranged it for some more important purpose than that, and I am going in search of that purpose. Please pray for us as the time approaches. We are scheduled to leave on Aug. 20 (first class, of course, as Moin is a full professor, astaghfirullah!), flying direct. It will of course take time to settle in, but a fully-furnished, large apartment will be given to us, so it will be much easier than counterpart experiences in Pakistan, Turkey and Jordan, insha'Allah.

I have been going through a difficult time with my health, especially with my back (which is better now, alhamdulillah) and went to a pain management clinic. There I am being seen several times a week by an acupuncturist, physiotherapist, chirpractor, massage therapist, biofeedback therapist, who are treating me or teaching me techniques for managing my own situation. I have realized that much of my back trouble and other problems are due to stress, which manifests as various types of illness or pain. Biofeedback is a wonderful tool for learning relaxation and stress management, and I hope I can go from here in better condition than I am at present. I don't know why it should be a stress to me to have my grandchildren here; other women adore having their grands with them. Probably I am mirroring my mother's ways of dealing with things, which was very stressful, indeed. Anyway, it is wonderful having my daughter Ameena here, her first real visit in three years, and she is staying a long time. She is doing well with her pregnancy - my only regret is that I won't be able to be with her when she delivers, as I was with her other two births; it means so much to both of us, and she with her to help her after the delivery. This reinforces my sense that our going to Kuwait is a divinely-planned move, with khair insha'Allah for others besides ourselves. I had the idea to begin another book, an autobiographical one relating to my inner journey, but at present there is as yet no sense of easing or opening in my heart so that feelings and words can flow, as they did during my trip to Pakistan - but perhaps it will come. One of the first things I have to do in Kuwait is to buy a typewriter which can do Sheikh Nazim's work (as I have a number of talks transcribed for the preparation of a small book) and my own personal work as well.

My present wish is that when we return to the U.S. (probably after one year) we somehow settle near Ameena, as it is foolishness to be so far away from our children and grandchildren but housing in California is so terribly expensive that unless Moin goes on working at his job here (from which he is on leave), we cannot possibly live. It is all in confusion and very much on my mind, but insha'Allah Allah will open something good for us. I have this sort of dream of starting a small museum of Islamic decorative art wherever I settle, and a probably totally unrealistic hope that I might meet someone in Kuwait (which has the best museum of Islamic art in the world) who might help me with this, both as a means of d'awah and possibly also as a source of livelihood for us after Moin retires. But Allah knows

I want to tell you that I consulted Sheikh Nazim about this move, esp. about the political situation in the Gulf, and he said that even if there is danger for others, we will be protected because of our faith. So please don't worry about me, no matter what happens. When I told him by phone that everything was settled for our going, he said, "Better, better!" as he knows the situation of our family, esp. Hediye's schooling.

Please send your next letter to Kuwait (c/o Dr. M. M. Siddiqui, Dept. of Mathematics, Kuwait University, P.O. Box 5969, Kuwait) any time after Aug. 20 - I will be waiting eagerly for it. Allah bless you, dear sister, and keep you happy and peaceful, and inspire your heart for your new book. I hope to be able to visit you in Pakistan again, perhaps during winter. All my du'as for you and your family. I love you.

Zehra



NO ENCLOSURES PERMITTED
NO RETURN TO SENDER

2 Second fold

AEROGRAFME • VIA AIRMAIL • PAR AVION

Maryam Jameelah Begum
c/o Mohammed Yusuf Khan
15/49 Sant Nagar
LAHORE, PAKISTAN



Mrs. Zeba Siddiqui
3720 Royal Drive
Fort Collins, Colorado
80526

August 1, 1988

Dear sister Maryam,

As-salamu 'alaikum. It has been some time since I received your letter, but I know you weren't expecting a quick reply. This will of course be the last time I will write from here, as we are insha'Allah leaving on Aug. 20 for Kuwait. Please do write me there in the future, c/o Dr. M. M. Siddiqui, Dept. of Mathematics, University of Kuwait, P.O. Box 5969, Kuwait, KUWAIT.

Dear Maryam, I hope you are all well and happy and peaceful, you and all your family. I will wait for your next letter there.

I myself had hoped that this would be a time when I would be in a state of relaxation and expansion of heart as I prepare to return to the Muslim world, no matter how modernized it may be. But Allah has sent something so unexpected my way - to be brief, there are irreconcilable differences between Taher and his new wife Tahera, and they are separating and will undoubtedly divorce. The three children, Sara, 7, Abdullah, 6, and Hasan, almost 4, have already been told, and Tahera is in the process of moving out while Taher is looking for a small apartment for himself and his children. However, we are being asked to become the legal guardians of the children and to secure visas so that they can come to live with us in Kuwait. It is originally intended for this year only, but I don't see how Taher can realistically expect to marry a woman who will take his three children any better than Tahera has been able to do, and so I anticipate that they may be with us indefinitely - something which my husband is not going to accept. The children are quite lovely and love me very much, although the little one is a bit spoiled and manipulative after spending nearly two months with Tahera's parents and his step-brother. It is a huge challenge to my ability to accept what Allah sends, and I have been fighting a great battle within myself, looking for a way out as this is definitely something which my selfish nafs finds very distasteful. But our sheikh says that one improves by means of trials and by anything which teaches patience, and I must understand that, although this is not easy, Allah is sending me, by special delivery, something uniquely my own test for my own advancement, and I can only say "Alhamdulillah" that He is looking at me and sending what is suitable. I pray that I will be able to handle this responsibility, and that it will take me out of my very self-centered and selfish present state and expand my heart through the love of these three helpless children who, through no fault of their own, are the subject of so much upheaval and suffering. Sara is a beautiful-natured, sweet child who looks like her mother but in whom I also discern traces of my own mother. 'Abdullah is a serious child who reminds me of Taher at his age; he is the one who is suffering the most obviously, as he has developed such a severe urinary incontinence that it has to be treated with medication. Hasan is an unattached, very charming, roughish little guy with a wonderful smile, but he is disturbing in his lack of attachment, which is no wonder, as he lost his mother at the age of a year - and was never wanted even before that. His mother, Saleha, has been to visit them here a couple of times. I still love her and see the beauty in her personality, but she is quite lost and devoid of Islamic values, professing only to believe in "herself." May Allah help her and all of us.

My older daughter, Ameena, has been here for the past two or three weeks with her two children, and has been a God-send of support and help, even though she is very pregnant and uncomfortable. I never imagined it would be possible to pack up a house with five young children underfoot, but we're doing very well, on the whole, and are on schedule. Meanwhile I am going to several appointments a week to a pain control clinic for acupuncture, massage, biofeedback, chiropractic care, etc., for my back, in an attempt to learn some techniques by which I can help myself. I don't think it's been so successful but I've learned quite a lot about myself, and perhaps it may be useful in some ways. There are invitations, visits, etc. Just now several key members of our Muslim group are moving from here, and there will be quite a gap in the community. I personally don't feel any

... in leaving here (and I feel that we may not come back here to live
(...), and am looking forward, in spite of these recent developments, with
... to my new home. Although it may be the antithesis of what one
... hope for in a Muslim society, I hope it may nevertheless be an
... resting adventure comparable in some ways to Turkey and Jordan, and that
... will be a means of opening and release for my heart.

Dear Maryam, I look forward to your next letter in Kuwait. Allah
... you and keep you and your dear ones always in His merciful care.
... don't forget me in your du'a, especially around Aug. 20. Much love,

Zeba

Additional message area

① Fold first at notches →



② Second fold

ANDRE
B. AUG

... ME * VIA AIRMAIL * PAR AVION

**Celebrate
America**

Maryam Jameelah Begum
c/o Mohammed Yusuf Khan
15/49 Sant Nagar
LAHORE, PAKISTAN

USA 30

DENVER, CO 802
PM
2 AUG
1988

Mrs. Zeba Siddiqui
Royal Drive
Colorado
8052

March 13, 1990

Maryam,

Wa 'alaikum as-salam wa rahmatallah wa barakatuhu. I received your letter of Feb. 21 a few days ago, and yesterday your second letter (which I promptly destroyed). I am so sorry about the upset which my letter caused you; may Allah forgive me for my thoughtlessness toward you. The only excuse I have to offer is that, knowing you as I do, there were things I wished to understand after reading your book. Be assured that I do not discuss these private matters of yours with anyone, and no one is aware of anything except from your own writings. Your reputation as a scholar and as a great contributor to Islam stands unmatched; there is no Western Muslimah whose contribution can compare with yours. And the questions I asked were purely my own; I did not discuss any of this with Kayani. The book, as it stands, is a remarkably moving one, and a most valuable gift to the saga of Western Muslims. I don't think you should ever hesitate to have it circulated, as it is effective and wonderful even without any changes.

Kayani recently came back from U.K. and is very back-logged with work. Everything ATP publishes must go through the usual channel of review by a committee, and this has yet to be done with your book. Things move very slowly with ATP in any case. My children's book, Kareem and Fatima, is only now at the initial stages of the printing process, after all this time. And now is the time to change the subject...

I was relieved to know that Haider's marriage was not consummated, making the divorce so much easier and more tolerable. May Allah send him - and you and Khan Sahib - a daughter-in-law who will be all you could wish for your son.

I got a phone call a couple of weeks ago from Amina as-Silmi, who came back from Pakistan and the conference full of enthusiasm. She said she had met you there. Did you attend the entire conference? What was your impression?

I have been working in all my spare time on the retyping of Book Three of Sheikh Nazim; there were some errors and the format was very poor. I sent the entire book as it is to Kayani to get some clear directions about what he thinks ATP can use and what not, but haven't heard from him. There is such a little time left to me to work until we go to Turkey that I must really push myself. Our daughter Ameena, now in mid-pregnancy with her fourth child, will be arriving in summer to stay until almost the time of our leaving and will have the baby here (in Denver, actually). Taher's wife is due to have the ninth child (his fourth, her fifth) in June; they seem to be doing well, although with so many children, someone or the other is always sick. Selima, our middle daughter, has finished her studies in New Zealand and is now in Hawaii working for a short time before returning. It's been more than two years since we've seen each other and I'm expecting her here soon, but ~~back~~ since our understandings are very different at this point, I don't expect it to be a very pleasant visit.

