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أَلْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ وَالصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَى خَاتَمِ النَّبِيِّينَ
أَمَّا بَعْدُ فَأَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ ط

The Amir of Ahl al-Sunna in the Eyes of Sunni Scholars

Supplication of Amir Ahl al-Sunna's successor

O Allah! Whosoever reads or listens to the 33 page booklet *The Amir of Ahl al-Sunna in the Eyes of Sunni Scholars*; grant them the ability to carry out the religious activities of the Sunna-inspired movement that is Dawat-e-Islami, and be pleased with them for eternity!

أَمِيرِينَ بِجَاهِ خَاتَمِ النَّبِيِّينَ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ

The excellences of sending ṣalāt upon the Prophet

The final Prophet of Allah صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ said, “The one who says صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ has opened 70 doors of mercy for himself. Allah will place love for him in the hearts of people, such that none will hold animosity for him except the one whose heart contains hypocrisy.¹

صَلُّوا عَلَيَّ الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيَّ مُحَمَّدٍ

¹ Kashf al-Ghumma, vol. 1, p. 327

Ilyas Qadiri should be a mufti

On the 7th of Jumādā al-Ākhira 1403 AH, after the burial of Mawlānā Qārī Muṣliḥ al-Dīn al-Ṣiddīqī al-Qādirī رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ, many had gathered around his resting place to place flowers upon it. The Amir of Ahl al-Sunna, the founder of Dawat-e-Islami, Mawlana Ilyas Attar al-Qadiri دَامَتْ بَرَكَاتُهُمْ الْعَالَمِيَّة was also present directly next to his resting place. During this time, a mufti from Karachi took some flowers from above the grave, began to remove the petals from them, and proceeded to throw them away.

The Amir of Ahl al-Sunna could not remain silent and respectfully said to the mufti, “Perhaps you are infringing on the rights of the person resting here, because petals also make *tasbīḥ* (glorification) of Allah.”

The mufti was very impressed by these words. He remarked, “Ilyas Qadiri ought to be a mufti, as he spotted my mistake.”¹

May Allah have mercy upon him and forgive us without account for his sake.

اٰمِيْنٌ بِجَاهِ خَاتِمِ النَّبِيِّينَ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ

¹ Tadhkira Amīr-i-Ahl-i-Sunnat, Purānī Yādēn part 10, video duration, 27:30

Signs of Allah being pleased

Mufti Aḥmad Yār Khān Na‘imī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ said:

A sign of Allah being pleased with one in the world is His righteous servants being pleased, and the person’s ability to perform good deeds. Our hearts being inclined towards pious predecessors is a sign of them being loved by Allah.”¹

Amir Ahl al-Sunna’s services for Islam

Mawlana Ilyas Attar al-Qadiri is a practicing Islamic scholar, saintly individual, and renowned spiritual personality of the 15th hijri century. Countless scholars from across the globe have praised and applauded his services for Islam over the years, with some even penning lines of poetry in his admiration.

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ عَلَى إِحْسَانِهِ وَكَرَمِهِ The Amir of Ahl al-Sunna’s spiritual path is one of the largest in the world today, which has reached millions of people in many countries. The blessings of his movement Dawate-Islami can be witnessed across the globe; a movement that was borne out his hard work and effort – a Sunna-inspiring movement that fosters love for the Prophet صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ, takes one away from sins and encourages living in accordance to the Sunna.

The Amir of Ahl al-Sunna’s religious services span a period of

¹ Tafṣīr Nur al-‘Irfān, part 10, al-Tawbah, under verse 72, p. 239

around 50 years (as he was already serving Islam in various ways prior to the formation of Dawat-e-Islami). During this time, Allah utilised this great man to aid Islam in such splendid fashion, that individuals began practicing the Sunna and receiving their Islamic scholarship qualifications due to his efforts. At the time of writing (18th January 2025), more than one hundred thousand children have memorised Quran in Madrassat al-Madina.

His 50-year span of serving the religion has led to the construction of thousands of masjids and madrassas. Countless people have had the message of Islam reach them. Innumerable amounts of Islamic literature has been printed. If it was said that these religious services are a result of two hundred years of efforts, it would not be incorrect.

There is no doubt that this is all due to the immense grace and favour of Allah, the help of His final Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ and the spiritual gaze of Islam's saints رَحْمَةُ اللهِ، particularly the Crown of the Saints, Shaykh 'Abd al-Qādir al-Jīlānī رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ and the Imam of Ahl al-Sunna, Imam Aḥmad Razā Khān رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ.

May Allah preserve Dawat-e-Islami and allow its message to reach every corner of the world, and may He cause the blessings of the Sunna to appear in every place. The acceptance of this dua made by the Amir of Ahl al-Sunna many years ago is not hidden from those familiar with the international services of Dawat-e-Islami.

