

A Biography of Muḥaddith Kabīr

Muftī Shabbir Ahmed Patel Ṣāhib

Dāmat Barakātuḥu

Former Principal, Head Teacher and Muftī of Darul Uloom Bury, England
Teacher of Ḥadīth and Muftī of Jamiatul-Ilm Wal-Huda, Blackburn England
Student and Khalīfah of Shaykh al-Ḥadīth Ḥaḍrat Mawlānā Muḥammad Yūnus Ṣāhib Jownpūrī رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ
and Shaykh al-Ḥadīth Ḥaḍrat Mawlānā Yūsuf Motala Ṣāhib رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ

Mawlānā Khalil Ahmed Kazi
Madina Academy, Dewsbury, England

Translated by Mawlānā Ebrahim Noor



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1st Edition – 2022

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Foreword

In the name of Allāh, The Beneficent, The Merciful. After the demise of our respected teacher Shaykh al-Ḥadīth Mawlānā Muḥammad Yūnus Jownpūrī (d. 1438/2017), I decided to collate the letters written by him and other luminaries to my respected father Mufti Shabbir Ahmad, may Allāh keep his shadow over us for long. The onerous task of publishing these Urdu letters was successfully completed recently by Madina Academy Dewsbury under the supervision of its founder, my dear friend, Mawlānā Khalil Ahmed Kazi, may Allāh preserve him.

During the compilation and proofreading process of ‘Maktūbāt Mashāikh’, I requested Mawlānā Khalil to write a short profile of my respected father in Urdu for the benefit of readers and also to provide some context to the letters. I shared with Mawlānā Khalil the profile I had penned in Arabic for the preface of ‘Tanshīṭ al-Ādhān min Kitāb al-Arba‘īn fī al-Ādhān’ and also an updated version from my unpublished treatise ‘Al-Munīr fī Ism Shabbīr’. Mawlānā Khalil kindly obliged and prepared a succinct yet comprehensive easy to read profile of my respected father drawing on from these two sources, along with his personal knowledge, research and communication with my respected father and others.

Following the publication of ‘Maktūbāt Mashāikh’, Mawlānā Khalil suggested it would be useful to translate the profile into English. We therefore requested our very dear friend from Coventry, Mawlānā Ebrahim Noor, may Allāh preserve him, to undertake this task. Mawlānā Ebrahim kindly accepted the request without any hesitation, and the result is this short booklet before you.

May Allāh Almighty reward them in both worlds and make them a beacon of guidance for the residents of the UK and beyond. Āmīn.

Yusuf Shabbir - 6 Jumādā al-Ukhrā 1443 / 9 January 2022

An Introduction to Muftī Shabbir Ahmed Patel Ṣāhib

Respected Name

Name: Shabbir Ahmed ibn Ahmed ibn Ismā‘īl

Family Name: Patel

The beloved father of Muftī Shabbir Ṣāhib had a special relationship with Shaykh al-Islām ‘Allāmah Shabbir Ahmed Ṣāhib ‘Uthmānī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ. Therefore, he also named his son ‘Shabbir Ahmed’.

Date of Birth

Islamic Date: 11th Shawwāl 1376 Hijri

Gregorian Date: 11th May 1957

Place of Birth

Muftī Shabbir Ṣāhib was born in the city of Zomba, the former capital city of Malawi, Africa.

Ancestral Home

Jogwar, district Navsari, Gujrat, India

Foundational Education

Muftī Shabbir Ṣāḥib attained his foundational Islamic education from his father, Haji Ahmed Ṣāḥib رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ in Zomba, Malawi. He then studied the foundational books of Arabic by Ḥājī Bāpu Ṣāḥib رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ and Ḥaḍrat Mawlānā Walī Ṣāḥib رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ.

Journey to Britain

In 1969, when Muftī Shabbir Ṣāḥib was 12 years old, he went to perform Ḥajj with his father. They then travelled to England with the intention of Muftī Shabbir Ṣāḥib memorizing the Qur’ān.

After spending a few months in England, Muftī Shabbir Ṣāḥib’s father returned to Malawi. He left his son in Bolton with his son in law, Mawlānā Hashim Jogwari Ṣāḥib Dāmat Barakātuhu, with the intention of continuing his Islamic education.

Memorisation of the Qur’ān

Muftī Shabbir Ṣāḥib’s brother-in-law, Mawlānā Hashim Jogwari Ṣāḥib Dāmat Barakātuhu at that time was the Imām and Khaṭīb of Masjid Tayyibah in Bolton. Muftī Shabbir Ṣāḥib stayed with him and completed the memorisation of the Qur’ān under his supervision.

