Gohar Shahi

When Hazrat Gohar Shai was at about the age of thirty-four, at one night Hazrat Bari Imam (tomb is in Islamabad) appeared before him and said: "My son your time has come, you must go to the shrine of Sultan Bahu to receive the Spiritual Knowledge." Hazrat Gohar Shahi then left everything and went to [the] shrine of Hazrat Sultan Bahoo. Sultan Bahoo appeared before him and advised [him] to read and act upon his book *Nurul Huda* (*Light of Guidance*) and go to Sehwan Sharif, Dist. Dadu, Pakistan. Hazrat Gohar Shahi read the book *Nurul Huda* and went to Sehwan Sharif for self-purification and peace of heart. He visited the tomb of Hazrat Laal Shahbaz Qalander who appeared before him and advised [him] to go to "Laal Bagh" and worship God. He spent a period of three hard years in isolation in the mountains of Sehwan Sharif and the forest named "Laal Bagh" for the purpose.

After achieving the objectives in Lal Bagh, Hazrat Gohar Shahi came back to Kotri Sharif , District Jamshoro, and invited people to learn spirituality to recognize and approach Allah (The God). He explained many difficult concepts in Sufism and made everything easy for [the] common man. Hazrat Gohar Shahi emphasized upon [the] divine and said it [is] the most important for approaching to God. He bestowed spiritual benevolence without any discrimination of caste, creed, nation or religion. He told [us] that everybody is accepted for [the] Love of God as every human has a built-in ability to develop spiritual power to approach to the essence of God.

http://asiinternationals.com/Eng/Eng_main.htm

or

http://asiinternationals.com/Eng_main.htm

At about the age of thirty-four *sarkar Bari Imam* appeared before Shah Sahib and said: " My son your time has come, you must go to the shrine of *Sakhi Sultan Bahoo* Sahib to receive the sacred inner Dimensions of Spiritual Knowledge". Shah Sahib then left his work, family and parents and went to Shorkot, where under the blessful [blessed or blissful?] supervision *of Sakhi Sultan Bahoo sahib*, [he] made the book " *Noor-Al-Huda*" (a book written by Sultan Bahoo Sahib), his journey's companion. He then went to *Sehwan Sharif* for self-mortification and peace of heart and spent a period of three years in the mountains of *Sehwan Sharif* and the forest of *Laal Baagh* in self-Purification. Thereafter pursuant to a revelation, Shah Sahib went to *Jaam Shorow* where he spent six months in a hut behind the Textbook Board Building, henceforth, with Almighty Allah's will, His Holiness Shah Sahib started to shower Almighty Allah's creation with his benevolence.

http://www.asiinternationals.com/Eng/Minarah_Noor/MN00EP.htm

Riaz Ahmed Gohar Shahi رياض احمد گو ار شا ای ریاض احمد گو ار شا ای Total Shahi Jane Sh

Riaz Ahmed Gohar Shahi

Riaz Ahmed Gohar Shahi (Urdu: ریاض احمد گو ار شا ای) born 25 November 1941) is a spiritual leader and founder of the spiritual movements *RAGS International* (now known as Messiah Foundation International) and *Anjuman Serfaroshan-e-Islam*.

He is the author of a number of Urdu books on topics relating to spirituality, the most successful among these being *Deen-e-Ilahi* "The Religion of God" (2000), which has recently been republished by Balboa Press, a division of Hay House and translated into English and other languages by Messiah Foundation International.^{[1][]}

RAGS International was renamed to *Messiah Foundation International* in 2000.^[] MFI claims that Shahi is the Mehdi, Messiah, and Kalki Avatar.^[]]]]

Biography

Early life

Shahi was born on 25 November 1941 in the village of Dhok Gohar Shah in the district of Rawalpindi of British India. He is a fifth generation descendant of the Sufi Baba Gohar Ali Shah.

