



The Life of...
GHAUS-E-AZAM

By: *Dr. Md. Haroon*



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II THE WORLD IMPORTANCE OF GHAUS AL AZAM HAZRAT SHEIKH MUHYIDDIN ABDUL QADIR JILANI (Radi Allahu Anh)

I

Hazrat Sheikh Abdul Qadir Jilani (Radi Allahu Anh) is famous throughout the Muslim World, and is dearly loved by hundreds of millions of Muslims, and has been so loved since he passed away in 1166 C.E.. He is also one of the most important Muslim Saints who ever lived, and is one of the most important figures in World religion. It is the aim of this pamphlet to show how important he is, why he is important, and why he is still important to the Muslims, and to all of Humanity, today.

Hazrat Sheikh Abdul Qadir (Radi Allahu Anh) was a Saint of Islam. But he was not just a Saint, but the highest of all the Saints. He was the Qutb-al-Aqtab, which is the Highest level of Sainthood, and the chief on whom the entire world depends, who has control of the whole of Creation given to him by Allah Ta'ala. He is also the Ghaus Al-Azam, the Supreme Helper, who can help in any difficulty. He is also the Insan Al Kamil, the perfect Man, the highest peak of Humanity. And Hazrat Sheikh Abdul Qadir (Radi Allahu Anh) was not only Qutb-al-Aqtab during his lifetime, but has been Qutb-Al-Aqtab since he passed away. He is the chief of all the Saints. He said that his foot is on the neck of the Saints. And he was not only Ghaus during his lifetime, but also still is today, as the greatest of all the Saints called Ghaus.

Because he is so high, Hazrat Sheikh Abdul Qadir (Radi Allahu Anh) can help us now in the World today. If you call on Hazrat Sheikh Abdul Qadir (Radi Allahu Anh), he

comes to your help! He promised to immediately come to the help of anyone who called out to him in difficulties! All you have to do is to read two Nafil Salat, reading Surah Ikhlas eleven times after Fatiha, then do as much Darood as possible, and then take eleven steps towards Baghdad, Where he is resting, reciting his name and expressing your desire! This is his promise! He is the constant help of the Muslims. Women in childbirth cry out to him! Hazrat Sheikh Abdul Qadir (Radi Allahu Anh) also said that he would save any of his friends in danger, though the friend would not know it! The Ghaus may also help at the moment a nation is to be punished, and avert punishment.

Hazrat Sheikh Abdul Qadir (Radi Allahu Anh) does this by interceding with Allah Ta'ala, acting on behalf of and under the control of the Prophet (Sall Allahu Alaihi wa Sallam). Allah Ta'ala is always looking at him, and all that comes from Allah Ta'ala comes through him, and is distributed by him! The Truth Most High said to him, "Truly today you are firmly installed before Us and trusted." And He made him sit with the spirits of the prophets on a seat between this World and the Next, between Creator and Created, visible and spiritual perceptible and imperceptible. And He gave him four spiritual faces, to look to the Earth, and the Other World, created beings and the Creator! His command is the Command of Allah Ta'ala! All the countries of Allah Ta'ala are his Kingdom! Their Qutbs are under his command and obedience!

And of all the intercessors, Hazrat Sheikh Abdul Qadir (Radi Allahu Anh) is the most popular, because he is so kind! He said, "If Allah Ta'ala grants me a prayer on Judgement Day, I will ask to carry all your burdens!" Hazrat Sheikh Abdul Qadir (Radi Allahu Anh) was a man in whose heart Allah Ta'ala's Light really shone!

His high status was shown by many miracles

(Karamats). When he preached, even though there were 70,000 people listening, his voice could be heard perfectly clearly by all in the vast space covered by such a crowd. He could tell if a person had done Wuzu, and if someone was a thief. He cured many sick people. While he was Preaching in Baghdad epilepsy was absent from the town. He was reported to be in many places at once. He once told a man the words of his dead father. He could bring back lost possessions. He would eat nothing for forty days. He could change the destiny of a person. A merchant, who was to be killed and his property stolen, merely dreamt of being killed, and for a short time forgot where he'd put his money. Hazrat Sheikh Abdul Qadir's (Radi Allahu Anh) prayers were immediately answered. The people of the Unseen and the Jinn used to appear before him to be taught.

Once he was preaching on the destiny given to us by Allah Ta'ala. A huge snake suddenly fell on him, and wrapped itself round him; but he simply carried on preaching and was safe! He once took a vow not to eat until Allah Ta'ala Himself fed him. As a result he starved for several weeks, but then a man came and began putting food in his mouth! He is so powerful that all the world would shake with his anger. He knows the inner and outer state of every Saint, and without his permission no Saint can have any power, living or passed away! All his Murids and friends leave this World with their sins forgiven, and their repentance is accepted, and this includes anyone who dies as a member of a Sufi order whose Silsila comes from Hazrat Sheikh Abdul Qadir (Radi Allahu Anh)! And this is also the case for those who call on him, think of him, and love him!

His real miracle, however, was his ability to call people to Islam. He said, "The hearts of the people are in my control." And he called hundreds of thousands of both Muslims and

non-Muslims to Islam and to repentance and to a better life! And the real miracle has been his enormous influence over the whole of the Sufi movement since he has passed away. All the Tariqas follow him. And he inspires all of them! Their greatness is his greatness.

