

# The Mission Newsletter



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## **Khalid Masud** - A Spark of Inextinguishable Thought

This Special Issue of *The Mission* is compiled to pay tribute to one of the past presidents of the Mission who died in Lahore last October. Br. Khalid Masud (may Allah have mercy on him) although trained as an engineer devoted his life in learning and reflecting on the Qur'an. Sensing his brightness as well as his eagerness to acquire the Qur'anic knowledge Mawlana Amin Ahsan Islahi selected him from the batch of his pupils for imparting his own as well as the accumulated knowledge of his mentor Allama Hamidudin Farahi, a renowned scholar of Islam. Thus,

Br. Khalid in spite of working full time in the Scientific and Industrial Research Laboratory managed to edit *Tadabbur*, a quarterly magazine, started by Mawlana Islahi as well to edit and translate Allama Farahi's many books from Arabic. He also edited the lecture notes of his teacher on *Sahih Bukhari* and *Muwatta Imam Malik*. — The Bibliography of his publications both on Islamic topics and scientific subjects provide evidence of his breadth and mastery in diverse fields of knowledge. Tributes paid to him in several obituaries published in many newspa-

pers and magazines established him as a great scholar. His letters reflect his deep devotion to the Qur'an and his love for the Islamic da'wah.

In this issue we have couple of articles about him in English and a selected bibliography of his works. The Urdu section contains many articles written by scholars. There is a selection of extracts from his letters. We pray may Allah, *Subhanu wa T'ala* forgive his shortcomings and shower His mercy on him and elevate him to *Jannatul Firdus* (Amin)

- Abdur Rashid Siddiqui



### **Special Points of Interest:**

- ? Khalid Masud - Life & work
- ? Tributes of eminent scholars
- ? Selection from his letters
- ? Bibliography of his works

## **Sources of Sirah of the Prophet** (Sallallahu Alahi wa Sallam)

A saying of Umm al-Mu'minin A'ishah (may Allah be pleased with her) is narrated in the books of *Ahadith*. When she was asked about the Prophet's *Sirah*, she replied that his conduct and character were shaped by the Qur'an. In other words, whatever was revealed in the Qur'an when these were transformed into practical life that became the Prophet's *Sirah*. In fact her saying is based on the Qur'an:

*"For Allah has indeed sent down to you a Message a Messenger, who rehearses to you the signs of Allah con-*

*taining clear explanations, that he may lead forth those who believe and do righteous deeds from the depths of darkness into light".*

(al-Talaq 65: 10-11)

In this verse The Allah's Messenger is called a Message in place of the Qur'an as if both the Messenger and the Qur'an are in fact the same. One is in the form of words and the other is in the human form. When one reads the Qur'an, the conduct and character of the Messenger, his affairs of Prophethood, stages of da'wah, *Hijrah*, narra-

tions of battles, discussions with Jews and Christians and other details about his life they are all chronicled. If one studies the Qur'an thoughtfully he can learn all important aspects of the Prophet's *Sirah*. Thus, in academic circles it is accepted that the Qur'an is the most important source of the Prophet's *Sirah*. Then *sahih ahadith* and early biographies can be considered as sources.

[Extract from Introduction of *Hayat-e Rasul-e Ummi* by Khalid Masud published July 2003]

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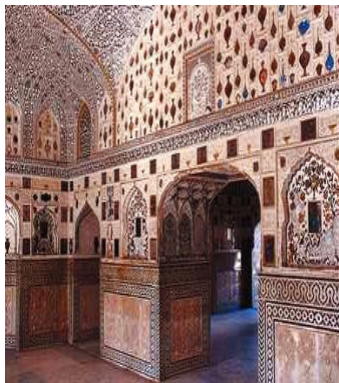
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## Khalid Masud 1935 — 2003

### Amin Ahsan Islahi's Intellectual Heir



Khalid Masud was a pupil of Maulana Amin Ahsan Islahi (d. 1997). This is how he wished to be remembered and that is how he wanted his name to appear on his last book, *Hayat Nabi Ummi* ("Life of the Prophet who was taught by no man").

