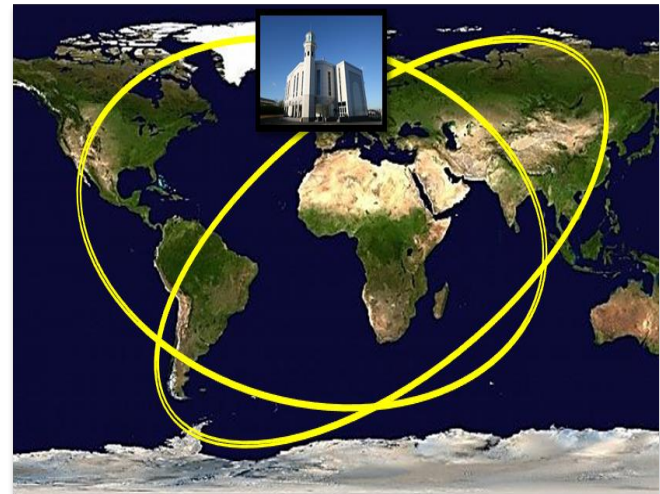


Raza Saleem: A Model Youth



Sermon Delivered by Hadhrat
Mirza Masroor Ahmad (aba);
Head of the Ahmadiyya Muslim
Community



relayed live all across the globe

September 16th 2016

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Every person who comes to this world will leave it one day and there is nothing in this world that is permanent or will stay here forever.

Some people reach the highest point of their age about which Allah mentions in the Holy Quran as 'Arza-ul-Umer'. In this age, they return to the condition of dependency and lack of knowledge which is similar to the condition of infants and finally return to their Creator.

Certainly there are some people who when depart this world leave behind a very large circle of grieving people and if such a favorite personality passes away in a very young age and very suddenly, the intensity of sorrow increases many folds.

Allah Almighty has always advised the sufferers of any kind of loss to recite 'Ina Lilah e Waina Alla-e-Rajeehoon'

Allah not only exalts the status of the departed soul but also blesses the sufferers with solace, peace and comfort.

Recently, a very beloved young student of Jami'a, Raza Saleem passed away at the age of 20 years.
(Ina Lilah e Waina Alla-e-Rajeehoon)

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The mother of the deceased said that my son was very dear to me but the One who has called him back is much more dearer than that. This is the exemplary reply and the grace of the momin that is found in the followers of the Promised Messiah (as). Regarding the condition of the father I got to know that upon receiving the news he cried and prayed but when he got the complete information, he recited 'Ina Lilah e Waina Alla-e-Rajeehoon' and became peaceful.



Thus, this is the exemplary grace of the Momin's that such a big loss cannot be forgotten so easily but the believers present their grief and anguish to Allah Almighty and prays for his comfort and for the departed soul.

He was a lovely child and I have a personal relationship and awareness about all the students of Jami'a U.K as they frequently visit me. During the meeting if I have some time, we engage in a question answer session.



In the last meeting with the young boy, I remember that he had a few questions to ask from me and I answered them in great detail... During the meetings, deep love and respect in his eyes was very evident.

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He was very active in studies despite his interest in sports and possessed a very high level of devotion and dedication towards Jama'at. There was a passion to become a yielded sword for the Khilafat and the religion.

Few outstanding characteristics that were evident from numerous writings about him presented to me by his friends, Jami'a students and his family were that he was very modest and hospitable, possessed very good manners and exceptional devotion for the Khilafat and Jama'at.

Such people according to the saying of the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) are included among the people for whom paradise becomes mandatory and are praised by everyone. This boy, who possessed extreme dedication for his religion, took part in the sports so that he may retain a healthy body to be able to serve Jama'at to the best of his abilities.

Mr. Raza Saleem who was the son of Mr. Zafar Saleem (who works at our private secretary office) passed away in an accident during hiking in Italy on September 10th, 2016 (Ina Lilah e Waina Alla-e-Rajeehoon). He was born on September 27th, 1993 in Guildford, U.K. and was a member of Waqf-e-Nau.

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In his family, Ahmadiyyat came through his great grandfather Mr. Allahdin Sahib. Raza Saleem got admission in Jami'a in 2012 and was the first missionary in his family. The late was a Moosi and had filled the Wasiat form that was in process. I wrote to the related department that his Wasiat is accepted.

Hafiz Ijaz Ahmed Sahib says that one day before we had reached the top of the mountain and we spent the night at a hut that was approximately 500m downhill. We had already hiked down through a very difficult trail. We started our journey down at 8 am in the morning when the weather was good. We were walking down in a line when Raza suddenly trembled over the stone or slipped his foot and could not maintain balance. He fell down with his head over.

Doctors believe that he was unconscious or lost his breath before he received the injuries. Hafiz Ijaz Sahib says that he and another Jami'a student tried to catch onto him but were very unfortunate not to be able to do so and he fell into the ditch. Other students tried to save him by going down into the ditch but I did not allow because it was very dangerous to do and might have resulted in more loss.

Raza was just right in front of our eyes and we informed the rescuers of his exact location. We were not informed about Raza's death until the entire group reached the helipad. The weather was very clear on the day we were hiking and the track we took is called 'Normal track to peak'. Raza's father went to that place and the local people there informed that it was a normal track and everyone young or old hikes on it.

