



# MUSLIM REVIVALISTS

An Inspiration for the Ummah

## Revive Pack

**For Students & Parents**

Discussion | Tips | Activities | Resources



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## Introduction

There are times in life when we feel stuck in a slump. Everything seems disorganized, our issues overwhelming, and we lack motivation to get anything done. We might even start to lose hope and feel dead inside.

But Allah makes a way out for us. We meet someone or come across some inspiration that takes us out of our rut. Slowly or sometimes all of a sudden, we feel a fire in our belly as if someone has breathed life into us, and we again start to do the things we need to for our physical, mental, and spiritual growth.

Just like a single individual, groups and societies also fall into slumps. Allah sent messengers and prophets to guide people out of those downward spirals and to what is best for them. But since His last and final messenger Mohammad (s), is no longer among his community, what do we do?

Of course we have the wisdom of the Quran and the practice of the Prophet (s) still with us to uplift us and provide solutions. But Allah, being infinitely Merciful, has also promised to send us individuals over time that will remind us and inspire us back on to the straight path, if we were to veer off it.

### UPCOMING OFFERINGS: ReMAStEred Podcast Episodes



**Ep. 46: Reflecting on the Life of Dr Yusuf Al-Qaradawi:** Example of a Modern Day Influencer

Guest: Imam John Ederer

Releasing: 11/14

If you have any questions or comments, reach out to us:

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## Islamic Revivalism

Without a concerted effort to understand Islam and ensure its relevance through applying it to pressing issues in our society, how we understand Islam will inevitably drift off course. This digression in understanding has happened at various times in Islamic history. Numerous forces are at work to ensure that the Muslim community abandons the transformative nature of Islam – today they include domineering secular and atheistic worldviews, a collective abandonment of basic moral codes, and deliberate campaigns to dilute and deter Islam’s potential for positive impact at the societal level.

It is our duty to support efforts to revive Islam’s freshness and leverage its principles.

**Prophet Mohammad (s) spoke of a pattern of renewal that comes upon the Muslim ummah every century: “Verily Allah sends to this ummah, at the turn of every century, someone who will renew their religion.” (Abu Dawud 4291; authenticated by al-Albani)**

**This concept of revival and renewal is a critical part of Islam. There are requirements around which this renewal must revolve, the first and most salient being that it must be firmly rooted in the sources of Islam, the Quran, the Sunnah, and the understanding of the Companions and early generations.**

Additional requirements include:

- 1. The original essence must be preserved**
- 2. It must restore something that was neglected or strengthen something that has weakened**
- 3. The rejuvenation and refinement it introduces should not change the original’s essence and must be in complete harmony with the original sources.**

Scholars explain that at the turn of every century, there will be an individual, multiple people, or even a movement of people who will rejuvenate Muslims’ understanding of their religion. There can even be more than one revivalist working in vastly different areas of the planet simultaneously to bring their communities back onto the straight path.



## What Does It Mean To Revive?

**Tajdeed** is the Arabic word from which the concept of **mujaddid** originates. It means to renew, revive, rejuvenate, and restore something to its original state.

Therefore, a mujaddid is someone who has the intellectual capacity to assess the condition of the Muslim ummah correctly and the courage and social skills to provide the solution to their issues based soundly on the Quran and Sunnah while taking into account the current context of the world they live in.

**The 15th-century renowned Shaykh Jalaludeen Suyuti said that doing tajdeed of Islam means “the renewal of its guidance, explanation of its truth, as well as the eradication of evil innovation (bidah) and of extremism or laxity of religion [neglecting Islamic principles/practice].”**

So not only will the reviver reaffirm and remind the believers what Islamic principles mean at their core, but w

**Shaykh Yusuf Al-Qaradawi offers his own succinct and profound definition of revivalism, or tajdeed. He says it is “combining the beneficial old with the appropriate new.”** He expands on this concept to add that revivalism does not mean that one puts their head in the sand to avoid dealing with modernity and a changing world. But it means being open to the outside world without being swept into it and losing our foundation.

