

Amr Ahl al-Sunnah's

Love for Islamic Scholars

15 March 2026



(For Islamic Brothers)

Thought-provoking speech of weekly
sunnah-inspiring ijtima

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

Amīr Ahl al-Sunnah's Love for Islamic Scholars

وَعَلَى إِلِكِ وَأَصْحَبِكَ يَا حَبِيبَ اللَّهِ
وَالصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ

وَعَلَى إِلِكِ وَأَصْحَبِكَ يَا نُورَ اللَّهِ
وَالصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا تَبِيَّ اللَّهِ

نَوَيْتُ سُنَّتَ الْإِعْتِكَافِ

Translation: I have made intention for the Sunnah of I'tikāf.

The Virtue of Reciting *Ṣalāt*

The final Prophet صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ said:

إِنِّي رَأَيْتُ الْبَارِحَةَ عَجَبًا وَرَأَيْتُ رَجُلًا مِنْ أُمَّتِي يَرْحَفُ عَلَى الصِّرَاطِ مَرَّةً وَيَجْتُمُو مَرَّةً فَجَاءَتْهُ صَلَاتُهُ عَلَيَّ فَأَخَذَتْ بِيَدِي فَأَقَامَتْهُ
عَلَى الصِّرَاطِ حَتَّى جَاوَزَهُ¹

“Indeed, I saw an astonishing scene last night: I witnessed a man from my Ummah crawling across the *Ṣirāṭ* bridge, at times crawling and at times kneeling. Then the *ṣalāt* which he had recited upon me came to him, took him by the hand, and made him stand upright on the Bridge of *Ṣirāṭ* until he crossed it.”

Explanation of the Hadith: The blessing of *Ṣalāt* enabled him to cross the Bridge of *Ṣirāṭ* and led him into Paradise.²

صَلُّوا عَلَى الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ

¹ Al-Ahadith al-Tiwal by Imam al-Tabarani, pp. 84–85 selected

² Al-Taysir bi sharh jam'ee al-saghir, vol. 1, p. 370

Speech Intentions

The Messenger of Allah صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ said: **أَفْضَلُ الْعَمَلِ الصَّادِقَةُ** – “The best of deeds is a sincere intention.”¹

Dear Islamic brothers! Make it a habit to form good intentions before every action, as good intentions can lead one to Paradise. Before listening to the speech, we can make the following good intentions:

- I will listen to the entire speech to gain knowledge.
- I will sit respectfully.
- I will avoid being lazy.
- I will listen with the intention of self-improvement.
- I will try to convey what I learn to others.

صَلُّوا عَلَى الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ

Amīr Ahl al-Sunnah's Love for Islamic Scholars

Dear Islamic brothers! One of the greatest scholarly and spiritual personalities of the fifteenth *Hijrī* century, Shaykh al-Ṭarīqah, Amīr Ahl al-Sunnah, the founder of Dawat-e-Islami, ‘Allāmah Muhammad Ilyas Attar al-Qadiri al-Riḍawī **دَامَتْ بَرَكَاتُهُمُ الْعَالِيَةَ**, has immense love for Islamic scholars. Such is his love for the scholars that he says: “By Allah Almighty, without them we are of no use at all. If we remain at their feet, then **رِزْقُ شَاءَ اللهُ**, a path to salvation will surely emerge.”²

He further says: “The scholars do not need us; rather, we need the scholars.” And while advising his followers, he said: “If you move away from the feet of

¹ Al-Jāmi‘ al-Ṣaghīr: hadith 1284

² Amir-e-Ahl-e-Sunnat’s Religious Services, page 324.

the scholars, you will go astray.”¹

What is the reason he holds such profound love for Islamic scholars and insists upon their respect and honour with such emphasis? He **دَامَتْ بَرَكَاتُهُمْ الْعَالِيَةِ** explains:

- These scholars are the true heirs and successors of the Prophets **عَلَيْهِمُ الصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ**. The beloved Prophet **صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ** said:

إِنَّ الْعُلَمَاءَ وَرَثَةُ الْأَنْبِيَاءِ

“Indeed, the scholars are the heirs of the Prophets.”²

- These scholars are the ones who invite people towards the religion of Islam.
- These scholars are the guardians of Islamic beliefs.
- These scholars are the ones who truly introduce Allah Almighty and His Beloved **صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ** to people.
- These scholars teach respect for the noble Companions **رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمْ**.
- These scholars teach love for the Ahl al-Bayt **رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمْ**.
- These scholars derive Shariah-based solutions to issues.
- These scholars explain the rulings of purity and impurity.
- These scholars clarify the difference between cleanliness and filth.
- These scholars teach the rulings of *ghusl*, shrouding, and burial.
- It is the scholars who run *madāris*, *jāmi‘āt*, and *masājid*.

