

WEEKLY BOOKLET:359



The Account of the ninth Shaykh of the Qādiriyyah Razawiyah
'Attāriyyah spiritual order:

BLESSINGS OF SAYYIDUNĀ MA'RŪF AL-KARKHĪ

رحمة الله
عليه

ENGLISH



Accepting Islam

Walking on water and
flying in the air

Freedom from the world

Location where supplications
are accepted

Presented by: (DA'WAT-E-ISLAMI)
AL-MADINAH-TUL-ILMIA
Islamic Research Center

فیضانِ معروفِ کراخی رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ

Blessings of Sayyidunā Ma‘rūf al-Karkhī رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ

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Blessings of Sayyidunā Maʿrūf al-Karkhī رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ



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الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ وَالصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَى خَاتَمِ النَّبِيِّينَ
أَتَابَعْدُ فَأَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Supplication for reading this book

Recite the following before you read a religious book or begin an Islamic lesson; you will remember whatever you study **اِنْ شَاءَ اللَّهُ**.

اللَّهُمَّ افْتَحْ عَلَيْنَا حِكْمَتَكَ وَانْشُرْ
عَلَيْنَا رَحْمَتَكَ يَا ذَا الْجَلَالِ وَالْإِكْرَامِ

O Allah! Open the doors of knowledge and wisdom for us and have mercy on us! O He Who is the Most Glorious and Honourable! (Al-Mustatraf, vol. 1, p. 40)

Note:

Recite *ṣalāt* upon the beloved Prophet ﷺ once before and after.

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الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ وَالصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَى خَاتَمِ النَّبِيِّينَ
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Blessings of Sayyidunā Ma‘rūf al-Karkhī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ

Supplication of Attar: O Allah! Whoever reads or listens to the booklet *Blessings of Sayyidunā Ma‘rūf al-Karkhī* رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ, grant him the blessings of the pious predecessors رَحْمَتُهُمُ اللَّهُ, forgive him and his family without accountability, and grant him the companionship of the beloved Prophet صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ in Jannat al-Firdaws.

أَمِيرِنُ بِجَاهِ خَاتَمِ النَّبِيِّينَ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ

Virtue of sending *Ṣalāt* upon the beloved Prophet ﷺ

The final Prophet صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ said:

Allah Almighty looks with mercy towards the one who sends *Ṣalāt* upon me, and whoever Allah Almighty looks towards with mercy will never be punished.¹

صَلُّوا عَلَيَّ الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيَّ مُحَمَّدٍ

500 gold coins

Sayyidunā Abū ‘Abbās Mu‘addib رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ said:

¹ *Afḍal al-Ṣalawāt ‘alā Sayyid al-Sādāt*, p. 40

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A Sayyid who lived in my neighbourhood told me about a time when he was extremely poor. He said, “When my wife gave birth, there was nothing in the home for her to eat. Upset, she said, ‘My state is apparent to you. I need food in order to overcome this weakness, for the sake of Allah Almighty, please do something.’ I became anxious after seeing her condition, so after performing ‘Isha, I went to the store. I went there often but I was indebted to the shopkeeper. I explained the situation and asked for some provisions. I made the intention to pay him back as soon as possible but he refused to help. So, in this state of anxiety, I went to another shopkeeper and explained my situation, but he refused too. I went to everyone I had hope in, but none of them helped me.

“I was dejected, and whilst thinking about who I could turn to next, I went towards the Tigris River. I saw a boatman waiting for passengers, so I boarded the boat and it set sail. The boatman asked where I was headed and I replied that I did not know. Astounded, the boatman said, ‘You boarded the boat and you do not know your destination?’ I told the boatman about the situation at home, and he said compassionately, ‘My brother! Do not be distraught. I will try my best to relieve you of this worry.’ The boat stopped at the riverbank and we went to a nearby masjid. The sailor said, ‘My brother, there is a pious man who spends the

Blessings of Sayyidunā Maʿrūf al-Karkhī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ

entire day and night worshipping in this masjid. Ask him to pray for you. If Allah Almighty wills, your problems will be solved.’

After performing ablution, I entered the masjid and saw the pious man praying in the *mihrāb*. I performed two cycles of prayer and sat next to him. Once the pious man finished praying, he said, ‘May Allah Almighty have mercy upon you, who are you?’ I explained everything and he listened attentively. Then, he started praying again. It started raining outside and it dawned on me that I was far away from home. ‘What is the condition of my family and how will I get back to them in this weather?’ Meanwhile, a man entered the masjid and sat next to the pious man who was praying. When he finished praying, the man said, ‘My master, I am the representative of so-and-so. He conveys you his *salām* and sends a gift.’ Upon hearing this, the pious man said, ‘Give this money to the Sayyid over there.’ The man was surprised and exclaimed, ‘This is 500 dinars!’ The pious man insisted, so he gave it all to me. I put all the money in my shawl, thanked the pious man and headed home through the rain.

