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Issue 324 March 2020 Rajab 1441

Meet The Inspirational Ismail Patel

Full Story Page 4 & 5



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Meet The Inspirational Ismail Patel

Do people really know about the trials and tribulations that go hand in hand with those who have a physical disability?

What do people in such predicaments need to do in order to make a better life for themselves and ally any fears that their loved ones may have?

In my humble opinion, the major factor is courage.

Courage is more than being able to stand up for yourself. Courage is all about the ability get back up when things are getting you down, to get up and fight back. Never to know defeat, let alone accept it, to have principles and to stick by them.

Courage is skill, perseverance, fitness, honesty and fearlessness. It is a very big word fit for only a select few. However, it certainly is a word that one would associate with one Batley man, 34-year-old Ismail Patel.

Despite suffering from a life threatening condition in the form of an arteriovenous malformation on the brain which left him in a coma for two weeks, and the fact that doctors battled to save him by operating on his brain and performing a tracheotomy, Ismail's never say die attitude is exemplified with an endearing form of boyish enthusiasm.

"I've done six thousand, eight hundred and twenty eight steps in one day and that does not include my usual routine as I'm taking it easy today," Ismail told Paigaam as he showcased the statistics to us on his I phone.

Ismail's gutsy endeavours have seen him receive much deserved media attention across the region as he has amassed an impressive total of 5 10k races across the country, making many friends in the process whilst bringing total strangers to tears.

"I've had men and women who have seen me at the race just burst into tears saying they do not have an excuse not to partake in races and be grateful for what they have. It's great to inspire people as things could have tuned out very differently for me."

He sits back and explains how a juxtaposition of scenarios could have become a frightening situation for his family when doctors conceded and said they could do no more for him and were intent on removing his life support system: "A lot of people thought I was finished when the local masjids asked everyone to pray for me as I was in the coma at the time," Ismail added.

"I was fortunate that my sister would not take no for an answer and had argued with them and they had decided to give me an extra day or two.

"Thanks to the almighty, I woke up the day before they wanted to turn the life support machine off, but I didn't know what had happened to me or where I was.

"I remember the doctor explaining what had happened to me, and I was told I would never walk, talk or remember anything.

"But I was determined to prove him wrong and I smiled at him. Then my family and friends started asking me questions like what my name was, and I told them everything, including where I had gone out to eat the night before I fell into a coma."

Even though Ismail's family were relieved when he came around and defied the doctors once again by showcasing the fact that his memory was still very sharp, the realisation that he was left paralysed on his left side quickly set in.

"My left side is fully paralysed and I walk with the aid of a walking stick and drag the other side along. It can get quite difficult when I take part in 10 k challenges. For example, when I took part in the Bradford 10k challenge I fell and hit my head.

"The marshals picked me up but I was intent on finishing the race which I did, but when I got home I realised I had broken my collar bone and I had to wear a sling for around two weeks."

Ismail insists if it was not for the support of his family and his friends along with his employer, Al Murad, life would have been rather difficult.

"The support I have received from Irfaan Patel and his dad at Al Murad has been nothing short of phenomenal, they always look out for me and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them so much for their compassion.

"My mother is my rock, she is an inspirational woman who although shouts at me a lot because she cares for me, she knows how important taking part in the 10k events are for me.

"I have met really good people who helped me and drive me to fulfil my goals, The 'Jacuzzi Crew' are old and young friends, a mixed race group of lads who in 2017 motivated me to do the Dewsbury 10k. Keith Helliwell in particular has been amazing to me and I would like to thank them all for looking out for me."

The local hero was at pains to explain why running is so important to a plethora of people, a lot of whom have their own issues to deal with.

"I meet so many people at the gym who tell me about the issues that they are facing. I feel for them and I advise them to go and run it off. So many people out there are dealing with issues such as depression and I would advise them to go out and run as it can alleviate a great deal of stress and people generally enjoy exerting themselves as it only benefits them."

So who inspires the man who has taken part in 10k events as far as Blackburn and Wetherby?

In a deeply moving and profound manner, Ismail explains how grateful he is to the Almighty for allowing him to wake up and walk towards the masjid for congregational prayers.

He cites Fajar salaah as the principal factor which drives him to achieve his goals, day in day out: "I wake up and walk to pray Fajar namaz every day, I know I am blessed that the Almighty has given me the opportunity and strength despite my disability to pray namaaz with Jamaat and I am eternally grateful to him.

"The Ulema have been amazing with me, always encouraging me, providing words of wisdom because they are full

of compassion and always make time for me.

“I also pray namaz at work but when I get home, I read the rest at the masjid and I always pray my quran and that along with my training it is part of daily routine.”

When asked any advice he would give to those reading this feature, he cites a young boy whom he has come across in Fajar namaaz every day.

“I see this young boy in Fajar every day and he must be around nine or ten years old but he is there every day, he is my hero.

“Success is given through namaaz, all successful people have one common denominator and that is namaaz. Just look at Salah and Mane at Liverpool and how about Djemba Ba when he played at Newcastle, they built a prayer room just for him.

“It is namaaz that gives me the strength and those that are fit and healthy should take full advantage and pray their namaaz as they will get strength, money, you name it, it will come to you on a plate.

“The Almighty and my mum’s prayers to him and the prayers of my family keep me going.”

So what next for our miracle man? Time to take it easy?

“No chance,” says Ismail. “It’s been ten years since I was in a coma and I intend to partake in a total of 10 events this year and I would also like to go to the London Marathon but I would need to seriously train for that as that would be difficult.”

No doubt the local community and that of the indigenous population who have taken Ismail’s story to their hearts will pray and cheer for him accordingly so that he can continue to make a difference.



Inside this issue

Ismail Patel.....page 4/5

Al-Ihsan Trust.....page 07

Nazir Afzal lecturepage 08

Half Term fundaypage 09

Paigaam Entrepreneur ...page 10

IMWS featured on N7 News
Narendra Modipage 11

Dewsbury MP visits Kashmir.....
.....page 13

Kids.....page 16

Adult’s puzzlespage 17

Gujaratipage 18-21

Urdupage 22-23

Trump visits Gujarat.....page 24

Regents Park Muezzin forgives
attacker.....page 25

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Al-Ihsan trust purchase land for a new Masjid at the Al-Hikmah Centre

The Al-Ihsan Trust has formally completed the transfer of land at the grounds of the Al Hikmah Centre following a meeting with the IMWS Executive Committee

As part of the discussions with IMWS a reduction of £75,000 was made against the sale price of the purchase of £250,000.

This enables the Al-Ihsan Trust to concentrate on the next phase of the project and in particular agreeing all the detailed designs of the building with cost certainty, produce a tender pack and commence a tender process that leads to the appointment of a qualified construction partner and begin the physical building work on site.

Bashir Karolia, Chair of Al-Ihsan Trust confirmed a reduction of the land price against the initial sale price had been agreed and thanked the IMWS executive committee for agreeing such a grand gesture and appealed to the community to help in any way they can.

“Once all the funding is in place the

land will be fully acquired on or before April 2020. This will then enable the Trust to start to move forward with greater certainty.

“On behalf of everyone from Al-Ihsan Trust can I thank the IMWS and each and every one of you for your Duas and donations enabling us to reach this key milestone,” said Mr. Karolia.

“However, we are still in great need for your Duas, Lillah donations and Karz-E-Hasna to complete the transfer and finally commence building the Masjid.”

Dr Imtiyaz Patel, Chair of IMWS congratulated The Al-Ihsan trust and wished them a long and prosperous future: “We pray that the Almighty accepts the efforts of all those involved in the construction of the Masjid which will benefit the local and wider community for generations to come.

“Furthermore, we pray the Almighty guide the group further towards fulfilling this noble cause with blessings and ease. The Society are pleased to make a significant contribution towards the construction of the Masjid”.

Abdul Aziz Ravat, Al-Ihsan Trust Committee Member urged the community to get behind the project.

He said: “Considerable progress has been achieved but we are now entering the most critical stages of constructing this new Masjid and the services it will deliver for all the community including women and girls.

“Phase 4 will require an enormous amount of work and resources and it will inevitably take time and can only proceed as fast as resources permit. We are therefore in desperate need for your continued patience, support, financial contributions and above all Duas.”

