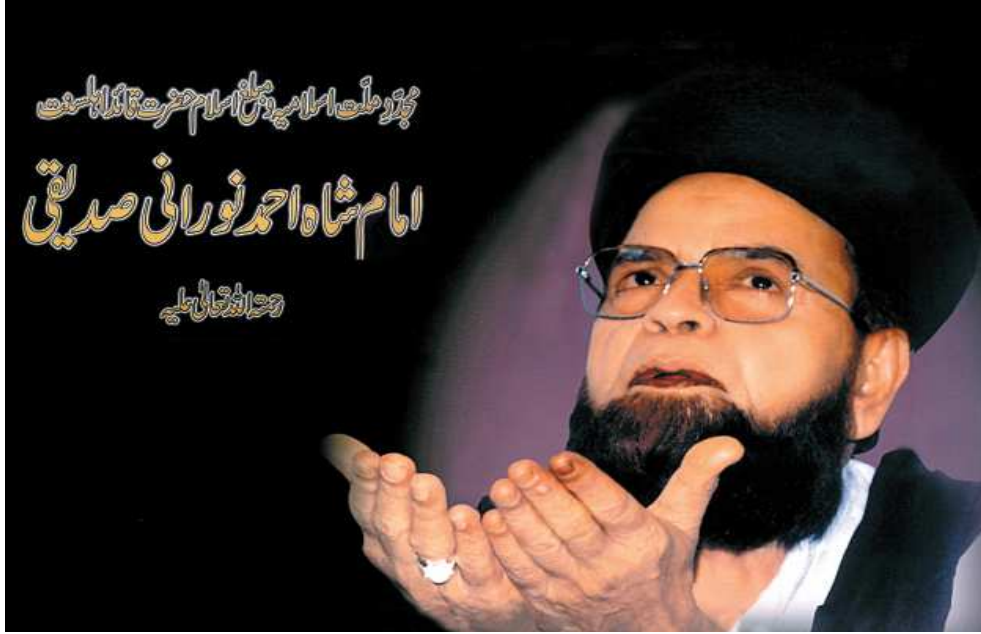


## Maulana Shah Ahmad Noorani Siddiqui RA



Maulana Shah Ahmad Noorani Siddiqui RA was born in Meerut (UP, India) on October 1, 1926 in the holy month of Ramadan. He became a hafiz-ul-Quran at the tender age of eight. He graduated from the National Arabic College, Meerut, and obtained the Fazil-i-Arabi degree from Allahabad University and Dars-i-Nizam (Fazil) from Darul-Uloom Arabia, Meerut. He had perfect command of Arabic, Urdu, Panjabi, English, French, Bhojpuri and Swahili. He was a gifted qari whose unique style of recitation of the Holy Qur'an is known to be addictive. His wife is from the holy city of Madina and the language of his household is Arabic. They were blessed with two daughters and two sons. Maulana Shah Ahmad Noorani was an accomplished 'alim who mastered all four schools of fiqh (Islamic Jurisprudence) and followed the madhab of Imam Abu Hanifa both in practice and ijtiḥad (reasoning). He was a visiting professor who taught al-fiqh al-hanafiyya and 'aqida (belief) of Ahl Sunna wal Jamaah in Baghdad for a number of years. He was Honorary Secretary General of the World Muslim Ulama Organization, with the Grand Mufti of Palestine being its president. He held this office continuously for eleven years and worked for unity of Muslim brotherhood amongst all Muslim nations.

Maulana Shah Ahmad Noorani was an ardent lover and drank deeply from the monumental writings of Imam Ahmad Raza Khan RA, affectionately known as Ala Hazrat by the Sunni masses. He and other 'ulama worked to bring to light the importance of Ala Hazrat's contribution to Islam in the twentieth century. He always maintained that had it not been for the single-handed effort of Ala Hazrat RA, especially for his twenty seven volumes of fatawa (Islamic Rulings) in the