Khalid Masud, 68, was suffering from hepatitis. On 30 September his condition deteriorated when he was rushed to the hospital. The doctors tried to save him but he took off the oxygen mask saying 'it is of no use now'. A day before he passed away on 1<sup>st</sup> October, he transferred his pension to his wife's name went to see off his colleagues at the *Idara-e-Tadabbur Qur'an wa Hadith* and checked and updated its accounts. He was buried alongside his grandfather in his village Lillah.

Khalid Masud was born on 17 December 1935 in Lillah in Jhelum, Punjab. His grandfather was a hafiz of the Qur'an and his father Mawlavi Saifur Rahman an Arabic teacher. He did his M.Sc. (Chemistry) and joined the Punjab Industrial Library. Later he also took a masters degree in Islamic studies from the Punjab University in 1964. He came to London and did a postgraduate diploma in chemical engineering from the King's College.

On his return to Pakistan in 1959 he was appointed a research officer in government research laboratories, Lahore. Later he worked as a research scholar at the Qaid-e-Azam

library and translated some scientific works including the *Mathematical Principles of Natural Philosophy and Optics* by Isaac Newton and others. His introductory work on astronomy won him an award from the National Book Foundation.

As a student in Lahore, he was an active member of Islami Jamiat-e-Talaba and his devotion to the Qur'an was such that he eagerly sought opportunities to increase his knowledge of it. A few of us, including Khalid Masud, approached late Asim Al-Haddad, a pupil of Masud Alam Nadvi and translator of Maulana Mawdudi's books, to teach us Arabic, but his conditions were too stringent the project was dead before it began.

It was round then that Khalid came into contact with Maulana Amin Ahsan Islahi, whom we all knew through his work in Jama'at-e-Islami and his lectures at our meetings and conferences. But then he was preoccupied with social and political activities. By 1959 he had left politics and was planning to work on the Qur'an. In 1962 when a Qur'anic study circle was formed Khalid was the first to join.

The teacher and the pupil met at the right moment: one was eager to give as the other to receive. Under Maulana Islahi he studied Arabic language, literature and classical poetry, and the Qur'an and Hadith on the lines developed by Islahi's own mentor, Maulana Hameeduddin Farahi, the celebrated teacher and Qur'anic *mufasssir*.

Khalid Masud assisted his teacher in his work on the *tafsir*, *Tadabbur-e-Quran*, providing him with necessary material or books. When Islahi brought out monthly *Mithaq*, Khalid was appointed assistant editor. After the completion of *Tadabbur-e-Qur'an*, it was mainly Khalid Masud who persuaded Maulana Islahi to work on

Hadith. So an institute, Idara Tadabbur Qur'an wa Hadith was setup, with Khalid as its *Nazim* (secretary) and later the editor of Quarterly *Tadabbur* of which some 80 issues were published.

Under his organization, Maulana Islahi delivered a series of lectures on the Qur'an and *Muwatta* of Imam Malik and some portions of *Sahih* Bukhari. When he could no longer continue because of ill health, Khalid Masud was entrusted with teaching the Qur'an in his place. Khalid, a staunch believer in freedom of thought, at times openly dissented from the standpoint of his mentor and teacher, but argued with due respect and deference.

As editor of *Tadabbur*, dissemination of the Qur'anic thought and approach of Maulana Islahi and Farahi remained his main aim. He translated six books of Farahi from Arabic into Urdu, including *Hikmatul Qur'an* and *Diyanatal Islamiyya* (Principles of Qur'anic Exegesis). A day before his death Khalid Masud was working on Farahi's work, *Al-Asalaib*, the Qur'anic style and approach. He also transcribed, edited and published lectures of Maulana Islahi on the Qur'an and Hadith entitled *Tadabbur-e-Hadith*, four volumes, two on *Muwatta* and two on *sahih* Bukhari.

