

Enduring a Global Pandemic:

Life and Research during the Outbreak of Covid-19

# E-JOIS

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THE IMPORTANCE AND  
METHOD OF GIVING:  
AN INTROSPECTION OF  
OBLIGATORY AND  
NON-OBLIGATORY CHARITY  
DURING CORONAVIRUS

Mohd. Sher Ali

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THE STRUGGLES OF LIFE  
AND RESEARCH DURING  
COVID-19

Iqura Fatima Iqbal

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OUR LIFE IN COVID19: A  
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Inzamaul Quayum

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## ABOUT E-JOIS

The e-journal of Islamic Studies is a platform that ensues in the on-going dialogue within the discipline of Islamic Studies. It envisions pursuing new ways of conceptualising the various paradigms of religion by engaging in constructive contemporary academic religious discourses.

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# OBJECTIVES

- To promote original scholarship on issues related to all aspects of religion.
- Commitment to academic exploration, analysis and interpretation.
- Exploring the interplay between religion, society and culture.
- Minimising the misunderstandings, misinterpretations and prejudices based on one's religion.
- Encouraging students towards critical conversations in the field.
- Exploring dynamics in the history of religion.
- To help in bridging historical and contemporary discourses.
- Promoting communication of ideas between scholars of different disciplines.
- To educate and inform the youth, thus bringing out maximum potential in the generation to follow.
- Alerting the scholars and students towards the challenges of future.

# E-JOIS TEAM

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## GUARDIAN'S NOTE

Knowledge means “Understanding”. This understanding is required in thoughts, words and deeds. In the domain of knowledge we learn something, we unlearn something and we relearn something. Life Long Learning and All sides learning are the key for success. The formula to achieve success is Will + Beginning + Persistence = Result. People do not lack strength they lack will.

Beginning is always the toughest part of any work. Persistence unlocks potential and converts hardship into ease. Persistence is making small efforts each day, be patient with the process and focus on the path not the destination.

Nothing changes if nothing changes. If you do what you did, You will get what you got. Success is based on Mindset. The following approaches in mindset invite success: I do what I think. I am Smart like me. I never fail, either I win or I learn. I Love what I do. I am what I do repeatedly. I don't have to attend every argument I am invited to. I learn once and apply always. I always act never react. I forget the past, remember the lesson. I am very selective with who I am bad with. I don't harm others with my tongue and hands. I make my Life better not by chance but by change. I stop & reflect on my Life Choices. I teach myself. I keep my mind with my body. I am insignificant in my own eyes. I stick to my Plan. I know when to start and when to stop. I know when to speak up and when to shut up. I know when to attach and when to detach. I know when to push myself or when to rest myself. I focus on myself not others. I compete with myself. I analyze or re-analyze my wants and needs. I forgive but never forget. I don't care what other people think. I am a combination of Selflessness and Selfishness. I Love all but Trust a few. I have a keen Eye for detail. I believe in myself. I am Patient. I only complain of my suffering and my grief to Allah. I put God first, everything falls into their proper place.



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# ADVISOR'S NOTE

The subject of Islamic Studies has been an essential part of Jamia since its inception. The Department of Islamic studies, since it became a separate department in 1988, has been known for its curricular as well as co-curricular activities across the country. I take both pride and pleasure in the fact that the Research Scholars' Association of the Department of Islamic Studies, Jamia Millia Islamia is launching an 'e-journal of Islamic Studies'. Congratulations are due to the students and the faculty members who have contributed to the success of this effort.

The Department of Islamic Studies has always encouraged its students and research scholars to benefit from the learning opportunities provided by information technology. The outbreak of Covid-19 has made it amply clear that IT is going to have a tremendous role in higher education in future. It is my hope and prayer that this e-journal will foster active academic engagement on various subjects and therefore prove beneficial to those in the field of Islamic studies as well as to the general readers.

**DR MOHD. KHALID KHAN**  
Advisor, Bazme Teqeeq  
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# Editor's Note



On behalf of the e-Journal of Islamic Studies (eJOIS) and my editorial team, I am delighted to introduce you to the first quarterly online journal of the Department of Islamic Studies, Jamia Millia Islamia. The idea of a Departmental journal has been the collective aspiration of both, the Faculty and Research Scholars and it is to them, I extend my heartiest congratulations. The aim of this journal is to serve its readers; researchers, students and others, with a wide range of topics that correspond to the Discipline of Islamic Studies. It seeks to promote critical, historical and constructive engagement into the various dimensions of religion.

The first issue of this journal has presented itself at a most opportune time when the world seems to be grappling under the effects of a global pandemic. With such unprecedented events, it was decided that the current theme of the journal be titled—Enduring a Global Pandemic: Life and Research During the Outbreak of Covid-19. Research Scholars and other students of the department, despite the given paranoia have contributed remarkably in engaging with the topic. It was particularly endearing to receive articles that in addition to presenting a critical reflective assessment of the subject have managed to present their own lived experiences too. Within the boundaries of the topic, some contributors have engaged with a 'localized' approach in respect to religion, while another has elaborated the common social qualms of the youth. Notable contributions by two fellow Scholars have provided dedicated articles addressing the importance of 'Charity' and 'Mental Health'. Such creativity has unlocked various dimensions in a post-covid era.

It is highly evident that we are now on the crossroads of possibly the greatest transformation of the century. Our notions of normal and social have become adaptable, though evolving on a daily basis. In the past months following the general lockdown, the journey of mankind feels like a pilgrimage to an unknown destination. We have been forced to see our everyday mundane activities in new light and appreciate the past and the gift of today. Also, not to forget our vocabulary of words such as 'Quarantine', 'Epidemic', 'Flattening the Curve' have greatly added to our memories now. Hopefully, the documentation of such a journal and especially this issue will further be used for generations to come as an insight into the academic activity and social life during the 21st Centuries worst hit pandemics.

I welcome your contributions and suggestions to take e-JOIS to further heights.

