

KHAMBAT THROUGH MY EYES

(KHAMBAT MERI NAZAR MEIN)

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In The Name Of Allah Most Gracious, Most Merciful.

In the Indian State of Gujarat, in the district of Anand exists the Spiritual Capital of Khambhat (Cambay). A City of Spiritual Light and Guidance.

This is the esteemed land where countless accomplished Saints (Awliya, Majzub, Qutub and Abdal rest (all kinds of Spiritually-Gifted Men of Allah Subhana wa tha Ala (SWT) (God The Pure and High)). This is that great land where various Beloved Men of Allah (SWT) came and hence it became known as Medina-tul-Awliya (City of Saints).

This city is further blessed because The Holy Prophet (SAW) (Peace be Upon Him) himself came and sat on a Throne of Spiritual Light. The following story tells how this came to be:

When Mudar-UI-Alam, Qutb –al-Aqtab, Qutb-ul-Madar, Hazrat Saiyad Shah Badee-ud-deen Zinda Shah Mudar (r) in the year 256 Hijri, at the age of 14, went to Hajj (Holy pilgrimage), spiritually, The Holy Prophet (SAW) showered blessings on him, ordering him to go to India to spread the Light of the Way of Islam (worship of Allah Almighty and service to mankind). As soon as he received this command he set off by foot towards India.

He arrived at Qul-zam's sea coast in the year 257 Hijri and took a ship to India. He was the only Muslim on board and during the journey he began to preach Islam. All on board turned against him. They approached him discourteously so that he was very upset. Allah (SWT) did not like this so he sent a storm that wrecked the ship. All were drowned except Hazrat Saiyed Shah Badee-ud-Deen Zinda Shah Mudar (r), and why should they not be drowned as Allah (SWT) has said in Hadith-e-Qudsi: ***“Whosoever holds hatred towards my beloved men he should prepare to war with me”***.

Allah (SWT) helped Hazrat Saiyed Shah Badee-ud-Deen Zinda Shah Mudar (r) to reach ashore on a plank of wood. The shore which he reached was that of Khambat. That place where he stayed is still known today as 'Khawaja Khizr' which is on the west coast 2 km from Khambat City.

This is where The Holy Prophet (SAW) came on a Throne of Light. With his holy hands he fed Hazrat Saiyed Shah Badee-ud-Deen Zinda Shah Mudar (r) 9 pieces of Heavenly sweets (called seer-e-viranj) and clothed him in clothes from Paradise. On each piece of food that he ate the knowledge of Allah (SWT) and reality shone out. His special clothes never tore or became dirty. After eating the special food he never had to eat again and was blessed with a very long life – a great gift from The Holy Prophet (SAW). And he was bestowed with the closest station to Allah Almighty (Samdee-at).

For some days he stayed in Khambat Shareef, beginning the work of the Deen (Islamic Way of Life). Then from there he continued his mission by foot throughout India until he reached Makanpur in district Kanpur, Utter Pardesh. He spent the rest of days working here and died in 838 Hijri – having lived 596 years.

Khambat Shareef is especially well known in that the Sahaba (Companions of The Holy Prophet (SAW)) came to this land. The Sahaba are those described as having seen The Holy Prophet (SAW) in their life and dying in the state of Iman (Faith). These were the Ansari Sahaba. Their tombs are placed under beautiful domes in the area of Chakamini Darwaza. This is a wonderful opportunity given by Allah (SWT) for us to obtain spiritual and physical benefits.

On the other side of the city, there are the graves of Taba-e-Thabieen (the third generation after The Holy Prophet (SAW)). Among them there is Hazrat Hub-e-Azam Jalaluddin Muhammad Mafooz Ali Jilani (died 15th of Ramadan 700Hijri). And the tomb of Hazrat Khawaja Jalaluddin Bin Ali Bin Sultan (died 3rd Muharram 600 Hijri) is found in Pinjar Qoat Mahella. From the Ahl-e-Bayt (Family of The Holy Prophet (SAW)) there are tombs of famous and great Friends of Allah (SWT), among them, Hazrat Shaikh Saiyed Abdul Wahab Shah ibn-e-Saiyed Abdul Qadir ibn-e-Saiyed Muhammad Musa Ghafrulla (died 11 Zil-qad 1193 CE at the age of 94), which is near the historical mosque San-e-Awal in Panj Hatri Mehalla.

