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Jalaluddin Rumi

(1207 - 1273 AD)

Maulana Rumi's real name is Jalaluddin. He was born in Balkh in 604AH/1207AD. His father's name is Sheikh Bahauddin, who was one of the great knowledgeable person of his time. Almost all of the Iranian city of Khorasan was his follower. Rumi received his primary education from his father. The names of Syed Burhanuddin and Maulana Kamaluddin are notable persons among his teachers. In connection with the education he also traveled to Hulb and Damascus. Hazrat Shams Tabriz was the religious guide and mentor of Maulana Rumi. Maulana loved his mentor to the great extent.

Maulana Rumi was a devout and pious person. It is reported that in his prayers he used to become so much involved that if once he stood for Isha prayer his concentration would take him to stand for the whole night prayer. He also used to Fast over Fast. His good manners, his kindness and his extraordinary performance of Sharia would catch people to his doorstep. Therefore there was a chain of his followers to visit his house all the time.

Maulana Rumi was the author of several books. He was an exceptional poet. In his Persian poetry, he dealt with the major problems of wisdom and knowledge through verses. His poetry book named دیوان is a collection of Ghazal and Rubaai'. It also contains poems in Turkish language. His book named

"مثنوی معنوی" is a collection of moral poetry. "فیه ما فیه" is a collection of his sayings. In addition, Maulana Roomi's "مواظظ مجالس سبعه" and "مکتوبات" have also been published in Tehran and Istanbul.

Maulana's poetry "مثنوی معنوی" received an enduring fame of all time. The popularity and the reputation of this book has left all Iranian authors behind. This collection of Maulana Roomi's poetry contain 2626 verses. It has 6 volumes. It is so much popular in the Subcontinent that in India many books of its explanations have been arranged here. It has also been translated many times and several dictionaries have also been prepared for it. Much work has been done on this poetry in Turkey and Iran as well. The important thing is that those persons who have prepared its explanations, some of them have read it with its Mystical perspective and some have read with the emphasis on its Tareeqat's point of view. Whereas, some persons have paid particular attention based on the revival of religion and on the revelations of the knowledge of nature. Allamah Iqbal, the well known poet, was also among the admirers of Maulana's poetry. He called it as the best book with positive acts and thoughts.

Maulana Roomi was a practical Sufi. At the same time he was a saint and a visionary thinker. His wonderful thoughts were the essence of his religious and mystical wisdom. To وجدان (*the innermost sentiments*), he called it as a superior form of mental power. The Maulana's way of Tareeqat chain is known as مولویه and جلالیه. This sect has a special style in Qawali and in absorbing qualities.

Maulana Roomi describes about وحدت الشهود and وحدت الوجود in the following words:

وحدت الوجود *means the real belief and all the worships should be for the Almighty Allah only. Any worship other than Allah is not acceptable and if anybody does it then it is a polytheism and unbelief.*

As per Sufi, the meanings of لا اله الا الله is; "There is nothing except Allah." It means Allah is the only "Existent Persona". Attributing any other thing with Allah as "Existent" is Shirk and Polytheism. The real Existent of all the Creations and Possible thought is Almighty God. The assessments and identifications of all the ممكنات (possibilities) are merely a veil. If this veil is removed then there is no existence except Allah, otherwise this world of possibility will disappear."

Maulana Roomi gives the definition of ولي (a religious saint/ Guardian) in these words:

"A Religious Saint is a person who recognizes the essence and attributes of Allah. He always obeys God. He keeps away the forbidden things. He does not engage himself in enjoyments and pleasures. He stays away from impurities. He don't be crazy and mad. He does not keep open his private parts.

He himself be near to God and help others to bring near to God."

On 17 December 1273AD, Maulana Roomi left this world after his long illness. Roomi is on a high status and popularity even today due to his spirituality, knowledge and devotion. He will always be remembered because of his adorable "مثنوی معنوی", and his words of wisdom.