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Hazrat Shah Jalal (R)

From the early dawn of Muslim rule or even long before the Muslim conquest, Oli, Pits Fakirs, Darbesh started visiting Bangladesh from Central Asia, and Arabia by sea and by land routes. They came with a view to preaching Islam to this part of the land where the influence of idolatry was the ruling factor. In short, in every city in Bangladesh, there was no town and no village where holy saints did not come and settle down. All saints had their own respective contribution to this land where they raised the standard of Islam; and among them Hazrat Shah Jalal (R) of Sylhet played the most important role.

Shavkh al-Masha'ikh Mah-houm Jalal Mujarrad bin Muhammad was born at Kunya in Turkey sometime in the year 670 A.H. His father was killed in a 'Jihad' a few months before his birth. And he lost his mother too, when he was only three months old. Savvid Ahmed Kabir, his uncle took him away, along with him to Mecca and started rearing him up with all care and affection. From his very early childhood he showed the sign of spiritualism in him, which did not escape the notice

of his uncle. He trained him up accordingly and left no stone unturned to give him Islamic education. When he understood that his nephew had attained the complete perfection in all respects, he told him to go to Hindusthan to preach Islam. He gave him a handful sample of earth telling that he should set tie down to that place wherever he round the earth of the same character. He received the blessing of his uncle and set out for Hindusthan along with twelve companions. After a long and arduous journey through the desert of Arabia under the canopy of scorching sun, over the rugged valley of Samarkand and down the hills of Afghanistan that abounded with wild animals, he arrived at Delhi.

There he met the famous saint Hazrat Nizamuddin Aulia, who presented him a pair of dark blue coloured pigeons. The descendants of the said pigeons could still be seen at Sylhet, popularly known as "Jalali Kabutar". Within a short period of stay in Delhi, he made a good many number of disciples who accompanied him to Sylhet at the request of Burhanuddin, a tormented victim of Raja Gobinda's merciless tortures.

The downfall of the last Raja Gaur Gobinda is said to have been due to his policy of persecution towards the Muslim inhabitants. Burhanuddin had sacrificed a cow to celebrate the birth of his son. A kite swoop-

ed down and caught up a piece of flesh and dropped it down in the house of a Hindu Brahmin. The matter was brought to the notice of the King, who immediately ordered the infant to be killed and to cut off the father's hand. The man appealed for help to other Muslims. An army came under Iskander Shah to fight with the Hindu king but with no success. A second army came under Sved Nasiruddin which was accompanied by the famous saint Hazrat Shah Jalal. Savvids have to see Hazrat Shah Jalal crossed the old Brahmaputra and the Surma river on a 'Jai-Namaz' made of deer's skin and proceeded to face Gaur Gobinda. The Hindu King was defeated by the Muslim army with the help of Hazrat Shah Jalal and his 350 disciples in the year 703 A.H. (1303 A.C.) and thus the rule of tyranny ended and the banner of the religions of peace unfurled on the soil of Sylhet. Hazrat Shah Jalal discovered that the earth of Sylhet resembled to that of his uncle's sample and he settled down as per instruction. The administration of the country was then passed on to Sinkardar Shah, who built up a mosque to commemorate the gratitud to the great saint Hazrat Shah Jalal, as he was really responsible for the victory. He died in the year 740 A.H. and was buried on the top of a 'tila' adjacent to the mosque.

Al-hajj Rafique U.A.