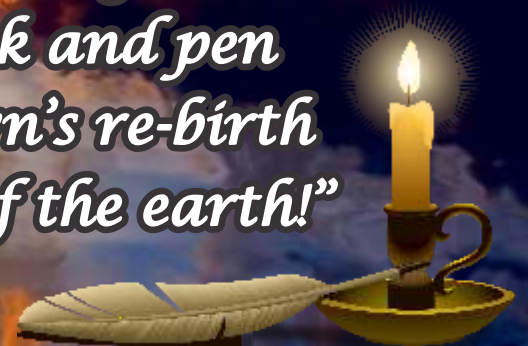


## The Dervish Lamp

*The hurricane swept with all its might,  
A guiding lamp burnt through the night  
Regenerating light once again,  
Lightning wrote like ink and pen  
Struck the glowing Crown's re-birth  
"Arise Shamsuddin sun of the earth!"*

-Irshad







## Hazrath Sultanul Aarifeen Sultan Bahu

BY MOULANA ASLAM SULIMAN

Hazrath Sultan Bahu ( R.A ) was born on Thursday, 1st Jamadauth-Thani 1039 A.H (17th January, 1630 A.D) at the time of dawn (Fajr) salat in Shorkot, Jhang Pakistan. At that time, the Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan ruled.

Hazrath Sultan Bahu (R.A) possessed great spiritual knowledge of Tasawwuf and had demonstrated incredible miracles ( KARAAMAT ) even during his infancy. As a child, when he used to come out from his house to play, one gaze of this Wali was so powerful that the NON MUSLIMS that looked at him started to read the KALIMA SHAREEF immediately.

The mother of Hazrath Sultan Bahu ( R.A ) was MAA RASTI ( R.A ). She was a very pious lady who kept his name, BA -HU meaning : "he is always with HIM ie ALLAH". So spiritual was Hazrath Sultan Bahu ( R.A ) that he reached the station of "FanaFillahwaBaqBillah." ( meaning He who is totally annihilated in ALLAH and Nothing remains for him BUT Allah )

Once, Sultan Bahu ( R.A ) got very ill. A Brahman physician was requested for his checkup but he refused to visit and said: "I am afraid if I will go in front of him, I will convert to a Muslim. Send his Kurta for diagnosis of the disease. When Hazrath Sultan Bahu ( R.A ) Kurta was sent to the physician, he embraced Islam as soon as he saw it.

It is narrated that a poor but respectable Sayed was advised by a dervish to seek Hazrat Sultan Bahu (RA) for his material needs. Going from village to village the Sayed finally found Hazrat Sultan Bahu (RA) working in one of the fields under intense heat. It must be mentioned here that this was the only time during which the Saint had been

occupied in any sort of worldly occupation and this too he had discarded after some time. The Sayed was disappointed that what can this Faqir give me when he himself seems in want and dressed in tattered clothes. Disappointed, the Sayed decided to return to his village. As he was turning back, Hazrat Sultan Bahu (RA) called out " Sayed Sahib, why are you turning back.... speak what do you seek ?" Taken aback by this sudden forte and calling, the Sayed lamented his material needs to the Saint. Hazrat Sultan Bahu (RA) asked the Sayed to excuse him while he attended to the call of nature. Returning from the call of nature, the Saint threw the stone with which he dried himself at the direction of the Sayed. Wherever the stone made contact with the clay ground where they were standing turned into gold pieces. The Sayed was told to take the gold for his needs and depart immediately so that nobody could be aware of what had taken place. It is said that this gold in the form of jewelry is still extant in the same family for several generations.

Hazrath Sultan Bahu ( R.A ) passed away at the age of sixty three years. It was Thursday, 1st Jamadauth-Thani, 1102 A.H (1st March 1691 AD) at the time of afternoon (Asr) Salaah.

Though the actual Wisaal date of Hazrath Sultan Bahu ( R.A ) is on the 01st Jamadauth Thani, his URS takes place annually on the 09th and 10th Muharram. The reason being is that the resting places of Hazrath Sultan Bahu ( R.A ) had to be changed few times upon his WISAAL due to the flood waters breaking its banks and entering into his sacred MAZAAR. The Final Resting place was done around the 09th of Muharram. Millions of people flock to receive the spiritual Baraka and Faiz. Alhumdullilah, the writer has also been there during the URS time.



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*Story of a Sahabi*

# ABBAAD IBN BISHR

*With him was the Light of Allah*

Abbaad was amongst the first noble Ansaar who instinctively took allegiance with Mus'ab Ibn Umair in Madinah. From the very moment he pledged allegiance right up until his demise Abbaad surrendered himself passionately and wholeheartedly to the cause of Islam. He fought in the forefront of every battle and partook in every affair that concerned his Deen. His involvement was however not marginal. Rather, Abbaad was "completely consumed and dedicated with heart and soul in a dazzling, overwhelming way."

After the military campaign of Dhaar-Ar-Riqaa, the Muslims had to stop and spend the night at a certain place. The Glorious Messenger (SAW) appointed Ammaar Ibn Yaasir and Abbaad Ibn Bishr as guards to watch over the resting army. It was decided that they would take shifts so that both could also get some rest. Abbaad noticed that Ammaar was already quite exhausted. He thus suggested that he take the first shift. This would allow Ammaar to get some sleep. Abbaad watched for a while. It seemed as though things were very quiet. Abbaad thus assumed that it was safe. Since there seemed to be little threat of attack, Abbaad felt his time would be better spent in Ibaadat. In this way he would achieve benefit and be rewarded both for praying as well as standing guard.

