

A HISTORIC LETTER

**Ahmadis are traitors both to Islam and to India
(Allama Iqbal's letter to Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru)**

Lahore
June 21, 1936

My dear Pandit Jawaharlal,

Thank you so much for your letter which I received yesterday. At the time I wrote in reply to your articles I believed that you had no idea of the political attitude of the Ahmadis. Indeed the main reason why I wrote a reply was to show, especially to you, how Muslim loyalty had originated and how eventually it had found a revelational basis in Ahmadism. After the publication of my paper I discovered, to my great surprise, that even the educated Muslims had no idea of the historical causes which had shaped the teachings of Ahmadism. Moreover, your Muslim admirers in the Punjab and elsewhere felt perturbed over your articles as they thought you were in sympathy with the Ahmadiyya movement. This was mainly due to the fact that the Ahmadis were jubilant over your articles. The Ahmadi Press was mainly responsible for this misunderstanding about you. However I am glad to know that my impression was erroneous. I myself have little interest in theology, but had to dabble in it a bit in order to meet the Ahmadis on their own grounds. I assure you that my paper was written with the best intentions for Islam and India. **I have no doubt in my mind that the Ahmadis are traitors both to Islam and India.**

I was extremely sorry to miss the opportunity of meeting you in Lahore. I was very ill in those days and could not leave my rooms. For the last two years I have been living a life practically of retirement on account of continued illness. Do let me know when you come to the Punjab next. Did you receive my letter regarding your proposed Union for Civil Liberties? As you do not acknowledge it in your letter I fear it never reached you.

Your Sincerely
Muhammad Iqbal

The Iqbalities, in Pakistan have not published this letter in any collection of Iqbal's letters which speaks for itself about the Ahmadis effects.

This letter has been copied from a book "A BUNCH OF OLD LETTERS" published by Asia Publishing House, Bombay, Calcutta, New Dehli and Madras.

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