

DAY ONE NEWSLETTER

3rd Two Days International Conference
Mevlana Rumi & Haqrat Sultan Bahoo
Preachers of Human Friendship, Peace, Tolerance and Coexistence in the World

MUSLIM Institute and Faculty of Oriental Learning, University of the Punjab, Lahore organized 3rd Two Days International Conference on "Mevlana Rumi and Haqrat Sultan Bahoo: Preachers of Human Friendship, Peace, Tolerance and Coexistence in the World" on Thursday - Friday, February 20-21, 2020 at University of the Punjab, Lahore. Proceedings of **Day One** are included in this newsletter.



Inaugural Session

Inaugural session was chaired by Prof. Dr. Niaz Ahmed Akhtar (Vice Chancellor University of the Punjab, Lahore) whereas Chief Guest of the occasion was Mr. Yasir Humayun Sarfraz (Higher Education Minister, Punjab). Prof. Dr. Zia Ul Hassan (Dept. of Urdu, University of the Punjab) moderated the proceedings of Inaugural Session.

Remarks by Speakers

Brief Remarks of the speakers in Inaugural Session of the conference are as follow:



Prof. Dr. Muhammad Saleem Mazhar
Pro-Vice Chancellor, University of the Punjab, Lahore

Welcoming Remarks

I welcome you all in this 3rd Two Days International Conference on Mevlana Rumi (رحمۃ اللہ علیہ) and Haqrat Sultan Bahoo (رحمۃ اللہ علیہ). I am thankful to all the speakers and especially indebted to foreign delegates and dignitaries for participating in this conference. Sufis propagated the notion of pragmatism and practicality in our daily affairs. Nothing can be achieved without effort. One has to put effort in order to gain something. Mevlana Rumi (رحمۃ اللہ علیہ) and Haqrat Sultan Bahoo (رحمۃ اللہ علیہ), by dint of their spiritual insight, played key role in the renaissance of Muslim society. This is third international conference under collaboration between MUSLIM Institute and University of the Punjab, Lahore and it will have a very positive impact on our societies.



Sahibzada Sultan Ahmed Ali
Chairman MUSLIM Institute

Opening Remarks

Haqrat Sultan Bahoo (رحمۃ اللہ علیہ) and Mevlana Rumi (رحمۃ اللہ علیہ) played a very constructive role with respect to their religious, social and especially spiritual contributions in order to the uplift our societies. The most significant thing is that their teachings had a deep impact on our culture as well. When Persian language vanished from our curriculum and culture, we became victim of moral degradation. This collaboration of Punjab University and Muslim Institute are striving to revive the teachings of Sufis especially Haqrat Sultan Bahoo (رحمۃ اللہ علیہ) and Mevlana Rumi (رحمۃ اللہ علیہ) through such Conferences, which will have positive impact on academia and masses.



Prof. Dr. Sultan Shah
Dean, Faculty of Languages, Islamic & Oriental Learning, Government College University, Lahore

Guest of Honour

Role of Sufis have always been instrumental in the social as well as moral reconstruction of societies. Eminent Sufis like Mevlana Rumi (رحمۃ اللہ علیہ) and Haqrat Sultan Bahoo (رحمۃ اللہ علیہ) rendered innumerable services to the cause of Islam. Their literary as well as spiritual role influenced societies in a very positive manner. It is the need of the hour that we should make use of their teachings in our daily lives. Sufi teachings should be made part of our curriculum and taught regularly. Our literature is rich in morality and ethics. The education of characters preached by our Sufis can help in resolving social and moral decay in the world.



Mr. Muhammad Hanif Pitafi
Advisor to Chief Minister Punjab for Health

Guest of Honour

There is no denying the fact that Sufis played a key role in the creation of Pakistan. Sufis like Mevlana Rumi (رحمۃ اللہ علیہ) and Haqrat Sultan Bahoo (رحمۃ اللہ علیہ) are the torchbearers of Islamic culture and civilization. Their poetic and literary contribution had a deep influence over Islamic society. They propagated the attainment of truth and reality. They minutely observed the social structure of their respective societies and guided general masses accordingly. Sufis are such towering personalities as manifest Islam in letter and spirit while keeping in view the diversity of their respective societies. They address social problems in a highly wise and prudent manner. Their moral advices are still relevant to our current social problems.



