

# LIFE SKETCH OF MAULANA ABUL HASAN ALI NADWI

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## BIRTH :

\* 6th Muharram-ul-haram 1333 Hijri (1914A.D.) At Daira -e- Shah Alamullah, Takiya Kalan, Rae Barely, (U.P. India

## EDUCATION:

\* His mother started his education with the Holy Quran, which was followed by regular Arabic and Urdu Education.

\* His father Hakeem Sayyid AbdulHai died in 1341 Hijri (1923 A.D.) when his age was a little more than 9 years. The responsibility of his upbringing and education fell on his mother and his elder brother Maulana Hakim Dr. Sayyid Abdul Ali who was himself studying at that time in a Medical college after completing his education at Darul Uloom Nadwatul Ulama and Darul Uloom Deoband

\* Started learning Arabic from Allama Khaleel Arab Ansari Yamani, and in fact completed his education of Arabic language and literature under his guidance and supervision. In 1930 when Allama Taqiuddin Hilali (from Morocco) came to Nadwa Maulana was particularly benefited by him.

\* Participated with his elder brother Dr. Sayyid Abdul Ali in the Nadwatul-Ulama session held at Kanpur in 1926. The participants were greatly delighted by his Arabic Speaking power at such a young age. Some Arab- guests took him as their guide and interpreter. Dr. Zakir Husain [The president of India afterwards] and Maulana Abdullah Surti specially took him to their room and as a test asked him some questions.

\* Took admission in Lucknow University in 1927. He was then the youngest student of the University. He secured the Degree of Fazil-e-Adab - with Gold Medal - from the University in 1929.

\* Took lessons of Islamic Law [الفقه الإسلامي Al Fiqhul Islami] from Maulana Shibli Jerajpuri in 1928.

- \* During his Arabic education Maulana Nadwi also studied classical Urdu books which helped him in the exposition and explanation of Islamic Faith and Thinking and in his mission (Dawah-wa-Tableegh) in a contemporary language.
- \* During 1928-30 he also paid special attention to the learning of English language. He utilized this in his literary works and call for ALLAH as well as during his travels to Europe and America afterwards. It also facilitated for him reading English references in the areas of history and Islamic studies.
- \* Was admitted to Darul Uloom Nadwatul-Ulama in 1929 and attended Dars-e-Hadith (Lessons of Hadith) of Allama Muhaddis (Scholar of Traditions) Haider Hasan Khan, and literally read under him the whole of Sahihain, (Bukhari & Muslim) Sunan-e-AbiDaud, and Sunan-e- Tirmidhi. Remained under his guidance for about two years and was greatly benefited by him in learning the art of Tradition.
- \* Took lessons of selected Verses of the Holy Qur'an from Allama Khaleel Arab, and during his studentship at Nadwa 1929 Attended Dars-e-Baidhawi of Allama Haider Hasan Khan.
- \* In 1930, during his second journey to Lahore studied the initial portion of Al-Baqarah (سورة البقرة) from Allama Ahmad Ali Lahori.
- \* To Lahore studied Hujjat-ullah-il-Baligha from him and in the same year on his advice became the disciple of Hazrat Khalifa Ghulam Mohammad Bhawalpuri.
- \* In 1931, during his third journey.
- \* In 1932 (1351 Hijri) during his short-stay at Darul-Uloom Deoband sought benefit (guidance) from Shaikh-ul-Islam Husain Ahmad Madani and attended his lessons in Sahihul Bukhari and Sunan Tirmidhi, and took lessons in Islamic Law (Jurisprudence) from Maulana Ejaz Ali , and in Tajveed (Recitation of the Holy Qur'an), According to the traditions of Hafs from Qari Asghar Ali, .
- \* In 1932, too during his fourth journey to Lahore, studied the complete commentary (Tafseer) of the Holy Quran from Allama Lahori according to the

course prescribed for "Fuzal-e-Madris-e-Arabia" (Graduates of Islamic schools).

### **HIS LIFE AS A SCHOLAR AND PREACHER:**

\* Was appointed on the teaching staff of Darul-Uloom Nadwatul-Ulama in July 1934, worked primarily as a teacher of Tafseer (Commentary of the Holy Quran) Hadith (Traditions of the Holy Prophet) and Arabic literature, sometimes taught History and logic too.

He went to Bombay in 1935 to invite the Dalit leader Dr. Ambedkar to embrace Islam.

