

Coronavirus and Pakistani Ulema: Islamic Hygiene, Conceiting the Halal food and denigrating the Chinese eatery habits (Concept of Hygiene in Islam and Muslim Food)

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Abstract

Traditionally Pakistan and China friendship's bond (strong) is symbolized as Himalaya and sweeter than honey in the same manner on the state level both nations take pride to be known as China's iron brother (Ahani Bhai/Iron brothers). However, despite of the massive investment starting from the construction of Karakorum highway to the installation of hundreds of projects under the CEPC, mutual respect and trust on state level; here lies a gap between the two nations. This study is an attempt to identify a fault line between the (both Governments are not taking it serious) both nations and which will create ruptures between the both nations in coming years. This estrangement lies on religious bases, a huge chunk of Muslims public conceptualize China with religious lens and with the empirical examples from Pakistani Ulemas during the start of Covid-19 pandemic in Pakistan (from February to April till the first lockdown in Pakistan). This study will investigate how Ulema conceptualized Chinese eatery habits and disseminate their understanding through digital durus via YouTube lectures with the prism of Islamic concept of hygiene coupled with the notions of thwart (cleanliness/purity) and najis (ritually /unclean) during the first wave of Covid-19 in Pakistan.

Key words: Covid-19, Pakistani Ulema, Islamic Hygiene, Halal Food, Chinese Food, Najis, Azab

Introduction:

In the early days of Coronavirus Punjab's Chief Minister Usman Buzdar arranged an emergency meeting and invited administrators, doctors, academicians and leading figures from the civil society. The ultimate purpose of the meeting was to ponder upon the unprecedented situation and carve out a plan of action to curb the mounting growth of Coronavirus in the Province. After getting a detailed briefing, Chief executive of Pakistan's most populous province Sardar Usman Buzdar raised a 'simple' question which completely unearths the level of comprehension over Covid-19; "Yeh Corona kaat-ta Kaisay hai? (how does corona bite?"⁴. This consultation was supposed to bring out a substantial plan containing different strategies such as creating awareness among the people and curtail the ongoing flux of misinformation over media and social apps regarding disease⁵, initiate different precautionary measures such as closures of financial, religious and academic institutes and to announce a relief package for the poor strata of the society.

The above-mentioned question indicates the sagacity of the officials who were responsible to run the realm of the public affairs during Covid-19 resultantly; what sanity one can anticipate out of the public to understand the severity of the issue and act upon the precautionary measures. Approximately 96 %

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⁴ Fahd Husain, "Red Zone Files: Who's fighting the Corona war?", DAWN, March 19 2020, accessed on 21 January 2022 <https://www.dawn.com/news/1542078/red-zone-files-whos-fighting-the-corona-war>

⁵ Rebea Firdous, "Misinformation in Pakistan during Covid-19", Friedrich Naumann Foundation, published on 18 December 2020, accessed on 7 January 2022 <https://www.freiheit.org/pakistan/misinformation-pakistan-during-covid-19>

inhabitants of the country are following Islam⁶ and Muslims remain in a quest of following Islamic ideals, traditions and strive to mold their lives in accordance to the Prophetic model. Interestingly, there lies no institution of clergy and complex structures of religious hierarchies in Islam which allows each individual to establish a direct relationship with God.⁷ However, God's words cannot speak by its own and its raises a basic question that how canonical tests – the Quran, Hadith (Prophetic teachings) and, saying of the Imams in the case of Shia Muslims- to be understood and explained?⁸ This religious obligation is being done by Ulema in Muslim societies. They not only construe Islamic commandments and make 'lay' Muslims familiar with the will of Allah but also influence their responses and inspire them to exhibit Islamic religiosity in public life.

Resultantly, Muslims enthusiastically seek advice/opinions from Ulema; Aldona Maria's findings fit so well in this regard that in Muslim world Ulema's estimations are highly respected in comparison to policy makers, doctors and academicians.⁹ Quite interestingly, this consultation got more currency during unrest such as disasters, catastrophes and pandemic¹⁰ consequently, it is important to estimate the significant role of religion in Muslim lives during catastrophes and how religious commandments influence their lives during calamities.¹¹ In addition to it, it is pertinent to examine what stratagem celestial beings device to diffuse their religious comprehension of the catastrophes and how effective those opinions were to motivate their acolytes in forming religious responses while accepting or rejecting natural disasters.¹²

In the case of coronavirus, during the first wave of Covid-19 people came out with multifarious responses based on plethora of socio-religious conceptualization of the pandemic throughout the Muslim societies and being a Muslim country Pakistan was effected by those responses. As compare to Gulf countries, Pakistan hosts a huge number of diverse religious groups following specific sectarian affiliations (Shia and Sunni) and being run under the guidance of highly professional and established networks of Ulema. As per Thomas K Gugler's estimation, almost 70-80 % of Muslim population in Pakistan adheres to Sunni Islam (Sufi/Barelwi 70 %, Deoband % and Salafi/Ahl-e-Hadith 5 %) however; approximately 15-20% Muslim population follows Shia Islam.¹³ Moreover, this sectarian divide inspires Sunnis (especially Salafi-Deobandi) to seek theological, financial and armed assistance from Saudi Arabia and the Shias to look towards Iran and we will restrict our study with the theological persuasion during the first wave of coronavirus in Pakistan.¹⁴

⁶ <https://www.pbs.gov.pk/sites/default/files/tables/POPULATION%20BY%20RELIGION.pdf> (accessed 2 January 2022)

⁷ Yahya Sergio Yahe Pallavicini, (Chapter) *"The Training Programme of Imams in Italy"*, (Book) *"The Study of Religion and the Training of Muslim Clergy in Europe: Academic and Religious Freedom in the 21th Century"*, Editors (William B. Dress and Sjoerd Pieter Koningsveld), Leiden University Press, 2008, P 469.

