



Sijill

A Weekly Newsletter Of
Fatemidawat.com

سجیل

Issue 40

22nd Moharram al-Harram 1436H

The Heavenly Qubba of Syedi Fakhruddin Shaheed^{RA}

FEATURED UPDATES

SIJILL ARTICLE:
The Three Heads

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
وَالْبَلَدِ الطَّيِّبِ يَخْرُجُ نَبَاتُهُ بِإِذْنِ رَبِّهِ وَالَّذِي خَبثَ لَا
يَخْرُجُ إِلَّا نَكِدًا كَذَلِكَ تُصْرَفُ آيَاتٍ لِقَوْمٍ يَشْكُرُونَ

(Surat al-A'raaf: 58)

As for the good land, its vegetation comes forth by permission of its Lord. While as for the bad, it comes forth only miserably. Even so, We dispense the signs for a people who are thankful

The 23rd of Muharram is the Urus Mubarak of Syedi Hasanpeer Shaheed. Mawlaya Hasanpeer Saheb was a great Aalim in the early days of Da'wat in India, before the period of Satar. He was in the lineage of Mawlaya Abdullah, one of the first two Dai's sent by Mustansir Imam to India. Syedna Taher Saifuddin narrates in his Risalah *Khaza'inu Imamil Muttaqeen* (1372H, p. 306) that the ruler in Patan at the time of Syedi Hasanpeer Shaheed was Feers Shah. On one occasion Feers Shah received 3 gold statues of identical heads inlaid with jewels as a gift from the Byzantine emperor. The Emperor sent a message along with the gift asking at what price Feers Shah valued the three heads and whether

there was any difference between the three. The king and his courtiers were perplexed as the three heads looked exactly the same. Due to a previous encounter in which Feers Shah had been impressed with Syedi Hasanpeer's knowledge, he called upon him to solve the mystery of the three seemingly identical gold heads.

Syedi Hasanpeer examined the heads and called for some water. He poured water down the ear of the first head and it flowed out of its mouth. Syedi Hasanpeer said that this is the head of an imbecile (*ihmaq*) – he slanders those who give him wise counsel. He can keep no secret or confidence. He simply repeats what he hears without any consideration – whether true or false. He then poured water in the ear of the second head and it readily flowed out of the other ear. Syedi Hasanpeer said that this is the head of an incompetent ignoramus (*jaahil*). He retains nothing of what he hears. Last, he poured water in the ear of the third head and it flowed down straight through its neck. He receives and digests the wisdom and knowledge that is given to him. He safeguards this knowledge and draws upon it in his life. Syedi Hasanpeer revealed that this is the head of a learned and virtuous man (*Saalih Adeeab*). He added that this head's

NEWS & EVENTS: Visit of Bahaa'i Delegation to Darus Sakina

Highlights & Photos from the visit of a High level Delegation to Darus Sakina and their meeting with Syedna Outbuiddin^{TUS}.

**NEWS & EVENTS: Shz Aziz bhaisab's Talk on Religious Tolerance at the University of Dhaka, Bangladesh**

Shz Dr. Aziz bhaisaheb was invited to attend and deliver a paper at the 2nd al-Biruni International Conference organized by the University of Dhaka, Bangladesh. Excerpts from the paper delivered at the conference and photos.



Shz. Dr. Aziz bs with the Vice Chancellor of University of Dhaka and Dr. AM Arif Billah

digestion of the water is like a precious red ruby that is worthy of being in the treasury of a king and like a 'good piece of land – that receiving the water of divine knowledge - its vegetation comes forth by permission of its Lord' (with reference to the Qur'anic ayat quoted above from Surat al-A'raaf:58).

Feershaah was impressed. He told his courtiers that, "Syedi Hasanpeer is truly a man of God (*waliyullah*)". Many in the ruler's court felt jealous and conspired to eventually assassinate Syedi Hasanpeer.

We must wonder – how much of the wisdom that we have received from our *hudaat* – from Syedna Taher Saifuddin, Syedna Burhanuddin and Syedna Qutbuddin— have we retained? At a time when the words spoken by Syedna Taher Saifuddin have been forgotten (or have flowed out of the other ear!) and when people repeat whatever they hear without consideration (from the ear directly to the mouth)...may our 'head' be one that listens and digests the wise counsel that it receives. May we take '*ibrat* and learn from the stories of the *Anbiya'* and of the times gone past. May these lessons shape our thought, belief and action in the present day.

