

# The Supreme Character of Imam Ahmad Raza Khan

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Thought-provoking speech of weekly  
sunnah-inspiring ijtimā

(For Islamic Brothers)

أَلْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ وَالصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَى سَيِّدِ الْمُرْسَلِينَ  
أَمَّا بَعْدُ فَأَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

## The Supreme Character of Imam Ahmad Raza Khan

وَعَالِي إِلَيْكَ وَأَصْحَبِكَ يَا حَبِيبَ اللَّهِ  
وَالصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ  
وَعَالِي إِلَيْكَ وَأَصْحَبِكَ يَا نُورَ اللَّهِ  
وَالصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا نَبِيَّ اللَّهِ

### نَوَيْتُ سُنَّتَ الْإِعْتِكَافِ

**Translation:** I have made the intention of Sunnah I'tikaf.

Dear Islamic brothers! Whenever you enter a Masjid, upon remembering, make the intention of I'tikaf because as long as you stay in the Masjid you will keep getting the reward of I'tikaf. Remember! There is no Shar'i permission to eat and drink, sleep or do Sahari and Iftari even to drink Zamzam water and the water on which *Dam* has been made in a Masjid. However, if the intention of I'tikaf is made, all these acts will become permissible. One should not make intention to observe I'tikaf only to eat, drink or sleep, but rather he should do it for pleasing Allah Almighty.

It is stated in *Fatawa Shaami*: If someone wants to eat, drink, sleep in a Masjid, he should make intention to observe I'tikaf, do Zikr of Allah Almighty for some time, then whatever he wants he can do (i.e. now if he wants to eat, drink or sleep, he can do so.).

## Virtue of Salat upon the Prophet

The Blessed and Beloved Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ states:

مَا جَلَسَ قَوْمٌ مَجْلِسًا لَمْ يَذْكُرُوا اللَّهَ فِيهِ، وَلَمْ يَصَلُّوا عَلَيَّ بَيْنَهُمْ، إِلَّا كَانَ عَلَيْهِمُ بَرَكَةٌ فَإِنْ شَاءَ عَذَّبَهُمْ وَإِنْ شَاءَ غَفَرَ لَهُمْ

**Meaning**, the gathering in which people do not praise Allah and do not send Salat upon the Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ, will be a means of regret on the Day of Judgement. If He wills, Allah will punish them or if He wills, He will forgive them.<sup>1</sup>

صَلُّوا عَلَى الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ

The Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ has stated: **أَفْضَلُ الْعَمَلِ النَّيَّةُ الصَّادِقَةُ** A truthful intention is the best action.<sup>2</sup> O devotees of the Prophet! Get into the habit of making good intentions before every action, because a good intention can be the cause of entering Paradise. Before listening to the Bayan, make good intentions. For example,

- you will listen to the entire Bayan to gain the knowledge of Islam;
- you will sit in a respectful manner;
- you will refrain from laziness during the bayan;
- you will listen to the bayan to reform yourself, and
- whatever you hear and learn, you will attempt to pass onto others.

صَلُّوا عَلَى الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ

O devotees of Imam Ahmad Raza Khan!

The Imam of the Ahl al-Sunnah, Imam Ahmad Raza Khan رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ was born on the 10<sup>th</sup> of Shawwal. **أَلْحَقْدُ لِلَّهِ**, he was a true embodiment of worship, piety, righteousness, love of the Prophet, humility, humbleness and knowledge. **إِنْ شَاءَ اللهُ** today we will listen to some inspiring events

<sup>1</sup> Tirmizi, vol. 5, p. 247, Hadith 3391

<sup>2</sup> Jami' al-Saghir, p. 81, Hadith 1284

regarding Imam Ahmad Raza Khan رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ, in order to gain mercy and blessings.

## Imam Ahmad Raza Khan's aversion to arrogance

The Khalifah of Imam Ahmad Raza Khan رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ, Mawlana Sayyid Ayyub Ali Razavi رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ mentions, a man would visit Imam Ahmad Raza Khan رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ and sometimes, he رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ would visit the man too. On one occasion, Imam Ahmad Raza Khan was with this person, whilst a poor man from a village was sitting on a broken bed towards the edge of the courtyard. The man, who was the owner of the home, began to look at the poor person angrily, such that the poor man became embarrassed and left. The Imam was troubled by the man's arrogance, but he did not say anything. After some days, the man then went to visit the Imam. The great Imam made space for him to sit when a barber named Kareem Bakhsh arrived to shape the Imam's beard. The barber began to wonder where he should sit, until Imam Ahmad Raza Khan رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ said, "Brother Kareem Bakhsh! Why are you standing? Muslims are brothers to one another." He then indicated for him to sit next to the other man. As soon as the barber sat down, the man became angry like a hissing snake. He immediately stood up and left, never to return.<sup>3</sup>

