

A Brief Biography of My Honoured Teacher

*Hazrat Maulana Abdul Rauf Sahib Lajpuri
(May his shadow be lengthened)*

*Khalifa of Maseeh-ul-Ummat Hazrat Maulana
Muhammad Maseehullah Khan Sahib Jalalabadi R.A.*

Former Imam & Khatib at Jame Masjid, Batley, England

*Compiled By:
Mawlana Khalil Ahmad Kazi
Madina Academy, Dewsbury, England*

www.madinaacademy.org.uk

In the name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful.

A Brief Biography of My Honoured Teacher Hazrat Maulana Abdul Rauf Sahib Lajpuri (May his shadow be lengthened)

Across the corners of the world, there still exist such chosen servants of Allah whose entire lives have been devoted to religious, reformative and missionary services. Among these blessed personalities, a prominent figure is my honoured teacher, Hazrat Maulana Abdul Rauf Sahib Lajpuri (may his shadow be lengthened), who has been sincerely engaged in academic and spiritual services on the soil of England for more than fifty years. The servants of Allah continues to benefit from his knowledge and wisdom, and in particular, many scholars and community leaders turn to him for guidance.

Birth

The blessed birth of Hazrat Maulana Abdul Rauf Sahib (may his shadow be lengthened) took place on the 24th of Safar 1370 AH, corresponding to 5 December 1950, in the scholarly town of Lajpur situated in the Surat district of Gujarat, India. His family is renowned for its scholarly lineage, not only in the town of Lajpur but also in the surrounding areas.

His respected father, Hazrat Maulana Abdul Quddus Sahib RA, was not only an elder of the village but also a religious scholar and one of the eminent Khulafa of Hazrat Maulana Abdul Rahim Sahib Mujaddidi RA. His grandfather, Hazrat Maulana Muhammad Yusuf Sahib RA, was also a capable author, a proficient religious scholar and a spiritual beneficiary of his own maternal grandfather, Hazrat Maulana Shah Sufi Sulaiman Sahib RA.

Initial Religious and Modern Education

When he reached the age of understanding, he was admitted to the Madrasah Islamia in Lajpur where he began learning the Urdu language alongside his religious studies. He also started attending the local government Gujarati school.

Intermediate Education

Upon completing his Urdu education, his respected father admitted him to Darul Uloom Falah-e-Darain, Tarkeshwar, Surat district, in the year 1385 AH (corresponding to 1965) for further studies. During his two-year stay there, he studied the foundational texts of Persian and Arabic. His famous teachers at Falah-e-Darain include Hazrat Maulana Abdullah Sahib Kapodrawi RA, Hazrat Maulana Abdul Hai Sahib Bismillah RA, Hazrat Mufti Mohiuddin Sahib Barodawi RA and Hazrat Qari Ramadan Sahib Mewati RA.

Following this, he gained admission to Jamia Husainia, Rander, Surat district. Staying there for one year, he studied books of the second level of Arabic. Among

his famous teachers at Jamia Husainia were Hazrat Maulana Hashim Sahib Bukhari RA, Hazrat Mufti Ismail Wadiwala Sahib RA and Sheikh-ul-Hadith Hazrat Maulana Islam-ul-Haq Sahib RA.

Higher Education and Graduation

After studying at Jamia Husainia for one year, he gained admission to India's famous and ancient religious institution, Jamia Islamia Talimuddin, Dabhel, Navsari district, and remained there until the completion of his studies (Dars-e-Nizami) in 1393 AH (corresponding to 1973).

In the final year of Hadith studies (Dawra-e-Hadith), he studied Bukhari Sharif, Tirmidhi Sharif and Shama'il Tirmidhi under Sheikh-ul-Hadith Hazrat Maulana Muhammad Ayub Sahib Azami RA; Muslim Sharif under Hazrat Maulana Ibrahim Sahib Palanpuri RA; whilst Nasai Sharif and Ibn Majah Sharif were studied under Hazrat Maulana Hakim Muhammad Hamdullah Sahib Lucknowi RA; Abu Dawud Sharif under Hazrat Maulana Syed Abrar Ahmad Sahib Dehlavi RA; Tahawi Sharif and Muwatta Imam Malik under Hazrat Mufti Ismail Sahib Kacholvi (may his blessings last); and Muwatta Imam Muhammad under Hazrat Maulana Muhammad Ibrahim Sahib Patni (may his shadow be lengthened). In addition, he had the honour of studying under Hazrat Qari Hafizur Rahman Sahib Azami RA and the Mufti of Gujarat, Hazrat Mufti Ahmad Sahib Khanpuri (may his blessings last).