¹Amir-e-Ahl-e-Sunnat’s Religious Services, page 324.

²Ibn Majah, Introduction, page 49, Hadith: 223.

This is why, he says, “I not only attain the blessing of respecting and honouring the scholars myself, but I also encourage others to do the same.”¹

A Brief Introduction to Amīr Ahl al-Sunnah دَامَتْ بَرَكَاتُهُمُ الْعَالِيَةَ

الله أكبر! Dear Islamic brothers! What great honour and rank our Amīr Ahl al-Sunnah has. May Allah Almighty keep his blessed shade over us for a long time. Let us listen to a brief introduction to Amīr Ahl al-Sunnah دَامَتْ بَرَكَاتُهُمُ الْعَالِيَةَ.

- He was born with great blessings on 26th Ramadan Sharīf 1369 AH, corresponding to 12 July 1950, on a Wednesday, in the famous city of Karachi in Pakistan.
- Amīr Ahl al-Sunnah دَامَتْ بَرَكَاتُهُمُ الْعَالِيَةَ has been very simple-natured since childhood; he never spoke ill of anyone nor engaged in quarrels.
- Due to his strong religious inclination, he was adorned with the jewel of Islamic knowledge at a young age. To acquire knowledge, he read books and remained in the company of Islamic scholars. In this regard, he continuously attended the blessed gatherings of Mufti A‘zam Pakistan, ‘Allāmah Mufti Waqār al-Dīn al-Qādirī al-Riḍawī رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ for 22 years.
- Mufti Waqār al-Dīn رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ and the commentator of Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī, Mufti Sharīf al-Ḥaqq al-Amjadī رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ granted him *Khilāfat*.
- In September 1981, Amīr Ahl al-Sunnah دَامَتْ بَرَكَاتُهُمُ الْعَالِيَةَ founded the religious movement of the devotees of the Messenger, Dawat-e-Islami. Although he had already been inviting people to righteousness, after the formal establishment of Dawat-e-Islami, he began this mission in an organised manner.

¹ Amir-e-Ahl-e-Sunnat’s Religious Services, pages 323–324 (with adaptation).

- He adopted this Madani objective: "I must strive to reform myself and people of the entire world **إِنْ شَاءَ اللَّهُ**." Carrying this objective, he did not differentiate between day and night; he continued striving tirelessly. By the grace of Allah Almighty, the special attention of the beloved Prophet **صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ**, and the blessings of the noble saints **رَحِمَهُمُ اللَّهُ**, the religious message of Dawat-e-Islami spread throughout the world.

He would: travel to distant places, deliver several speeches in a single day, go from masjid to masjid, village to village, city to city, and invite people towards righteousness.

Whenever a death occurred, he would, out of sympathy, consolation, and goodwill, personally bathe the deceased, shroud them, and lead the funeral prayer. On occasions of sorrow and happiness, he would please Muslims in such a heartfelt manner that they themselves would become companions in spreading the invitation to righteousness.

As a result of his continuous efforts, those who did not offer prayer became regular worshippers—even Imams of *masājid*. Those with immoral gazes became modest; those who hurt their parents became respectful. Thieves and robbers came, repented, abandoned crime, and became honourable members of society. Those burning in jealousy became grateful and well-wishers; lovers of films and songs became reciters and listeners of praise of al-Muṣṭafā **صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ**. Those intoxicated with sinful worldly love became devotees of the Greatest and Final Prophet **صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ**. Those chasing wealth became seekers of the pleasure of Allah Almighty. Drunkards came, repented, and became pure individuals. The heedless came and became worshippers; the misguided found the straight path; and thousands of non-Muslims were blessed with the wealth of Islam.

Thus, people kept joining one by one, two by two; the caravan continued to grow, and **أَلْحَدِ لِلَّهِ**, this religious message of inviting towards righteousness spread across the entire world.

Love for Scholars Is Part of the Religion

Dear Islamic brothers! We have heard how much Amīr Ahl al-Sunnah loves Islamic scholars. We too should love the scholars and show them respect and honour, because due to this love, a person comes closer to Islam. Through love for people of knowledge, one becomes accustomed to attending their gatherings, the blessing of which appears as understanding of Islam, and a person becomes a righteous Muslim who is steadfast in offering his prayer.

The fourth Caliph of the Muslims, Sayyidunā ‘Alī al-Murtaḍā, the Lion of Allah رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ, says: **مَحَبَّةُ الْعَالِمِ دِينٌ يَدَانِ بِهِ** “Love for the scholar is part of religion, and this love brings a person closer to faith.”¹

A Cause of Destruction

O devotees of the scholars! In loving the people of knowledge lies goodness for both religion and the world. If we love them and remain close to them, we will stay alert against Satan and his tricks. But if we abandon the company of the people of knowledge, we will be ruined, suffering loss in both our religion and our worldly life.

