

## HAZRAT KHWAJA QUTUBUDDIN BAKHTIYAR KAKI (R.Z)

### A FAMOUS SUFI SAINT OF CHISHTI ORDER



SHRINE OF HAZRAT QUTUBUDDIN BAKHTIYAR KAKI (R.Z)

### **Early life**

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Qutbuddin Bakhtiyar Kaki was born in 569 A.H. (1173 C.E.) in a small town called Aush (alternatively Awash or Ush) in the [Fergana Valley](#) (present [Osh](#) in southern [Kyrgyz Republic](#), part of historic [Transoxania](#)). According to his biography mentioned in, *Ain-i-Akbari*, written in 16th century by [Mughal Emperor Akbar](#)'s vizier, [Abu'l-Fazl ibn Mubarak](#), he was the son of Kamalu'ddin Musa, whom he lost at the young age of a year and a half.<sup>[3][4][5]</sup>

Khwaja Qutbuddin's original name was Bakhtiyar and later on he was given the title Qutbuddin. He was a descendent of the Prophet [Muhammad](#), descending through [Hussain ibn Ali](#). His mother, who herself was an educated lady, arranged for his education by Shaikh Abu Hifs.

When Moinuddin Chishti passed through Aush during his travels, Khwaja Bakhtiyar took the [oath of allegiance](#) at his hands and received

the *khilafat* and *Khirqah* from him. Thus, he was the first spiritual successor of Moinuddin Chishti.

### **Qutub ul Aqtab Hazrat Khwaja Syed Muhammad Qutbuddin Bakhtiar Kaki**

was a renowned Muslim [Sufi](#) mystic, saint and scholar of the [Chishti Order](#) from [Delhi, India](#). He was the disciple and the [spiritual successor](#) of [Moinuddin Chishti](#) as head of the Chishti order. Before him the Chishti order in India was confined to Ajmer and Nagaur. He played a major role in establishing the order securely in Delhi.<sup>[1]</sup> His [dargah](#) in [Mehrauli](#), the oldest dargah in Delhi, is the venue of his annual [Urs](#). The Urs was held in high regard by many rulers of Delhi like [Qutbuddin Aibak](#), [Iltutmish](#) who built a nearby stepwell, *Gandhak ki Baoli* for him, [Sher Shah Suri](#) who built a grand gateway, [Bahadur Shah I](#) who built the Moti Masjid mosque nearby and [Farrukhsiyar](#) who added a marble screen and a mosque.<sup>[2]</sup>

His most famous disciple and spiritual successor was [Fariduddin Ganjshakar](#), who in turn became the spiritual master of Delhi's noted Sufi saint, [Nizamuddin Auliya](#), who himself was the spiritual master of [Amir Khusro](#) and [Nasiruddin Chirag-e-Delhi](#).

The influence of Qutubuddin Bakhtiyar Kaki on Sufism in India was immense. As he continued and developed the traditional ideas of universal brotherhood and charity within the Chisti order, a new dimension of Islam started opening up in India which had hitherto not been present. He forms an important part of the Sufi movement which attracted many people to Islam in India in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries.

### **Move to Delhi**

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In obedience to the desire of his spiritual master, Moinuddin Chishti, Khwaja Bakhtiyar went and started living in the city of Delhi, during the reign of [Iltutmish](#). Attracted by his spiritual prowess and charitable attitude, a large number of people started visiting him daily. He started initiating disciples on the spiritual path as well.<sup>[6]</sup>

He continued and extended the musical tradition of the Chisti order by participating in [sema](#). It is conjectured that this was with the view that, being in consonance with the role of music in some modes of Hindu worship, it could serve as a basis of contact with the local people and would facilitate mutual adjustments between the two communities.<sup>[9]</sup> On the 14th of Rabi-ul-Awwal 633 A.H. (27 November 1235 CE) <sup>[3]</sup> he attended a *sema* where the poet Ahmad-i-Jam sang the following verses:

“ **Those who are slain by the dagger of surrender;  
Receive every moment a new life from the unseen.** ”

Khwaja Bakhtiyar Kaki was so overcome and enraptured by these verses that he fainted away. He died four days later while still in that state of ecstasy.

His [\*dargah\*](#) (shrine) is near [Qutub Minar](#), in [Mehrauli](#), Delhi.

Titles given to Qutbuddin Bakhtiyar Kaki

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- *Qutub-ul-Aqtaab*
- *Malik-ul-Mashaa'ikh*
- *Rais-us-Saalikin*
- *Siraj-ul-Auliya*