

## بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

The Teacher of Teachers, Muhaddith ul-Asr, A great Scholar, Maulana Haafidh Muhammad Gondalwi (rahimahullah) was one of the greatest Scholar, Mufassir (Explainer) of Quraan, The Muhaddith of his time, A Great Faqeeh, Mujtahid, Mutakallim, Teacher, Author, Critique, Intelligent, and famous persons. He had an equal command over all the fields of Islaam. He had full mastery over Tafseer, Hadeeth, Fiqh, Usool al-Fiqh, Asmaa ur-Rijaal, Lughat, Adab, Taareekh wa Siyar, Philosophy, Iilm al-Kalaam, Sarf and Nahw.

Among the Scholars, the teaching period of Shaikh ul-Kul Maulana Sayyid Muhammad Nadheer Hussain Muhaddith Dahelwi (rahimahullah), is 62 years. The teaching period of Shaikh ul-Islaam Muhaddith Gondalwi (rahimahullah) is also the same. Just as, it is almost impossible to count the number of Students of Shaikh ul-Kul Dahelwi, similarly, it is also impossible to count the number of students of Shaikh Muhaddith Gondalwi (rahimahullah) [Because of the huge amount of students]

The Arabic Madaaris in which Haafidh Muhammad Gondalwi taught after graduating are as follows:

1. Darul Hadeeth Gondalawalah
2. Jaami'a Islaamia Gonranwala
3. Jaami'a as-Salafiyyah Faisalabaad
4. Jaami'aa Islaamiyah Madeenah Munawwarah
5. Jaami'aa Muhammadiyyah Gujranwalah
6. Jaami'aa Ta'leem ul-Islaam Audanwalah
7. Jaami'aa Daar us-Salaam Umarabaad

The extraordinary Memory of Shaikh Muhammad Gondalwi (rahimahullah):

Allah had gifted Shaikh Muhaddith Gondalwi (rahimahullah) with an extraordinary Memory. He memorized 15 paras (15 out of 30 Parts) of Quraan only in 15 days. After this, he stopped memorizing for six months (due to some reason), after six months, he memorized the remaining 15 parts in 15 days. Which means that he memorized the whole Quraan in one Month (30 days). He had such a sharp memory that if he read a book once, then it would remain preserved in his mind forever. He almost had the Sharh Bukhaari of Ibn Hajar, and Faydh ul-Baari of Anwar Shaah Kaashmiree memorized by heart. The lengthy quotes from Hujjatullah al-Balaghah of Shah Waliullah Dahelwi were used to be preserved in the chest of Shaikh Haafidh Muhammad Gondalwi (rahimahullah).

One such incidence of his extraordinary memory was that, once he wrote a book named "Ithbaat at-Tawheed fi Abtaal at-Tathleeth" and sent it to Shaikh ul-Hadeeth Maulana Muhammad Ismaa'eel Salafi (rahimahullah) to get it published. Maulana Salafi put the Manuscript of that book somewhere and later forgot where he had placed it. About almost six (6) months later Haafidh Gondalwi asked about that book from Shaikh Salafi, so Maulana Salafi said,

“How could I get that book published when I have misplaced it and cannot find it.” In reply to which, Haafidh Muhammad Gondalwi said: “No Problem, I will write it again”. Therefore, Haafidh Gondalwi finished rewriting that book within one week and gave it to Shaikh Ismaa’eel Salafi (rahimahullah). Coincidentally after two or three days, the old misplaced manuscript was also found. When both the manuscripts were compared together, there was not even a single missing or added word in it.

The achievements of the students of Shaikh Muhammad Gondalwi, and a comparison of his students with the students of Shaikh Nadheer Hussain Muhaddith Dahelwi:

The students of Maulana Sayyid Muhammad Nadheer Hussain Muhaddith Dahelwi also include some huge Scholars who themselves became the possessors of Musnad Tadrees wa Tahdeeth, and who achieved so many accomplishments in Tadrees, Ta’leef, and Tasneef that they will always be remembered till the Last Day (In-Sha-Allaah). For example: Some of these famous personalities are: Maulaana Haafidh Abdullah Ghaazipoori, Maulaana Haafidh Abdul Mannaan Wazeeraabaadi, Maulana Abdul Jabbaar Umarpoori, Maulana Sayyid Abdul Jabbaar Ghaznawi, Maulana Haafidh Muhammad Barakallah Lakhwi, Maulana Ahmed ullah Muhaddith Partaap Garhi, and Maulana Abdul Wahhaab Sadri Dahelwi etc.

