

KHANQA - E - WARSIYA PUBLICATION

# ANWAAR -E- MURSHID

-ENLIGHTENMENT OF OUR MASTER-



Al Haj Dr. Sufi Rafique Ali Shah Warsi

"WITHOUT LOVE,  
FAITH IS IMPERFECT"

- SUFI RAFIQUE ALI SHAH WARSI (RA) -



## Contents...

<b>Compilers note</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Message from Habibia Soofie Darbar</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>The Origin of the Warsi order</b>	<b>6</b>
Warsi Faqeers	7
Sacred Ehram	7
<b>Life of Hazrat Sufi Rafique Ali Shah Warsi</b>	<b>9</b>
Birth	9
Childhood	9
Early signs of Sainthood	10
Finding a Spiritual Guide - Initiation into the Warsi Silsila (Bay'ah)	11
Adorning the Ehram	12
Khidmat (Service) to his Guides	13
Arrival in Mumbai	14
Activities of the Khanqah	15
Journey to South Africa	16
<b>Miracles</b>	<b>18</b>
Ability to Cure as a Young boy	18
Stone turns into a diamond	19
Meeting Auliya from the Past	20
Lifestyle and appearance	20
Interaction with Mureedin (Disciples)	21
Wisal	22
Teachings of our Murshid	23
<b>Glossary</b>	<b>24</b>

## Compilers note

السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكُمْ وَرَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ وَبَرَكَاتُهُ  
بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

All praise is due to Allah ﷻ, Lord of the worlds, greatest of salutations be upon the Beloved Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, his purified household and all chosen servants.

With the grace of Sarkar Alam Panah Waris Paak رحمه الله عليه, Khanqah-e-Warisya of South Africa was able to publish the first written biography on the life of Al-Haj Hazrat Sufi Rafique Ali Shah Warsi رحمه الله عليه on the occasion of his first Urs Shareef. He was a great sufi mystic of the 21st century known throughout the sufi world.

Our murshid has impacted our lifestyle to such an extent that every moment is worth recording and many who sat in his company can narrate volumes on his personality. It was a tremendous task in collecting stories, narratives, and eyewitness accounts but through the blessings of our murshid, we were able to compile "Anwaar-e-Murshid".

This book narrates incidents from disciples and followers from Bahraich, Mumbai, Dewa Shareef, and South Africa and we have tried to cover many historic moments, however, the Friends of Allah ﷻ show us only what the heart and mind can comprehend - therefore we were not able to narrate every incident.

This is the first edition and ask for your pardon for any errors. Our primary focus is propagating Silsila-e-Warsiya and spreading the message of our murshid. His teachings and guidance is not meant for a specific category of people, rather it's universal and we encourage the reader to pass on content within the book to anyone seeking guidance and love.

The compilers would like to sincerely thank Brother Farouk Warsi (Warsi foundation of India) and Haji Faizal Amod Warsi (Warsi Foundation South Africa) for their information and guidance. We also thank all mureedin and muhibeen for their narratives as it wouldn't have been possible without their effort.

We certainly wish the reader well and may the blessings of the Auliya be with you.

إِنْ شَاءَ اللَّهُ آمِينَ

*"Often we read stories about Khusro and His Nizam, Sabir and His Shams;  
to achieve that status in one lifetime is distant, but our supplication to our Murshid is to  
regard us as his servant on the day of reckoning"*

3rd Shawwal 1444



# Habibia Soofie Saheb Badsha Peer Darbaar

Established in 1895 by:

His Eminence Haji Sha Goolam Mohammed Soofie Siddique Qadiri Chishti Habibi

Masajid; Mazaraan; Madaris; Hifz Academy (Boys & Girls); Islamic Nursery, Pre-school & Primary school (HSBP Institute of Learning); The Soofie Academy for Higher Islamic Education; Social Welfare; Cemeteries; Archives; Museums; & Ghosul Khana



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23 March 2023

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All praise is to Allah ﷻ our Creator and Sustainer, and the choicest of Salaam and Salutation be upon our Master and Protector Muhammad ﷺ and upon His ﷺ family and companions. Ameen.

The Habibia Soofie Saheb Badsha Peer Darbaar Riverside, Durban, Kenville would like to congratulate the Warsi Foundation of South Africa who have being serving the community of South Africa for the past 17 years who are celebrating 1 year of the Wisaal (meeting with the Divine) of Al Haj Sufi Rafiq Ali Sha Warsi (ﷺ). We commend the sterling work implementing the teachings of Hadrath which has continued after his demise from this mundane world by his able disciples. May Allah Ta'aala continue to bless your organisation and make it grow from strength to strength.

Was Salaam

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## Message from Habibia Soofie Darbar

# The Origin of the Warsi order

Sarkar Alam Panah Waris Ali Shah رحمه الله عليه was an iconic 19th-century Sufi mystic who hailed from Dewa, Barabanki in India, and is the spiritual master of the Warsi Sufi order.

