



A Brief Biography of
**Imam Ahmed
Raza Khan**

Shaykh-e-Tariqat Amir-e-Ahl-e-Sunnat
the Founder of Dawat-e-Islami
Allamah Maulana Abu Bilal

MUHAMMAD ILYAS
Attar Qadiri Razavi رحمۃ اللہ علیہ

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ وَالصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَى سَيِّدِ الْمُرْسَلِينَ
أَمَا بَعْدُ فَأَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Du'a for Reading the Book

Read the following Du'a (supplication) before you study a religious book or an Islamic lesson, you will remember whatever you study, *إِنْ شَاءَ اللَّهُ عَزَّوَجَلَّ*:

اللَّهُمَّ افْتَحْ عَلَيْنَا حِكْمَتَكَ وَأَنْشُرْ
عَلَيْنَا رَحْمَتَكَ يَا ذَا الْجَلَالِ وَالْإِكْرَامِ

Translation

O Allah *عَزَّوَجَلَّ*! Open the door of knowledge and wisdom for us, and have mercy on us! O the One Who is the Most Honourable and Glorious! (*Al-Mustatraf, vol. 1, pp. 40*)

Note:

Recite Salat-‘Alan-Nabi ﷺ once before and after the Du'a.

تَذْكِرَةُ إِمَامِ أَحْمَدِ رِضَا

Tazkirah Imam Ahmad Raza

A BRIEF BIOGRAPHY OF

IMAM AHMAD RAZA رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ

THIS booklet was written by Shaykh-e-Tareeqat, Ameer-e-Ahl-e-Sunnat, the founder of Dawat-e-Islami 'Allamah Maulana Abu Bilal Muhammad Ilyas Attar Qaadiri Razavi دَامَتْ بَرَكَاتُهُمُ الْعَالِيَهُ in Urdu. **Majlis-e-Tarajim** (the Translation Department) has translated it into English. If you find any mistake in the translation or composing, please inform the Translation Department on the following postal or email address with the intention of earning reward [Sawab].

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A Brief Biography of Imam Ahmad Raza
An English translation of ‘Tazkirah Imam Ahmad Raza’



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My first-ever booklet

أَلْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ عَزَّوَجَلَّ! I have admiration for A'la Hadrat, Imam Ahmad Raza Khan رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ since my childhood. The very first booklet of mine is 'Tazkirah Imam Ahmad Raza' [A Brief Biography of Imam Ahmad Raza] which was published on 25th Safar-ul-Muzaffar, 1393 AH (31st March, 1973) on the occasion of 'Raza-Day.' أَلْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ عَزَّوَجَلَّ, its numerous editions have been published with minor amendments from time to time.

In those days, I did not use to write the signature that reminds of Raudah-e-Rasool صَلَّى اللَّهُ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ. I developed a mindset of it later on. However, the old date is written on the last page. May Allah عَزَّوَجَلَّ accept this effort of mine and make this brief booklet beneficial for the devotees of the most Blessed Rasool صَلَّى اللَّهُ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ! May Allah عَزَّوَجَلَّ forgive me and every Sunni reader of this booklet without accountability for the sake of A'la Hadrat رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ!

أَمِينٌ بِجَاهِ النَّبِيِّ الْأَمِينِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ

Muhammad Ilyas Attar Qaadiri

25 Muharram-ul-Haraam, 1433 AH (December 21, 2011)

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الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ وَالصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَى سَيِّدِ الْمُرْسَلِينَ
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A BRIEF BIOGRAPHY OF IMAM AHMAD RAZA

No matter how hard Satan tries to make you feel lazy, do read this booklet completely for the betterment of your afterlife.

Excellence of Salat-‘Alan-Nabi ﷺ

The Rasool of mankind, the Peace of our heart and mind, the most Generous and Kind صَلَّى اللهُ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ has said, ‘I will intercede for the one who recites Salat upon me.’