We are all struggling along with Turkish. Yusuf is quite quick to memorize and learn, and Moin also has a good retentive capacity. I have a kind of feel for the language and considerable more fluency than the others, but still it is such a difficult language that it takes a concentrated effort (which none of us is putting) to really learn it.

I am now dealing with some Americans who are interested in Islam, and one new Muslim, a junior high-age boy, Yusuf's friend. It is very difficult to know how to get through to them, because their background interposes objections to so many aspects of Islam, especially issues related to women, hijab, separation, etc. Because they haven't seen Islam as it is practiced in the matrix of a Muslim society (practiced rightly or wrongly makes no difference - ~~to~~ the total atmosphere of the society which counts), these things make no sense to them, especially as they see them practiced by the predominant Gulf (Saudis, etc.) Arabs here. Unfortunately, my mind is so busy with personal matters that I am not able to give this my real attention, but how to approach such people

is a matter which needs serious and deep thought. Yes, it is true that Americans lack any transcendent, permanent moral laws, which in itself is a cause of terrible problems, but mostly they don't understand that this is the case and hence are not open to it as a solution. You must first be convinced of the truth of something before you can believe it, and that, with all the adverse propaganda and image of Islam and Muslims, is something which is exceedingly difficult to present. In short, hidayat is from Allah; but we must be open to varied ways of presenting Islam according to the mentality of various people so that we leave no stone unturned in our effort to share it with others.

Dear Maryam, I think of you with deep affection. Again, I am so sorry. And I would ask you to keep my personal affairs between the two of us always. I hope the renovations of the house are nearing completion; I can imagine how frustrating that is to live with. Here we have had so much snow; again today it's snowing - alhamdulillah for the moisture, so badly needed. I pray that you will have a most blessed Ramadan; may Allah make it easy for you and accept it. Until next time -

Much love,

Zeha

Additional message area:



2 Second fold

AEROGRAMME • VIA AIRMAIL • PAR AVION

Maryam Jameelah Begum
c/o Mohammed Yusuf Khan
15/49 Sant Nagar
LAHORE, PAKISTAN

Mrs. ZEDA SIDDIQUI
3720 Royal Drive
Ft. Collins, Colo. 80526



My dear Maryam,

As-salamu 'alaikum wa rahmat-Allahi wa barakatuhu.

First, thank you so much for your recent letter. I'm sorry it's taken me so long to reply to it, but things have been hectic here recently. Alhamdulillah you could fast without undue difficulty; may Allah accept it from you and grant you to see many more Ramadans, in good health and peace.

Unfortunately I don't have your letter in front of me just now to reply to what you've written. So I will just give you the news from here. Taher went to London at the beginning of Ramadan; there were crowds of people. He reported many very important things related to Sheikh Nazim and coming world events (Prince Charles will become Muslim, Gorbachev will fall, re-united Germany, Japan and Turkey will fight with the Soviet Union; and he is the khalifa of Rasul-Allah, s.a.w.s., at this time, which I believe with all my heart). My second daughter Selima came home after a 2½-year absence and travels all of the world; she stayed three weeks and left to the West Coast to find a settled job. Moin's sister Razia and her husband, who are now more or less settled in San Francisco with their son, have come for a two-week visit, and that's why I wasn't free to write. Moin has been taking them all over and I think they've had a good time, and there is good understanding between them and me, alhamdulillah. Yusuf will graduate from high school at the beginning of June and take his first university course in summer. The other in-laws will come for a few days in mid-June. Taher's baby is due at the end of June. Our daughter Ameena, then eight months pregnant, will arrive at the end of June and will have her baby here at around the beginning of August. And we must be in Ankara by the end of August. Alhamdulillah, I'm not worried because I've basically made myself stop thinking, and that is the only way to peace in this time. The One who gives burdens is enough for handling them and taking them away...

Still I have a lot of work left on the polishing and typing of Sheikh Nazim's 1987 talks, arranging them and the 1986 talks into categories (separate small books) and submitting them to ATP, which very little time left to do it in. We have turned over our house to a property manager and will rent it, I guess, fully furnished, as the labor of moving furniture out and in is just too much for Moin. Doesn't matter; we are on our way to our Lord's Divine Presence and the less we are attached to this world the better. Alhamdulillah that I can feel this way now.

Because of all I have to do, very likely I won't be able to reply regularly, but do keep your letters coming. And after the beginning of Sept., the address will be:

/o Dr. M. M. Siddiqui
Department of Industrial Engineering
Silknet University
P.O.B. 8-06572 Maltepe
Ankara.

There, hopefully a fully-furnished apartment will be ready in
the University campus. Please pray for me, dear sister.

All the best from Moin, Yusuf and Hediye and Aunt
Razia for you and your family. I pray all is well with you
and your dear ones and you are peaceful.

With love,

Zeha

Maryam Jameelah Begum
c/o Mohammed Yusuf Khan
15/49 Sant Nagar
LAHORE, PAKISTAN

VIA AIRMAIL • PAR AVION



Zeha Siddiqui
3720 Royal Drive
Fort Collins, Colorado 80526

June

dear Maryam,

I received your recent letter a couple of days ago. The news it contained was very disturbing, the first very direct news we've had recently of the state of affairs. May Allah save Pakistan and its people, as He has been doing all these years since its beginning. Time after time when I've been there I've been sure that the events I was seeing presaged the end, but Allah's mercy always kept her, perhaps for the honor of the Holy Prophet whose awliya are buried there or for the sake of the people who love him so much. Insha'Allah His protection covers her, and keeps you and your dear ones in safety.

But it is not only Pakistan. Wherever we look in the world there are terrible dangers, fires burning almost out of control, and it seems that day by day the end is getting closer; it cannot be too far off now, especially as the situation in Israel is escalating so. We must just keep our faith in Allah Ta'ala and His endlessly wise plan, knowing that whatever we bear and suffer is a means for our improvement.

Here, too. Society is deteriorating at a terribly fast rate. I am now reading books about the New Age phenomena (esp. N.A. religion, which comes complete with denial of God/divinity of man, ancient paganisms revived, shamanism, witchcraft, mediums, channeling, all obviously under the control of evil jinn who masquerade as "enlightened" beings, the Ascended Masters, spirits of now-dead persons, etc.). The move in W. society away from religion ("dogma") toward/into secular humanism has made this so easy, and children are indoctrinated into this mode of thought from a very early age. I've always been conscious that from the very first day I put my children into kindergarten they were taken out of my hands, but was at loss to explain it. Now I know. The educational establishment, esp., is dedicated to fostering such attitudes in the minds of children, and all the hideous array of technologies, science fiction (a multitude of s.f. toys and games, as well), video games, fantasy pursuits & preoccupations, are, acc. to some Christian sources, merely the precursors of acceptance of the Dajjal when he comes as a superhuman, super-enlightened being. Now in London there is a person living among Indo-Pak. people, who calls himself Lord Maiterya, the returned Christ (not Jesus, thought, because that is too Christian). Perhaps he is the Dajjal. All the signs point to something happening soon, and our sheikh is telling us to be prepared from 1990 onwards. The cult of "self," culminating in the theosophist/pantheistic belief that we are all divine, we are all God but that a personal God is a nonsensical belief, is now at its peak, and one sees its evil influence in almost everything. The worst is in the schools, where children are taught that they are the most important thing, what they think, what they want, is more important than anything else, and that they must express themselves. May Allah help us - that is all!

Now I am so busy trying to finish my work on S.N.'s manuscripts so I can submit a portion to ATP before leaving. Packing up will be done just before we leave, about Aug. 20. As for a stable govt. in Turkey, I think this is highly incorrect; the military stands poised to take over whenever it deems it necessary. In any case, Allah arranged this for us, and we are going, insha'Allah - to what, only He knows. We will find all the same evils there; but I still hope that for my hungry and tired heart there may be some opening, somehow...

Razia Husaini and her husband were here for two weeks; and our daughter Selima came back for a three-week visit. I'm sure I wrote to you, but perhaps the letter was lost or I could have misplaced it before mailing. Very sorry for the gap. I hope we'll write at least once more before I leave, but here is the address, in any case:

c/o Dr. M. M. Siddiqui
Department of Industrial Engineering
Bilkent University
P.O.Box 8 - 06572 Maltepe
Ankara, Turkey

I'm glad that your new book is out and pray that Allah makes it living evidence for the truth of His deen. If you can manage to get a copy to me, I would be so glad (perhaps to Turkey would be better, as it may take three months to arrive). I would certainly suggest sending a copy to Kayani at ATP, for whatever may come of it. In the meantime, I do hope Haider is settled and a new marriage is being worked out with a suitable and deserving girl, and that at the domestic level all is peaceful for you. I think we are all waiting; the whole world is waiting, knowing that the present trend cannot continue much longer, and hoping for they don't know what. Alhamdulillah that we do know what, and we have every reason to be hopeful and optimistic. The only key is patience and keeping one's heart with Allah, nothing else. I am seeing such worried, upset families here, women so terribly burdened by their husbands and/or children that they are becoming nervous wrecks. May Allah accept all that suffering which Muslims are carrying for His sake, and send His Holy One, Mahdi, a.s., soon. Dear sister, may He keep you in His mercy and His love, and all those who belong to you.

With my love, *Zeh*

Additional message area:

← FOLD HERE TO OPEN →

AEROGRAMME • VIA AIRMAIL • PAR AVION

Maryam Jameelah Begum
c/o Mohammed Yusuf Khan
15/49 Sant Nagar
LAHORE, PAKISTAN

USA



Fort Collins, Colorado 80526

Zeh, 11 SP5714

January 3, 1992

dear Maryam,

As-salamu 'alaikum wa rahmatallah wa barakatuhu. Please do forgive me for not having written earlier. I've just returned from a two-week trip to California and I'd planned to write before leaving, but things just got too hectic. The letter which I wrote many weeks ago evidently never reached you, and I was afraid you'd worry about not hearing anything from me, which I see was indeed the case from your letter to Moin. You can't know how busy my life is at times, but be sure that I never forget you and that I will write when I can. I do hope all is well with you and your family members, and that you are passing a peaceful and useful time.