صَلُّوا عَلَى الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ

O devotees of Imam Ahmad Raza Khan! Look at his excellent Madani mindset of establishing equality and brotherhood between Islamic brothers, no matter what their conditions are. The great Imam has told us, regardless of whether you are great, rich respected and lofty in worldly rank or from a noble family, you do not have the right to think lowly of another Muslim. You do not have the right of disgracing someone who earns through permissible means. In fact, a Muslim

<sup>3</sup> Hayat A'la Hazrat, p. 105

should be well-mannered towards everyone, and he should smile at others to make them happy, as treating Muslims equally is from the enlightened teachings of Islam. It is unfortunate that we have abandoned these teachings and have taken our nationality, language and caste as factors of superiority over others. Whereas, the Muslims who are more honourable and elevated in the sight of Allah are those who are more pious. It is stated in the 13<sup>th</sup> Ayah of Surah al-Hujuraat:

إِنَّ أَكْرَمَكُمْ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ أَتْقَىٰ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلِيمٌ خَبِيرٌ ﴿١٣﴾

Indeed, the most honourable amongst you, according to Allah, is the one who is most pious amongst you. Indeed, Allah is All-Knowing, All-Aware.<sup>4</sup>

صَلُّوا عَلَى الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ

O devotees of the Awliya! Today, our society is rapidly moving towards destruction and ruin. Wherever you look, you will find people expressing their arrogance based on their lineage and nationality. The same people will humiliate and look down on others who are different to them. This is causing Islamic brotherhood between us to end. Hatred and enmity continue to brew against one another. These enmities, arguments and fights usually escalate to killing and devastation. The Prophet صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ said:

O people! You have One Lord and one father. Hear this! An Arab is not superior to a non-Arab, nor does a non-Arab have superiority over an Arab. Someone with fair skin is not greater than someone with dark skin, nor are the dark skinned greater than the fair skinned. The one who is pious is more superior amongst you. Indeed, the most pious amongst you are the most honourable in the sight of Allah.<sup>5</sup>

صَلُّوا عَلَى الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ

<sup>4</sup> [Kanz-ul-Iman (translation of Quran)] (Part 26, Surah Al- Hujuraat ,verse 13)

<sup>5</sup> Shu'ab Al-Iman, vol. 4, p. 289, Hadith 5137

O devotees of Imam Ahmad Raza Khan! A great work of the Imam of Ahl ul-Sunnah رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ that served as a tool of spreading knowledge and aiding the Ummah, was his famous translation of the Quran, “Kanz al-Iman”. This miraculous translation was dictated verbally from memory by the great Imam, and the honourable scholars have found it to be in complete accordance with Shar’iah.

Dear Islamic brothers! Without doubt, the Quran is the complete book of Allah which tells us how to live our lives. The Quran is a perfect source of guidance for everyone, but to understand its words and the rulings of Allah, a translation is necessary. اَلْحَمْدُ لِلّٰهِ, from the Urdu translations of the Quran, “Kanz al-Iman” is the best. Therefore, we should make a habit of spending some time reciting the Quran.

Ameer of Ahl ul-Sunnah, Allamah Mawlana Muhammad Ilyas Attar Qadiri Razavi دَامَتْ بَرَكَاتُهُمُ الْعَالَمِيَّةُ encourages us to recite the Quran and read its tafseer. In the Pious Deeds booklet for Islamic brothers, he asks us in Pious Deed number 6: “Today, have you recited or listened to at least three verses of the Holy Quran with translation Kanz al-Iman and commentary on the Holy Quran, Khaza`in-ul-Irfan or Noor-ul-‘Irfan; or have you read or listened to at least two pages of Siraat-ul-Jinaan?”

If we act upon this on a daily basis, then due to the blessings of the Quran, our homes will be enveloped in mercy and blessings. Through reading the translation and tafseer of the Quran, our Islamic knowledge will increase and it will be easier for us to understand the Quran. This will allow us to acquire a huge treasure of knowledge. Also read the tafseer published by Maktaba tul Madina, “Siraat al-Jinaan”. This tafseer also provides a treasure of knowledge for the Ummah to benefit from.

صَلُّوْا عَلَی الْحَبِیْبِ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَیْ مُحَمَّدٍ

## Imam Ahmad Raza Khan رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ and his altruistic nature

O devotees of Imam Ahmad Raza Khan! Another of his great characteristics, was that he would give what was beloved to him to others. Here is a notable incident from his life.