The following year, along with the revision of the memorisation of the Qur’ān, Muftī Shabbir Ṣāḥib started to study the foundational books of the Persian language.

Middle Education

In 1975, Muftī Shabbir Ṣāḥib enrolled with the first Madrasa in Europe, established by Shaykh al-Ḥadīth, Ḥaḍrat Mawlānā Yusuf Motala رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ، Darul Uloom al Arabiya al Islamiya, Bury.

These were the initial days of Darul Uloom Bury. Muftī Shabbir Ṣāḥib stayed there for one year and studied many books. The founder of Darul Uloom, Ḥaḍrat Mawlānā Yusuf Motala رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ was Muftī Shabbir Ṣāḥib special teacher. From him, Mufi Shabbir Ṣāḥib studied the following books:

- Hidāyatun Naḥw (some chapters)
- ‘Ilm aṣ-Ṣīghah
- Translation of the Qur’ān
- Al-Mu‘alaqāt al-Sab‘a
- Hidāyah Awwalayn

As well as the above, Muftī Shabbir Ṣāḥib studied ‘Ilm Qirā’at (knowledge of recitation) and Tajwīd from Mawlānā Qārī Ismā‘īl Ṣāḥib Samni رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ.

In 1976, Muftī Shabbir Ṣāḥib travelled to Pakistan and enrolled with the historic centre of knowledge, Jamia Uloom-ul-Islamia, Binoori Town, Karachi. At that time, the student of Imām al-‘Aṣr, ‘Allāmah Anwar Shah Ṣāḥib Kashmīrī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ، the founder of Jamia, ‘Allāmah Sayyad Muḥammad Yūsuf Ṣāḥib Binoori رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ was alive.

Muftī Shabbir Ṣāhib continued in his quest for seeking knowledge very diligently with lots of effort in Jamia. Among his teachers here were the following:

- Ḥaḍrat Mawlānā Ḥabīb al-Allāh Ṣāhib Mukhtar Shahīd رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ
- Ḥaḍrat Mawlānā Muḥammad Ṣāhib رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ
- Ḥaḍrat Mawlānā Anwar Ṣāhib Badakhshāni رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ
- Ḥaḍrat Mawlānā Badī' al-Zamān Ṣāhib رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ

During his time at Jamia, Muftī Shabbir Ṣāhib also attended the Majālis and lessons of ‘Allāmah Sa‘īd Muḥammad Yūsuf Ṣāhib Binoori رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ, where he benefitted greatly.

In 1977, due to ill health, Muftī Shabbir Ṣāhib returned to England from Pakistan. He re-enrolled at Darul Uloom Bury and completed his studies up to ‘Arbī Panjum’ – the fifth year of the Dars Nizāmī syllabus of the ‘Ālimiyyah course.



Figure 1 - Jamia Al Uloom Al Islamia Binoori Town

Advanced Education

In 1978, Muftī Shabbir Ṣāhib travelled to India and enrolled in the famous and historic centre of knowledge, Mazāhir ‘Ulūm, Saharanpur, where he benefitted from many great scholars of the time.

Muftī Shabbir Ṣāhib completed the entire book, Mishkāt al-Maṣābiḥ with Ḥaḍrat Mawlānā Sayyad Muḥammad Salmān Ṣāhib Mazāhirī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ. Jalalayn was with Ḥaḍrat Mawlānā Ya‘qūb Ṣāhib Sahāranpurī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ. Hidāyah Thālith with Ḥaḍrat Mawlānā Sayyad Muḥammad ‘Aqil Ṣāhib Saharāpurī Dāmat Barakātuhu and Hidāyah Rābi‘ with Ḥaḍrat Mawlānā Waqār Ṣāhib Sahāranpurī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ.

After this, in Dawrah Ḥadīth (the final year of the ‘Ālimiyyah Course), Muftī Shabbir Ṣāhib was taught the Ṣāhiḥayn (Ṣāhiḥ al-Bukhārī and Ṣāhiḥ Muslim) and the Mūwaṭṭā of Imām Muḥammad by the Muḥaddith al-‘Aṣr, Ḥaḍrat Mawlānā Muḥammad Yūnus Ṣāhib Jownpūrī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ. Sunan Tirmidhī and Shamā’il Tirmidhī was by Ḥaḍrat Muftī Muḥaddith Ḥusayn Ṣāhib Ujrārwi رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ. Abū Dāwūd by Ḥaḍrat Mawlānā Sayyad Muḥammad ‘Aqil Ṣāhib Sahāranpurī Dāmat Barakātuhu. Sunan Nasā’ī, Mūwaṭṭā of Imām Mālik and part of Ibn Mājah by Ḥaḍrat Mawlānā Muftī ‘Abdul ‘Azīz Ṣāhib رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ and Sharah Ma‘ānī al-Āthār mostly by Ḥaḍrat Muftī Sayyad Muḥammad Yaḥyā’ Ṣāhib Sahāranpurī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ.

