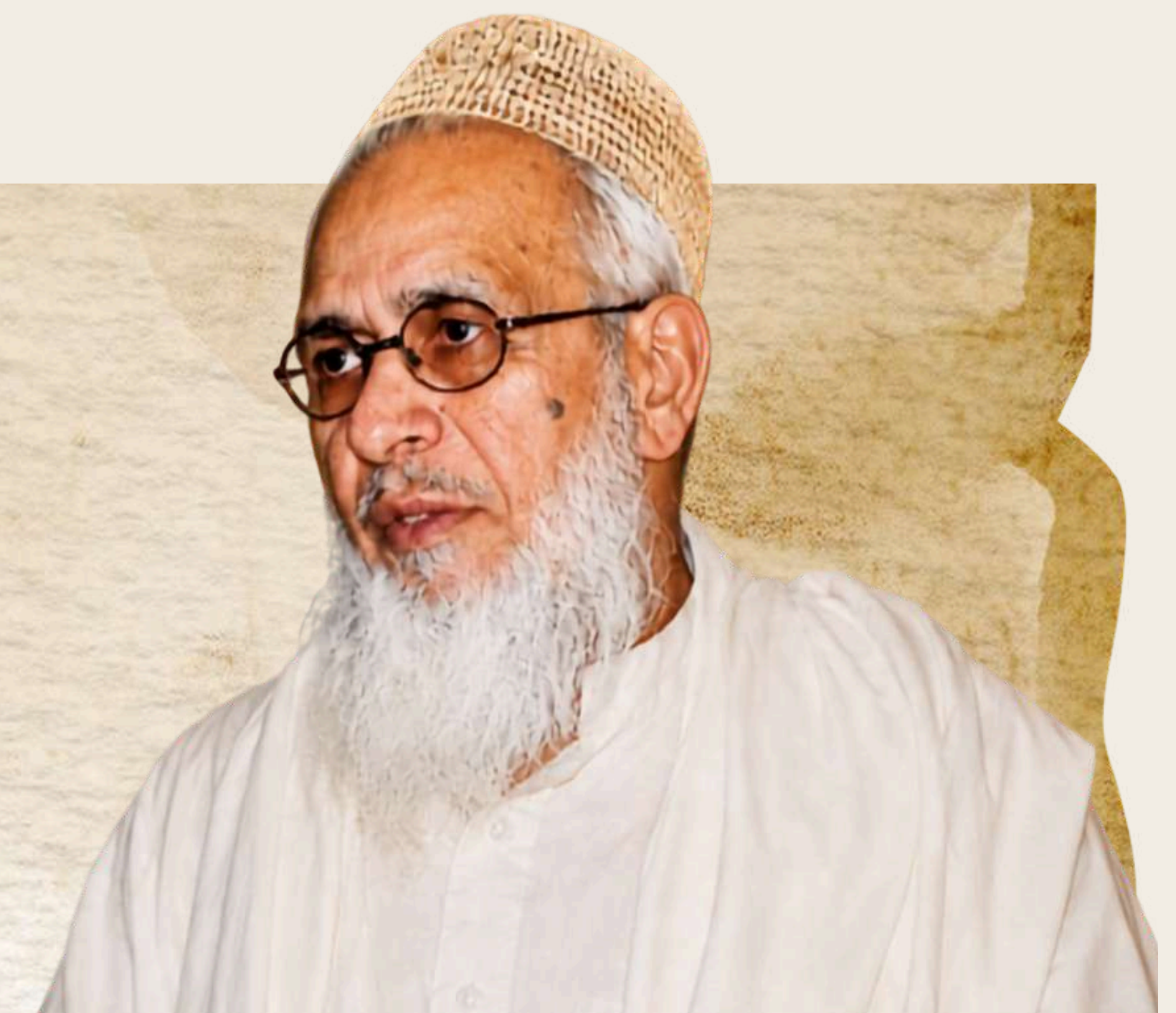


# Hazrat Shaykh al-Akbar Pir Mufti Muhammad Abdul Malik Khan Luqmanvi Qadri (1927–2021)



## *A Brief Biography*

Hazrat Shaykh al-Akbar, a spiritual guide of the Qadri tradition and the Grand Mufti of Britain, Hazrat Allama Pir Mufti Muhammad Abdul Malik Khan Luqmanvi Qadri (1927–2021), was one of the distinguished Sunni Muslim scholars and spiritual guides of the Indian Subcontinent. Throughout his life, he combined sacred knowledge with righteous practice, the Shari'ah with Tariqah. His noble personality represented a remarkable blend of profound scholarship, piety, sincerity, adherence to the Sunnah of the Prophet, deep love for the Messenger of Allah (SWT), and excellent moral character. He devoted his entire life to the teaching and preservation of Islam, the spiritual and moral development of the Muslim community, and the guidance of people from diverse social and cultural backgrounds.