Many things happened. First, Taher's oldest daughter Sara came to live with us for an indefinite period in November; his wife's health is poor and this eleven-year-old girl needs more attention than is available for her. She has been a lovely addition to our family, giving me some much-needed incentive and bringing some youngness into our very quiet family circle. Our daughter Selima came for a visit at Thanksgiving. In between I spent my spare time editing a large and very interesting children's manuscript, going through it carefully twice; I mailed it back to ATP just before we left on our holiday. Moin and Yusuf drove out and met Hediye, Sara and me at the San Francisco airport. We spent our two weeks' holiday very happily, visiting with all our many relatives and enjoying the children very much. Taher, Selima and Ameena all live within a fifty mile radius; Moin's sister Razia from Lahore lives nearby with her husband and son's family, and his younger brother Waheed is also close, as well as his married and unmarried sons. So there is a big crowd of family now, masha'Allah. We also visited with Sheikh Hisham, Sheikh Nazim's son-in-law and khalifa in the U.S., who seemed to have so much wisdom, and some light came into my heart for perhaps the first time since returning here.

We have now to deal with the knotty problem of our family's future. Primary consideration must now be given to Yusuf's education, as well as to the fact that all our family is in California. I don't want to be in a separate continent from Yusuf and I actually now need him physically because of my back, so we are thinking of moving wherever he goes to school. One possibility is a nice little town in Ca. called San Luis Obispo, 230 miles south of S.F. and 180 miles north of L.A.; we visited there and liked it. However, the Muslim community seems to be very small and perhaps dominated by very fanatical Wahhabis. It terrifies me to think of moving to a place where I don't know anyone, where I would have to travel for hours on a freeway to reach my relatives (there is a family who belong to S.N. in a town an hour distant; they hold dhikr every week), but I think we can't continue being alone here in F.C., which I really like as a place very much; if we had some ones belonging to us here, I probably wouldn't think of leaving, but as it is it seems to me that we must go. At the same time, Moin has a permanent job here every other year (or alternate semesters, as he prefers), and no other job for the other periods. So it is a very confused and confusing picture. I have no idea at all what we'll do, but Turkey seems to be out of the picture, as I don't want to leave Yusuf and couldn't live there without him anyhow, as he did so much of our running around and necessary errands. Moin has applied to various places but so far no response from anywhere. I am trying to leave it all to Allah. My back is also more painful now than before and my activities more and more limited. I pray that Allah may make all these tests a means of coming closer to Him and of cleansing, and am asking for tawakkul and sabr.

I'm glad you heard positively from Radhia; I owe her a letter, too. I wish I could find time for some useful work but all my time seems to be spent in appointments with physiotherapists, biofeedback, etc., for my back, but without any really positive results. However, the sixth Sheikh Nazim book is nearly complete, alhamdulillah.

Mrs. Zeba Siddiqui
1201 Robertson St.
Fort Collins, Colorado 80524



Maryam Jameelah Begum
c/o Mohammed Yusuf Khan
15/49 Sant Nagar
LAHORE, PAKISTAN

AEROGRAMME • VIA AIRMAIL • PAR AVION

2 Second fold



Additional message area

Impressiv.

B.S.: Are you familiar with a book called Encyclopedia of Islam, by Cyril Gresse? In your it very unique &

Mua. Zeba

Rajab is almost here, and soon it will be Ramadan again; how fast the time goes! I will hope to hear from you soon about what's happening with you. May Allah send you every khair and bless you with peace and contentment.

January 25, 1992

Ar Maryam,

Wa 'alaikum as-salam wa rahmatallahi wa barakatuhu. Thank you much for your good letter of Jan. 3, which contained many ideas which I am deeply in agreement with. I do hope this will find you and all your dear ones in good health and condition generally.

Yes, the state of the world is deteriorating rapidly, but to me this is not a cause for alarm, as it has been foretold in hadiths. The events and conditions which RasulAllah, pbuh, foretold must take place, as he is the most truthful one, and it is clear that before the holy one, Mahdi, a.s., is sent, things must become too terrible to continue. The return to barbarism (Bosnia, India, etc., etc.) is one mark of this, and so of course is the deterioration in sexual morals. But worse is on the way, I think, before it's all over, and with each new sign, I am waiting with more and more certainty for the promised messiah. May we live to his time and be with him and with the forces of haqq and holiness!

Here in F.C. and in so many other places the masjid community is torn apart by different views, power struggles, etc. - I hear this from everywhere in this country. I totally agree with you that fanaticism is the deepest evil among us, regardless of which side it's propagated by. Certainly the methods of the Tabligh people leave one with a sense of distaste, probably turning away many people. The in-fighting among Muslims will continue until the divine intervention takes place because everyone is putting his ego forward and insisting that everything must be as he thinks is 'correct' Islamically. Sometimes I get confused because it is true that we here have compromised on so many issues (minor ones, however), but we are forced to or lose ourselves/our children. You just can't apply a rigid Islam under these conditions, and the only way I see is to make people love Islam. Of course, I am silent about the way of tasawwuf because to most people it is unmentionable and detestable. A thousand times alhamdulillah that I found my direction, and director, in my sheikh, giving me the balanced view of how to deal with contemporary issues and situations from an authoritative point of view. You just wouldn't believe some of the situations we hear about here; almost every Muslim family has some case of zina, divorce, loss of young people to Islam, etc., etc., and it would be a great wonder if it weren't the case. What can we do except pray for our Lord's mercy and for the coming of the holy one soon?

There is tremendous anti-Semitism among Muslims here, notably the Arabs. I have a close friend from Lebanon who insists that they are all the enemies of Allah because it says so in Qur'an and that we can't be friends with them. Yet they are championing the cause of Bosnia; can you imagine a Muslim championing anything to do with Jews, ever? Here, kids from the local synagogue decided to make collecting clothes for B. part of their Bar Mitzvah prep. They came to the masjid with a few women and we sat together and compared notes about our respective faiths, finding so much in common. Among believers who accept each others' faith as valid, there can be no question of 'religious conflict'; it is a huge mistake, I believe, and there must be mutual respect and dialogue and working together for Allah's cause. Certainly there are some beginnings of this visible in this country now, and surely elsewhere, alhamdulillah, but it needs to gain momentum and flourish as a genuine movement of believers toward each other and against evil. I was told that the Pope's next major agenda is to mend fences with the world of Islam; I've found Catholics the closest to Islam and also the easiest to address because of our common values. As for the charge that they're idolaters, I don't accept this for a moment; their beliefs may be confused but the intention is for God, even if that is read 'Jesus.'

We went to California for the two weeks of Christmas break. The break in continuity has thrown off everything and I've not yet been able to get back into my normal work routine on the Qasas. Also there are some small involvements with Bosnia (perhaps with coming refugees), various friends and their problems and needs, the Islamic school here, in which it's so difficult to affect some of the teen-agers who have grown up without any Islamic life. Alhamdulillah that my back is ever so much better now after using a bone-replacement drug for osteoporosis - I can now sit and lie without pain, so that it's almost a miracle! However, have been wrestling with chronic sinusitis for months, on antibiotics since September. Hopefully this will finish now.

Dear Maryam, I send you my heartfelt du'a for a most blessed and fulfilling Ramadan, insha'Allah perhaps a bit easier than previous years in terms of the heat. Moin's best salams to Khan Sahib and all my family's salams to you. Until next time -

Your loving sister

Zeba

Additional message at end

Montgomery Blair, U.S. Postmaster General 1861-64

The Paris Conference of 1863, initiated by Postmaster General Blair, led in 1874 to the founding of the International Postal Union.



2 Second fold

AEROGRAMME • VIA AIRMAIL • PAR AVION

Maryam Jameelah Begum
c/o Mohammed Yusuf Khan
15/49 Sant Nagar
LAHORE - 1, PAKISTAN

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Zeba Siddiqui
1201 Robertson St.
Fort Collins, Co. 80524

USA 39



August 3, 1992
April 20, 1992

Maryam,

Wa alaikum as-salam wa rahmatallahi wa barakatuhu. I was very
to have your good letter of March 13, with the news of your sons'

Despite all the fuss and worldliness any Pakistani marriage
which you understandably hate, you know that you've done what
I've done to make everyone involved happy and now it's over.

Allah you have your precious space back (I sympathize totally with
this; my room is my refuge, although my typewriter and workspace is in
the family room) and are settled once again. I hope Ramadan, in spite of
these distractions and inconveniences, was special and wonderful, and
insha'Allah not too stressful in terms of heat. Now your sons may be in
America, or will go soon. Insha'Allah they'll be all right. No doubt
there are many shifts and adjustments necessary, but many, many sincere
Muslims are living Islam here and raising their children well. It's not
a hopeless situation, as you seem to feel - not anymore than the
situation of earlier Muslims who settled in non-Muslim areas and
eventually made them Muslim. I don't see this as happening any time
soon, of course, but I see some shifts and changes: there is more power
in Muslim hands and more consciousness of potentialities. I myself
attended the organizational meeting of the N. American Council for Ms.
women in N. Va. at the end of Feb. and feel that there is great potential
for positive action and change, and women are ready to work and
fight for something. We can only hope that this will be something useful
and vital for the life of Ms. in this country.

Alhamdulillah, I'm all right, although slowed and having to
prioritize activities. My sister came to visit for four days, the first
time in seven years or so, although I've been to her briefly. She
brought dozens of old letters concerning our emigration from Vienna, life
in England, what happened to our parents, and our coming to America,
half in German. I was terribly moved by the tragedy of what
happened to my family and cried a lot, feeling especially my mother's
part in it all; my sister wants to get some of the Gr. papers translated
and has already put everything into her computer. I was unhappy to open
an old wound, realizing that it never really closed for me, while she is
able to remember anything about our life in Vienna, although she was
born when we left, and very little later. Perhaps I'll finish the story
one day and bring it around to its ultimate end, which is my destiny in
Islam, so that it will have a positive message for the descendants for
whom it is intended (not for publication).