Hazrat Sheikh Abdul Qadir (Radi Allahu Anhu) is a wonderful person, and all who read this should feel the call to him, and come to him, to Islam, to the Prophet (Sall Allahu Alaihi wa Sallam) and to Allah Ta'ala!

He knew he was the Ghaus, and he knew how he could help people, and told his friends that, with Allah Ta'ala's permission he could help, then and in the future. His desire was to soothe the pain and calm the troubles of all who suffer, or are in fear, in this life and the Next. His mission meant he could help everyone. And so his helping hand is held out to us, to rich, poor, uneducated, educated, weak, strong, and even to rebels! He is the Standard-Bearer of Allah Ta'ala's Supreme Mercy!

His fame grew and grew after he passed away, and still grows today. He is a Saint on whom the whole Umma agrees! And his miracles continue until today!

He was a wonderful person. No one had so many good deeds and miraculous blessings!

He had a noble appearance, and a fine voice. His glance was full of spirituality, so that no one could look at him for long. He was a very friendly, simple person. He was generous, kind, trustworthy, loyal to promise and friend. He was always thinking of Allah Ta'ala and always doing Zikr. He was cheerful. He said that the Muslim is serious on the inside, but cheerful on the outside! He took no one's side except that of Allah Ta'ala, and was never angry for himself. He was a humble person, and although important, he would stand and talk with ordinary people, sit with the meek, and humble

himself to the poor. He had no respect for the rich and powerful, and would tell even a Caliph a painful truth. Once a Caliph brought money to give him, and Hazrat Sheikh Abdul Qadir (Radi Allahu Anh) simply held up the bag of money. Blood poured from the bag and Hazrat Sheikh Abdul Qadir (Radi Allahu Anh) told the Caliph that this was the blood of the people from whom the money had been taken! He was always welcoming and generous to the poor and the beggar, and would give away a set of clothes to them, if he had two sets of his own. He fed the poor, sat with them, and visited and comforted the sick. And he was very faithful and kind to his friends. He was a good and kind man, and was totally without pride. No fly landed on Hazrat Sheikh Abdul Qadir (Radi Allahu Anh), but he modestly said that flies like honey or filth, and he was neither! And he was full of sympathy. He easily shed tears. And such modesty as he had was never seen!



II

Hazrat Sheikh Abdul Qadir (Radi Allahu Anh) was called Jilani because he came from Al Jilan, a town in present day Iran, where he was born, probably in 1077 C.E.. His mother was also a saint, and he was descended from Imam Hussein (Radi Allahu Anh) through his mother, and Imam Hassan (Radi Allahu Anh) through his father. His life was full of wonders, and full of total devotion to Allah Ta'ala.

His mother bore him at the age of 60, and this is taken to prove her pure Quraysh blood, for Qurayshi women could give birth late like this. He was born in Ramadan, and would not feed during fasting times, so much so that the following year, when the locals were uncertain of the appearance of the Moon, they decided the question by seeing if the baby was feeding! As a small child he saw spiritual beings, invisible to others, seeing them again and again, accompanying him in the woods. His father passed away before he was adult. At the age of 17, at night, when he was out walking, an ox spoke to him and told him that his mission was not to be a labourer. Then from his house, he saw Mount Ararat instead of the usual scene, and thousands of pilgrims, marching to Makkah. So he told his mother, and begged her to let him go to Baghdad to study and meet holy people. His mother let him go, gave him money, and made him swear never to turn away from the path of righteousness, and never to lie. All his life he kept this promise. And he kept part of it immediately, for when robbers attacked him on the way to Baghdad, he truthfully told them he was carrying hidden money. His truthfulness so amazed the robbers that they turned to Allah Ta'ala in repentance! Hazrat Sheikh Abdul Qadir (Radi Allahu Anh) was a man with a mission, totally truthful, dedicated to Allah Ta'ala, and able to lead others by the sheer power of his own holiness!

When Hazrat Sheikh Abdul Qadir (Radi Allahu Anh), aged 18, came to Baghdad, it was the biggest and most civilized city in the World, and a big, bad, evil place. Hazrat Sheikh Abdul Qadir (Radi Allahu Anh) knew no-one, and was poor, and his money soon ran out, and he had to live off scraps and plants in the surrounding area. He had few clothes, and no shoes, and lived in ruins outside the town. He once fainted, and looked as though he had died, so that people began to bury him, and only stopped when he awoke! He was also thought to be mad, and put in hospital! He felt a huge weight on his body, and wondered how he could ever study. He trusted totally in Allah Ta'ala, and recited the 5th and 6th ayats of Surah Al Inshirah, which say, "truly every difficulty is followed by relief." Above all, he hated the evil life being led in Baghdad. Hazrat Sheikh Abdul Qadir (Radi Allahu Anh) always believed a man should earn his own living, and not rely on others, and he could not see how he could earn an honest living in a place like Baghdad!

And so, carrying the Quran on his right shoulder, he fled Baghdad. As he left the gate, a mighty force knocked him down, and then, when he got up, someone would not let him past, and then he became paralysed. And then a voice came, commanding him to stay in Baghdad, and carry out work which would please the people. And so he turned back, and carried on with his mission, determined never to let any difficulties stop him.

