

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَنِ الرَّجِيمِ

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ كَمَا هُوَ أَهْلُهُ وَالصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَى سَيِّدِ وُلُودِ آدَمَ كَمَا يُحِبُّ وَيُرِضِّي بَأْنُ يُصْلِّي عَلَيْهِ

Allah Almighty, in Whose Name we begin, The Most Compassionate,

The Most Merciful

All Praise is due to Allah Almighty, Countless Peace and Blessings be upon  
His Beloved Messenger – *may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him* – his family & his  
companions – *may Allah be pleased with them all*

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## The Generosity of the Awliya

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It is mentioned that in most days there used to be nothing to cook or eat in the blessed Darbaar of Hadrat Khawaja Qutbudeen Bakhtiyar Khakhi - *may Allah be pleased with him*. When this happened, he used to borrow a few pennies from his neighbours and feed the people coming to his Darbaar. When someone sent any gifts, in this way he used to pay off whatever he had borrowed from his neighbours. However, even in this state, whatever came to his Darbaar was immediately distributed among the poor and needy. If there was nothing on that day to distribute to the needy, he used to command his khadims to distribute water so that no day would remain devoid of reward and Divine Grace. (Bazm-e-Sufiyah)

Hadrat Sayyiduna Baba Fareed - *may Allah be pleased with him* - narrates that, "I once visited the blessed court of Hadrat Sayyiduna Shaikh Shahaabudeen 'Umar Suhrawardi - *may Allah be pleased with him* - in Baghdad Shareef. I also achieved many spiritual graces from the eminent Shaikh. There is not a day in his blessed court in which less

that ten thousand Dirhams were not sent as gifts. However, everything was immediately distributed among the poor and needy. He never allowed himself to keep even a single cent until the evening. He used to also say that even if he kept a single penny then people would not call him a Derwish but a rich person.” (Bazm-e-Sufiyah)

Even though he was extremely poor Hadrat Sayyiduna Baba Fareed - *may Allah be pleased with him* - was like his spiritual master and was completely independent of any worldly possessions.

One day, Sultan Naasirudeen Mahmud Ajudhan visited his blessed court and was so impressed by the great Saint that he ordered his close advisor (who was later to become known as Sultan Ghiyaasudeen Balban) to give the great Saint four villages and a large sum of cash as a gift to the great Saint.

However, Hadrat Sayyiduna Baba Fareed - *may Allah be pleased with him* - refused to take anything and mentioned that this was not the manner of the Mashaa’ikh of his spiritual order.

In like manner, once the Governor of Ajudhan also handed Hadrat Sayyiduna Baba Fareed - *may Allah be pleased with him* - the reins of a few villages and a large sum of cash. He replied that if he took these gifts, then people would stop calling him a Derwish and instead call him a wealthy person. He would be called a “would be Sufi.”

Whenever anything was handed to Hadrat Sayyiduna Baba Fareed - *may Allah be pleased with him*, he used to immediately distribute it. He said that whatever is spent on the Path of Allah Almighty is not wasted and whatever is spent on any other path beside this, that is wasted.

When there were many people present, Hadrat Sayyiduna Baba Fareed - *may Allah be pleased with him* - used to place his hand under his Musallah and remove some gold and bronze coins and distribute this among the poor. When people used to bring sweetmeat, it was like a flood of sweetmeat. He used to then distribute this among the children and the other Derwishes present. (Bazm-e-Sufiyah)

Hadrat Sayyiduna Nizaamudeen Awliyah - *may Allah be pleased with him* - made his headquarters in a place called Ghiyaspur in Dehli. It was from here that he guided and aided people. Hadrat Sayyiduna Nizaamudeen Awliyah - *may Allah be pleased with him* - taught people how to aid and help those who were down-trodden and less fortunate. Thousands of people used to gather around his light of spirituality. In fact, such was his spiritual greatness that his very being became a source of great power and people saw this as true royalty.

According to his Mureed, Shaikh Naseerudeen Chiragh Dehwli - *may Allah be pleased with him*, it was if the river of bounty flowed outside his Darbaar. There was not a day when thousands were not brought in as gifts and presents but Hadrat Sayyiduna Nizaamudeen Awliyah - *may Allah be pleased with him* - remained attached to nothing whatsoever. Whatever came in was immediately distributed among the poor. No person left this blessed court empty-handed. It is said that those who came to take were much more than those who gave but no one remained empty-handed. Whatever was given, even more than this was given to others.

Hadrat Sayyiduna Naseerudeen Chiragh Dehlwi - *may Allah be pleased with him* - narrates, "Once an evil person informed Sultan Qutbudeen that the great Saint, Hadrat Sayyiduna Nizaamudeen Awliyah - *may Allah be pleased with him*, does not accept gifts from the royal court but does accept gifts from other rich and influential people. When the Sultan heard this, he became angry and gave instruction, 'No rich or influential person should go to his Darbaar from today.'" He also placed a spy to see who was going there and if it was one of his people, they were to immediately inform him.

However, when the great Saint heard about this, he ordered his khadims to prepare double the food that they normally prepare. After some time, when the Sultan inquired about what was happening, he was told, "These days even more food is prepared at the Darbaar than before." Obviously, he was highly embarrassed and mentioned that this was certainly help from the Unseen which the great Saint was blessed with.

It is mentioned that even though Hadrat Sayyiduna Nizaamudeen Awliyah - *may Allah be pleased with him* - kept fast every day, his table was laid out and prepared every day for his guests with various types of meals. Whether a person was someone from the city, a traveller, a rich person a poor person, everyone sat together and ate at this table. The

rich and influential also considered it a great honour to actually sit at this table. Some people used to even take some food home for their family and friends. Thousands used to attend this Darbaar on a daily basis.

At the same time, Hadrat Sayyiduna Nizaamudeen Awliyah - *may Allah be pleased with him* - used to also advise on Islam and the teachings of Tasawwaf. In other words, this manner of feeding people also became a reason that many people received guidance and were blessed with the light of Islam.