

# Sufism And Pakistan

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## *Sufi's Are Lovers Of Truth*

It is said that the Sufi practice of listening music first took place in the Indo-Pak subcontinent and then passed on to rest of the Muslim world. Our Sufi poets such as Baba Farid, Shah Husain, Sultan Bahu, Shah Latif Bhitai, Bulleh Shah, Sachal Sarmast, Khwaja Ghulam Farid, Mian Muhammad Bakhsh and Maulvi Ghulam Rasul continued the finest tradition of poetry and music. Still today, the shrines of these Sufi saints host classical music contests. Festivals and carnivals abound with *dhamal*, whirling in a ritual reverie. Men, and sometimes women, in bright traditional robes dance and shout around frantically following their own path to enlightenment. A traditional drum called *dhol* beats deafeningly and hypnotically, making everyone to dance to forget surrounding and tread in a voyage of ecstasy. Another popular genre of Sufi music is *qawwali*, the most important and widespread in the Khusrau tradition, which has remained alive for more than seven centuries.

Though many of the delegates to the Chandigarh Conference have written travelogues, and these include Raja Rasalu, Bashir Nasir and Ashiq Raheel, none, including Neelma, has complained that they were not provided the opportunity to visit places like Farid Kot (Baba Farid),Kapurthala (**Maulvi Ghulam Rasul** of Yousuf Zulekha) and Dera Baba Nanak (Baba Nanak, as a Punjabi poet).