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Condemnation of so-called Soofis' thoughts by Syed Muhammad Faazil-ud-Din Batalvi (1684-1739)

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ABSTRACT

Few people change the course of history and are remembered for their exceptional literary and social works. Hazrat Abul Farah Syed Muhammad Faazil-ud-Din Jilani Batalvi is considered among such people. He is a very famous scholar, thinker, and saint of Islam. He established a very big mosque, a religious institute, and a free guest house in Batala District Gurdaspur, India. He was a great scholar of Arabic and Persian and wrote more than 100 books on the various aspects of Islam in the said languages. Due to his preaching thousands of people converted to the fold of Islam in the Sub-Continent. He was a man of sacred thoughts, spiritual force, and a preacher of divine Light. He spread the divine message across the whole sub-continent through his devotees and followers. He was also a great poet. Through his poems, he propagated the message of love, peace & Islam through his writings and preaching against the thoughts of ignorant and so-called soofis as per other soofis scholars like Ahmed Sarhandi (Mojadid Alaf Sani) and Shah Wali Ullah Mohadis Dehlvi. He preached as per the true spirit of Islam and divine light. He had a deep affection for Sheikh Abdul Qadir Jilani (R.A) being his strict follower.

Key Words: Preacher, Divine Light, Spiritual Knowledge, Arabic, Devotees

Introduction:

Allah Almighty revealed in the Holy Quran as under:

"O' my beloved say to them that the man of vision and knowledge (Quran and Sunnah) are never equal to ignorant."(1)

Our Holy Prophet (a) says:

"It is one of the signs of Day of Judgment that ignorance and non-marital sex shall become abundant."(2)

Our Holy Prophet (a) further says:

"People shall make the ignorant their leaders and shall make religious questions to them and they shall reply to them without any knowledge and education. Thus, they shall become ignorant and spread ignorance." (3)

Our Holy Prophet (a) also says:

"No doubt religious educators/scholars are heirs of Holy Prophet (a)".(4)

Holy Prophet (a) again instructs:

"Be aware that bad educators/instructors are meant for bad people and the best educators are meant for the pious people."(5)

It means that the so-called educators who are the disciples of the devil are imparting wrong and bad knowledge and education to society. They are also the reason for the prevalent ignorance within society. Thus, the bad people also accept them sharply. There is a constant and quarrel-some war between the right and wrong people. It is famously accepted that a man is known by the company he keeps. Therefore, it is very necessary to keep the company of the noble and pious people and refrain from the company of the

bad ignorant people. Hence, Hazrat Abul Farah Syed Muhammad Faazul-ud-Din Batalvi (R.A) fought against such ignorant and so-called Soofis through his speeches, literature, and books like Hazrat Mojadid Alif Sani, Shah Wali Ullah Mohadis Dehlvi, Muhammad Ghous Gawalyari, and Sultan Bahoo.

Hazrat Abul Farah (R.A) was born in 1070 A.H at Chak Qazian (Akbarpur) Tehsil Shakargarh (now it is also district) District Sialkot. He was blessed with divine light and spiritual force by birth. His ancestor Syed Badee-ud-din Jilani came from Baghdad, Iraq to Subcontinent for preaching Islam during the reign of King Humayun in 902 AH. He sacrificed his life near Sialkot on a battlefield fighting against non-believers of Islam. He was martyred and buried at Moza Ghoona Tehsil Shakargarh. King Humayun brought him from Iraq (Baghdad) for preaching and to get blessings from God. Therefore, king Humayun appointed him as Minister of Religious Affairs, Auqaf, and Justice. Subsequently, he was martyred due to his struggle for the promotion of Islam. (6)

A European historian named Danzil Ibbotson says that Jillani Sadaat came to the Subcontinent and settled in the center of Punjab. (7) The center of Punjab is Sialkot. Another European historian W.Croke BA says that Mughal King after conquering Hindustan(India) appointed Sadaat to key posts. (8) It has also been written in the book Anwaar-e-Sadaat that the forefather of Hazrat Abul Farah remained justice (Qazi-ul-Qazat) in the regime of Aurangzeb Alam Geer and had a close relationship with the king.

