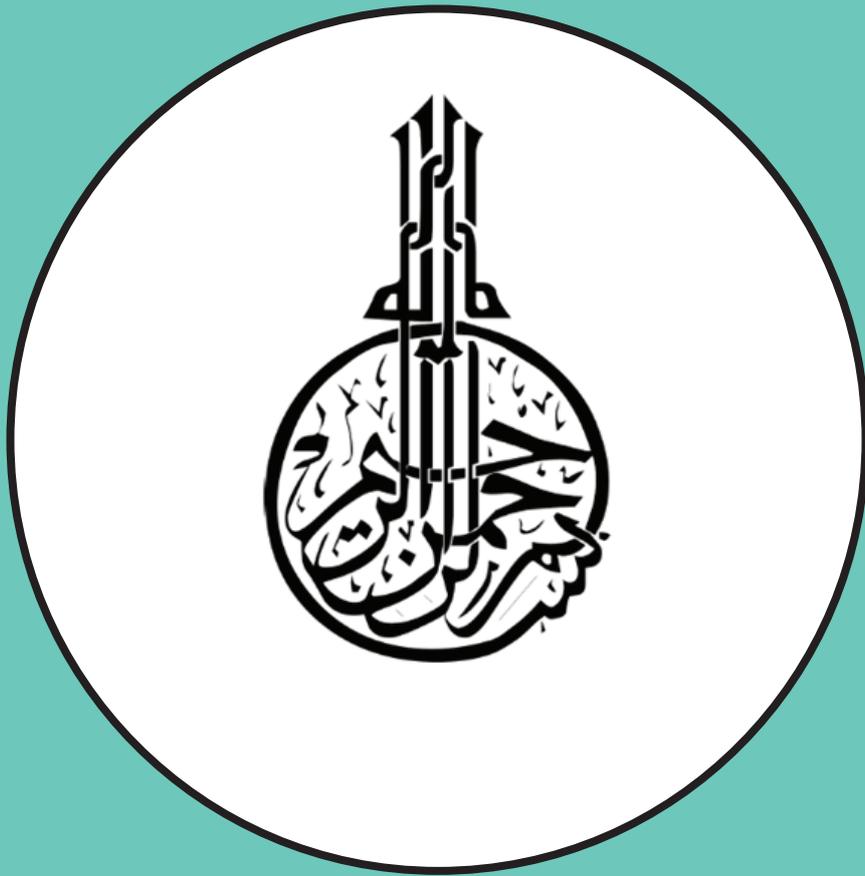


A Research Review of the Religious and Worldly Services of the Gilani Sayyids of Sadat Ganj

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A Research Review of the Religious and Worldly Services of the Gilani Sayyids of Sadat Ganj



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Declaration

I, Hafiz Syed Adnan Hussain Gilani, a candidate for MPhil in Islamic Studies at The Islamia University of Bahawalpur, solemnly declare that the research presented in the thesis titled “A Research Review of the Religious and Worldly Services of the Gilani Sayyids of Sadat Ganj” is entirely my own work.

I also affirm that any material taken from other research sources has been properly cited, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, no part of this thesis contains material presented by another individual or submitted for any degree at any institution without proper referencing.

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Supervisor's Endorsement Certificate

It is hereby certified that the research work presented by the scholar Hafiz Syed Adnan Hussain Gilani, titled "A Research Review of the Religious and Worldly Services of the Gilani Sayyids of Sadat Ganj," was completed under my supervision.

To the best of my knowledge and belief, this thesis has not been previously submitted in part or full to any institution for any degree or qualification. All external research content included in this thesis has been cited with proper references. The candidate has successfully achieved all the necessary objectives of the research and is therefore eligible to submit this thesis as a partial requirement for the degree of MPhil in Islamic Studies at The Islamia University of Bahawalpur.

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Introduction

Topic Overview:

After the completion of the Prophethood, Allah Almighty entrusted the responsibility of teaching and preaching Islam to the scholars within the Ummah of the Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him). This is indicated in a Hadith of the Prophet (peace be upon him), where he said: “The scholars are the inheritors of the Prophets.”

Thus, from the time of the Prophet (peace be upon him) until the Day of Judgment, the responsibility that once rested upon the Prophets has now been passed on to the scholars. Countless scholars, hadith narrators, jurists, and Sufi saints have since played crucial roles in the propagation and dissemination of Islam and in addressing both religious and worldly matters. Their lives are worthy of being recorded in history with golden words.

Among these distinguished personalities, the following names from the Gilani Sayyid lineage (Sadat Kiram) deserve special mention:

1. Syed Noorullah Shah Gilani (may Allah have mercy on him)
2. Syed Shamsuddin Shah Gilani (may Allah have mercy on him)
3. Syed Jalaluddin Shah Gilani (may Allah have mercy on him)
4. Syed Muhibuddin Shah Gilani (may Allah have mercy on him)

Like other scholars, these noble individuals dedicated their lives to the cause of Islam. They made remarkable contributions to uphold the name of Islam and left no stone unturned in turning hearts toward the faith. They continued the mission of teaching and guiding others in the light of Islam.

They utilized all their capabilities to spread the message of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), undertaking journeys wherever necessary for the elevation of Islam. They addressed both religious and worldly matters to guide people in incorporating Islamic teachings into their lives, so that they may stand successful before Allah Almighty on the Day of Judgment.

In view of their services, the Gilani Sayyids continued the spiritual nurturing of Muslims and fulfilled the responsibility of guiding the masses. It is these various aspects of their contributions that have been selected as the subject of this research thesis.

Importance of the Topic

It is essential for every individual to be aware of their history. For a Muslim, learning about Islamic historical events, the lives of the righteous predecessors, and the achievements of the eminent leaders of the Ummah holds particular significance. These contain signs, evidence, and the spirit of sincere effort, and sharing such historical truths often serves to awaken those who are spiritually dormant.

The Holy Qur'an itself adopted this method of teaching, where dozens—and even hundreds—of historical references and narratives are presented. The purpose of these stories is to derive lessons and draw inspiration. Following this Qur'anic model, the scholars, hadith narrators, jurists, and Sufi saints have always taken on the responsibility of conveying the lives of our predecessors to future generations.

Among these learned and devout individuals are a few esteemed names from the lineage of the Gilani Sayyids, including:

Syed Noorullah Shah Gilani (may Allah have mercy on him)

Syed Shamsuddin Shah Gilani (may Allah have mercy on him)

Syed Jalaluddin Shah Gilani (may Allah have mercy on him)

Syed Muhibuddin Shah Gilani (may Allah have mercy on him)

These individuals implemented the teachings of Islamic law (Shariah) in their lives with such sincerity and completeness that no parallel can be found. The Gilani Sayyids disciplined their souls, hearts, minds, spirits, and physical bodies in accordance with the Sunnah of the Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him). They worked tirelessly for the welfare of humanity, fulfilling both religious and worldly responsibilities through acts of service.

Therefore, it is an important task to study and share their biographies with others. This research thesis has been written with the objective of exploring and highlighting the religious and worldly services of these esteemed personalities.

Review of Previous Work

Among all the noble Gilani Sayyids discussed, Syed Muhibuddin Shah Gilani (may Allah have mercy on him) passed from this worldly life to the eternal abode approximately 45 years ago. The remaining noble Sayyids, namely:

Syed Noorullah Shah Gilani

Syed Shamsuddin Shah Gilani

Syed Jalaluddin Shah Gilani (may Allah have mercy on them all)

—departed from this world to the Hereafter around two and a half centuries ago. Due to the passage of time, not much research has been conducted on their blessed lives. However, because of their scholarly, literary, intellectual, and spiritual significance, several individuals have chosen to explore different aspects of their lives through research.

Some notable works that mention these personalities include:

1. *Hadiqat al-Asrar fi Akhbar al-Abrar* by Qazi Imam Bakhsh Jampuri
2. *Zikr-e-Karam* by Muhammad Hafeez-ur-Rehman Hafeez, Bahawalpur
3. *Tazkirah Awliya-e-Bahawalpur* by Masood Hassan Shahab
4. *Tazkirah Makhdum al-Kull al-Sayyid Muhammad Ghaus Bandagi Gilani Qadri* – researched and compiled by Sayyid Muhammad Sibtain Raza Gilani
5. *Raihanat al-Nabi*
6. *Genealogical Tree of the Noble Sayyids* – authored by Sayyid Jamshaid Ali Gilani
7. *Buzurgan-e-Bahawalpur* by Muhammad Salahuddin Owaisi

8. *Political History of Bahawalpur* by Masood Hassan Shahab – published by Maktaba al-Hamer, Bahawalpur

9. *Hazrat Makhdum Sayyid Muhammad Akbar Shah and His Qadri Lineage* by Shakeel Ahmad

10. *Shaykh al-Islam Muhaddith Ghotvi* – authored by Shaykh Pota, Sahibzada Prof. Ghulam Nasiruddin Shibli Mehri – published by Hazrat Shaykh al-Islam Academy

11. *Al-Qawl al-Tayyib fi Nasab al-Baz al-Ashhab* by Sayyid Zamir al-Hasan Naqvi al-Bukhari

Justification and Objectives of the Research

The Gilani Sayyids have played a prominent role in the history of Afghanistan, India, and Pakistan. Therefore, their blessed lives hold significant importance for many people.

However, despite their profound influence, no academic institution has undertaken a detailed and consolidated study of the scholarly and literary contributions of all the Gilani Sayyids collectively. It was thus deemed necessary to compile their intellectual and literary services in one place, with scholarly depth, and within the academic framework of a university. To fulfill this need, the subject of this research thesis has been selected.

Fundamental Research Question

The following core questions have guided the direction of this research:

In which fields did the Gilani Sayyids offer their scholarly contributions?

What methodologies and approaches did they adopt for promoting religious and worldly services?

What position did they hold within scholarly circles?

Scope of the Research

This thesis presents a scholarly and analytical study of the religious and worldly services rendered by all the esteemed Gilani Sayyids.

Research Hypothesis

Syed Noorullah Shah Gilani, along with the other Gilani Sayyids, after acquiring knowledge, served the religion and society through education, literature, authorship, preaching, and organizational roles. These efforts left a positive and lasting impact on the wider community.

Research Methodology

The following methods have been adopted in the course of this research:

1. Data and content have been collected through personal observations and oral accounts.
2. The subject has been structured in a manner that begins with biographical introductions and flows into instructive and educational content.

Approach to Research and Analysis

The primary approach of this thesis is analytical and research-based, with critical commentary included where appropriate.

Peace and blessings be upon the best of creation, Muhammad, his family, companions, and all who follow.

Chapter One

Syed Noorullah Shah Gilani (may Allah have mercy on him)

Chapter One

Syed Noorullah Shah Gilani (may Allah have mercy on him)

Preliminary Introduction

Syed Noorullah Shah Gilani (may Allah have mercy on him) was one of the prominent elders of the Gilani Sayyid lineage. He lived during the 12th century Hijri in a small town called Waghz, near Ghazni, specifically in an area known as Akhund Khail.

