



Office of the 54th Dai al-Mutlaq
His Holiness Syedna Taher Fakhruddin

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Head of the Dawoodi Bohra Community

Translation of open letter from His Holiness Syedna Taher Fakhruddin TUS, 54th Dai al-Mutlaq and Head of the Dawoodi Bohra Community to Shehzada Mufaddal Saifuddin.

(The original letter in Arabic and translations in other languages can be found at www.fatemidawat.com)

In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate

30th Ramadan al-Moazzam 1437 AH/ 4th July 2016

To Shehzada Mufaddal Saifuddin,

Salaam (greeting),

When my father and predecessor, His Holiness Syedna Khuzaima Qutbuddin Saheb^{RA}, succeeded the 52nd Dai al-Mutlaq His Holiness Syedna Mohammed Burhanuddin Saheb^{RA} as 53rd Dai al-Mutlaq in Rabiul Awwal 1435H (January of 2014), he wrote a letter to you, inviting you, challenging you to a debate to establish the truth for the sake of the community as to who is the 53rd Dai al-Mutlaq. You did not respond even though he had been Mazoon of Syedna Burhanuddin for 50 years and you had acknowledged his position as Mansoos (successor) for many years with your words and actions, including doing sajda to him and calling him 'Maula'.

After his sad passing away, I, Taher Fakhruddin, the successor of Syedna Qutbuddin and the 54th Dai al-Mutlaq, similarly invited you to a debate so that truth may prevail, and falsehood may be vanquished, as the Holy Quran says.

But again, you did not respond.

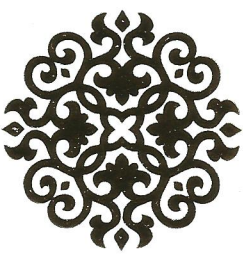
I am now writing to you to inform you that I have filed a Chamber Summons in the Hon'ble High Court of Bombay to be substituted as plaintiff in the Suit filed by Syedna Qutbuddin to continue the fight for truth and righteousness, which are the hallmarks of our faith.

Out of concern for the community, I once again urge you to relinquish your false claim. The doors of repentance remain open for you, and the Gaadi (seat) of the Dai is a Gaadi of Rehmat (compassion).

I pray to Allah to grant you *tawfeeq* (correct direction).

It was Syedna Mohammed Burhanuddin — the noble and most learned Dai, the sun among Duaat Mutlaqeen and your father, who appointed Bawajisaheb Syedna Khuzaima Qutbuddin in the *rutba* (spiritual rank) of Mazoon ud Dawat and anointed him Mansoos. You know that fully well. You acknowledged this position for many years and learnt from Syedna Qutbuddin at the behest of your father Syedna Burhanuddin.

It is with pride that I state that Bawajisaheb served Burhanuddin Maula and the principles of our faith as Mazoon and Mansoos with sincerity, devotion and humility – and as a spiritual mother for mumineen (community members) – for 50 years. After the sad demise of



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Burhanuddin Maula, Bawajisaheb Maula, with selfless dedication and sacrifice, fulfilled the duty entrusted to him by Syedna Burhanuddin. As 53rd Dai al-Mutlaq, he served the Dawat of the Imam, preserving its sacred principles of truth, pursuit of knowledge and compassion, for generations to come.

On 17th Shaban 1385H (December 10, 1965), Burhanuddin Aqa performed *nass* (appointment as successor) in private on Bawajisaheb Maulana Qutbuddin. Following this private appointment, he sent out a clear sign (*ishara*) in public of that *nass* so that the discerning and the learned understood; you prostrated in sajda to Bawajisaheb thereafter for almost 25 years and told people that sajda can only be done to a Dai. You also addressed him and Syedna Burhanuddin together as 'Bewe Maula' (Both Maulas), and prayed for both of them together for their long lives till Qiyamat.

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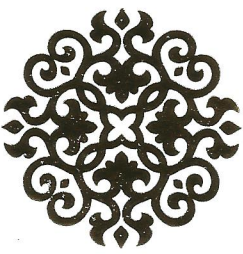
There are a number of points that I wish to directly raise with you:

I was shocked that on 4th Rajab 1432H (June 4, 2011), just after Syedna Mohammed Burhanuddin suffered a serious stroke, Shehzada Qaidjohar announced that Burhanuddin Maula had appointed you as his successor.

I could not believe this, as I had seen and learnt about the indications that Burhanuddin Maula gave of my father Syedna Qutbuddin being his Mansoos. I had also seen these indications in the most holy occasion of Burhanuddin Aqa's 100th Milad waaz in Saifee Masjid, Mumbai – just two months before he suffered the severe stroke – when he showed whom he favoured and whom he did not. After calling Bawajisaheb first and foremost to approach him and embrace him with both hands, he actually stopped you when your turn came after Shehzada Qaidjohar, not once, but twice, from ascending his pulpit and embracing him. This made it amply clear that he did not approve of you and your ways.

