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**BABA FARID: ANALYSIS AS A PERSONALITY**

**KEY WORDS:** Allah, Hazrat Mohammad, Sahaba, Islam, Sufi, Fakir, Tasawwuf, Baba Farid, Chishti

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**ABSTRACT**

The stature of a Sufi fakir is considered highly respected in Islam. By the way, we get many ideas about it from the scholars. Sufism or Tasawwuf Sufi/Sufi is a mystic sect of Islam. Its followers are called Sufi saints. Their aim has been the progress of their sect and service to Islam. The one who adopts the way of Hazrat Mohammad and Sahaba and forgets the world and spends his life in the path of Allah, he is a Sufi. There have been many saints and beggars in the world, among them Baba Farid was a saint of a unique nature. Baba Farid was a Muslim Sufi mystic. He is respectfully known as Baba Farid or Sheikh Farid by the Muslims, Sikhs and Hindus of the Punjab region. He was a Sunni Muslim and one of the founders of the Chishti Sufi order. Sheikh Farid was a dedicated God loving soul. Sheikh Farid full name was Farid Masood Shakarganj.

Sheikh Farid<sup>1</sup> was born in 1172 AD in village Khotwal district Multan. His father's name was Sheikh Zaman Suleman and mother's name was Maryam. His mother was pious and knowledgeable in Islamic education. She was pure hearted and honest. Her education<sup>2</sup> had a lot of impact on Farid in his childhood. Sheikh Farid studied Quran Majeed before the age of 12. It is also said to have already memorized orally and matured religious. His father was a famous Sufi. Sheikh Farid's ancestors had relations with Sultan Mahmud Ghaznavi. Farid's father was Ghaznavi's nephew. Suleman first came to Hind, then came to Lahore from there, Sulaiman's fakir realm was established. Got up from Lahore and went towards the jungle country. In the end, he established his position in Pakpattan. Sheikh Farid was born there.<sup>3</sup>

Baba Farid received his early education in Multan, which was the center of Muslim learning. There he met his teacher, Qutbuddin Bakhtiyar Kaki, who was passing through Multan on his way from Baghdad to Delhi. Material life once his education was over, he moved to Delhi, where he learned Islamic principles from his guru, Qutbuddin Bakhtiyar Kaki. Later he moved to Hansi in Haryana. When Qutbuddin Bakhtiyar Kaki died in 1235, Farid left Hansi and became his spiritual successor, and he settled in Ajodhan (present-day Pakpattan, Pakistan) instead of Delhi.<sup>4</sup>

Sufism (Tasawwuf) is a mystic sect of Islam. Sufi is the one who is of great use to people while alive. Sufis did not accept gifts from the rulers and preferred to lead a simple life. Suhrawardy etc. can be seen as an exception to the concept of Panth. Many of their series and methods are seen such as Suhrawardi, Naqshbandi, Chishti, Firdausi, Qadariya, Qalandaria and Shuttariya etc. It is believed that along with the birth of Islam, the emergence and development of Sufism is seen. Personalities such as Rabia, Al Adham, Mansoor Hallaj are called their pioneers - they were ideals of their contemporaries but they had to face the general public's disregard and scorn during their lifetime. Sufis got recognition only from the time of Al-Ghazali (1100 A.D.). Later poets like Attar, Rumi and Hafiz are counted in this category, all of them made poetry a medium of Tasawwuf. Nothing can be said officially about the exact time period of its arrival in India, but in the twelfth-thirteenth century, Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti was involved in the propagation of Sufism. Sufi which in Arabic means "purity" and in this context another similar idea of tasawwuf as considered in Islam is tazkiah meaning: self-purification, which is widely used in Sufism. Both of these explanations were combined by the Sufi al-Rudabari, who said, "A Sufi is one who is pious and wears wool".<sup>5</sup>

When Sheikh Farid grew up, he went to a Mahatma because of his strong interest in devotion. That Mahatma<sup>6</sup> was an ascetic. He said, son, there can be no salvation by fasting, prayer and eating meat. If you want to attain God, give up all wrong ways

of worship and meditate. Sheikh Farid gave up all his traditional worship and started serving his Guruji as a prime disciple and also meditated as instructed by his Guru. When his Guruji used to do satsangs, he used to say that Allah is formless and then used to say that the only way to see God is to meditate deeply.<sup>7</sup>

Baba Farid, as he is commonly known, has his poetry included in the Guru Granth Sahib, the holiest scripture of Sikhism, which contains 123 (or 134) hymns composed by Farid. Guru Arjan Dev Ji, the 5th Guru of Sikhism, himself included these hymns in the Adi Granth, the predecessor of the Guru Granth Sahib. There are 10 Sikh Gurus, but there are also 15 Bhagats in Sikhism. Baba Sheikh Farid is one of them who are revered like 15 Bhagats.<sup>8</sup>

The city of Faridkot is named in honor of Baba Farid, the city of Faridkot was founded during this century as Mokalhar by Raja Mokalsi, grandson of Bhatti chief Rai Munj of Bhatner, Rajasthan. According to a popular legend, the king changed the name of Mokalhar to Faridkot after Baba Farid visited the city. It remained the capital during the reign of Mokalsi's sons Jarsi and Warsi.<sup>9</sup>

