



كلّ نفس ذائقة الموت ثم اليّنا ترجعون (القرآن)

Every soul shall have A taste of death, then to Us will ye Be all brought back

Departure of Hadhrat Moulana Ayyub Kholwadia sahib

(By Supporters of Haramain Hilal Dates, Batley)

Dear brothers and Sisters in Islam

السّلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته

Muslims of Batley have suffered an irreplaceable loss by the sudden death of Hadhrat Moulana Ayyub Kholwadia saheb on Sunday 23rd Septemner 2012 at the age of 76 yrs. **إِنَّا لِلّٰهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ**

His janaza namaz was lead by Shaikhul Hadith Hadhrat Moulana Yusuf Motala saheb, attended by dozens of Mashaaiikh, hundreds of Ulama and Huffaz, and over a thousand Muslims from all over UK. This, despite short notice and bad weather, in itself is an evidence that he was loved and respected by our senior elders, and maqbool before Allah.

A commemoration programme was held at Henry Street Mosque in Batley on Saturday 29th September. The Mosque was filled with audience and dignitaries from Batley and surrounding area. Moulana's noble qualities were described by two of his student day's friends – Shaikhul Hadith Hadhrat Moulana Adam saheb hafizahullah, of Leicester, and Moulana Yusuf Patel mama saheb hafizahullah, of Batley.

Moulana a Scholar: After completion of his initial education in Taraj, Moulana left Gujarat to study in the world renowned Darul Uloom Deoband to master his degree of Aalim. There he benefited by close encounters with many great Mashaaiikh. Jurists and Islamic Luminaries. After his qualification and training, he returned to Gujarat, and he was selected in 1968 by the Muslim Welfare Society to come to Batley as full time Imam, Teacher, and Preacher. Moulana was the very first employee from abroad to be sponsored by the Society for serving Muslims of Batley. Calling Muslim scholars from India to UK to teach Islam was uncommon in the late sixties and early seventies. With Molina's arrival and his unmatched service to the Muslim community in Batley and surrounding area, Islamic Societies in many other towns started sponsoring full time teachers from the subcontinent. With his scholarly aptitude, devotion, and piety, Moulana became very popular and Muslims of Batley and other areas of England became very devoted to him.

Moulana a Shaikh: Moulana was a renowned Shaikh in the field of tazkiya. He met hundreds of Mashaaiikh during his lifetime, travelled with many, and stayed at their retreats for many days and weeks, to acquire spiritual training. Benevolence and firsthand experience of their piety and wilayah. He advanced in this field so much that he was honoured with Khilafat by FIVE great Mashaaiikh of our time. This is unique to Moulana as no other shaikh in Batley has ijazah and khilafat from these five great Mashaaiikh.

Moulana an Orator: Moulana was a great public speaker. He never hesitated from delivering heart touching speeches, introductions, instructions, and admonitions whenever there was a need, on the occasions of any festival, any incident, or any programme. Moulana was the sole speaker from Batley who delivered lectures at many annual conferences, programmes, and events organised by Jamiate Ulama UK, Khatme Nabuwwat Conference, and other





internationally known venues. His beautiful speeches filled with thrills and incidents of our senior Mashaikh were second to none. Moulana was a mighty store of incidents and anecdotes from lives of great Scholars and Mashaikh. He always spoke from the depth of his heart, frequently wept during his speech, and his words, filled with deep emotion. Imparted lasting effect in hearts and minds of his listeners.

Moulana a Traveller: Very few scholars take time to travel regularly to seek spiritual upliftment. Moulana was unique in that despite his old age and frailty, he regularly travelled thousands of miles in the UK, India, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, and other countries to meet Mashaikh and awliya. Whenever he heard of any scholar or saint visiting this country, he would be the first to go there, even if he had to travel alone, by bus. He took special journeys to India and Pakistan to meet hundreds of Shuyukh and Jurists to receive blessings and spirituality. He was the only scholar of Gujarat who travelled with the great Shaikhul Islam Hadhrat Moulana Hussain Ahmed Madani to spend the whole month of Ramadhan in etekaf in Sylhet (Bangladesh), and travelled with him in very remote areas of Bengal and Asam. The experience he gained from these journeys cannot be described in this short article.

Moulana a lover of Mashaikh: With his own spirituality in advance, Moulana loved Mashaikh of all denominations and diversity. He was mastermind in inviting the very first great Shaikh to UK, namely Hadhrat Shaikh Masihullah Khan sahib رحمه الله عليه. No Shaikh of that calibre ever visited UK before. Moulana provided accommodation, and accompanied the Shaikh throughout all his journey in the UK. Since then, Moulana invited, accompanied, and supported dozens of Mashaikh's visit to UK so that Muslims could benefit from their extraordinarily high level of knowledge, experience, piety and spirituality. Even in his student days, he regularly travelled at weekends from Deoband to meet Shuyukh in Saharanpur, and other cities. He missed bus once, so he walked alone over 20 miles to visit Mashaikh in Saharanpur. Such was his love for Shaikh.