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Nazir Afzal: I damage the narrative of right wing extremists

At a time when political tensions exist and as the legitimacy of modern-day democracy is being questioned, the Indian Muslim Welfare Society welcomed its own members and the wider community to the Al Hikmah Centre as Nazir Afzal OBE delivered a powerful lecture.

Mr Afzal was the Chief Crown Prosecutor for North West England and formerly the Director of the Crown Prosecution Service in London.

Most recently, he was Chief Executive of the country's Police & Crime Commissioners.

During a 24-year career, he had responsibility for more than 100,000 other prosecutions each year. During his lecture, he spoke about how he had to work hard to ensure that the perpetrators of grooming and abuse of young girls by perpetrators of all persuasions were prosecuted and brought to justice.

One of his first jobs as chief crown prosecutor was on the Rochdale trafficking gang. The case was thrust into the public eye as a BBC programme entitled 'Three Girls' told the story of how Afzal overturned all previous decisions, initiating prosecutions in 2012 when no one else would take the victims seriously.

He spoke passionately of witnesses pleading with him that the healing process would only commence once their harrowing experiences were listened to and believed.

Mr Afzal stressed that the majority of sexual abuse occurs within the home - and is carried out by white perpetrators.

The second largest incidence is online, the third is within institutions — such as in schools and care homes — and finally comes street grooming: "British Pakistani men are disproportionately involved. There is no getting away from the figures, they speak for themselves" he told the assembled audience at the Al Hikmah Centre.

The fight against criminal behaviour was in his view something that the Muslim community had to take ownership of: "If we did then the far right would have no ammunition to throw at the community."

Mr Afzal suggested the grooming gang preyed on vulnerability and derided claims the men were religious.

"The perpetrators weren't religious; we need to stop getting distracted by ethnicity and focus on what this is — women and girls being abused, feeling they can't talk about their experiences.

"British Pakistani men are more engaged in the night-time economy. They work in the taxi trade. These victims are looking for warmth, they are looking for transport, food, substances and all the things that are available in the night-time economy where these predators are hiding."

During the second prosecution against the leader of the Rochdale gang immediately after the first trial, Afzal revealed, Shabir Ahmed sexually abused a Pakistani girl, something which barely got a mention in the media because it "did not fit the right wing media narrative but he got twenty two years in jail for that abuse.

"He did not care where these girls came from. They came from Asian backgrounds, Pakistani backgrounds, British backgrounds, white backgrounds.

"All that mattered to him was that they were available to him and they were vulnerable to him."

He explained how he had attracted the ire of the far right who ran a letter-writing campaign calling for him to be deported, disregarding the fact that he has born in Birmingham!

The only offensive comments have been from the far right. "I damage their narrative," he added.

He also had protestors outside his house; had to have a panic alarm fitted at his home and his children had to be taken to school by taxi for three months.

He said: "The far right were determined not to believe that and they wanted to exploit it. On Facebook they wrote that Nazir Afzal did not prosecute these guys. And once they had done that, their ignorant followers followed suit.

"Their narrative is all Asians and BME people are exactly the same.

Myself and my team received seventeen thousand e-mails calling for me to be sacked.

"They wanted the case to be stopped so that they could turn round to their followers and say that there is no justice in this world."

Nazir has also been outspoken about the RSE issue and said at the meeting that he supported the government's stance on this.

He was asked a number of questions about this and was challenged by some people who felt that parents should have a tight to withdraw from some lessons.

"I have examined the curriculum myself and there is no specific LGBT content, there is reference, as there should be, to equality."

Nazir has also repeatedly warned the government about the risk posed by convicted terrorists being released from prison while still radicalised.

He said he raised the issue in a private conversation with Boris Johnson three years before he became Prime Minister – but was told there was no money.

He spoke out after Mr Johnson said the "system simply isn't working" after a number of terrorists who have recently been released from prison have gone on rampages before being shot dead.

Mr Afzal said: "The problem of those convicted for terrorist-related offences being released from prison whilst ostensibly rehabilitated but still radicalised was one that many of us raised in meetings with this Government over the past few years."

IMWS Vice Chair, Mohammed Laher said he was very grateful that Mr Afzal accepted his invitation to visit the Al Hikmah centre: "I was delighted when Mr Afzal accepted our invitation. The lecture was great."

Mr Laher insists the community must take advantage of such opportunities in which prominent figures visit and deliver lectures: "When such a well-known figure visits the local area, we should try our best to benefit from the advice and knowledge we are provided with."

Family fun day keeps little ones busy over half term

Approximately a thousand visitors descended on the Al Hikmah Centre for a Family Fun Day during the February half term holidays.

Organised in association with a number of local organisations, amongst the activities on the day were bouncy castles, fantastic food, candyfloss, sweets and cake offering, community stalls manned by Chart Kirklees, The Alzheimers Society and our very own IMWS to name a number of charities that welcomed families from the local community.

Naeem Valli works for Chart Kirklees, an organisation which offers a free and confidential drug and alcohol recovery service for adults in Kirklees.

He told Paigaam about the importance of taking part in a vibrant community event and why it is vital the local community engages with groups such as Chart.

“Our community do not always access the services on offer the way they should, so this was the perfect opportunity to engage with local people,” said Naeem.

“We took part in the event because we want to give something back to the community.

“Families tend to go away during half term so the event served as an ideal

occasion for families who did not go away, to enjoy the afternoon by partaking in a treasure hunt, winning prizes, having a good time but also find out more about the services on offer to the South Asian community.

“The event also gave an opportunity for people to access all the services on offer from Chart to the Royal Legion and the Alzheimers society to mention just some of the organisations in attendance.”

Naeem believes the event raised a great deal of awareness for Chart and local charities whom he said are keen on working with the local community.

“This is about raising awareness on a professional level and we feel we are now working in collaboration with some fantastic organisations.

“It was great to get the message out there to everybody. It was a very successful event that was put together by Chart Kirklees, BAME forum and Happy MOMents.

“It was a day for families to enjoy some fun together. All the activities were free and everyone had a great time.”

Mansoor Aftab of the Alzheimers Society believes family fun days are good opportunities to gather with partners and service users in order to provide assistance to the community.

“We urged visitors to see our stall to pop along, have a chat, and get up to speed about what we’re up to in their community and what we can do help them.

“Seeing new and familiar faces of all ages enjoying the event at the Al Hikmah centre was truly rewarding for all participants, volunteers and staff.”

IMWS General Manager Nadeem Raja said he was delighted to work and help host the event at the Al Hikmah Centre.

“We really want to thank everyone who has supported the family fun day,” said Mr Raja.

“Attendees enjoyed activities such as arts and crafts station, displays and the stalls. The event focused on bringing together the local community and the surrounding area for a day of fun.

“It was also fantastic to see so many local people engaging with local organisations who took the time and effort to partake in the event.

“May I take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to everyone involved in putting on such a fabulous event.”



Paigaam Entrepreneur: The British Gujarati millionaire who founded the world's most popular car web site in his bedroom



A regular visitor to Dewsbury, Adnan Ebrahim's mother was born in the town and he is the nephew of former councillor Abdul Patel.

He founded the Car Throttle website in his bedroom in 2011, whilst studying an economics degree at University College in London.

The site appealed to the younger generation, with vehicle manufacturers drip feeding news and test drives to the Car Throttle team on a regular basis, grabbing the attention of the young generation of petrol heads.

Fast forward almost 8 years and CarThrottle.com is now without a doubt, one of the world's most popular car websites, raking in millions of views with over 14 million car enthusiast followers and 2.5 billion video views amassed on YouTube, Facebook and Instagram last year.

The company, with offices in London and New York, is well known for its viral videos and high social engagement and works with brands to produce and distribute content on social platforms.

Adnan previously raised over 1.6 million pounds in investment from the visionaries' behind the likes of Facebook, AOL and Skype.

His journey has not gone unnoticed by the world of politics – he was invited to 10 Downing Street by the then Prime

Minister, David Cameron, where he also met Alibaba's CEO, Jack Ma.

Adnan told Paigaam: "I have always had lofty ambitions and against all odds, we actually created a brand that resonates with young people.

"I regularly receive messages from fans who love our content - who actually call themselves CTzens - and ask us to keep on creating engaging stories and videos because fundamentally we make them feel part of a global family of car enthusiasts."

Adnan quickly recognised that with a new business, one has to break away from the norm, challenge conventions and be a bit radical. "Don't be afraid to keep testing," says Adnan.