When I returned to my neighbourhood, I went to the first shopkeeper I had turned to and said, ‘Allah Almighty has granted me 500 dinars from the treasures

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of His sustenance. Take the amount I owe you and give me food.’ The shopkeeper replied, ‘Keep the money with you for now and take what you need.’ So, he gave me honey, sugar, sesame oil, rice, fat and more. I was unable to carry all the food, so he helped me take it home. When we got there, the door was open and my wife said, ‘I was in a critical condition and my hunger and weakness made it worse. Where did you go?’ I replied, ‘By the mercy and grace of Allah Almighty, our worries are no more. Look at all this food! We have butter, meat, sugar, oil and a lot more.’ She was elated, and we all ate and thanked Allah Almighty.

In the morning, I showed my wife the dinars and she was very happy and expressed gratitude to Allah Almighty. Then we purchased land so we could cultivate it and cover our expenses. Through the blessings of the pious man, Allah Almighty removed our poverty. May Allah Almighty grant him goodness on our behalf.¹

May Allah Almighty have mercy upon them and forgive us without accountability for their sake.

اٰمِيْنَ بِجَاهِ خَاتَمِ النَّبِيِّينَ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ

¹ *Uyūn al-Hikāyāt*, pp. 276-277

Blessings of Sayyidunā Ma'rūf al-Karkhī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ

Do you know who the pious man is, the one whose supplications were accepted? He is the ninth spiritual guide of the Qādiriyyah Riḍawiyyah 'Aṭṭāriyyah spiritual order, Sayyidunā Ma'rūf al-Karkhī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ.

Introduction

The name of this illustrious Tābi' al-Tābi'īn pious predecessor is Ma'rūf and his teknonym is Abū Maḥfūz. He was born in Baghdad in the area of Karkh, which is why he is called al-Karkhī. He is from the generation after the Tābi'ūn¹ and a follower of Imam al-A'zam, the Master of the Jurists, Imām Abū Ḥanīfah Nu'mān b. Thābit رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ.²

Accepting Islam

The members of Sayyidunā Ma'rūf al-Karkhī's رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ family were not Muslims at first, but due to the mercy of Allah Almighty and through the blessings of Sayyidunā Ma'rūf al-Karkhī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ, they all accepted Islam. The event that led them to accept Islam is very interesting. His brother explains:

Me and my brother Ma'rūf al-Karkhī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ studied

¹ A Tābi'ī is one who met a Companion of the beloved Prophet صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ as a believer and died upon faith. A Tābi' al-Tābi'īn is the one who, met a Tābi'ī as a believer and died upon faith. (Mu'jam Lughāt al-Fuqahā', p. 117)

² *Masālik al-Sālikīn*, vol. 1, pp. 286-287

Blessings of Sayyidunā Ma‘rūf al-Karkhī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ

together. We were non-Muslims at the time and our non-Muslim teacher promoted polytheism and disbelief. As he taught this, my brother would say “Aḥad, Aḥad,” (Allah is One, Allah is One) in a loud voice. The teacher beat him regularly, and one day, he beat him so much that he went missing. His mother cried and said, ‘If Allah Almighty returns Ma‘rūf to me, I will follow the religion he is on.’ After a few years, Ma‘rūf al-Karkhī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ returned to his mother, and she asked, ‘My son! Which religion do you follow?’ He replied, ‘The religion of Islam.’ Then, my mother recited the shahadah and we all accepted Islam.¹

May Allah Almighty have mercy upon them and forgive us without accountability for their sake.

اٰمِيْنَ بِجَاهِ خَاتَمِ النَّبِيِّينَ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ

Shajarah Qādiriyyah Riḍawīyyah ‘Aṭṭāriyyah

The renowned spiritual guide and leader of Ahl al-Sunnah, Mawlana Muhammad Ilyas Attar al-Qadiri دَامَتْ بَرَكَاتُهُمُ الْعَالِيَةِ has given his followers and devotees the Shajarah Qādiriyyah Riḍawīyyah ‘Aṭṭāriyyah. In it, a supplication is made through the intermediation of Sayyidunā Ma‘rūf al-Karkhī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ

¹ *Baḥr Al-Dumū‘*, p. 39

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and the tenth shaykh of the spiritual order, Sayyidunā Sarī al-Saqatī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ:

Bahr-e-Ma'roof O Sari Ma'roof De Be Khud Sari

Meanings of words: *Bahr*: for the sake of, *Ma'roof*: goodness, *Be Khud Sari*: humility and obedience.