They both had a relationship with the said king. They both had signed (stamped) over a manuscript of Mishkat Sharif (A famous book of Hadith) which is available in the Jamia Milia Library, Delhi (India). (9) He had seven sons, but Hazrat Abul Farah became the most popular and enjoyed good fame. Hazrat Abul Farah completed his apparent education from Jamia Mian Fateh Muhammad by Maulvi Abul Hassan at Sialkot and Lahore and then came back to his native city Batala and then married at the age of 20 years. He intended for a job in Delhi and started his journey. During his journey, he observed an unseen signal with the direction to return and serve for the promotion of Islam and its true spirit. He came back to Batala and started preaching in a mosque. Subsequently, he became very famous because he possessed divine light and spiritual force. Meanwhile, Sheikh Muhammad Afzal came from Kalanor to Batala. Hazrat Abul Farah met him and told him his pious desire and thus Sheikh Muhammad Afzal inducted him for spiritual guidance. He adopted isolation for two weeks and came back to the city and started preaching, teaching, educating, and spreading the true spirit of Islam. He

purchased a piece of land out of the city and constructed a building for a Madrassah, Darbare Faazlia, a big Mosque, a free guest house, Hostel, Library, and his residence. He spent a huge amount of money out of his pocket. (10)

Jamia Qadria Faazlia had a University Level and 60 teachers were appointed to teach there. In this institution, thousands of scholars, teachers, and preachers were prepared and educated for spreading the teachings of Islam. These students wrote books and started educational institutes in their respective areas. Mufti Ghulam Sarwar says that "He was one of the top scholars having thousand number of followers/devotees".(11)

Hazrat Abul Farah also guided Hazrat Baba Bulleh Shah to Baba Inayat Shah Qadri for spiritual education. (12) He wrote all books with God-given knowledge and divine light. Moreover, these books are a source of knowledge, education, and spiritualization. (13)

He wrote more than 100 books in Arabic and Persian. One of them attained worldwide recognition amongst scholars i.e., Explanation of Qaseeda Ghousia named "Bian-ul-Asrar" in Arabic. Its translation in Urdu is also available. He was also a poet. (14) One of his books is Khairatul Qadir in Arabic in which he paid tribute to Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H) and Shaikh Abdul Qadir Jilani in heart-touching verses. (15)

His other well-reputed and famous books are Kanooz-ul-Qadir, and Fatoh-ul-Qadir. Prof M.Aslam wrote that almost all books of Hazrat Abul Farah were lost due to his 3 times immigration from Batala to Sultanpur and his foreseen Syed Ghulam Ghous due to the tyranny of the Sikh community as the Sikh burnt his Library about thousands of Books and rare Manuscripts. Third-time migration to Pakistan also caused the loss of Books. (16)

Dr. Gohar Noushahi wrote that Hazrat Abul Farah was a great poet in Arabic, Persian, Urdu, and Punjabi. Hazrat Abul Farah and his followers defended the Urdu Language in the Sub-continent and promoted it through Islamic Poems. (17) Prof Hafiz Mahmood Sherani wrote that Abul Farah and his following followers played a leading role in Urdu through Batala Literature Movement.

- Shaikh Naseer Ul Haq
- Mian Imam Baksh Imami
- Sheikh Muhammad Haji
- Nazmi

- Jalalah
- Ali
- Kami
- Syed Ghulam Qadir Shah and the name of his son Gulam Ghous Batalvi are also memorials. (18)

Dr. Jammeel Jalbi wrote that it was the result of his teachings and guidance that a new center of Urdu came to be existence at Batala Sharif. (19)

His poems have been published in the book Jawahr-e-Tasawuff. (20). In fact, he spread the spiritual message through his poetry and his books. He was to see many unseen and mystic facts through revelation and was able to preach Islam through Spiritual Force.