History is witness to the fact that Jews demolished this mosque in 633 Hijri (1235CE). At that time the ruling Sultan was Raja Sidrajay Singh who loved Hazrat Pir Miran Saiyed Ali Sarkar (r) very much and was impressed by his miracles. Hazrat Pir Miran Saiyed Ali Sarkar (r) sent his murid (disciple) Muhammad Noor-ud-Deen (writer of Jame-Tul-Hiqaiyat) to the Raja to tell him the news of the mosque. The Raja was in his capital Anhilvar, Patan. He came immediately to Khambhat Shareef and took Hazrat Pir Miran Saiyed Ali Sarkar (r) to the shrine of Hazrat Abdul Wahab Shah (r), asked for his forgiveness and rebuilt the mosque. Miraculously no Jews were every found again in that area.

In the area called Muhallah Saalawa of Khambhat Shareef you will find the footprints of The Holy Prophet (SAW) engraved on a stone, which was brought from Makkah Shareef by Hazrat Muhammad Mir Turab (r). When The Holy Prophet (SAW) used to walk on sand miraculously there was no footprint, but when he walked on stone it became so soft and comfortable for him that footprints were formed. Likewise, in many other places in India you will find such printed stones. Allah (SWT) himself in the Quranic verse in 13th Raku of Chapter 30 said: **“I swear by the city in which you walk”**. This sign is a great blessing for the people of Khambhat Shareef.

However much we take pride in our destiny it is still lacking. I am thankful to Allah (SWT) for allowing me to live in such a great land. May Allah (SWT) inflame the fire of love for His Saints, keep their protection over us and help us to act on their sayings.

Khambhat was historically the first ship port in India. Muslims from all over India used this sole port to make pilgrimage (Hajj). So History's great Saints travelled through and stayed in this blessed city. Even today you can still see the Makki Door, near the main mosque, under which the Saints passed to arrive at the port.

The Sahaba and Saints first came though Khambhat when entering India from Arabia. Many Sahaba and Saints gave this city preference for their resting place. They set up many mosques for the worship of Allah (SWT). Among the famous mosques are San-e-Awal Mosque, Awliya Mosque, Jummah Mosque, Jahangir Pur Mosque, Sheikh Waar Mosque, Husseini Mosque, Saath Mihrab Mosque and Abu

Talib Shah Mosque. There are almost 100 Mosques in Khambhat from whose minarets the calls of prayers echo and Allah's Truth is declared.

Hazrat Pir Miran Saiyed Ali Sarkar (r)

His full name is Qutb-e-Rabbani, Mehboob-e-Awliya, Nabeer-e-Ghaus-e-Azam Hazrat Pir Miran Saiyed Ali Sarkar (r), son of Arif-e-Rabbani Hazrat Saiyed Shah Taj-ud-Deen Abdul Razaq (r), grandson of Ghaus-e-Azam Shaikh Saiyed Abdul Qadir Jilani (r), the Shaikh of all Sheikhs (of Baghdad, Iraq). He is the 13th descendant of the Holy Prophet (SAW).

He was born in 558 Hijri (1166 CE) in Jilan, Iraq. When he was 10 years old he left his country and came with his uncle Hazrat Abdul Wahab Shah (r) to Khambhat in 568 Hijri. He came spreading Quranic knowledge, spirituality, Islamic guidance and the Holy Prophet (SAW)'s way of life. He was bestowed with grand miracles and helped people, showing them humane ways. He did this not only here, but throughout India, opening doors to a better life, good character and bringing the misguided to Allah (SWT).

He died at the age of 83 years on the 3rd of Jamadi-ul-Awwal 641 Hijri. His grave is 1 ½ km out of Khambhat City in an area historically known as Salman Pak, but is now known as Ashraf Nager. He was so great in Shariat (Islamic Law) and Tariqat (Spiritual Path) that historically his example is hard to find.

At his shrine many are cured of blindness, evil possessions, childlessness, unemployment, misery, illnesses and any other need is fulfilled, by the will of Allah(SWT), his way of helping and guiding will continue and even today you see people benefiting.

To me, I have been given spiritual power and guidance by Hazrat Pir Miran Saiyed Ali Sarkar (r) to benefit mankind in religious and worldly ways. As he blessed me by making me Sajjada-nasheen (Spiritual Authority) of the Shrine. The result is that the Khanqai Nizam (Spiritual Establishment) of Qadriya and Ashrafiya Silsilahs (Spiritual Chains) are able to progress their work. Hence, now there is a mosque built to make those who neglect prayers to pray, a madrassa (religious school) called Dar-ul-Uloom Faizan-e-Ashraf for education and the Shrine for faiz (spiritual benefits). You can come to and see for yourself and obtain faiz.