He stood in complete meditation of his Lord and prayed with conviction and sincerity. After reading Surah Al-Faatihah, Abbaad began reciting another Surah from the Quraan. All of a sudden an arrow flew towards him and landed in his shoulder. Instead of screaming with pain and taking cover or alerting the others, Abbaad calmly removed the arrow and continued his recitation. His concentration did not seem to be affected in the least. Soon another arrow pierced through the darkness towards his body. Once again Abbaad merely pulled out the arrow and commenced with his prayer. He went into Ruku and thereafter into Sajdah. Abbaad began to feel weak. While in Sajdah he extended his right arm outwards to awaken Ammaar. He then sat up, recited Tashahud and completed his prayer.

Ammaar awoke and was startled to discover what had happened. He started yelling and frightened the intruders away. Ammaar was astonished to see the wounded Abbaad and enquired as to why Abbaad had not immediately awoken him. Ponder on Abbaad's reply and one will begin to gain some idea of his devotion calibre and

spiritual rank. Abbaad replied "In my prayer I was reciting verses from the Quraan that filled my soul with such awe that I didn't want to interrupt it nor cut it short. By ALLAH, I swear, because I did not want to lose a single word, which the Messenger (SAW) of ALLAH ordered me to preserve. I would have preferred death more than interrupting those verses which I was reciting." This extreme devotion and love infiltrated his life right to its end. It sprang forth when the Beloved (SAW) of ALLAH saying to the Ansaar "You are my people. You are the people who protect. I cannot be defeated through you. There is no nation which has come like you before," and it surged forward thereafter with unbounded passion.

He was a man of great faith, being completely enveloped in worship and absconded in the remembrance of his creator. His Companions described him as possessing a light from ALLAH. This light gave Abbaad amazing clarity and radiance in vision, which had the capacity to guide one to certainty and goodness without difficulty. Abbaad's brothers once narrated that as he walked in the darkness a light would emanate from him and brighten the way.

A day before the battle of Al-Yamaamah Abbaad had a dream in which he saw the sky open up. Then it closed and covered him. He interpreted it as signifying martyrdom for him in the battle to come. On the day of the battle he fought valiantly. When he saw that the enemy was becoming victorious, he remembered the words of his Beloved Aakaa (SAW): "You are my people. You are the people who protect. I cannot be defeated through you. There is no nation which has come like you before," it was as if the Messenger (SAW) was standing right in front of him and saying this. These words penetrated his heart, soul and his entire being. Abbaad felt that it is the Ansaar who must now win this battle for the Prophet (SAW). They must live up to His (SAW) expectations and not let him down. He went onto a hill and yelled: "O People of the Ansaar! Carry your sword in a valiant way, and be honoured and distinguished among the people!"

Four hundred Ansaar rushed towards him, responding to his call with conviction. Abbaad led them back into the battle. They fought with renewed ferocity. It was however destined that Abbaad would be martyred on that day. His earlier vision was Haq. The doors of Jannah opened gladly to welcome the beautiful spirit of Abbaad Ibn Bishr.

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# AFRICA BE WARNED: RECOLONIZATION PROJECT IS WELL UNDERWAY

Following the assassination of Gen. Soleimani at Baghdad International Airport by U.S. special forces, the Iraq parliament passed a resolution to chase away all foreign forces out of Iraq. This angered President Donald Trump so much. He threatened Iraq with sanctions and a bill for billions of dollars if the U.S. is forced to withdraw its troops from Iraqi soil. Officials in Iraq have since stepped back from threats to expel US forces after Donald Trump threatened to impose sanctions over the Iraqi parliament's vote for retaliation for the killing of the Iranian General Qassem Soleimani. The military spokesman for the acting Iraq Prime Minister Adel Abdul Mahdi, who met the US ambassador on Monday to implement the decision, said any withdrawal would involve only combat forces and not training and logistical support for the Iraq military which have been the core component of US presence in Iraq in recent years.

The US president's threats to impose sanctions on Iraq that will "make Iranian sanctions seem somewhat tame" led some Iraqi MPs to urge a softening of the parliament's position. One Iraqi MP said Trump's unpredictability made such a move risky when US air support might still be needed to prevent a resurgence of Islamic State.

Abdul Mahdi's tone was more conciliatory on Monday than in his speech to parliament on Sunday, in which he demanded "urgent measures" be taken to oust US forces. After meeting Washington's envoy, his office released a statement saying: "The prime minister stressed the importance of mutual cooperation on implementing the withdrawal of foreign troops, in line with the Iraqi parliament's resolution, and to set relations with the United States on a proper foundation."

Iran and its Lebanese proxy, Hezbollah, say the removal of all US forces from the region is a main objective in the wake of Soleimani's death. Such an outcome was a stated goal of the assassinated Iranian general and would be considered by some to be a victory worthy of his "martyrdom" at the hands of an enemy. However, there is widespread consensus among security officials in the region that the Iranian response would also include attacks against US interests.

Speaking to reporters on Air Force One before Abdul Mahdi's meeting with the US ambassador, Trump said: "If they do ask us to leave, if we don't do it on a very friendly basis, we will charge them sanctions like they've never seen before, ever. We have a very extraordinarily expensive airbase that's there. It cost billions of dollars to build. Long before my time. We're not leaving unless they pay us back for it."

Meanwhile, al-Shabaab militants launched a predawn attack Sunday on an airstrip used by the US and Kenyan militaries on Kenya's coast near the border with Somalia, killing one US service member and two



American private contractors, according to a US military statement.

