

Trends In Islamic Theology In The 20th Century: Untold Biographies Of Prominent Scholarships Of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan

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Abstract

The scholars of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are known throughout Pakistan for their commitment to rationality and theology; that's why students across Pakistan travel to the Kyber Pakhtunkwa Madaris to study logic, philosophy, and theology. Despite the mere availability of facilities and lack of financial resources, these theologians published several books, but many still exist in manuscripts. The biographies and services of these scholars are still in the shadow of ignorance due to their geographical positions and location in remote areas. This paper focused on the bios and scholarly works of these scholars. The researchers of this paper collected the primary Data about their services by traveling to these remote areas; conducting Semi-structured interviews with the scholars alive. The researchers contacted the students and the relatives of the deceased theologians to present the untold stories of their tremendous works to academia. This paper demonstrated the biographical sketches of fourteen scholars and their literary work in theology and put forward the significance of these books in theological debates.

Keywords: theology, ilm e kalam, debates, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Introduction

Where Allah has taken the task of protecting the religion from the noble sons (peace be upon them), he also made the scholars the successors of the Prophets (peace be upon them) and made them a source of guidance for all humanity. The scholars guide people toward religion in their respective areas and propagate the Muslim community's

religious beliefs in the light of the Qur'an and Sunnah. Therefore, to acquaint people, especially young people, with the thoughts of Islam and for religious education and training, they must be aware of the biographies of the scholars which will be a torch for the future generation in the field of knowledge and research. This paper attempts to present the life and literary works of the theologians of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and their published and unpublished works in front of people. This paper will open new horizons for those who carry out their research on manuscripts.

Procedures

The data collected in this paper is either from biographies published about the theologians of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa or by interviewing them if they are alive. The data of the deceased theologians is collected by interviewing their relatives or students.

Literature Review

A little research work is available on the theologians of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in a general form in the books of historical recaps of specific geographical regions. The following books can be determined as the finest literature on the topic:

1. **Tadhkira' Ulamā'-e-Khyber Pakhtunkhwa:** This book is authored by Mawlānā Qāsim bin Muḥammad Amīn and published in 2015 from Dārul Qur'an wal Sunnah, Swabi. The book focuses on the scholars and mashāikh of Swabi, though a few from other districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are also mentioned.¹
2. **Tadhkira' Ulamā'-e-Swabi:** This book by Ziaullah Jadoon was published by Jadoon Foundation in 2015. It contains the biographies of four hundred scholars of District Swabi, along with their educational, teaching, political, social, and writing achievements.²
3. **Dāstān-e-Raftagān:** The author of this book is Mawlānā Irfān-ul-Ḥaq Ḥaqqānī, and Mu'tamar al Muṣannifin Akora Khattak published it in 2019. This book consists of short biographies of scholars and political and religious leaders.³
4. **Mashāhīr' Ulamā'-e-Sarhad:** This book is a Ph.D. dissertation of Qari Fayuzur Rehman, published by Jāmi' Masjid Al-Furqān, Malir Cantt, Karachi. The book mentions scholars from 1857 to 1977.⁴
5. **Wafiyāt-e-Mashāhīr:** This book is written by Prof. Muhammad Aslam and published by Maqtadirah Qaumī Zubān, Islamabad. It consists of short biographies of famous personals who died between August 14, 1947, to August 14, 1987.⁵

All of the above literature needs to provide more information about theologians. However, only some of them focused on books or short biography with further details.

Introduction of Renowned Theologians of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

In the upcoming lines, a brief biography of a few renowned and reputed theologians belonging to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is mentioned, along with a short commentary on their books.

