



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ Ansar

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We are the Helpers of Allāh.

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Ḥadīth about Truthfulness

The Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) said: "Truth guides to virtue and virtue guides to Paradise. A person persists in telling the truth till in the sight of Allah he is named Truthful. Lying leads to vice and vice leads to the Fire; and a person goes on lying till in the sight of Allah he is named a liar." (Bukhārī and Muslim)

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Message from Ṣadr Majlis

Dear Anṣār Brothers,
As-Salāmu 'Alaikum Wa Raḥmatullāh

Our Publications team, it seems, never rests. Before many of us even returned home from a faith uplifting National Ijtimā', they were asking me for a "message that can be used in the print as well as tomorrow's e-newsletter." Not next week, not after the weekend, but tomorrow!

And we love it. Because that's exactly the level of dedication our pledge expects from us. And it is through such dedication of our Zu'amā, Nāẓimīn, National 'Āmila, and Ijtimā' volunteers that we experienced the magic of 1175 attendees.

Talking of the pledge, I am not sure how many of you have ever recited the Anṣār pledge behind Ḥaḍrat Khalīfatul Masīh but it was a first for me. What a goose bumps moment it was on Sunday when Ḥuḍūr graced our Ijtimā' via satellite link! We will share the YouTube link to Ḥuḍūr's address as it becomes available from MTA UK.

Ḥuḍūr reminded us of the purpose of establishing Majlis Anṣārullāh. So we establish congregational Prayers, recite Qur'ān, exhort our children to become good Muslims, and among many other things, spread the beautiful teachings of Islām. In essence, we say with our actions that "We are the helpers of Allāh. We have believed in Allāh. And bear thou witness that we are obedient." (The Holy Qur'ān, 3

[Āl 'Imrān]:53)

Achieving these tasks will require conviction, focus, and prayers. Conviction, that if we follow the instructions of our Imām, our own families will be the beneficiaries. Focus, that instead of wondering in the vain "we should" gripes, we work together with an "I will" attitude. And prayers, that Allāh keeps us humble and obedient, that by His grace, we become as brothers.

Stay tuned. In the coming days, you will see how Majlis Anṣārullāh is partnering with a nationwide campaign to establish a culture of congregational Ṣalāt, be it in the mosques, Ṣalāt centers, or homes. Despite the barriers posed to us by long distances and busy jobs, we must coalesce around the message of Ḥaḍrat Khalīfatul Masīh.

Once we start living the real purpose of Majlis Anṣārullāh, we will realize that it is not an auxiliary of "old people" but an auxiliary of helpers of Allāh who believe in striving hard—instead of resting—in the cause of Allāh.

Was-Salām,

Faheem Younus Qureshi
Serving Majlis Anṣārullāh, USA

The fiscal year of Majlis Anṣārullāh ends on December 31. Members are urged to pay their Anṣār Chanda as soon as possible. Jazākallāh.

Anṣār membership dues: 1% of yearly (take home) income; or \$2/month for non-earning members

Ijtimā' dues: 1/8th of total Anṣār Chanda; or \$1/month for non-earning members

Publication dues: \$10 yearly; non-earning members: none

A Glimpse into Ijtimā' 1-1-1-1



A Nāṣir Wins an Emmy Award

Members of Aḥmadiyya Community have previously won a Nobel Prize, Grammy Award, Rhodes Scholarship. Well, add to the list.

Our dear brother Hamid Sheikh who has a PhD in electrical engineering from the University of Texas, Austin was awarded an Emmy Award in Engineering (yes, there is such a category). He received his award on October 28.

For those of us who may not know Hamid much, here are the details. He is a devout Aḥmadī Muslim who has served the Jamā‘at in various capacities for over two decades. He currently serves as the Tarbiyat Secretary for Dallas Jamā‘at as well as the Gulf region, and teaches in Dallas Jamā‘at Tahir Academy. We spoke to him via phone and here are his responses:

Anṣārullāh: So tell us about this great news.