In the wake of the above statements by Donald Trump, I would like to draw your attention to what is happening elsewhere on the African continent and to warn the people of Africa that there is a proliferation of AFRICOM military camps in many countries. It is no secret that the US has in the past many years been setting up military bases on our beloved continent, invited or uninvited. From Djibouti, Ethiopia, Niger, Nigeria, Mali, Kenya, Uganda, Central African Republic (CAR), DRC and Botswana, USA Africa Command has or is setting up bases in these countries.

The warning is that when the time comes for them to leave, they will

refuse and demand that African countries should pay for those bases that they have built. Alternatively, they may threaten our poor African countries with punitive sanctions like the ones Donald Trump has threatened on Iraq. How many of our African countries can afford to pay back the billions USA has spend on those bases? Besides, many of these deals are not underwritten by national parliaments in many of these countries; it is between the imperial USA and their puppets in the form of corrupt individual African presidents and their appendages who are paid money to make such decisions. We are aware of some African

leaders who are known to have been paid money to allow some Western countries to dump Nuclear waste material in their countries without permission from the people.

This level of senselessness and absurdity is displayed again in their dealings with AFRICOM. Proof of this is in the details, a seemingly ceaseless string of projects, operations, and engagements. Each mission, as AFRICOM insists, may be relatively limited and each footprint might be "small" on its own, but taken as a whole, US military operations are sweeping and expansive. Evidence of an American pivot to Africa is almost everywhere on the continent. Unfortunately, very few governments if any on our continent, have paid much notice.

By: Dr Mustafa Mheta

Researcher/Head of Africa Desk

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# The Rise of Shams!

BY IRSHAD SIDDIQI SABRI

Rumi is considered the most famous muslim thinker and writer by the modern world. His message to dive into the soul to discover the Reality of God is an elaborate representation of the higher teachings of Islam. Something other famous sufis achieved with equal aplomb, in the face of objection from the orthodoxy.

The sufis were never intentionally controversial. They did not detract from the mainstream approach, except to define the actual purpose of shariah.

The movement evolved after the introduction of Ali, as its founder, by none other than Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ), declaring "Whoever's master I am, so is Ali his master!"

Great emphasis was placed on searching for the evidence and signs of the Creator, so Travel became a fundamental of the path in as much as the seeking of a teacher or a spiritual guide.

By Rumi's time sufism had reached its most brilliant period. Contemporaries like al-Jilani, Suharwardi, ibn-al-Arabi, and Muinuddin Chishti dazzled the world with their teachings and performances unraveling the mysteries of the Revelations and the lessons of the Apostle (ﷺ).

From such a background, emerged a seeker, also from Turkey, who had fulfilled a high level of religious education, memorising the Quran for one.. He was Sayyed Shamsuddin and he also chose the sufi path. He was a keen follower of the great masters of the sufi world and took to travel so he could meet some of them, and perhaps discover a master, upon whose hand he would pledge bai'ah, in his quest for arriving at the ultimate Truth.

Closer to home, he would have first visited Islam's holy lands, including Jerusalem. Here he would have first learnt of Sheikh Fareed, or even visited a cave which attracted much attention after the Chishti master had sat in seclusion and prayed there.

Shamsuddin Turk, after passing through many lands and engaging with fellow travellers and congregations at the retreats of sufi masters wanted nothing but to meet Sheikh Fareed,

desiring to achieve his spiritual apprenticeship there.

From Europe, crossing Africa, into Asia, the dervish eventually arrived at Ajodhan, in the forests of the Punjab, where he fulfilled his wish to meet Baba Fareed Ganje Shahr the leader of the Chishtiyya order. He was not successful in enlisting himself as a disciple, as he was re-directed to Sheikh Ala'uddin Sabir, the ecstatic and saintly deputy of Baba Fareed.

A new spiritual order, Sabriyya, grew from this meeting and connection. Khwaja Shamsuddin the Turk became the only disciple of his master, widely revered today as Sabir-Paak. He was the witness on whose evidence the Reality of Sabir-Paak and the Sabri Silsila achieved such credibility.

The urs of Khwaja Shamsuddin Turk (RA) occurs annually on 10 Jamadi-us-Sani and is celebrated lavishly at his shrine in Panipat, India.

In South Africa, the first official urs of the great saint is in its 28th year of celebration. It will be hosted in Hazzyview on a date to be confirmed by Irshad Ahmed Siddiqi Sabri, mureeds and well-wishers, Insha Allah.




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# 'Saaberie Chishty Academy'

## Institute for Higher Islamic Education

BY SHIREEN ISMAIL

Prior to the advent of Prophethood the Holy Prophet (ﷺ) experienced truthful dreams. The Prophet (ﷺ) spend many days in seclusion in the Cave of Hira in the Mountain of Light in total worship, meditation and reflection of Allah Almighty. During this time spent in the Cave of Hira, in the month of Ramadan at the time of early dawn, the Angel Jibraeel (ﷺ) appeared before the Holy Prophet (ﷺ) and said: "Read ! the reply was : " I am not from those who can recite." After three such requests and replies, Hazrat Jibraeel (ﷺ) held the Prophet (ﷺ) tightly by his chest and thereafter the first five verses of Surah Al-Alaq were revealed by the Lord of the Universe and recited by the ArchAngel to the Prophet (ﷺ): "Read in the name of your Lord Who has created. Who has created man from the blood clot. Read, for your Lord is the most Generous. Who teaches writing by pen. He taught man what he knew not," (Surah Al-Alaq Verse 1-5).

