

Dr Farid-ud-Din Al-Qadri

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The historical city of Jhang, Pakistan is blessed and well-known for a number of reasons. The famous Sultan Bahoo was born in a settlement at the bank of River Chenaab which is now in District Jhang. History speaks for itself in that the dwellers of this city have been recognised for their courage and strong belief. It would not be incorrect to say that the fragrance of the love of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) is embedded in this city's soil and surroundings.

The great spiritualist and intellectual of his time Dr Farid ud-Din Al-Qadri was born in this very city in 1918.

Biography:

After studying the lives of his ancestors he realised that one thing always remained common in them in that they became seekers of the truth from a very young age. They would sit in meditation for many hours and contemplate the divine signs of their Lord.

It is said about Dr Farid-ud-din that he would leave his house and sit at the bank of River Chenab reciting Surah Muzzammil. He would say that I hope to meet Siyyiduna Khidr one day. This practice was adopted by him when he was only nine or ten years of age. Who knows what he saw within the waves of river Chenab that occupied him to be there.

Dr Ahsan Qureshi Saabri, retired principal Government Technical Institute, Sialkoat, was a very close friend of Dr Farid-ud-din. He states in one of his letters: ' Dr Farid-ud-din was aware of certain practices through which he could see Siyyiduna Khidr and also converse with him. One day I was walking with him along the bank of River Chenab when suddenly, he said that Siyyiduna Khidr was going to emerge from the water and that he should depart from his company for a short while. He instructed me to return after ten to fifteen minutes.'

Dr Ahsan writes that he begged his friend to permit him to remain in his company so that he too could benefit from seeing Siyyiduna Khidr, but he refused

saying, 'you are unfit to be in the company of Siyyiduna Khidr. Dr Ahsan states that he began to walk away from the river towards some fields. When he turned around he saw a big plank near the river bank and he witnessed a person dressed in white with a glowing beard emerge from the river. He met with Dr Farid-ud-din near the plank for a few minutes and then disappeared back into the water.

He says, 'I believe that Dr Farid-ud-din was able to stay in the company of Siyyiduna Khidr through the direct blessings of the great Sultan Bahoo.'

Dr farid-ud-Din's father, Khuda Bakhsh had high hopes for his son and so after his eighth year at school he decided to withdraw him from further education and took him to a religious physician. After spending a few days with the physician Dr Farid-ud-din realised that the physician's company was of no benefit. On the other hand Dr Farid-ud-din 's teachers were pressurising his father to reconsider his education as they had recognised his academic abilities from a young age. Despite the pressure, his father didn't change his decision.

One day, Dr Farid-ud-din confided in his mother and expressed his urge to embark on the path of knowledge. His mother placed all her valuables onto the palm of his hand and said: 'Go son, fulfil your desire even if you have to leave us behind and travel for the truth'. Thus he sacrificed the luxuries of his home and embarked on the practice of Shaykh Abdul Qadir Jilaani. This practice was relived after hundreds of years in a poor family in Jhang.

He travelled to sialkot where he studied under the great Mufti Muhammad Yusuf Sialkoti. He completed his matriculation and sacred classical Islamic Sciences within a short period of time. He then travelled to Lakhnow where he completed his medical degree.

Station in Knowledge:

A person's rank and station can be understood through the teachers under whom he has studied under. If the master is established in his field of expertise, then surely his qualities will reflect through his student. Adopting this principal when we look at the teachers of Dr Farid-ud-din Qadri we see many great scholars, medics and personalities in the exhaustive list. Of them I have mentioned a few below:

Maulana Ghulam Farid

He was a resident of the city of Jhang and was among the great teachers of classical Islamic knowledge. Dr Farid-ud-din Qadri sought his initial knowledge of Arabic grammar and logic from him.

Mufti Muhammad Yusuf Sialkoti

He was a highly recognised scholar of great intellect. Dr Farid-ud-din Qadri studied various subjects under him.

Maulana Abul Shakoor Muhajir Madani

He was a master in the principles of hadith and had migrated to the city of Medina. Dr Farid-ud-din Qadri learnt the science of hadith from him also.

Shaykh Alawi bin Abbas al-maliki

This great spiritualist used to live in Morocco. He migrated to the city of Makkah where people would come to him and quench their thirst for knowledge. Dr Farid-ud-din also learnt hadith from him.

