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Muhammad Abdul Qadeer Siddiqui

(1871 - 1962 AD)

Muhammad Abdul Qadeer Siddiqui was born on 27 Rajab 1288AH/10 October 1871AD in Hyderabad Deccan, India. His Kunniya is Abul Abbas. Father's name is Shah Abdul Qadir Siddiqui and mother's name is Anwar Begum. his generic chain from father joins to Siddique Akbar in 28 steps, and from mother it meets to Imam Hussein in 32 steps.

He received his education from renowned scholars of Hyderabad Deccan. Text books education was mostly given by Muhammad Saeed. Arabic literature was taught by Habib Abu Bakr. Logic and Philosophy was taught by Abdus Samad Quandhari and Nadiruddin. Exams of 'Maulvi Fazal' and 'Munshi Fazal' (*the eastern educations*) were passed from the University of Punjab. In addition to the normal books he gained expertise in other arts such as war techniques, hunting with arrow, pole fight, and wrestling.

After completing his education, Maulana Abdul Qadeer started teaching. His first assignment as a teacher was in Darul Uloom, Hyderabad, where he himself was the student. When this school was raised to Uthmania College, he was appointed as a Professor of hadith and at the same time he was given the Chairmanship of the Department of Theology. When the Uthmania College upgraded to a regular Uthmania University,

he not only had to educate the upper classes, but the whole administrative affairs of the University came under his control. In addition to the Uthmania University, when a new and specific Islamic Madrasa was established, he was made its Honorary Chairman. With his efforts he elevated this Madrasa to the status of a University. Similarly, he did honorable services for an another institute named "Dairah-tul-Ma'arif". Eventually, he started regular home-teaching that he continued till his last age.

Maulana Abdul Qadeer Siddiqui wrote more or less 40 books on every sphere of the religion of Islam. Among them three books are most famous, i.e., "Tafseer Siddiqui", "Translation and Elucidation of Fusoos-al-Hikam" and "Hikmat-e-Islamia". Tafseer Siddiqui has detailed discussions on important contemporary issues such as interest, capital, capitalism, socialism and slavery. It also provides logical answers of prevailing controversial issues. Moreover, in this analysis, Maulana Sahib has further extended the work of Hazrat Shah Wali Allah on the issue of the abrogation of Quranic Verses. Shah Sahib had considered abrogation of five Verses, whereas Maulana Abdul Qadeer, in his research, has excluded these five verses of the Qur'an from the issue of annulment. Hikmat-e-Islamia and al-Ma'arif are the best books of Siddiqui Sahib on Sufism. His book "Ad-Deen" is the compilation of hadiths. The translation and elucidation of 'Fusoos-ul-Hikam', written by Allamah Ibn Arabi, is an important part of the scholarly work of Hazrat Abdul Qadeer Siddiqui. Many of his books also became part of the curriculum in many universities. He also used to say poetry and for this he adopted his poetic name as "Hasrat".

Maulana Abdul Qadeer, pledged allegiance to his maternal uncle Sheikh Mohammad Siddique Mehboob-ullah

alias Hazrat Khawja Mian Sahib. He got the Tareeqat training from Hazrat Khawja Muhammad Siddique and he became his Khalifah as well. His mentor always called him with the name of "Maulvi". He got permission for Tareeqa Aaliyah Qadriyah and Tareeqa Chishtia from his mentor. While the Qadriyah, Naqshbandiyah and Mujaddidiyah chains were obtained from his father. Mahmood Hussamuddin of Baghdad granted permission for a chain of Nasabiyah Qadriyah to him.

Maulana's knowledge and art was not only diversified, but he also got excellence in them. Among Tafseer, Hadith, Asma-ur-Rijal, Principles of Hadith, Principles of Jurisprudence, Tajweed, Literature, Beliefs and Sufism, Logic, Philosophy and the art of Speech, for whichever subject he was consulted he seemed as if this is his special skill. All contemporary scholars, not only knew Maulana Sahib as a teacher but also considered it necessary to be benefited from him even in their own subjects. That is why Maulana Abdul Qadeer Siddiqui was not only called as "the Teacher of Scholars" but also called as the "Ocean of Knowledge".

- ❖ On various subjects, the points of view of Maulana Abdul Qadeer Siddiqui are given below:
 - What is Sufism (تصوف)? ... "Sufism is the name of knowing the Persona and Attributes of Allah (SWT). Islam is the religion of the Last and the Noble Prophet (PBUH). It is the blessing of *أَتَمَمْتُ عَلَيْكُمْ نِعْمَتِي*. No one knows Allah better than Muslims. Some worship the idols, some to the light and some worship the God's Glories. Some worship the acts and actions. Some have belief on the father, the son and the holy spirit. Some have faith on Matter, means 'اعيان ثابتة', some on Geo, means 'تجليات الاسماء و صفات' (God's Glories). But Tawheed (*belief on Oneness*) is the integral part of Muslims only.