The elevation of Muslims and the pinnacle of civilisation over the decades has clearly been based on and manifested its light through the medium of learning in Islam. There are many renditions from the Quran and Hadith that are filled with references to learning, education, observation and the use of reason as noted by the first verses revealed by the Almighty.

Verse 10 in Surah Mulk reads, "And they shall say: Had we but listened or used (our) intelligence (reason), we would not have been among the inmates of the great fire." The tafsir of Ala-Hazrat (RA) indicates that this informs us that any intelligence which fails to understand Religion, is not intelligence. Those ears and eyes which fail to listen to the commands of the Prophet (ﷺ) and see the signs of Allah Almighty are deaf and blind even though they may be utilized for worldly things.

The Quran states, "Can someone who remains in the hours of the night in devotion, prostrating and standing in fear of the Hereafter and hoping for the Mercy of his Lord, be like the one who is disobedient? Please declare: Are those who know equal to those who do not know? Surely, only those understand who are wise," (S39 V9).

Ala-Hazrat (RA) beautifully explains the reason for the following revelation, "Allah is the Most High, the True King, and hasten not with Quran until its revelation is completed to you and submit, O my Lord increase me in knowledge," (S20 V114) as when Jibraeel (ﷺ) would appear with the revelation of the Holy Quran, the Prophet (ﷺ) would sit with him and recite it. He would hasten so as not to forget any word of the Holy Quran. In response to it, this verse was revealed in which it is promised that the Messenger (ﷺ) would not forget any word. The lesson learnt from this, Ala-Hazrat (RA) says is that one should never be fully content with knowledge. The desire and voracity to seek knowledge is a good thing. Observe, Ala-Hazrat (RA) states in the tafsir, "although the Holy Prophet (ﷺ) is the most knowledgeable person in the entire creation, yet he was commanded to pray for an increase in knowledge. We further learn that the knowledge of the Prophet (ﷺ) is always in a progressive state."

The emphasis on teaching, education, knowledge and learning is substantiated by the Hadiths of the Prophet (ﷺ), "Hazrat Anas (رضي الله عنه) reported that the Messenger (ﷺ) of Allah (ﷻ) said: Search for knowledge it is compulsory upon every Muslim male and Muslim female..:" Hazrat Abu Hurairah (رضي الله عنه) reported that the Messenger (ﷺ) of Allah (ﷻ) said: whoever removes any anxiety of a believer from his anxieties of this world. Allah will remove his anxiety from the anxieties of the Resurrection Day and whoever removes the wants of the

needy, Allah will remove his wants of this world and the hereafter and whoever shields a Muslim (of his faults) Allah will shield him (of his faults) in this world and in the hereafter. Allah is in aid of a servant, so long as the servant remains in aid of his Muslim brother. And whoever treads a path seeking knowledge therein, Allah will make his path to heaven easy. And people do not assemble in a house of the houses of Allah and recite therein the Book of Allah and learn its meanings among themselves except that peace descends on them and mercy (of Allah) encompasses them and angels surround them and Allah remembers them among those near to Him. And whoever is negligent in action, his pedigree will be of no avail to him;" and the often-repeated hadith, namely "the Messenger (ﷺ) said, Seek knowledge even it be in China" reflects the importance and necessity of seeking knowledge.

Experts say that we are now living in a Postmodern Society. Post-Modernism in Western philosophy refers to the late 20th- century movement characterised by broad scepticism, subjectivism, or relativism, in other words, there exists a general suspicion of reason with an acute sensitivity to the role of ideology with the main aim to assert and achieve power. Simply put, we are facing many challenges and distractions that are shifting societies focus away from the Truth. Society whether it be elders, adults, parents, children, youth, business people, professional people, religious or secular educators, there appears to be a life filled with a rise in stress, anxiety, depression, negative influences, economic demands and pressures, expectations, social media infiltrations, restlessness, etc and there seems to be no time for a meaningful and purposeful life. While everyone is busy perhaps with their lives trying to either survive or make a life for themselves, the more we are moving away from the compulsory fundamentals of Islam. The only means to shield and protect our society from the dangers and pitfalls of life is Islamic Education. Meaningful Knowledge is of paramount importance as it is the path that brings light and removes darkness, and education is necessary in order to recognise the straight path of Siratul-Mustaqem.

The Saaberie Chishty Society has identified the gaps and needs of society and has embarked on an initiative to improve and enhance the accessibility of the Deen of Islam and to provide life coping skills in a dynamic and interactive environment in order for Muslims to live a more pious, purposeful and productive life. The Saaberie Chishty Society is aiming to be an Institute of Higher Islamic Education of which the vision is to provide society and the community with the following and other initiatives:

- Madressa Teacher Upliftment Courses
- Dynamic and Relevant Islamic Education Courses
- Courses on Sufism
- Empowerment and Life Skills Development
- Muslim Physical, Mental, Emotional and Spiritual Health, Nutrition and Creative Courses
- First Aid Courses
- Various Islamic Conferences, Seminars, Workshops and Social activities, etc

The Saaberie Chishty Academy will be a safe place where elders, adults, children, youth, families and communities can reach out and find their authentic inner beings in the midst of societies post-modern era.



# Rumi... THE MYSTIC POET

Rumi was born in Central Asia, most likely in present-day Tajikistan, near the border of Afghanistan.

His father and grandfather were well-known Muslim preachers and jurists, and he was expected to follow this more traditional path.