His ancestors had migrated from Saudi Arabia to Ghazni, Afghanistan, likely via Iran and Iraq, for the purposes of trade and religious preaching. Continuing this family mission, Syed Noorullah Shah Gilani traveled with his sons to various regions in the Punjab province, including Multan, Dera Ghazi Khan, and Bahawalpur, for the sake of dry fruit trade and Islamic preaching.

Wherever he resided during these travels, those places came to be known as “Ganj-e-Sadat” (Settlement of the Sayyids). To this day, neighborhoods bearing this name exist in Bahawalpur, Multan, and Dera Ghazi Khan.

The noble lineage and legacy of Syed Noorullah Shah Gilani are mentioned in various historical texts, including:

- *Hadiqat al-Asrar*
- *Zikr-e-Karam*
- *Tazkira Awliya-e-Bahawalpur*
- *Buzurgan-e-Bahawalpur*
- *Raihanat al-Nabi*
- *Al-Qaul al-Tayyib fi Nasab al-Baz al-Ashhab*
- *Tazkira Makhdam al-Kull al-Sayyid Muhammad Ghaus Bandagi*

Birth and Lineage

Syed Noorullah Shah Gilani (may Allah have mercy on him) was born in the 12th century Hijri in Ghazni, about three miles from the region of Khorasan, into a religious and devout family.

His esteemed father, Hazrat Syed Abdul Rasool Shah Gilani (may Allah have mercy on him), was a pious and generous man. From an early age, Syed Noorullah Shah Gilani had the privilege of spending time in his father’s company. As a result, he inherited many of his noble qualities.

He himself became known for his compassion and generosity. He would console people in their suffering, alleviate their pain, and strive to solve their problems. He had learned the value of helping others from his father in childhood, and so he dedicated his entire life to guiding people towards the path of Islam.

Genealogical Lineage

Syed Noorullah Shah Gilani was a Qadiri, tracing his lineage through both Imam Hasan and Imam Hussain (may Allah be pleased with them), thus being both Hasani and Husaini.

His spiritual and bloodline ancestry is traced as follows:

Descendant of Prophet Muhammad Mustafa (peace and blessings be upon him) and Hazrat Ali al-Murtaza, the Lion of God (may Allah be pleased with him)

- 1. Imam Hasan al-Muthanna (may Allah have mercy on him)*
- 2. Sayyid Abdullah al-Mahdh (may Allah have mercy on him)*
- 3. Sayyid Musa al-Jawn (may Allah have mercy on him)*
- 4. Sayyid Abdullah al-Salih (may Allah have mercy on him)*
- 5. Sayyid Musa al-Thani (may Allah have mercy on him)*
- 6. Sayyid Dawood (may Allah have mercy on him)*
- 7. Sayyid Muhammad (may Allah have mercy on him)*
- 8. Sayyid Yahya al-Zahid (may Allah have mercy on him)*
- 9. Sayyid Abdullah (may Allah have mercy on him)*
- 10. Sayyid Abu Salih (may Allah have mercy on him)*

Qazi Imam Bakhsh Jampuri, *Hadiqat al-Asrar fi Akhbar al-Abrar*, Multan: [Publisher name if known], p. 64.

Syed Jamshaid Ali Gilani, *Shajrah Nasab-e-Sadat Kiram* (Genealogical Tree of the Noble Sayyids), p. 1.

Sayyid Abu Muhammad Muhiyuddin Abdul Qadir Gilani (may Allah be pleased with him)

11. Sayyid Maulana Abdul Razzaq (may Allah have mercy on him)
12. Sayyid Abu Bakr Taj al-Din (may Allah have mercy on him)
13. Sayyid Abu Salih Nasr (may Allah have mercy on him)
14. Sayyid Shihab al-Din (may Allah have mercy on him)
15. Sayyid Sharaf al-Din (may Allah have mercy on him)
16. Sayyid Shams al-Din (may Allah have mercy on him)
17. Sayyid Noor al-Din (may Allah have mercy on him)
18. Sayyid Badr al-Din (may Allah have mercy on him)
19. Sayyid Sharaf al-Din (may Allah have mercy on him)
20. Sayyid Ahmad Shah (may Allah have mercy on him)
21. Sayyid Hasan (may Allah have mercy on him)
22. Sayyid Wajih al-Din (may Allah have mercy on him)
23. Sayyid Muhammad Shah (may Allah have mercy on him)
24. Sayyid Abdul Rasool Shah Gilani (may Allah have mercy on him)
25. Syed Noorullah Shah Gilani (may Allah have mercy on him)

Al-Qaul al-Tayyib fi Nasab al-Baz al-Ashhab, by Syed Zamir al-Hasan Naqvi al-Bukhari.

Education and Upbringing

The education and upbringing of Syed Noorullah Shah Gilani (may Allah have mercy on him) began in his homeland of Afghanistan, within his own household—his first school of learning. His noble father, Hazrat Syed Abdul Rasool Shah (may Allah have mercy on him), would teach and deliver lessons to hundreds of people daily, who benefited greatly from his spiritual blessings and knowledge.

Syed Noorullah Shah Gilani used to sit among these gatherings with his father, learning along with the attendees. Alongside religious education, he also acquired mastery over Arabic, Persian, and Pashto languages.

He was a man of exceptional compassion and kindness, always striving to meet the needs of others by every possible means. His generosity and concern for humanity were reflected in his character from an early age.

A description of him in *Hadiqat al-Asrar fi Akhbar al-Abrar* reads:

“It is narrated that Hazrat Noorullah Shah, in detachment and spiritual seclusion, was unmatched in his era. A unique soul of piety and abstinence, and a solitary luminary

in the realm of miracles and divine acts— His excellence was such that even the pen and time bowed before his sanctity.”

Offspring

Syed Noorullah Shah Gilani (may Allah have mercy on him) had seven sons. Of these, four sons left behind progeny, while three passed away childless.

The names of the sons whose lineage continued are:

1. Syed Shamsuddin Shah Gilani (may Allah have mercy on him)
2. Syed Qutbuddin Shah Gilani (may Allah have mercy on him)
3. Syed Jalaluddin Shah Gilani (may Allah have mercy on him)
4. Syed Najmuddin Shah Gilani (may Allah have mercy on him)

-
1. *Hadiqat al-Asrar fi Akhbar al-Abrar*, p. 64.

Sons Who Passed Away Without Issue

The names of the sons who passed away childless are as follows:

1. *Syed Ghulam Muhiyuddin Shah Gilani (may Allah have mercy on him)*
2. *Syed Fakhruddin Shah Gilani (may Allah have mercy on him)*
3. *Syed Sadruddin Shah Gilani (may Allah have mercy on him)*

1. Syed Shamsuddin Shah Gilani (may Allah have mercy on him):

He was the eldest son of Syed Noorullah Shah Gilani. He was born in Akhund Khel, a nearby locality of Ghazni, Afghanistan. His education and upbringing were under the direct supervision of his noble father.

Among the scholars of his era, he held a distinguished status. He traveled to various regions alongside his father for trade and religious propagation. Following his father's instructions and wishes, he permanently settled in Bahawalpur.

He passed away on Tuesday, 28th Dhu al-Qi'dah 1212 AH, corresponding to 15 May 1798 CE, returning to his Creator.

2. Syed Qutbuddin Shah Gilani (may Allah have mercy on him):

He was born in Akhund Khel, Ghazni Province, Afghanistan. His early education began with his esteemed father, and he soon excelled in both rational and transmitted sciences (ma'qul and manqul).

He pledged spiritual allegiance (bay'ah) at the blessed hand of his father and received the robe of spiritual succession and guidance (khirqah of khilafah and irshad).

Through his father's spiritual attention, he developed a temperament inclined towards absorption (jazb) and mystical rapture (sukr), and he was often found in a state of spiritual ecstasy.

He traveled with his father for trade (especially dry fruits) and religious propagation. He too, following his father's instructions, permanently settled in Bahawalpur, where he spent his final years teaching and spreading religious knowledge from his residence.

He passed away, most likely in the year 1220 AH, and his blessed tomb is located in Malook Shah, Bahawalpur.

3. Syed Jalaluddin Shah Gilani (may Allah have mercy on him):

He was born in the 12th century AH in Akhund Khel near Ghazni, Afghanistan. He received his early education from his noble father and elder brothers. Belonging to a deeply religious household, his personality was marked by evident spirituality.

After completing his studies, he traveled with his father and brothers to India for trade and religious propagation, and resided in the State of Bahawalpur, where he continued his religious mission.

He had three sons. One is buried beside him in Mohalla Ganj Sharif, Bahawalpur, and the other two are buried in Hazari Sharif and Taranda Muhammad Panah, respectively.

He had already made Bahawalpur his permanent home at the behest of his father and continued to propagate the true faith of Islam.

He passed away on 14th Safar al-Muzaffar, during the second quarter of the 13th century AH.

4. Syed Najmuddin Shah Gilani (may Allah have mercy on him):

He was born in Akhund Khel, Ghazni Province, Afghanistan. His early education was under the guidance of his father, Syed Noorullah Shah Gilani. After completing his studies, he accompanied his father on various journeys for trade and the propagation of Islam.

Among all his brothers, he was the only one who remained permanently with his father in Afghanistan.

The other three brothers who stayed in Afghanistan passed away childless, while Syed Noorullah Shah had instructed the remaining three sons to settle permanently in Bahawalpur and surrounding regions for religious propagation.

Hence, Syed Najmuddin Shah Gilani remained in Afghanistan with his father and also passed away there.

Miracles (Karamāt):

Numerous miracles are attributed to Syed Noorullah Shah Gilani (may Allah have mercy on him), but two significant and well-known incidents recorded in historical texts are:

- 1. Wherever Syed Noorullah Shah Gilani (RA) arrived for the propagation of Islam, not only humans but even animals would begin to recite the Kalimah upon seeing him.*
- 2. When he arrived in Bahawalpur, the wife of the then ruler of the state was suffering from an incurable illness. She was completely healed through his supplication (du'a). In gratitude, the Nawab of Bahawalpur rewarded him with gifts.*

Travels (Safar):

The forefathers of Syed Noorullah Shah Gilani (RA) had migrated from Saudi Arabia to Ghazni, Afghanistan, via Iran and Iraq, for the purposes of trade and religious preaching.

Continuing their mission, Syed Noorullah Shah Gilani (RA) also traveled to India for trade and religious propagation. He visited multiple regions including Multan, Dera Ghazi Khan, and Bahawalpur, where he actively engaged in trade and dawah (religious outreach).

He would typically travel during the winter season, staying in these areas for three to four months, and then return to his native country, Afghanistan.

He specifically engaged in the dry fruit trade. One historical account describes him as:

“Syed Noorullah Shah Khorasani, son of Syed Abdul Rasool Shah, is the ancestor of the Gilani Sayyids of Afghanistan, Bahawalpur, and Dera Ghazi Khan.”

