

MOHAMMAD ILYAS AND HIS TABLEEGI JAMA'AT

The founder of Tableeghi Jama'at Muhammad Ilyas Kaandahlawee (1887-1948) was born in Kaandahlah village in Saharanpur District, India, in 1887 AD (1303 H).

Originally, he was the follower of Naqshbandiya Silsila. In his childhood he studied under his elder brother Mohammad Yahya who was a teacher at Madrasa Mathaahirul Uloom in Saharanpur.

Later he moved out of his village and completed his studies at Darul Uloom Deoband which was established in 1867 AD. His teachers include, Ashraf Ali Thanvi (1863-1943) who is referred to as Hakeem-ul-ummah by these groups. He also studied under Mahmood Hassan (1851-1920) who was famous teachers of Deoband and Tableeghi Jama'at.

Rasheed Ahmad Gangohi (1829-1905) was the Murshid of Mohammad Ilyas. He took bay'ah (oath of allegiance) on his hand in 1899. He later became Mureed of one Khaleel Ahmad Saharanpuri who taught at Deoband. Mohammad Ilyas established six fundamentals of da'awah of Tableegi Jama'at; (i) Kalima, (ii) Khusoo fis Salah (Offering prayers with concentration), (iii) Ilm Wadh-Dhikr (Knowledge and remembrance), (iv) Ikraamul Muslimeen (Honouring of Muslims), (v) Ikhlaas (Sincerety), Khuruooj fi Sabilillah (Going out in the path of Allah –SWT).

A group from amongst them is designated to go to a particular area/town/country. When they arrive at their destination, they organize themselves in a manner whereby some of them begin cleaning the place where they shall be resting during their stay in the area; Whilst others amongst them will go out to the market places and calling the people to listen to their talk (Bayaan).

When the time for the bayaan arrives, they all gather to listen. And after the bayaan, they request members of the gathering to come out with them. The group leader undertakes the responsibility of teaching his group members the fundamental teachings of Tableeghi Jama'at.

Before their period of stay is over, they encourage the people of the area to come out with them to spread their da'wah such that some people volunteer to join them for three days or a week or a month. And the preferred time for going out is a day in a week, and three days in a month and 40 days in a year and 4 months in a lifetime.

It is imperative for every member of the Jamaa'ah at-Tableegh to have a Amir or Murshid to whom he should make bay'ah (oath of allegiance). If someone dies without becoming Mureed, it is considered that he has died the death of those in pre-Islam. **It means that a person becomes Muslim only when he takes bait on the hands of their Amir. Obviously they treat others as Non-Muslims.**

The bay'ah takes place in a public gathering so as to encourage all present to do likewise and give them all an impression that they are all in this together as one group. And the same is done amongst the women also. The Mureeds show excessive love, respect and obedience to their Shaikhs.

Tableeghi Jama'at intimidate innocent Muslims to join them. Their tactics are persistence in following an individual till he succumbs to their way of thinking. In Arab countries they make a point of referring to Imaam An-Nawawee's Riyaadh as-Saaliheen, whereas in non-Arab countries they refer to the Tableeghi Nisaab, and Hayat Al-Sahabah.

Their da'wah began in India, and then spread to Pakistan and Bangladesh, then later spreading to the rest of the Islamic world, even in Arabia - such that they now have followers in Syria, Jordan, Palestine, Lebanon, Egypt, Sudan, Iraq and Saudi Arabia. They also have followers in Europe, America, Asia and Africa. Their worldwide headquarters is outside the Dargah Hazrat Nizamuddin ® in Delhi, where they administer their da'wah affairs worldwide. Their headquarters in the western world is in Dewsbury, West Yorkshire, UK.