1. Mawlānā Madrār Ullah Madrār (1913 - 1994)

Mawlānā Madrār Ullah Madrār was born in 1913, in "Hoti", Mardan. Maulana Abdul Rauf of Dārul ‘Ulūm Nu’māniyah, was his teacher in Ḥadīth. In 1937, he passed the exam of Munshī Fāzil from Punjab University. His famous books in theology are below:

1. **Parwayz Awr Qur’ān (Iḥtisāb-e-Parwayziyat)**: Madrār al ‘Ulūm, Mardan, published this book and comprised 803 pages. This book is a comprehensive encyclopedia about Ghulam Ahmad Parwez, a famous person who challenged the Sunni doctrine by interpreting the Quranic themes rationally. The book discusses Perwez’s beliefs and theories about miracles, jinns, and angels as he has translated the verses related to them into a metaphor, besides his other ideas like Islamic socialism and the Quranist approach.⁶
2. **‘Eṣmat-e-Ambiyā’**: Maktabah Madīnah Lahore published this book which contained 309 pages. This book discusses one of the fundamental beliefs of the Muslim community, the infallibility of the prophets.⁷

2. Mawlānā Ḥamdullah Jān Dāga’ī (1915 - 2019)

Mawlānā Ḥamdullah Jān was born in 1915 in Dāga’ī, Swabi. His father’s name is Mawlānā ‘Abd al Ḥakīm. In 1947, he traveled to Dārul ‘Ulūm Deoband for graduation. Among his teachers Mawlānā ‘Abd al Ḥalīm Zarūbawī, former Sheikh Al Ḥadīth of Dārul ‘Ulūm Haqqāniyah, Akkora Khattak, Mawlānā Ai’zāz ‘Alī and Muftī Kifāyatullah are worth mentioning.⁸

1. **Al Basā’ir li Munkarī al Tawassul Bil Maqābir**: This is written in Arabic and published in 378 pages by the Mazharī Kutub Khānah. The book discusses the beliefs of the al-Wahhābiyyah in depth.⁹
2. **Al Sayf al Munīr**: Mazharī Kutub Khānah published this book which consisted of his debates with other sects.¹⁰

3. Muftī Raḍā’ ul Haq

He was born in 1950 in a family of Shah Mansoor, Swabi, famous for their scholarly works. His father’s name is Mawlānā Shams Al Hādī. In 1972, he was admitted to the renowned madrassah of Karachi, Jāmi’ah al’ Ulūm al Islāmiyyah Binori Town, for specialization in Fiqh, and graduated in 1974. Among his teachers Mawlānā Faḍl Ḥaq, Mawlānā Ghulām Maḥbūb, Mawlānā Faḍl Elāhī are worth mentioning.

1. **Badr al Layālī Sharḥ Bad’u al Amālī fil ‘Aqā’id**: This is a two-volume work by Muftī Raḍā’ ul Haq, published in Arabic, English, and French from Idārah al Ṣiddīq Dabheel, Gujarat.¹¹
2. **Al’ Aqīdah Al Samāwiyyah Sharḥ’ Aqīdah Al Ṭahāwiyyah**: This book is a commentary on the famous book Al ‘Aqīdah Al Ṭahāwiyyah which is the main book of ‘Aqīdah in the syllabus of Madrassas of Indo-Pak. The book’s first volume consists of 738 pages, while the second volume consists of 715 pages.¹²

4. Mawlānā ‘Abd al Ḥaḡ Al Kandiyā’ī (1956-2016)

He was born in 1956 in “Gabriyāl,” a remote area of Kandian, Upper Kohistan. His father’s name was Mawlānā Qāḡī Shayr Aḡmad Shahīd.¹³

He received his early education from his father and gained lessons of Ḥadīth from Mawlānā Ḥasan Jān Shahīd. In 1978, he graduated from Akbar Dārul ‘Ulūm, Mardan. His famous teachers are Mawlānā ‘Ināyatullah Chakaysarī, Mawlānā Ḥasan Jān, Mawlānā ‘Abd al Ḥanān famous as “Malang Mawlawī Sāḡib”, Mawlānā ‘Abd al Ḥalīm Kohistānī, Mawlānā Muḡammad Isrā’īl.¹⁴

