

BIOGRAPHY OF HAKIM SYED ZILLUR RAHMAN

Ex-Professor & Chairman, Deptt. of Ilmul Advia and Dean Faculty of Unani Medicine
Ajmal Khan Tibbia College, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh
&

Founder President, Ibn Sina Academy of Medieval Medicine & Sciences, Aligarh.

Professor Hakeem Syed Zillur Rahman has made extensive and highly significant contributions in the field of Unani Medicine, which is an ancient and still practicing system of Medicine. His entire work concerns this exceedingly important branch of indigenous medicine. In India, Unani Medicine was prevalent since ages, but, due to the Scientific Revolution and biased feelings, Europeans and other countries gradually deserted this age-old medicine. Somehow, it is being tried to bring back its past glory. Hakeem S. Zillur Rahman is among the few devoted physicians in this country who actually introduced this system of medicine in other parts of the world where Unani Medicine had died. Besides his work in India, he has traveled widely not only through India but also through Spain, Germany, England, Iran, Uzbekistan, Scotland, Turkey, Pakistan, Bangladesh and many Arab Countries, like, Jordan, Syria, Oman and U.A.E, making many discoveries, which have placed his name high among the restorers of letters.

The main contributions of Hakeem S. Zillur Rahman concern the history of Unani medicine. In fact, he is the only one in India who is doing research on primary sources, after his long academic pursuit for 40 years, he is now carefully thought as an authority on history of Unani Medicine. He is a diligent explorer of the Unani Medicine for old manuscripts of Arabic and Persian classics, while he formed a precious collection of his own. It is noted here, Hakeem S. Z. Rahman belongs to a family of Hakeems and learned scholars and this family is known also for its participation in 1857 Independence struggle.

As a scholar of repute, Professor S. Zillur Rahman has to his credit 25 published books, 10 Addresses, 2 Monographs, more than 130 research papers in both national and international journals. He also contributed 18 important chapters / articles in other reputed books. He edited, AI-Hikmat, Delhi, a classical monthly journal of Unani Medicine from 1965 to 1970 in addition to 6 other acclaimed volumes of the Conferences. During his academic period, he supervised 25 MD thesis in Unani Medicine, attended 20 International Conferences overseas and 82 National Conferences, whereas, acted as chairman / co-chairman of about 74 learned conferences / gatherings. He is involved with /member of 58 learned educational bodies, has written a preface of 37 books of other scholars. He organized himself several national and international conferences / symposia, etc. where he amply proved his standing and worth in the Unani field of his choice. Five of his books secured awards of learned academies and he is entered in about a dozen Who's Who the world over. Many scholars and institutions have cited his works. Six scholars dedicated their books to his personality. Noteworthy, in the recognition of his expertise, he became short term Consultant to World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for South East Asia Region, on the assignment of which he visited Bangladesh in 1996. Hamdard University, Karachi, Pakistan invited him as Visiting Professor in 1997. However, the most significant recognition of his scholarship is the 1995 President's of India Award for Persian literature given to him for his in-depth study of Primary Source-material in Indo-Persian. Prof. Rahman was one of the senior most and respected professors of Aligarh Muslim University (AMU). He had been working in various capacities: Chairman, Department of Ilmul Advia, AK Tibbia College, AMU, Aligarh (December 19, 1978 to March 5, 1985, from March 25, 1988 to March 24, 1991, from January 7, 1992, to December 20, 1995 and from December 21, 1998 for three years); Dean, Faculty of Unani Medicine, AMU, Aligarh (December 2, 1988 to December 1, 1990), Member of the AMU Executive Council and of the AMU Court. Presently, he is the vice-president of All-India Unani Tibbi Conference, New Delhi; president, All-India Unani Tibbi

Conference, UP Chapter; member, Pharmacopoeia Committee (Unani), Ministry of Health and FW, G.O.I. and Chairman, Drug Formulary Sub-Committee, Ministry of Health and FW, G.O.I., New Delhi, founder president, Ibn Sina Academy of Medieval Medicine & Sciences (Trust), Aligarh. He is also a Chief Editor of the international newsletter of Ibn Sina Academy (Aligarh / India), member international advisory board of the Journal for the History of Arabic Sciences (Syria) and Journal of International Society of History of Islamic Medicine (Turkey). Besides his aforementioned distinguished academic records and administrative achievements, Prof. S. Z. Rahman is also a man of avocations. His library-cum-museum is an eye-catching. He has to his collection more than 500 rare and important manuscripts, besides thousands printed books on various subjects, a large collection of postal stamps, coins, old pens and many important memoirs. He is also quite well known in the community of the prominent citizens of this University City of Aligarh.

Contribution / Service to Society and Nation

Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman by his personal efforts made the department of Ilmul Advia (Ajmal Khan Tibbia College, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh) a center of excellence. A new building of the department with all modern facilities in the laboratories was constructed under his able guidance and chairmanship. He raised both name and fame of this department at national and international level. Former vice-chancellor, AMU, Aligarh, Prof. M. N. Farooqui, in his Autobiography, *My Days at Aligarh*, remarked (at page 40), "The Ministry of Health gave special recognition to the department of Ilmul Advia. Under the guidance of Prof. Syed Zillur Rahman the progress of the department was excellent".

Prof. Rahman represented India on Unani Medicine at various national and international gatherings. He assisted in the establishment of Ibn Sina Tibbia College at Beenapara, Azamgarh of which he laid the foundation stone on January 25, 1981. In 2000 AD Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman founded a national academy, namely, Ibn Sina Academy of Medieval Medicine & Sciences (Trust) at Aligarh. He established his personal library-cum-museum in early sixties of the twentieth century. After the establishment of Ibn Sina Academy, this Library and museum have become a part of the Ibn Sina Academy Trust. The library of IAMMS at present houses one of the most precious and valuable collection of 17000 printed books, 500 manuscripts, rare books, microfilms, compact discs and a large number of periodicals. Books in many languages like Arabic/ Persian/ Urdu/ Sanskrit and English, on a variety of subjects like History of Medicine and Sciences, Unani/ Greco-Arab Medicine, Ilmul Advia/ Pharmacology, Urdu Literature with special reference to Ghalib, Aligarh and Sir Syed Ahmad Khan, besides thousands of bound volumes of magazines are extant in the library. On an average a dozen of people daily come in the library and avail its facilities. Scholars both from India (outside Aligarh) and foreign country visit the library regularly.