I continue to get very little done; I guess my
"project"-oriented days are over. The uncertainty about where we are
going to settle (now a choice, it seems, between at least three more
years in F.C. or moving to Sacramento) is v. difficult but we can't
decide anything at this point as there is some information which is not
available. Moin intends to be back in F.C. the year after next, in any
case, but of course I would like so to be near my children and
grandchildren in Calif. Yet the idea of us to be near my children and
to me, as it will be an entirely new community to Ca. is terribly scary
and difficult for me to put down roots anywhere in this environment, and it's
insha'Allah Allah decides for the best for us. I'm finding it very difficult
to be a mother to eleven-year-old Sara, but this is what I must be patient.
I have very little time ever for reading, for example, but this is just the way it is. I've sent
you a letter and shukr, I'm trying not to think too much but just to pray and shukr, I
feel very weak and vulnerable.

Love from my dear Sohob, and much love

to you.

... of Christmas break. The
 Have you been able to write anything since Ramadan finished?
 glad to hear about ISLAMIC TRADITION. Here, too, Islamic
 publications and organizations are proliferating. Moin has been approach-
 ed to be the statistical head of a demographic survey of Ms. in th
 ., in cooperation with a demographic center in San Diego and works
 with a non-Muslim director; the American Muslim Council is the U.S.,
 agency involved. This is something he's been keen about for
 funding was not available. No one knows the no. of M count. It
 many people think it's pretty essential to get in if it mater-
 ially would be a very interesting, rewarding project from Fort Collins, but
 sizes, giving him a job in his coming "year are so many "ifs" just
 that too will take some months to be known., and that without Yusuf, is
 w. Asfor Turkey, to go again for one the fact that no job has been
 st out of question, not to ment. I guessed long ago that we were
 ferred to Moin in Turkey up to institution because of obvious Islamic
 personae non grata in that sec of characteristics. Walking blindly, one foot in front of the other, day by
 characteristics. Walking blindly, one foot in front of the other, day by
 y, there is no solution except sabr, shukr and dhikr.
 Dear Maryam, Allah bless and keep you happy and healthy. →

3-5
1992

2 Second fold

AEROGRAMME • VIA AIRMAIL • PAR AVION

3-5
1992

Maryam Jameelah Begum
 c/o Mahmood Yusuf Khan
 15/49 Sant Nagar
 Lahore - PAKISTAN

For Maryam



August 3, 199

er Maryam,

As-salamu 'alaikum. Your good letter just arrived today; many thanks. And I'm replying at once because if I wait, most probably it will be a long time before I can write, as this is the "busy season" at my house.

We could talk without end about all the problems of modern civilization and among Muslims especially; one senses that it's all getting worse on both fronts at a dramatic rate, and only Allah knows what it means. The sheikh has promised Mahdi's coming before the year 1990, and these are just precursors of that, without a doubt. I sit here and think about it all, and more and more my mind is unable to deal with anything except the immediate situation around me and my own spiritual life. The rest is too complex, confused, and seemingly hopeless. I often wonder why everyone doesn't feel that way but I guess it's because the young are always hopeful and buoyant, while I see different signs and am also not able to do anything any longer to deal with wider problems. To me, like yourself, to be at home is all I want. I just can't understand why people want to run around and be amused, as I don't any longer, and am completely content with my house, garden and writing, and to be able to contribute something useful in any way.

As for your daughters-in-law, I imagine there will be a mixed initial reaction: awe and wonder at the greatness of the outward aspects of society here, and loneliness and a sense of lostness at being so far from everything familiar. The latter will predominate, perhaps, for the first years, but then they'll adapt and get used to the way of life here. I don't think you have to worry about their Islam, or your grandchildren's, for the Islamic impetus is fairly strong here, especially in metropolitan areas where there are large immigrant communities, and they will keep their traditions and survive quite well, I imagine, if they are strong to start with. However, more and more I take issue with the rigid ideological model which most born-Muslims carry around, as surviving here as Muslims means flexibility and adaptiveness in approaches. Many Muslims are so locked into their ideological model that they can't make the adjustments necessary (not always liked) to save their children's Islam, for if they are held too rigidly, they'll rebel and leave altogether. Living here, or maybe anywhere, today is an exercise in wisdom, subtlety and following gut instincts rather than living by the rules of 6th century Madinah which just won't work here. May Allah help us all!

Next week I plan a week-long trip to Chicago to visit a sister whose husband has recently died; they were very long-time friends. There, I'll also insha'Allah explore a new medium, video. I'm in contact with a Pak. brother, Abdul-Malik Mujahid, who does children's videos, and I suggested to him a sort of story-telling approach (a woman surrounded by children). He'll take me to his studio and I'll see how it's done and then we'll do some filming and see what the results are. I'm not a person to write anything I have to say, so it'll all be extempore, probably based on the prophets' stories which I'm writing. While I don't really feel up to any of this, it's something I feel I have to try to do as we need every possible approach to reach our children's hearts, and I know from the sheikh that speaking heart to heart is the most effective and lovely way to reach anyone.

Sheikh Nazim is probably at present in Cyprus but should soon leave for Malaysia. I believe he was in Pakistan briefly last winter on the way back from Mal. Taher went to London in Ramadan. The sheikh has delegated much of his work to Sheikh Hisham, his Lebanese son-in-law and kalifa who lives in Calif.; Taher is very close to him. There are so many murids now, and so many other "customers" coming to consult that the sheikh has had to delegate. It is said that he has reached the peak of his maqam and is in the highest station among awliya. For myself, I know that if it weren't for him, I would probably never have been able to remain a Muslim, with the distortions of Islam around me here and the difficulties of my own personal life. I owe him almost everything I know and am, and would like to spend all my time in his company. But that obviously can't be, so I try to keep my relationship with him strong spiritually. Still, we all hope to see him within the coming year.

Must end here and take Sara to her karate lesson. So life goes. The smallest grandchild (Ameena is here with her four) is crying in the next room and the others are trying to hook up a VCR. Alhamdulillah for everything!

Allah bless you, dear Maryam. Please write soon. With love,

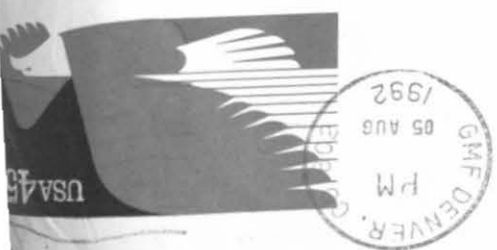
Additional message



2 Second fold

AEROGAMME • VIA AIRMAIL • PAR AVION

Maryam Jameelah Begum
c/o Mohammed Yusuf Khan
15/49 Sant Nagar
LAHORE, PAKISTAN



Zeba Siddiqui
1201 Robertson St.
Fort Collins, Co. 80524

1007
December 6, 1992

My dear Maryam,

Wa 'alaikum as-salam wa rahmatallahi wa barakatuhu. Thank you very much for your good letter of Nov. 17. Allah bless you for all your love and concern. I certainly haven't meant to represent my state of health as "precarious" and in danger of collapse. The main problem has been my back, but that has now, by something close to a miracle, improved to the point at which there is virtually no pain. I just can't believe it and be sufficiently thankful to Allah! There are several distinct components of this problem, and no doctor knew which component was causing the pain. In an attempt to deal with one component, I went to a specialist in osteoporosis, and he put me on medicines which are supposed to rebuild bone mass. The first I had to discontinue because of intolerable side-effects; this was the medicine which was known to help pain. Then I was changed to another with no short-term effects on pain, but a few weeks later, I find myself in this amazingly improved condition, alf alhamdulillah. Now chronic sinusitis remains a problem and I'm going to start allergy shots to, again, take away one component of the problem.

I agree with you about Islamic books - there are very few I care to read. The book I mentioned is primarily about the thought of Ibn Arabi, not by him. If your sons could get it for you, I think you would be very impressed by it. Its name is The Tao of Islam, by Sachiko Murata (a Japanese Muslimah). It can be had in N.Y. from Pak Books, 137 1/2 E. 27th St., N.Y. 10016, tel. 212-213-2177. The husband of this author, William Chittick, is also a brilliant Islamic scholar and has books about Rumi and Ibn al-Arabi published by the same publisher, State Univ. of N.Y. ~~There is a book~~

Here in Colo., we are deluged daily with pro-gay/lesbian garbage. On Nov. 3, the majority of voters in this state voted in a state bill which prohibited giving these people special anti-discriminatory status (and of course there is discrimination, even outpourings of hate and invective). Before and since, they and their supporters have been so vocal in labeling Colo. as a state full of reactionaries and hate-mongers. Since people see this as "sexual preference" or "orientation," as if it's a matter of simple choice and no moral issue is involved, and the "poor" g/ls. are "programmed" to act the way they act, no choice on their part being involved, there is a great deal of hostility being expressed. B. Streisand, among others, has called upon entertainers to boycott Colo., which as you know has a ski industry catering to the rich and famous, and the opponents of the bill are working hard to get it repealed, which I have no doubt they will since economic interests are involved. This means that I won't have a choice about who to rent my house to; if a gay family comes along, I can't refuse them on the basis of their "sexual orientation." I have in my hand an elementary school curriculum now being taught in N.Y. in which kids are taught to respect and accept homos; in many universities, students don't have the option to refuse to share a room with a homo roommate. It's incredible how widely this all is accepted; even many churches have knuckled under. I suppose only the Catholics, fundamentalist Christians and Muslims are standing their ground. But you can't say anything now without being accused of being narrow-minded, cruel and prejudiced, despite the enormous menace homos pose to health and well-being.