**Saleem Hannan Shireen**  
Editor in Chief



# COVID'19 IMPACT ON RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS: A CASE STUDY ON THE MADARIS OF MALABAR.

**IBRAHIM K.**  
RESEARCH SCHOLAR

The Covid'19 impact- has deeply influenced the day to day life of people in every corner of the world, and people have started to live with the new normal in every walk of their life. The Malabar [1] region, in the northern part of Kerala, is also deeply affected by it. Six months after identifying the first Covid'19 case in India [2], along with the people of Kerala the Malabar region also struggles with live realities day by day. To fight against the pandemic the Kerala government is following their own strategies [3], even though the social, economic, and educational sectors are creeping with the realities to survive. This small article is trying to analyze how the Covid'19 has impacted the Madrasa/ Madaris of Malabar region and what strategies are followed to overcome it.

The Madaris (pl. of Madrasa) of Malabar are slightly different from other parts of India. All sects of the Muslim community (three fraction of Sunnies [4], Salafi/ Mujahid groups, Jama't-e Islami, and Ahmedies) are following more or less similar patterns in Madrasa education. Traditionally Ulama followed the Maqdoomian model [5] of the Dars system, which was established by Shaikh Zainuddeen Makhdoom with the inspirations from Islamic homelands.

Dars movements started first in Ponnani, students from different parts of the world reached there, later this system expanded to the other parts of Malabar (Randathaani Hussain, 2015). Even today thousands of Dars are following the ideal Makdoomian model in its curriculum, discipline, and mode of teachings. The Dars system continued its deep rooted influences till the Chalilakath model [6] of reforms, this movement simplified the Dars system in a way that is easily accessible to all sections of Muslim community. Chalilakath Kunjahammed Haji is considered as the father of the modern Madaris system in Kerala.

After the independence Malabar Muslims had to fill the gap of losses made by centuries lasting British rules in all spheres of their life, especially the casualties of Mappila Malabar Rebellion of 1921 (Robert L. Hardgrave, Jr., 1977) [7]. New models of education systems emerged in Islamic religious sciences also; Arabic Colleges, Sharia Colleges, Islahi Colleges, and Islamic Colleges were established in different parts of the region under the different sects of Muslim community. The fact is that Malabari Madrasas have been responding to the challenges of the time, the socio-political, and economical challenges, especially towards the challenges of modernity. Da'wa colleges [8], Wafi Colleges [9] Women Islamic colleges, and the latest Sharia city can be analyzed with these trends. The Curriculum, the method of teachings, and aims and objectives of the institutions were changed, even though they are keeping the basic principles of the traditional Madrasa system.

The covid'19 has deeply affected all these Madrasa's in one or another way. Following the rules and regulations from the center and state government most of them were shut down, completely shut down after the national lockdown. With the use of virtual possibilities, some of them re-opened, but they did not escape from the damages. The ground reality is that they can't escape from it in a very near future. The whole impact on Madaris can be classified into educational, economic and social, which totally deconstructed the mentality and approaches of Muslim community to accommodate with the new normal.

Madaris are the epicenter in shaping of Muslim community of Malabar, from the traditional Dars system to the modern Sharia city [10], this influence can clearly be portrayed in the great educational revolution of Kerala. The celebrated Kerala Model is deeply obliged to Madaris, in discipline, method, and shaping a socially responsible society. With closing the religious institutions a break in the flow of knowledge tradition will be made which definitely affect the whole region deeply. More than a gap in Islamic knowledge tradition this will affect the socio-religious survival of many. In economic perspective, the flow of gulf financial assistance was stopped, contributions from philanthropic minds were slowed, and the earnings of teachers were totally or partially stunned. The ground reality is that after losing jobs from Madaris many teachers are not trained or eligible to do work in other sectors. The social impact is that many teachers and students left the field because of immense financial trouble, some of them demotivated by family or peer groups, and some find loopholes to adapt and survive from the existing reality.

The sudden changes in all walks of life including their livelihood affected the madaris and its affiliated communities in different angles. To get an available survival, with other educational institutions Madaris also entered the virtual world. All educational activities were shifted to webinar classes [11]; zoom, Google meet, websites [12] YouTube, and Whatsapp groups are used to conduct classes. Even the traditional Islamic scholars also acquired knowledge to equip with these tools of advanced technology. Another impact is that both religious institutions and teachers migrated to other alternative ways, Madaris are trying to find new ways for funding, and teachers shifted some alternative ways to get an earning of life. The notable impact is that some Madaris shifted their mode of running; earlier they were providing Islamic education free of cost.

Swadaqa (non-compulsory charity) Zakat (compulsory charity) , and Waqf from Muslim community helped them to bridge the financial needs. The whole financial deficits of the society negatively affected this flow of funds, to get an escape from the whole flood they started to collect tuition fee and Mess fee from students. This was a fundamental change from the traditional way of running Madaris in Malabar.

With bringing the new normal to our life, Covid'19 taught us different lessons, which positively and negatively affected the destiny of our socio-economic sectors. Malabari Madaris positively responded to all challenges of modernity in its every juncture, the same adaptation occurred in the case of Covid'19 also. They survive from the impact of Covid'19 in the educational sector, but they have to survive from the economic and social casualties also, this is a challenge only to survive not to fail.

- [1] Malabar region can be defined both geographically and culturally. In Geographical perspective it is the south western coastal land parallel to the Arabian Sea, the whole coast is known as Malabar Coast. But culturally this is northern part of Kerala, including Kasarkode, Kannur, Wayanad, Kozhikkode, Malappuram, and some parts of Trissur and Palakkad districts, along with north western hill area of Tamil Nadu, Kudag is also part of Malabar.
- [2] The first Covid'19 case in India was reported from Kerala, which was affected to some students they were reached from Wuhan of China. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/indias-first-coronavirus-infection-confirmed-in-kerala/article30691004.ece>.
- [3] <https://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/covid-19-pandemic-kerala-model-nipah-virus-coronavirus-6393517/>
- [4] Samastha is the first fraction, popularly known as EK Samastha, after the name of EK Aboobacker Musliyar. Second group is AP Samastha under the leadership of Shaik Abubakr Ahmed, grand mufti of India. And the third one is Samsthana, founded by Sadaqathulla Musliyar.
- [5] Shaikh Zainudden Makdhoom Sageer (younger) is the founder of Dars System in Malabar, after his studies from Islamic homelands he established a center of Islamic knowledge in Ponnani. He actively participated in anti-colonial struggles also. Hidayat al Adkiya and Tahreelu are some his famous works.
- [6] Chalilakath Kunjahammed Haji was the educational reformist in Kerala, he is also popular in the historical Qibla Discourse of Kerala Muslim history.
- [7] Robert L. Hardgrave, Jr. (1977). *The Mappilla Rebellion, 1921: Peasant Revolt in Malabar*. Cambridge University Press.
- [8] Majmau Da'wath al Islamiyya, situated in Areacode Malappuram, is the first Madrasa in this group (Da'wa College) which collaborated both secular and religious sciences under one umbrella. Abdul Qadir Ahsani, the present principle, said the institution is established to equip Ulema to face with the challenges of modernity. <http://www.majmau.com>.
- [9] Wafi Colleges are established under the EK Fraction of Sunnies which also providing both secular and Islamic religious sciences in a scheduled syllabus and period of time. <https://www.wafycic.com>
- [10] Sharia city is the latest model of Madaris system in Kerala, established under the Knowledge city of Markaz Calicut, as an institution for advanced studies on Islam and Muslim world. It started producing new academic dimensions about Islam today. As an institution, which is committed to disseminate moral awareness in the society, it also attempts to grapple the universality of knowledge and democratize it. <https://shariacity.com/about/>
- [11] <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/kozhikode/madrassas-in-state-shift-to-online-learning/articleshow/74662765.cms>
- [12] <https://onlineclass.samastha.info>

