

CHAPTER - 1

Early Life And Education

One of comprehensive knowledge about the proposed research has been developed in the introduction.

Early Life and Education

FAMILY BACKGROUND:

Allama Shabbir Ahmed Uthmani was a descendant of the Third Caliph, Amirul Momineen, Hazrat Uthman (d. 655 AD) R. Shaikh Abdur Rahman Akbar, one of the descendant of Hazrat Uthman, left Madinah & settled at a place named Gazrun, his descendant Shaikh Abul Wafa came Deoband and settle there¹.

Allama Shabbir Ahmed Uthmani, (d. 1949 AD) a great Muhaddith, Mufasssir, Orator, Pioneer of the freedom movement, President of the Jamiyat-ul-uluma-i-Islam, Vice-Chancellor (Sadra Muhtamim) of Darul Uloom, Deoband, established in 30th May 1867 A.D.². Shaikhul Hadeeth of Jamiya Islamiyah, Dabhi, is a very well known and famous for all times to come. The legendary figure of Allama Shabbir Ahmed Uthmani and his multifarious activities in various fields specially in Arabic & Urdu language has promoted the present study on the different aspects of his character and achievement.

The author of the Tarikh-e-Darul-Uloom, Deoband, Sayeed Mahboob Rizvi says:

1. Tarikh-e-Darul Uloom, Deoband (Urdu), by Maulana Md. Mirah, PP-28,29.
2. Khutbat-e-Uthmani by Mufti Fuzailur Rahman Hilal Uthmani, P.12.

Life And Works Of Allama Shabbir Ahmed Uthmani

"Hazrat Maulana Fazlur Rahman Uthmani died in 1325 A.H/1907 A.D leaving behind his sons Hazrat Maulana Mufti Aziz-Ur-Rahman Uthmani (1347 A.H.) Mufti, Darul Uloom, Deoband; Hazrat Maulana Habeeb-ur-Rahman Uthmani (d.1939 A.D), Mahtamim, Darul Uloom, Deoband Allama Shabbir Ahmed Uthmani, Sadra Muhtamim, Darul Uloom Deoband, all learned and dedicated men in the field. Chief Administrator (Nazim-e-Ala) of Nadwatul Musannfin Mufti Ateeq -Ur-Rahman Uthmani is his grandson. The family of Hazrat Maulana Fazlur Rahman Uthmani has rendered a great service towards the religion and the field of learning and needless to say, the same tradition still in the process continues¹."

CHILDHOOD AND EDUCATIONAL CARRIER:

Shabbir Ahmed Uthmani was born at Bijnur in Bareilly district of Uttar Pradesh, on 10th Muharram 1305 A.H. (1889 A.D). He was an Uthmani from the side of his father, Maulana Fazlur Rahman Uthmani (d.1907 A.D), who was serving there as a Deputy Inspector in the Educational Department in Uttar Pradesh. He was a descendant of the third Caliph, Hazrat Uthman Ghani after which he got the title "Uthmani". The third wife of Maulana Fazlur Rahman Uthmani was honourable Siddiqah Khatun, who gave birth Maulana Shabbir Ahmed Uthmani²

Allama Shabbir Ahmed Uthmani mentioned his name in his books, letters etc. as Shabbir Ahmed, but his well known commentary book of Hadith

1. Tarikh-e-Darul Uloom, Deoband Vol-1, by Maulana Md. Mryah, P-125.
2. Khutbat-e-Uthmani by Maulana Fuzailur Rahman Hilal Uthmani, P.13.

Fath-hul-Mulhim (فتح الملهم), and the commentry book of the Holy Qur'an, he mentioned himself that he was named by his father- Fazlullah. He described at the end of his commentary book of the Holy Qur'an¹

العبد الفقير فضل الله المدعوبه بشبير احمد ابن مولانا فضل الرحمن
العثماني قد كان ابي سمانى فضل الله وكان ينشد
ذالك فضل الله يؤتيه من يشاء
ولو كره الاعدا من كل حاسد

(Al-Abdul Faquir Fazlullah, known as Shabbir Ahmed son of Maulana Fazlur Rahman Uthmani was named by my father with Fazlullah and used to recite the verse)

This is the garace of Allah, gives whoever he likes,
Though the envious opponent dislikes.

It is obvious from the above discussion that his original name was Fazlullah, but people used to call him by Shabbir Ahmed after which name he entitled himself. Every conscious enlightened person could know that his father had named his other son as Azizur Rahman

1 .Tafsir-e-Uthmani (Saudi edition) P.810

(d. 1st December 1928 A.D), Habibur Rahman (d.1339 A.D), Matlubur Rahman, Khalilur Rahman and named the sons of his other wife by Fazle Haque. Fazlullah relating to his name. For the first time who had called him by Shabbir Ahmed, this remained under confusion. According to Prof. Md. Anwar-ul-Hasan Saikuty, perhaps he was entitled by Shabbir Ahmed Uthmani as he was born on 10th Muharram, the date of martyr of Imam Hussain (R.).