## What Qualities Make A Revivalist?

In order to qualify as a mujaddid, or revivalist, one must:

- Have a comprehensive grasp of Islam as a whole and not just one particular school of thought
- Understand the culture and the environment around them; does not live in a bubble
- See new possibilities to address modern problems based on the timeless principles of the Quran and Sunnah
- Create a shared vision, work across divides
- build teams, movements
- Establish ethics and trust and maintain ethics and trust
- Communicate effectively
- Be courageous and willing to struggle to bring about change
- Accept that they won't necessarily see the results of their work in their own lifetime



## What's the difference between a Mujaddid and a Prophet?

**The renowned scholar Taqi Uddin Usmani explains the key differences between a messenger of Allah and a revivalist. He says:**

- Unlike a prophet, a revivalist does not receive revelation
- Unlike a messenger, a revivalist is not infallible, meaning he is not divinely protected from making honest mistakes in religious matters.
- It's not necessary for a mujaddid to know he is one, unlike a Prophet who would know that he was divinely chosen for this role
- A mujaddid does not claim to be a mujaddid
- A mujaddid does not invite others to call him a mujaddid
- It is not a religious obligation for any Muslim to believe that a certain individual is a mujaddid



## Magnificent Past Mujaddids



### **Umar ibn Abdul Aziz** **Umayyad Caliph (7th century)**

- Great grandson of the Caliph Umar ibn Khattab
- Recognized as the first ever mujaddid in Islamic history
- He was the first to officially order the collection of Hadith
- He reversed the trend of luxury and affluence in the ruling class, and restored wealth in the hands of the people
- Known for granting convert non-Arab Muslims the same rights as Arab born Muslims



### **Abu Hamid Al-Ghazali** **Theologian, Jurist, Logician and Pioneering Tazkiya Scholar (11th century)**

- Widely considered to be the mujaddid of the 11th Century
- Critiqued the argumentative and egoistic environment of scholarship at the time
- Authored 'Revival of Religious Sciences', to teach the masses the fundamental spirit of the religion as practiced by the first generation of Muslims
- Authored 'The Incoherence of the Philosophers' as a critique against Muslim thinkers who adopted Aristotelian philosophy



## Nur ad-Din Zenki

### Ruler of Aleppo (11th Century)

- Successfully defended what is now Syrian and some Turkish territories from French and German Crusaders
- He fought viciously against Crusaders who he thought of as invaders and remained fair to the Christian residents living in his lands
- He set up hospitals for the sick, rest houses for travelers, and held audiences with the general public to hear grievances regarding government officials and employees
- Zenki was a mentor of Salahuddin Ayuubi and helped set the stage for him to defeat the Crusaders and regain control of Jerusalem



## Usam Dan Fodio

### Founder and Caliph of Sokoto Caliphate (19th Century)

- He was a scholar, philosopher, and revolutionary
- Fought to liberate Muslims in West Africa from corruption and the paganistic and hypocritical practices of the elite class at the time
- Encouraged literacy for women. Some of his daughters also became scholars and writers
- He wrote 100 books on religion, government and society
- He inspired many other African movements to rise against corrupt rulers



## Abdul A'la Maududi

### South Asian Islamic Movement Founder of Jamaat-e-Islami (20th Century)

- A vocal critic of British colonialism
- Was a part of the Khilafah Movement which opposed the deposition of the Ottoman caliph after WWI
- Educated Indian Muslims about the importance of maintaining a Muslim identity when they faced Westernization/ secularization under British rule, inspiring many other Islamic movement leaders around the world.
- Penned an Urdu and English tafseer of the Quran and wrote extensively about law, philosophy, history, and hadith
- Involved in the establishment and running of the Islamic University of Medina