"You've got to keep viewers engaged and entertained, just never stop. At Car Throttle, we are constantly testing new methods, and that's how we stayed ahead of the game."

And although he may still be in his twenties, he believes his parents have taught him the value of hard work and to 'do a lot with a little' in typical Gujarati fashion.

"My dad came to the UK from Zambia and he worked his way up to run his own dental practice and my mum owns her own jewellery boutique, they have been an amazing influence on me, more than I can thank them for.

"They simply do not believe in failure, and being from Gujarati origin, this has certainly helped as culturally it helps one to understand other perspectives and views and this has helped me get ahead. Being from a minority background allows me to be different and stand out, so I use it as an advantage rather than looking at it negatively."

Adnan tells Paigaam about how he sold Car Throttle when the company was reaching an audience of over 300 million people a month when he sold a controlling stake to Dennis Publishing (rumoured to be at around £30 million)

the international media group behind Auto Express, evo and Carbuyer, as the company continues to build an end-to-end automotive business in the UK, marking the latest significant investment in the automotive space.

"Not only does Dennis have deep expertise in our core automotive market, but its significant resources will allow them to continue growing our strong content agency business."

The man who worked 16-hour shifts, but has still found time to chill with Formula 1's Lewis Hamilton, and skater Tony Hawk at the Gumball rally, which followed a transatlantic route from Stockholm to Las Vegas, not withstanding securing an exclusive with American talk show host, Jay Leno does not miss his namaz.

On a recent trip to Batley and Dewsbury, Adnan ensured he did not miss his Zohar namaz and has kept in touch with old friends who supported him from the very beginning.

"It keeps us all grounded and real success comes from the Almighty so I am very grateful."

So what's next for Adnan?

"I'm going to miss it. I'm going to miss my colleagues. What's next? A rest first, recharge, and then it's time to go again

"Car Throttle has been my life for 11 years, ever since I first registered the domain name in January 2009," says Adnan.

"It's become such an intertwined part of my personality that it's been hard to imagine a life without it. But after the Dennis acquisition - comfortable that the brand is in very safe hands - it feels like the right time for a new adventure, alongside my business partner."

If you think you have what it takes to be featured in the next instalment of Paigaam Entrepreneur – e-mail paigaam@imws.org.uk

IMWS featured on N7 News in recognition of the successful South Gujarat Project

The Indian Muslim Welfare society was featured on top Gujarati News channel, N7 News as part of a special news bulletin showcasing the successful South Gujarat Project, delivered in partnership with Alipore Social Welfare Trust (Alipore Hospital), who oversee the project.

Chairman, Imtiyaz Patel, Treasurer, Rafiq Dhabhad, Facilities Manager, Hanif Mayat, Ahmad Lunat and Alipore Social Welfare Trust's Hassan Mayat were all featured as the latter was given a special award for his dedication and commitment to the project.

Speaking to N7 News, Rafiq Dhabhad explained the rationale behind the project.

"We have been running The South Gujarat Project for over five years with three principal aims which are empowering individuals, providing scholarships and building homes for those who are in dire need," said Mr Dhabhad.

He also explained how, thanks to generous contributions of members,

the society has been able to assist in building a number of homes.

"Every year, we make around five or six houses and up until now we have built a total of nineteen homes and we are planning to make another seven houses this year with two houses already in the process of being built."

In terms of scholarships, students are given opportunities to study a number of different subjects such as MBBS, Physiotherapy, Pharmacy, Nursing and Mechanical Engineering with more than one hundred students benefitting from the scholarships across twenty five villages.

"We take around 42 scholarships on offer every year for students to go onto higher education," said Mr Dhabhad.

"Three students have graduated and become doctors. Those who show academic promise and good behaviour generally apply for scholarships.

"In terms of empowerment and enabling people to stand on their own two feet we have helped around forty five people start fledgling businesses."

Mr Dhabhad also paid tribute to the Alipore social and welfare trust's Hassan Mayet who was given a special award for spearheading the project along with Ahmad Lunat who was given a lifetime achievement award.

"Hassan bhai Mayet has worked tirelessly and we were delighted to give him such a prestigious award for his dedication and Ahmad bhai Lunat's contribution to IMWS is second to none."

Accepting the award, Mr Mayet told N7 News: "The Indian Muslim Welfare Society has benefitted the Alipore Social and Welfare Trust by providing very successful scholarship, housing and empowerment projects.

"This is a special day and I hope the Indian Muslim Welfare Society continue to support us for many years to come."

Donations for the South Gujarat Project are taken throughout the year. You can make a donation at the Al-Hikmah Centre or at any of the participating masjids.

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Saudi Arabia bans all foreigners entry for Umrah

Saudi Arabia has banned all religious pilgrims and foreigners from coronavirus-hit countries from entering the country over outbreak fears.

The country's decision comes just months before the annual hajj pilgrimage and after 220 confirmed cases of the Covid-19 illness have been recorded in the Middle East.

The move stops tourists and pilgrims from reaching the holy sites due to fears over the outbreak potentially spreading into Saudi Arabia.

The holy fasting month of Ramadan begins in late April, when visits by pilgrims accelerate for Umrah. More than 7.5 million people performed the minor pilgrimage – as opposed to the haj – in the birthplace of Islam during 2019, according to official figures.

The Saudi Foreign Ministry said in a statement: "Saudi Arabia renews its support for all international measures to limit the spread of this virus, and urges its citizens to exercise caution before travelling to countries experiencing coronavirus outbreaks.

"We ask the Almighty to spare all

humanity from all harm."

"This move by Saudi Arabia is unprecedented," Ghanem Nuseibeh, the founder of the London-based risk consultancy Cornerstone Global Associates, told Agence France-Presse.

"The concern for Saudi authorities would be Ramadan, which starts at the end of April, and hajj afterwards, should the coronavirus become a pandemic."

While Saudi Arabia has in the past restricted pilgrims from some countries or regions due to diseases, such as during the Ebola outbreak in 2014, a worldwide ban appears to be unprecedented.

During the swine flu outbreak of 2009 the Saudi Grand Mufti, the country's most senior religious leader, expressed astonishment at calls to suspend the main Hajj pilgrimage.

"Such fear is absolutely unjustified," he said at the time, adding that it was permissible for pilgrims to wear protective face masks. It is unclear if the Hajj, due to begin in July, will be affected by the latest restrictions.

The virus has infected about 80,000 people worldwide and killed more than 2,800. The global death toll is nearly 2,800, and China, where the outbreak originated, is the worst hit, with more than 78,000 cases and over 2,700 fatalities.

However, the number of new infections inside China was overtaken by new cases elsewhere for the first time, with Italy and Iran emerging as epicentres of the flu-like illness.

Burial contact numbers

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Regent's Park Masjid Muezzin: I forgive my attacker



The Muezzin of Regent's Park Masjid in London who was stabbed in the neck in front of hundreds of horrified worshippers says he has forgiven his attacker.

Raafat Maglad, who is in his 70s was treated at a major trauma centre after being stabbed during Zohar prayers, with one witness describing the situation as "30 seconds of mayhem."

However, Mr Maglad who was subsequently discharged and made it in time for Jumma prayers a day after the incident, hugged well wishers whilst wearing a sling supporting his right arm and said he does not bear any ill will towards his 29-year-old attacker.

He said: "I forgive him. I feel very sorry for him. What is done is done, he is not going to return," he said, adding that as a Muslim he does not hold any animosity in his heart.

Speaking about the attack to journalists at the Masjid, Mr Maglad insisted everything took place rather quickly: "He hit me.

I just felt blood flowing from my neck and that's it, they rushed me to the hospital. Everything happened all of a sudden."

When asked if he knew the attacker, he said: "This (masjid) is multinational, you don't know who is walking in and out.

A 29-year-old man was arrested at the scene on suspicion of attempted murder after worshippers pinned him down, Scotland Yard said.

It is believed to be "an isolated incident" as opposed to terror-related with "no other suspects being sought at this time", said Chief Superintendent Helen Harper.

Video on social media showed a white man wearing a red hoodie, black trousers and no shoes being handcuffed by police.

In one piece of footage there was a knife on the floor under a plastic chair.

Witnesses said the suspect spoke with "a London accent" and had been a regular at the mosque but was last seen at least six months ago.