In the same Shrine there is also the tomb of Arif-e-Rabbani, Mehboob-e-Awliya Hazrat Pir Miran Saiyed Vali Sarkar (r) who is Hazrat Pir Miran Saiyed Ali's (r) elder brother. His mother's, Saiyedna Bibi little sister Saiyedna Bibi Naseeb-un-Nisa (r), elder sister Saiyedna Zainab Fatima (r), wife Saiyedna Kausar Jahan (r) and Hazrat Pir Miran Vali's (r) wife Saiyedna Bibi Zaheer-un-Nisa (r), Hazrat Saiyed Makhdoom Jalal-ud-Din Kalandri (r) (khalifah (spiritual representative) of Hazrat Sharf-ud-Deen Ali Shah Kalandri (r) of Panipat, Hariyana State), and Hazrat Saiyed Khazanchi

Bawa (r). These are Saints from whom people are benefiting spiritually and their miracles can still be seen.

Saints Of Khambhat Shareef.

In the south side of Khambhat Shareef there is the shrine of a great Chishti Saint whose name is Saiyed-ud-Sadat Hazrat Khawaja Asad-ud-Din Bin Omar (Babu Shah Chishti, died 871 Hijri) from whose Shrine Chishti benefits pour out today too. On the north side there are many shrines: Hazrat Pir Kabil Shah, Hazrat Pir Kazi Shah, Baji Shah, Hazrat Pir Taj-ud-Deen Bawa, Hazrat Muhammad Shah, Hazrat Sufi Kazi Nur-ud-Deen, Hazrat Pir Murad Shah, Hazrat Pir Murtaza Bawa, Hazrat Pir Baba Shabaan, Hazrat Saiyed Hussein Miya Shan shah, Hazrat Saiyed Behlol Shahid, and Hazrat Saiyed Hussein Miya Qadri (May Allah (SWT) bless them all). Visiting these shrines is a way to salvation for us.

After reading historical books it was found that the great Saint Hazrat Khawaja Sadr-ud-Deen Abul Fateh Al Wali-ul-Akbar Saiyed Muhammad Hussein Gaisoo Daraz Banda Nawaz (r) whose Shrine is in Gulbargha Shareef, Karnataka, came to Khambhat Shareef many times. Here, he wrote his famous book 'Khair-ul-Qudoos'. He delivered 136 speeches in different places of the city, which are written in 'Jami-ul-Qalam', collected by Hazrat Saiyed Muhammad Akbar Hussaini (r). His grandson Hazrat Saiyed Shah Idula Hussaini (r) was born in Khambhat Shareef on the 15th of Jumada-Thani 803 Hijri.

The Descendants Of The Holy Prophet (SAW).

Among these Saints are the Ahl-e-Rasul (descendants of the Holy Prophet (SAW)). Love of Ahl-e-Rasul is the soul of our Faith. As Allah (SWT) said in the Holy Quran ***"Qula As Alekum Alayhi Ajanillal Muwadata Fil Kurba"***. Meaning, ***O' Prophet (SAW) say that I do not ask from you anything for my services, if you wish to give then love the people of my household.***

It is farz (compulsory) to love the Ahl-e-Bayt (Family of the Holy Prophet (SAW)) and to have hatred against them is a quality of a Kafir (disbeliever).

Hadith: ***"Mumaata Ala Hube Ahle-e-Muhammadin Ma Ta Shaheeda Ala Wamaata Ala Bughze Ahl-e-Muhammadin Mata Kafira Ala Wamuraata Ala bughze ahl-e-Muhammadin Lam Ya Soom Raheiyatal Jannah"***. Meaning, ***whoever dies in the love of the Ahl-e-Nabi (Family of The Holy Prophet (SAW)) dies as a martyr and whoever dies in the hatred of the Ahl-e-Nabi dies as a disbeliever. Whoever dies in the hatred of Ahl-e-Nabi will not smell the scent of paradise.*** May Allah (SWT) give us the ability to understand the Holy Quran and Hadith, to teach, learn and act upon it. Ameen.

Help From The Saints.

Asking help from Saints in tombs is permissible as Imam Ghazali (r) said “Whoever you ask for help while they are alive, you can ask after their death too. One saint said “We saw four people in their graves who were doing the same as they did in life.” One group says help from the living is stronger. But Imam Ghazali (r) said that the help of those who have passed away is much stronger. Awliya rule in this world and the next. Good souls are given this power by Allah (SWT) to help people even after their death”.