form of Fatawa- Rizwiyya and his tafsir Kanzul Iman, Sunni Islam as we know it today could have disappeared. Not only has the contribution of Ala Hazrat ensured that Hanafi Jurisprudence remained intact as the legal framework for such countries such as Lebanon, Turkey, Pakistan and India in the context of the twentieth century, but also the body of knowledge he re-interpreted in the revisionist context he found himself in, was used and is still being used to counter the forces which are intent in eradicating the spiritual dimension of Islam by an attempt to re-writing the very history of Islam. The contribution of Ala Hazrat RA, Maulana Noorani argued, effectively checked the tide of recently concocted ideologies in the form of Wahabism, Deobandism, and Qadianism. Maulana Noorani spent a good portion of his scholarly life promoting Ala Hazrat as the mujaddid (Muslim Reviver) of the 13th Islamic century. In particular, due to his leadership he was able to influence two generations of Muslim scholars to appreciate the full impact of Ala Hazrat's thoughts and writings. Maulana Noorani RA will always be remembered to exemplify without pretence and awkwardness, the sunnah of the Holy Prophet SAW in both his inner and outer character. He was thus able to demonstrate the relevance of the Prophetic traditions in the modern age. He displayed a rare form of unselfish purpose possessed by few leaders of his time. His very existence has been a pre-occupation with the issue of unity of Ummat-e-Muhammadiyah. He argued that the excellence of Muslims over other nations can only be based on the fact that the Muslim ummah has the perfect role model - Prophet Muhammad SAW. However, the status of the Muslim nation plummeted only because it allowed others to divide itself into tribes, secular ideologies and nationalities. He was convinced and proved on many occasions that, whenever Muslims leave aside their differences and united; Islam takes on a different dimension and becomes an unstoppable phenomenon with unimaginable potential. Maulana Noorani maintained that Muslim unity is the essence of the Muslim struggle at both an individual and at the global level.

His influence permeated higher seats of learning in every continent. He taught subjects ranging from economics to fiqh (Islamic Jurisprudence) and from political science to tasawwuf. In his teachings, whether addressing scholars or laymen - the underlying reality of his reasoning was always guided by an undying and uncompromising love for the Holy Prophet SAW. Driven by such devotion to the Holy Prophet SAW he argued that leaders will try but they will not be able to establish "Nizam-e-Mustafa" or the 'Order of Mustafa SAW' without a true attachment to the Beloved Prophet SAW.

*"A system of virtuous equality.... a political system of security and justice  
....an economic system of justice and provision .... a spiritual system of meditative  
thinking and inner reflection, and remembering Allah .... and a social system  
of brotherhood"*

Undoubtedly, the zenith of Maulana Noorani's Islamic political leadership and statesmanship was his ability to overlook the differences which have kept the ummah divided, to the benefit of non-Muslim powers. Due to his impeccable style of leadership, he successfully united five of the major religious parties in Pakistan to forge the Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal (MMA). Under this union, the MMA was able to gain 65 seats in the National Assembly of Pakistan to become the official opposition party in Oct. 2002, a feat which stunned both Muslim and non-Muslim critics. Upon this event Maulana Noorani reminded Muslims that:

*"Islam becomes an unstoppable force when Muslims unite. No 'super-power' will be able to defeat it, if we can only understand this fundamental principle."*

As a statesman Maulana Shah Ahmad Noorani Siddiqui counseled leaders both Arabs and non-Arabs to foster greater co-operation between Muslim countries. He worked tirelessly to connect Muslim leaders, visionaries and scientists in order to facilitate the expansion of Islamically motivated ventures at both the national and global levels. The greatest challenge, he believed, was to harness the resources of Muslim nations to benefit Muslims worldwide. Maulana Shah Ahmad Noorani Siddiqui held on the principle of democracy as the process for Islamic nationhood. In so far that he was willing to pay a personal price for this. He was jailed several times by a number of political dictators for his outspoken stance against illegitimate dictatorship regimes in Pakistan and elsewhere in the Muslim world. He believed, like the early Muslims who elected the first caliph Syedina Abu Bakr Siddiqui RA by a democratic process, Muslims today should have similar rights to elect their political representatives.

As a statesman, Maulana Shah Ahmad Noorani Siddiqui excelled in the field of diplomacy in bringing about world peace. In 1988 at the United Nations headquarters in New York, with other world leaders, he successfully brokered a peace pact to help end the bloody Iran-Iraq war which took the lives of over 1,000,000 Muslims.

