



Ansar Connection

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We are the Helpers of Allah.

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Climbing Mt. Kilimanjaro - A Nasir's Adventure

By: Babar Chaudhary (Dallas, TX Majlis)



The world is a vehicle for you. If you drive it, it will deliver you to your destination...." - Al Hasan al-Basri (ra)

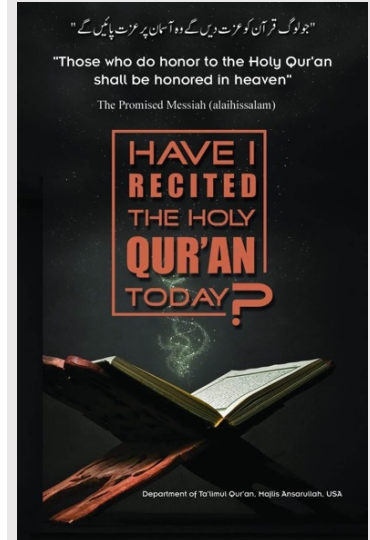
Allah has made humans to achieve great things and we never know what our physical & mental limits are unless we push ourselves to cross those self-imposed limits. I took on this quest with the intention of reaching maximum potential alongside a few fellow Pakistanis with the same goal. We exist to appreciate all that Allah has provided to us and the capabilities Allah has given us to appreciate the world He has created for us.

Throughout my life I have been blessed to challenge my physical and mental limits to the point of crossing them. In February of this year, I had the opportunity to climb Mt. Kilimanjaro — Africa's tallest and the world's only free-standing mountain. This journey started six months prior when I started training to climb a 5,895 meters tall structure. The training required self-regulation and a commitment to focus on, not only physical fitness, but also mental fortitude. At the ripe age of 53, I took on this challenge to break previous norms set for myself and work hard to train myself.

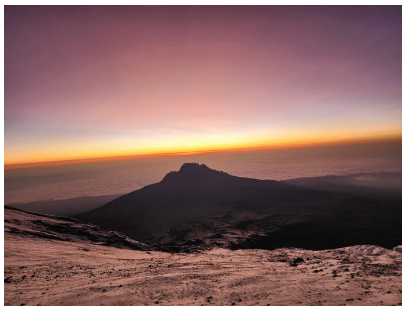


We started the climb in Arusha, Tanzania at 1,800 meters and it took us 5.5 days to reach the peak at 5,895 meters. We walked, trekked, and hiked over 50 miles, camping at various altitudes to acclimate our body to the altitude and the lower oxygen levels. During our journey several of us got sick while our body adapted to oxygen levels dropping

from 21% to 9%. The toughest part of the hike came on the last day with 2,000 meters left - we started the climb at midnight. As we made our way up, we came across several hikers who developed serious brain aneurysms and some were flown off the mountain due to the seriousness of their symptoms. These obstacles arise when people rush the climb instead of



listening to their bodies.



The true beauty of this experience starts prior to arriving at the summit. Over these days I reflected, prayed, and appreciated what Allah has created around us. There were nights I spent staring into the night sky, taking in the enormity of Allah's creations. The most amazing experience came the night of the hike's last leg — I awoke at midnight

to start alongside my group, we were all nervous. It was dark, quiet, and surreal with negative thoughts trying to take over your mind, but I had to overcome those and maintain a positive attitude. During the last climb, you focus on what is in front of you and must maintain this for the eight-hour climb. Once reaching the peak, we thought we were done though we realized a decline comes next and it will be harder than what you have experienced thus far. My main learning on the last day was to remain persistent, focus on my faith, and live in the moment.

This expedition was a humbling yet amazing learning experience. It taught me that once you set a goal that you want to achieve, you must overcome any negative thoughts or challenges that come your way, and believe me there will be challenges, they are a test for your faith and determination. You need to stay strong, believe that you can achieve your goal and have faith that Allah will help you all the way despite and obstacles.