At the age of twenty, when he was the owner of F.Q. Steel Industries, Shahi began to search for spirituality. Eventually he became disillusioned in this search and returned to work. Shahi then married and had three children.^[2]

In 1975, he went to Schwan Sharif for self-mortification; he spent a period of three years in the mountains of Schwan Sharif and the forest of Laal Bagh in self-purification, "for the sake of God's love".^[3]

Career as spiritual leader

Messiah Foundation International						
Official Logo						
Formation	1980					
Туре	Non-profit organisation					
Headquarters	London, United Kingdom					
Official languages	Urdu & English					
СЕО	Younus AlGohar					
Website	http://www.goharshahi.us/					

Shahi became popular as a Sufi preacher in Pakistan during the late 1970s. He formed *RAGS International* and *Anjuman Serfaroshan-e-Islam* in 1980.^[] Of the two organisations, RAGS International is still active as Messiah Foundation International whereas Anjuman Serfaroshan-e-Islam was reported to have been dissolved and banned in Pakistan in 2011.^{[][]]}

The CEO of Messiah Foundation International is Younus AlGohar. Shahi claimed to have met with Jesus Christ in 1997.^[4]



Shahi at an event at Imam Bargah-e-Noor-e-Iman Mosque, in Karachi, Pakistan. He is seen here speaking to two religious clerics from different sects within Islam: Shia Islam and Sunni Islam.

Legal persecution and exile

He and many of his followers^[] have been convicted under Islamic blasphemy laws ^[] by an antiterrorist court in Sindh.^[] After he fled to England, Shahi was convicted *in absentia*,^{[][]} receiving sentences that totaled approximately 59 years.^[]

Disappearance

Shahi was reported to have disappeared in 2001, in London; afterwards, sightings of him were reported around the world of people $\prod_{i=1}^{n}$

claiming to have met and received spiritual guidance from him.[]

In February 2002, prior to any decision on appeals filed with the High Court of Sindh, Ardeshir Cowasjee claimed in an article he wrote for Dawn, the Pakistani newspaper, that unnamed people who identified themselves to him as office-bearers of the All-Faith Spiritual Movement told him that Gohar Shahi died abroad, but this report was unconfirmed.^[]

Some sources report that he died in 2001, and others say he died 2003. According to the *Pakistani Press Foundation* Shahi died in 2001.^[] An article from 2006 in the *Sunday Telegraph* reports that Shahi died in 2003,^[] and a 2009 article in *Your Local Guardian* also says he was reported to have died in 2003.^[] However, none of these reports are confirmed, as there is no physical proof of his body.

On the other hand, the Indian news agency PTI reported in 2008 that Shahi was based in the United Kingdom after being convicted of blasphemy by the High Court of Sindh.^[] This view is supported by the *Indian Express* which reported in 2008 that Shahi had fled to the United Kingdom and was presently based there.^[] Zee News also supported this claim.^[] The Hindustan Times has reported that he is "serving a life term".^[5] The Sunday Leader in Sri Lanka stated that Shahi disappeared in 2001 and sightings of him were thereafter reported around the world.^[]

Of the two factions of Shahi's followers, the *Anjuman Serfaroshan-e-Islam* had asserted that Shahi died, and built a tomb for him at the Markazi Aastana in Kotri, where devotees performed pilgrimage.^[] The MFI, in contrast, declares

that he merely disappeared.^[]

Shahi's family, including his wife, five sons and a daughter, still resides in Kotri.

Teachings and followers

The teachings of Gohar Shahi have been a source of controversy. Some orthodox theological scholars condemn his teachings as blasphemy,^[] while others, such as Hisham Kabbani, have sat at his feet as well as praised him.^[]

Classical singers such as Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan and Ghulam Farid Sabri have been presented the message of Shahi, which they have praised. Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan was quoted as saying "The message of Hazrat Riaz Gohar Shahi is the greatest message I have ever heard". In *Qawwali* events in Japan and Germany, Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan personally distributed leaflets in favour of Shahi.^[] Aziz Mian has also presented a *Qawwali* in praise of Shahi at a *Jashan-e-Shahi* event



Pakistani adherents of Shahi burning their passports during a protest in India (April 2007).

(which celebrates the day Shahi supposedly took the rank of Mehdi by Allah^[6]) event.^[1] In honor of Shahi's birthday celebrations of 1998, Rahat Fateh Ali Khan performed Qawwalis.^[1]

Claims and criticism

Claims made by Shahi and his followers have been strongly opposed by orthodox Islamic theologians in Pakistan and abroad.^[] Shahi has been accused of claiming the status of prophet but denied such accusations.^[]] His teachings have been condemned by Muslim religious leaders and the Pakistani government.^[]

Shahi also predicts that the world would end in the year 2026 due to a comet heading towards earth. He claims the comet will be the cause of "total destruction" though mentions that "in order to intimidate [mankind]...God plans destruction on a small scale".^[7]

Many attempts were made on the lives of Shahi and Younus AlGohar including a petrol bomb thrown into AlGohar's residence in Manchester (where Shahi stayed when he toured the United Kingdom.^{[8][]} A man attempted to attack him with a hand grenade during a discourse at his home in Kotri, Pakistan.^[] A bounty was put on his head in Pakistan.^[]

Shahi's books have been banned by the government of Pakistan,^[] and his followers are not allowed to meet in public.^[]

Gohar Shahi claimed to have met with Jesus in America.^[4] Shahi's supporters claim that his face became prominent on the moon, sun, nebula star and the Black Stone in Mecca,^[1] and that these appearances are signs from God that Gohar Shahi is the awaited Imam Mehdi, Messiah, and Kalki Avatar.

