

The Blessed Footprint and Sacred Nalayn

The Blessed Sandals of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ



Dr. Mohamed Mahmood Begg Naqshbandi

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



786
92

مُحَمَّدٌ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ

The Blessed Footprint and Sacred Nalayn

The Blessed Sandals of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ

Dr. Mohamed Mahmood Begg Naqshbandi

Written with the Permission of his Master,

Maulana Sheikh Mohammed Nazim Adil Al-Haqqani

Al-Qubrusi An-Nasqshbandi

(40th Grand Sheikh of the Naqshbandi Sufi Order)



DR BEGG WITH SHEIKH NAZIM, NORTH CYPRUS, 2006



**MAWLANA SHEIKH NAZIM WEARING
THE NALAYN AMULET IN HIS TURBAN**



*O people
come to him,
come to the way of
Rasul-ullah*



Shaikh Nazim Al-Haqqani an Naqshibandi Rabbani

FOREWORD *by* Maulana Mohammad Shahid Raza OBE

I am delighted to share my appreciation with the readers of this exceptionally unique work, researched and authored by Dr. Mohamed Mahmood Begg Naqshbandi on the topic of The Blessed Footprint and The Blessed Sandal of Prophet Muhammad (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him and his family). We, the people of Ahl-us-Sunnah wa Jama-ah are universally identified by our utmost respect and love for the messenger of Allah (Peace be upon him) and things associated with him. Indeed the great scholars of Seerah (the life history of the Prophet) have always highlighted those valuables (tabarrukat) with a connection to the Prophet (Peace be upon him) that are found in many countries. Historically Sunni Muslims in particular have always held these holy items with great love and significance. Moreover there are authentic texts that highlight the spiritual benefits of such items.

To the best of my knowledge this book is the first of its kind on this interesting and important topic to be written in English. Dr. Begg deserves our warmest greetings for producing this book with so much information on these two relics of our great Prophet (Peace be upon him). I am confident that it will be widely welcomed by all our Masaajid, Ulama, Imams and Islamic teachers throughout the English speaking world.

May I congratulate Dr. Begg for this noble work and his efforts in publishing this book. He has long been involved in many Islamic activities and this will be a highly valuable addition to his dedication and commitment to the work of Dawah within the Muslim community.

(Maulana) Mohammad Shahid Raza OBE
Head Imam, The Leicester Central Mosque, Leicester
President, The World Islamic Mission, European Region

FOREWORD *by* Dr. Irfan Al Alawi

In the Name of Allah All Beneficent Most Merciful

Praise belongs to Allah Who delivers us from afflictions and repels calamities! May the blessings and Peace of Allah be upon our Master and Liege-Lord, our Prophet and Intercessor, Muhammad ﷺ, the beloved who loves and is loved, and upon his Family, Companions, and Friends Awliy'a by means of whom one obtains all that one requests!

“The blessed footprint” is a new book of the historical sites that is faithful to the classical Sunni tradition, and is a guide for the reader. Its pertinent facts stand as a witness to what is happening in the Muslim Holy Land today and bring to life the age-old inherited honour to the blessed footprint and the Nalayn mubarak.

I was and continue to be but one of millions of Muslims who are astonished at what is presently going on in the Muslim world, right under the eyes of the Muslims from the Eastern reaches of the earth to the farthest West. This book is important in educating and reminding us about the irreplaceable historical sites relating to the sacred footprint and the Nalayn mubarak which have been preserved through the centuries.

I ask Allah Most High that He cause this effort to benefit all and grant the author success.

Allah hears supplication and is able over all things!

Dr. Irfan Al Alawi
Executive Director Islamic Heritage Research Foundation
مكة المكرمة

INTRODUCTION

This small book is a result of further inspiration to write about the relics of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ after the author had published his first book, 'The Historical Facts of the Transmission of Moo- e-Mubarak' (The Hair of Prophet Muhammad, ﷺ).