Muftī Shabbir Ṣāhib graduated from the Dars Nizāmī (‘Ālimiyyah Course) in 1400 Hijri, corresponding to 1980. In the final year exams of Dawrah Ḥadīth, despite there being 250 students in the class, Muftī Shabbir Ṣāhib came in first position.

Illustrated Companions of Muftī Shabbir Ṣāhib

- Mawlānā Yūsuf Ṣāhib Tankārwi (Shaykh al-Ḥadīth of Dār al-‘Ulūm, Falāḥ Dārayn, Turkeshwar, Gujrat, India)
- Mawlānā ‘Abdul Rashīd ibn Ḥaḍrat Mawlānā ‘Ubaydullāh Ṣāhib Balyāwī (Mudarris at Madrasa Kāshif al-‘Ulūm, Markaz Nizamuddin, Delhi)
- Mawlānā Radīf ur-Raḥmān Ṣāhib Darbhāngwī (Founder and Mudarris of Madrasa Khalīliya, Ratanpur, Dharbāng, Bihar)
- Mawlānā Aḥmad Diyā al-Dīn Ṣāhib Rāmpurī
- Mawlānā Muḥammad Idrīs Ṣāhib A‘zamī



Figure 2 - Mazahir Uloom - Saharanpur

Iftā' & Takhaṣṣuṣ in Fiqh

After graduating from the 'Ālimiyyah Course, Muftī Shabbir Ṣāhib enrolled on the Iftā' course in Mazāhir 'Ulūm, Sahāranpur. He was taught Durr Mukhtār and Rasm al-Muftī by Ḥaḍrat Muftī Muẓẓaffar Ḥussain Ṣāhib Ujrārwi رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ. Sirāji fil-Mīrāth by Ḥaḍrat Mawlānā Waqār Ṣāhib Sahāranpurī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ and Fatāwā writing by Ḥaḍrat Muftī Sayyad Muḥammad Yaḥyā' Ṣāhib Sahāranpurī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ.

Muftī Shabbir Ṣāhib also benefitted from Faqīh al-Ummat, Ḥaḍrat Muftī Maḥmūd Ḥasan Ṣāhib Gangohi رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ. During Muftī Shabbir Ṣāhib's time studying Iftā', some of his notable companions were:

- Ḥaḍrat Mawlānā Muḥammad Yūsuf Ṣāhib Tankārwi
- Muftī Muḥammad ibn Ḥaḍrat Muftī Yaḥyā' Ṣāhib
- Muftī Muḥammad Ghulām Ṣāhib

Ijāzah in Ḥadīth

Apart from his respected teachers, Muftī Shabbir Ṣāhib also obtained Ijāzah in Ḥadīth from the following 'Ulamā' and Mashā'ikh:

- Quṭub al-Aqtāb, Shaykh al-Ḥadīth Ḥaḍrat Mawlānā Muḥammad Zakariyyā Ṣāhib Khāndehlawī Muhājir Madanī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ

Muftī Shabbir Ṣāhib obtained Taḥrīrī Ijāzah (written) from Ḥaḍrat Shaykh رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ. Additionally, in 1981, when Ḥaḍrat Shaykh رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ came to Darul Uloom Bury for the completion ceremony of Ṣāḥīḥ al-Bukhārī, Muftī Shabbir Ṣāhib recited the Ḥadīth from 'Musalsal bil-Awwaliyah'

including the Isnād (chains of narration). After this Ḥaḍrat Shaykh رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ said the following words:

وَأَنَا أَقُولُ: أَوَّلُ حَدِيثٍ سَمِعْتُ مِنْ شَيْخِي وَأُسْتَاذِي مَوْلَانَا خَلِيلِ أَحْمَدِ

With these words, Ḥaḍrat Shaykh al-Ḥaḍīth رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ used to grant permission of the Ḥaḍīth bil-Awwaliyah.