Khalid Masud expanded Farahi's treatise on Arabic grammar, *Asbaqun Nahw* that Farahi had specially written for students of Qur'an. The expanded edition was published in Lahore. He prepared a version of Maulana Islahi's Urdu translation of the Qur'an with brief notes and an introduction to every Surah. He compiled and edited various articles of Maulana Islahi on current issues which were published by Faran Foundation, Lahore, entitled, *Maqalat-e-Islahi* (Basic philosophical issues and the Qur'anic view).

During his 22-year tenure as the secretary, he wished to turn the Idara Tadabbur into regular institution but it remained a dream owing to lack of resources. Those who offered financial help wanted to control the institute, something to which he could not agree.

His visit to Madarsatul Islah, Azamgarh India, in February 1997 for a special seminar on Maulana Islahi was the defining moment for him in more than one sense. He was warmly received and offered the chair that Maulana Islahi and Maulana Farahi had used, giving Dars-e-Qur'an. This was the moment of recognition – his wish to be regarded as merely a follower of the two great teachers was finally realized.

The same wish lay behind his insistence on adding 'pupil of Maulana Islahi' to his name on his last work, *Hayat-e-Rasuli Ummi*, which was the fulfillment of yet another cherished desire, namely to write on the life and mission of the Prophet, *Sallallahu*

*alayhi wa sallam*.

The word 'pupil' was highly significant as it is the key to understanding his whole character. This was his way of acknowledging that the real credit for what he was, or whatever he had achieved primarily was his teacher's. It underlines his humility as well as his love for and gratitude to his great teacher. In the words of Prof. Khurshid Ahmad, "he was the teacher of the three generations of Islamic movement" (Monthly *Tarjumanul Qur'an* March 1998).

It was the magic touch of Maulana Islahi that had transformed Khalid Masud from a simple silent, gentle and courteous young man, from Jhelum into a serious research scholar.

Khalid Masud has left behind two sons, four daughters and a widow.

- Written by Saleem Kayani

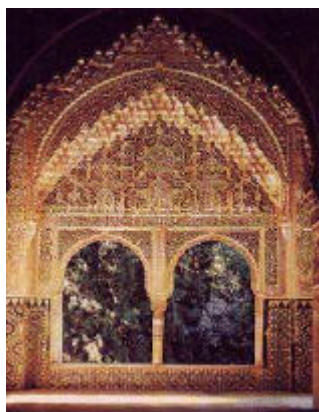
(Courtesy of Impact International November, December 2003)



### **Saleem Kayani (President UKIM, 1973-75)**

English translation of Amin Ahsan Islahi's *Tafsir of Bismillah-r Rahman -R Rahim and Surah Al-Fatiha, Pondered over the Qur'an*, by Saleem Kayani is recently published by Al-Kitab Publications, 68 Talbot Crescent, London NW4 4HP.

## ***Khalid Masud – My Personal Reminiscences***



I learnt with great sadness about the death of Br. Khalid Masud. Reading his obituaries published in many newspapers and magazines praising his erudite scholarship and his immense contribution to the Islamic learning, I realized the great loss I suffered not only losing a very dear friend and companion but a great Islamic scholar as well.

Khalid Masud came to London in September 1964 for completing his postgraduate studies in chemical engineering at Kings College. We met at the UK Islamic Mission Office at 148 Liverpool Road where I was living while studying for a postgraduate course in library science. Soon we became very good friends. When a room was available at 12 Gladsmuir Road, near Archway where Khalid was living he asked me to move there with him. Thus we remain in close contact during the duration of his stay in London. We used to attend the Mission's weekly meetings held at East London Mosque on Commercial Road on Sundays. There we often listened to his Dars-e-Qur'an. We also used to attend the London Islamic Circle meetings at Regent's Park Mosque on Saturdays. Through these meetings we cultivated many friend-