It is narrated from Sayyidunā Abū al-Dardā' رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ that he said: “Become a scholar yourself, or become a student of knowledge, or become one who loves them, or become one who follows them. Do not become the fifth type; you will be destroyed.”

When Sayyidunā Hasan رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ (the narrator of this statement from Abū al-Dardā') was asked, “Who is the one who is destroyed?” he replied, “He is the innovator.”²

From this, we learn that the one who does not love the people of knowledge due to hatred is an innovator, and Allah Almighty disgraces and humiliates an innovator.

¹ Al-Jalees as-Saaliḥ al-Kaafi wal-Anees an-Naaṣiḥ ash-Shaafi, p. 584

² Al-Madkhal ilā Sunan al-Kubrā by Imam al-Bayhaqi, Part 1, pp. 344–345, Hadith 381.

Allah Almighty states in the Glorious Quran:

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ اتَّخَذُوا الْعِجْلَ سَيَنَالُهُمْ غَضَبٌ مِّن رَّبِّهِمْ وَذِلَّةٌ فِي الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا وَكَذَلِكَ نَجْزِي

الْمُفْتَرِينَ ﴿١٥٣﴾

Indeed, those who deified the calf, soon wrath from their Lord and humiliation in the life of the world shall befall them; thus, We recompense the slanderers.¹

In *Tafsīr Şirāṭ al-Jinān*, it is mentioned that Sayyidunā Sufyān b. ‘Uyaynah رَحِمَهُ اللهُ عَلَيْهِ said: “This punishment applies to every innovator who comes until the Day of Judgment.”

And Sayyidunā Mālik b. Anas رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ said: “Every innovator will have humiliation placed over his head,” and then he recited this very verse.²

صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَى الْحَبِيبِ

Love for Scholars, a Sign of Goodness!!

Dear Islamic brothers! What can be said about the love that Amīr Ahl al-Sunnah رَحِمَهُ اللهُ عَلَيْهِ has for the scholars of Islam! He states: “For a religious scholar, there is love and respect in my heart. If Allah Almighty grants us the ability, then we should become scholars ourselves; otherwise, we should love the scholars.”³

Remember well! Love for Sunnī scholars is a sign of goodness and righteousness.

Imam Qutaybah b. Sa‘īd رَحِمَهُ اللهُ عَلَيْهِ states:

إِذَا رَأَيْتَ الرَّجُلَ يُحِبُّ أَحْمَدَ بْنَ حَنْبَلٍ فَأَعْلَمَ أَنَّهُ صَاحِبٌ سُنَّةٍ وَجَمَاعَةٍ

¹ Al-Quran, Al-A‘raf, verse 152; translation from Kanz al-‘Irfān

² Sirat-ul-Jinan, Part 9, Surah Al-A‘raf, under Ayah 152, Vol 3, p. 439.

³ The Religious Services of Ameer-e-Ahl-e-Sunnat, page 325, summarized (ملقطاً).

“When you see that a person loves Imam Aḥmad b. Ḥanbal رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ, then know that he is a person of Ahl al-Sunnah wa al-Jamā‘ah.”¹

Allah! Allah! What an exalted rank the scholars hold; whoever loves them becomes successful in both this world and the Hereafter. It is mentioned that a righteous person was seen in a dream after his passing, and he was asked:

مَا فَعَلَ اللَّهُ بِكَ

How did Allah Almighty treat you?

He replied: “Allah Almighty forgave me.”

When asked, “For what reason?” He answered: “Because of my love for Imam Aḥmad b. Ḥanbal رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ.”²

صَلُّوا عَلَى الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ

Amīr Ahl al-Sunnahs Love for Imam Aḥmad Riḍā Khan رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ

Dear Islamic brothers! Amīr Ahl al-Sunnah دَامَتْ بَرَكَاتُهُمْ الْعَالَمِيَّةُ loves every scholar who is a devotee of the Messenger, but his love for Imam Aḥmad Riḍā Khan رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ is truly remarkable. He says:

أَلْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ! From childhood, I had already come to know Imam Aḥmad Riḍā Khan رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ. As my understanding grew, the love for Imam Aḥmad Riḍā Khan رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ continued to settle deeply in my heart. I say without any hesitation that recognition of Allah Almighty came to me through the sweet, beloved al-Muṣṭafā صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ, and recognition of the sweet, beloved al-Muṣṭafā صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ was granted to me through Imam Aḥmad Riḍā رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ.³

¹ Al-Jarh wa al-Ta‘deel by Ibn Abi Hatim, Volume 1, Page 308.

