

Lesson 14

Summary Notes

The Awliyā'

"The believers - all of them - are **awliyā'** of the Most Gracious, and the noblest of them before Allāh is the most obedient of them, and he amongst them who follows the Qur'ān most closely." [65]

"We do not ascribe to any of the awliyā' an excellence distinguishing him above any of the prophets (upon them be peace); [rather] we say, 'One prophet is better than all the awliyā'.'" [98]

"We believe in what has appeared regarding their marvels (**karāmāt**), and such narrations of them as have been authentically reported from trustworthy persons." [99]

General (lexical) meaning of waliyy (pl. awliyā'): A supporter, ally or protector.

Specific meaning of waliyy : Pious (performs all compulsory deeds and avoids all forbidden deeds) Muslim who persistently performs some of the non-obligatory devotions, and who dies as a believer.

"Lo! The awliyā' of Allāh, there is no fear upon them, nor do they grieve; those who believe and keep their duty to Allāh. theirs are glad tidings in the life of this world, and in the Hereafter." Qur'ān [10:63-65]

Need not be a scholar.

Prophets are sinless, while awliyā' are not.

Prophets receive revelation, awliyā' do not.

The best waliyy does not reach the rank of the lowest prophet.

The majority opinion is that **Khidir** was a prophet:

1. "they found one of Our servants, whom We had given mercy from Us ..." cf. Nūḥ (ﷺ), Ṣāliḥ (ﷺ), Ismā'il (ﷺ), Idrīs (ﷺ).
2. "and We taught him knowledge from Us." He told the future.
3. "I have not done it by my own decision."
4. Killing the boy because of his future.

“Some deviant people have slipped up in ascribing to the waliyy an excellence above the prophet, and this is lucid **kufr** . . . the waliyy cannot be a waliyy without his believing in the prophet, and it is impossible then that the prophet be lower than the waliyy!” [Ḥāfiẓ al-Dīn al-Nasafī, *Madārik al-Tanzīl wa Ḥaqā'iq al-Ta'wīl*]

Marvels (Karāmāt) of the Awliyā'

A **karāmah** (pl. karāmāt) is an extraordinary event occurring at the hands of a pious person. Not every waliyy need necessarily have a karāmah. The best honour or wonder (karāmah) is to remain on the straight path (**istiḳāmah**) of the Shari'ah.

Proof for the existence of Karāmāt

- “Whenever Zacharias entered upon her, he found sustenance with her. He said, ‘O Mary! How did you get this?’ She said, ‘It is from Allah.’” Qur’ān [3:37]
- “And shake the trunk of the date-palm toward you, it will let fall fresh, ripe dates upon you.” Qur’ān [19:25]
- “The one who had knowledge of the Scripture (*Asaf ibn Barkhiyyah*) said, ‘I will bring it to you within the twinkling of an eye.’” Qur’ān [27:40]
- “Do you think that the People of the Cave . . . were a wonder among Our signs?” Qur’ān [18:9]
- Ḥadīth of 3 people in a cave. [Bukhārī, Muslim, Ibn Ḥibbān]
- Ḥadīth of Khubayb. [Bukhārī]
- Millions of other authentic reports in every generation of Muslims.