Very here to Shariat:

He directed his followers to adhere to Shariah always and gave the following directions:

- 1. There are two paths to reach Allah and the first path is to act upon bright Shariat, and second is to follow the Islamic mysticism which has a broad phenomenon its relate to spirtualtly, love of God and a complete absorption oin the love of Allah almighty. Then they reach at the peak of mysticism.
- 2. The person who rides over the boat of Shariat-e-Muhammadi (a) he reaches the shore otherwise he drowns, For spirtual, divine knowledge and mystism he has to face pains and manyfolds agonies. Some followers succeed to gain their destination.
- **3.** Divine light is implicited only by following Shariat otherwise he is loss berar and their is no way accept Shariat.
- 4. Shariat is just like a boat in the sea who leaves it, he commits hundred mistakes. The people who have no boat of Shariat they are droned, and their is no king of any country without the crown of Shariat, A person who will jump into the sea without the boat of Shariat he will be drowned as Firon, without shariat a person may be conserieded as Firon.
- 5. The person who is not observing Shariat may hit him with curse of arrows and swords. If boat of shariat is in to your hand you will get your wealth save and sound.
- 6. If someone is treated/trained and acts as per Shariat than he will progress faster closer to Allah. May God make us to act upon Shariat.

- 7. Opposition to Shariat shall cause destruction and it will be neither fruitful trade nor it has good direction, The line of action which is rejected by the shariat is called athism.
- 8. Without Shariat-e-Muhammadi no one may come closer to Allah, the people who say that divine knowledge is seprate from shariat they are atheist.
- 9. Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H) said" Whoever leaves Sunnat he will be left/ ignored for Shafaat, and what would be happened with him who leaves Shafaat?" Holy prophet (P.B.U.H) further said that "do not pay salam to Jews of my Ummat who do not come to pray in mosques".
- 10. Hazrat Abul Farah (RA) reproduced sound observations of 26 saints regarding Shariat and prayed for adherence to Shariat.
- 11. Hazrat Shaikh Abdul Qadir Jilani offered prayer of Fajar with the ablution of Isha Prayer which seems very hard, but he did it with the blessing of God.
- 12. He regretted about the followers who claimed to be Qadri but do not follow Shariat.
- 13. Tariqat without Shariat is atheism, it means no Tariqat without Shariat . Please sit in the house of Shariat Muhammadi and refrain from wishes. A person who desires to be come closer to Allah Almighty he should make Shariat his ways and means.
- 14. The ignorant people are regretted because they have left to follow the Holy Prophet (PBUH) and following Satan so abstain from such ignorant Soofis.
- 15. It is a will of Shaikh Abdul Qadir Jilani to refrain from ignorant Soofis.
- 16. The fundamental principle for approaching Allah is only Shariat. Anyone who wants to be closer to Allah, he should make Shariat ways and means.
- 17. Learn Shariat and refrain from company of ignorant Soofis. A person who has not shariat infact he is non believer.
- 18. A person is complete Qutab if he observe shariat at the hightest level and do not miss any nobility and abstain from every sin.
- 19. Shariat is compulsory like a foundation for building and roots for trees, no wisdom without shariat. It is compulsory to follow shariat softly and don't become ferocious.
- 20. Who believes in spiritual progress without Shariat, is an atheist, Dajjal and hypocrite and liable to be killed. Shariat Muhammadia leads to God fearing and it should be followed completely, practicals of shariat are praying to God and having Fast which are compulsory. Any discipline which is repugnant to shariat is like non-beliving so save yourself from ignorance.

- 21. No Shariat no capability, no wisdom. It is nessecory condition for saints to follow shariat, the persons who oppose Shariat and claim to be followers of Shaikh Abdul Qadir Jilani (R.A) are false and speaking lie.
- 22. Shariat is candle and Tariqat is its light, the people who say that they are not in need of education and shariat as these are meant for Ullama/educationiest they have non profitable activities and they are athiests. It is necessary to beautify urselves with ornaments of Shariat Muhammadi because opposite of shariat is just like heeps of dust. A person who is adhere to Shariat and pray regularly who has right for divine reward otherwise he is rejected and dejected.(21)

HAZRAT ABUL FARAH (R.A) ALSO WROTE:

- 1. Practical life of Hazrat Muhammad (a) is Shariat. Undertaking of Shariat leads to God fearing. If you want to see the Holy Prophet (a) act upon Shariat compulsory.
- 2. Oh God fearing, you need a teacher pertaining Shariat and God given education and knowledge.
- 3. The Holy Prohet (a) who is head of all Prophets has brought Shariat and Quran for you.
- 4. First leave sins, wealth and act upon Shariat completely. Leave temporal wishes from heart and opt for God fearing. Leave loose talking and keep eyes on yours heart, you will become to know many secrets.
- 5. Be hard in Shariat Muhammadi. Please enter in to the fort of Shariat and refrain from the siting with satan and sit in the gathering of Shariat Muhammadi followers so that you may see many lights .
- 6. It is right path to save themselves from the opposition of Shariat.
- 7. Live as per Shariat-e-Mustafa and keep piousness and sanctity.
- 8) Pray according to Shariat only.
- 9) Darood and Salam for the Holy Prohet (a) whose Shariat and Deen shall remain forever.
- 10) Oh: common man, abide by Shariat and oh: special person be hard in Shariat and be God fearing.
- 11) Almighty Allah may keep us strengthened and customized our shop in Shariat and fill up our hearts with the light of Shariat.(22)

THOUGHTS OF THE MISLEAD PRECEPTOR (SO-CALLED SOOFIS):

1) The deceiving Soofis claim to follow the man of intution but they are lier and committing exaggeration. They are telling but the same are not in their hearts. False Sufis are acrobat and have false wishes. They used to say that knowledge of Islamic

spiritualization is quite different from education of Shariat. These are atheist, devil disciple and dajaal. They are misled and misleading the other. Allah may save us from their magic and tricks.

- 2) If Shariat is not existing then Toheed and athemies can never be seperated. These are God boarders and who cross these boarders are flippant. Very sorry that the ignorant Soofis use to reside separately away from cities/villages and do not pray. It is also very regretful that someone claims to be follower of Qadri Order but do not follow Shariat. Save yourselves from Ignorant Soofis because they are suffering from an old disease of non-observing Shariat.
- 3) The class of ignorants feel that they are doing good but they have left to follow the Holy Prophet and following satan. Inspite of this they are claiming to follow the Toheed/Shariat. Without following the shariat prayings is an old disease which they do not know. It is a last illness that they are proud. In thousand numbers of Saints use to suffer from pride. Some are saved and most of them became victom of pride. Hazrat Shaikh Abdul Qadir Jilani offered a will to his sons to abstain/refrain from ignorant Soofis. A person who believes in spiritual progress without observing/ acting upon Shariat he is an atheist, Dajaal, acrobat and liable to be killed. They came too be witness of God but it is severe ignorance and degradation. These persons are decoit, and deceitful who have made the music ways and means exercising bad practices and joke with Shariat. Allah shall punish them. Almighty Allah may save us from their accompany.
- 4) Some groups of Soofis are misled and new atheist who claim that Allah is just like water and color is atheism.
- 5) Often Sufis are ignorant and not participating in the gathering of practical educators, scholars, they are misled and misleading the others. Oh, brothers do not join them although they claim to follow Qadri order. They do not recite Quran and offer pray. They have created some thoughts and exercises themselves against the Qadri discipline. They listen to music, use to sit with strange females and minors. Their heart became black. They are liers, therefore refrain from them.
- 6) Ignorant and mislead claim to have mysterious, secret education, knowledge. They also state that the mystic and secret education/knowledge bearers are not required to learn education of Shariat. It is the task and exercise of scholars only as they are the prisoners of ink and words. These people are devils and bad groups. They are thieves of Islam and their place is in the, hell.
- 7) A person who oppossed Shariat and claims to be follower of Shaikh Abdul Qadir Jilani(R.A), He is cuning and Dajjal and his claim can never be accepted. Sorry to say that often Soofis have become ignorant and scholars have become non-practicing/non active. Qawali is only valid for a persons whose innerself is pure. But the gathering of ingronat soofis are echo of songs and music. The person who say that Islamic education is for scholars only and we are the Soofis, he is an atheist and his wife is divorced automatically.

