

Islāmic Da'wah Academy's 24th Annual Youth Conference Report

by Mawlānā Zubayr Vantra (Part 1)



Since 1991 the Islāmic Da'wah Academy, under the supervision of my most beloved and respected Shaykh-ul-Ḥadīth, Ḥaḍrat Mawlānā Muhammad Saleem Dhorat *dāmat barakātuhum*, has been tending to the Islamic needs of not only the UK, but many countries around the world in a manner which had rarely been adopted before. It began as a revivalist movement that included many things which were initially deemed as foreign but were all initiated through the blessings and conformity of the Mashāyikh. From amongst these new projects was the Annual Youth Conference - a programme purposefully organised for the guidance and rectification of the youth. Alḥamdulillāh, since 1994 the conference has grown in attendance and, more importantly, in its positive impact on the lives of many. May Allāh ﷻ continue this progress. Āmīn.

Pre-Conference Preparations

The preparations for the conference began at least 2 months before hand with graduates of the IDA travelling to many cities - some as far as Cardiff - to make announcements in masājid, inviting brothers to attend. Flyers and posters were distributed along with various literature published by the IDA.

Prior to the conference, duties were handed out to approximately 250 volunteers in different capacities; serving food, crowd control, preparing snacks and handing out literature. Ḥaḍrat *dāmat barakātuhum* also imparted his valuable advices

to the volunteers regarding how they should fulfil their duties and with what intention.

A day before the conference, 2 marquees were assembled in the car park of the JRU boarding premises. The halls in the Al-Khayr building were also prepared for serving lunch to the conference attendees. Similarly, the Masjid was setup with sign posts and posters.

Approximately 60 brothers had arrived from France the day before the conference, whilst some had come from Denmark, Barbados and even Hong Kong! This is a sign for the love and high regard people around the world hold for Ḥaḍrat *dāmat barakātuhum* that they are willing to travel such long distances just to listen to the precious words of Ḥaḍrat *dāmat barakātuhum*.

The Conference Day

Sunday the 8th of October 2017 had finally come. Preparations for the big day had begun in earnest; the barbeque, food and book stalls were all set up in the marquees and volunteers took up their positions inside and outside of the Masjid ready to provide help to the attendees. Some of the JRU students were tasked with the responsibility of getting new subscribers to our monthly magazine, Riyāḍul Jannah. I was later informed by one such student that, māshā'allāh, when looking for new subscribers he came across a brother who had begun reading Riyāḍul Jannah whilst in prison and this was a means of his guidance in becoming a

better person. This made me think that many of us have been receiving Riyāḍul Jannah for years, but have we truly valued how great a magazine it is and its potential impact?

At around 11 am the first coaches from the outside cities arrived. As they arrived, they were pointed in the direction of Al-Khayr for lunch. After the brothers had their lunch, some went towards the stalls to buy some books or a small snack, whilst others made their way to the Masjid to get a good spot for the programme.

By 12:30 most of the main hall in the Masjid was filled up with the pleasant humming of brothers, young and old, reciting the Qur'ān. The Zuhr Ṣalāh began at 1:15 pm and by now brothers were being directed to the upstairs halls due to lack of space downstairs. The programme began at 1:33 pm after brothers had completed their sunan and nawāfil.

The Conference

The MC of the day, was my respected teacher, Muftī Ismail Bhayat ṣāhib who along with being one of the senior teachers at Jāme'ah Riyāḍul 'Uloom (JRU) is also a member of the IDA's Fatāwā department. He began by explaining the initial stages of the IDA and how it revolutionised the propagation of Dīnī knowledge in the English language with the Annual Youth Conference being an integral part of this effort. Muftī ṣāhib further explained how these programmes are a means of reviving our zeal and enthusiasm for practicing upon Dīn and that our objective behind coming to these programmes should be to allow the blessings of the event to enter our hearts and make it a means of rectifying our lives. After the introduction, Ḥāfiẓ Abdus Salaam Meer (4th Year student) recited some verses from the Glorious Qur'ān in Tartīl, followed by an English nashīd read by Adil Mogradia (6th Year Student) which talked about how we should value our lives and not waste the favours of Allāh ﷻ.

First Lecture - Importance of Knowledge and Good Deeds

The first lecture of the day was delivered by Muftī Ibrahim Bagas. After graduating at the JRU, Muftī Ibrahim went to South Africa to further his studies in Fiqh and Ḥadīth. Muftī ṣāhib is currently a teacher at JRU and also serves in the IDA's Fatāwā department. Muftī ṣāhib explained beautifully how Jannah is acquired through Īmān and good deeds, and how Īmān and good deeds can only be achieved through knowledge. This was a very apt topic to choose according to the event as all had come to this conference with the intention of learning how to gain the Friendship of Allāh ﷻ. Muftī ṣāhib further explained that this knowledge is so precious and valuable that the great 'Ulamā of the past would travel from country to country on foot just to gain a small quantity of knowledge. We too need to make a little sacrifice for this knowledge as it is the backbone of our Dīn, and when searching for knowledge we should make sure that we are acquiring knowledge from the right avenues; we must be aware of who we are gaining knowledge from and the knowledge that is being imparted to us. After acquiring the right knowledge we must then strive to practically bring this knowledge into our lives so that we attain Jannah.