\* Undertook a journey in 1939 in order to acquaint himself with the religious and Islamic Missionary centers, and was introduced to Shaikh Abdul Qadir Raipuri and eminent religious reformer Maulana Mohammad Ilyas Kandhalwi. This contact continued with the former's spiritual training and enlightenment and started missionary and reformation work in accordance with the latter's methods. Undertook many journeys in this connection and this continued - with a slight difference of opinion in the method of working - till his mortal sickness in Zilhijja 1419 Hijri corresponding to March, 1999

Founded Anjuman Taleemat-e-Islam (انجمن تعلیمات اسلام) in 1943 for imparting education of the Holy Quran and Hadith. This program became very popular. The working class and the educated, specially attended these lessons in large numbers.

Was elected a member of the Managing Committee of Nadwa in 1948 and was appointed as Assistant (Deputy) Secretary Education of Nadwa in 1951 on the proposal of Allama Sayyid Sulaiman Nadwi, and was unanimously elected the secretary following the death of Allama in 1954.

He was appointed the Rector of Darul-Uloom Nadwatul Ulama in 1961 following the demise of his elder brother Dr. Abdul Ali Hasani.

Became the General Secretary of the movement of Payam-e-Insaniyat (The Message of The Humanity) in 1951.

**مجلس تحقیقات (Established the Academy of Islamic Research and Publications )** ونشریات اسلام / المجمع الإسلامي العلمي in 1959.

Participated in the establishment of Deeni Taleemi Council (The council for Religious Education) in 1960, and Muslim Majlis-e-Mushawarat in 1964, and of Muslim Personal Law Board in 1972.

## HIS LITERARY WORKS

- \* His First article in Arabic about "The Movement of Sayyid Ahmad Shaheed حركة الإمام أحمد بن عرفان الشهيد" was published in the magazine "Almanar المنار" of Allama Sayyid Rasheed Radha Misri (Cairo-Egypt) in 1931. It was later brought out in a booklet form by the Allama Misri, the writer's age was then 16 years.
- \* His first book in Urdu entitled "Sirat Sayyid Ahmad Shaheed شہید (Sayyid Ahmad Shaheed life and mission) was published in 1938, and was warmly received by the religious circles of the United India. The writer was greatly encouraged and appreciated by the venerable personages and reformers of the time.
- \* Was invited by Aligarh Muslim University in 1938 to prepare a course on Islamic Studies (اسلامیات) for B.A. His course was liked and approved by the University.
- \* Delivered a lecture in Jamia Millia Delhi at its invitation in 1942 which was later published as "Religion and civilization".
- \* Compiled "Mukhtarat Min Adab-il-Arab" (مختارات من أدب العرب) (a selection from Arabic literature) in 1940, and completed the volumes of "Qasa-sun Nabiyyeen" (قصص النبيين) (stories of the Prophets) and Al-Qiraat-ur-Rashida" القراءة الرشيدة (An Arabic Text book for children also) from 1942 to 1944. The former two books are included in the course of a number of educational institutions and Arabic Language Centers of the Arab world.
- \* Compiled from 1944 to 1947 his famous Arabic work "Maza Khaseral A`alamu Binhitil Muslimeen" (ما زا خسر العالم بانحطاط المسلمين) (The effect of the rise and fall of Muslims on the world, published in English with title " Islam And The World") The Arabic Manuscript of the book was with him when he

went on his first Hajj pilgrimage in 1947, which was praised and admired by Arab scholars in Haramain Sharifain. And the Urdu translation of the book was already published in India.

\* Was invited as visiting Professor by Faculty of Shariah, Damascus كلية الشريعة in 1956. The lectures delivered on this occasion were later published in the first volume of "Rijalul fikre Waddawate Fil Islam = Tareekh-e-Dawat-wa-Azimat" ( published in English with the Title : Saviours of Islamic Spirit).

\* Wrote:

- ❖ "Al Qadiani Wal qadyineia = Qadiyanyat-Tahleel-wa-Tajzia" (published in English with the Title: Qadiyanism: A Critical study) in 1958 at the order of his Spritual guide Shaikh Abdul Qadir Raipuri,
- ❖ الصراع "As Sirau Bainal Fikratil Islamiyyate Wal Fikratil Gharabiyya" بين الفكرة الإسلامية والفكرة الغربية في البلاد الإسلامية= مسلم ممالك مين اسلاميت ومحربت کي (published in English with the Title : Western Civilization Islam and Muslims) in 1965,
- ❖ "Arkan-e-Arba`a (الارکان الأربعۃ فی الإسلام) (published in English with the Title : The four pillars of Islam) in 1967.
- ❖ "Dastoor-e-Hayat" (دستور حیات) (published in English with the Title: A guide book for Muslims) in 1980.
- ❖ اسلام اور "Islam ur Awwaleen Musalmanon-ki-do-Mutzad Tasweeren مسلمانوں کی دو متضاد تصویریں" (published in English with the Title : Islam and the Earliest Muslims) in 1984.
- ❖ "Al Murtadhaa المرتضی (The life of Caliph Ali) in 1988.
- ❖ From 1994 to 1999 penned seven volumes of his autobiography 'Karwan-e-Zindagi' کاروان زندگی".

