The Role of the Shaykh

Every true shaykh has been appointed to the task of teaching and spreading the love of Allah. Thus, he is to be the one who teaches his murids (students) how to love and serve Allah.

The Shaykh's Job

The Shaykh's job is to help his murid (student) to see the reality of Allah within himself and to protect him from spiritual danger. He is the bridge between the inner and outer worlds, the shaykh is the conductor who teach the soul a crossing, a long journey between the inner and outer worlds.

The Critical Point

The critical point is this: It is Allah who is teaching you through the shaykh; you have to remember this. Your personal anecdotes with your shaykh are important in this regard. Shaykh is not your friend. Shaykh is an employee of Allah who is helping you to have a connection with his inner self: he should have known this territory himself, as it is other persons' impossible to do this.

The Condition of a True Shaykh

1) He must have reached an advanced state of inner development to be an effective guide for the path of knowledge. In order for him to lead his murid on the right path, he must have traversed this territory himself, and who does not listen to his shaykh is really denying himself his portion in life. He must do this for Allah's sake, not for his own pleasure.

2) Inwardly, he should be researching the Book of Allah (Qur'an) and the seerah (life story) of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). He must understand the haqiqa (truth) of the wayfarers to worship Allah and wear the sajada (prayer rug) of annihilation and wear the kofia (prayer cap).

3) He has to be aware of the stages of the murid's inner journey, and knows where to place them, who he is the guided person, who he is the guiding master, and who he is the guided master.

4) In the end, he has to make sure that the murid has reached the stage of knowledge and is able to see the secret of his existence, and he will be submerged into endless favors and pleasures of Allah. The murid must not know these, he cannot be a murid.

5) He has a (license) to teach the path.

The Shaykh's Spiritual Succession

The shaykh's spiritual succession (silsila) is what Sufis regard as their ancestral tariqas (roots). Every true shaykh has been appointed to the task of teaching knowledge to his murids. His spiritual ancestors carry the same knowledge of Allah and are the ones who helped him to reach this level.

The Shaykh's Spiritual Ancestors

The shaykh must have reached the following twelve virtues in himself, if he cannot sit on the throne of the Wayfarers. He must be kind, caring, and soft, as a father and mother treat their children. First, he has to show him the easy ways, and not give him a load he cannot carry. After he takes a word from him that he is going to leave his ill deeds and start praising Allah.

The Person Who Is Going to Be a Shaykh

The person who is going to be a shaykh has to know the religious and natural sciences, and the terminology of the Sufi masters. If he does not know these, he cannot be a murid. He must have the knowledge of the hadiths, and knowledge in the field of knowledge.

The Important Virtues

4. He must treat the poor kindly, saying nice words to them. This is the praised shaykh, who knows how to tame his own nafs (ego). When he is raising him, and inviting him to fight against his own nafs, then he can slowly, step by step, give him heavier assignments.

5. He knows how to tame his own nafs. The person who wants to train himself without a shaykh is actually trying to raise a building without a foundation. A person who is not raised by masters, and did not get sacred milk from them, is like a child left in the middle of the street. If a person does not wear a clothe of being a helper, he does not know these, he cannot be a murid.

6. He must give his murids the same guidance in the unseen as in the seen. Love and respect are very important in this regard. Shaykh is not your friend. Shaykh is an employee of Allah who is helping you to have a connection with his inner self: he should have known this territory himself, as it is other persons' impossible to do this.

The Shaykh's Spiritual Succession (silsila) is thus supported by its own ancestral tariqas. Every true shaykh has been appointed to the task of teaching knowledge to his murids. His spiritual ancestors carry the same knowledge of Allah and are the ones who helped him to reach this level.

The Person Who IsGoing to Be a Shaykh

**Concepts Overview**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Love</th>
<th>Nafs</th>
<th>The 99 Names</th>
<th>Muhammad</th>
<th>Allah</th>
<th>The 39 Attributes of Allah</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Pir, Shaykh Abdul Qadir Geylani**

In the holy traditions, sayings attributed to, or circulating among the great shaykhs, Pir, Shaykh Abdul Qadir Geylani said:

"...The shaykh's job is to help his murid to see the reality of Allah within himself and to protect him from spiritual danger. He is the bridge between the inner and outer worlds, the shaykh is the conductor who teach the soul a crossing, a long journey between the inner and outer worlds..."

"Every true shaykh has been appointed to the task of teaching and spreading the love of Allah. Thus, he is to be the one who teaches his murids (students) how to love and serve Allah..."

"The Shaykh's job is to help his murid to see the reality of Allah within himself and to protect him from spiritual danger. He is the bridge between the inner and outer worlds..."

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**Answari Qadri Rifa'i Tariga**

Sufi Chiri