ships with Muslim students and scholars. Some of them I still remember brothers like Qurban Ali, the President of UKIM, who studying law, Abdus Salam., Hashir Faruqi, studying entomology, Mawlana Zaiuddin, doing Ph.D. at the School of Oriental and African Studies, Salim Siddiqui, Abdul Hamid Chaudhry, Mohammed Khan Kayani, Tanzim Wasti, Murtuza Ali Baig, Kazmi Sahib and many others. I get to know Shehzad Ahmed and Al-Kazim (an Iraqi student) through Khalid as they were his classmates. My friendship with Khalid and Shehzad became closer and we used to be together over the weekends, not only attending meetings but also sight seeing and picnicking. One at Windsor Castle was most enjoyable and memorable.



Khalid and I were both novices at the art of cooking. Yet we tried our hand at it. We bought some pots and pans as well as spices and used to cook in our bed-sit. We used to pray Maghrib and Isha together. Despite Khalid excelled in learning and piety he used to ask me to lead the prayers. Such was his humility and modesty.

I was much impressed by his Qur'anic knowledge and we use to discuss many issues related to the Qur'an. He brought with him among other books a copy of Divan-e-Ghalib. He told me that Mawlana Amin Ahsan Islahi used to say that the Qur'an is the best example of the higher literary genre. Hence to understand and appreciate its status one should be acquainted with higher classical literature. He left his copy of the Qur'an and Divan with me when he went back to Pakistan. I still had his copy of Divan-e-Ghalib. We discussed about the Haruf Maqta'at and Allama Farahi's theory about it. Allama Farahi was of the opinion that Arabic alphabet was originally based on old Hebrew alphabet which was prevalent in ancient Arabia. Like ancient Egyptian and Chinese alphabet it was pictographic and its sound denoted name of some animal or thing. Allama Farahi gave examples from the Qur'an such as Surah al-Nun which starts with letter Nun meaning fish in Arabic. In this Surah Prophet Yunus (peace be upon him) is mentioned who was swallowed by a whale. I was interested to trace the pictographic meaning of each Arabic letter and then study the Qur'anic use of these letters at the beginning of several surahs. Thus try to ascertain its relevance to the subject of the surahs. I had done some work on this already and when Khalid came to know about it he kept me reminding to complete it so that it can be used in tafsir which Mawlana Islahi was writing at that time. But regretfully I was not able to make much progress due to my own preoccupations and slackness.

Khalid became a member of the Mission soon after his arrival here. Br. Qurban Ali completed his law course and became Barrister-at-Law and decided to go back to Dhaka in December 1964. Thus an election was held and Khalid got elected as a new President. He was the second President of the Mission and held this office until his return to Pakistan at the end of August 1965. We use to correspond regularly for several years. In his letters he used to discuss and comment on many global issues affecting the Muslim world and particularly Pakistan. His observations and comments were pertinent and insightful. He always encouraged me to persevere in da'wah activities and gave useful advice about Mission's work. He also kept me informed about the literary output of Mawlana Islahi and arranged to send me published volumes of Tadabur-e-Qur'an. Similarly he was kind enough to send me copies of Mithaq and Tadabbur. He accepted my suggestion and wrote reviews for the Muslim World Book Review which is published by the Islamic Foundation. His reviews were perceptive and gave critical assessment of books. One of the books he reviewed was Ismail Faruqi's The Path of Da'wah in the West which was the Mission's publication.

Last April when the Mission was organizing a programme to commemorate 40th anniversary of its foundation I sent him an invitation to attend the Mission's Workers Meeting at Manchester. He sent a letter of apology regretting his inability to attend due to his ill-health. Only then I learnt that he was suffering from hepatitis C. He sent his good wishes for the Mission's meeting. We all prayed for his health then.