Waleed Mohammed, a friend of the victim, said: "There is only one Rafaat in the mosque - his voice comes out of that minaret five times a day.

"For this to happen right at the end of his career is very, very sad for the whole Muslim community."

Director-general of the Islamic Cultural Centre at the mosque, Dr Ahmad Al Dubayan, said he hoped it was "only an individual incident".

He added: "This place is iconic - not only for Muslims but for all the British society. Many Muslims come here, many communities come here."

The Muslim Council of Britain said it would be reissuing its safety advice to mosques across the country.

"Regardless of the motive of the attacker, we must remain calm but vigilant as we aim to balance the importance of retaining mosques as open spaces, and the security of worshippers," it said.

Ayaz Ahmad, adviser to the mosque, said the prime minister's office, the Home Office and the Mayor of London's office had called to give their regards following the incident.

PM Boris Johnson tweeted: "I'm deeply saddened to hear of the attack at the London Central Mosque. It's so awful that this should happen, especially in a place of worship.

My thoughts are with the victim and all those affected."

London's mayor, Sadiq Khan, also urged musalli's to remain vigilant. Addressing the congregation after Jumma namaz at Regent's Park Masjid over the loudspeaker system.

He urged people to remain vigilant

and reassured them that police would maintain a presence at the mosque, particularly as the holy month of Ramadan approaches.

He said: "I am here as your Mayor to reassure you after the awful incident we saw yesterday that our places of worship - whether they are mosques, synagogues or churches - are temples and should be sanctuaries and safe havens, safe from the fear of attack."

He added: "The good news is that Abu Azim, our brother who was injured yesterday, is with us today for Jumma prayers.

"Unfortunately there are some people who will attack people at their most vulnerable, which is then they are worshipping."

"If you see anybody acting suspiciously please be the eyes and ears of our police so they can keep us safe.

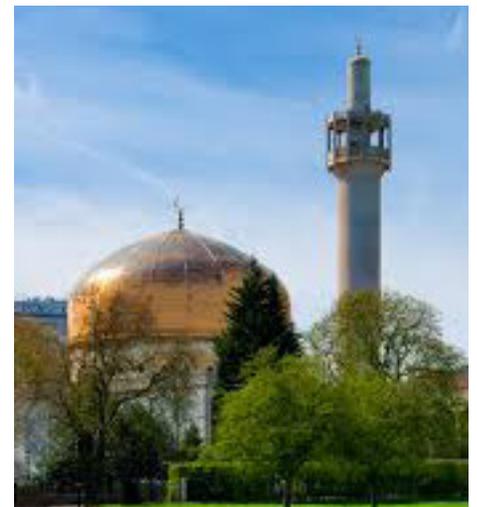
"We as a city are seen as a beacon around the world because here in London we aren't simply tolerated, we are respected, celebrated and embraced.

"And this message has been a beacon: a beacon for the faith we follow for decades.

"Please keep in your prayers all those around the world who aren't as fortunate to be Londoners, facing persecution today."

London Central Mosque is one of the country's largest and can hold 5,000 worshippers, with people from across the capital travelling to it for prayers every day.

About 200-300 worshippers are understood to have been there when the attack happened.



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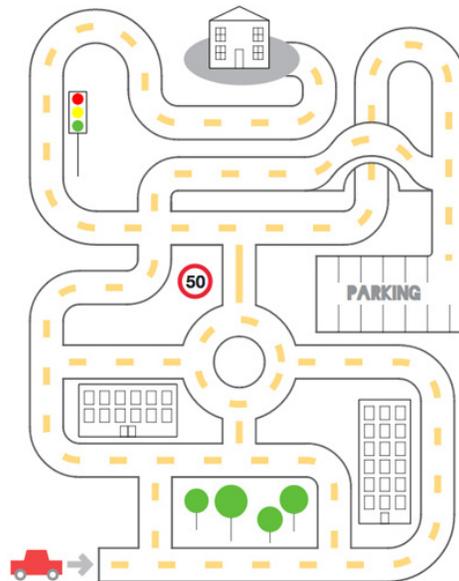
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વૃદ્ધોમાં એકલતાની સમસ્યા

□ મહેક ટંકારવી, બોલ્ટન

ખાસ કરીને અહીં પશ્ચિમના દેશોમાં અને બ્રિટનમાં પણ એકલતાની સમસ્યા એટલી ચિંતાજનક બની ગઈ છે કે ભૂતપૂર્વ વડાપ્રધાન ટેરેસા મેએ બ્રિટનમાં વધી રહેલી સામાજિક એકલતાની સમસ્યા અને એને કારણે પેદા થતી સામાજિક અને આરોગ્ય વિષયક બાબતોના ઉકેલ માટે એક “Minister of Loneliness” અર્થાત એકલતાના પ્રધાનની નિમણૂક કરી હતી. વધી રહેલી એકલતા એ આધુનિક જીવનની એક વાસ્તવિકતા છે જેનો સ્વીકાર કરી આ પગલું ભરવામાં આવ્યું હતું. આ એકલતા એવી વસ્તુ છે જેને કારણે વ્યક્તિ હાઈ બ્લડ પ્રેશર, હૃદય રોગ, રૂમેટિક આર્થરાઈટીસ (હાડકાંનો સંધિવા) અને આજકાલ જેનું જોર વધી રહ્યું છે તે ડિમેન્શિયા (ભૂલકણાપણું) જેવી વ્યાધિનો પણ ભોગ બની શકે છે.

કહેવામાં આવ્યું છે કે માણસ અન્ય કોઈ પ્રકારની પીડાને સહન કરી શકે છે, પણ એકલતાનું વજન ઉપાડવું એના માટે અસહ્ય બની જતું હોય છે. આજનો માનવી આમ જોવા જઈએ તો લોકોની વચ્ચે રહે છે, દિવસભર સતત ચાલતી રહેતી દોડધામ વચ્ચે જીવે છે, પણ એનો અર્થ એવો નથી કે એ એકલતા અનુભવતો નથી. માણસ ખીચોખીચ ભીડની વચ્ચે, મોટા ટોળાની વચ્ચે પણ એકલો હોઈ શકે છે.

ઘણા બધા લોકો માટે એકલતા એ આધુનિક જીવનની એક કરુણ વાસ્તવિકતા છે. મિસિસ મેના શબ્દોમાં એકલતાના પ્રધાનની નિમણૂક કરી “હું આપણા સમાજ માટે આ પડકારનો સામનો કરવા માંગું છું અને વયોવૃદ્ધ લોકો, કેરર્સ (તેમની દેખભાળ કરનારાઓ), જેમણે પોતાનું પ્રિય સ્વજન ગુમાવ્યું છે અને જેમની પાસે વાત કરવા માટે અથવા તેમના વિચારો, લાગણીઓ અને અનુભવોની આપલે કરવા માટે કોઈ નથી તેવા લોકો દ્વારા સહન કરવામાં આવતી એકલતાના ઉપાય માટે આપણે બધા મળીને કામ કરીએ એવું ચાહું છું.”

તમને જાણીને આશ્ચર્ય અને દુઃખ પણ થશે કે એક અહેવાલમાં જણાવ્યા મુજબ બ્રિટનની ૬૬ મિલિયનની વસતીના ૯ મિલિયન જેટલા લોકો એકલતા અનુભવે છે. આમાંના બે લાખ જેટલા ઝઈફ લોકોએ તો એક આખા મહિના દરમિયાન પોતાના કોઈ મિત્ર કે સગા સાથે વાતચીત કરી ન હતી. બ્રિટનનાં પા ભાગનાં કુટુંબો (૭.૭ મિલિયન) એવાં છે જેમાં માત્ર એક જ વ્યક્તિ રહેતી હોય છે. આમાં જીવનસાથી ગુમાવવાને લીધે એકલા થઈ ગયેલા વયોવૃદ્ધ લોકો, જેમનું લગ્નજીવન ભાંગી પડ્યું છે તેવા મિડલ એજ (વયલી ઉંમર) ના લોકો અને જેમનાં બાળકો ભણીગણી કામઘંઘા માટે બહાર નીકળી ગયાં હોય છે તેવા લોકોનો સમાવેશ થાય છે.

