

Hazrat Syed Haji Waris Ali Shah (R.A.)

Makhdoom-ul-Asfia: The Monarch of Sufism

Published by Barkateraza.in

October 2025

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## Preface

This eBook, presented by Barkateraza.in, chronicles the life, teachings, and spiritual legacy of Hazrat Syed Haji Waris Ali Shah (R.A.), revered as Makhdoom-ul-Asfia and Sartaj-ul-Fuqara. A luminary of the Qadri silsila, his profound teachings on divine love, trust in God, and humility continue to inspire devotees worldwide. His Dargah in Dewa Sharif, Uttar Pradesh, remains a beacon of spiritual solace, drawing pilgrims from diverse backgrounds. This work aims to preserve his legacy and promote his universal message of love and faith.



## Chapter 1

### Introduction

Hazrat Syed Haji Waris Ali Shah (1234–1323 A.H./1819–1905 A.D.), known as Makhdoom-ul-Asfia and Alam Panah, was a revered Sufi saint of the Qadri order. Born in Dewa Sharif, Barabanki, he dedicated his life to divine love, humility, and service to humanity. Renowned for his ascetic lifestyle, profound teachings, and miraculous fragrance emanating from his body, he performed Hajj multiple times and traveled extensively. His Dargah in Dewa Sharif hosts the annual Urs, attracting devotees from Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Saudi Arabia.



## Chapter 2

### Lineage and Family

Hazrat Waris Ali Shah belonged to a distinguished Husaini Syed family from Nishapur, Iran. His ancestor, Syed Ashraf Abi Talib, migrated to Kuntur, Barabanki, settling in Rasoolpur. His great-grandfather, Syed Ahmad Ali (born 1141 A.H.), had a son, Syed Karmallah, whose sons included Syed Salamath Ali, the father of Syed Qurban Ali, Hazrat Waris's father. His mother, Bibi Sakeena (Chandan Bibi), was the daughter of Syed Sher Ali. Orphaned early, he was raised by his grandmother, Hayat-un-Nissa.





## Chapter 3

### Birth and Early Life

Born on 1 Ramzan 1234 A.H. (1819 A.D., disputed) in Dewa Sharif, Hazrat Waris lost his father at age two and his mother at three. Raised by his grandmother, he displayed extraordinary traits: drinking milk slowly, remaining silent instead of crying, and keeping his sleeping area clean. He gazed at the stars at night, reflecting divine contemplation. His childhood games involved distributing sweets and clothes to the poor, showcasing his innate generosity and detachment from worldly possessions.



## Chapter 4

### Education

At age five, Hazrat Waris began learning the Quran from his uncle, Hazrat Ameer Ali, becoming a Hafiz by seven. His brother-in-law, Hazrat Syed Khadim Ali Shah of Lucknow, continued his education under renowned scholars. He mastered Quranic exegesis, Arabic literature, and other sciences, demonstrating exceptional memory and fluency in Arabic and Persian. An incident with Maulvi Syed Sharfuddin, where he fluently explained a complex Arabic ode, highlights his literary prowess.



## Chapter 5

### Spiritual Journey

At 11, Hazrat Waris became a mureed of Hazrat Syed Khadim Ali Shah Qadri, who passed away three years later. His spiritual path emphasized divine love, trust in God, and detachment from worldly desires. He advocated for prayer, humility, and resignation to God's will, teaching that love is the essence of monotheism. His instructions to disciples, such as abstaining from worldly possessions and maintaining selfless devotion, shaped his Qadri legacy.



## Chapter 6

### Pilgrimages and Travels

In 1253 A.H. (1838 A.D.), Hazrat Waris embarked on his first Hajj, traveling on foot through Unnao, Agra, Ajmer, and Bombay to Jeddah. Over 12 years, he performed Hajj 10 times, visiting Mecca, Medina, Egypt, Palestine, Syria, Iraq, Iran, Turkey, Russia, and Germany. He met Sultan Abdul Majeed in Istanbul and Prince Bismarck in Berlin, spreading his teachings and guiding thousands to Islam. He adopted an ascetic lifestyle, wearing only unsown cloth and traveling barefoot.





## Chapter 7

### Miracles (Karamat)

1. Crossing the Ghaghra River: While traveling to Bahraich, Hazrat Waris and his disciples crossed the flooded Ghaghra River. The water felt knee-deep, and his feet remained free of mud, with no water marks on the mat he later sat on, astonishing his followers.
2. Divine Fragrance: His body emitted a soul-soothing fragrance, a divine gift inherited from the Prophet (PBUH). Clothes touching him absorbed this scent, and even today, sheets placed on his tomb during Urs retain this fragrance.



## Chapter 8

### Teachings

Hazrat Waris emphasized divine love, trust in God, and humility. Key teachings include:

- Prayer: Regular Namaz with humility and concentration is essential, as it is the "food of the soul" and a sign of obedience.
- Divine Love: Love is the path to the highest truth, making mosques and temples grand. A true lover sees God in everything.
- Trust in God: Rely solely on God, avoid hoarding, and accept hardships as divine will.
- Social Manners: Never speak ill of any religion, avoid envy, and maintain selfless service to humanity.
- Asceticism: A true Pir owns nothing, sacrifices worldly desires, and avoids pride or vengeance.



## Chapter 9

### Legacy and Disciples

Hazrat Waris left no direct successor but had notable disciples, including Hazrat Haji Abul Hasan Shah Warsi, Hazrat Hafiz Ahmad Shah, and others. His teachings continue through the Qadri silsila. The Dewa Sharif Dargah, where his Urs is held in Kartik, Safar, and Chait, attracts pilgrims from Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Saudi Arabia. The Kartik Mela, honoring his father, Syed Qurban Ali Shah, is a significant event.



## Chapter 10

### Passing and Mausoleum

Hazrat Waris Ali Shah passed away on 1 Safar 1323 A.H. (6 April 1905 A.D.) in Dewa Sharif. His mausoleum, a spiritual sanctuary, is revered for its divine fragrance, felt during the Urs ceremonies. The Kartik Mela (October–November), Safar Urs (March), and Chait Urs (April) draw diverse devotees, reflecting his universal appeal. The Dargah remains a symbol of his teachings on love and faith.





## Chapter 11

### Dewa Sharif: The Town

Dewa Sharif, 13 km from Barabanki and 28–30 km from Lucknow, is a historic town renowned for producing scholars and saints. As the birthplace of Hazrat Waris, it holds cultural and spiritual significance. Its Urs celebrations and fairs make it a cosmopolitan hub, attracting pilgrims from across India and beyond, fostering unity and devotion.



## Multimedia References

1. [Life of Hazrat Syed Waris Ali Shah](#)
2. [Teachings and Miracles of Makhdoom-ul-Asfia](#)
3. [Urs Celebrations at Dewa Sharif](#)



## Bibliography

1. Hayat-e-Waris by Traditional Sources.
2. Tazkira-e-Waris Pak by Dewa Sharif Scholars.
3. Sufi Saints of India by Local Historians.
4. Oral Traditions of Dewa Sharif, Barabanki.



## Closing Prayer

May Allah, through the blessings of His Beloved Prophet (PBUH), Hazrat Syed Haji Waris Ali Shah, the 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.