دائرے سے منتشر ہیں مرکز و قطر و محیط

شانِ وحدت سے ہوئی ہے شانِ کثرت آشکار

*{As with a circle, its centre, radius and diameter are attached
With grandeur of Oneness, His dignity of Polarity is noticeable}*

- Who is Wali (ولی)? ... "The Wali is obedient to his Prophet. He neither brings a new religion, nor he does a miracle like that of the Prophet. His task is to simply show the people the right way according to the teachings of his Prophet. Therefore, he does not make any claims about himself nor invites anyone to his own self. Yes! when Allah approves that His servant be given regard, then by the order of God, wonders take place by him. The appearance of these wonders are just like that of the signs of adulthood. Since sober persons do not discuss openly about the signs of adulthood without need, similarly the Seeker (ساک) should hide these unusual happenings at his best."
- What is the importance of Allegiance (بیعت)? ... "Everyone knows that 2 plus 2 is 4. If we divide 2 out of 4, then 2 is left. So the mathematics is such a sure subject that no other subject can be so certain. Yet, it is being taught right from class one to the tenth grade, then after he achieves some skills in it. --- The fact is that man cannot catch his own mistakes. For this it is necessary to have a teacher. Teacher is the one who catches and monitors the student's mistakes. Now think over it that when for correcting errors in such open and clear subjects a teacher is needed then in the spiritual path why a compatible teacher is not required? Whereas in such subtle and delicate things errors are more likely to occur."

- How should be a Sheikh (شَيْخ)? ... Sheikh (Religious Mentor), should be able to take care of his follower and fulfill his requirements. The Mentor must be acquainted with Quran's instructions and also aware of essential knowledge of Hadith and Fiqh. Moreover, he must have learned all relevant subjects under the supervision of an experienced teacher. Some have suggested that a good Mentor is that person who has the special quality of influencing his follower, just by sitting in his company, and bringing him close to Allah and His Messenger. The person who has not yet attained the stage of Annihilation for the Prophet (فنا في الرسول), how can he achieve the Annihilation for Allah (فنا في الله). For a Seeker, Mentor is the source of bounty whose affiliation provides him a way to reach up to the Muhammad's Bounty, and then through him he can get to the closeness of Allah and His Favor.
- What is Obedience (عبيدیت)? - "Listen to the answer ---!

الْعَبْدُ وَمَا مَلَكَتْ يَدَاهُ لِمَوْلَاهُ

(Nothing belongs to man; whatever is there God owns it)

Allah (SWT) in Persona and His acts and attributes all are its-own (بالذات). And the personality of a human being, and his acts and attributes all are dependent (بالعرض). This 'dependency' of human being, in other words, is called Obedience (عبيدیت). Obedient (عبد) is that person who does not own anything and has no intentions, his acts are not his own, and has no any desires. Abdullah, Obedient of God, loses both his own-self & attributes."

- Who is real Abdullah (عبدالله)?" In Obedience, submission, obeying orders, exploring to self- non-existence and its proper understanding, all are really great things. This is

the main spirit of Faith. This is the essence of Belief. Obedience starts from Belief. On this way, God Fearing (تقوى) and God's Friends (اولياء) come across. Whereas some "Specials", get the rank of God's Messenger (رَسُول) and the status of Prophet (رَسُول). Islamic scholars and Sufis consider that the 'Genuine Obedient' of God and the "Real Abdullah (عبدالله)" is 'one' and 'only one'. He is *Muhammad* (PBUH). He is the Noble Messenger, and he is the beloved of Allah (حبيب الله). What status "Muhammad's Obedience" has? ---- This aspect is evident with his-own sayings:

لِي مَعَ اللَّهِ وَفَتْ لَا يَسْعَى فِيهِ مَلِكٌ مُقَرَّبٌ وَلَا نَبِيٌّ مُرْسَلٌ

(There is a point for me that, anyone or any of His Messengers, who has any proximity with God, they cannot come to my level)

What is the stature of "Obedience of Muhammad"? It is obvious with this Quranic Verse:

سُبْحَانَ الَّذِي أَسْرَى بِعَبْدِهِ

{Purity is to Him who took His bondman. (17:01)}

- Maulana Sahib has expressed his views about controversial issues in these words:"As far as I have experience, I realize that any false religion cannot survive. Some truth definitely exists and if it is not properly understood then confusion occurs. In my opinion, instead of out-rightly rejecting anything, misunderstanding should be cleared off. Sometimes the style of persuasion is more like advice, and the audience wants to establish it on logical terms. So if the matter is rightly understood then disagreements move away. It is often seen that the intentions of everyone are always right but they do not try to understand others. Often people

find pleasure in denying others. This attitude is the mother of all bad temptations. Cool listening and meditating on the other's words put out some positive ways. Islam confirms all religions. It has come to remove misunderstandings from them and not to denounce them."

Maulana Muhammad Abdul Qadeer Siddiqui-Hasrat died on 17 Shawwal, 1381 AH / 24 March, 1962 AD. His shrine is located in Siddique Gulshan, Hyderabad, Telangana, India.

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