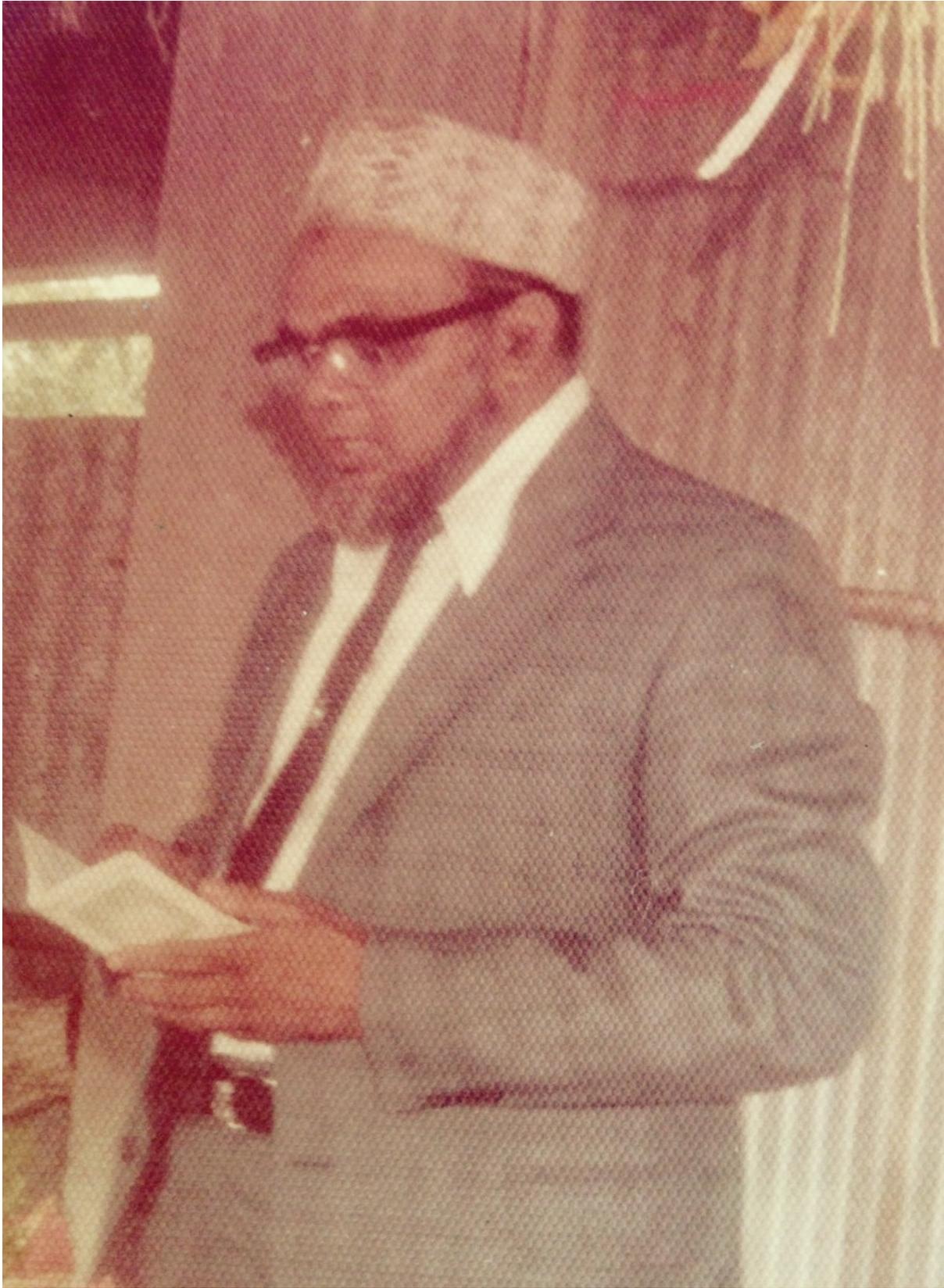


EULOGY OF HAJI KHAIRUL IMAM BAKSH
PREPARED AND DELIVERED BY HAJI AHMAD ALI
AT HIS MEMORIAL SERVICE

PLACE OF BIRTH: BARRACKPORE, TRINIDAD & TOBAGO
PLACE OF BURIAL: BEECHWOOD CEMETERY, VAUGHN, ONTARIO, CANADA



Haji Khairul Imam Baksh b. 9th February 1922 d. 26th December 1986

EULOGY

Mr. Chairman – Haji Zabbar Baksh, Imam Sahiban, Haji Sahiban, Hajin Sahibatan, Haji Khadija Baksh (wife of decease) and family, ex-Justice Noor Hasanali (President of T & T), Dr. Abdool, Maulana Dr. Waffie Mohammed (President General of Rabita), Mr. Farouk Baksh (son of decease), Haji Mohammed Ibrahim (Engineer), Mr. Muradali (Principal), Mr. Ramjohn (ex-Principal), respected Elders, Brothers and Sisters – Assalam O’Alaikum.