(Al-Qaul-ul-Badi’, pp. 261)

صَلُّوا عَلَى الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللهُ تَعَالَى عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ

Birth

My master, A’la Hadrat, Imam of Ahl-us-Sunnah, reviver of Sunnah, eradicator of Bid’ah, scholar of Shari’ah, guide of Tareeqah, ‘Allamah Maulana Al-Haaj Al-Haafiz Al-Qaari Ash-Shah Imam Ahmad Raza Khan رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ was born on Saturday, 10th Shawwal-ul-Mukarram, 1272 AH (14th June 1856)

at the time of Zuhr Salah in the Jasoli neighbourhood in Bareilly, India. In terms of the year of his birth, his name is ‘Al-Mukhtar’ (1272 AH). (*Hayat A’la Hadrat, vol. 1, pp. 58*)

صَلُّوا عَلَى الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ تَعَالَى عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ

Birth year of A’la Hadrat

My master, A’la Hadrat رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ has derived his birth year from part 28 Ayah 22 of Surah Al-Mujadalah. In this Ayah, there are 1272 numerals according to ‘Ilm-e-Abjad¹ and his birth year according to Hijri calendar is also 1272. It is stated on page 410 of the book *Malfuzaat A’la Hadrat* published by Maktaba-tul-Madinah: While the dates of birth were being mentioned, A’la Hadrat رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ said: اَلْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ عَزَّوَجَلَّ, my date of birth lies in the Ayah:

أُولَئِكَ كَتَبَ فِي قُلُوبِهِمُ الْإِيمَانَ وَأَيَّدَهُم بِرُوحٍ مِنْهُ ط

It is these upon whose hearts Allah has ingrained faith, and has aided them with a Spirit from His own.

[*Kanz-ul-Iman (Translation of Quran)*] (Part 28, Al-Mujadalah, Ayah 22)

¹ It is the science of deriving numerical equivalent of Arabic alphabet.

His name is ‘Muhammad’. His grandfather called him ‘Ahmad Raza’ which became his famous name.

صَلُّوا عَلَى الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ تَعَالَى عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ

Amazing childhood

In every era, children usually have a similar carefree attitude. Even at the age of seven or eight years, they cannot reach the depth of any matter. But, unlike other children, the childhood of A’la Hadrat رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ was very outstanding. He was so sensible and had so excellent memory even in the childhood that he succeeded in completing the recitation of the complete Holy Quran in the early age of just 4½ years. At the age of six, he delivered a detailed speech on the topic of Milad-un-Nabi صَلَّى اللَّهُ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ in front of a very large gathering in the blessed month of Rabi’-ul-Awwal and was fully appreciated by the scholars and saints.

At the same age, he رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ got information about the direction of Baghdad (the sacred city of Ghaus-e-A’zam رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ). He رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ then never stretched his legs in that blessed direction out of respect. He رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ was extremely enthusiastic about Salah and would offer the daily five Salahs in Masjid with Takbeer-e-Aula. If any woman happened to come in front of him, he رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ would immediately lower his head and eyes, showing his deep devotion to the Sunnah of

the Beloved Rasool صَلَّى اللهُ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ, as was expressed by him in the following couplet in the blessed court of the most Blessed Rasool صَلَّى اللهُ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

Neechi ankhaun ki sharm-o-haya per Durood

Aoonchi beeni ki rif'at pay lakhaun Salam

(Hadaiq-e-Bakhshish)

When A'la Hadrat رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ was a boy, he رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ adopted piety to such an extent that the sound of his footsteps could not be heard whilst walking. He رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ started observing Siyam of Ramadan-ul-Mubarak at the age of seven.

(Preamble: Fatawa Razawiyyah, vol. 30, pp. 16)

صَلُّوا عَلَى الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللهُ تَعَالَى عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ

An event of childhood

Sayyid Ayyub 'Ali Shah رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ has stated that when A'la Hadrat رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ was a child, a teacher used to come to his house to teach him the Holy Quran. One day, whilst teaching, the teacher asked A'la Hadrat رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ again and again to utter a word of a Quranic Ayah but he رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ could not articulate it in the way his teacher asked him to do. The teacher would pronounce the word with a 'Zabar' but A'la Hadrat رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ pronounced the same word with a 'Zayr'.