Thereafter, Ḥāfiẓ Ishaq Lorgat (4th Year student) recited some verses from the Qur'ān in Tadwīr, after which an Urdu Na't (praise of Nabī ﷺ) was recited by Ḥāfiẓ Muaawiyah Bhattay (6th Year student).

Second Lecture – Mercy in Islām

The second lecture of the day was delivered by Muftī Sulaiman Lasania ṣāhib *ḥafīẓahullāh* who is a senior teacher at Jāme'ah Riyadul 'Uloom and one of my respected teachers. He is a teacher of the well-known ḥadīth book, Sunan Abū Dāwūd and is the head muftī in the IDA's Fatāwā department. The respected Muftī ṣāhib excellently explained

the aspect of mercy in Islām and how accusing Islām of being a barbaric and oppressive religion is wrong. Some noteworthy points were:

- Mercy is the most significant quality of Allāh ﷻ; two of His names, Ar-Raḥmān and Ar-Raḥīm, both signify this.
- The Mercy of Allāh ﷻ supersedes His anger.
- Nabī Muḥammad ﷺ was a mercy for the worlds. Every moment of his life depicts this, which can be understood by studying and examining his perfect life. Nabī ﷺ came into this world to save us from the hell fire - this is just one example of this mercy.
- Every Command of Allāh ﷻ and His beloved Nabī revolves around mercy. Consequently, we find in the Qur'ān and Aḥādīth, commands for us to look after our families, neighbours, society and people who have come from other lands in seek of refuge. The behaviour of the Anṣār of Madīnah towards the Muhājirīn from Makkah when they arrived in Madīnah is a perfect example of this great merciful teaching.
- Muftī ṣāhib concluded his lecture by stating that if we continue to not show mercy to others, Islām

will never be seen as a merciful religion.

Nikāḥ Ceremonies

After Muftī Sulaiman ṣāhib's lecture, the wait for the much anticipated arrival of our Ḥaḍrat *dāmat barakātuhum* was finally over. With his arrival came a special moment for four individuals as their nikāḥ ceremonies were about to take place. After their nikāḥs, Ḥaḍrat *dāmat barakātuhum* made an appeal to all the young unmarried brothers to make an intention of getting married as soon as possible as it a means of completing one's Dīn and saving one from many sins. Ḥaḍrat *dāmat barakātuhum* explained that the act of nikāḥ, although a Sunnah, can change according to the circumstances of the individual; if one finds it difficult to refrain from sins without it then nikāḥ becomes incumbent upon him.

Before the concluding lecture, a final Urdu naẓm was read by Ḥāfiẓ Hifzur Rahman Patel (1st Year student). The poem was a du'ā to Allāh asking for one's heart to be rectified. The words of the naẓm had a profound effect on the gathering as many were in deep contemplation, pondering over its words.

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(Part 2)

by *Mawlānā Zubayr Vantra*

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Final Lecture – Two Groups Beloved to Allāh ﷻ

It was now finally time for the main event of the Conference and the reason behind such a large crowd: the inspiring and valuable words of our most respected and beloved Ḥaḍrat *dāmat barakātuhum*. It was interesting to note that the “already attentive” gathering became all the more focussed as Ḥaḍrat *dāmat barakātuhum*'s lecture was about to commence.

As with all of his lectures, our Ḥaḍrat *dāmat barakātuhum* always speaks on topics which are important for all and are the need of the time. This time was no different as Ḥaḍrat *dāmat barakātuhum* eloquently explained that Taqwā and Tawbah are the keys to acquiring the Love and Pleasure of Allāh ﷻ. Below is a summary of some of the points our Hadrat *dāmat barakātuhum* mentioned:

- Allāh ﷻ has mentioned in the Glorious Qur'ān the two types of people who are beloved to Him: 1) The people of Taqwā and 2) The people of Tawbah.
- The people of Taqwā are those who regard abstaining from the disobedience and displeasure of Allah as their mission in all circumstances.
- Even the youth can become beloved to Allāh ﷻ so long as they have this great quality of Taqwā. Of the many groups of people under

the shade of the Throne of Allāh ﷻ, one will be of those people, men and women, who spent their youth in His worship.

