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**SHEIKH ABD AL - QADIR GILANI (ŞUM‘HSARAEI), A SPIRITUAL LEADER
AND SAVIOR OF PATIENTS**

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Abstract

‘Abd al- Qādir Gīlānī (Jīlānī), a person who had firm faith to Allah (God) and did not complain of other’s behaviors, was born in a place called Nīf which is situated in the city of Şūm‘hsarā in Gīlān, Iran. According to Yāqūt Ḥamavī, he was from Bushtīr (Pushtīr). Most of the historians agree that Nīf and Pushtir were the same place. (The author of this article is also from Şūm‘hsarā, a fellow- citizen of Sheīkh ‘Abd al- Qādir Gīlānī.) At the age of 18, he left Şūm‘hsarā to Baghdad on AH 488 (AD 1095) where ‘Abd al- Qādir pursued the study of Hanbalite Law under several teachers including Sheīkh abū’l-Kheīr Ḥammād as his spiritual instructor. Subsequently the Sheīkh went to the pilgrimage to Mecca (the most sacred city of Islam) that is one of the five obligations of every Muslim. He married and produced numerous offsprings in the course of a long lifetime. Sometime around 1100, he received the cloak (kherqa) from the Hanbalite Qādī, Abu Sa‘d Mubārak Mukharramī. In AH 527 (AD 1127), ‘Abd al- Qādir reappeared in Baghdad as a popular teacher. His fame as an orator rapidly grew and many people enrolled as his pupils. According to the authentic sources 400 scribes recorded his lectures. Not only Muslims but also Jews and Christians, and caliphs, viziers, traders and farmer allegedly altered their behaviors and lives. ‘Abd al- Qādir’s order claims numerous adherents from west Africa to Indo- Pakistan subcontinent. They may be counted in tens of thousands throughout the world especially in Senegal and from Indonesia (Java and Sumatra) to Indian Continent. His name throughout Ind- Pakistan subcontinent and other countries is especially invoked when plague, cholera or other epidemic diseases are raging. The extravagant miracle- mongering portrait of ‘Abd al- Qādir in Bahjat al- asrār is not limited to that book nor to the person ‘Abd al- Qādir. Other saints also were said to have performed miracles. ‘Abd al- Qādir’s name is so revered and powerful that it presumed to confer unique benefits on all who bear it. Countless Muslim boys have been named ‘Abd al- Qādir in expectation that their lives would reflect his transforming spiritual power. He died in AH 561 (AD 1166) and was buried in Bāb al- Sheīkh in Baghdad, Iraq.

Key Words: ‘Abd al- Qādir Gīlānī, Pushtīr, Şūm‘hsarā, miraculous cure.
