

Memoirs of Hazrat Mufti Taqi Usmani ولدت بركاتهم

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allah, the Gracious, the Merciful

All praise be to Allah, Sustainer of the worlds, and may the blessings and peace be upon the merciful Prophet ﷺ, on his progeny, all his companions, and on all those who follow him with *Ahsaan* till the Day of judgment.

Introduction

After reading my travelogues, many of my friends and mentors requested me to pen down my autobiography too. But considering it to be only an emblem of love from these sincere individuals, I never gave the idea a second thought, as I was of the opinion that biographies are written of notable personalities in whose lives there are some lessons for others to take heed from; whereas, a person like me, who if looks back at his life, will only have remorse and shame for his deeds. How can his autobiography be of benefit to anyone else?

Three years back, a very respected senior of mine, and the head-Mufti of Darul uloom, Dabhel, Hazrat Maulana Mufti Ahmad Khanpuri ولدت بركاتهم (whose services are not only widespread in India but also in many diverse spheres of the Islamic world), expressed this wish of his to me in *Baitullah shareef* and I gave him the same excuse. But then after going back to Dabhel, Hazrat Mufti sahib sent a detailed letter in which he reiterated the same desire, not only from his own side, but also from other people of knowledge. The letter is as follows:

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allah, the Gracious, the Merciful

27th June, 2011

Respected Hazrat Aqdas Maulana Muhammad Taqi Usmani Sahab ولدت بركاتهم !

السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته

I hope by the grace of Allah Ta'ala Hazrat is safe and sound. Since long this insignificant has remained a devoted follower of the books written by Hadhrat Mufti Muhammad Shafi Sahab رحمة الله عليه and Hazratwala. The reason for this is only that these volumes are filled with the aroma of the pious Ulema (*Ulema-e Rabbaniyan*) and are interpreters of our Ulema's untainted beliefs and concerns. Especially what to say about Hazratwala's latest works! People with religious bent fervently read and enjoy them. Many copies are sold in no time at all. When their work is admired to this an extent, then how excessively admired would the writer of these books himself be? That doesn't need to be jotted down here; last year in this same month of July Hazratwala travelled to India in which you experienced great affection of its inhabitants for you.

After this little overview, I wish to express this sincere request to Hazratwala, which is not only mine but is also a heartfelt desire of a large segment of people affiliated with deen. If this entreaty meets fulfilment then a lot of misconceptions will be cleared, and earnest duas will be granted by a great fraction of the people of knowledge (*Ahl-e-Ilm*) as they would obtain a guiding light. With the help of this beacon, these people of knowledge will be able to resolve the important issues of their lives.

The request is that Hazratwala writes down his autobiography. Displaying to you the ways of our elders with regards to writing autobiographies would be like showing a lamp to the sun, which is why I can't even fathom the courage to mention the names of those biographies here. Nonetheless, one thing which this insignificant believes is that biographies of our elders' lives are excessively useful in helping the new generation to walk in the footsteps of their elders, and for making the attainment of the successes of this world and the Hereafter easier and faster for them.

Above, this insignificant has dared to plainly convey his earnest desire and the reason for this is Hazratwala's affection towards me. It is also quite possible that in this letter I might have missed out on some element of respect, or some inappropriate sentence may have been used. If Hazratwala felt so, then I utterly seek your

apology and pray that may Allah Ta'ala keep Hazratwala safe and sound, with His blessings, for the service of the Islamic world. This du'a is from me as well as from the entire universe. Aameen.

(*Al abd*) Ahmad ('afi anhu) Khanpuri,

Servant, Darul Ifta Jamia Islamia Taleemud deen, Dabhel, Gujrat, Al-Hind.

There was also another document with this one in which there was narrated a dream by one of the learned teachers of Jamia Dabhel himself, and that served as a glad tiding for me. I am copying it here as a mere honour, although the saying of Hazrat Imam Muhammad bin Seereen رحمة الله عليه is fully at the back of my mind which I came across in one of my respected father's رحمة الله عليه book. It is well-known about Hazrat Imam Muhammad bin Seereen رحمة الله عليه that he was the Imam of dream interpretations. He said, "Dreams are sufficient to make one happy but one should not get deceived by them." So it is alright to feel glad upon them provided they serve to increase one in good deeds and in acting upon the Sunnah.

After this clarification, below is presented the text that was attached with that letter.