- Faqīh al-Ummat, Ḥaḍrat Muftī Maḥmūd Ḥasan Ṣāhib Gangohi رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ (Former head Muftī at Darul ‘Ulūm Deoband)
- Ḥaḍrat Mawlānā Aḥmad ‘Alī Ṣāhib Sūrtī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ (Leicester, England)
- ‘Allāmah Qāḍī Muḥammad Murshid ibn ‘Ābidīn رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ (Damascus Syria)
- Shaykh ‘Abd al-Raḥmān ibn ‘Abd al-Ḥayy Katānī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ (Fez, Morocco)
- Shaykh ‘Abdullāh Talīdī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ (Tangier, Morocco)
- Shaykh Muḥammad Nūr al-Dīn ibn Muḥammad Ṣāliḥ al-Khaṭīb Damascus, Syria)
- Shaykh Muḥammad Muṭī‘ al-Ḥāfiḥ (Damascus, Syria)
- Shaykh Qāsim ibn Ibrāhīm ibn Ḥasan al-Ḥusaynī (Makkah)
- Ḥaḍrat Mawlānā Iftikhār al-Ḥasan Ṣāhib Khāndehlavī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ (Khandhala, India)
- Ḥaḍrat Mawlānā ‘Abdullāh Ṣāhib Kapodrawi رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ (Former Principal of Darul ‘Ulūm Falāḥ Dārayn, Turkeṣhwar, Gujrat India)
- Ḥaḍrat Mawlānā Ismā‘īl Wādī Ṣāhib رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ (Blackburn, England)
- Ḥaḍrat Mawlānā Ḥasan Ṣāhib Taī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ (Walsall, England)

- Shaykh al-Islām Ḥaḍrat Mawlānā Muftī Muḥammad Taqī‘
‘Uthmānī Ṣāhib Dāmat Barakātuhu (Karachi, Pakistan)
- Ḥaḍrat Mawlānā Ya‘qūb Ṣāhib Qāsmī Dāmat Barakātuhu
(Dewsbury, England)
- Ḥaḍrat Mawlānā Mazhar ibn Ḥakīm Akhtar Ṣāhib Dāmat
Barakātuhu (Karachi, Pakistan)
- Shaykh Niẓām ibn Muḥammad Ṣāliḥ Ya‘qūbī (Bahrain)
- Shaykh Ḥāmid ibn Aḥmad ibn Akram al-Bukhārī Ḥafīzahullāh
(Madīnah)

At this point, I find it relevant to mention that in the year 1439 Hijri, corresponding to 2018, Shaykh Ḥāmid ibn Aḥmad ibn Akram al-Bukhārī Ḥafīzahullāh travelled to Britain where he delivered lessons in Ḥadīth in various town and cities, as well as attending events where he granted Ijāzah in Ḥadīth. On the 29th of Dhul Qa‘dah corresponding to the 11th of August, a special event was held for ‘Ulamā and students at Masjid Hira in Dewsbury. The recitation of Al-Awā’il Al-Sunbuliyyah took place. During this auspicious occasion, Shaykh Ḥāmid made an announcement saying, “Can the ‘Shaykhayn of Ḥadīth’ of Britain come forward to me”. By Shaykhayn, he meant Ḥaḍrat Muftī Shabbir Ahmed Ṣāhib and Ḥaḍrat Mawlānā Ayyūb Ṣāhib Sūrti Dāmat Barakātuhumā.

Teaching

Immediately after graduating from the Iftā' course in 1981, Muftī Shabbir Ṣāhib returned to Darul Uloom Bury and started to teach. Under the supervision of the founder and Principal of Darul Uloom, Shaykh al-Ḥadīth Ḥaḍrat Mawlānā Yusuf Motala Ṣāhib رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ، Mufti Shabbir Ṣāhib taught most of books from the Dars Nizāmī Syllabus. From the books of Ḥadīth, from 1981 he taught the following:

- Complete Ṣāhiḥ Muslim – 10 consecutive years
- Complete Sunan Tirmidhī – 25 years
- Various chapters of Ṣāhiḥ al-Bukhārī – 10 years

During the 10 years of teaching Ṣāhiḥ al-Bukhārī, Mufti Shabbir Ṣāhib taught the entire book in detail, hence he has the honour of teaching the complete book.