\* Delivered lectures as visiting Professor in Islamic University, Madina in 1963(1383 Hajri) which were later published as "An Nubawatu Wal Anbia Fi Dhauil Qura`ne Was Sunnaa النبوة والأنبياء في ضوء القرآن والسنة". (Published in English with the Title: Islamic concept of Prophet hood)

\* Was invited as visiting professor by 'Umme Darman University Sudan' in 1966 and by 'As-Sayyid Mohammad Bin Ali-Sannusi University -Libya in 1967 but could not undertake the journey.

\* Went to Riyadh (Saudi Arabia) in 1968 at the invitation of Education Minister of Saudi Arabia for preparation of the course for the facility of Shariah. On this occasion delivered many lectures on Education and training at Riyadh University (King Saud University) and Teachers training college. Which were highly appreciated in the literary circles, and later formed part of his famous book "Nahwat Tarbeiatil Islamiyyatil Hurrah Fil Biladil Islamiyyah" (نحو التربية الإسلامية الحرة في البلاد الإسلامية) (Towards a complete Islamic educational system)

\* A number of his important books were written from 1964 to 1977 when he was incapable of reading and writing himself; because of cataract and Glaucoma, and others read out books and news papers to him.

\* The literary language of Maulana is Arabic and Urdu. His important works are originally in Arabic which have been translated in Urdu, whereas some books such as "Tareekh-e-Dawat-wa-Azeemat" (Saviours of Islamic spirit) from second to fifth volumes and "Karwan-e-Zindagi" (Autobiography) are originally in Urdu which have been rendered into Arabic. Thus his important works are both in Arabic and Urdu.

\* The number of his Urdu books and pamphlets is 290, and his Arabic books are 183, and his books published in English are about 60.

\* His important books have been translated into French, Persian, Bengali, Turkish, Malaysian, Gujarati, Tamil, Malayalam and in other regional and international languages.

### **HIS CONTRIBUTION IN JOURNALISM:**

\* Participated in the editing of "Al-Zia" (الضياء), an Arabic paper of Nadwatul Ulama in 1932, and of "An-Nadwa" (الندوة) an urdu organ in 1940, started bringing out an Urdu paper "Tameer" (تعمیر) in 1948 under the auspices of Anjuman Taleemat-e-Islam.

\* In 1958-59 took the responsibility of writing the editorials of "Al-Muslimoon" (المسلمون) published from Cairo. The first editorial of these was published under the caption "Riddatun Wala Ababakarin Laha" (ردة ولا أبادر لها) (published in English with the Title: The New Menace and it's Answer نیا طوفان)

(اور اس کا مقابلہ). Some articles were also published in "Al-Fatah الفتح", a paper brought out by Muhibuddin Khateeb in Damascus.

\* Was the patron of Urdu Paper "Nida-e-Millat ندای ملت" which started its publication from Lucknow in 1963.

\* Was also the chief patron of Arabic periodical, 'Al Ba`asul-islami البعث الإسلامي "Since its inception in 1955, and Arabic paper "Ar-Raid الرائد" since its start in 1959 and Urdu fortnightly "Tameer-e-Hayat تعمیر حیات" since its publication in 1963, and the English Organ "The Fragrance of The East". All the four are brought out from Nadwa, and Monthly "Marif معارف" the organ of Darul Musannefean (Shibli Academy) Azamgarh, and "Majallatul Adab-il-Islami مجلة الأدب الإسلامي" the Arabic organ of Universal League of Islamic Literature Riyadh, and "Karwan-e-Adab کاروان ادب" The Urdu organ of Universal League of Islamic Literature Lucknow

## JOURNIES:

\* Undertook his first long journey to Lahore in 1929, where he met the Ulama (علماء) and the elite. Also called on Allama Iqbal whose poem 'Chand' (the Moon) he had earlier translated in Arabic.

\* Went to Bombay in 1935 to invite the Dalit leader, Dr. Ambedkar to embrace Islam.

\* Went on first Hajj pilgrimage in 1947 and stayed for some months in Hejaz (MAKKA & MADEENA). This was his first foreign trip.

\* Made his second journey to perform Hajj in 1951-52.