- Wealth is a great favour of Allāh ﷻ which should not be squandered. One should spend his wealth wisely and should also make a point of spending some of his/her money in the Path of Allāh as optional charity. Nabī ﷺ has said, “*Ṣadaqah extinguishes the Anger of Allāh and repels a bad death.*” (At-Tirmidhī) This is exactly what the Ṣaḥābah ﷺ would do.
- The mentality of past generations was that they would point out to others their faults so that they could rectify them. Moreover, the one receiving this reprimand would feel happiness upon a fault being pointed out to him. Unfortunately, we live in a time where everyone is self-sufficient, people do not care about telling others what they are doing wrong and we find it offensive and annoying if someone was to be kind enough to point out an error.
- Ḥaḍrat Ḥakīm-ul-Ummah, Mawlānā Ashraf ‘Alī Thānwī ﷺ mentioned, “The one who resolves to refrain from sins will always be helped by Allāh ﷻ.”
- Ḥaḍrat Ḥakīm-ul-Ummah, Mawlānā Ashraf ‘Alī Thānwī ﷺ has also mentioned three things one must do in order to stay away from sins:
 1. Do whatever one can to refrain from the sin.
 2. Turn to Allāh ﷻ and seek His refuge.

3. Go to pious people and ask them to make du'ā for you.
- Ḥaḍrat *dāmat barakātuhum* added an extra two steps for refraining from sins
4. Sit in the company of the people of Taqwā as good company has a positive effect.
 5. Remember Allāh ﷻ daily in all situations. One should also constantly express his gratitude to Allāh ﷻ upon all favours, be they large or small.
- We need to make a firm resolution that we will never disobey Allāh ﷻ and will resist all sinful temptations because those who adopt Taqwā will always find an escape route from sins and acquire the Love and Pleasure of Allāh ﷻ.
 - The solution to all of our problems lies in Taqwā to the extent that by adopting Taqwā, the whole Ummah will be safeguarded from danger.
 - Some of the qualities of those who have Taqwā: 1) They spend in the path of Allāh ﷻ in all circumstances, 2) They swallow their anger, 3) They forgive people without hesitation, 4) They have zuhd (abstinence) from this world, 5) They have control over their nafs (base desires), 6) They have complete reliance upon the Will of Allāh ﷻ.
 - The people of Tawbah are those who sincerely repent to Allāh ﷻ.
 - For repentance there are three conditions which one must fulfil:
 1. To refrain from the sin completely, as Tawbah is not accepted when one is still persistent with the sin.
 2. To have remorse over the sins committed in the past.
 3. To make a firm resolution not to commit the sin again.
 - And if the sin has violated the rights of another human then a fourth condition must be met: To ask for forgiveness from the one you have wronged.
 - The one who repents, whilst meeting all of these conditions, is like that person who has never sinned before. This is why Allāh ﷻ has love for those who repent sincerely to Him.
 - The benefit of continually repenting to Allāh ﷻ is that one's stamina to refrain from sins increases. Eventually, a time will come where a person becomes so spiritually fit that he no longer has the need to repent as he will not commit any sins.
 - Shayṭān tries to deter us from repenting to Allāh ﷻ by putting negative thoughts in our minds that we are so sinful, how can Allāh ﷻ forgive us. Allāh ﷻ even accepted the repentance of Waḥshī who killed Sayyidunā Ḥamzah ؓ.
 - We need to bring Taqwā and Tawbah in to our lives and repel the evil whispers of Shayṭān.
 - The Dhikr (Remembrance) of Allāh ﷻ plays an important role in one becoming the special Friend of Allāh ﷻ, because one who constantly remembers Allāh ﷻ will find it easy to stay away from sins.
 - When a person repents, Allāh ﷻ erases that sin from the memories of all that can give testimony against him on the Day of Qiyāmah. Only Allāh ﷻ will know of his sins, but even still Allāh ﷻ will not mention them to him at the time of reckoning.
- Ḥaḍrat *dāmat barakātuhum* concluded the Conference with a heart moving du'ā asking for the forgiveness of our sins, alleviating all the

problems in the world, especially in Rohingya, and also for the success of the Conference and all other Dīnī projects around the world.

After the Conference

After the ‘Aṣr Ṣalāh there was a little time left until the Maghrib Ṣalāh, hence, many brothers remained in the Maṣjid. Ḥaḍrat *dāmat barakātuhum* also met with many of the brothers who attended the Conference in this short time.

May Allāh ﷻ accept all the efforts made for

this Conference and also make this Conference a means of guidance for the whole world. May Allāh ﷻ accept the efforts of Ḥaḍrat *dāmat barakātuhum* without whom this day would not have been possible, and may Allāh ﷻ spread the fruits of his efforts across all corners of the globe until the Day of Qiyāmah. Āmīn.

**To listen to the Conference or to
download, visit www.idauk.org/ayc**