H.E. Mr. Mohammad Reza Nazeri

Counsel General of Islamic Republic of Iran, Lahore

Guest of Honour



Prof. Dr. Humayun Ihsan

Dean Pakistan College of Law, Lahore

Guest of Honour

Persian language and literature rendered innumerable services in this region during various reigns which deserve appreciation. Contributions of some contemporary scholars and poets who have a very profound knowledge of the Persian language and literature during previous decades is also worthy to mention. It is for the first time that two people from Pakistan, who rendered crucial services in the field of Persian language and literature, have been awarded lifetime membership by the Academy of letters, Tehran.

No one can better explain humanity the way Sufis express the same through their works and actions. Since the dawn of the civilizations, philosophers have been in pursuit of basic philosophical questions; like who am I, what is my relation with this universe? Sufis have prudently solved these riddles by unveiling these realities about man and Universe in the light of the Holy Qur'ān. Mevlana Rumi (رحمة الله عليه) and Haḍrat Sultan Bahoo (رحمة الله عليه) emphasized over the oneness of Allah Almighty (ﷻ). They completely negated notion of division among societies based on caste, colour and creed. They negated all types of hatred.



Raja Yasir Humayun Sarfraz

Provincial Minister of Punjab for Higher Education

Chief Guest Remarks

The topic of today's conference is very near to my heart. Sufis played a pivotal role in spreading the light of Islam not only in the Sub-continent but

also in the whole region. Society of South Asia was badly divided into caste system which had shattered the social fabric of society. Sufis negated this caste system while spreading the notion of equality and justice. We need to develop our research institutions on the pattern adopted by our Sufis. The trend of naming universities in Punjab after the names of great Sufi saints is very encouraging. It will sow the seed of love for mystic knowledge among our youth.



Prof. Dr. Niaz Ahmad Akhtar

Vice Chancellor, University of the Punjab, Lahore

Chair of the Session

Haḍrat Sultan Bahoo (رحمة الله عليه) and Mevlana Rumi (رحمة الله عليه) were the true followers of the Holy Prophet (ﷺ). Allah (ﷻ) has decreed "Say, [O beloved Muhammad],

If you should love Allah, then follow me, [so] Allah will love you" (Holy Qur'ān 3:31). Islam reached our ancestors in the Subcontinent through the Sufi mystics. Allah (ﷻ) says in the Holy Qur'ān that how beautifully He has created the human. If we look at the Prophets and the mystics, they were the beautiful and perfect creations of Almighty. Message of the mystics is coexistence. This world comprises of six billion people. They can only live together under certain principles. However, essence of these principles is mutual respect and harmony.



First Academic Session

Individual's Transformation in the Teachings of Mevlana Rumi and Haḍrat Sultan Bahoo



Prof. Dr. Khawaja Muhammad Zakariya, Former Dean & Principal Oriental Learning College, University of Punjab, Lahore was the Chair of the Session. Mr. Usama Bin Ashraf (Research Associate, MUSLIM Institute) Moderated the proceedings of the session. Brief Remarks of the speakers are as follow:



Mr. Syed Aziz Ullah Shah

Research Associate, MUSLIM Institute, Islamabad

Unfolding Salient Features of the Literary Style of Haḍrat Sultan Bahoo's Poetry



Dr. Faisal Jummah

Deputy Registrar, Lasbela University of Agriculture, Water and Marine Sciences, Balochistan

Inner Perfection: Overview of Teachings of Sultan Bahoo and Mevlana Rumi

Haḍrat Sultan Bahoo (رحمۃ اللہ علیہ) secures an eminent position in the comity of prominent Sufis. His Persian poetry is also the embodiment of different mystic thoughts which are yet to be researched. Haḍrat Sultan Bahoo's poetry is the perpetuation of such ideas as embraces a reader with his deep spiritual knowledge and insight. Oneness of Allah (ﷻ), contemplation of the name of Allah, philosophy of ardent love with Almighty Allah (ﷻ), reality of heart, purification of one's self, concept of spiritual mentor and place of spiritual mentor in one's life are most relevant topics that come under discussion in his poetic work. Punjabi poetry of Haḍrat Sultan Bahoo (رحمۃ اللہ علیہ) encompass peculiar style which are called *Abyat*. The word *Hoo* at the end of each *Bayat* (verse) depicts his peculiar poetic style.