Muftī Shabbir Ṣāhib also taught the following books of Ḥadīth:

- Sunan ibn Mājah
- Muwaṭṭayn
- Sharaḥ Ma'ānī al-Athār
- Mishkāt al-Maṣābiḥ

During my time studying at Darul Uloom Bury, between the years 1989 and 1995, I was fortunate to study the following books by Muftī Shabbir Ṣāhib:

- Translation of The Noble Qur'ān – second half
- Kanz al-Daqa'iq

- Jalalayn – first volume
- Mishkāt al-Maṣābīḥ - second volume
- Sunan Tirmidhī
- Muwaṭṭā’ Imām Muḥammad

One of the special characteristics of his lessons is that he refrains from teaching in excessive detail in the beginning of the year and negligence in the latter part. All the books are taught from the beginning to end, at a consistent pace ensuring they are completed during the academic year, in a detailed and evidential manner, with due justice given to all chapters of the books.

The Establishing of Darul Iftā’ in Darul Uloom Bury and being appointed Head Muftī

After Muftī Shabbir Ṣāhib graduated, Shaykh al-Ḥadīth Ḥaḍrat Mawlānā Yusuf Motala Ṣāhib رَحِمَهُ اللهُ established a Darul Iftā’ in Darul Uloom Bury. In 1981, by means of an advert, an announcement was made throughout England, that Muslims should now utilize the Darul Iftā’ in answering all of their queries related to their day-to-day rulings regarding acts of worship and transactions.

An excerpt from this advert is included below, which illustrates the trust and pride Shaykh al-Ḥadīth, Ḥaḍrat Mawlānā Yusuf Motala Ṣāhib رَحِمَهُ اللهُ had in Muftī Shabbir Ahmed Ṣāhib.

“Darul Uloom has acknowledged the need for this requirement and chosen a talented student of knowledge who has acquired a secondary education in this country, memorized the Qur’ān and studied Naḥw,

Ṣarf, Fiqh, Adab etc by the teachers of the Darul Uloom. For further education, he was sent to Asia's famous and great centre of knowledge, Mazāhir Uloom, Saharanpur, where he studied Ḥadīth for 2 years and obtained a Sanad. After consulting the teachers of Darul Uloom, he lengthened his stay in Saharanpur and completed the Iftā' course and obtained a Sanad as a Muftī. After graduating from the 'Ālim and Iftā' courses in Mazāhir Uloom, with the praise of Allāh, he is now teaching Ḥadīth in Darul Uloom Bury and will be answering the forthcoming questions. His dear name is Muftī Shabbir Ahmed Ṣāhib. He can read and write in Urdu, Gujrati and English, therefore readers are requested to turn to Muftī Ṣāhib in answering their religious queries."

Alḥamdulillāh, Muftī Ṣāhib fulfilled this responsibility fittingly and remained as the Head Mufti at Darul Uloom Bury for approximately 35 years. During this time, he also taught the students in Darul Iftā'. In this long duration, the number of written rulings (Fatāwā') is in excess of 2,500. May Allāh **سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى** make a means of arranging and publishing these great rulings.

An example of Muftī Shabbir Ṣāhib's deep understanding and deliberation in Islamic rulings can be found from an incident which occurred in 1403 Hijri, corresponding to 1984. The Jamiatul 'Ulamā' of Britain held an event to resolve the issue of fixing a time for Ṣubḥ Ṣādiq, the end time of Suḥūr. To aid in this judicial exercise, they requested the help of Faqīh al-Ummah, Ḥaḍrat Mawlānā Muftī Maḥmūd Ḥasan Ṣāhib Gangohi **رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ**. Apart from the 'Ulamā' of the UK, more than 100 members from various Islamic Societies also attended the event.

A ruling was agreed among the ‘Ulamā’. As well as Faqīh al-Ummah, Ḥaḍrat Mawlānā Muftī Maḥmūd Ḥasan Ṣāhib Gangohi رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ، Ḥaḍrat Mawlānā Ya‘qūb Ṣāhib Qāsmī Dāmat Barakātuhu and Ḥaḍrat Muftī Maqbūl Aḥmad Ṣāhib رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ، the signature of Muftī Shabbir Ṣāhib is also present on the ruling.

The Position of Principal and Head Teacher at Darul Uloom Bury

Under the instruction of the founder of Darul Uloom Bury, Ḥaḍrat Mawlānā Yusuf Motala Ṣāhib رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ، Muftī Shabbir Ṣāhib spent more than 15 years in the position of Principal and Head Teacher.



Figure 3 - Darul Uloom Bury

Jamiatul-Ilm Wal-Huda

After spending a long-time teaching in Darul Uloom Bury, in 2014, Muftī Shabbir Ṣāḥib accepted an offer to teach at a Madrasa in his home town of Blackburn, which had been founded by one of his students, Muftī Abdus Samad Ṣāḥib Manubari.