### Giving an Umbrella to the Needy

During the rainy season, people would go to the Masjid and travel in the rain. Haji Kifayatullah رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ felt the difficulty of this and purchased an umbrella and gave it as a gift, but kept it with himself. When Haji Kifayatullah would see Imam Ahmad Raza Khan رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ, he would take the Imam with him to the Masjid under the umbrella. A few days passed and someone who needed an umbrella requested for one. The Imam رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ immediately took the umbrella from Haji Kifayatullah رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ and gave it to the one in need.<sup>6</sup>

صَلُّوا عَلَى الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ

O devotees of Imam Ahmad Raza Khan! You have heard of the generosity and sacrifice of the great Imam. Despite needing things for himself, he would give them to others in need without any hesitation. He knew how Islam taught us to be compassionate, caring and generous to others. He knew how Islam taught us to increase the love between people by giving gifts to others, in a permissible manner. This is why he would be elated when given the opportunity to give preference to his Muslim brothers over himself. It is stated in a Hadith: “Someone who desires something, then withholds that desire and gives preference (to someone else) over himself, shall be forgiven by Allah”<sup>7</sup>

صَلُّوا عَلَى الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ

<sup>6</sup> Hayat A'la Hazrat, p. 118

<sup>7</sup> Jam' al- Jawami', vol. 3, p. 384, Hadith 9572

## An Introduction to his writing of fatawa via “Fatawa Razawiyyah”

O devotees of Imam Ahmad Raza Khan! Through his strength and efforts, the Imam رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ gave unparalleled service to the knowledge of Islam. Even today, people take benefit and blessings from his works. From amongst his great works, are the 30 volumes of “Fatawa Razawiyyah”. It consists of approximately 22,000 pages, the answers of 6847 questions and 206 booklets. Along with this, many Islamic issues have been mentioned and explained throughout.

إِن شَاءَ اللهُ، Fatawa Razawiyyah consists of many issues that have been explained beautifully in light of the Quran, Hadith, Ijma’ and inferred rulings of the scholars رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِمُ أَجْمَعِينَ. People will continue to take benefit from this until the end of times, and it will be a cause of further increasing the rank of the noble Imam رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ.

صَلُّوا عَلَى الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ

## Imam Ahmad Raza Khan رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ and the rights of people

O devotees of Imam Ahmad Raza Khan! Another great characteristic of the Imam, was that he would stringently ensure the rights of the people were fulfilled, as well as the rights of Allah. He knew that the rights of people were a matter which is even more sensitive than the rights of Allah. Here is a notable incident from his life regarding this.

## Seeking forgiveness from a child

Imam Ahmad Raza Khan رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ was sitting I’tikaf in a Masjid of Bareilly. He رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ would not eat food after Iftar, he would only eat paan. At the time of suhoor, he would eat a small bowl of custard made of milk, sugar and rice flour, as well as a cup of chutney, both of which

he would receive from home. One night, the paan did not arrive and he had a firm habit of not asking for food from others. Thus, he remained silent, but did not like this delay. Two hours after Maghrib, a child arrived with the paan. Imam Ahmad Raza Khan رَحْمَةُ اللّٰهِ عَلَيْهِ slapped the child and asked what took so long. However, the Imam later realised that the child was not at fault, rather the one who sent him late was.

After suhoor, he called the child and said, "I was at fault for hitting you last night. It was not your fault but the one who sent you late. So, hit me on my head." He then removed his hat and insisted that he should hit him. The people sitting in I'tikaf became worried and the child became very worried and began trembling. The child put his hands together and said, "I forgive you!"

"You are a child, you do not have the right to forgive. Hit me." Replied the Imam. The child refused to hit him. Imam Ahmad Raza Khan رَحْمَةُ اللّٰهِ عَلَيْهِ asked for his box and took out a handful of money. "I will give you this. Hit me." The child continuously refused and said, "I have forgiven you!" In the end, the Imam took the child's hand and hit himself several times on the head with it. He then gave the child the money and let him go.<sup>8</sup>

O devotees of Imam Ahmad Raza Khan! You have heard how the Imam has practically taught us, that if you have emotionally or physically hurt someone, regardless of what their social status is, there is no embarrassment in seeking forgiveness from him. This is how important the rights of the people are. Not fulfilling these rights can embroil you in many sins that will be a cause of harm in this world and the Hereafter. E.g. Not fulfilling the rights of others can lead you to emotionally hurting other Muslims. This can lead to other sins like enmity or jealousy, etc. The doors of backbiting, slander, mocking, evil thinking and other major sins open too. On the Day of Judgement, the one who has violated the

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<sup>8</sup> Hayat A'la Hazrat, vol. 1, p. 107

rights of others will have to give his good deeds to the ones he wronged. If he has no good deeds, he will have to carry the burden of sins from the people he has wronged. He can be deprived of Paradise and subjected to painful punishment.

