

Memories of Mawlana Gulam Desai, Dewsbury

السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته

With the passing of Hazrat Sheikh Yunus (RA), I feel the need to share some of the experiences that I had with him.

I have known Hazrat Sheikh since 2004. This includes spending time in his presence in Saharanpur after faraghat, as well as having spent time with him in the Haramain Shareefain. I was also blessed with the opportunity to stay alone in Hazrat's company. I asked Sheikh many questions in regards to Islah and Sunnah, Hazrat Shaykh's adherence to the Sunnah was one of deep insight.

In 2013, I was with Hazrat Shaykh in Umrah. Upon Mashwara it was decided that after Asr we would visit the date gardens in Madina Shareef. There were five of us: Hazrat Shaykh, the driver, brother Usman from Bolton, Mufti Yunus Sahib and myself. Through my weakness I was not sure what intention I should make whilst going to the garden. Once in the garden we prayed Maghrib Salah and had a special Arab dish called قنافة. Whilst I was performing my wudhu for Maghrib, Hazrat's khadim then informed me that Hazrat does not take great pleasure in going to such places, but only does so because Nabi عليه السلام would do so. Nabi عليه السلام would go to Hazrat Talha's (ra) garden to rest, have some fresh water and dates. This is why Hazrat visits these gardens when he is in Madina Shareef.

Another time I was offering Hazrat some milk in Saharanpur. He was leaning on a wall before I offered the milk. Once I gave him the milk, despite Hazrat being an elderly person, he sat up straight and drank the milk saying:

لا آكل منك

I share these stories with you so we can learn how we should follow and adhere to the Sunnah. I pray to Allah SWT that this may benefit me and all who read it. Ameen!

Gulam Desai

Imam Masjid-e-Umar Dewsbury