**Spiritual Side:**

Baba Farid was known for his ascetic practice of chilla-ye makusa (prayer hanging by the feet during a period of forty days) and awm-e da ud (fasting on alternate days).<sup>10</sup> However, his most famous prayer practice was Sama (listening to music that induces ecstasy), in which Baba Farid was guided by Qub-al-Din Battir. The practice included singing and dancing (raksa) in addition to exercises in meditation and remembrance (Decker, q.v.). Chilla (meaning 'forty' in both Persian and Arabic.) is a Sufi spiritual practice consisting of forty days of solitary austerity. It is mainly seen in Indian and Persian tradition. The shouting ascetic sits inside a circle and meditates for 40 days without food, which is also called Arbeen. Chilla is done in a secluded place which is called 'Chilla-khana'. Chilla is done on a specific occasion or for the achievement of a specific purpose, in which many things have to be defended and many rules have to be followed.<sup>9</sup> He used to tie himself to a tree branch by his feet and then hang himself upside down inside a well, above the water level and stay there for hours and meditate. He used to eat intermittently. Twelve years passed but he could not attain God.<sup>11</sup>

Farida jete avgun mujh mein chashmi aur var  
Gani Khuri is happening every spring.  
Farida Jini Sabar Kamal Ji Kar Kamavan Kaniya  
Hanne Sande Ban Khalak Khali Na Kar.  
Farida Jit Kalansh Likhya Je Main Hovan Pasi  
Make a request and write a pair of heavy rasi.  
Farida Jeetu Mani Birha Upjai Tat Tan Kaisa Masu

Itu tani eh vilot hai handa chaag aru masu.  
Farida Kali Mai Di Kamli Black Maida Vase  
Cuni bharya mu firan loku jaane darves.

Sheikh Farid thought that life is coming to an end, but Allah (God) is not received, what to do now? He said to the crow,

Farida Tanu Suka Pinjru Thia Talian Khundhi Kaag ||  
Ajai su rabu na bahu diyo dekhu bande ke bhag ||90||  
Kaga Karang Dhandholia Sagla Khaia Masu ||  
O two eyes, touch me and hope to see again ||91||

"O crows, if there is any flesh left on my body then eat it but leave my eyes, I may one day see Allah."  
Baba Farid further says that  
Those who kill birds, don't kill them.  
Go home with your loved ones, kiss your feet.  
Even if someone punches you, don't hit him back. Kiss his feet and make your way home.

#### Sermon On Contentment:

After eating dry food, drinking cold water,  
I don't care for someone else's head, don't be thirsty.  
Eat whatever is dry and drink cold water. Don't get jealous seeing other's cheap bread.  
Exhortation to avoid condemnation:  
If you are wise, don't write black,  
I bow down in my arms, bow my head.  
- If you have wisdom, do not do evil to anyone, but look with your head bowed in your belt.  
Lord Virah  
Birha Birha Akhiye, I am Sultan,  
The body that does not grow, so the body lives.  
Farida khaku na nindiai, khaku jedu na koi.  
The living feet are on the bottom, the dead are above.

Farid, when there is greed, what can be love? If there is greed, love becomes false. I walk around dressed in black clothes, laden with the weight of my misdeeds. And people look at me and call me dervish. My promise to my love, there's a long way to go and a muddy street ahead If I walk I spoil my cloak; If I stay, I will break my promise. My bread is made of wood, which is enough to quench my spiritual lineage.<sup>12</sup>

Baba Farid says that never do evil to the soil/dust, because there is no one else like him. As long as you are alive, it is under your feet, but when you die, you get buried under the soil. Means things that are considered trivial should not be condemned because it does not take long to change the time.<sup>13</sup>

#### CONCLUSION

Baba Farid was a great Sufi saint. A saint like Baba Farid is necessary for the existence of humanity. Baba Farid's words create a sense of morality in the human society, even though he is a householder. Simplicity and goodness of humanity along with the virtues of humility and high conduct is the basis of Baba Farid's thinking. For the betterment of humanity, his creations should be propagated as much as possible. In the works of Baba Farid, the practicality of his life is clearly visible even earlier. The desire to meet God, humility, simplicity and sweetness of speech make him dear and respected by all.

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4. Ibid
5. He was very mischievous in his childhood. His mother asked him to offer Namaz (prayer to God). He said why should I offer Namaz, what will I get? His mother said that God (Allah) will give you dates because Sheikh Farid used to eat dates with great gusto. Sheikh Farid said, "Is it true!" The mother replied in 'yes'. Sheikh Farid said, tell me how to do it? The mother spread a sheet and asked him to sit with his eyes closed and said, "Allah please gives me dates". Sheikh Farid sat down as directed and began saying "Allah give me dates, Allah give me dates". Mother said, don't open your eyes until I say, otherwise

Allah will not give you dates. Having said this, the mother wrapped some dates in palm leaves and kept them under the sheet. When she finished her household work, she asked Sheikh Farid to open his eyes and look under the sheet. Sheikh Farid was very happy on getting the dates and whenever his mother told him to pray, he used to do it. One day the mother forgot to keep dates under the sheet and asked Sheikh Farid to open his eyes. When he saw Sheikh Farid eating dates, he asked him where he got the dates from. Then Sheikh Farid replied that Allah gives him dates every day. Sheikh Farid's mother was surprised.

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