

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

IN APPRECIATION OF THE URDU TRANSLATION OF  
SAYYIDUNA'L IMAM 'ABDALLAH BIN 'ALAWI AL-HADDAD'S <sup>نفعنا به</sup>  
SPIRITUAL MASTERPIECE  
RISALATU'L MU'AWANAH (THE BOOK OF ASSISTANCE)

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An appreciation by: Siddiq Osman Noormuhammad

All praise is for Allah <sup>ﷻ</sup>, the Lord of the worlds, and may Allah <sup>ﷻ</sup> bless and bestow peace forever on our beloved Holy Prophet Muhammad al-Mustafa, Makki, Madani <sup>ﷺ</sup>, and on his Family and Companions <sup>رضي الله عنهم</sup>. **Amin.**

Welcome to Rislatu'l Mu'awanah (The Book of Assistance), a spiritual masterpiece of **Quthb u'l-Irshaad** Imam 'Abdallah bin 'Alawi al-Haddad <sup>نفعنا به</sup> (1044-1132 A.H). And welcome to its Urdu translation by Syed Hamid Yazdani saheb <sup>رحمته</sup>. Of the ten books that Imam al-Haddad wrote, this is the first book to be translated in Urdu. And when we recite this book, we realize why Imam al-Haddad is called **Quthb u'l-Irshaad** (the spiritual pillar of Right Guidance).

First, I will summarize some of the most important aspects of the exemplary life of Imam al-Haddad from his biography which Allah <sup>ﷻ</sup> blessed me to write in 1435 A.H. / 2014. Then I will explain why Syed saheb is most eminently suited to do the translation of Rislatu'l Mu'awanah of the Imam.

A. ABOUT IMAM AL-HADDAD <sup>نفعنا به</sup>: THE AUTHOR OF RISALATU'L MU'AWANAH

The life of Imam al-Haddad <sup>نفعنا به</sup> was musk-scented with the love of Allah <sup>ﷻ</sup> and His Beloved Prophet <sup>ﷺ</sup>, rose-scented with the love of the Ahl al-Bayt and the Sahaba <sup>رضي الله عنهم</sup>, and 'ud-scented with the love of the Awliya'Allah and the Salihin <sup>رحمهم الله</sup>.

He is from the Ahl al-Bayt <sup>رضي الله عنهم</sup>, tracing his pure, saintly and noble descent from RasulAllah <sup>ﷺ</sup>, through Sayyidina 'Ali <sup>رضي الله عنه</sup> and Sayyidatina Fatima <sup>رضي الله عنها</sup>, and their son Sayyidu'sh-shuhada' Imam al-Husayn <sup>رضي الله عنه</sup>.

Propagation of Islam is done through writing, by word of mouth and by going on foot. It has been said that none of the folk of the later centuries has excelled in all three spheres as much as has Imam al-Haddad.

He is Shaykh al-Islam, the leader of the people of **at-Tawhid**, Pure Islamic Monotheism. He attained the spiritual rank of **as-Siddiqiyah al-kubra wa'l wilaya al-'uzma** (the greatest saint of supreme veracity of his time). He has been acclaimed as the **Mujaddid** (renewer) of the twelfth Islamic century.

He is a **sufi** master in the **Ahl as-Sunnah wa'l Jama'ah** tradition who followed the Prophet ﷺ and his Companions رضي الله عنهم. He is Shafi'i **madh-haban** (in sacred Muslim law), Ash'ari **'aqidatan** (in tenets of Muslim faith), and 'Alawi **mashraban** (in drinking and providing drink at the spiritual fount).

He showed concern for the widows, orphans and the poor. He adopted many orphans and raised them up together with his own children. He regularly assisted widows. He allowed the poor and the travellers to eat freely from his plantations. He paid his workers generously. His house was always full of guests. We should follow in his footsteps and maintain these traditions of generosity.

