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Evergreen

THE BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF DAWOODI BOHRAS-MISSISSAUGA

ASHARA STORIES AND LOTS MORE. READ INSIDE..



PERSONALISAS





"SO WHENEVER THERE IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO GET INVOLVED, ROLL UP YOUR SLEEVES AND GO!."



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FROM AMIL SAHEB'S DESK

Rasulullah SAW states:

"Allah Ta'aala will come to the assistance of he who assists his brother."

Helping others is a virtue upheld by all religions and societies. A saying in the Chinese culture states, "If you want happiness for an hour, take a nap. If you want happiness for a day, go fishing. If you want happiness for a year, inherit a fortune. If you want happiness for a lifetime, help somebody."

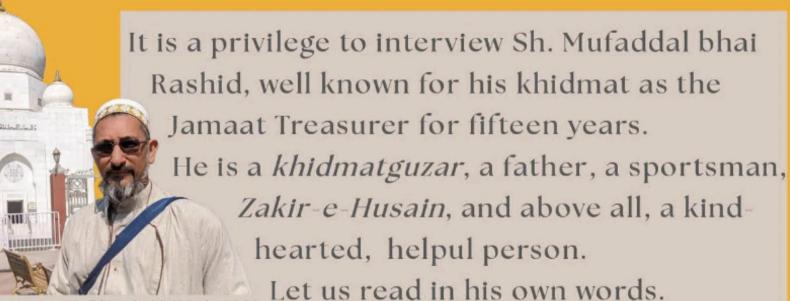
For centuries, the greatest thinkers have suggested that happiness lies in helping others. There are numerous books and philosophies across the world that preach about the emotional and social benefits of helping others, but this short and simple hadeeth shareef of Rasullah SAW encompasses the true philosophy of helping someone.

In my limited capacity, I have drawn three valuable lessons from this hadeeth shareef:

- First, by assisting your brother in need, you make Allah Ta'aala happy.
- It is part of human nature to please someone with one's actions or deeds. Often times, our efforts to please someone may be futile, but efforts to make Allah happy never go in vain. The pure intention of seeking Allah's happiness will aid and guide you towards accomplishing your goals.
- Second, when you make Allah happy you will undoubtedly be rewarded.
- Everyone desires to be appreciated or acknowledged for their actions. However, lack of appreciation can result in feelings of demotivation depression, and self-doubt that can affect one's commitment to act with conviction. Now, when you perform a deed or action to please only Allah Ta'aala and His representative, Waliyullah TUS, you will always be rewarded with His happiness and His representative's appreciation.
- Third, Allah Ta'aala will reward you with the same good that you do to someone. For example, if you feed a hungry stomach Allah will feed you with a bounty of food. If you help a fellow brother in relieving him from debt, Allah Ta'aala will relieve you of your debts. Rasulullah's (SAW) hadeeth shareef teaches us that helping others is the greatest pathway to attain Allah's assistance.

May Allah Ta'aala always grant us the tawfeeq to help those in need, may He guide us to do it with the right intention.

Abde Syedna TUS Behlah Ayman



Shaikh Mufaddal bhai Rashid

You have had an exceptionally long tenure of doing khidmat successfully. Please share some of your experiences that would benefit the young khidmatguzars.

I would say that my journey as a khidmatguzar started out with two principles.

First, no khidmat is too small or too simple. I started out by doing the most basic tasks and helping out wherever I was needed. I remember in the early days when the jamaats were small, I would do even simple things like washing thaals after Jaman,doing jaazam bichaat, or even helping out in the kitchen to make Haleem during Ashara.

So whenever there is an opportunity to get involved, roll up your sleeves and go!

The other principle is that it is never too early to start. The amazing ne'mat we have in Daawat is that there is an opportunity for doing khidmat for all ages. Starting with something small like serving water for the very young and from there on- in every stage of life. So, take advantage of the khidmat opportunities that come your way at any age.

Last and most importantly, no khidmat is worth doing if it does not encompass the Khushi of Aqa Maula TUS, which is the ultimate objective of any khidmat I do. If you keep a tunnel vision focus towards that goal, then everything else is easy.

