

CELEBRATING THE BIRTHDAY OF HAZRAT IMAM SULTAN MUHAMMAD SHAH A.S.

Extracts of a Speech made by Mawlana Sultan Muhammad Shah in reply to the address given by "The African Legion" on the occasion of the presentation of the Platinum Fund to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee on completion of seventy glorious years of Imamatus at Cairo on February 20th, 1955

You referred to my seventy years Imamatus which, indeed is unique in the history of the 48 Ismaili Imams by its long duration, but also it began in another world, the world of horse carriages and candle lights, and today we are in the world of nuclear power, physics, jet air travel and serious discussion among the most learned as to how and when we can visit the stars and the moon.

But, as I have explained in my Memoirs for the whole world to understand, there are two worlds – the world of material intelligence and the world of spiritual enlightenment. The world of spiritual enlightenment is fundamentally different from the world of material intellectualism and it is the pride of Ismailis that we firmly believe that the world of spiritual enlightenment has come as a truth from the inception of Islam to this day with the Imamatus and carries with it as one of its necessary consequences love, tenderness, kindness and gentleness towards first, our brother and sister Muslims of all sects and secondly, to those who live in righteousness, conscience and justice towards their fellow men.

These religious principles of Ismailism are well known to you; for you have heard them from me and through your fathers and grandfathers and from my father and grandfathers until I fear that by long familiarity with these teachings some of you forget the necessity of re-examination of your heart and religious experience.