Sarkar Waris Paak رحمه الله عليه was born in the house of Sayed Qurban Ali Shah رحمه الله عليه on the 16th of July 1817 (1st Ramadan 1232) as the 26th generation descendant of Imam Hussain عليه السلام. His father passed away when he was 2 years old and he lost his mother at 3. His grandmother, Janaba Hayathunissa Saheba, undertook the duty of carefully bringing him up.

During his infancy, Sarkaar Waris Paak رحمه الله عليه did not feed on his mother's milk during the daytime, nor did he take it on the 10th of Muharram in memory of his forefathers who were martyred at the tragedy of 'Karbala'. As a child, he did not occupy himself with worldly activities but rather, he would spend his time helping the less fortunate, the old, and the needy as well as distributing sweets to the other children from his area.

The word 'Waris' means 'inheritor' and one of his titles is "Waris-ul-Auliya" - inheritor of the Saints. He has this title as he received his wilayat (sainthood) directly from his Dadijaan, Syeda Fathima عليه السلام after having a spiritual encounter at her blessed grave whilst he was on pilgrimage. At this juncture he was gifted the saffron coloured 'Ehram' which became his lifelong wear and also worn by all 'Fakheers' who follow his spiritual way.

Sarkar Waris Paak رحمه الله عليه is the founder of 'Silsila-e-Warsiya'. He travelled to many countries such as Germany, England, Egypt & Turkey. to spread his teaching and was one of the first Sufi's of the 19th Century to take sufism to the west. His core teaching was "Love" as he said, "Love is the step to reach the highest truth (God)".

Sarkar Waris Paak رحمه الله عليه invited all types of people to his message hence the reason for so many different religions to visit his dargah in Dewa shareef to this day. His spiritual order is still widely spread throughout the world however unlike the common rule of succession in sufi orders, the Warsi order has no succession - this merit is earned through striving in spiritual tasks.

Sarkar Waris Paak رحمه الله عليه left this physical world on the 7th of April 1905 (1st Safar 1323) and was buried in Dewa Shareef, Northern India. The structure of his dargah is an iconic landmark of the area and it attracts millions of visitors, especially during the annual 'Mela' (Urs Festival).

*Pictured: Dargah of Sakar Alam Panah Waris Paak رحمه الله عليه in Dewa Shareef, India.*



## Warsi Faqeers

Spiritual guides in the Warsiya order are known as “Warsi Faqeers”. They’re a selected few that are permitted to adorn the ehram (sacred two-piece garment worn by pilgrims) and live their everyday lives as Sarkar Alam Panah Waris Paak رحمة الله عليه did.

The Warsiya spiritual order differs in successorship from other orders as “Khilafat” cannot be passed to the next heir, rather the guide will need to perform various mujahidas (spiritual tasks) to earn his rank and garb.

Warsi Faqeers are representatives and custodians of the teachings of the grand master, Sarkar Waris Paak رحمة الله عليه . Some of them have made their names known worldwide such as the famous sufi poet, Hazrat Bedam Shah Warsi رحمة الله عليه and Baba Augat Shah Warsi رحمة الله عليه.

Warsi faqeers took the message of love to many parts of the world and invited many disciples to the Warsi order. Hazrat Ambar Shah Warsi رحمة الله عليه was a perfect example, he was responsible for bringing the Warsi order to Southern Africa and the message further spread when Hazrat Sufi Rafique Ali Shah Warsi رحمة الله عليه came to South Africa in 2005.

*Sarkar Alam Panah Waris Paak رحمة الله عليه with Ehram Posh Fakheers*



## Sacred Ehram

Symbols, clothing, traditions and customs are richly embedded in Sufism. Each spiritual order is recognised through its signature identity, likewise, the Warsi order is recognised globally through its yellow and saffron robes worn by the spiritual guides.

The first to adorn the saffron-coloured ehram was the founder of the Warsi order, Sarkar Alam Panah Waris Paak رحمة الله عليه who was spiritually gifted the saffron-coloured ehram by the queen of Paradise, his grandmother, Sayeda Fathima Zahra عليه السلام when he visited her blessed grave.

Narrations state that after his spiritual odyssey at the gravesite of his ancestor, he proceeded to the holy Kaaba to perform tawaf (circumambulation). The guards at the sacred sanctuary

called Sarkar Waris Paak رحمه الله عليه out as they're only permitted to wear a white ehram and requested him to change the saffron-coloured ehram to white.

As requested, Sarkar Waris Paak رحمه الله عليه changed his saffron garb to white and miraculously it changed back to saffron. This incident happened more than 7 times until the guards were surprised and reported this strange incident to the Custodian of the time. The custodian after understanding the lineage of Sarkar Waris Paak رحمه الله عليه and his spiritual conversation with his blessed grandmother, permitted him and all following his order to wear the saffron ehram whilst visiting the holy Haram in Mecca and Madina Shareef.

When a person once questioned Sarkar Waris Paak رحمه الله عليه in India as to why he's wearing the ehram out of sight of the Kaaba, Sarkar Waris Paak رحمه الله عليه showed the man that the holy Kaaba is always in front of him and he's always in a state of being present in front of his Lord.

