

A Critical Analysis of the Scholarly Services of Imam Ahmad Raza Khan Barailvi

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Abstract

The paper primarily deals with the analytical study of a renowned personality of multi-dimensional qualities, Imam Ahmad Raza Khan Barailvi of India. He is a genuine religious scholar, poet, and scientist. His scholarly position and literary services are considered remarkable. It is undisputedly recognised that Imam Ahmad Raza Khan Barailvi is one of the prominent scholars of the subcontinent whose knowledge is undeniable. Ahmad Raza Khan is a prominent Muslim leader of the 20th century whose academic and literary services are endless. If we look at his academic skills, he is seen as a religious scholar, a political thinker, a beautiful writer, an excellent poet, a reformer, a preacher, and a person who has perfect access to religious and worldly sciences at the same time. He also established a grand Madarsa of the Barelvi school of thought in the Suni Hanfi faith. While formed, Jadwa was parallel to Nadwa of Molana Shibli Nomani. He presented various theories of the atom as a scientist in the very initial stage. He contributed a lot to academics and literature. This paper highlights and explores his scholarly services.

Keywords: Ahmad Raza, Sub-continent, Scholar, Poet, Fatawa, Hadaiq Bakhsh, Jadwa etc.

Introduction

Imam Ahmad Raza Khan Barelvi is known as one of the important religious scholars of Sub-continent during twentieth century. He is the founder of Barelvi faith in Sub-continent. He was born on the 10th Shawwal, 1272 AH and 14th June 1856.¹ He was a great jurist of Islamic Fiqah. He worked and solved many important issues related to the society under the light of Shariah. He received his early education of Quran and with other contemporary sciences i.e. medicine, Islamic jurisprudence from his father Mufti Naqi Ali Khan for seven years.² He died on 25th of Safar, 1340 A.H as 28 October 1921.³ Imam Ahmad Raza Khan was a Mujaddid of the 20th century AD, a famous Hanafi jurist, a Muhaddith, a scholar, an orator, an expert in the sciences of narration and logic, a Shaykh of the Qadiria chain, the author of many books in Arabic, Persian and Urdu, including the famous translation of the Qur'an, Kanzal-e-Iman, The collection of fatwas Fatawa Rizwiyyah and Natiya Dewan Hadaiq Bakhshish are famous. Ahmad Raza Khan strongly

defended Taqlid and Hanafi, used Shah Waliullah and Abdul Haq Muhaddith Dehlavi in the chain of hadith, and obtained authority in jurisprudence from Shaykh Abdul Rahman Hanqi Makki, whose lineage goes back to Abdullah bin Masoud. Ahmad Raza Khan propagated the idea of two nations.

He wrote many magazines on jurisprudential issues and books for the reformation of beliefs and actions. Apart from mathematics and astronomy, he presented his views on many other topics of science from an academic and religious point of view. . Established the Islamic University in Bareilly under the name of Manzar Islam, introduced the Bareilly school of thought, which is due to the intensity in the fame of Ishq Rasool and leaning towards Sufism. Ahmad Raza Khan is also remembered by titles like *Alaa Hazrat*, *Imam Ahlesunnat* and *Hasan-ul-Hind*

Discussion

Fazil-e-Barelvi, Imam Ahmad Raza Khan served the Muslims at that time when the Muslims were completely bound in the chains of slavery. In this age of intellectual decline, he not only guided the Islamic world academically, but also made a practical effort to awaken the people of Islam in those situations when they had lost their greatness. During this turbulent period, the imperialist culture invaded and the efforts to adopt it were on the rise. He emphasized the need for a collective unity in the nation and advised them to stay away from infidels. He gave a clear message to Muslims with a fatwa that Muslims are not allowed to seek help from infidels in their affairs and work.⁴ It is the quality of the knowledge of history that it has encased and sheltered the personalities with good and bad qualities in its lap, thus protecting them from the hands and defeats of time, so that the observation of the reflection of the past in the mirror of history makes the present and the reception lively and welcoming. It helps to make it awesome but the contribution of some personalities is so lively and wonderful that those personalities, whether they are preserved by history or not, create their own history. Because they are era-makers and history-makers, these figures do not need a historian to recognize them, but history itself needs to adorn its pages with the beautiful mentions of these rare people and it needs an introduction.