² Al-Jarh wa al-Ta‘deel by Ibn Abi Hatim, Volume 1, Page 308

³ Ta‘aruf Ameer-e-Ahl-e-Sunnat, page 61

Allah Almighty Loves the People of Knowledge

Dear Islamic brothers! We too should love Imam Aḥmad Riḍā Khan رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ, rather, every scholar who is a devotee of the Messenger. And why should we not? Because Allah Almighty loves them.

It is narrated that Allah Almighty revealed to Sayyidunā Ibrahim عَلَيْهِ السَّلَام :

إِنِّي عَلِيمٌ أَحِبُّ كُلَّ عَالِمٍ “Knowledge is My attribute, and I love every person of knowledge.”¹

People Worthy of Envy

اللَّهُ! اللَّهُ! Dear Islamic brothers! What can be said about love for the scholars! This is a pure love which, إِنَّ سَعَاءَ اللهِ, will become a means of entering Paradise.

Yes, this is the truth. Sayyidunā Anas b. Mālik رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ narrates that once a man presented himself in the blessed court of Prophethood and asked: مَتَى السَّاعَةُ؟ “O Messenger of Allah صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ! When will the Hour (the Day of Judgement) come?”

(Indeed, our beloved Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ, possesses knowledge of the Hour. He informed us about its signs, the day it will occur, and even the date; only the year was not disclosed, as permission for that was not granted.)

So, when the noble Companion asked, “When will the Hour come?”, the Messenger of Allah صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ, instead of answering directly, said:

وَمَاذَا أَعْدَدْتَ لَهَا؟

“What preparation have you made for it?”

(The honourable Companions surely offered prayers, recited the noble Quran, observed fasts, and performed countless good deeds. Yet the blessed manner of the noble Companion was humility, placing no reliance on his deeds.)

¹Jami' Bayan al-'Ilm wa Fadlih, volume 1, page 209, Hadith 2

He replied: لَا شَيْءَ “O Messenger of Allah صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ! I have not prepared anything,” (that is, I do not rely on my deeds; if Allah Almighty wills, He may accept them, and if He wills, He may not)

إِلَّا أَنِّي أَحِبُّ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ

“except that I love Allah Almighty and His beloved Messenger صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ.”

Upon hearing this, the Messenger of Allah صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ said: أَنْتَ مَعَ مَنْ أَحَبَّيْتَ “You will be with whom you love.”¹

سُبْحَانَ اللَّهِ! From this blessed Hadith, it becomes clear that in the Hereafter, a person will be with those whom he loved in this world.

Now reflect: how fortunate are those who love Imam al-A‘zam Abū Ḥanīfah رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ, the leader of the righteous and the muftis, Shaykh ‘Abd al-Qādir al-Jīlānī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ, the crown of Ahl al-Sunnah, Imam Aḥmad Riḍā رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ, and all the scholars of Ahl al-Sunnah.

On the Day of Judgement, Allah Almighty will place them with these scholars; they will be gathered with them, and, if Allah Almighty wills, they will enter Paradise following them.

صَلُّوا عَلَى الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ

Love for the Commentator of *Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī* (Shāriḥ al-Bukhārī) رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ

Dear Islamic brothers! Amīr Ahl al-Sunnah has immense love for the scholars of Ahl al-Sunnah, and due to this, he never allows any shortcoming in showing them respect and honour.

¹ Sahih al-Bukhari, *Book of the Virtues of the Companions of the Prophet*, Chapter: The Virtues of ‘Umar ibn al-Khattab, page 934, Hadith 3688.

Once, when he came to know that Faqīh A'zam-e-Hind, 'Allāmah Mawlānā Mufti Sharīf al-Ḥaqq al-Amjadī رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ was visiting Karachi, due to his love for the scholars of Ahl al-Sunnah, he immediately reached the place where the Shaykh was staying. He met him, and as long as he remained in the blessed presence of the Commentator of *Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī* رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ, he stood respectfully with hands folded, maintaining the utmost etiquette.

Later, when the Commentator of *Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī* رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ visited the home of Amīr Ahl al-Sunnah during the daytime, that scene too was truly worth witnessing. Amīr Ahl al-Sunnah and the Islamic brothers present attained the honour of kissing his feet. He personally served food with his own hands to the Shaykh رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ and the accompanying scholars of Ahl al-Sunnah. When it was time for departure, in honour of the scholars, he walked barefoot from his home to escort them to the car.¹

صَلُّوا عَلَيَّ الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيَّ مُحَمَّدٍ

Love of the Pious Predecessors for Scholars

O devotees of the *Awliyā'*! The immense love that Amīr Ahl al-Sunnah has for the scholars is perfectly in line with the practice of our righteous predecessors. From the very beginning, the people of Allah Almighty have always shown deep love for the people of knowledge.

