

Basharaat-E-Ahmadiyya

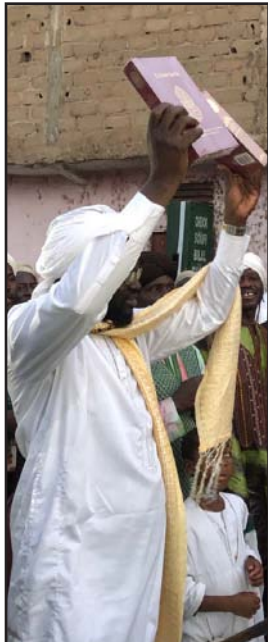
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SPECIAL EDITION

*Opening of the French Holy Quran
in Mali, West Africa,
by Sufi Leader Sheikh Bilal Dialo*



Opening of the French Holy Quran in Mali, West Africa, by Sufi Leader Sheikh Bilal Dialo

Noman Malik

A very exciting day for the Lahore Ahmadiyya Jamaat in Mali, West Africa on Friday 8 February 2019

Samina and I are currently in Mali, West Africa to work out the details for the delivery of 15,000 copies of the French translation of the Holy Quran and 5000 copies of *The Religion of Islam* for free distribution in West African countries. When we had visited Mali, Ivory Coast and Burkina Faso in December 2018, we had presented the French translation of the Holy Quran and *The Religion of Islam* by Maulana Muhammad Ali to the Sufi Sheikh leader, Sheikh Bilal Dialo, and other sheikhs in his Movement. Sheikh Bilal has a large following in the French speaking West African Countries.

He had been greatly impressed by the excellent quality of the translation and the deep spiritual knowledge present in the books, and said that these books were exactly what he had been searching for to use in their schools and educational institutions. Details of the December 2018 visit will be published separately in an upcoming edition of *Basharaat Ahmadiyya*.

Jalsa at the Sufi Sheikh Bilal Organization Center

In this visit, Sheikh Bilal Dialo invited us to a large outdoor Jalsa in the Sufi organization's center in Bamako on Friday afternoon after Jumma Prayers. Approximately 800 people attended the meeting. We were the guests of honor. In his speech, Sheikh Bilal welcomed us and spoke about the work the USA jamaat was doing in spreading the Holy Quran worldwide.

Near the conclusion of his speech, he commenced the official opening of the French Holy Quran by asking Samina to present him two copies of the French Holy Quran which we had brought with us on this visit. Then holding aloft the Holy Qurans for the audience to see, he told them it was a very good translation in excellent French that was extremely close to the Arabic original and had an excellent commentary, all of which would greatly benefit people. He continued with praise for Maulana Muhammad Ali and his service to Islam.



Jalsa audience on Friday

He also praised *The Religion of Islam* calling it an ideal book for studying Islam. He told the audience that 15,000 thousand copies of the Holy Quran and 5,000 thousand copies of *The Religion of Islam* would be delivered soon for free distribution to people. The members of the audience showed their happiness by standing up and enthusiastically exclaiming *Allah hu Akbar! La ilaha illallah* and *Alhamdulillah!*

It was then time for *Maghrib* prayers. After the *Maghrib* prayers, Sufi Sheikh Bilal again picked up the Holy Quran and spoke for about twenty minutes, showing the Holy Quran, and telling them repeatedly how good the translation was and how much it would benefit people. He continued with praises for Maulana Muhammad Ali, adding the respectful title, *Sheikh* before his name. Our hearts were filled with



Sufi Leader Sheikh Bilal Dialo with other speakers



Sufi Leader Sheikh Bilal giving the opening speech



Sufi leader Sheikh Bilal welcoming Samina and Noman



Samina presenting the French Holy Quran to Leader Sufi Bilal



Samina presenting the French Holy Quran to leader Sufi Bilal



Leader Sufi Sheikh Bilal showing the French Holy Quran to the audience and praising Maulana Muhammad Ali



Leader Sufi Sheikh Bilal Kissing the copy of the French Holy Quran



Sheikh Sadjo thanking Samina and Noman for the French Holy Quran



Sufi Sheikh Bilal showing and praising the French Holy Quran again after Maghrib Prayers



Samina and Noman with Sheikh Bilal at the meeting after Maghrib Prayers.

joy and happiness at this sight, and we thanked Almighty Allah for all His help. Samina was in tears while the Sheikh was speaking. This is the first time in history that such great publicity had been given to Maulana Muhammad Ali's Holy Quran in a large Muslim public gathering.

After Sheikh Bilal's speech, we went up to his living quarters where we had a meeting with him, Sheikh Sajo, the chief administrator in the organization, Khalifa Aly, and Sister Ayesha. In the meeting, we discussed the delivery of the Holy Quran and *The Religion of Islam*. They were overjoyed to know that our *Jamaat* in the USA had a large number of books in the French language such as the *Manual of Hadith*, *Early Caliphate*, *Muhammad the Prophet*, *Living thoughts of the Prophet Muhammad*, *Teachings of Islam*, *New World Order*, *Introduction to the Study of the Holy Quran*, *Mohammad in World Scriptures*, *Ahmadiyya Movement*, *Islam the Religion of Humanity*, *The Prophet of Islam*, *Introduction to Islam*, *Muslim Prayer Book*, *History of the Prophets* etc.

