

A Brief Mention of Hadhrat Hāji Imdādullāh Muhājir-e-Makki ﷺ

By Ahmad Dhorat (2nd year student of Ālim Class)

Adapted from 'The Mashā'ikh of Chisht'

Who was Hāji Imdādullāh ﷺ?

Hāji Imdādullāh ﷺ was the shaikh of arab and ajam (arabs and non-arabs), a beacon of spiritual benefit and knowledge. The original name given to him by his father was Imdād Husain, however the spiritual authority of the time Shaikhul-Mashā'ikh Hadhrat Mawlānā Muhammad Ishāq ﷺ - who had recognised the spiritual abilities of this young boy - advised the name 'Imdād Ilāhi' because of which he became known as 'Imdādullāh'. Hāji Imdādullāh ﷺ was a descendant of Hadhrat Umar bin Khattāb ﷺ and a follower of the Hanafi school of thought.

Birth

He was born on Saturday 22nd Safr 1233 Hijri, in Nānotah, in the district of Sahāranpur. Nānotah is approximately 20 miles from Sahāranpur.

Family

Hāji Imdādullāh ﷺ had two older brothers; the eldest was Zulfiqār and second was Fidā Hussain. He also had younger siblings; a brother whose name was Bahādur Ali Shāh and a sister whose name was Bibi Wazirunnisā.

Childhood

When Hadhrat was 3, he was given in to the lap and attention of Hadhrat Sayyid Ahmad Shaheed ﷺ. At the age of only 7, Hadhrat's mother Bibi Haseeni (who was the daughter of Hadhrat Shaykh Ali Muhammad Siddiqui Nānotwi ﷺ) passed away.

When Hadhrat was 9 years old, he accompanied Mawlānā Mamluk Ali ﷺ to Delhi where he began learning basic Fārsi (Persian) and Arabic grammar books. By the age of 9, Hadhrat ﷺ had also become a Hāfiz of the Qur'ān on his own accord. While studying the Fārsi and Arabic books, Hadhrat ﷺ developed a passion for his studies. Hadhrat ﷺ continued with his studying and by the age of 18, Hadhrat ﷺ took bay'at with Hadhrat Shaykh Mawlānā Naseeruddin Naqshbandi ﷺ and acquired various forms of azkār from him. After only a few days with his Shaykh, Hadhrat ﷺ received khilāfat from him.

Spiritual Progress

Hāji Imdādullāh ﷺ already had a purified heart and at the peak of his hardwork and effort, he saw our Prophet Muhammad ﷺ in his dreams. It was due to this dream that Hāji Imdādullāh ﷺ became bay'at with Hadhrat Miāji ﷺ and after only a few days, he received khilāfat.

After khilāfat, Hadhrat Miāji ﷺ desired to test Hāji Imdādullāh ﷺ and asked his newly appointed khalifah, "Do you desire taskheer or keemiyyah?" (Tashkeer is the power to control the mind of others and Keemiyyah is the ability to transform metal to gold). Hāji Imdādullāh ﷺ immediately broke down crying and said, "The desire is only for mahbub-e-haqiqi (the love of Allah)."

Journey to Madinah Munawwarah

After a few years, Hadhrat Miāji ﷺ passed away which had quite an effect on Hāji Imdādullāh ﷺ. Eventually, Hāji Imdādullāh ﷺ moved to the wilderness of Punjab. After 6 months of being in the wilderness, Hāji Imdādullāh ﷺ saw a dream wherein Nabi ﷺ said, "Come to us". Hāji Imdādullāh ﷺ then travelled to Madina Munawwarah where he was honoured with the ziyārat (meeting) of the Prophet ﷺ. This illustrated the taqwā (piety and purity) of Hāji Imdādullāh ﷺ.

Many great personalities became the murideen (disciples) of Hāji Imdādullāh ﷺ such as Hadhrat Mawlānā Rashid Ahmad Gangohi ﷺ and Hadhrat Mawlānā Qāsim Nānotwi ﷺ.

Demise

After bringing warmth and light to this cold and dark world for 84 years, he left this world to meet his beloved creator at the time of the Fajr adhān on 12th or 13th of Al-Jumād-ul-Ākhirah. He is buried in Jannat-ul-Ma'lā (in Makkah Mukarramah) alongside the grave of Mawlānā Rahmatullāh Kerānwi ﷺ, the founder of Madrasah Saulatiyyah (in Makkah Mukarramah).