

RAY'S OF LIGHT EXHIBITION

POINTS OF LIGHT TRAINING MANUAL

PROLOGUE

Rays of Light is a multi-dimensional exhibition dedicated to celebrating 50 years of Mawlana Hazar Imam's efforts in serving humanity. It is the last of the seven Golden Jubilee projects and was formally inaugurated by Mawlana Hazar Imam, together with members of the Noorani family, in Paris on December 11, 2008, following the Darbar.

Rays of Light reflects our Imam's deep and abiding concern for the dignity of mankind and the improvement of its quality of life. While no single project can do justice in representing the magnitude or impact of the work of Mawlana Hazar Imam, this Exhibition hopes to promote both a better understanding of the concept of Imamah, as well as of the institutional capacity of this office.

It is indeed our good fortune and pleasure to introduce Rays of Light to the USA Jamat, at a time when the Jamat is seeking to become more knowledgeable about the work of the Imam and the Imamah, while, at the same time, the world around also wants to know more about the intellectual tradition and the dedication to service that is central to the Shia Ismaili tariqah. It is our hope and prayer that the Jamat will find a deep and personal connection with various aspects of this Exhibition and, in so doing, have a better understanding and appreciation of the accomplishments of Mawlana Hazar Imam over the past 50 years.

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***Rays of Light: Glimpses into the Ismaili Imam
Experiential Photographic and Multimedia Exhibit***

OVERVIEW

Continuing his forefathers' longstanding tradition of Muslim leadership and service to humanity, His Highness The Aga Khan has devoted more than fifty years of his life towards upholding the dignity of man, promoting peace and stability and working towards the common good of all peoples, regardless of their origin or religion. ...

"Rays of Light" is only a glimpse into the enduring commitment of Mawlana Hazar Imam and his efforts to improve the quality of life of people living across the globe. It aims to present visitors with a feast for the eyes that stimulates the intellect and stirs the soul.

Excerpts from the Entry Panel to the Rays of Light Exhibit

In commemoration of the Golden Jubilee of Mawlana Hazar Imam, seven global projects were undertaken to fulfill the two Golden Jubilee objectives, including creating awareness of the Imam's role and the Imam Institutions by both the global Jamat and the wider community at large. The Rays of Light Exhibition is the last in the series of these projects and was inaugurated by Mawlana Hazar Imam himself immediately after the Darbar in Paris, France, in December, 2008. Other projects during the Golden Jubilee year, some of which were also inaugurated by other Noorani family members, include the Heritage Discovery Program, Historic Cities Program Exhibition, A Mystical Journey, The Golden Jubilee Games in Kenya, the Ismaili Economic Forum in UAE, and Ali to Karim.

The three production initiatives cater to three different scopes of understanding, from the broadest Muslim perspective to the specific Imam of Shah Karim al-Hussaini Hazar Imam: (1) A Mystical Journey catered to the diversity in Muslim expressions of devotion; (2) Ali to Karim served as a tribute to the Ismaili Imams, and (3) The Rays of Light Exhibition glimpses into the Ismaili Imam, celebrating Mawlana Hazar Imam's 50 years as Imam.

