

Our Teacher, The True Hidden Gem of Bolton. Written by Mufti Shihab Uddin Saheb (Bradford)

Shaykh Moulana Muhammad Ali Nanji Al Mazahiri Al Qasimi ibn Adam of
Bolton (d.26/06/2018) رحمه الله رحمة واسعة

Saturday 24th March 2018

After shopping at the Islamic bookshop in Bolton, I went to visit my teacher Shaykh Moulana Ali Saheb. As usual Hazrat was very happy to meet me, he mentioned I was thinking about you a few days ago. I replied that I was planning to meet you too for a while, but I was unable visit. After some discussion, Hazrat said let's go to the Masjid to perform our Asr Salah. He asked me as to what I would like to drink, hot or cold, to which I replied, "hot is fine". We then walked to Masjid-E-Uthman and performed our Asr Salah.

After Asr Salah, I walked back with Hazrat to his house, we sat down, and Hazrat offered some tea and some Indian snacks for me to eat. Whilst having tea, I started to note down a short bio of Hazrat. I said to him that the students need to know who their teachers are. I quoted the saying of Abdullah ibn Mubarak, from the Muqaddama of Sahih Muslim about Isnaad, Hazrat smiled and replied "true", and so I started by asking when Hazrat was born.

Shaykh Moulana Ali bin Adam Saheb was born on 1st May 1938 (he told me according to the passport it is 1940). He was born in the Valan village, in Baroda District. He

started his Islamic studies in **Jamia Ashrafia Arabia, Rander, Surat**, where he studied for four years until Arabi dawm with the following teachers:

- 1) Shaykh Moulana Yusuf Budhanwi Saheb, who taught him Farsi (Persian)
- 2) Shaykh Moulana Muhiuddin Randeri Saheb, who taught him Arabic
- 3) Shaykh Moulana Hakeem Abu Shifa Saheb, who taught him Arabic
- 4) Shaykh Qari Abdul Hamid Panolwi Saheb, who taught him Qira'at

Then Hazrat moved to **Madrasah Miftahul Uloom, Jalalabad**, where he studied for four years; Arabi Dawm, Arabi Sawm, Arabi Chahrum and Arabi Panjum, which were with the following teachers:

- 1) Bhai Jan (Son of Maseehul Ummat Shaykh Moulana Masihullah Khan Saheb)
- 2) Shaykh Moulana Yameen Saheb
- 3) Hadhrat Moulana Aqeel Saheb
- 4) Chacha Jan (Brother of Shaykh Moulana Masihullah Khan Saheb)
- 5) Hadhrat Moulana Wajid Hussain Saheb

Hazrat also mentioned he used to read the Gujarati letters for Shaykh Masihullah Khan Saheb. Shaykh Moulana Ali Saheb also attended the Khatme Bukhari and Majalis, delivered by Shaykh Masihullah Khan Saheb, and also by Allama Rafeeq Ahmad Saheb Biskhanwi.

Hazrat then moved to **Mazahirul Uloom, Sahranpur**, where he studied for two years in Mawqoof alaihi and Dawrah hadith. Here are the names he mentioned of the teachers he studied with:

- 1) Shaykh Moulana Yahya Sahranpuri Saheb, who taught Mishkaat shareef
- 2) Shaykh Mufti Abdul Aziz Saheb, who taught Tafseer Jalalain and Nasa'i Shareef

- 3) Shaykh Moulana Waqar Ali Saheb, who taught Tafseer Baydawi and Hidayah Akhirain
- 4) Shaykh Moulana Muhammad Zakariya Kandhlawi Saheb, who taught Sahih Bukhari vol 1, and the Musalsalat of Shah Waliullah Muhaddith Dehlawi (RA)
- 5) Shaykh Yunus Jaunpuri Saheb, who taught Sahih Bukhari vol 2
- 6) Shaykh Mufti Muzaffar Hussain Saheb who taught Tirmidhi
- 7) Shaykh Moulana Muhammad Aqil Saheb, who taught Sunan Abi Dawood and Ibn Majah.
- 8) Shaykh Moulana Asadullah Rampuri Saheb, who taught Sharh Ma'anil Athar (Tahawi shareef)

I asked Hazrat about the Muwatta of Imam Malik, but he could not remember who taught that.

