

Shah Wali Ullah

Early Life and Education

Shah Wali Ullah was born in **1703 in Delhi** when the Mughal Empire was losing strength. His father, Shah Abdur Rahim, was a great religious scholar. From childhood, he was very intelligent and loved learning about Islam. He studied the Quran, Hadith, law, and philosophy. Later, he went to **Arabia (Hijaz)** to learn more about Islam, where he studied Hadith from famous teachers in Medina. He returned to India as a respected scholar with permission to teach.

Career as a Scholar and Teacher

After coming back from Arabia, Shah Wali Ullah started teaching at his father's madrasa in Delhi. He taught Quran, Hadith, and Islamic law. Many of his students later became famous leaders. He believed Muslims should be **united** instead of fighting over small differences. He encouraged people to use their mind (ijtihad) to solve new problems instead of just copying old answers. He also taught that Muslims should live a **simple life** and stay close to the Quran.

His Books and Writings

Shah Wali Ullah wrote almost **fifty books**. His most important book is *Hujjatullah al-Baligha* which explains why Islamic laws are wise and useful for society. He translated the Quran into Persian so common people could understand it better. He criticized wrong practices that had entered religion and said Muslims were declining because of injustice, greed, and ignorance. He also wrote about the economy, justice, and the need for fair rulers.

Revival of Islam

At that time, the Mughal Empire was very weak and enemies like the Marathas were rising. Shah Wali Ullah tried to **guide the rulers** to act fairly and follow Islamic teachings. He asked religious leaders to bring Muslims together and reduce fights between Sunnis and Shias. He told people to reform their morals, improve education, and follow true Islam. He said Muslims should not blindly copy the past but think about modern problems. His efforts inspired later reformers like Syed Ahmad Shaheed.

Legacy and Contribution

Shah Wali Ullah is remembered as a **reviver (mujaddid)** of Islam in India. He kept Islamic learning alive during a very difficult time. His madrasa trained leaders who later worked for the independence of Muslims. He linked the Quran and Hadith to daily life and taught about justice, equality, and honesty. His work gave strength to future Islamic and freedom movements. Muslims still respect him as one of the most important thinkers and reformers of the 18th century.