When A'la Hadrat's grandfather Maulana Raza 'Ali Khan رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ noticed it, he called A'la Hadrat رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ closer and asked someone to bring the Holy Quran so that the correct word could be seen. On seeing the Holy Quran, he discovered that the scribe had mistakenly written Zabar in place of Zayr, i.e. what A'la Hadrat رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ uttered was correct. His grandfather asked, 'Ahmad Raza! Why did you not utter the word as your teacher asked?' A'la Hadrat رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ politely replied, 'I tried to utter as the teacher did but I felt as if I did not have control over my tongue.' A'la Hadrat رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ has himself narrated: There was a teacher of mine I would learn initial level books from. After he taught me the lesson, I would glance at it just once or twice and would close the book. When he tested me on the lesson, I would repeat the lesson word for word. Surprised to see this situation daily, he once asked me, 'Ahmad! Are you a human being or jinn? It takes me time to teach you but it does not take you time to memorise the lesson!' A'la Hadrat replied, 'All praise be to Allah عَزَّوَجَلَّ, I am a human being, however, I have been blessed with the benevolence and bounty of Allah عَزَّوَجَلَّ.' (*Hayat A'la Hadrat, vol. 1, pp. 68*)

May Allah عَزَّوَجَلَّ have mercy on him and forgive us without accountability for his sake!

أَمِينَ بِجَاهِ النَّبِيِّ الْأَمِينِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ

صَلُّوا عَلَى الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ تَعَالَى عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ

First Fatwa

At the age of 13 years, 10 months and 4 days, A'la Hadrat رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ completed all the traditional Islamic disciplines under the guidance of his respected father Maulana Naqi 'Ali Khan رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ. On the very same day, he رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ wrote a Fatwa in reply to a query. Finding the Fatwa correct and accurate, his respected father Maulana Naqi 'Ali Khan رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ authorized him to issue Fatawa and A'la Hadrat رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ continued to write Fatawa till his demise. (*Ibid, pp. 279*)

May Allah عَزَّوَجَلَّ have mercy on him and forgive us without accountability for his sake!

أَمِينٌ بِجَاهِ النَّبِيِّ الْأَمِينِ صَلَّى اللهُ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ

صَلُّوا عَلَى الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللهُ تَعَالَى عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ

A'la Hadrat's expertise in mathematics

A'la Hadrat رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ was blessed with unimaginably great treasure of knowledge in innumerable disciplines. He رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ made his contribution to about fifty disciplines and wrote valuable books. He رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ had expertise in almost every discipline. He had perfect command of 'Ilm-e-Tawqeeat¹ and was

¹ i.e. a science of finding out the timings of sunrise, sunset, morning, evening, midday, etc., with the help of certain formulas.

able enough to set his watch merely by looking at the sun in daytime and the stars at night. The time he رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ would set was always perfect. There was never a difference of even a single minute.

A'la Hadrat رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ was exceptionally skilled in mathematics. Once Dr. Ziyauddin, the vice chancellor of 'Ali Garh University, who possessed foreign degrees and awards, visited A'la Hadrat رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ for the solution of a mathematical problem. A'la Hadrat رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ asked him to tell his problem. He replied, 'It is not so easy to tell this problem.' He رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ asked again, 'Tell a bit!' The vice chancellor described the problem and, to his astonishment, A'la Hadrat رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ instantly provided a satisfactory solution!

Amazed by listening to the correct answer, Dr. Ziyauddin said, 'I had made up my mind to go to Germany for the solution of this problem but fortunately our professor of Islamic studies, Maulana Sayyid Sulayman Ashraf Sahib guided me to come here. It seems as if you were already looking into the same problem in some book.'

He went back delighted and satisfied. He became so impressed by the unique personality of A'la Hadrat رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ that he grew beard and became regular in offering Salah and observing Siyam of Ramadan. (*Hayat A'la Hadrat, vol. 1, pp. 223-229*)

May Allah ﷺ have mercy on him and forgive us without accountability for his sake!

أَمِينٌ بِجَاهِ النَّبِيِّ الْأَمِينِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ

A'la Hadrat رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ also had extensive expertise in Takseer, astronomy, 'Ilm-e-Jafar etc.