Your son is Haafiz-ul-Quran, and presently studying at Al Jamea Tus Saifiyah. How did you imbibe this interest in him?

We didn't really have to push him to become a Haafiz. I believe the interest came from the Nohzat that Aali Qadr Maula TUS has created for Hifzul Quran. We just had to keep him motivated and in a positive state of mind until he finished.

Both Arwa and I are blessed with having been very close to Jamea. This gave him a deep appreciation of the importance this institution holds in our lives and those of all Mumineen. We always emphasized that the knowledge he will gain from Jamea will not be found anywhere.

When it was time to decide, the only thing we said to him was that universities and colleges will always be there but the opportunity to study in Jamea only comes

once in a lifetime for a very few.

I hope that building this atmosphere of respect and admiration for what Jamea is and what it stands for had some influence on his decision to go.

You are currently the head of Zakereen. What role does Zikrul Husain play in your life?

In a way, Zikrul Husain IS our life. As Zakereen, we have the enormous responsibility of bringing Noha and Aweel towards Mumineen. It requires dedication, commitment and strict discipline. It is a khidmat that I take very seriously.

Aali Qadr Maula TUS has often said in his Bayaan Mubarak that every Mumin should do Zikrul Husain day and night. For Zakereen, this is even more important as not only are we doing Zikrul Husain for ourselves, but we have the azeem Sharaf of doing Zikrul Husain for Mumineen as well.

As a coordinator, it is my responsibility to elevate myself and my fellow Zakereen to perform at the best of their abilities and deliver the khidmat that is required of a zaakire-Husain.

It is a lifelong learning experience.

You play ice hockey and golf; do you think playing these sports help you lead a better life? Above all, how do you manage it with a busy schedule?

I am a big sports fan. To me, sports is a great way to take a break from the stress we are all dealing with in our busy lives at work and at home. It also builds great team building skills and camaraderie.

Setting aside even a couple of hours a week is very beneficial for our physical and mental health.

Although, hockey and basketball was something I played when I was young, now that I am older, I still find time to play a little golf and occasionally go skiing.

Last question, you just have to say it: What's better – Montreal or Mississauga?

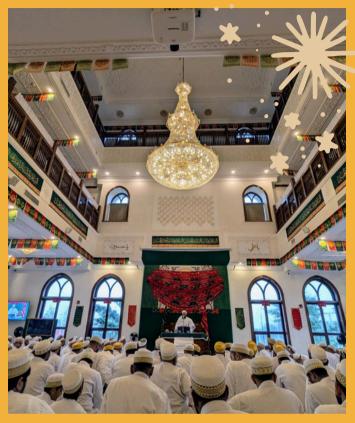
Tough question! Montreal is a beautiful city where I grew up, went to school and university and started my career so I have a lot of fond memories. But Mississauga is where we have a big community, a Masjid, great Halal food and where my home and family are now. So I have to say its a tie!

BY MUSTAFA BHAI KUBBAWALA

Tazyeen, in many ways, is a khidmat that calls for creativity. It is required round-the-year on many miqaats, but in Ashara Mubaraka it is at a different level. Each year, Ashara Mubaraka tazyeen in Hazrat Aaliyah is more impactful and aweinspiring than previous years, and becomes a vital source for the tazyeen worldwide.

For this year's Ashara Mubaraka in Mississauga, the backdrop was designed by central Tazyeen team. This translated into 90% of the work - and it was done already!





With more than half of our tazyeen team intending to go to Karachi, having a ready-made backdrop design was nothing short of a relief. We were left with a small workforce to accomplish the goal in Mississauga, but knew that Imam Hussain AS and Syedna Aaliqadr Mufaddal Maula TUS would help us get through.

One of the biggest challenges in putting up Ashara tazyeen is to be able to start and finish couple days before the first wa'az. Fortunately, 2nd of Moharram was on a Monday,

which meant that we had the entire weekend (48 hours) to work on tazyeen - perfect! We invited other mumineen friends to be a part of the team and assist us in this noble khidmat. Within moments, our new team was ready for action. On the Friday before pehli taareekh, the team had a meeting to go over the plan, and was able to sort the items for next day. Great start!