⁸ Muhammad Qasim Zaman, (Chapter) *"The Ulama and Contestations on Religious Authority"*, (Book) *Islam and Modernity: Key Issues and Debates*, (Editor) Muhammad Khalid Masud, Armando Salvatore and Martin van Bruinessen, Edinburgh University Press, 2009 , p 206.

⁹ Aldona Maria Piwoko, "Islam and the Covid-19 pandemic: Between Religious Practices and Health Protection", *Journal of Religion and Health*, 2021, p 3292.

¹⁰ (Javad Yoosef Lebni and others), *The Role of Clerics in Confronting the COVID-19 Crisis in Iran*, *Journal of Religion and Health*, Springer Nature, (2021), P 2387-94, Published online May 2021.

¹¹ J.C. Gaillard & P. Texier, "Religion, natural hazards, and disasters: An introduction", 2010, 40:2, 81-83

¹² Giansia, A & Le De, L. "The role of religious beliefs and practices in disaster: The case stud of 2009 earthquake in Pandang City, Indonesia", *Disaster Prevention and Managemnet*, Vol. 27 No. 1, 2018, p 74-86.

¹³ Thomas K Gugler, "Attack on the Tolerance of Ambiguity: Pakistan's Barelwiyat between Love of Prophets and Sufislamism." *Conflict Factor Religion? The Role of Religions in the Conflicts in South Asia*, edited by Janet Kursawe and Verena Brenner, Baden-Baden, Nomos, 2013, P. 3.

¹⁴ Shahzeb Ali Rathore, "The Saudi-Iran Factor in Pakistan's Sunni-Shia Conflict", *Middle East Institute*, 30 May 2017, accessed on 17 Januray 2022 <https://www.mei.edu/publications/saudi-iran-factor-pakistans-sunni-shia->

On the eve of Covid-19 in Pakistan, Shias and Sunnis started following their respective Ulema inside and transnationally which opened a spillway of misinformation and confusion in country. Most of the sectarian representatives and spiritual leaders came up with personal opinions towards pandemic such as Iran's supreme leader and Shia's most revered spiritual figure Imam Ayatollah Ali Khamenei explained coronavirus for his acolytes in such words, "Virus is specifically built for Iran using the genetic data of Iranians, which they (the USA) have obtained through different means"¹⁵ on the other hand, few days later Khamenei dismantled the scientific efforts to control Coronavirus in such manner, "the ultimate remedy for the pandemic cannot be attained via science and technology, but through the manifestation of the 12th Imam and Shia Messiah".¹⁶ Moreover, under the influence of Iranian clergy, Iranian Ministry of Health tried to pacify the public by quashing the threats of Coronavirus in Iran.¹⁷ Later on when pandemic started infecting thousands of Iranian, people of clergy came with another rhetoric and portrayed coronavirus as a sign of Imam Mahdi's (the hidden Imam) appearance in physical world. In the same manner an Iraqi Shia scholar Hadi Al-Modarresi presented Covid-19 as Allah's azab on China due to their tyrannical rules over innocent Muslim in China in such manner;

"It is obvious that the spread of this virus is an act of Allah. How do we know this? The spread of Coronavirus began in China, an ancient and vast country, the population of which makes up one seventh of humanity. More than a billion people live in that country. The authorities in that country are tyrannical, and they laid siege to more than a million Muslims, and place them under house arrest. The journalists in that country began to mock the *niqab* of Muslim women and they forced Muslim men to eat pork and drink wine. Allah sent a disease on them and this disease laid siege to 40 million (Chinese people). The same *niqab* that they mocked has been forced on them, both men and women, by Allah, by means of the state authorities and officials. Islam forbade people from eating insects, but (the Chinese) mocked this matter. And there you have it, this disease spread from the world of animal - be it bats, ants, or snakes, the result is the same - to the human world and it has sacred humanity in its entirety."¹⁸

Unfortunately, Hadi got infected of the deadly Covid-19 right after producing the above-mentioned statement.¹⁹ On the other hand, Sunni clerics also came with surfeit of sectarian and racial comments

conflict . For further detail over Shia Sunni conflicts see, Khaled Ahmed , "Sectarian War: Pakistan's Sunni-Shia violence and its links to the Middle East", Oxford University Press, 2011. See Hassan Abbas, "Shiism and Sectarian Conflict in Pakistan", Combating Terrorism Centre, 2 May 2011. See Arif Rafiq, "Sunni Deobandi-Shi'i Sectarian Violence in Pakistan", Middle East Institute, December 2014.