From 2014 until the present time, as well as teaching Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī, Sunan Nasā’ī, Sunan Tirmidhī and Sunan Abū Dāwūd, Muftī Shabbir Ṣāḥib has also taught Fatāwā’ Nuwaysi in Darul Iftā’.



Figure 4 - Jamiatul Ilm Wal Huda, Blacburn

Dars of the Musnad of Imām Aḥmad

In the month of Ramaḍān 1441 Hijri (as the Covid-19 pandemic intensified), corresponding to April 2020, upon the request of many students, rather their persistence, Muftī Shabbir Ṣāhib commenced lessons of the Musnad of Imām Aḥmad. According to my knowledge, this was the first time that the complete Musnad of Imām Aḥmad has been taught in Britain. These lessons were also streamed online to benefit those who could not attend in person.

On this occasion, apart from the local scholars and students, scholars, and students from all over the world benefitted from Muftī Shabbir Ṣāhib's knowledge. The lessons continued for an entire year, and in the month of Ramaḍān 1442 Hijri, corresponding to April 2021, they were completed, Alḥamdulillāh.

May Allāh **سُبْحَانَكَ وَتَعَالَى** accept all the efforts of Muftī Shabbir Ṣāhib, Āmin.

Reformative Relationships and Khilāfah

The first Shaykh of Ḥaḍrat Muftī Ṣāhib was Quṭub al-Aqṭāb, Shaykh al-Ḥadīth, Ḥaḍrat Mawlānā Muḥammad Zakariyya Ṣāhib Khāndehlawī, Muḥājir Madanī **رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ**. Ḥaḍrat Muftī Ṣāhib took Bay'ah on his hand in the year 1980, in Faisalabad, Pakistan, during his stay in the company of the Shaykh, during the month of Ramaḍān.

After the demise of Ḥaḍrat Shaykh **رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ**, Muftī Shabbir Ṣāhib then turned to his teacher and patron, Quṭub of Britain, Shaykh al-Ḥadīth, Ḥaḍrat Mawlānā Yūsuf Motala Ṣāhib **رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ** and continued his spiritual journey. After completing the remaining stages of personal progress, very soon, Muftī Shabbir Ṣāhib was given both Khilāfah and Ijāzah.

Muftī Shabbir Ṣāhib is counted as one of the early Khalīfahs of Shaykh al-Ḥadīth, Haḍrat Mawlānā Yūsuf Motala Ṣāhib رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ.

Muftī Shabbir Ṣāhib’s Shaykh and guide, Haḍrat Mawlānā Yūsuf Motala Ṣāhib رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ, whilst granting him Ijāzah and Khilāfah by means of a letter, wrote the following:

“Last year, in the blessed month (of Ramaḍān), on the occasion of my journey to Madīnah Munawwarah, during my stay, while I was presenting myself at the Rawḍah Aqdas, may there be thousands and thousands of reverences upon its resident, I presented in the court of Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ the following, ‘O Rasūlullāh! (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) for those people who have a reformative relationship with me, I do not want them to be deprived due to my inability.’ I was given an indication towards some capable people, and you were also among them. Therefore, having reliance on Allāh, I am giving you permission for Bay‘ah. May Allāh سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى make the confirmation from there, a means of blessing for you and may he give you success in both knowledge and spirituality, and through you, may he make the benefit of the Silsila (chain) become common and complete.”

Muftī Shabbir Ṣāhib’s Shaykh and guide, Shaykh al-Ḥadīth, Haḍrat Mawlānā Yūsuf Motala Ṣāhib رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ had such a high level of trust in him that for many years, in the blessed month of Ramaḍān when many pilgrims used to go to perform ‘Umrah from Darul Uloom Bury, he was made the Amīr (leader) of the group. Also, for a long duration, upon the command of his Shaykh, he spent the entire month of Ramaḍān in I’tikāf in the Masjid in Darul Uloom Bury and in the absence of his guide, he cared for and looked after the Mutawassilīn and the Mu‘takifīn.

The Special Relationship with Muḥaddith ‘Aṣr, Shaykh al-Ḥadīth, Haḍrat Mawlānā Muḥammad Yūnus Ṣāhib Jownpūrī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ

Muḥaddith ‘Aṣr, Shaykh al-Ḥadīth, Haḍrat Mawlānā Muḥammad Yūnus Ṣāhib جَوْنپُورِي رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ not only had a special relationship with Muftī Ṣāhib, but also had the highest level of love for him. In Mazāhir Uloom Saharanpur, during his days as a student, apart from lesson times, Mufti Shabbir Ṣāhib spent a lot of his free time in the company and service of Shaykh Yūnus Ṣāhib رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ, resulting in him benefitting greatly from his knowledge and spirituality.