Next morning, members of the team arrived before noon, with full passion and vigor. Some got busy with setting up the scaffolding, while others began putting up wawtas on the first and second floors. As hours passed, the masjid walls started filling up with mubarak names of Panjatan AS. Saturday went by swiftly - we managed to work until late before wrapping up for the day. There was a sense of accomplishment, but we also knew what was expected of us the following day it must be completed somehow... anyhow!

Sunday morning was mainly spent in laying out the main backdrop (16 feet x 8 feet), and figuring out a way to put it up as we had intended to - with 3D effect. For its size, the task felt nearly impossible but once again we knew that Imam Hussain AS would help us.

After spending nearly 2 hours on the scaffolding, the main backdrop was finally up on the gibla wall. Our vision had turned into reality. Everyone had big smiles that read "Excellent, we did it!". After a short break, we returned to the pending work in other parts of the masjid. By midnight we had finished nearly everything, and our masjid was ready for the awaited days of Ashara Mubaraka. We humbly hoped that it would create a maahaul of huzn and bukaa for Imam Hussain AS - the very purpose of our khidmat and of our existence.

May the ne'mat of Imam Hussain's gham persist and multiply in us, and in our generations to come. Aameen!

BY M. MUFADDAL BHAI SHAKIR



MARAAFIQ BURHANIYAH

Q Marafiq Burhaniyah



Marafiq Burhaniyah is an Umoor dedicated to the upliftment and welfare of Mumin in six aspects of life: deen, education, nutrition, health, housing and livelihood. The goal is for the betterment of Mumineen, providing them financial aid, education, skill training and any other support to alleviate their worry. Rasullah SAW informs us, "Allah Ta'aala will come to the assistance of he who assists his brother." Maula continuously encourages Mumineen to help out their fellow brethren and fulfil their needs through various programs that are setup currently such as Minhat Talmiyah, Muwasaat and FMB.





IN THE MISSISSAUGA JAMAAT

Here in Mississauga the Marafiq Burhaniyah committee is engaged with helping Mumineen locally as well as Mumineen abroad with their needs. Mississauga Jamaat is blessed to have Mumineen that are able to help the less fortunate in other jamaats. We have created a WhatsApp group with Khairiyeen Mumineen that supports various projects of fundraising. To date we have funded projects for house repairs, purchase of clothing and household items, FMB, and business help in India and Pakistan. The total amount of funds raised to date by this amazing group of Mississauga Mumineen is approximately \$10,000 CAD. We encourage more Mumineen to join this group and support in this noble cause. (If interested please send email to aefmarafiqburhaniyah@gmail.com)

The committee has also supported locally as well. Members of the team completed surveys of Mumineen, especially seniors and students earlier this year. The team with the help of Umoor Sehat and Hizbe Muffadal members organized a seniors program. The seniors enjoyed a day out with fun activities and education on health and finances.

We strive to uplift Mumineen in every aspect of their lives and InshAllah those that take today, will give in the future.



KARACHI

Shk. Abbas Ebrahim Khokhar

"Always remain steadfast to the law of Shariah and ensure that the fascination of this world does not deviate you from the core of Walayat of Maula TUS."

Shabbir Patanwala

"The discomfort and physical challenges of the heat and a new place seemed to disappear when I heard Aqa Maula's Kalemaat Nooraniyah. It felt as though we all transcended into a new world, becoming spiritual beings free from physical limitations."



Mustafa Gangardiwala

"Visiting a new country, that too Pakistan, being an Indian was very exciting. Moreover, experiencing the widely recognized "mehmaan nawaazi" was the cherry on the top. Lastly, touring the Jamea tus Saifiyah in Karachi was a unique and eye-opening experience."

Fatema Khokhar

"Over the years, from when my first child was just a baby to now, I've seen a remarkable transformation in her love for Maula and how deeply she engages in the bukaa and matam of Imam Hussain A.S. By simply making the small effort of bringing your children into Maula's presence, their lives are transformed, and they naturally and deeply connect with our deen."