Translation: O Allah Almighty! Grant me goodness for the sake of Sayyidunā Ma'rūf al-Karkhī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ, and grant me humility for the sake of Sayyidunā Sarī al-Saqatī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ.

اٰمِيْنُ بِجَاهِ خَاتِمِ النَّبِيِّينَ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ

Arabic Shajarah

The Reviver of Islam, the Imām of Ahl al-Sunnah, Imām Aḥmad Razā Khān رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ wrote a shajarah in Arabic in the form of *Ṣalāt*. He mentions Sayyidunā Ma'rūf al-Karkhī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ like so:

اَللّٰهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ وَبَارِكْ عَلَيْهِ وَعَلَيْهِمْ وَعَلَى الْمَوْلَى الشَّيْخِ مَعْرُوفِ الْكَرْخِيِّ رَضِيَ اللهُ تَعَالَى عَنْهُ

O Allah Almighty, send your mercy and blessings upon the beloved Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ, his family, his Companions, and upon our master, Shaykh Ma'rūf al-Karkhī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ.¹

Non-Muslim Family accepts Islam

Sayyidunā 'Āmir b. 'Abdullāh al-Karkhī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ said:

¹ *Tārīkh aw Sharḥ Shajarah Qādīriyyah Barakātīyyah Riḍāwiyyah*, p. 154

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A non-Muslim neighbour came to me and said, “O Abū ‘Āmir! I have rights over you as your neighbour. I ask you for the sake of the One who created the days and nights, take me to a saint of Allah Almighty, so I can ask him to pray for the birth of a son. My heart yearns for a son.” So, I took him to Ma‘rūf al-Karkhī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ and explained the situation. The Shaykh invited him to accept Islam, but he replied, “O Ma‘rūf! You cannot guide me unless Allah Almighty guides me first. I have only come to ask you to pray for me.” After that, Ma‘rūf al-Karkhī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ made the following supplication, “O Allah Almighty! Grant him a son who treats his parents well, and at whose hands his parents accept Islam.”

Allah Almighty accepted the supplication of His servant and granted the man a son who was more intelligent than all the children in the neighbourhood. When he grew older, his father took him to a school to learn about their religion. The non-Muslim teacher gave him a slate and told him to repeat, but the child spoke up, “My tongue is prevented from calling something other than Allah a god, and my heart is filled with love for Him.” After that, the child spoke about Allah Almighty in such a beautiful way that the teacher’s heart came to life and he came to know that Islam was the truth. Then the child recited poetry, whose meaning is somewhat as

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follows:

‘Is He not truthful, the One who causes us to laugh and cry, the One who gives life and death and makes crops grow for creation? Without doubt, only He is worthy of worship, and those who turn to other than Him are in loss. He hides the sins of His people, grants whatever they need, even when they do not ask, and He forgives the sinners.’

Upon hearing this faith-inspiring discourse, the teacher was astounded and testified to the Oneness of Allah Almighty and the Prophethood of the Greatest Prophet صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ in his heart. Then the teacher took the child to his father. Beaming with happiness, the father asked, “How intelligent is my child?” The teacher explained what happened and the father said, “I swear by Allah Almighty! My son reached this rank because of the supplication of Sayyidunā Ma'rūf al-Karkhī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ. I testify there is none worthy of worship except Allah Almighty, and Sayyidunā Muhammad صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ is His Messenger.” Then the entire family accepted Islam too.¹

صَلُّوا عَلَى الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ

¹ *Al-Rawḍ al-Fā'iq*, p. 186, selected

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The station of Sayyidunā Maʿrūf al-Karkhī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ

Maʿrūf al-Karkhī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ gained a lot of knowledge from Imam ʿAlī Ridā رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ, who was a great saint of his era. Sayyidunā ʿAbd al-Wahhāb رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ said, “I have not seen a greater *zāhid* (ascetic) than Maʿrūf al-Karkhī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ.”¹

Walking on water and flying in the air

Sayyidunā Ibn Mardawayh رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ said:

One day we were sitting in the company of Maʿrūf al-Karkhī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ and I saw his face beaming, so I asked him, “O Abū Maḥfūz! I heard that you can walk on water.” He replied, “I have never walked on water, but when I intend to cross it, its two ends join, so I place my foot on it and traverse it.”