- The great leader of millions of Hanafis, Imam al-A'zam Abū Ḥanīfah رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ, had profound love for knowledge and the people of knowledge. It is reported that he would fulfil the needs of the great *Muḥaddithīn* from his own earnings, personally bear their household expenses, and distribute money among some scholars so that they could independently fulfil their needs.²
- Sayyidunā 'Abdullāh b. Mubārak رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ also had immense love for the scholars. He used to say that he engaged in trade only to serve the

¹ 1163 Ulama-e-Ahl-e-Sunnat kay Ta'assurat (Impressions of 1163 Scholars of Ahl-e-Sunnah), pages 14–15, with slight adaptation.

² Manaqib Imam-e-A'zam, Part 1, page 262.

scholars through it. Once, out of love, he said to Sayyidunā Fuḍayl b. ‘Iyāḍ رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ: رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ

لَوْلَاكَ وَأَصْحَابِكَ مَا اتَّجَرْتُ “Had it not been for you and your students, I would never have engaged in trade.”¹

- Sayyidunā ‘Umar b. ‘Abd al-‘Aziz رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ had fixed stipends for the scholars from the Muslim Treasury (*Bayt al-Māl*).²

May Allah Almighty, through the blessings of these noble personalities, grant us sincere love for Islamic scholars.

أَمِيرِنَ بِجَاكِ خَاتِمِ النَّبِيِّينَ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ

صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ

صَلُّوا عَلَى الْحَبِيبِ

“I Would Have Come Myself”

Listen to another parable reflecting the love of Amīr Ahl al-Sunnah دَامَتْ بَرَكَاتُهُمُ الْعَالِيَةَ for the scholars.

Once, a Qafilah of the devotees of the beloved Prophet صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ travelled to the city of Thatta in Sindh. Among them was a member of Dawat-e-Islami’s Markazi Majlis-e-Shura. During the visit, the Shura member met Sayyidunā Mawlānā Abu Siraj Tufail Ahmad Thattvi دَامَتْ بَرَكَاتُهُمُ الْعَالِيَةَ and invited him to attend the weekly gathering. He accepted the invitation and also expressed his desire to travel with the Qafila and to meet Amīr Ahl al-Sunnah دَامَتْ بَرَكَاتُهُمُ الْعَالِيَةَ.

Despite being a renowned *khaṭīb*, mufti, and Shaykh al-Hadith, he became a seeker of Amīr Ahl al-Sunnah.

¹ Sifat-us-Safwah, Part 4, Volume 2, page 126

² Tarikh Madinah Dimashq (History of Damascus), Volume 46, page 320.

When he came to meet Amīr Ahl al-Sunnah, Amīr Ahl al-Sunnah **دَامَتْ بَرَكَاتُهُمْ الْعَالِيَةَ** honoured him by kissing his hand and said with humility: “I myself wished to meet you. Had you instructed me, I would have personally come to your residence.”¹

الله أكبر! What an incredible display of humility! Even more remarkable is that Amīr Ahl al-Sunnah **دَامَتْ بَرَكَاتُهُمْ الْعَالِيَةَ** shows the same respect and love to those scholars and muftis who are his own disciples. He eagerly awaits their arrival at the Madani Muzakrah, seats them beside himself, seeks clarification from them on religious issues discussed in the gathering, and, on one occasion, for the sake of blessing, even took Dawat-e-Islami's scholars and muftis (who are his disciples) to his own home.

Dear Islamic brothers! Whoever humbles himself for Allah Almighty, Allah Almighty grants him elevation.

Our Master and Leader, the final Prophet, Muhammad **صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ**, said with truth:

مَنْ تَوَاضَعَ لِلَّهِ رَفَعَهُ اللهُ “Whoever adopts humility for Allah, Allah raises him.”²

The world has witnessed the heights that Allah Almighty has granted to Amīr Ahl al-Sunnah **دَامَتْ بَرَكَاتُهُمْ الْعَالِيَةَ**.

صَلُّوا عَلَى الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ

Mercy Was Bestowed upon Sultan Maḥmūd al-Ghaznawī

Dear Islamic brothers! Loving the scholars and expressing humility before them is among the greatest means of attaining the mercy of Allah Almighty and His Beloved **صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ**.

¹ 1163 Ulama-e-Ahl-e-Sunnat ke Ta'assurat, pages 15–16.

² Al-Mu'jam al-Awsat, volume 6, page 145, Hadith 8307.

It is written in the books of history that Sultan Maḥmūd al-Ghaznawī رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ, a great ruler of his time and a devotee of the Prophet, wished to learn the truth behind three matters:

1. Who are the people referred to in the saying of the Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

الْعُلَمَاءُ وَرِثَةُ الرُّسُلِ “The scholars are the heirs of the Prophets.”