¹⁵ Muhammed Al-Sulami, "Iran regime using superstition and mythology to evade responsibility", ARAB NEWS, 30 March 2020, accessed on 19 January 2022 <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1649971>

¹⁶ Reza Behrouz, "Coronavirus has gone global but in Iran, it's the Khamenei virus", ALARABIYA news, 10 April 2020, accessed on 14 February 2022 <https://english.alarabiya.net/views/news/middle-east/2020/04/10/The-Khamenei-virus>

¹⁷ Mahsa Alimardani & Mona Elswah, "Online Temptation: Covid-19 and Religious Misinformation in the MENA Region", Social Media + society, 6 (3), 2020

¹⁸ "Iraqi scholar prior to being infected with Coronavirus: Virus is Divine punishment against Chinese", MEMRI TV Videos, uploaded on 9 March 2020, accessed on 2 March 2022 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K7BENXxou60>

¹⁹ KC Archana, "Islamic scholar says Coronavirus is 'Allah's punishment', Ends up testing positive for Covid-19", Indian Times, uploaded on 14 March 2020, <https://www.indiatimes.com/trending/wtf/islamic-scholar-coronavirus-allahs-punishment-508355.html>

embedded in theological interpretations about pandemic. A Sunni cleric Ahmad Al-Shahrouri from Jordan contextualized pandemic with the ongoing Israel Palestinian conflict and summed his argument in such manner, “The Jews are more dangerous than Coronavirus, AIDS, cholera, and every disease If you want to be saved from these deadly diseases, we should remember Jihad”.²⁰ Likewise, another Sunni cleric Ahmed Issa al Maasrawi who is affiliated with Al Azhar University explained diseases in such manner, “the viral outbreak came after China isolated more than 5 million Uighur Muslims”.²¹ These transnational sectarian interpretations about pandemic were actively influencing Ulema’s scheme of thought around disease in Pakistan. There is a long list of Shia Ulema which includes scholars like Allama Sayed Ali Raza Naqvi, Allama Asif Raza Alvi, Zakir Ghulam Jafar Jatoo and etc. which were fascinated by the explanations produced by Iranian scholars and they eagerly started constructing that narrative about pandemic in Pakistan. Allama Ali Raza’s *Messiah* oriented interpretation of Covid-19 will remain relevant to discuss at this point. Raza explained Coronavirus as the sign of the appearance of Imam Mahdi in such way; “Each religion has a savior and like other religions Shia Muslims are also waiting for Messiah. I advise you to read *Ziyarat-e-Al-e-Yaseen* daily likewise, made *Ziyarat-e-Ashura* an integral part of your daily routine”.²²

Simultaneously, Sunni clerics in Pakistan also came with more anti-western, Jews and Shia connotations of the pandemic. These biases can easily be traced out of prominent Sufi-Sunni cleric Maulana Fazal Ahmed Chishti’s lectures over Coronavirus. Fazal Ahmed delivered numerous speeches over coronavirus in which he portrayed Covid-19 as human made virus and is being launched by the Western world to unfasten Muslim’s faith from Allah, his messenger (PBUH), the worship places (Kabbah, Mosques and shrines of the Sufi saints) in such manner;

“Believe me this virus has been programmed and launched by Jews and the Christians to evaluate Muslims attached with Islam....Due to the financial and educational institutes, Muslim have already become subservient to the West, now Jews have launched this virus to observe whether Islamic communities quit visiting sacred places (Kabah and mosques) due to the fear of Coronavirus or they still follow Islam? I ask the Jews to opt precautionary measures during pandemic however, contrary to them I advise the Muslim no to act upon western prescribed formulas and keep visiting mosques and seek forgiveness for your sins from Allah”.²³

Politics of Germs:

“It is obvious that the spread of this virus is an act of Allah. How do we know this? The spread of Coronavirus began in China, an ancient and vast country, the population of which makes up one seventh of humanity. More than a billion people live in that country. The authorities in that country are tyrannical, and

²⁰ Alyssa Weiner, “Global Trends in Conspiracy Theories Linking Jew with Coronavirus”, AJC/Global Voice, 1 May 2020, accessed on 17 February 2022 <https://www.ajc.org/news/global-trends-in-conspiracy-theories-linking-jews-with-coronavirus>

²¹ Andrew Hanna, “What Islamists Are Doing and Saying on COVID-19 Crisis”, 14 May 2020, assessed on 26 January 2022 <https://www.wilsoncenter.org/article/what-islamists-are-doing-and-saying-covid-19-crisis>

²² “Allama Asif Raza Alvi (Covid-19= Corona Virus Se Bachao” March 2020 Grace Majalis”, Grace Majalis, 27 March 2020, accessed on 2 March 2022 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FfEZIBpIfJA>

²³ “Corona virus is a secret against Islam. Mufti Fazal Ahmed Chisti”, Inkishaaf-o-Tahqee, 15 March 2021, accessed on 3 February 2022 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D7x_wCVuBII

they laid siege to more than a million Muslims, and place them under house arrest. The journalists in that country began to mock the *niqab* of Muslim women and they forced Muslim men to eat pork and drink wine. Allah sent a disease on them and this disease laid siege to 40 million (Chinese people). The same *niqab* that they mocked has been forced on them, both men and women, by Allah, by means of the state authorities and officials. Islam forbade people from eating insects, but (the Chinese) mocked this matter. And there you have it, this disease spread from the world of animal - be it bats, ants, or snakes, the result is the same – to the human world and it has sacred humanity in its entirety.”²⁴