1. **‘Iqd al Farīd Sharḡ Sharḡ al Aqā’id al Nasafiyyah:** This book is an interpretation of the famous book “Sharḡ al ‘Aqā’id”, included in the curriculum of Dars-e-Nizāmī (teaching mode adopted by religious institutes of Indo-Pak). It comprises the primary and most essential beliefs of Ahl al-Sunnah wal Jamā’ah. Maktabah Rashīdiyyah, Akora Khattak, published this book in 300 pages in Arabic.¹⁵
2. **Al Tahqīqāt al’ Āmmah li Ḥall Umūr al’ Āmmah:** This book, published by Jadīd Maktabah Rashīdiyyah, Peshawar, on 247 pages, is an Arabic description of the first volume of the book “Kashf al Murād fi Sharḡ Tajrīd al I’tiqād” which consists of three chapters: existence and non-existence, essence, cause, and effect.¹⁶
3. **Al Insīdād li Ṭuraḡ Al Ilḡād: (Dāktar Uthmānī ky Naḡriyāt ki Tardīd):** This book has been published by Dārul ‘Ulūm Shayrgarh Mardan in 45 pages. The book opposed and examined the beliefs of Dr. Usmani. It consists of three chapters. The first chapter consists of twelve arguments regarding the issue of punishment in the grave and its confirmation. Twenty-one arguments are given in the second chapter, proving the life of the Prophet in the tomb (that they are alive in their graves), along with the answers to the confronting objections. The following chapter critically analyses the views of Dr. Usmani about the denial of the punishment of the grave, and definition of shirk, etc.¹⁷

5. Mawlānā Muḡammad Tāḡir Panjpīrī (1916 - 1981)

He was born in 1916 in Panjpīr, a village in Swabi. His father's name was Ghulām Nabī Khān.¹⁸ Mawlānā Naḡīr Uddīn Ghurghushtawī, Mawlānā A’izāz ‘Alī, and Mawlānā Ḥusayn Aḡmad Madanī are notable among his teachers.¹⁹

He agreed with Mawlānā’ Ināyatullah Shāḡ Bukhārī on issues such as Ḥayāt-ul-Nabī, intercession, Sima’ ‘inda al Qabr, Tawassul, Wasīlah.²⁰

1. **Ḥaḡīqat-e-Mawdūdī:** This book has 88 pages about Mawlānā Mawdūdī. Altaf Composing Center, Swabi, published it.²¹
2. **Uḡūl al-Sunnah li Radd al Bid’ah:** Maktabah Al Imān Panjpīr Swabi published this book in Arabic, Urdu, and Pashto languages. The book divides the deeds of Muslim society into bida’ah and sunnah. The book listed many of the acts in bida’ah.²²
3. **Al Baḡā’ir Lil Mutawassilīn bi Ahal Al Maḡābir:** This book of 384 pages, in

Arabic, is published by Maẓharī Kutub Khānah, Swabi. It criticizes the culture developed on the shrines of the Sufis and the saints and condemns the special terms used in this culture.²³

6. Mawlānā Akbar ur Reḥmān

He was born in 1978 in the village of district Shangla called “Gat Sir Malik Khel Kotke.” His father's name is Mawlānā Rashīd Aḥmad. He graduated from Dārul ‘Ulūm Ḥaqqaniyah, Akkora Khattak, in 2003. He got admission to the madrassah “Imdād ul ‘Ulūm Peshawar” for specialization in Iftā’ and wrote a thesis titled “‘**Aṣr-e-Ḥāḍir me Jihād sy Muta’allaq Sawālāt wa Jawābāt**” (Questions and Answers related to Jihad in the Present Day). Some of the famous personalities among his teachers are Mawlānā ‘Abd al Ḥaq Dakawrak, Mawlānā Shayr ‘Alī Shāh, Mawlānā Ḥassan Jān Shahīd, Mawlānā Rasūl Sayyid, and Mawlānā Rashīd Aḥmad.²⁴

1. **‘Iṣmat-e-Ambiyā’**: Maktabah Nashr-o-Aahā’at Research Library, Mardan, published this book with 170 pages. In this book infallibility of prophets is discussed in detail.²⁵
2. **Muḥāḍarāt fi’ Ilm al’ Aqīdah**: This is an unpublished manuscript of 300 pages, and it discusses the attributes of God, similarities, knowledge of the unseen, etc., in detail.²⁶
3. **Al Ḥaḍ al Maqsūm**: This book has 70 pages, and Idārah Tālīfāt e Ashrafiyah, Mardan published this book. This book contains essential discussions about philosophy and logic.²⁷