એકલતાનો ભોગ માત્ર ઝઈફ લોકો જ બને છે એવું પણ નથી. કોઈ પણ ઉંમર કે જાતિ (લિંગ)ની વ્યક્તિ એનો ભોગ બની શકે છે. એકલતા માણસને મૃત્યુવશ કરી દઈ શકે છે. આરોગ્ય માટે એ રોજની ૧૫ સિગારેટનું ધૂમ્રપાન કરવા કરતાં પણ વધારે નુકસાનકારક હોવાનું જણાવાયું છે. એકલતા ઝઈફ લોકોના જીવનનો એક અંશ બની જાય એવું જરૂરી નથી. એનો ઉપાય કરી શકાય છે.

સૌ પ્રથમ તો એકલા જીવતા લોકોએ એકલતાના વજન નીચે દબાયેલા રહી પોતાના ઘરમાં જ પુરાયેલા રહેવાને બદલે બહાર નીકળતા રહેવું જોઈએ. અહીં એવી ઘણી બધી કલબો અને ઘણાં બધાં સામાજિક કેન્દ્રો, કોમ્યુનિટી સેન્ટરો, મંદિરો, મસ્જિદો, ચર્ચો, ગુરુદ્વારાઓ છે જ્યાં માણસ જઈ શકે છે અને અન્ય લોકો સાથે હળીમળી શકે છે. તેમની સાથે ઈન્ડોર, આઉટડોર રમતગમતમાં કે પર્યટનો - પ્રવાસોમાં જોડાઈ શકે છે. યાદ રહે કે આવા લોકો માટે તંદુરસ્ત રહેવા માટે વ્યાયામ, ગમ્મત, હરવું ફરવું, સંતુલિત આહાર જેવી બાબતો ખૂબ જરૂરી હોય છે. ઘરમાં પૂરાઈ રહેવાથી તો મન અને શરીર બંને ધીરે ધીરે ભાંગી પડે છે અને માંદગી આવી પડે છે.

ધાર્મિક આસ્થાવાળા લોકોએ મંદિર-મસ્જિદે નિયમિત જતા આવતા રહેવું જોઈએ જ્યાં તેમના જેવા અન્ય લોકોની કંપની તેમને મળી શકે છે. મંદિર-મસ્જિદમાં પણ આવા લોકો માટે બેસવા ઊઠવાની, ચા-પાણીની કે વાતચીતની કેટલીક એવી સુવિધાઓ હોવી જોઈએ જે તેમને એકલતા નિવારવામાં મદદરૂપ થઈ શકે. મંદિરમાં પૂજાપાઠ કરી, ભગવાનને હાથ જોડી તરત જ ભાગી જતા લોકો કે મસ્જિદમાં નમાઝને અંતે સલામ ફેરવી તરત બહાર નીકળી જતા શ્રદ્ધાળુ લોકોએ કાલે આપણી પણ આવી દશા થઈ શકે છે એવું સમજી વિચારી સમાજના આવા એકલા થઈ ગયેલા લોકો પ્રત્યે સહાનુભૂતિ દાખવી તેમનો પણ ખ્યાલ રાખવો જોઈએ. તેમની સાથે પણ સંબંધ બાંધવો જોઈએ. તેમની સાથે પણ બેસવું ઊઠવું જોઈએ.

હા, પણ આપણી પાસે એવું કરવાનો સમય ક્યાં છે? આપણને પણ આધુનિકતા ભરખી ગયેલી છે. આપણે પણ એટલી જ દોડધામવાળું જીવન જીવતા થઈ ગયા છીએ. એમાં એક બીજા માટે જીવવાનો ક્યાં અવકાશ જ છે? ગુજરાતીના જાણીતા કવિ જયંત પાઠકના શબ્દોમાં:

આપણા દુઃખની દવા કોઈની પાસે નથી

લાચાર છીએ આપણે

તે તોય

આ એકબીજાથી વંકાવું, કતરાવું ને છીંકાવું

અહંની હવાઈ હવેલીઓ પર

આપણે વિજય પટાકા લહેરાવીએ

સર્વોપરી કહેવાવીએ!

એકબીજાની હૂંફમાં જીવતાં

એકબીજા માટે મરતાં

આપણે ક્યારે શીખીશું?

ચાહે નામ બદલો, યા કામ બદલો

□ મહેક ટંકારવી, બોલ્ટન

આજકાલ આપણે જાણીએ છીએ કે દુનિયાભરના ઈસ્લામ અને મુસ્લિમ દુશ્મન મીડિયા, જેમાં સમાચાર પત્રો, મેગેઝીનો, ટેલિવિઝન ચેનલો અને સોશ્યલ મીડિયાનો સમાવેશ થાય છે, ઈસ્લામને અને મુસલમાનોને બદનામ કરવાનું અને હલકા ચીતરવાનું કોઈને કોઈ બહાનું ઢૂંઢતા હોય છે અને તેમ કરવા માટે એકેય પ્રસંગને ચૂકતા નથી. દુઃખની વાત એ છે કે આપણે જાણ્યે અજાણ્યે એમને એ બહાનાં આપી દઈએ છીએ.

થોડા સમય પહેલાં ‘મુસ્લિમ કાઉન્સિલ ઓફ બ્રિટને’ બ્રિટનની જેલોમાં મુસ્લિમોની સંખ્યા વિષે એક સરવે કરી કેટલાક આંકડા આપ્યા હતા જે ચોંકાવનારા હતા. મુસ્લિમોની વસતીના પ્રમાણમાં (આશરે ૪.૮ મિલિયન) જેલોમાં જે મુસ્લિમો છે તેમની સંખ્યા (૧૫% જેટલી) છે જે પ્રમાણમાં ઘણી વધારે કહેવાય અને એવું સાબિત કરે છે કે મુસલમાનો નાના મોટા અપરાધોમાં અન્ય વર્ણીય જૂથોની સરખામણીમાં વધારે સંડોવાયેલા છે. આ ગુનાઓમાં ડ્રગ્સની હેરાફેરી, ગ્રૂમીંગ અને સેક્સને લગતા અપરાધો, શારીરિક હુમલા, છેતરપિંડી જેવા જેમાં કાનૂનનો ભંગ થતો હોય તેવા અન્ય નાના મોટા અપરાધો આવી જાય છે. જેલોમાં પુરાયેલા મુસ્લિમોના આ આંકડાઓ આપણને વિચારતા કરી મૂકે છે.

બીજી એક સામાન્ય વાત પણ આપણું ધ્યાન દોરે છે. સમાચાર પત્રોમાં આપણે જ્યારે આ અપરાધીઓના નામ વાંચીએ છીએ ત્યારે ‘મુહમ્મદ’ નામ વધુને વધુ પ્રમાણમાં જોવામાં આવે છે. આ પવિત્ર નામ રાખી ગુનાહિત કામો કરીને આવા મુસ્લિમો પોતાના પ્યારા પયગમ્બરને અને દીને ઈસ્લામને બદનામ કરતા હોય છે. આવા લોકોને સંબોધીને કહેવામાં આવેલી એક વાત અહીં યાદ આવે છે તે એ કે ક્યાં તો તમારા અમલો સુધારો અથવા તો તમારું નામ બદલી નાંખો.

અમલો સુધારવાની વાત આવે છે ત્યારે આપણને એમ પણ થાય છે કે બ્રિટનમાં મસ્જિદ, મદ્રસાઓ અને દારુલ ઉલુમોની સંખ્યા તો દિન પ્રતિ દિન વધી રહી છે. આજે હજારો નાની મોટી મસ્જિદો બ્રિટનના મુસ્લિમ વસતીવાળા દરેક ટાઉન અને શહેરોમાં જોવામાં આવે છે. મસ્જિદના મિમ્બરો પરથી ઈસ્લાહી બયાનોનો ઘોષ સતત વહેતો રહે છે, દીની સંસ્થાઓ પણ એ કામમાં બરાબર વ્યસ્ત છે. તેમ છતાં આ આદેશ ઉપદેશોની જોઈએ તેવી અસર કેમ થતી નથી? એ બયાનો સાંભળનારા મુસ્લિમોનાં વાણી વર્તનમાં ઈચ્છિત પરિવર્તન કેમ થતું નથી? આ પણ સંશોધનનો વિષય છે.

