

Hazrat Syed Muhammad Abdullah Shah
Qadri, Chishti, Sabri, Amrohvi (رحمة الله عليه)

Almighty Allah created mankind and taught them the right path of life through His Messengers. All of them advised people to follow the path of Allah. The process of preaching started from Hazrat Adam (Alaih Salam), the father of mankind, and continued till the proclamation made by the most prominent and distinguished of all the Prophets, our beloved Hazrat Muhammad Mustafa ﷺ. The *Quran* was bestowed upon mankind by Allah through His last prophet Hazrat Muhammad. It is the complete code of life. Allah states in the Quran that He has selected Islam as the religion for mankind and completed everything on Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. There will be no prophet after him. The process of teaching the right path of life continues through Noble individuals known as *Aulia Allah*. These pious people have followed the Shariah and continued to inspire thousands of people through centuries by their words and actions. All of them continued to teach the true spirit and teachings of Islam given by Allah to all the Muslims. They have played a very important part in upholding and preaching the teachings of our religion.

Hazrat Syed Muhammad Abdullah Shah, Qadri, Chishti, Sabri (رحمة الله عليه), one of the *Wali Allah* in *Qadria* and *Chishtia* dynasty, was born in a Syed family in Gujrat (India) during the early years of fourteen hijra, century. He was the only child in his family. At the age of three, his father Syed Nawab Ali Shah (رحمة الله عليه) died. At the time of death, he prayed to Allah that he was handing over his son to Him.

Syed Muhammad Abdullah Shah's (رحمة الله عليه) mother was a pious and religious woman. She admitted him in a *Madrasah* for education. But as fate would have it, Syed Muhammad Abdullah Shah was left an orphan, by the death of his mother, at the age of 10. He spent his formative years in the custody of his uncle, who was an employee in the railways at Bihar (India). Syed Muhammad Abdullah Shah was,

then, admitted in another *Madrasah* where he continued his studies. Along with the studies, he also performed house works at the order of his aunt. Whenever he met with any noble personalities, his uncle was told that Syed Abdullah Shah is extraordinary and does not belong in this place. Once Syed Abdullah Shah (رحمة الله عليه) met a *Wali Allah* named Hazrat Haji Syed Tasleem Ahmed Shah (رحمة الله عليه) along with his uncle. Haji Sahib told his uncle, just by looking at Abdullah Shah, that he was extraordinary and that he did not belong in this place. Upon which Syed Muhammad Abdullah's (رحمة الله عليه) uncle requested Hazrat Sahib to take him under his wing and shape him into a diamond as per his vision. When he was asked, whether he would go with Haji Sahib, Syed Muhammad Abdullah Shah accepted gladly.

Before meeting Haji Syed Tasleem Ahmed Shah (رحمة الله عليه), Syed Muhammad Abdullah Shah (رحمة الله عليه) had heard that annual Urs celebration of Hazrat Khuwaja Moinuddin Chishti Ajmeri (رحمة الله عليه) will be celebrated very soon. He wrote a letter to Hazrat Khuwaja Moinuddin Chishti (رحمة الله عليه) and requested to be given an opportunity to participate in the *Urs* proceedings at Ajmer Sharif. He wrapped the letter on a stone and threw it into a well. Later, Haji Tasleem Ahmed Shah (رحمة الله عليه) took Syed Abdullah Shah along with other disciples to Ajmer Sharif to participate in *Urs* celebration.

When they reached Ajmer and visited the Shrine of Hazrat Khuwaja Moinuddin Chishti (رحمة الله عليه), Hazrat Abdullah Shah (رحمة الله عليه)'s belief strengthened that he was called to Ajmer Sharif because of the request he made to Khuwaja Moinuddin through his letter. Suddenly, Haji Syed Tasleem Ahmed Shah (رحمة الله عليه) asked him, "Do you want to say anything?" In reply, Abdullah Shah told the incident of letter sent to Hazrat Khuwaja Moinuddin Chishti (رحمة الله عليه), Haji Sahib covered his head under the *Chadar Mubarak* of grave and said,