- 8) A so called soofis who uses to say that it is not neccesory to follow Shariat, he is not beliving in God because without Shariat their is not spirtual order what would be happened with ignorants and run from Educators and wandering desperately. Inspite of ignorane, A person who sits in a place of worship. he is rebel. Ignorant sufis who abstain from education, are not allowed to sit in isolation in jungle. A person who leaves Sunnah and Shariat, he has no reward. A person who is against Shariat and adopts new things in Islam and claim to be follower of Shaikh Abdul Qadir Jilani is cunning and lair and can not believe in his claim. Their is no spirtual discipline without shariat. So Called Sufis run from the scholars. They are wandering in dark and desperation. A Soofis is disbeliever if he says that their is no need of praying after being closer to Allah. So called Soofis who are ignorate, are not allowed to adopt isolation are to go into jungle. Praying to God as an habit is atheism in spiet of accountability on the judgement of the day they have left themselves in the dark they must be well aware. The person who wants to have clean heart, they should leave sin full life.(23)
- 9) So calles soofis are misguided and misguiding the others these are very bad people, therfore, my brothers it is necessary to remain away from this people beacuse Shaikh Abdul Qadir Gilani always addvice his followers to attend the Sarman of scholars and remember the name of Allah. O! my brothers This period is full of crime and sin, ignorances prevailing in the soofis and scholars are sketchy in practical. Shaikh Abdul Qadir Jilani also expressed that Qawali and dance are disliked activities. A person who feelings no necessities of preaching, is out of religion. A person who leave sunna, he is frustrated and dejected person. O! do not indulged in spicy food and lead simple life and adopt simplicity. A person who likes to refraim from sin he should avoid the bad activities. O! my son there is no end of advice, therefor, focus yourself towards spirit. The person who claims to be follower of divine light, he must be strict in Shariat otherwise he is no more follower of Islam.

SPIRITUAL APPROACHES OF HAZRAT ABUL FARAH:

- **1-** Revelation are used to be descended on my (Hazrat Abul Farah) heart by dint of following Shaikh Abdul Oadir Jilani.
- **2-** You must know that often divine secretes descended on my heart from Almighty Allah while I recite Quran and at praying times this have been gifted to me from Shaikh Abdul Qadir Jilani (R.A).
- **3-** Allah Almighty blessed me with his kind revelation, discriminately spiritualization and divine light to satiate hungry and thirsty man.
- 4 Ohh Allah let me to write which the revelation you have descended on my heart.
- **5-** Allah granted me divine light not due to my labourious praying but by dint of his blessing and kindness as an owner gives some gifts to his servent with pleasure due to good activities.

- **6-** Allah has opened many secrets and granted me divine light which are twinkling in my heart.
- 7- Oh Seeker! I like to grant you so that you may understand and lead good life. therefor, you should listen to me attentionally. As and when you will listen to me it will enhance your belief.
- **8-** I shall explain the version of Hazrat Shaikh Abdul Qadir Jilani, so nicely which will shocked the great scholars.
- **9-** Some names of Allah are key of unseen realities and no one knows their secrets except Allah but I shall explain it so that you may not face any problems and doubt.
- 10- Ohh well wisher and lover of Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H) , please keep in view the alphabets of name 'Muhammad' which have many secrets and reasons. If I may explain then it will become burden/load of many camels.
- 11- There are Seven thousands places of love and reverence to be come near to God but I intend to brief it from one hundred to Fourty one or Twenty one or Eleven.I further think to brief it in to Five places only.
- **12-** Almighty Allah is not bound to space and time and it has no limit but with the blessing of God I shall explain it with the revelation of God.
- **13-** It is kindnees of Allah who is most kind and benefient who has gifted me God given knowledge.
- **14-** I saw Shaikh Abdul Qadir Jilani in the dream who ordered me to get God givin education and to distrubte it among the followers.
- **15-** The reveation which have been granted to me particularly through Shaikh Abdul Qadir Jilani, I shall explain it very soon.
- **16-** God has opened so secrets on me that if Ibn-e-Arbi and Mansoor hallaj may alive, They might listen to me and know the realities.
- 17- Common person can not understand secrets of marvellous and metaphysics therefore these are kept secrets to avoid dispute but with the help of Shaikh Abdul Qadir Jilani God has shown me its realities.
- **18-** With the kindness of God I shall explain the details of 'Salook' and its meanings to educate you.
- 19- I have written a book 'Kitab-e-Marqoom' where-in I had written the detail of Salook.
- **20-** Allah Almighty has opened so much mysteries for which a big volume of book is required. (24)

