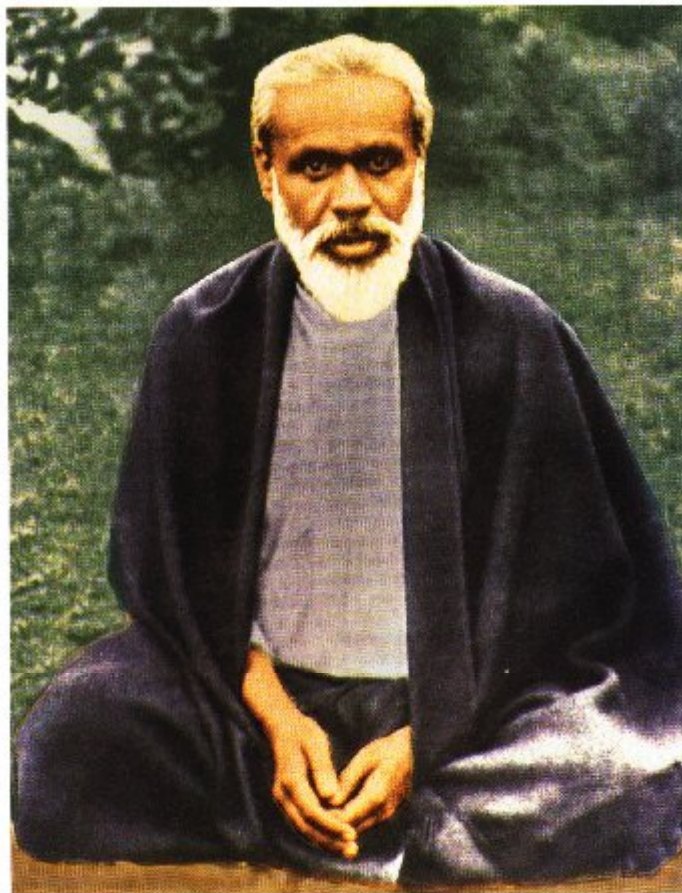


Celebrating a great Soul

Who broke the religious barriers

Naqshbandi Sufi Ram Chandra **Lalaji**

Lars Jensen, Naqshbandi
Stockholm, Sweden



Naqshbandi Sufi Sheikh Ram Chandra (q) (Lala ji) (1873-1931)

137th Birth Anniversary

Lalaji - Naqshbandi Sufi Ram Chandra, 1873-1931

In Hindu scripture Bhagwat Gita the Lord Incarnate as Krishna proclaims

यदा यदा हि धर्मस्य ग्लानिर्भवति भारत ।
अभ्युत्थानमधर्मस्य तदात्मानं सृजाम्यहम् ॥ ४-७ ॥
परित्राणाय साधूनां विनाशाय च दुष्कृताम् ।
धर्मसंस्थापनार्थाय सम्भवामि युगे युगे ॥ ४-८ ॥

Whenever there is decline is religiousness and eternal value, O Bharat, for the establishment of righteousness and resurrection of declining values! For the protection of the sage, the destruction of the lowly narrowness and for the transformation of Human Consciousness I rise from age to age!!!

What will be the form in which Absolute consciousness will manifest, everyone has his own understanding. Christians are waiting and will continue to wait for the arrival of Jesus. In existence nothing can be repeated. When absolute consciousness chooses to assume the human form it can choose any form. Lucky are those who recognize this. Walk a few steps along with such consciousness hand in hand. In the process they are transformed.

I am really fortunate that I lived in an era that saw the advent of this great soul that humanity came to know as Lalaji(q) – A Naqshbandi – Mujaddadi – Mazaharia Sheikh from Indian Sub continent. And Lo! My good fortunes does not end here, the existence has now brought me in association of another Naqshbandi Sheikh from the same lineage Sheikh Taoshobuddha. Thus the sunshine and moonlight of this great soul surrounds us each finite moment.