## Hassan Al-Banna

### Arab Islamic Movement Founder of the Muslim Brotherhood (20th Century)

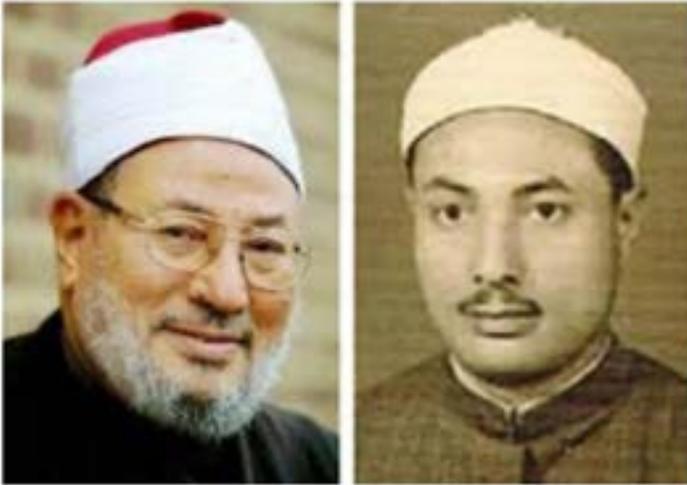
- He started as a school teacher and an imam
- He criticized the British colonization of Egypt and advocated against their Westernizing policies
- He was a proponent of gradually introducing moral reform into society that would allow all segments, including the government, to eventually conduct themselves according to the Shariah
- He disagreed with the elitist approach of religious leaders at his time and advocated meeting lay people at their level. This philosophy helped him amass 1 million followers in Egypt alone, which led the Egyptian secret police to assassinate him
- His movement to revive Islam is considered one of the most successful of the modern era



**Imam Warith Deen Mohammad**  
**American Islamic Movement Leader**  
**(20th-21st Century)**

- African American Muslim theologian, philosopher, and community leader
- He published over 25 books on religion and society
- He was the son of Elijah Mohammad, the founder of Nation of Islam (NOI). After his father's death, he disbanded the NOI and turned it into a traditional Sunni Muslim movement
- He disavowed NOI's black separatist ideology and welcomed members of other races to be a part of his movement
- He is the first Muslim to give an invocation in the US Senate

## Yusuf Al-Qaradawi: A Modern Mujaddid



### Brief Bio

- He was born in 1926 when Egypt was still under British colonial rule
- He was an orphan
- He not only graduated at the top of his class at Al-Azhar University but also attended the institution's primary, secondary, and high schools
- He wrote poignant, eloquent poetry about his love for Islam
- He was considered one of the few global Islamic scholars of the past century
- He passed away in Doha, Qatar in 2022 where he was the chairman of the International Union of Scholars

### Ideology

- Advocated for **Wassatiyyah** – a moderate, balanced approach (middle way)
- Did not ascribe to only one school of thought; referenced various strains of Sunni thought (i.e. Imam Ghazali and Ibn Taymiyyah)
- Studied and championed the **Maqasid as-Shariah**, or goals of the shariah, over simply the literal letter of the law; placed great emphasis on local context in deriving fatawa (legal rulings)
- He advocated “strictness in core matters of faith, ease in side matters and personal struggles.”
- Made Fiqh easier to understand and accessible to a modern audience. His TV show ‘Shariah and Life’ had an estimated 40–60 million viewers.
- He was the leading and most visible scholar proponent of the uprisings against dictatorships in 2011.

## Prolific Writer & Well-Rounded Intellectual

Sh. Al-Qaradawai authored 170 books and publications. His writing spanned a wide range of topics, including:

- Fiqh
- Aqeedah
- Seerah
- Tafseer
- Tazkiya
- History
- Political Science



## Some of his most famous works are:

- Fiqh of Zakat
- The Lawful and Prohibited in Islam
- Islamic Awakening Between Rejection and Extremism
- The Fiqh of Muslim Minorities



## Rulings That Set Him Apart & Demonstrated How He Was Ahead of His Time

- He openly advocated for Islamic (shura) democracies; spoke out against dictatorships
- He was the first to say it was permissible to take out a mortgage for one's primary home in majority non-Muslim countries
- He believed that Muslim women were allowed to work outside the home as long as they observed proper Islamic principles and that common restrictions put on them were more a result of culture than Islam

## Tarbiya Tidbits from Sh. Al-Qaradawi's Life

Sh. Qaradawi was among the leading scholars influenced by the Islamic movement who worked hard to make Palestine a Muslim issue and not an ethnic one.

