

An Introduction To Hadhrat Maulana Abdulhamid Is`Haq Saheb (Daamat Barakaatuhum)

Hadhrat Maulana AbdulHamid Ibn Ibrahim Is`haq Sahib was born on the 24th of Shawwal 1364 AH (20th September 1946) on the auspicious day of Jumu`ah at 1pm (Jumu`ah time) in Primrose, a district of Germiston, on the East Rand, as recorded by his father on the back of his birth certificate. Hadhrat Maulana Sahib grew up in difficult conditions. The dwelling of Hadhrat Maulana's family was a stable, converted into a house. At the age of nine, Hadhrat Maulana lost his mother, Amina. (May Allah ﷻ shower her Qabr with His mercy)

Maulana attained his Maktab education at Madrasah Quwwatul-Islam in Germiston. Amongst his Asatizah, were: Maulana Fakhruddin Sahib (RA), Hafiz Muhammad Salloo Sahib (RA), Maulana Ahmed Bera Sahib (RA) and Apa Zubeida (RA).

Maulana attended the Singh Indian Primary School in Germiston up to standard five (1370-1376/1952-1958). Thereafter, he proceeded to William Hills High School in Benoni where he completed his Matric (1377-1381/1959-1963).

In 1382/1964 (at the age of 17), Hadhrat Maulana enrolled at the Waterval Islamic Institute (Mias Farm) to study the Aalim Course. Here, over a period of five years, Maulana studied various Kitabs, including Hidaaya Awwalain and Jalaalain, under the expert tuition of Asatiza such as: Mufti Ibrahim Sanjalwi Sahib (RA), Mufti Bashir Sanjalwi Sahib (RA), and Maulana Ibrahim Mia Sahib DB.

During this very period Maulana utilized whatever free time was available for the memorising of the Qur'aan Majid which he completed under the renowned Ustaad of Hifz, Hadhrat Hafiz Abdur Rahman Mia Sahib (RA).

Thereafter in 1388 AH (1969), at the age of 22 Maulana travelled to India and took admission in the world famous institute, Darul Ulum Deoband. The following year (1389) Hadhrat Maulana completed the Alim-Fadhil course, studying Bukhari Sharif under Hadhrat Maulana Fakhruddin Sahib (RA) and Mufti Mahmud Hasan Gangohi Sahib (RA).

After qualifying, Maulânâ spent an additional year at Deoband, solely to make effort on the Qur'aan Majid (revision and tajwid.) Upon reaching India, Hadhrat Maulana had taken bay'at at the hands of Hadhrat Shaikhul Hadith, Maulana Muhammed Zakariya Sahib (RA) and had established an Islahi ta'alluq with Hadhrat Mufti Mahmud Hasan Gangohi Sahib (RA).

Before returning to South Africa, Hadhrat Maulana went to Saharanpur to spend Ramadhaan in the auspicious company of his mentor. It was during this period that Hadhrat Maulana was informed of the passing away of his father, Ibrahim Bhai, who had passed away on the 29th of Ramadan at the age of 63, due to a heart attack. (May Allah ﷻ shower his Qabr with His Mercy)

On his return from India, Hadhrat Maulana took up the post of Imam at the Germiston Masjid, taught Maktab and later taught Hifz and devoted himself to the effort of the Tablighi Jama'at

Maulana had a great fervour and interest to translate the Kitaabs and great works of our Akabirin (religious elders) from the Urdu language into English. For this, Maulana thought that he should do a course in journalism so that he may have a better command of the language etc. On application for the course he was informed that a bachelor's degree has to be done first. Moulana thus did his B.A. with Unisa through correspondence.

After completing his B.A with distinctions, majoring in Arabic and Linguistics, Moulana spent 1 year in Jamaat in Pakistan, India and Sri Lanka, with his wife, in 1396(1976).

After spending 1 year in Jamaat, the Rand Afrikaans University approached Mia's Farm as they required a lecturer in Islamic studies. Mia's Farm referred them to Maulana. Maulana made mashwarah concerning this with the Mia's Farm Ulama as well as with Marhum Bhai Padia Sahib (RA). It was eventually decided that Maulana accept this offer. Thus, Maulana became a lecturer at RAU. Maulana used to lecture not to normal students, but to lecturers from the Pretoria University, Potchefstroom University, University of the Witwatersrand (Wits) and from other Universities as well. During this period RAU offered him to do his BA Honours, which he did. Maulana lectured at RAU in 1977 and 1978. The University, being pleased with Maulana's results, registered him for his M.A. and doctorate for which only one thesis each had to be written.

Since then Moulana has made public taubah on many occasions for studying for these degrees and lecturing at university.

Thereafter in 1979, Maulana left for his second 'one-year', travelling to countries such as Holland, Belgium, Turkey, France and the UK. On his return Moulana lost interest in university studies and lecturing.

Moulana carried on doing Imamat, teaching Hifz and the Alim Course in Germiston. In 1401 (1981), many more students desired to do the Alim Course under Maulana. Great efforts were made to accommodate them in Germiston, but this did not materialize. In the Khanqah of Hadhrat Sheikhul-Hadith, Maulana Muhammad Zakaria Saheb, mashwera took place as to Moulana moving to Azaadville to establish a Darul Uloom there. Finally in 1402(1982) Moulana moved to Azaadville and established the Darul Uloom there by the Fadhl of Allah ﷺ.

In 1994 Hadhrat Maulana met and took bay'at to Hadhrat Arif-Billah Shah Maulana Hakim Muhammad Akhtar Sahib DB. Hadhrat Maulana thereafter accompanied his honourable Shaikh for Umrah and on the Mubarak day of Jumu'ah, in front of the Ka'bah Sharif, in front of the Mizaab-e-Rahmat, after the Asr Salaah, was blessed with khilafat.

Despite old age, illness, and the responsibilities of the Darul-Ulum which rest upon Hadhrat Maulana's shoulders, Hadhrat Maulana's passion to spread the message of the love of Allah has caused him to travel the length and breadth of his country as well as many of the countries of the world. May Allah ﷻ bless Hadhrat Maulana with long life, good health, the strength to continue in his blessed endeavours and Divine acceptance. Amin