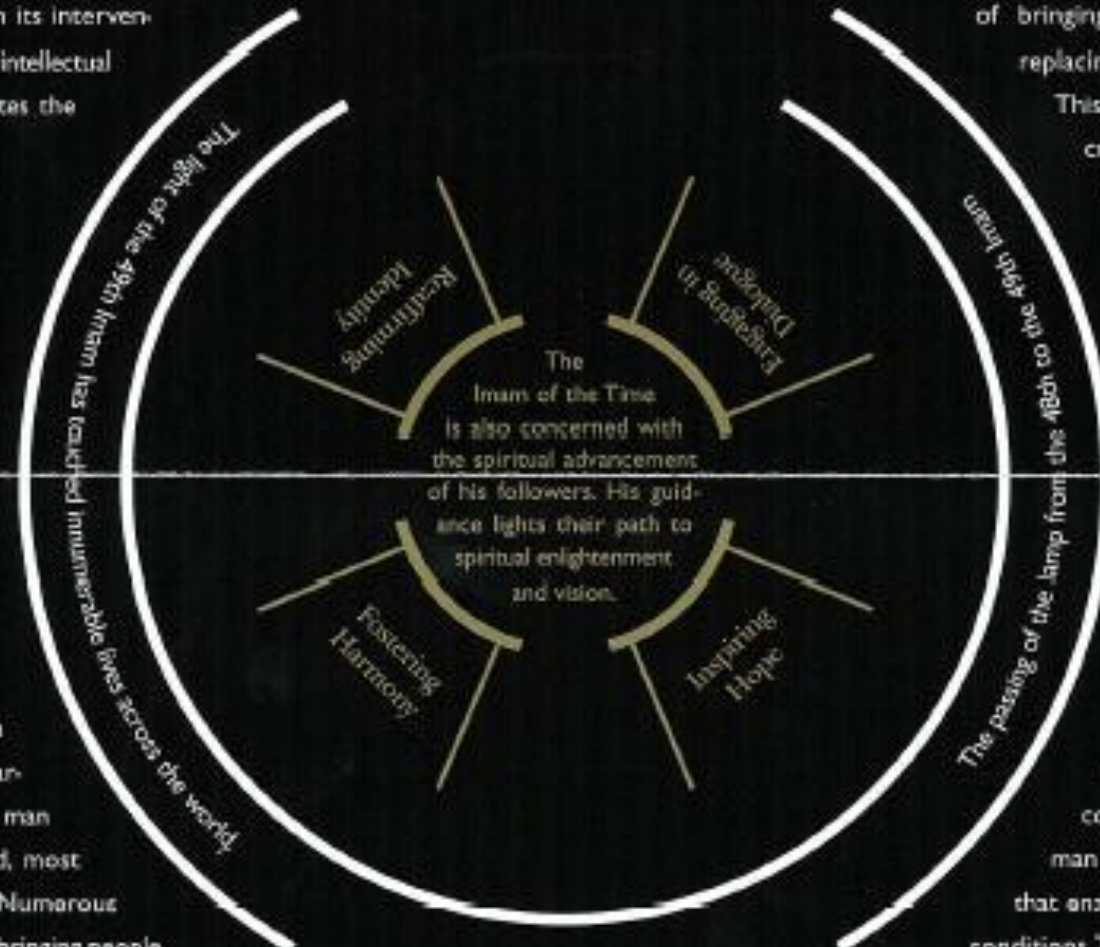
The Rays of Light Exhibition provides a photographic and multimedia overview of the history and meaning of the concept of the Ismaili Imam and the scope and impact of the work of our current Imam and the Aga Khan Development Network. It provides a multidimensional insight into how Hazar Imam has provided a contemporary and relevant manifestation of the ethical underpinnings of the faith of Islam. It is clear that his work is not philanthropic, but rather, stems from the mandate of the Office of Imam.

Reaffirming Identity

The Imam has revived and reaffirmed pride and identity amongst Muslims with its interventions in cultural heritage and intellectual traditions. The Imam constitutes the very core of Ismaili Identity.

Engaging in Dialogue

The Imam continually emphasises the importance of bringing down walls that divide and replacing them with bridges that unite. This aspiration has also led to the creation of various centres worldwide that aim to enhance understanding and promote pluralism.



Fostering Harmony

Championing the Qur'anic idea of man's stewardship on earth, the Imam fosters harmony between man and nature, man and his built environment and, most importantly, between people. Numerous programmes are committed to bringing people together and encouraging them to take an active role in the improvement of their lives and communities.

Inspiring Hope

The Imam's commitment to a common humanity and the dignity of man is reflected in the myriad initiatives that enable people to improve their living conditions. These initiatives respond to the needs of affected people across the world, providing many with the hope of a better life.

POINTS OF LIGHT

DESCRIPTION

"Points of Light" is a term that describes the dedicated volunteers who will serve as facilitators stationed within the Rays of Light Exhibition. The role of the *Points of Light* will be to serve as a resource and respond to questions, offer input and explanation to Jamati members who request their assistance. Rays of Light is intended to be an experiential Exhibition, so that each murid has the opportunity to seek and experience his or her own connection with the various components of the Exhibition. In addition, Rays of Light should also serve as a source of information and knowledge about Imamah and work of the Imamah over the past 50 years. Most of the information content is provided and is self-evident. However, individual Jamati members may seek additional information or explanation about aspects of the display. Points of Light can provide the clarification and interaction sought by the individual attendees; however, they will not be expected to play the role of tour guides or as content experts.