આપણે એ પણ જોયું છે કે આજકાલ અહીં તેમ વતનમાં પણ મુસ્લિમો મસ્જિદોને આરસપહાણથી સજાવવામાં લાખો

પાઉન્ડનો ખર્ચ કરે છે. આવા લોકોને સંબોધીને મૌલાના અબ્દુલ્લાહ કાપોદ્રવી સાહેબે એક વાત ફરમાવી છે કે ભાઈઓ! યાદ રાખો કે ગેરમુસ્લિમો તમારી એ આરસપહાણથી સુશોભિત મસ્જિદો કે દર્સગાહો જોવા આવવાના નથી. તે તો જુએ છે મુસલમાનને, તેની રીતભાતને, તેની ચાલ ચલગતને અને વાણી વર્તનને. જરૂરી તો એ છે કે મસ્જિદોને શણગારવાને બદલે આપણે આપણી જાતને સદ્ગુણોથી શણગારી, અન્યો સામે ઈસ્લામનો એક સારો, આકર્ષક નમૂનો પેશ કરીએ. ગુનાહિત કામોથી બચીએ અને આપણે આપણા અહીંના યજમાન સમાજ (host community) માટે ત્રાસરૂપ ન બનીએ.

અહીં બીજી એક વાત તરફ પણ ધ્યાન દોરવાનું મન થાય છે. થોડા સમય પહેલાં લંડનની એક મસ્જિદમાં જુમ્હાની નમાઝ પઢવાનો અવસર પેદા થયો હતો. નમાઝ પહેલાં પાંચપંદર મિનિટના ટૂંકા પણ અસરકારક બયાનમાં ઈમામ સાહેબે આ મહેમાન-યજમાનની વાત ઘણી સારી રીતે સમજાવી હતી. તેમણે કહ્યું હતું કે ભાઈઓ! ભૂલી ન જતા કે આપણે આ દેશમાં મહેમાનની હેસિયતથી છીએ. ભલે અહીં પેદા થયા અને મોટા થયા હોઈએ છતાં આપણે મહેમાન જ છીએ અને મહેમાન જ રહેવાના. આપણી એ ફરજ બને છે કે આપણે કોઈને ત્યાં મહેમાન જઈએ અને જે રીતે તેમના ઘરનો અદબ જાળવીએ છીએ અને યજમાનને કોઈ તકલીફ ન પહોંચે તેનો હંમેશાં ખ્યાલ રાખીએ છીએ તે જ પ્રમાણે આપણે આ દેશના લોકોને, આપણા યજમાનોને આપણા થકી કોઈ તકલીફ ન પહોંચે તેનો સદા ખ્યાલ રાખવો અત્યંત જરૂરી છે. ઈસ્લામી અખલાકો અપનાવીને આપણે તેમનું દિલ જીતી શકીએ છીએ અને આ દિલનું જીતવું અને તેમને આપણા મિત્ર અને હમદર્દ બનાવી લેવું એ કોઈ કપરા દિવસોમાં આપણી ઢાલ બની શકે છે. એમને નારાજ કરીને આપણે આપણા માટે મુસીબત નોતરવાનું કામ ન કરી બેસીએ તે ખાસ ધ્યાનમાં રાખવા જેવી બાબત છે.

ઈસ્લામ સર્વશ્રેષ્ઠ ધર્મ છે અને મુસલમાનો સર્વશ્રેષ્ઠ ઉમ્મત છે એવું માત્ર કહ્યા કરવાથી આપણું કામ બનવાનું નથી. આપણે બધાએ, દરેક મુસલમાને, ગુનાહો ત્યાગી સદાચાર અને સૌજન્યની મૂર્તિ સમાન બનવાનું છે. આવો પ્રત્યેક મુસલમાન ઈસ્લામનો જીવંત નમુનો બની ગેરમુસ્લિમોમાં ઈસ્લામની જે ગેરસમજ પેદા કરવામાં આવી છે તેને દૂર કરી તેમને ઈસ્લામ પ્રત્યે આકર્ષવાનું માધ્યમ બની શકે છે. આવો ચારિત્ર્યવાન, ફક્ત અલ્લાહથી ડરનાર, દરેક સાથે નેકીનું વર્તન કરનાર મુસલમાન અન્યોમાં લોકપ્રિય બનીને રહેશે અને સંસારમાં તે કદાપિ બેઈજજત નહીં થાય, અત્યારે બની રહ્યું છે તેમ અન્યોના જુલ્મનો શિકાર નહીં બને. હકીકત એ છે કે ઈસ્લામ એક સાચા મુસલમાનમાં જે સર્વોચ્ચ ગુણો પેદા કરે છે તે ગુણો પર વિશ્વની કોઈ તાકાત વિજયી થઈ શકતી નથી. જરૂર છે આપણે સૌએ માત્ર નામના નહીં, પણ સાચા મુસલમાન બનવાની. અલ્લાહ પાક આપણને એની તૌફિક આપે.

રાણીના દેશમાં

□ મહંમદ યુસુફ સુફી લાજપુરી

હુદહુદ નામનું માથે કલગીવાળું એક નાનું સુંદર રૂપાળું પંખી જેને ગુજરાતીમાં ટીટોડી લક્કડબોર અને અંગ્રેજીમાં વુડપેકર કહેવામાં આવે છે. હજરત સુલયમાન અલયહિસ્લામનો પાણીનો એન્જિનિયર હતો, જે લશ્કરની આગળ રહેતો હતો અને પાણી ક્યાં છે તે બતાવતો હતો. આ હુદહુદ પંખીનું નામ યઅફૂર હતું.

એક વેળા પાણીની શોધમાં ઉડતાં ઉડતાં તે ઘણે દૂર નીકળી ગયો, સબા એ યમન દેશનું એક પ્રખ્યાત શહેર છે. આ શહેરની રાણી જેનું નામ બિલ્કીસ હતું આ રાણીના દેશની પ્રજા સૂર્યને પૂજતી હતી અને સૂરજને સિજદો કરતી હતી. આ રૂપાળા અને દયાળુ પંખીએ આ બધું જોયું તો એના આશ્ચર્યનો પાર ન રહ્યો. જ્યારે એ ફરી હજરત સુલયમાન અલયહિસ્લામના રાજમાં આવ્યો ત્યારે ગઈ રાત્રિના હાજરીપત્રકમાં એની ગેરહાજરી નોંધાઈ ગઈ હતી જેથી હજરત સુલયમાન અલયહિસ્લામ ગુસ્સામાં પણ હતા. હુદહુદ પંખીએ આંખે દેખ્યો હાલ જે તેણે સબા શહેરમાં જોયો હતો તે સચાટ રીતે વિગતે બયાન કર્યો જેનો ઉલ્લેખ કુરઆન મજીદના પારા નંબર ૧૮, સુરએ નમલમાં પણ છે. કિસ્સા મુખ્તસર! ટૂંકમાં એ કે હજરત સુલયમાન અલયહિસ્લામની દાવત પર મહારાણી બિલ્કીસ તેણીના પૂરા દેશ સહિત મુસલમાન થઈ ગઈ હતી. રાણીના દેશનું મુસલમાન થઈ જવાનું કારણ ફક્ત આ હુદહુદ પંખી બન્યું હતું. વાહ રે હુદહુદ શાબાશ!

રાણીના દેશમાં રહેતા મારા મુસલમાન ભાઈઓ અને બહેનો! એક હુદહુદ પંખી તો બિલ્કીસ રાણીના પૂરા દેશ માટે હિદાયતનું કારણ બને છે અને આપણે અહીં રાણીના દેશમાં અત્યાર સુધીમાં કેટલાની હિદાયત અને માર્ગદર્શનનું કારણ બન્યા? એ દરેક વ્યક્તિ પોતાના ગરેબાનમાં નજર નાંખી ચિંતન મનન કરી શકે છે.

રાણીના દેશમાં રહેતા મુસલમાનો માટે મુફકિરે ઈસ્લામ હજરત મવલાના સૈયદ અબુલ હસન અલી નદવી રહ. એ એક અગત્યનો સંદેશ આપ્યો હતો. જે અહીંયાં રજૂ કરીએ છીએ.