Inner perfection, above all, is a requirement of our faith. In the Holy Qur'ān one can find the following four steps or pathways to inner perfection i.e. intention, effort, belief and spiritual guide (murshid). Eventually, it is the guide who shows the path of inner perfection. After meeting Shams Tabriz, Mevlana Rumi (رحمۃ اللہ علیہ) realized that merely reading books is not enough to understand the path of spiritual perfection. Instead, a guide is mandatory to lead the seeker towards inner perfection. When Mevlana Rumi (رحمۃ اللہ علیہ) obtained inner perfection under the guidance of Shams Tabrez (رحمۃ اللہ علیہ), he said *"Maulvi could never be Maula-e-Rum; Had he not devoted himself to Shams-e-Tabrizi"* Similarly, Haḍrat Sutan Bahoo (رحمۃ اللہ علیہ) advises us that guide is of utmost importance for the achievement of inner perfection.



Dr. Shagufta Yasin

Assistant Professor, Department of Persian, National University of Modern Languages, Islamabad

Concept of “Murshid-e-Kamil” in the light of the Teachings of Haḍrat Sultan Bahoo

Literal meaning of “*murshid*” is guide. In-depth study of the books of Haḍrat Sultan Bahoo (رحمة الله عليه) unveils the reality that “*Murshid-e-Kamil*” (perfect guide) purges the heart of seeker from the worldly desires and wilful intentions. He enriches the soul of disciple with new life and introduces him to the unimaginable heights of spiritualism. This is the condition which he expresses in his *Abyat*. *Spiritual mentor planted the “Jasmeen” sapling of Allah’s name in my heart - Hoo, Irrigated with water of negation and affirmation in whole body - Hoo, It has blossomed and emit sweet fragrance all within - Hoo,* According to Haḍrat Sultan Bahoo (رحمة الله عليه), it is “*Murshid-e-Kamil*” who planted the sapling of real love in his heart and nurtured it with modesty, piety and acceptance.



Dr. Umair Mehmood Siddiqui

Assistant Professor, Department of Islamic Learning, University of Karachi, Karachi

Sufi Teachings of Mevlana Rumi and Sultan Bahoo for global civilization in the light of the Holy Qur’ān

We need to understand that what are the real and genuine basis of the global civilization in accordance with the teachings of the glorious Qur’ān? These two great *Awliya* (Mystics) define the Divine love and tolerance as a medium through which the culturally diverse societies can learn to live together on this planet with peace. Therefore, these two great Sufis say that all human beings are from the same origin. All the conflicts and polarization among the human beings are because of focusing only the physical aspects of the human life, instead we have spiritual and intellectual aspects of life, and we have lost spiritual dimensions in our life. Sultan Bahoo says that human is from Adam, and human is not the result of the Darwinism.



Dr. Rasida Qazi

Dean, Faculty of Arts, Ghazi University, Dera Ghazi Khan

Concept of ‘Raqs’ in the teachings of Mevlana Rumi

Rumi’s poetry bristles with the Divine love. This trend of his thought registers itself on every dimension of his aesthetics and literary output. He imbibed the divine love in his soul. The love of the divine shows through the cadence of his music and turns it into a divine anthem. Music and *Raqs* (dance) of a mystic are wordless. This *Raqs* occurs beyond the bounds of time and space. It lies in going round and round in the circles and touching the acme of bliss. The right hand goes in circles and traversing the valleys of bliss basks in the light of divine blessings. Bathed in the similar downpour, the left hand keeps pointing to the earth.



Prof. Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Shahid

Chairman, Department of Persian, GC University, Lahore

Spiritual Edification in the Teachings of Mevlana Rumi and Haḍrat Sultan Bahoo

When Allah Almighty (ﷻ) bestows someone, He grants him the company of his loved ones. In fact, such conferences are the part of our spiritual, social as well as moral training. Iqbal narrates his dream in his book *Israr e Khudi* regarding the importance of spiritual mentor that once at night my heart was overwhelmed in the remembrance of Allah Almighty (ﷻ), and it started *Zikr* of Allah Almighty (ﷻ). It is all by dint of the guidance of a spiritual mentor. In such cases one can’t even breathe by his own will. Mevlana Rumi (رحمة الله عليه) narrates that love and respect of a spiritual mentor can better guide individuals in right direction and ultimately bring peace and prosperity in a society.