Iraqi *Aalim* Hadi Al-Modarresi called Coron Aazb on China, However, quite amazingly, Hadi got infected from Covid-19.²⁵

Raw (*Sheng*) and Cooked (*Shu*) Muslim Minorities: Islam, China, and the *Loung Duree*²⁶

Muslim Ulema over Covid as azab from Allah on China²⁷

HALAL FOOD²⁸

Halal-o-Haram from Quran²⁹

“So eat of the lawful and good food which Allah has provided for you. And be grateful for Allah’s favor, if it is He whom you worship. He has only forbidden dead flesh, blood, the flesh of swine, and any animal which is slaughtered as a sacrifice for other than Allah. But if one is forced necessity, without willful disobedience, nor transgressing, then, Allah is pardoning, most Merciful. And do not describe what your tongues have lied about, saying: “This is lawful and this is forbidden, “to invent lies against Allah. Verily, those who invent lies against Allah will never succeed.”³⁰

Halal-o-Haram from Hadith³¹

²⁴ “Iraqi scholar prior to being infected with Coronavirus: Virus is Divine punishment against Chinese”, MEMRI TV Videos, uploaded on 9 March 2020, accessed on 2 March 2022

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K7BENXxou60>

²⁵ KC Archana, “Islamic scholar says Coronavirus is ‘Allah’s punishment’, Ends up testing positive for Covid-19”, Indian Times, uploaded on 14 March 2020, <https://www.indiatimes.com/trending/wtf/islamic-scholar-coronavirus-allahs-punishment-508355.html>

²⁶ Mark Woodward, “Raw (*Sheng*) and Cooked (*Shu*) Muslim Minorities: Islam, China, and the *Loung Duree*”, Ronald Lukens-Bull, and Mark Woodward (eds.), *Handbook of Contemporary Islam and Muslim*, Springer Nature Switzerland, 2021, P 555-574.

²⁷ Andrew Hanna, “What Islamists Are Doing and Saying on COVID-19 Crisis”, Wilson Centre, May 14 2020, accessed on 17 May 2020 <https://www.wilsoncenter.org/article/what-islamists-are-doing-and-saying-covid-19-crisis>

²⁸ Derya Iner and Amina Baghdadi, “Halal Food”, Ronald Lukens-Bull, and Mark Woodward (eds.), *Handbook of Contemporary Islam and Muslim*, Springer Nature Switzerland, 2021, P 747-765.

²⁹ For more detailed on Quran’s commandments over the Halal food please see, Surah *Al-Maidah* verse 1-5, Surah *Al-Baqarah* verse 173, Surah *Al-Anaam* verse 145 and Surah *Al-*

³⁰ The Quran 16:114-16

³¹ For a comprehensive study of Halal-o-Haram from Prophet’s sayings please see, Hadith references and numbers.

“The people of pre-Islamic times used to eat some things and leave others alone, considering them unclean. Then Allah sent his Prophet (PBUH) and sent down His Book, marking some things lawful and others unlawful; so what He made lawful is lawful, what he made unlawful is unlawful, and what he said nothing about is allowable. And he recited: “Say” I find not in the message received by me by inspiration any (meat) forbidden to be eaten by one who wishes to eat it...” up to the end of the verse.”³²

“The Messenger of Allah (PBUH) prohibited the eating of every beast of prey with fang and every bird with a talon”³³

Fang (long pointed teeth) Talon (sharp hooked claws at the end of toes)

Abdullah Shameen (Al-Madinah Islamic research center)

“According to the initial medical observations Covid-19 had developed in different animals like rats, bats, foxes and alligators moreover, if human beings put Allah’s prescribed *halal* foods aside and start eating the above mentioned *najis* (ritually unclean) or *haram* animals such viruses can easily be transformed to human body....The other aspect of virus is attached with *Tawhid ar-Rububiyah* (Maintaining the unity of lordship) and *Tawhid al-Uluhiyyah* or *Tawhid al- Ibaadah* (oneness of worship) so being the obedient servants of Allah; it’s our utmost religious obligation to surrender ourselves and mould our desired accordance to canonical teachings. Being the creator Allah is well aware of the fact that what is good for a human body and what food will turn a strong body into a fragile one and corrupt its moral system resultantly; He warns us not to eat *najis* animals. It is been scientifically proven that each food carries a peculiar *taseer* (efficacy) and if pe

nd immorals effects *najis* animals can bring into to human body. that is why He forbids”³⁴

Abdullah Shammen was refereeing towards Surah Al- Maaidah in such maner, Quran laid stress our eatory habits and what is haala and what is forbien for a Muslim in “W”

“ Forbidden to you are, carrion, blood, and swine; what is slaughtered in the name of any other than Allah; what is killed by strangling, beating, a fall, or by being gored to death; what is partly eaten by a predator unless you slaughter it; and what is sacrificed on alters. You are also forbidden to draw lots for decisions. This is all evil.”“They ask you, ‘O Prophet,’ what is permissible for them ‘to eat’. Say, “What is good and lawful. Also what is caught by your hunting animals and birds of prey which you have trained as instructed by Allah? So eat what they catch for you, but mention the Name of Allah over it ‘first’.” And be mindful of Allah. Surely Allah is swift in reckoning.”³⁵

and list of the things how a muslim will zebah an animal and then eat (list of guidance/guide line <http://miraculousquran.blogspot.com/2009/08/surah-al-maida-53-forbidden-meat.html>)

