



THE MAQAAM OF KHWAJA GHAREEB NAWAAZ

Radiallahu Ta'ala Anh



Hazrat Khwaja Ghareeb Nawaaz Khwaja Moinuddeen Chishti Ajmeri (Radiallahu Ta'ala Anh) was closely related to Huzoor Ghaus-e-Azam (Radiallahu Ta'ala Anh) and both of these illustrious personalities hailed from the same noble Ahle Bait. Hazrat Khwaja Ghareeb Nawaaz's (Radiallahu Ta'ala Anh) mother was a cousin sister of Huzoor Ghaus-e-Azam (Radiallahu Ta'ala Anh) and thus, Huzoor Ghaus-e-Azam (Radiallahu Ta'ala Anh) is a maternal uncle of Khwaja Ghareeb Nawaaz (Radiallahu Ta'ala Anh).

It is recorded in Zubdatul Haqaiq, the Malfoozaat (anecdotes) of Hazrat Khwaja Ghareeb Nawaaz (Radiallahu Ta'ala Anh) compiled by his senior Khalifah, Qutbul Aqtab Hazrat Khwaja Qutbuddeen Bakhtiyar Kaki (Radiallahu Ta'ala Anh), that with the permission of Rasoolullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam), Hazrat Khwaja Ghareeb Nawaaz (Radiallahu Ta'ala Anh) obtained the Khirqah (Sufi Garb) and Khilafat from his uncle, Sultanul Awliya Huzoor Ghaus-e-Azam Sayyiduna Shaikh Abdul Qadir Jilani (Radiallahu Ta'ala Anh). At that time Khwaja Ghareeb Nawaaz (Radiallahu Ta'ala Anh) was 50 years old and Huzoor Ghaus-e-Azam (Radiallahu Ta'ala Anh) was 90 years of age. [*Iqtibasul Anwaar*] Huzoor Ghaus-e-Azam (Radiallahu Ta'ala Anh) also entrusted him with the Isme-Azam (Secret Names of Allah Ta'ala) which he received from Sayyiduna Rasoolullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) via the chain of his noble predecessors. Besides these gifts, Huzoor Ghaus-e-Azam (Radiallahu Ta'ala Anh) also transferred other secrets and Awrad (litanies) to Hazrat Khwaja Ghareeb Nawaaz (Radiallahu Ta'ala Anh).

Hazrat Khwaja Ghareeb Nawaaz (Radiallahu Ta'ala Anh) travelled with his Murshid, Hazrat Khwaja Uthman Harooni (Radiallahu Ta'ala Anh) for twenty years and thereafter returned to Baghdad Shareef. His Murshid then began to live in seclusion and told Hazrat Khwaja Ghareeb Nawaaz (Radiallahu Ta'ala Anh), "I will not come out of my seclusion very often but it is compulsory for you to visit me after sunrise every morning so that I may teach you some secrets of spirituality. Following this instruction, Hazrat Khwaja Ghareeb Nawaaz (Radiallahu Ta'ala Anh) visited his Murshid every day at the appointed time. On the last day that he went to his Murshid, the latter bestowed him with the sacred Khilafat and presented him with an Asa Mubarak (staff), Khirqah (robe of Khilafat), wooden sandals and a Musallah (prayer rug), and he said, "All these relics are the relics of our Masters, which has come to us from Sayyiduna Rasoolullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam). It is compulsory for you to look after it as we have looked after it, and you must hand over these relics to a person who strictly proves himself worthy of it." Hazrat Khwaja Ghareeb Nawaaz (Radiallahu Ta'ala Anh) was 52 and according to another narration 55 years old when he received this Khilafat.

During his stay in Baghdad, Hazrat Khwaja Ghareeb Nawaaz (Radiallahu Ta'ala Anh) met and derived spiritual grace from many senior Awliya Allah and Mashaikh. These included great Sufi Masters such as Hazrat Khwaja Najmuddeen Kubra (Radiallahu Ta'ala Anh), a disciple of Shaykh Shahabuddeen Umar Sohrawardi (Radiallahu Ta'ala Anh), and Shaykh Abu Najeeb Abdul Qahir Sohrawardi (Radiallahu Ta'ala Anh), who was a Khalifah of Huzoor Ghaus-e-Azam (Radiallahu Ta'ala Anh) and the uncle of Shaykh Shahabuddeen Umar Sohrawardi (Radiallahu Ta'ala Anh). Hazrat Khwaja Ghareeb Nawaaz (Radiallahu Ta'ala Anh) also had the honour and privilege of meeting with Huzoor Ghaus-e-Azam (Radiallahu Ta'ala Anh) and attaining spiritual refinement under his guidance for a period of 5 months and 7 days.