Prof. Dr. Karim Najafi
Payam-e-Noor University, Iran

Importance of Sufi Teachings for the World Peace



Dr. Khawaja Muhammad Zakariya

Former Dean & Principal Oriental Learning College, University of Punjab, Lahore

Remarks by the Chair

Many years ago, when I was a student in India, a group of people there were used to organize events about Haḍrat Sultan Bahoo's teachings. Haḍrat Sultan Bahoo (رحمة الله عليه) does not belong to one area or nation but to all nations of the world. The message of Mevlana Jalal ud Din Balkhi is also of universal nature. The name of Sultan "Baa Hoo" means "with Hoo (Almighty Allah)". Holy Prophet (ﷺ) is Rehmat-ul-lil-Alamin (mercy for all Universes) not Rehmat-ul-lil-Muslamin (mercy for Muslims). Haḍrat Sultan Bahoo (رحمة الله عليه) quotes an incident in his book *Amir-ul-Kaunain* about *Amir-ul-Momineen* (AS), that there were two groups of people, Muslims and non-Muslims. *Amir-ul-Momineen* (AS) told the governor to treat both the groups equally. This is the message of Sufis that needs to be followed today.

It has been the peculiarity of Sufis to promote pragmatism and the notion of practicality among individuals of a society. In this respect, they propagate truth, love and faith in a society. They have always been of the view that one must have balance between his spiritual and physical life. Imbalance between the both creates chaos in one's life. Furthermore, they essentially negate the excess of materialism in one's life. They are of the view that the most important thing for a man is the peace and calm of heart and soul. And this can only be achieved through the service of humanity. As Haḍrat Sultan Bahoo (رحمة الله عليه) narrates

"Half curse upon the material world and the whole curse upon the materialist people – Hoo"

Similar are the views of Mevlana Rumi (رحمة الله عليه). Mevlana narrates that only contentment can grant one with the peace of heart and soul.



Second Academic Session

Mystic Literature of Mevlana Rumi and Haḍrat Sultan Bahoo



Engr. Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir, Vice Chancellor, University of Jhang, Jhang was the Chair of the Session. Dr. Muhammad Sabir (Assistant Professor Persian Department, University of the Punjab) moderated the proceedings of the session. Brief Remarks of the speakers are as follow:



Prof. Dr. Muhammad Nasir
Chairman, Department of Persian, University of the Punjab, Lahore

Persian Literature as a Heritage of Sufism: An overview



Dr. Muhammad Safeer
HOD, Department of Persian Language, National University of Modern Languages, Islamabad

Contemporary application of Philosophy of Rumi and Sultan Bahoo

All of Rumi's work is admirable but his famous 'Masnavi' has received supreme attention even after the passage of several centuries. Today, societies are facing challenges in terms of polarized divergence. Rumi's powerful poetry is relevant today to respond the challenges of violence and polarization. Firstly, Rumi provides bounding threads for human relations based on love. Secondly, he encourages interfaith harmony. Thirdly, he provides sense of dignity to humanity by considering all humans to be from same origin. In order to promote thoughts of Rumi in our society, sincere efforts are required. For instance, media and social institutions need to develop such programs to promote diverse literature by eminent scholars who encourage harmony and peace.

Haḍrat Jalaluddin Muhammad Bulkhi possesses a very unique stature when quality, effectiveness and eloquence of his writings are considered. His poetry reflects the teachings of almost all previous Muslim scholars and Mystics. Haḍrat Sultan Bahoo (رحمۃ اللہ علیہ) is also an ocean of spiritualism quenching the desires of seekers. Main goal of Tasawuf is the creation of ethical attributes in the human personality. Both the mystics taught moral values, love, justice, tolerance, harmony and humility to the humanity. To observe peace in the society, Mevlana Rumi (رحمۃ اللہ علیہ) and Haḍrat Sultan Bahoo (رحمۃ اللہ علیہ) advised the propagation of respect, morality, polite conversation, ending cruelty and oppression, avoidance of vanity and arrogance, attainment of knowledge and its practical application on the human body and soul.



Dr. Anjum Hameed
Director, National Language
Promotion Department, Islamabad

**Concept of Islamic Mysticism in
the Persian Literature of Haḍrat
Sultan Bahoo**



Prof. Dr. Zahid Munir Amir
Chairman, Department of Urdu,
University of the Punjab, Lahore

**Transformation of Mystic
Experiences in Literature: A Study of
Mevlana Rumi & Sultan Bahoo**

There is glorious history of the Persian literature in the Indo-Pak Sub-continent. Various mystics wrote their literary work in the Persian language. Haḍrat Sultan Bahoo (رحمة الله عليه) is a notable mystic who expressed his views eloquently in the Persian language. He wrote 140 books including a 'Dewan' in Persian language. This 'Dewan' comprises of 51 *Ghazliat* and 1286 *Abyat*. Haḍrat Sultan Bahoo (رحمة الله عليه) stayed devoted to his spiritual Guide. He didn't keep his accomplishments to himself only, rather he enlightened the heart and souls of seekers with his literary contributions.