2. Whether his father was truly Sabuktigin, or someone else.
3. Whether he would be forgiven or not.

One night, while travelling with his army, a servant was walking ahead holding a lantern. Seeing the light, a man came out of his house carrying a book and began reading by the lantern's light.

Sultan Maḥmūd thought to himself that this must be a scholar. Since he deeply loved knowledge and the people of knowledge, he respectfully ordered the army to halt so the man could read in peace. Once the man finished and returned home, the Sultan continued his journey.

That very night, his fortune shone. When he slept, in his dream, the beloved Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ appeared and said only one sentence: “O Nāṣir al-Dīn, son of Sabuktigin! Because of your service to my heir (the scholar), Allah Almighty has forgiven you.”¹ سُبْحَانَ اللهِ! What a magnificent status of the beloved Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ!

By the grace of Allah Almighty, the beloved Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ is alive, and aware of the conditions of his Ummah, even their inner thoughts. He knew that Sultan Maḥmūd al-Ghaznawī had honoured a scholar, humbled himself before him, and that three questions troubled his heart.

In a single blessed sentence, all three matters were resolved:

1. By saying “son of Sabuktigin”, it became clear that his father was indeed

¹ Qiladat an-Nahr fi Wafayat A'yan ad-Dahr, volume 3, page 358 (with some adaptation).

Sabuktigin.

2. By saying “my heir”, it was confirmed that the devotees of the Prophet who are scholars are truly the heirs of the Prophets.
3. By saying “Allah Almighty has forgiven you”, it was confirmed that he had been forgiven.

سُبْحَانَ اللَّهِ! May Allah Almighty grant us the ability to love the people of knowledge and to honour them.

اُمَمِينَ بِجَاهِ خَاتِمِ النَّبِيِّينَ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ

A Unique Expression of Love for a Syrian Scholar

Dear Islamic brothers! Once, the director of Jāmi‘at al-Maghribiyyah, Damascus, and a great saint of the Naqshbandī spiritual order, the spiritual guide, Sayyidunā Shaykh Rajab رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ, who had arrived from Syria, came to the residence of Amīr Ahl al-Sunnah دَامَتْ بَرَكَاتُهُمْ الْعَالِيَةَ to meet him.

As soon as Amīr Ahl al-Sunnah was informed, he immediately came down barefoot from the second floor, went to the door himself, welcomed the guest, and with great respect escorted him upstairs. Those present were astonished: a towering scholarly and spiritual personality of the 15th century, followed by millions of disciples and devotees who would lay themselves down in love and devotion for him, yet he seated the scholars and *shuyūkh* who had come from Syria on an elevated place, while he himself, with complete humility, sat on the ground. His manner of sitting was also extremely respectful, with his knees on the ground and his gaze lowered.

When these honoured guests were about to depart, he expressed immense love and respect: he shook their hands, embraced them, presented them with gifts, and then walked barefoot to the door to see them off.¹

¹ 1163 ‘Ulama-e-Ahl-e-Sunnat ke Ta’assurat — Pages 12–13 (summarised)

Allah! Allah! Indeed, only those whom Allah Almighty grants a sound intellect truly value scholars.

They know that an *‘ālim* and an ignorant person can never be equal. They know that Allah Almighty has granted scholars ranks far above ordinary people.

How high are these ranks? So high that Sayyidunā ‘Abdullāh b. ‘Abbās رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُمَا states: The scholars will be seven hundred درجات (levels) above ordinary believers, and between every two levels there will be a distance of five hundred years.¹

They know that these are the people who truly understand the noble Quran and Hadith. They know that these are the true heirs of the noble Prophets عَلَيْهِمُ الصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ. They know that the superiority of a scholar over a mere worshipper is like the superiority of the full moon on the fourteenth night over all the stars.

صَلُّوا عَلَى الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ

Avoid Objecting to the People of Knowledge

Dear Islamic brothers! We too should show respect and honour to Islamic scholars, love them, and protect ourselves from objecting to them, because these individuals are beloved servants of Allah Almighty.

Allah Almighty says in the glorious Quran:

كُونُوا رِبِّيِّنَ بِمَا كُنْتُمْ تَعْلَمُونَ الْكِتَابَ وَبِمَا كُنْتُمْ تَدْرُسُونَ ﴿١١٦٣﴾

“Become people of Allah as you teach the Book and because you read it too.”²

Meaning: those who teach the Book of Allah Almighty—the noble Quran—and

¹ 1163 ‘Ulama-e-Ahl-e-Sunnat ke Ta’assurat — Pages 12–13 (summarised)

² Al-Quran, Āl-‘Imran, verse 79; translation from Kanz al-‘Irfān

explain it are *Rabbānī* scholars.