Samina was so moved by happiness and joy, that she told the Sheikh that she would send an additional 10,000 copies each of *Islam the Religion of Humanity*, *The Prophet of Islam*, *Introduction to Islam* and *Jihad in Islam* along with the French Holy Quran and *The Religion of Islam* shipment.

We are very impressed by the hospitality of Sufi Sheikh Bilal and his followers who took very good care of us and made us feel completely at home. After knowing about Samina's health problems, Sheikh Bilal provided his own air-conditioned car and driver for our use. We see in Sheikh Bilal the qualities of a great leader who guides and influences his people with humility and kindness. He talks very politely and respectfully to people. He said that when we visit Mali again, we should be guests at his house. May Almighty Allah bless him for his good deeds.

We would especially like to thank Sheikh Sajo and Khalifa Aly for receiving us at the airport and being with us from the day we arrived.

Jumma at the Sufi Center

In the afternoon before the meeting with Jalsa at the Sufi Center, we attended the *Jumma* prayers at their Center. After the *Jumma* prayers, Sheikh Saido delivered a short speech in which he introduced Samina and me and told the

congregation about the *da'wah* work which we were doing world-wide, and about the French Holy Quran and *The Religion of Islam* that the USA Lahore Ahmadiyya *Jamaat* was donating to the their organization. It was a great pleasure for us to meet once again the Sufi members whom we knew from our previous visit.



L to R Khalifa Aly, Noman Malik, Sheikh Sadjo , Samina Malik at the jumma prayers



Sheikh Sadjo discussing the Evening Jalsa with Samina and Noman



Noman and samina with a Sufi Sheikh



Sufi Sheikhs with Samina and Noman at the Mosque

Saturday Jalsa

On Saturday 9th February, Samina and I attended a religious *Jalsa* on the Holy Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) hosted by Sheikh Aboubacar Jiawara. More than a thousand people attended the event. All the major sheikhs were present and many of them delivered speeches.

I was asked to deliver a talk and a closing *dua*. I gave a short talk about our organization's work and expressed our heartfelt thanks for their hospitality and their appreciation for Maulana Muhammad Ali's French translation of the Holy Quran and *The Religion of Islam* and reiterated our commitment to supply them with our literature.



partial view of the audience



Samina and Noman with Sheikh Aboubacar Jiawara

We then had a tour of their mosque and premises. We were very touched by the friendliness and love shown to us by the members of the Sufi Group. They all wanted to shake our hands and take photographs with us. May Allah Ta'ala bless them all for their kindness and hospitality. Ameen!

We thank Almighty Allah for making this visit very productive and beneficial.

This demand for our books is a great opportunity provided by Allah Taala to members of our jamaat to spend in His way and participate in the great spiritual *jihad* which is the objective of our jamaat's existence.



Noman giving a talk and closing dua



Samina moved by Sheikh Jiawara's praise of Maulana Muhammad Ali's French Quran Translation.



Samina telling the Sheikh's about the delivery of the French Holy Quran, Religion of Islam and other books.



Member of the Sufi Group with Samina at the Jalsa



Getting ready for prayer at the French Holy Quran opening Jalsa

Samina has worked very hard for the past twenty years to develop contact in West Africa beginning with Nigeria in 1994 and continuing with Ghana in 2017, and more recently with Mali, Ivory Coast and Burkina Faso. The USA jamaat has sent almost 40,000 English Holy Quran to Nigeria and Ghana for free distribution. The majority of people in West Africa are French Speaking, and we need a greater united effort to disseminate our French Holy Quran and other books in this region.

Funds are greatly needed for printing and shipping the Holy Quran and other books for free distribution. Members are strongly encouraged to participate in this Great *Jihad* by contributing funds for this project.

The first shipment of 15,000 thousand copies of French Holy Quran, 5,000 copies of *The Religion of Islam*, 10,000 copies of *Islam The Religion of Humanity*, 10,000 copies

of *Prophet of Islam*, 10,000 copies of *Introduction to Islam* and 10,000 copies of *Jihad in Islam* will be sent in March 2019, *Inshallah*. Samina and I are funding the entire cost of printing and shipping the French Holy Quran, *The Religion of Islam* and the other books listed above.

The objective is to send 20,000 copies of the French Holy Quran, *The Religion of Islam* and other major books of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Jamaat to West Africa, every year, in order to have a significant impact, *Inshallah*. Your help in funding this project is greatly needed. Members desirous of contributing to this great spiritual *Jihad* may contact Ahmadiyya Anjuman Ishaat Islam Lahore USA at:

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Jazak Allah!