Even at the age of seven, he had a hatred of any form of injustice. Sh. Qaradawi avoided typical Quran schools in his village because the teachers would hit the kids. Eventually he was taken in by a teacher who never hit.

As a young boy, Sh. Qaradawi's poor uncle pushed him to adopt a vocation - farming, factory work, or a trade. He failed miserably in each of those and wanted instead to be a scholar. But his uncle felt that scholars didn't have a productive future - they confined themselves to academic circles and couldn't earn a living for their families.



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One day, an unknown scholar was passing through their village and he met the young Qaradawi and was impressed by his intelligence and knowledge. When he asked why this young boy wasn't studying at al-Azhar University, the uncle shared his concerns. The scholar asked, "You are a farmer, aren't you? Don't you sow your seeds every season, not knowing which will sprout and which will die? Don't you sow your crops and trust in Allah to deliver the harvest?" This wise advice persuaded Qaradawi's uncle to allow him to pursue his Islamic studies at al-Azhar.

Shaikh Qaradawi traveled throughout the world and was heavily interested and invested in helping and providing direction to Muslims in the West. In the 1980s-90s, he would attend some of the largest gatherings of American Muslims, and he objected to the fact that women were separated from the main program. One year at the MAYA convention, he staged a mini-revolution and marched the sisters from their hotel to join the main program with the men!

Because of his involvement with the Muslim Brotherhood and dawah work, he was able to relate and connect to the masses – unlike the academics and scholars of the time who engaged in scholarly debate and academic teaching. Islamic books prior to the rise of Islamic movements in the Middle East were understandable only to scholars and the highly learned. In 1960, Shaikh al-Qaradawi wrote his Halal and Haram in Islam – a lay Muslim's guide to the commandments of Islam and one of the first Islamic books written for lay people and non-academics.



For many more rich stories and reflections, read Sh. Qaradawi's biography or listen to his interview: (resources in Arabic only)

**Biography:**

<https://www.al-qaradawi.net/node/5050>

**Interview:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TxtBDjmWE8I>

## Activities

### 1. I HAVE A DREAM (IN PICTURES!)



**Age Group** 10 and up

**Materials** Phone or computer, internet access

**Instructions** Participants will divide into groups and then using a phone or computer assemble a slideshow of images that represent what they would hope to see in a revival of Islam in America. Be creative! Group multiple images together to convey ideas.

#### Example



## Activities

### 2. REFLECT ON A PICTURE

**Age Group** 12 and up

**Materials** Photos of influential religious figures or incidents

**Instructions** Show an iconic image and ask the audience to share reflections about the image. After each reflection, the facilitator can share pieces of background info to help the audience reflect and understand what is happening in the picture.

### Samples



Sh. Yusuf Al-Qaradawi leads the funeral prayers of Maulana Abul A'la Maududi in Karachi, Pakistan in 1979.

**Source:** <https://twitter.com/Islam21c/status/1349797871286177800>



Imam Warith Deen Mohammad led a delegation of 300 African American Muslims to Hajj in 1977.

**Source:** [https://www.pbs.org/thisfarbyfaith/journey\\_5/p\\_7.html](https://www.pbs.org/thisfarbyfaith/journey_5/p_7.html)



## Activities

### 2. REFLECT ON A PICTURE (CONTINUED)



When three great contemporary scholars Mufti Taqi Usmani (left) from Pakistan, Shaikh Yusuf Al-Qaradawi (middle) from Egypt, and Shaikh Salman Al-Ouda (right) from Saudi Arabia met in 2012.

