

HAAZIM'S STORY

By Mufti A.K. Hoosen

Mufti AK Hoosen embarked on a multi-country tour of South America, inspecting the Islamic infrastructure in various regions and offering encouragement to numerous South African Ulama who have settled in the region.

Ruminating on a touching encounter he had in Venezuela, Mufti AK Hoosen shared the following inspirational story about Haazim, a young Palestinian immigrant whose sincere efforts for Deen have significantly transformed the Islamic landscape of the continent:

Haazim was a young Palestinian brother, whose family settled in South America decades ago. The family was very affluent but also far estranged from the practices of Islam. Allah SWT endowed them with wealth you cannot dream of. They literally own an entire fleet of private jets and aeroplanes.

Subhanallah! A South African Jamaat visits the region, invites the Muslims of the area to Allah, and the entire life trajectory of this family changes.

This young boy, Haazim, develops a soft spot for the visitors and begins to serve them enthusiastically. It is becoming clear that Allah SWT has destined that he be a means of Hidayah for thousands of people.

He associates himself with the ideals championed by the Tableegh Jamaat, and almost immediately draws flak from his own blood. They oppose his affiliation to the Jamaat totally. Matters deteriorate so badly that Haazim is disowned.

Yet, the young man remains steadfast as a rock. He fends for himself and matures. He sells the lone car

that is still registered on his name to raise capital for a journey he is thirsting to undertake. He heads off to the Indian subcontinent to immerse himself in the work and learn the principles of Tabligh.

On his return to Venezuela, fountains of Divine Blessing begin showering upon him. He is selected to represent his country at the International Qur'aan Memorization Competition in Makkah, even though he is not a Haafidh.

He is judged to be the most knowledgeable youngster in Qur'aan in the entire nation. In Makkah, Allah SWT honours him with an opportunity to enter the Ka'bah even though he is barely 20.

All the while, Haazim's relationship with his family remains rocky.

Haazim gets married. Soon, his wife gives birth to a baby girl, Maryam.

Haazim is recognised across Venezuela as the livewire of the effort of Tabligh. His stature is magnified because of his association with an influential and affluent immigrant family.

Then, one day, Haazim inexplicably prepares a copy of his will. There is a Nikah in the family, which his wife requests to attend. He agrees to take her there after he performs Isha.

On his way to the Masjid - the Jamiah Masjid in Valencia - as Allah SWT decrees, Haazim meets up in an accident. Just 26 years old, and his soul is reunited with his Rabb.

There is a secret, as yet unrevealed. His wife is pregnant, but she intended to disclose the good news to him en route to the wedding after Isha.

For one half of his life, he was Ma'soom, and from the

age of 13 he was in the path of Allah, propagating and teaching the Deen.

Haazim is honoured further with the death of a martyr. Thousands of people flock to his funeral and send condolences from all parts of South America. Many attest to having learnt so much about the Deen from this young warrior.

His parents and siblings are ashamed: We opposed our son, but just look how bitterly people are mourning his departure. Look how much honour he has managed to garner.

The family experiences a re-awakening. They now follow in Haazim's footsteps and also align themselves enthusiastically with the work of Tableegh. Their entire fleet of private jets and coffers of wealth are put at the service of the Deen.

One youngster makes so much sacrifice that today South America - Brazil, Argentina, Venezuela and other countries - is dotted with Madaaris and Islamic Institutes bearing Haazim's name.

During my visit, I went to the graveyard where Haazim is buried and made special Dua for this distinguished Da'ee. All the graves surrounding his sported huge tombstones and memorials, but his was totally unmarked. So simple.

You could feel it, that this man was specially accepted by Allah SWT, Insha Allah.

Haazim's wife gave birth, and young Mohammed and Maryam together with their mother, today continue holding aloft the torch of lofty ideals set into blaze by their beloved father.

You must imagine, it could never have been easy for a young man with no feet to stand on, to confront the

pressure of his entire extended family. It would have been immensely difficult.

But Haazim was sincere, he had Istiqamah, and hence became Maqbool(accepted) by Allah SWT.

We make Dua, Allah SWT also makes us Khaadims (Servants) of His Deen
