

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَنِ الرَّجِيمِ

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ كَمَا هُوَ أَهْلُهُ وَالصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَى سَيِّدِ الْمُرْسَلِينَ كَمَا يُحِبُّ وَيُرِضِّي بَنْ يُصْلِي 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*

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## The Monk who accepted Islam

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It is reported that once the famous Saint, Hadrat Abul Qasim Sayyiduna Junaid Al Baghdadi - *may Allah be pleased with him* - was travelling for Hajj with some of his Mureeds. During the journey, the water in their caravan was depleted. The caravan had also camped on the side of a mountain. Sayyiduna Junaid Al Baghdadi - *may Allah be pleased with him* - then ordered one of his Mureeds to take a container, go the higher part of the plain and fill the container with clean sand so that they could make Tayyamum. It was the time of Salaah.

This Mureed then took the container to that area and began to fill the container with clean sand. Suddenly, he heard someone calling and when he looked all around, he noticed a monk who was standing inside a ruin which looked like a monastery. The monk asked him, "What are you going to do with the sand?"

The Mureed replied, “We are people from the Ummah of Sayyiduna Rasoolullah - *may Allah’s peace and blessings be upon him*. When we do not get water, we make Tayammum.”

The monk said that he had a special well which was filled with clear and sparkling water and they were welcomed to use this for drinking and washing purposes. The Mureed told him that their caravan was below the mountain and there were many of them. The monk still insisted that he should call his people to this well.

The Mureed then approached the great Saint and related this offer to him. Sayyiduna Junaid Al Baghdadi - *may Allah be pleased with him* - informed the Mureed that he should go and tell the monk that there were seventy of them and how was it possible that all of them would enter these ruins. The Mureed returned to the monk and mentioned what the great Saint had related.

The monk insisted, “Even if you are a thousand people. The reason is because I respect and revere Sayyiduna Rasoolullah - *may Allah’s peace and blessings be upon him* - and also his Ummah”.

When the Mureed related this to Sayyiduna Junaid Al Baghdadi - *may Allah be pleased with him* - he went up these ruins with all of his Mureeds. The monk opened the doors of his monastery to welcome them. All of them drank as much water as they could and also made Wudu. After that, they completed their Salaah.

The monk then presented them a large platter of food which had many different items on it. After everyone had eaten and had washed their hands, the monk asked whether there was anyone among them who could read the Qur'an. Sayyiduna Junaid Al Baghdadi - *may Allah be pleased with him* - then indicated to one of his Mureeds and he began to recite the 101<sup>st</sup> verse of Surah Al Ambiyah and when he had completed his recital, the monk screamed out aloud and declared, “I swear by the Lord of the Ka’ba, I have created peace.”

After the Mureed had completed the recital, he then asked whether anyone could read a poem as he was very fond of Sama. Sayyiduna Junaid Al Baghdadi - *may Allah be pleased with him* - directed one of his Mureeds who started to read a few couplets.

After listening this poem, the monk wept for a long time. He then asked them to read a few more couplets. Again the Mureed read a few more couplets. The monk then screamed, “I am present my Lord, I am present. Certainly, You have called me towards Your Divine Mercy.” He recited the Kalimah loudly in front of all of them.

He removed all the symbols of Christianity and also his clothing and adopted an Islamic appearance. Hadrat Sayyiduna Junaid Al Baghdadi - *may Allah be pleased with him* - then gave him a blanket or shawl. The entire caravan was also very happy that Allah Almighty had blessed this person and had also freed him from Fire of Hell. Sayyiduna Junaid Al Baghdadi - *may Allah be pleased with him* - took out one thousand Dinaars from his pocket and handed it to the former monk. The monk then departed from this place and no one could find out where he had disappeared to.

When Sayyiduna Junaid Al Baghdadi - *may Allah be pleased with him* - reached Mecca Shareef and had completed the Tawaaf and was sitting with his group of people near the Ka’ba, they heard someone making sincere Du’a while holding the cloth of the Ka’ba. He was saying, “O my Lord! You have revealed Your Divine Being to me until I have borne witness on Your Divine Unity. You have called me to Your House and I have answered the call. O that Lord Who had revealed all of this to me and through this, I have been able to acquire manifest knowledge, please allow me to complete this Hajj strictly for Your Divine Pleasure.”

Sayyiduna Junaid Al Baghdadi - *may Allah be pleased with him* - then asked one of his Mureeds to go and see who this person was. When the Mureed approached this person, he released that it was the same monk who had accepted Islam. The Mureed then asked him to come to the court of Sayyiduna Junaid Al Baghdadi - *may Allah be pleased with him*.

The former monk replied that he should say to the great Saint the following, “I had given you hospitality and also fed you people and Allah has blessed me with the miracle of Islam and has also blessed me with the clothing of respect. I have also worn the Ihraam and entered this blessed house. My respect and disrespect is only up to the Divine Creator.”

When the Mureed brought the message of the new Muslim to him, Sayyiduna Junaid Al Baghdadi - *may Allah be pleased with him* - then went to see him himself. He embraced the new Muslim and also kissed him on his forehead. He asked him how he had experienced closeness to Allah Almighty. He related, "O my master! When I left those ruins and chose to travel, then the wind of Divine Mercy also overtook me. The Door to the Divine Court was also opened to me and its destination also became easier for me."

He then screamed out aloud and fell to the ground. They noticed that he had passed away.