**Fathkuroonee athkurkumwashkuroo lee wala takfuroon - So remember Me; I will remember you.
And be grateful to Me and do not deny Me. (Qur’an 2:152)**

With deep sorrow and solemnity I your humble servant wish to submit an eulogy on the life and works of the late Imam Haji Khairul Baksh. In my humble submission I wish to state that through this medium we have the opportunity

- (a) To revive his life history thereby gaining inspiration and motivation
- (b) Sharing and expressing words of sympathy and consolation over the family’s aching loss.

Qaloo inna lillahi wa-innailayhi raji’oon - say, "Indeed we belong to Allah , and indeed to Him we will return." (Quran 2:156)

- (c) To deliver a message,
- (d) To express thanks and appreciation to all.

Personally, I know him in the 1970s when he was in the glamour, very vibrant and the glory of his services. He had already made tremendous accomplishments and created a great impact on the people of Barrackpore where he was born 9th February 1922.

Haji Imam Khairul Baksh was one of eight children- Abdullah, Amin, Sulaiman, Amina, Jassuman, Abderdeen and Azim. Two brothers and one sister are survivors. They worked together as one team in the rice field as well as the sugar cane plantation. The family was closely knitted and Islamically oriented, being one of the founding families of Barrackpore No. 3 Masjid where his father the late Imam Baksh was the first Imam. In the year 1941 at age 19 he was unanimously elected Imam of Barrackpore Jamaat. He was honoured, consecrated and solemnized by the late Haji Ruknudeen Sahib then Shaykh ul Islam of T & T. It was a great day for the Muslims there and also a turning point in his life. He was not only a spiritual and devoted leader but he was a strong dynamic force in the village. He did a great deal

of work in the religion, educational and social field and yet performed his duties as Imam with love and fidelity and servitude.

In May 1940 he married Bibi Khadija Khan daughter of Mr. Habib Khan and Mrs. Hamidan Khan. Having a blessed, faithful, co-operative partner also hailing from a respectful and illustrious family she added more comfort, progress and success in his day-to-day commitments. Her uncle the late Sair Khan was Imam of Bonaza St. Mosque. He too, was a man of nobility, a good exemplar and dedicated to his religion. He served with distinction and excellence.

Qaloo inna lillahi wa-innailayhi raji'oon - say, "Indeed we belong to Allah , and indeed to Him we will return." (Quran 2:156)

Abu Musa said: "Whosoever loves this world injures his hereafter and whosoever loves his hereafter injures his world. So prefer what will last forever to what will perish."

The magnanimous contribution to Islam made by this loyal, devoted servant of Allah cannot be described or expressed adequately neither can it be assessed. The brothers Mr. Zainool Baksh and Mr. Azim Baksh and their wives I have met during the forty days reading and they too are really loving, kind hearted, devoted and respectful. They have given their fullest co-operation. The two sons of the late Haji Baksh – Haji Zabar and Farouk Baksh are stalwarts themselves; they are religiously devoted and very vibrant in the dissemination of Islamic knowledge. To his daughters Hafeeza, Khairon Nisha, Haseenah, Kaneeza, Kanisa, Taslima, Zabeeran and Mazmoon, they are all known for their uprightness in character, hard work and always helpful. He displayed great affection for his children and at all times constantly counseling with them on their affairs and acting as a patriarch worried about his clan. To his sons in law and daughters in law Zena, Shaister, Ashraf, Haniff, Terry, Haroon, Shireen, Faiz, Sheriff, Moonsha and Muru he too extended open arms embracing them all together as a great loving father in law.

Personally I have not met so many blood family relations working diligently and co-operatively in maintaining good family unity and good relationship. What a large family indeed with a loving devoted mother and a blessed father. They have at all times commanded the respect of all. A family of love, peace and harmony, all aspiring to follow in the footsteps of this great noble and humble Imam.

In 1966 the family migrated to Cocoyea Village for the purpose of giving the children a better education. At this time he already accomplished the erection of Barrackpore Muslim School. He served as Manager of that school. He spent a great deal of time in the religion, educational and social welfare of people. He played a dynamic role in the organizing and functioning of makhtaabs in the community. His children are all Islamically educated and are practicing Muslims.