He came to Baghdad at the age of 18. He spent the next 33 years studying and meditating, and leading a harsh life. It was not until he was in his fifties that he came to be famous, and important. He came to Baghdad to study, and in the first years there he studied the Shariah, Hadith, Sufism and all the Islamic science. Hazrat Sheikh Abdul Qadir (Radi Allahu Anh) was first and foremost an Alim, a Muslim Scholar. Later

in life he always dressed as an Alim.

Throughout this period he put his faith totally in Allah Ta'ala. When the other students went to the local farmers, and were given food in return for teaching the farmers religion, he refused. And he underwent many hardships. After his studies, for 13 years he lived alone in a deserted tower, and for three years lived in the ruins of a deserted palace. And he lived off scraps.

Turning to Allah Ta'ala alone, giving up the rest of the World completely, Hazrat Sheikh Abdul Qadir (Radi Allahu Anh) slowly came to be given divine power. Allah Ta'ala destroyed the old self of Hazrat Sheikh Abdul Qadir (Radi Allahu Anh), and gave him a new eternal life. Hazrat Sheikh Abdul Qadir (Radi Allahu Anh) had already received the Sufi cloak, the Khirqa, from a famous Sufi, Qadi Abu Saeed Al Mubarak al-Moharrimi (Radi Allahu Anh). Now he received the Khirqa direct from the Prophet (Sall Allahu Alaihi wa Sallam), as Qutb al-Aqtab, and with it sovereignty over all the Saints.

Before Hazrat Sheikh Abdul Qadir (Radi Allahu Anh) came back among the people, he was thought to be a lonely, dumb lunatic. But when he came back, he became the greatest preacher Islam has ever known. Now in his fifties, he looked impressive and was a marvellous speaker, where previously he was poor and dumb. He was called by a voice to preach, and the Prophet (Sall Allahu Alaihi wa Sallam) appeared to him. Hazrat Sheikh Yusuf Hamadan (Radi Allahu Anh), who was then considered the Qutb, told him to preach.

As soon as he began to preach, the crowds grew and grew, and soon he needed enormous areas to hold crowds of up to 70,000, who listened in absolute silence, gripped by his speech. In his speech the people felt the presence of Allah Ta'ala. They had never heard speeches such as his, calling

them to Islam and Allah Ta'ala.

The University of Baghdad at first ignored him, and then wanted to know why he was succeeding, and then decided to discredit him. They appointed scholars to question him and trap him. But when the Scholars came before him, they were struck dumb, goaned and wept and tore their clothes. Then Hazrat Sheikh Abdul Qadir (Radi Allahu Anh) spoke and answered the questions they hadn't even been able to ask!

And so Hazrat Sheikh Abdul Qadir (Radi Allahu Anh) triumphed, and was given his own school, the Madrassa of Abu Sa'd, with a magnificent school, and also a Ribat for his Murids. The rich gave money to build these premises, while the poor worked. And there, regularly, he taught Fiqh, Hadith, Tafsir, Quran reading, and Sufism, and answered any questions sent to him. He continued there until he passed away at the age of 89. Here he became enormously famous, and was visited by the rich and powerful, whom he despised. He loved the ill and poor, and masses of money came to him which were donated to charitable work. Every day the poor were fed at his Madrassa. A huge mass of endowments, Waqfs, helped him.

He had regarded marriage as a hindrance to his spiritual journey, but then he came to see marriage as a duty, and a Sunnah, which he must carry out if he was to be famous and known to the people. So in his fifties he married, and had four wives, and 49 children!

His lectures held his audiences, and moved them to tears and fainting. His sons wondered how he did this. To show them he sat in his chair one day, as he always did when he lectured, and simply told the audience a story about a cat stealing eggs. This reduced the audience to tears. He then told his sons that the moment he climbed into the chair, Haqq, which means Allah Ta'ala the Truth, appeared in his heart, and

it was Haqq which caused the tears.

And his success was beyond anything ever seen. No saint before or since has called people to Islam and to Allah Ta'ala with such success. He did better than any of the prophets of Israel! The spirit of Hazrat Sheikh Abdul Qadir (Radi Allahu Anh) was the fastest of his age, just as the falcon is the fastest of birds. A Sheikh named him the Falcon of the Skies (Baz Al-Echhab), and said that when his hour came, he would have no equal in the World. Hazrat Sheikh Abdul Qadir (Radi Allahu Anh) told his mother that he had been a falcon which had rescued her from an attack before he was born!

When he passed away, he was buried in a tomb at the Madrassa, and this tomb is famous up to this day.



III

Hazrat Sheikh Abdul Qadir (Radi Allahu Anh), as we've seen, is a person of enormous religious importance in the World. His aim in life, his mission, was purely religious. He despised wealth and sought no power for himself. He is someone who should always be in our prayers and devotions. He achieved a level of holiness that is given to very few.