سپردم بہ تو مایہ خویش را
تو دانی حساب کم و بیش را

(I am giving you my wealth, you know, if it is less or more)

Hazrat Haji Syed Tasleem Ahmed Shah (رحمة الله عليه) belonged to Amroha, District Muradabad (India). Hazrat Syed Abdullah Shah (رحمة الله عليه) went to Amroha with Haji Syed Tasleem Ahmed Shah (رحمة الله عليه), who then admitted Hazrat Abdullah Shah (رحمة الله عليه) to the circle of his disciples and advised him about the basic rules of Islam. To observe punctuality in *Namaz*, obedience of *Shariah* and *Sunnat-e-Rasool ﷺ*. In addition to education at *Madrasa*, Hazrat Abdullah Shah (رحمة الله عليه) was taught “*Ibadat and Mujahidat*” which are essentials of the path of “*Tariqat & Tasawwuf*”.

Abdullah Shah was 15 years old when he came under the wing and guidance of his *Peer-o-Murshad*, Haji Syed Tasleem Ahmed Shah (رحمة الله عليه) and remained with him for 18 years. During these eighteen years, he was sent to different *Mazarat* for prayers and learnings on many occasions. The longest voyage he undertook was from Amroha to Pakpattan Sharif. *Peer-o-Murshad* ordered this voyage to be completed on foot. Syed Abdullah Shah took a prayer mat, a sheet, and a Lota with him and started his voyage.

During his journey, many vehicle drivers offered him a ride but he refused. His orders were specifically to reach Pakpattan on foot and he obeyed. He reached Pakpattan and remained there for six months. During his stay, he performed the duties of cleaning and dusting of the Mazar along with praying and fulfilling the duties of *Shariah*. After six months, he started his voyage from Pakpattan Sharif to Lahore for Salam at Mazar of Hazrat Data Ganj Bakhsh (رحمة الله عليه). After spending a few days there, he started his voyage from Lahore to *Kaliyar Sharif* again on foot to reach the Mazar of Hazrat Ali Ahmed Allauddin Sabir (رحمة الله عليه). Upon reaching *Kaliyar Sharif*, he

met Hazrat Haji Tasleem Ahmed Shah (رحمة الله عليه) who was already there.

After eighteen years of *Mujahidat*, Syed Muhammad Abdullah Shah was awarded *Khilafat*. After getting *Khilafat* and other spirituals awards, Syed Abdullah Shah (رحمة الله عليه) left Amroha and joined the services of post office department. Upon partition of India, Hazrat Syed Abdullah Shah (رحمة الله عليه) migrated to the new Islamic state of Pakistan. During the life of his *Peer-o-Murshad*, Haji Syed Tasleem Ahmed Shah (رحمة الله عليه), he maintained a close contact with him. After him, he always held Haji Sahib's family members in high regard.

Syed Muhammad Abdullah Shah migrated with a family that had converted to Islam from Hinduism upon his *Tabligh*. They were allotted a house in Rawalpindi near *Urdu Bazar*. Since Hazrat Abdullah Shah (RA) was employed in Pakistan post office and was posted at Sialkot, he gave that house to that family. During his posting at Sialkot, he noticed that majority of staff neither offers prayers nor observes fasting, Syed Abdullah Shah (رحمة الله عليه) started preaching and Alhamdulillah, before the start of next *Ramazan*, everybody in the office was regularly offering Namaz and observing fasting. During the Service in Pakistan Post, he was posted in many cities, and he kept on preaching the true message of Islam.

After five-six years, he left the service and continued preaching the message of our Deen full-time. During the process, Syed Abdullah Shah (رحمة الله عليه) visited many cities. Therefore, there are many *mureeds* in different parts of the country. Due to certain reasons, he did not marry, made no property or worldly possessions. He dedicated his whole life to the pious cause of Islam. Syed Abdullah Shah (رحمة الله عليه) completely adhered to the rules of *Shariah* and '*Sunnat-e-Rasool ﷺ*', during his whole life, and always preached his devotees to adopt the way of life advised by *Shariah*. To quote his words, "*Shariah* is like

milk; if there is milk you can get yogurt, butter, and oil. Likewise, if *Shariah* is observed you can get *Tareeqat* and *Irfan*”.

