

## HAZRAT BABA FARIDUDDIN GUNJ SHAKAR (R.Z)

### A FAMOUS SUFI SAINT OF CHISHTI ORDER



#### *EARLY LIFE*

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Bābā Farīd (r.z) was born in 1173 or 1188 AD (584 Hijri) at Kothewal village, 10 km from Multan in the Punjab region of the Chauhan dynasty in what is now Pakistan, to Jamāl-ud-dīn Suleimān and Maryam Bibī (Qarsum Bibī), daughter of Sheikh Wajīh-ud-dīn Khojendī. He was a descendant of the Farrūkhzād, known as Jamāl-ud-Dawlah, a Persian (Tajik) king of eastern Khorasan.<sup>[7]</sup>

He was the grandson of Sheikh Shu'aib, who was the grandson of Farrukh Shah Kabuli, the king of Kabul and Ghazna. When Farrukh Shāh Kābulī was killed by the Mongol hordes invading Kabul, Farīd's grandfather, Shaykh Shu'aib, left Afghanistan and settled in the Punjab in 1125.<sup>[8]</sup>

Farīd's genealogy is a source of dispute, as some trace his ancestors back to al-Husayn while others trace his lineage back to the second Caliph Umar ibn al-Khattab. Baba Farid's ancestors came from Kufa, while Abdullah ibn Umar died during the Hajj and was buried in Makkah. The family tree of Baba Fareed traces through Abu Ishaq Ibrahim bin Adham, whose ancestors came from Kufa.

Fariduddin Ganjshakar was born in the city of [Balkh](#). His nickname was Abu Ishaq. Khwajah Fudhail Bin Iyadh had conferred the mantle of Khilaafate to him. Besides being the Khalifah of Hadhrat Fudhail, he was also the Khalifah of Khwajah Imran Ibn Musa, Khwajah Imam Baqir, Khwajah Shaikh Mansur Salmi and Khwajah Uwais Qarni."

Bābā Farīd received his early education at [Multan](#), which had become a centre for education; it was here that he met his [murshid](#) (master), [Quṭbuddīn Bakhtiyār Kākī](#), a noted [Sufi](#) saint, who was passing through Multan, from [Baghdad](#) on his way to [Delhi](#).<sup>[7]</sup> Upon completing his education, Farīd left for [Sistan](#) and [Kandahar](#) and went to [Mecca](#) for the [Hajj](#) pilgrimage at the age of 16.

Once his education was over, he shifted to Delhi, where he learned the doctrine of his master, Quṭbuddīn Bakhtiyār Kākī. He later moved to [Hansi](#), [Haryana](#). When Quṭbuddīn Bakhtiyār Kākī died in 1235, Farīd left Hansi and became his spiritual successor, but he settled in Ajodhan<sup>[11]</sup> (the present [Pakpattan](#), [Pakistan](#)) instead of Delhi. On his way to Ajodhan, while passing through [Faridkot](#), he met the 20-year-old [Nizāmuddīn](#), who went on to become his disciple, and later his successor ([khalīfah](#)).

Bābā Farīd married Hazabara, daughter of Sulṭān Nasīruddīn Maḥmūd. The great Arab traveller [Ibn Baṭūṭah](#) visited him. He says that he was the spiritual guide of the King of India, and that the King had given him the village of Ajodhan. He also says that Shaikh Farīduddīn, as he calls him, was so careful about purity that if his clothes touched those of another person he would wash them. He also met Bābā Farīd's two sons. His shrine ([darbār](#)) is in [Dera Pindi](#), and his epitaph reads, "There is only one Farīd, though many spring forth from the bud of the flower".

Bābā Farīd's descendants, also known as [Fareedi](#), Fareedies and Faridy, mostly carry the name [Fārūqī](#), and can be found in Pakistan, India and the diaspora. His descendants include the Sufi saint [Salim Chishti](#), whose daughter was Emperor [Jehangir](#)'s foster mother. Their descendants settled in [Sheikhupur](#), [Badaun](#) and the remains of a fort they built can still be found.

### *AUSPICIOUS SHRINE*

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The Shrine (mazar/mazār) is vast and spacious, located in the city of [Pakpattan](#), otherwise [Pakpattan Sharīf](#). At first his tomb and shrine were constructed under the supervision of Saint Nizamuddin Auliya/Khawaja Nizamuddin Aulia