

Sultan Bahu (سلطان بابو) (ca 1628 – 1691) was a Muslim Sufi and saint who founded the Sarwari Qadiri Sufi order.

Sultan Bahu was born in Anga, Soon Valley, Sakesar in the Punjab Province of Pakistan. Like many other Sufi saints of South Asia Sultan Bahu was a prolific writer. More than forty books on Sufism are attributed to him, mostly in Persian. Most of his books deal with specialized aspects of Islam and Islamic mysticism, but his Punjabi poetry had popular appeal and made him a household name in the region. His verses are sung in many genres of Sufi music including qawwali and kafi. Tradition has established a unique style of singing his couplets.

Sultan Bahu is a direct descendant of Ali, the cousin of Muhammad. He is Hashimi, and belongs to the Awan tribe which traces its descent from Ameer Shah, son of Qutub Shah. The mausoleum of Sultan Bahu located in Garh Maharaja, Punjab, Pakistan was originally built on his grave but has had to be

moved twice when the Chenab River changed its course. It is a popular Sufi shrine, and the annual Urs festival commemorating his death is celebrated with great fervour. The Urs festival is held during the month of Muharram. Every year on the 9th of Muharram, a ghusal (bath) is also conducted under the supervision of Muhammad Najeeb Sultan, Sajjada Nasheen (Chair-holder) of the Sultan Bahu shrine, in which the descendants of Sultan Bahu wash his shrine with rose water.

Sultan Bahu was of the progeny of Ali, cousin and son-in-law of the Islamic prophet Muhammad. His family is thus Hashemi, and his tribe Awan. The Awan tribe trace their ancestry to Ameer Shah, son of Qutub Shah. After the incident of Karbala, the household of Muhammad had to migrate to other lands. Many of his descendants who lived in Egypt and nearby lands departed for Turkistan and Iran due to persecution at the hands of Hujjaj bin Yusuf.

As time went by, they resettled in places such as Bukhara and Hamadan in Turkistan, and

Baghdad in Iraq. Some migrated to Khurasan and others to Herat in the mountainous regions of present day Afghanistan. The ancestors of Sultan Bahu migrated and settled in South Asia, and the father of Sultan Bahu, Bazid Muhammed, became an important titleholder at the court of the Mughal emperors of South Asia.

The complete genealogy of Sultan Bahu is as follows:

Sultan Bahu, Bazid Muhammed, Fatah Muhammed, Alla-Radatta, Muhammed Tameem, Muhammed Mannan, Mogila, Peera, Muhammed Sughra, Muhammed Noor, Sulla, Muhammed Baharie, Muhammed Jayoon, Muhammed Hargun, Noor Shah, Ameer Shah, Qutub Shah, Emmaan Shah, Husein Shah, Firoze Shah, Mahmud Shah, Fartak Shah, Nawaab Shah, Darrab Shah, Awhum Shah, Abeeq Shah, Ahmed Shah, Ameer Zubeir, Abbas ibne Ali, Caliph Ali, Abu Talib, Abul Mutallib (Grandfather of Muhammad), *Hashim, *Abdul Munaf

Sultan Bahu belonged to the Qadiri Sufi order, and later initiated his own offshoot, Sarwari Qadiri. He refers to Muhiyuddin Abdul Qadir Gilani as his spiritual Master in a number of his books and poetry, though Abdul Qadir Gilani died long before the birth of Sultan Bahu. However some Sufis maintain that Abdul Qadir Gilani has a special role in the mystic world and that all orders and saints are always indebted to him directly or indirectly in some way.

Sultan Bahu's education began with his mother, Mai Rasti, herself a saintly woman who has her own Mausoleum in Shorkot, Punjab, Pakistan. She told him to seek spiritual guidance from a wali (friend of GOD). After some time he moved to Delhi for further 'polishing' under the guidance of Sheikh Abdul Rehman al Qadari. Soon Sheikh Abdul Rehman al Qadari felt that he can not add anything to Sultan Bahu's knowledge as Sultan Bahu already knew more than Sheikh Abdul Rehman al Qadari. This did not take

long, after which Sultan Bahu returned to his own, familiar surroundings.

