

# *Eight Major Contributions of Sadr al-Shari'ah*

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There are eight from the many contributions of Ṣadr al-Sharī'ah 'Alayhir Rahmah that can be written extensively about. Theses can be written upon the eight great contributions:

1. The encyclopaedia of Ḥanafī Fiqh, Bahār e Sharī'at.
2. al-Fatāwā al-Amjadiyyah, in two large volumes.
3. Annotation of the Commentary on (Ḥāshiyah Sharḥ) Ma'ānī al-Āthār in the Arabic language.
4. The dictation of the translation of the Holy Qur'ān, Kanz al-Īmān.
5. The great legacy of his students.
6. A publisher of Ahlus Sunnah.
7. His noble children being scholars.
8. A library that has works of 20 sciences.

These are such that to find contributions of similar scales is extremely difficult. If these were taken away from the Sunni world, it would be deprived of huge favours, and one of the main foundational pillar stones would be seen to collapse. A brief description of the contributions follows, so that we may learn briefly about the scholarly achievements of al-Faqīh al-A'zam Ṣadr al-Sharī'ah.

## **1) The Encyclopaedia of Ḥanafī Fiqh**

The encyclopaedia of Ḥanafī Fiqh, Bahār e Sharī'at, is the magnum opus of Ṣadr al-Sharī'ah and an extraordinary display of his life that will preserve his remembrance for as long as this world remains. And it will behoove the entire world to thank al-Faqīh al-A'zam. The work consists of

17 volumes<sup>1</sup>, and is the result and summary of all the Fatāwā and Fiqh work from al-Imām al-A‘zam Abū Hafīnah to al-Mujaddid al-A‘zam al-Imām Aḥmad Riḍā.

The ocean of Ḥanafī Fiqh is found in its 17 volumes, acquiring acclaim among the Khawas (elite) and the ‘Awam (common folk). The great ‘Ulama here know of its merits and virtues, and every individual who understands the Urdu language may know, according to their own capacity. It is not only a collection of the Ḥanafī Fiqh but also a magnificent compilation of the Aḥādīth Sharīf which support the Ḥanafī Madhhab. It is necessary for this work to be present in every Dār al-Iftā' in the subcontinent, without which the establishment of a Dār al-Iftā' and its preservation is difficult. Bahār e Sharī‘at is present in every Madrasah one goes into. Bahār e Sharī‘at is mentioned by whichever ‘Alim one listens to.

## 2) al-Fatāwā al-Amjadiyyah

Until al-Faqīh al-A‘zam Ṣadr al-Sharī‘ah passed away, he remained busy with the task of answering questions and writing Fatāwā. Those answers and Fatāwā that were written are now collected in two volumes, across 1700 pages. In shā Allāh, it will be published in the near future and will receive widespread praise.<sup>2</sup>

There is no Fatāwā work after al-Fatāwā al-Ridawiyyah that can compare to al-Fatāwā al-Amjadiyyah. The words in the collection are clean and simple, from which any person may study and gain benefit. In this Fatāwā collection, many great scholars are seen to be the questioners, which shows the excellence and worth of the Fatāwā and its author.

## 3) Ḥāshiyah Sharḥ Ma‘ānī al-Āthār

Of the works of Ḥadīth, one of the great and reputable works is Sharḥ Ma‘ānī al-Āthār which is al-Imām al-Tahawī al-Ḥanafī’s book of extensive research and scholarly work. It is an irrefragable answer to the people who claim the Ḥanafī Madhhab is not according to the Qur’ān and Ḥadīth. He has exerted immense effort in proving every ruling in light of the Aḥādīth Sharīf. Relative to other books of Ḥadīth, it is extremely difficult and intricate. For this reason, al-Faqīh al-A‘zam Ṣadr al-Sharī‘ah has provided annotations in highly eloquent Arabic, and while

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<sup>1</sup> Bahār e Sharī‘at is published in 20 volumes. Ṣadr al-Sharī‘ah penned 17 of those volumes, however due to a few members of his family passing away, Ṣadr al-Sharī‘ah could not complete the remaining three volumes. He writes in his own words, “Within a couple of years, a few recurring devastations left me incapable of completing Bahār e Sharī‘at ...these calamities severely affected my heart and my mind.” Upon the request of Ṣadr al-Sharī‘ah, his students finished the remaining volumes, completing the 20 volume Bahār e Sharī‘at intended by Ṣadr al-Sharī‘ah.

<sup>2</sup> At the time when this article was written, al-Fatāwā al-Amjadiyyah was not yet published.

extracting the Aḥādīth, he has explained the reconciliation between two Hadīths, the abrogator and the abrogated (Nāsikh and Mansūkh), and the references in a clear and attractive way.