મુસલમાનોએ આ રાણીના દેશમાં પોતાનું સ્થાન બનાવવું જોઈએ. તમારે અહીંના લોકોના માનસ પર તમારી ઉપયોગીતાની સુંદર છાપ પાડવી જોઈએ. તમારે આ લોકોને એવું બતાવવું જોઈએ કે તમારું અહીં રહેવું એમના માટે ઘણું જ ફાયદાકારક છે. તમારે તેમને માનવતાના પાઠો ભણાવવા જોઈએ, તમારે એ પણ તેમને બતાવવું જોઈએ કે તમે કેટલા ઉમદા અને સિદ્ધાંતવાળા લોકો છો. અને તમારાથી વધારે

સીધા અને પ્રમાણિક લોકો આ દુનિયામાં મળવા મુશ્કેલ છે. તમારે તમારું પોતાનું મુલ્ય સ્થાપવાનું છે. અને તમે આ દેશ માટે એક આશીર્વાદ અને રહેમત સમાન છો એવું સાબીત કરવાનું છે.

પરંતુ એમ કરવાને બદલે જો તમે એક બંધ વાતાવરણમાં નમાઝ, રોઝા કરી પોતે સંતુષ્ટ થઈને એક ખૂણામાં કેદ થઈ જવાનું પસંદ કરશો તો અને જે દેશમાં રહો છો તે દેશના લોકો અને સમાજ પ્રત્યે ઉદાસીનતા સેવશો, તેમને ઈસ્લામના ઉમદા મુલ્યો અને તમારી અંગત પુબીઓ વિષે જ્ઞાન કે સમજ નહીં આપો તો ચેતજો કે ભવિષ્યમાં સર્જનાર કોઈ ધાર્મિક કે સાંપ્રદાયિક સંઘર્ષ કે હુલ્લડ તોફાનોમાં ફસાય ન પડો. આવી પરિસ્થિતિ ખુદા પેદા ન કરે નહિતર તમારા માટે બચવાનો કોઈ આરો રહેશે નહીં.

યાદ રાખો, તમે અહીં એક મહેમાનની હેસિયતથી છો. તમારી તબ્લીગ, મસ્જિદો, મદ્રસાઓ, ઈબાદતો એ બધું તારીફને લાયક છે. અલ્લાહ તઆલા તમને એમાં બરકત આપે, પરંતુ આ દેશમાં તમારું સ્થાન બનાવવાનું ભૂલશો નહીં. તમે અહીંના લોકો સાથે એવી રીતે વર્તણૂક કરો કે તે તમારા ઉપર પૂરો ભરોસો રાખે. ઈસ્લામની દરેક હકીકતો અને તેમાં છૂપાયેલ દરેક સારી બાબતો તેમને સમજાવો. તમારા સારા અખ્લાકની તેઓ નોંધ લેશે તેની પૂરી કાળજી રાખો.

આ વાત પણ ખૂબજ જરૂરી છે કે અહીંના લોકોને કોઈ પણ જાતનું જરા પણ નુકસાન ન પહોંચાડો અને તેમની સાથે સારા સંબંધો રાખો જેથી તેઓ પણ વિચારવા મજબૂર થાય કે આખરે ઈસ્લામમાં એવું તે શું છે કે મુસલમાનો આવી ઉમદા રીતે વર્તણૂક કરી રહ્યા છે. રાણીના દેશમાં રહેતા મુસ્લિમો સામે અનેક પ્રકારના પડકારો છે. અહીં આપણી નવી નસલને બગાડવાના અનેક સામાન મોજૂદ છે અને માહોલ પણ તેવું મળી રહ્યું છે. આપણે એક એવા મોડ પર આવી ઊભા છીએ કે ઈર્તિદાદ ચારે તરફ મોં ફાડી ઊભો છે.

ભાઈઓ અને બહેનો! એક સમય તે હતો કે આપણું બાળક આપણા ઘરમાં સુરક્ષિત હતું પરંતુ આજે તો ઘરમાં રહેલું બાળક પણ સુરક્ષિત નથી, કારણ કે એના હાથમાં મબાઈલ છે. એ ઈન્ટરનેટ પર છે. ખબર નથી એ ક્યાં ક્યાં ફરી રહ્યો છે. કઈ ચેનલ પર છે અને શું શું જોઈ રહ્યો છે! એક મહાન ભય એ પણ છે કે અહીં રાણીના દેશની એશઆરામભરી જિંદગી અને એમાં રહેલી રંગરંગેલીઓમાં રાતદિવસ પડયા રહી આપણે જો આખેરતને ભૂલી ગયા તો જન્મતમાં પ્રવેશ વિલંબિત થઈ જશે.

અંતમાં આ દેશના કાયદાકાનૂનને પણ સન્માનની નજરે જોઈ તેને મહત્વ આપી, કાયદાનું પાલન કરી, આ દેશના મૂળ લોકો સાથે સારા અખ્લાકથી રહે. રાણીના દેશમાં રહેતા મુસલમાનો માટે આ એક સુંદર સંદેશ અને માર્ગદર્શન છે.

મુસલમાનોમાં એકતાની જરૂરત

□ એક અહેવાલ

થોડાક સમય પહેલાં અલ-હિરા ઈસ્લામિક સેન્ટર, બ્રેડફોર્ડ ખાતે ‘સીરએ મુસ્તફા એન્ડ યુનિટી કોન્ફરન્સ’ યોજાઈ હતી. આ પૂરી કોન્ફરન્સનું પ્રસારણ હિદાયત ટેલિવિઝન ચેનલ પરથી કરવામાં આવ્યું હતું. કોન્ફરન્સમાં બ્રેડફોર્ડના એમ.પી., મેયર અને કાઉન્સિલરો ઉપરાંત વિવિધ અકાઈદ અને મસ્લકના શીઆ, સુન્ની વગેરે ઈમામો, વક્તાઓ અને ઈસ્લામિક સ્કોલરોએ ભાગ લીધો હતો. ટૂંકાં પણ જોરદાર વક્તવ્યોમાં દરેકે મુસલમાનોમાં એકતાની આવશ્યકતા પર ભાર દીધો હતો અને એ કઈ રીતે શક્ય બનાવી શકાય તે વિષે પોતાના વિચારો દર્શાવ્યા હતા.

સૌથી અગત્યની જે વાત કરવામાં આવી હતી તે એ કે આપણે સૌએ વર્તમાન મુશ્કેલ સંજોગોને અને મુસ્લિમો અને ઈસ્લામ વિરોધી આંતરરાષ્ટ્રિય કાવાદાવાઓને ધ્યાનમાં રાખી જે વસ્તુ અપનાવવાની જરૂર છે તે એ કે પોતાના ફાયદા ખાતર આપણામાં ફાટફૂટ પડાવનાર અને આપણને એકબીજાના દુશ્મન બનાવનાર ‘નીમ હકીમ, ખતરે જાન’ જેવા ફાયરબ્રાન્ડ ‘ઉલેમાએ સૂ’થી છેડો ફાડી નાંખવાની છે. આવા દુનિયાદાર, દીનના માધ્યમથી દુનિયા કમાવાવાળા કહેવાતા ઉલેમાઓ, પીરો, દરવેશો દીનને બદનામ કરવાવાળા છે અને તેમને વહેલી તકે ઓળખી લઈ તેમનાથી દૂર રહેવું જાઈએ. આપણા સૌથી મોટા દુશ્મન તે લોકો છે જેઓ અવામમાં વિખવાદ અને તોડફોડ પેદા કરે છે.

મુસલમાનોમાં એકતા પેદા કરવા માટે આપણામાં જે મસ્લકી મતભેદો છે તેમને ઉછાળતા રહેવાને બદલે આપણે આપણામાં જે સામ્યતાઓ છે તેના તરફ વધારે ધ્યાન આપવાની જરૂર છે. સામ્યતાઓમાં આપણો અલ્લાહ એક, રસૂલ એક, કુર્આન એક, કાબા એક, આપણો નફો અને નુકસાન પણ એક એ હકીકતોને આપણે ન ભૂલવી જોઈએ. આપણા જે ખુલ્લા દુશ્મનો છે તેમણે અત્યારે જે રણનીતિ અપનાવી છે તે આપણા અકાઈદને શંકાસ્પદ બનાવી દઈ આપણી નવી નસલોને કોઈ પણ ભોગે દીનથી હટાવી દેવાની છે. તેઓ જાણે છે કે કલામે પાકમાં તો ઝેરો ઝબરનો ફેરફાર થઈ શકે એમ નથી કેમકે એની હિફાઝતની જિમ્મેદારી તો અલ્લાહે ખુદ પોતાના શિરે લીધી છે. પણ હદીસોમાં અહીં તહીં ફેરફારો કરી મુસલમાનોમાં આપસમાં ગડબડ ઊભી કરવાની દિશામાં દુશ્મનો કામ કરી રહ્યા છે. આ બાબતમાં આપણે સૌએ ખૂબજ સાવધાન રહેવાની જરૂરત છે.