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- <https://www.aljamia.net>**
- <http://muacollege.ac.in/>**

# THE STRUGGLES OF LIFE AND RESEARCH DURING COVID-19

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Covid19 has affected the day to day life and is majorly responsible for slowing down the global economy. The pandemic has affected a multitude of people, who are either sick or are being killed due to the spread of this disease. This being a new viral disease that affects human beings for the first time and unavailability of vaccines makes the situation even more vulnerable. Countries are banning gatherings of people to keep a check on the spread and break the exponential curve.

Coronavirus is an illness ranging from the common cold to severe respiratory diseases. This was first discovered in the 1930s. There are about 20 species of coronavirus, out of which 8 are prone to spreading the disease. Out of these only 3 are fatal to human life namely SARS, MERS and Covid 19. SARS is a severe respiratory syndrome that was discovered in 2003, and its last phase of the disease centered in 2004. It was declared as a pandemic by WHO. MERS (Middle East Respiratory Syndrome) spread in 2012 and affected 2495 people in the world and consumed nearly 858 lives. The mortality rate of MERS remained that of 34.4 %, while SARS infected 8098 and there were 774 with 9% death rate. There are several coronaviruses known to be circulating in wildlife too that have not yet infected humans. COVID-19 is the most recent to make the leap to human infection. Common signs of COVID-19 infection are similar to that of common cold and include respiratory difficulties such as dry cough, fever, shortness of breath, and breathing difficulties. In more severe cases, infection can cause pneumonia, severe acute respiratory syndrome, kidney failure, and eventually, death.

The COVID-19 infection is spread from one person to another via droplets. It is correctly a pandemic and due to globalisation of the world it is projected as one of the dangerous diseases, although the figures show that the death rate worldwide is less than SARS and MERS.

1. The ICTV (International Committee on Taxonomy of Viruses) labelled SARS-CoV-2 (SARS-Severe Acute Response Syndrome) virus induced coronavirus disease (COVID-19) as an outbreak from Wuhan, China from this January.
2. A similar kind of outbreak happened previously with different pathogens named SARS-CoV (2003)
3. Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus-MERS-CoV (Since 2015, centered on Arabian Peninsula).
4. However, SARS-CoV-2 virus promoting respiratory problems and ease of spreading (through air) will make severe life threats than the other, hence Coronavirus is belonging to Coronaviridae family, and size is 65–125 nm diameter.

After the spread initiated from China, more than 3,39,645 people have been affected with COVID-19 (currently in the month of July, 2020), and the numbers are still continuing to grow.

An overall good sign has been the mortality rate (4.33%) which was lesser than the other pandemic diseases, and almost one third of the affected people were recovered (till March 23, 2020). This disease, in addition to the previous discussed ones too, have created havoc and chaos. With an added dimension of fear, people have forgotten normal everyday civic responsibilities. Social distance has created a distance from our dear ones. The fear grew to such an extent that people were either denied for dead bodies of their dear ones by the hospitals or they themselves refused to collect it. At various places the dead bodies were treated worse than animals, which led to the decline in the mental health of the patients worldwide. Some patients did in fact die due to the disgraceful attitude and ill treatment provided by their doctors. The hospitals denied admitting patients in some cases due to lack of medical facilities. The Quarantine centers are not well equipped and lack proper food and shelter.

On the other hand due to worldwide lockdown there occurred an economy has suffered badly. The developing countries in which the abrupt declaration of lockdown added miseries to the common people. Thousands of labourers and daily workers went jobless. Many of them died on the way to their native places due to extreme temperatures, hunger and lack of transport facilities. Later Sharmik trains plied which developed a ray of hope for the people but added more miseries as they lost track and wandered, due to which the poor died out of hunger and thirst on the train.

On the social side many things are affected like service sector is not being able to provide their proper services, avoiding the national and international travelling and cancellation of services, cancellation or postponement of large – scale sports and tournaments, disruption of celebrations of cultural, religious and festive events, undue stress among population and many other sectors. The education sector is badly affected by it as well. Though many experiments have come up to replace classroom teaching, but these experiments are namesake, nothing can replace classroom teaching as a very minimum percentage of our population is benefited by this method. According to national survey reports on education only 24% of Indian households have internet facilities and rural areas where 66% of our population lives, this figure comes down to 15%. Furthermore only 8% of all households with only 8% of all households with members aged between 5 to 24 have both a computer and internet connection. Among the poorest 20% of the households, only 2.7% have access to a computer and 8.95 internet facilities connectivity. Research is the one of worst hit areas, because it cannot be conducted fully online. For the research scholars of science and life science 'Lab' is an integral part. For social science students, libraries are an essential part and parcel of research. No research can be conducted without data and without books, data collection suffers. Besides these negative aspects,

there are many positive outcomes as well which opened the eyes of the superpowers. Common people have now begun realising that even with all the technology and developments there is no Might before the Will and Power of the Creator.