# Birth and Family Background

Hazrat Shaykh al-Akbar was born on **Sunday, 11 December 1927**, corresponding to **16 Jumada al-Thani 1346 AH**, in the historic village of **Luqmaniya, Tarbela**. He belonged to a respected family of Islamic scholarship and spiritual leadership which had served the Qur'an and Sunnah for several generations. Growing up within this scholarly and spiritual environment, he received his earliest education and moral training at home. The intellectual discipline, spiritual values, and commitment to religious service that characterised his family remained evident throughout his life.





# Education and Teachers

He received his early education from his grandfather, **Shaykh al-Hadith Allama Qazi Muhammad Rahmatullah Khan, the Muhaddith of Tarbela**, under whose guidance he acquired a firm foundation in the traditional Islamic sciences. Following the passing of his grandfather, he continued his studies under several eminent Sunni scholars and spiritual authorities of the twentieth century. Among his distinguished teachers and guides were:

- ✦ Hazrat Abul-Arab Pir Sayyid Jamaat Ali Shah Muhaddith Alipuri
- ✦ Mufti-e-Azam Hind Hazrat Mustafa Raza Khan Qadiri of Bareilly
- ✦ Mufti-e-Azam Pakistan Allama Sardar Ahmad Khan Qadiri
- ✦ Qadiul-Qudat Allama Abdus-Subhan Barkati Khalbati



**Shaykh al-Hadith Allama Qazi Muhammad Rahmatullah Khan (1864-1936)**

- ✦ Shaykhul-Qur'an Allama Muhammad Abdul Ghafoor Hazarvi
- ✦ Shaykhul-Hadith Allama Muhibun-Nabi

May Allah have mercy upon them all.

He completed an important stage of his formal religious education at Bareilly Sharif, one of the foremost centres of traditional Sunni scholarship in the Indian Subcontinent.

His education was not limited to the formal study of texts. Through close companionship with accomplished scholars and spiritual masters, he also developed intellectual maturity, spiritual insight, humility, wisdom, and a deep understanding of the needs of the Muslim community.



# Spiritual Authorisations

Hazrat Shaykhul-Akbar received spiritual authorisation, known as **Khilafah**, in several recognised Sufi orders.

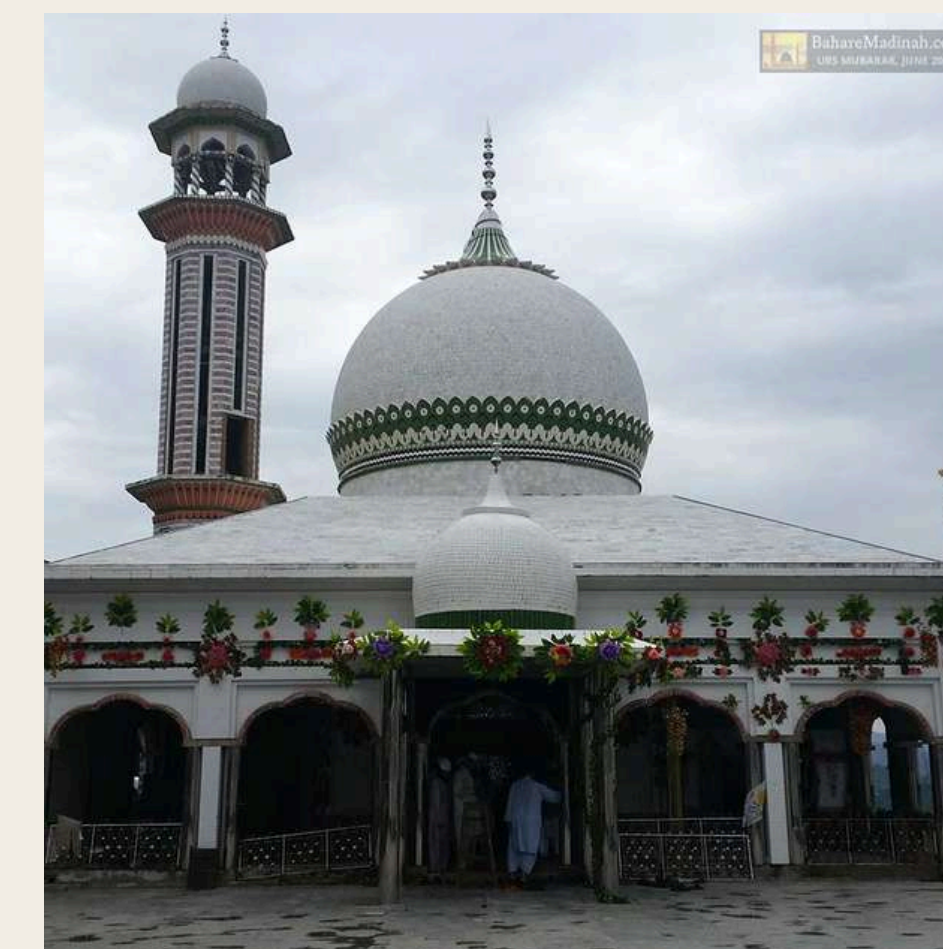
In the Qadri Order, he was authorised by his grandfather, Allama Qazi Muhammad Rahmatullah Khan, the Muhaidithe-Tarbela, and by Mufti-e- Azam Hind Hazrat Mustafa Raza Khan Qadri (the son of A'la Hazrat Imam Ahmad Raza Khan).