صَلُّوا عَلَى الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ تَعَالَى عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ

Amazing power of memory

Abu Haamid, Sayyid Muhammad Kachochhwi رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ has stated: While staying in Bareli and working for Dar-ul-Ifta, I witnessed amazing things day and night. People were surprised to see the unique quality of A'la Hadrat رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ to give prompt and perfect reply to queries. Mentioned here one of such amazing parables.

Dar-ul-Ifta once received a written query. Those working for Dar-ul-Ifta read it and thought that it was a quite new question and its reply may not be found out in the form of a jurisprudential clause. Its reply may be given on the basis of the principles established by Islamic jurists. At last, they came to A'la Hadrat رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ and said, 'We are receiving strange types of new questions. What should we do now?' A'la Hadrat رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ said, 'It is a very old query. It has been explicitly mentioned on

such-and-such page number of *Fath-ul-Qadeer* by Ibn Humaam, on such-and-such page number of such-and-such volume of *Rad-dul-Muhtar* by Ibn ‘Aabideen, and in *Hindiyyah* and in *Khayriyyah*.’

When those books were read, there was not a difference of even a single dot in the mentioned page number, line and contents. Scholars were always amazed by this Divinely-bestowed talent and skill of A’la Hadrat رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ. (*Hayat A’la Hadrat, vol. 1, pp. 210*)

May Allah عَزَّوَجَلَّ have mercy on him and forgive us without accountability for his sake!

أَمِينٌ بِجَاهِ النَّبِيِّ الْأَمِينِ صَلَّى اللهُ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ

Kis tarah itnay ‘ilm kay derya baha diye
‘Ulama-e-Haq ki ‘aql to hayraan hay aaj bhi

صَلُّوا عَلَى الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللهُ تَعَالَى عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ

Memorising the Quran in just one month

Sayyid Ayyub ‘Ali رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ has stated that one day A’la Hadrat رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ said, ‘Some unaware people write the title of ‘Haafiz’ with my name, whereas I don’t deserve it as I am not a Haafiz of the Holy Quran.’ Sayyid Ayyub رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ further said that A’la Hadrat رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ started memorising the Quran the very same day. Probably, the duration for that memorization

was from having made the Wudu for Salat-ul-'Isha to the commencement of Jama'at of Salat-ul-'Isha. A'la Hadrat رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ memorised one Parah (part) every day and he finished the 30th part on the 30th day.

On one occasion, A'la Hadrat رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ said, 'I have memorized the Holy Quran in sequence by making efforts. I have done it so that what those people say about me (by writing the title 'Haafiz' with my name) will not prove to be wrong.' (*Ibid, pp. 208*)

May Allah عَزَّوَجَلَّ have mercy on him and forgive us without accountability for his sake!

أَمِينٌ بِجَاهِ النَّبِيِّ الْأَمِينِ صَلَّى اللهُ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ

صَلُّوا عَلَى الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللهُ تَعَالَى عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ

Love for the Beloved Rasool ﷺ

The personality of A'la Hadrat رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ was a symbol of profound love for the Beloved Rasool صَلَّى اللهُ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ. This may be realized by reading his poetic masterpiece 'Hadaiq-e-Bakhshish'. He رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ has written couplets in praise of the Greatest Rasool صَلَّى اللهُ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ from the bottom of his heart, showing his immense love and admiration for the most Beloved Rasool صَلَّى اللهُ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ. He رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ never wrote any poem in flattery of any worldly ruler because he was a

faithful follower and a great devotee of the Holy Rasool. In fact, he رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ was the embodiment of devotion to the Holy Nabi صَلَّى اللهُ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ. He رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ expressed these sentiments in the following couplet:

Inhayn jaana inhayn maana na rakha ghayr say kaam

﴿لِلَّهِ الْحَمْدُ﴾ *Mayn dunya say Musalman gaya*

Refraining from flattering the rulers

Once, various poets wrote poems in praise of the duke of Nanpara (district Bahraich, UP, India). Some people requested A'la Hadrat رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ to write a poem in praise of that duke. In reply to this, A'la Hadrat رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ wrote a Na'at in praise of the Rasool of Rahmah صَلَّى اللهُ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ with the following opening couplet:

Woh kamal-e-husn-e-Huzoor hay kay gumaan-e-naqs jahan nahin

Yehi phool khaar say door hay yehi sham'a hay kay dhuwan nahin

Meanings of difficult words

Kamal = Perfection, *Naqs* = Imperfection, *Khaar* = Thorn

Explanation of Raza's poetry

The beauty of the Holy Rasool صَلَّى اللهُ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ is absolutely perfect and flawless. One cannot even think of a fault in it. The stem of every flower has thorns but the fragrant flower of

Aaminah's flower-bed is the only one which is absolutely free from thorns. Similarly, every candle emits smoke which is a sort of flaw in it, but the Beloved Rasool صَلَّى اللهُ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ is that bright candle in the blessed fold of Rusul that is smokeless i.e. absolutely flawless.

And in the closing couplet, A'la Hadrat رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ used the word 'Nanpara' so beautifully:

*Karoon madh-e-ahl-e-duwal Raza paray is bala mayn mayri bala
Mayn gada hoon apnay Kareem ka mayra Deen para-e-naan nahin*

Meanings of difficult words

Madh = Praise, *duwal* = Wealth, *Para-e-Naan* = Piece of bread

Explanation of Raza's poetry

A'la Hadrat رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ has stated, 'Why should I admire the rich? I am a beggar of the court of the Benevolent Rasool صَلَّى اللهُ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ.' 'Parah' means *a piece* and 'Naan' means *bread*. It implies, 'A piece of bread is not my religion. So I will not flatter the worldly rulers because I do not want to get anything from them.'

صَلُّوا عَلَى الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللهُ تَعَالَى عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ

Beholding Mustafa ﷺ in wakefulness

When A'la Hadrat رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ went to perform Hajj for the second time, he رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ kept reciting Salat and Salam in front of the sacred tomb till late night wishing to behold the Beloved Rasool صَلَّى اللهُ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ. But, at first night, he was not predestined to be blessed with that privilege. On this occasion, he رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ wrote a famous poem in whose opening couplet he expressed the hope of attachment with the Merciful Rasool صَلَّى اللهُ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ.

Woh soo`ay lalah zaar phirtay hayn

Tayray din ay bahaar phirtay hayn

Explanation of Raza's poetry

O spring! Get delighted. Look! The Sovereign of Madinah صَلَّى اللهُ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ is coming towards the flower-bed.

In the closing couplet, he رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ expressed his humility and humbleness in these words:

Koi kyun puchhay tayri baat Raza

Tujh say shayda hazaar phirtay hayn

(In the second line of the above couplet, A'la Hadrat رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ humbly used the word 'Sag [i.e. dog]' for himself. However, the word 'Shayda' i.e. admirer has been written here out of respect for him).

Having recited the couplets, he رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ sat reverentially waiting for beholding the Holy Nabi صَلَّى اللهُ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ. At last, his fortune smiled on him and he was blessed with beholding the Holy Rasool صَلَّى اللهُ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ with open eyes in wakefulness. (Hayat A'la Hadrat, vol. 1, pp. 92)

May Allah عَزَّوَجَلَّ have mercy on him and forgive us without accountability for his sake!

أَمِينٌ بِجَاهِ النَّبِيِّ الْأَمِينِ صَلَّى اللهُ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ

مُسْبِخُنَ اللهِ عَزَّوَجَلَّ! May we be sacrificed on those eyes by which A'la Hadrat beheld the most Beloved Rasool صَلَّى اللهُ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ in wakefulness! He رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ was blessed with this privilege as he loved the Revered and Renowned Rasool صَلَّى اللهُ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ from the bottom of his heart and was a true devotee, which is clearly evident from his poetry.

صَلُّوا عَلَى الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللهُ تَعَالَى عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ

Some glimpses from character

A'la Hadrat رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ said, 'If someone splits my heart into two parts, he will see ﴿لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللهُ﴾ engraved on one part and ﴿مُحَمَّدٌ رَسُولُ اللهِ﴾ on the other.' (Sawanih Imam Ahmad Raza, pp. 96)

Tajdar-e-Ahl-e-Sunnat, the beloved son of A'la Hadrat, Mufti-e-A'zam Hind Maulana Mustafa Raza Khan رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ says in *Saaman-e-Bakhshish*:

Khuda aik per ho to aik per Muhammad

Ager qalb apna dau parah karoon mayn

In the eyes of the eminent and respected scholars and saints of his time, A'la Hadrat رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ was the greatest devotee of the Beloved Rasool صَلَّى اللهُ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ. He رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ was often found sad in grief of being away from the Beloved and Blessed Rasool صَلَّى اللهُ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ. Whenever A'la Hadrat رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ read the blasphemous statements written by the 'paid blasphemers', tears would well up in his eyes. He رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ forcefully confute [i.e. prove them to be wrong] so that they would oppose him by their writings and speeches rather than the Greatest Rasool صَلَّى اللهُ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ.

