

Personalities >> Khwaja Ghulam Mohiuddin Ghaznavi

Introduction

The history of Islam stands witness to the fact that the spreading of its Message to the furthest corners of the world are due to the tireless efforts of the Awliya Allah (Sufi saints), and the Ulema-e-Kiram (Islamic scholars).

In particular, the delivery of Islam's Message is hugely accredited to the work of the Awliya Allah which resulted in the Muslim rule of India/Pakistan for eight hundred years.

These Sufi saints came from the Arab world, and from the cities of Sanjar, Ghazni and Bukhara. They presented such a fine practical example of the doctrines of Islam to the inhabitants of the Indian sub-continent, that the people who worshipped idols of stones and multiple deities now turned to worship the one & only true God, Almighty Allah.

Amongst this group of pious accomplished Sufi saints is the great leader by the name of Hazrat Sheikh Ghulam Mohiuddin Ghaznavi . Khwaja Sahib spent forty-seven years preaching Islam in the Kashmir Valley, and his great efforts resulted in thousands of people finding the way to true Islam and the Siraatul Mustaqeem (the Right Path).

Birth

Khwaja Sahib was born in 1902 in Ghazni, Afghanistan which is a city famous throughout Islamic history.

His father, Hazrat Muhammad Akbar Khan was a great devotee of Hazrat Ghawsul Azaam Abdul Qadir Jilani , and gave him the name of Ghulam Mohiuddin.

Khwaja Sahib is related to the family of the great Companion, Hazrat Khalid bin Walid .

Education & Upbringing

Khwaja Sahib's initial Islamic education was obtained from Hazrat Mawlana Gul Muhammad who was his uncle. As well as imparting Islamic knowledge to him, Mawlana Gul Muhammad developed in Khwaja Sahib a great enthusiasm for worship.

Later, Khwaja Sahib also studied at the great Islamic schools in Gardez, Logar and Zurmat.

Business Affairs

Khwaja Sahib's father was a very kind hearted & honest landowner in his town, and was also a very famous horse rider. It was this enthusiasm for horse riding which led him to start a business in horse trading and Punjab and Lahore were the centre of his business affairs.

It was this business which later became the cause of Khwaja Sahib's arrival in Punjab at the age of 22, where he commenced his business affairs in various parts of the province.

Later, he chose to conduct his business on a permanent basis in Poonch, a district of Kashmir, as this was a very suitable location.

Khwaja Sahib's honesty, trustworthiness and noble character led to his business becoming very profitable. In a very short time, the whole district recognized him as a noble gentleman of excellent character.

Upon meeting with Sufi saints, they would often prophesize that he would one day become a great Wali Allah.

Bayt (to pledge allegiance to a Sheikh)

At the age of 25, while he was on a business trip to Azad Patan, Kashmir, he met a group of people on their way to visit Hazrat Qasim Mohrvi at Mohra Sharif. Khwaja Sahib sent gifts for Huzoor Qasim Mohrvi with humble greetings.

When the people presented his gifts to Huzoor Qasim Mohrvi , he said: "Let that businessman know that I want him, and not his gifts."

This message was delivered to Khwaja Sahib and after a few months he decided to meet Huzoor Qasim Mohrvi .

As soon as he met Huzoor Qasim Mohrvi , the life of Khwaja Sahib underwent a complete change and he soon pledged Bayt at his hands thus becoming his Mureed (disciple).

He then quit his business and decided to spend the rest of his life with his spiritual guide (Murshid).

Huzoor Qasim Mohrvi (who passed away in 1943) was a great Sufi of the Naqshbandi Order, who devoted everything to his followers.

Due to this, Khwaja Sahib started to progress through the stages of spiritual training (Tasawwuf).

Huzoor Qasim Mohrvi appointed Khwaja Sahib to serve in the famous langar khaana (kitchen) for the visitors coming to pay their respects, and this he did for 12 years. The hospitality of the guests at Mohra Sharif was a very important task and Khwaja Sahib performed it with great honour and contentment.