The ehram is a two-piece unstitched cloth which is the chosen garb by Allah ﷻ worn by pilgrims. The wearer must abide by strict Islamic laws and cut off worldly desires. This is literally living your everyday life in a kaffan (clothing worn by the dead) - symbolising their readiness to meet the creator and the killing of their inner desires.

To date, spiritual guides of the order are found wearing the sacred ehram and their categories differ based on their colour.

*Pictured: Sarkar Alam Panah Waris Paak رحمه الله عليه wearing his Ehram Shareef.*





# Life of Hazrat Sufi Rafique Ali Shah Warsi

## Birth

Hazrat Sufi Rafique Ali Shah Warsi رحمه الله عليه was born in a small village called Ashrafa in Bahraich Shareef situated in the Uttar Pradesh State of India. Residing in this village were many descendants of the Holy Prophet Muhammad ﷺ and his close companion Hazrat Abu Bakr Siddique رضي الله عنه .

His birth took place on a Friday, 28 Sha'ban 1384 (AH) coinciding with the 1st of January 1965 into a noble family that traces its lineage back to the 1st Khalif of Islam, Hazrat Abu Bakr Siddique رضي الله عنه . His fathers' name was Hazrat Irfan Ali Siddique.

*Map of Bahraich, UP, India*



## Childhood

The young Hazrat Sufi Rafique Ali Shah Warsi رحمه الله عليه showed early signs of spirituality and loved to serve the creation of Allah جل جلاله irrespective of their creed, caste, or nationality. As a child, he spent his days helping the elderly of the village, serving the sick, and feeding the hungry. Daily, he set aside time to recite the Holy Qur'an and study books of the great Sufi Masters.

An important factor of his journey to enlightenment was the location of his hometown in Uttar Pradesh, which is situated near the Himalayas where the Saryu River, a tributary of river Ghaghara flows. Those lands are very fertile and lush with greenery and serene and scenic environments, ideal for deep concentrated meditation. As a young boy, Hazrat loved to spend hours meditating in the caves of the Himalayas.

Near his home was the holy dargah of Hazrat Sayyed Salar Masood Ghazi رحمه الله عليه, there he spent much time in meditation and learning from travellers and visitors. As a young boy, he was exposed to many ways and paths to enlightenment as the shrine is frequently visited by many Muslims and Hindus.

At times he travelled alone to the nearby forest where the blessed grave of Hazrat Abbas Ali Shah رحمه الله عليه lay. Away from civilization and the world, Hazrat went into deep stages of meditation and worship in the middle of the forest where he gained many spiritual blessings.

*Pictured: Al Haj Sufi Rafique Ali Shah Warsi رحمتہ اللہ علیہ in his teenage years.*



## Early signs of Sainthood

Hazrat Sufi Rafique Ali Shah Warsi رحمتہ اللہ علیہ was brought up in a cultured society. It was a tradition at his home that no visitor should leave empty-handed and no one should leave without having something to eat or drink. As a child, he used to love feeding villagers and travellers that passed by.

One day he saw a Jain Mendicant (Sage who mediates) walking past and he invited him for a meal. Upon hearing the invitation, the Jain mendicant started to cry profusely, and he asked, *"Little boy, how did you know to invite me for a meal when I showed no sign of hunger?"*

Hazrat Sufi Rafique Ali Shah Warsi رحمتہ اللہ علیہ explained that he was informed one day before the Jains arrival, by Sarkar Waris Paak رحمتہ اللہ علیہ, that a Jain mendicant will arrive, and you must feed him as he hasn't eaten in 3 days.

The Jain mendicant was astonished as this was true, he went without food for three days and was not permitted to ask anyone for food nor was he allowed to express his hunger to anyone.

This early miracle of Hazrat Sufi Rafique Ali Shah Warsi رحمتہ اللہ علیہ indicates that from a young age, he had a spiritual connection with Sarkar Alam Panah Waris Paak رحمتہ اللہ علیہ and was able to communicate with the unseen even before his spiritual training.

*Pictured: Al Haj Sufi Rafique Ali Shah Warsi رحمتہ اللہ علیہ in his studying years.*



## Help from the Unseen

Hazrat Sufi Rafique Ali Shah Warsi رحمه الله عليه was a very intellectual being with many academic accolades. He also obtained a PhD. There was never a question that he was unable to answer in detail and always thanked Sarkar Alam Panah Waris Paak رحمه الله عليه for this honour.

Hazrat narrates, since his schooling career, there was a Dervish draped in cloth who used to come to him and give him all the answers. This dervish also helped him study. Later in his life, he learnt the dervish was Sarkar Waris Paak رحمه الله عليه himself who came to his aid.