Those among the students of Shaikh Haafidh Muhaddith Muhammad Gondalwi, who earned their name and fame in Tadrees include: Maulana Haafidh Abdullah Badhimalwi, Maulana Ubaidullah Rehmaani Mubaarakpoori, Maulana Nadheer Ahmed Amlawi Iraaqi, Maulana Muhammad Abdah al-Falaah, Maulana Muhammad Ishaq Hussainwi, Maulana Peer Muhammad Ya’qoob Qurayshi, Maulana Haafidh Abdul Mannaan Noorpoori, Shaikh ul-Hadeeth Maulana Abul Barakaat Ahmed Madrasi, Maulana Muhammad A’dham, and Shaikh ul-Hadeeth Maulana Muhammad Alee Janbaaz etc.

In Tasneef, Ta’leef and specially in the service of the hadeeth of the Prophet (peace be upon him), the Students of Shaikh ul-Kul Maulana Sayyid Muhammad Nadheer Hussain Dahelwi such as: Maulana Shams ul-Haqq Adheemaadee - the author of Awn al-Ma’bood Ala Sunan Abi Dawood, Maulaana Abdur Rahmaan Mubaarakpoori – the author of Tuhfat al-Ahwadhi fi Sharh Jaami at-Tirmidhi, Maulana Sayyid Ahmed Hassan Dahelwi – the author of Tanqeeh ar-Ruwaat fi Takhreej Ahadeeth al-Mishkaat (First Half), Abu Sa’eed Sharf ud-Deen Dahelwi – the author of Tanqeeh ur-Ruwaat fi Takhreej Ahadeeth al-Mishkaat (Second Half), Maulaana Abdul Tawwaab Multaani, and Maulana Abdus Salaam Mubaarakpoori etc, have played an excellent role.

Among the students of Shaikh ul-Islaam Gondalwi, the scholars who have achieved a high position in the service of Hadeeth, and earned the praises of the people of Knowledge and the people of Pen, include: Shaikh ul-Hadeeth Maulana Ataullah Haneef Bhojjaani – the author of at-Ta’leeqaat as-Salafiyyah (Sunan Nasaa’ee), Shaikh ul-Hadeeth Maulana Muhammad Ali Janbaaz – the explainer of Sunan Ibn Majah, Maulana Muhammad Saadiq

Khaleel Faisalabaadi, Maulana Irshaad ul-Haqq Athari, and Maulana Muhammad Yahya Gondalwi etc.

In efforts for refuting Baatil Views, opinions, and Baatil Religions, the students of Mian Sayyid Nadheer Hussain Dahelwi, such as: Maulana Ubaydullah – the author of Tuhfat ul-Hind, Maulana Abul Wafaa Thanauallah Amritsari, Maulana Abul Qaasim Sayf Banarsi, and Maulana Muhammad Ibraaheem Meer Siyalkoti etc have played a tremendous role.

Among th students of Shaikh ul-Islaam Gondalwi, the scholars who played a prominent role in refuting Baatil Views and opinions include: Maulana Muhammad Haneef Nadwi, Maulana Ataullah Haneef, Maulana Abdur Rahman Ateeq Wazeerabaadi, Maulana Muhammad Madani bin Haafidh Abdul Ghafoor, Maulana Irshaad ul-Haqq Athari, and Maulana Muhammad Yahya Gondalwi etc.

The Praise of Scholars for Shaikh Gondalwi:

Shaikh ul-Islaam Haafidh Muhammad Gondalwi was the possessor of a very profound knowledge. Even the scholars of Hijaz used to admit and admire the deep knowledge of the Shaikh.