In the **Chishti Order**, he received authorisation from **Hazrat Nawab Din Gurdaspuri**.

In the **Naqshbandi Order**, he was authorised by **Hazzrat Khwaja Ghulam Muhyud-Din Ghaznawi**.

He also received authorisation in the **Owaysi** spiritual tradition from **Hazrat Shaykh-e-Tariqah Gohar Din Ahmad of Jindar Sharif, Gujarat**.

These spiritual connections placed him within several respected chains of Islamic spirituality. His approach to Tasawwuf remained firmly rooted in the Qur'an, the Sunnah, adherence to the Shari'ah, purification of the heart, moral discipline, remembrance of Allah, and sincere love for the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ





# Teaching, Jurisprudence and Spiritual Guidance

**Hazrat Shaykh al-Akbar dedicated his life to the teaching of the Qur'an, Hadith, Hanafi jurisprudence, Islamic theology, ethics, and Tasawwuf. For many decades, he taught students, delivered sermons, issued religious rulings, trained spiritual disciples, and provided guidance to individuals, families, scholars, and communities.**

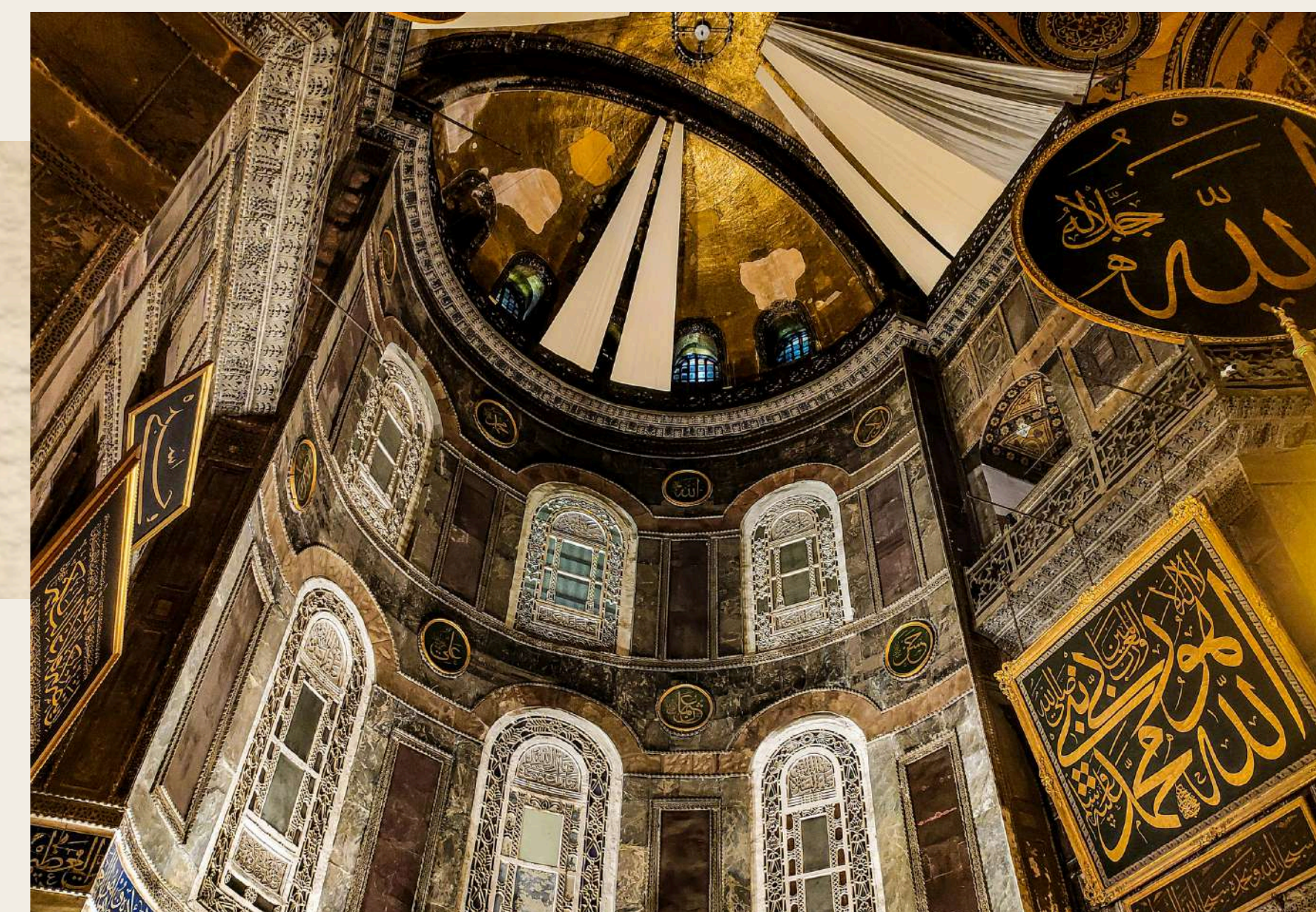
**Thousands of students benefited from his teaching and spiritual training. Many went on to become scholars, teachers, imams, Mufti, preachers, and spiritual guides in different parts of the world.**

**Countless people also found religious and moral guidance through his sermons, personal counsel, and spiritual attention. He was widely respected as a practising scholar, an accomplished Mufti, a spiritually authorised Shaykh, a compassionate mentor, and a pious elder whose prayers were regarded.