صَلُّوا عَلَيَّ الْحَيِّبِ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيَّ مُحَمَّدٍ

The Amir of Ahl al-Sunna and Sunni scholars

This short booklet contains the views and opinions of scholars and muftis regarding the Amir of Ahl al-Sunna. They hail from the Indian subcontinent, the Arab world, and across the world. These scholars are of such calibre, that their list of students spans the globe.

There are some from among them who witnessed the Amir of Ahl al-Sunna's passion for serving Islam from the beginning, and those with whom he spent much time.

After observing the Amir of Ahl al-Sunna's qualities and merits, many shaykhs granted him authorisation in spiritual wayfaring and hadith. To maintain brevity, we will discuss the views of 26 scholars, which aligns with the 26th of Ramadan, the birth date of the Amir of Ahl al-Sunna. If this was to be made into a multi-part series it would likely form a large work.

May Allah grant the Amir of Ahl al-Sunna a long and healthy life and allow him to work further for Islam. By His mercy, may He keep us all in wellbeing.

أَمِيرُنْ بِجَاهِ خَاتَمِ النَّبِيِّينَ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ

1) Mufti Sharīf al-Ḥaqq al-Amjadī (former Head of the Dār al-Iftā' Jāmi'at al-Ashrafiyya, Mubarakpur, India)

Many Sunnis will be familiar with Mufti Sharīf al-Ḥaqq al-

Amjadī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ. He also visited the international headquarters of Dawat-e-Islami in Pakistan and granted the Amir of Ahl al-Sunna deputization in spiritual wayfaring. He was very impressed by the Amir of Ahl al-Sunna's efforts and how far Dawat-e-Islami had come.

He tells:

Mawlana Muhammad Ilyas is carrying out amazing work on an international stage, purely for the sake of Allah and His Messenger صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ, without seeking any monetary recompense. The result of this is that thousands upon thousands of misguided individuals became Sunnis, and countless people who were distant from Islam became firm adherents of the sharia. Many millionaires and graduates grew their beard, began to wear the 'imāma, started offering salah in congregation, began to take an interest in Islamic matters, and went on to inspire others too.

Is this not an achievement we should hope Allah accepts?

The Prophet صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ said, "He who clings to my Sunna when my Umma becomes corrupted will have the reward of a hundred martyrs."¹ If the one who holds fast to the Sunna when the Umma becomes corrupted

¹ Mishkāt: hadith 176

receives the reward of a hundred martyrs, what is the reward for he who not only adheres to the Sunna himself, but is the means of countless people practicing not only not only one Sunna, but many?¹

On another occasion, he said:

I have reached a stage of my life where I cannot go out and do work myself. Otherwise, I would travel in the Qafilas of Dawat-e-Islami, and if I did not have the responsibilities related to Jāmi'at al-Ashrafiyya in Mubarakpur, I would have taken a share in Dawat-e-Islami's efforts.

His views on the Amir of Ahl al-Sunna as mentioned in his legal verdicts

In response to a question, Mufti Sharīf al-Ḥaqq al-Amjadī expresses his love for the Amir Ahl al-Sunna in his book, *Fatāwā Shāriḥ-i-Bukhārī*:

Dawat-e-Islami is a movement of pure Sunni creed, and I have met the founder of this movement, Mawlana Muhammad Ilyas, many times. He is a Sunni individual with correct beliefs and a strict adherent of Imam Aḥmad Razā Khān's methodology. In his unique

¹ Māhnāma Ashrafiyya, January 2006, p. 6

manner, he propagates this by conducting regular gatherings.

All Sunni Muslims must join this movement, support it, and act upon its schedule. Those who criticise this movement and attempt to distance people from it are mistaken. Some of them have misunderstandings and others oppose it due to personal reasons and agendas. The words of such people should not be given any consideration.¹

May Allah have mercy upon him and forgive us without account for his sake.

اٰمِيْنُ بِجَاهِ خَاتِمِ النَّبِيِّينَ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ

صَلُّوْا عَلٰى الْحَبِيْبِ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلٰى مُحَمَّدٍ

2) Shaykh Arshad al-Qādirī رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ

If Shaykh Arshad al-Qādirī رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ was referred to as a king of writing, it would not be without justification. Sunni scholars refer to him with the titles *Ra 'īs al-Qalam* and *Ra 'īs al-Tahrīr*. His writings are must-reads and he himself was a leading intellectual. The Amir of Ahl al-Sunna had the honour of meeting him on a few occasions.

¹ Fatāwā Shāriḥ-i-Bukhārī, vol. 3, p. 485

The following story is sufficient to understand his sentiments regarding the Amir of Ahl al-Sunna.

Once, during a tour of Pakistan, Shaykh Arshad al-Qādirī visited Dawat-e-Islami's international headquarters. When he met with the son and successor of the Amir of Ahl al-Sunna, Haji Ubayd Raza Attari Madani – who was studying an Islamic scholarship course at the time – he asked, “Son, what do you do?”

“I study in Jamiat al-Madina,” Haji Ubayd replied.

Due to his keen insight, the shaykh then said, “Son, study well! Not everyone receives *‘ilm al-ladunnī* like your father.”