#### **4) The Translation: Kanz al-Īmān**

History is a witness to the fact that there have been a number of translations of the Holy Qur'ān — and there had been a few translations before A'ālā Ḥaḍrat — however, there each had its own issues. There was a need for an accurate and correct translation, and this contribution is of Ṣadr al-Sharī'ah that he wrote Kanz al-Īmān from A'ālā Ḥaḍrat. However, it is a great tragedy that very few people know about A'ālā Ḥaḍrat's translation, and other translations are very well known, whereas if one compares them with Kanz al-Īmān, only it comes at the standard a translation should be and it is this translation that one can say that it is not simply a translation but an explanation. It also stands alone in terms of its eloquence and language.

Do you know how Kanz al-Īmān has reached us?

It is explained in the biography of Ṣadr al-Sharī'ah, he states:

I would come to A'ālā Ḥaḍrat when A'ālā Ḥaḍrat would rest in the afternoon (Qaylūlah), and I would recite the verses of the Holy Qur'ān; A'ālā Ḥaḍrat would translate them and I would write the translation down. This continued until the time when the translation became complete with the name, Kanz al-Īmān. A'ālā Ḥaḍrat then said to me that this translation, Kanz al-Īmān, is mine and I have ownership of it because it came through my pen and paper.

One can see that Kanz al-Īmān is an enlightening and ceaseless chapter of Ṣadr al-Sharī'ah's rewarding efforts and scholarly works that will serve as a reminder for as long as the world remains.

#### **5) The Legacy of His Students**

Which personality has exerted great efforts to propagate Razwiyyat to villages, towns and cities? It is indeed the personality we know with the title of Ṣadr al-Sharī'ah. Through his determination and work, flag bearers of Islām were made and spread far and wide, making the entire subcontinent followers and lovers of A'ālā Ḥaḍrat. Ṣadr al-Sharī'ah fulfilled this important role of teaching, such that our eminent scholars today are either his students or the students of his students.

## 6) Matba Ahl-e-Sunnat (Publishing House)

The guidance and management of Matba Ahl-e-Sunnat holds a significant status among the scholarly contributions of Şadr al-Sharī'ah. It had the valuable arrangement of publishing the collections and works of A'lā Ḥaḍrat, under the supervision of Şadr al-Sharī'ah, with many important treatises and books being published in his time. Notably, volume one of al-Fatāwā al-Ridawiyah and Fatāwā al-Imām al-Ghazzi were published. He would pay considerable attention to accuracy in the time he oversaw the organisation. However productively printing and publishing work is done is all the fruit of the rewarding efforts and tireless perseverance of Şadr al-Sharī'ah.

## 7) Noble Children

All of his honourable children are scholars and have great understanding of the Sharī'ah. It is seen as a flaw and shame to send one's children to Masdrasahs and institutions in this time of fitnah yet it is a noteworthy attribute of Şadr al-Sharī'ah that he made arrangements for all of his children to become proficient in the Islamic sciences.

He spent a considerable amount of money to send his son 'Allāmah 'Abd al-Muṣṭafā Şāḥib to Al Azhar University in Egypt to acquire knowledge of Arabic sciences. He did not like to have any of his children deprived of education in the Islamic sciences. There are two sons of his who possess great qualities. One son is Sayyid al-Mufassirīn 'Allāmah 'Abd al-Muṣṭafā al-Azhari, who is serving at the post of Shaykh al-Ḥaḍīth at Dār al-'Ulūm Karachi currently, working well in the service of the public. He is from our eminent scholars and he holds a high station in the fields of sciences. The other son is Mumtāz al-Fuqahā wa al-Muḥaddithīn 'Allāmah Zia ul Muṣṭafā Şāḥib who is a scholarly reminder in the subcontinent of al-Faqīh al-A'zam Şadr al-Sharī'ah and has a lofty place among the scholars. Jalālat al-'Ilm Ustādh al-'Ulamā' Ḥāfiz e Millat 'Alayhir Rahmah said many times regarding him, "Whatever Şadr al-Sharī'ah has taught me, I have taught it all to Zia ul Muṣṭafā." 'Allāmah Şāḥib has complete expertise and great proficiency in the fields of Fiqh and Ḥaḍīth. When Fakhr al-'Ulamā' 'Allāmah Mawlānā Ḥāfiz 'Abd al-Ra'ūf Şāḥib vacated his post at the mother of knowledge, al-Jāmi'ah al-Ashrafiyyah, Ḥāfiz e Millat called him and granted him reputable books to teach. These two scholars are achievements and monuments of the life of Şadr al-Sharī'ah, in the form of Sayyid al-Mufassirīn and Mumtāz al-Fuqahā wa al-Muḥaddithīn.

## 8) His Library

Another significant reminder of Şadr al-Sharī'ah is his library in which there are books in around 20 sciences, and many great scholars have benefitted from it.