Sayyidunā Hasan b. ʿAbd al-Wahhāb رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ said:

People say Maʿrūf al-Karkhī can walk on water. If I was told he could fly in the air, I would believe that too.²

Imām Aḥmad Razā Khān رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ addresses Sayyidunā Maʿrūf al-Karkhī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ in this Persian poetry:

Ya Shahe Ma'roof Ma Ra Reh Soe` Ma'raoof Deh

¹ *Tārīkh Baghdād*, vol. 13, p. 208

² *Al-Rawḍ al-Fāʿiq*, p. 183

Blessings of Sayyidunā Maʿrūf al-Karkhī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ

Translation: O Maʿrūf al-Karkhī (O king of piety!) Guide us to goodness!

The status of Sayyidunā Maʿrūf al-Karkhī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ and the basis of knowledge

The Imam of millions of Hanbalīs, Sayyidunā Imam Aḥmad b. Ḥanbal رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ, and the great *muḥaddith* Sayyidunā Yaḥyā b. Maʿīn رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ gained knowledge from Sayyidunā Maʿrūf al-Karkhī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ. The son of Imam Aḥmad b. Ḥanbal رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ, ʿAbdullāh رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ said, “I asked my father, ‘I learnt that you used to go to Maʿrūf al-Karkhī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ. Did he have knowledge of hadith?’” Imam Aḥmad b. Ḥanbal رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ answered, “My dear son! He had the root of the matter, i.e. he had *taqwā* (the fear of Allah Almighty).”¹

Sajdat al-Sahw

Once, Sayyidunā Imam Aḥmad b. Ḥanbal رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ and Sayyidunā Yaḥyā b. Maʿīn رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ visited Sayyidunā Maʿrūf al-Karkhī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ. The *muḥaddith* wanted to ask about *sajdat al-sahw*, but Imam Aḥmad b. Ḥanbal رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ told him to remain silent. However, Sayyidunā Yaḥyā b. Maʿīn, could not hold back and asked, “O Abū Maḥfūz! What do you say regarding *sajdat al-sahw*?” Sayyidunā Maʿrūf al-Karkhī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ

¹ *Qūt al-Qulūb*, vol. 1, p. 263

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said, “It is a punishment for the heart that becomes heedless and focuses on other than Allah Almighty during the prayer.” Upon hearing this, Imam Aḥmad b. Ḥanbal رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ said, “This shows your level of intellect.”¹

Good character and blessed habits

Sayyidunā Maʿrūf al-Karkhī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ only turned towards outward means at the time of need and only took to the extent of his necessity. He رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ would say, “I am a guest in the house of Allah Almighty. I eat if He feeds me and I adopt patience if He keeps me hungry, until He gives me food.” He neither hoarded anything nor did he have great aspirations. Rather, due to the high rank of sainthood he attained, whenever he finished a prayer, he did not have hope of remaining alive until the next prayer. After performing the Ṣuḥr prayer, he would tell his companions to find someone to lead the ‘Asr prayer. It was as if he was acting upon this Hadith:

Oath by the One in whose power is my soul! Whenever I blink, I think Allah will take my soul before my eyes open. Whenever I open my eyes, I think death will come to me before I close them. When I eat a morsel of food, I think death will come to me before I swallow it. O children of Adam! If you are intelligent, consider

¹ *Tārīkh Baghdād*, vol. 13, pp. 201-202

Blessings of Sayyidunā Ma'rūf al-Karkhī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ

yourselves from the dead because what has been promised will come to pass.¹

O devotees of the noble Saints! Life passes in the blink of an eye, and we do not know if we have lived most of our lives or not. Death can come at any time, in any place, so prepare for it, remember it abundantly, and live your lives according to the Sunnah. At the time of death, may our last words be the *Shahādah* and *Ṣalāt*, and may we be in Madinah beholding the beloved Prophet صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ.

صَلُّوا عَلَى الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ

Trembling whilst delivering the azan

Sayyidunā Abū Bakr b. Abū Ṭālib رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ said:

I entered the masjid of Ma'rūf al-Karkhī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ and I joined the people in a gathering. Ma'rūf al-Karkhī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ entered and said اَلسَّلَامُ عَلَيْكُمْ وَرَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ, and we replied. He supplicated to Allah Almighty to grant us peaceful lives and to relieve us and him of worries. When he started delivering the azan, the fear of Allah Almighty overwhelmed him and he began to tremble. When he said اَشْهَدُ اَنْ لَا اِلَهَ اِلَّا اللهُ, the hair of his eyebrows and beard

¹ *Qūt al-Qulūb*, vol. 2, p. 30

Blessings of Sayyidunā Ma‘rūf al-Karkhī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ

stood up, and I feared he would be unable to complete the azan. His back lowered, and he was close to falling to the ground.¹

From Baghdad to Makkah

Once, Sayyidunā Ma‘rūf al-Karkhī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ desired to perform *ṭawāf*, so he left his city during the night, travelled to Makkah, performed *ṭawāf* and returned home.²

O devotees of the noble Saints! One of the marvels Allah Almighty blessed the noble saints with is “عَطْفُ الْأَرْضِ”, which means the folding of the earth. Through the bestowal of Allah Almighty, they can travel many miles with one step, so that a month-long journey is covered by them in a few minutes. Sayyidunā Ma‘rūf al-Karkhī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ was also blessed with this ability to traverse the earth quickly.