The actual number of books written by Sultan Bahu is not certain. According to tradition, he is supposed to have authored over one hundred works and treatises. The following is a list of the important works of Sultan Bahu that still exist today, and can be traced back to him with credibility. Nurul Huda, Risala-e-Roohi, Aql Baidaar, Mahq-ul-Fuqar, Aurang-Shaahi, Jami-il-Asraar, Taufiq-Hedaayat, Kaleed Tauheed, Ainul Faqr, Shamsul Arifeen, Magzane Faiz, Ameerul Quonain, Asrare Qaderi, Kaleed Jannat, Muhqamul Fuqar, Majaalis-tun Nabi, Muftahul Arifeen, Hujjatul Asraar, Jannatul Firdaus, Kash-ful Asraar, Risaala Ruhi Shareef, Abayat-e-Bahu (poetry), Muhabbatul Asraar, Ganjul Asraar, Dewaan Bahu, Panj Ganj, Fazlul Laqa, Jhook Sultany, Ameerul Mumineen

Of the above, Nurul Huda (Light of Guidance) and Risala-e-Roohi (Book of Soul) are the most popular, along with the poetry collection

Abyat-e-Bahu.

Sultan Bahu wrote in his book Risala-e-Roohi:

He is playing the game of love by Himself

He Himself is the sight

He Himself is the seer

He Himself is the seen

He Himself is Love

He Himself is the lover

He Himself is the beloved

if you lift the veil

(you will see) that in reality, there is only One

Duality is only owing to your squint eyes

I say this, the author of this book

who resides in the sanctuary of His beauty

(Jamal)

and grandeur (Jalal)

(I am) the 'Ha' of Howiyet

completely absorbed in witnessing the

absolute Being

**gifted by the Witnessed Omnipresence
(gifted by) the Worshipped One
(I am he) who swings in the cradle of
praise me, how great is my splendour
who being at the station of highest respect
wears the crown of Knowledge of God,
and the crown of His Oneness,
and on whose shoulders
is the robe of reconciliation and purification**

**(who is at the station of)
'You are me and I am you'**

**(who was given) the title of 'from the truth'
(by) the Absolute Truth**

**the secret of the Entity of 'Hu' (Him)
Faqeer Bahu (May his secret be sanctified)
known as Awan resident of the vicinity of
Shorekote
may Allah safeguard him from mischief and
oppression**

**Completely absorbed in the 'Ha' of 'Howiyet'
the author of this book states that**

**when truly divine grace and favour
was bestowed upon me
which I received as a blessing in the truest
sense
then He, who is stationed
at the highest, holiest stations of divine light
(noor)**

**The prophet Muhammad
instructed me to guide the people**

**may they be Muslims,
may they be non-believers,
may they be the fortunate,
may they be the unfortunate ones,
may they be destined to find the truth,
may they be destined to be doomed,
may they be living,
may they be deceased,**

**Because from his holy tongue,
which emanates the secrets
(The prophet has called me)
Mustafa the second and Mujtaba of the last
days**

**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED YOU CAN FIND ALL
THE KALAMS OF PEER SULTAN BAHU HERE!**

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**Dil dariaa samundron doonghe
Peer Sultan Bahu**

<http://punjabijanta.com/religion-faith-spirituality/peer-sultan-bahu/> ‘

**Dil dariaa samundron doonghe,
Kaun dilaan dee jane hoo.**

**Wiche berhe, wiche jherhe,
Wiche vanjh muhaane hoo.**

**Chaudaan tabq dile de andar,
Tamboo vaangan taane hoo.**

**Joee dil daa maihram hove,
Soee Rabb pachhaane hoo.**

Translation

**The heart is deeper than the ocean –
Who can fathom its mysteries?**

**Storms come and go on its surface,
While fleets sail through it, Their crews
wielding their oars.**

**Inside the heart are the fourteen realms,
Stretched like canvas tents.**

**Only the one who knows These deeper secrets
of the heart,
Can know the Creator, O Bahu!**

**Kalaam 1
Peer Sultan Bahu**

**Aap na talib hain kahen de,
Lokaan talib karde hoo.
Chavan khepan karde sepan,
Na Rab de qaihron dared hoo.
Ishq majazee tilkan bazee,
Pair aa valle dharde hoo.
Oh sharminde hosan Baahoo,
Andar roz hashae de hoo.**

Translation

**These false prophets Were never disciples
themselves,
But they contrive to make disciples of others.
As an act of seeming benefaction,
But they swindle their disciples Of their
money and belongings;
They fear not the wrath of God,
Crooked in their ways, they lose their footing.
In the slippery game of outward love,
Say Bahu: They will regret their doings on the
day of judgement**

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