Syed Abdullah Shah (رحمة الله عليه) taught his devotees that the true path of Islam lies in following the *Shariah* and not in sorcery. He used to say, “If you see a man flying in the air and walking on water and you come to know that he is not follower of *Shariah* rules and *Sunnat-e-Rasool* ﷺ then the man flying in air and walking on water is most likely a fraud.”

Syed Muhammad Abdullah Shah (رحمة الله عليه) lived a very simple life. He was very kind, gentle, and humble by nature. He never hurt anyone by his words or actions as he was a true follower of *Sunnat e Rasool*. Whenever any mistake was committed by any *mureed*, they were forgiven at their own admittance of the mistake. Syed Abdullah Shah had thousands of *mureeds* all over the country but he never used anyone to gain any worldly benefits. If any rich or high official devotee offered *Mian jee* anything, he requested them to help his poor and needy fellow *mureeds* in the form of service or employment.

Syed Abdullah Shah (رحمة الله عليه) continuously paid visit to different *Mazarat* in Pakistan. Specially Hazrat Baba Fariduddin Ganj-e-Shakar (رحمة الله عليه) at Pakpattan Sharif and Hazrat Data Ganj-Bakhsh (رحمة الله عليه) at Lahore along with hundreds of *mureeds* every year. During visit to Pakpattan Sharif, he told all his *mureeds*, “*I have shown you the Darbar. If you face any problem in life even after me, you can come here and pray to Allah, in sha Allah your problems will be solved*”. This became a yearly ritual and all *mureeds* visit Pakpattan Sharif and get *faiz* from that *darbar* every year until today.

In 1964, Syed Abdullah Shah went for Hajj. Before going to Hajj, he had a dream that he was riding a horse and there is sea ahead, he climbed down from the horse and left it behind as he reached the sea as it seemed the rest of the voyage was going to be in the water. When

he entered the water and looked back, he saw the horse coming behind him, as if it did not want to separate itself from him. He could not understand this dream at the time but upon reaching *Madinah Munwwara* and standing at *Muvaja Sharif*, suddenly he felt that he was no more. He saw himself standing in front of his own self. When he gained control of his senses, he felt that he was standing at the same place, then he understood that rider was away from horse, but the horse did not want separation as in the dream. His *rooh* was separated from body but the body did not want separation at that point in time.

Once he sent one of his mureed for Hajj, and requested “*Ya Rasool Allah*, your servant has become old and cannot come. My children are coming to you, please bestow your generosity, divine favors, and benignancy.” The *mureed*, after coming from Hajj, relayed that he felt all favors befell them throughout the journey.

We have seen so many *karamat* during the life of Hazrat Syed Muhammad Abdullah Shah (RA) and it will be beneficial for the readers to mention some of them here.

Once, Hazrat Syed Muhammad Abdullah Shah (رحمة الله عليه) was staying at the residence of one of his mureed, near Lahore. One evening his *mureed* requested that he wanted to go to his lands about fifteen kilometers from the residence. He also wanted to take his brother along. He had to take care of his crops and he feared that they will be misappropriated if he didn't go. Upon hearing the matter, Hazrat Syed Muhammad Abdullah (RA) went into deep thought and asked, “*If you do not go, how much wheat will be misappropriated, because it will be better for you to remain here at this night*”.

Mureed decided to not undertake the journey as per the order of his *Peer o Murshad*. Next day news came from that village that a person, who was enemy of that mureed, was killed by somebody. If he had gone to the village, both the brothers would have been suspected and questioned by the law authorities. This way they remained safe from any murder allegation and charges.

Syed Muhammad Abdullah Shah (رحمة الله عليه) was staying at Lahore; some of his *mureeds* came to meet him from Karachi. After staying a day or two, they requested to go back; Syed Abdullah Shah (رحمة الله عليه) advised them to travel by a train that will reach Karachi before noon, and this order was repeated by him thrice. *Mureeds* obeyed the instructions and took the train that reached Karachi in the morning. The train reaching Karachi in the afternoon was met with an accident near Karachi the same day.

