

Hazrat Fuzail bin Ayaz (R.A.)

From Bandit to Sufi Saint: A Journey of Repentance

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Preface

This eBook, presented by Barkateraza.in, chronicles the remarkable transformation of Hazrat Fuzail bin Ayaz (R.A.), a former bandit who became a revered Sufi saint of the Chishtiya order. Known for his piety, asceticism, and profound teachings, he influenced great scholars like Imam Ahmad bin Hanbal. His shrine in Jannat al-Maala, Makkah, near Hazrat Khadija (R.A.), remains a testament to his spiritual legacy. This work aims to inspire readers with his journey from sin to sanctity.

Chapter 1

Introduction

Hazrat Khwaja Fuzail bin Ayaz (R.A.) (died 187 A.H./803 C.E.) was a prominent early Sufi saint, hadith narrator, and ascetic. Initially a notorious highwayman in Khorasan and Syria, he underwent a profound transformation after hearing Quranic verses (Al-Hadid:16), repenting and dedicating his life to Allah. A disciple of Hazrat Abdul Waahid bin Zaid and Abu Iyadh ibn Mansur, he was linked to the Chishtiya order through Hazrat Abu Bakr Siddiq (R.A.) and Hazrat Ali (R.A.). His teachings and piety influenced the Islamic world, and he is buried in Jannat al-Maala, Makkah.

Chapter 2

Early Life and Banditry

Born to Ayaz bin Bishr, possibly in Samarkand, Merv, Mosul, or Balkh, Hazrat Fuzail's origins are debated, suggesting Turkomen, Iraqi, or Azeri heritage. As a bandit leader, he raided caravans in the deserts of Syria and Khorasan, yet maintained noble traits. He wore simple sackcloth, kept a tasbeeh around his neck, performed Salah in congregation, observed purdah for female travelers, and ensured victims retained means to continue their journeys. He kept meticulous records of his thefts, foreshadowing his eventual repentance.

Chapter 3

Spiritual Transformation

Hazrat Fuzail's transformation began when he heard a Qari recite Surah Al-Hadid (57:16) while he was climbing a wall to raid a caravan. The verse, questioning whether the time had come for believers' hearts to humble themselves, pierced his heart, leading to immediate repentance. He abandoned banditry, sought forgiveness from his victims, and wandered the desert. A pivotal moment occurred when he overheard travelers fearing his name, prompting him to declare his repentance and assure their safety.

Chapter 4

Miracles and Moral Influence

1. Honoring a Merchant's Trust: A merchant entrusted Fuzail with his gold, mistaking him for a pious man. Despite his bandits looting the caravan, Fuzail returned the gold, honoring the trust, which astonished his companions.
2. Returning a Bag with Ayatul Kursi: Fuzail returned a looted bag inscribed with Ayatul Kursi, fearing that its loss might weaken people's faith in the Quran's protection, demonstrating his reverence for sacred texts.
3. Conversion of a Jew: A Jew refused to forgive Fuzail until he cleared a sand dune. A divine storm removed it, and when Fuzail retrieved a bag of "sand" that turned to gold, the Jew embraced Islam, convinced of Fuzail's sincere repentance.

Chapter 5

Life in Makkah and Kufa

After repenting, Fuzail settled in Kufa, studying under Imam Ja'far al-Sadiq and Imam Abu Hanifa, and later moved to Makkah for Hajj, accompanied by his devoted wife. He lived ascetically, earning a living as a water-carrier, and became renowned for his oratory and hadith narration. His disciples included Imam Ahmad bin Hanbal, Hazrat Ibrahim bin Adham, and Hazrat Bishr Hafi. His anti-social nature led him to prefer solitude, often avoiding crowds to focus on worship.

Chapter 6

Teachings and Aphorisms

Hazrat Fuzail emphasized fear of Allah, humility, and detachment from worldly desires. His notable sayings include:

1. “Whoever pursues leadership will be disgraced. Remain insignificant.”
2. “He who acquires knowledge of Allah without love will be destroyed by pride.”
3. “More surprising than seeing a person crying in paradise is the sight of a person laughing on earth.”
4. “A man who fears Allah does not indulge in futility, and the love of the world does not occur to him.”
5. “All evils stem from love of the world.”

His teachings influenced Sufi thought, advocating zuhd (asceticism) and tawakkul (trust in Allah).

Chapter 7

Interaction with Caliph Harun al-Rashid

When Caliph Harun al-Rashid sought Fuzail's counsel, Fuzail extinguished his lamp to avoid seeing him, emphasizing humility. He advised the Caliph to fear Allah, treat subjects justly, and prepare for divine accountability. His bold words caused Harun to faint, and Fuzail refused the Caliph's gift of 1,000 dinars, urging him to give to the needy instead. Harun remarked, "It is Fuzail who is a king among men."

Chapter 8

Ascetic Practices

Known as one of the “al-Bakkaa’in” (the Weepers), Fuzail performed up to 500 nafl prayers daily, completed two Quran recitations daily, and fasted continuously for days. Once, when he mistakenly washed his arm twice during wudu, the Prophet (PBUH) appeared in a dream to correct him, underscoring his adherence to Sunnah. His extreme discipline and fear of Allah earned him reverence among peers like Imam Abu Hanifa.

Chapter 9

Family and Legacy

Fuzail had a son, Ali, and two daughters. When his son suffered a urinary infection, Fuzail's prayers led to his recovery. Before his death, he instructed his wife to take their daughters to Mount Abu Qais, entrusting them to Allah. There, the King of Yemen arranged their marriages to his sons. Fuzail's khulafa, including Hazrat Bishr Hafi and Hazrat Ibrahim bin Adham, continued his spiritual legacy in the Chishtiya order.

Chapter 10

Passing and Mausoleum

Hazrat Fuzail passed away on 7 Muharram 187 A.H. (January 803 C.E.) in Makkah during Salah, while listening to Surah Al-Qariah. His death was marked by a divine cry from the heavens, as reported by Hazrat Abdullah bin Mubarak. He is buried in Jannat al-Maala, near Hazrat Khadija (R.A.). His shrine in Baghdad, mentioned in some traditions, remains a site of reverence.

Multimedia References

1. [Life and Teachings of Hazrat Fuzail bin Ayaz](#)
2. [Spiritual Journey of Fuzail bin Ayaz](#)

Bibliography

1. Tazkira-e-Aulia by Traditional Sources.
2. Sufi Saints of the Early Islamic Era by Islamic Historians.
3. Biographical Dictionaries of Hadith Narrators.
4. Oral Traditions of Makkah and Kufa.

Closing Prayer

May Allah, through the blessings of His Beloved Prophet (PBUH), Hazrat Fuzail bin Ayaz, the Sahaba, and all Awliya Allah, grant us complete love for the Prophet, protect our faith, inspire righteous deeds, and fulfill our noble desires in this world and the hereafter. Ameen.