A'la Hadrat رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ often felt proud that Allah عَزَّوَجَلَّ has made him a shield for the protection of the glory of the Noble Rasool صَلَّى اللهُ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ in those times. He رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ would confute their blasphemous statements forcefully and vigorously so that they would use their energy against him and they would not blaspheme the Beloved Rasool صَلَّى اللهُ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ at least for some time. He رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ says in *Hadaiq-e-Bakhshish*:

Karoon tayray naam pay jan fida

Na bas aik jan dau jahan fida

Dau jahan say bhi nahin jee bhara

Karoon kya karoron jahan nahin

A'la Hadrat رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ never let the poor go empty-handed. He رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ would always help them. Even in the last moments of his life, he رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ made a will to his relatives to look after the poor, serve delicious food to them and never rebuke them. A'la Hadrat رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ would often remain busy writing and compiling books. He رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ would always offer Salah with Jama'at in Masjid. He رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ would eat very little food.

Reverential sitting posture during Milad

In Milad, A'la Hadrat رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ used to sit in a reverential posture like that of Salah throughout the Milad gathering. When the blessed birth used to be mentioned, he would stand up to recite Salat-o-Salam at that time. He رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ would deliver speech in the same manner and would sit on the Mimbir [i.e. a pulpit-like raised structure] for four to five hours continuously in the same reverential posture.

(Ibid, pp. 119; Hayat A'la Hadrat, vol. 1, pp. 98)

If only we, devotees of A'la Hadrat, would also be blessed with sitting in that reverential posture whilst reciting or listening to the Holy Quran, attending Sunnah-inspiring Ijtima'at, Madani Muzakarah, Madani Halqah etc.

A unique way of sleeping

At the time of sleeping, A'la Hadrat رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ would place his thumb on his index finger forming the word ﴿الله﴾. He رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ would never stretch out his legs while asleep. He رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ would sleep on his right side with both of his hands put together and placed under his head. He رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ would then fold his legs with his body positioned in a way that would form the word ﴿مُحَمَّد﴾. (*Hayat A'la Hadrat, vol. 1, pp. 99*)

These are the manners of the true bondmen of Allah عَزَّوَجَلَّ and devotees of Mustafa.

*Naam-e-Khuda hay haath mayn, naam-e-Nabi hay zaat mayn
Muhr-e-ghulami hay pari, likhay huway hayn naam dau*

صَلُّوا عَلَى الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللهُ تَعَالَى عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ

The train kept halted!

Sayyid Ayyub 'Ali Shah رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ has reported: Once, A'la Hadrat رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ was travelling from Pilibhit to Bareilly by railway train. During the journey, the train stopped at Nawab Ganj station for two minutes. The time of Maghrib Salah had started. As soon as the train halted, A'la Hadrat رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ started offering Salah in the train having recited Takbeer-e-Iqamat. There were probably five persons who joined A'la Hadrat

رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ in Salah. I was also amongst them. Just before joining the Salah, I chanced to glance at the non-Muslim guard, who was waving the green little flag. I looked outside from the window and found that the line was clear for the train to depart. But the train did not move. A'la Hadrat رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ completed all the three Fard Rak'at calmly and peacefully. As soon as he performed Salam towards the right side, the train departed. Those who offered the Salah, led by A'la Hadrat رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ, uttered involuntarily 'مُبِخْنَ اللهُ عَدَّوَجَلَّ'.