1. Hadīqat al-Asrār fī Akhbār al-Abrār, Qazi Imam Bakhsh Jampuri, p. 64

2. Ibid. (referring again to Hadīqat al-Asrār fī Akhbār al-Abrār)

3. Shajrah Nasab Sādāt Kirām (Genealogy of the Noble Sayyids), authored by Syed Jamshed Ali Gilani, p. 1

Method of Initiation (Bay'ah):

This order is known as the Qādiriyyah Qudsiyyah Silsilah. In this spiritual lineage, the method of Bay'ah (spiritual allegiance) begins with reciting the translation of the Imān-e-Mufassal (Detailed Declaration of Faith), followed by the Imān-e-Mujmal (Concise Declaration of Faith), and finally, the Kalimah (Declaration of Faith) is recited. The disciple is then spiritually initiated into the order of Hazrat Pirān-e-Pir Syed Abdul Qadir Gilani (may Allah have mercy on him) through the current spiritual guide (Pir). For example, a disciple would take Bay'ah at the hands of Syed Noorullah Shah Sahib.

After Becoming a Disciple:

Once someone becomes a disciple (murīd), they are instructed to uphold the obligations of Islam. Strict emphasis is placed on regular performance of prayers (Salāh).

Spiritual Practices (Wazīfah):

After the initiation, the disciple is prescribed a spiritual practice (wazīfah): After every prayer, they are advised to recite:

- *The first Kalimah (Kalimah Tayyibah) 10 times*
- *Durood Sharif (salutations upon the Prophet ﷺ) 10 times*

Spiritual Lineage (Shajrah-e-Tariqat) of Hazrat Syed Noorullah Shah Gilani (may Allah have mercy on him):

1. *Prophet Muhammad Mustafa Ahmad Mujtaba (peace and blessings be upon him)*
2. *Hazrat Ali Al-Murtaza, the Lion of God, the Remover of Hardships*
3. *Imam Hussain (may Allah be pleased with him)*
4. *Imam Zain ul Abideen (may Allah be pleased with him)*
5. *Imam Muhammad al-Baqir (may Allah be pleased with him)*
6. *Imam Ja'far al-Sadiq (may Allah be pleased with him)*
7. *Imam Musa al-Kazim (may Allah be pleased with him)*
8. *Imam Ali Musa (may Allah be pleased with him)*
9. *Sheikh Ma'ruf Karkhi (may Allah have mercy on him)*
10. *Sheikh Abu al-Hasan Sirri Saqti (may Allah have mercy on him)*
11. *Sheikh Abu al-Qasim Junayd of Baghdad (may Allah have mercy on him)*

12. *Sheikh Abu Bakr Shibli (may Allah have mercy on him)*
13. *Sheikh Abdul Wahid (may Allah have mercy on him)*
14. *Sheikh Abu al-Farh Yusuf Tartusi (may Allah have mercy on him)*
15. *Sheikh Abu al-Hasan Hankari (may Allah have mercy on him)*
16. *Sheikh Abu Sa'eed Mukharrami (may Allah have mercy on him)*
17. *Syed Abu Muhiyuddin Abdul Qadir Gilani (may Allah have mercy on him)*
18. *Syed Abdul Wahhab (may Allah have mercy on him)*
19. *Syed Safiuddin Safi (may Allah have mercy on him)*
20. *Syed Ahmad (may Allah have mercy on him)*
21. *Syed Masood (may Allah have mercy on him)*
22. *Syed Ali (may Allah have mercy on him)*
23. *Syed Ameer Shah (may Allah have mercy on him)*
24. *Syed Shamsuddin Jali (may Allah have mercy on him)*
25. *Syed Muhammad Ghaus Bandagi Achi (may Allah have mercy on him)*
26. *Syed Abdul Qadir Thani (may Allah have mercy on him)*
27. *Syed Abdul Razzaq (may Allah have mercy on him)*
28. *Syed Hamid Ganj Bakhsh Kalan (may Allah have mercy on him)*
29. *Syed Abdul Qadir Thalith (may Allah have mercy on him)*
30. *Syed Shamsuddin Thani (may Allah have mercy on him)*
31. *Syed Abdul Qadir Rabi' (may Allah have mercy on him)*
32. *Syed Shamsuddin Thalith (may Allah have mercy on him)*
33. *Syed Hamid Ganj Bakhsh Thani (may Allah have mercy on him)*
34. *Syed Shamsuddin Rabi' (may Allah have mercy on him)*
35. *Syed Abdul Qadir Khamis (may Allah have mercy on him)*
36. *Syed Hamid Ganj Bakhsh Suwwaim (may Allah have mercy on him)*
37. *Syed Noorullah Shah Gilani (may Allah have mercy on him)*

Spiritual Master of Syed Noorullah Shah Gilani:

The spiritual guide (Pir-e-Tariqat) of Syed Noorullah Shah Gilani (may Allah have mercy on him) was Hazrat Syed Makhdum Sheikh Hamid Ganj Bakhsh Suwwaim, also known as “Thalith bil Khayr” and the founder of Qila Uch. He was born in the year 1149 AH and passed away on 23rd Rabi’ al-Thani, 1197 AH. His shrine is located in Uch Sharif.

Hadīqat al-Asrār fī Akhbār al-Abrār, p. 64

(Translation: “The Garden of Mysteries in the Accounts of the Righteous”, page 64)

Religious and Worldly Services:

Syed Noorullah Shah Gilani (may Allah have mercy on him) traveled across various regions for the purpose of spreading Islam and continued to invite people towards the truth of the faith. A large number of non-Muslims embraced Islam at his hand. Alongside his business pursuits, he rendered invaluable religious and spiritual services.

From Afghanistan to various parts of India, Syed Noorullah Shah Gilani (RA) spread the message of Islam, guiding people toward the path of truth and inviting them to the religion of Islam. He provided guidance, converted non-Muslims to Islam, saving them from becoming fuel for Hellfire, and taught people about essential Islamic matters.

Anyone who once attended his gathering was deeply impressed by his kind and noble conduct. He was a compassionate and affectionate man. If someone presented a gift during the gathering, he would have it distributed among all present.

He also had a grand mosque constructed on a piece of land gifted to him by the Nawab of Bahawalpur, so that the residents of the area could perform their religious obligations in the best possible manner.

Auliya Bahawalpur" by Masood Hassan Shahab, Page 74

Preaching of Islam:

Hazrat Syed Noorullah Shah Gilani (may Allah have mercy on him) undertook extensive travels from Afghanistan to the Indian subcontinent—what is now Pakistan—for the sole purpose of preaching Islam. He visited various cities and villages and invited people to embrace the faith. As a result of his preaching, a large number of non-Muslims embraced Islam. It is narrated that when he would preach, not only humans but even animals would respond by uttering the Kalima (testimony of faith).

He provided remarkable religious and spiritual services. Every year, he would travel to Bahawalpur and reside there for some time. During his stay, his piety, honesty, and devotion to worship became widely known. When the ruler of the Bahawalpur state, the Nawab of Bahawalpur, heard of him, he personally came to meet him and was deeply influenced by the encounter. Eventually, the Nawab joined his circle of disciples.

Sufism:

In Islamic countries—especially in the subcontinent—Sufism is understood as a spiritual journey involving detachment from worldly life and striving for closeness to Allah.

Whenever Syed Noorullah Shah Gilani would arrive in Bahawalpur, he would isolate himself in his spiritual cell (hujra) and engage deeply in the worship of Allah, at times disappearing for days. He would withdraw from people and seek nearness to his Creator through sincere devotion.

Service to God’s Creation:

Serving God’s creation has always been embedded in the blood of the noble Sayyid families. In every era, the Sayyids have served the people, and as a result, Allah granted them success in all domains. If one were to call them “kings of generosity,” it would not be an exaggeration.

The Abbasi family, which ruled Bahawalpur and surrounding areas, owes much of its establishment to the contributions of the noble Sayyids. Two brothers—Dawood Khan and Muhammad Mehdi Khan—had descendants known respectively as Dādputras and Kahorras. When a rivalry began between the two clans, Amir Sadiq Muhammad Khan I, a Dādputra, sought to escape the conflict. He left Sindh and abandoned all territories acquired either by strength or granted by Mughal emperors, and settled in Fort Khanpur. But even there, enemies didn’t leave him in peace, forcing him to leave once again.

This time, he moved towards Dera Ghazi Khan and settled in a place called Beet Dubli. At the time, Khawaja Abdul Qadir Khamis, the custodian of the Dargah Qadiriya in Uch Sharif, was highly influential. He invited Amir Sadiq to settle in

Uch. Around 1139 AH, Amir Sadiq moved to Uch, and shortly after, Khawaja Sahib recommended him to Governor Hayatullah Khan. He met with the Governor of Multan, who granted him the territory of Choudhri as a jagir (land grant). After receiving the jagir, Amir Sadiq moved to this region and founded a city which became known as Allahabad. This city became the foundation stone for the establishment of the Bahawalpur State, and from there, Amir Sadiq's dominion expanded.

Syed Noorullah Shah Gilani's Contribution:

He too belonged to the noble bloodline of the Sayyids and rendered immense services to the people. He converted a large number of non-Muslims to Islam and taught Muslims about their faith, guiding them towards closeness to Allah. Serving the helpless and needy was a hallmark of his family, and he carried this mission forward by continuing to serve the poor, orphans, and destitute.

Trade:

The family of Syed Noorullah Shah Gilani (may Allah have mercy on him) earned their livelihood through the trade of dry fruits. Following in the footsteps of his forefathers, he also engaged in the dry fruit trade. Accompanied by his sons, he would travel from Afghanistan to the Punjab province of India (now Pakistan) for trading purposes. They conducted business in various cities such as Multan, Dera Ghazi Khan, and Bahawalpur. After staying for some time in these regions, he would return to his homeland, Afghanistan.

Demise:

Syed Noorullah Shah Gilani (may Allah have mercy on him) passed away on Friday, 6th Dhul-Hijjah 1216 AH, corresponding to 9th April 1802 AD, in the city of Ghazni, Afghanistan. He was laid to rest in the nearby village of Waghz, located in Akhund Khel.

Second Chapter

Syed Shamsuddin Shah Gilani (may Allah have mercy on him)

Second Chapter

Syed Shamsuddin Shah Gilani (may Allah have mercy on him)

Initial Introduction:

Hazrat Makhdoom Syed Shamsuddin Shah Gilani (may Allah have mercy on him) was the eldest son of Hazrat Makhdoom Syed Noorullah Shah Gilani (may Allah have mercy on him), who was a descendant in the 18th generation of Qutb al-Aqtab Hazrat Sheikh Abdul Qadir Jilani (may Allah have mercy on him). Hazrat Syed Shamsuddin Shah Gilani (RA) migrated with his noble father from Waghz (Khorasan) during the reign of Taimur Shah Khorasani and settled in Bahawalpur.

He used to accompany his father from Khorasan to India with dry fruits for trade, which they would sell in regions like Multan, Dera Ghazi Khan, and Bahawalpur.

Hazrat Syed Noorullah Shah Gilani (RA), while engaging in trade, also rendered valuable religious and spiritual services, through which a large number of non-Muslims embraced Islam at his hands. Similarly, Syed Shamsuddin Shah Gilani (RA) continued the mission of Dawah (Islamic preaching) alongside his trade.

He would travel to Bahawalpur every year for trade, stay for some time, and then return to his homeland, Afghanistan. Eventually, following his father's command and desire, he chose Bahawalpur as his permanent residence, where he continued both his business and the propagation of Islam.