After completing Dars Nizāmī, Muftī Shabbir Ṣāhib made many journeys to India from Britain, with the sole intention of meeting and visiting his beloved Shaykh Yūnus Ṣāhib رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ. During his stay, on more than one occasion, along with his family, he arranged and organized the personal library of Shaykh Yūnus Ṣāhib رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ. Apart from his visits, Mufti Shabbir Ṣāhib kept his connection strong with Shaykh Yūnus Ṣāhib رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ by means of writing many letters to him.

Muftī Shabbir Ṣāhib was very loved by Shaykh Yūnus Ṣāhib رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ. He was affectionate and always obligated towards him. An indication of his love and affection can be found in the letters sent by Shaykh Yūnus Ṣāhib رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ.

In one of the letters, Shaykh Yūnus Ṣāhib رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ wrote:

“You have said that you keep remembering my favours upon you, what were my favours? It is your favours upon me that I keep remembering

and keep your remembrance fresh each time. Now the distance between us is from the east to the west. When will we meet?”

In another letter, Shaykh Yūnus Ṣāḥib رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيَّ expressed his affection for Muftī Shabbir Ṣāḥib in the following words:

“My beloved, I love you with all my heart and body and I remain eager to listen about your benefit and success. Keep on writing regularly. If there is a delay from me, then associate this with either me being ill or extremely busy. My habit is that once I have established a relationship, I do not break it. Tonight, I saw in a dream that I was lying on a ‘chār pā’ī’ (simple four-footed bed) and you are sitting on the floor. On your lips, there is something like a straw and I am cleaning it with my fingers. When I woke up in the morning, I thought when will I be able to meet you again. I am in Saharanpur, and you are flying to London on Wednesday, 28th of Sha‘bān.”

In another letter, Shaykh Yūnus Ṣāḥib رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيَّ wrote:

“You are not that type of person who can be forgotten easily, I think that I will remember you for my whole life”

Apart from the honour of being a student and spending time in the service of Shaykh Yūnus Ṣāḥib رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيَّ, Muftī Shabbir Ṣāḥib also has Ijāzah and Khilāfah from Shaykh Yūnus Ṣāḥib رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيَّ.

Notable Students of Muftī Shabbir Ṣāhib

Over approximately 40 years of teaching, countless people have had the honour of being students of Muftī Shabbir Ṣāhib. Rather the majority of Scholars in Britain are students of Muftī Shabbir Ṣāhib, either directly or indirectly. Among his notable students are the following:

- Haḍrat Mawlānā Muftī Abdus Samad Ṣāhib Manubari (Founder and Shaykh al-Ḥadīth of Jamiatul-Ilm Wal-Huda, Blackburn)
- Haḍrat Muftī Ṣūfī Tahir Wadi Ṣāhib (Head Muftī and Teacher of Ḥadīth, Darul Uloom Bury)
- Haḍrat Mawlānā Abdul Raheem Limbada Ṣāhib (Founder and Shaykh al-Ḥadīth of Raheemi Academy, Bolton)
- Haḍrat Mawlānā Salim Dhorat Ṣāhib (Founder and Shaykh al-Ḥadīth of Islamic Dawah Academy Leicester)
- Haḍrat Muftī Ibrahim Raja Ṣāhib (Teacher of Tafsīr & Ḥadīth, Darul Uloom Bury)
- Haḍrat Mawlānā Dr Abdul Rahman Mangera Ṣāhib (Teacher of Ḥadīth, Imam Zakariya Academy, London)
- Haḍrat Mawlānā Dr Mahmood Chandia Ṣāhib (Teacher of Ḥadīth, Darul Uloom Bolton)
- Haḍrat Mawlānā Ismail Raja Ṣāhib (Principal & Teacher of Ḥadīth, Jamiatul Imam Muhammad Zakariya, Bradford)
- Haḍrat Mawlānā Muhammad Seedat Ṣāhib (Founder and Chairman of Ummah Welfare Trust, Bolton)
- Haḍrat Mawlānā Muftī Saiful Islam Ṣāhib (Principal and Teacher of Ḥadīth Jamiah Khatamun Nabiyeen, Bradford)
- Haḍrat Mawlānā Riyadh ul Haq Ṣāhib (Founder and Teacher of Ḥadīth, Al Kawthar Academy, Leicester)