Points of Light will be trained and receive detailed background information regarding the various aspects of the Exhibition, including the over 250 photographs. This will be a unique opportunity to serve as knowledgeable communicators during the upcoming exhibition.

Content Summary

Introduction

The content summary provides a detailed overview of each thematic and ancillary area that comes together to materialize the notion that the Imam's existence, his work, his guidance projects as rays of his light for the upliftment of the Jamat and humanity at large.

With the use of entry and exit tunnels, multimedia and audio, and memorable photographs, the exhibit is structured in a way to maximize the Jamat's experience from both an intellectual, emotional and spiritual perspective. The tour begins at the front panel, which explains the Imam's role in the context of the Ismaili Imamate. This then leads into the entry tunnel, which leads to other sections of the exhibit. Visitors may choose to move through the exhibit at their own discretion and choose any direction and return back to a particular area of photo that was particularly intriguing. One may also weave in and out of the Enlightenment dome into any of the thematic rays.

Within each area of the exhibit are photographs with captions, video display monitors with short films and speeches on a continuous loop, written quotations from speeches, and other explanatory writings and historical timelines.

Although, the exhibits are segregated into Five Secular Thematic Areas, they are theoretically interlinked, as one program may have multiple dimensions, covering more than one theme in the exhibit. (Refer to the exhibit layout):

1. Inspiring Hope
2. Reaffirming Identity
3. Engaging in Dialogue
4. Fostering Harmony
5. Enlightenment

If one views the exhibit from a bird's eye view, one finds a central core (the Enlightenment dome) from which emanate four Rays of Light. This core has a privileged space as the center circle with a dome overhead. It lights the other four thematic areas equally in the exhibit, taking equal space and each forming a "ray" from the center of the exhibit's Enlightenment dome. It symbolizes Mawlana Hazar Imam's spiritual guidance, which lightens his murids' paths to spiritual advancement. The exhibit's layout demonstrates the physical connection of each of the four "secular" themes with the central Enlightenment section, thus conveying the mandate of the Office of the Imamate.

Each of the first four thematic sections consists of three walls/panels forming a shape that is the top half of a hexagon. The center panel is curved and contains the title of the section, a relevant quotation from Mawlana Hazar Imam, and a brief written description of what that section means. Each of the left wall (Wall One) and right wall (Wall Two) has its own sub-theme. Each of the left and right wall is also split into three sections from top to bottom: the top two sections are subsections of the sub-theme and the bottom (third) section is text in light font that gives facts and figures about the topics of that section e.g. [Inspiring Hope, third section of Wall One lists all of the UCA and AKU locations, info about Academies etc.]

If one views the exhibit from a sitting position, one sees an encircling panel running along the top, referencing the Qur'an, Hadith, and depicting a timeline showing Bibi Fatima, Hazrat Ali and their progeny, the Imams. It lists, horizontally and chronologically, the names of the Imams around the wall, categorized according to the seven periods of Imamah, with known relevant information including (1) countries where they lived; (2) dates of their passing; (3) major achievements.

Additional Areas of Exhibit:

1. Front Panel
2. Entry tunnel
3. Outside Walls
4. Children's Wall
5. Awards and Recognition Wall – A list of Awards, recognitions, and honorary degrees given to Mawlana Hazar Imam (with dates)
6. Exit Tunnel

Colors of the Exhibit: Black, White and Gold (some silver):

Black – background color of the exhibit, walls, and panels that promotes a peaceful ambience

Gold – for the most part language of the Qur'an or of the Imam

White – language written by the exhibit team

Silver – references to Silver Jubilee

The rest of this document provides an overview of the content and messages in each area of the exhibit.

The content summary is designed from the viewer's perspective so that the Points of Light can personalize the exhibit as they train. Each of the following sections begins with an overview, summarizing that specific area of the exhibit. Next is quoted text from the exhibit, followed by the supporting photographic descriptions. The five thematic area summaries contain an overview, title and quoted text followed by individual wall sub-sections with its text and photographic descriptions.