Rumi came from a line of preachers. His father, Baha Valad, was an occasional preacher at the local mosque and a Sunni jurist. Baha Valad was strict about keeping religious rules and regulations, although he was influenced by Sufism, the mystical branch of Islam that Rumi would later be identified with.

There are several stories told about Rumi's early childhood. When he was five years old, he reportedly saw angels. These episodes agitated the small boy. His father reassured him that the angels were showing themselves in order to offer their favors.

"It's an interesting way of indicating an early interest in religion, spirituality and poetic imagination in Rumi."

Rumi studied religion in a Madresa, or college, in Aleppo, which is the scene of such tragic destruction today.

After Rumi's father died, his boyhood tutor took charge of his spiritual education. Rumi was encouraged to study in Damascus and Aleppo so that he would bolster his presence as a religious teacher and a leader of his father's community. The education he received at Aleppo was religious in the sense that the center of it was the Quran. He was also exposed to Arabic poetry.

An important part of education at that time was learning to emulate your teacher and receive certain ideas from them.

"There was a very developed academic, scholarly culture especially in Baghdad, Aleppo, and Damascus, and with that a lot of pride, a lot of status," "The idea of fame or making your name was very important in those kind of scholarly circles."

He was likely never called "Rumi" during his lifetime. The term Rumi means "from Rome," referring to the Byzantine Roman Empire. The empire included present-day Turkey, where Rumi lived most of his adult life. His birth name was Mohammad. Because the name was so common, people were given nicknames. When he began to see visions of angels, his father gave him the title of "Khodavandgar" which is Persian for "Lord" or "Master." His father also called him "Jalaloddin," meaning "Splendor of the Faith." Later in his life, Rumi was called "Mowlana," or "Our Teacher" or "Our Master."

When Rumi met his great teacher, companion, and beloved Shams of Tabriz, he was already in his late thirties, Shams about sixty years old.

By this time, Rumi is known in Konya, Turkey, for being a respected jurist, a scholar and a preacher. But he wasn't satisfied, and felt a little ill at ease with his role.

Shamsoddin, or Shams of Tabriz, was a mystic and a religious seeker. As a personality, Gooch said that he was irascible and misanthropic, interesting and difficult, never really satisfied. At the same time, he was steeped in learning and prayer and mediation.

The two met on a street in Konya and immediately fell into a philosophical discussion. They recognized each other as kindred spirits. Rumi spent the next three months in seclusion with Shams, who tried to pull Rumi towards seeing music and poetry as spiritual practice.

The parity of this relationship bent the social norms of the time. It also put a stress on Rumi's family and community.

"Eventually, Shams of Tabriz leaves either on purpose or he was murdered," "No one really knows, but that really moves Rumi towards a period of what would seem like madness."

Rumi did not begin writing poetry seriously until the traumatic disappearance of Shams of Tabriz from his life. Shams'

disappearance deeply disturbed Rumi, but it also helped him evolve spiritually.

"Rumi tried to deal with the suffering caused by Shams' departure, and he realizes this love he's seeking is within himself," "That, in some sense, Shams is within him."

Rumi went on to write over 3,000 ghazals, lyrical, rhymed poems often dealing with themes of love, and over 2,000 robaiyat, or four-line rhyming poems. He also wrote a six-volume spiritual epic in couplets, known as the Masnavi.

Rumi's funeral procession in Konya was unusual for the time. Rumi died on December 17, 1273. He had been a devout Muslim for all his life, praying five times every day and keeping all the required fasts. But by the end, he also wrote about belief in a "religion of love" that crosses over traditional denominational boundaries. In the Masnavi, he wrote, "The religion of love is beyond all faiths, The only religion for lovers is God."

Rumi gave his followers special instructions to treat the night of his death

like they would a joyous wedding night. The mystic had planned his own funeral, complete with singers, musicians, dancers, Quran reciters, and imams. For Rumi, the presence of the singers and dancers indicated that the deceased was both a Muslim and a lover. But there were also Jewish rabbis reciting psalms, and Christian priests reading from the Gospels at Rumi's funeral? which left some of his Muslim followers bewildered. They hadn't realized just how much Rumi had become a well-respected figure within other religious communities.

"[Rumi] was thinking somewhat outside the box in finding in mysticism the origins of all religions."

The anniversary of Rumi's death is still celebrated as Wedding Night, or Seb-i Arus in Konya, Turkey every year. The festivities include a Whirling Dervish ceremony, a meditative whirling practice that is believed to help practitioners connect with God.

The mystic writes in the Masnavi, "When you discover the source of sunlight...Whatever direction you go with be east."



Extracted from: 10 THINGS YOU PROBABLY DID'NT KNOW ABOUT RUMI  
By Carol Kuruvilla

# QUALITIES OF A Friend

BY MOULANA NASIK AHMED BROOD

It is said that the key to success and salvation is keeping close friendship with those who remember Allah Almighty and you remember Allah Almighty whilst you are in their company. As mentioned previously, Imam Ghazzali has mentioned that if a person is looking for a true and close friend then the person should look for certain qualities in that person, such as: someone who is an intellectual, a person who has good character and is well mannered, someone who is not corrupt in their beliefs of religion (Aqeedah), a person who is not greedy etc. let us try and understand these qualities in more detail.

