

Hazrat Ma'roof al-Karkhi (R.A.)

Sultan of Saints: A Life of Devotion and Compassion

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Preface

This eBook, presented by Barkateraza.in, narrates the inspiring life of Hazrat Asad al-Din Abu Mahfuz Ma'roof ibn Feroz al-Karkhi (R.A.), the ninth Imam of the Qadiriya Barakatiya Razaviya Nooriya silsila. Born in Karkh, Baghdad, he transitioned from a Christian upbringing to embracing Islam under Imam Ali Rida (A.S.). Known as the "Sultan of Saints," his piety, miracles, and compassion for the poor left an enduring legacy. His mazaar in Baghdad remains a source of blessings.

Chapter 1

Introduction

Hazrat Ma'roof al-Karkhi (R.A.) (132 A.H./750 C.E. – 200 A.H./815 C.E.) was a revered Sufi saint and scholar, known as the "Sultan of Saints" in the Qadiriyyah silsila. Born to Christian parents in Karkh, Baghdad, he embraced Islam under Imam Ali Rida (A.S.), who guided his spiritual journey. A disciple of Hadrat Habeeb Raa'ee and Hadrat Dawood Taa'ee, he was a master of zuhd and ma'arifat, influencing figures like Hadrat Sirri al-Saqti. His mazaar in Baghdad is a beacon of spiritual reverence.

Chapter 2

Early Life and Conversion

Born in Karkh to Feroz, a Christian, Ma'roof was drawn to Islam in childhood, associating with Muslim peers. His father, displeased, sent him to a Christian priest who taught the Trinity. Refusing to accept it, Ma'roof was beaten and imprisoned at home for three days, surviving on one uneaten bread daily. Escaping, he accepted Islam under Imam Ali Rida (A.S.), leading his parents to convert. His early defiance showcased his innate love for tawheed.

Chapter 3

Spiritual Training and Mentors

Ma'roof studied under Imam Ali Rida (A.S.), Imam Abu Hanifa (R.A.), and Hadrat Farqad Sabakhi (R.A.), gaining knowledge in fiqh and hadith. His spiritual training came from Hadrat Habeeb Raa'ee (R.A.), who granted him khilafat, alongside Imam Ali Rida (A.S.) and Hadrat Dawood Taa'ee (R.A.). He served Dawood Taa'ee extensively, imbibing asceticism and devotion, which shaped his illustrious path in tasawwuf.

Chapter 4

Miracles and Karamaat

1. Forgiveness of a Bandit: Seeing a hanged bandit, Ma'roof prayed for his forgiveness. A divine voice declared that whoever prayed the bandit's Janazah would gain high status. The town performed the rites, and the bandit was seen in Jannah in a dream, pardoned through Ma'roof's dua.
2. Obedient Bird: When his uncle criticized him for eating near a dog, Ma'roof summoned a bird from the sky. It perched on his hand, covering its face in modesty, demonstrating creation's respect for those humble before Allah.
3. Youths' Repentance: Seeing youths sinning by the Tigris, Ma'roof prayed for their salvation in the hereafter. They soon repented, breaking their instruments and seeking forgiveness, fulfilling his compassionate dua.

Chapter 5

Ascetic Lifestyle

Ma'roof spent nights in mosques, engrossed in ibaadat, istighfaar, and weeping in Allah's fear. His beard stiffened, and he trembled during Adhan, especially at "Ash hadu An Laa Ilaaha illa-Allah." Always in wudhu, he once made tayammum near the Tigris, fearing death before reaching water. His detachment from the world was profound, valuing Allah's closeness over fear of death, hell, or desire for Jannah.

Chapter 6

Compassion and Character

Ma'roof's love for the poor was unparalleled. On Eid, he collected dates to buy clothes for a crying child, inspiring Hadrat Sirri al-Saqti to do the same, receiving divine noor. He avoided associating with the rich, warning of their destructive influence, and lived with utmost humility, treating all—Muslim or non-Muslim—as better than himself.

Chapter 7

Teachings and Aphorisms

Ma'roof's teachings emphasized sincerity, humility, and devotion. His sayings include:

1. "Three signs of a true man: fulfilling promises, praising without motive, giving without being asked."
2. "Protect your tongue from self-praise as you do from sin."
3. "A true Sufi is a faqeer, detached from the world."
4. "Love is bestowed by Allah, not taught."
5. "Hoping for Jannah without deeds is a sin; expecting intercession without Sunnah is betrayal; seeking mercy without obedience is ignorance."
6. "Associating with sinners endorses their sins, equivalent to committing them."
7. "When Allah wishes well for His servant, He opens the doors of good deeds."

Chapter 8

Interaction with Contemporaries

Ma'roof served and learned from Imam Ali Rida (A.S.), Imam Abu Hanifa (R.A.), and Hadrat Dawood Taa'ee (R.A.). His disciple, Hadrat Sirri al-Saqti (R.A.), attributed his spiritual attainment to Ma'roof's blessings. His khulafa, including Shah Muhammad and Shah Qaasim Baghdadi, propagated the Karkhiya silsila, influencing Qadri, Suharwardi, and other Sufi orders.

Chapter 9

Legacy and Influence

Ma'roof's Karkhiya silsila linked to major Sufi orders, spreading his teachings of zuhd and divine love. His grave remains a source of blessings, as noted by Hadrat Sirri al-Saqti. Hadrat Yahya bin Sulaiman's prayers at his mazaar fulfilled needs, affirming his spiritual rank. His influence on Hadrat Sirri al-Saqti and others cemented his status as a Sufi luminary.

Chapter 10

Passing and Mausoleum

Hazrat Ma'roof passed away on 2 Muharram 200 A.H. (August 815 C.E.) in Baghdad. In a dream, he revealed Allah pardoned him for following Hadrat Samaak's advice to turn to Allah. Hadrat Sirri al-Saqti saw him under the Arsh, absorbed in Allah's love. His mazaar in Baghdad is a site of blessings, where reciting Surah Ikhlas thrice resolves difficulties.

Multimedia References

1. [Life and Teachings of Hazrat Ma'roof al-Karkhi](#)

Bibliography

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2. Tadhkirat al-Awliya by Farid ad-Din Attar.
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Closing Prayer

May Allah, through the blessings of His Beloved Prophet (PBUH), Hazrat Ma'roof al-Karkhi, the Sahaba, Ahl al-Bayt, and all Awliya Allah, grant us complete love for the Prophet, protect our faith, inspire righteous deeds, and fulfill our noble desires in this world and the hereafter. Ameen.