The reason for the family's settlement in Bahawalpur was due to the Nawab of Bahawalpur, who had requested Hazrat Noorullah Shah Gilani (RA) to settle there permanently. While he himself did not do so, three of his sons, including Shamsuddin Shah Gilani (RA), made Bahawalpur their permanent abode.

Birth and Lineage:

Syed Shamsuddin Shah Gilani (RA) was born in the 12th Hijri century in a religious household in the village of Akhund Khel, about three miles from Khorasan (Afghanistan). His father was Syed Noorullah Shah Gilani (RA), a devout and religious person.

Syed Shamsuddin Shah Gilani (RA) was the eldest son of Syed Noorullah Shah Gilani (RA).

Lineage (Genealogy):

Syed Shamsuddin Shah Gilani Qadri Hasani wa Husaini (descendant of both Imam Hasan and Imam Hussain)

1. Daughter of Prophet Muhammad Mustafa Ahmad Mujtaba ﷺ and Hazrat Ali Al-Murtaza RA
2. Hazrat Imam Hasan Mujtaba (AS)
3. Hazrat Imam Hasan al-Muthanna (AS)
4. Hazrat Syed Abdullah Mahz (RA)
5. Hazrat Syed Musa al-Jawn (RA)
6. Hazrat Syed Abdullah al-Salih (RA)
7. Hazrat Syed Musa Thani (RA)
8. Hazrat Dawood (RA)
9. Hazrat Syed Muhammad (RA)
10. Hazrat Syed Yahya Zahid (RA)
11. Hazrat Syed Abdullah (RA)
12. Hazrat Syed Abu Salih (RA)
13. Hazrat Syed Abu Muhammad Muhiyuddin Abdul Qadir Jilani (RA)
14. Hazrat Syed Maulana Abdul Razzaq (RA)
15. Hazrat Syed Abu Bakr Tajuddin (RA)
16. Hazrat Syed Abu Salih Nasr (RA)
17. Hazrat Syed Shahabuddin (RA)
18. Hazrat Syed Sharafuddin (RA)
19. Hazrat Syed Shamsuddin (RA)
20. Hazrat Syed Nooruddin (RA)
21. Hazrat Syed Badruddin (RA)
22. Hazrat Syed Sharafuddin (RA)
23. Hazrat Syed Ahmad Shah (RA)
24. Hazrat Syed Hasan (RA)
25. Hazrat Syed Wajihuddin (RA)
26. Hazrat Syed Muhammad Shah (RA)

27. Hazrat Syed Abdul Rasool Shah Gilani (RA)

28. Hazrat Syed Noorullah Shah Gilani (RA)

29. Syed Shamsuddin Shah Gilani (RA)

Education and Upbringing:

Syed Shamsuddin Shah Gilani (RA) belonged to a devout, Sayyid, and religious family. His early education and upbringing began at home. His noble father, while staying in the company of his own elders, acquired religious knowledge and made it a priority to impart that knowledge to his sons as a religious necessity.

Being the eldest son of Syed Noorullah Shah Gilani (RA), Syed Shamsuddin Shah Gilani (RA) spent more time with his father than his brothers and, as a result, gained more knowledge. He would accompany his father on trading journeys to different areas while simultaneously engaging in preaching and spiritual activities.

He admired his father's way of speaking and would emulate it whether he was engaged in business or religious preaching. Alongside Islamic education, he also learned multiple languages from his father. Just like his father, he became fluent in Arabic, Persian, and Pashto.

A study of his life shows that he regularly helped people, whether through knowledge or action. Serving humanity was a daily routine. The kind of upbringing he received is rare to find in that era. His life was full of peace, blessings, asceticism, and sincerity. His spiritual lineage is wide and far-reaching. So many miraculous events are associated with his family that a voluminous book could be compiled.

Children:

Syed Shamsuddin Shah Gilani (RA) was blessed by Allah Almighty with only one son, Syed Imamuddin Shah Gilani. He loved his son deeply and never kept him away. Whether it was for trade or preaching, he always took his son with him.

He took special care in raising and educating his son. However, it was the divine will that Syed Imamuddin Shah Gilani (RA) passed away childless during his father's lifetime. This tragedy deeply affected Syed Shamsuddin Shah Gilani (RA), and shortly after, he too departed from this world.

Miracles (Karamat):

There are several miraculous events associated with Hazrat Makhdoom Syed Shamsuddin Shah Gilani (RA) recorded in various historical texts. Some notable miracles include:

- First Event: Once, while traveling from Bahawalpur to Dera Ghazi Khan, he passed by a neighborhood near the shrine of Hazrat Makhdoom Syed

Manhiwal Shah (RA). He saw a blacksmith striking hot iron. Upon witnessing this, he began to loudly engage in dhikr (remembrance of Allah). His voice filled the entire neighborhood with cries of "Allah! Allah!" People began arriving in crowds and started taking pledges of allegiance (Bay'ah) at his hand.

- Second Event: When Hazrat Peer Syed Muhammad Akbar Shah Bukhari Qadri (RA) visited Multan, his spiritual master Syed Shamsuddin Shah Gilani (RA) also arrived. During this time, the annual Urs (festival) of Hazrat Sheikh Muhammad Aali Suhrawardi (RA) was taking place nearby.

That night there was a musical spiritual gathering (Mehfil-e-Sama). Syed Akbar Shah, being a spiritual poet, had a great love for such gatherings. After prayer, seeing that his spiritual master was resting, he quietly attended the event. During the Sama, he fell into a state of spiritual ecstasy (wajd), and whoever he looked upon would begin chanting "Allah Hu! Allah Hu!"

Syed Shamsuddin Shah Gilani (RA) witnessed the scene through spiritual unveiling (kashf) and called out, "Akbar Shah! Akbar Shah!" His voice was heard clearly in the gathering as if he were physically present. Upon hearing this, Syed Akbar Shah fainted. He was brought back, and upon awakening, he fell at his master's feet and sought forgiveness. His master embraced him and said, "Akbar Shah, from today you are granted full permission to attend Mehfil-e-Sama."

Travels:

Syed Shamsuddin Shah Gilani (RA) undertook numerous journeys for the purpose of preaching and trade, carrying forward the mission of his ancestors. As the eldest son of Syed Noorullah Shah Gilani (RA), he traveled with him from Afghanistan to India, particularly in Multan, Dera Ghazi Khan, and Bahawalpur.

He continued to combine business and religious propagation, visiting many places across India and Afghanistan.

According to one historical text, his family members would bring caravans from Swat, Buner, and Ghazni every year for the dry fruits trade and would remain engaged in commerce in Dera Ghazi Khan, Multan, and Bahawalpur.

Method of Spiritual Allegiance (Bay'ah):

This order is known as the Qadiriyyah Qudsiyyah Silsilah. Syed Shamsuddin Shah Gilani (RA) continued the method of Bay'ah (spiritual pledge) as practiced by his noble forefathers. Just as he saw his father, Syed Noorullah Shah Gilani (RA) take Bay'ah from disciples, he too followed the same method.

When he would accept someone into the spiritual order, he would first teach them the full (detailed) declaration of faith (Iman-e-Mufassal) or its translation, then the brief

declaration of faith (Iman-e-Mujmal) or its translation, and finally, he would recite the Kalima (Declaration of Islamic faith) with them. The individual was then considered to have become a disciple (murid) of Hazrat Ghaus-ul-Azam Syed Abdul Qadir Jilani (RA) at the hands of Syed Shamsuddin Shah Gilani (RA).

After Becoming a Disciple:

Once a person became a disciple, they were strongly advised to fulfill all religious obligations, especially being strictly observant of daily prayers.

Spiritual Practice (Wazifah):

After taking Bay'ah, the disciple was instructed to recite the Kalima Tayyibah (La ilaha illallah Muhammadur Rasoolullah) ten times and send salutations upon the Prophet (Durood Shareef) ten times after each prayer.

Spiritual Chain (Shajrah-e-Tariqat) of Syed Shamsuddin Shah Gilani (RA):

1. Prophet Muhammad Mustafa Ahmad Mujtaba (Peace and Blessings Be Upon Him)
2. Hazrat Ali al-Murtaza (RA), the Lion of Allah, the Reliever of Hardships
3. Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA)
4. Hazrat Imam Zain-ul-Abidin (RA)
5. Hazrat Imam Muhammad Baqir (RA)
6. Hazrat Imam Ja'far al-Sadiq (RA)
7. Hazrat Imam Musa al-Kazim (RA)
8. Hazrat Imam Ali Musa (RA)
9. Hazrat Sheikh Ma'ruf Karkhi (RA)
10. Hazrat Sheikh Abu al-Hasan Sirri Saqti (RA)
11. Hazrat Sheikh Abu al-Qasim Junaid Baghdadi (RA)
12. Hazrat Sheikh Abu Bakr Shibli (RA)
13. Hazrat Sheikh Abdul Wahid (RA)
14. Hazrat Sheikh Abu al-Farh Yusuf Tartusi (RA)
15. Hazrat Sheikh Abu al-Hasan Hankari (RA)
16. Hazrat Sheikh Abu Saeed Makhroomi (RA)
17. Hazrat Syed Abu Muhiyuddin Abdul Qadir Jilani (RA)

18. Hazrat Syed Abdul Wahab (RA)
19. Hazrat Syed Safi al-Din Safi (RA)
20. Hazrat Syed Ahmad (RA)
21. Hazrat Syed Masood (RA)
22. Hazrat Syed Ali (RA)
23. Hazrat Syed Ameer Shah (RA)
24. Hazrat Syed Shamsuddin Jali (RA)
25. Hazrat Syed Muhammad Ghaus Bandagi Achi (RA)
26. Hazrat Syed Abdul Qadir Thani (RA)
27. Hazrat Syed Abdul Razzaq (RA)
28. Hazrat Syed Hamid Ganj Bakhsh Kalan (RA)
29. Hazrat Syed Abdul Qadir Thalith (RA)
30. Hazrat Syed Shamsuddin Thani (RA)
31. Hazrat Syed Abdul Qadir Rabi' (RA)
32. Hazrat Syed Shamsuddin Thalith (RA)
33. Hazrat Syed Hamid Ganj Bakhsh Thani (RA)
34. Hazrat Syed Shamsuddin Rabi' (RA)
35. Hazrat Syed Abdul Qadir Khamis (RA)
36. Hazrat Syed Hamid Ganj Bakhsh Thalith (RA)
37. Hazrat Syed Noorullah Shah Gilani (RA)
38. Syed Shamsuddin Shah Gilani (RA)

Religious and Worldly Services of Syed Shamsuddin Shah Gilani (RA)

Religious Contributions:

Syed Shamsuddin Shah Gilani (RA) held a unique and distinguished status among contemporary scholars. His approach to religious service was exceptional for his time. Whenever he traveled for business, a large number of people would accompany him, asking religious questions and seeking guidance. Many individuals who studied under him went on to dedicate their lives to the service of Islam.