Ash-Shaykh Dr. Mostafa al-Badawi رحمه الله of Madina al-Munawwarah informs us in the biography of the Imam that forty of his disciples named 'Umar became **Awliya'Allah** (Friends of Allah) as had been predicted by his Shaykh, Al-Habib 'Umar bin 'AbdirRahman al-'Attas رحمه الله.

**SubhanAllah** (Glorified is Allah ﷻ)!

Imam al-Haddad left a three-fold legacy:

- (a) of **Dhikrullah** (remembrance of Allah ﷻ),
- (b) of religious guidance through his exemplary character and the ten books that he authored, and
- (c) of religious poetry in his Diwan of 150 poems.

Now I will give a brief explanation about each of these.

#### (a) His legacy of Dhikrullah

Imam al-Haddad رحمه الله compiled the most beloved **adhkaar**, du'as (supplications) and **kalimaat** (Declarations of Muslim Faith) from the Holy Qur'an and the Hadith Shareef of our Beloved Holy Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, in Wird u'l-Latif and Ratib al-Haddad. Today Wird u'l-Latif and Ratib al-Haddad are recited in all the four corners of the world and have been translated in many languages, including Indonesian/Malaysian, Kiswahili, Arabic-Afrikaans, English, French and Swedish. The **nur** (spiritual light) of these **adhkaar** and **awraad** (regular additional voluntary invocations) has spread across the world, illuminating homes, hearts and foreheads of Muslims.

Imam al-Haddad also compiled the longer Wird u'l-Kabir. In just one recitation of Wird u'l-Kabir, we recite the Name of Allah ﷻ (His **Ism udh-Dhaat**) 1867 times.

**Al-Hamdu Lillah** (All Praise is for Allah ﷻ).

He is also unique in that he is the only one who composed separate supplications to be recited after the recitation of Surah al-Fatiha, Surah YaaSeen, Surah al-Waqi'ah, and Ayatu'l Kursi. He

thanks Allah ﷻ for bestowing upon us such treasures. This is the extent to which he was attached to the recitation of the Holy Qur'an.

### (b) His classics of Muslim spirituality

Imam al-Haddad رحمه الله authored ten books which have become classics of Muslim spirituality. For more than three centuries, Muslims have read them and become more pious. Hence his title: **Qutb u'd-Da'wah wa'l-Irshad** (Spiritual Axis of Propagation of Islam and Right Guidance).

These days, computerized indexes of the Holy Qur'an are available. If you wish to find the verses of the Holy Qur'an on a particular subject, you just reference that index. Well, Imam al-Haddad did not require such an index. He was himself a living index, not only of the Holy Qur'an but of Hadith Shareef as well. You realize this when you read the ten books he authored. His books continue to benefit ordinary Muslims, the beginners on the spiritual path, as well as the **mashayikh** who are firmly established on the spiritual path.

He is an author in the tradition of Imam al-Ghazali رحمه الله who loved his Ihya 'Ulum id-Din (Revival of Religious Knowledge) so much that he composed a poem in its praise. But we learn more from him because he also quotes the great '**ulama'** (scholars) and **mashayikh** (spiritual masters) who came after Imam al-Ghazali.

One of the most remarkable aspects of the writings of the Imam is that it is so pure, effective and useful. It is comprehensive yet succinct, and it has so much depth, yet it does not overwhelm you.

He does not talk down to you but speaks to you in earnest and with respect, considering you to be an intelligent person capable of much spiritual progress. You cannot help exclaiming that he is so wise!

He is the alchemist who wants to wean the hearts of people away from the allure of this world and turn them into **Rijalullah** (men of Allah).

Study sessions from Rislatu'l Mu'awanah (The Book of Assistance) and An-Nasaih id-Diniyyah (Counsels of Religion) have been held in a **masjid** in Jakarta for the past 120 years. These are perhaps the most widely used books of the Imam in study sessions. **Sayyidi wa Murshidi** al-Habib Ahmad Mash-hur bin Taha al-Haddad رحمه الله used to give lessons from them in Kenya. He held Imam al-Haddad رحمه الله in such high esteem that referring to him as **Sayyidi** (my master), he quoted almost the whole chapter on "Varieties of Meditation" from Rislatu'l Mu'awanah in his own spiritual masterpiece Miftahu'l Jannah (Key to the Garden), (The Key to Paradise).

