

## **A CRITICAL REVIEW OF DR. YASIR QADHI'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE PROMOTION OF ISLAMIC THOUGHT AND THE USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA**

**Sehrish Khan**

Lecturer, Department of Islamic Studies, Govt Graduate College, Bahawalnagar

**Dr. Mahmood Ahmad**

Assistant Professor, Department of Islamic Studies, The Islamia University of Bahawalpur, Bahawalnagar campus

### **Abstract**

Dr. Qadhi, a globally recognized Islamic scholar, has effectively utilized platforms such as YouTube, Facebook, Instagram, podcasts, and online educational courses to reach a diverse audience, especially young Muslims who face the challenges of navigating their faith in a secularized environment. His innovative approach of merging traditional Islamic scholarship with the realities of modern life has made him a significant figure in today's Islamic discourse. Dr. Yasir Qadhi's engagement with media platforms has revolutionized the way Islamic knowledge is communicated in the 21st century. His work reflects the vital need for Islamic scholarship to adapt to modern communication tools while preserving core Islamic values, empowering Muslims worldwide to navigate the complexities of modern life without compromising their religious identity.

This article provides a detailed and critical assessment of Dr. Yasir Qadhi's strategic use of modern media for propagating Islamic thought in the contemporary world.

**Keywords:** Dr. Yasir Qadhi, Islamic thought, Modern media, Online education, Islamic scholarship, Secularism, Contemporary challenges, Media-driven outreach.

### **Dr. Yasir Qadhi: A Renowned Islamic Scholar and Thought Leader**

Dr. Yasir Qadhi is a prominent figure globally, known for his expertise in Islamic sciences, contemporary issues, and his interpretation of the Quran and Sunnah.<sup>1</sup> He is not only a distinguished Islamic scholar but also an influential speaker and author, providing guidance to young Muslims in accordance with Islamic teachings.<sup>2</sup>

#### **Early Education**

Dr. Yasir Qadhi was born in Pakistan in 1975. His father was a well-known Islamic scholar, which provided Yasir with a strong foundation in Islamic education from an early age. During his childhood, his family moved to Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, where he attended local schools and memorized the entire Quran by the age of 15.<sup>3</sup>

#### **Secular Education**

Dr. Qadhi began his secular education in the United States, where he earned a Bachelor's degree in Chemical Engineering from the University of Houston. Additionally, he pursued studies in Computer Science from the same institution.<sup>4</sup> His education in the sciences and technology provided him with a deep understanding of modern challenges, which he addresses through the lens of Islamic principles.<sup>5</sup>

#### **Islamic Education**

Alongside his secular studies, Dr. Yasir Qadhi developed a profound interest in Islamic sciences. He pursued higher Islamic studies at the University of Madinah, where he earned a Master's degree in Islamic Jurisprudence (Fiqh). Furthermore, he studied at Dar al-Hikmah Institute and other Islamic institutions, gaining extensive knowledge in Islamic jurisprudence, Quranic interpretation, and Hadith studies.<sup>6</sup> His Islamic education has established him as a thought leader among Muslims.<sup>7</sup>

#### **Teaching and Academic Contributions**

Dr. Qadhi's academic contributions are recognized globally. He has delivered lectures on Islamic sciences at numerous Islamic institutions and universities, including Al-Maghrib Institute and East Plano Islamic Center in Texas. His sermons are heard by millions around

the world, and he is widely known for his ability to contextualize Islamic principles in the modern era.<sup>8</sup>

### **Influence and Services**

Through his sermons, videos, and publications, Dr. Yasir Qadhi has introduced millions of people to Islamic teachings. He is particularly popular among the youth and is considered an expert in explaining Islamic perspectives on modern challenges. His lectures are widely viewed on platforms like YouTube and other digital channels.<sup>9</sup>

### **Personal Life**

Dr. Yasir Qadhi leads a simple and moderate personal life. He is a father of three children and places a strong emphasis on their Islamic upbringing. Despite his public prominence, he keeps his personal life private, focusing on raising his children in accordance with Islamic values.<sup>10</sup>

### **Publications:**

Dr. Yasir Qadhi is also a prolific author, having written extensively on various Islamic topics. His publications include:

1. **Riyaa: Hidden Shirk**

A detailed work on the concept of hidden shirk and the importance of sincerity in worship.

2. **An Introduction to the Sciences of the Qur'an**

This book provides an in-depth look at the various sciences related to the study of the Quran, including its interpretation, memorization, and recitation.