On another occasion, he said regarding the Amir of Ahl al-Sunna, “It is a reality that a single Mawlana Muhammad Ilyas Qadiri has caused a transformation in the entire world.”¹

May Allah have mercy upon him and forgive us without account for his sake.

صَلُّوا عَلَى الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ

3) Mawlana Abd al-Mannan Raza Khan

He is the great grandson of Imam Aḥmad Razā Khān, grandson and successor of Mufti A‘ẓam-i-Hind, and founder of Jāmi‘a

¹ Ta‘āruf Amīr-i-Ahl-i-Sunnat, p. 59; Amīr-i-Ahl-i-Sunnat ke bārē mēin 1163 Ulamā-i-Ahl-i-Sunnat kē Tā‘assurāt, p. 24

Amir Ahl al-Sunna in the Eyes of Sunnī Scholars

Nūriyya Razawiyya, Bareilly, India.

A graduate of Dār al-‘Ulūm Manẓar-i-Islam, Mawlana Abd al-Mannan Raza Khan مُؤَدِّبُهُ الْعَالِمُ issued the Amir of Ahl al-Sunna authorisation in the Qādirī Razawī spiritual path. On many occasions, he has expressed his positive views regarding the Amir of Ahl al-Sunna in several videos. The following are some comments he made on behalf of Imam Aḥmad Razā Khān’s family in Bareilly, which are being presented here with some changes:

It is from the grace and bounty of Allah that the founder of Dawat-e-Islami, Mawlana Ilyas Qadiri not only spread love for the Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ, but also instilled admiration for Imam Aḥmad Razā Khān in the hearts of people, which is a most commendable achievement. أَخْبَرْتُكُمْ I have come to know that Dawat-e-Islami has spread to many countries.

May Allah make it a means of further propagating the methodology of Imam Aḥmad Razā Khān, and may He bestow upon it His grace and generosity. May Allah grant him (the Amir of Ahl al-Sunna) health and well-being, and may we witness further aid and service to Islam through him. I have expressed my sincere feelings. May Allah accept.

Following this, Mawlana Abd al-Mannan أَطَالَ اللهُ عُمرَهُ very humbly

states, “This lowly and needy individual in on board with this sincere endeavour (i.e. the work of Dawat-e-Islami).” (Composed from a video)



To watch the video, scan this QR code:

In another video, Mawlana Abd al-Mannan Raza Khan expressed his feelings through the following slogan: “Long live the leader of Dawat-e-Islami, Mawlana Ilyas Qadiri!” (Composed from video)

May Allah have mercy upon him and forgive us without account for his sake.

اميرِن بِجَاهِ خَاتِمِ النَّبِيِّينَ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ

May Allah preserve the blessed family of Imam Aḥmad Razā Khān and the grand spiritual centre that is Bareilly. May He allow the methodology of Imam Aḥmad Razā Khān to spread successfully around the world.

اميرِن بِجَاهِ خَاتِمِ النَّبِيِّينَ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ

صَلُّوا عَلَى الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ

4) Mufti A‘zam-i-Hind student, Mufti Muti al-Rahman
Muztar Razawi

Mufti Muhammad Muti al-Rahman Muztar Razawi مُدَّةِ ظِلُّهُ الْعَالِي is a major Islamic scholar and mufti of India. He has worked tirelessly for Islam. Expressing his heartfelt sentiments about the Amir of Ahl al-Sunna, he said:

I am sinful and Mawlana Ilyas Qadiri is covered in piety.

May Allah place blessings in his life. May Allah grant him success in the mission he has taken on. It is not his own work, but work for Islam. This is our collective endeavour. He is worthy of being commended by all of us. We make dua that Allah grants him a long life and utilises him for the religion as much as possible.

We cannot carry out work in the way that Dawat-e-Islami is doing, just as an Arabic proverb says: بِكُلِّ فِئَةٍ رِجَالٌ. This means, Allah created different people for varying tasks.

Our only desire is that Allah grants success to every Sunni that is working for Islam anywhere in world, and allows them to continue this. (Composed from a video)



To watch the video, scan this QR code:

May Allah have mercy upon him and forgive us without account for his sake.

اٰمِيْنُ بِجَاهِ خَاتِمِ النَّبِيِّينَ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ

صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَى الْحَبِيبِ

5) Mawlana Khawājah Muẓaffar Ḥusayn

(Shaykh al-Hadith Dār al-‘Ulūm Nūr al-Ḥaqq, Chara Muhammadpur,
Faizabad, India)

A prolific teacher and master of Islamic sciences, Shaykh Khawājah Muẓaffar Ḥusayn رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ was Shaykh al-Hadith in an Islamic seminary of India known as Nūr al-Ḥaqq. He was very impressed by the renowned book of the Amir of Ahl al-Sunna, entitled *Blessings of Sunna*. Let us read some of the titles he referred to Amir of Ahl al-Sunna with in his praise of this work:

May countless grace and favour pour upon the Amir of Ahl al-Sunna, the founder and leader of Dawat-e-Islami, the devotee of Medina, Mawlana Muhammad Ilyas Attar Qadiri. He has meticulously collected rubies, diamonds, and pearls, gathered them in one place, then named this collection *Blessings of Sunna*, and presented it to those whose hearts beat earnestly in remembrance of the beloved صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ.