In terms of Islamic spirituality, Maulana Shah Ahmad Noorani Siddiqui received *khilafat* of the Qadiriyya and Chistiyya sufi orders from his father Maulana Abdul Aleem Siddiqui RA. He also received *ijaza* from other tariqah including Naqshbandiyya, Shadhiliyya, Soharwardiyy and Rifa'i. Through his travels worldwide for over fifty-five years he initiated more than 600,000 murids (spiritual disciples) to *Tariqat-ul-Qadiriyya*. Amongst them we find today political leaders, Muslim scholars, professionals, and hundreds of thousand ordinary Muslims whose practice of Islam is based on following the commands of Allah Subhanahu wa Tala through the endearing love and attachment to Syed-ul-Alameen Muhammad-ur-Rasoolulaah Salalaahu 'alahi wa Sallam, khulafa

Rashideed, Syedinna Ghawth-al-'Azam Shaikh Abdul Qadir Jilani RA and the *awliya* (pious saints of Islam).



UN Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar (third from left) meeting at United Nations Headquarters with an international peace delegation concerning the Iran-Iraq war: Dr. Hans Koechler, President of I.P.O. (right), Shah Ahmad Noorani Siddiqui, President of the World Islamic Mission, Pakistan (second from right), Field Marshal Abdul Rahman Sowar Al-Dahab, former Head of State of Sudan (third from right), Dr. Murad Ghaleb, Secretary-General of the Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization (second from left), and Mousa Al-Mousawi, Iran (left) (New York, 16 June 1988)

In 1988 Qaid-e-Ahl Sunna Hazrat Maulana Shah Ahmad Noorani Siddiqui successfully brokered a deal which eventually ended the long and protracted Iran-Iraq war in which almost 1,000,000 Muslim lives were lost.

### **Imam of Muslim Ummah**

Where ever he went, Qaid-e-Ahl Sunna Imam Shah Ahmad Noorani received the honour of the greatest Imam of our time. His last visit with Shaykh al-Habib Ahmad Mash-hur bin Taha al-Haddad in Kenya, 1995. We see here, the learned scholar reminding his people that their Imam is Maulana Noorani (RA). Habib Ahmad Mash-hur bin Taha al-Haddad passed away at the age of 87 in Jeddah - Arabia, on Wed. 6 Dec. 1995. May Allah Azza-wa-Jal sanctify his innermost essence.

### **Political Leader and Statesman**

Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal or the United Action Front, is an alliance of the divergent religious parties in Pakistan which was initiated by Maulana Shah Ahmed Noorani, leader of Jamiat Ulema-e-Pakistan – the political representative of 80% of sunni Muslims known universally as Ahl Sunna wal Jamaah. Maulana Noorani was first elected to parliament in 1970 and was president of a moderate-traditional Sunni Muslim party, the Jamiat Ulema-e-Pakistan (JUP).

Unlike many other religious leaders in the country, he had always opposed the army's involvement in politics, and remained part of the opposition's campaign against successive military rulers. Maulana Noorani throughout his life strived for the enforcement of an Islamic Order in Pakistan and the supremacy of its Constitution and parliament.

It must be noted that although the MMA had initially decided to rotate the Presidency of the alliance every six months, it was actually agreed to retain Maulana Noorani as its leader because of his immaculate qualities and leadership capabilities. This is why he is called Qaid-e-Ahl Sunna.



*MMA members(left to right) under the leadership of Maulana Noorani: Prof. Sajid Mir, Qazi Hussein Ahmed, Maulana Noorani, Maulana Fazlur Rehman, Maulana Samiul Haq.*

"Maulana Noorani was a great Islamic scholar and man of principles. He rendered great services to the Muslim Ummah, nation and democracy. The services of the late MMA leader would be remembered for long. Maulana Noorani had contributed a lot to from the MMA and joint opposition in parliament. The vacuum created by his death would never be filled." ***Prof. Ghafoor***

"Maulana Noorani was a symbol of Ummah's unity, who provided a platform to all the religio-political parties belonging to various schools of thought in the name of MMA." ***Syed Munawwar Hassan (JI)***

"Maulana Noorani's death at this crucial stage is a great loss and a national tragedy." ***Maulana Abdul Ghafoor Haidri (JUI)***

"Maulana Noorani was a practicing Muslim and during his long association with him he did not find any contradiction in thoughts, belief and actions." *Prof. Shah Faridul Haque (JUP)*

### **Shajarah al-Shareef - Blessed Spiritual Lineage**

Blessed Spiritual Tree (*al-Shajarah al-Shareef*) of Qaid-e-Ahl Sunna Maulana Noorani Rahmatullah 'alaih showing the unbroken chain of spiritual authority going back 37 generations to beloved Prophet Syed-ul-'alameena Muhammadur Rasoolulaaah *Sallallahu alaihi wa Sallam*.