Hamid: I graduated with a PhD in Electrical Engineering in 2004. Back when I started my PhD, I worked with my good friend and senior Zhou Wang, who was the lead researcher on the project, towards the development of Structural Similarity (SSIM) metric. Fast forward about 12 years, and our research team was selected to receive an engineering Emmy award. It is a very prestigious and rare award that I did not even know my professor had nominated the team for. Not only is it rare, it is also unusual award as almost everyone associates Emmy awards with acting & directing and not with the technology that enables television broadcast.

Anṣārullāh: When did you come to know about winning the Emmy for Engineering?

Hamid: Just out of the blue I got an email a few weeks ago that we were selected. Due to the terms and conditions of Emmys, I could not disclose it earlier. All through that period, I felt stunned, not knowing how to comprehend this big news. I couldn't even tell my wife right away.

Anṣārullāh: How does someone win this award? Like, is there a process for it?

Hamid: Well, again, I had no idea about it. The same paper had won a Best Paper award many years ago. Now we are getting recognized for the same work due to its impact on the television industry. Like all awards, there is a process involved where someone nominates a company or an individual (or team) for their contributions, and the Emmy committee evaluates the nomination. This year, our professor decided to pursue it and nominated the team for it without even telling us. He figured it was such a shot in the dark that he didn't feel he needed to make a big deal by involving the rest of us.

Anṣārullāh: What exactly was your paper about?

Hamid: The research was on the topic of image and video quality. As humans, perception of quality is very natural. For example, when your TV stream gets all pixilated, you can almost immediately and unconsciously observe it and complain about it. However, to a computer, all pictures are equal: good quality ones and bad quality ones. Making a computer determine the quality of an image or video is very hard. "Quality assessment" technology tries to automatically determine if the quality of an image or video has been degraded during capture, recording, transmission, or display process. People had been working in this domain for 30+ years before us, but Alḥamdulillāh SSIM turned out to be hugely successful and game changing technology. Here is the exact detail:

Award for Zhou Wang, Alan Bovik, Hamid Sheikh, and Eero Simoncelli for Structural Similarity (SSIM) Video Quality Measurement Model

Structural Similarity (SSIM) is an algorithm for estimating the perceived quality of an image or video. Its computational simplicity and ability to accurately predict human assessment of visual quality has made it a standard tool in broadcast and post-production houses throughout the television industry. SSIM uses powerful neuroscience-based models of the human visual system to achieve breakthrough quality prediction performance. Unlike previous complex error models that required special hardware, it can be easily applied in real time on common processor software. SSIM is now a widely-used perceptual video quality measure, used to test and refine video quality throughout the global cable and satellite TV industry, and directly affects the viewing experiences of tens of millions of viewers daily. [Source: 67th Engineering Emmy Awards press release]

Anṣārullāh: So many people chase these prestigious awards all their life but they don't win. Here you are who never had a "mission" to win an Emmy and yet you have won this award. Why and how?

Hamid: Only Allāh knows, and I don't know what to say or how to answer this question. During the weeks where I couldn't disclose this news publicly, I had good time to think about the exact same question, and I can only accept it as Allāh's will, and absolutely zero pursuit on my part. Mathematicians will tell you that it is not possible to get anything out of zero, but only Allāh can multiply zero into something so grand. It is the prayers of Ḥuḍūr (may Allāh be his helper) and my family and elders, and Allāh's reward for the service I did for the Jamā‘at—the opportunity and capacity for



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which also came from Allāh's Grace. But then there are so many people more devout and serving than me. So I am still speechless. It is nothing less than a miracle, you know. It is really a miracle. What else can you call it?

Anṣārullāh: Who did you tell about this award first?

Hamid: I told my wife, called a friend, and then wrote a letter for prayers to Ḥuḍūr.

Anṣārullāh: What happens next?

Hamid: I guess, I will now go to California at the end of October for the ceremony. My mother is also coming. It is a really unbelievable moment. I still want to keep it low key but sharing with my Anṣār brothers for their prayers.

Anṣārullāh: Any other thoughts you would like to share with the readers?

Hamid: I am still struggling to find out Allāh's grand plan in this. I mean what is Almighty Allāh's purpose in me winning this award. That's the biggest question on my mind now. I request all the Jamā'at members to remember me in prayers.

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