But at the same time Hazrat Sheikh Abdul Qadir (Radi Allahu Anh) is of great importance politically and socially. Religion brings us to Allah Ta'ala, but it also brings Allah Ta'ala's rule into the World, and into Society. Sunni Islam is the true Islam and the true religion. And Sunni Islam truly brings the Rule of Allah Alone into politics and into society. Hazrat Sheikh Abdul Qadir (Radi Allahu Anh) was first and foremost a Sunni Muslim, and everything he did was aimed to introduce the Sunni Rule of Allah Alone into the politics and society of his age. And he lived at a very important time for Sunni Islam. It was above all during his time that Sunni Islam successfully developed The Rule of Allah Alone in politics and society. And the prestige and Barakat of Hazrat Sheikh Abdul Qadir (Radi Allahu Anh) was vital to the success of Sunni Islam, and has been vital since to the setting up of the Rule of Allah Alone.

The political and social importance of Hazrat Sheikh Abdul Qadir (Radi Allahu Anh) can be better understood if we look at the history of Islam.

After the time of the Rightly Guided Caliphs, Islam failed to rule in politics and society. The Arab conquests set up an Empire, but the Muslims were only a small military caste at the top of society, and the regime of the Umayyads was little more than a ruling aristocracy. Various challenges put the Abbasids in power, but they too had little in common

with Islam, and more in common with traditions of Persian Kingship. And the Muslims were few. The mass of society was non-Muslim. There was no Rule of Allah Ta'ala in society, and only the pretence of the Rule of Allah Ta'ala in the courts of the Caliphs.

And then the Caliphate collapsed. The Abbasid Caliphs relied for their rule on soldiers and officials. These officials then proceeded to seize power for themselves, taking away all power from the Caliph. By 945 C.E. the Caliph was merely a figurehead, and real rule lay in the hands of the Sultans, whose rule was based on Worldly Power, and not on Islam at all. Any claim that Allah Ta'ala ruled was being abandoned completely. Islam and the Muslims were disappearing in a vast sea of greedy rulers and of non-Muslim people. There were attempts to restore the Caliphate, such as the Fatimids, who made Shia claims, but they soon collapsed into the same selfish Worldliness and pursuit of power. And further attempts, such as those of the Nizari Ismailis, just became an excuse for mass murder.

At this stage, in the 10th, 11th and 12th centuries, the Sunni Muslims established the Rule of Allah Alone in politics and society, so that by the end of this period not only had the populations of the former Caliphal Empire been converted to Islam, but a new type of Islamic Political and Social System had been set up.

This new system of the Sunni Rule of Allah Alone consisted of several elements. Firstly the leaders of the Muslims became, not Caliphs and Sultans, but Scholars (Ulama) and Saints (Awliya). They were the leaders of the people, and the representatives of Islam. But they did not seek any personal power. You could follow them, but that was of your own free will. They had no political power. But they did restrain and control the holders of political power. And they

did this by upholding the Sharia, the law of Allah Ta'ala. They called the people to obey the Sharia. But above all they called the Rulers to obey the Shariah, and made it clear to everyone that only a ruler who obeyed the Shariah and upheld it could be a rightful, acceptable ruler for the Muslims. And the masses of the people were converted to Islam by these Ulama and Awliya. And the masses of the people were especially drawn into the Sufi Orders, which expanded and developed at this time so that they became mass organisations. Allah Ta'ala ruled through His Law, the Shariah, and the Rule of Allah Ta'ala was spread so that the government obeyed the Shariah, and the mass of the people were followers of, and guided by, Ulama and Awliya who themselves followed the Shariah, and explained it to both the rulers and the general population. In this way Islam existed as an island in society, which slowly expanded to take in more and more of the population, and more and more parts of life, as Sharia influence spread upwards and downwards, to rulers and ruled.

A unique society emerged, in which the Holy Ulama and Awliya spread the influence of Allah Ta'ala to all parts of society. The Ulama developed as a political brake on irresponsible government, and also developed close and strong links with the Sufi Orders. There was a close link of Ulama and Awliya, with many people being Alim and Wali (Saint) at one and the same time. And Sufi Orders developed as the most important institutions of Islamic society.

This new Islamic society could hold together without political unity, and expand without military conquest, for the Sufis especially carried Islam into all parts of the World, and converted enormous numbers to Islam.

The Sufi Orders brought the masses into an Islamic life. The Sufi Sheikhs acted as representatives of their followers and so of communities, and even of tribes and social classes.

They acted, as did the Ulama, as the ones who could complain to government in the case of abuses. The Ulama and Sufis acted as the helpers of the poor, sick and travellers. They were the social security and welfare system of society, using charitable endowments (Waqfs) for this purpose. The Ulama and the Sufi Orders were a pathway by which the poor could rise in society. Real equality existed within the society led by Ulama and Awliya! The Sufi Orders could be used to organise any social institution, such as a Merchants' Guild, or a fair, or a hospital, or a school. The tombs of Saints were places of sanctuary, places where the hunted could hide. Sufism was also the place for all those cast out by society, for all eccentrics, for all those who were "odd". Ulama and Sufi Sheikhs could act as conciliators, and arbitrators, even in wars and tribal feuds. Ulama and Sufis ran the educational system of Muslim Society. Art, Music and poetry were encouraged and developed by Ulama and Awliya, and in Sufi Orders. Sufism was above all the Islam of women, who were Sheikhs, Murids, and also especially visited the tombs and Khanaqahs of the Sufis. The Sufis also took Islam everywhere that the Ulama could not go. The Ulama were based in towns. The Sufis could go into the countryside, into the vast wildernesses, and bring Islam to all people, of all cultures and races. The Ulama and Sufi Sheikhs were there as a help for the helpless, to whom anyone could appeal, to uphold the rights of the poor and defenceless.

