

Life Sketch:

Hakim al-Islam Qari Maulana Muhammad Tayyib ﷺ

Born in 1315/1897, Hakim al-Islam Qari Muhammad Tayyib ﷺ would go on to become one of the most influential scholars of Islam in recent history. He was the son of Maulana Hafiz Muhammad Ahmad ﷺ, son of Maulana Muhammad Qasim Nanotwi ﷺ.

He enrolled into Darul Uloom Deoband at the age of seven, wherein he memorized the Qur'an with two years. Thereafter he embarked on the path of sacred knowledge, graduating from the institute in the year 1337/1918, having studied Hadith primarily from Imam al-'Asr Anwar Shah Kashmiri ﷺ. In 1339 he took the spiritual pledge (*bay'ah*) at the hands of Shaikh al-Hind ﷺ, who passed away shortly thereafter. He then took the spiritual pledge at the hands of Hakim al-Ummah Ashraf Ali Thanwi ﷺ, who granted him the mantle of spiritual succession (*khilafah*) in the year 1350.

After graduation, he began teaching at his alma mater. His knowledge, intelligence, brilliance and lineage made him popular among his students. At In the year 1344/1926, he was appointed as the vice principal, and until 1348/1928, he remained under the wing of his father ﷺ, and thereafter Maulana Habibur Rahman 'Uthmani ﷺ (both of whom were the principals of the institution before him), learning the logistics of running such a large institution. Upon Maulana Habibur Rahman's ﷺ passing in 1348/1928, he was appointed principal; a position he would hold for the next fifty-five years.

During his time as principal of Darul Uloom Deoband, the institution rose to new heights. Previously, the yearly income for Darul Uloom was 50,262 rupees, there were eighteen total teachers, and 480 students. When his time as principal had come to an end, the total income had increased to 2,600,000; the total number of teachers was fifty-nine, and the total number of students was two thousand. He also developed the infrastructure, establishing various buildings such as *Dar al-Tafsir*, *Dar al-Ifta*, *Dar al-Qur'an*, *Dar al-Hadith*, and others. Every aspect of Darul Uloom had been developed and nurtured amidst his time as the principal.

Aside from his responsibilities as principal and teacher, Qari Muhammad Tayyib ﷺ was known as a prolific speaker. It was easy for him to speak on pertinent issues for two to three hours, often delving into the wisdoms of the divine law. Students of famous universities such as Aligarh were fond of his speeches, due to their blend of academia and wisdom, some of which have been published by the university. In 1353/1934, while on a trip to the Arabian Peninsula, he gave a speech in the presence of King ibn Saud which left an impression on him. A selection of his speeches have been published into *Khutubat Hakim al-Islam* in ten volumes. Maulana Khair Muhammad Jalandhari ﷺ, founder of *Khairul Madaris*, said that a single speech of Qari Muhammad Tayyib ﷺ had enough material for all of his own speeches for an entire year.

His travels took him to nearly every corner of the world, delivering lectures and speeches that captivated Muslims globally. He had visited places such as Afghanistan, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Malaysia, Burma, the Arabian Peninsula, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, South Africa, Zanzibar, Greece, England, France, Germany, Canada, America, and others.

In 1972, a conference was held in Mumbai for the development of a system through which Muslims could live by the divine law free from government influence. Qari Muhammad Tayyib ﷺ attended this conference and became one of the founders of the All-India Muslim Personal Law Board. There are many other incidents of Qari Muhammad Tayyib's achievements and demonstrations of his personality, be it his humanity, honor, humility, internal purity, knowledge, virtue, wisdom, fluency, eloquence, etc.

Not only was Qari Muhammad Tayyib ﷺ a teacher, principal, and orator, but he was also a prolific writer. Qari Maulana Abdullah Saleem would join Qari Muhammad Tayyib ﷺ in many of his travels and noted how meticulous he was regarding his time. Whenever he got the chance, he was either engaged in reading or writing. Hereunder are the names of some of his books:

1. *Al-Tashabbuh Fil Islam*
2. *Mashahir Ummat*
3. *Kalimat Tayyibat*
4. *Maqamat Muqaddasiyyah*
5. *Atyab al-Thamar Fi Mas'alah al-Qada wal Qadar*
6. *Science Aur Islam*
7. *Islam Aur Masihi Aqwam*
8. *Mas'alah Zaban Urdu Hindustan Me*
9. *Din wa Siyasat*
10. *Asbab 'Uruj wa Zawal Aqwam*
11. *Islami Azadi Ka Mukammal Program*
12. *Al-Ijtihad wa al-Taqlid*
13. *Usul Da'wat Islam*
14. *Islami Musawat*
15. *Tafsir Surah Fil*
16. *Fitri Hukumat*
17. *Falsafah Namaz*
18. *Nazriyah Do Quran Ka Tahqiqi Jaizah*
19. *Islam me Akhlaq Ka Nizam*
20. *Khatim al-Nabiyyin*
21. *Hadith Ka Qurani Mi'yar*
22. *Ulama Deoband Ka Dini Rukh Aur Maslaki Mezaj*

Qari Tayyib ﷺ was a model of humility, knowledge, and yet maintained a bright composure; people enjoyed his company. He was very sociable and approachable, often sharing

stories from his travels. He would always have ulama and students of knowledge accompany him on his travels, and he would go out of his way to ensure that they were comfortable and happy. When he was very young, Maulana Ubaidullah Saleem had the opportunity to travel with Qari Tayyib رحمۃ اللہ علیہ from Deoband to Khatholi; a journey of approximately sixty kilometers. On the way, they came to a halt due to traffic, wherein some people were carrying baskets of food to sell. Qari Tayyib رحمۃ اللہ علیہ purchased *ladu* (Indian sweet) for everyone in the car. He gave time for everyone from children, youth, adults, scholars, etc.

There is much more to say about the life of Qari Tayyib رحمۃ اللہ علیہ, so those who want to get a more detailed picture may refer to the two-volume work entitled, *Hayat Tayyib*, which was compiled under the supervision of his son, Maulana Salim Qasimi رحمۃ اللہ علیہ.

Qari Tayyib رحمۃ اللہ علیہ passed away in the year 1403/1983 and was buried in the Qasimi cemetery.