We also pray that may Allah Ta'ala grant us the *ne'mat* of the ziarat of Syedi Hasanpeer. Syedna Burhanuddin RA visited Denmal many times for ziarat and on the last trip during Shehrullah, Syedna Qutbuddin was due to stay back in Mumbai but at the last minute, Syedna Burhanuddin said "*bhai bhi saathe aawi jaaw*".

The *nazaraat* of Syedna Burhanuddin^{RA} continue to flow to those who are learned and virtuous. Clearly, they do not flow to those who simply utter and repeat what they hear without consideration.

The qasida written by Syedi Abdul Qadir Hakimuddin^{RA} and the salaam written by Shz. Dr. Tahera baisesha in the shaan of Syedi Hasanpeer Shaheed has been uploaded on Fatemidawat.com. Mumineen are urged to recite these on Urus Mubarak day.

ANNOUNCEMENT & AMAL DETAILS: *Syedi Fakhruddin Shaheed^{RA} Urus*

On Urus Mubarak of Syedi Fakhruddin Shaheed RA (Tuesday 18th Nov) Syedna Khuzaima Qutbuddin TUS will lead Maghrib Isha Namaz followed by Urus Majlis. Mumineen are invited for Salawaat Jaman after Majlis. Shzd. Taher baisesha will preside over the Urus majlis of Syedi Fakhruddin Shaheed RA on 27th raat of Muharram (Tuesday 18th Nov) from Bakersfield CA. Majlis/broadcast will start at 5:15pm PT (6:45am India Standard Time on 19th November 2014). You can participate using the YouTube link below.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X5RfaYzYj64>

Those who are unable to attend are urged to pray Khatmul Quraan on the Niyat of Syedi Fakhruddin Shaheed and recite the Qasida written by Syedna Taher Saifuddin RA "*Salaamun 'Alayka a Fakhral Huda*" (with translation) and *Dawat ni Zaban Salaam* by Shz. Dr. Bazat Tahera baisesha. PDF of Qasida and Salaam is presented on Fatemidawat.com.

LEGAL UPDATES: *Monday, 10th November*

The Hon'ble Justice R. D. Dhanuka has directed that the Affidavit of Documents alongwith the compilation to be submitted within a week by both parties simultaneously and the Statement of Admission and Denial of documents has to be filed within 10 days of service of Affidavit of Documents along with compilation and shall be exchanged simultaneously. The Hon'ble Court has placed the matter on the 11th of December, 2014 for deciding the admissibility of the documents.

The PDF of the Honorable Court Order is presented on FatemidawatLegal.com.

NEWS & EVENTS: *Visit of Bahaa'i Delegation to Darus Sakina*

On 14th Muharram 1436 (6th November

2014) a high level delegation of the Bahaa'i community visited Darus Sakina for an audience with Aqamola Syedna Khuzaima Qutbuddin TUS. They presented a letter from the Bahaa'i guiding body, the Universal House of Justice, to Syedna Qutbuddin. The letter is one they presented to religious leaders world-over emphasizing the Bahaa'i vision of a peaceful and respectful coexistence between religious communities. Syedna^{TUS} thanked the delegation for their visit and appreciated the Bahaa'i community's efforts for interfaith dialogue and their service to humanity irrespective of race or creed.

During the meeting Syedna Qutbuddin^{TUS} spoke to the members of the delegation and said that, "to my community I emphasize two aspects: 1- Education and 2- Good Character."

The delegation invited Syedna TUS to visit the Lotus Temple in Delhi and their main center in Haifa. They were very much moved by Syedna's^{TUS} warmth and sincerity.

Syedna's TUS sons and several mumineen hosted a luncheon for the delegation at Darus Sakina following their audience with Syedna^{TUS}. Photos of the visit are presented on Fatemidawat.com.

NEWS & EVENTS: *Syedna Hatim^{RA} Urus Majlis Photos*

On Urus of Syedna Hatim bin Ibrahim^{RA} his successor the 53rd Dai al-Mutlaq Syedna Khuzaima Qutbuddin TUS presided over Urus and Darees Majlis in Darus Sakina. Majlis was followed by Salawaat jaman.

Photos of the Majlis are presented on Fatemidawat.com.