RESPECTABLE FATHER:

Maulana Fazlur Rahman Uthmani (1247-1325) took his primary and secondary education from Deoband. Later on he took his degree from Delhi College. He was a famous poet as well as the founder member of Darul Uloom, Deoband. He was appointed Deputy Inspector in the Education Department by the government of India. He served at various places and at last retired enjoying pension from Bijnur. He served voluntarily 42 years from 1283 A.H to 1325 A.H in Darul Uloom, Deoband and remained the member of the Governing Body of Darul Uloom, Deoband till his last breath. His death took place in 15th June 1907 A.D (1st Jama-di-ul Ula, 1325 A.H).¹

1 Hayat-e-Uthmani by Prof. Anwarul Hasan, Saikuty. P-32

Allama Shabbir Ahmed Uthmani's early education started in the traditional setting. The first teacher who imparted him lesson was Muhammad Azim of Deoband. At the age of six, Allama Uthmani started to learn Arabic and Urdu alphabets. After the completion of Quida he got himself to Darul Uloom, Deoband in 1312 A.H. He studied the Holy Qur'an in the hand of Hafiz Namdar Khan.

According to the annual report of Darul Uloom, Allama Uthmani sat in 1312 A.H for a course from the chapter Fatiha (the opening) to the chapter An-Naziat (those who drag forth). Then He remained two years (1313-1314) in the care of his father and studied the Holy Qur'an and some Urdu Books.

In 1315 A.H (1897 A.D), Allama Uthmani got re-admitted to Darul Uloom, Deoband. After the completion of the Holy Qur'an and Urdu books, he started to learn Persian under the care of Munsir Manjoor Ahmed. He studied the books of higher classes of Persian with Maulana Muhammad Yasin, Head of the Department of Persian.

Life And Works Of Allama Shabbir Ahmed Uthmani

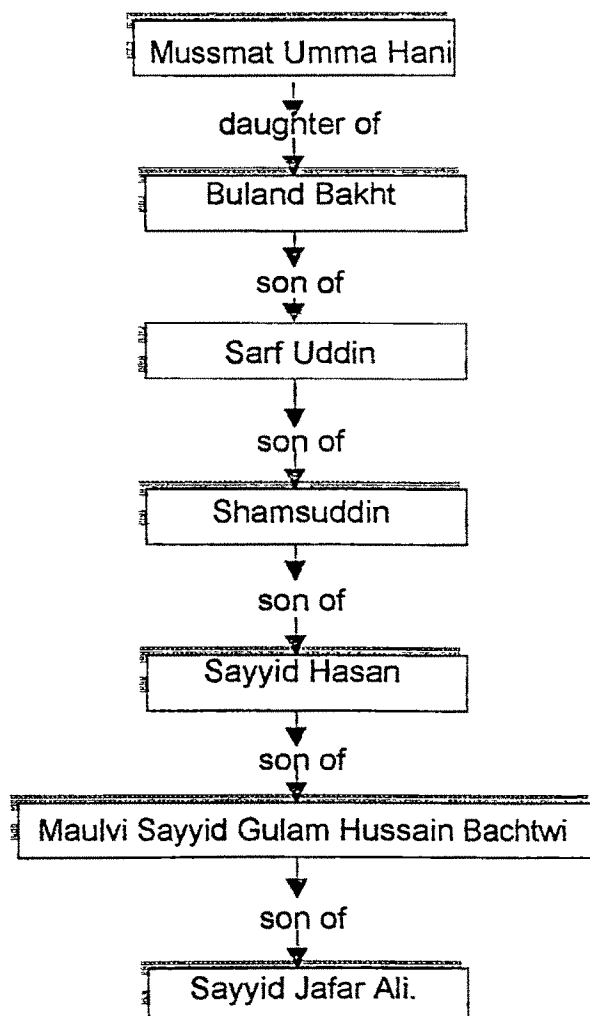
According to the Annual Report of Darul Uloom, Deoband in the year 1318 A.H., it is known that, Allama Uthmani studied Arabic with the help of Persian books. A brief chronology of his early readings with his guides is given below:

معلمین اور تلمیذین کا تذکرہ	تعلیمی کتابوں کا تذکرہ
1. Hafiz Muhammad Azim	Alphabetical knowledge
2. Hafiz Namdar	The Holy Qur'an
3. Munsir Manzoor Ahmed	Persian Books, Arithmetics
4. Maulana Muhammad Yasin	Persian Books.
5. Shaikhul Hind, Maulana Mahmudul Hasan(d.1921AD)	Trimizi Sarif, Bukhari Sarif, Baizawi Sharif, Hadaya, Towjih.
6. Maulana Gulam Rasul (d.1337 A.H.)	Sarah Jami, Marktasarul Ma'ani, Matawwal, Mantique, Filsafah, Books on Prosody, etc.
7. Maulana Hakim Mahmud Hasan (d.1927).	Jalalain Sarif, Muslim Sarif.
8. Maulana Muhammad Sahul	Books of Sarf and Naha, Primary Books of Mantique.
9. Maulana Muhammad Yasin (d.1908).	Kafiyah, Tasrih, (تصریح), Sarah Chugmuni (شرح چغمنی), Sabya Saddad (سبع شہاد).
10. Maulana Sayyid Murtaza (d.1950).	Kanjuddaqaiq (کنز الدقائق), Sarah Waqayah (شرح وقایہ).
11. Mufti Azizur Rahman (d.1928)	Durra Muktar (در مختار), Darmi (درمعی), Sunan-E- Nasai (سنن نسائی).
12. Hafiz Muhammad Ahmed (d. 1928)	Miskat Sarif (مشکوٰۃ شریف).

MARRIAGE:

Allama Shabbir Ahmed Uthmani married a pious lady of Sayyid Family named "Umma Hani" from Bachtwi place during his student life on 11th Zilkadah 1323 A.H (1905 A.D.).

According to the oral report of "Umma Hani" her genalogical table is as follows:



Umma Hani did not give birth to any child. Her death took place in the first week of March 1972 A.D in Karachi at the age of 85 years, after 23 years of the death of Allama Shabbir Ahmed Uthmani.¹

Allama Uthmani brought his neice 'Muniba Khatun' known as Munna. the daughter of his brother Babu Fazla Haque at his home and nourished her. Muniba Khatun migrated to Karachi with her uncle Allama Shabbir Ahmed Uthmani. Allama Uthmani nourished a nephew also named Nu'man, the son of Babu Fazle Haque, but the boy died after four years.

Extra Ordinary Performances as a Student

Allama Shabbir Ahmed Uthmani was a meritorious student. At the age of six, he was taught alphabetical words of Arabic in 1311 A.H within a short period of one year, he memorised the primary books like Quida etc. and got himself admitted in Darul Uloom, Deoband in 1312 A.H. He learned to recite the Holy Qur'an under the care of Hafiz Namdar Khan and it is known from the annual report that Allama Shabbir Ahmed Uthmani committed to memory from chapter Fatheha to Wannajiyat and accordingly came out successful in the oral examination of 1312 A.H.

¹ Khutbat-e-Uthmani, by Maulana Fuzailur Rahman Hilal Uthmani. P 15

Allama Uthmani remained two years under the care of his father from 1313 A.H to 1314 A.H, where the later was serving and Allama Uthmani read the Holy Qur'an including several Urdu books in this period. In 1897 A.D (1315) he re-admitted in Darul Uloom, Deoband and secured brilliant result in the annual examination. He occupied 1st class 1st position securing 99% marks in the final examination held in 1908 A.D (1325 A.H). Allama Shabbir Ahmed Uthmani acquired extra-ordinary performances in Persian and Arabic Literature, Mathematics, Logic. Philosophy, Rhetoric, Jurisprudence, Qur'anic Literature, Hadith Literature etc.¹

Looking towards the annual report as well as marks sheets we can say that:

آپ کا عمر تعلیم نہایت سنہری اور زرین عمر تھا اور آپ
اپنے دور کے ذعین، فطین اور قابل طبہ میں شمار ہوتے تھے۔

(The period of his study was a period of competition and he was considered the best meritorious, intelligent and able student of his age)

1 *Khutbat-e-Uthmani*, by Maulana Fuzailur Rahman Hilal Uthmani. P..

STUDENT CUM-TEACHER:

Allama Shabbir Ahmed Uthmani was a student of well-versed knowledge. He could teach the student of his own class as well as his lower classes like an able and worthy teacher. We find support of this statement in the annual report of Darul Uloom, Deoband of 1914 A.D, Where Maulana Habibur Rahman Uthmani reported regarding Allama Shabbir Ahmed Uthmani as follows: ¹

مولوی صاحب موصوف اس زمانہ میں جبکہ خود تحصیل علم میں مصروف
تھے طلبہ کو درس دینے میں اپنا بہت سا وقت صرف کرتے تھے۔ منہی
طلبہ تمام علوم کی کتابیں، آپ سے بے تامل پڑھتے تھے۔

(“Honourable Maulana (Allama Uthmani) at the time of his student life used to spent a lot of time to teach the students. The students of final class read all the subjects near him without any hesitation”).)

