



PART VI

Chapter 1

LIFE STORY OF
Shaikh-ush-Shayookh-e-Aalam
Hazrat Khwaja Fariduddin Masood Ganj Shakar
of Pak Patan.

Second Spiritual Successor of
Hazrat Khwaja Muinuddin Chishti of Ajmer

Succession — Titles — Lineage — Birth — Contemporaries.

Among Hazrat Khwaja Muinuddin Chishti's five great Spiritual Successors, Hazrat Khwaja Fariduddin Ganj Shakar occupies a most distinguished position of his own. He was indeed one of the most brilliant stars of the Chishtia Order of Sufi dervishes in India and is held in high esteem for his awfully difficult '*Mujahedas*' or mortifications which enabled him to reach the pinnacle of glory in the realm of *Sufism*. He enjoys 21 titles of which, "*Ganj Shakar*" became most popular. — (Author)

AFTER THE UNTIMELY DEATH OF Hazrat Khwaja Qutubuddin Bakhtiyar Kaki, the mantle of India's spiritual leadership in the illustrious Chishtia Order of *Sufis* fell upon the shoulders of Hazrat Khwaja Fariduddin Masood Ganj Shakar of Pak Patan who is popularly known as "*Baba Farid*" and "*Baba Ganj-Shakar*".

Nomination—At the time of his death, Hazrat Khwaja Qutubuddin had nominated Hazrat Khwaja Fariduddin Ganj Shakar to be his Sajjadanashin or spiritual successor, and had handed over the "*Tabarrukat-e-Mustafavi*", (sacred relics viz, '*Khirqa*' (gown), '*Asa*' (staff), sandals and '*Musalla*' (prayer-carpet) to Hazrat Kazi Hamiduddin Nagauri with the instruction that they should be handed over to Hazrat Fariduddin who was not present in Delhi at that time but was then *living at Hansi (District Hissar)*. Accordingly, Kazi Hamiduddin handed over these sacred relics to Khwaja Fariduddin when he came to Delhi after 3 days of the death of his *Pir-o-Murshid*. (Details of Hazrat Khwaja Fariduddin's initiation will follow in a separate chapter of this Part.)

Among Hazrat Khwaja Muinuddin's five leading spiritual successors, Hazrat Khwaja Fariduddin occupies a most distinguished position of his own.

He was indeed one of the most brilliant stars of the Chishtia Order of Sufis in India, and is held in high esteem for his awfully difficult '*mujahedas*' or mortifications which none of his Order ever performed before him. He was endowed with unique spiritual powers and physical stamina to sustain himself unswervingly in such difficult spiritual practices, and some of his '*mujahedas*' were highly dangerous and awe-inspiring seldom undertaken by *Sufi* dervishes to attain the pinnacle of perfection and glory in the realm of '*Tasawwuf*'.

Title of '*Ganj Shakar*'—In the history of *Sufism*, Hazrat Khwaja Fariduddin Masood enjoys 21 titles. About his most popular title of *Ganj Shakar* (which means treasury of sweetness or sugar), the historians have recorded four different but reliable stories as under :—

(1) **FIRST STORY**—According to *Siar-ul-Arifin*, "when Baba Fariduddin was under the spiritual training of his *Pir-o-Murshid*, (Hazrat Khwaja Qutubuddin) at Delhi, he was asked to fast for 7 days at a stretch. One day, during this period, when he was proceeding from his '*Iujra*' (cell) in Ghuzni Gate (where he was put up by his *Pir*) towards Hazrat Khwaja Qutubuddin's *Khanqah* (monastery), his foot accidentally slipped in a marshy pothole on the way,