\* His first visit to Egypt was in 1951. His book العالم بانحطاط المسلمين (Islam and the world) had already made a deep impression in literary circles there. That proved to be a good introduction for Maulana Nadwi.

\* During this journey also went to Palestine and visited Bait-ul-Maqdis and Masjid-e-Aqsa. On his return journey also met King Abdullah, the king of Jordan, and then visited Jordan again in 1973, then 1984, 1998.

\* On this occasion [1951] also went to Sudan, and Syria. Its account was later published in Arabic titled "Mudhakkeratu Saeh Fish Sharqil Ausat مذکرات سائح

**Urdu translation published in title "Sharqe Ausat Ki Dairy شرق اوسط کی دایری" ("فی الشرق الأوسط")**

\* visited Syria again - as a visiting Professor- in 1956, and stayed there three months, On this occasion also went to Lebanon, and Tripoli etc.

On this occasion in 1956 also undertook his first journey to Turkey (Its account was later published in Urdu titled "Do Haftay Turkey Main دو هفت ترکی میں Two weeks in Turkey".) Later undertook many other journeys to Turkey in 1964, then 1986,1989,1993,1996 the later four visits were on the invitation of Universal League of Islamic Literature.

\* Travelled to Burma in 1960.

\* Visited Bangladesh in 1982, the lectures delivered in Bangladesh published in title "Tuhfai Mashriq تحفہ مشرق".

\* Visited Sri Lanka in 1982, and Malaysia in 1987.

\* 1964, then 1978,1986, and last visit to Pakistan was in 1998. , The lectures delivered in Pakistan published in title "Ahadeethe Pakistan" and "Tuhfay Pakistan تحفہ پاکستان".

\* Made several visits to Pakistan

\* Undertook first journey to Kuwait in 1962, then visited Kuwait 1968, 1983, and 1987.

Undertook first visit to U.A.E. in 1974 at the invitation of H.H. Sultan Bin Mohammad Al Qasmi, then 1976,1983,1988,1993, and the last visit to U.A.E. was in 1998.

\* Visited Qatar in 1990, then in 1995.

\* Some lectures delivered in Gulf Countries published in title "Ahadeeth sareeha Ma`a Ikhwanen al Arabil Muslmeen أحاديث صريحة مع اخواننا العرب المسلمين".

\* Visited Jordan again (after the first visit in 1951) in 1973, then 1984, 1998.

\* Visited Yemen in 1984. The lectures delivered in Jordan and Yemen in 1984 published in Arabic titled "Nafahatul Eeman Bain Sana'a Wa Amman نفحات الإيمان بين صنعاء و عمان".

\* Led a delegation of Rabit-a-tul-Alam-il Islami (Muslim World League) to Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Syria and Jordon in 1973, (Its account was later published in Arabic titled "Min Nahre Kabul Ila Nahril Yarmook من نهر کابل إلى نهر اليرموك" and in Urdu titled "Daryai Kabuk Say Daryai Yarmook دریاۓ کابول سے دریاۓ یرموک تک Tak

\* Visited Mughrib-e-Aqsa (Morocco) in 1976. Then again in 1996, Its account was later published in Urdu titled "Doo Haftay Maghrib-e Aqsa Marakash Main دو هفت مغرب اقصیٰ مراکش مین (Two weeks in Morocco.)

\* Went to Al Jazair (Algeerea) in 1982, then again in 1986.

\* Went on a tour of Europe in 1963, and visited Geneva, London, Paris, Cambridge, Oxford and some major cities of Spain. During this tour met many Arab Scholars and delivered many lectures.

\* Visited Europe again in 1964, then 1969, the lectures delivered in Europe published in title "Speaking plainly to the West".

\* After this had to undertake several journeys to Europe particularly on the invitation of Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies in 1983.

\* Went to America in 1977, then again in 1993, the lectures delivered in America published in title "From the Depth of The Heart In America"

\* Visited Belgium in 1985.

\* Visited Taskhent and Samarakand, and Bukhara in 1993.

## **AWARDS AND HONOURS:**

During his second Hajj (Pilgrimage) in 1951-52 Shaikh Shaibi the key-bearer of Holy Kaba'a, opened its door continuously for two days and allowed Maulana Nadwi to take inside Holy Kaba'a whomsoever he chose. So he invited in Shaikh Abdul Qadir Raipuri and many other persons.

**Was elected correspondence member of Maj-ma-ul-lughat-il-Arabia** مجمع اللغة العربية (Academy of Arabic language) Damascus in 1956.