صَلُّوا عَلَيَّ الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيَّ مُحَمَّدٍ

## The compassion and well-wishing of Imam Ahmad Raza Khan رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ

O devotees of Imam Ahmad Raza Khan! The great Imam رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ would make special supplications for his relatives, friends, followers, disciples and other Muslims. Here are some examples.

### A list of people to pray for

1. After performing the Fajr prayer and reciting various incantations, he would pray for each person by name. The people remained hopeful of being present on that list of names.

### I pray for everyone

2. Sayyid Ayyub Ali رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ states: "I was very worried one day and requested Imam Ahmad Raza Khan رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ to supplicate for me. He supplicated and said to me and my brother, Sayyid Qana'at Ali, 'I have included your names on my list of people that I pray for. It is slowly becoming longer and longer. I have memorised all the names and pray for them by name on a daily basis.'"<sup>9</sup>

### Abundance of prayer during a funeral

3. Imam Ahmad Raza Khan رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ had a heart which cared for everyone from the Ahl al-Sunnah, feeling their pain and concerns.

<sup>9</sup> Faizan e A'la Hazrat, p. 180

He would regularly participate in funerals and constantly pray for the deceased during and after the funeral. The people present felt as though the Imam was interceding for the fortunate person, and having them forgiven by Allah.<sup>10</sup>

## The importance of praying for your parents, teachers and other Muslims

O devotees of Imam Ahmad Raza Khan! We too should adopt this practise and pray for our parents, teachers, relatives and the entire Muslim ummah. Sayyiduna Abu al-Shaykh Asbahani رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ has reported from Sayyiduna Saabit Bunaani رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ:

It has been mentioned to us: Whoever prays for the goodness of Muslim men and women, on the Day of Judgement, when he will pass by there gatherings, it will be said: This is the one who prayed for your goodness in the world. They will intercede for him and with the permission of Allah, will take him to Paradise.<sup>11</sup>

It is mentioned in the Quran:

وَاسْتَغْفِرْ لِذَنبِكَ وَلِلْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ ط

and O Beloved, seek forgiveness for the sins of your special and common believing men and women.<sup>12</sup>

It is mentioned in a Hadith: The final Prophet صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ heard someone say اللَّهُمَّ اغْفِرْ لِي [i.e. O Allah! Forgive me] The Prophet صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ said: If you had included every Muslim in the supplication,

<sup>10</sup> Hayat A'la Hazrat, p. 552

<sup>11</sup> Fazaail e Du'a, p. 86

<sup>12</sup> [Kanz-ul-Iman (translation of Quran)] (Part 26, Surah Muhammad, verse 19)

your Du'a would have been accepted.<sup>13</sup>

صَلُّوا عَلَيَّ الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيَّ مُحَمَّدٍ

## Encouragement to act upon Pious Deed number 30

Dear Islamic brothers! Affiliate yourselves with the Islamic environment of Dawat-e-Islami and take part in the 12 activities of the District Halqa. This will allow you to refrain from sin, improve your character and adopt the practises of the great Imam. One of the 12 activities is to complete the Pious Deeds booklet. From amongst the 32 pious deeds given by the Ameer of Ahl ul-Sunnah, number 30 states: Today, while going to the office/work or returning home, in the bus, train etc. have you said Salaam to Muslims? Similarly, while passing through the streets, have you said Salaam to Muslims who were sitting or standing on the way?

اَلْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ! Ameer of Ahl ul-Sunnah has kindly given us the 72 Pious Deeds. If we act upon them, we will receive countless blessings in our deen and dunya. If we perform daily actions in accordance with the Sunnah, these actions will be a source of good deeds. Without doubt, if we perform an action with the intention of following the Sunnah, we will be rewarded and even the things we do on a day-to-day basis will become good deeds. May Allah grant us the ability to perform everything in accordance with the Sunnah. آمين

صَلُّوا عَلَيَّ الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيَّ مُحَمَّدٍ

## Ameer of Ahl ul-Sunnah's love for Imam Ahmad Raza Khan

O devotees of Imam Ahmad Raza Khan! Ameer of Ahl ul-Sunnah

<sup>13</sup> Rad-ul-Muhtar, vol. 2, p. 286

بِرَكَاتِهِمُ الْعَالِيَةِ is from amongst those who have true love for Imam Ahmad Raza Khan رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ. The character of Imam Ahmad Raza Khan رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ and his scholarly work has greatly influenced Ameer of Ahl ul-Sunnah, and this is why he serving Islam in an exemplary manner in accordance to the teachings of Imam Ahmad Raza Khan رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ. This is clearly evident for all to see, as the books, speeches and Madani Muzakarahs of Ameer of Ahl ul-Sunnah دَامَتْ بِرَكَاتُهُمُ الْعَالِيَةِ are illuminated and fragrant with references from Kanz al-Iman, Fatawa Razawiyah and the poetry of Hadaaiq-i- Bakhshish.

