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Sheikh Sa'adi

(1200 - 1292 AD)

The real name of Sa'adi is Sheikh Musharrafuddin. He was born in Shiraz, Iran. His father, 'Abdullah Shirazi, was a pious and devout worshiper. His mother, too, was a woman of virtuous nature. Under the religious environment of the house, Sa'adi was obliged to perform Prayers and Fast since childhood. His father was expired in childhood, after that he was raised by Sa'ad bin Zangi. Keeping this in view, he started to call himself as "Sa'adi.

Sa'adi received his early education in the schools of Shiraz. For higher education, he went to Baghdad where he had the opportunity to benefit himself from the great scholars. Besides the Arabic literature, here he learned the religious subjects. He spent most of his time in gaining knowledge. Sheikh was also a man of great stature and tough personality, therefore he also been touring a lot. He had also done Hajj several times. He spent his last fifteen years practicing meditation, Mujahidah, Sufism and preaching Islam. That is why the people consider him as a Sufi as well as a Wali.

Basically, Sheikh Sa'adi was known as one of the greatest poets in Persian language. "Gulistan" and "Bostan" are such books of Sheikh Sa'adi that these attain an evergreen status. Both of these books are full of teachings, advises, civilization and morality, literary beauty and eloquence. The popularity of these books can be judged by the fact that these have been

translated into many languages by the people from different countries and from different schools of thoughts. Similarly, his another book "Shah Namah" was equally liked worldwide. These books propelled the spirit of Sufism into the religion and poetry. The narrations, stories, tales and stories written in them open up the mysteries and rituals of Shariat and Tareeqat. All of them highlight the greatness of religion and often explain the interpretation of the Qur'an.

In addition to the collections of poetry, Sheikh Sa'adi's work on prose include History of Abbasi, History of Baghdad (8 volumes), Islands of Africa (8 volumes) and "A few issues in Sufism". Sheikh Sa'adi has been recognized by scholars from all over the world as the Imam of both poetry and prose.

In those days, the arrival of the Mongols in Iran had created an atmosphere of anxiety in the country. In order to get peace, Sheikh Sa'adi left Iran and started touring to various countries. He traveled to Anatolia, Syria, Egypt and Iraq on the one hand, and on the other hand he also made long trips to Central Asia and India. His all these trips lasted for about 25 years. In that way, he may be considered a great tourist, like Marco polo or Ibn Battuta. An important aspect of all his travelling was that he had visited not only the big cities of these countries, but he saw the small towns and the villages as well. He met the local scholars, teachers, students, traders, farmers, laborers, and people of every class. He had meetings with the people of different class. He learned a lot from them and taught them a lot too. These visits can also be called as a preaching tours.

The personality of Sheikh Sa'adi is known all over the world as a great poet, a scholar, a tourist and a pious Sufi. There is a Hadith of our Noble Prophet Muhammad Mustafa (PBUH) that "*The example of the Ummah is as if any part of the*

body gets hurt, his body feels its pain all over." Sheikh Sa'adi projected the same Hadith message in his poetry in the context of humanity.

In his memory, the translation of the his poetry has been fixed today at the door of New York's "Hall of Nations":

*Of one Essence is the human race
Thusly has Creation put the Base
One Limb impacted is sufficient
For all Others to feel the Mace*

Sa'adi Shirazi died in the year 691AH/1292AD. At that time he was living in Shiraz. His shrine is still available on the east side of the city.

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