

Hazrat Khwaja Nasiruddin Mahmood
Chirag-e-Dehlavi (R.A.)

The Illuminated Lamp of Delhi: A Spiritual Biography

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Preface

This eBook, presented by Barkateraza.in, chronicles the life, teachings, miracles, and enduring legacy of Hazrat Khwaja Nasiruddin Mahmood Chirag-e-Dehlavi (R.A.), revered as Roshan Chirag-e-Delhi, the Illuminated Lamp of Delhi. A prominent Sufi saint of the Chishti Order and spiritual successor to Hazrat Nizamuddin Auliya (R.A.), his teachings of divine love, humility, and compassion continue to guide spiritual seekers. This work aims to preserve his legacy and share his wisdom, reflecting Barkateraza.in's mission to promote spiritual heritage.

Chapter 1

Introduction

Hazrat Khwaja Nasiruddin Mahmood Chirag-e-Dehlavi (ca. 1274–1356 A.D.), known as Roshan Chirag-e-Delhi, was a 14th-century mystic-poet and a revered Sufi saint of the Chishti Order. As a devoted disciple and later khalifa (spiritual successor) of Hazrat Nizamuddin Auliya (R.A.), he was the last prominent Chishti Sufi based in Delhi. His title, meaning "Illuminated Lamp of Delhi," reflects his role as a beacon of spiritual guidance. His teachings emphasized adherence to Shariat, compassion, and detachment from materialism, leaving a lasting impact on the Chishti Nizamia Silsila.

Chapter 2

Family and Lineage

Born around 1274 A.D. in Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh, Hazrat Nasiruddin was a Husaini Sayyid, descending from Hazrat Imam Husain (R.A.), though some sources suggest a lineage from Hazrat Umar ibn Khattab (R.A.). His grandfather, Syed Abdul Latif Yazdi, migrated from Khorasan, Iran, to Lahore, and later settled in Ayodhya, where his father, Syed Yahya, traded in Pashmina. After his father's death at age nine, his mother raised him, fostering his early devotion to faith and congregational prayers.

Chapter 3

Early Life and Education

Growing up in Ayodhya, Hazrat Nasiruddin's early education was under Maulana Abdul Karim Sherwani, where he studied Islamic jurisprudence, including Bazoodi. After Maulana Abdul Karim's death, he continued under Maulana Iftikharuddin Gilani, mastering various Islamic sciences. At age 25, he renounced worldly life, spending eight years in the jungles of Awadh, fasting and subsisting on leaves and herbs, deepening his spiritual discipline.

Chapter 4

Spiritual Journey and Discipleship

At age 43, Hazrat Nasiruddin moved to Delhi and became a disciple of Hazrat Nizamuddin Auliya (R.A.). His humility was evident when he expressed his desire to serve dervishes by "putting on their shoes." Hazrat Nizamuddin, moved by this devotion, accepted him as a murid. He served his Pir with utmost dedication, once giving his own clothes to a guest to avoid disturbing his Pir's prayers. Despite his wish to retreat to solitude, Hazrat Nizamuddin instructed him to remain among people, spreading divine love. After his mother's death, he settled permanently in Delhi at his Pir's Khanqah.

Chapter 5

Teachings and Philosophy

Hazrat Nasiruddin's teachings emphasized:

- Adherence to Shariat: Essential for spiritual success, as no one can attain divine proximity without following Islamic law.
- Compassion and Forgiveness: Treating all with kindness, emulating divine attributes like the sun and rain, which benefit everyone.
- Detachment from Materialism: Worldly desires chain the soul; a true dervish rejects wealth and focuses on divine love.
- Control of Nafs: Through minimal food, sleep, and constant remembrance of Allah (Zikr).

His notable sayings include:

- "Good intention is needed for all activities."
- "The best prayer is to keep people happy."
- "A morsel earned in business is a good thing."
- "Quest of the world with good intention is the quest of the lasting life."

Chapter 6

Miracles (Karamat)

Hazrat Nasiruddin's miracles reflect his spiritual stature:

1. Lighting Lamps with Water: When Sultan Ghiyasuddin banned oil supplies to the Khanqah, he miraculously lit lamps with water to complete a water reservoir for his Pir.
2. Forgiving an Attacker: After being attacked and injured in his cell, he forgave the assailant, gave him money, and sent him away, exemplifying compassion.
3. Spiritual Counsel: When his disciple Qawamuddin faced hardship, he offered poetic advice, encouraging reliance on divine provision and silence in adversity.

Chapter 7

Disciples and Legacy

Hazrat Nasiruddin's disciples spread the Chishti Nizamia Silsila across India:

- Hazrat Khwaja Bande Nawaz Gesu Daraz (R.A.): His prominent khalifa, who moved to Gulbarga, Karnataka, spreading the Chishti Order in the Deccan.
- Hazrat Kamaluddin Allama (R.A.): A scholar and disciple based in Delhi.
- Hazrat Zainuddin Ali Awadhi (R.A.): Propagated teachings in Ayodhya.
- Others included Hazrat Sirajuddin, Hazrat Abdul Muqtadir, and Hazrat Makhdoom Jahaniya Jahangasht.

His Khanqah in Delhi remained a spiritual center, though the Chishti Order's central organization weakened after his death due to Sultan Muhammad Tughlaq's policies.

Chapter 8

Love for Sama and Poetry

Unlike his Pir, Hazrat Nasiruddin did not engage in Sama (Qawwali), respecting the views of those who considered it un-Islamic, though he did not condemn it. He described Sama as “a consoling remedy for the sick,” produced by love, not instruments. His Persian poetry contributed significantly to Urdu literature. His discourses are preserved in *Khair-ul-Majaalis* by Maulana Hamid Qalandar and *Miftah-ul-Aashqeen* by Maulana Muhibullah.

Chapter 9

Death and Mausoleum

Hazrat Nasiruddin passed away on 17 Ramadan 757 A.H. (1356 A.D.) at age 82. Fulfilling his wishes, his Pir's sacred relics (khirqa, asa, tasbih, kaasa, and shoes) were buried with him. His mausoleum, built by Sultan Firuz Shah Tughluq in 1358, is located in Chirag Delhi, South Delhi, near Greater Kailash. The Dargah, renovated over time, includes a twelve-pillared chamber with a plastered dome, a mosque built by Emperor Farrukhsiyar, and graves of notable figures like Bahlul Khan Lodhi. His Urs is observed on 17–18 Ramadan.

Chapter 10

Conclusion

Hazrat Khwaja Nasiruddin Chirag-e-Dehlavi (R.A.) embodied humility, compassion, and devotion, earning the title Roshan Chirag-e-Delhi. His teachings, miracles, and spiritual guidance continue to inspire millions. Barkateraza.in is honored to present this eBook, preserving his legacy for future generations.

Multimedia References

1. [Life of Hazrat Nasiruddin Chirag-e-Dehlavi](#)
2. [Teachings and Miracles](#)
3. [Chishti Silsila Legacy](#)

Bibliography

1. Khair-ul-Majaalis by Maulana Hamid Qalandar
2. Miftah-ul-Aashqeen by Maulana Muhibullah
3. Siar-ul-Auliya by Muhammad bin Mubarak
4. Khazinat-ul-Asfia by Ghulam Sarwar
5. Tarikh Mashaikh-e-Chisht by Khaliq Ahmad Nizami

Closing Prayer

May Allah, through the blessings of His Beloved Prophet (PBUH), Hazrat Khwaja Nasiruddin Chirag-e-Dehlavi, 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.