الله اكبر! Just reflect for a moment: those who are the chosen servants of Allah Almighty, the heirs of the religion—criticising them instead of loving them, trying to distance people from them, and showing disrespect towards them—what a grave crime this is! May Allah Almighty grant us love for the scholars.

The second Caliph of the Muslims, Sayyidunā ‘Umar al-Fārūq رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ, said: “Acquire knowledge; if you are unable to do so, then love those who possess knowledge. And if you cannot love them, then at least do not harbour hatred or enmity towards them.”¹

May Allah Almighty grant us true respect, love, and reverence for the people of knowledge.

اُمِّينَ بِجَاوِزَاتِ النَّبِيِّ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ

Seeking Supplications from the ‘Ulamā’

One very beautiful habit of Amīr Ahl al-Sunnah Mawlānā Muhammad Ilyas al-Qādirī دَامَتْ بَرَكَاتُهُمُ الْعَالِيَةِ is that, due to his love for the scholars, whenever he visits them, he especially requests them to supplicate for him. He states at one place: “Not hundreds, but thousands of supplications of Islamic scholars are with me.”²

During the lifetime of Sayyidunā Ghazālī al-Zamān ‘Allāmah Sayyid Aḥmad Sa‘īd al-Kāzimī رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ, whenever Amīr Ahl al-Sunnah دَامَتْ بَرَكَاتُهُمُ الْعَالِيَةِ would travel to Multan Sharīf, he would certainly present himself in his presence and receive abundant supplications from him.³

O devotees of the Prophet! The love of Amīr Ahl al-Sunnah Mawlānā Muhammad Ilyas al-Qādirī دَامَتْ بَرَكَاتُهُمُ الْعَالِيَةِ for the scholars of Ahl al-Sunnah is

¹ Tabaqat al-Kubra, Volume 2, Page 273.

² Religious Services of Ameer-e-Ahl-e-Sunnat, p. 325.

³ Impressions of 1163 Scholars of Ahl-e-Sunnat, p. 17.

purely for the pleasure of Allah Almighty.

In Sunan Abū Dāwūd, it is narrated from the second Caliph of the Muslims, Sayyidunā ‘Umar al-Fārūq رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ, that the Messenger of Allah صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ said: “Indeed, among the servants of Allah Almighty, there are some who are neither Prophets nor martyrs, yet their rank and status will be such that even the Prophets and martyrs will look at them with admiration on the Day of Judgement.”

It was asked, “O Messenger of Allah صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ! Who are they?”

He replied: “They are those people who have no family ties between them, nor any financial dealings with one another; rather, they love one another purely for the pleasure of Allah Almighty.”¹

Dear Islamic brothers! What an exalted status is granted to those who love one another solely for the pleasure of Allah Almighty. Listen further! The beloved Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ said: “Their faces will be radiant with light, they will be enveloped in light, and they will have no fear at a time when people will be fearful, and no grief at a time when people will be grieving.”²

صَلُّوا عَلَى الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ

Pearls of Wisdom from Amīr Ahl al-Sunnah دَامَتْ بَرَكَاتُهُمُ الْعَالِيَةَ

While encouraging love and respect for the scholars, Amīr Ahl al-Sunnah دَامَتْ بَرَكَاتُهُمُ الْعَالِيَةَ offers these pearls of wisdom:

- I will continue praising and remembering the scholars, whether someone likes it or not.
- My advice and will is: never let go of the scholars of religion, otherwise

¹ Abu Dawood, Book of Leasing (Kitab al-Ijarah), Chapter: Regarding Pledging (Bab fi al-Rahn), vol. 3, p. 402, Hadith 3527 (abridged).

² Abu Dawood, Book of Leasing (Kitab al-Ijarah), Chapter: Regarding Pledging (Bab fi al-Rahn), vol. 3, p. 402, Hadith 3527.

you will go astray.

- The ‘*Ulamā*’ of Ahl al-Sunnah will lead us towards Jannah.
- Tell an ‘*ālim*’ that whenever we err, he should correct us, even if he has to guide us with firmness.
- O ‘*Ulamā*’! Please do not distance us from your feet; we belong to you.
- ‘*Ulamā*’ and *mashā’ikh* are distinguished from the general public; they are leaders, and their words have impact. When strong ties are formed with them, they become a valuable support in Dawat-e-Islami’s religious work.¹

صَلُّوا عَلَى الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ

The Love of the Scholars of Ahl al-Sunnah for Amīr Ahl al-Sunnah

Dear Islamic brothers! You have heard how deeply Amīr Ahl al-Sunnah دَامَتْ بَرَكَاتُهُمُ الْعَالِيَةِ loves the scholars of Ahl al-Sunnah. This love is not one-sided; rather, just as he loves them, these great scholars also love him.

