

Hazrat Ibrahim bin Adham (R.A.)

From King to Sufi Saint: A Journey of Divine Love

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Preface

This eBook, presented by Barkateraza.in, narrates the inspiring journey of Hazrat Ibrahim bin Adham (R.A.), a king of Balkh who renounced his throne to embrace a life of asceticism and divine love. A prominent Sufi saint of the Taba Taba'een, he was mentored by Hazrat Khidr (A.S.) and influenced luminaries like Imam Abu Hanifa. His life of sacrifice, miracles, and profound teachings continues to guide seekers of truth. His shrine in Jableh, Syria, remains a beacon of spiritual reverence.

Chapter 1

Introduction

Hazrat Abu Ishaq Ibrahim bin Adham (R.A.) (born 100 A.H./718 C.E., died 165 A.H./782 C.E.) was a revered Sufi saint and king of Balkh (modern-day Afghanistan). Of Arab descent, he abandoned his royal life for asceticism, earning his livelihood through manual labor in Syria and Makkah. A disciple of Hazrat Khidr (A.S.) and Hazrat Fuzail bin Ayaz, he founded the Adhamiya silsila. Known as the "Key of the Knowledge of the Auliya" by Hazrat Junaid Baghdadi, his legacy endures through his teachings and spiritual rank.

Chapter 2

Early Life and Kingship

Born in Balkh to Adham bin Mansur al-Tamimi, Ibrahim bin Adham was raised in opulence as the heir to Khorasan's throne. His early life was marked by splendor, with soldiers parading golden shields before him. Despite his worldly power, his heart was restless, seeking divine truth. His encounters with Hazrat Khidr (A.S.)—on his palace roof and in his court—challenged his pursuit of Allah amidst worldly pleasures, prompting his renunciation of the throne.

Chapter 3

Spiritual Transformation

Ibrahim's transformation began with divine interventions. One night, a voice (Hazrat Khidr) questioned his search for Allah on a royal bed, comparing it to seeking a camel on a roof. Another time, Khidr called his palace a mere inn, highlighting life's transience. During a hunt, a speaking deer rebuked him, asking if Allah created him to harm others. Overwhelmed, he repented, exchanged his royal garments for a shepherd's attire, and wandered into the wilderness, dedicating his life to Allah's remembrance.

Chapter 4

Miracles and Karamaat

1. Needle in the River: When questioned about abandoning his kingdom, Ibrahim threw his needle into the Tigris River. Thousands of fish emerged with golden needles, but a small fish brought his original needle, signifying his dominion over creation through Allah's grace.
2. Well of Treasures: Drawing water from a well, Ibrahim found buckets filled with gold, silver, and jewels. Requesting only water for wudu, the fourth bucket contained water, teaching that true need is for Allah alone.
3. Warming Serpent: In a freezing cave, a serpent warmed him like a blanket. When he prayed for a less frightening aid, it vanished, showing divine protection.
4. Moving Mountain: Discussing spiritual truth, Ibrahim stated an Aarif could move a mountain. When it began to move, he clarified it was an example, not a command, halting it.
5. Forgiving a Drunkard: Finding an intoxicated man, Ibrahim washed his mouth, lamenting its misuse. In a dream, an angel revealed Allah cleansed Ibrahim's heart for this act, leading the man to repent.

Chapter 5

Life in Solitude

After renouncing his throne, Ibrahim spent nine years in a cave near Nishapur, emerging only on Thursdays to gather firewood, which he sold on Fridays. He distributed half his earnings to the poor, living on the rest. In Makkah, he worked as a carpenter and farmhand, avoiding recognition. His solitude was marked by intense worship, including 400 raka'ts of nafl Salah during hunger, reflecting his tawakkul and devotion.

Chapter 6

Teachings and Aphorisms

Ibrahim emphasized tawakkul, sincerity, and detachment from worldly desires. His sayings include:

1. “Three veils must be removed: not rejoicing in worldly gain, not grieving its loss, and not seeking praise.”
2. “To be Allah’s saint, empty yourself of this world and the next, turning solely to Him.”
3. “Abstaining is abandoning the dubious and the superfluous.”
4. “Happiness lies in the disgrace of the nafs, as seen in my trials on a ship and in a mosque.”
5. “Sainthood is gained not by Salah or fasting alone, but by eating halaal.”

He taught that true spirituality requires halaal sustenance and warned against sins by outlining six impossible tasks, urging repentance.

Chapter 7

Interaction with Contemporaries

Ibrahim met luminaries like Imam Abu Hanifa, who honored him as “Sayyiduna Ibrahim” for his constant remembrance of Allah. He was a disciple of Hazrat Fuzail bin Ayaz and Hazrat Khidr, who taught him the Ism-e-Azam. His encounter with 70 Sufis, killed for breaking their pledge to Allah, reinforced his commitment to divine trust. His khulafa, including Hazrat Sadeed-ud-deen Huzaifa Mir’ashi and Hazrat Shafeeq al-Balkhi, continued his legacy.

Chapter 8

Trials and Humility

Ibrahim embraced humiliation to subdue his nafs. On a ship, he rejoiced when mocked and nearly thrown overboard. In a mosque, he was dragged out, his head striking steps, revealing spiritual realms. Beaten by a soldier who mistook him for a mocker, he prayed for the soldier's Jannah. These trials reflected his joy in humbling his ego for Allah's sake.

Chapter 9

Family and Sacrifice

Leaving his wife and infant son in Balkh, Ibrahim later met his grown son during Hajj in Makkah. Recognizing him during tawaf, paternal love stirred, but a divine voice rebuked him for divided affection. Praying for liberation, his son died instantly, a sacrifice akin to Prophet Ibrahim's (A.S.) test with Isma'il (A.S.). This underscored his complete devotion to Allah.

Chapter 10

Passing and Mausoleum

Hazrat Ibrahim passed away on 26 Jumada al-Awwal 165 A.H. (782 C.E.) in Jableh, Syria, though some sources suggest Baghdad or a naval expedition against Byzantium. A divine voice proclaimed, “Today the Safety of the world has died!” His mazaar in Jableh remains a site of reverence, near the grave of Prophet Lut (A.S.).

Multimedia References

1. [Life of Hazrat Ibrahim bin Adham](#)
2. [Spiritual Teachings of Ibrahim bin Adham](#)
3. [Journey of a Sufi Saint](#)

Bibliography

1. Tazkira-e-Aulia, Pages 33–42, by Traditional Sources.
2. Kashf-al-Mahjub by Ali Hujwiri (Data Ganj Bakhsh).
3. Biographical Accounts of Sufi Saints.
4. Oral Traditions of Balkh and Makkah.

Closing Prayer

May Allah, through the blessings of His Beloved Prophet (PBUH), Hazrat Ibrahim bin Adham, the Sahaba, 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.