7. Mawlānā Amīr Shāh Qummī

He was born on April 17, 1954, in “Chotā Lāhore,” a small town in Swabi. His father’s name is Sayyid Nūr Aḥmad Shāh. He graduated from Dārul ‘Ulūm Ḥaqqānī, Akora Khattak, in 1975. His famous teachers are Mawlānā Sarfarāz Khān Ṣafdar, Mawlānā Sufī ‘Abd al Ḥamīd Swātī, Muftī Farīd Zarawbī, Mawlānā ‘Abd al Ḥaq Ḥaqqānī and Mawlānā ‘Abd al Ḥalīm.²⁸

After graduation, he went to Quin (a famous city in Iran) and studied there for twelve years at a university. He has written 28 books; some of his famous works are:²⁹

1. **Kashf al Asrār Bi Jawāb Na’īm al Abrār**: This book, consisting of 168 pages, is published by the Maktabah Ahl al Bayt wal Ṣaḥābah, Jhang. The author has answered twenty-four questions asked by the Shi’ites from their primary sources.³⁰
2. **Islāmī Iṣlāḥī Tarbiyyatī Course**: Maktabah Ahl al Bayt wal Ṣaḥābah, Jhang published this book in 588 pages. The author explains various Shi’ites’ beliefs in this book and their rationale.³¹
3. **Fatuhāt al Sunniyyah’ ala Irādāt al Rāfaḍiyyah**: Maktabah Ahl al Bayt wal Ṣaḥābah, Jhang published this book. This book mentions debates between Shia scholars and scholars of other sects in Lucknow, Samandri, and Jhang.³²
4. **Ḥaqīqat-e-Mut’ah**: Maktabah Ahl al Bayt wal Ṣaḥābah, Jhang published this book, and it is in the form of question and answer. This book raised a hundred

queries about the Shiites, which, according to publishers, Shi'ites could not answer.³³

8.Mawlānā ‘Abd al Subḥān Ḥazārāwī (1898 - 1958)

He was born in 1898 in Khalabatt Township, Haripur. He received his early education from his father and secondary education from other scholars in his area. Among his teachers are Mawlānā Ḥamīdullah Mānsehrāwī, Mawlānā Quṭabuddīn Ghorghushtawī, Mawlānā Ḥakīm Sayyid Barkāt Aḥmad and Mawlānā Muḥammad Ibrāhīm Balyāwī.³⁴

1. **Anwār al Itqiyā’ fī Ḥayāt al Ambiyā’**: In this book, there is a discussion about the life of the Prophet, peace, and blessings be upon him, in what condition and quality are he in his grave.³⁵

9.Mawlānā Maḥmūd Ḥasan Ḥazārāwī (1882 - 1973)

He was born in 1892 in “Waydal Kamāch”, Chagharza’ī. He received his early education from Mawlānā Sayyid ‘Umar in Jadbā’ Berkalī, Chagharza’ī. His teachers are Mawlānā ‘Ubaydullah Sindhī, Mawlānā Aḥmad ‘Alī Lāhorī, Mawlānā Ḥaydar Ḥasan Afghānī and Mawlānā Ḥakīm Barkāt Aḥmad. In 1919, he traveled to Madrasah Mu’iniyyah Uthmāniyyah Ajmer (India) and obtained his graduation after reading Hadith books from Mawlānā Mu’īnuddin Ajmayrī.³⁶

1. **Mu’in al’ Aqā’id**: Jāmi’ah Ḥusayniyyah, Rāndīr, Gujrat published this book. This book of 64 pages is in three chapters. The first chapter is a translation of Sharḥ al’ Aqā’id al Nasafiyyah, and the second chapter is a summary of books like Sharḥ al’ Aqā’id al Nasafiyyah and Sharḥ Fiqh Al Akbar. The third chapter consists of essays on the need for ‘Aqā’id (theology) and essential interpretations of fundamental beliefs.³⁷