The alleged images induced greater legal and religious opposition.^[] Shahi has also supported this claim, saying that God had revealed the images of Shahi on the Moon and various locations, for which Shahi himself was not responsible, and if questions should be raised, they should be raised to God.^[] Messiah Foundation International asserts the alleged images to be signs from God, pointing to Shahi being the awaited Mehdi; they quote religious texts^[] as well as sayings from the likes of Nostradamus,^[] and Ja'far al-Sadiq to support it.

Journalists in Pakistan asked Shahi,

"Many believe that you are the Mehdi, and God has revealed signs unto them which say that you are the Mehdi, but you do not officially announce that you are the Mehdi. Why?" Shahi gestured towards himself and answered, "Does Imam Mehdi not know the law of Pakistan? He knows that the law of Pakistan declares that 'whosoever claims to be the Mehdi, put him in jail'. I have given the signs of his

[Mehdi's] characteristics, which the Mehdi knows and none other. Now, it is up to people to recognise him and believe him".^[]

On 18 November 1997, after appearing in court before Justice Rasheed A. Razvi of Sindh High Court Hyderabad Circuit, Shahi said, "The only justification to be Hazrat Imam Mehdi is the mark on [one's] back which can prove his existence".^[]

Of the groups following Shahi, Messiah Foundation International claims that Shahi is the awaited Mehdi, Messiah, and Kalki Avatar while *Anjuman Serfaroshan-e-Islam* did not. According to MFI's website, Shahi is the Awaited Messiah, but they deny the notion that Shahi is another form of Jesus and claim that Jesus has also returned to support the Mehdi.^[9]

Bibliography

Gohar Shahi authored a number of books, including one based on Sufi poetry known as *Taryāq-e-Qalb* which translates to the "Cure of Hearts". One of his most prominent books is *Deen-e-Ilahi (The Religion of God)*, which is banned in Pakistan.^[]]

Title	Urdu	Translation	Date	Content	
Taryāq-e-Qalb	ترياقِ قلب	The Cure of Hearts	1976	Sufi poetry	
Menāra-e-Noor	مينار 🛛 نور	The Minaret of Light	1980	mysticism, spiritualism	
Roshnās	روشناس	The Induction	1982	mysticism, spiritualism	
Rouhani Safar	روحانی سفر	Spiritual Journey	1986	autobiography	
Tohfa-tul Majālis	تحفةُ المجالس	The Gift of Congregations	1988	mysticism, spiritualism	
Deen-e-Ilāhi	دينِ الٰٰٰٰٰٰ الٰ	The Religion of God ^[10]	2000	mysticism, spiritualism	

Works by Gohar Shahi include:

On 17 May 2012, Messiah Foundation International republished *The Religion of God* with Balboa Press.^[] As of June 1, 2012, it was #5 on the publisher's Best Seller's List.^[11]

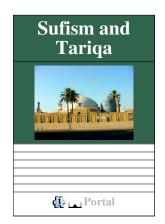
Messiah Foundation International considers Shahi to be the author of the "Goharian Philosophy of Divine Love", a set of principles upon which the organisation is founded.^[] Shahi has also authored a monthly magazine, *Hatif-e-Mehdi*, which is banned in Pakistan for allegedly containing material offensive to the religious feelings of Muslims there.^[]

References

[10] Page directing to e-book, version for iBooks, softcover and hardcover version of the book.