Shaikh Muhammad Ameen Ash-Shanqeetee praising Shaikh Gondalwi:

When he was once a teacher of hadeeth in Jaami'aa Islaamiyah Madeenah Munawwarah, one day he was having a serious discussion on a knowledge-based topic with Fadheelat ush-Shaykh Muhammad Ameen Ash-Shanqeetee – the author of “Azwaah ul-Bayaan”. So in answer to one of the matters, Shaikh ul-Islaam Gondalwi said there are ahadeeth narrated regarding this topic in Jaami' Tirmidhi, but all the scholars present in that gathering said at once that these narrations are not present in Jaami' Tirmidhi, but Haafidh Gondalwi said with full confidence that these narrations are present in Jaami Tirmidhi, therefore he showed those narrations from Tirmidhi to the Scholars present there.

So Shaikh ash-Shanqeeti then said:

“I have not seen anyone on the face of the earth more knowledge than this Shaykh.”

The Praise of Shaikh Ibn Baaz and the teachers of Jamia Islaamiyah for Shaikh Gondalwi:

During his stay in Madeenah, he was once asked which one is more superior than the other, Imaam Ibn Taymiyyah or Haafidh Ibn Hajar al-Asqalaani?

Shaikh Gondalwi replied:

“In Uloom Aqliyah, Imaam Ibn Taymiyyah is more knowledgeable than Imaam Ibn Hajar. And in Uloom Naqliyah such as Asmaa ur-Rijaal, Taareekh, Usool

al-Hadeeth, Jarh wat Ta'deel, Naqd-o-Nadher etc, Imaam Ibn Hajar takes precedence over Imaam Ibn Taymiyyah."

Imaam Ibn Taymiyyah belonged to the Hanbali Madhab, while Imaam Ibn Hajar belonged to the Shaafi'ee Madhab. In Jaami'aa Islaamiyaah Madeenah, majority of the students belonged to the Hanabali School of thought, that's why they did not like this saying of Shaikh Gondalwi very much. Therefore, when this news reached Ra'ees ul-Jaami'ah Shaikh Abdul Azeez bin Abdullah bin Baaz (rahimahullah), so he invited Shaikh Gondalwi to have a discussion. Among the listeners (present in the audience) were Scholars, Students, and Many knowledgeable personalities. Shaikh ul-Islaam Haafidh Muhammad Gondalwi gave a lengthy and informative speech of three and a half hours. The topic of discussion was Emaan. The Shaikh presented several quotes from the books of Imaam Ibn Hajar and Imaam Ibn Taymiyyah, and then he compared the sayings of both the Imaams and proved his topic.

After the gathering was over Shaykh bin Baaz and the others who were present were happy with the answers and congratulated Hafidh Sahab, and said that up to this day they had not seen this kind of gathering before. The Imam gave this speech with out any preparation as he did not know the date or time that this was going to take place.

The Praise of Shaikh Naasir ud-Deen Albaani for Shaikh Gondalwi:

Shaykh 'Abdur Rahamn Zia (Shaykh ul Hadith of Jamiyah Shaykh Al-Islam ibn Taymiyah and student of Hafiz Gondalwi) said in his introduction of the first volume of "Maqalat e Muhadith Gondalwi" that Mawlana Muhammad Riyaz ibn Muhammad Shareef As-Sialkoti, who is a student of Hafiz Gondalwi told him that he went to meet Shaykh Albani in Jordan and when Mawlana Muhammad Riyaz mentioned to Shaykh Albani that he was a student of Hafiz Gondalwi, Shaykh Albani said:

"I have not seen under the sky anyone more knowledgeable than the Hafidh, the Muhadith Muhammad Al-Gondalwi, he was an Imam in all fields, he was from the greatest scholars of the Indian sub-continent."

Note: It should be known that Shaykh Albani met Shaykh Muhammad Hamid Fiqhi, Shaykh Ahmad Shakir, Shaykh ibn Baz and many other great scholars of the last century.