24th Rajab' 1432

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allah, the Gracious, the Merciful

Five years ago, a teacher from our Hifz section (someone pious and firm upon his ma'molaat [daily Azkaar]) saw Rasulallah رحمة الله عليه in his dream. That dream is copied below verbatim:

"This person, Shabbir Ahmed Naroli, saw a dream during the days of Zil Hajj and its interpretation is sought. The details of the dream are such that at the time of *Tahajjud* I perceived that the *Khanqah* was under progress in Jamia Dahbel and I too became a part of it after teaching at the village. When I entered the Jamia Masjid, I noticed that towards the masjid's *Hayi ala'Salah* corner, towards the first door, near the first window, beneath a fan is sitting none other than Rasulallah رحمة الله عليه. During that time some people got the honour of meeting him, and it included me as well. Then for some more time others who came also got to meet Rasulallah رحمة الله عليه

and there grew in me a desire to meet him again. Upon seeing me, Rasulallah رحمة الله عليه swiftly got up and gave me the chance to meet him and inquired: "How are you?" I replied with Allah's praise. Then after a while, tea was brought for Rasulallah رحمة الله عليه which he drank. I felt a yearning in me that I should also get something for Rasulallah رحمة الله عليه from my house. I summoned one of the students with a gesture: 'Quickly go and get food from my home.' He rapidly got some chicken and roti. I presented it before Rasulallah رحمة الله عليه and he ate it, and this made me really happy. It reminded me of the scenes of Hijrat where Rasulallah رحمة الله عليه drank milk at the house of Hazrat Umm Ma'bad (Radhi Allahu anha). Upon this, Hazrat Abu Bakr (Radhi Allahu anhu) said: "Rasulallah رحمة الله عليه drank so much that he got satisfied and it made me extremely glad." I experienced similar feelings. Then Rasulallah رحمة الله عليه looked towards the first window on the left. There was placed a book, *Anwaar -e-Nabuwat* (written by Mufti Shabbir sahib). Rasulallah رحمة الله عليه said to me: "Bring that book over."

I presented it to him, opened it and respectfully stated: "Ya Rasulallah رحمة الله عليه, all books by Mufti Sahab are very genuine; he writes the reference, volume, page, line number, everything for a particular Hadith."

Upon this Rasulallah رحمة الله عليه articulated: "Yes, in India Mufti Shabbir, and in Pakistan Mufti Muhammad Taqi Usmani are doing great work. After this, Rasulallah رحمة الله عليه entered the masjid's *Hayya ala'Salah* side. Near the first window some people were having food, rice and milk combined. Rasulallah رحمة الله عليه kept his staff aside and joined them. In the meanwhile, Maulana Abdullah Kapudarwi Sahab came, met Rasulallah رحمة الله عليه and said: "Ya Rasulallah رحمة الله عليه! Contrary to your practice, you kept the staff aside." At this, Rasulallah رحمة الله عليه said: "Yes brother, one should bear the pain for others." Many Ulema were present there, Hazrat Mufti Ahmad Sahab ولدت بركاتهم being one of them too. The call for the *Fajr Salah* was heard and I woke up instantly."

After receiving this letter, I gave the following reply to Hazrat Mufti Sahab ولدت بركاتهم:

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allah, the Gracious, the Merciful

Respected Hazrat Maulana Mufti Ahmad Khanpuri Sahab ولدت بركاتهم,

السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته

I received your letter via email at a time when I'm ready for a trip to Europe. Before this whenever anyone requested me to write my autobiography, I strictly spurned away from the thought because I don't deem myself good enough that my life be brought before others; moreover, many other important tasks are always in progress. But the sincerity with which you have drafted this letter, made me, for the very first time, to seriously think over this matter. The reality, though, is still the same, that what benefit can an autobiography of a mere mosquito or fly be to anyone. But some of the facets towards which you have guided me are such that I have intensely started thinking upon them. Still, one thought is a great obstacle which is that some other tasks are already in process, so the question is whether time should be spent upon them or upon this? Whenever possible, I will take a verbal suggestion from you on the matter.

The dream that you have narrated made me go through some strange feelings which are beyond words. May Allah رحمة الله عليه make me capable of that. Aameen. I have developed a yearning to meet Mufti Shabbir Sahab ولدت بركاتهم and get hold of his books. I wasn't aware of his work. If possible do tell me some more about him.

Wassalam,

Mufti Taqi Usmani

6th August' 1432