What Allah Almighty wills comes to pass

A man visited Sayyidunā Ma‘rūf al-Karkhī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ and said, “I was blessed with a child this morning. You are the first person I have told, so goodness can enter our home through your blessings.” Ma‘rūf al-Karkhī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ replied, “May Allah Almighty keep you in His protection. Sit here and say مَا شَاءَ اللَّهُ”

¹ *Hilyat al-Awliyā'*, vol. 8, p. 404, Hadith 12685

² *Jāmi' Karāmāt al-Awliyā'*, vol. 2, p. 491

Blessings of Sayyidunā Ma'rūf al-Karkhī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ

”كَانَ” (i.e., whatever Allah Almighty wills will happen) 100 times.” After reciting it 100 times, the Shaykh instructed him to recite it again. When he had repeated it, the Shaykh informed him to recite further. In short, he instructed him to recite in this manner five times. Meanwhile, the servant of the mother of a minister arrived with a bag and letter and said, “O my master, Umm Ja'far conveys you *salām*. She sent this bag to you and asked if you can distribute it amongst the poor.” Upon hearing this, Sayyidunā Ma'rūf al-Karkhī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ said, “Give the money to that man because he was blessed with a child.” The servant informed him that it totalled 500 dirhams and asked if he should give it all to the man. The Shaykh answered, “Yes, give it all to him. He recited مَا شَاءَ اللَّهُ كَانَ 500 times.” Then, he turned to the man and said, “May you be granted blessings in these 500 dirhams. If you had recited more, we would have increased it the same amount. (Go and spend it on your family.)”¹

صَلُّوا عَلَيَّ الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيَّ مُحَمَّدٍ

Patience grants proximity to Allah Almighty

Someone said to Sayyidunā Ma'rūf al-Karkhī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ, “O Sayyidi! How can I become closer to Allah Almighty?” The Shaykh took him to the home of a rich man, where a servant with a broken leg was standing by the door. The shaykh pointed

¹ *Uyūn al-Hikāyāt*, p. 277

Blessings of Sayyidunā Ma‘rūf al-Karkhī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ

towards him and said, “Become like him and you will be closer to Allah Almighty.” (i.e., Just as the servant is standing at the door of his master with a broken leg, always be content with the will of Allah Almighty and worship Him.)¹

Greeting Shaykh ‘Abd al-Qādir al-Jilānī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ

The spiritual successor of Shaykh ‘Abd al-Qādir al-Jilānī, Shaykh ‘Ali b. Hītī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ said:

I went with Shaykh ‘Abd al-Qādir al-Jilānī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ to the shrine of Ma‘rūf al-Karkhī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ. My shaykh gave him *salām* and we heard a reply from the shrine, “وَعَلَيْكَ السَّلَامُ يَا سَيِّدَ أَهْلِ الرَّمَّانِ.” Peace be upon you, O leader of the people of the age.²

Humility in the Court of Allah Almighty

Sayyidunā Qasim Baghdadi رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ said:

I was Ma‘rūf Karkhī’s رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ neighbour; one night I heard him crying as he recited this poetry:

Which thing wants me to sin? It clings to me and does not part from me.

If You show me mercy and forgive me, these sins cannot

¹ *Al-Rawḍ al-Fā‘iq*, p. 183

² *Bahjat al-Asrār*, p. 53

Blessings of Sayyidunā Ma'rūf al-Karkhī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ

harm me, for now I have reached old age.¹

Supplication of Sayyidunā Ma'rūf al-Karkhī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ

A man said to Sayyidunā Ma'rūf al-Karkhī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ, “O Sayyidi! Ask Allah Almighty to soften my heart.” The shaykh encouraged him to recite this Supplication: يَا مُلْكِينَ الْقُلُوبِ! لَيِّنْ قَلْبِي قَبْلَ أَنْ تُؤْتِيَنِيهِ، عِنْدَ الْمَوْتِ. O Softener of the hearts! Soften my heart before softening it at the time of death.²

اٰمِيْنَ بِجَاهِ خَاتَمِ النَّبِيِّينَ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ

What is tenderness of the Heart?