When this book appeared, the people began to read and act upon it with tearful eyes and eager hearts. I was also impressed by this book, such that when I received its first edition, I ensured to be in wudu before placing it

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on a stand to read from. It left me with tears in my eyes,
and I read it numerous times.¹

May Allah have mercy upon him and forgive us without account
for his sake.

اميرُنْ بِجَاهِ خَاتِمِ النَّبِيِّينَ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ

صَلُّوا عَلَى الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ

6) Mufti Shams al-Huda al-Misbahi

(Former teacher at Jāmi‘āt al-Ashrafiyya Mubarakpur, India, and
current mufti of Dār al-Iftā' Kanz al-Īmān, West Yorkshire, UK)

A former teacher at the celebrated Jāmi‘āt al-Ashrafiyya,
Mubarakpur, India, Mufti Shams al-Huda Misbahi مُدَّةُ الْعَالِي –
who has been residing in the UK for several years now – has
visited many centres of Dawat-e-Islami in India, Pakistan and
Europe. From time to time, in his lectures and writings, he
commends the activities of Dawat-e-Islami and praises the Amir
Ahl of al-Sunna. Many of his comments can be viewed and
heard on YouTube and other online platforms. The following is
a statement of his which has been taken from a video, with some
minor changes:

¹ Taqrīz Faizān-e-Sunnat, p. 3

I feel that this is the special benevolence of the Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ that he is utilising this organisation (Dawat-e-Islami) to fulfil his mission.

It would not be an overstatement to say about Mawlana Ilyas Attar al-Qadiri, that Attar is the name of Raza's teachings. This organisation is promulgating the methodology of Imam Aḥmad Razā Khān to every corner of the world in various languages, in both verbal and written form. This is not only for men, but women also.

We make dua that Allah grants it further success and protects it from envy and evil.

May Allah have mercy upon him and forgive us without account for his sake.

اٰمِيْنُ بِجَاهِ خَاتِمِ النَّبِيِّينَ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ

صَلُّوْا عَلٰى الْحَبِيْبِ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلٰى مُحَمَّدٍ

7) Mawlana Mufti Muhammad Azam Razawi مُدَّةُ الْعَالِي

When an individual or group strives their utmost for something praiseworthy, it is a promise of Allah that He will deliver them to success and to their goal.

وَالَّذِيْنَ جَاهَدُوْا فَاٰمِنَّا كَتَبْنَا لَهُمْ سُبُلَنَا وَاِنَّ اللهَ لَعَٰلِمُ الْمُحْسِنِيْنَ ﴿٢١٨﴾

Amir Ahl al-Sunna in the Eyes of Sunnī Scholars

*And those who strived in Our path, We shall most definitely show them Our ways. Surely Allah is with the virtuous.*¹

The Amir of Ahl al-Sunna is the murid of Shaykh Ḍiyā al-Dīn al-Madanī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ and the spiritual successor of the shaykh's son, Mawlana Fadl al-Rahman. He calls to the Ahl al-Sunna and is deeply inspired by Imam Aḥmad Razā Khān.²

May Allah have mercy upon him and forgive us without account for his sake.

اميرِنُ بِجَاهِ خَاتِمِ النَّبِيِّينَ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ

صَلُّوا عَلَيَّ الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيَّ مُحَمَّدٍ

8) Mawlana Mufti Badr al-Qādirī

A distinguished student of Mufti A'zam-i-Hind, Mufti Badr al-Qādirī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ passed away on around the 1st of Safar (19th September 2021). May Allah shower mercy upon his resting place.

¹ Al-Quran, al-ʿAnkabūt, verse 69; translation from Kanz al-ʿIrfān

² Amīr-i-Ahl-i-Sunnat ke bārē mēin 1163 Ulamā-i-Ahl-i-Sunnat kē Tā'assurāt, p. 63

Among the scholars who lauded the Amir of Ahl al-Sunna, he is from the foremost of them, and has even penned some poetry to this end. In one video, he made the following statements:

أَلْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ Dawat-e-Islami has spread across the entire globe; its work is international. For around ten years, I have been trying to convince people that there is only one international organisation of Ahl al-Sunna in the entire world that is connected to “قَالَ اللَّهُ وَقَالَ الرَّسُولُ”، and to the Sunna of the Prophet صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ, and that is Dawat-e-Islami. This was neither formed by itself nor in one day. Instead, the Amir of Ahl al-Sunna, his friends, and those who aided them have strived greatly for it.

After attaining special spiritual blessings from Medina, the fruits of the work that the Amir of Ahl al-Sunna started in Karachi can be seen spread throughout the world today أَلْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ.

