



# *The Conqueror of Hearts*

In the Land of Sultan Muhammad Al-Fateh



# *The Conqueror of Hearts*

In the Land of Sultan Muhammad Al-Fateh

*Travels In Turkey With*

SHAYKH ZULFIQAR AHMAD  
NAQSHBANDI MUJADDIDI (DB)

*Compiled by*

*Faqir* Mustafa Kamal

MAKTABATUL FAQIR

© 2011 Maktabatul Faqir  
First Edition 2011

All rights reserved.

No part of this book may be reproduced, stored, or transmitted in any form by any means, electronic or otherwise, including photocopying, recording, Internet, or by any storage and retrieval system without written permission from Maktabatul Faqir.

یک زمانہ صحبت با اولیا  
بہتر از صد سالہ طاعت بے ریا

A moment spent in the company of the friends of Allah  
Is better than a hundred years of sincere worship

Maulana Jalaluddin Rumi 



## Contents

Foreword	9
Prologue	11
Acknowledgements	19

### DAY 1

The Much Anticipated Arrival	21
The Power of the Quran	22
History at Every Turn—A Night Tour of Istanbul	26

### DAY 2

Visit to the Sacred Trusts	29
History of the Sacred Trusts	30
Turning Heads at Topkapi Palace	34
Panorama 1453 History Museum	35
Significance of the Conquest of Istanbul	37
Founding of the Ottoman Sultanate: The Story of Osman Ghazi	39
Al-Fateh's Spiritual Guide: <i>Shaykh</i> Aaq Shemsuddin ؒ	42
Sultan Muhammad al-Fateh ؒ and the Conquest of Istanbul	42
An Extraordinary Plan	44
<i>Shaykh</i> Aaq Shemsuddin ؒ's <i>Duas</i>	45
The Opening of Constantinople	45
Visit to Sultan Muhammad al-Fateh ؒ	48
Understanding the Secret of the <i>Ummah's</i> Success	50

## THE CONQUEROR OF HEARTS

### DAY 3

Lessons in History along the Bosphorus	55
<i>Zikr</i> on the Bosphorus	59
A Visit to Eyup Sultan	60
Hazrat Abu Ayub al-Ansari ؑ	62
The King of Hearts at Eyup Sultan	66
Journey to Konya	66

### DAY 4

Maulana Jalaluddin Rumi ؑ	69
Visit to Maulana Rumi ؑ's Shrine	75
Visit to Shams Tabriz ؑ's Shrine	79
A Moth around a Flame	80
Maulana Rumi ؑ's Spiritual Stature	80
Abandoned Traditional Schools of Learning	81
Our <i>Naqshbandi Khanqah</i> in Konya	82
Understanding Maulana Rumi ؑ and the Masnavi	83
On the Capacity to Accept Spiritual Benefit	84
On the Benefit of Love on the Day of Judgment	87
On Attaining the Forgiveness of Allah ؑ	91
On the Paths of the <i>Nafs</i> and <i>Qalb</i>	91
Return from Konya	94

### DAY 5

Visit to the Hagia Sofia (Ayasofya)	95
The Conqueror of Hearts at the Ayasofya	97
Visit to Sultan Ahmed Mosque	99
The Difference between Real and Fake	99
Bidding Farewell	100

## Foreword

الحمد لله و كفى و سلام على عباده الذين اصطفى أما بعد

The *khayr ul quroon* were driven by an intense love for Allah ﷻ to take His blessed name to all corners of the world. It is an amazing fact that even today, the boundaries of the core Muslim World are largely demarcated by those lands that were blessed by the physical presence of the *Sababa*, the *tabi'een*, and the *taba' tabi'een*. During travels across the world, this *faqir* has repeatedly been amazed to find that the final resting places of the people of *khayr al quroon* continue to be the blessed outposts on the borders of Muslim lands. Indeed, an indication is sufficient for the wise!

Turkey is one such land that was blessed with the presence of the Companions of the Prophet ﷺ. The story of *'ishq* that began with the love and *adab* of Sayyidna Abu Ayub al-Ansari ﷺ for the Prophet ﷺ continued until his death at the gates of Constantinople. This same story of *'ishq* continues through to Konya in Turkey, where as a result of his meeting with Shams Tabriz ﷺ, Maulana Rumi ﷺ's spiritual intoxication led him to produce that timeless expression of love for Allah ﷻ known as the *Masnavi*. This same *'ishq* and *adab* perfumed the life of Muhammad al-Fatih ﷺ that نعم الأمير whose accomplishments were foretold in *ahadeeth*. However, this fable of *'ishq* does not finish here. There are still many more chapters to be written until the end of time.

THE CONQUEROR OF HEARTS

*Faqir* is duty-bound by the *amanah* placed on me by my *mashaikh* to take the *ziker* of Allah, Allah, Allah to all corners of the world.

ہم تو زندہ ہیں کہ دنیا میں تیرا نام رہے

We are alive so that Your Name may live on...