Khilafa (to be appointed as the Sheikh's deputy)

When Huzoor Qasim Mohrvi had completed Khwaja Sahib's tuition in Islamic knowledge and spiritualism, he appointed him as one of his Khulafa (deputies).

Khwaja Sahib spent the days serving and the nights doing the zikr of "Allahu". The sound of "Allahu" was from the depths of his heart and this made Huzoor Qasim Mohrvi command him, "Go and search for a large territory in Kashmir, far from population and spread this Zikr."

He was to settle in this remote area and transform it into the centre of Islamic services.

Nerian Sharif

The son of Huzoor Qasim Mohrvi , Pir Mohammed Zaid Khan, asked Khwaja Sahib to start preaching Islam in the Danna Pothee Mir Khan district which was a completely deserted area. There was no population there, it was covered with forests all over and the land was full of wild animals. However as this was an order, Khwaja Sahib obeyed the instructions and settled there.

He was accompanied by his younger brother Hazrat Pir Mohammed Durrab Khan Sahib (also known as Pir Saani Sahib).

For the remaining years, Khwaja Sahib did not ponder upon his land, property or business. The years ahead in Nerian Sharif brought trials and tribulation but he overcame them all with great resolve and determination.

Day by day, more and more people came to visit these servants of Allah, and began to learn about Islam. Soon the uninhabited land was converted into Darbar e Aaliya Nerian Sharif where every moment is now spent in Zikr (remembrance) and Fikr (meditation).

Character & Life

Khwaja Sahib's life was a fine example of the pious lives of great Scholars & Saints of Islam. He was very generous and kind hearted, and always ready to help those in need. Islamic scholars, dervishes, the poor and wealthy would visit him daily as he always spoke to everyone in a kind and gentle manner.

He was a great figure of hope & kindness and his devotion to Islam is unparalleled. His sincerity & pious nature transformed the wilderness into a life-changing territory of peace and tranquillity.

Services to Islam

It is impossible to give a complete account of Khwaja Sahib's services to Islam as he devoted his entire life to the Deen.

He made many journeys in Kashmir and Pakistan, and to surrounding areas for the purpose of preaching. In the daytime, he would preach Islamic teachings to the public and at night, he would spend his time reciting the Holy Qur'an, praying and worshipping Almighty Allah.

There were never any shortcomings in either his daytime obligations or his night time worship.

After the Isha prayer until midnight, he would be engaged in preaching and in Zikr gatherings. He would then sleep for a few hours after which he would engage himself in worshipping Allah and Zikr.

Khwaja Sahib's devotees amount to more than three hundred thousand. His services to Islam spread throughout Pakistan, Kashmir and bordering areas as well as Afghanistan, England and the Arab world.

The services of Khwaja Sahib's younger brother, Pir Saani Sahib and Khwaja Sahib's sons are well known to all especially the work of Huzoor Ghawsul Waqt Pir Alauddin Siddiqui Sahib (damat barkatuhumul aaliya).

Departure from this World

A year before he passed away, at an annual function at Hazru, Khwaja Sahib said to Mawlana Hidayatul Haqq Sahib, "Allah knows best if I will be able to come here next year."

Having returned from this function, Khwaja Sahib soon fell ill and his health deteriorated more by the day. Twice he was taken to Rawalpindi's Combined Military Hospital where operations were performed however Khwaja Sahib's health continued to worsen. In the end, the illness was declared incurable.

While he was in the hospital, Khwaja Sahib said, "Take me to my home." His devotees brought him from Rawalpindi to Nerian Sharif. Here, Khwaja Sahib again said, "Take me to my home."

His devotees said, "This is our home." Khwaja Sahib replied, "This is not my home."

During his very last days, Khwaja Sahib had completely closed his eyes from this world. He would only open his eyes if someone spoke to him or to ask if it was time for prayer.

Khwaja Sahib departed from this world on Friday 28th Rabiul Awwal 1395 (11 April 1975) at 2.35pm after the Jumma prayer, at the age of seventy-three.