As for the U.S. force assigned to Somalia, there is deep concern that it's merely a front for a springboard action into southern Sudan on the pretext of helping "oppressed" people there, with a view to toppling the moderate Islamic government in Suday. My son-in-law happens to be totally in love with H. al-Turabi and the present govt., and if anything happens there, he'll be on a plane to go and fight. I don't for a moment believe the 'humanitarian' claims of Bush et al, for if they have

such concerns, how could they have let the Bosnia debacle go on and on, paving the way for any gang of hoodlums anywhere in the world to practice the local version of 'ethnic cleansing.' Look at what is happening in Germany!

soon
any

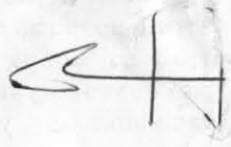
Am working in all my spare time on the qasas al-anbiya, but it's very slow. On Dec. 20 will fly to Ca. to visit with my family members and will be back on Jan. 3. There is a lot to do now, some contacts coming now and then with non-Muslims who are interested in Islam for one or the other reason, teaching some new sisters. In this community now, it's closed Wahhabis versus those of us who want to be open to the outside world and make Islam look beautiful to others, with the eternal struggle this involves. Insha'Allah we'll carry on (as they will), and Allah will give us the means to reach out to His servants in the best way possible, going around those obstructionists who can only think in terms of bid'a and work against anyone who sees things differently. Please remember me in your prayers. I'm just so happy to think of you settled and stable in a Muslim country, no matter what faults may be. May Allah keep you so until your last breath and end. Miss you. Until next time, I send you my love and my family's.



Second fold

GRAMME • VIA AIRMAIL • PAR AVION

Maryam Jameelah Begum
% Makamul Husn Khan
15/19 South Nagar
Lahore - 1, PAKISTAN



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July 1, 1992

aryam,

As-salamu 'alaikum wa rahmatallahi wa barakatuhu. I was very
have your letter of June 17 and to know that you are all right,
the severe heat. Insha'Allah you will pass through the summer
without any serious difficulties other than the heat. I can only say
"Alhamdulillah" for all the quiet, peaceful (to some, "dull") and
uneventful days, for they form the backbone of our lives and the
stability we so much need. With an eleven-year-old in the house eager
for any sort of activity, I can only wonder why anyone would want this,
as I'm too happy to be at home, writing and being at peace, and wonder
how anyone can ~~want~~ ^{need} anything else. Alhamdulillah, although Yusuf and
Hediye like outings, they are all right with whatever comes along and
sort of balance things out.

I'm grateful for your advice concerning my health. The schedule
in this house is opposite of what you suggest, and what is actually
Islamic - that is, we go to bed very late (even Sara is not in bed before
11 on weekends and vacation), so after Fajr we go back to sleep till 9 or
10. This is just a ^{normal} pattern in this family, and it's all right for me
unless there are unusually stressful activities, in which case I get very
exhausted. I am now going to a new doctor in Boulder, an M.D. whose
total approach is to rectify biochemical imbalances with natural
supplements. He has done intensive, and very sensitive, blood analyses, ^{on me,}
and some problems in the hormones, immune system and amino acid
deficiencies have shown up, which he feels can be rectified by his
treatment. So I'm trying it and pray to get better. It just seems that
one part after the other is malfunctioning; he says the organism is just
used up and severely depleted, and I know this myself. I've now begun
having almost daily attacks of chest tightness and difficulty breathing,
like a pre-asthma syndrome, when exposed to triggering agents (chemical,
mostly), a new and disturbing development. So do please pray for me, as
I really need to get better before there is a major breakdown.

I felt very sorry about your visit with the sisters from ^{the}
Islamabad Jama'at-e-Islami. This bears out my unshakable feeling that
the creation of a religious elite means the creation of an arrogant,
self-righteous group of people who are upheld in their Islamic practices
by peer-pressure within their own circle which is just as strong as any,
say, in the American schools (witness the proliferation of beards and
"official" hijab in Iran under the "Islamic" governments, among people
who never had beards, etc., before; and the enforcement of the Saudi
rules of hijab due to government spies, "religious police," etc.).
I hate to hear about your harrassment by these sorts of visitors and
think you should work out, perhaps with your Khan Sahib, a set of rules
of conversation for yourself. Here we have the same thing, for example,
when a sister asks a new Muslimah, "Well, do you think you've improved
lately," or, "You aren't a correct Muslim because you don't cover your
face," or any number of other "digs." Somehow we must learn not to
assume the defensive posture but to deflect the conversation and, if
necessary, force the others to defend themselves. How this is done
varies with local situations, but I think you must have a permanent
strategy, since this wasn't the first time, and probably won't be the
last, when such a thing has happened. ^{to you} We must not let ourselves be made
of Mr. B. The above behavior reflects adherence to the principle of "enjoin
the right & forbid the wrong," but always acc. to the other's limited
perception of "right" and "wrong". ∴ You could say, "Sister, I appreciate your
concern & concern, but only Allah knows about His servants, & I'm doing what
I'm able to do in my limited capacity. If you are able to do more, may
Allah reward you, but perhaps it may be at the expense of your family or
other needs (sleep, health, is one), & I don't choose to do this."

uncomfortable but must evoke the sole right of Allah to judge each of us according to our circumstances and capabilities.

I'm working as full-time as I can on my Qasas al-Anbiya stories but there is a lot going on, my children coming for shorter or longer visits, etc. It's v. difficult work as I'm taking all the Qur'anic ayat and interweaving them into the dialogue/story.

As for the current condition of W. society, there is so much which is good and correct (much better than in "M." countries) here interwoven with filth and garbage that it makes it all the harder to sort out. We have lost many of our children because of rigid attitudes which said to them, "You have to choose between Islam and all this," and now it seems to me that the only way to keep them in Islam is to say, "You can have Islam and some of this, but be selective." This is, I think, the only approach which works. Too many Muslims here are purists and entrenched in ideological positions which are certain to lose or hurt the children, and they are never going to understand that Islam is, above all, a religion of wisdom in which sometimes one must avoid greater evils by pursuing a less-than-ideal course. And then many of them have themselves to blame for deciding to settle here in the first place, as if the price to be paid. Must stop here, with love, dear Maryam

No enclosures permitted

Handwritten Urdu text, likely an address or recipient information.



2 Second fold

AEROGRAMME • VIA AIRMAIL • PAR AVION

Maryam Jameelah Begum
c/o Mohammed Yusuf Khan
15/49 Sant Nagar
LAHORE - 1, Pakistan



Zeba Siddiqui
1201 Robertson St.
Fort Collins, Co. 80524



October 26, 1992

Maryam,

As-salamu 'alaikum wa rahmatallah. I do apologize for not having written sooner. I've become quite "allergic" to letter-writing, and find that unless I reply to a letter right away, I tend to postpone it for one reason or another. Also, this period has been very busy for me. I do hope you've been well and settled in your own quarters, whether up or downstairs, and having your dear ones near you.

As for Radhia, I had a letter from her at the end of August. At the end of May she fell and broke her leg, with a three month recovery period ~~and a period~~ of complete dependence, as she lives on a mountainside far from any facilities of any kind. I haven't replied to her yet, but this will probably account for why you haven't heard from her.

^{My daughter}
Ameena and her family were with us this year for about six weeks, at the end of which we went to the ISNA convention together, and then they left for home. At that time, the work I'd been doing for months to write a curriculum for a three-hour-a-week Islamic school here came to fruition. We opened the school and it's going along. The attitudes of the kids and discipline is a big problem, something I really don't know how to handle. There are a few willing students among them (including, alhamdulillah, my Sara), but mostly they are disruptive and/or uninterested. This is where teacher's training is so useful, as these are things Am. teachers have to deal with every day. Then, some of us in this community became v. involved with Bosnia, my part being to contact churches to contribute used winter clothing, which is being collected in the masjid for forwarding on shortly. At the same time, I've been trying to find time to work on my qasas al-anbiya, which is immensely time-consuming. MY method is to translate all the ayat relevant to a particular prophet's story and then weave the story out of those references, which are put at the end. Not liking any existing translation, I am doing my own, with help as needed. I love this work and find it opening to me new understandings of Qur'an and nubuwwa. When they're done, I'll insha'Allah send you a copy.

Conditions throughout the world seem to be worsening rapidly, heralding the end of the era of darkness, insha'Allah, and the coming of Mahdi, a.s. - that's our only hope. That the civilized world should tolerate the savagery in Bosnia is a sign of its utter decadence, and once this sort of thing is allowed to go on anywhere in the world, with no checkmating, it will rear its head everywhere. Sheikh Nazim is predicting it for Germany, it seems, and it's already begun. And the moral decadence of this society, where a man like Clinton has the possibility of becoming head of state, is appalling - not that we like Bush, but he's certainly better than C., and Perot seems to be an opportunist, without political experience. May Allah send His help soon!

At the ISNA Convention, I found myself unable to attend speeches and spent my time in other ways. I found some excellent new books about tasawwuf, Ibn Arabi, etc. The focus of these conventions has changed greatly over the years. First of all, Americans are given much more responsibility; it's not just the old group of overseas Muslims all the time. Secondly, it's problem-and-solution oriented rather than dealing with theoretical issues and theology. Still, there is too much fragmentation among Muslims in this country. There is an evidently-documented Saudi effort to dominate the masajid, backed by plenty of money, to propagate Wahhabi thought, but the rest are fighting back now and rejecting that domination. The sheikh says they are the real enemies of Islam and will be terribly punished - and we are waiting.

Since Moin isn't teaching this year, he's at home all the time, working sometimes on a translation of a book on major sins from Arabic. I have Sara in a private school and her performance has improved tremendously, alhamdulillah. I spend a lot of time chauffeuring her back and forth. We put her in tae-kwon-do (a kind of Korean martial art) to learn self-confidence and have a useful self-defense skill, so you can imagine how much driving around there is. Alhamdulillah that we live near the middle of town now; otherwise this would all be impossible. Hediye, now in eleventh grade, is having to come to grips with what she is going to do, university entrance testing, etc., at the age of almost 17. And so life goes on normally enough, a thousand times alhamdulillah!

