

## Short biography of Mawlana Abdullah Kapodri RA

Mawlana Abdullah bin Isma'il Patel was born on 28 December 1933, 11 Ramadan 1352 in a Town called Heho in the central part of Burma (Myanmar) where his father moved to from India as a trader. The family returned to India in 1935 and settled in (Kapodra) village which is the maternal hometown of Maulana. His paternal hometown was (Jitali) but because his father had purchased a house in (Kapodra) whilst still in Burma the family took up residence here. Education.

Mawlana began his elementary education in the local madrasah in Kapodra. He enrolled at Jami'ah Islamiyyah Talim al-Din Dabhel in 1944 to further his education. Here he studied Persian and the first two years of the Arabic course, thereafter he proceeded to Darul uloom Deoband to continue his studies. He completed the third year here. Half way through his fourth year he took very ill and was forced to return home for treatment. He returned to Dabhel the following year and remained there till he completed his studies and finally graduated in 1953. He then went back to Darul Uloom Deoband where he spent two years benefitting from the great teachers there. He studied under the following teachers in Dabhel.

(1) Maulana Abd al-Jabbar A'zami

(2) Maulana Abd al-Ra'uf Peshawari

(3) Maulana Fadl al-Rahman Deobandi in Deoband:

(1) Maulana Sayyid Fakhr al-Din Ahmad by whom he studied Bukhari Sharif

(2) Mufti Mahdi Hasan

(3) Allamah Ibrahim Balyawi

All three 'Ulama granted him Ijazah in Hadith. He also received Ijazah of Hadith from Shaykh Abd al-Fattah Abu Ghuddah and for the Musalsalat from Shaykh al-Islam Qari Muhammad Tayyab Shaykh al-Hadith Mawlana Muhammad Zakariyya and Mufti Mahmud Hasan Gangohi. [May Allah Ta'ala have mercy upon them all]. Teaching Career:

Mawlana taught for seven years at Jami'ah Islamiyyah Dabhel from 1959 onwards. His main field of teaching was Arabic Literature. In 1966 he was offered a teaching post at Darul uloom Falahe Darien Tadkeshwar. Very soon after his arrival at Tadkeshwar the principal's post became vacant. The Shura at that time appointed Maulana as caretaker principal for a period of one month. In the

next sitting of the Shura the appointment was made permanent. Maulana remained principal of Darul Uloom Falahe Darien for 26 years from 1966 to 1992. He continued teaching side by side with his administrative responsibilities. He became renowned in Gujarat and beyond for his excellence in administration, his style based on wisdom and leniency, rather than harshness and fear. He was a disciplinarian par excellence. It was remarkable how he was familiar with every student by name, where he hailed from and which class he belonged to. The teachers in the institution, to this day hold him in very high esteem. It was during his tenure as principal that Darul Uloom Falahe Darien scaled new heights and began drawing students from around the world. Some Literary Works.

Maulana has penned a number of books; the following are just some of them: Adhwa' 'Ala al-Harkat al-'Ilmiyyah fi Gujarat [Arabic]. [Shedding light on the Educational Renaissance in Gujarat]. 'Allamah Badr al-Din Ayni and his position in the Science of Hadith. [Arabic to Urdu] Haji Imdadullah Muhajir Makki and his Khulafa. [Arabic to Urdu] 'Unwanu al-Hikam of 'Allamah Busti. [Translation and explanation] Diwan of Imam Shafi'i. [Translation to Urdu] Sada'e Dil. [This is a compilation of lectures of Mawlana transcribed and printed into 3 volumes thus far].

Afkar'e Pareshan – Scattered Thoughts.

[This is a compilation of 25 articles written by Mawlana for various journals and magazines in one volume]. Love for Knowledge:

Maulana has an excellent command of the Arabic language. To say that Maulana is a “walking library” is no exaggeration. He has visited libraries throughout the world and will mention which book he had seen or read in which library. Many a time he mentions names of books to experts in certain fields which they had never heard of. Travels.

Maulana has travelled extensively for the purpose of Da'wah, attending conferences and seminars locally and internationally. Some of the countries he has visited include Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Iraq, Syria, Jordan, Morocco, Turkey, Spain, France, United Kingdom, Portugal, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi, Mauritius, Reunion, Panama, Barbados, Pakistan and the USA. Other Services.

Owing to his vast experience in education and administration of educational institutions, Mawlana is constantly called upon for advice. He serves on the governing or advisory bodies of a number of Darul Ulooms in Gujarat, including Jami'ah Islamiyyah Dabhel, Jama'ah Haqqaniyyah Kathor,

Jami'ah Qasimiyyah Kharod, Jami'ah Sa'adat-i Darayn Sitpon and Jami'ah Isha'atul Uloom Akkalkuwa. He is also a member of the Jami'at al-'Ulama India, The Muslim Personal Law Board of India, Majlis Khuddam al-Din Simlak, All India Fiqh Academy, Nadwat al-Adab al-Islami al-Alamiy and Kapodra Welfare Trust, where he was instrumental in the establishment of a Muslim School. In 1994 Maulana moved to Toronto, Canada. Here he played a prominent role in the establishment of the Jami'at al-'Ulama Canada. He also lectures briefly at Darul Uloom Ajax and conducted lecture programmes at various Masajid in Toronto. Love for the Akabir.

Maulana has maintained a close connection with all the Mashaykh and senior 'Ulama all his life. Some of whom he had a close bond with include Maulana Abu 'I-Hasan 'Ali Nadwi, Maulana Muhammad Masihullah Khan, Qari Siddiq Ahmad Bandwi, Qari Muhammad Tayyab, Mufti Mahmud Hasan Gangohi and Maulana Haji Muhammad Faruq [May Allah Ta'ala have mercy upon them all]. He was also fortunate to have met and derived benefit from Shaykh al-Islam Maulana Husayn Ahmad Madani. He never missed visiting the elders at Nizam al-Din. During his tenure as principal of Falahe Darien he used to go the extra mile to invite prominent 'Ulama from the Indo-Pak subcontinent as well as from the Arab world. Presently Maulana is based in his hometown, Kapodra, where he continues to benefit the people of Gujarat, although he does spend a few months annually in Canada where a son and a daughter reside. His beloved wife who was a pillar of strength sadly passed away in 2006. Maulana has been blessed with twelve children; seven sons and five daughters.