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# MISINFORMATION AND FAKE NEWS DURING A GLOBAL PANDEMIC: THE CASE OF TABLIGHI JAMAAT

**SAIF ANWAR**  
RESEARCH SCHOLAR

The movement started by Maulana Ilyas Kandhelvi in 1920s, is known as Tablighi Jamaat. Its emergence tends to relate political, social and cultural problems during British rule in India. Politically, Jamat emerged as the effect of the collapse of the Indian Khilafat Movement. Socially and culturally Muslims were attached with Hindu traditions. But its members claim that it is a non-political organization which aims to build an Islamic society. Tablighis are basically missionaries, they preach within the Muslims. They encourages Muslims to return to practicing to their religion i.e. Islam as it was practised during the time of Prophet. Molana Mohammad Yusuf, son of Molana Ilyas, started the foreign mission of Tabligh which accelerated in the 1970s and 80s. Now Tablighi Jamaat has 50 to 80 million members around the world. The movement has established branches (Markaz) in more than 200 countries, and its members work daily in almost every country of the globe.

The Jamaat sends out delegates to different cities and countries for 40 days, four months, and sometimes for shorter duration. Tablighis believe in person-to-person contact, so they knock on the doors of all Muslims to give them the message of Islam. They also organize weekly, monthly and annual Ijtemas at mosques, markaz's and in different cities.

There was an annual congregation at Nizamuddin Markaz Delhi in early March 2020. It was 'Alami mashwara' (International Executive Committee Meeting) in which approx. 9,000 foreign and national members were reported to have participated. As it was convened even before the Janta curfew on 19th March, 2020. Hundreds of delegates left before the lockdown which came into effect on 24th March 2020. But more than a 1,000 followers, including many foreigner citizens got stranded, as all modes of transport and international flights were cancelled. The same as hundreds of thousand people, travelers, students, job holders and workers etc. got stranded across the country. A delegation of Tablighi Jamaat visited Nizamuddin Police Station and asked Police officials to help foreigners and Indian nationals with the curfew and to arrange transport to reach their respective destinations on March 25, 2020. The same way there were hundreds of Tablighi delegations staying at mosques across India when a sudden lockdown was announced. Instead of helping stranded people during a serious pandemic, Government and Police officials lodged FIRs against them and the media continued its communal propaganda.

## Legal Actions:

The Nizamuddin Markaz was sealed on March 30, 2020 after several people who attended the religious event tested positive for Covid-19. The Union Home Ministry instructed states governments to track down foreign attendees of the congregation, asking them to screen, quarantine and initiate legal actions against them.

The Delhi Government ordered an FIR against Molana Saad Kandhelwi, head of Tablighi Jamaat on March, 30, 2020. The crime branch of Delhi police filed charge-sheet against over 900 foreign Jamaat members from 35 countries. They had been charged under the Foreign Act, Epidemic Act, Disaster Management Act and violating different sections of the IPC. (29, May, The Economic Times)

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Atityanath condemned the actions and invoked NSA (National Security Act) against the Jamaat members staying at mosques in Uttar Pradesh. Hundreds of Jamaat members were put in jail for several months during the pandemic. ED registered a money laundering case against Molana Saad on 17, April, 2020 and conducted raids at 20 places on August, 19, 2020. (The Economic Times)

In more than 20 states and Union Territories of the nation, Tablighi Jamaat members were targeted, harassed, quarantined and jailed. They were blamed for inappropriate behaviour on doctors and healthcare personnel. Ministers, politicians and common people stated about Tablighi Jamaat without filter. Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, Minority minister, alleged the Tablighi Jamaat as comparing this to having committed a “Talibani Crime” by allowing gatherings at its Nizamuddin centre.

*Media Role:* In April, 2020, a big section of the mainstream media was talking about the Tablighis, and holding them almost solely responsible for the coronavirus outbreak in India. They reported entire Tablighi Jamaat issue with a communal flavour and with phrases such as ‘Corona Jihad’, ‘Corona Terrorism’, ‘Islamic Insurrection’, ‘Corona Bombs’, etc. The spread of fake news and made up

conspiracy theories contributed largely to further demonization. Molana Mohammad Saad , head of Tabighi Jamaat, was called a ‘terrorist’ and dubbed as the Maulana of Death’, and attendees were described as ‘human bombs’ and inked to terror groups, carried out without a shred of evidence. According to the fact-checking website Media Scanner, at least 75 anti-Muslim fake videos were uploaded on social media from April 5th to 20th, and there were 28 attacks on Muslims. The newspapers have reported that there were 11.074 stories published from 271 media sources with the term “Tablighi Jamaat” during the period from March 20 - April 27 alone.

*Courts Orders:* Three High Courts, Bombay High Court, Madras High Court and Karnataka High court have quashed FIRs filed against the foreign nationals of Tabligh. Bombay High Court while quashing the FIRs, on August21, 2020, said that the foreign nationals, who had attended the Tablighi Jamaat event held in Delhi in March in this year, were made ‘scapegoats’ and allegations were levelled that they were responsible for spreading Covid-19 in the country (The Economic Times, August,22, 2020).

The judgment said there was “big propaganda” in print and electronic media against foreign pilgrims which blamed them for spreading Covid-19. “There was virtually persecution against these foreigners” it also said. Justice G.R. Swaminathan of Madras High Court described the state and Central government detention and prosecution of the foreign pilgrims as “unreasonable, unjust and unfair”.

In the wake of fake news peddling and media-mafia, one must be as careful as possible while subscribing to even the news they consume.

The Tablighi Jamaat incident has highlighted the role of the mainstream media in gaslighting events which are then blown out of proportion to match personal ails. Moreover, in the post-covid era, one must be even more cautious so as to not spread fear, misinformation and panic to the community which is already collectively fighting a global pandemic.

# CORONAVIRUS AND THE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF MUSLIMS IN INDIA

**MOHD ASIF**  
RESEARCH SCHOLAR

The whole universe is a creation of Almighty Allah. It was completed keeping in view the physical and spiritual needs of man. Man traveled from the Stone Age to the Modern Age. Man developed the world at a rapid pace, but with this progress and development, came various changes. The world faced several challenges and disorders like wars, nuclear tests, and sometimes natural calamities like earthquakes, thunders, hurricanes and dangerous diseases and plagues which killed millions of people in an instant. However, by all these man-caused disorders and natural calamities, human beings have hardly taken any lesson and out of their greed, continue to destroy natural order that creates trouble for human beings and creatures on earth. In the past few days, coronavirus has spread in almost 180 countries of the world and within a few days, it has caught thousands and killed a large number of people. Its fear has forced the whole world to go into a complete lock-down and exposed the development of modern science and technology. It made human beings realize that there is after all, a Supernatural power that runs this universe.

