

THIRTY-SEVEN

SHAYKH MIĀ JĪ NŪR MUḤAMMAD JHANJHĀNĀWĪ ؒ



DATE OF BIRTH: 1201 AH

PLACE OF BIRTH: Jhanjhāna

DATE OF DEATH: 4th Ramaḍān 1259 AH or 1309 AH

PLACE OF BURIAL: Jhanjhāna

Shaykh Miā Jī Nūr Muḥammad Jhanjhānawī ؒ was the spiritual mentor of Ḥājī Imdādullāh ؒ. In order to keep himself discreet so that nobody would come to know of him, he chose an occupation and stuck with it throughout his life. This occupation was teaching at maktab. His condition was such that...

THE EFFECT OF A SINGLE MOMENT'S
SPIRITUAL ATTENTION

He was once teaching at maktab when his disciples arrived. Shaykh Miā Jī Nūr Muḥammad Jhanjhānawī ؒ took them into a room to impart some dhikr and other exercises to them. The door was slightly open and the children at the maktab peeped through. They saw that Shaykh Miā Jī Nūr Muḥammad Jhanjhānawī ؒ was sat with his eyes shut and head lowered, and his guest disciples sat in the same way. He was directing his spiritual attention on them.

One of the maktab students encouraged his classmates to sit in the same manner, and so the children sat in the same way with their eyes shut. In the meantime, Shaykh Miā Jī Nūr Muḥammad Jhanjhānawī ؒ returned from the room to see one of the students acting as a shaykh, directing his spiritual attention to the others. Shaykh Miā Jī Nūr Muḥammad Jhanjhānawī ؒ called the student to sit in front of him. The child sat for a short while and went into a profound state, screaming loudly.

He says that his directing of spiritual attention for a short while caused his whole body to be filled with a burning sensation, feeling as if his body was on fire, "...and I do not know what would have happened if he had not moved me from there." He further says, "Whenever I lie in my bed covering my head and face with my quilt, on a really dark chilly night following this incident, I can perceive how the twigs and leaves of so and so neem-tree, [name of a tree] are fluttering because of the [blowing] wind and its direction." In other words, his heart was so enlightened that visions of afar were an everyday thing for him.

Once, a huge fire broke out. Someone came and told Shaykh Miā Jī Nūr Muḥammad Jhanjhānawī ؒ about it, so he took of his cap and gave it to the man, telling him to throw it onto the fire. It was thrown onto the fire and it extinguished it instantaneously.

THE SHAYKH'S MIRACLE

Shaykh Miā Jī Nūr Muḥammad Jhanjhānawī ؒ was approached by someone who told him that they were from an area far away and that they were really concerned as they had not had any rainfall, thus the crops were dying out. The Shaykh was eating sugar cane at the time. "Can you chew this?" the Shaykh asked, regarding the remnant of sugar cane which is usually thrown away. Here

the man put the remainder of the sugar cane in his mouth for blessings and [over in his area] it started to rain.

His accounts are amazing. He had pledged allegiance to Shāh ‘Abd al-Raḥīm Wilāyatī ؒ. Shāh ‘Abd al-Raḥīm Wilāyatī ؒ was the guide and mentor in the Chishtiyya order and Shaykh Miā Jī Nūr Muḥammad Jhanjhānawī ؒ was the disciple and khalifa, but when Sayyid Aḥmad Shahīd ؒ toured through those regions, Shāh ‘Abd al-Raḥīm Wilāyatī ؒ pledged allegiance to him as he arrived in the area of Saharanpur. He also called for his disciple, Shaykh Miā Jī Nūr Muḥammad Jhanjhānawī ؒ, to pledge allegiance too. Sayyid Aḥmad Shahīd then travelled to Balakot.

Shaykh Miā Jī Nūr Muḥammad Jhanjhānawī ؒ was a few miles away mounted on his horse while it drank water in his own village, when a messenger came and called out from the other side, “Shāh ‘Abd al-Raḥīm Wilāyatī ؒ is calling you because Sayyid Aḥmad Shahīd is here. We have pledged allegiance to him, you too come and pledge allegiance.” He used to take pledges of allegiance for jihād.