May Allah ﷻ accept our journey to Turkey and make it a means of our success in the Hereafter. Ameen.

FAQIR ZULFIQAR AHMAD  
NAQSHBANDI-MUJADDIDI

كان الله عوضا عن كل شئ

5 April 2011

## Prologue

Imam Razi رحمۃ اللہ علیہ said that if a *wali*, a friend of Allah ﷻ, passes through a town, everyone in that town obtains a portion of his spiritual radiance, his *noor*. The reality of this *noor*, and its recognition by those whose hearts are alive, is illustrated here in three incidents that we have heard from our *Shaykh*, Hazrat Maulana Zulfqar Ahmad *Naqshbandi Mujaddidi* (db), which are described below.

Once, *Imam-ul-'Ulema was-Suleha'* Hazrat Khwaja Abdul Malik Siddiqui رحمۃ اللہ علیہ visited the town of Khewra in Punjab, Pakistan, accompanied by his renowned *khalifa* (authorized deputy) Hazrat Ghulam Habib رحمۃ اللہ علیہ<sup>2</sup>. Upon reaching a bend in the mountainous track on which they were travelling, he glanced at the town, now in sight, and asked whether any pious elder, a *buzurg*, lived there. Hazrat Ghulam Habib رحمۃ اللہ علیہ informed him that no such personality resided there. Khwaja Sahib رحمۃ اللہ علیہ was not convinced, as his spiritual intuition told him something different, and he repeated his question; Hazrat Ghulam Habib رحمۃ اللہ علیہ confirmed that he was well-acquainted with the town and its residents, and was certain that no one of notable spiritual standing was amongst

---

<sup>1</sup> This title, which literally means 'Leader of the Religious Scholars and the Righteous' was given to Hazrat Khwaja Abdul Malik Siddiqui رحمۃ اللہ علیہ, who was the grand-*Shaykh* of our Hazrat (db), in lieu of his exalted spiritual stature and the scope of his influence.

<sup>2</sup> *Murshid-e-A'alam* (Spiritual Guide of the World), Hazrat Ghulam Habib رحمۃ اللہ علیہ was a great *Naqshbandi shaykh* and was the spiritual guide of our Hazrat (db).

them. However, upon reaching the house of their hosts they came to know that another *khalifa* of Hazrat Khwaja Fazal Ali Qureishi رحمۃ اللہ علیہ<sup>3</sup> was passing through Khewra, and had decided to stop there for a while. Khwaja Sahib رحمۃ اللہ علیہ turned to his companion and said, “Did I not tell you that I could see the *noor* of a *wali* here?”

Another illuminating incident involves Maulana Badr-e-Alam رحمۃ اللہ علیہ<sup>4</sup>, a great *‘alim* (religious scholar) whose book *Tarjuman-us-Sunnah* is well-known and highly respected amongst religious scholars. While writing the book, Maulana Badr-e-Alam رحمۃ اللہ علیہ engaged the services of *Haji* Muhammad Ala Sahib from *Idara-e-Mujaddidiya*, Karachi, for the actual lettering of the final draft. Once during the course of this engagement, Maulana Badr-e-Alam رحمۃ اللہ علیہ planned to visit Karachi to work with *Haji* Sahib on editing the book, and wrote a letter to *Haji* Sahib informing him of his upcoming trip. He requested that news of his visit not be made public as he did not want any distractions from the task at hand. Hazrat Syed Zawwaar Husain Shah Sahib رحمۃ اللہ علیہ<sup>5</sup> was in those days teaching in a school, and was learning the art of handwriting from *Haji* Muhammad Ala Sahib in his spare time. Because his visits were a daily practice, *Haji* Sahib mentioned Maulana Badr-e-Alam رحمۃ اللہ علیہ’s visit to him, and invited him to join them for dinner; Syed Zawwaar Husain Shah Sahib رحمۃ اللہ علیہ accepted this invitation. Maulana Badr-e-Alam رحمۃ اللہ علیہ arrived at *Haji* Sahib’s as planned and they worked on

<sup>3</sup> Hazrat Khwaja Fazal Ali Qureishi رحمۃ اللہ علیہ was a great Naqshbandi *shaykh* and was the spiritual guide of Hazrat Khwaja Abdul Malik Siddiqui رحمۃ اللہ علیہ.

<sup>4</sup> Maulana Badr-e-Alam رحمۃ اللہ علیہ was a leading scholar of *Hadith* who was a graduate of *Madrasah Mazahir-e-Ulum* in Saharanpur, and of *Dar al-Ulum Deoband*. He attended the lectures of Maulana Anwar Shah al-Kashmiri رحمۃ اللہ علیہ on the *Sahih* of Imam al-Bukhari رحمۃ اللہ علیہ for five years. He transcribed his beloved teacher’s lectures in Arabic which were published as *Faiz al-Bari ‘ala Sahih al-Bukhari*. After the partition of India and Pakistan, Maulana Badr ‘Alam immigrated to Pakistan and lectured at *Dar al-Ulum al-Islamiyyah* founded by Maulana Shabbir Ahmad Usmani رحمۃ اللہ علیہ. His love for Madinah Munawwarah led him to settle there in 1953 and he passed away in this Blessed City in 1965.