## Someone who is an intellectual:

This means they we should not make a person a close friend who is foolish because of the fact that a foolish friend will make us land up in problems and hitches. However, an intellectual friend will help you get out of the problem which we are in. An intellectual friend will try to solve our problems, strategize and come up with a plan and strategy to get us out of our problems. Arnold H Glasgow, an American author, once said that 'A true friend never gets in your way unless you happen to be going down'.

## A person with good character and well mannered:

A close friend with good character and good manners will make us be influenced by their behaviour. If we make close friendship with a person who constantly insults people and criticises negatively then unfortunately we will develop the very same habits. Confucius says 'What you do not want done to yourself, do not do to others'. The Holy Prophet (Sallallahu Alayhi Wa Sallam) was not obscene nor did he spread obscenity (Tirmidhi – 1975). So it is not befitting for a person to be negative in their criticism just to insult the next person so that we can show them that we are better than them. It pains the heart when we hear and see the Muslims doing such things. We fail to understand the Hadith whereby Nabi (Sallallahu Alayhi Wa Sallam) has said: "None of you is a true believer until he loves for his

brother what he loves for himself" (Bukhari – 13).

## Someone who is not corrupt in their beliefs of religion (Aqeedah):

This is very important because if we make close friends with a person who is corrupt in their beliefs relating to religion and in their ideology (Aqeedah) then automatically that person will make us corrupt. A small example is such that perhaps a person is not fully geared about the importance of respecting ones teachers. This corrupt friend will then teach us all the tricks of belittling ones teacher. These types of friends are corrupt in their philosophy and ideology of religion that they will also make us corrupt in the same field. This is not the way of a Muslim. Unfortunately we see that in the present day the Muslims have no conscious. Therefore, we should stay far away from such people or else we will eventually develop this very same immoral and unethical habit.

## Someone who is not greedy:

A greedy person can sell us for one morsel of food and there is no guarantee that person will get that morsel of food but we will definitely get sold. When we make a greedy person a close friend then greed will automatically come in our heart and whatever contentment we may have will cease to exist. How many times we find that a person from a good background and is content eventually has their mind corrupted and their entire outlook of life becomes one of greed.

Always remember that a fake friend and our shadows are only there while the sun shines, so be careful who we befriend!

"If you're losing your soul and you know it, then you've still got a soul left to lose"



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# HAZRAT ABU BAKR "AS SIDDIQUE"

## THE SUCCESSOR OF THE PROPHET

The first Hajj under Islam was in the ninth year of Hijra. The Prophet ﷺ was too busy at Madinah to lead the Hajj, so he sent Hazrat Abu Bakr ؓ as his agent, he was to lead the Hajj in place of the Prophet r.

The Prophet r led the prayers himself ever since he arrived to Madinah. During his last illness, the Prophet ﷺ could no longer lead the prayers, he was too weak to go to the mosque, he therefore had to choose someone to fill such high position after him. Hazrat Abu Bakr ؓ was also the one who was honored to be chosen by the Prophet for such a task.

Thus in the lifetime of the Prophet ﷺ, Hazrat Abu Bakr ؓ came to fill the highest position under Islam (leading prayers). While one day Hazrat Abu Bakr ؓ was away Hazrat Omar ؓ was appointed by the Companions to lead the prayers in his absence. Realizing the change of voice, the Prophet ﷺ said "This is not Hazrat Abu Bakr ؓ voice, no one but he should lead prayers, he is the fittest person for this position".

When the news of the Prophet's passing on came out, many Muslims were confused and stunned. Omar ؓ himself was so overcome with emotions that he drew his sword and declared "If anyone says that the Messenger of Allah is dead, I will cut off his head".

Muslims stayed in such state until Hazrat Abu Bakr ؓ arrived and gave his famous address: "O People! If anyone among you worshiped Muhammad ﷺ, let him know that Muhammad ﷺ is dead. But those

who worshiped Allah, let them know that He lives and will never die. Let all of us recall the words of the Qur'an. It says: "Muhammad ﷺ is a Messenger of Allah, there have been Messengers before him. What then, will you turn back from Islam if he dies or is killed?" Suddenly Hazrat Abu Bakr ؓ words started to sink in, and in no time confusion was gone.

Having shrugged off the shocking news of the Prophet' ﷺ s death, Muslims realized that they need someone to fill the position of leadership amongst them.

The two main groups amongst Muslims were Muhajirun (refugees from Mecca), and Ansar (the people of Madinah). The Ansar gathered at the Thaqifa Bani Saida their meeting place. Saad bin Abada y the Ansar leader suggested that the Caliph should be from amongst them. Although many refused saying that the Muhajirun in right have a better claim to Khilafah. When the news reached Hazrat Abu Bakr ؓ, he quickly went to their gathering, fearing that confusion might spread once again, and said "Both Muhajirun and Ansar have done great service to Islam. But the former were the first to

accept Islam, they were always very close to the Messenger of Allah. So, O Ansar, let the Caliph be from amongst them". After a short discussion, the Ansar agreed that they should choose the Caliph from amongst the Muhajirun, being from the tribe of Quraish and being the first to accept Islam.

Hazrat Abu Bakr ؓ then asked people to choose between Omar bin Al-Khattab ؓ and Abu Ubaida Ibn A-Jarrah ؓ. Hearing this, both men jumped to their feet and exclaimed "O Siddiq, how can that be? How can anyone else fill this position as long as you are among us? You are the top man amongst he Muhajirun. You were the Companion of the Prophet ﷺ in the Thawr cave. You led prayers in his place, during his last illness. Prayer is the foremost thing in Islam. With all these qualifications you are the fittest person to be the successor of the Holy Prophet ﷺ. Hold out your hand that we may pledge loyalty to you".