*Pictured: Hazrat Sufi Rafique Ali Shah Warsi رحمه الله عليه with other Masha'ikh in his early days*



## Finding a Spiritual Guide - Initiation into the Warsi Silsila (Bay'ah)

Hazrat searched for many years for a spiritual guide. He observed Chilla (Secluded worship) in many dargahs of India in hopes of finding the perfect guide. He sat for months at the dargah of Hazrat Shah Niyaz Ahmed Bareilvi رحمه الله عليه and also sat for many nights at the dargah of Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti in Ajmer Shareef. Hazrat Sufi Rafique Ali Shah Warsi رحمه الله عليه established a very great spiritual connection with Khwaja Gareeb Nawaz ® as he frequently visited the dargah.

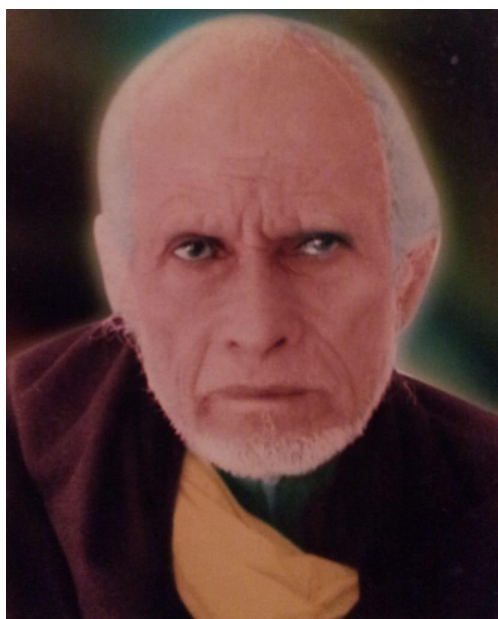
After many years of searching for a spiritual master, one day whilst observing chilla at the dargah of Khwaja Gareeb Nawaz ®, he made a dua requesting his spiritual guide to be a descendant of the Holy Prophet Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم and he must be a Warsi disciple. Immediately Khwaja Gareeb Nawaz ® responded to his dua and spiritually instructed him to go to Nainital, Haldwani and there he will find his perfect guide.

Hazrat left Ajmer and travelled to Nainital. Nainital is situated in the immediate foothills of the Kumaon Himalayas. He arrived there late at night and found a single light burning on the top of the mountain. He walked to the light and found it to be a place of worship for Hindus where he was greeted by an old worshipper. He enquired if there was any Sufi faqeer in this town and the worshipper responded by saying, "In Nainital, there's only one faqeer by the name of Baba Mashooq Ali Shah Warsi."

Hazrat Sufi Rafique Ali Shah Warsi رحمه الله عليه searched for Sayyid Mashooq Ali Shah Warsi رحمه الله عليه and found him seated in a secluded area. At first, Hazrat Sufi Rafique Ali Shah Warsi رحمه الله عليه found him to be strange as he had no beard but after meeting him on a few occasions and experiencing his vast knowledge of Sufi sciences, Hazrat was initiated into the Warsi spiritual order as a murid(disciple) by Sayyid Mashooq Ali Shah Warsi رحمه الله عليه..

Sayyid Mashooq Ali Shah Warsi رحمه الله عليه is the mureed of Sayyid Mehmood Shah Warsi رحمه الله عليه , who is the mureed of Sayyid Abul Hassan Shah Warsi رحمه الله عليه , who is the mureed of Alam Panah Sarkar Waris Paak رحمه الله عليه .

*Pictured: Hazrat Sayyid Mashooq Ali Shah Warsi رحمه الله عليه (Peer-o-Murshid of Hazrat)*



## Adorning the Eham

The eham is a sacred garb worn by pilgrims when visiting the house of Allah Almighty ﷻ. This garb symbolises the rejection of the world and readiness to meet Allah ﷻ. In the Warsi spiritual order, faqeers (saints) of the order must wear the eham throughout their lives and live by its strict laws, following the practices and teachings of Sarkar Waris Paak رحمه الله عليه .

It was Hazrat Sayyid Masoom Ali Shah Warsi رحمه الله عليه that permitted Hazrat Sufi Rafique Ali Shah Warsi رحمه الله عليه to wear the eham and served as his spiritual guide as well. From being a Warsi Mureed (disciple), Hazrat was now transformed into an Eham Posh Faqeer (one adorning the sacred garb). Hazrat Sayed Masoom Ali Shah Warsi رحمه الله عليه came from Babaganj near the India-Nepal border and was a direct disciple of Sarkar Waris Pak رحمه الله عليه . Hazrat Sufi Rafique Ali Shah رحمه الله عليه was his last Eham Posh Faqeer. He never granted permission to anyone after this to wear the sacred garb.

Since the day he was entrusted to wear the eham, he never wore any other dress code, he gave up his desired life and lived every step of his life as if he was on the plains of Arafah at Hajj (Pilgrimage).

*Pictured: Hazrat Sayyid Masoom Ali Shah Warsi رحمتہ اللہ علیہ*



## Khidmat (Service) to his Guides

Hazrat loved and honoured both of his spiritual guides in their lifetime and served at their dargahs after their passing. He served his murshid with great love and enthusiasm. He personally undertook many building and renovation projects at the dargahs of his murshid.