In this hour of need, the hardest hit is the daily wages-earner, who are hardly able to earn their livelihood and feed their families. They have to fight with hunger and at the same time protect themselves from this deadly virus. This is a test time for humanity to look after the weak sections of society. Although, it is the responsibility of the government to make things easier for such people, however, at the same time, as a human being and as a Muslim, it is our responsibility to help these people, become an lending arm. If someone is in need, no matter what religion or sect he belongs to, even if he is our enemy, if he dies of starvation, then we are not worthy to be called Muslims. Because it is teaching of Islam and of our Prophet Muhammad (may the peace and mercy of Allah be upon him) whose generosity, selfless service and kindness with fellow human beings and neighbors were praised before emperor of Byzantine empire, Hercules in Syria by Abu Sufyan who was his greatest enemy (before becoming believer).

The virus, which originated in China, has hit the global economy, and common people are in deep trouble. There is a shortage of everyday items in markets, and shopkeepers and vendors have taken advantage of this situation to earn more. In this regard, Muslims must play their role following British Health Safety Guidelines. It is certain that travelers, laborers and poor families are facing problems. Hopefully, the Government of India will find a way to facilitate them.

The global epidemic, coronavirus is killing people at a large scale all over the world. Billions of people are now out in search of their bread. If this crisis continues for a long time, it is possible that man will become the food of man as it used to be in ancient times. The great powers and great kings considered themselves superpowers, but in a few moments Almighty made man helpless and compelled.

It has been mentioned again and again in the Qur'an. "O man! Consider why Almighty Allah created you whether you ascend to the heights of the heavens or to the depths of the earth, death will come to you at the appointed time." We all have been the victims of negligence and now there is a solution that the whole world, regardless of their religion, must repent before Allah. It may take a human being a while to repent but it does not take Allah long to forgive his servants because he is All-Forgiver and He loves forgiving. Billions of people around the world are not only losing their jobs due to the coronavirus but are also dying in agony. The instruction of the Holy Prophet is the essence of the precautionary measures taken by today's states in time of an epidemic which is known in the world as the "St. Louis Model" under which the affected people are quarantined. It is followed to prevent spread of the disease by minimizing human movement.

Novel corona is not the first epidemic in the world, there have been many epidemics before. In the fourteenth century, the plague spread throughout the world until it was brought under control. 200 million human lives caused death. In 1666 A.D. a plague in Britain killed 100,000 people. The cholera epidemic broke out in the 19th century and it affected millions of people. Polio was diagnosed in 1950 A.D, affecting millions of people and it still exists.

The corona virus has been around the world for the last 70 years. While birds and sea whales and most bats have it, it has a mild cold and one person can recover quickly, but the current virus has been dubbed as "Novel Corona." Fear of the virus began to spread in 2019 and is now spreading fast around the world creating fear and panic.

Islam has encouraged treatment, precaution, cleanliness, and pure food for good health. In such a crisis, it is the responsibility of the people to take all necessary and precautionary measures according to their ability before it is too late. Precautions and advice of medical experts should be followed for all kinds of diseases. Human work is trying and its result is destiny, but with it, there is a responsibility of the government to take practical steps instead of spreading fear in the nation and begging for medical treatment. We are living in a backward state in which the condition of health facilities along with other basic facilities is unsatisfactory. In such a situation, it is the responsibility of the people to take all precautionary measures.

The corona virus has spread all over the world, especially in our country, India. Many consider it as punishment from Allah since it is increasing very fast and our all steps and every plan are becoming ineffective. This calamity is from Allah Almighty. Here are some basic facts about this pandemic situation.

Our belief and the command of Allah Almighty is: "Corruption has appeared throughout the land and sea by the reason of what the hands of people have earned so he may let them test part of the consequence of what they have done that perhaps they will return to righteousness" (chapter no. 30 verse no. 41) It is mentioned in history that diseases and epidemics have always been coming in the world.

Various forms of torment have been manifested by Almighty Allah in different nations and tribes. In this way, all the prophets, scholars, sheikhs and reformers have always taught people to turn up to Allah.

The behavior of the people of Yunus has been mentioned as a reference. The people of Yunus have been told to repent from Allah when signs of torment have completely appeared on them. Dark clouds have covered the people of Yunus. they gathered in the open field, sighed, arranged for repentance and forgiveness, and finally their repentance accepted by Allah , averted the torment that had befallen on them. And such practices were urged to be adopted by every nation in every age.

It is worth mentioning here that whatever happens, it is not just God's punishment, but it may be a test from Almighty Allah as Allah mentions in the Quran(" We seized them with hardship and poverty so that they might humble themselves"(chapter no. 6 verse no. 42)

In the same way, on another occasion, Almighty Allah said: "And whatever strikes you of disaster it is for what your hands have earned but he pardons much"(chapter no 42 verse no 30) It is not necessary that hardships, difficulties, sufferings always comes as a torment , sometimes it comes as a test and trial. Therefore, sometimes diseases, worries, problems and difficulties become a torment on a person or a region; those trials become a source of mercy and elevation of ranks. Therefore, in such an environment, self-accountability is needed. Let us consider in the light of Qur'an and Hadith what our shortcomings are, what are our bad deeds and sins which are the cause. Because of that Allah has seized us. It should also be remembered that when there is a grip or punishment from Allah, it is not limited to those who commit evils but also for the whole society and community can come under its grip. The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessing of Allah be upon him) said: "Even if there are good people among them, they also are afflicted with that punishment" (Tabarani, hadith no.9702) Therefore, it is necessary to consider that the Lord, whose love is greater than the love of mothers, whose attribute is merciful, after all, why has afflicted the whole world today with a disease like corona?