One of the *mureed's* wife fell sick in Makkah while they were travelling for *Umrah*. She was taken to the doctor. Doctor gave medicine and suggested to postpone fasting until fully recovered. Next day he went to *Haram* and after *Zohar* prayers came back to hotel and saw that his wife seemed to be fully recovered. She told her husband that after taking medicines she went to sleep, she saw Syed Muhammad Abdullah Shah (رحمة الله عليه) commonly known as *Mian Jee* came in her dream. *Mian Jee* recited something and blew at her thrice. She felt fully recovered as she awoke.

Mian jee has more than two dozen *khulafa* who are dedicated to preaching *Shariat-e-Muhammadi* ﷺ and sowing the seeds of *Muhabbat e Mustafa* ﷺ. *Mian jee* (رحمة الله عليه) was very strict in the observance of *Shariah*, and was always teaching his devotees to strictly follow the guidance of Islam.

He was also very active in *Khidmat-e-Khalq*. To help everyone in need gave him satisfaction. In almost all the gatherings, he instructed his followers to help those in need, without any retribution or covetousness.

Mian Jee always instructed his followers to refrain from two things:

1. Arrogance and Egotism
2. To hurt anybody.

If we all follow this golden rule, all the evils can be eradicated from our families and our society. Creation of ideal society, which is free from malice and arrogance, is the basic essence of Islam. *Aulia Allah* and our beloved *Mian Jee* have spread nothing but the message of love and harmony in accordance with the *Shariah* laws.

Mian Jee tried to convey his messages in very concise and meaningful sentences that his *mureeds* remember even now, years after he left us. Similarly, different maxims, aphorisms, and precepts of the holy Prophet ﷺ were explained and simplified by *Mian jee*, very intellectually and comprehensively.

During mid-sixties, *Mian Jee* took the responsibility of fostering an orphan girl about seven years of age. After attaining puberty, she was married to one of his followers (*mureed*), who in addition to being a *mureed*, also become his son in law. In early seventies, *Mian Jee* decided to permanently settle in Karachi. For some period, he resided in a rental house and then built a house in the name of his daughter and permanently settled there. Settlement at one place gave him convenience for preaching. Day by day members of *Silsila* started increasing. *Mian Jee* always hesitated in increasing the circle of his *mureeds*. He had the opinion disciples should be followers of *Shariah* Laws and regulations. He was always desirous of implementation of *Shariah* Laws in the country. Therefore, during 1972, he wrote a letter to the Prime Minister, Mr. Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, asking him to implement *Shariah* laws in the country as he had gained a very heavy mandate. *Mian Jee* further assured him that with the implementation of *Shariah* Rules in the country, Prime Minister will get divine blessing, and nobody will remove him from the seat in his life. The spirit of this letter was appreciated by Prime Minister through a return reply.

Aulia Allah have never visited the corridors of the rulers for any benefits. They have no interest in power. They derive their power from the obedience of Allah and from the love and devotion of their

followers. Likewise, *Mian Jee* never visited any ruler. Though, several offers were made to him from different corners. He, on the other hand, always preferred visiting the poor. He always said that Holy Prophet ﷺ liked to live with poor people, and he liked observing this *Sunnat*.

Syed Muhammad Abdullah Shah (رحمة الله عليه) belonged to a Syed family and got his ‘*Bait*’ in *Silsila e Qadria, Chishtia, Soherwardia and Naqshbandia*. He started his spiritual life from Ajmer Sharif; therefore, his spirituality is dominated by *Chishtia Silsila*.

There are two sub-sections of *Chishtia Silsila* i.e., *Chishtia Sabria* and *Chishtia Nizami*. Hazrat Ali Ahmed Allaiddin Sabir Pak (رحمة الله عليه) and Hazrat Nizamuddin Aulia (رحمة الله عليه) were, both, mureed of Hazrat baba Fariduddin Ganj-e-Shakar (رحمة الله عليه). Followers (*mureed*) of Hazrat Sabir Pak (رحمة الله عليه) are called *Chishti Sabri* and followers of Hazrat Nizamuddin Aulia (رحمة الله عليه) are called *Chishti Nizami*.