أَلْحَنُ لِلَّهِ, because of this love, the first booklet written by Ameer of Ahl ul-Sunnah دَامَتْ بِرَكَاتُهُمُ الْعَالِيَةِ was a biography of the Imam called “A Brief Biography of Imam Ahmad Raza Khan رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ”. This was published on the 25<sup>th</sup> of Safar 1393AH, on “The day of Raza”.

Ameer of Ahl ul-Sunnah دَامَتْ بِرَكَاتُهُمُ الْعَالِيَةِ advises all scholars, Muftis, students of Jamiat al-Madinah, and the public to remain steadfast upon the path of the Imam, and to not object to his statements in case of not understanding them correctly.

Ameer of Ahl ul-Sunnah دَامَتْ بِرَكَاتُهُمُ الْعَالِيَةِ once said: “Our intellect is sacrificed upon the statements of Imam Ahmad Raza Khan رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ. We accept every statement of Imam Ahmad Raza Khan.” He دَامَتْ بِرَكَاتُهُمُ الْعَالِيَةِ once said to the students of Jamiat al-Madinah who were partaking in the Mufti course: “Imam Ahmad Raza Khan رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ is a wali of Allah, a true devotee of the Prophet and a unanimous pious predecessor of ours. It is necessary to have love for him in your heart. Adding to this, the final Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ said: الْبُرُكَةُ مَعَ أَكْبَرِكُمْ - “Blessings are with your elders.”<sup>14</sup> If someone begins to oppose Imam Ahmad Raza Khan رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ even in the slightest, he should realise that مَعَادَ اللهِ, his days of destruction have begun. Therefore, be wary and remove these thoughts

<sup>14</sup> Mustadrak, vol. 1, p. 238, Hadith 218

of disagreements from your mind. If you cannot accept an issue explained by Imam Ahmad Raza Khan رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ in Fatawa Razawiyah, do not ponder over it. If you cannot understand it, consider it a deficiency in your own intelligence.”

صَلُّوا عَلَى الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ

## Imam Ahmad Raza Khan رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ and self-respect

Sayyiduna Mawlana Sayyid Ayyub Ali رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ explains:

A man presented a sweet dish in the court of Imam Ahmad Raza Khan رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ. The Imam رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ said to him, ‘Why did you go to this length?’ The man responded by saying, ‘I have come to give you Salaam.’ Imam Ahmad Raza Khan رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ replied to the Salaam, remained silent for a while and then asked, ‘Is there anything you need help with?’ Hearing this, the man said, ‘I have simply come to ask how you are.’ The great Imam said, ‘The grace and favour of Allah is upon me.’

He once again then remained silent for a while, before again asking if the person wanted to inquire about anything. The man responded in the negative again. Imam Ahmad Raza Khan رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ then sent the sweet dish to his house. After some time, the man then requested for a *ta’weez*. Imam Ahmad Raza Khan رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ said, “I asked you three times if you needed anything, but you said nothing.” Imam Ahmad Raza Khan then had his nephew write a *ta’weez* and gave it to the man. He also told Haji Kifayatullah رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ to bring the sweet dish back. Imam Ahmad Raza Khan رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ returned the sweet dish with these words, “Take this sweet dish with you, I do not sell *Ta’weez*.” The man apologised multiple times, but ultimately took the sweet dish back with him.<sup>15</sup>

<sup>15</sup> Hayat e Ala Hazrat, p. 92

## The Department of Dar al-Sunnah

Dear Islamic brothers! Dawat-e-Islami is currently engaged in serving Islam in over 80 departments. One of these, is the department of Dar al-Sunnah. This department offers organisational and character training. The Department of Dar al-Sunnah has been established in many Madani centres, which teaches brothers about Islam, Sunnah, Islamic manners and the correct method of reading the Quran. The people who travel on a Madani Qafilah are first told about the Sunnah and etiquettes of travelling, as well as the purpose of the Madani Qafilah. This occurs in the Dar al-Sunnah, and they then depart on the Madani Qafilah. Upon their return, the Dar al-Sunnah Department reviews what they have done.