Shaykh-ul-Hadith Maulana Muhammad Sardaar Ahmad Qadri

Credit goes to this Shaykh for spreading the love of the beloved prophet and hadith all over Pakistan. Dr Farid-ud-din Qadri studied various texts under him such as Sharah Aqaaid, Khiyali and Bukhari Sharif. The Shaykh's practice was not to teach or study after Asr prayer but he had made an exception for Dr Farid-ud-din Qadri. He would meet him after Asr prayer and teach him various lessons.

Although Dr Farid-ud-din Qadri had associated himself with the medical profession he always found time for his religious studies. So much in that he soon became a great teacher and master of texts such as Mishkat-ul-masabeeh, Jalaalain and Bukhari sharif.

Despite his busy schedule, he always pounced at the opportunity of purchasing books. On his travels he would be in search for rare books of great authors. He soon had a personal library comprising of books from all fields. After his death these books were given to Shaykh-ul-Islam Dr Tahir ul Qadri as inheritance. Later they were donated by shaykh-ul-Islam and today they stand

proud on the shelves of Minhaj-ul-Qur'an's central library.

It is the saying of Sayiduna Ali that knowledge increases through repetition. Constant study is also a chain of this. Dr Farid-ud-din Qadri constantly remained in study. He would always have around 50 books around his bed and a pen in his hand. Whenever he found an important point, he would write it on the first page of the book with the page reference. He would often study the books concerning the specialities and qualities of the beloved messenger. In particular he loved to read books of Imam shu'rani, Imam Nabhani and ibn al-Qayyim.

Apart from this he studied the books of tasawwuf with great passion. His favourite book was the Mathnawi of Imam Jalaluddin Rumi. In his final years he would read the mathnawi in the morning and at night he would fall asleep with it in his hand.

Status in Tassawuf

As well as being a doctor and master of classic Islamic Sciences, Dr Farid-ud-din Qadri was a great sufi (spiritualist). His life is full of examples of miracles he witnessed both awake and asleep.

In 1962 Dr Farid-ud-din Qadri travelled to Damascus with the intention of visiting the sacred graves of the saints. He made a practice of visiting the grave of Prophet Yahya. One day after praying Zuhr he contemplated on the saying of the Holy Prophet: 'There will remain 40 saints in Syria'. As soon as this saying sprung to his mind, he thought, what an honour it would be if he was to meet one of these saints. He immediately raised his hands in supplication and asked Allah to bless him with the company of one of his saints. He then left the grave and returned after Asr prayer. He was stood at the grave offering his salutations when someone from behind whispered: 'Assalaamualaikum O Doctor! When Dr Farid-ud-din Qadri turned around he saw a young man aged 32 with a black beard, shining face standing directly behind him. As he turned around the young man said: your name is Farid-ud-din Qadri and you have come from Pakistan. Dr Farid-ud-din Qadri asked him how he had recognised him? In response he said I am your supplication. Dr Farid-ud-din Qadri realised that this young man was among the 40 saints of Syria. They began talking with one another. Dr

Farid-ud-din Qadri requested a second meeting upon which the saint confirmed that they would meet one day in the holy city of Medina in, in the month of Ramadan and during Taraweeh prayer.

Dr Farid-ud-din Qadri went to Medina to visit the grave of the Holy Prophet and was in taraveeh prayer when he turned around to see the very same saint from the grand mosque of Damascus standing in the last row of the Congregation.

On the 25th of Ramadan Dr Farid-ud-din Qadri when was in seclusion (i'tikaaf) in masjid-e-nabwi, the Prophet came in his dream and instructed him to awake as this was the night of decree and that the time of acceptance would be at 12.45am. He awoke immediately and rushed to wake the man up who was sleeping close by. Dr Farid-ud-din Qadri said to him, 'the Prophet has given me good news that today is the night of decree'. The man sat up and said 'yes, today is the night of power and acceptance will be at 12.45am'. Dr Farid-ud-din Qadri became astonished and asked how he knew this information. He said: the Prophet also came to me in my sleep and made me the recipient of this special news.

Final Days:

In his last days he spent his nights awake for longer periods in constant worship. He would remain in tears throughout the night pleasing his Lord. It was the 27th night of Ramadan, the Qur'an was being recited in the taraveeh prayer when he suffered a heart attack. He fell to the ground following which his soul departed from this physical world while his head lay resting in the lap of Shaykh-ul-Islam Dr Tahir-ul-Qadri.