It is to be noted that coronavirus is a common disease, although it first appeared with this name, but before that various forms of diseases and epidemics continued to appear. Especially in the time of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessing of Allah be upon him) there was an outbreak of plague, it is a very clear Hadith about that. The beloved Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said, "In the area where the plague has spread don't go to that area but if that epidemic comes to the area where you already live, don't run away from there! "This is guidance, a principle that can be called a way of balance and moderation. Keeping in view this hadith must stop showing negligence and irresponsibility, the precautions of lockdown is necessary. There is a clear command of the Allah in the Qur'an in this regard. "Don't put yourself to death!" Remember that these two extremes are not correct but precautions are necessary. To avail treatment is Sunnah, protection of life is obligatory while fear of virus does not beautify any believer. There is a fixed day of death. There is no way to escape from it. There is no room for it if death is written by Allah, in spite of precautions ,if death causes to death for anyone by Almighty Allah then remember that the prophet (peace and blessing of Allah be upon him) has declared" death due to plague is so as death of martyrdom". We hope that Allah Almighty will grant this status to the victims of this epidemic as well. Therefore, in this situation, it is necessary to take a moderate and balanced path.

It is important to keep in mind that those who have been empowered by Allah, and have been given social status and influence, such as government workers, preachers of mosques, influential people of the society etc, they have more responsibility than common people. They should work for helpless people to arrange food for them, train them to fight with this virus, protect people from depression, keep them out of fear and irresponsible behavior and play their role in this hour of trial and last but not least pray to Almighty to end this epidemic. It must be remembered that Allah doesn't discriminate between Muslim and non-Muslim while giving so should we. We should pray for the whole humanity. May Allah's mercy be upon all human beings and save us from this calamity.

# CAULDRON OF CHAOS: COVID-19

**FARHEEN NAAZ**  
RESEARCH SCHOLAR

Pandemic is an outbreak of a disease that occurs over a wide geographic area and affects an exceptionally high proportion of the population. There have been many pandemics due to viruses which occurred since the 20th century. For instance, the H1N1 Influenza (2009), Spanish flu (1918/19), SARS (2002), and MERS (2012). International scientific community has successfully found vaccines and treatment for every pandemic throughout history.

Virus is one of the first living things on the Earth. They are not alive on their own; they need to catch a body to live and reproduce. When a virus jumps from an animal to a human body it is called "Zoonotic Virus". Humans made these kinds of pandemics inevitable. Deforestation has largely affected the wildlife and brought them in great proximity to the human populace. The farming factories which combine many animals together in a detestable-congested place and contain huge live animal markets, gave birth to many kinds of zoonotic viruses. Coronavirus is the latest one. It is the youngest in the family of viruses, which have infected the human body so far.

The official name of the virus is SARS-COV-2, and the disease which it causes called Covid-19 which stands for "Corona-virus Disease of 2019". Corona means "crown" and is named so after its crown-like spikes through molecular biology. It is spread through droplets when we sneeze, cough, and speak. It can enter through eyes, mouth, and nose and infect us. The best method to avoid this is to maintain the widely practiced concept of social-distancing, wearing face masks, and sanitizing rigorously.

In the 20th century, scientists created antibiotics which treated many viruses like HIV etc, but coronavirus is different as it can't be cured by antibiotics. The best way to fight it off is through immunity. When a certain virus spreads in a population, it kills many and many may even survive. The immune system recognizes the virus and beats it off. When enough people survive, it would become harder for the virus to spread. It is called Herd Immunity. Until and unless we can't create a vaccine the only way to survive this pandemic is to boost our immunity. This is not just a global healthcare emergency, but has paralyzed the economy. People are losing jobs all around the world, and the education system is getting affected. There is restriction of any kind of movement. This is something that we have never faced before; the whole world has been locked down. This unprecedented situation of uncertainty and instability has caused psychological disturbances, sedentary lifestyle, messed up routines, insomnia, fear of catching disease and hard time procuring essentials. Every Nation spends a lot of money preparing for war and creating weapons. This issue belongs there, a zone discussed parallelly with war and for that we need to have a plan of action which is seemingly lacking worldwide leave a few countries.

Life of a research candidate has also been tough and challenging during this pandemic. Suddenly, quarantine has become a lifestyle and adjusting in it was a life changing experience.

No access to the library, absence of work atmosphere, everything- became online from entertainment to education. Focus is all one needs going through hours of thesis work but in this chaos it vanished. Webinars and online discussion sessions with fellow researchers and teachers helped regain that sense of purpose which seemed lost in the beginning. After the feeling of despair subsided I did realize that for the first time I had an abundance of time, which as a researcher was like a boon. One often learns new ways when old ways don't work anymore. With a worldwide shutdown, I couldn't access the library so online educational websites came handy and accessible. Utilizing those extra hours showed a silver lining in this traumatic time.

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We can physically isolate, but we don't have to isolate emotionally and socially. Coping is a preventative care. Calmness is the state of balance and stress is opposite. Coping means restoring that balance. Coping is not one-size-fits-all. It's about figuring out what works for you, though there are four basic habits which can help everyone hopefully;

**Breath:** Inhale exhale it gives the body signal that everything is fine and reduces anxiety. But little fear is needed in this situation. It helps us survive, prepare for danger and follow rules.

**Consume less news:** It's very important from where you are getting news and don't get too much of updates.

**Reclaim agency:** No one knows when everything will get to normal. It's like there is no control over life. So it's very important to have some kind of agency. Maintaining a schedule or an everyday to do list or DIYs can be helpful to reclaim that agency.

**Give back:** Shift the focus away from yourself. Helping people engages our brain's reward system and reduces the level of cortisol, one of the main stress hormones. This is called Helper's high. Just like Fear is adapted, so is empathy. However, this once in a lifetime experience with all its adventures made us find our hidden skills and taught us so many things that would not be possible without given circumstances. After this pandemic, the world will change forever and there will be new normal, but we should never forget it also gave us a new 'us', which is way stronger and bolder than before.

# OUR LIFE IN COVID19: A HODOPHILE'S ACCOUNT

**INZAMAUL QUAYUM**  
**M.A (3DR SEM)**

The Coronavirus (global epidemic) is a traveler who has become an uninvited guest in China and around the world. It has changed the way we live our day-to-day lives. Ordinary and everyday acts such as sleeping, waking up, eating, reading, playing, and so on seem to be affected. I was almost preparing my weekend mentally which consisted of attending a wedding; going for a walk; traveling somewhere with a purpose— all of those plans too, were affected by the arrival of this unwelcomed guest. With its arrival, it has left almost irreversible effects on not only the economic condition, but also mental condition, physical condition and health. Side note: it also has had effects on our religious condition.