Before Hazrat Khwaja Ghareeb Nawaaz (Radiallahu Ta'ala Anh) departed from Baghdad, he was informed about seven fire-worshipper devotees who engaged in intense fire worshipping in Baghdad. One day these seven people came to meet Khwaja Ghareeb Nawaaz (Radiallahu Ta'ala Anh) and on the first sight, he cast a stunning Tajalli (Divine Lustre) on them. They were awestruck to such an extent that their feet trembled with fear and they fell at his feet. He said to them, "O disbelievers! Do you not have any shame worshipping other things besides Allah Ta'ala?" They replied, "The sole reason we worship the fire is so that it will not burn us on the Day of Judgment." He told them, "You will not get salvation from the Fire of Hell until you do not worship Almighty Allah!" They said, "If the fire does not burn you, then we will embrace Islam."

Khwaja Ghareeb Nawaaz (Radiallahu Ta'ala Anh) said, "Allah! Allah! A fire cannot even burn the sandal of Moinuddeen." The fire was lit nearby and he removed his sandal and threw it in the fire, saying, "O Fire! Do not burn the sandal of Moinuddeen." Amazingly, as the sandal fell in the fire, the fire immediately extinguished. A voice called from the unseen, "The fire does not have the courage to burn the sandal of My friend." Everyone present heard this voice and when the fire-worshippers saw this Karaamat (miracle), they instantly embraced Islam on the sacred hands of Khwaja Ghareeb Nawaaz (Radiallahu Ta'ala Anh). After their reversion they remained in his service as ardent devotees and were later bestowed with Wilaayat (Sainthood). [*Siyarul Aqtaab*]

After visiting Baghdad, Khwaja Ghareeb Nawaaz (Radiallahu Ta'ala Anh) then went to Madinatul Munawwarah. He sat engaged in devotion in Masjid-e-Nabawi and an amazing incident happened at the Roza Mubarak of the beloved Rasool (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam). The Khadim of the Roza Mubarak heard the voice of Sayyiduna Rasoolullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) ordering him to call 'Moinuddeen'. The Khadim asked, "O Prophet of Allah! Which Moinuddeen do you refer to?" "Moinuddeen Chishti," came the reply. So the Khadim went into the Masjid and began announcing that Rasoolullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) is calling for 'Moinuddeen Chishti'.

Hazrat Khwaja Ghareeb Nawaaz (Radiallahu Ta'ala Anh) heard this summon and trembled with fear. He was worried about what wrong he did for Rasoolullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) to summon him. However, he built up the courage and humbled himself at the door of the Hujra Mubarak. A voice from within said, "Come inside, O Qutb of the Mashaaikh." He entered and was delighted to be in the presence of Rasoolullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam). Sayyiduna Rasoolullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) welcomed him with great love and blessings. The Messenger of Allah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) told him that it was now time for him to uproot the roots of Kufr and Shirk, to spread the religion of Islam in Hindustan, and that he was now to proceed to Ajmer. Khwaja Ghareeb Nawaaz (Radiallahu Ta'ala Anh) respectfully said to Rasoolullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) that he did not know where Ajmer was situated, so Rasoolullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) gave him a pomegranate and ordered him to look at it for directions (it was a spiritual compass). When Khwaja Ghareeb Nawaaz (Radiallahu Ta'ala Anh) looked at it he could see all the cities of the world and also saw the mountain range of Ajmer. The Beloved Prophet (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) then blessed Khwaja Ghareeb Nawaaz (Radiallahu Ta'ala Anh) with lots of Duas and sent him off on his important mission. [*Gulzar-e-Chisht*]

From these few narrations we can see how close Hazrat Khwaja Ghareeb Nawaaz (Radiallahu Ta'ala Anh) was to Rasoolullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) as well as to Huzoor Ghaus-e-Azam (Radiallahu Ta'ala Anh), and what an esteemed Maqaam Allah Ta'ala blessed him with.

May Allah Ta'ala grant us the Taufeeq to have sincere love for the Awliya Allah and to practice upon their teachings, Allahumma Ameen.