Hazrat then said, “people from all around the world come and study in Darul Uloom Deoband, so I wanted to study there too”, so he went to **Darul Uloom Deoband** in 1967 to study Funoon (various subjects) and studied the following:

- 1) Allama Nasir Ahmad Khan Saheb, who taught Tasreeh al Tasreeh and Sharh Chagmini
- 2) Shaykh Moulana Naeem Deobandi Saheb, who taught Aqaaid Nasafi
- 3) Shaykh Qari Muhammad Tayab Saheb, who taught Hujjatullah il Balighah
- 4) Shaykh Anzar Shah Kashmiri Saheb, who taught Mutabanna and Sab'a Mu'allaqat
- 5) Qari Abdullah Saheb, who taught Tajweed
- 6) Shaykh Fakruddin Muradabadi Saheb (Moulana Ali Saheb has sat in his lessons of Sahih Bukhari a few times)

Shaykh Moulana Ali Saheb graduated from Darul Uloom Deoband in the **year 1968**. I also asked him what he did after graduation, and he replied, I started teaching in the following Madrasahs:

- 1) Jamia Islamia Anand Gujarat, for two or three years
- 2) Darul Uloom Matliwala, Bharuch, Gujarat for 25 years from 1972
- 3) Jamia Islamia, Darul Uloom Bolton, from 1997 to 2009
- 4) Tahfeezul Quran Bolton (Hazrat taught Sahih Bukhari for the last 16 or 17 years until he returned to his Lord)

Shaykh Moulana Ali Saheb also mentioned that he had **khilafat** from three different Shaykhs:

- 1) Shaykh Qamruzzaman Saheb Ilahbaadi (India)
- 2) Shaykh Qari Ismail Saheb Samni (Bolton)
- 3) Hazrat mentioned the name of another Shaykh from Leicester, which I cannot remember now as I had not heard the Shaykh's name before.

Shaykh Moulana Ali Saheb has **authored and compiled books in Urdu and Gujarati**. These are the names of some of those books.

- 1) Zulm wa Sitam ki Kahani Qalam ki Zabani (Urdu)
- 2) Khazinatul Asraar (Urdu)
- 3) Quran wa Hadith ke anmol moti (Urdu)

On **Tuesday 26th June 2018**, around 6:30pm, I received messages from many of my friends and associates, that Hazrat had just passed away, and returned to his Lord. I quickly called Hazrat's house to confirm the messages. I was told that he had just passed away.

At 9:15am I set off towards Zakariya Masjid, Bolton, to attend the Janazah Salah of Hazrat. I arrived at the Masjid at 10:20am, the same time Hazrat's coffin was brought to the Masjid. Alhamdulillah, I had the chance to see Hazrat's face one more time but felt grief at the loss of such a kind, loving and humble teacher.

I met Hazrat's son Abdur Rahman, and my teacher Qari Yakub Nanji Saheb, who did a talk before the Janazah Salah. I also met some of my Darul Uloom teachers, including Moulana Abbas Saheb, Mufti Aslam Saheb, Moulana Yunus Saheb and Moulana Imtiyaz Saheb, and many colleagues from different towns who all came to attend the Janazah Salah.

At 11am, the Janazah Salah was led by **Sheikhul Hadith Hazrat Moulana Yusuf Motala Saheb**, then Shaykh Moulana Ali Saheb was buried in Overdale Cemetery, Bolton. After the burial, Qari Yakub Nanji Saheb made Dua and concluded the funeral.

Hazrat had dedicated his life to teaching, writing, and busying himself in Mutala, and he has left behind many students as Sadaqa Jariya. We ask Allah to forgive our teacher, elevate his status, grant him Jannatul Firdous, and accept all his khidmaat.

Amin,

Hazrat (RA)'s student,

Shihab Uddin,

Madrasah Baitul Ilm, Bradford,

03/07/2018.

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