1. **Syedinna Muhammad Mustapha Sallallahu 'alaihi wa Sallam**
2. Hazrat Imam Ali ibn Abu Talib Radi Allahu Ta'ala Anhu
3. Shaikh Hasan al-Basri Radi Allahu Ta'ala Anhu
4. Shaikh Habeeb al-Ajami Radi Allahu Ta'ala Anhu
5. Shaikh Daw'ud al-Ta'ir Radi Allahu Ta'ala Anhu
6. Shaikh Mar'uf al-Karkhi Radi Allahu Ta'ala Anhu
7. Shaikh Sari al-Saqati Radi Allahu Ta'ala Anhu
8. Shaikh Junaid Abu al-Qasim al-Baghdadi Radi Allahu Ta'ala Anhu
9. Shaikh Abu Bakr Shibli Radi Allahu Ta'ala Anhu
10. Shaikh Abdul Wahid Radi Allahu Ta'ala Anhu
11. Shaikh Abdul Aziz al-Tamimi Radi Allahu Ta'ala Anhu
12. Shaikh Abu al-Farah Tartusi Radi Allahu Ta'ala Anhu
13. Shaikh Abul Hasan Farshi al-Qurayshi Radi Allahu Ta'ala Anhu
14. Shaikh Abu Sa'id al-Mubarak Mukharrami Radi Allahu Ta'ala Anhu
15. **Shaikh Abdul Qadir Jilani Ghawth al-'Azam Radi Allahu Ta'ala Anhu**
16. Shaikh Sayyid Abdur Razzaq Radi Allahu Ta'ala Anhu
17. Shaikh Sayyid 'Abdul Salih al-Faqiri Radi Allahu Ta'ala Anhu
18. Shaikh Sayyid Ahmad Shah Radi Allahu Ta'ala Anhu
19. Shaikh Sayyid Shahabbuddin Radi Allahu Ta'ala Anhu
20. Shaikh Sayyid Shamsud-Din Radi Allahu Ta'ala Anhu
21. Shaikh Sayyid 'Alaa al-Din Radi Allahu Ta'ala Anhu
22. Shaikh Sayyid Nuri Muhammad Shah Radi Allahu Ta'ala Anhu
23. Shaikh Sayyid 'Abd-al-Jalaal al-Sahra Radi Allahu Ta'ala Anhu
24. Shaikh Sayyid Baha wa-al-Shee Qalandar Radi Allahu Ta'ala Anhu
25. Shaikh Abul Ma'ali Radi Allahu Ta'ala Anhu
26. Shaikh Muhkam-al-Din Radi Allahu Ta'ala Anhu
27. Shaikh Shah Amir Ba-Laa Yaaru Radi Allahu Ta'ala Anhu
28. Shaikh 'Abdul-Latif al-Burriy Radi Allahu Ta'ala Anhu
29. Shaikh Darwesh Muhammad Radi Allahu Ta'ala Anhu
30. Shaikh Shah Ahmad Shah Radi Allahu Ta'ala Anhu
31. Shaikh 'Abdul Latif Thani Radi Allahu Ta'ala Anhu
32. Shaikh Madhi Shah Radi Allahu Ta'ala Anhu

33. Shaikh Sayyid 'Azam Ali Shah Radi Allahu Ta'ala Anhu
34. Shaikh Sayyid Muhammad Ghawth Ali Shah Radi Allahu Ta'ala Anhu
35. Shaikh Maulana Muhammad Abdul Hakeem al-Qadiri Radi Allahu Ta'ala Anhu
36. Shaikh Ahmad Mukhtar Siddiqui Radi Allahu Ta'ala Anhu
37. Shaikh Shah Muhammad Abdul Aleem Siddiqui al-Qadiri Radi Allahu Ta'ala Anhu
38. Shaikh Shah Ahmad Noorani Siddiqui al-Qadiri Radi Allahu Ta'ala Anhu

Qaid-e-Ahl Sunna Maulana Shah Ahmad Noorani Siddiqui al-Qadiri Rahmatullah 'alaih is a descendant of the first caliph of Islam, Syeddina Hazrat Abu Bakr Siddiqui Radi Allahu Ta'ala Anhu. He is the 38th generation of Hazrat Abu Bakr RA. According to Maulana Noorani RA, his forefathers migrated from Makka al-Mukarramah to Meerat, India in the mid 1700's.