External links

• Shahi's representative site since 2000: Messiah Foundation International (http://www.goharshahi.com)



Article Sources and Contributors

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Younus AlGohar

(يونس الگوڭر) Younus AlGohar						
Younus AlGohar in London, 2006						
Born	16 June 1970					
	Karachi, Pakistan					
Other names	Sayyedi (Honourable), AlGohar, Mohammad Younus					
Alma mater	Manchester University, Cambridge University					
Organization	Messiah Foundation International, مالدى فاوناليشن انالرنيشنام, Interfaith Institute of Divine Love, Kalki Avatar Foundation					
Awards	'Man of Valour', 'Universal Peace Ambassador'					

Younus AlGohar (يونس الكوالر, born Mohammad Younus; 16 June 1970) is a co-founder of Messiah Foundation International (also known as Kalki Avatar Foundation and Mehdi Foundation International), a spiritual organisation claiming that Riaz Ahmed Gohar Shahi is the Messiah (Mahdi) and which also advocates Shahi's mystical teachings.^[1] He is known for authoring the books *Mysterious Horizons – Beyond God* (2007), and *Nisāb-e-Mehdi* (2010).

AlGohar was featured in an article by the Lakbima newspaper and was interviewed by the Sri Lankan newspaper, The Island. He was featured by Your Local Guardian in 2009. He was also interviewed by various Sri Lankan media in 2011 and 2012, including the The Sunday Leader and the *Island* He was covered by Tamil language newspapers and television stations. In addition, he was invited by the Brahma Kumaris to speak on 'The Call of Time' in Sri Lanka and by Good Morning Sri Lanka to discuss spirituality. AlGohar was also invited by TNL TV in Sri Lanka to explain the message of Kalki Avatar Foundation.

Biography

Born in Karachi, Pakistan, AlGohar grew up practicing Islamic Sufism. He met Gohar Shahi at the age of 15 and spent 24 years as a close disciple, until Shahi's disappearance in 2002. AlGohar was named an "Ambassador for Peace" by the Universal Peace Federation in 2005. He studied at Karachi University, Manchester University and Cambridge University.

Messiah Foundation International

RAGS International although founded by Riaz Ahmed Gohar Shahi in 1980, was renamed in 2000 as *Messiah Foundation International*. The first centre for MFI was established in London, which is also the headquarters of MFI. The organisation has grown to include centres in Canada, USA, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Japan, Australia, India, Greece, Thailand, Bangladesh, Taiwan and Pakistan and Nepal.



Riaz Ahmed Gohar Shahi and Younus AlGohar during a program in the UK

Beliefs and views



Younus AlGohar at an event held in USA, 1999

AlGohar considers himself a "devout servant" of Shahi who practices "The Religion of God", which AlGohar says Shahi has introduced to humanity. According to AlGohar, he believes in all the Prophets, the Messengers and the saints regardless of their religion. He asserts that he does not reject or hate any religion but believes that the spiritual system in all religions, which helped humanity find God, has diminished due to modifications in the religions. According to him, his goals include preaching spirituality irrespective of religious or cultural boundaries, revolutionising humanity by reviving spiritual insight, establishing inner and outer peace, eliminating hatred from society, enlightening hearts with divine energy, and heralding the second coming of Jesus Christ and Riaz Ahmed Gohar Shahi. He has openly challenged Islamic Scholars to have "a healthy debate on this topic should it arise a theological reservation among the minds of petty scholars." In particular, AlGohar has challenged Tahir-ul-Qadri to debates on spirituality, saints, Imam Mehdi and Islam. AlGohar

also controversially declares that the world is in the end times.

Persecution

The Pakistani government has instigated cases of blasphemy against AlGohar, though the details on how he blasphemed have not been specified. The penalty for blasphemy under the laws of Pakistan is death. According to AlGohar, if he were to return to Pakistan he would face a life sentence for blasphemy.

In 2011, AlGohar was prosecuted for allegedly having claimed housing benefits and income support for properties in Reigate and Banstead Borough Council and in Bromley Borough Council, to which he was not entitled, on the BBC programme *Saints and Scroungers* (first aired: 31 October 2013).

Bibliography

Name of Book	In Urdu	Translation	Year of Publication	Content
Rukhsār-e-Riaz	رخسار رياض	The Face of Riaz	2002	Poetry
Malfoozāt-e-Mehdi	ملفوظات مالدى	Sayings Pertaining to the Mehdi	2002	Educational Book
Dastoor-e-Riaz	دستور رياض	The Riazian Constitution	2002	Educational Book
Mysterious Horizons – Beyond God	-	_	2007	Educational Book
Nisāb-e-Mehdi	نصاب مالدی	The Chapter of the Mehdi	2010	Educational Book
Imam um Mubeen	امام مّبين	The Elusid Imam	2012	Educational Book

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[1] UN Human Rights Council, 28 February 2008, p. 27

External links

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- Official Website (http://younusalgohar.com/)

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