**Covid-19's effect on our Mental Health:** The lockdown took place all over the world in most countries and so too, in India. People were required to stay in their homes and the lockdown wasn't just limited to daytime but also extended towards the night. It was uncommon and fairly a new concept. Due to which, one was more likely to be staying at home all the time without much physical contact with anyone whilst at the same time maintaining a social distance from even the neighbors (in some cases family members too); not going to work or university and hence, being distanced away from your friends and loved ones all at the same time when the media channels exploded with feeding panic and chaos; receiving abrupt announcements of having a large number of deaths across the world— no doubt, all these things have affected the mental health of every individual in the world.

**Covid-19's effect on our Physical Health:** Lockdown has also had a dangerous effect on our physical health— with no major physical activity, stomach and headaches, acidity issues, joint aches, lethargy and irregular sleep and eating habits; frequent belching and many more have resurfaced. Compulsive use of mobile will have damaging results to the health of an individual. Not being able to take walks or exercising, and not being able to play any kind of sport has also affected our physical health. People have however made makeshift solutions to the above-mentioned problems.

**Covid-19's effect on our Religious Condition:** The global epidemic has affected our religious festivals too, such as Easter and Good Friday, Ram Nawami and Rath Yatra, Passover and Lag Baomar, Ramzan, Eid (s), Hajj- the month of pilgrimage, as well as our daily prayers and worship. Though, I would remark that it has nevertheless brought people closer to their God and at the same time there has been progress in our personal quality worship of God.

**Covid19 effect on our Economic Conditions:** Due to the lockdown in our world over and our country too, economic condition has affected the people severely everywhere, except for some rich countries, the economic condition of all countries has reached a deplorable condition.

Day-wages earner, monthly-salary earner, businessmen, Government employees and track shop owners, have all been affected by the arrival of this guest (global epidemic) and the impact will be felt for years to come. Having no money for basic necessity such as food, they do not even know how they will live their lives in the future. In addition to the timely government, civil society, NGOs, social workers, political parties and leaders and whatever they have done, they have helped the poor and the workers in this way. The population is overcrowded and the economic situation is deteriorating due to natural calamities (lightning, floods and landslides, etc.) and this guest (global epidemic) has had a profound effect on the economic condition of the people. Which is why people are having difficulty helping those in need too.

**Covid19's effect on our Research and Education:** It has had a profound effect on our studies. Not being able to go to school, college, university and library, the students face huge problems. Having come out with new modes of online classes and online exams. This is a new experience, for teaching and even learning which has become a big challenge at the moment. Both the teachers and the students are doing their best and the Minister of Education and Administration has given a lot of relief to the students. At the moment, all the research and study have to be conducted from online websites. Additionally, all the programs and seminars are being conducted online.

This uninvited guest is being communicated with by our dear doctors and scientists and other front-line workers who are also talking and questioning him so that he can be delivered to his destination as soon as possible. Hopefully, some country can develop a vaccine and with the help of Allah, may things go back to being normal, where social distancing and masks were not a norm.

# THE IMPORTANCE AND METHOD OF GIVING: AN INTROSPECTION OF OBLIGATORY AND NON- BLIGATORY CHARITY DURING CORONAVIRUS

**MOHD SHER ALI**  
**RESEARCH SCHOLAR**

This time, the academic status is overshadowed by the pandemic of Coronavirus- which traces its origin from Wuhan city of China. Within a very short span of time it spread to various nations and affecting their populace severely led to massive deaths amongst people. Due to this fatal virus, the exact ratio of people affected by it is quite impossible to assess currently, as many cases go unreported. Nevertheless, it cannot be neglected that this is a pandemic disease. Every person is now required to take self-care and caution to prevent themselves from being affected by this virus and hoping for the discovery of a vaccine very soon. Science is trying its best to come up with the solution. People, on their own, are taking every possible precaution to prevent themselves from this deadly virus. It is a momentary suspension that has left the world in suffering from this very painful situation which no one can deny from this coronavirus pandemic. It has shaken the whole world by its effect. It has affected the whole area including geographically and physically. The pandemic disease and the spread of virus are by the will of Almighty, which has led to the world to shrink. This pandemic disease has prohibited traveling which in turn has hindered many tasks resulting in a great economic loss. This has led to a condition where basic necessity is difficult to afford which further leads to the worsening of the situation of common masses. Truly, this is a nightmare for people which have made them alert for the forthcoming situations. Negligence in any case will lead to bad outcomes resulting in loss of life.

This virus has made India to shut down completely, resulting in the labour class and daily wages struggling through a difficult situation for survival at this time. Along with the government, social organizations and kind hearted people have come forward to contribute and work at the need of hour. Few people have cringe worthily displayed their 'selfies', 'videos' and other such content on social media while performing the deeds, this is a collective embarrassment for mankind. It is through the Will of Almighty that few people have less sources to make their ends meet, while a few have more than required. If anyone has more than they desire and is happy that is also from Almighty. Similarly, if anyone is having less than what they need, it is also from Almighty. Tracing the background to this context people of all backgrounds are contributing whatever they can at this need of hour, whether it be money, edibles, clothes; for the welfare of poor, orphans and the needy one's: which is a true example of humanity. Islam, as a religion, promotes feeling of brotherhood, humanity, welfare and a consolation towards masses. This is the reason that Sadaqah (giving alms to the poor), Zakat (tax given to purify) is one of the fundamentals of the religion.

It is therefore a humble appeal to the people from religion, to people who are engaged in helping the affected people from coronavirus- not to click pictures, videos etc.

Respect the feelings and sentiments of the deprived and do not humiliate the poor. *“The example of those who spend their wealth in the way of Allah is like a seed (of grain ) which grows seven spikes;in each is a hundred grains. And Allah multiplies (His reward) for whom He wills. And Allah is all Encompassing and Knowing.”* (Surah Al Baqarah ayah 261).

Here, the believers are urged to sacrifice life and property for the sake of the great cause in which they believe. It is difficult, however, to persuade those whose standard of judgment in respect of economic matters has not completely changed, to rise above either personal or narrow group interests and dispense their wealth whole-heartedly for the sake of a righteous cause. To follow such a course requires a moral outlook of an altogether different kind; it requires a breath of vision and magnanimity and above all, an exclusive devotion of God.