Tenderness of the heart is a great blessing of Allah Almighty. The beloved Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ said, “Consider supplication when the heart is tender as a treasure, for it is a mercy.”³

The scholars describe softness of the heart as a sign from the signs of a fortunate individual.⁴

An excellent example of Piety

Sayyidunā ‘Ubayd b. Muhammad Warrāq رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ said:

¹ *Şifat al-Şafwah*, vol. 2, p. 212

² *Al-Rawḍ al-Fā’iq*, p. 185

³ *Kanz al-‘Ummāl*, vol. 1, p. 48, Hadith 3367

⁴ *Tafsīr Rūḥ al-Bayān*, part 12, Surah Al-Hūd, under verse 105, vol. 4, p. 187, summarized

Blessings of Sayyidunā Ma'rūf al-Karkhī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ

One day, Ma'rūf al-Karkhī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ was travelling somewhere when he saw a piece of wood in the path. Instead of stepping on it, he stepped over it. He was asked about this and he said, "I stepped over it to avoid worrying the owner." (If he stepped on it, it could have weakened, broken or become marked. So, due to this risk, he stepped over it to avoid putting the owner in difficulty.)¹

Caution of the Leader of Ahl al-Sunnah دَامَتْ بَرَكَاتُهُمُ الْعَالِيَةِ

The actions of the leader of Ahl al-Sunnah, Mawlana Muhammad Ilyas Attar al-Qadiri دَامَتْ بَرَكَاتُهُمُ الْعَالِيَةِ remind us of the pious predecessors. He is also very scrupulous in religious matters. Here is an event that will encourage us to adopt a mindset of not suppressing peoples' rights.

The following is a summary of the account of an Islamic brother from Nawab Shah (Sindh, Pakistan):

Mawlana Muhammad Ilyas Attar al-Qadiri دَامَتْ بَرَكَاتُهُمُ الْعَالِيَةِ was travelling somewhere with some Islamic brothers, and I was fortunate to be with them. As we were walking through a narrow street, we saw a pile of gravel on the floor. The Shaykh said there was a risk of wasting the gravel if we walked this way. So, we

¹ *Hilyat al-Awliya'*, vol. 8, p. 409, number 12708

Blessings of Sayyidunā Ma'rūf al-Karkhī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ

backtracked and took a different route to avoid this.¹

May Allah Almighty have mercy upon him and forgive us without accountability for his sake.

أَمِيرُنْ بِجَاهِ خَاتِمِ النَّبِيِّينَ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ

صَلُّوا عَلَيَّ الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيَّ مُحَمَّدٍ

Freedom from the world

The tenth shaykh of the Qādiriyyah Riḍāwiyyah 'Aṭṭāriyyah spiritual order, Sayyidunā Sarī al-Saqāṭī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ said:

I said to Ma'rūf al-Karkhī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ, “How are the obedient slaves of Allah Almighty able to remain obedient to Him?” He replied, “Due to the love of the world exiting their hearts. If the love of the world was in their hearts, they would be unable to perform a single prostration correctly.”²

Passing away in Baghdad

Sayyidunā Ma'rūf al-Karkhī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ said, “I was commanded to die in Baghdad because the righteous people of that city are

¹ *Huqūq al-'Ibād Kī Iḥtiyāṭen*, p. 16

² *Al-Mustaṭraf*, p. 154

Blessings of Sayyidunā Ma‘rūf al-Karkhī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ

from the true *Abdāl*.”¹

Death

The ninth shaykh of the Qādiriyyah Riḍawiyyah ‘Aṭṭāriyyah spiritual order, Sayyidunā Ma‘rūf al-Karkhī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ passed away on the 2nd of Muḥarram 200AH. 300,000 people participated in his funeral prayer.² His eminent resting place is located in Baghdad, approximately 6km away from the resting place of Shaykh ‘Abd al-Qādir al-Jilānī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ. Thousands of people visit his resting place to receive blessings and for the acceptance of their supplications.

120,000 sinners relieved from punishment

A pious predecessor said:

One year after my brother died, I saw him in a dream and asked, “O my brother! مَا فَعَلَ اللَّهُ بِكَ! How did Allah Almighty treat you?” He answered, “Now, He has freed me because when Ma‘rūf al-Karkhī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ was laid to rest near us, 30,000 sinners facing punishment, buried in each of the four directions of his grave, were relieved of punishment.”³

¹ *Iṭḥāf al-Sādat al-Muttaqīn*, vol. 12, p. 560

² *Al-Rawḍ al-Fā‘iq*, p. 188

³ *Al-Rawḍ al-Fā‘iq*, p. 188

Blessings of Sayyidunā Ma'rūf al-Karkhī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ

The rank of Sayyidunā Ma'rūf al-Karkhī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ

Sayyidunā Aḥmad b. Faḥḥ رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ said:

I saw Bishr al-Ḥāfi رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ in a dream and asked him, “How did Allah Almighty treat Ma'rūf al-Karkhī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ?” He replied, “Unfortunately, there are many veils between him and I. Ma'rūf al-Karkhī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ did not worship out of passion for Paradise and fear of Hell, rather he worshiped to attain closeness to Allah Almighty. Therefore, Allah Almighty raised him to *al-Rafīq al-A'lā* and removed the veils between them.” Therefore, whoever wishes to present a need in the court of Allah Almighty, he should supplicate near the grave of Ma'rūf al-Karkhī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ. His supplication will be accepted إِنْ شَاءَ اللَّهُ.¹

A need was fulfilled

Sayyidunā Muhammad b. 'Abd al-Raḥmān al-Zuhri رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ said:

I heard my father 'Abd al-Raḥmān say, “Every need is fulfilled at the grave of Ma'rūf al-Karkhī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ. Whoever recites Surah al-Ikhlāṣ 100 times and asks from Allah Almighty, his need will be fulfilled.”²

¹ *Ṣifat al-Ṣafwah*, vol. 2, p. 214

² *Al-Rawḍ al-Fā'iq*, p. 188; *Tārīkh Baghdād*, vol. 1, p. 134

Blessings of Sayyidunā Ma‘rūf al-Karkhī رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ

I received what I asked for

Sayyidunā Yaḥyā b. Sulaymān رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ said:

I was poor and I had a need. I visited the grave of Ma‘rūf al-Karkhī رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ, recited Surah al-Ikhlāṣ three times and conveyed the reward to him all deceased Muslims. Then, I prayed for the fulfilment of my need. As soon as I returned home, my need had been fulfilled.¹

Location where supplications are accepted

The father of Imām Aḥmad Razā Khan, Mawlana Mufti Naqī ‘Alī Khān رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ writes in his book “أَحْسَنُ الْوَعَاءِ لِآدَابِ الدُّعَاءِ”, whilst mentioning the places of acceptance of supplication:

Supplications are accepted at the blessed resting place of Ma‘rūf al-Karkhī رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ.²

The blessings of the resting places of the noble Saints

Sayyidunā Aḥmad b. ‘Abbās رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ said:

When I left Baghdad, I met a person who was worshipping. He asked me, “Where are you coming from?” I answered, “I am running from Baghdad because I saw tribulations, and I am scared the earth will swallow the people.” The man said, “Go back and do

¹ *Al-Rawḍ al-Fā‘iq*, p. 188

² *Faḍā‘il-e-Du‘ā’*, p. 137

Blessings of Sayyidunā Ma'rūf al-Karkhī رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ

not be scared. There are four graves of the saints in Baghdad which prevent harm from reaching the city.” I asked whose graves he was referring to and he said, “Imam Aḥmad b. Ḥanbal, Ma'rūf al-Karkhī, Bishr al-Ḥāfi, and Maṣṣūr b. ‘Ammār رَحْمَتُهُمُ اللهُ.’ So, I visited their graves and did not leave [Baghdad] that year.¹

May Allah Almighty have mercy upon them and forgive us without accountability for their sake.

امِينٌ بِجَاهِ خَاتِمِ النَّبِيِّينَ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ

Four Shaykhs are like the living

Shaykh ‘Alī b. Hītī رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ said:

I have seen four Shaykhs who have power of disposal of affairs like the living, whilst in their graves. They are Shaykh ‘Abd al-Qādir al-Jilānī, Shaykh Ma'rūf al-Karkhī, Shaykh ‘Aqeel Manbijī, and Shaykh Ḥayā b. Qays Ḥarrānī رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِمُ.²

صَلُّوا عَلَى الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ

Supplicate through my Intermediation

Ma'rūf al-Karkhī's رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ nephew, Ya'qūb رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ said,

¹ *Tārīkh Baghdād*, vol. 1, p. 133

² *Bahjat al-Asrār*, p. 124

Blessings of Sayyidunā Ma‘rūf al-Karkhī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ

“My paternal uncle said to me, ‘Whenever you ask Allah Almighty to fulfil your need, supplicate through my intermediation.’”¹

Sayyidunā Sarī al-Saqāṭī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ said that Ma‘rūf al-Karkhī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ gave him the following advice:

When you seek something, ask for it like so, “O Allah Almighty! Grant me such-and-such for the sake of Ma‘rūf al-Karkhī.” You will certainly acquire what you seek.²

Virtues of Ma‘rūf al-Karkhī’s رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ grave