A Noticeable Financial Sacrifice of Hazrat Mian Muhammad Musa (ra)

By: Mahmud Ahmad Nagi (Columbus, OH Majlis)

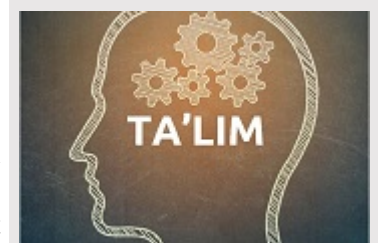
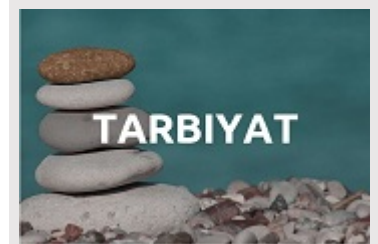


My grandfather Haji Mian Muhammad Musa (ra) of Nila Gumbad, Lahore was a well-known companion of Hadrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad Qadiani Masih-e-Mau'd (as). He was born in the year 1872. He pledged allegiance to the Promised Messiah (as) in the year 1902. He departed from this mortal world on 24 December 1945 and handed himself to the will of his Lord.

Mian Muhammad Musa Sahib spared no chance of supporting the mission of the Promised Messiah financially. He participated in all financial schemes of the Jama'at enthusiastically. Once around 1902-1903, Hadhrat MasiH-e-Mau'd (as) asked members of the Jama'at for a relatively large amount to publish an important book. Mian Sahib must have the following quotation of his master in mind for the following pronounced financial sacrifice.

"Spending in the way of God prolongs life and increases wealth." (Tabligh-e-Risalat Vol. X, p. 56)

It was customary for Mian Sahib not to go back to his hometown unless permitted by the Promised Messiah (as). But on that day, he proceeded to Lahore quietly. He did not go home. He was an owner of a property "Sara-





e-Musa" (Inn of Musa) at Ganj Mughalpura, Lahore. It consisted of eight adjoined houses. He disposed of the property to a Hindu estate agent on a paltry price as he was in a hurry to donate the money to his master. He put the money in a bag and proceeded to Qadian on the first available train from Lahore. The Promised Messiah (as) enquired about the absence of Mian Sahib from other companions, saying that it was not his practice to go back without seeking permission from him.

The companions of the Promised Messiah (as) present there were unaware of his whereabouts. Mian Sahib returned to Qadian before the next Fajr prayers and donated all the money to the Promised Messiah (as). He told his master that he went to Lahore to arrange the money he urgently needed to publish the book. That was the reason why he did not ask permission to leave first. The amount was about five to six thousand rupees. Mian Sahib even did not inform his family members about selling the property. The Promised Messiah (as) was pleased on that sacrifice. By doing so, he was blessed with continued prayers of the Promised Messiah (as). These unprecedented financial sacrifices helped Jama'at's tender plant to blossom. We pray that Allah the Almighty enable all the members of the Jama'at to follow the footsteps of Mian Muhammad Musa Sahib.



The Promised Messiah (as) had all the praise for Mian Sahib and passed the following golden remarks about him in the year 1908.

"Musa Sahib, you served the Jama'at exceptionally well." [Lahore Tarikh-e-Ahmadiyyat, by Shaikh Abdul-Qadir (1966), Publisher Abdul Mannan Kausar, Printer Tahir Mahdi Imtiaz Ahmad Warraich, Dia'ul-Islam Press Rabwah (Chenab Nagar), p. 310.]

These remarks are an honor for a truly devoted lover. Mian Sahib spent his wealth generously to build mosques. He tried his best to be with Promised Messiah (as) during his journeys and took care of meals for him as well as of his entourage. The selfless sacrifices of the true devotee did not go unnoticed by the Promised Messiah (as).

Note: For detail biography of Mian Muhammad Musa (may Allah be pleased with him) in Urdu, please visit website www.alislam.org.



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