صَلُّوا عَلَى الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ

Dear Islamic brothers! It is evident from the life of Imam Ahmad Raza Khan رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ that despite the amount of work he did, he always offered Salah in congregation, even when he was ill. Here is an inspiring incident in relation to this.

## Imam Ahmad Raza Khan and his consistency in praying in congregation

The toe of Imam Ahmad Raza Khan had become injured. A surgeon operated on it and wrapped it in a bandage. Offering advice, the surgeon said, "If you do not walk, this wound will heal in about 10-12 days, otherwise it will take a lot longer." The surgeon gave his advice and left. Imam Ahmad Raza Khan رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ, however, found it impossible to stay away from the masjid and offering Salah in congregation. When the time of Zuhr Salah arrived, Imam Ahmad Raza Khan رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ performed wudu. He could not walk, so the people sat him in a chair and took him to the Masjid. The people of the community and his household decided

to appoint four strong people to carry Imam Ahmad Raza Khan رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ to the masjid, and sit him near the mihrab. This arrangement continued consistently for about a month. When Imam Ahmad Raza Khan رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ was capable of walking again, they stopped. Nobody could say they saw Imam Ahmad Raza Khan رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ abandon congregational Salah without a Shar'i excuse.<sup>16</sup>

صَلُّوا عَلَيَّ الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيَّ مُحَمَّدٍ

## The philosophy of Imam Ahmad Raza Khan and Dawat-e-Islami

Dear Islamic brothers! In hope of spreading the knowledge of Islam, Dawat-e-Islami attempts to act upon the 10 principles of Imam Ahmad Raza Khan رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ. Here are these 10 principles, and how Dawat-e-Islami acts upon them.

1. "Grand madrassas should be established, in which educational curriculums are consistently taught."

رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ, Dawat-e-Islami has established over 602 Jami'at al-Madinah , 2980 Madaris al-Madina and 53 Dar al-Madina for this very purpose, for both male and female students.

2. "Students should be given allowances, to further kindle their passion in regards to studying Islamic knowledge."

رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ, Dawat-e-Islami provides excellent educational services to residential students. They have free access to food, drink, residence and medical care. Students who enrol on the specialisation in Fiqh and Hadith courses are even given money to cover their educational needs.

3. "Teachers who demonstrate proficient performances should be

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<sup>16</sup> Faizan e A'la Hazrat, p. 136

given good wages, which would encourage them to strive harder.”

أَلْحَقُّرِلَّهِ, Dawat e Islami offers good wages to the teachers of Jamiat al-Madina and Madrassah al-Madina. They are given bonuses and in the case they do not use their holidays, they are given money equal to those days after every 6 months. Based on their grade of excellent, good and satisfactory, they are given yearly increases depending on how long they have been employed for and their grade, with their wage increasing. The teachers are also given free medical care under the Majlis of Tibi l’laj.

4. “Students should be evaluated based on their nature. They should be given work that they have an interest in and are capable of doing. Some will be teachers, some preachers, and others will become writers. They should become experts in their chosen fields.”
5. “Those who are ready should be paid to travel around the country, spreading Islam through writing, speeches and teaching.”

In light of these principles, if you were to analyse the work allocated to students according to their capabilities, you will find that after graduating from the Jamiat al-Madinah of Dawat-e-Islami, if a Madani scholar desires to become a teacher, he is enrolled on a teacher training course and then appointed as a teacher in Jamiat al-Madinah. A Madani scholar who is desirous as well as capable of becoming a Mufti, is taught Shari’ rulings and trained in writing Islamic fatawa. After gaining success in all these stages, he is given the opportunity to offer his services to Dar ul Ifta Ahl al-Sunnah. Madani scholars who are capable of writing and researching, are given an opportunity to work in the academic and research department known as Al-Madinat al-’Ilmiyyah (Islamic Research Centre). Madani scholars are taught English, Arabic and various other languages, then sent abroad to Jami’aat, Madaris, Masajid and Dar al-Sunnah. To date, more than 100 Madani scholars are serving in different capacities overseas.

6. "The one who is capable of authoring should be given grants, so that he may author beneficial literature in support of Islam and in refutation of the misguided."
7. "Books written to this end should be published in immaculate quality and distributed free of cost throughout the country."

اَلْحَمْدُ لِلّٰهِ while acting upon these two principles of Imam Ahmad Raza Khan

رَحْمَةُ اللّٰهِ عَلَيْهِ, the movement for the devotees of the Prophet, Dawat-e-Islami has had the privilege of being involved in literary work for approximately 22 years through Al Madinat al-'Ilmiyyah. During this time, about 622 books and booklets have been published via the help of Maktaba al- Madinah and are available to purchase. More than 320 books and booklets have been translated into various languages, whereas many books are currently being translated. اَلْحَمْدُ لِلّٰهِ via the 'Department for Distributing Booklets', free books, booklets and the monthly Faizan-e -Madinah Magazine are spread to many devotees of the Prophet, whereas many scholars of the Ahl al-Sunnah and other personalities are gifted books and booklets on a monthly basis.

