

## **Mohammad Ilyas - the founder of Tableeghi Jama'at**

Mohammad Ilyas was one of the very well known teachers of Wahhabi groups. **He is the founder of Tableeghi Jama'at.** If you ask any follower of Tableeghi Jama'at as to who taught them this peculiar way of tableegh (Propagation), he will say that this was the practice of the companions of Prophet Mohammad (SAWS).

Let us see what their founding father says in this context. He has written that " The Practice I have taught to the people for Tableegh was disclosed to me in my dream " **(Makaatib-e-Ilyas).**

In the same book he has written that " If Allah (SWT) does not want to take a work from anyone, then even if Prophets try, they cannot move a pebble. And if He (Allah -SWT) wants to take that work, He will take it from people like me, which was not possible to be accomplished by Prophets " **(Makatib-e-Ilyas).**

In another book he has written that " Ashraf Ali Thanvi has done a great job. My heart longs that the new teachings should be his (Ashraf Ali's), and the way to propagate it should be mine, this way his new teachings will become well known among masses " . **(Malfoozat-e-Ilyas).**

The followers of Tableeghi Jama'at claim that they are the group, referred to in this Quranic verse - " Let there be a band of people among you who shall call men to goodness, and enjoin what is recognized on all hands to be good and forbid what is considered to be evil; and these are they who will progress" **(Aal-e-Imran - 104).**

Let us see what their founding father says about it. In his book titled '**Deeni Dawah (page 234)** ' he writes - "No one understood my aim. People think that this Tableeghi Jama'at is a movement for 'namaz' (Salah). I swear that this is not the movement for 'Namaz' (Salah). I want to create a new nation (read new Ummah) ".

### **Did he succeed in creating his new nation?**

To know the answer to this question look at this statement which is mentioned in Tableeghi Jama'at's most authentic book, titled '**Malfoozat-e-Ilyas**'. " Once Maulvi Ilyas said that the exegeses (Tafseer) of the verse of Quran "**Kuntum Khair Ummatin Ukhrijat linnasi ta'amuruna bil ma'arofi wa tanhauna anil munkar**" (Aale Imran 104) was disclosed to him in dream, saying that "**You have come to your people like a Prophet**". (La haula wala quwwata Illah Billah).

The followers of Tablighi Jama'at claim that they are not Wahhabis/Salafis. Let us see what their founding fathers and well known Ulema say in this context.

- The leader of the Tableeghi Jamaat, **Rashid Ahmad Gangohi** states: "The followers of Mohammad Ibne Abdul Wahab are called Wahabis, their beliefs were excellent".

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- Clarifying and reiterating his and the beliefs of the Deobandis, **Manzoor Nomani**, one of the prominent scholars of Tableeghi Jamaat states: "And we also state here clearly that we are extreme Wahabis"

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- In the words of one of the Patron of Tableeghi Jamaat, **Mohammad Zakaria Khandhalvi**: "Maulvi Sahib, I myself am a greater Wahabi than you."

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- In the words of one of the co-founders of Tabhlighee Jama'at -**Ashraf Ali Thanwi**: "Brother, here Wahabis reside, do not bring anything for Fathea, Niaz, etc. here."

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