

Educational, Intellectual and Spiritual Advantages of Awrad e Fathiyyah

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السيدة طاهرة بشير

الماجستير في الفلسفة
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Abstract

Mir Sayed Ali Hamadani is one of the prominent figures in the Islamic history of Kashmir. He was a multi-dimensional personality, a social reformer as well as a preacher of Islam. He left many invaluable works and Awrad e Fathiyyah is one of the popular works of Mir Sayed Ali Hamadani. This paper is expected to provide a clear vision of Educational, Intellectual and Spiritual advantages of Awrad e Fathiyyah.

Key words: Mir Sayed Ali Hamadani, Awrad e Fathiyyah, Tawheed, Islam, Kashmir.

Introduction:

Mir Sayyed Ali Hamadani was born in Hamadan, a province in Persia on 22nd October 1314 C. E¹. He was known by Amir e Kabir, Shahi Hamadan and Ali Thani. His genealogy goes back to the Prophet Muhammad peace be upon him from paternal as well as maternal side so, he was Najeeb u Tarafain {noble from both sides}. Shahi Hamadan received his early education from his maternal uncle sayyid Ala udin, who taught him Quran, Hadith, jurisprudence and other Islamic sciences and later acquired the knowledge from Sheikh Taqqi u din Ali and Sheikh Mahmood Mazdaqani. Shahi Hamadan travelled entire world three times² and his important tour was towards Kashmir, he travelled towards the Kashmir thrice,³ where he propagated Islam and preached divine doctrines, thousands embraced Islam on his hand. He performed Hajj twelve times⁴, during his travels, he attained knowledge of Quran, Hadith and others sciences from different scholars.

Mir Sayyed Ali Hamadani was a profound writer of Arabic and Persia, he wrote more than hundred books on different areas like Sufism, philosophy, Ethics and commentaries.

¹ Rizwi, Sayed Athar Abas, A History of Sufism in India, Vol. 1, Munshiram Manoharlal Publishers, New Delhi, P.291.

² Badakhshi, Ja'far. Khulasat al- Manaqib, P 24.

³ Assadullah Nizami, Sabeelul Alrashad Fi Sharh Alawrad, P: 9

⁴ Badakhshi, P 169-186

Awrad e fathiyyah is one of the most popular works of Shahi Hamadan which he collected from different scholars and Sufis. He claims to have collected these wazaif from almost 1400 saints and he also got the sacred approval of Awrad from prophet Muhammad peace be upon him in his dream as describes:

"چوں در خواب رفتم روئی پر نور آن سید السادات وآں فخر موجودات وآں سرور کائنات صلی الله علیه وسلم رادیدم کہ از آستین مبارک خود نسخه کشیده دادندو فرمودند کہ "یا ولدی خذ هذه الفتحية بيدي" فلا جرم آن نسخه رادیدم کہ واکردم بمان اوراد فتحیه بود کہ من جمع کرده بودم"¹

When I slept, I have dreamt of Prophet Muhammad peace be upon him, he took a manuscript from his sacred sleeve and granted to me and said "oh my son, take this Fathiyya" when I opened it was the same Awrad Fathiyya which I had compiled.

Awrad e Fathiyyah is one of the most popular works of Shah e Hamadan which he bestowed to Kashmiri people for the revival of Islam. Awrad is very effective prayer collection for spiritual and other objectives.

Educational Benefits of Awrad:

Education is the key part of growth and progress of human being. A book and a compilation without educational benefits is incomplete and deficient. Awrad benefits the people educationally to a very large extent:

- It teaches a person way of supplication and praying before Allah which chronologically begins with attributes of Allah and praises of prophet peace be upon him and eventually dua.
- It also enlightens us about the attributes of Almighty Allah. All ninety-nine names of Allah are mentioned in a very effective and persuasive way.
- There is also a repeated pattern of sound and systematic arrangement of words at the end of the statement which provides an easy way to memorize the Awrad. Some rhymical verses of Awrad for illustration are:

لا إله إلا الله حقا حقا
لا إله إلا الله إيمانا وصدقا
لا إله إلا الله تعبيدا ورقا
لا إله إلا الله تلطفًا ورفقا²

- It is an excellent booklet to know the basics of Arabic language as it provides the fundamental teachings of Arabic grammar like morphology and syntax. If the Awrad is

¹ Manqabat Aljawahir, p: 29.

