

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

أَلْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ كَمَا هُوَ أَهْلُهُ وَالصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَى سَيِّدِ وُلْدِ آدَمَ كَمَا يُحِبُّ وَيَرْضَى بِأَنْ يُصَلِّيَ عَلَيْهِ

Allah Almighty, in Whose Name we begin, The Most Compassionate,
The Most Merciful

All Praise is due to Allah Almighty, Countless Peace and Blessings be upon
His Beloved Messenger – *may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him* – his family & his
companions – *may Allah be pleased with them all*

The Awliya attracted People

It is part of human nature that when someone does immense favour for another, then the person receiving the favours becomes an ardent well-wisher of the person doing the favour. There is an Arabic proverb which says, “a human is someone who is purchased through favour and good actions.”

No one can force someone to think like him through the force of a sword. Yes, the sword and force can make a person lower his neck, but it can never lower the heart of a person. A person can only be captured through immense kindness and good manners.

In Surah Ale Imran (3), verse 159, the Qur'an declares:

فِيمَا رَحْمَةٍ مِّنَ اللَّهِ لِنْتَ لَهُمْ ۖ وَلَوْ كُنْتَ فَظًّا غَلِيظَ الْقَلْبِ لَانْفَضُّوا مِنْ
حَوْلِكَ ۗ فَاعْفُ عَنْهُمْ وَاسْتَغْفِرْ لَهُمْ وَشَاوِرْهُمْ فِي الْأَمْرِ ۗ فَإِذَا عَزَمْتَ
فَتَوَكَّلْ عَلَى اللَّهِ ۗ إِنَّ اللَّهَ يُحِبُّ الْمُتَوَكِّلِينَ ﴿١٥٩﴾

“So what a great mercy it is from Allah that you (O Muhammad), are lenient towards them; and if you had been stern and hard hearted (unsympathetic) they would have certainly been uneasy in your company; so forgive them and intercede for them and consult with them in the conduct of affairs; and when you decide upon something, rely upon Allah; indeed Allah loves those who trust (Him).

In Surah Haa Meem Sajdah (41), verse 32, the Qur’an declares:

وَلَا تَسْتَوِ الْحَسَنَةُ وَلَا السَّيِّئَةُ ۗ ادْفَعْ بِالَّتِي هِيَ أَحْسَنُ فَإِذَا الَّذِي بَيْنَكَ
وَبَيْنَهُ عَدَاوَةٌ كَأَنَّهُ وَلِيٌّ حَمِيمٌ ﴿٣٣﴾

“And the good deed and the evil deed will never be equal; Repel the evil deed with a good one, thereupon the one between whom and you was enmity, will become like a close friend.”

One of the greatest weapons which was possessed by the Awliyah was Ikhlaaq or good manners and behaviour. This was their secret weapon which made their opponents speechless. They had a genuine concern for people. They had immense compassion for everyone which is why the hearts of people were turned to them. This is the reason that they were able to achieve such immense success which was never achieved even by those who had the greatest army or the greatest amount of other resources.

Islamic history proves that this spreading and propagation of Islam was largely due to the Awliyah. Until the present day, people continue to visit the blessed graves of these Awliyah and these people come from all walks of life and from all backgrounds.

The example of Hadrat Qutbuddeen Bakhtiyar Khaki - *may Allah be pleased with him* - is also a clear example of this attraction which people had for the Awliyah. It is mentioned that once, his spiritual master, Hadrat Khawaja Ghareeb Nawaaz - *may Allah be pleased with him* - decided to return with him to Ajmer Shareef so that his special Mureed could live with him. However, the entire populace of Dehli came to convince the great Saint to re-think his decision. In fact, thousands of people both men and women, children and even the Sultan himself, Sultan Iltimush, also came to plead to the great Saint not to take him away. When the great Saint heard the pleas of these masses of people, he decided to change his mind and leave Hadrat Qutbuddeen Bakhtiyar Khaki - *may Allah be pleased with him* - in Dehli.

This incident clearly proves that these great Awliyah were not just sitting in seclusion which makes a person wastes his time. They were genuinely involved in the daily lives of people and certainly had a great effect on the lives of people for people to even come outside the limits of the capital to stop this action.

They never attended the courts of Kings and Sultans or the houses of the rich and powerful. They never collected massive amounts of money or tried to acquire massive amounts of money for themselves. Whatever came to them, they freely and quickly gave it away to those in need.

They were an example of the Du'a which was made by the Holy Prophet - *may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him* - wherein he made Du'a, "O Allah! Please keep me alive as a Miskeen, let me pass away in the state of being a Miskeen and allow me to awake (in the company) of the Miskeen. (Jamia Tirmidhi)

What can be a greater example of being so concerned about the poor and needy that one actually makes Du'a to be among them and also arise on the Day of Judgement in their company? You will never find any modern day 'sufi' who will make a Du'a like this.

This is the reason that in the real Darbaar of the Awliyah the poor and destitute used to be found in abundance. As for the modern 'sufi' you will find those who have come to

buy drugs or have come to sell a latest BMW. They have realised that this is the latest passion of the modern 'sufi'.

The real Awliyah never considered it an insult to be included among the poor and the Miskeen. When they helped people, they took a genuine interest in people and never helped for name and fame. This is the reason that the common man was more impressed with the Awliyah than with the Kings and the political rulers of the day.

When we look at what happened in India, we will find the leader of the Chisti spiritual order in this part of the world, namely Hadrat Khawaja Ghareeb Nawaaz - *may Allah be pleased with him* - had influenced millions and millions of people to accept Islam.