Annually he used to travel with his mureedin to the Urs shareef of his Spiritual Masters. Whilst travelling by train, he used to narrate stories and memories he had of his Peer. Hazrat narrates the love and affection his murshid had for him that when he was still studying at Madressa, his murshid would tell him not to eat at the Madressa but to come home to his Khanqa and eat with him by his side.

Mureedin states that when Hazrat would attend his murshids urs in Nainital, he would serve all of the guests and was seen cleaning the toilets and bathrooms at his murshids dargah.

*Pictured:left - Dargah of Hazrat Sayyid Mashooq Ali Shah Warsi رحمتہ اللہ علیہ, Right - Dargah of Hazrat Sayyid Masoom Ali Shah Warsi رحمتہ اللہ علیہ*



## Arrival in Mumbai

After travelling extensively in search of the divine truth, meeting various spiritual masters, seeking their spiritual knowledge, and spending many years of his life in intense worship, Hazrat Sufi Rafique Ali Shah Warsi رحمه الله عليه was ready to propagate the Message of Sarkar Alam Panah Waris Paak رحمه الله عليه .

In the late 1990s, he was spiritually instructed by Sarkar Waris Paak رحمه الله عليه to migrate from his village in Bahraich to Mumbai. In the 90s, the city of Mumbai was largely influenced by Western culture. The people of Mumbai were drifting away from deen (religion) and grasping onto Western culture. Hazrat Sufi Rafique Ali Shah Warsi رحمه الله عليه established his khanqah (spiritual centre) in Wadala and started to invite the masses to his message. He named it '*Khanqah-e-Warsiya*'. It was a major transition in his life from the village to a fast-moving city, but Hazrat planted the flame of love and it spread like a wildfire.

*Pictured: Al Haj Sufi Rafique Ali Shah Warsi رحمه الله عليه in his early Mumbai years.*



## The Khanqah

The khanqah (spiritual centre) is situated on a hilltop in Wadala, Mumbai near the dargah of Hazrat Barkat Ali Shah رحمه الله عليه. It is a simple building consisting of 2 floors. The bottom level consists of a worship room that housed a Gaddi (Spiritual throne) of Sarkar Waris Paak رحمه الله عليه - in this room, one could only enter in a state of wudhu, and small talk was not permitted inside as it is solely used for worship. A large multi-purpose room at the bottom level is where Hazrat received his visitors, delivered lectures, performed dhikr and fed the public. At night, the room transformed into a sleeping area for disciples and the needy. The kitchen is in the smallest room, but it feeds every visitor daily.

The upper level has only two rooms, one for guests and the other is the personal room of Hazrat. His room consisted of a bed, drawer, and library with a vast collection of books from around the world. Outside, the upper level has a Sehan area (flat gravel area) that is used to host public events. On major occasions, it is decorated with flags, banners, and lights. In the middle of the sehan is a tree where Hazrat loved to sit under and speak to his mureeds at night.

Many youngsters who needed spiritual training were given daily tasks in maintaining the khanqah. For centuries Sufis encouraged service to humanity as it purifies the inner self and teaches self-discipline - this was taught daily at the khanqah.

*Pictured: Khanqa-e-Warsiya in Mumbai*



## Activities of the Khanqah

At Khanqah-e-Warsiya, people from all walks of life, including other religions and professions visited Hazrat seeking spiritual blessings and help. He introduced dhikr and sufi meditations to his disciples and followers and hosted many programs highlighting the importance of following the Quran, Prophetic ways, and teachings of sufi masters. Many great politicians, actors, and spiritual heads visited the khanqah in need of spiritual aid.

Daily, Hazrat delivered discourses to his audience and encouraged all to start experiencing their own spiritual journey. He often used simple examples to explain detailed sufi lessons and always communicated effectively to all age groups in the same gathering.

He possessed a deep understanding of homoeopathic medicine, which he used to treat the sick and weak. Many who couldn't afford a doctor came to him for aid and no one was ever left untreated. He also assisted those that were affected by Jinnat, evil eye, and black magic. He could use Quranic and prophetic methods in healing and curing the masses.

Hazrat Sufi Rafique Ali Shah Warsi رحمتہ اللہ علیہ and his khanqah welcomed technological advancements however the core practices and traditions were firmly rooted in the way of the great sufi masters that came 800 years prior.

*Pictured: Al Haj Sufi Rafique Ali Shah Warsi رحمتہ اللہ علیہ with prominent guests at his Khanqa*



## Journey to South Africa

In the year 2004, Hazrat was on his way, by train, to Ajmer Shareef for the annual Urs of Khwaja Gareeb Nawaz رحمه الله عليه. Coincidentally, a few cabins away on the same train was seated our Janaab Farouk Roop Saheb from South Africa. Farouk Roop had met Hazrat on the train and was instantly attracted to Hazrat.