One notable name among his disciples is Syed Akbar Shah Bukhari (RA), who spent 12 years in the company of Syed Shamsuddin Shah Gilani (RA) in Mohalla Ganj Sharif, Bahawalpur after pledging allegiance (Bay'ah) to him. Later, upon his spiritual master's instructions, he moved to Multan to preach Islam. He brought thousands of people to the path of truth and regularly mentioned his mentor in his poetry, reflecting the deep impact Syed Shamsuddin Shah Gilani (RA) had on him spiritually and intellectually.

Poetry of Akbar Shah:

“Who is Mirza? Who is Sahibaan? A new story begins with Syed Akbar Shah. I care not for the world; only my Master's pain I seek. I recite the Kalima of the Prophet and send blessings upon him.”

Elsewhere, he says:

“Perfect and complete is my Pir (spiritual guide), Shamsuddin Gilani, A radiant sun among saints, bringing spiritual ease, A true lover, united with God, knower of hidden secrets, Possessor of Madinan knowledge and custodian of divine mysteries.”

Whether for business or preaching, Syed Shamsuddin Shah Gilani (RA) guided the people wherever he went and taught them to serve humanity. Whenever someone offered him a gift, he would immediately distribute it among the people sitting around him. His generosity was remarkable. For instance, the Nawab of Bahawalpur, one of his admirers, would present valuable gifts to him, but he would distribute them in the Nawab's presence.

Even when the Nawab of Bahawalpur granted him land to reside on, he allowed others to settle on it when they requested. Many of those families continue to reside there to this day. He was a pious and compassionate person, with a unique status both spiritually and socially.

Preaching of Islam:

Syed Shamsuddin Shah Gilani (RA) traveled from Afghanistan to India (now Pakistan) preaching in many cities and villages. Through his efforts, many non-Muslims accepted Islam at his hands.

He visited Bahawalpur every year, and during his stay, news of his piety, honesty, and worship spread throughout the city. When the Nawab of Bahawalpur heard of this, he personally came to meet him and was so impressed that he joined his spiritual circle.

Sufism:

(“In Islamic lands, especially the Indian subcontinent, spirituality is seen as detachment from the world and closeness to God.”)

Syed Shamsuddin Shah Gilani (RA) practiced the same teachings he had learned from his father Syed Noorullah Shah Gilani (RA). During journeys with his father, he noticed that whenever they camped, his father would become completely immersed in worship for days, severing all worldly interactions.

Following in his father's footsteps, he too became deeply involved in worship and withdrew from worldly attachments, spending days solely in the remembrance of God.

Service to Humanity:

Serving God's creation has always been a hallmark of the Sayyid families (descendants of the Prophet). They have shown immense respect and care for the people.

Syed Shamsuddin Shah Gilani (RA) was known for his compassion and righteousness. He taught people both social etiquette and religious matters. If wealthy people offered him anything, he would distribute it among the poor sitting nearby. If someone came to him with a need — whether financial or intellectual — he would strive to fulfill it.

His generosity, modesty, bravery, and loyalty were matchless. Helping the poor and caring for the needy was his beloved activity. His household was blessed with abundance and virtue.

Business and Trade:

He inherited the family business of dry fruits and continued this trade with devotion. He often traveled in caravans and maintained a Sufi, ascetic lifestyle.

His ancestors and other family members regularly brought caravans from Swat, Buner, and Ghazni to Dera Ghazi Khan, Multan, and Bahawalpur for trade. Wherever they settled for trade, a neighborhood called "Ganj-e-Sadat" (Treasure of the Sayyids) would develop.

Thus, areas in Dera Ghazi Khan, Multan, and Bahawalpur where he lived for trade are still known as "Ganj" neighborhoods. His shrine, and those of his son Syed Imam Din Shah Gilani (RA), his brothers, and other relatives are located in Mohalla Ganj Sharif, Bahawalpur.

Demise:

Syed Shamsuddin Shah Gilani (RA) passed away in Mohalla Ganj Sharif, Bahawalpur on 28th Dhu al-Qi'dah 1212 AH, corresponding to 15th May 1798 (Tuesday). His shrine is located on the eastern side, next to his son Syed Imam Din Shah Gilani (RA), who had passed away roughly ten days earlier.

Unable to bear the grief of losing his only child, and having no other offspring, Syed Shamsuddin Shah Gilani (RA) too departed this world shortly after. His blessed shrine remains in Ganj Sharif, Bahawalpur.

Chapter Three

Syed Jalaluddin Shah Gilani (May Allah have mercy on him)

Chapter Three

Syed Jalaluddin Shah Gilani (may Allah have mercy on him)

Introduction:

Syed Jalaluddin Shah Gilani (may Allah have mercy on him) was the son of Hazrat Syed Noorullah Shah Gilani (رحمه الله عليه). He belonged to the noble lineage of Sayyids, descending from both Imam Hasan and Imam Hussain (رضى الله عنهما). He migrated along with his esteemed father from Waghz (Khorasan) to Bahawalpur during the era of Taimur Shah of Khorasan.

Like his father, Syed Jalaluddin Shah Gilani (رحمه الله عليه) used to bring dry fruits from Khorasan to India for trade. He would sell them in various cities such as Multan, Dera Ghazi Khan, and regions of Bahawalpur.

He was a devout, spiritual, and noble personality belonging to a pious and religious family. He spent his life in accordance with Islamic principles. For the purposes of trade and religious propagation, he would stay in various areas. When his father instructed him and his two brothers to permanently settle in Bahawalpur, he accepted this command and made Bahawalpur his permanent residence, like his elder brothers Syed Shamsuddin Shah Gilani (رحمه الله عليه) and Syed Qutubuddin Shah Gilani (رحمه الله عليه).

Syed Jalaluddin Shah Gilani continued the work of trade and religious preaching, spending the latter part of his life in propagating the true religion across different regions of India. He passed away in Mohallah Ganj Sharif, Bahawalpur, where he is also buried.

Historical references about him can be found in several books such as *Hadiqat-ul-Asrar fi Akhbar al-Abrar*, *Zikr Karam Shajrah Sadat Karam*, *Auliya Bahawalpur*, and other historical records.

Birth:

Syed Jalaluddin Shah Gilani (رحمه الله عليه) was born in the 12th century Hijri in Akhund Khel, a village located about three miles from Khorasan (modern-day Afghanistan). He was born into a religious family of Sayyids. His father, Syed Noorullah Shah Gilani (رحمه الله عليه), was among the 18th-generation descendants of Qutb al-Aqtab, Hazrat Sheikh Abdul Qadir Jilani (رحمه الله عليه).

Genealogy:

Syed Jalaluddin Shah Gilani (رحمه الله عليه) was a Qadri Sayyid, both Hassani and Hussaini in lineage. His ancestry traces back as follows:

1. Daughter of the Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) and Hazrat Ali al-Murtaza (عليه السلام)
2. Imam Hasan al-Mujtaba (عليه السلام)

3. Imam Hasan al-Muthanna (عليه السلام)
4. Syed Abdullah Mahdh (رحمه الله عليه)
5. Syed Musa al-Joun (رحمه الله عليه)
6. Syed Abdullah Saleh (رحمه الله عليه)
7. Syed Musa Thani (رحمه الله عليه)
8. Dawood (رحمه الله عليه)
9. Syed Muhammad (رحمه الله عليه)
10. Syed Yahya Zahid (رحمه الله عليه)
11. Syed Abdullah (رحمه الله عليه)
12. Syed Abu Salih (رحمه الله عليه)
13. Syed Abu Muhammad Muhiyuddin Abdul Qadir Jilani (رحمه الله عليه)
14. Syed Mawlana Abdul Razzaq (رحمه الله عليه)
15. Syed Abu Bakr Tajuddin (رحمه الله عليه)
16. Syed Abu Salih Nasr (رحمه الله عليه)
17. Syed Shahabuddin (رحمه الله عليه)
18. Syed Sharafuddin (رحمه الله عليه)
19. Syed Shamsuddin (رحمه الله عليه)
20. Syed Nooruddin (رحمه الله عليه)
21. Syed Badruddin (رحمه الله عليه)
22. Syed Sharafuddin (رحمه الله عليه)
23. Syed Ahmad Shah (رحمه الله عليه)
24. Syed Hasan (رحمه الله عليه)
25. Syed Wajihuddin (رحمه الله عليه)
26. Syed Muhammad Shah (رحمه الله عليه)
27. Syed Abdul Rasool Shah Gilani (رحمه الله عليه)
28. Syed Noorullah Shah Gilani (رحمه الله عليه)
29. Syed Jalaluddin Shah Gilani (رحمه الله عليه)

Education and Upbringing:

Syed Jalaluddin Shah Gilani (may Allah have mercy on him) began his education and upbringing at home. Being raised in a deeply religious household, he was nurtured by both his father and mother. Since he observed people engaged in teaching, learning, and religious guidance from an early age, a natural inclination toward scholarship was developed within him.

He began attending his father Hazrat Syed Noorullah Shah Gilani's daily gatherings and, from a young age, also started taking part in religious teaching sessions. Alongside his elder brothers, he studied the Qur'an and religious texts under the supervision of his father.

Once his education was complete, his father would depart for trade and religious preaching with his elder sons, leaving Syed Jalaluddin Shah Gilani (رحمه الله عليه) in charge of continuing the teaching mission. For a long time after his father, he continued the family mission of education and spiritual guidance in Afghanistan, teaching and guiding the people.

Children:

Syed Jalaluddin Shah Gilani (رحمه الله عليه) had three sons:

1. Syed Kamaluddin Shah
2. Syed Jamaluddin Shah
3. Syed Guluddin Shah

1. Syed Kamaluddin Shah:

He was born in Akhund Khel near Ghazni, Khorasan, Afghanistan. He received his early education from his father Syed Jalaluddin Shah Gilani and his uncles—Syed Shamsuddin Shah Gilani, Syed Qutbuddin Shah Gilani, and Syed Najmuddin Shah Gilani.

He was known for his generosity, bravery, and knowledge. For the sake of trade and preaching, he traveled to various regions and eventually passed away in Hazari Sharif, near Dera Ghazi Khan. His mausoleum is located in Hazari Sharif.

2. Syed Jamaluddin Shah:

His mausoleum is located in Ganj Sharif, Bahawalpur, next to that of his father, Syed Jalaluddin Shah Gilani. He was a scholar of both external (apparent) and internal (spiritual) sciences and was known for his miraculous spiritual states and qualities—both in the natural and supernatural realms.

He passed away without any offspring. As noted, the shrines of the other two sons of Syed Jalaluddin Shah Gilani (رحمه الله عليه) are located in Hazari Sharif and Taranda Muhammad Panah.

3. Syed Guluddin Shah:

He too was born in Akhund Khel, near Ghazni, Afghanistan. His early education was received from his father and uncles. His speech was known to be so powerful and spiritually influential that those who heard him would immediately be inspired to act upon his advice.

Like his father and uncles, he would travel across regions and borders to trade in dried fruits and spread the teachings of Islam. He had taken spiritual oath (Bay'ah) at the hand of his father in the Sufi path (Tariqah).

He passed away on 4th Safar al-Muzaffar, 1324 Hijri, in Hazari Sharif at the age of 85. His shrine is located in Hazari Sharif.