But Hazrat Abu Bakr ؓ did not stretch out his hand. Omar y saw that the delay might lead to the reopening of the disagreements so he himself took Hazrat Abu Bakr ؓ s hand out and pledged loyalty to him. Others followed by example, and Hazrat Abu Bakr ؓ became the first Caliph by general consent of the Muslims.

After his election as the Caliph, Hazrat Abu Bakr ؓ addressed the Muslims with these words:

"O People! I have been chosen by you as your leader, although I am no better than any of you. If I do any wrong, set me right. Listen, truth is honesty and untruth is dishonesty. The weak among you are the powerful in my eyes, as long as I do not give them their dues. The powerful among you are weak in my eyes, as long as I do not take away from them what is due to others.

"Listen carefully, if people give up striving for the Cause of Almighty Allah, He will send down disgrace upon them. If people become evil-doers, Almighty Allah will send down calamities upon them.

"Obey me as long as I obey Allah and His Rasul ﷺ. If I disobey Allah and His Rasul ﷺ, you are free to disobey me."

Such was the quality of the humble and generous Companion who believed the Prophet ﷺ in everything to the extent that he was called As-Siddiq, by the Prophet ﷺ. His great personality and service to Islam and Muslims earned him the love and respect of all Muslims, so that he was chosen as the first Caliph after the Prophet ﷺ by all Muslims.

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# SILENCE IS THE KILLER

BY FAIZEL KHAMKER

When we question whether the removal of Modi (bearing in mind that corruption charges are considered against him) or Netanyahu (he has been indicted for fraud) or Trump (through the impeachment process) would make any difference to the toxic environment that they have created through their bigoted racist policies the answer must be a resounding no. They are simply the face of an environment and unless that environment changes we cannot expect much differences.

That environment which is controlled by the neo conservatives who are pushing back against the second horn of Satan the neo liberals have created a divisive society fuelling sectarian hatred and creating an environment where genocide will easily take place. Their hate filled outlook can only survive where those who still have their moral compass reasonably intact remains silent. This silence is then looked at as a weakness to be exploited. The silent majority are then implicit in the horrors to be unfolded. The neo liberals who intent to create a new order where wrong is right and right is wrong have contributed to the chaos and confusion and thereby enabling the silence of those who wish to speak out.

The standards set out historically through religion more so through Islam needs to be revived both in words and actions. It is the silence in articulating these proven moral standards which has allowed the brazen articulation of gross human rights in the world.

When we look at Israel and their illegal occupation and expansion programmes which had been supported on the bases of multitudes of lies the immorality and its correction was never vociferously articulated in the corridors where such utterances had to be loudly heard and its echoes should never have been silenced.

The silence then created a climate of unashamed lies and manipulation of the truth and this was helped by a media under the control of the immoral powers of the day. It is at that time that the media should have been challenged before their powers became almost absolute.

A lot has been said about Trump but we ignore the fact that the irrational, corrupt, bigoted liar did not acquire those characteristics once he assumed office. These were his characteristics prior to him taking office and it was known. Furthermore his ambition to run for Presidency was known for many years. Despite this he was made into an icon knowing his traits and his failures as a leader in the business world and not a word was uttered about the truth which has the potential to create absolute havoc in a volatile world. It is this silence that has created a global toxic environment not experienced for

decades and this silence has emboldened him and his followers to vociferously claim a fictitious super hero status and totally blameless. The silence from those that had a sense of morality led to the death and destruction of many communities and individuals.

The same story unfolds with Modi whose vicious, lying and corrupt habits was known and by any decent standard disqualified him for any leadership position. When the obvious dangers posed by this monster became manifest who can explain his re election to the highest position in the country. The silence on good morals necessary in leadership was never bought to the fore instead he was only on the basis of political policies which in itself was devoid of all moral values. The result of the silence has prepared the playing fields of a pending genocide.

In South Africa we face a similar problem with the Comprehensive Sexual Education curriculum intended to be rolled out in all government schools. This country is faced with a serious challenge of child abuse yet this curriculum intended to counter this issue in fact creates an opening for abuse more so in the mental abuse category. How is it possible for the government to become a silent partner in this horrible act? The media generally is supportive of this curriculum in pursuit of the neo liberal lobby whose intent is to destabilise the global community. The effect of the implementation of this curriculum will take decades to recover from and countless lives will be ruined. The moral arguments against this curriculum have been muted despite the fact that voices against this should have been in all corners of the country.

The voice of the morally guided must be escalated and not be as submissive as it has been over the years failing which the future of our progenies will be destroyed.

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# Sunburn

HASINA BEGUM SAYED

**After sunburn, your skin may start to peel. This is a sign that your body is trying to rid itself of damaged cells. Never try to peel the skin yourself; let it come off naturally. Learn more about treating a sunburn below.**

What you need to know about sunburn:

- Some people are more prone to sunburn: Skin type determines your susceptibility; people with fair skin run the greatest risk. But anyone can get burned.
- Even without a burn, sun exposure raises skin cancer risk. Even if you are tan or your skin type is dark and your skin does not redden, the sun can cause cellular damage that can lead to cancer.
- The UV index is a factor: The sun varies in intensity by season, time of day and geographic location. A high UV index means that unprotected skin will burn faster or more severely. Be careful, especially when the sun is strongest. But even when the index is low, the risk remains. Protect yourself every day of the year.
- You can burn on an overcast day: Be careful even when the sun isn't shining. Up to 80 percent of UV rays can penetrate clouds.
- Light pink is still bad: No matter how mild, every burn is a sign of injury to your skin that can result in premature aging and skin cancer.