3. **An Explanation of the Four Principles of Shirk**

In this book, Dr. Qadhi explains the four fundamental principles of shirk, emphasizing their importance in Islamic theology.

4. **Du'a: The Weapon of the Believer**

This book highlights the significance of supplication in a believer's life and its powerful role in spiritual development.

5. **15 Ways to Increase Your Earnings from the Quran and Sunnah**

A practical guide on how to attain blessings and increase provisions through Quranic and prophetic teachings.

6. **An Explanation of Muhammad ibn Abd al-Wahhab's Kashf al-Shubuhat**

This book provides an analysis of Muhammad ibn Abd al-Wahhab's works, particularly focusing on the explanation of shirk.

7. **Maqalat al-Jahm b. Safwan wa-atharuhafil-firaq al-Islamiyya**

A scholarly work that explores the beliefs of Jahm b. Safwan and their influence on Islamic sects.

8. **Like a Garment: Intimacy in Islam**

This book addresses the topics of love and intimacy in Islam, providing guidance on healthy marital relationships.

9. **Seerah of Prophet Muhammad (SAW)**

A comprehensive biography of the Prophet Muhammad (SAW), covering key events and lessons from his life.

10. **Lessons from Surah al-Kahf (Pearls from the Qur'an)**

Dr. Qadhi explores the lessons from Surah al-Kahf and their relevance to contemporary challenges.

11. **Lessons from Surah Yusuf (Pearls from the Qur'an)**

This book focuses on the key lessons from Surah Yusuf, such as patience, loyalty, and faith in Allah's plan.

**12. Reflections: Personal Insights from Shaykh Dr. Yasir Qadhi**

A collection of Dr. Qadhi's personal reflections on life, spirituality, and challenges facing Muslims today.

**13. The Miracle of the Qur'an**

An exploration of the miraculous nature of the Quran, highlighting its unique features and divine message.

**14. The Power of Repentance**

A detailed study on the significance of repentance and its transformative power in a believer's life.

**15. The Parables of the Qur'an**

Dr. Qadhi analyzes the parables found in the Quran and their moral and spiritual lessons.<sup>11</sup>

**The Sīrah of the Prophet: A Contemporary and Original Analysis**

This work presents a modern analysis of the Prophet Muhammad's life, offering insights into how his life can be applied to modern challenges.<sup>12</sup>

**A Critical Review of the Promotion of Islamic Teachings and the Role of Social Media**

The promotion of Islamic teachings and the role of social media in disseminating these teachings is an important topic, especially in today's era where technology is becoming increasingly influential.<sup>13</sup> This review covers various aspects of how Islamic teachings are shared through social media platforms.<sup>14</sup>

**Promotion of Islamic Teachings****Message Dissemination:**

Various platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube are used to spread Islamic teachings. Scholars, religious leaders, and ordinary Muslims share their knowledge, experiences, and religious teachings with a broader audience through these platforms.<sup>15</sup>

**Educational Content:**

Educational materials on Islamic topics, including videos, articles, and webinars, are provided through social media. This content helps people increase their religious knowledge and strengthens their faith.<sup>16</sup>

**Characteristics of Social Media****Instant Accessibility:**

One of the key features of social media is its ability to deliver content instantly. People can quickly access information and find answers to their religious questions.<sup>17</sup>

**Global Reach:**

Another major advantage of social media is its global reach. It allows Islamic teachings to be shared worldwide, enabling interaction with people from different cultures and languages.<sup>18</sup>

**Challenges****Misinformation:**

A significant challenge on social media is the spread of misinformation. At times, people are provided with inaccurate or non-authentic information that misrepresents the true essence of Islamic teachings.<sup>19</sup>

**Extremism:**

Social media is sometimes used to spread extremist ideologies, which can present a distorted image of Islam. This misuse is a concern that needs to be addressed.

**Positive Examples of Media Usage**

**Presence of Scholars:**

Renowned scholars like Sheikh Yasir Qadhi, Zubair Iqbal, and others have effectively used social media to provide accurate Islamic knowledge and answer religious queries.<sup>20</sup>

**Educational Platforms:**

Many websites and YouTube channels provide detailed content on Islamic teachings, Quranic interpretation, Hadith, and Fiqh. Examples include platforms such as "Deen Today" and "Alternate Media."<sup>21</sup>

**Suggestions for a Better Future****Creation of Engaging Content:**

To effectively promote Islamic teachings, the content should be made engaging, visually appealing, and scientifically grounded.