He was also employed with Acme Motor Supplies for 15 years. He and his wife performed Hajj. He served relentlessly and faithfully as Imam for forty-five years. He played a most significant role in performing duties as Imam and Assistant Imam of Barrackpore No. 3, Reece Road, Diamond Village Mosque, St. Madeline, Macoon St. Mosque and served several years as Assistant at San Fernando Jama Masjid.

In his life he was an Agriculturalist, a Sugar Cane Farmer, an Administrator, a Leader, a Teacher, a Father, a Peace Maker, a Religious Worker, a Marriage Officer and an Imam. He performed his duties with dignity and creditability. His wonderful contributions in all categories will remain an indelible memento on the pages of Islamic history.

Certainly he will be raised to the highest rank – Jannat ul Firdous. May Allah be pleased with him. He was affectionately a loving and pleasant father, a sincere and religious devotee, pious and God fearing. He was always ready and willing to respond to the many requests for Quran reading, Mouloud, Aqeeqah, Nikah, Janaza, 40 days reading, making matches for young people was a pleasure, a loyal and devoted friend to all irrespective of race, colour or creed. On numerous occasions he provided shelter to many persons from Holland, Guyana, Mafeking, Princes Town and Pakistan. He shared kind hospitality to them. His doors were always open to all. His services to give relief and comfort to the sick, the orphans and widows were uppermost in his thoughts. Whether day or night, he was bombarded by many requests to make taweez for malju (evil eye sickness), ghost, belly pain, headache, for partnership etc. He illuminated the torch of Islam by his noble example. His dedicated services and love for humanity will always be remembered and cherished. He served unselfishly, devotedly and courageously. He by his glowing personality, purity of character and his eminent leadership sparked everywhere a lovely Islamic environment. He was a man of love, patience, tolerance and fortitude. He gave voluntary service without seeking or demanding financial gains or reward and though on retirement not even a reduced pension or gratuity. From 1965 he was feeling the pinch of ill health but he did not allow this to be an impediment in continuing his services or in his religious contributions and performance. Only when illness or pain became unbearable he would be hesitant but again he would force recovery only to continue his services. Like all human beings he had a challenge, he had problems but in moments of bitterness and trials he was able to maneuver these problems quite amicably thereby resulting in harmony peace and good living. His melodious and voluminous voice so distinctive, attractive and captivating will be missed immensely. His voice was a gift from Almighty Allah by it he was able to electrify his audience with zeal, inspiration and motivation in his deliberation of the message.

Haji Baksh was always immaculately clean, tidy well dressed and regularity and punctuality were well practicing traits in his character. On Friday he was there in the mosque around 11:00 a.m. and engaged in

salatul tasbih, Quran reading meditating or sharing in religious discussions. He looked very delighted and very conspicuous on Jumma days. I must say credit goes to the willingness and helpfulness of his dear wife and loving children. They really treasured him and took great care and pride with him.

Your humble servant has seen these traits being handed down to other generations. Your humble servant takes the grandchildren to maktaab on Saturday at 2:00 p.m. and do you know that from 12 o'clock they are ready and keep on ringing me that they are ready.

A very sad and tragic blow struck this family for within three years six important blood relation members of the family passed away to the Great beyond.

Qaloo inna lillahi wa-innailayhi raji'oon - say, "Indeed we belong to Allah , and indeed to Him we will return." (Quran 2:156)

He too down stricken with pain and illness. He a good and blessed soul was guided and blessed by Allah that he was able to predict his end. On learning that he asked that all his clothing be distributed to the poor, he bade farewell to his relatives, friends and neighbours indicating that he will not return. He told his eldest daughter Mazmoon that she must now take charge and take good care with her mother and see all go well. At a reading (40 days reading) in Cocoyea after the reading he used to say "Oh I am reading Quran but I do not know who will read for me." Before his departure he read the whole Quran, listened to the whole Quran in Arabic and English and made Fatiha. I was invited that day. He said he was going to meet Khadija over there in Canada, we were told that next to his grave was Khadija's grave. He desired to die on Friday and Jumma time he passed away. He went to visit the Hajjin in Cocoyea and said to her. "Lady, Lady I am going to Canada, my son send for me." She asked "What so quick?" He responded "Yes I have to take an operation." She said "Well get better and come back quickly." His clear response was "I am not coming back!"

His wife took the fruit Anaar; he loved the fruit very much. She made tea with it, he took it and said that was the last you will not have to make any more drink for me.