"For us, Ashara with Maula TUS is not just a journey; it is a rejuvenating retreat for both body and soul."

Rashida Mazahir

"Anything explained with examples will help the other person to get a strong understanding faster and easier."

Fatema Doctor

"We did not think about what life would be like when we got back from Ashara, we were happy with whatever the outcome."

"When our kids were sick we thought of Imam Ali Zainulabideen A.S.

When they were thirsty, we thought of Maulatuna Sakina and Maulana Abbas Alamdaar A.S.

When they were hot and uncomfortable, we thought of the farzando in Imam Ali Zainul Abideen's Kaafila who walked for kilometres on end in the never ending heat.

These zikrs gave us the strength and courage to survive through the struggles and in fact made our plights seem insignificant in comparison allowing us to experience deep gratification for Maula's TUS immense bounty on our lives."

Hussain Yusuf

"Right before leaving for Ashara, I left my job, because my contract didn't allow for a leave during Ashara and so as per Maula's khushi, I left my job.

Despite this, I still booked my flight to attend Ashara; I had peace of mind that I am going in Maula's Hazrat and things will definitely get easier.

Miraculously, the day I landed in Karachi, the first thing I saw when I connected my internet was an offer letter for a new job that was set to begin the very day I was returning to Canada. I was shocked as the interview had taken place a month earlier, and I had started losing hope of hearing back from the company. To my surprise, they told me the offer letter had been ready since the day of the interview, but they couldn't understand why it hadn't been sent. It was a rare instance. Indeed, one's best friend is Maula's happiness and I was reminded that because I remained steadfast and content with going to Maula's hazrat for Ashara Mubaraka, I was able to reap the total benefits. Not only did I get deen, but also dunya due to following Maula's farmaan of attending ashara."

COLOMBO

Maryam Kagalwala

"Oftentimes, the upbringing of a child is not given the same level of importance by society and the people close to you as the level of importance given to a job or a career. However, this Ashara, Maula's TUS one heartfelt decree about prioritising your child's upbringing made all the time spent on raising my child a boon and I realised within myself that this child is Maula's TUS and it is my biggest khidmat to imbue Maula's TUS love within her. That is what I will carry with me for the rest of my journey in motherhood."

"The seating arrangements made for mothers and children in the Mufaddal zone in Colombo was very outstanding. Khidmatguzaars had even made Ashara related activity stations where children could enjoy snacks and utilise Ashara activity books."

KARBALA

Sakeenah Numberdaar

"The most rewarding aspect of my Ashara experience was to be able to go for Imam Hussain's ziyarat morning, afternoon, and night. Being there (in Karbala) and recalling the moments of Noha and Aweel after every waaz was a wholesome experience."



ASHARA MUBARAKA NIYAZ KHIDMAT

BY MURTAZA BHAI PATANWALA

Lastly, one would think the happiness and joy one feels when taking part in Imam Hussain AS Niyaz Khidmat would only be within the 10 days of Mubaraka. Ashara However, the excitement and gratitude truly started the day we did niyat and put down our names years ago. On countless occasions leading up to Ashara Mubaraka 1446. hamne hamesha a khushi mehsoos thathi ke hamne Maula TUS yeh a azeem khidmat na laik samjha che. Khuda sagla ne a khidmat ni nemat naseeb kare. Ameen.

Alhamdulillah Shukranlillah ke hamne aa khidmat naseeb thai, Ashara Niyaaz was a life changing experience. One always hears about the sawaab, barakaat and hasanaat that come towards the one who feeds in the name of Imam Hussain AS, but doing this in one's lifetime is an experience par none. It is not an easy feat to organize something of this magnitude but this is the Mojizo of Imam Hussain AS that served 1891 thaals (15000 meals) in a matter of 10 days with such a tight schedule and was achieved by khidmatguzaars without any issues. Khidmatguzaars organizing this entire miqaat generally start the work days/weeks ahead and are still working well past its end, Allah Ta'aala sagla ne khair jaza ape. Ameen.







