

## **THE PEN – A BLESSING FROM THE CREATOR**

FOREIGN STUDENT OFFICERS' QUARTER

[10 FEB 2006 AT 1500-1630]

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ ﴿١﴾ نَحْمَدُهٗ وَنَسْتَعِیْنُهٗ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهٗ وَنُؤْمِنُ بِهٖ وَتَوَكَّلُ عَلَیْهِ وَنَعُوْذُ بِاللّٰهِ مِنْ شُرُوْرِ اَنْفُسِنَا وَمِنْ سَیِّئَاتِ اَعْمَالِنَا  
مَنْ یُّهْدِهٖ اللّٰهُ فَلَا مَضَلَّ لَهٗ وَمَنْ یُّضَلِّهٖ فَلَا هَادِیَّ لَهٗ وَنَشْهَدُ اَنْ لَا اِلٰهَ اِلَّا اللّٰهُ وَحْدَهٗ لَا شَرِیْكَ لَهٗ وَنَشْهَدُ اَنْ سَیِّدَتَنَا وَمَوْلَانَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدَهٗ  
وَرَسُوْلَهٗ ﴿٢﴾ اِمَّا بَعْدُ فَاَعُوْذُ بِاللّٰهِ مِنَ الشَّیْطٰنِ الرَّجِیْمِ ﴿٣﴾ بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ ﴿٤﴾ اِقْرَأْ بِاسْمِ رَبِّكَ الَّذِیْ خَلَقَ ﴿٥﴾ خَلَقَ الْاِنْسَانَ  
مِنْ عَلَقٍ ﴿٦﴾ اِقْرَأْ وَرَبُّكَ الْاَكْرَمُ ﴿٧﴾ الَّذِیْ عَلَّمَ بِالْقَلَمِ ﴿٨﴾ عَلَّمَ الْاِنْسَانَ مَا لَمْ یَعْلَمْ ﴿٩﴾ صَدَقَ اللّٰهُ الْعَظِیْمُ ﴿١٠﴾ اللّٰهُمَّ صَلِّ  
عَلٰی سَیِّدَتَنَا وَمَوْلَانَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلٰی اٰلِ سَیِّدَتَنَا وَمَوْلَانَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَبَارِكْ وَسَلِّمْ ﴿١١﴾

As you already know that I am not an Aleem. I am just a B.Sc. Engineering graduate. I graduated in 1961 from the famous Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) of Dhaka. Then I have worked for two years in a power station. I also had a chance to do a course in England for seven months while serving in English Electric Company. I learnt about transformers, switch gears, diesel engines and alternators etc in different electrical equipment manufacturing factory in different cities of England like Stafford, Liverpool etc. I came back and worked in English Electrical Company for the next six years. After eight years of service in practical life, I joined in BUET as a teacher. I worked there as a teacher for 26 years. I joined as an Assistant Professor and after 26 years, I retired as an Assistant Professor. I had no promotion. What is the fault? Because I didn't go for the M.Sc. Engineering or Ph.D. degree. Allah Subhanahuwata'ala gave me a chance to be a servant of a Sheikh of Bangladesh. His name was Muhammadullah. He is popularly known as Hafezzi Huzur. The word Huzur means honorable and Hafezzi means Hafez (who has memorized the Quran). He was a famous person in Bangladesh and a devout Muslim; simultaneously a Hafez, an Aleem, and a Qari. It was a singularly great blessing of Allah Subhanahuwata'ala for giving me the chance to become a khadem (servant) of this man. As I told you that I worked as an Assistant Professor but I had no promotion in BUET. But, one of his very close friends once told me, 'you have got a chance to remain so closely with such a devout Muslim, may Allah give you much more than that of having a Ph.D.

You can see this young man, whose name is Rezwanul Kabir (was sitting in front). His father is Dr. Lutful Kabir. His father is still alive and serving in BUET. May Allah give him long life! Dr. Lutful Kabir was my student in BUET. I passed in 1961 and he passed in 1982 He is twenty one years junior to me. Then he went to Manchester University, England for Ph.D. degree. He did very well and earned a commendation from his supervisor for his excellent talent and ability. He came back and became a full

professor. Then I took him many places to introduce him. First, I said about him to the Vice Chancellor of BUET. He said, 'Hamid! People in Bangladesh do not give value to these scholars. Forget about it.' Then I took him to the Chairman of Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB). But again nothing happened. I arranged another meeting with Professor Rafiqul Islam Mia, State Minister Energy during Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's government. I introduced him. I told the gathering that he is an extra ordinary brilliant and his Ph.D. supervisor's remark was exceptional for his super ability to generate new ideas. Make use of him. The minister remarks was: 'You have marketed your product alright, but we can not make a deal now.'