This was, and is, the true society of Allah Ta'ala. This is a society full of the Love of Allah Ta'ala. This is the perfect society existing on Earth. It is the society which Allah Ta'ala wants us to live in. It is a society full of holiness, and full of holy people. It is a society in which the highest people are not the rich, or politicians, but the wise and the holy, and the saintly.

And we can have this society anywhere, at any time. We do not have to have political power. As long as people are free to follow the Sharia, and as long as Ulama and Awliya are free to operate, this society can exist. In any society, no matter how wicked, goodness and kindness and holiness can grow, if this Sunni society is allowed to exist. And so Humanity can live in the perfect society in any age, in any place. We do not need revolutions, or enormous economic growth, or social and economic policies. We just need Ulama, Awliya, the Sharia and Muslims!

And this was the society that was developed above all in the age of Hazrat Sheikh Abdul Qadir (Radi Allahu Anh)!

Now Hazrat Sheikh Abdul Qadir (Radi Allahu Anh) is important because he is the key figure in this Sunni Society of the Rule of Allah Alone.

The basis of Sunni Society is the prestige of the Awliya and Ulama. Unless there is complete respect for them, the society cannot work at all. Now Hazrat Sheikh Abdul Qadir (Radi Allahu Anh) spent all his life as an Alim and a Sheikh, and was above all concerned to tell people to follow the Ulama and Awliya. And he succeeded. But he succeeded, not because of his teaching, but because of the tremendous reputation which he achieved. This reputation as the Supreme Saint spread to all of society. And in all of society the reputation of Hazrat sheikh Abdul Qadir (Radi Allahu Anh) was the force that upheld the reputation of the Ulama and Awliya. Many traced their Silsila back to him, and that Silsila gave them the power to influence the masses, and the rulers.

In later years the written works of Hazrat Sheikh Abdul Qadir (Radi Allahu Anh) were far less well-known than his reputation for Saintliness and Miracles. But his reputation itself sums up all that is needed to produce the Society of the Rule of Allah Alone. Anyone who truly believes in the stories

of Hazrat Sheikh Abdul Qadir (Radi Allahu Anh) must be a Sunni, and must uphold the Rule of Allah Alone! The stories tell of his defiance of rulers. Once he got the Caliph to dismiss a bad official. Often he criticised Caliphs. And they depended on him. Once he saved Baghdad from a Seljuk army threatening the Caliph. The stories tell of his contempt for the rich. The true top of society, in the life of Hazrat Sheikh Abdul Qadir (Radi Allahu Anh), is the Scholar and the Saint, not the rich! His legend upholds their superiority.

Hazrat Sheikh Abdul Qadir (Radi Allahu Anh) was a man who put the Sharia first. He himself followed the Hanbali School of Law. He made it clear that no Sufi could disobey the Shariah. In one of the stories about him, a voice came telling him that he and his followers did not have to fast in Ramadan. He dismissed this voice, saying that Allah Ta'ala's Sharia is not suspended for anyone. During his life there were groups of Ismailis who were claiming that the Sharia did not apply to their Imam. Hazrat Sheikh Abdul Qadir (Radi Allahu Anh) would have nothing to do with this. He upheld the Sharia, which was the basis of Sunni Islam, and the Perfect Society.

The stories of Hazrat Sheikh Abdul Qadir (Radi Allahu Anh) show him playing many of the roles Sufis and Ulama play. He fed the poor. He gathered together charitable endowments (Waqfs) to help with education and charity. He ran schools, and taught thousands of pupils. And of course he brought the masses to Islam, and to a better life.

And of course, as Ghaus Al Azam and Qutb al-Aqtab, Hazrat Sheikh Abdul Qadir (Radi Allahu Anh) has played the most important role of all in the successes of Islam, and of Sunni Islam.

Hazrat Sheikh Abdul Qadir (Radi Allahu Anh) also played a big part simply because all of the Umma recognised him, and turned to him for help. He is the key figure, the

typical figure, to whom all turn, who is a model for all, no matter how humble, or important. He is the Pillar of Sunni Islam. Every Sunni, every Alim and Saint benefits from this reputation of Hazrat Sheikh Abdul Qadir (Radi Allahu Anh) as well as getting hidden blessings from his Barakat.

And in history Hazrat Sheikh Abdul Qadir (Radi Allahu Anh) was in the key place at the key time. Baghdad was the most important city of the Muslim World, the centre in Islam of learning and saintliness. And Hazrat Sheikh Abdul Qadir (Radi Allahu Anh) was there! This is the age of the conversion of the masses to Islam. He drew people to Islam in their hundreds of thousands, directly by his preaching. It is no accident that his time is also the time of Saladin! This is the age of a massive upsurge in Sunni Islam, and the collapse of its enemies. The Fatimid Dynasty collapsed five years after Hazrat Sheikh Abdul Qadir (Radi Allahu Anh) passed away!