The book is divided into two sections, the first section provides information in relation to the foot print of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ and the second section covers information regarding the sandals of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ and their immense blessings recorded very widely within the Muslim Ummah, particularly those who belong to Ahle-Sunnah wal Jamaat. The fact is that anything which has some connection with Prophet Muhammad ﷺ becomes a source of blessings (SubhanAllah!). The importance of appreciating 'Adab' therefore, becomes extremely important and must never be treated lightly when dealing with any aspect of the personality of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ or any of his relics.

This book provides an overview of the subject without going into too many details so that anyone who reads it can inshaAllah begin to appreciate the value of the relics of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ and why they need to be preserved with respect. Another reason for this publication is to bridge the gap that still

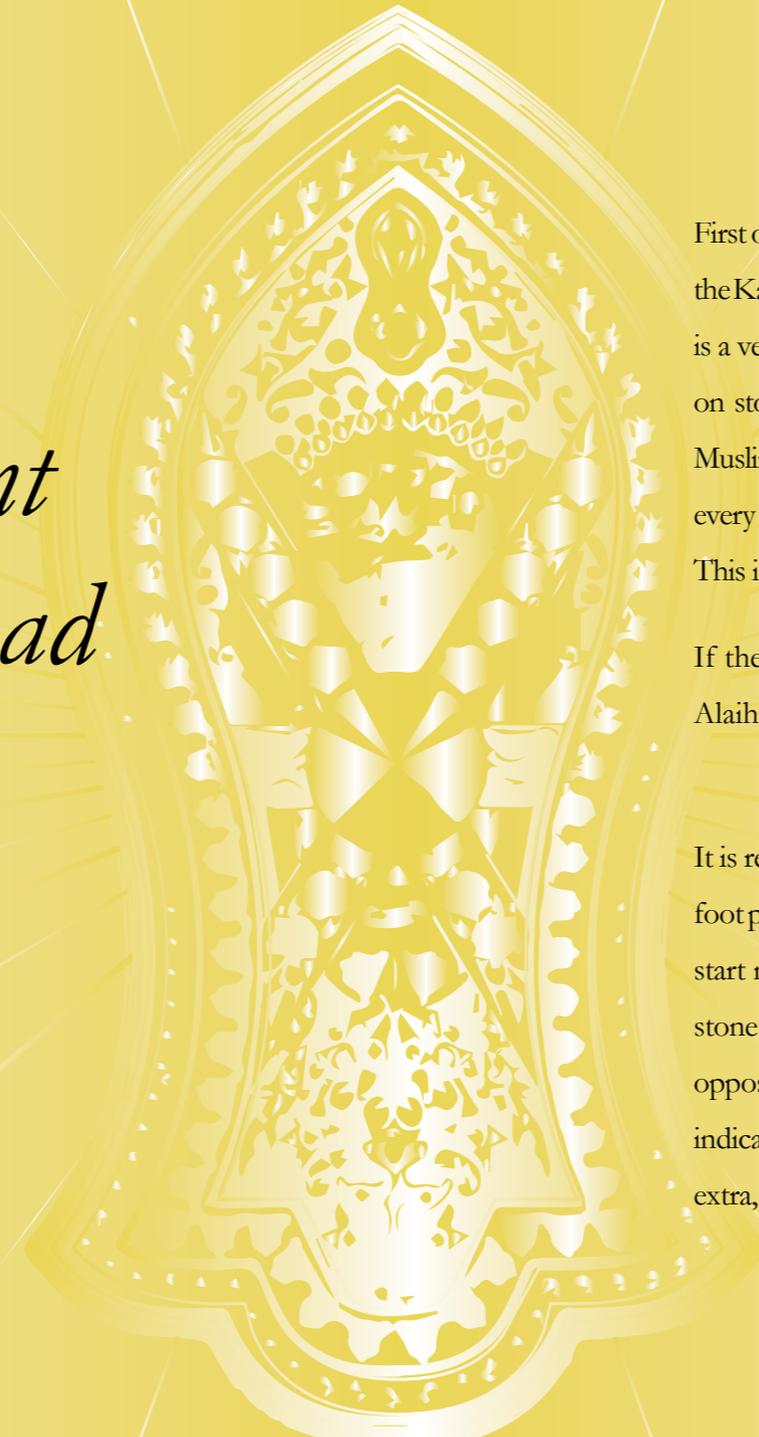
exists within Ahle-Sunnah wal Jamaat regarding Islamic information published in English. This has been particularly felt within the U.K. where the third and fourth generation of Muslims is now growing up. It is therefore hoped that this work will go some way in helping new Muslim generations in the U.K. and other Western countries in enhancing and enriching their Islamic knowledge and the love and respect for Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. Indeed Muslims all over can benefit as English has now become an International language. May Allah ﷻ accept this work in His service and bring us closer to his beloved Sayyiedna Muhammad ﷺ who provides us the best example in all aspects of our lives.