There is an important point which deserves consideration. If the congregational Salah were being offered at the railway platform, it could have been said that the guard may have seen them offer Salah and signalled to the driver to stop the train for the same reason. But Salah was offered inside the train, hence it cannot be said that the guard may have seen a beloved bondman of Allah عَدَّوَجَلَّ offer Salah inside the train in such a short time and got the train stopped. Hence it is a saintly miracle of A'la Hadrat رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ. (*Hayat A'la Hadrat, vol. 3, pp. 189-190*)

May Allah عَدَّوَجَلَّ have mercy on him and forgive us without accountability for his sake!

أَمِينٌ بِجَاهِ النَّبِيِّ الْأَمِينِ صَلَّى اللهُ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ

Woh kay us dar ka huwa khalq-e-Khuda us ki huyi

Woh kay us dar say phira Allah us say phir gaya

(Hadaiq-e-Bakhshish)

Explanation of Raza's poetry

One who becomes a true devotee of the Beloved and Blessed Rasool صَلَّى اللهُ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ, all creatures of Allah عَزَّوَجَلَّ become his obedient and the one who disengages himself from this blessed court is rejected by the merciful court of Allah عَزَّوَجَلَّ.

صَلُّوا عَلَى الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللهُ تَعَالَى عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ

His books

A'la Hadrat رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ wrote approximately 1000 books on different topics. He رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ wrote millions of 'Fatawa' (Islamic rulings) from the period 1286 AH to 1340 AH, but unfortunately, not all of them could be recorded. Those which were recorded have been compiled under the title ﴿الْعَطَايَا النَّبَوِيَّة فِي الْفَتَاوَى الرَّضَوِيَّة﴾. The latest edition of 'Fatawa Razawiyyah' consists of 30 volumes, 21656 pages, 6847 question-answers and 206 booklets.

(Fatawa Razawiyyah – referenced, vol. 30, pp. 10)

One can realize how profound knowledge of Quran, Ahadees, Fiqh, Mantiq (logic) etc. he had, only by studying his Fatawa. Each Fatwa is like an ocean of proofs. The names of seven booklets of A'la Hadrat رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ are:

(1). ﴿سُبْحَانَ السُّبُوْحِ عَنْ عَيْبِ كِذْبٍ مَقْبُوْحٍ﴾: A'la Hadrat رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ wrote this booklet condemning those who accused Truthful Allah عَزَّوَجَلَّ of lies. This booklet was a death blow to the opponents' fabricated standpoint.

- (2). ﴿تَجَلَّى الْيَقِيْنِ﴾ (3). ﴿الْأَمْنُ وَالْعُلَى﴾ (4). ﴿مَقَامِعُ الْحَدِيْدِ﴾ (5). ﴿حَيَاتُ الْمَوَاتِ﴾ (6). ﴿سَلُّ السُّيُوْفِ الْهِنْدِيَّةِ﴾ (7). ﴿الْكُوْكَبَةُ الشَّهَابِيَّةِ﴾

'Ilm ka chashmah huwa hay moj-zan tahreer mayn

Jab qalam tu nay uthaya ay Imam Ahmad Raza

(Wasail-e-Bakhshish, pp. 536)

صَلُّوْا عَلَی الْحَبِيْبِ صَلَّى اللهُ تَعَالَى عَلَی مُحَمَّدٍ

Translation of the Holy Quran

The Urdu translation of the Holy Quran done by A'la Hadrat رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ is superior to all other Urdu translations of the present era. The translation done by A'la Hadrat رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ is called 'Kanz-ul-Iman'. A'la Hadrat's spiritual successor, Maulana Sayyid Na'eemuddin Muradabadi رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ has written commentary titled *Khaza'in-ul-Irfan* and a renowned commentator, a great thinker of Ummah, Mufti Ahmad Yar Khan رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ has written commentary titled *Noor-ul-Irfan* on *Kanz-ul-Iman*.

The sad demise

Deriving the year of his demise from part 29 Ayah 15 of Surah Ad-Dahr of the Holy Quran, A'la Hadrat رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ gave the news of his demise four months and twenty two days before his demise. There are 1340 numerals in that Ayah according to 'Ilm-e-Abjad. As per the Islamic calendar, 1340 Hijri is the year in which he passed away. That Quranic Ayah is:

وَيُطَافُ عَلَيْهِمْ بِأَنْيَةِ مِنْ فِضَّةٍ وَآكَوَابٍ

Rounds of silver utensils and goblets will be there for them.