The full richness of the Sunni tradition centres on Hazrat Sheikh Abdul Qadir (Radi Allahu Anh). The tremendous achievements of Sunni Islamic Civilisation in the time since his death owe much to him.

Sunni Islam is the true religion and the true Islam, and Hazrat Sheikh Abdul Qadir (Radi Allahu Anh) is the greatest figure of its greatest age.

Hazrat Sheikh Abdul Qadir (Radi Allahu Anh) true miracle is Sunni Islam itself!



IV

There have been, and there are today, many enemies of Hazrat Sheikh Abdul Qadir (Radi Allahu Anh) and of everything he stood for, and especially of Sunni Islam and Sufism. They all make these attacks because they wish to remove the Rule of Allah Alone from the World, and set up their own rule. And for this reason it is absolutely vital to defend Hazrat Sheikh Abdul Qadir (Radi Allahu Anh)!

These attacks have been made by many people. Wahhabis have attacked the whole idea of Saints, and done everything possible to get rid of Awliya, and Sufi Orders. Modernists have attacked Sufism as "unscientific". Dictators like Ataturk in Turkey suppressed the Sufi Orders, declaring them illegal. Communists have crushed the Ulama and Sufism where they took power. People like Maududi have attacked Sufism and done everything to destroy it. And there, at the centre of the attacks, is Hazrat Sheikh Abdul Qadir (Radi Allahu Anh), the Ghaus Al Azam and Qutb al-Aqtab, and workers of many miracles! And all has been dismissed as Bida, or as opposed to "Science".

The aim of all these attacks has, however, been nothing but power! The Ulama and Awliya were powerful representatives of the people, able to defy rulers who wished to steal from the people. The Ulama and Awliya were enemies of the silly nationalism of a fool like Ataturk, and of the lunatic Communist Schemes of Dictators. The Muslims had built up huge charitable endowments (waqfs to support education and the poor. The Modernists wished to steal all this wealth to spend on themselves and ridiculous schemes of "Modernization". The perfect society of Islam was organised around Sufism and Tombs and Ulama. Capitalist and Communist society could only be built on the ruins of Muslim

society. The Wahhbis could not set up their own King while Sufism survived, and so suppressed the Sufi Orders in Makkah itself when they took over in 1925! And of course, if the Muslims are led by Ulama and Awliya, their attention is directed to Allah Ta'ala, and not to Atheism and Secularism and similar rubbish!

And so they attacked Hazrat Sheikh Abdul Qadir (Radi Allahu Anh)!

And so we must absolutely uphold Hazrat Sheikh Abdul Qadir (Radi Allahu Anh)! We must never forget the stories of his life, and especially the stories of his miracles! We must keep alive knowledge of him, and love for him. And when we do this we are defending the Muslims against tyranny, and defending the Perfect Society of Allah Ta'ala in the World!

The World today especially needs Sunni Islam, and all it stands for. This is the age of tyranny, of atheism, of the collapse of society, and the death of religion. *The reader may ask how Islam can be revived. The answer is simple. The way to revive Islam is to begin by reviving and building up the memory and reputation of Hazrat Sheikh Abdul Qadir (Radi Allahu Anh)!*

One title given to Hazrat Sheikh Abdul Qadir (Radi Allahu Anh) was Muhyiddin. It means the Reviver of the Religion. One Friday Hazrat Sheikh Abdul Qadir (Radi Allahu Anh), barefoot, was walking home, when he found a man dying in the street. As Hazrat Sheikh Abdul Qadir (Radi Allahu Anh) came to the man, the dying man recovered. The man then said, "Do you recognise me? I am the religion. If Allah Ta'ala had not created you to revive me, I would have been still, paralysed, dying. You are Muhyiddin!" Then the man said goodbye. When Hazrat Sheikh Abdul Qadir (Radi Allahu Anh) got to the Mosque, and did Namaz, the crowds pressed around him, calling him Muhyiddin.

And Hazrat Sheikh Abdul Qadir (Radi Allahu Anh) truly is the Reviver of the Religion! Many people claim to be reviving Islam, but in fact, like the Wahhabis and Maududi, what they are really reviving is their own wealth and power. Hazrat Sheikh Abdul Qadir (Radi Allahu Anh) showed us how a Sunni Muslim revives Islam. In his life above all he sought no power and wealth for himself. He attacked the Rulers and the rich. He said that there was a special place in Paradise for those who died because they criticised the Ruler! He sought no power, but instead taught Islam to masses of people, and especially taught them to obey the Sharia. And he built up the Ulama and the Awliya, and told the people to always be guided by them, and by the Sharia. And he did everything to set up the perfect society of Islam. He set up all sorts of charities to help the poor, and himself fed poor people every day. And he concentrated on perfecting himself. He was the perfect servant of the masses, totally devoted to his religious duties, to study and to teaching. And in all this he avoided war and murder and politics, and concentrated on the power of religion, and of the religious people. His story is one of saintliness, not of endless wars and plots!

And it worked! In his lifetime he led hundreds of thousands to a more religious and better life, and built a beautiful society in Baghdad!

The way to revive Islam today is to begin with Hazrat Sheikh Abdul Qadir (Radi Allahu Anh), and make him the centre and the model. We should build a Sunni Muslim society in the same way he did, and revive the rich and deep spiritual legacy he has left us. Ulama and Awliya, inspired by him, should again rise to dominate Muslim society and all the Modernists, and Communists and Wahhabis, and Maududis should all be kicked out!