In the year 2005, Hazrat was invited to South Africa to be the guest of honour at the annual Ijtima-e-Marsiya jalsa hosted by Farouk Roop. It was at this jalsa that many people had seen, for the first time, a Warsi faqeer.

Since Hazrats initial trip to South Africa, he has visited our shores a total of 8 times, from 2005 to his last trip in 2016. Hazrats mission was to spread the teachings of the grand master, Sarkaar Waris Paak رحمه الله عليه. Within a short period, recognition of the Warsi Silsila quickly spread throughout South Africa. This was achieved by Hazrats unique way of conversing with individuals and the love that he showed to each person, regardless of age, race, or religion.

For the duration of Hazrats stay, many people would visit the khanqah each evening to spend time with Hazrat, listen to his discourses and seek his advice. Throughout the evening, Hazrat would discuss an array of topics and despite the language barrier, everyone would somehow understand his message.

Hazrat travelled to Durban, Johannesburg, and Cape Town during his stay and visited many Mazaars on his visits, and met with many prominent Sufi masters.

Whilst visiting South Africa, Hazrat established a khanqah in the Phoenix region of Durban. He also initiated many activities, some of which include a weekly zikr program and regular feeding schemes.

In 2007, under the instruction and guidance of Hazrat, the first Urs of Sarkaar Alam Panah Waris Ali Shah رحمه الله عليه was held in Durban. This Urs was held at the khanqah on a small scale but has since grown massively. The Urs is held annually and is attended by hundreds, from far and wide. This is the largest Urs of Sarkaar Waris Paak رحمه الله عليه held in the continent of Africa.

*Pictured: Al Haj Sufi Rafique Ali Shah Warsi رحمه الله عليه in South Africa*





## Miracles

Many who sat in the company of Hazrat Sufi Rafique Ali Shah Warsi رحمه الله عليه would have miracles. Daily at his khanqa's people came with problems and illnesses and everyone received help. Some of Hazrat's miracles are recorded in "Anwar-e-Murshid" and some are unknown.

### Ability to Cure as a Young boy

Hazrat Sufi Rafique Ali Shah Warsi رحمه الله عليه was recognised from a young age as a spiritual being as he had the ability to communicate with Jinnat (creatures made with fire - hidden from human sight), the ability to cure sicknesses and his dua's were always accepted.

In the 4th standard, whilst returning home from school, an elderly man in his 60s came to Hazrat and expressed his desire to have a child and their inability to conceive. Hazrat Sufi Rafique Ali Shah Warsi رحمه الله عليه smiled at the old man and said, *"I'm just a child on my way home from school, I can't do anything to help"*.

The old man pleaded by saying, *"By looking at your face I know if you make dua on my behalf, it will be accepted. Please give me a tawiz or something"*.

After insisting, Hazrat took a page out from his bag and simply wrote his name, 'Rafique Ali' on it and asked the man to place it on his wife. Within the same year, the couple had their first child!

In his village, whilst he was in school, Hazrat's name was known for miraculous cures through the Divine mercy of Allah Almighty ﷻ. The public used to line up outside his door just for his dua and blessings. Teachers at his school also noticed his spirituality and invited many from outside the village to come and take blessings and cure from their young student, Hazrat Sufi Rafique Ali Shah Warsi رحمه الله عليه.



## Stone turns into a diamond

Annually Hazrat Sufi Rafique Ali Shah Warsi رحمه الله عليه used to travel to Ajmer Shareef for the Urs of Khwaja Gareeb Nawaz ®. One year as he was getting ready to leave the khanqah in Mumbai, a mureed by the name of Aleem Warsi came to him with a financial problem. His wife was soon to go into labour and he needed 50 000 rupees for the hospital bill. The only asset he had to sell was his motorbike.

He explained the situation and Hazrat replied, *“Don't sell the motorbike, Allah ﷻ will make a way”* and he left for Ajmer Shareef. Whilst in Ajmer, Hazrat sent his mureed, Farouq Warsi to a jewellery store to buy 10 imitation diamond stones for 30 rupees each. As instructed, Farouq Warsi bought the stones and presented them to Hazrat who kept them in his bag.

On arrival in Mumbai, the mureeds came to the khanqah to welcome Hazrat. As usual, Hazrat opened his bag and gifted the stones to his mureeds, and one stone was given to Aleem Warsi who was also present.