Ameen.

This work has been done purely as sadaqa jaria and has been made available free of charge through the author's website - www.mmbegg.com. This is an ongoing research and the author welcomes any further information which may help in updating this work.

Dr. Mohamed Mahmood Begg, Naqshbandi.
(14th January 2014 - 12th Rabi al-Awwal 1435)

The Blessed Footprint of Prophet Muhammad



First of all it is important to understand and to know that within the main courtyard near the Kabbah in the Haram Shariff in Makkah, there is the famous Maqam-e-Ibrahim. This is a very strong golden cage within which footprints of Prophet Ibrahim Alaihesalaam on stone are preserved since the time he stood at that place while rebuilding the Kabbah. Muslims visiting Makkah are instructed to perform two Rakkat prayers near this place every time they perform Umra, Hajj or complete Tawaff seven times around the Kabbah. This is a clear instruction through the Qur'an and Sunnah of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ.



If the Qur'an and sunnah gives such importance to the footprints of Haz. Ibrahim Alaihesalaam then we have to realise how much importance and blessings there must be in the footprints of the seal of Prophets, Muhammad ﷺ.



It is recorded in hadith books that when Prophet Muhammad ﷺ walked on sand, his foot print could not be seen! However, when he stood on stone for some time, it would start melting and accept his foot print and it became clearly visible as an imprint on stone (Subhan Allah!). (Fatah-al-Mutal). For us ordinary people, the process is just the opposite – while our foot print shows on sand, it never shows on stone. This is a clear indication that Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was not an ordinary man, indeed he was an extra, extra, extraordinary man! He was Rasul-Ullah ﷺ, the most Beloved of Allah ﷻ.

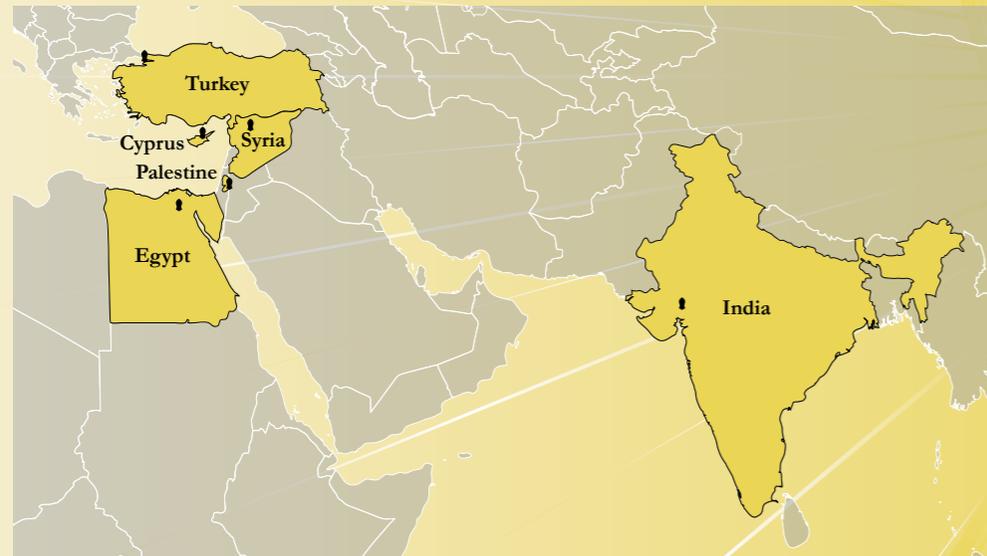


Photo of
Maqame
Ibrahim in
Haram Shariff
(Makkah)