Moin is waiting for me to go over the translation of some ayat for my qasas, so I will stop here, sending you, dear Maryam, my du'a for peaceful, healthy days and nights, with salams from Moin to Khan Sahib. May Allah keep you in the best of conditions!

if I don't reply quickly, please know that there is some reason in my situation that I haven't forgotten you.
With love,
Zeba

ADDITIONAL MESSAGE

AEROGRAMME • VIA AIRMAIL • PAR AVION

Maryam Jameelah Begum
c/o Mohammed Yusuf Khan
15/49 Sant Nagar
LAHORE, PAKISTAN

Zeba Siddiqui
1201 Robertson St.
Fort Collins, Co. 80524



DO SOMETHING WILD!

March 29, 1993

My dear Maryam,

Wa alaikum as-salam wa rahmatallahi wa barakatuhu. Your letter arrived today, and I'm hurrying to reply.

Insha'Allah by the time this reaches you, your eyes will be completely healed and you'll be back with your usual activities again. It must have been a long, difficult two months, but hopefully one of them being Ramadan helped. May Allah accept your fasting and prayers, and write this as an excellent Ramadan in your hisab.

As you say, of course the World Trade Center debacle has made problems for Muslims in America - but then, so does every new incident. What is more disturbing is the obviously deliberate attempt of the media - whether all or part of it is not clear - to use labels such as "fundamentalist" and "radicals" in a quite loose, non-specific manner. For all I know, I'm a fundamentalist/radical/rebel, or whatever. There is also a very marked attempt to depict Islamic movements in such countries as Egypt as terrorist/reactionary/fanatical, etc. And one just can't sort out the truth from lies.

This leaves me personally rather confused. I am a non-political Muslim, as I don't see 'Islamic' political solutions, imposed upon the sorts of Muslims we have nowadays, both the bad and the very good sort, as being really productive. Peoples' hearts and understandings have to change, not the political structure, and until that happens, nothing will be right. Until Mahdi, a.s., comes and sets things right with his sword, anything we do or don't do will be futile; you stop up one hole and a hundred others come in its place. Therefore I have little sympathy for the political movements, which merely result in the turning of one element of the Muslims against the other, tortures, imprisonment, executions - with what results? An Iran-style government, which is, I am certain, full of hypocrisy and has blackened the name of Islam everywhere? No, thank you; I can't support this. It therefore becomes hard for me to sort out who is right and who is misguided here. For ex., my son-in-law went to see Sheikh 'Umar Abdur-Rahman and he told me enthusiastically how much nur he has, in the manner of a sahabi. But what is the message of such people? That the government is not following Islam ^{although} and the people want Islam? That it is oppressing Muslims? That all must return to Allah and Islam? That haqq is haqq and batil is batil, and everything other than Islam is batil? In this time, will this be effective, or only bring down more torture and persecution on Muslims? Some say that blood ~~is~~ ^{has} been shed fi saebel Allah and that because this is not happening everything is going wrong, but so much is being shed already - not, admittedly, by mujahideen, but certainly by innocent civilians. Therefore, my only hope is in the coming of al-Mahdi, a.s., and our sheikh ^{is} giving us to understand that the time is fast approaching. Many Muslims here are quite politically active, but I just can't be. I'm not clear enough on what ^{ought} ~~out~~ to be done, and secondly I'm just too tired for that kind of thing and more involved with spiritual matters, which are all-important to me at this stage of life.

My son Yusuf is a student here at CSU but most of his spare time is spent working with the local MSA, whose leadership consists of young brothers his age, and they're doing an excellent job of outreach into the community, person to person. But no one can say what tomorrow will bring. I believe that if ^{muslims} ~~people~~ are falsely accused in the WTC bombing, it will come out in court, as the defense lawyers are excellent. Is the whole thing staged, from beginning to end? Allah knows. And if not, what could have prompted these people to do such a foolish, ill-conceived thing, leaving behind trails and trails of evidence? Time will tell,

insha'Allah.

The sort of cultural bankruptcy among Ms. (Disney posters in Isl. schools, etc.) seems to me a primary problem of this time. The old is gone, or rejected, and nothing has taken its place which isn't borrowed. Esp., we have nothing with content to offer our youth.

I'm spending all my free time working on my qasas al-anbiya, which brings me a little light in obscurity. Throughout Ramadan I didn't set foot in the mosque because of the wahhabi influence; I just can't pray behind such an imam. But it was a good Ramadan for me and I was terribly sorry to see it end, although I became so exhausted from insufficient sleep. May Allah let us live to see other Ramadans and accept whatever tiny bit we could do.

So, dear Maryam, I send you my warm wishes and du'as for a complete recovery, and good days to come as you resume your normal routines.

With love,

Zeba
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Additional message area:

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LAHORE 54000, PAKISTAN

15/49 Sant Nagar

c/o Mohammed Yusuf Khan

Maryam Jameelah Begum

Fort Collins, Co. 80524

1201 Roberson St.

Zeba



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الله الرحمن الرحيم
بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم
August 4, 1993

Dear Maryam,

As-salamu 'alaikum wa rahmatallahi wa barakatuhu. Thank you very much for your two letters, the "tracer" of June 5 and the one of July 2. Please don't take offense if I don't reply promptly (especially when our letters have crossed and a letter is on the way to you). There is just so much to do and never enough time; I haven't sat down to my own work for maybe three months now. And I am so much slowed down with everything; just getting dinner on the table for my little family is an effort.

So Marya is still in the U.S. I can imagine how much you miss her. I will be interested in knowing her reaction, but will she be frank about her feelings or is it possible that she will say what you want to hear? Try to make sure what she really feels. And there's so much here that's so much better than what Muslim countries have to offer in terms of keeping the rights of people, common courtesy, order, cleanliness, etc., that positive impressions are not necessarily wrong.

I found THE TAO OF ISLAM a superb book, but Allah knows that there's no way I could help with a review as I remember almost nothing. Certainly it isn't easy to review a work of such magnitude. I found her understanding so keen that in many places it was as if a natural, revealed truth was being expressed. And thank you for your favorable review of KAREEM AND FATIMAH. Personally, I don't think that all is lost with those loveable, sensitive children when they reach adolescence; enough has been put into their hearts and minds to stay with them, if the home environment continues to support them. We are walking a very fine line of "not too much" and "not too little" Islam in order that our children may be happy to be Muslims instead of feeling deprived and miserable (and many do) about it.

I know of course what the media are portraying concerning Muslims and Islam. There is a probability that the WTC bombing and much of the rest of the "terrorist" allegations are a plot, possibly or probably by MOSSAD, to discredit Islam and Muslims. The Jewish agenda bears watching very carefully; everywhere one sees marks of their hatred against Muslims. At the same time, converts from Judaism are plentiful. Only Allah knows what may be in the future, but we are all noticing that people look at us differently than before and there is a feeling of uneasiness in the air. We are waiting, praying, hoping...

My daughter Ameena and her four children were with us for about a month. Now they, with my family, have all gone in the station wagon on a long camping trip which will end at Ameena's home. I've been alone for the past five days (sisters staying with me at night, though), and tomorrow I fly to California, where I'll be involved in a one-day seminar on problems of child-rearing, and then the rest with the family. Will be back insha'Allah on Aug. 18. On Aug. 25 I'll insha'Allah fly to Michigan, where Sheikh Nazim will be coming for a brief period, and then will be back around Sept. 5. This is a lot for a lady who is semi-retired and only wants peace and quiet, but I'm not planning my life myself. Insha'Allah there is khair in all of it, especially in the long-desired meeting with the beloved sheikh. Will write you about all of it.

Almost every day as I read the paper I come across articles about the state of American society about which I think, "I should send that to Maryam." But I never do. Things are so degraded, so terrible here, that unless you keep up closely with trends via the media, you would be so shocked. Perhaps the gay movement is the worst of it. Before there were holes in the social fabric, but no one can hardly find any whole cloth; almost everything is upside-down and backwards, as the clean fitra of the human being in this society becomes more and more distorted. The pity of it is that there are so many really good, decent

people still, but one can easily predict that unless something is done to halt the trend, they will become an anachronism in a society where everything abnormal is the norm. Alhamdulillah that Fort Collins is still a decent, family-oriented community, but even here crime is on the rise and there is now gang activity. I was shocked at what my two older grandchildren told me about the atmosphere in their school (5th and 6th grade) and what degradation they are exposed to. Fortunately, we can all (including their mother) talk very openly about everything, making jokes out of obscene stuff so that it becomes defused. But there is no childhood for children any longer; they are exposed to adult behaviors and problems long before their time. Alhamdulillah, we had a lovely visit together; I only wish I could be near them all the time, as they need all the support they can get - and we do too, of course. But Allah is the Best of Planners and we only ask a good outcome in all affairs.

Must now sit and write my talk for the seminar. Probably I won't be able to write for a few weeks due to all this traveling, but don't worry - I'll be back with you when I can. May Allah give you a quiet, peaceful life always, dear Maryam, and bless you in everything, especially the new grandchild.

Zeba

Additional message area:

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Maryam Jameelah Begum
c/o Mohammed Yusuf Khan
15/49 Sant Nagar
LAHORE 54000, PAKISTAN

Zeba Siddiqui
1201 Robertsn St.
Fort Collins, Co. 80524

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August 24, 1993

My dear Maryam,

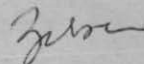
As-salaamu 'alaikum wa rahmatallahi wa barakatuhu. Just received your letter of August 15; may Allah bless and reward you for your faithful friendship. I sent you a letter somewhere around the end of July or beginning of August; I hope you will have received it. In any case, all is well here, but the summer was busy and hectic with my daughter and her five children here for five or six weeks, followed by a few days alone at home (while the others traveled to Ca. by car on an extended camping trip) getting ready for my 13-day trip to Ca. Have been home for a week, and tomorrow leave insha'Allah for Michigan, where Sheikh Nazim will be for maybe three weeks. Since Marya is so interested in Sheikh Nazim, I am sending you phone nos. in Mich. so that if you like you can let her know them in case she would like to come. The place is 45 minutes in each direction from Detroit and Ann Arbor in a village called Fenton, where the Haqqani Trust has purchased a property for this gathering and future use. The phone no. at the Hq. is 313-429-4941; another number for getting information is 213-750-7333 (Abdul-Haqq); and still another is 313-665-2670 (Abdul-Malik or Maryam). The sheikh is arriving August 25 and will be there for three weeks or more, but may be leaving on side-trips, so it is critical to check his schedule before anyone thinks of going there.

