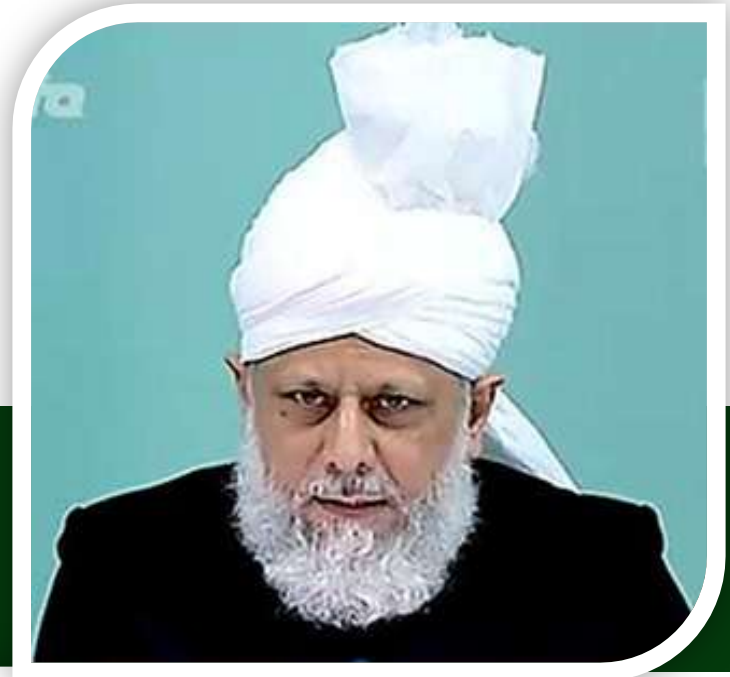


Tribute to Ravil Bukharaev

Sermon Delivered by Hadhrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad (aba) Head of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community



Friday Sermon January 27th, 2012

NOTE: Al Islam Team takes full responsibility for any errors or miscommunication in this Synopsis of the Friday Sermon

SUMMARY

The Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) said: 'mention the good qualities of your deceased' and 'do not mention their shortcomings.'

Hudhur (aba) gave the sad news of demise of Ravil Bukharaev sahib, a Russian Ahmadi who passed away on 24 January 2012.

Hudhur (aba) gave faith-inspiring incidences of his acceptance and service to Ahmadiyyat.

Hudhur (aba) prayed that may God treat him with His loving grace and may God grant many excellent helpers like him.

The Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) said: 'mention the good qualities of your deceased' and 'do not mention their shortcomings.'

Hudhur explained that each person has both merits and shortcomings.

After death a person is cut off from this world, thus there is no need to mention his or her shortcomings.

Indeed his or her good qualities should be mentioned.

For one this inspires others to do good, secondly one is motivated to pray for the soul of the deceased.

Hudhur (aba) said today he would speak about one such person about whom everyone has very high opinion.

A person who was not a Pakistani or an Indian Ahmadi, --



-- neither was he from a family of a companion of the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) nor was he a born Ahmadi



From his childhood to mature age, he did not grow up under the auspices of the Jama'at or Khilafat

Our brother, respected Ravil Bukharaev sahib

He took the Bai'at of the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) a few years ago but left many long-term Ahmadi behind

Ravil Bukharaev sahib, a Russian Ahmadi passed away on 24 January 2012.



Ravil sahib was a grain from among the handful of sand of early Russian Ahmadis

Due to his scholarship and spiritual knowledge, sincerity and selflessness, exceptional connection with Khilafat, humility and zeal to take the message of the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) to others; he was like a bright star that showed the way to many.

Our brother, respected Ravil Bukharaev sahib

When, InshaAllah, in fulfilment of a revelation of the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) the world will witness Ahmadiyyat spread in Russia like grains of sand, Ravil sahib will be remembered

Our brother, respected Ravil Bukharaev sahib

Ravil sahib served Ahmadiyyat immensely even before becoming an Ahmadi.

After accepting Ahmadiyyat, it appeared as if night and day he was fervent not to lose a single moment to serve Ahmadiyyat.

He suffered from a massive heart attack while getting ready for an MTA meeting and passed away. He was 61 years old.

Ravil sahib was introduced to Ahmadiyyat in London, where he was invited to an Ahmadi Mosque.

He was given a lift to the Mosque where the first thing that struck him was the motto of '**Love for all hatred for none**'.

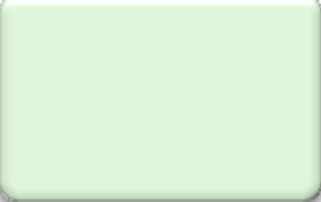
He has always been interested in Islam, so he made time to do translation work that he was requested to do.