These were the words of the message. But it caused Shaykh Miā Jī Nūr Muḥammad Jhanjhānawī ؒ to fall into a trance, unconscious. The messenger waited a long time for him to regain consciousness and thereafter took him. Shaykh Miā Jī Nūr Muḥammad Jhanjhānawī ؒ pledged allegiance to Sayyid Aḥmad Shahīd ؒ.

What was the pledge for? For, they called him suddenly whilst he was giving his horse water? Well, after he pledged allegiance, he joined the expedition which was directed from here (Uttar Pradesh) to Balakot, Sarhad Province. They reached Balakot but Sayyid Aḥmad Shahīd ؒ sent Shaykh Jhanjhānawī ؒ back to carry out a job.

So, Shaykh Miā Jī Nūr Muḥammad Jhanjhānawī ؒ, such a

great man of nisba, yet he kept himself understated by teaching at a maktab.

LEVEL OF ADHERENCE TO THE SUNNA

His level of adherence to the Sunna was such that someone once recommended him to listen to the na't [poetry in praise of the Prophet ﷺ] of a particular person, stating that he sings well and has a beautiful voice. "You will really enjoy listening to him," he said. Shaykh Miā Jī Nūr Muḥammad Jhanjhānawī ﷺ replied, "No, I do not want to listen to him sing na't." "But, why?" he was asked. "There is a difference of opinion in regards to simā', even when it is free of any input of musical instruments. For, one view is that one should not even listen to such na't as, once he begins to enjoy this type [without musical instruments], it may lead him to becoming care-free in the musical type as well, thus nodding his head with it out of pleasure." This was why he refused to listen. He also stated his reason for not listening.

This holds a great lesson for the imāms of today. Shaykh Miā Jī Nūr Muḥammad Jhanjhānawī ﷺ also stated that people occasionally appoint him to lead them in ṣalāh, he chose the more safer and more precautionary option despite the fact that the majority of muftīs permit listening to it, although some muftīs do forbid it as a preventative measure.

At this juncture, he left listening to na't for the sake of those who he lead in prayer because there is a difference of opinion in the issue, and the imām should not do anything which could potentially tarnish his reputation, hence affect his position as an imām.

This was how he understated himself by teaching at a maktab. Great personalities like Ḥājī Imdādullāh ﷺ, Shaykh Shaykh

Muḥammad Thānawī ؒ and Shaykh Ḍāmin Shahīd ؒ are amongst his khalīfas.

AROMA EMANATING FROM THE GRAVE

I once visited the grave of Shaykh Miā Jī Nūr Muḥammad Jhanjhānawī ؒ. We travelled from Saharanpur to Thānabhawan and spent a night with Shaykh Masīḥullāh Khān Ṣāhib ؒ. We then walked from Thānabhawan to Jhanjhāna. Prior to visiting, we had heard much regarding the grave of Shaykh Miā Jī Nūr Muḥammad Jhanjhānawī, buried years ago, but aroma emanates from it till this day.

Shaykh al-Islām Ḥusayn Aḥmad Madanī ؒ used to send his senior khalīfas to observe a forty-day i'tikāf in the adjoining masjid to the grave of Shaykh Miā Jī Nūr Muḥammad Jhanjhānawī ؒ. Shaykh al-Islām Shaykh Ḥusayn Aḥmad Madanī ؒ also observed a forty-day i'tikāf there himself. That particular masjid is renowned for the observance of forty-day i'tikāfs.

We also heard that it is distinguished for emitting a unique aroma that everyone can smell. We reached there at night, close to the time of 'ishā' ṣalāh. It was pitch black without any electricity. Someone brought a lamp to show us around and opened the door to let us in. We then saw the grave which was emitting an amazingly strong aroma. All those who visit till this day say that the aroma continues emanating from the grave.

May Allāh Most High make our bodies aromatic too, and may He enable us to perform such actions which become a means of aroma for us in this world and the Hereafter.