*[Kanz-ul-Iman (Translation of Quran)] (Part 29, Surah Ad-Dahr, Ayah 15)
(Sawanih Imam Ahmad Raza, pp. 384)*

A'la Hadrat رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ passed away on 25th Safar-ul-Muzaffar 1340 Hijri (28 October 1921) on Friday at 2:38 p.m. according to India time (and at 02:08 p.m. according to Pakistan time). Right at the time of Jumu'ah Azan, A'la Hadrat Imam of Ahl-us-Sunnah, Mujaddid of Ummah, revivalist of Sunnah, eradicator of Bid'ah, scholar of Shari'ah, guide of Tareeqah, 'Allamah Maulana Al-Haaj Al-Haafiz Al-Qaari Ash-Shah Imam Ahmad Raza Khan رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ departed this life. ﴿إِنَّا لِلّٰهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ﴾ Today, his blessed shrine is the focal point for visitors in Bareilly.

May Allah ﷺ have mercy on him and forgive us without accountability for his sake!

أَمِينٌ بِجَاهِ النَّبِيِّ الْأَمِينِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ

Tum kya gaye kay raunaq-e-mahfil chali gayi

Sheyr-o-adab ki zulf parayshan hay aaj bhi

صَلُّوا عَلَى الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ تَعَالَى عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ

Wait in the court of the Holy Rasool ﷺ

On 25th Safar-ul-Muzaffar (1340 AH), a Syrian scholar in Bayt-ul-Muqaddas dreamed that he was present in the sacred court of the Beloved Rasool صَلَّى اللَّهُ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ. Holy Rasool's companions رَضِيَ اللَّهُ تَعَالَى عَنْهُمْ and Awliya were also present and there was silence. It seemed as if they were waiting for someone. The Syrian scholar humbly asked the Beloved Rasool صَلَّى اللَّهُ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ, 'O Rasoolallah صَلَّى اللَّهُ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ! May my parents be sacrificed for you! Who is being awaited?' The Holy Rasool صَلَّى اللَّهُ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ replied, 'We are waiting for Ahmad Raza.' The scholar asked, 'Who is Ahmad Raza?' The Beloved Rasool صَلَّى اللَّهُ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ replied, 'He is a native of Bareilly in India.'

When the saint awoke, he immediately travelled from Syria to Bareilly to meet A'la Hadrat رَحِمَهُ اللَّهُ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ, but to his dismay, he

learnt that A'la Hadrat رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ had passed away on the same day (i.e. 25th Safar-ul-Muzaffar, 1340 AH) when he had heard, the Holy Rasool صَلَّى اللهُ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ in dream say, 'We are waiting for Ahmad Raza.' (*Sawanih Imam Ahmad Raza, pp. 391*)

May Allah عَزَّوَجَلَّ have mercy on him and forgive us without accountability for his sake!

أَمِينَ بِجَاهِ النَّبِيِّ الْأَمِينِ صَلَّى اللهُ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ

Ya Ilahi jab Raza khuwab-e-giraan say sar uthaye

Dawlat-e-baydaar-e-'ishq-e-Mustafa ka sath ho

(Hadaiq-e-Bakhshish)

صَلُّوا عَلَى الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللهُ تَعَالَى عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ

Sag-e-Ghaus-o-Raza:

Muhammad Ilyas Qaadiri Razavi عَفَى عَنْهُ

25 Safar-ul-Muzaffar, 1393 AH (March 31, 1973)

The Great Spiritual and Scholarly Luminary of the 21st century, ‘Allamah Maulana Abu Bilal Muhammad Ilyas Attar Qadiri Razavi **داعية بركاته العالیه** has founded Dawat-e-Islami (the global and non-political movement for the preaching of Quran and Sunnah) which is spreading Islamic teachings in more than 100 walks of life. If you want to know about the Founder of Dawat-e-Islami, his books, booklets, and various departments of Dawat-e-Islami, then visit this website: www.dawateislami.net.

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Galaxy 19	USA	97 West	KU-Band	121835	Horizontal	22000	3/4