And I count on my good fortune as grace when a few months ago Taoshobuddha asked me to edit the work '**The Secrets of Spiritual Life**', and now once again Taoshobuddha asked me to present you the moment of celebration of the life of this mystic and master. Ecstasy of my being knows no limits as I never thought that being in such spiritual desert of Sweden Oasis of Spirituality could be created. All this is the grace of this Soul that we know as Lalaji.

In the month of February on Basant Panchami (A Hindu festival declaring the arrival of spring season) the birth anniversary of Lalaji is celebrated. This event is even celebrated at the inner planes, as it is a special happening. And to me that is the real celebration. First we celebrate deep with and then its beauty manifests in the outer realms. Unless we learn to celebrate like this we are still far from truth as Taoshobuddha says. His birth was foretold and his mastership prophesized several decades before its actual happening. Lalaji is unique, as he became the very first Hindu Sufi master who did not convert into Islam. Different religions are only outer labels, as it has nothing to do with your inner self or with your inner contact with God. Spirituality lies far beyond the religious spheres. The labels of the different religions are just labels and nothing more. It says nothing of your inner qualities, whereas your actions, words and thoughts reveal your inner state. Lalaji lived a perfect life and his words were so potent that they affect even the people of today who read it, more than hundred years after.

His birth was predestinated

Even the birth of Lalaji had to obey to the happening of destiny. His mother was a very pious and religious lady spending her time in prayer, singing and recital of the Ramayana (Hindu book about Rama, one of the incarnations of Lord Vishnu). She often used to visit saints and spending her money for helping the poor.

Once a saint came to their city and she went to his CONGREGATION (satsang). The saint explained some certain compositions of Saint Kabir and she was completely absorbed in them that as tears started rolling out of her eyes. Perceiving her state the saint was moved and showered her with blessings. From that day she got more and more dedicated to God and she often started to fall in deep meditation and Samadhi.

After some time a Muslim Fakir came to her door and she gave him some food. He asked for some other food, which she did not have. She did some

arrangement so that the food he asked for could be served. The Fakir was very pleased with her and asked her if there was anything she was missing in her life. She was a woman of heart and wanted to be a mother, so the servant of the house told that she has everything except a son. The saint looked up in the sky and rising two finger to heaven and said, "One...two.... one...two" and departed never to be seen again.

The blessings of the Fakir materialized and after about a year on the **2nd February 1873** Ram Chandra alias Lala ji was born. After two years, on the **7th October 1875** his younger brother, Munshi Raghubar Dayal was born. So the eternal happenings had to flow with the destiny, as foretold by the Fakir.

Mastership is prepared even at childhood

Both his parents love him very dearly and he was like a prince. However his father used to drink and engage in ostentatious and flamboyant activities and the wealth was thus wasted. On Lalaji's fourth birthday his father's friend celebrated and a lot of liquor was served. His mother never liked it but she kept mum. He was not an infant anymore and when his father with love embraced him tightly, with a sudden jerk he came out of his embrace and said, "You are stinking". It hit his father and he hated himself for having taken liquor. It is said that thereafter he sopped drinking. Not only that, he even started hating it. After that he did not even mention the word liquor again. By three words alone this four-year-old boy changed his father's bad habits. It was as a master had told them, because these words completely transformed his father within seconds.

Lalaji wrote in his book, "I never liked to play with children of my age. As long as my mother was alive, she was my friend, companion, and everything. Whatever she did, I too did...because of her company I developed interest in seeking the Truth and getting religious knowledge...When I was seven years old, my mother passed away...My childhood thus ended."

His mother lived a devotional life and he learned from her practical living. She was his first teacher and he copied her good character. His mother played an important role for the preparation of Lalaji's spiritual growth. It seems like even his mother was selected by destiny - for her good character - so he could be developed from the spiritual side right from the start.