In this age of ours there is a deep hunger for things of the spirit. The way to feed these hungry people is to return to Hazrat Sheikh Abdul Qadir (Radi Allahu Anh)!

Today the Muslims are cut off from their past. the Muslims have forgotten Islam, and run after all sorts of atheistic ideas. And many who say they are Muslim actually have invented a new, false, Islam, which gets rid of the real riches of Muslim culture, and puts in its place copies of Communism, Fascism, and even of Catholicism and the West generally!

When we read the works of Hazrat Sheikh Abdul Qadir (Radi Allahu Anh) we find the richest Islamic culture. He is the inheritor of all the riches of the previous ages of Islam. From his works you can get a marvellous knowledge of Sharia, a complete theory of Sufism. Islamic learning can be revived from a study of the works of Hazrat Sheikh Abdul Qadir (Radi Allahu Anh).

If you read his works, you will find that everything he did was based on Islamic Scholarship, and on the actual practice of Shariah and Tariqa. Hazrat Sheikh Abdul Qadir (Radi Allahu Anh) was not only a Reviver of Sunni Islam. He also based everything he did on the deepest knowledge of Islam. We can follow him as a model because everything he did was rooted firmly in Islamic knowledge and Wisdom.

The basis of all the words and deeds of Hazrat Sheikh Abdul Qadir (Radi Allahu Anh) was the acceptance of the Rule of Allah Alone. In all of life, and all the World, Allah Alone must rule. You must turn to Allah Alone, and rely on Him only, and have respect for Him only. And you completely accept His rule of the World. Above all, you accept everything He sends to you in your life.

Hazrat Sheikh Abdul Qadir (Radi Allahu Anh) avoided and criticised the powerful and the rich because to give them any respect was to give them a share in the Rule of Allah! And

to worship only Allah Ta'ala meant to turn away from the World. It meant seeking loneliness, where you would be with Allah Alone. It meant asking no-one for anything, and living from your own work, never giving anyone power or influence over you. When you did deal with the World, you did so totally under the rule and guidance of the Sharia, the Law of Allah Ta'ala, which would make sure you never gave the World any power over you, but all the power belonged to Allah Ta'ala.

The best people are the people with no wealth and power. The poor and humble are the chosen of Allah Ta'ala. You should mix with them. And you should give to them. Giving to the poor and the needy is turning away from the World.

And inside yourself you turned away from the World. The Nafs (self), which loves everything the World has to offer, must be suppressed, and brought under tight control, until it has been purified. Allah Ta'ala then rules your life both inside and out.

Now Hazrat Sheikh Abdul Qadir (Radi Allahu Anh) wrote that those who turned to Allah Ta'ala alone would finally lose all their own personal will. Their person would be wiped out, These people would then have no will of their own, but the Will of Allah Ta'ala would rule inside them.

Now these few people were special people. They were raised to special spiritual ranks, as Awliya, Abdal and finally as the Qutb al-Aqtab. The holy people were a heavenly hierarchy, into whose hands the control of the World was given.

These people could be found in the World. They were the Ulama and Awliya. And so it was the duty of the Muslim to find and follow such people. These people were the true kings. They are the heirs of the prophets. The Ulama receive

from Allah Ta'ala the plans to build the Divine City. And so we must seek their company.

In this way, on the basis of these ideas, Hazrat Sheikh Abdul Qadir (Radi Allahu Anh) explained how the perfect society could be organised by following Ulama and Awliya, and placing the Sharia in command.

When the Saint had totally turned to Allah Ta'ala, and lost all personal will, and been raised to a high status, Hazrat Sheikh Abdul Qadir (Radi Allahu Anh) wrote that this Saint was then sent back into the World to preach. This was what happened to him! He came with this special mission to preach. And Hazrat Sheikh Abdul Qadir (Radi Allahu Anh), as we've seen, spent decades giving up the World totally and living under the Rule of Allah Alone!

And this Saint who returned to the World had amazing powers. He could see into the heart of the evil. He could perform miracles. All Creation served him. He could intercede before Allah Ta'ala for sinners.

Many wonderful things are claimed about Hazrat Sheikh Abdul Qadir (Radi Allahu Anh). He himself explained how these wonderful powers were given by Allah Ta'ala.

But the Saint who was sent back to the World was not sent to benefit himself. He was sent to serve the people. He would put his gifts to use to help the Muslims. And to do this, all would be given to him. The Saint gave up the World, but finally everything would be given to him! And he would use this to build Islam and the Muslim Community in the World, building Mosques, feeding the poor, and creating the perfect society.

And these wonderful people, the Ulama and Awliya, were the basis of Islam itself. Their special knowledge given to them by Allah Ta'ala would ensure that Islam would continue until the last days of the World.

These ideas of Hazrat Sheikh Abdul Qadir (Radi Allahu Anh) are the basis for all his life's work, and for Sunni Islam itself. They are a rich treasure which we must rediscover for ourselves, and tell to all the World, to revive Islam today. And the key is the Rule of Allah Alone!

Hazrat Sheikh Abdul Qadir (Radi Allahu Anh) is the key to the Revival of Islam.