8. "Your representatives should be present in every city. They should inform you if a preacher or book is required in a particular area. In opposition to the enemies of Islam, you should continue to dispatch your Ulama, magazines, booklets and literary material."

اَلْحَمْدُ لِلّٰهِ, in serving Islam and spreading sacred knowledge, the movement of the devotees of the Prophet, Dawat-e-Islami, is acting upon this principle as well to a great extent. One sign of this, is the Madani Qafilahs which travel in the country and abroad to spread the Sunnah, as well the travels of the Muballighen and organizational heads from time to time, for the purpose of calling towards righteousness. Various departments have also been set up for Islamic

brothers and sisters as well. Apart from this, books and booklets are being spread on a large scale in the country and abroad via print and electronic media.

9. “Whoever is capable of carrying out religious work, but finds himself busy with earning Halal sustenance, should instead be appropriated a befitting salary and freed from having to worry about their livelihood. After this, they should be tasked with carrying out religious work in their field of expertise.”

**اَلْحَمْدُ لِلّٰهِ**, a department named ‘appointment of a Madani’ has been established in the movement of the devotees of the Prophet, Dawat-e-Islami. Under this department, those Madani scholars who are busy in earning livelihood and are capable, are contacted and appointed in a role on a good salary in one of the 80 departments of Dawat-e-Islami, according to their ability. In just 4 years, more than 2000 Madani scholars have been appointed in various departments.

10. “Religious newspapers should be distributed from time to time, containing topics that support Islam. These should be disseminated for a cost as well as for free, daily or at least once a week.”<sup>17</sup>

**اَلْحَمْدُ لِلّٰهِ**, Dawat-e-Islami is engaged in propagating the teachings of Imam Ahmad Raza Khan on electronic media via Madani Channel and online, whereas it is busy in doing the same via print media in the form of publishing books, booklets and the monthly Faizan-e-Madina Magazine.

May Allah Almighty, for the sake of Imam Ahmad Raza Khan **رَحْمَةُ اللّٰهِ عَلَيْهِ**, grant more prosperity to the movement of the devotees of the Prophet, Dawat-e-Islami!

**اٰمِيْنَ بِجَاہِ النَّبِيِّ الْاَمِيْنِ صَلَّى اللّٰهُ عَلَيْهِ وَاٰلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ**

**صَلُّوْا عَلٰى الْحَبِيْبِ صَلَّى اللّٰهُ عَلٰى مُحَمَّدٍ**

<sup>17</sup> *Fatawa Razawiyyah, vol. 29, Page 599*

## Madani pearls about thankfulness

Dear Islamic brothers, let us gain the privilege of hearing Madani pearls about thankfulness.

First, let us listen to two blessed Hadith of the beloved Prophet ﷺ:

1. "Allah Almighty likes that a slave is grateful to Him on every morsel and sip."<sup>18</sup>
2. "You should have your tongues engaged with dhikr, and your heart engaged with thankfulness."<sup>19</sup>
  - Thankfulness is a superior form of worship.<sup>20</sup>
  - It is *wajib* to show thankfulness upon the blessings of Allah.<sup>21</sup>
  - Being granted the ability to show thankfulness is an immense privilege.<sup>22</sup>
  - Thankfulness leads to the preservation of blessings.<sup>23</sup>
  - It is thankfulness that causes blessings to increase.<sup>24</sup>
  - Thankfulness is the way of the friends of Allah.<sup>25</sup>

## Announcement:

The remaining Sunnah and etiquettes regarding thankfulness will be mentioned in the study circles. Therefore take part in the study circles

<sup>18</sup> *Muslim, p. 1122, Hadith 6932*

<sup>19</sup> *Shu'ab Al-Iman, vol. 1, p. 419, Hadith 590*

<sup>20</sup> *Shukr Ke Fazaail, p. 12*

<sup>21</sup> *Khaza'in ul Irfan, para 2, Surah Al-Baqarah, Ayat 172*

<sup>22</sup> *Shukr Ke Fazaail, p. 12*

<sup>23</sup> *Shukr Ke Fazaail, p. 12*

<sup>24</sup> *Shukr Ke Fazaail, p. 12*

<sup>25</sup> *Shukr Ke Fazaail, p. 12*

to learn about them.