Syed Muhammad Abdullah Shah (رحمة الله عليه) had links with both *Sabri* and *Nizami Silsila*, but had deep attachment with Hazrat Sabir Pak (رحمة الله عليه). Therefore, his mureeds also use the title of *Sabri* with their names.

Mian Jee led a simple life. His simplicity encompassed his eating habits, clothing, and his way of life. God has bestowed many powers upon his Holy Prophet ﷺ and *Peeran-e-Uzzam* but *Mian Jee* never openly applied those. Whenever any of his *karamat* was openly visible, *Mian Jee* always said “*You saw the karamat of Huzoor Sabir Pak* (رحمة الله عليه)”. His spiritual connection with Hazrat Baba Farid-uddin (رحمة الله عليه) was very strong.

In April 1989, *Mian Jee* visited Pakpattan Sharif for the last time. He stood at the main door of *darbar* and started weeping. He said “*Baba jee, I am the same person who came alone, you guarded me during my life*” and recited a verse.

اچھوں کے ساتھ بڑوں پہ بھی ہو نگاہ کرم
کہ اے شہر یار تیرے شہر میں ہم بھی ہیں

Deep links with Hazrat Baba Farid (RA) can be assessed from an incident that happened in 1971. His adopted daughter got some skin disease. Apart from doctor's medicines, she was advised by somebody to wash her hands with Sulphur water at Manghopir springs. Mian Jee went with her along with two other mureeds to the Sulphur springs. While returning, he saw a Mazar and desired to offer *fatiha* over there.

This incident was quoted by one of the accompanying mureeds: As soon as they entered and reached near the grave, *Mian Jee* turned around immediately, came out, sat down by a wall and started breathing heavily. He wished to inquire which *silsila* Manghopir Baba was related to. Inquiries were made in and around the *mazaar* but the *silsila* of *Baba jee* (رحمة الله) could not be ascertained. Nevertheless, *Mian jee* wished to hold the resident of the *mazaar* in the highest of regard and entered with flowers and great respect.

Mian Jee told his *mureeds* that he could smell the sweet fragrance of Hazrat Baba Fariduddin Ganj-e-Shakar (رحمة الله عليه) from the *mazaar* of Manghopir. Later, however, a responsible person of *Auqaf* came and told that Manghopir Baba (رحمة الله عليه) is a *khalifa* of Hazrat Baba Fariduddin (رحمة الله عليه). On the desire of *Mian Jee*, a photo of *darbar* of Pakpattan Sharif was hanged outside the *mazar*, which remained there until new construction of *Manghopir Darbar* started.

After this incident, *Mian Jee* maintained very close contact with Manghopir Baba (رحمة الله عليه). Whenever *Mian jee* sent anyone to Manghopir, he was told to pay his *salaam* and inform that he was sent by *Mian Jee*.

Mian Jee, at the age of more than one hundred years, passed away on 24th July 1989 (20th Zul Hijjah 1409 Hijri) and laid to rest at Korangi 3^{1/2} in sector 50-A. This land was purchased and authorized for *Mazar* and *Masjid* about a year before the sad demise of *Mian Jee*.

Every year on 20th Zul Hijjah, annual *Urs* proceedings take place under the supervision of Muhammad Adil Sabri, *Sajjada Nasheen* of *Darbar-e-Aaliya Sabria*.

Urs proceedings last two days i.e., 19th and 20th Zul Hijjah. Proceedings of *Urs* comprise of ‘*Ghusal Sharif*’, *Qawwali*, *Naat Khuwani*, *Dua* and distribution of *Langar Sharif*. Mureed and devotees come from far and wide, from within the country and abroad, to be a part of the *Urs* and get *faiz* and *barakat*.

May Allah guide us all to remain steadfast in our *ibadat* and live our lives according to the true message of Islam. May we get the *SHAFAT* of our Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad ﷺ on the day of judgement. *Ameen Summa Ameen*.