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Fakhruddin Razi

(1149 - 1209 AD)

Fakhruddin Razi's real name is Muhammad. His Kunniya is Abu 'Abdullah. The full name is Muhammad bin 'Umar bin Hussein Tibristani. He is also remembered by the title of "Imam al-Mufassirin" and "Sheikh al-Mutkalimin". His father, Ziauddin Abu al-Qasim, was one of the famous speakers of his city. Therefore, he is also called as Ibn Khateeb (*the son of speaker*). He was born in 544AH/1149AD in the "Ray", a place close to Tibristan.

Razi got his elementary education in theology and literature. He was the only expert in Jurisprudence and Ilm ul-Kalam. He was fluent in both Arabic and Non-Arabic languages. According to Allamah Az-Zahabi, Razi was the "Farid" (*having no match*) and the "Mutakallim" (*expert in Ilm ul-Kalam*) of his time. Fakhruddin Razi was the Imam of Quran's Tafseer, Ilm ul-Kalam, and Literature. Along with knowledge and grace, nature also gave him the power of speech. He had inherited a great deal of giving speech, so he took full advantage of this ability and guided the people on the right path. He was a very pious and righteous person. Throughout his life he was very serious to follow Islam.

Al-Razi's marvelous writings testify to his knowledge and thoughts. His Quran's Tafseer is "Mafateeh al-Ghaib" which is unique in itself. It is commonly known with the name of "Tafseer-e-Kabir". In this Tafseer he has taken up the

philosophical and the logical discussions along with mystical/Sufi passions. Since, in those days, the Mu'tazilah and Philosophical groups had created the doubts in the hearts of the common people, Imam Razi has very cleverly rationalized and resolved to dispel these doubts in his elucidations. The list of his other writings is long. Among them, some of the most important books are:

اساس التقديس في علم الكلام ، المعالم في اصول الدين ، كتاب القضاء و قدر
and كتاب النفس

Razi also studied philosophy very thoroughly. He also wrote "Explanations" of the well known books of Farabi and Ibn Sina. But while doing this job, he was also open to his personal opinion. So where he did agree with Ibn Sina, simultaneously he criticized on him as well.

In Imam Razi's youth, Nooruddin Zangi and later Sultan Salahuddin Ayubi were fighting with the Crusaders and there was a period of victories. On the whole, Muslims were dominant in the intellectual and logical fields. Economic prosperity was also becoming common in them. During this period Imam Razi proved his knowledge. Specially he struggled to break the influence of the Mu'tazilah group on the Islamic world. For this, he went to Khwarizm where he was constantly involved in the debates against Mu'tazilah. However, in those days, there was such an abundance of these Mu'tazilah group that they forced Imam Razi to leave the country. After that, Imam Razi arrived to the place known as Ma Wara-un-Nahar in Tashkent. Here he had to face similar opposition. For some people, the Imam went far beyond the limits in his combat with Mu'tazilah group. But it was the fact that these Mu'tazilah people reached to that extent in all their nonsense doing with Islam that Imam Razi's conscious never allowed him to overlook these people in any way.

In 1184AD, while Imam Razi going to Bukhara he stayed for some time in Sarkhas. Here, Imam Sahib met one of the local Hakim, and he was so impressed by him that he insisted to stay for a while with him. So he spent a few months in Sarkhas. During this stay, Imam Razi, as a thank giving, wrote the Explanation of the book of Bu 'Ali Sina named "Kulliyat". However, when he reached Bukhara here he unexpectedly found its environment unfavorable, so he had gone to Herat.

In Herat, Sultan Ghiyasuddin Ghorī gave permission to Fakhruddin Razi to open a Madrasa in the Royal Palace for the local people. After that, most of his time was spent in Herat. In this city, he was awarded with the title of "Sheikh-ul-Islam" as well. At that time his grandeur rose to its prominence. More than 300 disciples were always remained with him. In this way, although his beginning time was spent in a needy circumstances but he became very happy in his last age.

He died in his hometown of Ray in 606AH/1209AD.

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