NEWS & EVENTS: *Shz Dr. Aziz bhaisab's Talk on Religious Tolerance at the University of Dhaka, Bangladesh*

Shz Dr. Aziz baisesha was invited to attend and deliver a paper at the 2nd al-Biruni International Conference organized by the University of Dhaka, Bangladesh.

The conference was inaugurated by the

Vice Chancellor of the University and Shz Dr. Aziz bhaisaheb delivered a paper entitled "A Foundation for Islamic Tolerance: Reflections on the Concept of the Universality of Religions in Fatimid Thought, Policy and Practice". The paper asserted that it was the "specific outlook and ideology of the Fatimids on the universality of religions that was responsible for... their largely tolerant and benevolent attitude towards non-Fatimid and non-Shii Muslim communities as well as and especially towards the Ahl al-Kitab, the Jewish and Christian communities living under their rule in Egypt in the 10th and 11th centuries." The paper begins by presenting a summary of the Fatimid philosophy of the Universality of Religions based on the writings of Syedna Abu Hatim al-Razi and earlier research by Shz Dr. Abdeali bhaisaheb. The paper also presents various examples from history demonstrating the application of this philosophy in the governance of Egypt by the Fatimid Imams.

Based on an overview of Fatimid philosophy and good practice, the paper concludes by reflecting on some of the timeless principles that we would be well advised to consider:

"The Muslim polity today is very different than it was in the 10th century; there are different dynamics of statehood, culture, and social norms. Although certain Islamic states consider themselves to have an "Islamic" foundation, there is also a large population of Muslims who live in secular states as a majority or minority. It is in this context that Muslims' interaction with other religions, including other Muslim denominations (e.g. Shia and Sunni), needs to be considered.

In spite of the religious and socio-political climate in the Fatimid era (when the religious identity of the state as well as society were defining factors) the tolerance and relative freedoms given to non-Muslims were quite remarkable. These freedoms were based primarily on religious principles. Conversely, in the twentieth and 21st

century, Muslims have been given freedoms not for their own sake, but based on freedom of, or freedom from, religion in general. Such religious freedoms have become the ever-growing desire of the post-Enlightenment society which is ever more liberalized and secularized. Surely, these societies are better than radical and despotic societies and the freedom of religion enjoyed within them praiseworthy. However, these freedoms are a by-product of a socio-political movement, which is also under much threat. The consequences of rampant anti-Semitism in 20th century were ever-too obvious. Anti-Muslim sentiment seems to be following a similar road in 21st century.

In this post-enlightenment environment when many abuse others in the name of religion, there is still no need to apologize for our religious identity. Religious freedoms based on a pluralistic system are virtuous in that they ensure the rights of minorities to practice their faith freely. But pluralism, as I understand it, and as the Fatimids defined it, is not indifference or an acceptance that all beliefs are necessarily valid and therefore it is simply a matter of cultural difference or a matter of fate as to which religion one follows. **Pluralism is a firm belief – with confidence – in one's faith and identity, with the recognition and respect of the unified origin and the shared values of others.** This understanding and recognition – not simply pragmatism – is the key to tolerance and interactive peaceful and fruitful co-existence.

Such an understanding and recognition leads to a move from the term tolerance to respect. Tolerance insinuates an innate dislike for the other, and has its underpinnings in the pragmatic sufferance that is dictated by necessity. Respect on the other hand, demonstrates that confidence in one's own belief system and identity, but at the same time an acknowledgment of the divine origins of all faiths and the recognition of our shared human values. These values are universal to all

religions preached by Prophets: honesty, integrity, sincerity and love for mankind. The 51st Fatimid-Tayyibi Dai who espouses the Fatimid philosophy of the Universality of Religions, expresses the source of his respect for other religions in a verse in one of his Qasidas:

مَا مِلَّةٌ إِلَّا وَفِيهَا كَلِمَةٌ
مِنْ أَهْلِ حَقٍّ مِنْ قَدِيمِ الْأَدْهَرِ

There is no religion but within it there are some words from the people of Truth from ages past.

In today's world, there are many elements and groups which use religious principles to justify the persecution and even the waging of an ungodly war. These groups are very vocal in advertising the religious justification of their belligerency to anyone who even slightly deviates from their system of belief. In this context it is vital that those of us who, contrary to that, find within our religious principles the roadmap for peaceful and respectful coexistence, unapologetically make known our principles through our words and our actions."