Miracles

There are several miracles attributed to Syed Jalaluddin Shah Gilani (RA) documented in various historical books. Two of these miraculous incidents are mentioned below:

Incident One:

Once, the region where Syed Jalaluddin Shah Gilani (RA) resided was struck by a severe drought. The crops were ruined, the fruit trees dried up, and livestock were dying of thirst. The people, distressed and desperate, approached the saint and pleaded:

“O Master, there is no water, everything is perishing—please pray for rain.” Upon hearing this, Syed Jalaluddin Shah Gilani (RA) made a supplication (du'a), and rain immediately began to fall. What amazed the people most was that the rain poured specifically over the driest areas, and after the rain, they could see nothing but greenery all around.

Incident Two:

Another miracle is narrated by Malik Ghulam Rasool Malana, a disciple (mureed) of the saint.

He says: *“My son Jandooda became seriously ill with a fever (possibly typhoid). Despite much medical treatment, nothing worked, and the illness worsened to the point that my son was near death. Hopeless and heartbroken, I went to my spiritual guide Syed Jalaluddin Shah Gilani (RA) and wept before him, begging for his prayers.”*

Malik Ghulam Rasool stayed with the saint for two days. Syed Jalaluddin (RA) gave

him sugar (shakar) to recite over and then feed to his son. This was done three or four times. By the grace of Allah, his son fully recovered.

Travels:

The ancestors of Syed Jalaluddin Shah Gilani (RA) had traveled from Saudi Arabia to Ghazni, Afghanistan via Iran and Iraq for the purposes of trade and religious propagation (tabligh). Although Syed Jalaluddin was born in Ghazni, Afghanistan, he inherited this family mission of trade and spreading Islam.

He traveled extensively within Afghanistan for these purposes. Later, like his father and brothers, he journeyed to several regions of India (now Pakistan), including Multan, Dera Ghazi Khan, and Bahawalpur, where he carried on his family's dry fruit trade while also engaging in religious preaching.

To this day, the descendants of his sons reside in various areas of South Punjab such as Shujaabad, Multan, Tarinda Muhammad Panah, Samasatta, and Dera Ghazi Khan.

Method of Spiritual Initiation (Bay'ah):

Syed Jalaluddin Shah Gilani (RA) was part of the Qadriya Qudsiya spiritual order. Like his noble father Syed Noorullah Shah Gilani (RA), he would initiate (accept) disciples by first having them recite the translation of the detailed declaration of faith (Iman-e-Mufassal), followed by the translation of the concise declaration (Iman-e-Mujmal), and finally the Kalima Tayyiba.

The disciple would then be made a follower of Hazrat Abdul Qadir Jilani (RA) through the hand of Syed Jalaluddin Shah Gilani (RA). As part of the initiation, the disciple would repeat the recitations word by word while holding one end of a scarf (rumal) that the saint held.

Post-Initiation Guidance:

After the bay'ah, the disciple would be strictly instructed to:

- Perform the five daily obligatory prayers (Salah)
- Uphold all other religious obligations

Spiritual Practice (Wazifah):

Every disciple was advised to recite the following after each prayer (Salah):

- 10 times Kalima Tayyiba
- 10 times Durood Sharif (salutations upon the Prophet ﷺ)

Spiritual Lineage (Shajrah-e-Tariqat)

(Of Hazrat Syed Jalaluddin Shah Gilani, may Allah have mercy on him)

1. Prophet Muhammad Mustafa Ahmad Mujtaba (Peace be upon him)
2. Hazrat Ali al-Murtaza (Lion of God, the Reliever of Troubles)
3. Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA)
4. Hazrat Imam Zain al-Abideen (RA)
5. Hazrat Imam Baqir (RA)
6. Hazrat Imam Ja'far al-Sadiq (RA)
7. Hazrat Imam Musa Kazim (RA)
8. Hazrat Imam Ali Musa (RA)
9. Hazrat Sheikh Ma'ruf Karkhi (RA)
10. Hazrat Sheikh Abu al-Hasan Sirri Saqti (RA)
11. Hazrat Sheikh Abu Qasim Junaid Baghdadi (RA)
12. Hazrat Sheikh Abu Bakr Shibli (RA)
13. Hazrat Sheikh Abdul Wahid (RA)
14. Hazrat Sheikh Abu al-Faraj Yusuf Tartusi (RA)
15. Hazrat Sheikh Abu al-Hasan Hankari (RA)
16. Hazrat Sheikh Abu Saeed Makhrumi (RA)
17. Hazrat Sheikh Abdul Qadir Jilani (RA)
18. Hazrat Syed Abdul Wahab (RA)
19. Hazrat Syed Safiuddin Safi (RA)
20. Hazrat Syed Ahmad (RA)
21. Hazrat Syed Masood (RA)
22. Hazrat Syed Ali (RA)
23. Hazrat Syed Amir Shah (RA)
24. Hazrat Syed Shamsuddin Jali (RA)
25. Hazrat Syed Muhammad Ghaus Bandagi Achi (RA)

26. Hazrat Syed Abdul Qadir Thani (RA)
27. Hazrat Syed Abdul Razzaq (RA)
28. Hazrat Syed Hamid Ganj Bakhsh Kalan (RA)
29. Hazrat Syed Abdul Qadir Thalith (RA)
30. Hazrat Syed Shamsuddin Thani (RA)
31. Hazrat Syed Abdul Qadir Rabi' (RA)
32. Hazrat Syed Shamsuddin Thalith (RA)
33. Hazrat Syed Hamid Ganj Bakhsh Thani (RA)
34. Hazrat Syed Shamsuddin Rabi' (RA)
35. Hazrat Syed Abdul Qadir Khamis (RA)
36. Hazrat Syed Hamid Ganj Bakhsh Sawwum (RA)
37. Hazrat Syed Noorullah Shah Gilani (RA)
38. Hazrat Syed Jalaluddin Shah Gilani (RA)

Religious and Worldly Services

Syed Jalaluddin Shah Gilani (RA) was a scholar deeply versed in both the outer (Zahiri) and inner (Batini) sciences. He was a man of immense spiritual accomplishments and miracles, whether physical or metaphysical.

He was naturally generous and kind-hearted, always helping the poor, the orphans, and the needy. His teachings quenched the thirst for knowledge in many people—both his own children and other seekers of truth.

His son, Syed Jamaluddin Shah Gilani, attained exceptional mastery in both the exoteric and esoteric sciences under his guidance—so much so that there was none like him in his time.

People learned religion to such an extent from Syed Jalaluddin (RA) that they had no trouble resolving daily matters based on Islamic teachings. Regular religious gatherings were held at his court, during which he would address various matters and encourage people to act upon religious guidance.

Not only did he help people with spiritual matters, but he also assisted with their worldly affairs. If anyone ever made a request, he would try his best to fulfill it immediately. Despite his high spiritual rank, he always remained kind and humble toward everyone.

He had a deep love and respect for other saints and elders and was always soft-spoken and honest. He never allowed anyone's dignity to be hurt, especially when offering financial help—he ensured it was done with respect and discretion.

Preaching Islam

Like his ancestors, Syed Jalaluddin Shah Gilani (RA) actively engaged in preaching the message of Islam. He had witnessed his father Hazrat Syed Noorullah Shah Gilani (RA) and his brothers Syed Shamsuddin, Syed Najmuddin, and Syed Qutbuddin Shah Gilani spreading the faith—and so, it became part of his own legacy too.

He continued this inherited mission and invited people from various ethnic backgrounds and regions toward Islam. He encouraged belief in the Oneness of God (Tawheed) and the finality of the Prophethood of Muhammad ﷺ.

He traveled from Afghanistan to various parts of India for the sake of preaching and settled in areas where he could continue this mission. His efforts in Multan, Dera Ghazi Khan, and Bahawalpur led many to accept Islam through his teachings and character.

Tasawwuf (Spirituality)

Hazrat Syed Jalaluddin Shah Gilani (RA) lived by the teachings inherited from his noble ancestors. Like his father and brothers, he would often withdraw into seclusion (his spiritual chamber) for days at a time, dedicating himself solely to the worship of Allah Almighty. During these spiritual retreats, he would completely detach from worldly affairs, focusing entirely on sincere devotion to his Lord, striving only to earn the pleasure of the One True God.

Service to Humanity

Hazrat Syed Jalaluddin Shah Gilani (RA) was renowned for his compassion, generosity, and concern for the needy, orphans, and the poor. Helping the underprivileged was a beloved part of his life. He would constantly check on people's well-being and act swiftly to resolve their issues.

He was known for his hospitality. Whether someone came seeking knowledge or even on business, he would warmly welcome them and help solve their difficulties. He actively provided guidance and solutions for both intellectual and practical problems faced by people.

He spent his entire life guiding others and addressing their concerns. His noble character was a reflection of his Sayyid lineage, filled with a deep sense of responsibility toward the creation of God. All beings, regardless of their form, benefited from his kindness and wisdom.

Trade

Hazrat Syed Jalaluddin Shah Gilani (RA) continued his family profession, which had been passed down through generations. Like his father and brothers, he engaged in the trade of dry fruits. He conducted trade across various regions from Afghanistan to Buner and different parts of India, including Multan, Dera Ghazi Khan, and Bahawalpur.

He conducted business according to Islamic principles, never allowing dishonesty in weights and measures, and never charging unjust amounts. This honesty had long been a tradition in his family. A trade caravan would often accompany him, and he—as well as other elders of the family—would guide and manage these caravans with care and integrity.

Demise

Hazrat Syed Jalaluddin Shah Gilani (RA) passed away in Bahawalpur on the 14th of Safar, most likely in the second quarter of the 13th century Hijri. He was laid to rest in Mohallah Ganj Sharif, within the shrine complex of Hazrat Syed Shamsuddin Shah Gilani (RA).

Chapter 4

Hazrat Syed Muhibuddin Shah Gilani (RA)

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Introduction:

Hazrat Syed Muhibuddin Shah Gilani (RA) was a revered elder from Mohalla Ganj Sharif, Bahawalpur, and a distinguished descendant of Syed Qutbuddin Shah Gilani (RA), son of Syed Noorullah Shah Gilani (RA) from the Sadaat-e-Ganj Sharif lineage. His family lived in the same neighborhood as that of the great scholar and Muhaddith, Allama Ghulam Muhammad Ghotvi (RA).

Allama Ghotvi (RA) held Hazrat Syed Muhibuddin Shah Gilani (RA) in great respect. Whenever he passed through the marketplace or returned from it, he would first stop at the shrine of Sadaat-e-Ganj, recite Fatiha, and pay his respects. Hazrat Syed Muhibuddin Shah Gilani (RA), in turn, also held Allama Ghotvi (RA) in deep esteem.

When Syed Muhibuddin Shah Gilani (RA) was only 2.5 years old, his noble father, Syed Zain-ul-Abideen Shah Gilani (RA), passed away. He was raised as an orphan, nurtured and educated in his early years by his respected mother, who also laid the foundation for his spiritual and worldly training.

Later, he was enrolled at the Madrasa of Qazi Qari Rahimullah (RA) for religious and secular education. Qari Rahimullah belonged to a devout household and played an essential role in shaping his knowledge and character.