**

**His method of guidance combined knowledge with wisdom, firmness in religious principles with kindness towards people, and scholarly authority with humility. He addressed both the outward responsibilities of religious life and the inward purification of the heart.**



# Distinguished Students



Among his distinguished students were:

**Shaykhul-Hadith Allama Agha Abdul Rahman Afghani, Shaykhul-Alam Pir Muhammad Alauddin Siddiqui, Shaykh-e-Tariqah Allama Pir Nizamuddin Qasmi, Shaykh-e-Tariqah Allama Pir Hamidud-din Barkati, Shaykhul-Hadith Allama Mufti Muhammad Siddiq Azhari Hazarvi, Shaykhul-Hadith Pir Mufti Muhammad Farid Hazarvi of Gujranwala, and Ustaazul-Ulama Pir Mufti Muhammad Akbar Hazarvi, who served as Grand Mufti of Southern Africa.**

These and many other students carried his scholarly, educational, and spiritual teachings to different regions and communities.



# Scholarly and Literary Contributions

In addition to his extensive work in teaching, jurisprudence, preaching, and spiritual training, Hazrat Shaykh al-Akbar made important contributions to Islamic scholarship through writing and authorship.

His writings were devoted to the explanation of the Qur'an and Sunnah, the defence and clarification of the beliefs of Ahle-Sunnah wa al-Jama'ah, the promotion of love for the Messenger of Allah, the reform of spiritual practice, and the provision of clear religious guidance for scholars and the wider Muslim community.

His writings demonstrate a close engagement with the classical Islamic tradition while also addressing the practical religious needs of Muslims.