Pakistan’s Ulema, Xinjiang issue and Pre Covid-19 China

³² Sunan Abi Dawud 3800, In-book reference Book 28, Hadith 65. <https://sunnah.com/abudawud/28>

³³ Sunan Abi Dawud 3803, In-Book reference Book 28, Hadith 68. <https://sunnah.com/abudawud/28>

³⁴ “China Main Azab Aya Tu Islam Sacha Sabit Huwa | China Main Allah ka Azab | CoronaVirus” , Uploaded by Reaction Kudi, uploaded on 29 Jan 2020, accessed on 16 March 2022 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=18bCRW9Ggg4>

³⁵ The Quran 5:3-4

Mufti Tariq Masood (2019)

“Dr Zakir Naik (a renounced Islamic scholar) disclosed the fact that Xinjiang’s Muslims are undergoing through worst persecutions in China and no one dares to condemn it. Chinese administration force Muslims to drink alcohol, break the fast and compel the Muslim women to get married with non-Muslims. Once he discussed these atrocities in an *ijtema* (religious congregation) resultantly; twenty non-Muslims countries showed their reservations over this matter though no Muslim country raised voice for their coreligionists except Turkey. Some Muslim countries preferred opting silence over the issue however; unfortunately, fifteen Muslim countries not only showcased solitary but also appreciated the Chinese atrocities.”³⁶

Mufti Tariq Masood (Sep 2019)

“You are aware of the fact that Chinese are developing a port at Gwadar (city in Balochistan province), a university Professor came to visit me and expressed his displeasure in a way that this project will repeat the history of East India Company and make Pakistan a colony of China. This argument can be validated with the fact that Chinese do not even spare dogs (love eating them) so how can they spare humans (financially)? I discussed this matter in a private meeting with a top notched officer, who is a quite religious personality and is well known for his honesty. He assured me the fact that Government of Pakistan and Pakistan Army had already anticipated that Chinese (investors, workers and other citizens) can create nuisance in our society resultantly, secret organizations have maintained a full record of Chinese and each one of them is under strict surveillance.Lastly, I request you not to put ears over speculations and if Chinese are investing in our country so not doubt their intent and let them work and change the destiny of this region.”³⁷

Mufti Tariq Masood (Jan 2020)

“I came to know about a factory where (Chinese) authorities prohibit Pakistani employees to offer *salah* (prayer). *Salah* might be an irrelevant issue for them however; it is an integral part of Islam and Muslim’s religiosity in this country. I advise you not to procrastinate over this critical issue and to bring this issue in the notice of Chinese administration, explain the significance of *salah* and if they do not put ears over it go for ‘collective’ boycott. When we visit their country we try to be law abiding visitors on the contrary, they earn from our country and dare to implement foreign rule in this land. I ask you to translate this YouTube speech in Chinese and present my message in front of the authorities so that they knew our unflinching attachment with Islam. Unlike us, Chinese do not eat Wheat, they are fond of eating boiled and other wired foods which make them naive and cowards that is why I am asking you to present your religious perspective in an aggressive tune; surely it will solve the matter.”³⁸

*China Arab time line in Pakistan*³⁹ **Four Pakistani students got infected of COVID-19 in China on 29 January 2020 and recovered on 12 February 2020.**⁴⁰

³⁶ “China Mai Musalmanon Per Zulm”, uploaded by Mufti Tariq Masood Speeches , 9 November 2019, accessed on 11 January 2022, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QT4IGXHVTyc>

³⁷ “Gwadar Port-Mufti Tariq Masood- Is China Takeover Us?”, Message TV, 14 Sep 2019, accessed on 17 January 2022 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3RPrvIFCp5I>

³⁸ “Mufti Sahab ke Chinese Language- Funny Mufti Tariq Masood”, HKD Mufti Tariq Masood, 8 Jan 2020, accessed on 21 Jan 2022, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SvasAZgMF2Q>

³⁹ Dawar, (twitter) “Coronavirus timeline in Pakistan, May 11 2020, accessed on 15 September 2020, https://twitter.com/search?q=allah%20ka%20china%20per%20azaab&src=typed_query&f=live

You Tubing and Intra Muslim confrontation for piety over Covid-19

Maulana Nasir Madni: Coronavirus and Politics of *Tawhid*

“Pir of Balawara Shareef (a famous religious site at Kotli Sattian, Muree Punjab) claims to cure disease through exorcise. This is the high time to test his spiritual powers as people are dying out of Corona in China. I request you people (listeners) to arrange a chartered plane for Pir Sahab and send him to Wuhan so that Chinese people get rid of Coronavirus”⁴¹

Allama Nasir Rehmani

“If *Auliyah* are the savior why do not they come to save the humanity from sufferings and atrocities. Moreover, this pandemic is the result of Chinese atrocities over *Uighur* Muslims in Xinjiang likewise, if we (Pakistanis) kept committing *shirk* (polytheism) by associating *Auliyah* with Allah, adultery and do not avoid financial system based over *sood* (interest) it will invite Allah’s *azab* (wrath) over us”⁴²

