

A Unique Scholar-Badiuzzaman Sayeed Nursi

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Abstract

Turkey is a country of historic mosques with Byzantine art. Allah has created a gem awakening the minds of humanity is the great Bediuzzama Saeed Nursi. His talents and intellectual creation has no match in Islamic world with a multi volumed writings like The "Risale-i-Nur" is a divine guidance for the people of the world. Saeed Nursi born in a village "BITLIS" of Turkey in 1877. He read "Cemul-cevami" "Serhul Mevakif" and "Ibul Hacer" in 24 hours. He obtained diploma from Sey Mehmed Celali of Beyazid Madersa and became Molla Saeed. He memorized Cemul-Cevami in a week and was awarded the title of "Bediuzzama". He memorized many books. He started University in eastern Anatolia by name "Medrasathus-Zehra". His work Risale-i-Nur was translated in more than 40 languages including English.

Keywords: Risale-i-Nur, cemul-cevami, bediuzzama, BITLIS, Turkey, ibul hacer, nursi

Introduction

Turkey is a very fertile country with some of its low lands, swamps and a pleasant climate. Also Anatolia has a fertile coastal belt.

Turkey is most famous for its beautiful mosques with Byzantine art as well as fruit trees. Within this place Allah has created one more human fruit whose everlasting works are surprisingly awaking the minds of humanity i.e; The Great and Pious Badiuzzaman Sayeed Nursi.

Generally we see innovative skills and talent for writing which develops only after attaining a particular age. It is natural. But when we talk about Sayeed Nursi, his talent is so amazing that he started writing at a very early age which is nothing less than a miracle, to every human being.

There is no match to his skills. He is an intellectual creation in Islamic World. Especially his work, "The Risale-i-Nur". The multi volumed collection of his writings brightened it.

His Childhood and Youth

In Turkey, Children must attend school between the ages of 7 and 12 (1). Sayeed Nursi started his education when he was 9 years old. He was born in the village of 'Nurs' in Bitlis of Turkey in 1877.

Badiuzzaman Sayeed Nursi was very intellectual whose valuable contribution commenced right from his childhood. He used to attend madarasas where the discussion or debates were held on saints or any spiritual leaders. He was very courageous at his school time and was called as the Noor Md's student because of his daring attitude and mental ability. In another incident, Nursi defeated his elder brother Abdullah for acting as a teacher during their learning. This shows his courage, bravery and truth. He often used to ask questions to others on any matter whenever he was confused.

In Nurs, once he dreamt a peculiar dream and saw Prophet Mohammed (PBUH). He kissed His hands and asked for the knowledge. The Prophet (PBUH) said "Knowledge of Qura'an

will be given to you on one condition, i.e; you will ask no questions to anyone in my community".

He studied the Arabic Grammar and Syntax. After spending some time in Gevas Town near Van City, Sayeed Nursi and his friend Molla Mehmed stayed in Bayezid Madarsa for their studies.

Whenever he read any book, he memorized and absorbed all of it. When he was 14 years old, his memory power reached the peak. Sayeed Nursi without any guidance read books and understood them. He read 'Cemul-Cevani', 'Serhul Mevakif' and 'Ibul Haur' in twenty four hours which are the most difficult. He followed Imam Gazzali's sufistic interpretation of the Hadith.

Sayeed Nursi obtained his Diploma from Sey Mehmed Celali of Beyazid Madarsa and was called as "Molla Sayeed".

Then he went to Baghdad to visit the Tomb of Abdul Khader Jeelani.

In Savran, he read eighty books and in Siirt Merkez he learnt many books and had answered the questions perfectly. To test his memory he was given Muqamaat-Al-Hariri. Sayeed Nursi read them once and memorised them. Mallah Fatehullah praised his amazing talent and said, "It is rare to see Memory and Intelligence combined in a person".

It is very rare to see that Allah has given such talents to Sayeed Nursi. Molla Fatehullah wrote in his book that Sayeed Nursi memorised the complete "Cemul-Cevani" in just a week. This shows his extra ordinary talent. He has spirituality by nature. Hence was crowned by the title of "Badiuzzaman" which means "the Wonder of the Age" by Molla Fatehullah Efendi.