A pious predecessor from the fifth century Hijri, Sayyidunā Khatib Baghdadi رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ said, “The grave of Ma‘rūf al-Karkhī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ is a place which is tried and tested for the fulfilment of needs.”³

The great *muḥaddith* of the fourth century Hijri, Imam ‘Abd al-Raḥmān b. ‘Ali al-Jawzī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ writes, “Visiting the grave of Ma‘rūf al-Karkhī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ is a proven remedy for all problems.”⁴

The erudite scholar of Ḥanafī fiqh, Imam Ibn ‘Ābidīn al-Shāmī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ said:

¹ *Hilyat al-Awliyā’*, vol. 8, p. 408, Hadith 12701

² *Tadhkirat al-Awliyā’*, p. 234

³ *Tārīkh al-Baghdād*, vol. 1, p. 134 summarized

⁴ *Ṣifāt al-Ṣafwah*, vol. 2, p. 214

Blessings of Sayyidunā Ma'rūf al-Karkhī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ

Ma'rūf al-Karkhī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ is from the pious predecessors. His supplications were accepted, and supplications for rain are made through his intermediation. He is the noble teacher of Sarī al-Saqāṭī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ.¹

O devotees of the noble Saints! How great were the earlier generations of Muslims? People visited the noble saints to gain their blessings, and supplicate through their intermediation. Sayyidunā Ibn 'Ābidīn al-Shāmī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ, whose statement has just passed, was a great scholar in his own right, and his world renown magnum opus is *Radd al-Muhtār*. If only those who take benefit from his books, follow in his footsteps, and correct their beliefs regarding the noble saints.

Doctor 'Abd al Qadir Khan's Column

Doctor 'Abd al-Qadir Khan (deceased) wrote:

In Bhopal, a brilliant scholar taught us school children about the noble saints رَحْمَتُهُمُ اللَّهُ، and he encouraged us to supplicate through the intermediation of Ma'rūf al-Karkhī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ. The supplication was:

Khuda Wanda Ba Maqsood Dam Rasan Zud

Ba Haq Hazrate Ma'ruf Karkhi

¹ *Radd al-Muhtār*, vol. 1, p. 141

Blessings of Sayyidunā Maʿrūf al-Karkhī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ

Nighdari Ze Afat Haye Charkhi

Ba Haqe Hazrate Maʿruf Karkhī

Translation: O Allah Almighty! Fulfil my need quickly for the sake of Maʿrūf al-Karkhī. Protect us from calamities of the earth and sky for the sake of Maʿrūf al-Karkhī.

This column was written in the Jang newspaper on the 13th of July. Two days after it was published, a friend called and told me how much he liked what he wrote. He distributed 200 copies of the newspaper to his friends and colleagues. Thereafter, he explained a great blessing of the supplication. His friend's son was missing for three years. Despite searching for him and filing police reports, they could not find him. So, he clung to patience and sat back. My friend informed his grieving friend about this column and told him to supplicate through the intermediation of Sayyidunā Maʿrūf al-Karkhī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ. So, he performed ablution, offered two units of the prayer of need and made a heartfelt supplication for the return of his son through the intermediation of Sayyidunā Maʿrūf al-Karkhī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ. The father of the child said he sat down for half an hour after praying when there was a knock on his door. He went outside and saw his son standing by the door; someone had

Blessings of Sayyidunā Ma'rūf al-Karkhī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ

brought him there.¹

May Allah Almighty have mercy upon them all and forgive us without accountability for their sake.

اميينُ بِجَاهِ خَاتِمِ النَّبِيِّينَ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ

صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ

صَلُّوا عَلَى الْحَبِيبِ

¹ *Jang Akhbār*, 13 July

WEEKLY BOOKLET STUDY

لِحَمْدِ اللَّهِ! Every week, the founder of Dawat-e-Islami, Shaykh al-Tareeqah Ameer Ahl al-Sunnah, Founder of Dawat-e-Islami Hazrat Allamah Mawlana Muhammad Ilyas Attar Qadiri Razavi دَامَتْ بَرَكَاتُهُمُ الْعَالِيَةُ، and his successor Al-Haaj Abu Usaid Obaid Raza Madani مد ظله العالی، encourage the reading of a booklet. مَا شَاءَ اللَّهُ! Millions of Islamic brothers and sisters participate in this blessed activity by reading or listening to this booklet, benefiting from the prayers of Ameer Ahl al-Sunnah and his successor. This booklet is available for free download in audio format on the Dawat-e-Islami website,

www.Dawateislami.net, and through the **Read and listen Islamic book application**. With the intention for reward, read it yourself, and distribute it for the Esal-e-Sawab of your deceased ones.

(Department of Weekly Booklet Study)



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