صَلُّوا عَلَى الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ

The 6 Salat upon the Prophet and 2 Du'as that are recited in the Sunnah-inspiring weekly Ijtima' (congregation) of Dawat-e-Islami:



## 1. The Durood for the night preceding Friday

اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ وَبَارِكْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ النَّبِيِّ الْأُمِّيِّ  
الْحَبِيبِ الْعَالِي الْقَدْرِ الْعَظِيمِ الْجَاهِ وَعَلَى إِيَّاهِ وَصَحْبِهِ وَسَلِّمْ

The saints of Islam have quoted that whoever recites this Durood at least once on the night preceding Friday [the night between Thursday and Friday] on a regular basis will be blessed with the vision of the Beloved and Blessed Rasool صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ at the time of death, as well as at the time of his burial into the grave, to the extent that he will see the Noble Rasool صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ lowering him into the grave with his own merciful hands.<sup>26</sup>

## 2. All sins forgiven

اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا وَمَوْلَانَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى إِيَّاهِ وَسَلِّمْ

It is narrated by Sayyiduna Anas رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ that the Beloved and Blessed Rasool صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ has stated, 'Whoever recites this Durood upon

<sup>26</sup> *Afdal-us-Salawat 'ala Sayyid-is-Sadat*, p. 151

me whilst standing, then prior to his sitting back; and if he recites it whilst sitting, then before he stands back, his sins will be forgiven.'<sup>27</sup>

### 3. 70 Portals of mercy

صَلَّى اللّٰهُ عَلٰى مُحَمَّدٍ

Whoever recites this Durood, 70 portals of mercy are opened for him.<sup>28</sup>

### 4. The reward of 600,000 Salat

اَللّٰهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلٰى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ عَدَدَ

مَا فِي عِلْمِ اللّٰهِ صَلَاةً دَائِمَةً بِدَوَامِ مُلْكِ اللّٰهِ

Shaykh Ahmad Saawi عَلَيْهِ رَحْمَةُ اللّٰهِ الْهَادِي reports from some saints of Islam that the one reciting this Durood once receives the reward of reciting Durood 600,000 times.<sup>29</sup>

### 5. Nearness to the Distinguished Messenger ﷺ

اَللّٰهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلٰى مُحَمَّدٍ كَمَا تُحِبُّ وَتَرْضٰى لَهٗ

One day somebody came [to the blessed court of the Beloved and Blessed Messenger صَلَّى اللّٰهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ], and the Noble Prophet صَلَّى اللّٰهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ

<sup>27</sup> Ibid, p. 65

<sup>28</sup> Al-Qaul-ul-Badi', p. 277

<sup>29</sup> Afdal-us-Salawat 'ala Sayyid-is-Sadat, p. 149

made him sit in between himself and Sayyiduna Abu Bakr Siddeeq رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ. The respected companions رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُمْ were surprised as to who that honoured person was. When he had left, the Beloved Rasool صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ said, 'When he recites Durood upon me, he does so in these words.'<sup>30</sup>

## 6. Salat-e-Shafa'at

اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ وَآلِهِ وَأَنْزِلْهُ الْبُقْعَةَ الْبُقْرَبَ عِنْدَكَ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ

The Greatest Rasool صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ has stated: The one who recites this Durood upon me, my intercession will become Wajib for him.<sup>31</sup>

### 1. Good deeds for 1000 days

جَزَى اللهُ عَنَّا مُحَمَّدًا مَا هُوَ أَهْلُهُ

It is narrated by Sayyiduna Ibn 'Abbas رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُمَا that the Noble Messenger صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ has stated, 'For the reciter of above supplication, seventy angels write good deeds (in his account) for 1000 days.'<sup>32</sup>

### 2. An easy way to spend every night in worship

The following narration has been mentioned on page 187 of *Gharaib-ul-Quran*, 'If anyone recites the following Du'a three times at night it is as if he has found Layla-tul-Qadr.' We should recite it every night. Here is

<sup>30</sup> *Al-Qaul-ul-Badi'*, p. 125

<sup>31</sup> *Attargheeb Wattarheeb*, vol. 2, p. 329, Hadees 31

<sup>32</sup> *Majma'-uz-Zawaid*, pp. 254, vol. 10, Hadees 17305

the Du'a:

لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ الْحَلِيمُ الْكَرِيمُ  
 سُبْحَانَ اللَّهِ رَبِّ السَّمَوَاتِ السَّبْعِ وَرَبِّ الْعَرْشِ الْعَظِيمِ

**Translation:** There is none worthy of worship except Allah ﷻ Who is 'حَلِيمٌ' and 'كَرِيمٌ'. Allah ﷻ is 'سُبْحَانَ', Rab of the seven skies and Rab of the magnificent 'Arsh.