Alhamdulillah, my desired opportunity to flourish his ability came later on. He guided three students of BUET for their usual research work. Then they participated in a competition with the American students under IEEE, the most famous professional electrical engineering institution known all over the world. Surprisingly his group came first and an American group came in second. The third group was also from America. For the competition, the topic was 'Pre-Paid Energy Metering' which includes all latest gazettes, micro processors etc. It never happened in the history of Bangladesh that a Professor brought out an idea and the manufacturing facilities built in the Academy. But that has happened in Bangladesh. Vice Chancellor, BUET has given him the space and then he has set up a factory, virtual factory. He has already assembled 5000 pre-paid meters. He has to manage different components for his Pre-Paid meters manufactured in different countries like Malaysia, Thailand, Taipei, Singapore etc. which is a very difficult task. He has an extra ordinary brain. But what I want to mention here is that his son is a Molvee Shaheb. In Bangladesh, Molvees are the poor man who knows only Islam, does not become an engineer, does not become a Major or a Lt Cdr. So for this he is rebuked very often. 'What you have done? You are such a brilliant Ph.D. your son is just a Hafez! You are not planning for him to get any of the modern learning, you are damaging him!'

Alhamdulillah! He was a student of mine in Electrical Engineering. But then, after quite some time when he became a full Professor, he also started moving with me and participated in many discussions like this. My Sheikh with whom I worked as a servant, the grand old man Muhammadullah encourages such discussion session very much. He use to say very often, quoting his own teacher Maulana Ashraf Ali Thanvi, a man of India,

'There is no greater nafal ibadat than setting up religious institutions where the Quran is taught.'

No other nafil prayer, nafil siyum can be equal to this. What is this? Setting up a religious institution where the children are taught to recite the Quran correctly. Then they memorise the Quran, understand the meaning and finally work for Islam. So I am quoting my Sheikh which I have heard many times that there is no nafil ibadat in this century, in this present world which can be more profitable than setting up basic religious institutions where they teach the Quran.

I have recited five verses of the Holy Quran before you at the beginning of my lecture. Those five verses, which all scholars agree, were revealed to our honourable Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) at Jabale Hera.

اقرا باسم ربك الذى خلق \* خلق الانسان من علق \* اقرأ وربك الاكرم \* الذى علم

96:1-5 بالقلم \* علم الانسان ما لم يعلم \*

'Recite in the name of your Lord who created. He created man from a clinging substance. Recite and your Lord is the most generous. He taught by the pen. He taught man what he knew not.' Here the first word is Iqra. I have three Arabs before me. They know Arabic language much better than me. I said I never read in a Madrasa which this young man (Rezwanul Kabir) has done. He became a Hafez. His father has changed his way. He was a brilliant student of Engineering University School which is located at BUET campus. He was a student of class seven. When his father took decision to take him out and give him to a Madrasa to memorise the Holy Quran, O Allah! How he was opposed by his dear and near ones. They used to say, 'you have become a mad! You are a Ph.D. and you are giving your son to a Madrasa! You are taking him out of the school. You are utterly foolish! You are damaging him, damaging his future.' But Alhamdulillah! This young Ph.D. remained behind me. He did not see my Sheikh, but as I use to repeat the Sheikh's quotation again and again, he first gave his elder son and then he also gave his second son to Madrasa.

Allah has given me tawfiq that all of my sons have also become Hafez. But none of them could memorise the Quran in less than three years. This young boy completed it in one and a half years. He became hafez in a record time. Now he is going to complete the traditional course of twelve years in five years at Qawmi Madrasa and the he will become a full Aleem in next year. Just three months ago we went to their village home, about 200 km from Dhaka. Their village is in the district of Pabna. You have to cross the big bridge over river Jamuna, Bangabandu Bridge to reach there. I was delivering a religious lecture before his villagers. I said about this young man Dr. Lutful Kabir (he is not young any more. He has crossed 40). I said that Dr. Lutful Kabir is from your village. He was my student