10.Mawlānā Sultān Ghanī ‘Ārif Tāhirī (1950 - 2010)

He was born in 1950 in a remote area of Kātlang, Mardan, called “Kahaw’ī Barmawl”.³⁸ Mawlānā’ Abd al Ḥalīm was his first teacher. In 1964, Mawlānā Shā’istah Gul of Mata Kātlang, known as “Matah Mulla”, taught him different subjects. Then he went to Rawalpindi to learn Tafsīr al Qur’ān from Mawlānā Ghulāmullah Khān, the famous interpreter of his times. Later, in Panchpīr, he learned Tafsīr al Qur’ān from Mawlānā Tāhir Panchpīrī for ten years.³⁹ His famous teachers are Mawlānā Muhammad Idrīs Chakaysarī, Mawlānā Khawnah Gul known as Camballpūr Bābā, Mawlānā Andhar Gul known as Shankara’i Bābā Jī.⁴⁰ The following books are a comprehensive demonstration of his works in theology.

1. **Al Jawāhir al’ Ārafiyyah fī Masā’il al Khilāfiyyah**: This book is in Arabic language and is published from Makatbah Tāhriyyah Kahaw’ī Barmawl, Mardan, and consists of 204 pages. This book discusses various issues, i.e., Ḥayāt al Ambiyā’, denial of ‘Ilm-e-Ghayb, polytheism, seeking help from graves, adhān on the grave, the infallibility of the Prophets, simā’ mawtā, etc.⁴¹

11.Mawlānā Tāj Maḥmūd Jāgalwī (1918-1984)

He was born in Jāgal Maylam, a small village in Haripur. He remained student of

Mawlānā ‘Abd al Raḥmān Hazār wī and Mawlānā Yār Muḥammad of Jhang. He studied the Hadith from Mawlānā Yūnas of Jāmi’ Masjid Faisalabad and obtained a graduation certificate.⁴²

1. **Qādiyānī’ Aqā’id kā T’aruf:** This book is about the beliefs and theories of Mirza Ghulām Aḥmad Qādiyānī and his followers. The author has discussed the views of Mirza Ghulām Aḥmad Qādiyānī and his followers in the light of their books.⁴³

12. Mawlānā Taḥsīnullah

He was born in 1974 in Torghar, Mansehra. His father’s name is Mawlānā Fayzullah. He has not followed the order of contemporary Dars-e-Nizāmī but continued his studies from different scholars and institutes, including Jāmi’ah Ashrafiyyah ‘Eīdgah, Peshawar, Jāmi’ah Rashīdiyyah Faqīrabād, Ḥādīqatul’ Ulūm, Rustam, and the madrasah of Mawlānā ‘Abd al Salām. In 1995, he received the certificate of completion of studies from Madrasah Imdādiyyah Darwaysh Masjid, Peshawar. Mawlānā ‘Ināyatullah Chakysarī, Mawlānā Miṣbāḥullah Hazār wī, Mawlānā Shahābuddin, Mawlānā Sa’ad ul Ḥaq Hazār wī and Mawlānā Qāḍī Muḥammad Amīn are his teachers in ‘Ilm Al Kalām and logic.⁴⁴

1. **Tahsīn al’ Aqā’id Sharḥ Sharḥ al’ Aqā’id al Nasafiyyah:** This book is published from Makbatah al Rashād, Peshawar, and consists of 571 pages. It provides an easy solution to the text of Sharḥ al ‘Aqā’id al Nasafiyyah.⁴⁵

13. Muftī Fidā Muḥammad

He was born in 1972 in Chotā Lahore, Swabi. His father’s name is Hājī Khān Shayr. He received his primary education from Islamia Primary School, Swabi. In 1989, he was admitted to Dārul ‘Ulūm Ḥaqqaniyah, Akora Khattak, and graduated in 1996 with a specialization in Fiqh by writing a dissertation on “Kitāb Al Buyū”. Since 1998, he has been teaching various subjects of Islamic studies at Dārul ‘Ulūm Raḥmāniyyah, Swabi. Mawlānā Mugfūrullah, Mawlānā Samī’ ul Ḥaq, Mawlānā Anwār ul Ḥaq and Muftī Ghulām Qādir are his famous teachers.⁴⁶