**Conducted the first session of the foundation and establishment of Rabitatul Aalamil Islami** رابطة العالم الإسلامي (Muslim world league) held in Makkah in 1962, in which His Majesty King SAUD BIN ABDUL AZEEZ and King IDREES SNNAUSI of Libya were also present the first meeting.

**Was a member of the Advisory committee (Board) of Islamic University in Madina** الجامعية الإسلامية بالمدينة المنورة since its foundation and establishment in 1963 and continued in this capacity till a change in its administration (was effected)

**Elected a Member of Advisory Committee or Darul Uloom Deoband in 1382 A.H. (1963 A.D.)**

**Had the honour of addressing the Pilgrims from the Musalla Shafa'i in Makkah Haram Shareef two days prior to HUJ in 1963.**

**Was a member of Rabita-ul-Jamiat-il-Islamia** رابطة الجامعات الإسلامية (league of the Islamic universities) Rabat, Morocco since the beginning

\*Was made a member of Majma-ul-lughatil Arabia مجمع اللغة العربية (Academy of Arabic Language) of Jordan in 1980.

\*Was honoured by 'King Faisal Prize in 1980 for his great services to Islam.  
Was honoured by ' King Faisal Prize in 1980 for his great services to Islam.

\*Was awarded an honorary doctorate (Ph.D.) in Literature by the Kashmir University in 1981.

\*Trustees of the Oxford Centre for Islamic studies since its establishment in 1983, and continued on this post till his death.

\*Was the founding president of Rabita-tul-Adab-il-Islami-Al-Alamiya رابطة الأدب الإسلامي العالمية (Universal League of Islamic Literature) since its inception in 1984, and continued on this post till his death.

\*Was elected President (Chairman) of All India Muslim Personal Law Board in 1985 and continued on this post till his death.

\*A seminar was held in Turkey on his missionary and literary works on the occasion of the fourth general conference of the Universal League of Islamic Literature رابطة الأدب الإسلامي العالمية held in Turkey in 1996.

\*The present heir of the Shaibi family, (the key-bearers of the Holy Kaba'a) honoured Maulana by placing the KEY at the door of KAABA and asking him to open it, on 8th Sha`ban 1417 Hijri (December, 1996) And Maulana offered prayers supplicated inside Bait-ul-lah Shareef on the request of PRINCE MISH`AL BIN MOHAMMAD BIN SAUDBIN ABDUL AZEEZ A`LE SAUD in which members and office bearers of Muslim World league also participated>

Was given the Eminent (Great) Islamic Personality Award of 1419Hijri [1998] on the occasion of the Dubai world Recitation of the Holy Quran Competitions in Ramadan 1419 Hijri (Jan 1999) .

\*Was given the Award of the 1998 SULTAN HASSAN-AL-BOLKIAH INTERNATIONAL PRIZE BY OXFORD CENTRE FOR IS LAMIE Studies (OCIS) in recognition of his outstanding contribution to scholarship on viog bapnical studies of major figures in Islamic thought. The Award receiver by (his sister's son) Maulana Sayyid Mohammed Rabey Nadwi at a special Ceremony in DELHI (INDIA)in july1999, presented by H.E Pehin Abdul Aziz Omar, Minister of Education of Brunei Darussalam, and Special Representative of H.M. SULTAN HASAN- AL BOLKIAH.

\*In 22nd Ramadan-ul-Mubarak 1420 Hijri (31st. December,1999) Prepared himself for Juma prayer, took bath and was reciting sura-e-Yasin when the call came and he left for his heavenly abode.

\*Maulana Nadwi was given Shah Waliullah award by ISLAMIC OBJECTIVE STUDIES Delhi in Shaba'an 1421 A.H. According to the version of Dr. Manzoor A`lam, director of IOS, the institute had decided to award Maulana Nadwi during his life but he passed away before its formal announcement. This award was received by Maulana Sayyid Mohammed Rabey Nadwi, the successor of Maulana Nadwi, and his nephew (Sister's son).

\*Similarly in the month of Shab'an 1421 Hijri Maulana Nadwi was awarded with a first grade medal of acknowledgment in recognition of his valuable services in the field of Islamic & Arabic literature and culture by the

**ISLAMIC EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC & CULTURAL ORGANIZATION**  
[of OIC] المنظمة الإسلامية للتربية والعلوم والثقافة Dr. Abdullah Abbas Nadwi the Education Secretary of Nadwatul Ulama received this medal on behalf of Maulana Nadwi's successor, Maulana Sayyid Mohammed Rabey Nadwi the General Secretary of Nadwatul Ulama & the Rector of Darul Uloom Nadwatul Ulama, in a ceremony held in RABAT (MOROCCO).