<sup>5</sup> Hazrat Syed Zawwaar Husain Shah Sahib رحمۃ اللہ علیہ was a great Naqshbandi *shaykh* and the first spiritual guide of our beloved *Shaykh* Zulfiqar Ahmad Naqshbandi Mujaddidi (db). He was also a great Hanafi scholar and author of the *fiqh* masterpiece, *Umdatul Fiqh*.

## Prologue

their book, after which they ate dinner and prepared for *Isha*. Maulana Badr-e-Alam ؒ said to Syed Zawwaar Husain Shah Sahib ؒ, you appear to be a *maulvi*, why don't you lead the prayer tonight. Shah Sahib ؒ agreed and led the prayer. After completion of the prayer, Maulana Badr-e-Alam ؒ' s state was visibly changed and he said to *Haji* Ala Sahib that if there is a *sahib-e-nisbat buzurg* (a pious elder who has attained the blessing of spiritual connection) in the gathering we should be told about it so that we may be able to give him due respect. *Haji* Sahib was surprised and asked who amongst them was of such an elevated spiritual standing? Maulana Sahib ؒ pointed to Syed Zawwaar Husain Shah Sahib ؒ, a revelation that shocked *Haji* Ala Sahib for Shah Sahib ؒ had been his student for many years and out of his humility had never once made mention of his *nisbat*. Maulana Badr-e-Alam Sahib ؒ explained that it was Shah Sahib ؒ' s greatness that he had kept such a big blessing a secret for so long. *Haji* Ala Sahib later investigated and confirmed that Syed Zawaar Husain Shah Sahib ؒ had indeed attained the *noor* of *nisbat* from his *Shaykh*, Hazrat Khwaja Muhammad Saeed Quraishi ؒ.

Hazrat once shared with us his own experience from his young age. He had a colleague, a fellow-engineer, whose *Shaykh* was supposed to visit their home-town. He invited Hazrat to meet the *Shaykh* and Hazrat accepted the invitation on the condition that he be introduced to the venerable guest simply as a manager in the factory. On the day of the visit, Hazrat discreetly came to the gathering of the *Shaykh* as promised, donning a cap instead of his signature *imamah* (turban), and sat at the back of the gathering inconspicuously. After the gathering, the *Shaykh* was scheduled to leave for a nearby village, but the man who was supposed to take him there did not arrive on time. Sensing his anxiety at the delay, Hazrat offered to take the *Shaykh* wherever he needed to go. His colleague accepted the offer and they set off, with the *Shaykh* sitting in the passenger seat besides Hazrat, and his colleague in the back. The teacher and student talked along the way as Hazrat drove silently. When they reached the village it was time for

## THE CONQUEROR OF HEARTS

*Isha* so they decided to make *wudu* and pray. After prayer, the *Shaykh* invited everyone to sit in *muraqabah* (silent remembrance of Allah ﷻ). However, he finished soon after he had started and summoned his student to him, his displeasure evident from his face as he reprimanded his student for something. He then turned to Hazrat and said “Neither you nor your colleague told me who you really were. You should have informed me to save me from behaving inappropriately with you. I did not show you the respect you deserve. But in *muraqabah* I saw clearly the *noor* of *nisbat* in you. Now to make up for my negligence, I will walk across the entire village with you along with all my students here, to see you off.”

During our trip to Syria with Hazrat, we ourselves witnessed how this *noor* of our *Shaykh* can be clearly seen by those whose hearts are alive. On our way to the resting place of Imam Nawawi ؒ we stopped for Friday prayers at a local mosque in Nawa. After the prayer ended, the *khateeb* of the mosque came from across the mosque to us, held Hazrat’s hand and insisted that he be granted the honor of hosting Hazrat for lunch. However, since our schedule was packed, Hazrat politely declined his offer. The man then reached into his pocket and took out a bundle of notes and handed it to us, insisting that we use it to buy ourselves lunch; we estimated the amount as being a large portion of his monthly salary, and far more than we needed for lunch. We were all wondering how this complete stranger had recognized Hazrat. Just then the *khateeb*, who must have noticed our questioning looks, addressed Hazrat and explained, “Your *noor* drew me to you.”

In October 2010, our beloved *Shaykh* took his *noor* to Istanbul. With its strategic location and striking beauty, with the picturesque Bosphorus dividing the city into its Asian and European parts, Istanbul has been the jewel in the crown and the feather in the cap of many a king and commander, and its conquest and defeat has marked the rise and fall of civilizations. This historic city has been the battleground for competing world-powers throughout the ages, and for Muslims it serves as a reminder of the glorious past, as well as the present predica-