Among his notable works currently being prepared for publication are:

- ✦ **Musharrah Tarjamat al-Qur'an**
- ✦ **Mazaamin al-Qur'an**
- ✦ **Tafsir of Surah Yusuf**
- ✦ **Tafsir of Surah al-Nur**
- ✦ **Tafsir of Surah al-Hujurat**
- ✦ **Qurrat al-'Aynayn fi Taqbil al-Ibhamayn**
- ✦ **Dhikr of Allah after the Obligatory Prayer**
- ✦ **Hilah al-Isqat**
- ✦ **Love for the Messenger of Allah**



# Service in Islamic Jurisprudence

**Hazrat Shaykh al-Akbar held a distinguished position in the field of Islamic jurisprudence and the issuing of fatwas. Over the course of his scholarly career, he wrote hundreds of legal opinions in response to questions concerning worship, family life, social matters, religious beliefs, spiritual practices, and the everyday challenges faced by Muslim communities.**

**His fatwas were firmly grounded in the Qur'an, the Sunnah, Hanafi jurisprudence, the principles of issuing legal rulings, and the established methodology of the leading Sunni scholars.**

**They were distinguished not only by sound legal reasoning and careful use of evidence, but also by balance, moderation, practical wisdom, compassion, and spiritual insight. He understood that a fatwa was not merely a legal answer, but also a responsibility requiring sincerity, caution, awareness of circumstances, and concern for the religious welfare of the questioner.**



# Poetry and Literary Expression



Allah Almighty also blessed Hazrat Shaykh al-Akbar with a refined literary and poetic gift. He composed poetry in Arabic, Persian, and Urdu, producing devotional and spiritual verses of considerable depth and beauty.

His poetic works included Hamd, in praise of Allah Almighty; Na'at, in praise of the Prophet Muhammad; Manqabat, in honour of the righteous servants of Allah; supplications; and poetry concerning spiritual purification, patience, remembrance of Allah, and love for the Messenger of Allah.

His poetry reflects a harmonious relationship between the outward discipline of the Shari'ah and the inward beauty of Haqeeqah. It combines religious learning with spiritual emotion, with sincerity, and love with moral instruction.



# An Enduring Intellectual and Spiritual Legacy

Taken together, the books, legal rulings, lectures, sermons, lessons, spiritual teachings, and poetry of Hazrat Shaykh al-Akbar constitute a rich and enduring intellectual and spiritual heritage.

His legacy extends far beyond his own lifetime. Through his students, disciples, successors, educational institutions, mosques, madrasahs, khanqahs, charitable organisations, literary works, and spiritual centres, the mission to which he devoted his life continues to flourish.

Today, his scholarly and spiritual services remain active in Pakistan, the United Kingdom, and many other countries. His students, family members, spiritual successors, and those associated with his tradition continue to teach the Qur'an and Sunnah, provide religious guidance, educate future scholars, deliver sermons, organise gatherings of remembrance, promote spiritual and moral reform, and serve Muslim communities.

The institutions and individuals connected with his mission remain committed to preserving Sunni scholarship, strengthening attachment to the Prophetic Sunnah, promoting love for the Messenger of Allah, cultivating spiritual purification, and serving humanity with sincerity and compassion.

His teachings continue to inspire scholars, imams, students, spiritual seekers, and ordinary Muslims across different generations and communities. His intellectual, educational, and spiritual legacy stands as lasting testimony to a life devoted to the service of Allah Almighty, His beloved Messenger, and the Muslim Ummah.

By the grace of Allah Almighty, the light of his knowledge, spiritual guidance, and compassionate service continues to illuminate hearts and minds. His contributions will, "In-sha-Allah", remain a source of guidance and benefit for generations to come.



# Passing and Final Resting Place

Hazrat Shaykh al-Akbar passed away on **Monday, 26 July 2021**, corresponding to **16 Dhul-Hijjah 1442 AH**.

He was laid to rest in **Khalabat Township, District Haripur, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan**. His blessed resting place remains a place where students, disciples, admirers, and members of the wider community visit to offer Dua'a and remember his lifelong service to Islam.

**The life of Hazrat Shaykh al-Akbar Pir Mufti Muhammad Malik Khan Luqmanwi Qadiri represents a luminous chapter in the history of Islamic scholarship, spiritual training, love for the Messenger of Allah, adherence to the Sunnah, moral reform, and service to humanity. Although he has departed from this world, his teachings, writings, students, institutions, and spiritual influence remain alive. His life continues to offer an inspiring model of how sacred knowledge, spiritual excellence, humility, compassion, and public service may be brought together in the service of faith and humanity.**

**May Allah pour his lights over our hearts and keep us steadfast upon his teachings and make us a means of continuing his legacy.**

