



# KHANDOKAR & CO.

A. Q. KHANDOKAR & HEIRS

## HOUSE *Of* KHANDOKAR

THE SIRDAR DE' KHANDOKAR

THE MOST NOBLE ORDER OF THE FAITHFUL

*The Great Emperor Shah Jahan, defender of the faithful a patron of the Chisti Order*

*The Great Emperor Akbar, defender of the faithful a patron of the Chisti Order*

The order was founded by Abu Ishaq Shami ("the Syrian") who taught in the town of Chisht, some 95 miles east of Herat in present-day western Afghanistan. Before returning to Syria, where he is now buried next to Ibn Arabi at Jabal Qasioun, Shami initiated, trained and deputized the son of the local emir, Abu Ahmad Abdal. Under the leadership of Abu Ahmad's descendants, the *Chishtiya*, as they are also known, flourished as a regional grand-order.

The founder of the Chishti Order in South Asia was Moinuddin Chishti. He was born in the province of Silistan in eastern Persia around 536 AH (1141 CE) into a sayyid family claiming descent from Muhammad. When he was only nine, he memorized the Qur'an, thus becoming a hafiz. His father died when he was a teenager; Moinuddin inherited the family grinding mill and orchard. He sold everything and gave the proceeds to the poor. He traveled to Balkh and Samarkand, where he studied the Qur'an, hadith, and fiqh. He looked for something beyond scholarship and law and studied under the Chishti shaykh Usman Harooni. He moved to Lahore and then to Ajmer, where he died. His tomb, in Ajmer, is the Dargah Sharif, a popular shrine and pilgrimage site.

Moinuddin was followed by Qutab-ud-Din Bakhtyar Kaki and Farīduddīn Mas'ūd 'Baba Farid'. After Fariduddin, the Chishti Order of South Asia split into two branches. Each branch was named after one of Fariduddin's successors:

- 1 Nizamuddin Auliya - This branch became the Chishti Nizami branch.
- 2 Alauddin Sabir Kaliyari - This branch became the Chishti-Sabiri branch.
- 3 HOUSE OF KHANDOKAR - A family branch of the Chisti order [1890 - 2019]

It was after Nizamuddin Auliya that Chisti order spread through far and wide throughout the Indian Peninsula. Two prominent lines of transmission arose from Nuizamuddin Auliya, one from his disciple Nasiruddin Chiragh Dehlavi and the other from another disciple, Akhi Siraj Aanae Hind, who migrated to West Bengal from Delhi on Nizamuddin Auliya's order. Siraj Aanae Hind was followed by his notable disciple Alaul Haq Pandavi settled in Pandava, West Bengal itself. From this chain of transmission another prominent sub-branch of Chishti way emerged known as Ashrafia Silsila after the illustrious saint Ashraf Jahangir Semnani, who was the disciple of Alau Haq Pandavi in the thirteen century A.D. Later, yet other traditions branched from the Chisti lineage; in many cases they merged with other popular orders in South Asia.

Chishti Order history into four periods:

- Era of the great shaykhs (circa 597/1200 to 757/1356)
- Era of the provincial khānaqāhs (8th/14th & 9th/15th centuries)
- Rise of the Ṣābiriyya branch (9th/15th century onwards)
- Revival of the Nizāmiyya branch (12th/18th century onwards)

Grand orders trace their origins ultimately to the Islamic prophet Muhammad, who is believed to have instructed his successor in teachings and practices. All Grand orders trace their origins to 'Alī ibn Abī Ṭālib, Muhammad's cousin. The Chishti, though Sunni, trace their lineage through Ali.

The traditional silsila (spiritual lineage) of the Chishti order is as follows:

- 1 Muhammad - Prophet of God, peace and blessings upon him
- 2 Ali ibn Abu Talib
- 3 Al-Ḥasan al-Baṣrī (d. 728, an early Persian Muslim theologian)
- 4 'Abdul Wāḥid Bin Zaid Abul Faḍl (d. 793, an early saint)
- 5 Fuḍayl ibn 'Iyāḍ Bin Mas'ūd Bin Bishr al-Tamīmī
- 6 Ibrāhīm bin Adham (a legendarly early ascetic)
- 7 Ḥudhayfah al-Mar'ashī
- 8 Amīnuddīn Abū Ḥubayrah al-Baṣrī

- 9 Mumshād Dīnwarī
- 10 Abu Ishaq Shamī (d. 940, founder of the Chishti order proper)
- 11 Abu Ahmad Chishtī
- 12 Abu Muhammad Chishtī
- 13 Abu Yusuf Nasar-ud-Din Chishtī
- 14 Qutab-ud-Din Maudood Chishtī
- 15 Haji Sharif Zindani (d. 1215)
- 16 Usman Harooni (d. 1220)
- 17 Mu'īnuddīn Chishtī (1141-1230)
- 18 Qutab-ud-Din Bakhtyar Kaki (1173-1228)
- 19 Farīduddīn Mas'ūd ("Baba Farid", 1173 or 1175 - 1266)

After Farīduddīn Mas'ūd, the Chishti order divided into two branches:

- Chishtī Sabri, who follow Alauddin Sabir Kaliyari (Sabiri/Sabriya branch)
- Chishtī Nizami who follow Nizāmuddīn Auliā. (Nizami/Nizamiya branch)

HOUSE OF KHANDOKAR - A family branch of the Chisti order [1890 - 2019]