

Our Precious Ulamā

By Muhammad Master (3rd Year Student of Ālim Class)

Our Purpose

The sole purpose of our creation is to acquire the pleasure and happiness of Allāh Ta'ālā by worshipping him and following his commands. Allāh Ta'ālā says in the Glorious Qur'ān, "I have created the jinn and humans solely for my worship." (51:56)

However, we need to familiarise ourselves with the concept of worship. And the bridge that will lead us to this correct understanding of ibādah and eventually to the pleasure of Allāh Ta'ālā are our beloved ulamā. Through the ulamā, one is able to learn, understand, practice upon and propagate his religion. This is what has been instructed to us by our beloved Nabi ﷺ. He has mentioned, "Gaining knowledge is obligatory upon every muslim" (Ibn Majah)

Importance of Seeking Knowledge

This is why it is very important to seek knowledge at the hands of the ulamā. Without correct ilm, one cannot follow the entire deen in the correct manner. Allāh Ta'ālā and his Rasul ﷺ have laid much emphasis on the acquisition of ilm. We find a vast treasure of Ahādeeth which mention the virtues of knowledge and the people of knowledge. In one hadith, Nabi ﷺ has mentioned, "Indeed the ulamā are the inheritors of the Prophets." (Tirmidhi)

The Ambiya and Ulama

The ambiyā and the ulamā share the same responsibility. Just as a Prophet comes into this world to guide his ummah towards the straight path and lead them to jannah, the ulamā also busy themselves in this same task. They guide us and help us to perfect our imān and our ibādah.

Unfortunately, the value of these ulamā is diminishing day by day. Hadhrat Ali ؓ has said,

"I am the servant of that person who has taught me one letter, if he wishes he can sell me, if he wishes he can set me free." (Ta'leemul Muta'allim)

Acquire Authentic Ilm

Therefore, it is essential that we connect to the ulamā and seek authentic and reliable knowledge from them. It is becoming very common in this day and age that people turn to unreliable sources of knowledge to answer their questions. Not only that, but sadly sometimes they even attempt to validate their wrong doings. When we are so particular regarding our worldly possessions, making sure that they are acquired through reliable means, then what should our approach be with regards to our deen?! The ilm of deen is not something to be taken from anywhere and everywhere. Correct ilm of deen is acquired from god-fearing pious and practising ulamā, by attending their classes and their duroos.

Alhamdulillah, even now, we are still blessed with the presence of many ulamā throughout the world. Many pious personalities are present within our own city. These personalities are what we can describe as authentic sources of knowledge. Their lectures and lessons are available to us and therefore, we must benefit from them.

Therefore, the people of ilm and the places of ilm should be cherished and valued. We must respect them and never speak ill of them. Doing so, will certainly be detrimental for our imān. It is through the guidance of these special individuals that we will be able to reach our purpose in life.

May Allāh Ta'ālā grant us the ability to understand the points mentioned above. And may Allāh Ta'ālā safeguard the masājid, the madāris and the ulamā. Āmeen.