Engineer Muhammad Ali Mirza

“This is the test of temperament for those *Ulema*’s who used to make you fool by associating super human qualities with saints now I beseech them to come on front and curtail the mounting growth in Pakistan. No one is having this power to invest the treatment of this unprecedented epidemic except Allah”⁴³

Dr Asif Ashraf Jalali (where is your *Tawhid*)

Sayed Ali Irtiza (all viruses can be cured from Ahl-e-Bait except Virus e Bhugaz e Ali)

<https://archive.org/details/Tafsir-e-naeemiUrdu/Tafsir-e-Naeemi-Para10/page/n231/mode/2up> (page, 232)

Facebook comments regarding Chinese brutality in Xingjian

Religious Mgazines on Xinjian Muslims

Ahl e Hadeeth (Muhaddis) November, 2019 (Chini Sobay Xinjiang Main Musalmano key Halat).

Newspaper articles about China, eating habbits, coronavirus and Islam

1- **New York Times**, <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/01/25/world/asia/china-markets-coronavirus-sars.html>

2-

⁴⁰ “A timeline of the spread of coronavirus in Pakistan”, Geo News, 11 March 2020, accessed on 14 March 2020, <https://www.geo.tv/latest/276711-a-timeline-of-the-emergence-of-the-coronavirus-in-pakistan>

⁴¹ “Nasir Madni- Coronavirus- haq khateeb phooka wali sarkar se guzaraish”, uploaded by Hakeem ikram Kahlon, uploaded on 7 March 2020, accessed on 1 March 2022 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sHT7erXZLt8>

⁴² “Corona virus ky asbab aur bachao ka manhaj- Lectures by Abdullah Nasir Rehmani”, uploaded by Abdullah Nasir Rehmani, uploaded on 23 March 2020, accessed on 11 January 2022 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U339woTTM5Q>

⁴³ “Danger of Coronavirus- Science & ISLAM about epidemic Diseases? (Engineer Muhammad Ali Mirza)”, uploaded by Engineer Muhammad Ali Mirza- Official Channel, uploaded on 3 Feb 2020, accessed on 3 March 2022 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LOLILczn9Tk>

“Sino-Pakistan Relations amid the Coronavirus Epidemic”⁴⁴, “The Coronavirus outbreak revealed the weakest link in China-Pakistan relations: people-to-people ties. (2018, total international students were 492,185 out of 28023 students were from Pakistan and third-highest total of any country⁴⁵). Despite of becoming victims of COVID-19 in Wuhan, unlike other countries, Pakistan Government denied to call their students back to Pakistan to show solidarity to their brother nation China⁴⁶.”

1-China Pak relation and Islamic World, “In the current international politics the role of China is significant in many respects. Among the international concepts of Chinese President Xi Jinping the “Shared Destiny and Harmony” is most commendable⁴⁷”

2-PAKISTAN-CHINA RELATIONS “THE Pak-China friendship is described as higher than the Himalayas, deeper than the deepest sea, sweeter than honey by the leadership of both countries.

Pak-China relationship is unique in nature, which the Chinese describe through a particular Chinese terminology “Tie Gee Men Err” or simply “Ba Tie” which can be translated as “Iron Brothers” in English.⁴⁸”

Chinese hygiene⁴⁹

Concept of Hygiene (Taharat) in Islam and Muslim food

(Doctrine of Halal-o-Harm Food)

Mufti Qasim Attari

“Allah is the sole architect of the universe resultantly, He knew the wisdom behind declaring few eatables *halal* (permitted) and ordained few edible foods as *haram* (prohibited) for the people. Atheists and other liberals used to make mockery of Islam and *Ulema* that it is not Allah’s domain to set the menu for the people. They produced false reports and researches to malign Islam for putting Pig in prohibited list and portrayed it as a healthy animal. Now (during Covid-19) humanity understands it well that “Does He, who created, not know”?⁵⁰ Allah knew the hazardous effects of snakes, cats; dogs, penguins and other *najis* (ritually unclean) animals for human health excluded them out of the human menu. Despite of the proven facts, *desi* (local) liberals of our country are still reluctant to accept the validity of Islam’s notion

⁴⁴ Emran Ashraf, “Sino-Pakistan Relations Amid the Coronavirus Epidemic”, The Diplomat, 4 Feb 2020, accessed on April 2020, <https://thediplomat.com/2020/02/sino-pakistan-relations-amid-the-coronavirus-epidemic/>

⁴⁵ “Statistical report on International students in China for 2018”, published by-Ministry of Education The People’s Republic of China, published on 18 April 2019, accessed on 21 April 2020, http://en.moe.gov.cn/documents/reports/201904/t20190418_378692.html

⁴⁶ Web Desk, “Pakistan stands with China in battle against coronavirus, will provide full assistance: FM Qureshi”, THE NEWS, published on 1 Feb 2020, accessed on 11 April <https://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/607458-islamabad-stands-with-beijing-in-battle-against-coronavirus-qureshi-tells-chinese-fm>

⁴⁷ China Pak relation and Islamic World <https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/12509-pak-china-relations-and-the-islamic-world>