Hazrat Imam Shafi (r) said “Whenever I need something I go to the grave of Hazrat Imam Abu Hanifa (r). There I read two rakat nawafil prayer, sit near his grave, pray to Allah (SWT) and quickly get my wish”. Imam Shafi (r) used to come from Palestine to Baghdad Shareef to visit Imam Abu Hanifa (r). Hazrat Shah Abdul Aziz (r) said “Getting help from others thinking that it is that person who is helping without Allah’s power is haram (forbidden). But thinking that Allah (SWT) helps through others is permissible in Sharia”. For example, to cure ourselves we take medicines and go to doctors thinking that we will get well and healthy – but actually to cure is only Allah’s power. Therefore, help from doctors and medicines do not affect our Iman. Similarly, help from Saints for health or any problems do not affect our Iman.

Mulla Ali Qari (r) said quoting Hazrat Saiyed Ghaus-ul Azam Shaikh Abdul Qadir Jilani (r) “*Whoever asks me for help while in distress will be alleviated. Whoever calls me when in problems, their problems will end. Whoever makes me an intercessor to Allah (SWT), his wish will be fulfilled*”. Then talking about Namaz-e-Ghausia (Prayer to Saiyed Ghaus-ul Azam for help), Mulla Ali Qari (r) said “**Read two rakat nawafil, in each rakat read Sura Ikhlas 11 times. After Salaam read Assalatu Assalamu Alaika Ya Rasulallah 11 times. Then face Baghdad Shareef and walk 11 steps towards that direction saying in each step my name and request your wish and read these two verses:**

“Ayud Kuni Dhaymoon Wa Antha Zakheerati Wa Uzla Mo Fiduniya Wa Antha Naseeri”

“Wa Aarun Ala Haamil Hama Wa Ho Wa Moon Jadee Ijaada Filwaiyda Yaka Loo Bayri”

Mulla Ali Qari (r) goes on to say “*Waqad zuriba zaalika miraran fasaha.*” Meaning, “*I practiced this myself many times and it worked every time*”.

From all this it proves that visiting holy graves and obtaining help from them is correct. The Holy Prophet (SAW) himself visited graves. Hadith: **The Holy Prophet (SAW) used to go to the graves of Uhud Martyrs and used to give them**

Salaam. The Four Caliphs (Representatives) of The Holy Prophet (SAW) did this too. Not only this, but the Holy Prophet (SAW) used to visit his Mother's grave every Thursday. If any stone was out of place then he would put it back.

That is why we ask all to visit Shrines of Holy Men and obtain help from them. On a similar basis we invite you to Khambat Shareef and to visit the many tombs – especially the Shrine of Hazrat Pir Miran Saiyed Ali (r) and to receive benefits from him. The Holy Prophet (SAW) said ***“Iza Thahuyur Thum Fil Umre Fus Thay Uno Min Ahlil Kaboor.”*** ***Meaning, when you are upset from your works and you see no way out then ask help from the people in the graves (Holy Men).***

Final word

Finally, my request to you is to visit Khambat Shareef and the Beloved Saints of Allah (SWT), finding their aid, winning their pleasure and praying in their beautiful mosques – gaining everlasting blessings. And why should you not benefit from the Saints? Hadith-e-Qudsi: ***“A man becomes so close to me through his worship that I become his ear by which he hears, I become his eye through which he sees, I become his hand by which he grips”.***

We should follow the Sunnah of The Holy Prophet Muhammad (SAW), pray the five times compulsory prayers and be with the Truthful. And to spend time with the Pir O' Murshid (Spiritual guide), following his guidance as God says in the Holy Quran.

“Ya Ayo Allah Zeena Amanutha Kullah Wa Kuno Ma Sadiqeen.”

Meaning, “O’ Believers fear Allah and be with the truthful”.

The Lion of Allah Almighty, Hazrat Ali (r) narrates in a Hadith *that I heard The Holy Prophet (SAW) say that in Shaam (Syria) in every age there will be Abdal whose number will be forty. And if any one of them dies, Allah (SWT) will replace him. Through them it will rain and though them victory will be gained over enemies. And through them salvation will be had from punishment in Shaam (or anywhere else).*

And also, even Hazrat Musa (PBUH) had an intention to meet a Wali (Friend of Allah) whose story Allah (SWT) narrates in The Holy Quran Sura Kahf, ***Chapter 15 Ayah 59-66.*** Therefore it is obligatory upon us to have intention to meet Friends of Allah (SWT) in order to obtain their help and guidance – making them the intercessors to Allah since this is the command of Allah (SWT) Himself: ***“Wakhthaghu Ilya Hil Wa Seela”.*** ***Meaning, “And find an intercessor to Him”.***

Nigahay Wali May Wo Taseer Delhi

Badaltee Hazaro Kee Taqdeer Dekhi

**(In the vision of a Friend of Allah that Power I saw
Changing thousands of destinies I saw)**