

Hadhrat Mawlānā Khalil Ahmad Sahāranpuri (rahmatullāhi alayhi) and the Importance of Salāh

Hadhrat Mawlānā Khalil Ahmad Sahāranpuri (rahmatullāhi alayhi) was a very famous and wise islāmic scholar who lived a long time ago. He loved Allāh deeply and was known for his vast knowledge, kindness, and dedication. But above all, he was famous for one special habit: no matter where he was in the world – on a fast train or traveling through a hot desert – he never missed his salāh.

Back in those days, traveling was not as easy as hopping on an airplane or driving on a road. When Hadhrat Sahāranpuri (rahmatullāhi alayhi) travelled to the holy city of Madinah, he had to ride across the desert on a camel! Camels are huge, strong animals and sometimes they can get very grumpy and irritable. Even the strongest young men were terrified of climbing off their camels in the middle of the desert because the animals might march away and leave them completely stranded.

However, whenever the time for salāh arrived, Hadhrat Sahāranpuri (rahmatullāhi alayhi) never hesitated. He would courageously climb down from his ride, perform his wudhu (ablution) and stand in prayer alongside his fellow travellers. While they prayed, his camel would continue walking forward, drifting far into the distance. As soon as the group prayer finished, Hadhrat Sahāranpuri (rahmatullāhi alayhi) would sprint across the hot sand, catch up to his moving camel, grab onto the saddle straps and swing himself back up.

His devotion didn't stop there. To make sure he didn't miss his extra sunnah prayers, he would actually run far ahead of the camel, stop to pray on the sand and then chase down his camel all over again! When the time for the next prayer drew near, he would dismount early and walk on foot for miles alongside his camel, ensuring he was fully prepared to perform salāh the very second the time of it started.

Even though he walked and ran for miles in the desert heat, he never complained or felt tired. Instead, he would smile and joke, "One can understand the importance of shortened prayers (Qasr) here! If you have to run so much for two raka'āt, imagine how much you would have to run for four!"

(Fathers and Sons of Deoband)

Moral

- **Salāh Always Comes First:** No matter how busy, hurried or tired we are, stopping to talk to Allāh is the most important part of our day and we should always give it its due importance.
- **Dedication Over Difficulty:** If Hadhrat Sahāranpuri (rahmatullāhi alayhi) could chase after a moving camel in the hot desert just to pray on time, we can definitely pause our sports or playing with friends to stand before Allāh.
- **The Blessings of Praying Together:** Hadhrat Sahāranpuri (rahmatullāhi alayhi) made every effort to pray in a group even during a journey because praying together (jamā'ah) brings immense reward, unity and joy.