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There was no fault of the administration or anyone else and it was indeed just the decree of Allah and that was the age he was given by his Creator. The fellow students who were on the hike with him are very shocked and may Allah give them the comfort and courage to return back to their normal lives. His memories cannot be forgotten but this should not create any fear in the hearts of the students of Jami'a Ahmadiyyat.

He would very happily mention about his meeting with me to his parents and would include us in his happiness. Before the meeting, he would always trim his nails fearing that while shaking hands his nails might not hurt me. How many of people are there who would actually think so deeply and so caringly.

He would always take students (who travelled from outside London) to his house and offered them lunch/dinner. If food items were prepared for him to take to his hostel, he would not take them until it was in sufficient enough for all his roommates. He would also take his fellow students clothes to his home for laundry. He had a very beloved relationship with his siblings and would work for them with full responsibility. He would not spend much on himself but used to spend very open heartedly for others.

He had a very high level of love and devotion for the Promised Messiah and the institution of Khilafat and would never hear a word against them.

He would always speak the truth and his father says that I always wanted him to be a religious scholar and missionary. His father even asked me and I told him that he had already become a Murabi even before completing the education of Jami'a.

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Once he had gone to Manchester for Waqf-e-Aarzi and upon his return someone gave him an envelope. Upon opening it he found that there is some money in it. He returned it to the person who gave and said that uncle we are not allowed to take this. The same person wrote a letter to me that a young boy who is becoming a Murabi and his actions surprised us and if such young people are devoting their lives for the service of Islam then the Jama'at will definitely experience a spiritual enhancement.

Dr. Nusrat Jahan Sahiba from Rabwah is here these days and suffering from an illness. May Allah bless her with health... He used to say that I pray a lot for her and may Allah give her health. May Allah listen to his prayers for her. He was very much known for his hospitality. If someone would invite him for lunch or dinner he would never forget them. Before going for this trip, he was teaching his mother how to write in Urdu on the mobile phone so that she wouldn't depend on her other children to inquire about him so now she could directly text him and that he would reply her directly.

His sister, Amtul Hafeez Sahiba says that one of his qualities was that he would not hear anything against any person. He had the ability to change people's negative thinking into good thoughts. He always used to say that we should appreciate and concentrate on other's good qualities and instead of talking about their negative traits we should pray for them.

He used to work a lot on Khuddam ul Ahmadiyya Ijtemas and would engage in question answer sessions. He would mostly have a duty in the hygiene department that focuses on cleaning. He would never question as to why was he always required to work in this department, instead would undertake his duties with devotion, responsibility and respect. During this hike we spent a night at a hut where the restroom did not have a lock. We asked him to stand outside the washroom while it was occupied and he performed his duty very happily. He also offered himself for the duty if anyone had to use the restroom during the night time.

He would never ask irrelevant questions. His questions would always revolve around the criticism on Islam in the western world and would tell that he is asking because this question had arisen during his discussion with some non-Muslim or non-Ahmadiyya person. Allah had blessed him and specially inculcated the want to defend Islam and Ahmadiyyat for all the criticism. During the last year, he memorized more than 500 poetic verses to take part in one of the poetry competitions. He would not just memorize the verses by heart but would understand the actual meaning with the help of teachers.

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He possessed diverse knowledge and used to gather other fellows for recreational activities. I remember one incident that in August 2014 during our setup of the tabligh stall, a group of Britain First came to us and started to ask questions from Raza in a very angry and unpleasant manner. However, Raza answered them so patiently and ethically that they were impressed and were convinced that Ahmaddiyya Muslims are not amongst the extremist Muslims.

Zaafir Sahab says that one day during our time at Jami'a he stood up and got the marker in hand. He exclaimed to me that we waste our free time at Jami'a and we should plan to make this time productive. Likewise, we had planned to engage with teachers to study other subjects during free time. He always tried his best to keep us happy. He would try his best not to waste time. Every week he would study some new book and tried not to miss his Tahajud prayer. He would ask his friends to wake up him very strictly for Tahajud prayer if he was not up till that time.

Apart from Jami'a studies he was very eager to study about other subjects. He was very fond of poetry and possessed great general knowledge. People have written to me a number of incidences that reflect all these qualities. May Allah exalt the status of departed soul and may he be given place amongst the beloveds of Allah, Ameen.

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As I have mentioned before, this young boy was already a religious scholar and a missionary even though he had not yet passed out from Jami'a.

He had special love, honor and respect for the institution of Khilafat.

May Allah bless every Jami'a student throughout the world to advance in sincerity and faithfulness towards their duties and the Jama'at.
The friends of Raza shall not only be mentioning his good qualities but the requirement of good friendship is that they should adopt the same qualities and use them for the service of religion.
May Allah provide to me and to the Khalifah's in future with such dedicated helpers, Ameen.
May Allah grant the peace of heart to Raza's parents and his siblings, Ameen.
May they always stick to the patience that they have shown and stick to the will of Allah, Ameen.
May they be the receivers of Allah's blessings and may Allah protect them from big losses and difficult situations in the future, Ameen.

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