and he was a very good student. He went for his Ph.D. He brought his supervisor's commendation about his extra ordinary and meritorious performance. Ph.D. is done by many but such certificates are not given to everybody by their supervisors. I took his certificate and went to Vice Chancellor of BUET Dr. Musharraf Hossain Khan, at that time; who is now the Vice Chancellor of Ahsan Ullah Engineering University. I went to the Chairman, BPDB. I was trying to make use of him in such institutions. These are all old stories. But the latest information is, he has given his son to our Madrasa and now he has also set up a small Forqunia Madrasa in his own village where the children of the villages are taught Quran. I told to the villagers that you should be proud of Dr. Lutful kabir who was born in this village. Now his brilliancy has been proved in a competition that his group came first in America. This was a singular honour for Bangladesh. But I want to ask you when he will go to the grave, will he be given any credit by the Malaika in the grave for his such certificates? That so much credit of having Ph.D. in Manchester, so much credit for coming out first with the students of America! Or he will be given credit for the harof of Quran which children are learning here? Because our prophet said, 'I do not say alif, lam, mim is an alphabet. But Alif is an alphabet, lam is an alphabet, mim is an alphabet. You get 10 virtues for uttering the single alphabet.' I talked to the villager, what is your opinion? His son is no longer going to be a lecturer in engineering. His son will not be a Ph.D. holder. His son is going to be an Aleem of Islam, Hafez and Qary. So I suggest if you give me the permission in the middle Rezwanul Kabir will recite from the Quran.

[Then Rezwanul Kabir recited following verses:

اعلموا انما الحياة الدنيا لعب ولهو وزينة وتفاخر بينكم ونكاثر في الاموال والاولاد كمثل غيث اعجب الكفار نباته ثم يهيج  
فته مصفرا ثم يكون حطاما وفي الاخر عذاب شديد ومغفرة من الله ورضوان وما الحياة الدنيا الا لمتاع

57:20  
الغرور

The Arabs! You have must noticed that he has selected some excellent verses, Allahu Akbar! Mashaallah. Rezwanul Kabir recited a verse from Sura Hadid in the 27<sup>th</sup> part of Holy Quran. Allah says, 'Know that life of this world is but amusement and diversion and adornment and boasting to one another and competition in increase of wealth and children – like the example of rain whose [resulting] plant growth pleases the tillers; then it dries and you see it turned yellow; then it becomes [scattered] debris. And in the hereafter is severe punishment and forgiveness from Allah and approval. And what is the worldly life except the enjoyment of delusion.'

[Muhammad Sani from Nigeria started taking video of the lecture unknowingly and it was seen by the Hazrat Muhammad Hamidur Rahman Saheb]

My friend from Nigeria, are you taking photograph? Please do not take any photograph. My Sheikh used to stop it very first. We do take pictures for passport, identity card and other important activities, all right. But please do not do it like a fashion. Do it when it is an emergency.

People now a days want to protect or keep their memory alive. Somebody say, this is the wedding day of my wife, so video must be done. We want to keep it in our memory. This was the first child born to my daughter. We want to keep this occasion alive, take video. But our Sheikh said, has the prophet asked to do something to keep memory alive? Then he could have asked the artist, look! Here I am entering for Fateh Mecca, 8<sup>th</sup> year of Hizrah when he won the Makkah, he could pose, here is Muhammad going for victory celebration at the kaba, draw his picture. Did he ask that? He could have said, protect the memory. No, never he said anything like that.

Well, as I told you earlier, I recited the first five verses from Sura 'Ala. The first word of the first verse is Iqra, recite. The meaning is also taken to be read; read and recite. I want to draw your attention to a singular fact which Allah has given me only day before yesterday through his father Dr. Kabir.

Allah has mentioned about the use of pen in the fourth verse of Sura 'Ala. This verse was revealed to our Prophet (ﷺ). Did he know how to write? No, our Prophet (ﷺ) didn't know how to write. You know the famous incident of Hudaibia. Our Prophet (ﷺ) migrated to Medina. On the sixth year after Hizrah, the treaty of Hudaibia was signed. Hazrat Ali(رضي الله عنه) was the writer. From the Quraish side there was Sohail Bin Amar. They were writing the treaty. Ali started the writing: 'Muhammad Rasulallah.....'