He took off his watch and spectacle and gave to his wife saying "I am a citizen of Canada, no more a citizen of Trinidad." He meant he would die there and be buried there. All these were God given signs but still his beautiful and radiant appearance indicated to us on the morning of his departure that he would return. But Allah knows best. His wishes were achieved. His whole life was embodied in the words of the Holy Quran.

Qul inna salatee wanusukeewamahyaya wamamatee lillahi rabbial 'Aalameen - Say, "Indeed, my prayer, my rites of sacrifice, my living and my dying are for Allah, Lord of the worlds. Quran 6:162

To continue he had a successful eye operation, he was able to see quite clearly but after a few days he could not survive a massive heart attack. On Friday 26th December 1986 he passed away. His passing away was a tremendous blow to all. His brilliant light faded away so quickly. Allah knows best. The way is long and dark, life seemed to be a vacuum, and a spectrum of doom and gloom seem to prevail. A pain so painful to bear and courage difficult to restore but these can be overshadowed and over powered by constant closeness to Almighty Allah.

Allah says in the Quran:

- (a) And declare that the Quran is guidance and healing for the believers. (Quran 41:44)**
- (b) We are closer to him than [his] jugular vein (Quran 50:16)**
- (c) And your Lord says, "Call upon Me; I will respond to you." (Quran 40:60)**
- (d) No soul can ever die except by Allah's leave and at a term appointed and whoever desires the reward of this world, I shall give him of it, and whoever desires the reward of the hereafter I shall give him of it, and I will reward the grateful. (Quran 3:145)**

Again I must reiterate and that is Hajjin Khadija Baksh, she is very devoted, kindhearted and also very energetic. No problem is too difficult; no work is hard to manage. Imam sahib could not achieve without her company. Behind every ambitious man there is a vibrant lady. She co-operated morally, domestically, socially, religiously and courageously. To take care of a family of ten, attending to the needs of the jamaat and no official employment. She with strong determination provided the comfort, the necessities of life, and the encouragement to her husband and to her children. Her job and her responsibility really was a painstaking one. She too did not enjoy health but patiently bore the pangs of grief and deep sacrifices in making ends meet. We deeply acknowledge her willingness and sincere services and wish to express profound thanks for assisting and working side by side with her dear husband in the consolidation of peace, love and harmony for the upliftment of Islam. May Allah shower constant blessings upon her and on the dear soul of her husband and family.

The Holy Prophet (alaihi salaam) is reported to have said: "Whenever a person stands at my grave reading blessings on me, I hear it, whoever calls for blessings on me, in any other place, his every need in this world, and the hereafter becomes fulfilled and on the Day of Qiyamat I shall be his witness and Intercessor."

I must recall that a home without daughters is a dark home and I have seen Mrs. Mazmoon Ali the eldest daughter who is the eyeball and right hand of the mother and father. She is an expert in hard work. She runs her home and also comes here and sees that all goes well here. The other daughters whose services cannot go unnoticed Zabeeran, Haseenah and Taslima, they too worked relentlessly all along in seeing care being taken with their mother and comfort extended out to those who came each night to take part in the Quranic reading. We say thanks to them.

In conclusion, I cannot end without saying Alhamdulillah – All Praise and thanks to Almighty Allah. Thanks to the dear and loving son Mr. Farouk Baksh and his wife for the patience, the willingness, the service they so displayed in Canada to their father and mother. I am told that he is President of the Jamaat there, now elected a Trustee. He is a motivating figure in the jamaat like his father; he is well respected and loved in that jamaat. He was able to get the fullest support and co-operation from that jamaat. The excellent performance of all has resulted in a proper up to date funeral. Everything was done Islamically, orderly, nobly and in a dignified manner. On behalf of Hajjin Khadija and family and on behalf of the Muslims of Trinidad we say jazak Allah khairan – thanks and may Allah bless them abundantly with health and success in this life and success in the hereafter.

I further wish to say thanks to all brothers and sisters, friends, well wishers for the words of sympathy and consolation, for the regular attendance each night to the 40 days reading and the sincere prayers of all. May Allah bless you abundantly.

Allah's angels are at the Gate of Paradise "O! Soul at peace! Return to your Lord, well pleased and pleasing [to Him], Enter you, then, among My devotees! Enter thou My Garden! (Quran 89 27 to 30)" Welcome! Welcome! Peace be unto you!

May Allah shower blessings on the soul of Imam Khairul Baksh, may he be granted peace and forgiveness and blessings let his grave be spacious and illuminated with Nur (light), may his soul cross Pulsarat as fast as lightening into Jannat. May the Holy Prophet (alaihi salaam) be his companion. May Allah have mercy on him. May he drink the water from Al Kauthar. May he occupy the highest place Jannat ul Firdous. Ameen.