The praise of Shaikh Muhammad Alee Janbaaz for Shaikh Gondalwi

Shaikh Muhammad Alee Janbaaz said:

"Haafidh Muhammad Gondalwi was one of the biggest Muhaddith, Faqeeh, Mujtahid, Qadir ul-Kalam Mutakallim, Haafidh ul-Hadeeth, Baher ul-Uloom, Imaam of Tadrees, and Jaami' al-Manqool of this century" [Chaaalis Ulama Ahl al-Hadeeth]

More Information

Besides being an expert in the Uloom of Islaam, he also was an expert in Islamic Medicine. He passed the exam of Faadhil at-Tibb wal Jarahat from Tibbiyah College of Dehli with very good marks, and got the degree. During the distribution of Certificate, Mahatma Gandhi gave him the certificate and a gold medal.

The Shaikh has also been the Ameer of Jami'at Ahl ul-Hadeeth Paakistaan. His services in Tahreek Pakistan was outstanding. He joined with Muslim league from the beginning and remain with them till the end.

Shaikh Gondalwi was born in 1315 Hijri/1897 A.D in Gondalawalah. The name of his Father was Mian Fadhal Deen.

He got his primary education from Maulana Alaauddeen (Gujranwala), and later went to Taqwiyyat ul-Islaam Amritsar. The teachers he took knowledge from there include:

Maulana Sayyid Abdul Jabbar Ghaznawi  
Maulana Sayyid Abdul Awwal Ghaznawi  
Maulana Sayyid Abdul Ghafoor Ghaznawi  
Maulana Muhammad Hussain Hazaarwi  
He took knowledge from Maulana Abdur Razzaaq, Ustaad al-Fanoon, in Dehli, and from Maulana Abdul Mannan Wazeerabaadi in Punjaab.

The Shaykh had two wives. From the first he had one son and one daughter and from the second he had two sons and four daughters, of which one of his daughters he married to Shaykh Ehsan Elahi Zahir.

His Students:

The Imam taught in various Madrasas and institutions in the Subcontinent as well as in al-Jami'at Islami Madina al-Munawarra. The university scholar of hadith at the time was the Muhadith, the Imam Nasir ud-Deen al-Albani who resigned from his post and departed from the University. To fill his post Imam bin Baaz sent his personal secretary to Pakistan with a personal request for the Imam to accept the vacant position, which he did. Numerous students as well as teacher gained benefit from the lectures and classes that the Imam gave. Even though it is not possible to mention the names of all his students as they are innumerable, we will mention the names of some of the famous ones.

Maulana Ubaydullah Rehmani Mubaarakpoori  
Maulana Muhammad Ataullah Haneef Bhojiaani  
Maulana Haafidh Abdullah Badhemalwi  
Maulana Muhammad Abdullah Gujranwalah  
Maulana Haafidh Muhammad Ishaq  
Maulana Muhammad Abduh al-Falaah  
Maulana Abul Barakaat Ahmed Madraasi  
Maulana Muhammad Haneef Nadwi

Maulana Abdur Rehmaan Ateeq Wazeerabadi  
Maulana Muhammad Saadiq Khaleel  
Maulana Ilm ud-Deen Sohdarwi  
Maulana Muhammad A'dham  
Maulana Abdul Qadir Nadwi  
Maulana Irshaad ul-Haqq Athari  
Maulana Muhammad Siddeeqe Faysalabaadi  
Maulana Muhammad Ishaq Bhatti  
Maulana Abdul Khaaliq Quddoosi  
Maulana Muhammad Ali Janbaaz  
Maulana Ataa ur-Rehmaan Ashraf  
Maulana Mu'ayyin ud-Deen Lakhwi  
Maulana Muhammad Ishaq Cheemah  
Maulana Haafidh Abdul Mannan Noorpoori  
Maulana Muhammad Khaalid Gharjaakhi  
Maulana Qaadhi Muhammad Aslam Sayf  
Allamah Ehsaan Ilaahi Zaheer  
Allamah Muhammad Madani bin Haafidh Abdul Ghafoor  
Maulana Hakeem Mahmood Salafi