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A PERSPECTIVE ON 'CAMARADERIE'

M. HUZEFA BHAI GODHRAWALA

What's life without Camaraderie? Setting sail on a ship with brothers by your side is much more gratifying than drifting aimlessly on a boat lost alone at sea.







This month, **Shabab ul Eidiz Zahabi Mississauga** organized a weekend getaway for our members through a camping experience. The idea was to relax, unwind and strengthen the bonds of brotherhood amongst the members. We saw our members whole heartedly coming forward and helping us plan and execute this wonderful 2 day camping experience.

Our trip was filled with fun, adventure, and bonding. We started our mornings with a refreshing swim in crystal-clear water, the cool water revitalizing us under the warm sun. Later, we organized a friendly game of volleyball on the beach, with everyone laughing and cheering each other on.

As the sun set, we gathered around a crackling campfire, sharing stories, roasting marshmallows, and enjoying each other's company. The next day, we explored nearby hiking trails and discovering beautiful viewpoints. The trip was a perfect blend of outdoor activities, sports, and camaraderie, creating lasting memories.

While this experience was all about fun and relaxation, there was a lot for us to learn and take back with us. A few reflections, that I take back with me:







The first lesson is the **importance of preparation**. From selecting the campsite to packing the right gear & supplies, every detail matters. Careful planning ensures that we have everything needed for comfort and safety, We learn to anticipate challenges like weather changes or unexpected trail closures and prepare for them, reinforcing the value of foresight and resourcefulness.

Teamwork is another critical takeaway. A successful camping trip requires collaboration, whether it's setting up tents, cooking meals, or ensuring everyone is safe during activities like swimming or hiking. This experience fosters a sense of camaraderie & shared responsibility, as each person contributes to the group's well-being. We learn to appreciate the strengths & skills of others, leading to stronger bonds and mutual respect.

Lastly, adaptability is key. Nature is unpredictable, and things don't always go as planned. The challenges that come up teaches us to stay calm and think on our feet. This adaptability not only helps us make the most of the situation but also makes the trip more memorable and enjoyable.

A camping experience weaves together laughter and adventure, turning moments into cherished memories and strangers into lifelong friends.













Throughout the year, Toloba performs various khidmats and obtains Khushi of our beloved Aga Maula TUS. This year during Ashara Mubaraka Mississauga Toloba khidmatauzars got azeem sharaf of performing various khidmats in Mississauga and as per khushi of our Maula Syedna Mufaddal Saifuddin TUS and obtained dua of mumineen during all 9 days. The khidmatguzars involved in various khidmats like:





- ITS Scanning.
- Haath dhulavani khidmat during both afternoon and evening jamans
- Elder(Buzurgo) assistance
 khidmat through
 wheelchairs.



QASIM BHAI BADAMI

Our dedication and hard work during Ashara Mubaraka were crucial to the success and significance of the Ashara events for all mumineen who attended in Missisauga.

At the end we pray that Khuda hamne khidmat karvani yaari aape ane hamesha Maula TUS ni khushi hasil kariye. Khuda aap Maula ni umr shareef ne Qayamat lag daraz karjo. Aameen.

Toloba of Mississauga The organized a unique hiking event at the Forks of the Credit. extending an invitation to the entire jamaat. The event saw an exceptional turnout, with enthusiastic participation from young men, women, children, and seniors alike. Participants enjoyed a scenic hike through nature, culminating at the falls. The hike was of medium difficulty, making it accessible and enjoyable for all who attended. The event received an abundance of positive feedback.

The event was filled with laughter, fun, and engaging conversations. Unexpected situations arose, highlighting the strength of brotherhood and demonstrating how collective effort can turn challenges into a memorable experience.

MUSTAFA BHAI KUBBAWALA











Patience and Pencil Cases

A GUIDE TO BACK-TO-SCHOOL MADNESS

Ah, back-to-school season—where parents and teachers alike brace for the whirlwind of chaos that descends every year. It's that magical time when stores activate their pester power marketing to apocalypse mode. This results in aisles filled with the sounds of stressed-out parents and the relentless over-stimulated demands of children who have suddenly developed very specific preferences for pencil cases.

