Hazrat Makhdoom Syed Ashraf Jahangir Simnani (R.A.)

The Illuminated Star of Mysticism: A Spiritual Biography

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Preface

This eBook, presented by Barkateraza.in, chronicles the life, teachings, miracles, and enduring legacy of Hazrat Makhdoom Syed Ashraf Jahangir Simnani (R.A.), a revered Sufi saint of the Chishti Order, known as Ghousul Alam, Mahboobe Yazdani, and Jahangir. His spiritual radiance illuminated the hearts of millions, spreading the light of Islam and mysticism. This work aims to preserve his legacy and share his wisdom, reflecting Barkateraza.in's mission to promote spiritual heritage.

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Introduction

Hazrat Makhdoom Syed Ashraf Jahangir Simnani (708–808 A.H./1308–1405 A.D.) was an eminent Sufi saint of the Chishti Order, celebrated for his spiritual eminence and scholarly contributions. Born in Simnan, Iran, he relinquished his throne to pursue divine love, eventually settling in Kichhochha, Uttar Pradesh, India, where he established a spiritual center. His titles—Jahangir (World Conqueror), Ghousul Alam (Helper of the World), and Mahboobe Yazdani (Beloved of the Divine)—reflect his profound impact on Islamic mysticism.

Lineage and Family

Hazrat Syed Ashraf was a Husaini Sayyid, tracing his lineage to Hazrat Imam Hussain (R.A.) through a distinguished chain of ancestors, including Hazrat Zainul Abedin, Imam Jafar Sadiq, and others. His father, Sultan Syed Ibrahim Noor Bakshi, ruled Simnan with justice for 20 years, patronizing Islamic institutions and supporting 12,000 students. His mother, Bibi Khadija Begum, from the lineage of Khwaja Ahmad Yaswi, was deeply pious, spending her time in prayer and Quranic recitation, particularly Tahajjud.

Birth and Prophecy

Born in 708 A.H. (1308 A.D.) in Simnan, Iran, Hazrat Syed Ashraf's birth was foretold by Hazrat Ibrahim Mazzoob, who predicted a son of extraordinary spiritual stature. Sultan Ibrahim, desiring a son after having daughters, offered 1,000 dinars as requested by the saint, who blessed him with the prophecy of a Waliullah named Syed Ashraf. Additionally, the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) appeared in Sultan Ibrahim's dream, confirming the birth of a divine friend.

Education

At four years, four months, and four days, Hazrat Syed Ashraf began his education under Hazrat Imeduddin Tabrezi. By age seven, he memorized the Quran with mastery of seven Qirat styles. By 14, he excelled in Tafsir, Hadith, Fiqh, and other Islamic sciences, earning acclaim in Baghdad's madrasas. His teachers included Maulana Ahmad Haqqaani, Imam Abdullah Yafai, and Baba Mufrah bin Khwaja Najmuddin Kubra.

Accession to the Throne

Following his father's demise, Hazrat Syed Ashraf became Sultan of Simnan at 15, ruling justly for 12 years. His reign ensured peace and prosperity, with no tolerance for oppression. An incident where he punished a soldier for stealing curd from an elderly woman exemplifies his commitment to justice, as narrated by Hazrat Nizame Yamani in Lataefe Ashrafi.

Relinquishment of Throne

Despite his just rule, Hazrat Syed Ashraf's heart was drawn to mysticism. At 23, a dream of Hazrat Owais Qarni introduced him to Azkar-e-Owaisia, intensifying his spiritual longing. Three years later, Hazrat Khidr (A.S.) appeared, instructing him to abandon the throne and seek Hazrat Alaul Haque Pandavi in Pandawa Sharif, Bengal. He entrusted the throne to his brother, Sultan Mohammad Aaraf, and set out for India.

Journey to India

Hazrat Syed Ashraf began his journey with 12,000 soldiers, later traveling alone. He met Hazrat Jalaluddin Bukhari in Uch Sharif, Multan, who blessed him and urged haste to Pandawa Sharif. Visiting the shrines of Hazrat Data Ganj Bakhsh, Hazrat Qutbuddin Bakhtiar Kaki, and Hazrat Nizamuddin Auliya, he gained spiritual blessings before arriving at Bihar Sharif, where he led the funeral prayer of Hazrat Sharfuddin Yahya Maneri as per his will.

Discipleship under Hazrat Alaul Haque

Upon reaching Pandawa Sharif, Hazrat Alaul Haque warmly welcomed him. Hazrat Syed Ashraf became his disciple in the Chishti Nizamia order, receiving khilafat after four years of intense spiritual training. His Shaikh declared him ready to illuminate Kichhochha with the light of rectitude, directing him to settle there permanently.