Eventually, Syed Muhibuddin Shah Gilani (RA) served the judiciary as a member of the jury at the High Court.

He was known for his piety, cheerful demeanor, and service to the needy and helpless. He was also a Sufi poet, and even today, his poetry is broadcast on Radio Pakistan.

Birth and Lineage:

Hazrat Syed Muhibuddin Shah Gilani (RA) was born in 1898 in Mohalla Ganj Sharif (Sadaat Ganj), Bahawalpur, into the distinguished family of Sadaat-e-Gilani, direct descendants of Hazrat Syed Noorullah Shah Gilani (RA), the 18th-generation descendant of Qutb-ul-Aqtab Hazrat Abdul Qadir Jilani (RA).

He was a descendant of Syed Qutbuddin Shah Gilani (RA), and the illustrious Syed Saifuddin Shah Gilani (RA), tracing his roots back to Syed Zain-ul-Abideen Shah Gilani (RA).

Lineage Tree (Nasab) of Hazrat Syed Muhibuddin Shah Gilani (RA)

(Qadri, Hasani, and Husayni):

1. Daughter of Prophet Muhammad Mustafa (PBUH) and Hazrat Ali Al-Murtaza (RA)
2. Imam Hasan Al-Mujtaba (RA)
3. Imam Hasan al-Muthanna (RA)
4. Syed Abdullah al-Mahd (RA)
5. Syed Musa al-Jawn (RA)
6. Syed Abdullah al-Salih (RA)
7. Syed Musa Thani (RA)
8. Syed Dawood (RA)
9. Syed Muhammad (RA)
10. Syed Yahya Zahid (RA)
11. Syed Abdullah (RA)
12. Syed Abu Salih (RA)
13. Syed Abu Muhammad Mohiuddin Abdul Qadir Jilani (RA)
14. Syed Abdul Razzaq (RA)
15. Syed Abu Bakr Tajuddin (RA)
16. Syed Abu Salih Nasr (RA)
17. Syed Shahabuddin (RA)
18. Syed Sharafuddin (RA)
19. Syed Shamsuddin (RA)
20. Syed Nooruddin (RA)
21. Syed Badruddin (RA)
22. Syed Sharafuddin (RA)
23. Syed Ahmad Shah (RA)
24. Syed Hasan (RA)
25. Syed Wajihuddin (RA)

26. Syed Muhammad Shah (RA)
27. Syed Abdul Rasool Shah Gilani (RA)
28. Syed Noorullah Shah Gilani (RA)
29. Syed Qutbuddin Shah Gilani (RA)
30. Syed Saifuddin Shah Gilani (RA)
31. Syed Zain-ul-Abideen Shah Gilani (RA)
32. Syed Muhibuddin Shah Gilani (RA)

Education and Upbringing:

When Hazrat Syed Muhibuddin Shah Gilani (RA) was still a child, his father Syed Zain-ul-Abideen Shah Gilani (RA) passed away. With the absence of a father figure, the responsibility for his upbringing and education fell upon his respected mother, who not only raised him with love but also personally oversaw his moral and spiritual development.

He acquired both religious and worldly education from Qari Rahimullah (RA), a devout teacher known for his piety and affection. Recognizing the noble lineage of his student, Qari Sahib took a special interest in nurturing Syed Muhibuddin (RA), giving equal emphasis to his education and moral upbringing. He instilled in him exceptional manners, kindness, and a deep sense of compassion.

The studies of Syed Muhibuddin Shah Gilani (RA) reflect how losing his father at the age of 2.5 years influenced his lifelong empathy. Having faced hardship himself, he was known for his dedication to serving the suffering and the helpless — a trait deeply rooted in his Syed ancestry and noble training.

Children:

Hazrat Syed Muhibuddin Shah Gilani (RA) was blessed with two sons and four daughters.

- His elder son was Syed Saifuddin Shah Gilani (RA),
- His younger son was Syed Munawwar Hussain Shah Gilani.

Since Syed Saifuddin Shah Gilani (RA) did not have any male offspring, the spiritual and custodial responsibilities of the Ganj Sharif Dargah passed on to Syed Munawwar Hussain Shah Gilani, who became the successor (sajjada nashin) of Hazrat Syed Muhibuddin Shah Gilani (RA).

Miracles (Karamat):

Many individuals who personally witnessed the miracles of Hazrat Syed Muhibuddin Shah Gilani (RA) are still alive and are willing to testify under oath about the events that occurred through his spiritual grace. Below are a few selected miraculous incidents:

Incident 1: The Funeral Arrival Without Communication

One of his devoted disciples was Sufi Yar Muhammad, a highly knowledgeable and spiritual man. Hazrat Syed Muhibuddin (RA) once told his son Syed Munawwar Hussain Shah Gilani, the current custodian of the Dargah, that:

"If Sufi Yar Muhammad had been a Syed, I believe—may Allah forgive me—people would have preserved the soil from his grave."

Story:

One day, Sufi Yar Muhammad's son Muhammad passed away. Their village was about 50 km from Bahawalpur, and communication methods were limited at that time. The funeral time had been fixed, and the preparations were underway. Amidst his sorrow, Sufi Yar Muhammad stood restlessly, staring at the road, clearly waiting for someone.

Someone nearby asked him, "Are you waiting for someone?" but he remained silent and kept looking at the path.

Just then, Syed Muhibuddin Shah Gilani (RA) arrived at the funeral without any prior message. He offered condolences and went straight to lead the funeral prayer.

Everyone was astonished. This was seen as a spiritual connection between a murshid and his mureed — a bond so strong that even without any apparent communication, the spiritual master sensed his disciple's need and reached there just in time.

Incident 2: Rescuing His Disciples from a House Collapse

Another incident is related by Jam Allah Rakha, a disciple of Hazrat Syed Muhibuddin Shah Gilani (RA), who is now over 70 years old and retired as Headmaster from Government High School Ganwan. He lived in Basti Patreewala between Jalalpur Pirwala and Shujabad.

Story:

In 1971, when Jam Allah Rakha was a third-year student at SE College Bahawalpur, he lived with three friends in a rented house in Mohalla Chah Fatah Khan inside the city.

One cold rainy evening, a heavy downpour began. The four students were afraid due to the intensity of the storm.

Suddenly, someone knocked on their door. A voice called out from outside, "Jam Allah Rakha! Jam Allah Rakha!"

Jam recognized the voice and said, "It's my Pir Sahib." One friend doubted and said, "No, this must be some jinn — how could an elderly man arrive in such heavy rain?"

But when Jam opened the door, he found Hazrat Syed Muhibuddin Shah Gilani (RA) standing there.

He greeted him, and Syed Sahib firmly told him, "Call your friends immediately and come out — hurry!"

Jam tried to insist that it was raining and invited Syed Sahib inside instead, but the Pir replied, "Just do as I say — gather everyone and come out now!"

As soon as all four came outside, the roof of the house collapsed.

They were shocked and terrified, but Syed Sahib calmly said, "Don't worry, come with me."

When they reached the Astana Aaliya, Jam asked how he had known something was wrong.

Syed Muhibuddin Shah Gilani (RA) replied:

"This is not something for you to understand. I simply felt a restlessness in my heart, so I came. Allah was merciful."

Jam Allah Rakha still testifies under oath that his spiritual guide had no prior knowledge of their exact residence, and yet he arrived on time and saved their lives.

Travel:

Hazrat Syed Muhibuddin Shah Gilani (RA) traveled only once in his lifetime — to Saudi Arabia for Hajj. While his noble ancestors journeyed to various countries for trade, he did not pursue business nor did he travel outside of India, Pakistan, and Saudi Arabia, primarily due to the early demise of his father.

He did, however, travel extensively within Pakistan, visiting many cities and villages to meet with his devotees and disciples. Despite his strong lineage, he never visited Afghanistan, the ancestral land of his forefathers, as there was no close relative or contact remaining there during his time. Thus, any connection to his ancestral homeland was limited to books and historical records.

Method of Bay'ah (Spiritual Oath):

Hazrat Syed Muhibuddin Shah Gilani (RA) belonged to the Qadriya Qudsiyya spiritual order. He upheld the traditional method of Bay'ah (spiritual initiation) passed

down through his forefathers, even though he lost his father, Syed Zain-ul-Abideen Shah Gilani (RA), at the age of 2.5 years and had no paternal uncles.

Method of Bay'ah:

When Hazrat Syed Muhibuddin Shah Gilani (RA) would accept someone into his spiritual order:

1. He would first make them recite the Iman-e-Mufasssal (detailed declaration of faith) or its translation.
2. Then he would have them recite the Iman-e-Mujmal (brief declaration of faith) or its translation.
3. Next, he would instruct them to recite the Kalima Tayyibah (First Kalima).
4. Finally, he would have them say:

"I am a disciple (murid) of Piran-e-Pir Sheikh Abdul Qadir Jilani (RA), through the hand of Syed Muhibuddin Shah Gilani (RA)."

This would complete the Bay'ah, and the person would be accepted as his disciple (murid).

Post-Bay'ah Instructions:

After initiating someone, Hazrat Syed Muhibuddin Shah Gilani (RA) would strongly advise the regular performance of religious obligations, especially the five daily prayers. He was particularly strict about this.

Spiritual Practice (Wazifa):

After Bay'ah, he would instruct his disciples to recite the following as a regular wazifa (spiritual practice):

- Ten times Kalima Tayyibah after each prayer
- Ten times Durood Sharif (salutations on the Prophet SAW) after each prayer

Spiritual Lineage (Shajrah-e-Tariqat):

Below is the spiritual chain (silsila) of Syed Muhibuddin Shah Gilani (RA) in the Qadri Sufi Order, tracing back to the Holy Prophet Muhammad ﷺ:

1. Prophet Muhammad ﷺ
2. Hazrat Ali al-Murtaza (RA)
3. Imam Hussain (RA)
4. Imam Zain-ul-Abideen (RA)

5. Imam Muhammad al-Baqir (RA)
6. Imam Ja'far al-Sadiq (RA)
7. Imam Musa al-Kazim (RA)
8. Imam Ali Musa (RA)
9. Sheikh Ma'ruf Karkhi (RA)
10. Sheikh Abu al-Hasan Sirri Saqti (RA)
11. Sheikh Abu Qasim Junaid Baghdadi (RA)
12. Sheikh Abu Bakr Shibli (RA)
13. Sheikh Abdul Wahid (RA)
14. Sheikh Abu al-Farh Yusuf Tartoosi (RA)
15. Sheikh Abu al-Hasan Hankari (RA)
16. Sheikh Abu Saeed Makhzoomi (RA)
17. Sheikh Abdul Qadir Jilani (RA)
18. Syed Abdul Wahab (RA)
19. Syed Safiuddin Safi (RA)
20. Syed Ahmed (RA)
21. Syed Masood (RA)
22. Syed Ali (RA)
23. Syed Amir Shah (RA)
24. Syed Shamsuddin Jali (RA)
25. Syed Muhammad Ghaus Bandagi Achi (RA)
26. Syed Abdul Qadir Thani (RA)
27. Syed Abdul Razzaq (RA)
28. Syed Hamid Ganj Bakhsh Kalan (RA)
29. Syed Abdul Qadir Thalith (RA)
30. Syed Shamsuddin Thani (RA)
31. Syed Abdul Qadir Rabi' (RA)

32. Syed Shamsuddin Thalith (RA)
33. Syed Hamid Ganj Bakhsh Thani (RA)
34. Syed Shamsuddin Rabi' (RA)
35. Syed Abdul Qadir Khamis (RA)
36. Syed Hamid Ganj Bakhsh Sawm (RA)
37. Syed Noorullah Shah Gilani (RA)
38. Syed Shamsuddin Shah Gilani (RA)
39. Syed Akbar Shah Bukhari (RA)
40. Syed Abdul Qadir Shah (RA)
41. Syed Muhibuddin Shah Gilani (RA)

Religious and Worldly Services:

Hazrat Syed Muhibuddin Shah Gilani (RA) rendered exceptional services in both religious and worldly matters. He expanded the ancestral mosque, which was adjacent to his home and located in Mohalla Ganj Sharif, built on family-owned land. After expansion, the mosque was granted the status of a Jamia Mosque, and it continues to hold that status today. Large congregations still gather there for prayers.