આપણને એક કરવાવાળી બાબતોમાં સૌથી અગ્રસ્થાને કલેમાએ તૌહીદ પછી ‘અખ્લાકે મુહંમદી’ છે જેમાં દુશ્મનને પણ માફ કરી દેવાની વાતને મક્કાનો વિજય થયો ત્યારે હુઝૂર

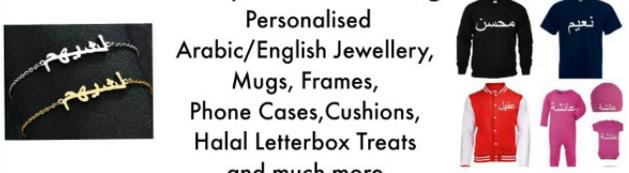
(સલ.)એ કઈ રીતે પોતાના કટ્ટર શત્રુઓને પણ ઉદાર દિલે માફ કરી દીધા હતા તે પ્રસંગનો દાખલો આપી અનેક વક્તાઓએ સુંદર રીતે સમજાવી હતી. આપણે મુસલમાનોએ આ માફ કરવાની વૃત્તિને ખાસ અપનાવવાની જરૂર છે જેથી આપણા સમાજમાંથી નાની મોટી દુશ્મનીઓ ખતમ થાય અને આપણે ફરીથી ભાઈ ભાઈ બનીને રહી શકીએ.

કલામે પાકની એકતા વિષેની જાણીતી આયત “વાઅત્સીમુ બેહબલિલ્લાહે જમીઅઉ વલા તફર્રુકુ...” ટાંકીને માનવંત ઉલેમાઓએ એકબીજાના લોહીના તરસ્યા એવા એક વેળાના આરબોને કઈ રીતે તમામ દુશ્મનીઓને મિટાવી પરસ્પર ભાઈ ભાઈ બનાવી દીધા હતા તે અલ્લાહની મહાન નેઅમત તરફ ઈશારો કર્યો હતો. ઈસ્લામની આ ખુબી અને નેઅમતનો આપણે પણ લાભ લેવો જોઈએ અને એક બીજાને ‘કાફીર’, ‘ગુસ્તાખે રસૂલ’ વગેરે જેવાં અપકાનકારક નામો આપતા રહી મુસલમાનોની બાદબાકી કરતા રહેવાને બદલે દરેક મુસલમાનને દીની ભાઈ સમજી ગળે લગાવતાં શીખવું જોઈએ. હુઝૂરે પાક (સલ)ની સીરતમાંથી આપણે મુહોબ્બત, શફક્કત અને રહેમત જેવા ગુણો અપનાવવાની અને માત્ર વાતો કરીને, મોટી મોટી કોન્ફરન્સો યોજી કે સરઘસો કાઢી નારાઓ બુલંદ કરતા રહેવાને બદલે રોજંદા જીવનમાં અમલમાં મૂકવાની ખાસ જરૂર છે.

મુસલમાનો સાથે ભલાઈ અને નેકીનો મામલો કરવાની વાત તો ઠીક, પણ મુશ્કેલી સાથે પણ સદવર્તન અને નેકી કરવાનો આદેશ કલામે પાકમાં આપવામાં આવ્યો છે. કહેવામાં આવ્યું છે કે તેઓ અર્થાત મુશ્કેલી તમને તમારાં ઘરોમાંથી ન કાઢી મૂકે અને તમારી સાથે જંગ ન કરે ત્યાં સુધી તેમની સાથે પણ નેકી કરો. આપણે અન્ય કોમો સાથે પણ સારો વ્યવહાર કરવાની જરૂર છે જેથી અત્યારે યુરોપ-અમેરિકામાં ઈસ્લામ પ્રત્યે જે સમજ અને આકર્ષણ વધી રહ્યું છે અને ઘણાં લોકો સ્વેચ્છાએ ઈસ્લામ લઈ અવી રહ્યા છે તેમાં આપણે રૂકાવટ નહીં પણ મદદરૂપ બનીએ. આપણી આંખો સામે યુરોપના મોટા મોટા ચિંતકો અને લેખકોએ ઈસ્લામ વિષે જે ભવિષ્યવાણીઓ અને આગાહીઓ કરેલી તે સાચી પડતી આપણે જોઈ રહ્યા છીએ. અલ્લાહને મંજૂર હશે અને આપણે આપણો અમુલ્ય વારસો જાળવી રાખીશું અને રસૂલે પાક (સલ)ની સીરત પર અમલ કરી આપણું સામાજિક અને કૌટુંબિક જીવન વ્યવસ્થિત રાખતા રહીશું તો અહીંના લોકો માટે એક ઉમદા નમૂનો પેશ થતો રહેશે અને એજ વસ્તુ આધ્યાત્મિક શૂન્યાવકાશમાં જીવતા અને તડપતા-તરસતા અહીંના સમજી લોકો માટે ઈસ્લામની એક મોટી દાવત બનીને રહેશે. આ તકને આપણે જતી ન કરવી જોઈએ.

છેલ્લે યુવાનોને સારામાં સારું દીની અને દુન્યવી શિક્ષણ મેળવવા અને જ્યાં પણ કામ કરતા હોય ત્યાં એક મુસલમાન તરીકે ઈસ્લામનો સુંદર નમૂનો અને છબી પેશ કરી દીનની દાવત આપતા રહેવા માટે અનુરોધ કરવામાં આવ્યો હતો.

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Donald Trump in Gujarat visit



Ahmedabad was transformed with massive hoardings of Donald Trump as the US President visited Gujarat for the first time.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi rolled out the red carpet on his home turf, in a bid to present Gujarat, the state that Modi controversially presided over for 15 years, as a symbol of achievement and pride.

As soon as he assumed office, Trump banned citizens of several Muslim countries from entering the U.S. Modi's government recently passed a

law granting expedited citizenship to refugees from neighbouring countries who belong to any major religion — except Islam.

Protests are still continuing, including in Delhi, where violence broke out, hours before Trump's visit.

In August, Mr Modi's government revoked the partial autonomy of the disputed territory of Indian-administered Kashmir, sparking protests in the Muslim-majority valley.

Mobile phone connections and the internet have only been partially

restored, and political leaders there are still under house arrest along with hundreds of others.

The two decisions have polarised India, and have been queried by leaders abroad.

The Gujarat government reportedly spent about ₹100 crore to make the 'Namaste Trump' event a success.

Mr Trump addressed a crowd at the Motera cricket stadium in Ahmedabad.

He began with "Namaste," before adding: "India will always hold a very special place in our hearts," he added.

However, he struggled to pronounce several Indian words - from Ahmedabad and referred to Hindu texts as "Vestas".

He ended his speech by saying: "God bless India, God bless the United States of America - we love you; we love you very much." He spoke after Mr Modi, and crowds began leaving mid-way through the US president's speech.

Trump also visited the Taj Mahal, which was built by the Mughal emperor Shah Jahan in the 17th century in memory of his queen, Mumtaz Mahal.

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* For mothers/female guardians there will be one at a later date Insha Allah delivered by an Aapa

#	Date	Interaction & Topic	Timings
1	Fri 21st Feb	Developing Focus & Improving Memory	6:00 - 7:00 pm
2	Fri 6th March	Building Confidence	6:10 - 7:05 pm (after Maghrib)
3	Fri 13th March	Instilling Patience	5:50 - 7:05 pm (Maghrib in-between)
4	Fri 20th March	Instilling Gratitude	5:50 - 7:05 pm (Maghrib in-between)
5	Fri 3rd April	Building Trust	5:50 - 7:05 pm (Asar in-between)
6	Fri 17th April	Supporting Others	5:50 - 7:05 pm (Asar in-between)

Course Facilitator: Mufti Muhammad Noman Daji
Masjid Mahmoodiyah, Taylor St, Batley (Hall at the back of the Masjid)

NOTE: If you require further details regarding the interactive training workshop then please contact primarily Moulana Shoayb Patel (Head-teacher) at 07877 200456. For Feedback on the contents of the interactive training workshop please contact Mufti Muhammad Noman Daji by emailing course.correspondence@gmail.com.

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