Aleem Warsi then took his stone and went to a local jeweller to make a ring. When he presented the 30 rupee stone to the jeweller, the jeweller asked him, *“How much will you sell the diamond to me for?”* Aleem Warsi was curious, and he asked the jeweller why he wanted to buy it. The jeweller responded, *“This is a real American Diamond!”*

Aleem Warsi was surprised and took the stone to another jeweller who also said it was a real diamond. He immediately called Hazrat and explained the situation to which he responded by saying, *“Allah ﷻ has made a way, sell the stone to solve your problem!”*

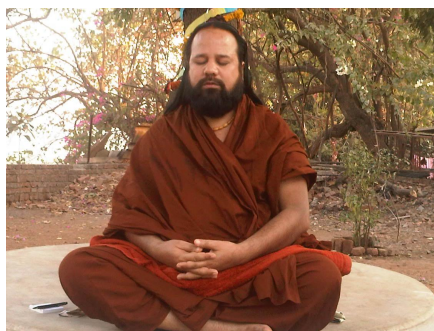


## Meeting Auliya from the Past

Hazrat Sufi Rafique Ali Shah Warsi رحمه الله عليه travelled extensively throughout India and visited many dargahs with his mureedin, especially during the Urs festivals. In 1999 Hazrat went to the Dargah of Haji Malang Shah Baba رحمه الله عليه in Wadi for the annual Urs. Hazrat and his mureeds arrived at 3 AM so they decided to rest at the local flower shop. At 11 AM, they were freshening up and Hazrat Sufi Rafique Ali Shah Warsi رحمه الله عليه was combing his zulf (long hair). His hair was draped over his face when a faqeer came to the door and said, *“Miya Saheb I've been waiting for you since 3 AM?”* and he left.

Hazrat Sufi Rafique Ali Shah Warsi رحمه الله عليه moved his zulf from his face and asked his mureedin to call the faqeer. When they stepped out of the room, the faqeer had disappeared. Hazrat immediately hurried his mureedin by saying, *“We are here since 3 AM and we haven't made Haziri inside the dargah - Haji Malang Shah Baba himself came to call us!”*

It was recorded on many occasions, that many mureedin had the honour of meeting great Auliya from the past amid Hazrat Sufi Rafique Ali Shah Warsi رحمه الله عليه. It was customary for Hazrat to observe Qul Shareef Khatam on special occasions in honour of the Khwajagaan and many times, the Khwajagaan themselves were spiritually present. At times this was witnessed by close mureedin and some even fell unconscious after witnessing these events.



## Lifestyle and appearance

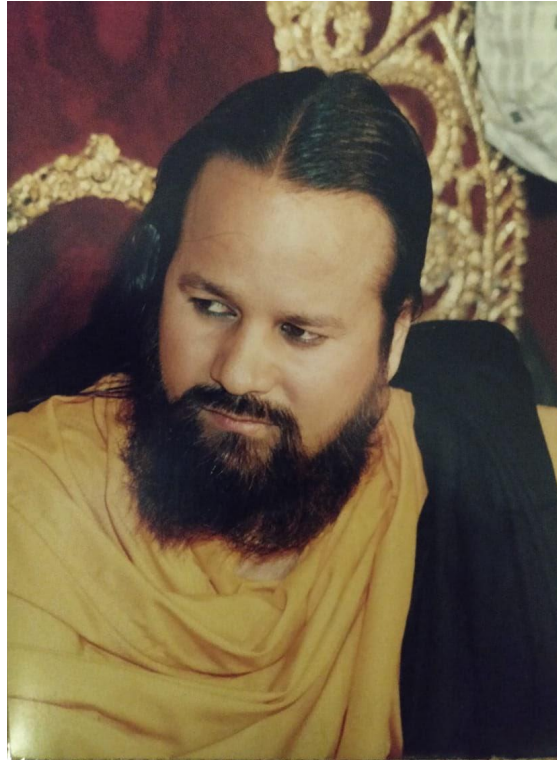
Hazrat Sufi Rafique Ali Shah Warsi رحمه الله عليه was known for his simplicity and elegant beauty. He lived his life with the bare minimum, all that could be found in his room was a bed, a cupboard and a bookshelf. When travelling, all he carried was 2 sets of ehram.

Hazrat's daily routine started with dhikr and ended with sitting with his mureedin. Before breakfast, he would go into a deep dhikr and this was repeated at the time of maghrib (sunset). Apart from his meal, he always included in his diet fresh fruit and loved dhal with rice.

Hazrat always ensured a neat and tidy environment including his clothing, cutlery and khanqah, all of which must be thoroughly purified before being presented to him. At his khanqahs, he had a team of mureedin cleaning and maintaining cleanliness at all times.

When seated amongst masha'ikh, Hazrat would stand out in a crowd of 1000s as his presence was enlightening. He was uniquely identified by his silk like zulf mubarak and saffron ehram. He took much pride in maintaining himself spiritually and physically.

He also had a sweet and melodious voice and loved reciting kalams of love and attachment. In mass gatherings, he often took the forefront and advised on universal love, harmony and peace.



## Interaction with Mureedin (Disciples)

Hazrat built a very close relationship and connection with every disciple of his, irrespective of age, profession, or background. He encouraged disciples to visit the khanqah daily and advised them on any topic. He touched on topics such as spirituality, science, diet, physical well-being, meditation, inter-faith subjects, and much more. There was never a time when he was asked a question to which he could not answer. Disciples built a strong connection with their guide as there were no barriers between them - they felt free to consult with him at any time.