Sohail objected, 'do not write 'Muhammad Rasulallah' rather write Muhammad son of Abdullah. If you write Muhammad Rasulallah, then as if, the Quraish has already agreed to that. But we don't believe in him. So you can't write Rasulallah.' Ali(رضي الله عنه) said, 'No, he is the Prophet of Allah. I must write Muhammad Rasulallah.' So our Prophet (ﷺ) intervened in between. He said, 'Ali! cut Rasullah and write Muhammad son of Abdullah.' Ali (رضي الله عنه) said, 'I can't. Are not you the Prophet of Allah? You are Rasulallah. I have written with my hand. I will not cut it.' It was not his disobedience. It was his love and respect for Islam and the Prophet (ﷺ). Then the Prophet (ﷺ) said, 'show me the places where you have written.' Because he did not know which is ra, he didn't know which is sa. He

didn't know the alphabet! Allah Subhanahuwata'ala has given the Quran to a Prophet, Nabiyyun Ummi. He didn't have any teacher in the world. His direct teacher was Allah Subhanahuwata'ala Himself. So he asked Ali (ؓ), 'give me the pen and show me which part is Rasulullah.' Ali showed him and Prophet (ﷺ) then cut that part. But he himself could not write. Now he said, 'Ali now you write Muhammad Ibn Abdullah.' Was it a defeat for the Muslims? Allah Subhanahuwata'ala declared in the Quran:

48:1 انا فتحنا لك فتحا مبينا

'Indeed, We have given you [O Muhammad], a clear conquest.' So I wanted to point out the first five verses which were revealed to our Prophet (ﷺ). Here the verse number four is of specific mention for today's gathering. Why Allah Subhanahuwata'ala has mentioned, He has taught with the pen and the Prophet does not know how to use the pen. And then,

96:5 علم الانسان ما لم يعلم

'He has taught men what he knew not.' Now I want to narrate a story. The story is about my teaching in my present billet. I have been a teacher for a long time. I taught yesterday also. I retired from BUET. But now I am a part time teacher in Islamic University of Technology, Gazipur. My service limit was up to 62 years. Because my age is more than 62 years, So I retired at 62. Islamic Institute of Technology is controlled, financed and administered by OIC, Jeddah. Only the land in Dhaka has been given by the Bangladesh Government but everything is controlled by OIC, the famous Organization of Islamic Conference. I left BUET in 1995. One of my very famous teacher Dr. Abdul Matin Patwary, he virtually pulled me, 'Hamid, you come with me at OIC. This institution has been set up in the name of Islam. You worked with Hafezzi Huzur (my Sheikh, he also knew him), come with me.' He brought me here. So I worked here full time from 1995 to 2002. Then I retired. After the retirement, they asked me that you have been retired, now come to teach the students part time. I teach there now part time.

Yesterday I took class on power system protection. As you see a sub-station by the side of your Mirpur Cantonment is the area of my teaching. How a fault is detected in a power station? How it is cleared? What the circuit breakers do? What the relays do? These are my concern. But, last year the Vice Chancellor Dr. Fazle Elahi invited me, 'Sir, you teach electrical engineering all right, but this year you have to teach a new subject.' 'What is the name of the subject?' 'The name of the subject is Science, Technology and Islam.' 'Which year students?' 'Fourth year Mechanical Engineering.' Basically I am an Electrical Engineering teacher. I teach usually third and fourth year students about the power

system, power station etc. But now this new subject was given to me. I taught last year fourth year Mechanical Engineering students. This year the Electrical Engineering Head is from Peshawar, Pakistan. His name is Dr. Fazle Karim Yusuf. He approached me, 'the Vice Chancellor has asked that you should also teach Electrical Engineering students.' So this year I take the same class in fourth year Mechanical, fourth year Electrical section A and B.

I taught the subject yesterday also. But the previous evening I went to BUET. I asked his father (Dr. Kabir) that I need some reading materials. I have taught some items from the Quran, but the subject is totally different. Science and technology which has been developed by man and the Quran which has been given by Allah, how can you compare the two? What we can do is to see some fundamentals. What is the teaching of the Quran? Does Quran encourage science? Does Quran encourage observing the universe? I told my students, look at the verse of the Quran,

88:17-18 افلا ينظرون الى الابل كيف خلقت والى السماء كيف لرفعت

'Then do they not look at the camels – how they are created? And at the sky – how it is raised?' I teach my students, does not Allah tell us to look at His creation? Again,

79:27 ءانتم اشد خلقا ام لىسماء بنها رفع سمكها فسوها

'Are you a more difficult creation or is the sky? He constructed it. He raised its ceiling and proportioned it.' Look in sura Qaf, Allah Subhanahuwata'ala is saying,

50:6 افلم ينظروا الى السماء فوقهم كيف بنينها وزينها وما لها من فروخ

'Have they not looked at the sky above them – how We structured it and adorned it and [how] it has no rifts?' These are verses of the Quran. So I asked my students look at the verse in sura Mulk now,

الذى خلق سبع سموت طباقا ما ترى فى خلق الرحمن من تفوت فارجع البصر هل ترى من فطور ثم

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