When he met Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih IV (may Allah have mercy on him) he felt his world view was the same as his.


To undertake the translation work, he was provided accommodation in Islamabad, Tilford where he enjoyed the open, pleasant surroundings.

Ravil Bukharaev sahib; introduction to Ahmadiyyat


He translated four books and while he found the assertions of the Community tremendous, the most endearing assertion that he came across was that Islam will spread in the entire world in the near future.



Ravil sahib wrote: 'Although I am a Muslim by birth, because of the atheistic society up until 1889 my knowledge of Islam was negligible'.



I was confused. Intellectually I had understood that it was Islam and Islam alone which gives the best teaching but my soul was completely vacant.



The only thing that saved me from these doubts and misgivings were a few people who I met in London whom I consider to be true and real Muslims.

Ravil Bukharaev sahib; Journey to Ahmadiyyat

They are the Community which is considered heretic in the Islamic world, that is Ahmadiyya Muslim Community.'



He also wrote: 'The teaching of the Ahmadiyya Community is that **one cannot attain the love of God until one also loves the creations of God.** This immediately told me that this indeed was my destination.'

Ravil Bukharaev sahib; Journey to Ahmadiyyat

Here, I found everything together; that is, my education, knowledge, reason and my thirst for proofs based on reasoning, search of true religion and spiritual experiences. I found all this in one place.'

Ravil Bukharaev sahib; acceptance of Ahmadiyyat

Ravil sahib related one of his dream to Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih IV (may Allah have mercy on him) who told him that when a person is spiritually reborn and starts his journey towards One God he must accept to abandon his previous attire.



He says that this dream proved to him that all his doubts were gone and he also realised that spiritual re-birth on its own was not important, but one also had to purify oneself of all previous sins, from which only God could purify one, in order to start a new life.



After accepting Ahmadiyyat he had completely devoted himself to servitude of God, service of Jama'at and people through his glorious qualities, like humility, gentleness, affection, sincerity, always seeking from God alone, always trying to help others.

Hudhur (aba) said Ravil sahib was not an Ahmadi by birth but it seemed that he had always been an Ahmadi.

He was an ambassador of Ahmadiyyat in the true sense. He took the message of Ahmadiyyat wherever he went with wisdom.

It was through him that the message of Ahmadiyyat reached Russia and the neighbouring states in a way that it could not have reached through missionaries or had it reached, it would have taken longer.

Ravil Bukharaev sahib; Service to Ahmadiyyat

He himself was an author, a poet, translator and a Dai' lillah (summoner to Allah).

Ravil Bukharaev sahib; Service to Ahmadiyyat

He translated many books of the Jama'at which proved extremely beneficial

His finest service was help with the Qur'anic translation in Russian which he did extremely diligently with utmost care

He spent night and day engaged in this task and completed it in three months

Hudhur (aba) said three editions of the Russian translation of the Qur'an have been published and this is a Sadqa Jaria (continual alms) which will remind us of Ravil sahib

Ravil Bukharaev sahib; Service to Ahmadiyyat

From the time Russian Desk was established in London, Ravil sahib worked tirelessly for it and with great sincerity.



He dubbed the Friday sermon in Russian for MTA on Saturday and would most eagerly wait for the information to do this job.



During Jalsa his services and his fervour was exemplary. He translated in Russian at the Jalsa and also played the role of host to the guests from former Soviet states.



He met them most warmly and said that years of work did not avail as much benefit as bringing guests to one Jalsa and getting them to meet Khalifa of the time.

He was the editor-in-chief of the BBC Russian Service.