May Allah have mercy upon him and forgive us without account for his sake.

أَمِيرُنْ بِجَاهِ خَاتِمِ النَّبِيِّينَ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ

صَلُّوا عَلَيَّ الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيَّ مُحَمَّدٍ

9) Mawlana ‘Abd al-Salām al-Qādiri al-Riḍawī

Amir Ahl al-Sunna in the Eyes of Sunnī Scholars

In 1399 AH, corresponding to 1979, the Amir of Ahl al-Sunna visited Sri Lanka for his nephew's wedding.

On the 11th of Rabī' al-Ākhir (10 March 1979) during zuhr salah at Hanafiyya Memon Masjid, he met Shaykh 'Abd al-Salām Qādirī رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ.

The shaykh saw many praiseworthy traits found in the character and mindset of the Amir of Ahl al-Sunna. During a gathering that took place in commemoration of Shaykh 'Abd al-Qādir al-Jīlānī, the shaykh said to the Amir of Ahl al-Sunna:

This night does not come again and again. It is a major occasion with regards to the spiritual path, so I grant you authorisation in the Qādirī spiritual path. As I am a representative of Sayyidī Quṭb al-Medina, I make you another of his representatives. I also give you authorisation in all the spiritual paths I have licenses in besides the Qādirī way.¹

May Allah have mercy upon him and forgive us without account for his sake.

اميرُنْ بِجَاهِ خَاتِمِ النَّبِيِّينَ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ

صَلُّوا عَلَيَّ الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيَّ مُحَمَّدٍ

¹ Faizān-i-Mawlānā 'Abd al-Salām al-Qādirī, p. 65

10) Mufti Waqār al-Dīn

The former grand mufti of Pakistan, Waqār al-Dīn رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ was very close with the Amir Ahl al-Sunna, as over a period of 22 years, the latter regularly travelled profusely to study with him and ask questions. He has many favours upon the Amir of Ahl al-Sunna, and also granted him authorisation in his spiritual path.

The following is a response to a question he was asked about the Amir of Ahl al-Sunna, which can be found in his book *Waqār al-Fatāwā*:

I have known the founder of Dawat-e-Islami, Ilyas Qadiri, for many years, as he would frequent me. It is through his consistent questions that he has become a person of knowledge. I readied him to establish this organisation and administered him authorisation in the spiritual path.

He is my representative. There is no doubt he is a Sunni, and a staunch one at that. He is also deeply inspired by Imam Aḥmad Razā Khān.¹

May Allah have mercy upon him and forgive us without account for his sake.

اٰمِيْنُ بِجَاهِ خَاتِمِ النَّبِيِّينَ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ

¹ Waqār al-Fatāwā, vol. 2, p. 202

صَلُّوا عَلَى الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ

11) Sayyid Aḥmad Saʿīd Kāzīmī

The Ghazālī of his age, the Rāzī of his era, the Lion of Islam, Sayyid Aḥmad Saʿīd Kāzīmī رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ was one of Pakistan's leading scholars. He had great passion for the religion. In Muḥarram 1403 AH, corresponding to 1983, he said the following:

To my brothers in the Ahl al-Sunna:

السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكُمْ وَرَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى، وَيَرْكَاتُهُ

اَلْحَمْدُ لِلّٰهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ The void which Sunnis were feeling for a long time is being filled by the admirable efforts of Mawlana Muhammad Ilyas Qadiri. It is an obligation upon our scholars and shaykhs to spread the message of Dawat-e-Islami to every corner of Pakistan, as well as overseas.

Every Sunni should know that Ilyas Qadiri is a firm Sunni and a murid of Mawlana Muhammad Ḍiyā al-Dīn al-Qādirī al-Madanī.

وَالسَّلَامُ مَعَ الْاَكْبَرِ، وَصَلَّى اللهُ تَعَالَى عَلَى حَبِيبِهِ وَرَسُولِهِ مُحَمَّدٍ، وَآلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ

May Allah have mercy upon him and forgive us without account for his sake.

اُمِّيْنُ بِجَاهِ خَاتِمِ النَّبِيِّينَ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ

صَلُّوا عَلَيَّ الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيَّ مُحَمَّدٍ

12) Mufti Muhammad Faiz Aḥmad Owaisī Razawī

Mufti Muhammad Faiz Aḥmad Owaisī Razawī رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ writes:

What can I say about Mawlana Ilyas Qadiri? اَلْحَمْدُ لِلّٰهِ He possesses many qualities, the greatest of which is love for the Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ and for Imām Aḥmad Razā Khān. His work of propagating the religion, which he has done in a short space of time, is an immense favour of Allah upon him.

On another occasion, he mentioned the following about Dawat-e-Islami's activities:

اَلْحَمْدُ لِلّٰهِ Dawat-e-Islami has spread to all countries, and is particularly prevalent in ours. It has had positive impact on the youth, children, elders, and all people. Allah blessed them such that they are universal in their scope of operation. Scholars and servants of the religion who were already well-known have also joined them.