**Preventing Misinformation:**

Authentic scholars and religious leaders should actively participate on social media to counter misinformation quickly.<sup>22</sup>

**Involvement of Youth:**

Young people should be encouraged to participate in the promotion of Islamic teachings, allowing them to express their thoughts and promote the truth of the religion.<sup>23</sup>

**Sheikh Yasir Qadhi's Role in Promoting Islamic Teachings Through Social Media**

Sheikh Yasir Qadhi has played a significant role in promoting Islamic teachings through social media. His lectures, videos, and writings have reached a vast audience through these platforms. Below is a detailed review of his contributions in this regard:

**Utilizing Modern Media for Dawah:**

In today's world, modern media has become one of the most effective tools for spreading the message of Islam. Platforms like social media, YouTube, blogs, and podcasts have revolutionized the way Dawah is conducted. In the past, the spread of Islamic knowledge relied primarily on personal interactions, lectures, and books, but now digital platforms allow for global outreach.<sup>24</sup>

**1. Social Media:**

Platforms like Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and YouTube have played an instrumental role in making Islamic knowledge accessible to millions. Islamic scholars use these platforms to hold live Q&A sessions, share sermons, and provide spiritual guidance to a broad audience. Social media allows Muslims worldwide to engage in religious discourse in real-time.<sup>25</sup>

**2. YouTube:**

YouTube has transformed the way Islamic teachings are disseminated. Scholars use it to post videos on various Islamic topics, such as Quranic interpretation, Hadith, and modern challenges faced by Muslims. These videos reach millions of viewers, and the content remains available for future reference, making it an invaluable resource for learning about Islam.<sup>26</sup>

**3. Websites and Blogs:**

Islamic websites and blogs provide organized resources for learning about the Quran, Hadith, Islamic jurisprudence, and other religious topics. These platforms allow users to access a wealth of Islamic knowledge at their convenience, answering common questions and addressing contemporary issues.<sup>27</sup>

**4. Online Courses:**

Online learning platforms offer comprehensive Islamic education to a global audience. Students can enroll in structured courses on subjects like Fiqh, Hadith, and

Islamic history. These courses, often taught by renowned scholars, provide the flexibility of learning at one's own pace.

#### 5. **Podcasts:**

Podcasts have become an essential tool for Islamic outreach. Through audio lectures and discussions, scholars deliver in-depth analyses on religious, historical, and contemporary issues, making Islamic knowledge accessible to listeners anytime, anywhere.<sup>28</sup>

#### 6. **Messaging Apps:**

Messaging platforms such as WhatsApp and Telegram are also being used to share Islamic teachings. Group chats provide a space for scholars to share daily reflections, Quranic verses, and Hadith, fostering continuous learning and engagement among participants.

### **Use of Social Media**

#### **Videos and Lectures:**

Sheikh Yasir Qadhi has used YouTube and other platforms to promote Islamic teachings through his videos. His lectures cover a wide range of topics, such as the Quran, Hadith, Fiqh, and the life of Prophet Muhammad (SAW).

#### **Live Q&A Sessions:**

Sheikh Qadhi holds live question and answer sessions with his followers, where people can ask their religious questions. This is an effective way to provide religious understanding to the audience.<sup>29</sup>

### **Creation of Educational Content**

#### **Informative Videos:**

In his videos, Yasir Qadhi thoroughly explains topics using authentic sources. These videos are easy to understand for the general public.

#### **Research-Based Approach:**

He delves deep into Islamic teachings, explaining their historical and scholarly background, allowing people to gain accurate and profound knowledge of the religion.

#### **Addressing Youth Challenges**

#### **Guidance for Youth:**

Sheikh Yasir Qadhi addresses challenges faced by the youth, such as the influence of social media, proper understanding of Islam, and ethical living. He guides them on how to live a balanced life in light of Islamic teachings.

#### **Interactive Platform:**

He provides a platform for young people to express their ideas and thoughts, helping them gain awareness of their culture and religion.<sup>30</sup>

### **Correcting Misinformation**

#### **Countering Misinformation:**

Sheikh Qadhi actively counters misinformation spread on social media. Using clear and authentic arguments, he provides accurate information, thereby presenting the correct image of Islam.