Among such epoch-making entities, there is one who is known from east to west as Shaykh al-Islam and Muslim, Muhaddith of Asar, Faqih-ul-Dahar, Mujaddid Din-o-Millat, Supporter of Sunnah, Suppressor of Heresy, Supreme Hazrat and similar titles and addresses. Allama Qadri writes about the honor and dignity of Imam Ahmad Raza Fazil and Muhaddith Barelvi (رحمة الله تعالى عليه). Imam Ahmad Raza is the son of knowledge and grace whose rise spans

the period of the last half of the nineteenth century to the first quarter of the twentieth century. Imam Ahmad Raza's duty of guiding the nation through jurisprudence and prudential wisdom was unique to him. The candle of love and religion that you lit is still a shining light for the nation. Imam Ahmad Raza was a treasure of knowledge and his mind was an ocean of thought and consciousness. All his strangers are recognized for his personal comprehensiveness, high morals and character, expertise in ancient and modern sciences and arts, abundance of writings, jurisprudential insight, and revival of the Sunnah. He had no peer among his contemporaries in his desire to protect the laws of the Shariah, asceticism, worship and spirituality, and above all, in the most precious possessions , "In the personality of Imam Ahmad Raza, many scientists were lost at the same time, on the one hand, he had the intellectual vision and knowledge of Ibn al-Haytham, on the other hand, the ability of Jabir bin Hayyan, the wisdom of al-Khwarizmi and Yaqub al-Kindi, and on the other hand, al-Tabari. , wisdom like Razi and Bu Ali Sina, God-given intelligence like Al-Farabi, Al-Biruni, Omar Ibn Khayyam, Imam Ghazali and Ibn Arshad, on the other hand, the jurisprudential broad-mindedness of Imam Abu Hanifa (peace be upon him) and spiritual affinity with Ghus-ul-Azam Sheikh Abdul Qadir Jilani (رحمة الله تعالى عليه) and under attachment, every side of Imam Ahmad Raza was a permanent source of knowledge and art, how many knowledge and scholars were lost in his intelligence.⁵

Professor Dr. Muhammad Masood Mazhari Majdadi writes about invention and innovation, "Invention and innovation is based on thoughts and ideas, the idea has a fundamental status, a world of ideas is inhabited in the Holy Quran and the knowledge is that every idea contains centuries of experiences and observations, Whoever obeys the word of the Qur'an has achieved centuries of earnings in a short life. Imam Ahmad Raza was among the blessed ones who found everything from the Quran; he was a living miracle of the Quran. Allah almighty blessed him with knowledge and grace."⁶ It is the renewal achievement of the Holy Prophet that he covered the human and human qualities and perfections of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) as well as the lofty perfections of prophet hood and virtues and images of the miraculous and luminous aspects of the Islamic nation. Protected values from degradation. Imam Ahmed Raza taught to practice the teachings of Islam. He used to say that the orders of Islam should not be limited to books only. Their practical demonstration and implementation is essential.

Imam Ahmed Raza Khan Qadri Fazil-i Bareilvi wrote a book about the sighting of the crescent moon, *‘‘Izki al-Hilal fi Amr al-Hilal’’* wrote a complete book, *Al-Tars-ul-Modil, Nadam al-Nasrani wa Takfis al-Imani*, while answering the questions of Arya, wrote the book, *Kafir Kufar Arya*. He wrote the book *‘‘Ilam al-Alam’’* on India's becoming a Dar al-Salaam. Regarding marriage rituals, he wrote the book *‘‘Hadi al-Nas fi Rasul al-Iras’’*. Answering the question of why there is a fatwa on the saying of the Prophet, he wrote a complete book, *‘‘Ajli Al-Ilam,’’* and he wrote a book, *‘‘Al-Ahli Min-ul-Sukar Kitab,’’* about the spirits, in justification of giving the call to prayer after the dead are buried. You wrote the book, *‘‘Azan al-Ajr fi Azan al-Qabr’’*, in justification of kissing the thumb, you wrote the book *‘‘Taqbeel al-Bhameen’’*.

He wrote a book, *‘‘Arat al-Adab Ba Fazal Nasab’’*, about the noble genealogy of Dzur-e-Aqdas, may God's prayers and peace be upon him. In proof of this, he wrote a book, *‘‘Jism Baysaya’’*. Wrote a book on the rights of parents, *Huqq al-Wedin*, Wrote a book on the rights of servants, wrote a book on the rights of children, you have presented the virtues of ummah from forty hadiths. On ethics, he wrote the book, *Sharh al-Haqqu al-Tarh al-Aqoq*, in proof of cow sacrifice, he wrote the book, *Anfs al-Fikr fi Qurbani al-Baqar*, and he wrote the book *Al-Fawz al-Mubin*, in response to the movement of the earth. You have written a book on currency, *Kafl al-Faqih*. By writing a book on the occult knowledge of the Holy Prophet, peace and blessings of God be upon him, *Al-Daulatah al-Makiyyah*, he has won the praise of the scholars of Haramin al-Sharifin. He wrote the book, *‘‘Al-Zalal Al-Anqi’’*, in proof of the virtues of Amirul Momineen, Hazrat Siddique Akbar, may Allah be pleased with him. He has written a comprehensive book on souls, *Hayat Alamut*, he has written a research margin on Sahih Bukhari Sharif, he has also written a commentary on Muslim Sharif and Tirmidhi Sharif. You have written the most margin on the famous and well-known book of Hazrat Allama Shami, *‘‘Rad al-Muhtar’’*, if this margin is separated, many volumes of this margin can be prepared.