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⁴⁹ Barbara Mittler, “Social Distance, Hygiene and the Handshake: a Chinese Proverb”, Centre for Asian and Transcultural Studies, Heidelberg University, Social Distancing in Asia-Inaugural edition- fall 2020, Page 12-13. https://www.uni-heidelberg.de/md/cats/medien/catsarena_no-01_fall-2020.pdf

⁵⁰ The Quran 67:14

of *halal* and *haram* in food. I suggest the authorities to bring snakes, bats and force them to eat *najis* animals in such a way they will surely observe the menacing effects over their bodies.⁵¹

Mufti Tariq Masood

“A *batehzeeb* (civilized) person cannot eat all sort of meat like dogs, cat, bats and etc. Chinese developed this habit of eating *najis* animals out of the massive wars and drastic famines resultantly, now it has become an integral part of Chinese cuisine otherwise even non-Muslims abhor eating such things. How a human being can eat such *gandagi* (disgust/feces)?”⁵²

1- COVID-19, Food Racism and responses of Pakistani Ulama

Khadim Hussain Rizwi

Prior to Covid-19, Khadim Hussain Rizwi used to instigate religious emotions towards China by narrating deplorable conditions of the Chinese Muslims in such manner; “Whole Islamic world shall tell, where peace is? Where is calmness? Everywhere Muslims are in trouble. Ten Million Muslims are in trouble only in China, two millions are of them are in jails. Their daughters are married forcefully with infidels. They are not allowed to read and publish Quran. When Chinese Muslims fast, infidels forcefully pour water in their mouths.”⁵³

Khadim Hussain

“China is such a goon which dares to deny the existence of Allah; they not only hoisted Chinese flags over mosques by declaring it as Chinese properties but also prohibited printing of the Quran in their country. Likewise; Chines have made Millions of Muslims captive in detention centers, installed millions of cameras at homes for surveillance purposes and force Muslims to drink wine and eat pork..... Presently, China is suffering from Allah’s wrath and is incapable of curing Covid-19 and is making excuses by declaring it an unprecedented disease. Oh people, this is the just a slight version of Allah’s omnipotence.”⁵⁴ In addition to it, in the same speech khadim Hussain cursed China and their friends in such words; “Oh Allah, excruciate them and excruciate their friends as well”⁵⁵

Khadim Hussain

⁵¹ Kya Corona Haram Janwar Khane Se Phela?- Mufti Sahab Ne Wajha Bata Di, Darulifta Ahlesunnat, uploaded by Darulifta Ahlesunnat, uploaded on April 9, 2020, accessed on April 12, 2020, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jboHIxGaEA8>

⁵² “china me kutta billi kaise khana shuru hua | Mufti Tariq Masood”, uploaded by Islamic YouTube, uploaded on 24 Sep 2021, accessed on 19 March 2022 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=igU2I-0D4no>

⁵³ “Allama Khadim Hussain Rizvi 2019- Muslims of China and Syria- Latest Bayan with English subtitles”, uploaded by KHR Official, 30 December 2019, accessed on 5 March 2022, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SzRqjA3ukQ0>

⁵⁴ “Coronavirus China in Urdu describe by Allama Khadim Hussain Rizvi”, uploaded by Islami Dunya, uploaded on Feb 2 2020, accessed on 15 April 2020 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5JSDYdMUu0U>

⁵⁵ Arslan Ahmed and Bilal Zafar Rahnja, Journal of Research in Humanities, Vol. 52, No. 2, (2020) Page 158.

“No one has seen Corona yet, it has not existence in physical word and it’s no more than mere media sensation. No one dares to confront it and Muslims have already closed mosques and *haramayn* (two holiest sites of Muslims Makkah and Madina). These were the places which got Prophetic protection that *Dajjal* (the deceiver and commonly known as a false messianic figure) and *Taun* (plague) cannot enter into it. Coronavirus cannot enter into Madina and they (Saudi government) have closed these places to appease the western world.”⁵⁶

(2) Allama Nasir Rehmani

“Although there is no stratification yet which identify the animals which produce this (Covid-19) virus however, majority of such *manhoos* (sinister) viruses are being transmitted by those animals which are being declared as *khabees* (vile) by Islam. We are not ignorant of the fact that Chinese people are very fond of eating *khabees* animals such as dogs, cats, snakes, rats, scorpions etc. Moreover, we have seen the pictures of their markets where different kinds of *najis* (ritually unclean) animals are available in abundance. Certainly eating of such animals became a source of transmitting viruses into humans. Once I read an essay written by a Pakistani engineer which revealed a disgraceful fact about Chinese habit of eating dogs.