On the Urus (death anniversary) of Syedna Taher Saifuddin RA, 19th Rajab 1432H (June 20, 2011), when I saw a video of the event at Raudat Tahera, it became apparent that this entire sequence of events had been orchestrated, taking advantage of the ill-health of Aqa Burhanuddin. The unsuspecting audience across the world at large was deceived. Dr. Moiz Nooruddin, the personal physician and son-in-law of Burhanuddin Maula who was supposed to be looking after Burhanuddin Maula, betrayed his trust in the most crass and crude way, by making repeated unsuccessful attempts to cause Burhanuddin Maula to pronounce *nass* on you. Finally, desperate, he hurriedly presented a piece of paper to Syedna Burhanuddin to read from. Despite these crass efforts of Dr. Moiz, instead of pronouncing *nass*, Burhanuddin Maula kept asking, "What is this name?"

Dr. Moiz took the mike and of his own accord pronounced that Burhanuddin Maula was saying that he had pronounced *nass* on you, when in fact Burhanuddin Maula had not said this, and Dr. Moiz was the only one who said *nass* was conferred on you.



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In the three long years that you posed as Mansoos, you did not utter one word regarding the alleged 1969 notebook – not even in the so-called ‘*Nass misaal*’ that you disseminated to the community at large. In fact, the efforts on your and your co-conspirators’ part was to try and convince the world that nass was conferred on you on June 4, 2011 (3rd Rajab 1432H), after Burhanuddin Maula’s stroke, and June 20, 2011 (19th Rajab 1432H) in Raudat Tahera. Why these lies? Why this charade from a son of the most noble Burhanuddin Maula? Is there no shame? No conscience?

Your greed to take over what you consider power, but which is in fact a responsibility, and your ill-intent became increasingly apparent when you took step after step to fortify your false claim. You even altered the sacred contents of the Misaaq to have your name inserted as the ‘Mansoos’, which is completely unprecedented in Dawat history. Even Syedna Taher Saifuddin always took the oath in the Misaaq from mumineen that his *Mazoon* was Burhanuddin Maula and never that Burhanuddin Maula was his *Mansoos*. It was in fact you, and not Burhanuddin Aqa, who was responsible for this. Thereafter, you sat alongside Syedna Burhanuddin in official functions above the rutbas of Mazoon and Mukasir, which is not only contrary to the principles of our faith but also unprecedented in our rich multi-centuries history. All this was done taking advantage of the age and ill-health of Burhanuddin Maula who was by then suffering at the hands of you and your co-conspirators.

You, your brothers and Dr. Moiz kept Syedna Mohammed Burhanuddin inhumanly and shockingly without food or liquid for an incredible 48 hours (as the medical records indicate) before admitting him to Cromwell Hospital in London on 29th Jumadil Ukhra 1432H (June 1, 2011). You then exposed an ailing and suffering Burhanuddin Aqa to the rigours of a long-distance London to Mumbai flight within just 15 days of his suffering a severe stroke, transporting him directly from the hospital to an ambulance plane with unholy urgency and desperation.

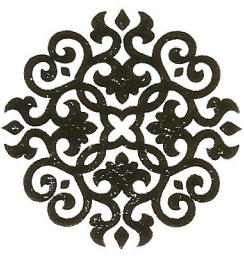
If this abuse of the revered personage of Burhanuddin Aqa were not enough, it was painful to see how Dr. Moiz and you literally manhandled Syedna Burhanuddin during the sermon of Aashura of Moharram 1433H and 1434H, to compel him to perform certain rituals which he was physically unable to do because of his age, infirmity and medical condition. It was shocking to see you sit next to him on the pulpit and speak loudly over him.

Not only that, despite Syedna Burhanuddin’s poor health, you subjected him to the rigours of travel by taking him around India only to further try and bolster your false claim.

How could any son subject his father, let alone the spiritual father of an entire community, to such abuse?

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Following Burhanuddin Aqa’s sad demise, Bawajisaheb Maulana Qutbuddin was required by duty to publicly disclose that Burhanuddin Aqa had performed *nass* on him, and that because of this *nass*, he, Syedna Khuzaima Qutbuddin, was the 53rd Dai al-Mutlaq.



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In line with necessary protocol and decency, one of the first acts of Maulana Qutbuddin was to write a letter to you and inform you of this *nass* of Burhanuddin Aqa; besides, in the letter he invited you to engage in a debate (*munaazarat*) in the broader interest of the community. Maulana Qutbuddin was willing to do this in front of the people, as he clearly expressed. But you chose not to answer; instead, your only response was to curse and malign Bawajisaheb in public, and to allow widespread cursing and maligning in your gatherings, and gatherings authorised by you, and community members were encouraged and even compelled to pronounce curses against Bawajisaheb. Bawajisaheb was hurt by your behaviour, but refrained from retaliation only saying that Burhanuddin Maula had showered upon him numerous blessings and he would not retaliate against Burhanuddin Aqa's children.