Imam Ahmad Raza Khan Qadri Fazil Barilwi (RA) wrote 16 books in Tafsir, 34 books in Hadith, 112 books in Aqeed and Kalam, one book in the script of the Qur'an, four books in Asanid Hadiths, and seven books in Isma al-Rijal. , two books on cross-examination, four books on Takhrej Hadith, one book on Dictionary of Hadith, four books on Tajweed, four books on Usul al-Fiqh, three books on Ritual al-Mufti, four books on Farid, one book on Syntax, one book on Islam. , 19/ books in literature, one book in prose, two books in dictionary, five books in philosophy, 16/ books in Manaqib, four books in travel, 13 books on Sufism, four books on behavior, eight books

on adhkar, three books on morals, three books on advice, 16 books on authority, three books on calculation, six books on mathematics, five books on numerology, five books on takseer. Books, one book in Al-Fafaq, three books in Jafar, two books in Logarithm, seven books in Zijat, three books in Jabr and Competition, three books in Arithmatiqi, 16/ books in Time, five books in Astrology, two books in Maktoubat, Sermons. He wrote one book, five books on debate, six books on history, 148 books on jurisprudence, an encyclopedia. Apart from this, there are many other books which are said to be about one thousand in number, many of which are unpublished.

While he had done a lot as his book on the art of interpretation is al-Samasam, his book on the art of faith and speech is *Tamhid Iman ba Aayat al-Quran and Saif al-Zaman* for the defense of *Harb al-Shaytan*. His book on the art of *tajwid* wa Qirat is al-Jam al-Saad, his book on the art of duties is al-Muqasq al-Nafi, his book on the art of supremacy is Table of Times, his book on the art of debate is Samsam Sunna Bagluy Najdeet (2) Fateh Khyber, art. His book on Sufism is Kashf Haqiq wa Asrar Minut, your book on art philosophy is Al-Fawz al-Mubin, a book on the art of vocabulary is *Fateh al-Muala*.

If you think about it, it is known that Imam Ahmad Raza Khan was not only an excellent scholar, Mufti, Muhaddith and Faqih, but he was also the best Muslim scientist due to his excellent research. Your research surprised the scientists. You responded to the attacks on Islam through science and philosophy including Quran, Hadith and other sciences with full scientific arguments. Every aspect of Imam Ahmad Raza was a constant source of knowledge and art. How many scholars were enriched by his intelligence?⁷ Ahmad Raza Khan Muhaddith Bareilvi is a unique scientist. Whenever he discusses any worldly/scientific sciences, at the beginning or end of the discussion or wherever he deems appropriate, he must also express faith and belief in the power of Allah Almighty and he must draw the reader's attention to this. They say that the system of nature (scientific law) is on one side and the power of Allah is on the other side, and that He is the true creator and owner.

Discussing the color of water at a place in Fatawa Razwiyyah, he explains about the components of water vapor, how these components are visible in the form of clouds and the components of snow, although they are thinner than the components of water, but how does snow fall from above?⁸ Imam Ahmad Raza's knowledge of phonetics has been reviewed in detail by Dr. Muhammad Malik, a scholar of Dera Ghazi Khan and Director of Raza Islamic Center, and a book titled "Imam Ahmad Raza and Phonetics" has been compiled. In this book you have compared the

modern telecommunication system with the laws mentioned by Imam Ahmad Raza. In this book, Dr. Sahib has proved a complete understanding of Imam Ahmad Raza's knowledge of phonetics. ⁹ You, as an expert in acoustics, examined what sound actually is and how it travels through the air and reaches the ears, etc. See the summary of this answer: "Here we have to state two things. One is that the sound that comes from the gramophone is exactly the same as the speaker whose voice is filled in it. Be it a reader, or a speaker, or an instrument, etc.

