

Hazrat Zun-Noon al-Misri (R.A.)

The Man of the Fish: A Journey of Gnosis and Devotion

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## Preface

This eBook, presented by Barkateraza.in, narrates the exemplary life of Hazrat Abul Faiz Saubaan ibn Ibrahim al-Misri (R.A.), known as Zun-Noon al-Misri, a towering figure in early Sufism. Born in Akhmim, Egypt, he earned the title "Zun-Noon" (Man of the Fish) after a miraculous incident involving fish bearing pearls. A master of gnosis (ma'arifat), his teachings and miracles inspired luminaries like Sahl al-Tustari. Despite facing accusations of heresy, his devotion and wisdom prevailed, leaving an enduring legacy at his mazaar in Qarafa, Cairo.



# Chapter 1

## Introduction

Hazrat Zun-Noon al-Misri (R.A.) (180 A.H./796 C.E. – 245 A.H./859 C.E.) was a leading Sufi saint, alchemist, and hadith scholar from Akhmim, Egypt. Known for his profound ma'arifāt, he ranks alongside Junaid Baghdadi and Bayazid Bastami in Sufi chronicles. A disciple of various scholars, he traveled across Arabia and Syria, teaching simplicity, sincerity, and trust in Allah. Imprisoned for alleged heresy in 829 C.E., he was exonerated and returned to Cairo, where he passed away. His tomb in Qarafa remains a site of reverence.



## Chapter 2

### Early Life and Transformation

Born in Akhmim, Egypt, Zun-Noon was raised in a scholarly environment, studying hadith and Islamic sciences. Initially leading a worldly life, his spiritual awakening came through encounters with ascetics. Meeting a worshipper hanging upside down to discipline his nafs and another who severed his leg for a fleeting sin, Zun-Noon repented, dedicating his life to Allah's remembrance. A blind bird's miraculous sustenance and a divine vision after choosing Allah's name over treasure solidified his tawakkul.





## Chapter 3

### Miracles and Karamaat

1. Pearls from Fish: Accused of stealing a merchant's pearl during a sea voyage, Zun-Noon prayed, and thousands of fish surfaced, each with a pearl in its mouth. He returned a pearl, earning the title "Zun-Noon."
2. Blind Bird's Sustenance: In a forest, Zun-Noon saw a blind bird unearth gold and silver bowls with seeds and rosewater, reinforcing his trust in Allah's provision.
3. Treasure and Divine Name: Finding a treasure chest, Zun-Noon chose a plaque with Allah's name over wealth. That night, a divine voice declared the doors of knowledge and wisdom opened for him.
4. Moving Seat: Demonstrating material obedience, Zun-Noon commanded a seat to circle a house, which it did, before he passed away on it during ghusl.
5. Funeral Miracles: During his funeral, birds shaded the procession, and his finger rose in shahada, refusing to be straightened, symbolizing his devotion to Allah.
6. Healing Mountain Saint: Zun-Noon witnessed a frail saint cure ailments by blowing on a crowd, trembling the mountain, yet refused to aid Zun-Noon's spiritual ailments, directing him to Allah alone.



## Chapter 4

### Imprisonment and Trials

In 829 C.E., accused of heresy, Zun-Noon was shackled and imprisoned in Baghdad for 40 days. His sister brought halaal bread, but he refused it, citing the oppressive jailer's touch. Released after answering the Caliph's questions convincingly, he was honored and returned to Cairo. Despite mistreatment by Egyptians, he harbored no ill will, remaining immersed in Allah's love.



## Chapter 5

### Teachings and Aphorisms

Zun-Noon emphasized ma'arifāt, sincerity, and simplicity. His sayings include:

1. "Truthfulness is Allah's sword on earth—it cuts through everything."
2. "Sincerity is free from Satan's corruption."
3. "Man's ruin lies in pleasing people over Allah, following Satan, ignoring death, and neglecting Sunnah for nafs."
4. "Divine love is proven by adhering to the Prophet's Sunnah."
5. "A Sufi commands only what he practices."
6. "Solitude leads to sincerity; embracing it strengthens its pillars."
7. "Four signs of a sick heart: no fear of Allah, no joy in worship, no lessons from worldly events, and no action on knowledge."
8. "Three signs of guidance: patience in adversity, gratitude for blessings, and maintaining kindness despite anger."



## Chapter 6

### Interaction with Contemporaries

Zun-Noon studied under scholars in Kufa, Basra, and Makkah, transmitting hadiths. His disciple, Sahl al-Tustari, revered him as a master of gnosis, refraining from mystical discourse until Zun-Noon's death. He admonished a Jew for feeding birds, learning humility when Allah favored the Jew at Hajj, teaching him all humans are equal before Allah.





## Chapter 7

### Ascetic Lifestyle

Zun-Noon lived simply, avoiding delicious food for a decade. When his nafs craved food on Eid, he completed two raka'ts reciting the entire Quran, denying his nafs. He advised a disciple to distribute inherited wealth to the poor, later transforming clay into gems to teach detachment from wealth, casting them into water.



## Chapter 8

### Legacy and Influence

Zun-Noon's teachings shaped early Sufism, influencing Sahl al-Tustari and others. Known as a legendary alchemist, his unwritten poems and aphorisms survive orally, emphasizing gnosis over fear or love. His Adhamiya silsila, linked to Fuzail bin Ayaz, continues to inspire. His interactions with ascetics and miracles cemented his status as a Sufi luminary.



## Chapter 9

### Passing and Mausoleum

Hazrat Zun-Noon passed away on 10 Safar 245 A.H. (859 C.E.) in Cairo. As he neared death, he marveled at Allah's mercy. His funeral saw birds shading the procession, and his finger rose in shahada, immovable, symbolizing his devotion. His mazaar in Qarafa, Cairo, remains a beacon of spiritual reverence.



## Multimedia References

1. [Life of Hazrat Zun-Noon al-Misri](#)
2. [Miracles of Zun-Noon al-Misri](#)
3. [Teachings of a Sufi Saint](#)
4. [Spiritual Legacy of Zun-Noon](#)





## Bibliography

1. Tazkira-e-Aulia, Pages 45–52, by Traditional Sources.
2. Tadhkirat al-Awliya by Farid ad-Din Attar.
3. Hilyat al-Awliya and Tabaqat al-Sufiyya.
4. Ihyaul Uloom (Urdu), Vol. 4, Page 679.
5. Safeyatul Awleyah, Page 167.
6. Zaheerul Asfiyah, Page 118.
7. Fazail Sadaqaat, Page 483.



## Closing Prayer

May Allah, through the blessings of His Beloved Prophet (PBUH), Hazrat Zunoon al-Misri, the Sahaba, Ahl al-Bayt, 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.