His primary concern was the well-being of every disciple. He gave much love to his followers and in return the followers loved him. Hazrat loved the company of the poor and he took care of their needs. Many of his disciples state that whenever they travelled with Hazrat for any Urs or spiritual work, all travel expenses such as accommodation, meals, and tickets were purchased by Hazrat himself. Those that travelled with him, before they returned home, would be given money to buy gifts for their families.

Daily after school and work, disciples would visit the khanqah to serve their guide and learn about the divine. Hazrat had the ability to give individual attention to mass crowds and make

everyone feel special. Generally, youth wouldn't sit in modern-day khanqahs but the khanqah of Hazrat Sufi Rafique Ali Shah Warsi رحمه الله عليه was a meeting area for the youth of Mumbai.

*Pictured: Hazrat Sufi Rafique Ali Shah Warsi رحمه الله عليه with his mureedin*



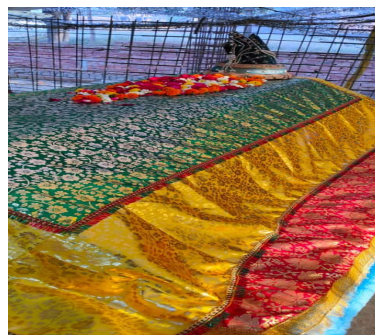
## Wisal

Whilst at his khanqah in Mumbai, Hazrat began to feel unwell and had to be rushed off to the hospital wherein he was admitted. At 6:35 PM on the 3rd of Shawwal 1443 coinciding with the 5th of May 2022, Hazrat had made 'Wisal' and left this physical world. The news of Hazrats demise quickly spread throughout the world, leaving thousands in shock as many of Hazrats mureeds were with him or were in contact with him just a few days prior, on the day of Eid-ul-Fitr.

Hazrats blessed body was brought back to his Mumbai khanqah for his mureeds and well wishes to make ziarat of. Hazrats body was flown to Dewa Shareef and taken to the Mazaar of Alam Panah Waris Paak رحمه الله عليه . Hazrats mureeds were presented with some tabarruks as well as given a chadar from the mazaar of Sarkar Waris Paak رحمه الله عليه . They then proceeded to Hazrats village of Nanpara for the ghusl and burial. Hazrats ghusl was performed by his mureeds and at 11:30 AM, the janaza namaz was performed by Maulana Subhani.

Hazrats burial was performed by his eldest son, Ausaf Ahmed Warsi, Farouk Warsi, and a Warsi faqeer.

*Pictured: Dargah Shareef of Hazrat Sufi Rafique Ali Shah Warsi رحمه الله عليه in Ashrafa, India.*



## Teachings of our Murshid

The basis of every discourse given by Hazrat was based on love. In every talk, discussion or discourse, Hazrat preached the importance of love. Hazrat continuously stress that love is the foundation of everything in the universe. *"When a person loves what they are doing, they will ensure that it is done to the best of their ability and with utmost dedication"* - This teaching of Hazrats was emphasised to all of his mureeds, and he encouraged his mureeds to live by this in their daily lives. Hazrats teaching of love was universal, it applied to any person regardless of age, gender, race or religious beliefs and to all situations (be it Islamic actions, work related, relationships, etc).

And these teachings of Hazrats was in accordance to the teachings of Sarkaar Waris Ali Shah (R.A) who very beautifully said *"Love is the step to reach the highest truth"*.



# Glossary

## Khanqah

*A spiritual center in which religious gatherings are held.*

## Murshid/Peer

*A spiritual guide/teacher who guides seekers onto the path of enlightenment. 'Masha'ikh' refers to prominent Peers of the era.*

## Mureed

*A disciple of a Peer, plural mureedin.*

## Muhibeen

*Lovers of a spiritual order or spiritual guide.*

## Faqeer/Dervish

*One who has renounced their worldly possessions and has dedicated their lives to the worship of God.*

## Dargah

*Is a shrine or tomb built over the grave of a revered religious figure, often a Sufi saint or dervish.*

## Ehram/Ehram Posh

*The ehram is a two-piece unstitched cloth that is the chosen garb by Allah ﷺ worn by pilgrims during the pilgrimage of Hajj. Ehram Posh is the person who adorns the ehram.*

## Silsila

*The spiritual lineage of a spiritual order which links to Beloved Prophet Muhammad ﷺ*

## Sufism

*A mystical Islamic belief and practice in which one seeks to find the truth of divine love and knowledge through a direct personal experience of God.*

## Sufi

*One who practises Sufism is called Sufi - they have purified their inner-self and are connected to the Divine.*

## Chilla

*The seclusion of a person from all worldly affairs, to become increasingly conscious of God and defeat their worldly desires.*

## Wisal

*Union with God - When the beloved of God is meeting God. This word describes the moment when a saint is passing away.*

## Urs

*Arabic word meaning wedding. A symbolic word describing the unity between the saint and God after the passing of the Saint.*



BA HAQ E HAZRAT  
MASHOOQ AUR MASOOM  
KARAM HO ISS  
RAFIQUE WARSIPAR  
AMEEN

