



## The Master duo of Islamic Art

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### 1.1 Quari Salimullah Wasifi

After six years from the death of Ibrahim Ali Khan – the fourth Nawab of Tonk, Quari Salimullah Wasif was born on 17 July, 1936 in a small Muslim family of Tonk. Considered one of the best and the most experienced calligraphers present in the country Ustaad Quari Salimullah devoted his life to Calligraphy.

A class fellow with Janab Mohammad KhaleeqTonki, they both learned calligraphy from Ustaad Munshi Mohammad Attequallah Khan.

Historically extremely informative, strong and potent Ustaad Quari Salimullah now practices calligraphy to the extent of writing Quaran and critically judging his son's work in calligraphy. In strong opposition of computers the Ustaad believes that the art can never gain its true prominence with the intervention of computer technology, it is purely a manual and skilled art which should be and has to be practices with hand to revive it.

Extremely tensed with the grave situation the art is facing, he vividly remembers his years of work, when he was employed as the Head Calligraphy Instructor at MaulanaAbul Kalama Azad Arabic Persian Research Institute (A.P.R.I.) in 1982. In his 18 years of service Ustaad delivered 900 students both boys and girls in equal proportions.

Of all his disciples some of the renowned who are still working are Abdul Rehman Khattat, Muzzaffar Raza, Khurshid Alam, Maulwi Zamil Ahmad, Hafiz Ghulam Ahmad, his two sons Quari Mutiullah Wasif and Arif Fasiullah. Him-self a Hafiz Ustaad Quari Salimullah did his 'Hifz' when he was just eight and a half years old.

With all true intentions to practice the art in the name of Allah QuariSalimullah is a master in the number of scripts he is aware of and can actually pen it down on paper. His journey started when he first clutched a pen in his hand in 1946. Started with two scripts Nataleeq and Nashkh which he learned from UstaadMunshi Mohammad Attequallah Khan, he has recently finished writing'Quran – e – Sharif' in 19 scripts (Khat).

The seven chapters in the'Quran – e – Sharif' are written in different scripts while the different Surah's (small religious paragraphs in Quaran) has been written in different scripts, totaling it to nineteen.

For the classes which were held at A.P.R.I., Tonk Ustaad Quari Salimullah wrote two books for the student's study material. One was 'Furquani Nisabe Kitabat' which was published for the Beginners Calligraphy and was a part to the course curriculum.

After four years of the first publication the second book for the decorative calligraphy class was published by the name of 'RahbareShaumeKhatati'. Currently working on a book that shall introduce people to a maximum of hundred scripts, UstaadQuariSalimulah has completed 36 pages to the book that as of now gives an insight to 63 scripts.

Along with this he has completed writing the last part of the Quran (the 30 part) which contains 37 Surats in 41 scripts.

### **His Extent Works:**



**Figure 1 Quranic calligraphy of Quari Sallimullah Wafsi**



**Figure 2 Calligraphy of Quari Sallimullah Wafsi**

### **1.2. Quari Mutiullah Wasfi**

Son of UstaadQuariSalimullahWasif, QuariMutiullahWasifi started learning the art of calligraphy from the age of 10. At 32 he is amongst the youngest of all the calligraphers present in Tonk. Unlike his father QuariMutiullah along with calligraphy also focuses on designing and decorating his calligraphic writings to make his pieces look more beautiful and make it a quick saleable commodity among the few countable competitors he recognizes in his hometown Tonk.

Out of the two brothers in the family his inclination towards the art was spotted by his father when Mutiullah was only a kid. In the year 1991-1992 he got admission in the calligraphy classes of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Arabic Persian Research Institute and learned simple basic calligraphy. Next, he got enrolled in the decorative calligraphy classes in the year 1995-1996 and successfully completed it.

His works speak on how one can make the art contemporary and modern. Successfully accomplished writing four 'Qalam – e – Pak' Quari Mutiullah has also produced calligraphy works inside glass bottles, on grains of rice, a pip of tamarind, gram pulse etc.

He has contemporized his works to the likes and wants of today's consumer. He has also produced the book of Sheikh Saidi's 'Karima' into a form of paper roll written very finely in the most minuscule font size and also into a form of a very minuscule paperback book.

This young calligrapher has managed to produce some wonderful works which include paperback rolls approximately 25 feet long on History of Islam in two scripts namely Khat-e-Nashkhand and Khat-e-Thuluth. Quari Mutiullah spent some time with designer and decorator 'Miya Hasim' of Tonk and learnt the nuances of designing and the art of decoration.

His inspiration for the design part of the calligraphy comes from Mughal Arts and the samples of Ibn-e-Maqla who derived six more scripts from the Kufic Script. With an aim to write the biggest 'Qalam-e-Pak' Quari Mutiullah is waiting for the right time and the right opportunity to strike that will make him give more extraordinary results in this field

**His Extent Works:**



**Figure 3 Calligraphy of Quarri Mutiullah Wafsi**