This news spread all over the Siirt Merkez, Ulama gathered and praised and said that he is something of 'Vali' or 'Saint'.

At the age of 15 he challenged the debates. In the Town "Tillo", he memorised the Arabic Lexican 'Qamusul-okyanus'. Molla Sayeed had the comprehensive study on Islamic Sciences i.e., the Arabic Grammar, Syntax, Quranic exegesis, traditions of the Prophet (PBUH), i.e., (Hadith), and

Jurisprudence, i.e., (Fiqha). He memorised 40 books in two years on Theology (kalam).

When he was in Bitlis, Sayeed Nursi started to recite Qura'an. He memorised the major part of it but did not complete. All his teachers loved and adored him very much. Sayeed Nursi himself said "I used to repeatedly by heart the 80-90 books which I memorised. There are many talents present in the spirituality of Sayeed Nursi. Such type of most skillful events can be seen with great potential everytime during his lifetime. Papers are not sufficient to describe his spiritual potential. By such remarkable miracles of Sayeed Nursi, he is seen as a unique scholar right from his childhood. The greatest landmark of Badiuzzaman Sayeed Nursi was to establish a University in Eastern Anatolia where the teaching of religious science and modern science methods was introduced. This University is called as the "Madarsatuz Zehra" after Al-Azhar University and it was called as its Sister University.

Not only this, Sayeed Nursi had his own Madarsa in 'Van City' at the foot of the 'Citadel' called as Horhor madarsa, where he introduced his own method of teaching which he acquired during learning in his life time.

Sayeed Nursi was offered many higher posts in 1923 but he refused them all. Sayeed Nursi wrote a treatise on Algebraic equation and also on many subjects. His special and dedicated multivolumed collection, "The Risale-i Nur" in a brief span is discussed below.

Risale-I-Nur

Badiuzzaman Sayeed Nursi started writing Risale-i Nur from 1920-1930. He has presented a clear picture in it such as path of truth for Humanity, Shariah and the role of Prophets and many other views.

His Literature covers all aspects of Islam i.e., Quranic exegesis, Shariah, Hadith, Fiqha etc.

Risale-i Nur is a divine guidance for the people of the world. Copies of this were sent to all over the world.

"Risale-i Nur" is translated in more than 40 languages. It consists of 5 volumes. (2)

Risale-i Nur teaches us the main teachings of Qura'an related to faith and worship while at the same time refuting the public assumption and concepts of materialistic philosophy.

Viewing the world as a book, the letters and words of it prove what we see around us. He teaches us how to read this so as to gain knowledge of their Inscraper and Maker.

He believed education to be the most effective way of maintaining the Unity of the Empire and securing its progress. Nursi discloses numerous truths of the Universe.

Sukran Vahide had translated the work 'Risale-i Nur' in English. She also authored two major biographies of Nursi. Many works and books were written by many scholars on Sayeed Nursi. Risale-i Nur consists of Rays, Flashes and Word collection. It consists of 6 flashes. In the first flash, he described the supplications of Hazrath Yunus in a most affective means for obtaining and answering prayer.

Badiuzzaman Sayeed Nursi explained about the illness. He says men have no right to complain in case of disasters and illness for the 3 reasons.

- i) In first reason he says, God has made the garment of body with which he has clothed man a manifestation of His (Allah) art. He made man a model.
- ii) In second reason he says that the life is refined, perfect, strengthened and advanced.
- iii) In the third reason is that the worldly realm is the field of testing.

Sayeed Nursi advised a man and explained him (in the light of Qura'an) who afflicted a disease in first World War by saying that "Just as a tree drops its ripe fruit when shaken, so do the sins fall away through the trembling of fever".

He also describes by repeating the qualities and benefits of Divine and most beautiful names of Allah.

Conclusion

Badiuzzaman Sayeed Nursi was one of the intellectuals whose most valuable contributions commenced right from his childhood. He was gifted by extra ordinary talents. His most skillful events can be seen with great potential always in his lifetime. As a result of all these miracles Sayeed Nursi was crowned by the title "Badiuzzaman" which means "the Wonder of the Age".

As such, Badiuzzaman Sayeed Nursi indeed is not only a distinct scholar but also a true guide to humanity. Hence he will be remembered as "Great Nursi" all the time.

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