He also established a madrasa (religious school) adjacent to the mosque so that people could educate their children in Islamic teachings. In addition, there was a well outside the mosque during his time, from which not only local residents but also people from surrounding areas used to collect water.

Hazrat Syed Muhibuddin Shah Gilani (RA) also expanded the ancestral graveyard, which existed on his family's land. Beyond the family of Sayyids, he granted permission to members of other families who requested burial in this sacred place, now known as Qabristan Sadat Ganj.

He was known for his generosity, noble character, and compassionate behavior. He could not bear to see anyone in distress. If a needy person came to him, he would readily offer help. He served humanity in both religious and practical matters, fulfilling spiritual thirst as well as worldly needs.

Propagation of Islam (Tabligh-e-Deen):

Like his noble forefathers, Hazrat Syed Muhibuddin Shah Gilani (RA) made tireless efforts to guide people towards the true path of Islam. Although he never personally witnessed the practices of his ancestors, the knowledge of spirituality remained alive in his heart, a divine gift from Allah Almighty.

Through his efforts, many people accepted Islam at his hands. His gentle manner of speech would deeply affect listeners, drawing them toward the truth. His words would resonate in people's hearts and lead to sincere transformation.

Even jinns (spiritual beings), inspired by his knowledge, embraced Islam. His dignified personality and sincere approach brought many souls closer to faith and righteousness.

Service to God's Creation:

Hazrat Syed Muhibuddin Shah Gilani (RA) had profound love for all of God's creation. He helped anyone who was helpless or in need. Having experienced orphanhood himself, he understood the pain of the destitute and never allowed anyone to feel alone or unsupported.

He helped people without making them feel ashamed or uncomfortable. Workers and laborers who came from distant villages to the city for employment often stayed with him. If someone didn't find work on a particular day, they would visit him to ask for prayers, and he would immediately respond with comfort and say:

"Have trust in the blessed power of Allah Almighty — Insha'Allah, you will find work tomorrow."

And by the next day, they would indeed find employment, confirming their faith in his words.

His gatherings were filled with lessons in Islamic knowledge. After a long, exhausting day, when laborers would visit his blessed shrine in the evening, they would feel spiritually refreshed. They listened not only to religious advice but also to his inspiring poetry and teachings.

Poetry of Hazrat Syed Muhibuddin Shah Gilani (RA):

Prayer Poem (Du'a Nama):

I, a sinner, O Lord, there's no one like me on earth,
Forgive all my sins, O Lord, this night I beg You.
Let the prayer beads utter the Pure Kalimah at the time of death,
By the blessing of the Beloved's sight, may the evil of the grave vanish.
Let me cross the Bridge of Sirat faster than lightning,
Grant me the blessing of Jannat-ul-Firdaus, O Generous One.
I am full of flaws, but You are flawless,
If You do not forgive, then who will, O Lord of the worlds?
Do not let me despair—You are the hope for the hopeless.
No one is more Forgiving than You, I have not found such beauty.
Grant me a blessed ending, for the sake of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ.
May Muhib reach the presence of the Master of Creation in the grave.

Remove all troubles and open the doors of paradise.

O Most Forgiving, for the sake of the ocean of Mustafa ﷺ, have mercy.

Though my flaws are countless, You are the Most Merciful.

Forgive me for the sake of the holy names of the Panjtan Pak (5 Pure Ones), or else the night is dark.

Have mercy regardless of the state, for the sake of the Intercessor of sinners ﷺ.

Muhib seeks refuge in Your mercy from the ruin of disgrace.

Another Du‘a Nama (Prayer):

O God, I have one wish —

That on the Day of Judgment, You preserve my honour.

I am without good deeds, my Lord, useless,

My life passed heedlessly in negligence.

Bless my actions with barakah (blessing),

Illuminate my dark grave.

Save me from the darkness of the grave, O Lord.

Make the questioning of Munkar and Nakir easy for me.

O God, show mercy to me —

Let me see the face of Mustafa ﷺ in my grave.

My record of deeds is dark with sins,

Yet Muhib still yearns to hear his name called.

Except for Your mercy, there is no other hope —

What can I do? The journey is so difficult.

For the sake of Mustafa ﷺ, forgive my sins.

So that on the Day of Judgment, Muhib may not feel shame.

Shower light and mercy,

Even though I lack deeds and am weak.

I have hope in “La Taqnatu” (Do not despair of Allah’s mercy),

And I trust in Your abundant mercy.

I seek Your grace at every step —

May I be granted the vision of Mustafa ﷺ day and night.

May the grave become illuminated and its darkness vanish,

Muhib, in the grave, is helpless.

Historical Reference:

According to a historical text:

"Near the residence of Sheikh-ul-Islam Allama Muhaddith Ghotvi (RA) in Bahawalpur lies a Khanqah of the Gilani order, whose founding ancestor was Hazrat Syed Noorullah Shah Gilani (RA). The locality is known as Ganj Sharif due to his association.

The writer personally visited Syed Muhibuddin Shah Gilani (RA), the Sajjada Nasheen (spiritual custodian) of this Khanqah. The entire Gilani family held deep

reverence for Allama Ghotvi (RA), and Syed Muhibuddin Shah Gilani (RA) used to say: 'The blessed shrine of Allama Ghotvi is a powerful source for the acceptance of prayers. Visit his shrine and pray — Allah will ease your difficulties.'

Another historical book mentions:

"So many miracles are narrated about this family that an entire book could be compiled. Presently, personalities like Syed Muhibuddin and Syed Mehruddin are part of this noble family." The following page of that same book lists the genealogical lineage of the family, tracing Syed Muhibuddin Shah Gilani (RA) as the son of Syed Zainul Abideen, son of Syed Saifuddin, son of Syed Qutbuddin, son of Syed Noorullah Shah Gilani (RA).

Profession:

The ancestors of Hazrat Syed Muhibuddin Shah Gilani (RA) were engaged in the dry fruit trade, traveling from Afghanistan to various parts of India. However, his father passed away when he was just 2½ years old, and there were no uncles or relatives who could continue the family business with him.

Therefore, after completing his education, he served as a jury member in the High Court of Bahawalpur. Alongside his judicial responsibilities, he also led a spiritual order (Piri-Muridi).

He had no other profession apart from judicial service and spiritual leadership.

Passing (Wisaal):

Hazrat Syed Muhibuddin Shah Gilani (RA) passed away on Monday, 12th June 1978, at 4:00 AM.

He was laid to rest in Mohalla Ganj Sharif, within the family shrine complex known as Sadaat Ganj.

Results:

Upon the completion of this research and discussion, the following conclusions have been drawn:

1. Syed Noorullah Shah Gilani and his family—particularly the revered figures mentioned in this study—devoted their lives entirely to the service of Islam.
2. They dedicated their lives to the pursuit of knowledge, spiritual discipline, and religious service.
3. They consistently encouraged people to resolve both religious and worldly matters, and succeeded commendably in this mission.

4. The spiritual blessings of Syed Noorullah Shah Gilani and his family continue to benefit the Muslim Ummah, spreading far and wide and fulfilling the duty of disseminating religious and worldly knowledge.
5. The presence of noble Sayyid families has proven to be greatly beneficial in the propagation of Islam, promotion of knowledge, and resolution of religious and worldly issues.

Recommendations:

In light of the findings and to enhance the value of this subject, the following recommendations are presented:

1. Comprehensive research should be conducted on the lives of other Sayyid scholars and noble families, similar to Syed Noorullah Shah Gilani and his descendants.
2. The written and oral contributions of these Sayyid scholars must be widely disseminated for the spiritual reform and education of the Muslim community.
3. Each aspect of the lives of these noble Sayyid figures deserves individual, in-depth study and scholarly analysis.
4. Research papers written on the lives of such Sayyid scholars should be formally published so that others may be inspired by their scholarly contributions and feel motivated to serve Islam and guide people in both religious and worldly affairs.

Research Summary

The title of this dissertation is: “An Analytical Study of the Religious and Worldly Services of the Sayyids of Sadat Ganj” This book is divided into four chapters.

Chapter One

This chapter discusses Hazrat Syed Noorullah Shah Gilani (RA) in detail. It begins with an introductory overview, followed by a comprehensive account of his birth and lineage, including where he was born, the name of his father, and a detailed ancestral tree. The chapter then outlines his education and spiritual upbringing, provides details about his children, and describes his miracles as documented in historical texts.

Next, the chapter covers the journeys undertaken by Syed Noorullah Shah Gilani (RA), his method of spiritual initiation (Bay‘ah), and his spiritual lineage (Shajrah Tariqat). It elaborates on his religious and worldly services, his efforts in religious propagation, and his spiritual practices (Tasawwuf). It also highlights his service to humanity, his profession (notably in trade), and finally, concludes with the details of his passing.

Chapter Two

This chapter covers the life of Hazrat Syed Shamsuddin Shah Gilani (RA). It opens with an introductory overview, followed by accounts of his birth and lineage, education and training, and his offspring. It then discusses his miracles, travels, and his method of Bay‘ah, as well as his spiritual chain.

Further, it details his religious and worldly contributions, his role in propagating Islam, his spiritual path, his service to creation, his profession, and concludes with an account of his death.

Chapter Three

This chapter pertains to Hazrat Syed Jalaluddin Shah Gilani (RA). It begins with his introductory biography, followed by his birth and family lineage, education and upbringing, and information about his children. It also documents his miracles, travels, spiritual initiation process, Tariqat lineage, religious and worldly services, religious preaching efforts, spiritual conduct, services to humanity, profession, and his passing.

Chapter Four

The final chapter focuses on Hazrat Syed Muhibuddin Shah Gilani (RA). It includes his introductory biography, details of his birth and ancestry, education and training, and his offspring. His miracles are described, as well as his travels, Bay‘ah method, spiritual lineage, religious and worldly contributions, his services in preaching, and his dedication to the welfare of people.

The chapter continues with details of his profession (noting a shift from ancestral trade to serving as a jury member in the High Court of Bahawalpur), and ends with a record of his death and burial place.

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