### **Call to Islam:**

Dawah, which means inviting people towards Islam, is one of the most fundamental responsibilities in Islam. It extends beyond personal acts of worship such as prayer and fasting, emphasizing the importance of guiding others toward living according to the teachings of Islam. In the Quran, Allah commands, "Invite to the way of your Lord with wisdom and good instruction" (Surah An-Nahl, 16:125), underlining the significance of spreading Islamic knowledge.



Dawah also includes shaping society according to Islamic principles and demonstrating the beauty and truth of Islam through action. It is an essential part of establishing a just and harmonious community based on the guidance of Allah.<sup>31</sup>

### **Efforts Towards Positive Change**

#### **Discussion on Social Issues:**

Yasir Qadhi also engages in discussions on social issues such as social justice, women's rights, and societal attitudes. His aim is to encourage people to find solutions to these issues based on Islamic principles.<sup>32</sup>

#### **Building Community:**

He encourages his followers to form a strong community where people support each other and work together to promote Islamic teachings.<sup>33</sup>

### **Key Characteristics of Sheikh Yasir Qadhi's Lectures and Writings**

#### **1. Educational and Research-Oriented Approach:**

Sheikh Qadhi often provides in-depth explanations of topics in his books, including their historical and scholarly backgrounds. For instance, in "An Introduction to the Sciences of the Qur'an," he discusses various Quranic sciences and references research from Islamic history.

#### **2. Evidence-Based Arguments:**

Sheikh Qadhi extensively uses evidence in his speeches and writings. In "The Power of Repentance," he supports the importance of repentance with references from the Quran and Hadith.

#### **3. Analysis of Contemporary Issues:**

His writings offer critical perspectives on contemporary issues. For example, in "Lessons from Surah al-Kahf," he discusses challenges faced by the youth today, such as materialism and spiritual emptiness.

#### **4. Engaging Presentation Style:**

In his speeches, Yasir Qadhi frequently uses stories, examples, and Quranic verses to effectively communicate his message. In "Lessons from Surah Yusuf," he uses the story of Prophet Yusuf (AS) to emphasize the virtues of patience and perseverance.

### **Conclusion**

Sheikh Yasir Qadhi's efforts in promoting Islamic teachings through social media have had a profound impact. His comprehensive approach, which includes addressing contemporary challenges, countering misinformation, and engaging with youth, has significantly contributed to the understanding of Islam in today's world. Through his use of social media and modern technology, Sheikh Qadhi continues to make Islamic teachings accessible and relevant, empowering Muslims to live their lives according to the principles of Islam.

### **References**

1. Kennedy, Dominic (April 11, 2017). "Hardline cleric is invited to UK by Islamic charity for fundraising tour". The Times. Archived from the original on January 2, 2018. Retrieved March 6, 2018.
2. Qadhi Yasir (November 10, 2008). "GPU '08 with Yasir Qadhi: When Islamophobia Meets Perceived Anti-Semitism". Archived from the original on December 25, 2009. Retrieved January 4, 2010.
3. Kay, Liam (April 11, 2017). "Regulator contacts three Islamic charities about Yasir Qadhi tours". Third Sector. Retrieved March 6, 2018
4. Elliott, Andrea (April 17, 2011). "Why Yasir Qadhi Wants to Talk About Jihad" Archived 2013-04-27 at the Wayback Machine, The New York Times