While narrating the importance of *dhikr*, Haḍrat Sultan Bahoo (رحمة الله عليه) narrates that spiritual master cultivates the flower of love in one's body. With the *dhikr* of *la ilaha ilallah*, *la ilaha* means the negation of worldly desires and the *ilallah* is the affirmation of the love of God. When the mysteries of the spiritual knowledge reveal, one's heart is filled with the love of Allah. As this flower spreads its fragrance, it will give the soothing influence to the environment. Haḍrat Sultan Bahoo (رحمة الله عليه) further highlights that when contemplation of *Ism Allah Zaat* penetrates in one's body, it grants one with the power of observation. *Dhikr* of *Ism Allah Zaat* enables one in attaining the love of Allah Almighty (ﷻ).



Prof. Dr. Nabila Rehman
Chairperson Punjabi Department,
University of the Punjab, Lahore

**Influence of Mevlana's Masnavi &
Sultan Bahoo's Punjabi Abyat on
Subcontinent**



Mr. M. A Khan
Writer & Translator, Luton, UK

**Qur'ānic influence upon the
literature of Haḍrat Sultan Bahoo**

Sufis emphasized the adoption of restraint from the excess of worldly desires while promoting the vitality of the education of characters and sanctity of vision and thought. Influence of Mevlana Rumi (رحمة الله عليه) and Haḍrat Sultan Bahoo (رحمة الله عليه) teachings starts from a single individual and spans to the whole society and region. Sufism provides a complete guide regarding one's socio-economic affairs. For example, all the Sufis emphasized the earning of bread and butter through fair means. However, the perpetual need of Sufi practice speaks clear of the reality of the universality of their message.

Haḍrat Sultan Bahoo's knowledge is dominated by Qur'ānic citations. Qur'ānic references are quoted frequently in his books; sometimes a paragraph would contain multiple quotes from Holy Qur'ān. For example, "*Asrar-ul-Qādiri*" having 80 pages of Persian text; contains 70 verses of Qur'ān "*Ameer-ul-Konain*" 226 pages of Persian has 92 verses from Qur'ān. Similarly, his remaining works encompass even more references from the Holy Qur'ān. Just as a desirous can harmonize himself with divine attributes by the *dhikr*, in the similar way, there is reflection of Qur'ānic attributes bestowed on the books of Haḍrat Sultan Bahoo (رحمة الله عليه).



Engr. Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir

Vice Chancellor, University of Jhang, Jhang

Remarks by the Chair

Message imparted by Mevlana Rumi (رحمۃ اللہ علیہ) and Haḍrat Sultan Bahoo (رحمۃ اللہ علیہ) is not only universal but also divine. Firstly, both the saints propagated the purification of self. Secondly, the adoption of restraint from the excess of worldly desires. Thirdly, their special concern regarding the promotion of love for humanity. Fourthly, they emphasized the negation of self. Fifthly, they preferred spiritual development to material development. Both sufi saints interpreted *Faqr* as Haḍrat Sultan Bahoo (رحمۃ اللہ علیہ) in book *Ain ul Faqr* and Mevlana Rumi (رحمۃ اللہ علیہ) in his *Masnawi* provided a very comprehensive interpretation of *Faqr*. Holy Prophet (ﷺ) said that *Faqr* is from me and I am proud of *Faqr*. Similarly, Haḍrat Sultan Bahoo (رحمۃ اللہ علیہ) narrates in his Punjabi *Abyat*. False is the rule of the world and *Faqr* is true kingship.



Engr. Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir, Sahibzada Sultan Ahmed Ali and Prof. Dr. Saleem Mazhar presenting conference souvenir to Dr. Muhammad Safeer.



Mystical Musical Evening

In the evening, a Sufi Musical session was also organized in which the Sufi Kalam of Mevlana Rumi and Hadrat Sultan Bahoo was sung by Raja Hamid Ali and his Team. Prof. Dr. Saleem Mazhar (Pro Vice Chancellor, University of the Punjab) delivered the vote of thanks.



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