

## **Mihrab**

I am a Mihrab. I was woven into the threads of thoughts and ideas on January 6, 1920. This was a time when turning this thought into reality faced many challenges. However, since the thought was backed by "Divine" will and great determination, it transformed me from an ordinary speck into something very special.

January 19, 1924, was a very important day in my life. On that cold evening in London, my foundation was laid with bricks and mortar. At that time, no one could have predicted that in the coming days, these snowy foundations would warm many hearts with the sweetness of faith. It was my good fortune that the Imam of the time, after reciting the Holy Quran, laid the foundation stone for me, prayed for a long time, and offered the Asr prayer.

At that moment, I became special, when the first prostration was made by the Imam of the time on my forehead. The name "Masjid Fazl" was suggested for me.

From a worldly perspective, fulfilling this thought was very difficult, but I saw the spirit of sacrifice in the divine community that was unparalleled. Men and women alike made sacrifices that the heavens had never witnessed before. My construction took almost two years, and on October 3, 1926, I was completed.

Then, on October 3, 1926, the formal inauguration of the mosque took place. Missionaries came, and the mosque was established, but missionaries continued to visit, and with their tears, my forehead was constantly bathed. Many blessed individuals came, including companions of the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him), whose forehead I kissed and drank their tears. This process continued. I am a blessed Mihrab, for I received the tears of Chaudhry Muhammad Zafarullah Khan Sahib. I also tasted the tears of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih III (may Allah be pleased with him). Then, I was graced with the tears of Maulana Sheikh Mubarak Ahmad, Maulana Bashir Rafiq, and many other missionaries. Similarly, I witnessed the sobs of Maulana Ata-ul-Mujeeb Rashid.

My fortune changed when, in 1984, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih IV (may Allah have mercy on him) honored London with his permanent residence and decided to settle in a small house near the Fazl Mosque, leading the five daily prayers and Friday prayers in my Mihrab. I, the fortunate Mihrab, was blessed to receive his forehead in prostration. His every tear filled me with joy, and the prayers he made were answered by Allah.

I witnessed the deep longing, the passionate prayers, and the tears of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih IV, who prayed to Allah with fervor. The resulting prayers were also answered, and I experienced the blessings of those supplications. I became so accustomed to those tears that after one prayer, I eagerly awaited the next, wondering when I would receive the joy of the Khalifa's prostration. I also felt the weight of the Khalifa's illness in my heart, absorbing his weak sighs and tears.

Allah never left my prayerful requests unanswered. Another chosen one arrived to fill my lap. Allah granted me the privilege of receiving the prostrations of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V (may Allah strengthen his hand). The early days of his caliphate, the emotions of his heart, the compassion in his tears, and his cries all became part of me. It was a joyous experience. My destiny was brightened, and I continued offering all of these blessings to my Lord with love, witnessing Allah's blessings and mercy showering down.

I am immensely grateful that Allah never wasted my prayers and always rewarded me with His immense grace. As the Ahmadiyya community expands across the world, more Mihrabs like me are being built, adorned with prostrations, and bathed in Allah's love, while His mercy spreads them across the earth like seeds.

I, the Mihrab of Masjid Fazl, remained soaked in these blessings for nearly 18 years, getting accustomed to the winds and spiritual breezes. I continued to gather the Khalifa's prayers in my embrace, tasting the sweetness of these moments. Then, a day came when Hazrat Khalifatul Masih IV, by the will of Allah, moved his residence and mosque to Islamabad (Tilford). He left me behind, and all the fortune I had enjoyed was transferred to Masjid Mubarak, and its Mihrab became adorned with blessings.

Though I am still blessed, and many continue to fill me with their loving tears, nothing compares to the sweetness of the Khalifa's tears. I rejoice in the blessings of Masjid Mubarak, but I do so with a longing for my beloved Imam, the heartbeat of thousands. I humbly request:

**Please visit us... someday... return to our lane...  
Someone here is profoundly sorrowful without you, yearning for your prostration,  
longing to taste your blessed tears again...  
The atmosphere is melancholy...  
Your neighbors are heartbroken...  
Even the sparrows and pigeons miss you...  
The streets and alleys await your return...  
Please shower us once more with the sacred rain upon my parched chest...**

**Yours in longing,  
Your Mihrab.**

**Review of Respected and Honorable Mr. Ata-ul-Mujeeb Rashid Sahib,**  
Imam of the London Fazl Mosque,

Upon reading your article titled "Mihrab" in the Daily Al-Fazl Online, I must say that you have written it exceptionally well, Mashallah. You have beautifully given a voice to the Mihrab of Masjid Fazl. Jazakum Allahu Khair.

In reference to this article, I would like to share some details regarding the duration of prayers offered during the continuous presence of the Khulafa of Ahmadiyyat at Masjid Fazl:

1. **Hazrat Khalifatul Masih IV (may Allah have mercy on him)** led prayers at Masjid Fazl for 19 years, from 1984 until 2003, from the time of migration to his passing.
2. **Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V (may Allah strengthen his hand)** led prayers at Masjid Fazl for 16 years, from his election in 2003 until the relocation to Islamabad in 2019.

This note is written to ensure historical accuracy.

Jazakum Allah for your beautiful piece.