Of course I will write you about it when I return. I am very excited about seeing my sheikh and hope that some understandings may open for me. By the way, I just completed a sixth book of his, begun in 1987. If you like I'll send you a copy when I return.

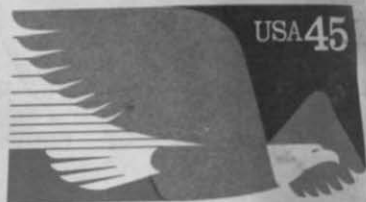
I met Mrs. Nawaz Sharif at Nisar Fatimah's function which you and I attended about four years ago. Arguing that something can be known about a person by the company they keep, maybe something can be understood from that (Begum Zia was there also, if you recall) - or maybe not. Nawaz Sharif is some kind of cousin to a very committed Naqshbandi family I know in the U.S. and in Karachi, so there should be something there - better than Benazir, certainly, a thousand times.

Still have to prepare for my trip, so much end here. Forgive my brevity, but it was this or nothing. Dear Maryam, don't you ever imagine that I could forget you, but with letters getting lost and being attached to some project which needs to be finished (get manuscripts from ATP for review and sometimes for editing, and also from other places), I am sometimes late in writing. However, my letter should by now have reached you. The review of TAO must have been so difficult - but what a book! Until next time, Allah keep you in His endless mercy.

Love,



Zeba Siddiqui
1201 Robertson St.
Fort Collins, Co. 80524



Maryam Jameelah Begum
c/o Mohammed Yusuf Khan
15/49 Sant Nagar
LAHORE - 1, PAKISTAN

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Additional message area:

September 10, 1993

Dear Maryam,

Assalamu 'alaikum again. Masha'Allah, your letter of Sept. 7 arrived in my mailbox before I could get mine into it, such a crossover! and I thought I should reply so that we are caught up with each other again.

I will get a copy of Book Six to Marya shortly insha'Allah, and it should reach you before too long. It is a little book, but with much precious material.

I was aware of the crisis in Pakistan from a friend who recently returned. May Allah send His help! I believe that, if given enough time, the various goondas of the Bhutto clan will destroy themselves and each other, because it seems they are going to be elected. Or perhaps martial law will take over. What a totally wretched system! But then look at a country like the US and its election processes, and the sort of people we get to lead the greatest country (show) on earth!

No, I haven't heard anything from Radhia for well over a year; insha'Allah she's all right. If you write, tell her that I've missed hearing from her.

As for my opinion of Interpreter's Log, I found it very interesting and moving: just to feel my heart in contact with people who are so interested in Allah made me happy, and I felt quite lonely when I finished reading. Yet I felt that in some ways it was quite "nafsi," as if one's thoughts were so precious as to be written down in such a fashion, even when not much was being said. The main difficulty is that Brother Nuh now has a reputation from his Reliance, and what he has written in the Log, due to the prevailing heavy salafi influence, would discredit him completely. Yet there is an urgent need for correct information about tasawwuf, and he has it. I therefore suggested a sort of compromise. Since a major work detailing the sharai'y basis of tariqah, its historical development, what is and isn't acceptable, the workings of the sheikhs, various practices, in the al-Sunnah wal-Jama'at framework, is most urgently needed in English, it might be possible to combine the more relevant of his entries with the expository material covering these matters. Believe me, there will now be all-out war from the side of the salafis against people of tariqah (Sheikh Nazim has long since declared war against them and predicted their destruction). I expect my good name to be torn apart since it's no longer a secret that I belong to that jama'at due to certain things that have happened, and Nuh's will be, also. And because the Shadilli practices are rather far out, even more so. However, if he backs everything with references from classical sufi literature, he will be safe and at the same time do a tremendous service to the seekers in the English-speaking world, of whom there are no doubt many.

It was instructive to read about their practices, which are so different from ours. In our way, khalwah comes at the very end of the murid's inner work; only then is it permitted and useful. Our sheikh works by nasihah and instruction, as you know. He has said repeatedly that the Naqshbandiyah, the only t. coming from Abu Bakr Siddiq, is the only real tariqah remaining now, and that it begins where the others leave off (I didn't say this to Br. Nuh, of course). But each person's way is chosen for him and therefore must be right for him. The important thing is that there is a way, or ways, to reach something other than what his material life offers for those who are seeking. Although I have reached nothing at all, it makes me happy to know that this is a possibility. May Allah lead us to an opening...

I don't know if I told you that the reviews of my prophets' stories submitted to ATP (three stories so far) came back with suggestions for major changes in the form of taking out the traditions narrated by Ibn Abbas which I included. I sent them to Br. Nuh for review and am waiting to see what he says, for I don't see any reason to change anything at this point, and the whole matter is on hold.

Why don't you have your son collect articles for you from the media, since this interests you? It would be better if done in a somewhat systematic fashion, which I can't really do. But you see CNN and maybe some written publications, so you no doubt have a very clear idea of things (unless the Pak. press considers them so objectionable as not to print them). As for the Israeli-Arab treaty, I think it will never work because Arafat's leadership will never be accepted by Islamic-minded people; probably someone will assassinate him and/or Rabin. Thanks for the ref. to Danner's book; I'll try to get it. Allah keep you, dear Maryam, in safety and peace and good health.

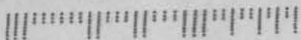
*Until next time. I send you my love -
Zeb*

Additional message area:

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Maryam Jameelah Begum
c/o Mohammed Yusuf Khan
15/49 Sant Nagar
LAHORE 54000, PAKISTAN



17 27 1993
DENVER
GME

Fort Collins, CO. 80521

Zeb

September 15, 1993

aryam,

As-salamu 'alaikum. How are you? Insha'Allah well, together with all your dear ones, and having good news from the children in the U.S. Perhaps you would have received my brief letter of the end of August. Now, as I promised, I'll tell you all about my trip to Michigan and Sheikh Nazim.

First, though, I must tell you that I received a copy of Interpreter's Log from Nuh Keller, and he mentioned that he had sent you a copy for your review. I would be interested in your impressions of it (I'm sending him a letter with my thoughts about it, for whatever it's worth). We can compare notes in our next exchange.

As for Michigan, the Haqqani Trust (Sheikh Nazim's trust) bought a large property near Detroit, acres and acres of grazing land together with a spacious house and a large barn which has been converted into a mosque and dormitory rooms. This was the gathering place.

Hediye and I flew in to Detroit and were at the airport when Maulana arrived, together with his nearest people. There was quite a reception by murids. The first thing he did was to find a clear area and pray 2 r. of shukr and then all 13 r.s of Maghrib. We all then went out to the property. Over the next ten days a large number of people gathered, old and new murids and others. The sheikh led most of the prayers and gave talks once or twice a day. He was in a very good mood, smiling and joking, and pleased with the new endeavor, saying that America's power is broken and Americans must come to Islam. My sense of things is that it is people like the murids, who are open, smiling, loving, not telling anyone what to do or not, who can do this, never the grim-faced, all-too-serious types who never think of love of Allah or His Prophet, pbuh. There was such a good atmosphere among the people there, no one claiming to be anything or showing his nafs, but loving interaction, a great deal of patience with quite adverse conditions, and clean, decent interaction between men and women. It was by far the strongest Isl. event I ever attended, most positive. When you look at and listen to the sheikh, his sincerity is so evident and so great that you feel it's enough for all mankind, such a humble, faithful servant, beaming love. Oh, for such sincerity toward Allah! I think that's where all the work is to be done. And so we came back, happily, charged and ready to keep on working.

Maulana went to New York. I wish I had had your children's phone numbers so they could have gone to see them (if interested, that is; but even if not interested, it's something to meet such a towering Islamic personality). He is making stops in Washington, Chicago, the Bay area and Los Angeles before flying to Germany. But now, with the center, perhaps he will return again. As for the coming of al-Mahdi, a.s., and related events, he was nearly silent on this topic this time, for reasons which he alone knows.

I want to get this in the mail so will stop now, sending you much love and hoping to hear from you again soon. May Allah bless you!

Zelba

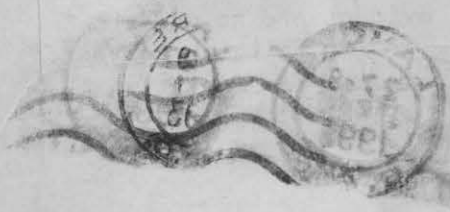
Zeba Siddiqui
1201 Robertson St.
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Maryam Jameelah Begum
c/o Mohammed Yusuf Khan
15/49 Sant Nagar
LAHORE - 1, PAKISTAN

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Additional message area:

[Handwritten signature]

May 26, 1985

Februayr 27, 1994

My dear Maryam,

Wa 'Zlaikum as-salam wa rahmatallahi wa barakatuhu. I was so happy to receive your letter a few days ago. I had asked a friend who has gone to Lahore to call you, but she lost the number. I was in the process of trying to get your number to her when your letter arrived. But actually, all I have is an old number of your sister-in-law's. Do you have a telephone now, and if not, what is the best number to call to enquire about you in such events? Of course, I don't have any idea why your letter addressed here would have been returned, but then the postal employees are only human and so can make mistakes like everyone else. No letter addressed to Royal Drive will reach us any more, but you can always use my husband's Dept. of Statistics address, at least for the remainder of this academic year. In any case, I was more than happy to know that you're all right and that no disaster has occurred which would account for the long break in communication.