Settlement in Kichhochha Sharif

Arriving in Kichhochha, Hazrat Syed Ashraf faced a region steeped in infidelity, dominated by a hermit and his 500 disciples. Through a miracle involving his disciple Jamaluddin Rawat, he converted the hermit and his followers to Islam. He constructed Khanqah-e-Ashrafia, two mosques, and a tomb, transforming Kichhochha into a center of Islamic spirituality, where millions embraced Islam.

Religious and Literary Services

Hazrat Syed Ashraf's contributions to Islam and mysticism are monumental. He authored numerous books, including Kanzul Asrar, Lataefe Ashrafi, Maktubate Ashrafi, and Tafseere Noor Bakhshia, showcasing his theological mastery. His lectures in local dialects and writings in Arabic, Persian, and Turkish inspired countless conversions. His establishment of the Ashrafi order continues to guide spiritual seekers.

Miracles (Karamat)

- 1. Confrontation with Amir Taimur: Hazrat Syed Ashraf revealed his spiritual vision of Mecca and Medina, humbling Amir Taimur's offer of land.
- 2. Reviving a Child: He granted 10 years of his life to restore a deceased boy, who lived exactly a decade.
- 3. Funeral Prayer Miracle: Jesters mockingly requested a funeral prayer for a living man, who died after the prayer was performed.
- 4. Idol Conversion: An idol in a Banaras temple transformed into a girl, embraced Islam, and married his disciple.
- 5. Healing a Disciple: His saliva cured a disciple's severe illness.
- 6. Controlling a Flood: He stopped a river's flood by divine command, protecting crops.
- 7. Reforming a Drunkard: He spiritually guided a man to abandon alcohol by appearing whenever he attempted to drink.
- 8. Jhil Miracle (1435 A.H.): Poisoned fish in a lake near his shrine died, but devotees using the water were unharmed, and the culprits faced divine retribution.

Titles and Spiritual Status

Hazrat Syed Ashraf was honored as Mahboobe Yazdani on 27 Ramadan 782 A.H., with divine proclamation of his beloved status. On 1 Rajab 770 A.H., he was declared Ghousul Alam in Hazrat Bande Nawaz's Khanqah. The title Jahangir resounded divinely, affirming his spiritual conquest. He received khilafat in Chishti, Suhrawardi, Qadri, and Naqshbandi orders, founding the Ashrafi silsila.

Instructions and Teachings

- Knowledge is the shining sun; skills are its rays.
- Ignorance leads to deviation; knowledge without action is futile.
- Shariat is the foundation, Tariquet the path, and Haqiquet the reality.
- A true wali follows the Prophet (PBUH) in word, action, and belief.
- Service to humanity surpasses optional worship.
- A Shaikh is a spiritual physician, prescribing for the soul's ailments.

Disciples and Khulafa

Hazrat Syed Ashraf's prominent khalifa included Hazrat Syed Abdur Razzaque Noorul Ain, Hazrat Shaikh Kabirul Abbasi, and others, spreading the Ashrafi order across India. His disciples, numbering over 60, included scholars and mystics like Hazrat Shaikh Safiuddin and Hazrat Maulana Abul Mozaffar Lukhnawi.

Death and Mausoleum

Hazrat Syed Ashraf passed away on 28 Muharram 808 A.H. (25 July 1405 A.D.) in Kichhochha. Before his death, he wrote Basharatul Muradin and Resalai Qubria in his grave, receiving divine revelations. His mausoleum in Kichhochha, Uttar Pradesh, remains a spiritual haven, with his Urs celebrated from 26–29 Muharram.

Ashrafi Tarana

Sarwara shaha karima dastagira Ashrafa, Hurmat-e-ruh-e-payambar yak nazar kun suwai ma, O Master, O Prince, O Munificent O Helper O Ashraf! In honour of the Prophet's soul mercy our direction be,

. . .

Sayyad-e-mohtaj ki sun lai bara'ai panjtan, Bowl bala ho tera abad tairi anjuman, Heed to helpless Sayyad for sake of the Blessed Five, May thy name prosper thy assembly populous thrive.

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- 3. Akhbarul Akhyar by Hazrat Abdul Haque Mohaddis Dehlawi
- 4. Nafhatulins by Shaikh Abdur Rahman Jami
- 5. Khazinat-ul-Asfia by Ghulam Sarwar

Closing Prayer

May Allah, through the blessings of His Beloved Prophet (PBUH), Hazrat Makhdoom Syed Ashraf Jahangir Simnani, the Ahl-e-Bait, and the 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.