5. Qadhi Abu Ammar Yasir. *Riyaa: Hidden Shirk*. Publisher: Dar Al-Fath, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 1996.
6. Qadhi Abu Ammar Yasir. *An Introduction to the Sciences of the Qur'an*. Publisher: Al-Hidayah Publishing, Birmingham, United Kingdom, 1999. ISBN: 1-898649-32-4.
7. Qadhi Abu Ammar Yasir. *Du'a: The Weapon of the Believer*. Publisher: Al-Hidayah Publishing, Birmingham, United Kingdom, 2001. ISBN: 1-898649-51-0.
8. Qadhi Abu Ammar Yasir. *15 Ways to Increase Your Earnings from the Quran and Sunnah*. Publisher: Al-Hidayah Publishing, Birmingham, United Kingdom, 2002. ISBN: 1-898649-56-1.
9. Qadhi Abu Ammar Yasir. *Du'a: The Weapon of the Believer*. Publisher: Al-Hidayah Publishing, Birmingham, United Kingdom, 2001. ISBN: 1-898649-51-0.
10. Qadhi Abu Ammar Yasir. *15 Ways to Increase Your Earnings from the Quran and Sunnah*. Publisher: Al-Hidayah Publishing, Birmingham, United Kingdom, 2002. ISBN: 1-898649-56-1.
11. Qadhi Abu Ammar Yasir. *Like a Garment: Intimacy in Islam*. Publisher: Independent Publishing, USA, March 4, 2019. ISBN: 978-1798705247.
12. Qadhi Abu Ammar Yasir. *Seerah of Prophet Muhammad (SAW)*. Publisher: Independent Publishing, USA, May 7, 2019. ISBN: 978-1099278389.
13. Qadhi Abu Ammar Yasir. *Lessons from Surah al-Kahf (Pearls from the Qur'an)*. Publisher: Cube Publishing Ltd, United Kingdom, March 10, 2020. ISBN: 978-1847741318.
14. Qadhi Abu Ammar Yasir. *Lessons from Surah Yusuf (Pearls from the Qur'an)*. Publisher: Cube Publishing Ltd, United Kingdom, November 3, 2020.
15. Qadhi Abu Ammar Yasir. *Reflections: Personal Insights From Shaykh Dr. Yasir Qadhi*. Publisher: Al-Buruj Press, USA, February 17, 2021.
16. Qadhi Abu Ammar Yasir. *The Miracle of the Qur'an*. Publisher: Turath Publishing, United Kingdom, March 1, 2021.
17. Qadhi Abu Ammar Yasir. *The Power of Repentance*. Publisher: Turath Publishing, United Kingdom, March 9, 2021.
18. Fouad, Khadija (2016). *American Muslim Undergraduates Views On Evolution* (PhD). Indiana University. p. 14.
19. Gates, Henry Louis Jr. (September 15, 2014). *Finding Your Roots: The Official Companion to the PBS Series*. UNC Press Books. ISBN 9781469618012.
20. YouTube. April 12, 2024. Event occurs at 22:24. Retrieved June 8, 2024. Our first lecture is going to be on the quranic preservation; in fact, I wanted to call it 'Holes in the Narrative'—that's a very famous meme, as you know, online.
21. -Qadhi Yasir (June 8, 2020). "In the Hot Seat: MuḥammadHijāb Interviews Dr. Yasir Qadhi". YouTube. Event occurs at 1:26:50. Archived from the original on June 26, 2020. Retrieved June 8, 2024. The video has since been privated
22. Quran
23. -"U.S. Muslim group denounces 'historic injustice of the Holocaust'". CNN. Archived from the original on August 22, 2010. Retrieved August 23, 2010.
24. Qadhi Yasir. "In the Hot Seat: MuḥammadHijāb Interviews Dr. Yasir Qadhi – S07E150". *AccidentalMuslims.com* (Podcast). Event occurs at 1:26:50. Retrieved June 8, 2024
25. YouTube. April 12, 2024. Event occurs at 22:24. Retrieved June 8, 2024. Our first lecture is going to be on the quranic preservation; in fact, I wanted to call it 'Holes in the Narrative'—that's a very famous meme, as you know, online.

26. Sawyer, Patrick (January 2, 2010). "Detroit bomber's mentor continues to influence British mosques and universities". The Daily Telegraph. Archived from the original on January 5, 2010. Retrieved February 1, 2010.
27. Qadhi Yasir. "Clearing Up The Misconceptions | Shaykh Dr. Yasir Qadhi Interviewed By Imam Ibrahim Bakeer". YouTube
28. Uddin, Asma T. (March 26, 2021). "Muslim America is Not a Monolith". Literary Hub. Retrieved January 10, 2022.
29. Goodstein, Laurie (May 8, 2016). "Muslim Leaders Wage Theological Battle, Stoking ISIS' Anger". The New York Times. Archived from the original on May 12, 2016. Retrieved July 7, 2016
30. Qadhi Yasir. "In the Hot Seat: MuḥammadHijāb Interviews Dr. Yasir Qadhi – S07E150". AccidentalMuslims.com (Podcast). Event occurs at 1:26:50. Retrieved June 8, 2024
31. -"Rethinking Jihad: Ideas, Politics and Conflict in the Arab World & Beyond; Programme". University of Edinburgh. Archived from the original on May 28, 2009. Retrieved January 5, 2010.
32. -"V International Conference on Islamic Legal Studies; "Lawful and Unlawful Violence in Islamic Law and History", Islamic Legal Studies Program". Harvard Law School. Archived from the original on January 21, 2010. Retrieved January 5, 2010.