Khulafa (deputies)

Khwaja Sahib appointed a number of Mureeds as his Khulafa so that they may continue his service to Islam.

His Khulafa number more than seventy. Some of their names are listed below:

- (1) Mawlana Hidayatul Haqq (Hazru)
- (2) Mawlana Mufti Abdul Malik Hazarvi (Hazara)
- (3) Faiz Muhammad (Tatta Pani, Azad Kashmir)
- (4) Ghulam Hussain (Bandli Sharif, Azad Kashmir)
- (5) Muhammad Ameer (Afghanistan)
- (6) Sheikh Nazeer Ahmad (Madinah Munawwara)
- (7) Ghulam Muhammad (Sahiwal)
- (8) Muhammad Shafi (Gujar Khan)
- (9) Muhammad Fazil (Sindh)
- (10) Muhammad Azam (Poonch, Azad Kashmir)
- (11) Mawlana Abdullah Ateeq (Kotli, Azad Kashmir)
- (12) Mawlana Riaz Ahmad Samdani (United Kingdom)

Family

Khwaja Sahib married three times. His first wife was from Nerian Sharif, the second from Ghazni and the third from Punjab. He left behind seven sons to his noble memory. All his sons are very learned Islamic scholars and preachers, who are continuing the great task of their noble father by serving Islam.

Khwaja Sahib's sons are:

- (1) Sahibzada Peer Alauddin Siddiqui sahib (damat barkatuhumul aaliya)
- (2) Sahibzada Peer Nizamuddin Qasmi sahib
- (3) Sahibzada Imam Rabbani Farooqi sahib
- (4) Sahibzada Muhammad Fazl-e-Rabbani sahib
- (5) Sahibzada Sher-e-Rabbani sahib
- (6) Sahibzada Ghulam Rabbani sahib
- (7) Sahibzada Shamsul Arifeen sahib

Khwaja Sahib's Teachings

- (1) The true meaning of Islam is to protect yourself from all sins and that is achieved by practising the five pillars of Islam.
- (2) Abstain from all actions which are displeasing to Allah Ta'ala.
- (3) Your body should always be used for obedience to Almighty Allah.
- (4) When you stand for Salat, remind yourself you are standing before Allah Ta'ala, Who is the Greatest, Who hears and sees everything.
- (5) Allah Ta'ala gave Hazrat Adam (A.S) complete knowledge of the names of all things. But Hazrat Adam's knowledge compared to the unlimited knowledge of our Holy Prophet is like comparing a drop of water to an ocean.
- (6) Jealousy, envy, hatred and arrogance are all such bad habits that not only were they the cause of Iblees refusing to bow to Hazrat Adam (A.S) but they were also the cause of Iblees challenging Allah Ta'ala.
- (7) In yourselves: Replace pride and arrogance with humbleness. Replace your base desires and comforts with patience, determination, gratitude to Allah Ta'ala and His remembrance. Replace greed with love of Allah Ta'ala, His Holy Prophet and your Sheikh.
- (8) The four famous principles of the Naqshbandi order are
 - a. remember Allah Ta'ala upon every breath
 - b. never take even one step in a wasteful cause and remove all desire of worldly things from yourself
 - c. always remain in the company of Awliya-e-Kamileen (accomplished pious Sufi saints)

d. bring others towards Allah Ta'ala and never forget Him yourself.

(9) An accomplished Sheikh is a deputy of the Holy Prophet , and the medium between Allah Ta'ala and His servants. The Sheikh guides and leads his disciples by the teachings of the Holy Prophet . The Holy Prophet said, "The scholars of Islam are the heirs of the religious knowledge of all the Prophets."

(10) Do not be disrespectful to your Sheikh, do not ignore him, do not oppose him and do not consider your opinion better than his opinion, because a true Sheikh leads you to the correct path of Islam, the Siratul Mustaqeem.

(11) Your salvation & success in this World and in the Hereafter is dependent upon your Imaan (faith) and your good deeds.