The second is that it will be recited through the recitation that has been deposited in it, and then by the movement of the instrument that will be played by it. Indeed, the Qur'an is great. We will now illustrate these two claims in two cases. God bless you.¹⁰ (1) What is sound? (2) How is it produced? (3) How is it heard? Does it disappear as soon as it ends? (5) Does it exist outside the ear or is it created in the ear itself? (7) Can it remain after his death or not?¹¹ He also studied as a mathematician. Before talking about Imam Ahmad Raza Khan Bareilvi and the science of mathematics, see a few things about science as cases: Mathematics is the study and investigation of the properties of quantities and their relationships through the use of numbers, as well as the discussion of structures, shapes and transformations. It is believed that this knowledge originated or evolved through the abstraction and logical reasoning of basic factors such as counting, counting, measuring and studying the shapes and movements of objects. The word mathematics is derived from Mathema which means to learn, practice or study, while the English word mathematics is also derived from the Greek Mathema which means to learn or study. Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan, the great scientist of today who made Pakistan a nuclear power, also acknowledges the scholarly, especially scientific research of His Highness Imam Ahmad Raza Khan Bareilvi, may Allah have mercy on him, and he also expresses his views from time to time. In "Roznama Jang", he regularly wrote a whole column under the title "Late Maulana Ahmad Raza Khan Bareilvi", in which he paid tribute to the scholarly services of the Supreme Leader and wrote: Ahmad Raza Khan Bareilvi has written countless scientific topics. He had covered human creation, biotechnology and genetics, explanation of ultrasound machine principle, explanation of piezoelectric, explanation of telecommunication, explanation of fluid dynamics, topology (mathematical subject), rotation of moon and sun, metrology (primary composition of rocks), definition of metals, corals (detail of coral structure), causes of earthquakes, causes of tides, etc. are explained in detail.

The fact is that Ahmad Raza Khan Barelvi was also a jurist, mufti, modernist, teacher, and great writer of his time.¹² Hazrat Barelvi, is a contemporary of Einstein, he grasped the thoughts and ideas of Einstein and other scientists and declared the theory of the earth's motion invalid with one hundred and five arguments. wrote a comprehensive book titled "Fuz Mubeen" (1338 AH 1919) in the refutation of the modern philosophy, in which he refused the motion of the earth with one hundred and five arguments and he clearly refused the allegations of attraction, repulsion.¹³ While he had great command on the astrology as he discussed stars and planets. Once an American scientist made a dire prediction of a collision between the sun and the rest of the planets, and on the insistence of the people, Imam Ahmad Raza Khan decided to answer it. All these illusions are false and it is not permissible for Muslims to ignore them. According to scientists, the center of the stars is the sun, but this is not true, neither is the sun the center, nor are the six planets revolving around it. The center of gravity of the earth is the center of the universe and all the planets and the sun move around it.¹⁴

والشمس تجرى لمستقرها ذلك تقدير العزيز العليم والقمر قدره منازل حتى عاد كالعرجون القديم¹⁵
والشمس والقمر بحسبان¹⁶

He had full command on language and the following verses are the clear example of his intellect.

لم يات نظيرك في نظر، مثل تونه شد پيدا جانا
جگ راج کوتاج توره سر سوہے، تجھ کو شہ دوسرا جانا
البحر علا والمود طغى، من بیکش و طوفاں ہو شر با
منجد ہار میں ہوں بگڑی ہے ہوا، موری نیا پار لگا جانا
یا شمس نظرت الی لیلی، چو بطیبہ رسی عرضے کہنی
توری جوت کی جھلمل جگ میں رچی، مری شب نے نہ دن ہونا جانا
لک بدر فی الوجہ الامجل، خط ہالہ ءمہ زلف ابراجل
تورے چندن چندر پر و کنڈل، رحمت کی بھرن برسا جانا
انانی عطش و سخاک اتم، اے گیسوئے پاک اے ابر کرم
بر سن ہارے رم جھم رم جھم، دو بوند ادھر بھی گرا جانا

یا قافلتنی زیدی اجلک، رحے بر حررت تشنه لبک

مورا جیرا رے درک درک، طیبہ سے ابھی نہ سنا جانا

Conclusion

This analytical study summarizes the above discussion with this conclusion that Imam Ahmad Raza Khan Brailvi, has a remarkable academic position and rank among the academic figures of the subcontinent. He does not need any personal introduction. He is a well-versed scholar as well as a high-ranking scientist. It includes many sciences including physics, mathematics, and astrology. He also had a complete command of the language. In short, Um Ahmad Raza Khan Barelvi has a central position in the academic circles of the subcontinent.

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