

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



# Sijill

A Weekly Newsletter Of  
Fatemidawat.com

سجیل

Issue 41

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Markaz Directory Updated List.

Featured updates:

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

إِنَّمَا الْمُؤْمِنُونَ إِخْوَةٌ

(Surat al-Hujuraat: 10)

*The believers (mumineen) are  
indeed brothers.*

### SIJILL ARTICLE: A Community of Mumineen – A Family of Mumineen

Each one of us identifies himself/herself as a Mumin – a believer; one who believes in the oneness of Allah Ta’ala, the Prophethood of Rasulullah<sup>SA</sup>, the wasayaat of Amirul-Mumineen<sup>SA</sup>, the progeny (lineage) of the Imams and in their seclusion, the Du’at. Our collective belief binds us together as a family. More than that, we are all children born of the same spiritual father and mother. Syedna Hatim<sup>RA</sup> in his kitaab, *Tanbihul Ghafileen*, quotes Imam Ja’farus Sadiq<sup>SA</sup> as saying, “a mumin is another mumin’s brother – born of the same mother and

father. Their father is light (*noor*) and their mother is mercy (*rahmat*).” Syedna Hatim explicates this bayaan, “By noor, he meant the Prophet<sup>SA</sup>, and by mercy, the Wasi<sup>SA</sup>. This is also borne out in the words of the Prophet<sup>SA</sup> addressing Amir-ul-Mumineen<sup>SA</sup>, “You and I, O Ali, are father and mother of mumineen. God’s curses (la’nat) upon the child who causes distress to his parents!” There is also a second meaning inherent in the Imam’s words. “Their father is noor” refers to the Dai, and “their mother is mercy” refers to the Mazoon. This is the true lineage (*nasab*), beyond the physical lineage of this world. Imam Ja’far-ul-Sadiq said: “By God, my spiritual lineage from Ali ibn Abi Talib<sup>SA</sup> is dearer to me than my physical lineage from him. On this theme, a pious person composed these verses:

*I swear that the worth of a  
human being is based on his  
religion*

*So do not forswear taqwa, and  
rely on your [physical] lineage.*



### NEWS & EVENTS: Syedi Fakhruddin Shaheed Urus Majlis Photos

On Urus of Syedi Fakhruddin Shaheed<sup>RA</sup>, the 9<sup>th</sup> Dai in Babjisaheb’s lineage, the 53<sup>rd</sup> Dai al-Mutlaq Syedna Khuzaima Qutbuddin<sup>TUS</sup> presided over Urus Majlis in Darus Sakina



### NEWS & EVENTS: Ismaili Studies Conference – University of Chicago

Shzd. Dr. Tahera baisesha and Shz. Dr. Aziz bhaisesha were invited to participate in this “ground-breaking Ismaili Studies Conference.”

*Salman al-Farisi was elevated by his true Islam*

*While polytheism (shirk) demeaned the aristocratic Abu Lahab.*

In light of the Qur'anic ayat quoted above and in light of the *bayaan* by Syedna Hatim<sup>RA</sup>, we hope to build a not simply a community of mumineen but a family of mumineen. Just as a family structure supports us in our times of difficulty, our spiritual family, and particularly our spiritual father, is our support in these times.

The essence of a family is care for one another. As Amirul-Mumineen<sup>SA</sup> has said that 'whosoever comes to the aid of his *mumin* brother at a time of need, Allah Ta'ala will help him in the time of his need' (*man kaana fi haajati akheehil mumini kaana-Allahu fi haajatihi*). If we do not help each other in these times of difficulty, then when?

In this spirit, we are pleased to present below the updated list/directory of centers and coordinators. These coordinators will make every effort possible for mumineen to gather for ibaadat and also to help and support mumineen in every way possible. Apart from the new (15+) centers listed on the website

([www.fatemidawat.com/contact/directory-of-masjids-and-markaz.html](http://www.fatemidawat.com/contact/directory-of-masjids-and-markaz.html))

there are many other centers that are operating sub rosa. We hope that mumineen will find strength in one another and the courage to stand by their principles, morals and values. The following quote by one of the new coordinators is indeed inspiring:

"Honestly, it is now high time that people must gather enough courage, accept the truth with full heart and come out in the open. Until now, we were trying to keep low profile for the simple fact that our two daughters are not married yet and still looking for the right matches from the 'enlightened'

families. I personally feel [that] I can't live a hypocrite life any more by pledging my soul with one party and physical body with other...