Khalid was a quite and sincere person. He spent his whole life in serving Islam. His articles in Mithaq and Tadabbur reflect his genius. He has devoted his life in learning and teaching the Qur'an. His last books published just before his death was Hayat Nabi-e-Ummi which is the study of



**Abdur Rashid Siddiqui**  
(Senior Vice President UKIM)

the Sirah based on the Qur'an charting out the course of da'wah by the Prophet (peace be upon him). Just as Allama Farahi was fortunate to have Mawlana Amin Ahsan Islahi as his dedicated and conscientious pupil so was Mawlana Islahi to have Khalid Masud an able pupil. May Allah accept his services and give him deserved love and respect forever. (Amin)

### What is Taqwa:

The root meaning of Taqwa is to avoid what one dislikes. It was reported that Umar bin Al-Khattab asked Ubayy bin Ka'b about Taqwa. Ubayy said, "Have you ever walked on a path that has thorns on it?" Umar said, "Yes." Ubayy said, "What did you do then?" He said, "I rolled up my sleeves and struggled." Ubayy said, "That is Taqwa."

## Bibliography of Khalid Masud's Works



### The Qur'an

?? Qur'an-e-Hakim. Abridged version of Mawalan Islahi's *Tadabbur-e-Qur'an* in one volume.

?? *Hikmat-e-Qur'an*. Based on Allama Farhi's two Arabic books *Hikmat al-Qur'an* and *al-Nizam fi al-Diyanat al-Islamiyya*

?? *Tafsir-e-Qur'an ke Usul*. Edited translation of Allama Farahi's book

Themes of the Coherent Qur'an (covering first nine surahs) Unpublished

### The Hadith Literature

?? *Tadabbur-e-Hadith*- Commentary on *Sahih Bukhari* (selected chapters) by Mawlana Islahi; edited by Khalid Masud, Saeed Ahmad, Syed Ishaq Ali

*Tadabbur-e-Hadith*-Commentary on *Muwatta Imam Malik* (selected

chapters), by Mawlana Amin Ahsan Islahi; edited by Khalid Masud, Saeed Ahmad, Syed Ishaq Ali

### Sirah

*Hayat-e-Rasul-e- Ummi*

### Grammar

*Asbaq al-Nahw* by Allama Farahi; translated and edited by Khalid Masud

### Science

The following were written for students and they were commissioned by the Punjab Government:

?? *Ibtidai Falkiyat* [Elementary Astronomy]

?? *Kurrah Zamin* [The Earth]

?? *Podun ki Zindagi* [Plant Life]

?? *Alam-e- Haywanat* [Animal World]

?? *Musalman aur Science* [Muslims and Science]

*Ibtidai Bahr Pamai* [Elementary Oceanography]

### Translations

These translations of famous Western scientists' books were

commissioned by the various research bodies:

?? Francis Bacon: *Novum Organum with Neo Atlantis* [Minhaj-e-Jadid M'a Nuw Atlanta

?? Bertrand Russell: *Our Knowledge of External World* [Kharji Dunya ka Ilm]

?? Isaac Newton: *Optics* [Basriyat]

?? *Mathematical Principles of Natural Philosophy* [Riyaziyat ka Fitri Fal-safa]

### Miscellaneous Topics

?? *Maqalat-e-Islahi* (Basic philosophical Issues and the Qur'anic View) edited by Khalid Masud

?? Articles and Conference Papers

?? Annotated Bibliographies

?? Book reviews

?? Editor of *Tadabbur* from issue no.4 to 81

?? Editor of the Quarterly Bulletin of the Quaid-e-Azam Library, Lahore (1987-1996)

Compiled by — Abdur Rashid Siddiqui, Liecester

## A Letter from Khalid Masud

19th January 2003

Dear Siddiqui Sahib

*Assalam-o-Alikum*

I am very happy to hear from you after a long time, and that, too, about the Mission's forthcoming conference. It gives me great satisfaction that the Mission has not

ignored one of its earliest presidents.

I am not keeping good health these days. Actually I am suffering from Hepatitis C, which has now become a chronic disease and I am always prone to its ill effects. Therefore my coming over to UK

is out of question. Please convey my inability to all members of the Mission.

With best regards

Yours sincerely,

Khalid Masud, Lahore