First, there's the school supply list. It starts out simple—pencils, notebooks, glue sticks. But then it spirals into demands for items that seem to come straight out of Professor Albus Dumbledore's toolkit: "one purple, glittery, three-ring binder with a built-in calculator and GPS tracker." Of course, this elusive binder is nowhere to be found, resulting in frantic scavenger hunts across multiple stores, with parents muttering about the good old days when a plain yellow #2 pencil was all you needed.

Then there's the Spanish Inquisition style quest for the perfect backpack. Suddenly, a backpack needs to be more than just a vessel for books; it must now embody their entire personality, favorite superhero, and possibly double as a jetpack. Heaven help you if they see one with sequins and LED lights—you'll be blinder than a bat in a glitter storm.

Lunchtime brings its own set of challenges. Gone are the simple PB&J sandwiches. Now, it's all about bento boxes with artisanal cheeses, and a side of organic quinoa. Miss a step and your child will ignite their inner Gordon Ramsay and remind you that Tasneem's mom never forgets the avocado slices. The pressure to pack the perfect lunch could drive anyone to madness.

Finally, the morning routine. The two months of your 8 year old living a bollixed-up schedule like a frat boy forces you to turn into a drill sergeant. Marching the children through the steps of getting dressed, brushing teeth, and eating breakfast. There's always a missing shoe or an argument over why pajamas are not appropriate school attire. By the time everyone's in the car, it's only 8:15 AM and it is like the drive back home on the morning of Lailutal Qadr.

So here's to surviving another back-to-school season. May your coffee be strong, and your resilience steady, while you move forward with the knowledge that winter break is just around the corner.

CAN'T STOP, WRITTEN BY TASNEEM BEN RAKLA-ANASWALA



It may still be August but the cool breeze is telling us otherwise! The Canadian winter seems to be in a rush to make its appearance but I'm willing summer to stay by practicing complete denial and oblivion. My BBQ will continue smoking and the grilled summer dinners are not quite finished as far as I'm concerned! Join me in my rebellion and keep your grill burning, your chicken tikka sizzling and the porch lights twinkling – we will grill until we can't grill no more!



Ok, that was dramatic, but you know what I mean. The random weeknight BBQs in the beautiful Canadian summers are something else, and I for one plan to make them as memorable and delicious as possible. We are surrounded by an abundance of amazing butcher shops providing us with the most perfectly marinated cuts that make life oh so much easier (and cleaner)! And while I do frequently use this luxury as often as I can, sometimes I just want something a bit different. Cue my go-to BBQ Chicken marinade that creates the most juicy and flavourful chicken thighs with just a touch of sweetness and so much flavour! The best part is that it's soooooo easy and quick! All you need is a bowl or jar, a large ziploc bag, and a very adept butcher who listens when you tell him "Charbee please nikhal dein!". I've made this recipe on the stovetop grill and a propane grill and it's just perfection every time. Be warned - make a lot, because there will be no leftovers for round 2!

So while we still have these beautiful late sunsets and somewhat warm weather, fire up that grill and enjoy the aromas of summer just a little bit longer.



MAKING THE DELICIOUSLY GRILLED BBQ CHICKEN MARINADE



in just a few steps

- 1. Mix all ingredients into a bowl or jar and mix well.
- 2. Place chicken thighs into a large ziploc bag
- 3. Pour marinade into the ziploc bag and seal after removing all the excess air.
- 4. Lay ziploc bag flat and massage the marinade onto the thighs. Flip the bag a few times and massage. Be sure to properly distribute the marinade.
- 5. Place ziploc bag flat in the fridge for at least 30 minutes. For best results, at least 6 hrs.
- 6. When it's time to grill, remove chicken thighs from the fridge at least 20 mins before grilling.
- 7. Grill chicken thighs until perfectly cooked and slightly charred.
- 8. Serve with ranch or a spicy greek yogurt dip and a crunchy side salad.
- 9. Enjoy!





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