I must remind you that this is the very same person whom Burhanuddin Aqa had maintained as Mazoon for 50 years, and whom you, amongst many others had learnt from, done sajda to and called 'Maula' for many years.

I must remind you that emphasizing the high esteem in which he held Syedna Qutbuddin and his sincere service for Dawat, Burhanuddin Maula himself said in a waaz on 7th Moharram 1422H (March 31, 2001) that it is the Mazoon-e-Dawat who "establishes the Dawat of Fatema in partnership with the Dai;" he further said: "The Dai and his Mazoon together are the dutiful servants of the Imam and his Mansoos, and together establish their Dawat."

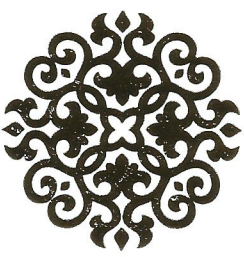
The 5th Dai al-Mutlaq Syedna Ali bin Mohammed bin al-Walid once pronounced that the Mazoon always speaks the truth, whether it goes 'in his favour, or against him.' The 41st Dai al-Mutlaq Syedna Abdu Tyeb Zakiuddin says that the Mazoon is "the truthful, sincere friend" of the Dai.

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Following the precedent of the noble and venerable Dais of our illustrious history, Bawajisaheb Maulana Qutbuddin filed a case against you in the Hon'ble Bombay High Court to restore the honour of the faith and the future of the Dawoodi Bohra Community.

Following the filing of the court case, because you were worried about people realizing the truthfulness of Molana Qutbuddin's announcement and the absurdly unbelievable nature of your claim, almost 6 months after the sad demise of Burhanuddin Aqa, you showed mumineen a video and played an audio recording allegedly of Syedna Burhanuddin in Cromwell Hospital on 3rd Rajab 1432H (June 4, 2011). It is impossible to believe these recordings as well as the other stories you have put forward only after the sad demise of Burhanuddin Aqa about him having conferred nass upon you since 1969.

A short while ago, my revered father, Syedna Khuzaima Qutbuddin Saheb sadly passed away. Following this sad incident, his effigies were burnt publicly at a function presided over by your brothers Shehzada Qaidjohar and Shehzada Qusai. Firecrackers were burst, and a group of students even danced in celebration in the Jamea Saifiya Academy in Surat. It is obvious that this inhuman behaviour could not happen without your approval, if not instruction. For someone who



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claims to be the spiritual fount of a humane and peace-loving community, you did not even consider it necessary to condemn this.

You have been drawing the community away from the noble examples of the Imams and Dais, including the 51st Dai Syedna Taher Saifuddin^{RA} and Syedna Mohammed Burhanuddin, by publicly advocating that girls should not be educated except in home science, that women should stay in a corner of the home, and that husbands should throw their wives out of the house if they do not wear a veil.

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There is an even bigger message that one needs to convey to you.

How can you even claim to be a Dawoodi Bohra after having submitted in the Hon'ble Bombay High Court statements such as the following:

1. You have said that the *nass* of an Imam and Dai can be changed. Every mumin (community member) in childhood itself has been taught that the *nass* of succession is done once with divine inspiration; it can therefore never be changed, and this is the very foundation of the Dawoodi Bohra faith, and the very reason why the community followed Ismail Imam after the 5th Imam Ja'far al-Sadiq.
2. You have gone to the unimaginable extent of suggesting that an Imam appointed his uncle's son as his successor by performing *nass* on him. You must at least know the basic principle of the Dawoodi Bohra faith that an Imam only appoints his son as his successor.
3. You have said that the directions of the 51st Dai Syedna Taher Saifuddin to Syedna Burhanuddin that Syedna Qutbuddin become Syedna Burhanuddin's successor and the 53rd Dai are "irrelevant".
4. You have argued that even if Syedna Burhanuddin did *nass* on Syedna Qutbuddin in private, it is not a valid *nass*. Do you know more than Burhanuddin Maula about how *nass* can be done?
5. You have suggested that *sajda* can be done even to a Shehzada (son of a Dai), and is merely a form of greeting, even though you know that *sajda* can only be done to Allah for worship and to His Prophet, Imam, Dai and Dai-to-be for respect.

I challenge your credentials to be a spiritual leader of our community; I challenge your claim to be a Dawoodi Bohra.

The Quran pronounces: "Say, Truth has come, and Untruth has been vanquished; indeed, it is the nature of Untruth that it will certainly be vanquished."

As Bawajisaheb, as all my predecessor Dais, walked the path of truth, I too walk the same path of truth.

The Servant of the Pure Progeny of the Prophet Mohammed (*Salawatullahe Alayhim*),
The 54th Dai al-Mutlaq Taher Fakhruddin ibn al-Dail al-Ajall Syedna Khuzaima Qutbuddin^{RA}

30th Ramadan al-Moazzam 1437 AH/ 4th July 2016