The blessings of these study sessions have spread so that these days, lessons are given from the books of the Imam such as Sabil al-Iddikaar (The Lives of Man) as far away as Sydney, Australia. Some of his books form part of the syllabus in academies of learning. His books and religious poetry are quoted by scholars in their speeches from Turkey to Kenya.

(c) He composed 150 **qasaaid** (religious poems)

Imam al-Haddad رحمته الله composed 150 religious poems which have been compiled alphabetically in his Diwan. In this way, he conveyed the teachings of Islam in a comprehensive way, both in prose and poetry. For example, he wrote the **Aqida Ahlus-Sunnah wa'l Jama'ah** in both prose and poetry.

One of his poems is largely **salawaat** and **salam** (invocation of blessings and peace) on our Beloved Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. He composed it when he went for the Hajj Pilgrimage. Its 16<sup>th</sup> couplet is engraved inside the room where the Prophet ﷺ lived, attached to the Masjid an-Nabawi in Madina al-Munawwarah. Let us seize the opportunity to recite it to gain blessings.

نَبِيِّ عَظِيمٍ خُلِقَ الْخُلُقُ الَّذِي  
لَهُ عَظَمَ الرَّحْمَنُ فِي سَيِّدِ الْكُتُبِ

The great Prophet whose character is the character which  
The Most Beneficent Allah exalted in the master of the Revealed Books (the Qur'an).

When a brother from Pakistan in Tariqa al-Qadiriyyah heard about this, he was filled with so much joy that he named his son Haddad.

**Allahu Akbar** (Allah ﷻ is Supremely Great)!

## **B. ABOUT SYED HAMID YAZDANI SAHEB رحمته الله: THE TRANSLATOR OF RISALATU'L MU'AWANAH**

Syed Hamid Yazdani saheb رحمته الله is very well suited to do this translation as he is both a **sha'ir** (poet) and an **'alim** (scholar). So, he can better appreciate the **adhkaar** that Imam al-Haddad رحمته الله compiled such as Wird u'l-Latif and Ratib al-Haddad, the ten books that he wrote and the poetic diction and content of the 150 **qasaaid** (religious poems) that he composed.

Syed saheb is Hanafi **madh-haban** (in sacred Muslim law), Maturidi **'aqidatan** (in tenets of Muslim faith), and Naqshbandi **mashraban** (in drinking and providing drink at the spiritual fount).

Syed saheb has composed two whole books of religious poems titled Ita'at (Obedience to Allah ﷻ and His Beloved Prophet ﷺ), and Gul-e-Tawseef (The Roses of Praise). These contain **hamd** (Praise of Allah ﷻ), **na'ats** (eulogies) on Prophet Muhammad ﷺ and **manqabats** (poems) in praise of the **Ahl al-Bayt** ﷺ (the Family of the Prophet ﷺ), the **Khulafa' ar-**

**Rashidin** (the Rightly-Guided **Khulafa'** of the Holy Prophet ﷺ), and the **Awliya' Allah** (Friends of Allah ﷺ).

(a) The **hamd** in Praise of Allah ﷻ is in fulfillment of Allah's Command:

وَالَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا أَشَدُّ حُبًّا لِلَّهِ

And those who believe are strongest in love for Allah. (2:165)

Syed saheb has won our hearts by also composing **Manzuma Asma' Allah** in Urdu, a poem with the 99 Most Beautiful Names of Allah ﷻ.

**SubhanAllah** (Glorified is Allah ﷻ)!

(b) Allah ﷻ Himself has praised His Beloved Prophet ﷺ in the Holy Qur'an in many verses. At this juncture, let us get the blessing of reciting just one verse.

وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ إِلَّا رَحْمَةً لِّلْعَالَمِينَ

And We have sent you not except as a mercy for all the worlds. (21:107)

So in his **na'ats** (eulogies), Syed saheb has followed the tradition of the **Sahaba** (Companions of the Holy Prophet ﷺ) and those who followed them, in praising the Beloved Prophet ﷺ.

Let us recall this Hadith of the Noble Prophet ﷺ.

Hadrat Anas bin Malik relates that a villager asked the Holy Prophet ﷺ, "When is the Day of Judgement?" The Holy Prophet ﷺ asked him, "What preparations have you made for it?" The man said, "(Only) the love of Allah and of His Prophetic Messenger". The Holy Prophet ﷺ said, "You will be with those whom you love". (Al-Bukhari and Muslim).

(c) Allah ﷻ has praised the **Sahaba** in the Holy Qur'an, referring to them as:

وَالسَّابِقُونَ الْأَوَّلُونَ

And the first and the foremost, (9:100)

and

رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمْ وَرَضُوا عَنْهُ

Allah is well-pleased with them and they are pleased with Him (as their Lord). (9:100), (98:8)

So, Syed saheb has composed **manqabats** (poems) on all the **Khulafa' ar-Rashidin** (the Rightly-Guided **Khulafa'**), that is

Sayyidina Abu Bakr as-Siddiq,  
Sayyidina 'Umar al-Faruq,  
Sayyidina 'Uthman Dhu'n-Nurayn and  
Sayyidina 'Ali al-Murtada عليه السلام.

(d) Allah سُبْحَانَهُ has praised the **Ahl al-Bayt** عليهم السلام in the Holy Qur'an. Allah سُبْحَانَهُ says:

إِنَّمَا يُرِيدُ اللَّهُ لِيُذْهِبَ عَنْكُمُ الرِّجْسَ أَهْلَ الْبَيْتِ وَيُطَهِّرَكُمْ تَطْهِيرًا

Allah wishes to remove from you all impurity, O Family of the Prophet, and to purify you a thorough purification. (33:33)

So, Syed saheb has composed **manqabats** on

Sayyidina 'Ali al-Murtada  
Sayyidatina Fatima az-Zahra,  
Sayyidina Imam al-Hasan, and  
Sayyidina Imam al-Husayn عليهم السلام;

as well as on two of the **Ummahatul Mu'minin** (mothers of faithful believers), that is

Sayyidatina Khadija al-Kubra عليها السلام and  
Sayyidatina 'Aisha al-'Ulya عليها السلام;

and on Sayyidatina Amina عليها السلام, the mother of the Prophet ﷺ, and Sayyidina Imam Ja'far as-Sadiq عليه السلام.

(e) Allah سُبْحَانَهُ has praised the **Awliya' Allah** in these words:

أَلَا إِنَّ أَوْلِيَاءَ اللَّهِ لَا خَوْفَ عَلَيْهِمْ وَلَا هُمْ يَحْزَنُونَ

Indeed the Friends of Allah do not fear, nor do they grieve. (10:62)

So, Syed saheb has composed one or more **manqabats** on each of the following **Awliya'Allah** (Friends of Allah) and **Salihin** (the pious).

Ghawth al-'Azam Sayyiduna ash-Shaykh 'Abd al-Qadir al-Jilani,  
Hazrat Data Ganj Bakhsh 'Ali al-Hujwiri,  
Sultan u'l-Hind Hazrat Khwaja Mu'inuddin Chishti,  
Hazrat Nizamuddin Awliya',  
Hazrat Khwaja Muhammad Bahauddin Naqshband Bukhari,  
Imam Rabbani Mujaddid Alfi Thani Shaykh Ahmad as-Sirhindi,  
A'la Hazrat Imam Ahmad Raza Khan,  
Imam 'Abdallah bin 'Alawi al-Haddad,  
Al-Habib Ahmad Mash-hur bin Taha al-Haddad, and  
Hazrat Akhund Zadah Saifur-Rahman Pir Archi Khurasani.