- Haḍrat Mawlānā Ahmed Ali Ṣāhib (Founder and Principal, Al Ma'hadul Islami, Bradford)
- Haḍrat Mawlānā Azad Ali Ṣāhib (Teacher of Ḥadīth, Madinatul Uloom, Kidderminster)
- Haḍrat Mawlānā Yunus Dudhwala Ṣāhib (Chairman of Halal Monitoring Committee)
- Haḍrat Mawlānā Habibur Rahman Rauf Ṣāhib (Imām and Khaṭīb of Jami Masjid, Edinburgh, Scotland)
- Haḍrat Mawlānā Dr Mansoor Ali Ṣāhib (Cardiff University)

Literary Contributions

As well as being bestowed with the power of language and speech by Allāh سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى, Muftī Shabbir Ṣāhib has also been gifted with the ability of writing. He has written books in Arabic, Urdu, and English, some of which are as follows:

1. Kitāb al-Arbaʿīn fī al-Adhān (Published with its commentary in Arabic called Tanshīṭ al-Adhān min Kitāb al-Arbaʿīn fī al-Adhān by Shaykh Yusuf Shabbir Ahmed)
2. Kitāb al-Arbaʿīn fī Faḍā'il al-Shām wa Ahlihā (Arabic with English translation and commentary)
3. Kitāb al-Arbaʿīn fī Faḍā'il al-Nikāḥ (Arabic)
4. Kitāb al-Arbaʿīn fī Ḥifẓ al-Qur'ān (Arabic)
5. Al-falaq Idhā lam Yaghībū al-Shafaq (Urdu)
6. Lamʿāt al-Labīb fī Fuḍulāt al-Ḥabīb صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ (Urdu)
7. Sharḥ Jāmīʿ al-Tirmidhī (Abwāb al-Adhān) (English)
8. Maktūbāt Mashā'ikh (This book is a collection of letters written to Mufti Shabbir Ṣāhib from elders such as Shaykh al-Ḥadīth Haḍrat Mawlānā Muḥammad Zakariyya Ṣāhib Khandehlawī)

Muhājir Madanī رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ، Faqīh al-Ummah Ḥaḍrat Muftī Maḥmūd Ḥasan Ṣāhib Gangohi رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ، Muḥaddith ‘Aṣr Ḥaḍrat Mawlānā Muḥammad Yūnus Ṣāhib Jownpūrī رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ and Shaykh al-Ḥadīth Ḥaḍrat Mawlānā Yusuf Motala Ṣāhib رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ

Journeys for Religious Purposes

As well as his contributions to teaching, Mufti Shabbir Ṣāhib has travelled to many countries with the intention of serving humanity, propagation and spreading the message of Islām.

On these journeys, apart from giving speeches on general advice, Mufti Shabbir Ṣāhib has also delivered lessons in Ḥadīth, including the opening, and closing lessons of the books of Ḥadīth. He guides and advises the Muslim community in rulings on many subjects, including religious, social, financial, trading and transactions, and many others. Up to now, Muftī Shabbir Ṣāhib has travelled to the following countries:

- Barbados
- Canada
- Egypt
- Germany
- India
- Indonesia
- Jordan
- Macedonia
- Malawi
- Malaysia
- Morocco
- Pakistan

- Palestine
- Qatar
- Spain
- Sri Lanka
- Switzerland
- Syria
- The United Arab Emirates
- Trinidad
- Tunisia
- Turkey
- Zambia


In this way, as well as the people of Britain, many other Muslims all over the world have opportunities to benefit from the knowledge and guidance of Mufti Shabbir Ṣāhib.

In recent years, Muftī Shabbir Ṣāhib has a practice of spending the month of Ramaḍān and the days of Ḥajj in the Ḥaramayn Sharifayn with his family.

Many of Mufti Shabbir Ṣāhib's articles, rulings, lessons, and other writings can be found on www.islamicportal.co.uk.

In conclusion, I supplicate to Allāh سُبْحَانَكَ وَتَعَالَى that he blesses Mufti Shabbir Ṣāhib with a long life and that he continues to benefit, especially the people of Britain, and the whole world with his knowledge and wisdom. Amīn O Lord of the Worlds.

Khalil Ahmed Kazi - Khadim of Madina Academy, Dewsbury, England.



A Biography of Muḥaddith Kabīr
Muftī Shabbir Ahmed Patel Ṣāhib
Dāmat Barakātuḥu

www.islamicportal.co.uk