The meeting with a 150 years old saint

As Lalaji's mother had got the blessings from a Kabir pathi saint and a Sufi fakir. Likewise her son got the blessings in the same order. Lalaji followed the same destiny and met Swami Brahmananda, a saint of the Kair-path who was told to be over 150 years old. So in the same order as it already happened with his mother he first met a Kabir saint and later he came in contact with a Sufi saint that he adopted as his master. It was Swami Brahmananda that mentioned to Lalaji that there was one greater saint in this area than himself. He was referring to the Sufi Sheikh Shah Fazal Ahmad Khan (q), but did not give his name. This Lalaji found out much later after meeting his Sufi Master. These two saints were very close to each other.

The first Hindu Sufi Master

Lalaji became the very first Hindu disciple of the Sufi master Shah Fazal Ahmad Khan of the Naqshbandi Sufi order. In his diary Lalaji writes about the very first meeting:

“At the very first encounter of my spiritual director, he whispered into my ear, “Your life has been inclined towards the way of truth since long before, for this reason it shall be revealed to you. And you yourself shall relate the truth to others. Relate the truth; relate the secrets of the Divine principle in such a way as to make its transmission and the refuge your sword. Take the help of the shade to create your own display and do not rely on anything but the Pure Essence.”

After giving me such a hint, my director did not leave me on my own, but himself acting like a shadow provided me for a period of sixteen years with his inner and outer attention. He ordered me to keep always apart from the outer tenets of the tariqat (way, path and method), and finally entrusted me with the task of spreading his mission to the people. “

On the **23rd January 1896** Shah Fazal Ahmad Khan took Lalaji completely in his shelter and accepted him as his disciple. And on **11th October 1896**, he conferred upon Lalaji full authority to work as a master after only ten months of intensive training after his initiation.

Authorization and approval

After some time, Shah Fadl Ahmad Khan called a meeting in which many spiritual heads of different religions and sects were invited. Shah Fadl Ahmad Khan then presented Lalaji and told the assembled mahatmas:



Shrine Naqshbandi Sheikh Maulana Fazal Ahmad Khan RA

“In my entire life, I have prepared only one person. Now these are my last days. It appears to me to be the order of great Masters that I should give dear Puttural (he used to address Lalaji by this name) the full authorization and appoint him my successor. All of you, who are assembled here are kindly requested to test him and concur in my decision or to reject it.”

All who were present were asked to meditate and Shah Fazal Ahmad Khan asked Lalaji to give Tavjoh (transmission of divine energy) to them and to answer questions that may be asked.

Lalaji's brother Sufi Raghubar Dayal (the grandfather to the mother of Taoshobuddha) who also was invited at the meeting used to say that this session was an extra-ordinary happening. This experience was never repeated again. He has described his experience in detail during this sitting:

Initially there was a feeling of happiness, then the thoughts started disappearing and the state of thoughtlessness was there. There was total absorption in this state. Only the remembrance of God was there. All the Masters of the order appeared to be present. Gradually a light appeared and that light alone was visible, not even ones own body. There was no land or sky, they were only surrounded a light. The light appeared to be the real Master and one desired to completely merge with it. Eyes were full of tears and the heart totally melted. One did not desire to come out of this state. This state remained for a long time after Shah Fazal Ahmad Khan asked the meditation to stop.

After the sitting some questions was asked to Lalaji and he answered them to all the assembled mahatmas' delight. All mahatmas approved Shah Fazal Ahmad Khan decision to appoint Lalaji to his successor.

The new era that was prophesize

Thus Lalaji carried out the mission upon Shah Fazal Ahmad Khan's commands faithfully until his last breath. He was the first Sufi master who used the language of the Hindus and won polarity among the Hindu community and later his teaching even spread to the western world.

It was a start of a new era that blossomed, but was prophesized long before. It was the wave of Time (Kal – the lord of justice - the director of this creation) that read out loudly from the book of the destiny that was written long before. It was already decided within that this was to happen. A decision was taken from within at the assembly of the saints and now the time was right for it to blossom. When a tree is planted it will definitely bear fruit, if the tree is watered daily. So the outer happening is the fruits of the inner happening.