I feel assured in my heart that no matter what consequences I shall face with this action, I am on the right path. May Allah<sup>SWT</sup> help us all in treading the Sirat al Mustaqeen under the guidance and blessing of Syedna Khuzema Outbuddin<sup>TUS</sup>."

Further details on the task of the coordinators and a list of centers is presented in the section below.

### **COMMUNITY: Markaz Directory Updated List**

The Markaz directory has been updated on [Fatemidawat.com](http://Fatemidawat.com) and will continue to be updated as new centers are formalized. These community centers will help and support mumineen for religious and social activities. Each Markaz has a *Mas'ul*(Coordinator) who is responsible for organizing and facilitating the following:

1. Ibaadat – Namaz and Majlis with Syedna's<sup>TUS</sup> raza Mubarak.
2. Madrasa for children and Sabaq
3. Rites – Birth (chhatti / Aqeeqa / Misaq / Nikah / Burial)
4. Social Support (Zahra Hasanaat Activities) – Helping those who require medical, educational assistance (Qutbi Jubilee Scholarship Program).
5. Community gatherings – social get-togethers

Communities organized under the guidance of Syedna Outbuddin<sup>TUS</sup> should aim to espouse key fundamentals of Syedna's philosophy and then work towards these goals together. First, following the example of their Mawali Tahereen, mumineen should strive to be good, honest, decent and kind human beings. Tolerance is a key aspect of our religion,

and mumineen should maintain the dignity and respect of their mumin brothers and sisters at all times. A mumin's faith, imaan, is his or her badge of honor, and there should be no intolerance or persecution within our community. Following this concept, the hurmat and sanctity of each mumin must be preserved. No one should be allowed to malign others. It is imperative that there be unity in the jama'at; that all jama'at members live in harmony and concord. In Dawat majalis and in all mumineen gatherings, an atmosphere of joy and tranquility should prevail.

Second, Mumineen should also strive to be helpful to all God's children. Rasulullah has said, "All humans are children of God, and God loves him who helps his children," (al-khalqu iyal-ul-lah wa-ahabbu n-nasi ila-llahi anfa'uhu li-'iyalihi). Mumineen are encouraged to engage with their local communities in positive ways. We should strive to be an open and inclusive society. We must restore the tradition of mutual respect and fellowship with other religious communities, and engage in enhancing the social welfare of fellow Indians and of our compatriots in whichever country we live.

To read the detailed philosophy and vision of Syedna Outbuddin please visit <http://www.fatemidawat.com/philosophy/>

**The current update includes centers in: India (Mumbai - South, Hyderabad/Secunderabad, and Pune), UK (London and Leicester), Europe (Paris), USA (Bakersfield, Poconos, Chicago, Clark County – Nevada, San Jose, Los Angeles, Boston, Houston, Detroit, Seattle), Canada (Toronto – Mississauga), Far East (Singapore), Gulf Countries (Abu Dhabi – UAE).**

Please view contact details of these coordinators on [www.Fatemidawat.com/contact/directory-of-masjids-and-markaz.html](http://www.Fatemidawat.com/contact/directory-of-masjids-and-markaz.html).

If you would like to organize a center in your hometown please contact [info@fatemidawat.com](mailto:info@fatemidawat.com).

### **ANNOUNCEMENT: 1<sup>st</sup> of Safar – Khushi Majlis**

On Pehli raat of Safar-al-Muzaffar (Sat 22<sup>nd</sup> November), Syedna Khuzaima Qutbuddin<sup>TUS</sup> will lead Maghrib Isha Namaz at Darus Sakina, Thane, followed by Khushi Majlis in which Mumineen will get sharaf of pehli tarikh qadambosi. Mumineen are invited for Salawaat Jaman after Majlis.

### **NEWS & EVENTS: Ismaili Studies Conference – University of Chicago**

Shzd. Dr. Tahera baisesha and Shz. Dr. Aziz bhaisaheb were invited to participate in the “ground-breaking and first ever Ismaili Studies Conference which many participants noted opens new pathways for Ismaili Studies.” The Conference was organized by two doctoral students at the University of Chicago – Mr. Shiraz Hajiani and Mr. Michael Bechtel - from the 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> of October 2014 - and was attended by scholars from all over the world. <http://teachingislam.org/ismailistudies/Conference.html>

The field of Ismaili Shi'i studies includes Fatimid studies and also the study of the two large subsections of Isma'ilis – namely the Tayyibis (Bohras) and Nizaris (Agakhanis).