اَلْحَمْدُ لِلّٰهِ The rest of their workers are sincere and carrying out the work of Islam. I make dua that Allah

extends the life of this great man and grants him success in all his endeavours.¹

اميرين بجاه خاتم النبيين صلى الله عليه وآله وسلم

صَلُّوا عَلَى الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ

13) Abū Dawūd Muhammad Şiddiq Razawī رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ

May Allah, for the sake of the Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ, place blessings within the life and health of Mawlana Muhammad Ilyas Qadiri, the Amir of Dawat-e-Islami, the propagator of Islam and Sunna. May Allah always keep him in safety and protection.

مَا شَاءَ اللهُ He has played an exemplary role in spreading and serving Islam, across a wide spectrum of endeavours. By filling the hearts of the youth with love for the Prophet, he has made them devotees of Medina and those who are ready to sacrifice themselves for the Master of Medina صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ.

May Allah safeguard him from the evil eye and the evil of enemies, and may He allow this work to continue.²

¹ Amīr-i-Ahl-i-Sunnat ke bārē mēin 1163 Ulamā-i-Ahl-i-Sunnat kē Tā'assurāt, p. 25

² Amīr-i-Ahl-i-Sunnat ke bārē mēin 1163 Ulamā-i-Ahl-i-Sunnat kē Tā'assurāt, p. 29

اميرُن بِجَاهِ خَاتِمِ النَّبِيِّينَ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ

صَلُّوا عَلَيَّ الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيَّ مُحَمَّدٍ

14) Shaykh ‘Abd al-Ḥakīm Sharaf al-Qādirī رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ

نَحْنُدُّهُ وَنُصَلِّيْ عَلَى رَسُوْلِهِ الْكَرِيْمِ

A hadith mentions:

مَنْ أَحْيَا سُنَّتِي بَعْدَ مَا أُمِيَّتَتْ فَلَهُ أَجْرُ مِائَةِ شَهِيدٍ

He who revived a Sunna of mine after it was abandoned, shall have the reward of a hundred martyrs.

Considering this, one can imagine the reward that the Amir of Dawat-e-Islami, Mawlana Ilyas al-Qadiri, and the preachers of Dawat-e-Islami will receive. By their admirable efforts, hundreds of thousands have not only become practicing Muslims, but have also adopted the Sunna of the Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ too. Just as this success is owed to the Amir of Dawat-e-Islami's tireless efforts and lectures, his book *Blessings of Sunna* also plays a major role.

Muhammad ‘Abd al-Ḥakīm Sharaf (Founder of Maktaba Qadiriyya) - 6th Dhu al-Ḥijja 1427 AH - 28 December 2006

(15) Shaykh Manshā Tābīsh Qaṣūrī رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ

Amir Ahl al-Sunna in the Eyes of Sunni Scholars

The Amir of Dawat-e-Islami, Muhammad Ilyas al-Qadiri is that blessed personality whose practical efforts have influenced countless young Muslims. He has established himself as a minaret on the path of the Ahl al-Sunnat wa al-Jamā'a.

Encouraging the young generation to follow the Sunna is no minor achievement.

It is proof of the honourable Amir's noble efforts that every person affiliated with this organisation, be they young or old, man or woman; they possess a love for Islam and attempt to live their temporary lives in a manner that produces the best outcome for them in the eternal Hereafter.

You will find large numbers of people from every walk of life who are ready to sacrifice everything for his movement. What can be greater than seeing people receiving the treasure of love for Allah and for His Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ.

Every action of his is to propagate the Muhammadan sharia. His literary works highlight the way we should act. His poems extol the Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ and longing for Medina is his everything.¹

صَلُّوا عَلَى الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ

¹ Amīr-i-Ahl-i-Sunnat ke bārē mēin 1163 Ulamā-i-Ahl-i-Sunnat kē Tā'assurāt, p. 57

16) Sayyid Turāb al-Ḥaqq al-Qādirī

When Sayyid Turāb al-Ḥaqq al-Qādirī رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ was asked about the Amir of Ahl al-Sunna, he declared:

I have been acquainted with Mawlana Ilyas Qadiri for the past 35 years. You can imagine for yourself what his age was at that time. It is our view that Dawat-e-Islami is a Sunni organisation, he is one who possesses authentic Sunni beliefs, and his Dawat-e-Islami is carrying out work for Islam. He is supported by scholars of the Ahl al-Sunna.

In response to another question, he once said, “Ilyas Qadiri is from the Ahl al-Sunnat wa al-Jamā‘a. Attend his gatherings and attain blessings there.” (Composed from a video)



To watch the video, scan this QR code:

(17) Mufti Muḥammad Nasim Misbahi مَدَّ ظِلُّهُ الْعَالِي

Dawat-e-Islami is a movement of Ahl al-Sunnat wa al-Jamā‘a. Over a period of 40 years, this organisation has brought countless people to the right path. There is no telling of how many people grew their beards due to them. Whether we look at their building of masjids and madrassas, publishing of literature, or any other religious work, they have carried it out in an exemplary manner.