**Source:** <https://www.facebook.com/imamomarsuleiman/posts/when-true-scholars-meet-in-this-photo-shaykh-salman-al-oadah-shaykh-yusuf-al-qar/438952792809700/status/1349797871286177800>



Sh. Qaradawi on a TV talk show on Al Jazeera. He was the first scholar to have a TV show making him accessible to the general public in a way no scholar had done so previously. This earned him the title “the people’s shaikh.” He made Fiqh easier to understand and accessible to a modern audience. His TV show ‘Shariah and Life’ had an estimated 40-60 million viewers.

## Activities

### 2. REFLECT ON A PICTURE (CONTINUED)



A newspaper attacks Sh. Qaradawi after his death. The greater the leader the more vicious the attacks; but no one ever was able to attack Sh. Qaradawi's character, ethics, or personal life. That was the big difference between him and other popular leaders.

**Source:** [https://www.arabnews.com/sites/default/files/userimages/17/ann\\_p03\\_28092022\\_ed1\\_000001.jpg](https://www.arabnews.com/sites/default/files/userimages/17/ann_p03_28092022_ed1_000001.jpg)

## Activities



### 3. PEN A DUA FOR ISLAM AND MUSLIMS

**Age Group** 7 and up

**Materials** Scrapbooking paper, pens

**Instructions** Ask participants to write a dua for the revival of Islam and the strength of Muslims. Review the guidelines of dua: begin with praising and thanking Allah and end with peace and blessings on the Prophet. Then fill it with your own words and expressions. Include a dua for how you hope that Allah utilizes you for His sake and for the cause of Islam

## Activities

### 4. LITTLE HABITS

**Age Group** 7 and up

**Materials** None

**Instructions** Share the following quotes on the importance and power of creating small, but consistent habits. Then start a discussion based on the questions that follow.

**Quotes** "Small disciplines repeated with consistency every day lead to great achievements gained slowly over time." - **John C. Maxwell**

"The difference between who you are and who you want to be is what you do." - **Unknown**

"Small daily improvements are the key to staggering long-term results." - **Unknown**

"You will never change your life until you change something you do daily. The secret of your success is found in your daily routine." - **John C. Maxwell**

"Take up good deeds only as much as you are able, for the best deeds are those done regularly even if they are few." - **Prophet Muhammad (s) [Ibn Majah]**.

"The most beloved of deeds to Allah are those that are most consistent, even if it is small." - **Prophet Muhammad (s) [Bukhari]**



## Activities

### 4. LITTLE HABITS (CONTINUED)

**Reflection &  
Discussion**

Imam Aly Lela once asked the son of Sh. Qaradawi how he was able to write over 100 books in his lifetime, while he was traveling the world and doing regular tv shows, leading various councils, lecturing every day, etc. His son said that he wrote in all the in-between moments – while he was waiting to board a plane, in the car, or waiting for a lecture to start. Little habits can be incredibly powerful!

1. Share a little habit that you or someone you know practices.
2. Share how that could amount to something big over time.
3. What other little habits do the greats have?
4. What little habit do you want to start that can help you be better?



## Resources (continued)

### Articles

Who can be a Mujaddid?

<https://islaminsight.org/2020/12/01/the-meaning-of-mujaddid-who-can-be-when-and-where-by-mufti-taqi-usmani/>

Imam Abu Hamid Al-Ghazali

<https://www.imamghazali.org/resources/imam-ghazali-biography>

Hassan Al-Banna

<https://www.islam21c.com/news/72-years-since-assassination-hasan-al-banna/>

Abul A'la Maududi

<https://icna.org/abul-ala-al-maududi/>

### Videos

Mujaddid Every 100 Years

<https://youtu.be/rvaP8ilgKwQ?si=da7NZ7j29jycM1la>

Life and Legacy of Yusuf Al-Qaradawi

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

Usman Dan Fodio

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=35InkAshk9Q>

Nur ad-Din Zenki

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-TuYFz86Bs4>

Warith Deen Mohammad

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WBH-Kn3e\\_So](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WBH-Kn3e_So)

### Podcast

Honoring the Legacy of Sh. Yusuf Al-Qaradawi

<https://remastered.podbean.com/e/special-episode-ep-35-honoring-the-legacy-of-sheikh-yusuf-al-qaradawi/>