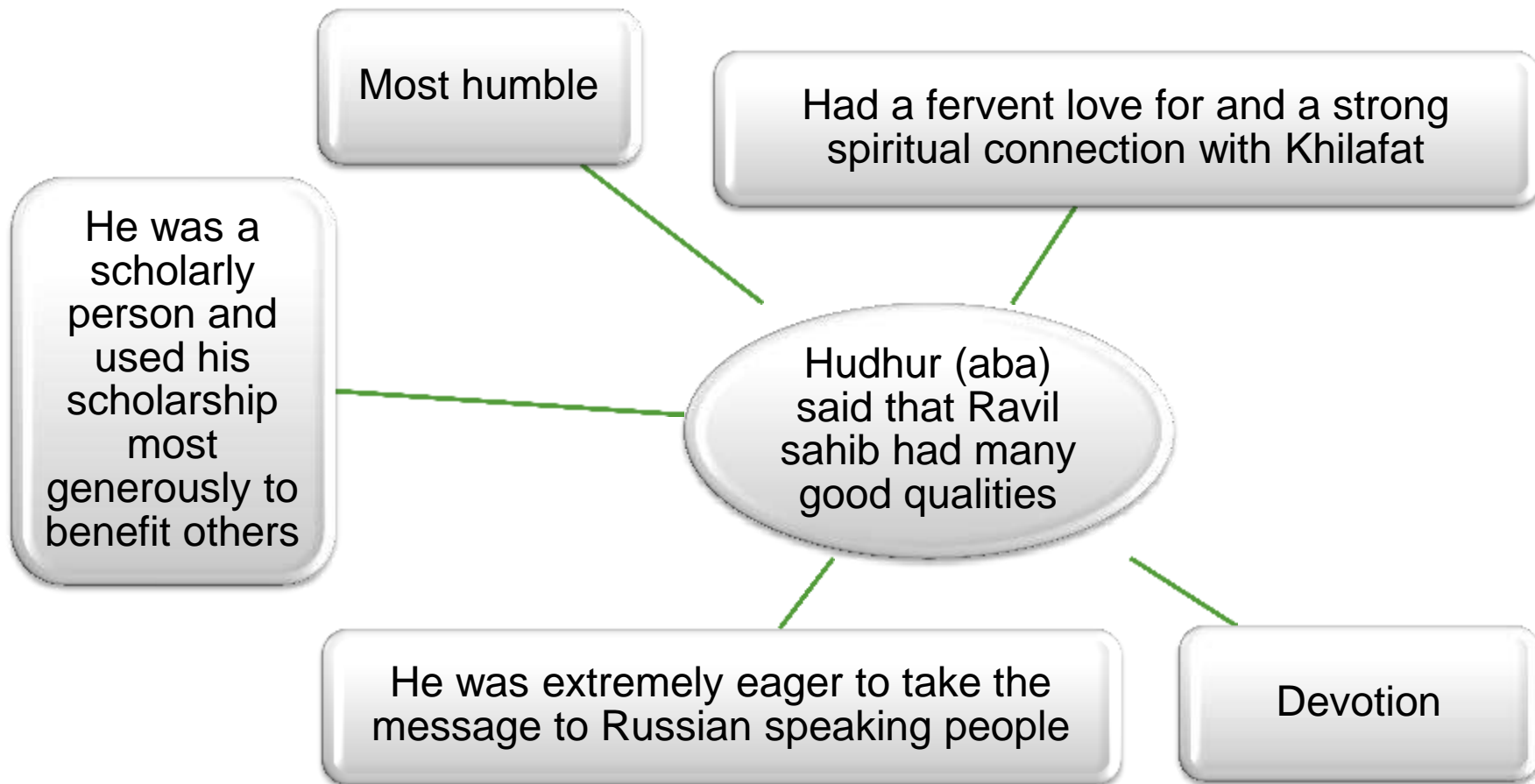
He was a scholar, a journalist and a poet.

He wrote a book, [the title of which can be translated as] 'Road to God Knows Where', for Tabligh purposes.

He was a member of many societies.

He received various awards and honours for his services to the arts, for his books etc.

Ravil Bukharaev sahib; achievements



Ravil Bukharaev sahib; qualities

Hudhur (aba) prayed that may God treat him with His loving grace and may God grant many excellent helpers like him. Hudhur said his funeral Prayer will follow regular Salat service.

Ravil Bukharaev sahib; dedication to Khilafat

- If he came to Hudhur with a plan and Hudhur did not approve of it due to too much expenditure or any other reason, Ravil Sahib accepted with conviction.
- His connection with Khilafat and his insight into the office of Khilafat was such that it seemed he had been an Ahmadi for generations. **Many of his traits were a lesson for Ahmadis.**
- He used to say that if the Khalifa of the time has given a clear instruction about something, he would consider it discourteous and sinful to further opine about the matter.
- Once Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih gave him an instruction, he would not say anything on that matter anymore.
- This is an excellent example for many old-term Ahmadis as well as new Ahmadis in terms of understanding the status of Khilafat.



Sahibzada
Dawood
Ahmad
sahib

He was martyred in Pakistan on 23 January 2012

- He was the maternal great grandson of Sahibzada Abdul Latif shaheed

His family had joined the Lahore Ahmadis, but Dawood sahib took his Bai'at eight years ago.

- Sahibzada Lateef saheed's soul will be delighted that his bloodline has fulfilled its obligation one hundred years later.

Martyrs of Ahmadiyyat

Hudhur (aba) asked for prayers for Pakistani Ahmadis that may God keep them safe from all evil.