LOCATIONS OF THE BLESSED FOOTPRINT

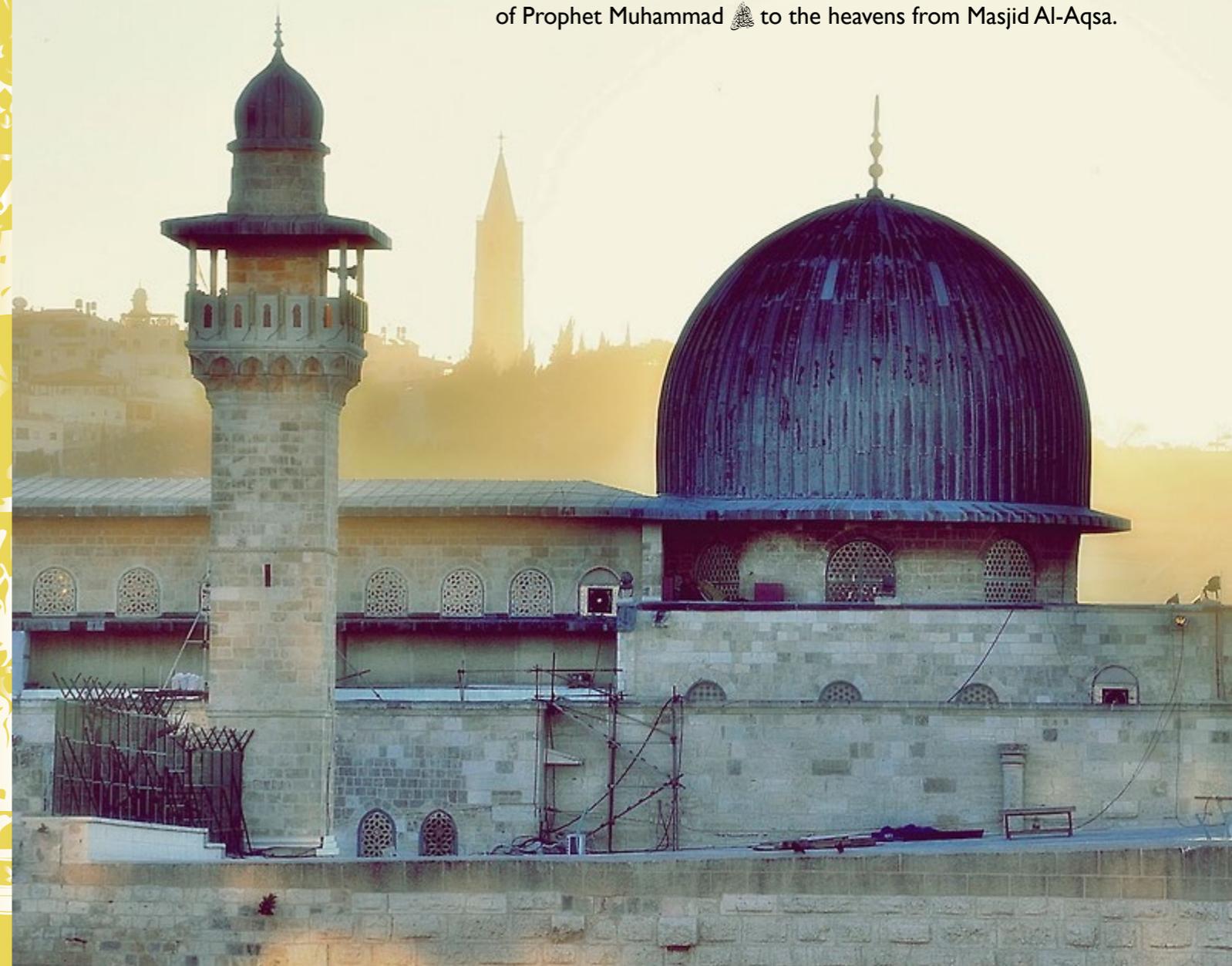
The Blessed Footprint exists in the following countries:

- Palestine - Bait-ul-Maqdis (Al-Aqsa Masjid), Jerusalem
- India - Shah Allam Masjid, Ahmedabad
- Turkey - Topkapi Museum, Istanbul
 - Maqam of Hazrat Ayub Al-Ansari, Istanbul
- Egypt - Imam Shafi'i Masjid, Cairo
 - Maqam of Sayed Ahamad Al Badawi, Tanta
 - Maqam of Sultan Ab-ul-Nassr Mahmudi
- Syria - Al-Karimiya Masjid, Aleppo
- Cyprus - Doganchi Masjid, nr. home of Mawlana Shaikh Nazim, Lefke



Bait-ul-Maqdis (Palestine)

The Footprint here has its origins at the time of the Mehraj journey of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ to the heavens from Masjid Al-Aqsa.





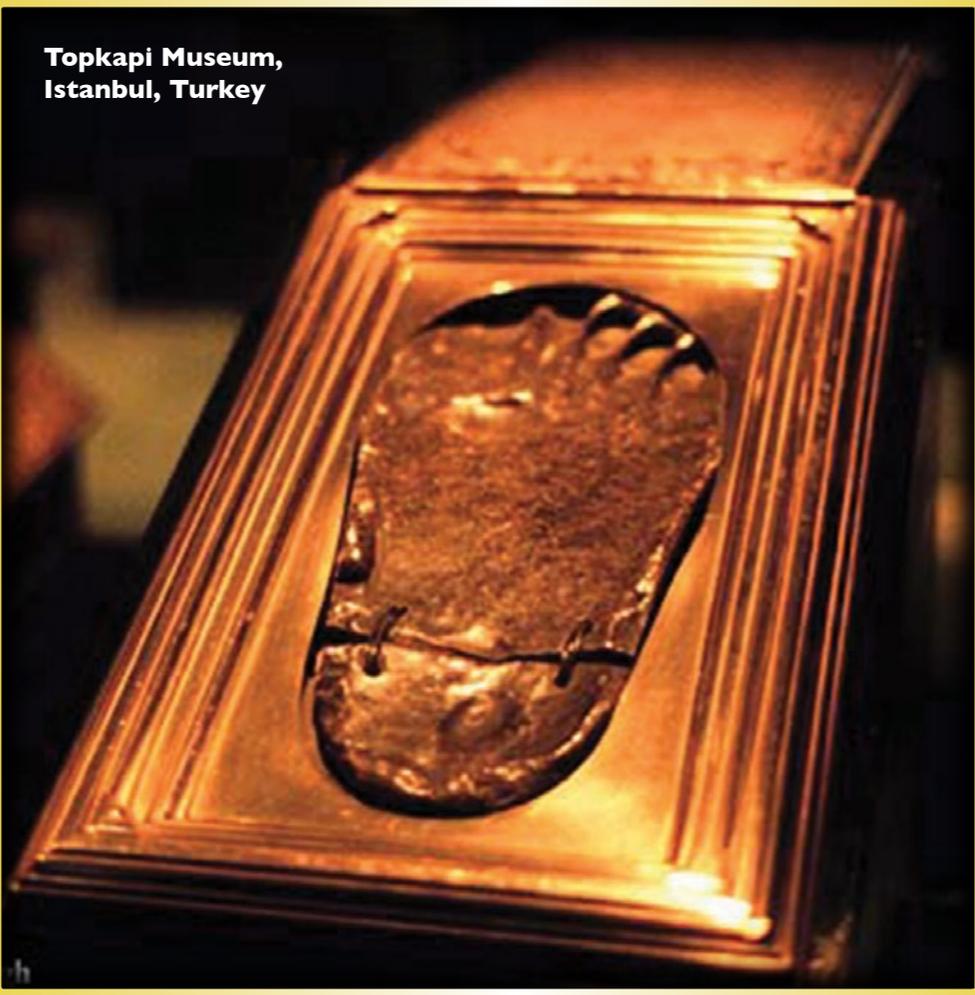
Shah Allam masjid in Ahmedabad (India)

It is narrated that the Footprint discovered here goes back to the time of Shah Allam who was a Hadith teacher.