*“O you who believed, do not invalidate your charities with reminders or injury as done one who spends his wealth (only) to be seen by the people and does not believe in Allah and the Last Day of Judgement. His example is like that of a (large) smooth stone upon which is dust and is hit by a downpour that leaves it bare. They are unable (to keep) anything of what they have earned. And Allah does not guide the disbelieving people.”* (Surah Al Baqarah ayah 264)

One who does good merely in order to impress people with righteousness clearly regards those persons as his God. Such a person neither expects reward from God nor is he concerned that this good deeds will someday be reckoned to his credit.

*“If you disclose your charitable expenditure, they are good; but if you conceal them and give to the poor, it is better for you, and He will remove from you some of your misdeeds (thereby).And Allah, with what you do, is (fully) Acquainted”* (Surah Al Baqarah ayah 271).

Non-obligatory charity, should preferably be dispensed secretly. This principle applies to all acts. As a golden rule, it is more meritorious to perform obligatory acts openly and non-obligatory acts of goodness, secretly. The performance of good deeds in secret leads to the continual improvement of one’s life and growth of character. Once good qualities develop, then eventually, the bad qualities gradually wither away. This makes a man so acceptable to God that He pardons the sin that he might have committed.

*“Whoever comes (on the Day of Judgement) with a good deed will have ten times the like thereof (to his credit,) and whoever comes with an evil deed will not be recompensed except the like thereof; and they will not be wronged.”* (Surah Al An’am ayah 160)

*“And establish prayer at the two ends of the day and at the approach of the night. Indeed good deeds do away with the misdeeds. That is a reminder for those who remember.”* (Surah Hud ayah 114).

This was the urge to perform Salah at three times; morning, evening and the Isha prayer. This is the remedy for eradicating evil from the world; Do good deeds and defeat evil with them. The best way of making one virtuous is to establish salah (prayers), which will remind you of Allah over and over again and will produce those good characteristics in you that shall help you.

*"Whoever desires the harvest of the Hereafter-We increase for him in his harvest. And whoever desires the harvest of this world-We give him thereof, but there is not for him in the Hereafter any Share"* (Surah Ash Shura, ayah 20).

Both the seeker of the Hereafter and the seeker of the world have been likened to the farmer in this verse, who labors persistently right from the time he prepares the soil, until the time his crop is ready for harvesting. He puts in all his labor so that he may reap and gather the crop of the seeds he sowed. But, because of the difference of the intention and objective, and also the difference of the attitude, a vast difference takes place between the farmer who sows for the Hereafter and the farmer who sows for this world.

*"The example of what they spend in this worldly life is like that of a wind containing frost which strikes the harvest of the people who have wronged themselves and destroys it. And Allah has not wronged them, but they wrong themselves."* (Surah Ali Imran, ayah 117).

The wind refers to the superficial appearance of righteousness, for the sake of which unbelievers spend their wealth on philanthropic and charitable causes. The expression 'frost' indicates their lack of true faith and their failure to follow the Divine Laws, as a result of which their entire life has gone astray.

It is narrated in Shahih Muslim, that one should do charity with right hand so that left hand should be unaware of what has been donated. Simply meaning that they should not feel proud or boast what has been donated. For God's sake, we need to ponder over the fact that what we have given is indeed for charity, not merely for show off and revealing the identity of the needy. How will it be of any good? Definitely not, it has been guided to us through Quran and Sunnah that the deeds we do should be for acceptance. It shouldn't be a mere showoff or for publicity. It is Allah, who has made people the receiver and giver; it is He who has bestowed upon us everything. Our deeds should be according to what our religion encourages us towards

Nowadays we can witness that the whole world has become stagnant. Day by day, we can see people losing their lives due to this virus. The pandemic has traumatized people to such an extent that they are afraid of meeting the kith & kins, relatives and neighbors. The virus took over people mentally and one can see people losing humanity too on other hand. It can be sensed that people have developed doubt towards the people who develop viral symptoms and distance oneself from them. It is us the follower of Islam that one should see this from religious aspect and analyze it. It is mentioned in Quran that whatever disaster, calamity, pandemic occurs on earth; it is the humans who have created the very situation.

*"Corruption has appeared throughout the land and sea by (reason of) what the hands of people have earned so He may let them taste part of (the consequence of) what they have done that perhaps they will return (to righteousness).*

(Surah Ar Rum, ayah 41)

*"And whatever strikes you of disaster-it is for what your hands have earned; but He pardons much".*

(Surah Ash Shuraa ayah 30)

It is not mandatory that always misfortune, curse, pain comes as a test for humans. As per Sunnah of Prophet P.B.U.H. whenever a misfortune strikes, bow towards Allah in repentance and give Sadaqah (alms to the poor), as it is believed that it passes away. Maintenance of hygiene too is a must as it is said that it is half of religion. Health department has provided instructions and guidelines that should be followed strictly. At this critical situation, one must ponder over the deeds done in the past and abstain from doing wrong deeds. Another important aspect to bring into notice is self-accountability, as what we have done to face this wrath of Almighty. Allah S.W.T who is believed to love his servants more than the love equivalent to 70 mothers', whose attribute is entirely Merciful and especially Merciful, has brought such a test for his people. This is the time when we need to ponder over the pros and cons, positive and negative aspects. We can build our moral and character and enhance the good quality and refrain from small losses which further lead to a great loss. As self-accountability is a stepping stone to success. Ignorance and carelessness should be kept at bay, as it is the root cause ill functioning of society, government, individual and community as a whole. One who does not acknowledge his failure, laziness, and mistakes always lags behind and blames others for his failure. To him the society and people is his enemy.

The community of the adherents of Islam should come forward for the social welfare and contribute as much as possible. Truth should be practiced and falsehood should be abolished. With this in practice, it will lead us towards Allah, who is our Creator and Master. It is therefore requested of religious priests and our Imams, that such messages should be preached during the Friday sermons (when it is feasible to hold a gathering, otherwise abstain) and social gatherings, should all take a step towards the awareness and welfare of the people for the common good. In this crucial time, people suffer from anxiety, anger, depression, lethargy and carelessness. It is requested that they should be cared after and advised to remain positive and submit oneself in prayer and positivity. One shouldn't distinguish between believers and non-believers at such a junction and stand together as a whole humanity, so that Allah would be pleased upon us and be Merciful.



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