

Key notes from Hadrat Mufti Shabbir Ahmad's speech in Saharanpur

The following are some notes taken by sister Atiya Motala with some additions based on the speech of Hadrat Mufti Shabbir Ahmad Sahib, one of Shaykh's most senior and closest students and disciples. The speech was delivered in Saharanpur on Wednesday 12th July. The following are some excerpts and points by way of summary. The Urdu transcript of the speech will be available on our website soon.

Hadrat Mufti Shabbir Ahmad Sahib said:

The most difficult thing for me is to deliver a lecture in Darul Uloom Bury. And even more difficult is to deliver a lecture here in Saharanpur. The previous speakers mentioned that we should look at the beginning of Hadrat's life, not the end, but today I will mention regarding the end of Hadhrat's life.

Shah Abdul Gani Rahimahullah has written that our beloved Prophet Muhammad Salallahu Alayhi Wasallam was Sayyidul Fuqara (the leader of the poor) and he was also Sayyidul Agniyaa (the leader of the rich).

In his recent years, Hadhrat was granted all the luxuries from Allah Ta'ala yet he would give it away in Sadaqah. And even in this time of futoohaat he would sleep on the ground and not on a bed.

In Makkah Mukarramah, due to the blessing of Mawlana Yunus Randerah, he would reside in such a hotel that maybe no one from our our pious elders would have stayed in such hotels. A large expansive room, with a view of the Ka'bah but Hadhrat would sleep on the ground. The bed would be so big that probably five students would fit on it.

So much Sadaqah he would make that he had instructed brother Ajmal that everyday one goat should be given in Sadaqah on my behalf.

On his visits to UK, so many gifts used to be accumulated. Once Shaykh was told that (Mawlana) Musa Londoni is heavily in debt. When the gifts were accumulated, Shaykh said give all the money to him so he can pay off his debt. It was one thousand pounds. This is a scholar from India giving money to a person in the UK.

When Hadhrat came to UK a few years ago, he was scheduled to give the final lesson of Bukhari Sharif but he fell very ill. His Blood pressure went high and he was not able to speak. The next day, the students were eager to learn so I gathered them and Hadhrat delivered a

lesson. Lots of gifts were given. We decided that we will send the gifts directly to Saharanpur given Hadhrat's health. I came to Saharanpur some months later, and presented £3500 to Shaykh. He refused to accept and said you keep it. I declined. My wife was with me and he pointed towards her and said use it in your daughter's wedding.

Many of the points mentioned in Kashful Baari by Mawlana Saleemullah Khan Saheb Rahimahullah, are those of Shaykh Yunus Saheb. I was the one who gave Mawlana Saleemullah Sahib Shaykh's lessons which had been transcribed from audio cassettes by Mawlana Rashid and my wife. Recently, a message has been received from Jamia Farooqia which confirms this.

Shaykh's commentary on the chapters of Bukhari is the best. It is as though he speaks with the tongue of Imam Bukhari Rahimahullah.

Shaykh Hariri of Jeddah valued Shaykh so much. He read the Sihah Sittah with Shaykh during Hajj and Umrah trips.

Hadhrat loved Imam Bukhari so much he had told one student that you should make Sadaqah on behalf of Imam Bukhari Rahimahullah.

Hadhrat Shaykh Zakariyya Rahimahullah had given him a letter that he was to open after 40 years and in that letter was written that at this time you have gone ahead of me.

We had seen Hadhrat taking the gifts of money, which would be 1000s of pounds and giving it for Tahfeez in Makkah Mukarramah. At times he would send me with millions of rupees as donation for both Madrasahs here and would say don't take my name, give it under your name.

Hadhrat has left his entire library of books as waqf for the Madrasah. You will not find an Alim do this. It has thousands of books. He really had zeal for reading kitabs even in his old age. I had recently phoned my son to purchase the commentary of Sunan Ibn Majah that had just been published in Madinah Munawwarah. When Hadhrat found out, he said buy it for me also. So the commentary was bought and gifted to Hadhrat.

He had so much knowledge on Sahih Bukhari. When we sit to teach Sahih Bukhari, and we touch on unpacking the Tarjumatul Bab (chapter), we find that Shaykh has such knowledge. By Allah, we do not find his knowledge in the commentaries.

Shaykh would always maintain relations and never forget anyone who did any act of goodness towards him. He would connect with all. He would remember all his teachers and make Sadaqah on their behalf. When Moulana Zia Saheb passed away he had left some debts and Hadhrat Shaykh Saheb paid off all his debtors.

Mufti Shabbir Saheb further mentions how much affection Shaykh would display towards him when he spent time in his khidmah cooking for him for three years. When he was leaving, Hadhrat sat with him in the rickshaw and came to bid him farewell at the station. Once he visited the UK and said I was not going to come but I heard about your illness, which is why I came. SubhanAllah!

Hadhrat would rebuke us. But he would always say, I only discipline those with whom I have a connection. And he would say that the person is fortunate who builds humility after I discipline him.

Hadhrat always made acted upon Azeemat (as opposed to Rukhsat). In 2004, in Ramadhan an incident occurred. We prayed Zuhr Salaah and the imam came to Hadhrat and said that he was a traveller and led Salah of four rakaah. Was it valid? So Shaykh Yunus saheb referred him to me. The Imam Saheb came to ask me and I said the obligation of the Salah has been fulfilled according to the Hanafi school, though to repeat is wājib (necessary), and that it is also Hadhrat's view that you are not a traveller for having stayed for more than four days, and therefore I do not see that it needs to be repeated. We read Asr, Maghrib, Esha and Taraweeh which would be three Juz daily. After that Hadhrat called me and said, Shabbir, the congregation here is Hanafi and therefore I think we need to repeat our Salah. Hadhrat along with the congregation repeated Zuhr, Asr, Maghrib and Esha!

Hadhrat's early life also has lessons and his final life also has great lessons. His beginning was spent in poverty without choice and his end was spent in poverty by choice. Like the Dua of Rasulallah Salallahu Alayhi Wasallam: Allahumma ahyinee miskeena wa amitnee miskeena wahshurnee fi zumaratil masaakeen.

Hadhrat loved the family of Hadhrat Shaykh Zakariyya Rahimahullah immensely! Once we visited Manchester in the UK which had a lot of acquaintances of Hadhrat Shaykh residing there. They gave a lot of gifts. About £1000 was accumulated. Later we met Bhai Talha Saheb damat barakatuhum and Hadhrat told Mufti Shabbir Saheb to give it all to Bhaijaan Saheb, because it was gifted through the Barakah of Hadhrat Shaykh Zakariyya Saheb.