

# Hadhrat Mawlānā Ashraf Ali Thānwi (rahmatullāhi alayhi) & his Love for the Sunnah

Hadhrat Mawlānā Ashraf Ali Thānwi (rahmatullāhi alayhi) is from the very well-known scholars of India. He was blessed by Allāh and he excelled in all the different sciences of Islāmic knowledge. Along with this, he was also a pioneer in the field of self-purification (Islāh) and he helped people to connect with Allāh & progress in their deen. Hadhrat (rahmatullāhi alayhi) was often called Hakeemul-Ummah (The Spiritual Physician of the Ummah) because he knew exactly how to help people fix their hearts and become better Muslims.

Hadhrat Thānwi (rahmatullāhi alayhi) loved the Prophet Muhammad (sallallāhu alayhi wasallam) very much. He spent his whole life studying the Sunnah of the Prophet (sallallāhu alayhi wasallam). He knew that it was a Sunnah to play and joke with ones family members to make them happy.

One day, Hadhrat Thānwi (rahmatullāhi alayhi) was travelling with his wife in a village, the road was in a secluded area. Hadhrat remembered the famous incident of the Prophet (sallallāhu alayhi wasallam) when he challenged his wife, A'ishah (radhiallāhu anhā) to a running race. Even though Hadhrat was elderly, he asked his wife if she would like to race him.

They found a private place where they could run freely. This great scholar, who spent his days writing deep books about faith, tucked up his cloak and dashed across the ground! Hadhrat (rahmatullāhi alayhi) wasn't doing it just for exercise or entertainment; it was his love for our Prophet Muhammad (sallallāhu alayhi wasallam) that motivated him to follow this sunnah.

(Adapted from Islāhi Khutbāt: vol 6, pg 195)

## Moral

Sometimes we think that something that appears to be a grand form of ibādah is what matters, such as praying for hours or going on Hajj. But Hadhrat Thānwi (rahmatullāhi alayhi) showed us that even a simple race or a joke with a family member is also a way to gain rewards from Allāh. If the Prophet (sallallāhu alayhi wasallam) did it, it is worth doing! The next time you have the chance to follow a Sunnah – whether it's saying Bismillāh before a snack, entering a room with your right foot, or just being extra kind to a family member – remember the race! No Sunnah is too small to bring us closer to Allāh and His Messenger (sallallāhu alayhi wasallam).