It is narrated that Shah Allam ؒ used to sit on a swing and teach Hadith to young students. He became ill once and was absent from teaching for three days. When he recovered and returned, he asked the students to begin the lesson from where he had left off. But, the students said that they had not missed any lessons as someone like him used to come and give them their lesson! Shah Allam was truly astounded to here this and wanted to know who was coming to teach in his absence. It is in this quest that he discovered the Footprint of Prophet Muhammad left on the way to the abolution room as this was something that did not exist before. This area was therefore preserved and it was understood that Prophet Muhammed ﷺ himself used to come and teach children during Shah Allam's absence! (Subhan-Allah).

Ref. Maulana M.S. Raza

Topkapi Museum,
Istanbul, Turkey



Footprint inside the Maqam
of Hazrat Ayub Al-Ansari in
Istanbul, Turkey



The shaikhs of the Azhar were people of love and strong belief, and their visit to Imam Shafi'i on Friday was a praiseworthy custom that they were very keen on.

It is narrated on the reason behind it, that Shaikh Ali al-Sa'idi al-'Adawi used to say to his student al-Dardir ؓ : "They say that you see the Messenger of Allah ﷺ frequently. When you see him, ask him about my state." So he did. He saw the Prophet ﷺ saying to him, "He is a righteous man, but he has some coldness toward me."

When Shaikh al-Sa'idi heard this he cried heavily. His student al-Dardir asked him: "What makes you cry?"

He said: "The Messenger of Allah ﷺ is admonishing me for my shortcoming when it comes to going to visit him. I am now old, and cannot bear the difficulties of travel. If you see him again, tell him that." So he did. He saw the Prophet ﷺ say to him: "Tell Shaikh al-Sa'idi that I am at Imam al-Shafi'i's every Friday, from after the Asr prayer until Fajr. Let him come to me there." So Shaikh Ali al-Sa'idi al-Adawi went to the scholars of the Azhar and told this to them, and it became their custom to visit Imam al-Shafi'i every Friday, one group after another, from Asr until Fajr. This was in that radiant age, when scholars were real scholars, and students were real students.

Ref. Dr. Al Alawi

**Detail of the Sacred
Footprints at Sayyid Ahamad
Al Badawi's Mosque in the
city of Tanta in Egypt**

**Dr Begg at the Maqam of Sayyid
Ahamad Al Badawi, in Tanta,
Egypt, May 2013**



Aleppo Mosque of Al Karimiya, Syria



There is a water tap which is above the footprint . Pilgrims drink this water after it has flowed down the footprint, thus becoming blessed water for cure to illnesses.

Historical facts go back to the 1976 war between Turkey and Greece. It is narrated that the Greeks were firing from the air on the village of Doganchi and a Sayed child was hit in the arms of his mother. Before passing away the child said to his mother that ﷺ was coming to take him!. It is narrated that ﷺ lead the salaat Janaza for this child as no one else was available. Later on Shaikh Nazim Al-Haqqani who lives near that area discovered a large stone which has the footprint of ﷺ engraved on it! It is placed near the door of a masjid near the Maqam of this child and it can be seen by visitors. Subhan-Allah.