Stay at Darul Uloom Deoband

After graduating from Jamia Islamia Talimuddin, Dabhel, he travelled to Darul Uloom Deoband and stayed there for one year, benefiting from some of the foremost scholars of that era.

During his stay at Darul Uloom, he had the honour of studying the initial chapters of volume 1 and a few pages of volume 2 of Bukhari Sharif under Hakim-ul-Islam Hazrat Maulana Qari Muhammad Tayyib Sahib RA; whilst the remaining chapters of volume 1 of Bukhari Sharif were read under Hazrat Maulana Sharif-ul-Hasan Sahib Deobandi RA; volume 2 of Bukhari Sharif under Faqih-ul-Ummat Hazrat Mufti Mahmood Hasan Sahib Gangohi RA; volume 1 of Muslim Sharif under Hazrat Maulana Fakhr-ul-Hasan Sahib Moradabadi RA; volume 2 under Hazrat Maulana Abdul Ahad Sahib Deobandi RA; the complete Tirmidhi Sharif under Hazrat Maulana Sharif-ul-Hasan Sahib Deobandi RA; volume 1 of Abu Dawud Sharif under Hazrat Maulana Husain Ahmed Sahib Bihari RA; volume 2 under Hazrat Maulana Mairaj-ul-Haq Sahib Deobandi RA; Nasai Sharif under Hazrat Maulana Muhammad Naim Sahib RA; Ibn Majah Sharif under Hazrat Maulana Muhammad Salim Sahib Qasmi RA; Muwatta Imam Malik under Hazrat Mufti Nizamuddin Sahib Azami RA; Muwatta Imam Muhammad under Hazrat Maulana Anzar Shah Sahib Kashmiri RA; Shama'il Tirmidhi under Hazrat Maulana Mairaj-ul-Haq Sahib Deobandi RA; and Tahawi Sharif under Hazrat Maulana Naseer Ahmad Khan Sahib RA.

He graduated from Darul Uloom Deoband with distinction in 1394 AH, corresponding to 1974.

Authorisations (Ijazaat) in Hadith

In addition to the authorisation in Hadith from his teachers, he has received authorisation from several leading scholars, amongst whom were the following distinguished scholars:

- Sheikh-ul-Hadith Hazrat Maulana Muhammad Zakariyya Sahib Kandhlawi Muhajir Madni RA
- Hazrat Maulana Iftikhar-ul-Hasan Sahib Kandhlawi RA
- Hazrat Maulana Saleemullah Khan Sahib RA
- Hazrat Maulana Muhammad Yunus Sahib Jaunpuri RA
- Hazrat Maulana Ahmad Ali Sahib Lajpuri RA
- The Mufti of Gujarat, Hazrat Mufti Abdul Rahim Sahib Lajpuri RA
- Sheikh-ul-Islam Taqi Sahib Usmani (may his blessings last)
- Hazrat Maulana Ubaidullah bin Mufti Hasan Sahib Amritsari RA
- Sheikh As'ad al-Sagirji al-Dimashqi RA
- Sheikh Umar al-Nashuqi al-Dimashqi (may Allah protect him)

Pledge of Allegiance (Bay'ah) and Reformative Connection

He initially connected himself to Hazrat Sheikh Maulana Muhammad Zakariyya Sahib Kandhlawi Muhajir Madni RA and maintained a reformative connection with him through written correspondence. He had completed only some stages of the spiritual path (suluk) when his spiritual mentor and guide passed away. After his demise, he turned to Maseeh-ul-Ummat Hazrat Maulana Muhammad Maseehullah Khan Sahib Jalalabadi RA — the eminent Khalifa of Hakim-ul-Ummat Hazrat Maulana Ashraf Ali Sahib Thanvi RA. Whilst traversing the remaining stages of the spiritual path, he was blessed with authorisation (Ijazah and Khilafah) in a very short span of time.

Teaching and Training Services

In 1395 AH (corresponding to 1975), he arrived in the United Kingdom from India. Initially, he was appointed as Deputy Imam and Teacher at Masjid Quba in the city of Bradford. A few months later, he moved to the Batley area, located approximately ten miles from Bradford. He was appointed as Imam, Khatib and Teacher at the Jumma Masjid of Batley. He remained associated with this mosque with complete sincerity for over forty years. During this period, along with the responsibilities of Imamat (leading daily Salah) and delivering sermons, he excellently performed the duty of guiding the community and educating and nurturing the youth of the community.

During this long period, more than five hundred students studied various books under him, honouring themselves as his students. Among them are many students who later acquired further education in Arabic institutions (Madaris), became qualified as scholars (Alim and Fadil) and are currently performing religious and community services in their respective locations.

