

## Memories of Mawlana Osman Leicester

Asalamu alaikum wa rahmatullahi wa barakatuhu

I have not had the opportunity of studying formally under the great Shaykh of Hadeeth, Shaykh Yunus Jownpuri RA. I have always had the hope and dream of visiting Shaykh in Saharanpur but this plan never came to fruition.

Despite this, I have had the opportunity of sitting in numerous duroos (lessons) of Shaykh Yunus RA over the past 12/13 years and have also been blessed in receiving ijazah in Hadeeth of Hazrat Shaykh Yunus as well.

### Meeting in London

As far as I remember, the first time I had the opportunity of sitting in Hazrat Shaykh Yunus' company was around the year 2003 in London Kent Darul Uloom. My teacher and a few students made the trip down to London and spent the day in his auspicious company.

I vividly recall how after Dhuhr Salah Shaykh Yunus became upset at the imam for excessively stretching the ending salam and asking the muftis present to check the masalah showing his extremely strict adherence to the sunnah.

After Salah, Hazrat Shaykh Yunus sat to give some advice but ended it abruptly due to his health deteriorating and Hazrat feeling the effects of the black magic on his body. Hazrat Shaykh mentioned whilst in agony that he can feel a scorpion biting him on his leg.

### Hazrat Shaykh Yunus visit to Darul Uloom Bury

Another time I got to see Hazrat Shaykh in close proximity was when he came to Darul Uloom Bury around 2015. I recall the day as being a Monday and not many outsiders were present at Darul Uloom.

We arrived at Darul Uloom early and stood outside waiting for Hazrat Shaykh Yunus and our beloved Hazrat Maulana Yusuf Motala. When both Hazrats arrived it was a sight to behold. Hazrat Maulana Yusuf Motala, a student of Hazrat Shaykh Yunus, driving and Hazrat Shaykh Yunus, the teacher, as the passenger!

Alhamdulillah, after the programme, we had the opportunity to sit to eat with them and also had the honour of witnessing the extreme level of respect Hazrat Maulana Yusuf Motala had for his teacher.

## **Madinah Munawwarah**

The third opportunity I had to spend time with Shaykh Yunus, and this was my only close interaction with Hazrat (my heart bleeds with regret at not spending more time with him), was in Hajj 2013.

In Madinah Munawwarah, a close friend and I wanted to meet Hazrat Shaykh Yunus. After enquiring from colleagues and associates, we found the name of the hotel Hazrat Shaykh Yunus was residing in, we were also told the floor number but that was not certain. Not being familiar with Hazrat Shaykh's timings, we decided to go and see Hazrat Shaykh after Isha Salah. To ensure we do not miss him, we read the fardh of Isha in the haram and then headed straight to the hotel to wait for his arrival.

When we reached the hotel we realised we had a problem. The problem was that the hotel had three entrances and we did not know which entrance Hazrat Shaykh Yunus was going to use. After spending a few minutes deciding on what to do, we agreed to choose one and sit praying we have made the right choice.

We sat anxiously waiting in the lobby of the hotel for around half an hour worried that we may have missed him. Eventually, after losing hope, we decided to head up to the floor we thought Hazrat Shaykh was staying on. When we reached the floor we went past an elevator door which was linked to another entrance and at that moment the elevator light pinged and the doors opened. Alhamdulillah, Allah Almighty had answered our duas and from the open doors out came Hazrat Shaykh Yunus in his wheelchair being pushed by our beloved teacher Hazrat Maulana Abdul Raheem Limbada. We were overjoyed and followed them to a room, which we later discovered to be the room of Hazrat Peer Sahib.

After a brief visit, they headed out and went to the room of Hazrat Shaykh Yunus. When we entered there were only a few people with him and we sat down to eat with the respected Shaykh.

After eating, we helped clear away and I followed Hazrat Maulana Abdul Raheem Sahib into the kitchen where I had the opportunity to squeeze fresh orange juice out into a glass for Hazrat Shaykh Yunus to drink.

When we went back into the room a guest came to visit Shaykh Yunus, who was a resident of Madinah Munawwarah. During their discussion, Hazrat Shaykh Yunus mentioned to the guest that

مدینہ منورہ جینے کی جگہ نہیں ہے ، مرنے کی جگہ ہے

“Madinah Munawwarah is not a place to come to live, rather it is a place to come to die.”

(Coincidentally, I heard a similar sentence from my Shaykh in Madinah Munawwarah in Ramadan this year a few weeks before Hazrat Shaykh’s demise. My Shaykh mentioned that he expressed the desire of moving to Madinah Munawwarah to Sufi Iqbal Sahib and Sufi Iqbal mentioned this to him and told my Shaykh to go back to the UK)

After this guest departed, we were left in the company Hazrat Shaykh Yunus, just Maulana Abdul Raheem Sahib, my friend and I. Hazrat Shaykh Yunus turned his attention towards us and asked us who we were. After explaining who we were and what we do, Hazrat Shaykh Yunus gave us advice to read 3 Juz daily for huffaz and 1 Juz daily for non huffaz.

After advising us for a bit of time in his humorous way, Hazrat Shaykh Yunus asked us to assist him in putting him to bed. Alhamdulillah, we received this small opportunity to serve him and thus our time in his company came to an end.

After receiving the message requesting people to write down their interactions with Hazrat Shaykh Yunus, I felt compelled to write whatever little I experienced with Shaykh and leave it you to decide whether it is of any benefit.

May Allah Almighty grant Hazrat Shaykh Yunus RA the highest abode in Jannah. And may He, The Almighty, forgive me if I have recalled anything inaccurately. Ameen

Mawlana Osman, Leicester