

Memories of Zuber Seedat, Leicester

Assalamu'alaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh Mufti Saheb,

I and three of my friends travelled for Umrah in Ramadhan in the year 2000 and were honoured to have a brief but very memorable encounter with Shaykh Yunus (Rahmatullahi Alaih), and it still remains fresh in all of our minds. This was the first time any of us had ever met Shaykh (Rahmatullahi Alaih).

We went to meet Shaykh (Rahmatullahi Alaih) in his hotel room one evening and there were other Ulama and students in the room with him. Shaykh (Rahmatullahi Alaih) was either lying or sitting up on the bed and his legs were being massaged.

We all did musafahah with Shaykh (Rahmatullahi Alaih) and when it was my turn he pulled off the ring I was wearing on the middle finger of my right hand and advised me very firmly (I seem to remember him saying 'Ye kiya hey', i.e. what is this?) that it was not permissible to wear a ring in the middle finger. He also advised that it was permissible to wear a ring on the index finger and Sunnah to wear a ring on the small finger. Alhamdulillah from that day onwards I have not worn a ring on my middle finger.

Once we had done musafahah, he asked all three of us in turn if we were hafiz, somehow he knew that our 4th friend was not so he did not ask him. He asked us, 'kitne pare parte how' (how many Juz do you recite), to which we replied 1-3 paras, he then said, 'Pandra pare parna chaye' (15 Juz should be recited daily). He then asked another person who was already in the room with him how many Juz he read daily and he replied either 15 Juz or the full Quran. I seem to remember he talked about some dream(s) regarding reading the Quran abundantly but unfortunately cannot remember what it was.

Finally, before we left the room he asked us where we were from. When we replied Leicester he said 'Yahya ko salaam dena' (give salam to Yahya). We did not know which Yahya he was referring to so Mawlana Abdul Raheem Limdada clarified that he is referring to Mawlana Yahya Patel.

I thought I would forward this memory on as I received a message today that you are compiling memories/stories of Shaykh (Rahmatullahi Alaih) and although it was approximately 17 years ago and we were teenagers, the brief meeting has always remained in our memories.

Zuber Seedat