


Murshid

Source: *The Oxford Dictionary of Islam* 

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Murshid

One who guides (Persian *pir*, "old man" or "respected elder"). Sufi master responsible for guiding and directing novices and disciples toward mystical knowledge of God through specified "way" or "path." Often bases decisions on interpretation of dreams and visions. Bestows practices, liturgy, formulas, and symbols of order on novices in the same manner in which he received them, preserving continuity of the order in the name of the original master. The **murshid**'s name is listed in the *silsilah* (roster) of the order to verify that the transmittance is genuine and to trace the order back to the founder.