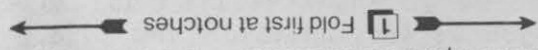
Of course I wouldn't just up and move like that without your knowing - moving is no simple thing. So next time, just assume a problem with the mail, from whichever side. I was glad of all your news- an eventful period in your life, it seems. My warmest congratulations on Marya's marriage and the new grandchild. And someone writing a thesis about you! I realize such things impinge on your sense of modesty, but you are who you are as a literary figure and something of a legend as an American who went and settled in Pakistan in days when no one did such a thing, etc., and perhaps your story may be a source of inspiration to someone. Thank you for the books you recommended. Frankly, despite all the good I've heard about S.H. Nasr, I've been reluctant to read his books or recommend them because of his Shi'ah background and his being involved in the incredible tariqah of Schuon. In case you don't know about this, I can send you material; but in general what N.H.M. Keller has written about Titus Burckhardt under entry X348 in the Reliance applies to him.

As for myself, there is little to speak about. I got my computer in mid-December and Yusuf has been an excellent tutor. This has enabled me to work so much more efficiently and quickly, especially with the Qur'an and Hadith software (from U.K., but leave so much to be desired in terms of cross-referencing - that is, the Hadith software). Moin is helping me by looking up material in Ibn Kathir, which is much more reliable than Tabari but unfortunately is not available in English. Ramadan is very lowkey for us this year. I am hardly inviting anyone, but there are weekly potluck iftars (last time in our house, packed!), and we pray Tarawih at home. I do not know anything beyond tomorrow; our future moves remain totally unknown, but we won't go overseas again. The children are not at a stage at which they can be either taken along and I can't leave them (at least Hediye) here alone. Hediye has a serious problem with her digestion which no doctor seems able to understand, but certainly not having any friends or relatives here is a stress factor. This year so many of the people close to us have left F.C., including Hediye's close and dear friend, and there is almost no one going to be left by the end of summer. Close friendships take years to make, and since the majority of Muslims here are much younger students, I don't expect much. But Allah knows what He's doing with our lives. I am

wishes + duas for your Ramadan + 'Eid, & Salams to Khan Sahib
from Moin.
Love Love

am simply waiting for a change in orders, so to speak, as circumstances will dictate. Meanwhile, I'm so busy with my writing that I don't much care about anything else, for my own self. I'm past the stage where I have to be surrounded by people, and even when I am I don't open so much of myself, even to the close friends; it just has to be that way. And alhamdulillah for everything.

How the massacre in Hebron will affect the course of history only He knows, but the whole thing is terribly distressing. I want to reach out to the Jews who will listen and say, "Let's get together on what is common. Religion has never been a divisive factor among us - these are political matters." But unfortunately, that isn't true. The occupied territories settlement is as much a religious (eretz Israel) issue as political, and though motivations for it may differ from group to group inside Israel, the effects are the same. I certainly don't agree with Hamas' tactics, but then, I don't live there, suffering all those indignities. Only the sword of Mahdi, a.s., can extinguish the fires of the hatred on earth and its horrible legacy, and I pray continually for his coming soon. I mean, with Zhirinovskiy looming on the horizon, it may be closer than we think. Ending here, sending my warmest



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Maryam Jameelah Begum
c/o Mohammed Yusuf Khan
15/49 Sant Nagar
LAHORE - 1, PAKISTAN



1201 Robertson Street
Fort Collins, Co. 80524

May 4, 1994

My dear Maryam,

As-salamu 'alaikum wa rahmatallahi wa barakatuhu. Thank you so much for your good letter of April 3, together with the photos. I was pleased to see you looking well and no older than you used to years ago. May Allah keep your family all happy and peaceful, and give you peace in their peace. And may Allah give you and Khan Sahib endless rewards for having raised good children; may they always be a credit to you and an ornament to Islam. Meanwhile, I had sent you a handwritten letter toward the end of March, but perhaps it didn't reach you... another casualty of the system, or perhaps of my miserable scrawl.

It is not surprising that time has vindicated the suggestion that not all 'Islamic' groups are worthy of support. The last twenty years has seen such profound changes in life on this planet that it is hardly recognizable. One sensed that change was coming, but could hardly have expected it this fast. And one of the changes, which was inevitable, is the radicalization of movements - both inside and outside of Islam. The Prophet forbade all this 1400 years ago, saying that mercy would be taken away from peoples' hearts, and obviously Muslims are no exception. We have an unfortunate tendency to use our religion to support our views and our agendas, and so you can expect any sort of results. As for the Israeli peace, it seems that it is proceeding in the right direction, but it can hardly be that simple. I read the newspaper almost every day, and everything I read confirms my conviction that time is running out for us in the present era. We are in the midst of the turmoil which the Prophet spoke about and can only hang on by our teeth, so to speak, to our values and way of life. At the same time we have an obligation to try to share what we have. It seems to me that Islam is spreading in this country somehow, in spite of everything, and I can't substantiate this feeling by any statistics at all, but there is some sort of an interest manifesting here and there, especially when one gets away from the stereotypes. Recently we had a wonderful sister here as a speaker, but unfortunately at the end of her talk, Muslims raised questions which were embarrassing and hostile, especially in relation to the status of women and related issues. But it is Allah who reaches hearts, not ourselves, and we can only try to do something. My son Yusuf is applying some innovative approaches as president of the local MSA chapter; it's the American Muslims who will do the job in the long run, and the new generation, at that. I recall your saying a long time ago that the present generation is hopeless, but there is hope in the coming one, new energy, blood, understandings, approaches. May Allah enable them to do what our generation could not; and yet, they are building, perhaps, on at least some of what we did.

As I become older and my memory and concentration poorer and poorer, I must confine myself to one avenue of work, and that is the literary one; there, at least, I can still function with some degree of efficiency. I am spending most of my free time working on the Qasas, and will get some help in June from Besa Keller; she and Noah are coming to visit. This is at present my *raison d'etre*; I love it and also dread finishing it, because I sense it will be my last work of any substance,

but only Allah knows that. In June I plan to fly to Hawaii to be with my daughter Selima when she gives birth to her first child. Sara I hope will go and stay with her auntie during summer. I hope and plan to go to visit my aunt in Rome at the beginning of August. As of next week, Moin is on his retirement phase for fifteen months and will be at home non-stop, unless Allah opens something unforeseen. My youngest, Hediye, graduates from high school next month, endless thanks be to Allah. How hard it's been for her, and how glad we both are that it's going to be over! Probably our daughter Ameena will come for a month or so with her four children, so the summer will be very busy. In case you don't get a letter from me, don't be worried - it just means I'm super busy and will write when I can, at the least by September. Don't ever think that I forget you or ignore you, but sometimes it becomes difficult to write, or one just isn't in the mood.

May Allah keep you and your dear ones in His endless mercy, dear Maryam, and give you good days ahead. May Allah help Pakistan through every difficulty, and for the honor of His Habib who is still loved and honored there, keep it safe and viable. Moin sends his salams to your Khan Sahib. Withg my love, *Bun*

Additional message area:

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Scoring fold

EXAMINE - VIA AIR MAIL - PAR AVION

Maryam Jameelah Begum
 c/o Mohammed Yusuf Khan
 15/49 Sant Nagar
 LAHORE - 1, PAKISTAN

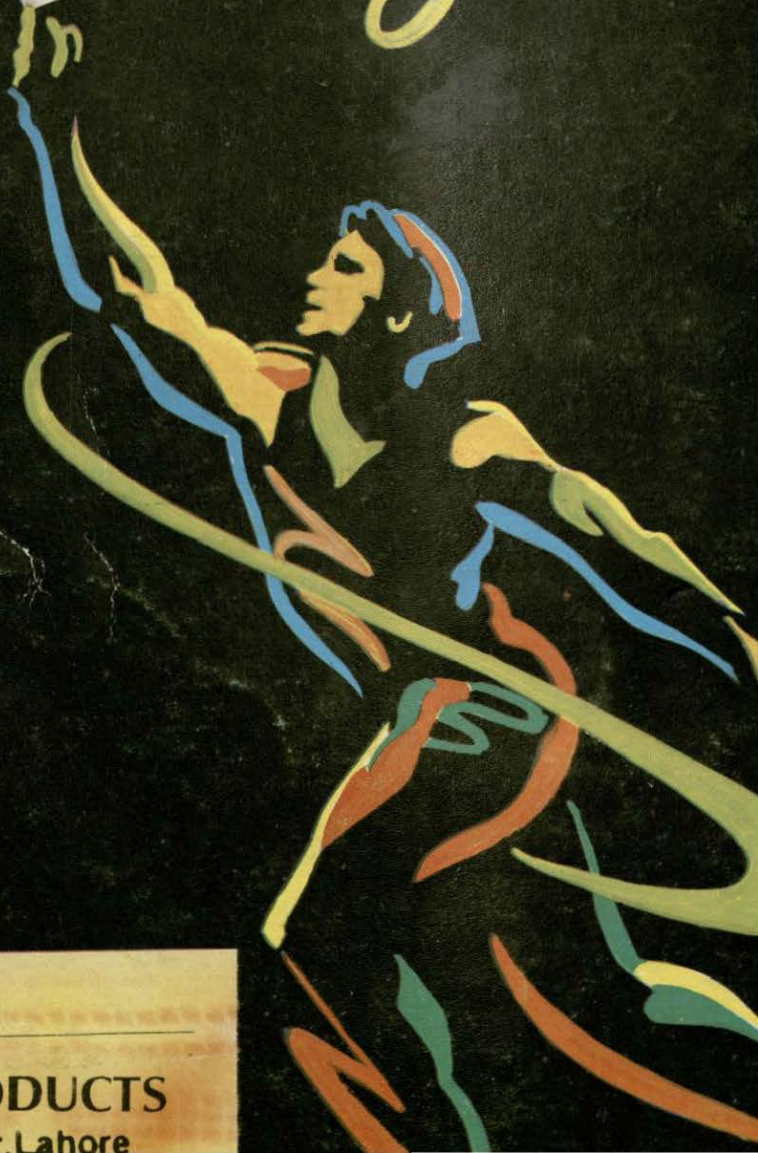


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Zeba Siddiqui
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