Sunburn risks to you

- Repeated sunburns raise your risk. For fair-skinned people, especially those with genetic predisposition, sunburn plays a clear role in developing melanoma. Research shows that the UV rays that damage skin can also alter a tumor-suppressing gene, giving injured cells less chance to repair before progressing to cancer.
- People who work or play sports outdoors have a greater risk of frequent sunburns that can result in skin cancer.
- Even one blistering sunburn in childhood or adolescence more than doubles your chances of developing melanoma later in life.
- Skin damage builds up over time starting with your very first sunburn. The more you burn, the greater your risk of skin cancer. Subsequent UV damage can occur even when there is no obvious burn.
- Five or more sunburns more than doubles your risk of developing potentially deadly melanoma
- It's easy to reduce your risk of skin cancer by practicing sun safety.

Sunburn treatment and relief

For Adults: 5 Ways to Treat a Sunburn

1. Moisturize While Skin Is Damp: While skin is still damp, use a gentle moisturizing lotion (but not petroleum or oil-based ointments, which may trap the heat and make the burn worse). Repeat to keep burned or peeling skin moist over the next few days.
2. Decrease the Inflammation: Aloe vera may also soothe mild burns and is generally considered safe. Continue with cool compresses to help discomfort, wear loose, soft, breathable clothing to avoid further skin irritation and stay out of the sun entirely until the sunburn heals.
4. Replenish Your Fluids: Burns draw fluid to the skin's surface and away from the rest of the body, so you may become dehydrated. It's important to rehydrate by drinking extra liquids, including water and sports drinks that help to replenish electrolytes, immediately and while your skin heals.
5. See a Doctor If ... You should seek medical help if you or a child has severe blistering over a large portion of the body, has a fever and chills or is woozy or confused. Don't scratch or pop blisters, which can lead to infection. Signs of infection include red streaks or oozing pus.



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Kuala Lumpur, MALAYSIA - Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad said the Muslim world is in a state of crisis and called for implementable solutions as he hosted a summit of Muslim-majority countries, Al Jazeera reported. "We all know that the Muslims, their religion and their countries are in a state of crisis. Everywhere we see Muslim countries being destroyed, their citizens forced to flee their countries, forced to seek refuge in non-Muslim countries. Fratricidal wars, civil wars, failed governments and many other catastrophes continue to confront many Muslim countries and Islam without any serious effort being made to end or reduce them or to rehabilitate the religion," Mahathir said. But the absence of Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and Indonesia, which has the world's largest Muslim population, raised concerns about the aim of the summit to unite the Muslim world. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said it was "unfortunate that we are wasting our own energy on internal disputes," referring to the current situation in the Muslim world. He said Muslim countries should not leave the fate of the world's 1,7 billion Muslims in the hands of Western powers, including the five member states sitting as permanent members of the UN Security Council, whose veto power, he said, were harmful to smaller nations.

Jeddah, SAUDI ARABIA - The General Secretariat of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) has expressed its concern over the recent developments pertaining to both the issue of citizenship rights and the Babri Masjid

case in India. The organisation reiterated its call to ensure the safety of the Muslim minority and the protection of Islamic holy places in India. Also in the statement, the OIC General Secretariat reaffirmed the crucial importance of upholding the principles and obligations enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and relevant international covenants that guarantee the rights of minorities without any discrimination. It said that in this regard, any action, contrary to these principles and obligations, may lead to further tensions and may have serious implications on peace and security across the region.

Jeddah, SAUDI ARABIA - The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) strongly condemned the bombing of a mosque in the southwestern Pakistani city of Quetta, which killed at least 15 people and wounded at least 20 others. OIC Secretary General Dr. Yousef bin Ahmed Al-Othaimeen voiced regret over the incident as well as any acts targeting places of worship and terrorising innocent people.

London, UK - Britain has called on Israel to immediately halt settlement expansion in the West Bank, affirming the UK's longstanding position that settlements are illegal under international law and undermine the viability of the two-state solution. "The UK condemns the Israeli government's advancement of yet more plans for over 1 900 housing units across the West Bank," Secretary of State for Middle East Affairs at the British Foreign Office Andrew Morrison said in a statement

issued by the British Consulate General in Jerusalem. "It is the UK's longstanding position that settlements are illegal under international law and undermine the viability of the two-state solution," he said.

Islamabad, PAKISTAN - Prime Minister Imran Khan said his country would become the voice of innocent Kashmiris by forcefully raising the issue at every forum. "Pakistan will continue to extend political, diplomatic and moral support to Kashmiris," Khan said after a meeting with renowned Kashmiri activist Tony Ashai, who thanked Khan for effectively raising the issue of Kashmir at the international level, including the United Nations. He also appraised Khan of his efforts to update the US Senators and Congress members about Kashmir's humanitarian crisis.

New York, USA - UN Secretary-General António Guterres extended his condolences to the Royal family, the Government and people of Oman on the death of Sultan Qaboos Bin Said, who passed away at the age of 79. "Sultan Qaboos led Oman for 50 years and spearheaded the transformation of Oman into a prosperous and stable country," the Secretary-General said in a statement. The UN chief said the Sultan was also committed to spreading messages of peace, understanding and coexistence in the region and globally, earning the respect of his people and those in the region and beyond. Sultan Haitham Bin Tariq Al Said is the new Sultan of Oman.



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