The organizers invited Shz Dr. Tahera baisesha to present the conference welcome address in which she emphasized the importance of Ismaili studies as an integral component of Islamic studies. She argued that no course, study, or presentation of Islam, is complete without a consideration of the rich heritage and history of Ismailis. She further asserted that although Ismaili studies had progressed leaps and bounds in the academic arena in the past decades, there is still much work to be done. Dr. Tahera baisesha's address was very appreciated by many of the participants. The organizers thanked Dr. Tahera baisesha Qutbuddin – a tenured professor at the University of Chicago and, as one of the organizers put it, 'a giant in the field of Ismaili studies' – for her support for this conference.

In the panel on “Texts, Literatures and

their Uses”, Shz. Dr. Aziz bhaisaheb presented a paper entitled “A Methodology for the Analysis of Tahmīd in Fatimid-Tayyibi Texts: The Relational Approach.” Tahmid refers to the tradition of beginning an oration, epistle or text with the praise of Allah Ta'ala and beseeching blessings on Rasulullah<sup>SA</sup> and Ahlul Bayt<sup>SA</sup>. The paper highlighted two distinguishing aspects of Fatimid-Ṭayyibī Tahmīds, particularly, their embodiment of the consciousness of the continuity of the Prophetic spirit of leadership and guidance (tasalsul) and secondly, their binary view of existence, particularly the binarism of the physical and intellectual. The following is a short excerpt from the paper:

“Soon after the advent of Islam, the Tahmīd became a symbol/manifestation of Islamic identity and worldview. Even in its simplest form, the Tahmīd establishes a distinct consciousness, a worldview, and frame of reference, through which cosmological existence is perceived and understood. Even the pronouncement of the standard al-ḥamd-li-Allāh-rabb-al-cālamīn wa al-ṣalāt wa al-salām calā rasūlih sayyidinā Muḥammad wa ālih al-Ṭāhirīn, embodies a belief in the One God, Master of the universe, in the Prophet Muhammad, and an acceptance of the tenets of his message and its vision of creation and existence. Gradually, the Tahmīd was also adapted to represent the identity of the various Islamic subjects and their worldview. This paper proposes the ‘Relational Approach’ as a methodology for appreciating the distinctive worldview in Fatimid-Ṭayyibī Tahmīds.

...

The Tahmīd brings clarity to a labyrinth of human relations. Through its relatively condensed and well-crafted format it focuses attention on a handful of relations, among millions; relations that provide not only the context and frame of reference for contemporary events and issues, but that also provide context for an individual's existence at large... the chaotic labyrinth of relations, that

forms an individual's outlook of his world, is in a sense simplified, through the foregrounding of these primary relations [relation with God, Prophet, his progeny and Dais]. All else is background, out of focus and less important. In prioritizing a particular set of relations, even the most conventional of Tahmīds invites individuals to a clearly prioritized worldview.

The structure of Fatimid-Ṭayyibī Tahmīds is particularly conducive to be viewed as a set of nisbah-relations because the ‘spiritual genealogy’ fits perfectly with the Fatimid-Ṭayyibī concept of tasalsul - the necessity of the continuity of the line of Imams from the Prophet to the present day, and the continuity of their representatives, the Dā'īs during the seclusion of the Imam. The Tahmīd is in effect a representation of the ḥablullah – the chain or rope connecting the audience to God. The Tahmīds in the Fatimid period and later Fatimid-Ṭayyibī Tahmīds in Yemen and India often feature a noticeably expanded structure which beseeches blessings individually on Mohammed, 'Alī, Fatema, Hasan, Husain, the Imams in the progeny of Husain, the 21st Imam al-Tayyib – who is believed to have gone into seclusion, the Imam of the Age (Ṭayyib al-'Aṣr) and also on the Dā'īs representing the Imam during his seclusion. While the structure places the components of the chain in a hierarchical order, the pronouns and relational propositions define and explain the continuity between and through the levels.” Photos of the conference are presented on [Fatemidawat.com](http://Fatemidawat.com).