Maulana Emad Uddin Shirkuti, one of the classmates and the best friends of Allama Uthmani in writings told about him,

قطبی اور میر قطبی پڑھنے کے زمانے میں طلبہ کے اندر اپنے تمام جماعتوں سے
نہ صرف ممتاز تھے بلکہ طلبہ کا ہر مجموعہ بعد نماز عصر چھوٹی مسجد میں صرف
قطبی پڑھنے کے لئے ہوجاتا تھا اور یہ مغرب تک ایسا درس دیتے جیسے

1. Annual Report Of Darul Uloom, Deoband 1333 AH, P-20

ایک شخص اپنے مریدین میں ہو۔ تقریر اس قدر کرتے کہ طلبہ پر خاص اثر ہوتا۔ اس زمانے کے خاص طلبہ میں مولانا مناظر احسن صاحب گیلانی تھے جو میر قسطنطینی کے سبق میں شامل ہوتے تھے اور ان پر خاص کیفیت جذب اور وارفتگی طاری ہوتی تھی۔ انہی ایام میں الندوہ میں مولانا سید سلیمان ندوی کا ایک مضمون شائع ہوا جس میں امام مالک کا تذکرہ تھا۔ سید صاحب نے مضمون میں لفظ بغاۃ جمع باغی لکھے عام معنی مراد لئے جس پر مولانا شبیر احمد صاحب نے گرفت کی اور بمعنی طالب لکھ کر اس الزام کو رفع کیا۔¹

(“In the reading period of Qut bi and Mir Qutbi Allama Uthmani was not merely an extra ordinary one, there was always crowds of students, who used to gathered around the small Mosque after the prayer of Asar to learn Qut .bi from him. He continued this teaching upto Magrib (sun-set) like a preceptor to his disciples. He used to deliver lecture so much that would pleased the students. Among the extra-ordinary students of his time, Maulana Munazir Ahsan Gilani one of them, who participated in the lessons of Mir Qut bi (میر قسطنطینی). In this time, an article about Iman

¹ Hayat-e-Uthmani By Anwarul Hassan Shairquty, P-62.

Malik was published by Maulana Sulaiman Nadawi in the magazine "At Nadwa", where he took the general meaning of Bughat (بغاًتہ) plural of Baghi (باغی). Allama Shabbir Ahmed Uthmani caught the mistake and removed it talking its meaning 'Talib' (Demander).

Maulana Emad Uddin also mentioned in his writings that Allama Uthmani used to remain absent in the classes ever and none and in this way passed away even a week, but never-the-less he snatched away the highest marks in the examinations. The Urdu versions of the above lines are as follows:

"جماعت میں غیر حاضری عام معمول تھا۔ صم زبردستی جماعت میں
حاضری کے لئے بھیجتے۔ کھفتوں سبق سے غیر حاضر رہتے مگر اس پر بھی
یہ عالم تھا کہ امتحان میں سب سے اعلیٰ نمبر حاصل کرتے۔"

Allama Shabbir Ahmed Uthmani had a good hand in Arithmetics. Once he was asked by a man regarding the distribution of property of an expired man among his inheritance seating in Qasimi press which was a very complicated. He (Uthmani) at once told the distribution of property seating in the same place, which is a clear proof of his proficiency in Arithmetics.

Allama Shabbir Ahmed Uthmani was not only the first boy in his class, but passed their final examination (Daura-e-Hadith) standing first in the first class obtaining 99% of marks. It may be noted that, the pass marks in Darul Uloom, Deoband was 40 out of 50 marks, the students were considered as successful candidates in 3rd division, those were obtained 45-49 marks, they were considered as successful candidates in 2nd division and those who obtain 50 marks out of 50, were considered as successful candidates in 1st division and the students who obtained more than 50 marks, were considered as successful in upper class “ ”. It is a hard task to obtain 40 marks out of 50, but in other Universities 33% marks are considered for pass marks.

The following marks sheet of Darul Hadith proves the scholastic result of Allama Shabbir Ahmed Uthmani, which is mentioned in the annual report of 1325 A.H/1907 A.D of Darul Uloom, Deoband.

Name of Books	Subject	Marks obtained
1. Sama-ila-Tirmiji	Hadith	51
2. Bukhari Sarif	Hadith	50 ¹ / ₃
3. Ibn-e-Maza	Hadith	50
4. Tirmiji Sarif	Hadith	50
5. Muatta Imam Malik	Hadith	50
6. Muatta Imam Muhammad	Hadith	50
7. Baizawi Sarif	Tafsir	50
8. Abudaud Sarif	Hadith	49 ¹ / ₃
9. Nasai Sarif	Hadith	

It appears that he secured about the cent percentage marks in the Final examination. Allama Shabbir Ahmed Uthmani left the indelible stamp of his personality both in his writing and speech. He is considered as the spokesman of Darul Uloom, Deoband as well as the parrot of India. There are many galaxies among his contemporaries, who showed their skills in their respective fields, but Allama Shabbir Ahmed Uthmani towered above all by his extraordinary works in the divergent fields.