The initiator of these efforts is the personality who call Muhammad Ilyas Attar Qadiri, and what an immense amount this amazing man has done.

Jāmi‘at al-Ashrafiyya Mubarakapur of Azamgarh, as well as this insignificant person (humbly referring to himself); we support Dawat-e-Islami and are ready to carry out any work we can. May Allah bless and lengthen the Amir of Ahl al-Sunna’s life.

18) Mufti Muhammad ‘Abd al-Qayyūm Hazārwi

The founder and principal of Lahore’s Jāmi‘a Nizāmiyya Razawiyya and the Raza Foundation, the former grand mufti of Pakistan, ‘Abd al-Qayyūm Hazārwi رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ said regarding the Amir of Ahl al-Sunna:

I have met him myself. I found him to be extremely humble, practicing, concerned with people’s wellbeing, respectful of scholars, and exceptionally sincere in the matter of strengthening and spreading Islam.

Seeing the young people affiliated with his movement and adhering to the Sunna is a continuous testament to his sincerity, steadfastness, effort, and struggle. Without any exaggeration, he is an invaluable treasure for Ahl al-Sunnat wa al-Jamā‘a.¹

¹ Amīr-i-Ahl-i-Sunnat ke bārē mēin 1163 Ulamā-i-Ahl-i-Sunnat kē Tā’assurāt, p. 24

صَلُّوا عَلَيَّ الْحَيِّبِ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيَّ مُحَمَّدٍ

19) Rajab Dīb al-Shāmī رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ (Syria)

I was just asked regarding the gathering in Multan and how I found it. I say that with the grace of Allah, I have visited many countries but have not beheld a larger gathering of sacred knowledge and dhikr other than in the plains of Arafat. The organising of such a large gathering is a proof that the Amir of Ahl al-Sunna is somebody who is close to Allah.

If the ruler of a country or any other high-ranking person attempted this, then leave alone many people congregating, they would be unable to get even a few to gather.

Yet, the Amir of Ahl al-Sunna is widely loved. He conducted such an expansive gathering only to teach people of Islam.

When I say his name, I perceive something more delightful than sweet food. The satisfaction of food is restricted to the mouth, but love for the beloved servants of Allah is sensed in the heart.

When the Shaykh was leaving the Amir of Ahl al-Sunna's house to return home, he exclaimed, "I smell a fragrance here similar to what I smelt at the shrine of Allah's Messenger صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ. My body is departing but my heart remains here."



To watch the video, scan this QR code:

Amir Ahl al-Sunna in the Eyes of Sunnī Scholars

May Allah have mercy upon the scholars of the Ahl al-Sunna, and forgive us without account for their sake.

صَلُّوا عَلَيَّ الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيَّ مُحَمَّدٍ

20) Sayyid Abd al-Aziz al-Khatib al-Dimashqi

A few years ago, Sayyid Abd al-Aziz al-Khatib al-Dimashqi al-Shafi'i مُدَّةُ الْعَالِي, along with his associates, visited the international headquarters of Dawat-e-Islami. He was warmly welcomed and gave the following advice to the Islamic brothers who were present there, “We direct you to remain in his company (referring to the Amir of Ahl al-Sunna) and take benefit from it, just as you take benefit from his speeches.”

He then addressed the Amir of Ahl al-Sunna with these words:

Sayyidi Shaykh Ilyas, if Allah asks me on the Day of Judgement whether I spent any time in the company of a righteous person, I will respond, ‘Yes, I spent some time with Ilyas Qadiri.’ Whoever of us attains salvation, he will grasp the hand of his brother (i.e., intercede for him).”

(21) Shaykh Maḥmūd Nāṣir al-Ḥūt al-Ḥalabī al-Shāfi'ī al-Azhari رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ

Truly, this meeting with the Amir of Ahl al-Sunna is a source of blessings, and perhaps it will give us ease in the future and the

ability to carry out major works. **أَخْبِدْ يَلِيَهُ** This Umma is still producing people of this calibre.

I say to the people of Pakistan that they should stay in the company of this great scholar. This Umma will remain upon goodness so long as they hold fast to individuals like this.

To watch the videos of Sayyid Abd al-Aziz al-Khatib and Shaykh

Maḥmūd Nāṣir al-Ḥūt, scan this QR code:



صَلُّوا عَلَيَّ الْحَبِيبِ **صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيَّ مُحَمَّدٍ**

(22) Sayyid al-Habib Umar b. Hafiz (Yemen)

The internationally renowned Shāfiʿī scholar of Tarim, Yemen, Habib Umar b. Hafiz **حَفِظَهُ اللَّهُ** is the head of a celebrated institute known as Dar al-Mustafa. He is from the most well-known scholars of the Arab world. He has a sizeable number of admirers, and often tours various countries to spread Islam. Some time ago, he visited the international headquarters of Dawat-e-Islami and met the Amir of Ahl al-Sunna.

