

A Tribute - **Hadhrat Mawlānā Umarjī Ṣāhib *rahimahullāh*** (1942-2014)

By Riyaz Ibrahim

All praise belongs to Allāh, and may the choicest salutations and blessings be upon the Final Prophet, Muḥammad ibn Abdillāh and his family, as is the right of blessings to be invoked upon them.

‘The death of an ‘ālim is the death of the universe.’

News of my beloved teacher Hadhrat Mawlānā Umarjī Ṣāhib’s *rahimahullāh* demise this morning did not sink in at first. It was the deep sense of sadness that initially made me question the veracity of the received news; it was only after reading a number of texts informing of the same that it really sunk in.

Hadhrat Mawlānā *rahimahullāh* was a distinguished personality among his contemporaries, and held in high regard by all and sundry.

He had taken *bay‘ah* at the hands of Hadhrat Shaykh Zakariyyā *rahimahullāh* and was *khalīfah* of Hadhrat Shaykh Yūnus Ṣāhib Jaunpurī *hafīzahullāh*.

His sheer hard work and dedication throughout his life did not go unnoticed. Our beloved Hadhrat Shaykh Mawlānā Yusuf Motala Ṣāhib D.B. today said:

‘Whereas some teachers arrive on time and leave on time, or even before time, Hadhrat Mawlānā Umarjī Ṣāhib arrived an hour or two before his teaching hours, and also left an hour or two after lecturing.’

Such was his dedication to books and to students whom he taught in a loving and affable manner.

The Mawlānā *raḥimahullāh* was firm but fair and never shied away from disciplining in his most beautiful ways. He taught the famous Ḥanafī *fiqh* manual, *Al-Hidāyah*, *Al-Sirājī* and *Shamā'il-e-Tirmidhī* at the famous Darul Uloom, Bury. While he held his own as a great scholar, his deep knowledge of history and other areas outside the field of Islam was something that always left us amazed.

Besides, he was a local scholar who had a presence and was well respected by those who interacted with him on a daily basis. Personally, I always had the greatest of respect for him and found him a gentleman and a man of honour. Thousands of others I'm sure will echo my sentiments.

Hadhrat Mawlānā *raḥimahullāh* always looked out for me whenever he detected my absence in (our local) Tayyabah Masjid. I will for sure miss his presence and the conversations I became accustomed to having with him after *ṣalāh*. Unfortunately, that will not happen again (in this abode, anyway).

If there is no news of those who have passed away,

Wait for tomorrow and there will be no sign of me as well.

People say that he has died,

When in reality he has gone home.

Hadhrat Mawlānā Umarji Ṣaḥīb *raḥimahullāh* spent his whole life around the things he loved most, i.e. books (of *tafsīr*, *ḥadīth*, *fiqh* etc), students and the library (*kutub khānā*).

A true manifestation of the words of the ḥadīth, '*You will die according to how you live, and you will be resurrected according to how you die.*'

Hadhrat Shaykh Mawlānā Yusuf Motala Ṣaḥīb D.B. described his lifeless body and illuminated face moments after his passing away, saying:

'Hadhrat Mawlānā Umarji Ṣaḥīb didn't [only] have a smile on his face,

rather, there is no doubt that his soul was extracted while he was laughing, for his mouth was wide open and teeth were showing.’

Subhānallāh! He must have seen his abode and all that comes with it in Paradise!

We must not forget that he has left behind a *muftī*, *mawlānā*, two *ḥāfīz*s and one *muballigh*. That's just in his household and not taking into account the thousands whose lives he has shaped and changed, moulding many into scholars and upholders of *dīn*.

The couplets below encapsulate Hadhrat Mawlānā's *raḥimahullāh* life in the truest of ways:

Hamey dunyā sey kyā maṭlab,

Madrasah he waṭan apnā,

Mareyngey ham kitābo par

Waraq hogā kafan apnā

I am not the only one who will live with many fond memories of Hadhrat *raḥimahullāh*. I beseech Allāh to shower upon him His infinite mercies, grant him the best of reward - reward according to his status, for he lovingly and wholeheartedly served His *dīn* and Islam, and grant beautiful patience to his family, students and close ones. Āmīn!

A humble request to everyone to pray something as *t̄ṣāl-e-thawāb*. (three *kul...*)

The learned lives, although he dies.