Moulana a Well Wisher: Muslims have to survive on Islam, and it's difficult unless there is an Islamic atmosphere. Moulana understood the dire need to establish an atmosphere in which Muslims can safely and relentlessly practice Islam. When Hadhrat Shaikh Zakaria saheb رحمه الله عليه advised IMWS Committee to establish the first ever Girls High School in Batley, it was thought to be an impossible task. But Moulana was not pessimistic. He organised a meeting of interested Muslims at his own home to put Hadhrat Shaikh's advice into practice and laid foundation of the first ever private Muslim girls high school in the western world. That was the beginning of Zakaria Muslim Girls High School, Batley. Since then, hundreds of private Muslim schools have opened up in the UK, Europe, and the USA. For Moulana, it was an unmet need of Muslims at that time and he was mindful to encourage and guide them in the correct direction, and so Hadhrat Shaikh's dream to teach Muslim girls in an Islamic atmosphere became a reality.

Moulana a Preacher: When Moulana arrived in UK, the work of Tabligh was not so well established. He had frequently visited the World Tabligh Markaz in Delhi, spent one year after his qualification, and travelled in Jamaat many times there after. During his student days, when Moulana's colleagues went home for the holidays, he went in Tabligh Jamaat. Knowing the importance of Daawah and Tabligh, Moulana continued his efforts in the UK, and through him dozens of our friends joined this work, and are active in Daawah today. Moulana is one of very few Scholars of Batley who sat in etekaf with Hadhrat Hafiz Patel saheb, and delivered bayaans at Dewsbury Markaz.





Moulana a Mujaahid: Though very slim built, looking frail, Moulana possessed a lion's heart when it came to defending Deene Islam and Muslims. His stamina and spiritual strength is second to none in Batley. During very early days nearly forty years ago, when a pig's head was left inside Bradford Road Jummah Masjid, Batley he declared an open challenge by risking his life by lying in the middle of the very busy Bradford Road to attract Police intervention to end such blasphemy. Who could dare such bravery but Moulana? During marches against injustice to Islam, Moulana was always in the front row. He never hesitated from speaking aloud in defence of Islam, of our beloved Prophet ﷺ and of Muslims in general. In fact his last public appearance was in a General Meeting

at Al Hikmah Centre called to show our hatred for the newly released film blaspheming Prophet s.a.w and Islam. Moulana was the only senior Scholar present there, he addressed the audience, and he led the final dua at the conference. Where do we find such lion's heart?

Moulana a Host: Any Scholar, Jurist, or Saintly figure visiting Batley, from abroad or from other areas of UK, always visited Moulana, and very frequently was invited for meal and overnight stay at Moulana's home. Our Scholarly Elders realised the value of Moulana's status and position in the eyes of Allah, and as such they went out of their way to meet Moulana during their visit of Batley. Moulana loved feeding and helping all visiting dignitaries. He enjoyed their company, and they enjoyed Moulana's discourses. Moulana never missed any opportunity of entertaining his guests. Even in his student days, he used to invite Shuyukh and senior Ulama to dine with him. He loved serving them for they were the warasul Ambiyaa.

Moulana a Reader: 'One who love books will not find a more faithful friend, a trusting colleague, and a wholesome companion'. Moulana loved reading Islamic books, newspapers, and journals. He kept abreast with latest developments in the Muslim world, showed a keen interest in Muslims' affairs, and played active

role in shaping our future in light of current affairs. His room was always filled with latest books, news papers, and periodicals. With his knowledge of current affairs, he kept in touch with other senior figures to ensure Muslims' affairs are kept in good control. Moulana's wider and in depth reading habit was frequently exposed through his lectures and admonitions.

Moulana an Author: Moulana never wasted any time whether at home or abroad. He was always busy in prayers, remembrance, reading, communicating with others, or writing articles, or books. He has written many books in past few years. On reading books written by Moulana, many great Scholars and writers have praised his in-depth knowledge, coverage of subject matter, and discussions. His books on Duaa, Dastarkhan, and Moon sighting are only three examples of Moulana's writing ability. His books are widely read and accepted by senior Scholars, many of whom do not hesitate quoting from these books during their lectures. Many use them as reference work for their learning and teaching.

Moulana a lover of Haramain Sharifain: Moulana passionately loved Haramain Sharifain, and strongly believed in the authenticity of Haramain Hilal Dates. He stood firm like a mountain in the face of wavering wind that





moved few Ulama of Batley from following **Central Moon Sighting Committee's** hilal decisions based on Saudi Arab's announcements made in light of strictly Sunnah and Shariah compliant procedure. His unshakeable faith was depicted by his three historical statements – 'Allah will never impose a fasiq ruler over Holy Land that will dishonour Shariah Law; I believe in the authenticity of Haramain Hilal Dates without any daleel; I will follow Haramain Hilal dates even if whole of Batley, follow another country'. Till his last day, he remained a strong supporter and vehement promoter of the authenticity of Haramain Hilal Dates. In his dua, he cried before Allah to unite Muslims of Britain once again with Haramian Hilal Decisions. He felt intense grief seeing our youths doubting the Shariah Rule and authenticity of Saudi Hilal decisions. He felt sorry for the brains who are trying to inject doubts in minds of our innocent youths.

To sum up, it is hard to believe that a man of such high calibre, so many good qualities, and such strong faith and piety has suddenly left us for good. May Allah shower His blessings and mercy upon him, and grant lasting patience among his family and friends. What an irreplaceable loss!!!!



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