نفعنا الله (may Allah ﷻ make us benefit from them). **Amin!**

Syed saheb has composed **manqabats** in honour of shaykhs in various **turuq** (spiritual paths leading to Allah ﷻ) such as the Qadiriyyah, Naqshbandiyyah, Chishtiyyah and 'Alawiyyah. In this way, he has conveyed the teaching of his shaykh not to be parochial.

We have had gatherings of Dhikr/Zikr and Mawlid with Syed saheb in Toronto for the past so many years. He considered it his duty to contribute towards each gathering by composing a poem appropriate for the occasion. For example, when we had a program of Qur'an Hifz celebration, in which seven madrasas in the **Sufi** tradition participated, he composed a poem in praise of the Qur'an. For the **Mawlid u'n-Nabi** celebration, he composed a **na'at** in honour of the Prophet ﷺ. When we had the whole night **Zikr** in Tariqa al-Qadiriyyah on the occasion of the '**urs** (Anniversary) of Ghawth al-A'zam Shaykh 'Abd al-Qadir al-Jilani رَحِمَهُ اللهُ, he composed a **manqabat** in his honour, and when we had the **hawl** (Anniversary) of Imam al-Haddad رَحِمَهُ اللهُ, he composed a **manqabat** in his honour. We consider ourselves blessed to have had the honour of uploading most of his religious poetry on our Madarasa Hidayah website [www.madarasahidayah.net](http://www.madarasahidayah.net).

Syed saheb learned religious poetry from his blessed father, Hazrat Syed Yazdani Jalandhri رَحِمَهُ اللهُ who composed a book of religious poetry in Urdu titled Tawseef-e-Khayrul Bashar (Praise of the Best of Mankind, Prophet Muhammad ﷺ). When he talks of his Grand Shaykh Pir Archi رَحِمَهُ اللهُ, we realize that he was **Ash-Shaykh al-kamil** (a shaykh perfected by Allah ﷻ). So, Syed saheb is grounded in the **Sufi** tradition.

Syed saheb has done the greatest amount of work on the religious poetry of A'la Hazrat Imam Ahmad Raza Khan رَحِمَهُ اللهُ. For example, he has composed a **tazmin** (called **takhmis** in Arabic) on the Salam of A'la Hazrat. A **tazmin** is the augmentation of couplets to quintets. A'la Hazrat's **Salam** (Salutations on our Beloved Holy Prophet Muhammad ﷺ) is the longest **salam** in any

language with 171 couplets. Syed saheb has augmented all these to quintets. In doing so, he has joined the ranks of the ‘**ulama**’ (scholars). Two of the outstanding features of this **tazmin** are that it has been composed with many of the **Asma’ un-Nabi** ﷺ (the noble attributive names of the Beloved Prophet ﷺ), and the names of many **Awliya’ Allah**.

Since he loves A‘la Hazrat so much, he has naturally adopted A‘la Hazrat’s translation of the Holy Qur’an in translating Risalatul Mu‘awanah (The Book of Assistance). This is an indication (**ishara**) that Syed saheb is justly suited to translate this spiritual masterpiece of Imam al-Haddad.

There is another link as well. The foremost representative of Imam al-Haddad رحمۃ اللہ علیہ in these times has been Al-Habib Ahmad Mash-hur bin Taha al-Haddad رحمۃ اللہ علیہ. And both A‘la Hazrat رحمۃ اللہ علیہ and al-Habib have recommended the **tafsir** (commentary) of the Holy Qur’an by Imam an-Nasafi رحمۃ اللہ علیہ. We conclude that the language of the **Awliya’ Allah** is the same. It is the language of the heart, and it is based on love.