Chinese have been eating *khabees* animals since long but no virus had affected them in past however, recently they have invited Allah’s wrath (Covid-19) due to the brutal conduct with innocent Uyghur Muslims. They had occupied the northern Turkistan and are trying to eliminate Islam by closing sacred sites, closing of the mosques and are distorting Islamic culture. They are putting millions of Muslims at detentions centers where Chinese Muslims are undergoing through various atrocities such as bamboos under fingernails, fingernail pulling, and compelled to drink wine and eat pork.Allah cannot ignore the miseries inflicted upon his innocent servants by an atheist and a communist nation which denies His existence. Muslims countries must boycott their trade and must avoid using their goods on individual level to record their protest against their atrocities over Chinese Muslims.”⁵⁷

Engineer Muhammad Ali Mirza

“Covid-19 has nothing to do with the prevailing perceptions such as eating *halal* or *haram* animals, even *halal* animals are also the carriers of different viruses. It’s about how people cook the food; some people cooked fully however some prefer to eat half cooked food. Pakistanis cook food over high intensity of 100 Celsius which almost kills all sort of viruses; on the contrary Chinese eat *haram* food and prefer to eat in uncooked form which ultimately becomes a cause of spearing diseases in human bodies. I knew some Chinese who are fond of eating monkey’s raw (uncooked) brain while alive. Once (2004) I visited China where I experienced snakes, frogs, rats and other animals hanging outside of the Chinese restaurants resultantly, I could not even dare to enter and dine at those restaurants.....But on the other hand, if Chinese eat such things their Government is providing the best available medical facilities to its public

⁵⁶ “Corona aour Fitna e Dajjal- Allama Khadim Hussain Rizvi-Akash Sound Pindigheb”, Akash Sound & Video Production’s, 12 Jun 2020, accessed on 27 Feb 2022 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tcjZ5-ZvqsM>

⁵⁷ “Corona virus ky asbab aur bachao ka manhaj- Lectures by Abdullah Nasir Rehmani”, uploaded by Abdullah Nasir Rehmani, uploaded on 23 March 2020, accessed on 11 January 2022 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U339woTTM5Q>

similarly, we must appreciate the Chinese Government for establishing a gigantic hospital within a short span of one week and devising a comprehensive plan of action to curb the mounting ratio of Covid-19.”⁵⁸

Chinese Food and Racism

<https://www.wellandgood.com/chinese-food-racism-pandemic/>

<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/nation/racism-targets-asian-food-business-during-covid-19-pandemic>

https://www.newsweek.com/coronavirus/avoiding-chinese-restaurants-due-to-unfounded-association-with-coronavirus-is-latest-example-of-racist-consumer-behavior-against-asians-and-asian-americans/?article_id=728031

<https://www.inverse.com/science/the-racist-history-of-msg>

<https://www.eater.com/2017/6/28/15885490/race-food-writing>

<https://www.mei.edu/publications/domestic-and-international-considerations-chinas-halalification-qingzhenfahua>

<https://www.scmp.com/comment/insight-opinion/article/1996452/does-islam-have-answers-chinas-food-safety-problems>

Pir Pinjar Sarkar

“Today I am not visiting you with the intent of *waaz* on the contrary; I am here to reveal the treatment of coronavirus. Oh people; Covid-19 is emerged out of rats and Allah has assigned it a task to demolish the pride of developed nations and reveal them Islam’s truthfulness and superiority all over the world.”⁵⁹

(4) Allama Jawad Naqwi

“These days China is suffering from a severe virus and some non-serious media persons in Pakistan are propagating fake news that this virus emerged of the bats, dogs and other animals.”⁶⁰

(3) Jawad Naqvi⁶¹ (4) Jawad Naqvi⁶² (6) Jawad Naqvi⁶³ (8) Jawad Naqvi⁶⁴

(8) *Indian Reporting on on Corona and Burqa Azab* (1) Indian media reporting, Crona, BurqaAzab⁶⁵ Allama Ali Raza Rizvi on Covid-19, China <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qMxUrzdWh8>

⁵⁸ “Danger of Coronavirus- Science & ISLAM about epidemic Diseases? (Engineer Muhammad Ali Mirza)”, uploaded by Engineer Muhammad Ali Mirza- Official Channel, uploaded on 3 Feb 2020, accessed on 3 March 2022

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IOLILczn9Tk>

⁵⁹ “Peer Pinjar Sarkar New prediction || 03-02-2020 || Azmat e Quran”, uploaded by Peer Pinjar, uploaded on 3 Feb 2020, accessed on 14 March 2022 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5fiszCYGWdk>

⁶⁰ “China mai Coronavirus ki wabaa aur US Propaganda – Jan 2020- Agha Syed Jawad Naqvi”, uploaded by Deen Ul Qayyim, uploaded on 3 Feb 2020, accessed on 18 March 2022 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yZIHIDZtPac>

⁶¹ “Coronavirus (Complete) Ustad e Mohtaram Sayed Jawad Naqvi”, uploaded by Islamimarkaz- Current Affaris, uploaded on 28 Feb 2020, accessed on 23 January 2022 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fn5z1WzP0Vs>

⁶² “Conavirus China aur Iran par Biological Hamla | Ustad e Mohtaram Sayed Jawad Naqvi”, uploaded by Islamimarkaz- Current Affaris, uploaded on 6 March 2020, accessed on 23 January 2022

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CdJx_BvVHI

⁶³ “Corona Virus – Pakistan – China Taawun (Acha Iqdam) – Ustad e Mohtaram Sayed Jawad Naqvi”, uploaded by Islamimarkaz- Current Affaris, 7 Feb 2020, accessed on 26 Jan 2022

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HxMRE5DivWw>

⁶⁴ “Coronavirus – US China Macrobi Jang | Ustad e Mohtaram Sayed Jawad Naqvi, 28 Feb 2020, uploaded by Islamimarkaz- Current Affaris, accessed on 2 Feb 2022 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wCDBMbsn3m4>



⁶⁵ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hV_GJ3cSeCE