#### Books

Shaikh ul-Islam Muhaddith Gondalwi, who was an Imaam in the field of Tadrees, was also one of the greatest Authors. The following are his books:

#### In Arabic:

1. Taqareer Saheeh Bukhaari
2. Baghiyat ul-Fuhool Sharh Risaalah Usool al-Fiqh Shaah Ismaa'eel Shaheed
3. Tuhfat ul-Ikhwaan
4. Al-Budoor ul-Baghizah
5. Mas'la Emaan
6. Sharh Mishkaat ul-Masaabih
7. Hawashi Saheeh Bukhaari
8. Aamaalee Ala al-Bukhaari
9. Zubdat ul-Bayaan fi Tanqeeh Haqeeqat ul-Emaan wa Tahqeeq Ziyaadah wa Nuqsaan

#### In Urdu:

1. Dawam-e-Hadeeth
2. Tanqeed al-Masaail – This book is in answer to some sayings of Sayyid Abul Ala Mawdoodi, for example, Mawdoodi said: "The deen that I (Mawdoodi) have brought, if anyone does not come to it, then he will die the death of a Jew or Christian". Shaikh Gondalwi has done a very lengthy discussion on this saying. This book was published from Lahore.
3. Khatm-e-Nabuwwat
4. Miyaar Nabuwwat
5. Islaam ki Pehli Kitaab

6. Islaam ki Dusri Kitaab
7. Al-Islaah - This book is in two volumes and is written in refutation of the article of Maulvi Muhammad Hussain Hanafi, named "Jawaz Faatihah Ala al-Tawaam". It was published in 1959.
8. Khayr ul-Kalaam fi wujoob al-Faatihah Khalf al-Imaam – This book is written in answer to the article of a Taqleedi Author. It has been proven in this book, with evidences, that there is no prayer behind the Imaam without reading Surah Faatihah.
9. Ithbaat at-Tawheed fi Abtaal at-Tathleeth
10. Al-Tahqeeq al-Raasikh
11. Salaat Masnoonah
12. Aik Islaam
13. Ahdaa Thawaab – In this book, the Shaikh has proven with the evidences from Quraan and Ahadeeth that celebrating Teejah, Saatwan, Daswan, or Chaaliswan of a deceased person is a Bid'ah, and then has proven the permissible ways of benefitting the deceased. This book was published from Lahore.
14. Rad Mawlood Murawwaj
15. Hanafi Ahl al-Hadeeth
16. Sunnat Khayr al-Anaam Darsah wa Tareek Slaam – In this book, the amount of Witr and that sitting in between the witr and reading tashahhud after two rak'ahs is discussed with details.
17. Radd Husn al-Mawlid
18. Tuhfat ul-Wa'zayn Manzooom - Punjabi

## Death

After spending 2yrs in Madinah, the Imam went back to Pakistan. However once he was there, the Imam decided not to return to Saudi due to weakness in his eyes and returned the ticket back to Saudi. He remained in Pakistan and taught classes in Hadith until his death. Shaikh Haafidh Muhammad Gondalwi passed away in 14th Ramadaan 1405 H or 4 June 1985 A.D. in Gunjranwalah. Maulana Muhammad Abdullah led his funeral prayer, and he was buried in the Kalaan Graveyard right next to Shaikh ul-Hadeeth Maulana Muhammad Ismaa'eel Salafi. Inna Lillahi Wa inna Ilaihi Raaji'oon. May Allah have Mercy on the Imam, the Muhaddith Abu Abdullah Muhammad Ghondalawi and bless him with the Jannah. Ameen.

Taken From: Chalees Ulama Ahl ul-Hadeeth of Shaikh Abdur Rasheed Iraaqi  
Translated by: Raza Hassan

Note from Ali Hassan Khan: Hafiz Thanauallah Al-Madni was also among students of Hafiz Gondalwi, likewise many Saudi and Yemeni shuyukh such as 'Asim Al-Qaryuti, Atiyah Salim, Ibrahim Shaqrah and many more.

May Allah send His Salah and Salam on His Messenger, his family and companions.