Today is the age of the failure of attempts to set up the Perfect Society. Communism and Fascism have all failed, and Capitalism has returned to its usual self, with mass unemployment and rising racism and nationalism. This is also an age of increasing contempt for the poor and weak, and an age of lawlessness in society and in personal morality.

This failure makes Sunni Islam more important than ever, if Humanity is to live in a good society. And Sunni Islam can be the Perfect Society in any age, in any place. The Perfect Society of Sunni Islam is a society led by the holy, the Ulama and Awliya. The rich and powerful are second in this Sunni society to the poor and humble. And in the Sunni society every relationship is in the care of the holy. In economics, in society, in the family, all problems are taken for solution to the holy, and to the Law of Allah Ta'ala, the Holiest of the Holy. The poor and oppressed are in the special care of these holy people. And this society is not merely just and kind, it is itself travelling to Allah Ta'ala and to paradise!

In every age there are problems of injustice and oppression. But if human beings simply behaved decently, then every society would be decent! And Sunni Islam achieves this by putting the people under the guidance of the most decent people, the holy Scholars and Saints. And in this society a life of perfect freedom is lived, as the people obey no human being, but only Allah Ta'ala, and in their own life they are free of greed, need, and lust. The life of this society is a life of kindness and decency, a life of friendliness and helpfulness, a life without fear, a private life, a peaceful life, and above all a wise life!

And Hazrat Sheikh Abdul Qadir (Radi Allahu Anh) is the path to this life, and this society. He found the path to Allah Ta'ala and came back to tell us about this path, and help

us to travel this path! He is the model for this society and this life. His example, and his Barakat, are the way to set up Sunni society, and to uplift the Scholars and Saints, and uphold Sharia and Tariqa.

Today we need another Hazrat Sheikh Abdul Qadir (Radi Allahu Anh), and we will be rewarded with such a gift from Allah Ta'ala if we keep Hazrat Sheikh Abdul Qadir (Radi Allahu Anh) in our thoughts and our prayers. He is a proof of Sunni Islam. He is the path back to Sunni Islam.



VII

Hazrat Sheikh Abdul Qadir (Radi Allahu Anh) was only affected by poor health right towards the end of his life. All his hard struggles had never affected his health, for he was always being guided in them by true wisdom.

Finally he came to die. He said that he wanted a death which had no life in it and a life which had no death in it. He explained that a death which had no life in it meant to die away from all people, so that you no longer saw any harm or benefit in them, and to die away from self, desire, purposes and wishes in this World and the Next, so that you are dead to the World and live in none of these. Life which has no death in it, he explained, is a life totally taken over by Allah Ta'ala so you no longer exist, a life only in Allah Ta'ala. He said that since he had obtained understanding, this was the most precious of his purposes.

No one could understand what was killing him, when he came to die. He said no one could understand it because it was what his Creator wished. But, he said, his Divine Knowledge would not die. All his body hurt, he said, except his heart, which was given to Allah Ta'ala.

His final advice to his son summed up all his ideas. You should, he said, fear no one except Allah Ta'ala, pray to Him alone, ask Him alone for all you think good, and count on Allah Ta'ala alone. You should believe in the Oneness of Allah Ta'ala.

He was asked about his spiritual rank, and said, "Compare me with no one, for between me and you and all creatures is a distance as great as that between Heaven and Earth. No one can ask me anything. I know what I have to know. The time is coming when I am returning to the Divine Knowledge."

As they stood by his bedside, as he was passing away, he said: "Stand a little away from me, for other great visitors have come. A huge blessing is taking place." He then spoke to these spirits.

This went on a day and a night.

He said he had nothing to fear from anyone, or from the Angel of Death. He who gave him the mission to govern was lavishing care on him.

His last words were, "La Illaha Illillaho! Glorify Him Who is truly alive and fears not Death! Glorify Him Who is victorious by His Power and conquers His creatures with Death!"

He said, "Victorious" several times, and then, "Allah! Allah! Allah!" and passed away.

He passed away on Saturday, at midnight, 11 Rabi al-Thani 561 A.H., 1166 C.E., aged 89. He was laid out under the dome of his Madrassa, and huge crowds came.

No one has had such lasting fame and love as he has had. To this day his tomb is visited by very many.

You can call on Hazrat Sheikh Abdul Qadir (Radi Allahu Anh) using many names. They include Baz Al-Echhab (Falcon of the Skies), Sultan Al Awliya (Leader of the Saints), Mushashid Allah (Witness of Allah), Amin Allah (Trusted of Allah), Faize Allah (Gift of Allah) Imam Allah (Refuge of Allah for Humanity), Nur Allah (Light of Allah), Saif Allah (Sword of Allah), Firman Allah (Decree of Allah), Burhan Allah (Proof of Allah), Ayat Allah (Sign of Allah), Ghaus al Azam (Great Helper), Sultan al Arifin (Leader of those who are initiated), and Taj al-Muhakkikin (King of those come to Truth).

May the spirit of Hazrat Sheikh Abdul Qadir (Radi Allahu Anh) help and intercede for this poor writer, those who requested this to be written, and those who read these words.

ہماری مطبوعات

(از مولانا محمد مجاہد حسین جیبی)

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