### **NEWS & EVENTS: Syedi Fakhruddin Shaheed Urus Majlis Photos**

On Urus of Syedi Fakhruddin Shaheed<sup>RA</sup>, the 9<sup>th</sup> Dai in Babjisaheb's lineage, the 53<sup>rd</sup> Dai al-Mutlaq Syedna Khuzaima Qutbuddin<sup>TUS</sup> presided over Urus Majlis in Darus Sakina. Majlis was followed by Salawaat jaman. Photos of the Majlis are presented on [Fatemidawat.com](http://Fatemidawat.com).

## **MOST BELOVED SON** **EXCERPT: The Shabaab Health** **Competition**

Shabaabul Eidiz Zahabi was an organization of youngsters founded by Syedna Taher Saifuddin<sup>RA</sup> on his Golden Jubilee at the hands of Syedna Outbuddin<sup>TUS</sup>. Syedna Taher Saifuddin appointed Syedna Outbuddin as zaeemush-shabaab (the leader of the Shabaab) and set these two goals for the organization: 1) the khidmat of Da'wat and 2) service to the community. The following is an excerpt from [mostbelovedson.com](http://mostbelovedson.com) in which one of the founding members of Shabaab recalls the Health Competition organized by Shahaab: "Every year, Shabab (under the leadership of Mazoon Saheb) organized a health competition in which children youngest of the age of 2 were brought to Najam Bagh. The registration would start on 6 Zilqad (Bazat Tayyeba bs's waras) and end on 27 Zilqad (Syedna Taher Saifuddin's Milad). We would receive over 600 applications that would have health details of the children and then 60 children were shortlisted for the final round. We didn't want those who didn't make it to the final round to go home empty handed, so we also gave a participation prize to those who applied. Out of the top 60 "healthiest" kids, 6 were selected and these 6

winner were awarded gold coins. One of the winners was Haider bhai Calcuttawala's daughter who said, "this competition was unique in that there was no first, second, third etc prize - but the top six were all awarded equally so this kept the competition healthy (no one felt very sad about not winning first). The year my daughter won, she did not receive her gold coin at the competition - for some reason she missed the ceremony. One day in Rozat Tahera I did araz that my daughter had not received her prize. Some days later, Musa bhai told me that Mazoon Maula was summoning me to the bethak. I went with my daughter and did qadambosi and then Mazoon Maula stood up from his chair and put his hand in his saya pocket and took out a gold coin (for my daughter's prize!)". [Contributed by Abdealibhai Haji in Oct-Dec 2013]"

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS: Saturday** **Bethak Timing Change**

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 Mubarak, bethak audience with Syedna Outbuddin are once again scheduled every Saturday (starting Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> Muharram/ 15<sup>th</sup> November).

Bethak is at 6.30pm at Darus Sakina, Thane after Imamat Namaz. Mumineen are invited for Salawat Jaman.

## **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](mailto:info@fatemidawat.com). Those already registered will receive an invite to the gotomeeting session by email.

## **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.

### **This Newsletter**

This newsletter will inshaallah be published every Friday. It will include the latest news and instructions from Syedna Outbuddin's office and will be published in Dawat-ni-zaban and Gujarati. It will also highlight the latest updates on [fatemidawat.com](http://fatemidawat.com). Please register to receive the newsletter regularly at [info@fatemidawat.com](mailto: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

- SIJILL ARTICLE: *A Community of Mumineen – A Family of Mumineen*
- COMMUNITY: *Markaz Directory Updated List*
- ANNOUNCEMENTS: *1<sup>ST</sup> of Safar Khushi Majlis*
- NEWS & EVENTS: *Ismaili Studies Conference – University of Chicago*
- NEWS & EVENTS: *Syedi Fakhruddin Shaheed Urus Majlis Photos*
- MOST BELOVED SON EXCERPT: *Shabaab Health Competition*
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- ANNOUNCEMENTS: *Shz. Taher bhaisaheb & Shz. Aziz bhaisaheb Weekly Sabaq Resumed*
- Shz Taher Bhaisaheb WAAZ & BAYAAN VIDEOS: *Available Online Until Chehlum*

### Upcoming updates

- Syedna<sup>TUS</sup> Ashara Waaz Highlights
- Shz Taher bhaisaheb monthly sabaq broadcast
- Ikhwanus Safa Article Series – 3<sup>rd</sup> Installment
- Matrimonial Forum and Nikah
- 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](mailto:info@fatemidawat.com)

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