

# The Journal— FATEH MASIH



الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَى عِبَادِهِ الَّذِينَ اصْطَفَى<sup>2</sup>

**After this** let it be clear that since Padre Fateh Masih, currently stationed at Fatehgarh, District Gurdaspur, sent me an extremely filthy letter wherein he falsely accused our lord and master, Muhammad, the Chosen One, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, of adultery, and also employed numerous derogatory and abusive words, it was, therefore, deemed appropriate to publish a rejoinder to his letter. Accordingly, this journal was written.

It is hoped that Christian clergymen will read it carefully without feeling offended by its words as this entire style is the consequence of Mr. Fateh Masih's sordid language and overly vulgar invectives. Nonetheless, I do have regard for the hallowed status of the Messiah, peace be upon him. It is only in retaliation

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1. In the name of Allah, the Gracious, the Merciful. [Publisher]

2. All praise belongs to Allah, and peace be upon His chosen servants. [Publisher]

against the harsh words employed by Fateh Masih that the fictitious Christ [of the Christians] has been evaluated in comparison, and that, too, out of utmost compulsion as this imbecile has abused the Holy Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, most vehemently inflicting pain upon my heart. I now set out the response to his letter in the following. **It is as follows:**

My dear Priest! Formalities aside, at this moment I have very little time at my disposal, but when I saw the letter you had sent to our brother Maulawī Abdul-Karim, I considered it fitting to personally give you the glad tidings of this journal of mine which is being written, so that you won't have to trouble yourself much.

Rest assured, the journal will be of such a calibre that you will find yourself so very pleased. Owing to those 'kind' regards of yours which are so plentifully found in your letter this time around, I have firmly resolved that the purpose behind publishing this journal is strictly to uphold your very own request; for, the article that I am now prepared to write, might have come out sometime later had I not received this letter of yours wherein you have used filthy language against the **Holy Prophet, Ḥaḍrat Ayeshah Siddiqah**, and Saudah. This is an immense act of kindness on your part in that you yourself have become the instigating agent. It is expected that the other missionaries will be immensely pleased with you, and it would be of no surprise should you even receive some promotion after the issuance of my journal.

Reverend Sir! I lament your predicament as you were already so utterly wanting in the Arabic language, but you were also proven to be completely bereft with respect to those fields of science which hold some affiliation with theology, such as physics and medicine. Mentioning Ḥaḍrat Ayeshah Siddiqah, Allah

be pleased with her, you have written of her marriage ceremony at the age of nine. First of all, there is no evidence of the Holy Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, himself saying that she was nine years old, nor is there any Divine revelation to that effect, nor is it established through narration that are *mutawātir* [i.e. possessing multiple chains of transmission] narrations that she was indeed nine years old. It is only quoted from one narrator. The Arabs, being illiterate, did not keep written calendars and a variance of two or three years is, therefore, insignificant in view of their circumstances. The same is the case in our country where most of the illiterate people cannot accurately account for a difference of two to four years. Nevertheless, even if we concede under the assumption that it was precisely nine years by counting every day, even then no intelligent person would object. There is, however, no cure for stupidity.

I will demonstrate this to you within my journal by proving that there is a consensus of opinion among contemporary research physicians that girls can attain puberty even by the age of nine years. In fact, the bearing of children can take place even as early as seven years of age. Physicians have proven this through a great many observations. Moreover, hundreds of people have personally witnessed this fact with their own eyes in this very country that there are girls aged eight and nine years who have given birth to children.

Nevertheless, upon you be no pity whatsoever—nor should there be!—for not only are you an absolute bigot, but **also an imbecile of the highest degree**. To this day you still fail to realize even this much that the laws of government are framed in accordance with the wishes of the people in keeping with their traditions