Under the supervision of Jame Masjid Batley, he initiated a blessed weekly lecture series on Imam Tirmidhi's book *Al-Shama'il al-Muhammadiyah* — widely known as Shama'il Tirmidhi. Following its completion, he currently delivers lectures on Imam Bukhari's book *Al-Adab al-Mufrad*. These lectures possess a distinguished status and a unique style wherein, besides students and scholars, the general public from far and near also regularly participate in large numbers, benefiting from his knowledge and spiritual blessings.

At this point, I deem it appropriate to reproduce a message from the Mufti of Gujarat, Sheikh-ul-Hadith Hazrat Mufti Ahmad Sahib Khanpuri (may his blessings last), which he sent to his accomplished student, Hazrat Maulana Abdul Rauf Sahib (may his shadow be lengthened), on the occasion of the inauguration of the *Al-Adab al-Mufrad* lecture series:

*Peace be upon you, and the mercy of Allah and His blessings.
May Allah Almighty bless the lecture series you have started on
Al-Adab al-Mufrad, and may Allah Almighty enrich you, the listeners,
and everyone associated with it with the blessings, fruits, benefits
and light (nur) of the Hadith lectures.*

May Allah grant it acceptance in His presence.

*I pray from the bottom of my heart that Allah Almighty makes it a source of
elevation in ranks for you, and please pray for me as well.*

Peace be upon you, and the mercy of Allah and His blessings.

4 Rabi al-Thani 1431 AH | March 2010

Teaching, Guidance and Spiritual Advice

In 1431 AH, corresponding to 2010, Hazrat Maulana Abdul Rauf Sahib (may his shadow be lengthened) retired from the responsibilities of formal Imamah to focus entirely on the guidance and spiritual instruction of the community. A series of his reformative speeches and spiritual gatherings (Majalis) commenced, in which his associates and seekers of the spiritual path participate, cultivating love for Allah and His Messenger ﷺ whilst traversing the stages of spiritual development. Among those attending these gatherings is a large number of students of sacred knowledge and scholars.

In addition to this, during the blessed month of Ramadan, along with daily routines, his reformative sermons are broadcast, through which thousands of Muslims benefit.

Books & Publications

A substantial volume of the spiritual discourses of Hazrat Maulana Abdul Rauf Sahib (may his shadow be lengthened) has been printed and published under the title *Faizan-e-Abdul Rauf*. Some discourses have been translated into English and published in various magazines. In addition, his written works include the following:

- *Ibadat aur Akhlaq ki Ahem Baatein* (Important Matters of Worship and Etiquette)
- *Roshni ke Minare* (Lighthouses of Guidance)
- *Fazail-e-Salam aur iski Hikmatein* (The Virtues of Salaam and Its Wisdom)
- *Aasan Hajj-o-Umrah* (Easy Hajj and Umrah)
- *Amal Mukhtasar aur Sawaab Ziyada* (Minimal Effort and Abundant Reward)
- *Salat-o-Salam ma Fazail-e-Makkah-o-Madinah* (Prayers and Salutations with the Virtues of Makkah and Madinah)
- *Walidain aur Aulaad ka Rishta aur iske Baahmi Huqooq* (The Relationship Between Parents and Children and Their Mutual Rights)
- *Al-Ad'iyyah al-Nafi'ah* (Beneficial Supplications)

Fazl-ul-Bari fi Dars-il-Bukhari

A long time ago, the lectures on Bukhari Sharif by Maseeh-ul-Ummat Hazrat Maulana Muhammad Maseehullah Khan Sahib Jalalabadi RA were published by his accomplished student, Hazrat Mufti Naseer Ahmad Sahib RA, under the title *Fazl-ul-Bari fi Dars-il-Bukhari*. However, within a few years of publication, this book became unavailable. Hazrat Maulana Abdul Rauf Sahib (may his blessings last) obtained an old copy containing the valuable lectures of his spiritual master. He arranged for its republication in four well-produced volumes with additional lectures, cross-references (Takhreejaat) and beneficial annotations (Hawashi Nafi'ah), playing a significant role in making it accessible once again to scholars and students of sacred knowledge.

In conclusion, I pray that Allah Almighty grants blessings in the life of my honoured teacher, Hazrat Maulana Abdul Rauf Sahib (may his shadow be lengthened), accepts all his endeavours and continues to allow the Muslim Ummah to benefit from his spirituality and blessings. Ameen.

*“I love the righteous though I am not from among them,
perhaps through them, I may attain intercession.”*

And may the peace and blessings of Allah be upon His noble Messenger,
and upon his entire family and all his companions.

وآخر دعوانا أن الحمد لله رب العالمين
