

Etiquette of visiting a Mazaar or Kramat

"When I make someone my beloved then I become his ears by which he hears, his eyes by which he sees, his hands by which he holds and his feet by which he walks." (Hadith Qudsi).

When a person reaches the stage of *Wilaayat*, then he becomes the Beloved of Allah and everything he does is done through the power of Allah. A person with such a great status is called a *Wali*-Allah.

When the *Auliyah* physically depart from this earth, then their status is still upheld. The grave of a *Wali* is unlike that of an ordinary person. Their bodies do not decay or perish, but remain intact and fresh. The Holy Prophet (SAW) has said:

"The bodies of the Ambiyah and Auliyah remain intact in their graves. Furthermore, the mercy and blessing of Allah continuously descends on them." In order to distinguish the grave of a *Wali*-Allah from the ordinary person's grave, and also as a sign of recognition, a *Chaadar* or *Ghilaaf* is placed on their graves.

It is spiritually beneficial to visit the *Mazaars* of the *Auliyah* and partake in their remembrance. In a hadith of the Prophet (SAW) it has been reported that, *"When the beloved of Allah are discussed, abundant and intense mercy of Allah descends on all those present."* This is because Allah loves His *Auliyah*, thus He loves the discussion of the *Auliyah*. This discussion can be upheld in various ways; which include; reading a book on their life histories, struggles, striving in the path of Allah, emulating their examples and patterns of thinking, learning to uphold the *Sunnah* as practised by *Auliyah*, lecturing to an audience and informing them about the life history of a particular *Wali* or other *Auliyah*.

As the mercy and blessings of Allah descend with the remembrance of the *Auliyah*, likewise the blessings of Allah descend at the graves of the *Auliyah*. One should maintain utmost respect when visiting the tomb of a *Wali*, shoes should be removed. One should be in a state of *tahaarah* and *wudhu* (abolution). It is prohibited to sit on, lean against or put your feet on a grave. No other intention must exist in one's mind beside intending to derive spiritual benefit from the *Wali*, one should stand or sit respectfully at the graveside facing the *Wali*. One should avoid loud and unnecessary conversations and worldly indulgence. One should recite the Holy Quran; even the smallest *surah*, *Durood Shareef*, and indulge in *Zikr-ul-laah* etc. One should make *dua* to Allah with the *Waseela* of the *Auliyah* after *Esaale-e-Sawaab*.

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