- Shāriḥ al-Bukhārī, Mufti Sharīf al-Haqq al-Amjadī رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ says: “Mawlānā Muhammad Ilyas al-Qādirī دَامَتْ بَرَكَاتُهُمُ الْعَالِيَةِ is a staunch Sunnī of sound creed, and a person who firmly adheres to the *maslak* of A’la Hazrat رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ.”
- Ra’īs al-Taḥrīr, ‘Allāmah Arshad al-Qādirī رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ, once visited the global Madani Markaz, Faizan-e-Madinah, Karachi. He asked the Khalīfah of Amīr Ahl al-Sunnah, Mawlānā Ḥājī Ubayd Raza Attari Madani دَامَتْ بَرَكَاتُهُمُ الْعَالِيَةِ: “Son, what do you do?”

He replied, “I study at Jamia-tul-Madinah.”

He said: “Son! Study well. Not everyone is granted *ladunnī* knowledge

¹ Religious Services of Ameer-e-Ahl-e-Sunnat, pp. 325–326 (abridged).

like your father.”

- The *Khalīfah* of Mufti A‘zam-e-Hind, Sayyidunā Muti al-Rahman al-Riḍawī دَامَتْ بَرَكَاتُهُمُ الْعَالِيَةَ, once expressed his love for Amīr Ahl al-Sunnah with words full of humility, saying: “I am a sinner, and Mawlānā Ilyas al-Qādirī Ṣāhib is entirely righteous.”
- Sayyidunā Shams al-Huda al-Miṣbāḥī دَامَتْ بَرَكَاتُهُمُ الْعَالِيَةَ says: “It would not be an exaggeration to say that Attar is the name of the blessings of Raza.”¹

صَلُّوا عَلَيَّ الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيَّ مُحَمَّدٍ

How to Attain Love for the Scholars

Dear Islamic brothers! We heard some parables of the love Amīr Ahl al-Sunnah Mawlānā Muhammad Ilyas al-Qādirī دَامَتْ بَرَكَاتُهُمُ الْعَالِيَةَ has for the scholars of Ahl al-Sunnah, and their love for him. May Allah Almighty, for the sake of these blessed personalities, grant us love for the people of knowledge as well.

Come, let me briefly mention some ways through which love for the scholars can be attained:

- It is very easy! Keep the company of those who love the scholars. *إِنْ شَاءَ اللهُ*, love for the scholars will develop.
- Make it a habit to watch the weekly Madani Muzakrah regularly. During the Madani Muzakrah, Amīr Ahl al-Sunnah Mawlānā Muhammad Ilyas al-Qādirī دَامَتْ بَرَكَاتُهُمُ الْعَالِيَةَ seats scholars and muftis beside him. In this way, viewers recognise their rank and status, and love for them enters their hearts.
- Study *Ihyā' al-'Ulūm* (Urdu translation), volume 1, published by Maktabat-ul-Madinah.

¹ “Ameer-e-Ahl-e-Sunnat in the View of the Scholars of Ahl-e-Sunnat, pages 6–12 (summarised).”

- Read the beautiful treatise of A'la Hazrat Imam Aḥmad Riḍā Khan's رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ respected father, Sayyidunā Mawlānā Mufti Naqī 'Alī Khan رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ, titled *Faḍl al-'Ilm wa al-'Ulamā'*.
- Read another booklet published by Maktabat-ul-Madinah: *The Status of Knowledge and Scholars*.
- Travel in Qafilahs with the devotees of the Prophet ﷺ the love, status, and greatness of the scholars will settle in the heart.

May Allah Almighty grant us the ability to act upon this.

اٰمِيْنُ بِجَاہِ خَاتِمِ النَّبِيِّنَ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ

صَلُّوْا عَلٰى الْحَبِيْبِ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلٰى مُحَمَّدٍ

Booklets on the Life of Amīr Ahl al-Sunnah دَامَتْ بَرَكَاتُهُمْ الْعَالِيَةَ

Dear Islamic brothers! Two very beautiful booklets on the blessed life of Amīr Ahl al-Sunnah Mawlānā Muhammad Ilyas al-Qādirī دَامَتْ بَرَكَاتُهُمْ الْعَالِيَةَ have been published by Maktabat-ul-Madinah:

1. *Ta'aruf-e-Amīr Ahl al-Sunnah*
2. *Faizan-e-Amīr Ahl al-Sunnah*

You can purchase both of these booklets from any branch of Maktabat-ul-Madinah. Read them yourself and encourage others to do the same. May Allah Almighty grant us the blessings of Amīr Ahl al-Sunnah دَامَتْ بَرَكَاتُهُمْ الْعَالِيَةَ.

اٰمِيْنُ بِجَاہِ خَاتِمِ النَّبِيِّنَ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ

صَلُّوْا عَلٰى الْحَبِيْبِ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلٰى مُحَمَّدٍ