



Shaykh 'Abd al-Karīm al-Mudarris (1901-2005)

By Shoayb Ahmed¹

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He is 'Abd al-Karīm b. Muḥammad Fattāḥ b. Muṣṭafā b. Sulaymān b. Muḥammad al-Kurdī al-Sharazūrī and was born in the region of Halabjah in Iraq in 1901. Raised under the guidance and care of his parents he began learning the Qur'ān from his father at the age of six, completing it in a short time. At the age of ten he began studying books in 'Aqīda, rhetoric, *Taṣrif al-Zanjānī* and various other books in Arabic Grammar. He also studied the commentary to *Alfiya Ibn Mālik* by al-Suyūṭī under al-Ḥājj Mullā 'Azīz who was the Imām of a mosque in the Suleimaniyah district.

When the First World War began in 1914, he left this area and moved to another village until he eventually settled with some students studying with Shaykh Mullah Abdullah in his Khanqa. Thereafter he moved to the school of Shaykh Husām al-Din, following which he moved to the school of Shaykh 'Ala al-Dīn b. Shaykh 'Umar Far'ānī where he studied various books on Arabic grammar, logic, the art of debate and argumentation, Fiqh and inheritance. At the Abu Ubaydah School he also studied *al-Burhān* in logic under Shaykh Mullā Muḥammad Sa'īd al-'Ubaydī.

He later returned to Suleimaniyah where he continued his studies in the Mawlanā Khālīd Khanqa School. He studied under Shaykh 'Umar b. Shaykh Muḥammad Āmīn al-Qarahḍāghī in 1920.

¹ References:

- *Majālis Baghdād* by Yūnus al-Samarā'ī
- *Nathr al-Jawāhir wal-Durar fī 'Ulamā' al-Qarn al-Rābi' Ashr* by Dr. Yūṣuf al-Marā'shlī
- www.darul-kadriah.com

Shaykh ‘Abd al-Karīm al-Mudarris studied numerous works in Arabic grammar, astrolabe, *Sharḥ Tahdhīb al-Kalām*, *Jamu’ al-Jawāmi’* in *uṣūl al-fiqh*, many books in Fiqh, inheritance, some chapters of *Sharḥ al-Manhaj* by Shaykh Zakariyya al-Anṣārī and *al-Tuḥfa* by Shaykh Ibn Ḥajar al-Haytamī. He studied all the prescribed books at the time over a period of four years. Thereafter his teacher, Shaykh Umar granted him an *ijāza* in the presence of some reputable scholars of the time including Shaykh Muḥammad Najīb al-Qaraḥdāghī, Shaykh Jalāl al-Dīn (teacher at Masjid al-Khaffāfi), Shaykh Mullā Husayn al-Baskandī and Shaykh Bā Bā ‘Alī.

In 1924, he was appointed as a teacher in a district in Halabjah and in 1927, the *murshid* of the Naqshbandi Sufi Order. Shaykh ‘Alā al-Dīn b. Shaykh ‘Umar Diyā’ al-Din b. Shaykh ‘Uthmān Sirāj al-Dīn (a successor to Shaykh Khālīd) requested that he go to area of Bayarah to teach the Islamic Sciences where he remained for about 24 years and served as a *khatīb* for approximately 18 years.

In 1951, he moved back to Suleimaniyah where he taught at the Mosque of al-Hājj Ahan for about three years. In 1954 (1374 H) he moved to Kirkuk where he taught at the al-Hājj Jamil al-Ṭālibānī Centre. In 1960 he moved to Baghdad where he was Imam and *khatīb* at Jami’ al-Aḥmadī and a teacher at the Shaykh ‘Abd al-Qādir al-Jaylānī Mosque. He retired from official duties in 1973 (1393 H) but continued teaching for the pleasure of Allah.

After the death of Shaykh Najm al-Dīn al-Wā’iz, he was appointed as the Head of the ‘Ulamā’ League of Iraq. Many also regarded him as the Mufti of Baghdad. He performed Ḥajj in 1968 (1388 H). Over the years many scholars benefited from his knowledge.

He authored books in Kurdish, Persian and Arabic on a wide variety of topics including *sīra*, *fiqh*, *ijtihād* and *taqlīd*, rhetoric, morphology, logic and a book on the biographies of some Kurdish ‘Ulamā’.

He was a righteous and pious scholar who dedicated his life towards imparting the knowledge of Islam. He passed away on the 30th August 2005 and is buried in the Jaylānī tomb.