Sheikh Abul Hassan Naseerabadi the Adi Guru (great grand guru) of Shah Fazal Ahmad Khan had foretold the event of initiating a Hindu disciple half a century before. He told to his successor Shah Amad Ali Khan, "Someone from the Hindus will come to enjoy your company...and since they possess the qualities for this task, do not refuse them this incomparable treasure of our spiritual heritage."

However Shah Ahmad Ali Khan could not fulfil his masters instructions, since no right person among the Hindu community came for this purpose. So when Shah Ahmad Ali Khan authorized Shah Fazal Ahmad Khan as his spiritual successor, he told that he had not much time left in this world and

therefore he entrusted this task to Shah Fazal Ahmad Khan by the words, "These orders of my Guru could not be fulfilled by me...these will not remain empty words, now they will manifest themselves through yourself."

The responsibility of granting Hindus access to the order's spiritual heritage had to wait one generation without having been accomplished by Shah Ahmad Ali Khan to whom it had originally been entrusted. But through the meeting of Shah Fazal Ahmad Khan and Lalaji this prophecy was fulfilled.

The brake of the religious barriers

Due to the religious misconceptions even Lalaji himself initially hesitated about his master being only a Muslim. Lalaji wrote, "I considered that great personality, who was in fact free from any bondage of religion and communal feelings, 'just a Muslim' because of my worst thinking, "Just a Muslim" – how communal...This entire untrue behavior of mine was unraveled by none other than my wife. I was fortunate that it was she who made me realize my folly... Not only did she save me from sinking, but gave me guidance too. Her silent words seemed to sink into my heart, "Saints do not belong to any cast or any race. They are free from all bondage. ...Take me also to that great Saint. I am at your service...A woman's duty is to follow her husband. Without me, your wish will not fructify."

For this insight Lalaji look up on his wife as one of his teacher.

After adopting Shah Fazal Ahmad Khan as his master worldly people complained that Lalaji had not converted to Islam, so once Lalaji asked permission from his master to adopt Islam. Shah Fazal Ahmad Khan told, "You should never think of such an absurd idea. Spirituality does not need following of any particular religion. Spirituality seeks after the truth and self-realization that are the matter of soul, which is the same in every one regardless of outer label of religion one belongs to."

The time was ready for this happening. The seed was planted long before at another level and now the tree had grown ready to bear forth fruit. As the destiny had preordered the happening followed accordingly.

Your inner state is the indicator of truth

Your inner state is the real indicator of your spiritual state and, not the

outer labels of religion. Spirituality is beyond all these outer labels and rituals. As I already told you in the beginning the labels of the different religions are just labels and nothing more. It says nothing of your inner qualities, whereas your actions, words and thoughts reveal your inner state. Lalaji lived a perfect life and his words were so potent that they affect even the people of today who read it, more than hundred years after.

Lalaji told: 'God has hidden himself inside your hearts and exposed you. Hide yourselves and expose God! This is the real spiritual practice.' These words are so simple but so pregnant with meaning. They melted my heart and send me to another dimension the first time I heard them, hundred years after Lalaji uttered these.

Lalaji's birth was foretold and his mastership was predestinated. All the eternal happenings had to flow with the destiny, as foretold. It is an internal happening materialized to the outer. It was already decided within that these barriers of the religion had to fall. The words of Lalaji reveal his inner state but the outer label says nothing about his inner state. The prophecy was an internal happening materialized to the outer. And with the materialization to the outer world the religious barriers was broken and a new era into spirituality ushered.

May all of us join together in this eternal celebration?



Lalaji Naqshbandi Sheikh Ram Chandra (q)



LARS JENSEN is born in Sweden. Professionally he works with project management in Stockholm, the capital of Sweden. He has Master of Science in Engineering, from the Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm. At level of heart he is a spiritual seeker after God. His interest in Lalaji brought in contact with Taoshobuddha.

A production of Taoshobuddha Meditations