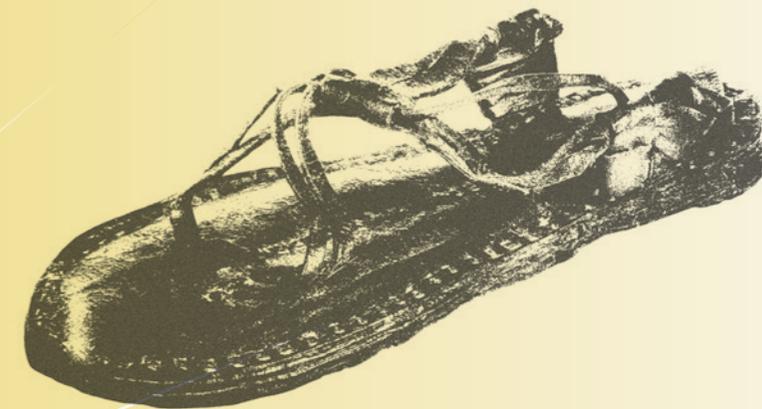
The author has made special journeys to visit Egypt and Turkey and see the footprints in person (SubhanAllah). May Allah ﷻ make it possible for us all to visit and witness the blessed foot print of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ and to discover the history behind the circumstances through which these footprints came to be there and to enlighten our hearts and souls.

Ameen

Sacred Footprint in stone in the village of Doganchi in North Cyprus



*The Sacred Nalayn
Blessed Sandals
of Prophet Muhammad*



*Jo ser pe rakhne ko mil jai Naile Pake Hazur,
to phir kaben ge keh han Tajdar hum bhi hain'*

IF I WAS ABLE TO PLACE THE SANDALS OF HAZUR PAK, ON MY HEAD,
THEN YES, I COULD ALSO SAY THAT I HAVE BEEN CROWNED WITH HONOUR!

Maulana Hassan Raza Khan Bareilvi

It is assumed that the reader has a reasonable knowledge of the Mehraj journey (ascension to heavens) of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. According to authentic hadiths we are informed that when the Prophet ﷺ reached Sidrat al-Muntaha (the final point in this universe) his companion the angel Jibreel Alahe Salaam informed him that he could not proceed any further as his wings would burn. However, Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was invited by Allah ﷻ to approach the 'Arsh to meet with Him wearing his Nalayn. Here we find the origins that illuminate the sanctity of the Nalayn.

HADITH RELATING TO THE SANDALS

Hadith 1

Hazrat Ali ؓ has the honour of being referred to as 'Khasif-al-N' al' (the one who used to tie and untie the sandals of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ).

It is related through Abu Saeed Khudhri ؓ that Prophet ﷺ related that the task of unfolding the deep and hidden meanings of the Ayats of the Qur'an will be done by 'Khasif-al-N'al' referring to Hazrat Ali ؓ. Indeed Haz. Ali ؓ is a well known sahabi who used to explain some of the most difficult interpretations of ayats of the Qur'an and gave legal rulings on some of the most difficult issues.

We should take a moment to understand and reflect from the above hadith, how much Allah ﷻ blessings pour onto those who love, respect and serve Prophet Muhammad ﷺ.

(Ref. Imam Talmisani- Fathul Mutal)

Hadith 2

Hazrat Abdullah bin Masud ؓ is referred to as Sahib-ul-N' al' (the one who used to carry the sandals of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ). Hazrat Abdulla bin Masud had the honour of taking care of the sandals of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. Whenever Prophet Muhammad ﷺ went to a gathering to address the people, Hazrat Abdulla bin Masud used to go with him. When Prophet Muhammad ﷺ took the sandals off before entering into the gathering, Hazrat Adbullah bin Masud used to take these sandals and put them in a leather bag he had and used to sit in the gathering listening to Rasusl-ulAllah ﷺ while clinging the leather bag to his chest! When the meeting ended, he used to take the sandals out of this bag and give them to Rasul-ulAllah ﷺ to wear. Such was the love the sahaba had for Rasul-ulAllah ﷺ.

Subhan Allah!

(Ref. Imam Talmisani- Fathul Mutal)

BLESSINGS FROM THE SANDALS OF PROPHET MUHAMMAD ﷺ

The image of the Prophet's ﷺ sandals is an amulet full of bliss, peace and serenity. At times of stress and grief one should place it on their heart and eyes for its luminous effects. It is a cure for the ill, a pathway to relief for those in anguish, a healing for the pregnant woman at time of birth, strong against the evil eye, and a symbol of security and protection for ships at sea, and property from loss, houses from burning, caravans from hostile attacks. People would use the sandals image for the above mentioned reasons and also for a means of achieving immense blessings in the stations of this world and the hereafter.