On one occasion, he expressed the following views in relation to the Amir of Ahl al-Sunna:

Shaykh Muhammad Ilyas al-Qadiri leads the blessed Sunni movement in Karachi, known as Dawat-e-Islami. May Allah grant him a long life of health, bestow upon

him perpetual well-being, place blessings in his efforts, make his benefit widespread, accept his services, and bless those affiliated with Dawat-e-Islami and the members of its Central Executive Committee.

May He place blessings in the various righteous activities and services of Dawat-e-Islami and in the money that is spent on it. It (Dawat-e-Islami) is steadfast upon the path of the pious predecessors, i.e., the Companions رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُمْ and Tābi'īn رَحِمَهُمُ اللهُ. It walks the path of the Ahl al-Sunnat wa al-Jamā'a.



To watch the video, scan this QR code:

(23) Abd al-Hadi al-Kharasah al-Dimashqi حَفَظَهُ اللهُ

Shaykh Abd al-Hadi Muhammad al-Kharasah al-Dimashqi al-Hanafī al-Shadhili حَفَظَهُ اللهُ is one of the most renowned and distinguished scholars of Syria. He is a graduate of Ma'had al-Fath al-Islami and Jāmi'at al-Azhar. He is a scholar, author of several books, poet, Sufi, and one of the foremost shaykhs of the Shādhili way. He also met the Amir Ahl al-Sunna and made the following statement:

It is from the special grace of Allah that He honoured me to visit the Faizan-e-Madina centre of the Islamic organisation, Dawat-e-Islami. Things found

individually in other organisations are found together in this one international centre.

In reality, this work is the work of the entire Umma. Members of this Umma have dedicated their time to support this undertaking with their intellectual abilities, physical skills, knowledge, and finances, whilst seeking proximity to Allah and desiring to deliver the true message of Islam untouched by any innovation, misguidance, or doubt. These people are spreading Muhammadan light to all parts of the world.

We thank Allah for granting us the opportunity to meet a great personality like Shaykh Muhammad Ilyas al-Qadiri. May Allah reward this esteemed and noble individual.

We make dua to Allah that He grants the shaykh blessings in his life, bestows upon him health and well-being, and allows his teachings to remain with us and all Muslims. May Allah bless the shaykh's students and representatives, and make them sources of benefit that spread throughout the world, until by His grace, this light reaches every heart, mind, and home.

وَصَلَّى اللهُ وَسَلَّمَ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَىٰ آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ

(Translation of an Arabic video)



To watch the video, scan this QR code:

24) A message from Chechnya's mufti, Salih Majidof

مَدَّ ظِلُّهُ الْعَالِي

Our most beloved and honourable shaykh, Muhammad Ilyas Attar Qadiri **حَفَظَهُ اللهُ**! We had love and admiration for you even before we met. May Allah grant you health, well-being, and even more honour. Your efforts for serving Islam will hopefully be accepted. Remember us in your gatherings and prayers, and do not forget us when you stand before Allah. May He grant you further blessings and health. (Translated from an Arabic video)



To watch the video, scan this QR code:

25) Mufti Abd al-Mannan **مَدَّ ظِلُّهُ الْعَالِي**

(Translator of Kanz al-Īmān, Mufti of Bangladesh)

أَحَبُّ إِلَيْهِ I have great admiration for all the activities of Dawat-e-Islami. This Sunna-propagating movement that has been established in this time of tribulations and detachment from the religion, has created new hope in the Sunni world. Alongside preaching, the vast collection of books I have seen will cause a

major transformation within the Sunni world **إِنْ شَاءَ اللَّهُ**. I was very impressed. I make dua to Allah that He grants Dawat-e-Islami further success.

My first meeting with Ilyas al-Qadiri took place in Dubai, and upon seeing him, I became certain he is a saint **الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ**.

May Allah have mercy upon all Sunni scholars and forgive us without account for their sake.

اميرين بجاہ خاتم النبیین صلی اللہ علیہ وآلہ وسلم



To watch the video, scan this QR code:

صَلُّوا عَلَيَّ الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيَّ مُحَمَّدٍ

26) Qadi Muin al-Din **مُدَّةَ ظِلِّهِ الْعَالِي**

(Jamia Subhaniyyah Aaliyah, Chittagong, Bangladesh)

From the time I came to know of Dawat-e-Islami, I have expressed gratitude in the court of Allah, as we were waiting for a long time for such action to be taken. The sacrifices of Mawlana Abu Bilal Ilyas Attar al-Qadiri Razawi resulted in the formation of that organisation in Pakistan, which now calls to righteousness on an international level, in accordance with the way of Ahl al-Sunna. I have witnessed their work in many places. They are

Amir Ahl al-Sunna in the Eyes of Sunni Scholars

bringing Muslims from every field to the correct path. There is no match to such work. (Translated from a video)



To watch the video, scan this QR code:

صَلُّوا عَلَى الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