**Al-Hamdu Lillah**, I have gone through this translation, cross-checking it with the original Arabic. I find that Syed saheb has taken meticulous care in his translation. His translation has been a labour of love. And when we recite his two **manqabats** on Imam al-Haddad رحمۃ اللہ علیہ we find that he really loves him. I will quote four selected stanzas from one of these **manqabats** and give an interpretation to gain blessings.

|                            |                         |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| دولتِ ذکر و یقین دے کر     | دعوتِ دین میں دے کر     |
| قیدِ غفلت سے کریں آزاد     | قطبِ عالم حضرتِ حداد    |
| اُن کی تحریریں مثالی ہیں   | بلبلِ باغِ غزالی ہیں    |
| معتبر ہے ان کا ہر ارشاد    | قطبِ عالم حضرتِ حداد    |
| ہیں قصائد اتنے نورانی      | فیض دیتے ہیں جو روحانی  |
| شاد ہو جن سے ہر اک ناشاد   | قطبِ عالم حضرتِ حداد    |
| آئینہ شفاف کرتے ہیں        | زنگِ دل کا صاف کرتے ہیں |
| ہیں لطیف اُن کے سبھی اوراد | قطبِ عالم حضرتِ حداد    |



In giving the wealth of zikr and certitude  
in inviting to the manifest religion of Islam  
he frees people from the imprisonment of heedlessness  
the world's spiritual pillar Imam al-Haddad

His writings are a model  
a nightingale from the garden of Imam al-Ghazali  
All that he said is trustworthy  
the world's spiritual pillar Imam al-Haddad

His religious poems are so shiny  
bestowing spiritual abundance  
that gladden anyone who is dejected  
the world's spiritual pillar Imam al-Haddad

He clears the mirror  
and removes the rust from the heart  
His awraad (plural of Wird) are all Latif  
the world's spiritual pillar Imam al-Haddad

It has been our great good fortune that we have had the opportunity of uploading this Urdu translation of Rislatu'l Mu'awanah on our Madrasa Hidayah web-site.

**Al-Hamdu Lillah** (All Praise is for Allah ﷻ).

Now that Syed saheb ﷺ has successfully completed his translation, we have just received the good news that Brother Mohammed Naveed Siddiqi ﷺ of Hyderabad, India is also translating it in Urdu. We are supplicating to Allah ﷻ to help him complete it successfully. **Amin.**

As is well-known, Ash-Shaykh Dr. Mostafa al-Badawi ﷺ of Madina al-Munawwarah has taken the lead in translating almost all of the books written by Imam al-Haddad into English. Syed Ahmad Semait ﷺ has taken a similar lead in translating five of the Imam's books into Malaysian. Both of them have translated The Book of Assistance, while Umm Hani Nilsson حفظها الله and AbdulWahid Morrone حفظه الله have translated it in Swedish. Chapters from various books of the Imam have also been translated in Indonesian/Malaysian, Urdu, Kiswahili, Somali, French, Dutch and Danish. It is heartening to note that the publishers "Kitaba: Islamic Texts for the blind" have published the translation of the opening chapters of An-Nasaih id-Diniyyah in Braille. Imam al-Haddad رحمه الله is well-known all over the world as well as in the 'alam al-arwah (the world of souls) as **Qutb u'l-Irshad** (the spiritual pillar of Right Guidance).

**Allahu Akbar** (Allah ﷻ is Supremely Great)!

May Allah ﷻ reward Syed saheb from His unlimited treasures, both here and in the Hereafter for this achievement of translating Rislatu'l Mu'awanah in Urdu. **Amin.** May Allah ﷻ fulfill

all his noble wishes as well as of his family. **Amin.** May Allah ﷻ give him a long life with good health so that he continues with his noble work for Islam. **Amin.**

May Allah ﷻ similarly reward Brother Abid Paiker حفظه الله of Bethlehem, U.S.A for adding the verses of the Holy Qur'an from the **mushaf** software, for typing the Arabic and the poems in Urdu as well as for proofreading and page-setting to make the book suitable for printing. **Amin.**

May Allah ﷻ reward all those who help in the printing of such books in various ways and capacities. **Amin.**

May Allah ﷻ grant all of us **Maghfirah** (forgiveness). **Amin.**

### **Al-Fatiha!**

Siddiq Osman Noormuhammad  
Rabi' al-Awwal 1441 A.H. / 2019.  
Toronto.

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