

Hazrat Shah Niyaz Be Niyaz Ahmad Bareilvi
(R.A.)

Qutb-e-Aalam, Madaar-e-Aazam: Founder of Silsila-e-Niyazia

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Preface

This eBook, presented by Barkateraza.in, narrates the life, spiritual legacy, and scholarly contributions of Hazrat Shah Niyaz Be Niyaz Ahmad Bareilvi (R.A.), the revered founder of the Niyazi Sufi order. A Qutb-e-Aalam and Madaar-e-Aazam, he combined Chisti, Qadri, Suharwardi, and Naqshbandi traditions, promoting Wahdat-ul-Wujud and selfless love for Allah. His Khanqah-e-Niyazia in Bareilly remains a beacon of spiritual and intellectual enlightenment, drawing devotees globally.

Chapter 1

Introduction

Hazrat Shah Niyaz Be Niyaz Ahmad Bareilvi (R.A.) (1155–1250 A.H./1742–1834 C.E.) was a distinguished Sufi saint, scholar, and poet who founded the Silsila-e-Niyazia. Born in Sirhind, Punjab, to an Alvi Syed father and Rizvi Syed mother, he traced his lineage to Hazrat Ali (K.W.K.) and Hazrat Fatima (R.A.). Initiated into multiple Sufi orders, he established Khanqah-e-Niyazia in Bareilly, promoting love for Ahl-e-Bait and service to humanity. His mazaar in Bareilly is a major pilgrimage site.

Chapter 2

Lineage and Family

Hazrat Shah Niyaz was an Alvi Syed paternally, descending from Hazrat Ali (K.W.K.) through Bukhara royalty, and a Rizvi Syed maternally, tracing to Hazrat Fatima (R.A.) via Imam Musa Raza (A.S.). His great-grandfather, Hazrat Shah Ayaat-ul-lah Alvi (R.A.), left Bukhara for Multan. His grandson, Hazrat Azmatullah Alvi (R.A.), settled in Sirhind, and his son, Hazrat Hakeem Elahi Shah Muhammad Rahmatullah (R.A.), was Delhi's Qazi-ul-Quzzat. His mother, Bibi Ladoo (Hazrat Bibi Garib Nawaz), was a spiritual figure and disciple of Hazrat Shah Mohi-ud-din Diyasanami (R.A.).

Chapter 3

Birth and Early Life

Born on 6 Jamadi-us-Sani 1155 A.H. (7 August 1742 C.E.) in Sirhind, Punjab, Hazrat Shah Niyaz, named Raaz Ahmad, inherited spiritual qualities from his parents. At age 6, he moved to Delhi with his father. His mother entrusted him to Hazrat Maulana Fakhruddin Dehalvi (R.A.) for spiritual guidance. His early life was marked by piety and a quest for divine knowledge.

Chapter 4

Education and Spiritual Initiation

Hazrat Shah Niyaz received primary education from his maternal grandfather, Syed Maulana Sa'id Uddin, and completed advanced studies at Madarsa Faqriya, Delhi, mastering Quran, Hadith, Tafseer, and Fiqh by age 15. He became a teacher and later principal there. At 19, he was initiated into the Chisti-Nizami and Suharwardi orders by Hazrat Maulana Fakhruddin Dehalvi (R.A.). He received Qadri order initiation from Hazrat Abdullah Baghdadi (R.A.) at Jama Masjid, Delhi, and Chisti-Sabri and Naqshbandi orders from Hazrat Shah Rahmatullah (R.A.).

Chapter 5

Spiritual Journey and Reforms

Deputed to Bareilly by Hazrat Fakhruddin, Hazrat Shah Niyaz founded Khanqah-e-Niyazia, a center for spiritual and scholarly pursuits. He promoted Wahdat-ul-Wujud, emphasizing love for Allah and service to humanity. His respect for Ahl-e-Bait was profound, as seen in his reverence for Tazias during Muharram. He rejected worldly attachments, teaching simplicity and devotion, and his khulafa spread his message to Afghanistan, Samarkand, and beyond.

Chapter 6

Miracles and Karamaat

1. Extinguishing Fire: In Bareilly, he redirected a fire away from his khanqah, saving horses without recitation, stating, “I became a sea, and one spout extinguished the fire.”
2. Radiant Face: He revealed a sun-like radiance to disciple Allah Baksh Khan, causing unconsciousness.
3. Qawwali Incident: At a mehfil-e-sama, he caused elites mocking Sufis to fall and apologize, inspired by a couplet on Hazrat Ali (K.W.K.).
4. Healing Miracle: He transferred a patient’s illness to a disciple, healing the patient while the disciple recovered.
5. Multiple Feasts: He attended feasts at seven disciples’ homes simultaneously while resting, as confirmed by their gratitude.
6. Bread Multiplication: During Urs, 5 kg of flour sufficed for all attendees, remaining intact after distribution.
7. Post-Wisaal Initiation: Three days after his wisaal, he appeared to a Kabul devotee, initiating him as a disciple.

Chapter 7

Literary Contributions

Hazrat Shah Niyaz authored 18 works in Arabic, Persian, Urdu, and Hindavi, using the pseudonym “Niyaz.” Key works include:

1. Diwan-e-Niyaz (Persian: 192-couplet Munajaat, 101 ghazals; Urdu: 66 ghazals, 525 couplets; Hindavi: Hori, Phag, Basant)
2. Risala Raaz-o-Niyaz
3. Shams-ul-Ain Shareef
4. Noor-ul-Ain
5. Tohfa e Niyaz ba Hazrat-e-Be-Niyaz

His poetry, published over 50 times, reflects Wahdat-ul-Wujud and love for Allah and Ahl-e-Bait.

Chapter 8

Teachings and Philosophy

Hazrat Shah Niyaz advocated Wahdat-ul-Wujud, teaching that God is the sole reality, manifested in all creation. He emphasized selfless love for Allah, rejecting empirical knowledge for divine revelation (kashf). His sayings, quoted by Sant Kirpal Singh, include: “The world is filled with the Divine Sound, open the portals of your ears.” He urged simplicity, service to the poor, and respect for Ahl-e-Bait, as seen in his Muharram practices.

Chapter 9

Legacy and Influence

Hazrat Shah Niyaz's Silsila-e-Niyazia spread across India, Pakistan, and Afghanistan through khulafa like Hazrat Shah Nizamuddin Hussain (R.A.). His khanqah fostered Hindustani classical music and Urdu poetry, influencing poets like Ghulam Hamdani Mushafi. His successors, including Hazrat Shah Mohinuddin Ahmad (R.A.) and Hazrat Hasan Mian Saheb, continue his message of love and peace.

Chapter 10

Passing and Mausoleum

Hazrat Shah Niyaz passed away on 6 Jamadi-us-Sani 1250 A.H. (9 October 1834 C.E.) in Bareilly. His mazaar in Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh, is a revered pilgrimage site, hosting annual Urs celebrations attended by diverse devotees. The khanqah remains a center for spiritual solace and learning.

Multimedia References

1. [Life and Teachings of Hazrat Shah Niyaz Be Niyaz](#)

Bibliography

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2. Karamat-e-Nizamia, Pages 3 & 17.
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5. Tadhkirat al-Awliya by Farid ad-Din Attar.

Closing Prayer

May Allah, through the blessings of His Beloved Prophet (PBUH), Hazrat Shah Niyaz Be Niyaz Ahmad Bareilvi, the Sahaba, Ahl-e-Bait, 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.