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# AQIM AL WUDDAH

TO ESTABLISH A CONNECTION OF LOVE

## Part 2

### What is the Role of a Shaykh on the Spiritual Path?

*Bismillah Al Rahman Al Rahim*

In the Name of Allah, The One Who Acts with Mercy,  
The Source of Mercy

Once a seeker chooses to walk with a *shaykh* [spiritual teacher], their journey begins to take clearer shape and direction. What may once have felt like a personal search slowly becomes a guided path, one that gently draws the heart back toward Allah with greater intention and awareness.

In *tariqa* [path; Sufi order], the roles are clear and purposeful. The *shaykh* guides, conveys the teaching, prays for you, and protects the space of learning. They show direction and offer caution where necessary, but they do not make decisions for the student. While the *shaykh* offers guidance and companionship on the path, the true goal always remains your personal relationship with Allah.

The student's relationship with the *shaykh*, safeguarded by *adab* [etiquette; manners], forms a spiritual bond grounded in respect, care, and responsibility. Through this companionship, the *shaykh* supports your growth, helping you to see yourself more clearly and guiding you with sincerity and concern. In this way, the path becomes not only a journey of knowledge, but also one of transformation and self-understanding.

Love is not merely a feeling. It is something we build, nurture, and uphold. It is a bridge that needs presence and consistency. In a world that often measures success by wealth, position, or self-interest, *Aqim al Wuddah* [to establish a connection of love] invites us to pause, and to reconnect with the inner thread that joins all hearts to, and in,  
*Al Wadud*  
[The Loving One;  
The Source of Love].

- Shaykh Nishaat Ahmed Siddiqi



Through this process, the heart gradually awakens to what we call *Aqim al Wuddah*. A person begins to realize that Allah truly hears them, that He responds to them in meaningful ways, and that the events of life themselves often carry guidance. With this awareness, a real connection begins to deepen through love, reflection, and sincere turning toward Him.

In the moments that arise throughout your life, you begin to turn your attention toward Allah and ask sincerely: "Allah, what do You want to teach me? What do I need to learn from this?"

You offer the situation back to Him with trust and surrender, remaining open to the understanding and guidance that unfolds.

Walking the path with a *shaykh* can feel like an oasis of love. Here the student's heart is nurtured so that learning can truly take place. Yet love on this path is more than a feeling; it is sustained through effort and commitment. It is returning, again and again, to your daily practices (*wazifa*), even when inspiration or motivation is low.

Progress on the path depends on your own sincerity and commitment. No one can walk it for you. Effort remains essential, for true knowledge is not meant to remain as information alone, but to be lived and embodied in everyday life.

Over time, the guidance you receive from your *shaykh* begins to take root within you. You grow steadier, more deliberate, and less reactive. What first appeared as guidance from outside slowly awakens within your own heart.

Through the guidance of a *shaykh*, you learn to sustain *Aqim al Wuddah*, grounded in discipline, sincerity, and continual turning toward Him.

- MURSHIDA SHAYKHA MUZEYYEN VARGONEN ANSARI  
& MURSHID SHAYKH TANER VARGONEN ANSARI

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