Hazrat Abul Farah prayed to God," Oh God bless me sacred food in large and may save me from illicit eating and bless me a son who is highly educated and eldest one." Consequently, God blessed him a son of same qualities as being prayed by Syed Abul

Farah. His son named Syed Ghulam Qadir carried on the mission of his father with zeal and zest. He became a unique scholar of Islam in his age and achieved a good reputation. Throughout the subcontinent. He also wrote many books in Persian. He was a famous poet and introduced religious poetry. He was one of the founders of Urdu Language leading Urdu Movement at Batala.(25) Hazrat Abul Farah died on 7 Zilhaj 1151 AH reciting Kalma Tayyaba having 70 years age. He was buried near his mosque and Jamia Faazlia at Batala Sharif, District Gurdaspur, India. Many scholars of that time wrote poems admiring his personality, highness and efforts for promotion of Islam, Shariat and Qadria Fazlia Order in the subcontinent (26). Annual ceremony is held every year on 10 Rabi Sani at Fazlia Colony, Ferozpur Road, Lahore under his present successor Dr. Syed Mofazil Mohyud Din Qadri.

Importance of education in the eye of Hazrat Abul Farah:

Always a man of education can serve the education. Therefore, Syed Badar Mohyud-din writes that Hazrat Abul Farah had completed his education from his father. Then he got education in Arabic and Persion from Darsgah of Hazrat Allama Abdul Hakeem of Sialkot being taught by Molvi Abul Hasan Shaheed, the then a renowed educationist. He also went to Batala Shareef for further education.(27) Hafiz Mehmood Sheerani writes that he travelled to Lahore and Delhi for more religious education. Consequently he earned wide reputation amongest the well leaned people. It was in his habit to study the books daily. After completion of his education he got constructed a big educational institution named Jamia Oadri Fazlia at Batala Shareef out of his own pocket. Hundred years ago there were about hundred qualified teachers in his Jamia to coach the student. In thousand number of student each year used of leave the Jamia for preaching and guidance of people. Hazrat Abul Farah was a great scholar in Quran, Hadih, Fiqh, Arabic and persian. he was also a good poet. He spent his whole life for imparting education. He used to coach in his Jamia to the highest classes. He introduced the ideology, theme, creeds, theory and spiritual practices to the people. In fact he despised wordly fame and hypocrisy, therefore, he is the hidden personality in the text of history. Hazrat Abul Farah facilitated the student of his Jamia free hosting/ boarding medical and clothes also.He established a big library in his Jamia to promote the educational activities. His collection was comprising of thousand rare manuscipts because the then there was no press and publication system. He is author of more than one hundred books which are in Arabic and persion languages.(28) Prof. M.Aslam writes that almost his books collection was damaged during invasion of Banda Beragi, due to fight in between two tribes of Sikh Community Ramgarian & Kahnian and then migration to Pakistan in 1947.(29)

Conclusion:

The devotional practices of Hazrat Abul Farah brought great changes in the society of Sub-continent. His performance helped the devotees to get closer to God in this material world. He promoted Sufism in the light and guidance of Islam. He attained spiritual force and healing powers and treated his followers to be protected from the sinful /worldly life as well as physical diseases. He formed many spiritual practices and gave new ideas and principles which were later adopted by his followers. On the occasion of his annual ceremony, in thousand number of his followers are used to attend it. People used to recite Hamd, Naat and Mangabat without Music on this occasion. Peaceful preaching and thoughtful sermons are given. This increases brotherhood among followers. His message was thus propagated and still exists even after more than three hundred years through his successors and followers. This brought changes in the society and to go back to the traditional form of Islam. The said order got strengthened with the passage of time due to rich teachings of Hazrat Abul Farah. He succeeded to achieve his goal to change the hearts of people to piousness. People pay homage and deep reverence to him due to his firm stance on Shariat and his relationship with Allah Almighty. He spent his life in the love of Allah Almighty. Similarly, it is the duty of his followers to present the true face of Islam and message of love, tolerance and peace in the society.

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