1. **Ashraf al Fawā’id Sharḥ Sharḥ al’ Aqā’id al Nasafiyyah:** Madanī Kutubkhānah, Swabi published this book, and it consists of 613 pages. This book is an Urdu translation and smooth solution of the text of Sharḥ al ‘Aqā’id al Nasafiyyah.⁴⁷
2. **Al’Aqeedah al Islāmiyyah Sharḥ al’ Aqīdah al Ṭahāwiyyah:** Maktabah Farūq, Peshawar published this book and consisted of 183 pages. This book is an Urdu translation and smooth solution of the text of Sharḥ al ‘Aqīdah al Ṭahāwiyyah.⁴⁸

14. Mawlānā Muḥammad Sikandaryār

You were born in 1972 in “Yaghī Maskān,” a remote area of Karak. He received his early education in Madrassah ‘Arabiyyah, Jahāngīrah, and completed his undergraduate studies from Mawlānā Tāj Muḥammad in Dārul ‘Ulūm ‘Arabiyyah, Tall. After that, he went to Dārul ‘Ulūm, Karachi, and graduated in 1997.

A lot of well-known scholars are listed in his teachers, among them Mawlānā Tāj Muḥammad, Mawlānā Shaykh' Abd al Manān, Mawlānā Shayr Bahādur, and Mawlānā Aḥmad Sa'īd are notable.⁴⁹

1. **Tanzīm al Fawā'id Sharḥ Sharḥ al 'Aqā'id al Nasafiyyah:** This is published in 720 pages from Maktabah Ḥaqqāniyyah, Karak. The author states that some interpretations of Sharḥ al' Aqā'id have left out important points of the book, and this book explains it in detail.⁵⁰

Summary

The paper discusses the brief biography of fourteen theologians of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and their literary work, twenty-seven books briefly. Among them, one book is about bid'ah; two are about prophets' infallibility, one is about prophets' life in the grave, and two are about tawassul. In five books, there is discussion and argument about different points of view opposed by Ahl al-Sunnah. This paper also demonstrates how Six books focused on the critical analysis of scholars with dissenting beliefs compared to the mainstream Muslim community. Almost all of the discussed scholars belong to any madrassah, that's why they have written commentary on the books of theology taught in Madāris, i.e., Sharḥ al 'Aqīdah al Ṭahāwiyyah and Sharḥ al 'Aqā'id al Nasafiyyah, the number of such books is Six. A new trend adopted by these scholars is a collection of debates with other sects; books consisting of such discussions are three in number.

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- ²⁶ Mawlānā Akbar ur Reḥmān, "Muḥāḍarāt Fī 'Ilm al 'Aqīdah" (n.d.).
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- ²⁸ Jadoon, Tadhkira 'Ulamā'-e-Swabi, p: 186-188.
- ²⁹ Mawlānā Amīr Shāh Qummī, Interview of Mawlānā Amīr Shāh Qummī, November 9, 2020.
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- ³⁴ Qari Fayuzur Rehman, Mashāhīr ‘Ulamā-e-Sarhad, p: 433.
- ³⁵ Muhammad Ikramullah and Junaid Akbar, “Contributions of Scholars of District Haripur in Research and Publications (Part: 1),” Journal of Islamic and Religious Studies 3, no. 1 (June 30, 2018): 51–62, <https://doi.org/10.36476/JIRS.3:1.06.2018.04>.
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- ³⁷ Mawlānā Muḥammad Ḥasan.
- ³⁸ Mukhtār, Chamnistān e Ashā’at al Tawḥīd Wal Sunnah, pp: 205-209.
- ³⁹ Mawlānā Qāsim bin Muḥammad Amīn, Tadhkira ‘Ulamā’-e-Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, pp: 182,183.
- ⁴⁰ Mawlānā Tāhir bin Mawlānā Sultān Ghanī, Interview of Mawlānā Tāhir bin Mawlānā Sultān Ghanī, July 13, 2021.
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