The Vice Chancellor of the University had hosted a dinner at his official residence for Conference speakers. A longer excerpt of the talk and photos have been presented on Fatemidawat.com.

ZAHRA HASANAAT: Medical Vans October 2014 Update & Online Contribution

The Zahra Hasanat Medical reports have been published for the month of October. **In October 2014 we have diagnosed 1,762 patients.** The numbers are a sharp cut from previous months as there were many holidays in October including Diwali and Muharram.

In line with our project mission to provide primary and preventive care, we are providing blood pressure, diabetes, cholesterol medicines. We have a live sugar testing machine and regulate the patient's dosage accordingly. Our Medical team consists of 2 full time doctors and 2 assistants. The two vans currently cover 20

locations per week including: Parkside Vikhroli East, Vikhroli 2, Mumbra 1 & 2, Kurla 1 & 2, Vikhroli 1 & 2, Powai Dargah, Santacruz, Jogeshwari, Malad 1 & 2, Navpada, Khardanda 1 & 2, Thane, Bharat-Nagar. **The vans**

and doctors are accessible to mumineen and non-mumineen alike.

Seven days' prescription of medicines with consultancy is provided at a highly subsidised rate of Rs 30/-.

For more information and to participate or contribute please email info@fatemidawat.com.

The **Zahra Hasanaat website can now accept online credit-card donations**

(currently India only). We urge those who are able to contribute to this worthy cause. The link is: <http://www.zahrahasanaat.org/contribution.aspx> Zahara Hasanaat Trust (Regn. No. E24221M). Zahra Hasanaat Trust has been approved for 80G Tax Exempt Status.

The Zahra Hasanaat website is also

going through a makeover and will re-launch soon. We also hope to have facilities to accept international credit cards soon.

Shz Taher Bhaisaheb WAAZ & BAYAAN VIDEOS: Available Online Until Chehlum

Due to the tremendous interest in the broadcast of Shz Taher bhaisaheb Waaz during Ashara, the full Waaz videos as well as the shorter excerpts, will be available for viewing until Chehlum for those who have not had the opportunity to view/listen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Saturday Bethak Resumed

As earlier stated in the philosophy of Da'wat and the Guiding Principles, access to the Dai is available for all mumineen, not just a select few. Following the end of Ashara Mubaraka, bethak audience with Syedna

Qutbuddin are once again scheduled every Saturday (starting Saturday 23rd Muharram/ 15th November). Bethak is at 5pm at Darus Sakina, Thane.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Shz. Taher bhaisaheb & Shz. Aziz bhaisaheb Weekly Sabaq Resumed

Following the break for Ashara, Shz. Taher bhaisaheb and Shz Aziz bhaisaheb online sabaq have resumed. The timing for Shz Taher bhaisaheb sabaq is at 5.15 PM (California time – PST) on every Thursday – which is 6:45 AM Indian Standard Time - Friday.

The timing for Shz Aziz bhaisaheb sabaq is 8PM (Indian Standard Time) every Thursday Inshaallah.

If interested in joining please email info@fatemidawat.com.

Those already registered will receive an invite to the gotomeeting session by email.

This Newsletter

This newsletter will inshaallah be published every Friday. It will include the latest news and instructions from Syedna Qutbuddin's office, and will be published in Dawat-ni-zaban and Gujarati. It will also highlight the latest updates on fatemidawat.com.

Please register to receive the newsletter regularly at info@fatemidawat.com

Sijill is an Arabic word which literally means official letter. It was a term often used in the Fatimid chancery. The name is inspired by the most auspicious letter 'Sijill-ul-Bisharat'.

Updates this week

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- ANNOUNCEMENTS: Shz. Taher bhaisaheb & Shz. Aziz bhaisaheb Weekly Sabaq Resumed

Upcoming updates

- Syedna TUS Ashara Waaz Highlights
- Ikhwanus Safa Article Series – 3rd Installment
- Quran recitation with commentary analysis (regular).
- Hikayaat: Morals & Fables from Dawat Kitaabs
- Article Series: Women in Islam
- Fatemi Madrasa new material
- Fatemi Dawat Architecture – Galleries and Presentations
- Fatimid Literature Article Series
- Q&A series on pertinent issues: Shari'a compliant finance, qasar namaz.

If you have any suggestions for updates and content please email info@fatemidawat.com

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