Sultan Selim, after his campaign against Egypt in 1517, brought the noble sandals of the Prophet ﷺ to Turkey along with many other blessed relics. These relics were brought from the Mamluk state, Abbasid caliphate and the Hijaz (Makkah and Madina). These relics are preserved till today in Topkapi museum in Istanbul. May Allah bless the Turkish Muslims who collected, protected and preserved these relics thus re-enforcing the Akida of Ahle-sunnah wa Jamaat.

The tribe of Ibn al-Hadid preserved the noble sandals and then they were kept in Jami'ah Ashrafiya, in Damascus. Moroccan travellers such as Ibn al-Rashid came



to Damascus and drew images of the noble sandals to take back for the people in Morocco. These images were then turned into beautiful amulets which the people started keeping with them and in their houses. Because of the blessings and benefits that were realised, this amulet and the tradition spread in the wider Muslim world. May Allah ﷻ give the Ulema from Morocco (Maghrib) high Maqam in Jannah for the efforts and love for the Prophet ﷺ and in spreading this amulet and its blessings in the wider Muslim Ummah (Ameen).

It is recorded that around 1911, the Noble Sandals were brought into India by the courtesy of Pir Muhammad Shah Faridi, a Sheikh of the Chisti Sufi Order, and by its blessings ended a plague which had affected thousands of people. People would rinse them and drink the excess water for healing. Many were healed from the disastrous ailments caused by the plague and this was held as a symbol of their authenticity. On one of the public processions where people gathered bare footed to see the blessed sandals, a group of people scattered broken glass all over the streets overnight, so as to disrupt the event. However, miraculously no-one was harmed. May Allah ﷻ enlighten our hearts with the light of the Noble image and attach our hearts to the Blessed Prophet ﷺ and his relics, Ameen. (IllumiNation, p48-49, 2006).

CONCLUSION

Finally as a conclusion to this work the reader is referred to Surah Yusuf verse 93 in which it is stated that Yusuf Alayhi Salaam told his brothers to go home with his shirt and cast it over the eyes of their father, Yakub Alayhi Salaam and their father would begin to see. Yusuf Alayhi Salaam did not tell his brothers to cast *any* shirt, nor one of their own shirts - he instructed them to cast *his* shirt. They acted according to the exact instruction and as a result their father's sight was restored. This is a clear indication from the Qu'ran itself that anything connected to Prophets becomes a source of blessings. Considering this we can understand how blessed are the relics of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ and are therefore a great source of blessings and peace to those who have sincere love for him. Clearly, there is a great responsibility on those who are fortunate enough to possess them, display them and on those who see them. I pray to Allah ﷻ to give us all that Adab and responsibility that is befitting in these sensitive matters.

As was mentioned in the introduction, this is an on going research and the author would welcome more information from learned scholars and Sheikhs in relation to the relics discussed in this small book.



Dr. Begg at Imam Shafi Masjid,
in Cairo, May 2013

DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to the Pearl for every heart, Guide of my life, the Beacon of my way, my Shaikh Mawlana Shaikh Muhammad Nazim Al-Haqqani. It is also dedicated to my parents – the late Ahmed Ali Begg and Feroza Bibi Begg. May Allah ﷻ grant them a high maqam in Jannah (Ameen) Surat al Fatiha.

REFERENCES

- The Qur'an
The Hadith
Sacred Trusts Book, Ayadin Hilmi (2005)
Fatahul Mutal fi Midha al Na'l, Imam Muhammad Al Muqri Al Talmisani (1994)
Imam Ahmed Raza Khan Barelvi
Maulana Hassan Raza Khan Barelvi
IllumiNation, Munawar Ateeq Rizvi, (p48-49), 2006

Special thanks to Dr. Irfan Al Alawi and Maulana Mohammed Shahid Raza for their support and providing material.



مُحَمَّدٌ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ

Copyright © 2014
Dr. Mohamed Mahmood Begg Naqshbandi
Leicester, U.K.

Email: info@mmbegg.com

January, 2014
12th Rabiul-Awal 1435 A.H.