² See the original text of Awrad

grammatically analyzed, it can be a wonderful source of knowing the fundamentals of Arabic Language.

- Awrad provides a great exposure to new words and phrases, so it adds amazing words to the wordbook and vocabulary.
- It is the crux of all attributes of Almighty Allah mentioned in Quran and Ahadith.
- One can't attain the level of Iman without knowing the elementary things. Knowledge is the basic and primary thing before Iman. Therefore, Awrad first teaches knowledge and then Iman.

Intellectual Benefits of Awrad:

A great and an excellent book benefits the readers and listeners intellectually to expand cognitive mental stimulation and strengths brain exercising. By causing focus intensely on the words, phrases and sentences, the brain takes significant amount of information and improves critical thinking and analyzation. Awrad e Fathiyyah is one of the effective collections of Hamadani which also provides a wonderful opportunity to develop intellectually. Some intellectual benefits are as under:

- Awrad is the treasury of Tawheed, it teaches the real essence of Aqaid mostly, Aqeedat AlTawheed and Aqeedat AlRisala.
- The Awrad unravels the doors of Mercy after its recitation, which connects a reciter to his Creator and eventually a person feels comfort and consolation as Allah says "ألا بذكر الله تطمئن القلوب" {verily, the hearts do find the happiness in the remembrance of Allah}¹
- There is the repetition of some words and verses, like a word Hasbuna Allah is mentioned about 17 times in Awrad " حسبنا الله لديننا حسبنا الله لديننا حسبنا الله لما أهمننا " "Allah is sufficient for us"; these repeated words can prevail the sense of trust and reliance towards Allah. It could also protect against fear, anxiety and tension.
- Hamadani implemented Awrad practically as it was being recited in the mornings which eradicated the Hindu religious rituals chanted in the early mornings. Therefore, Shahi Hamadan initiated the recitation of few Azkar excerpted from two rudimentary sources of knowledge; Quran and Hadith.

¹ Surat Alra'd: 28

Spiritual Benefits of Awrad:

A book which describes the worth and significance of human spirit and soul are more powerful to impress the reader. The spiritual books also assist to improve the satisfaction level which can make a person relaxed and calm down. The Awrad has also the capability of soothing and improving the human spirit, some spiritual benefits of Awrad are:

- Awrad e Fathiyya begins with the sacred words "أستغفر الله العظيم"¹ which pushes the reader to repent before his Lord and it creates a sense of strong determination to reform himself.
- Daily recitation of Awrad solaces the human heart and soul as it is the full of guidance towards lord which is the sign of pleasure and contentment.
- Awrad acts as a subsistence to our souls, thoughts and beliefs so one can acquire spiritual inspiration and ultimate guidance through it.
- It purifies the human soul and thrusts him towards success. "قد أفلح من ذكرها".² {indeed, he succeeds who purifies his soul".² So, reciting, understanding and finally implementing the Awrad can purify the heart from evil deeds and beliefs as it sows the seeds of real faith and belief.

Conclusion:

A good book has multiple benefits simultaneously, Awrad is one of the virtuous books which benefits educationally, intellectually and spiritually. With so many advantages of reciting Awrad e Fathiyya, it should be an everyday occurrence to recite at least once a day. This study attempted to review some educational, intellectual and spiritual assets of Awrad e Fathiyyah which could help to build a better framework and aid in understanding the teachings of Shahi Hamadan to Muslims especially Kashmiri natives via Awrad e Fathiyyah.

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¹ See original text of Awrad

² Surat Alshams: 9