TARIQA TIJANIYYA
HIERARCHY

By: Imam Muhammad Abdullahi (USA)

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TARIQA TIJANIYYA HIERARCHY

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Them: "Can you explain the hierarchy in place in the Tijaniyya Order today? Who is the leader? What is a "muqaddim"? What is "tarbiyyah"? How is it different from other Turuq?"

Me: "The hierarchy in the Tariqa Tijaniyya is as follows:

There is only ONE Shaykh and ONE Leader in our Tariqa and that is Mawlana Shaykh Ahmad al-Tijani (ra). Beneath him are:

1. Khulafa (Complete successors; Living embodiments)

2. Shuyukh of three kinds:

A. Shaykh al-Ta’lim (a teacher of the essential knowledge of the Tariqa)

B. Shaykh al-Tarbiyya (a guide through the stations of the spiritual journey of Suluk, from repentance to gnosis)

C. Shaykh al-Tarqiyya (a guide capable of dispensing constant spiritual elevation & expansion in Divine Gnosis)

***Some Shuyukh embody all three***

3. Muqaddams (Authorized Representatives) of two kinds:

A. Muqaddam Mutlaq (unlimited authorization in the Tariqa to dispense all of its litanies & administer its spiritual training or Tarbiyya)

B. Muqaddam Muqayyad (limited authorization with regards to everything mentioned above)
4. Murids (Initiated disciples or those who have received the Tijani Awrad & Adhkar from an authorized person). They are of three types:

A. Tilamidh (Students)
B. Fuqara (Aspirants)
C. As’hab (Companion)

There is a comprehensive breakdown of each of these, but for brevity sake I'll keep it simple.

Tilamidh (Students) are those who may have only taken the Wird but not much else.

Fuqara (Aspirants) are those with the Awrad and other special Adhkar and also Tarbiyya.

As’hab (Companion) are those with all Awrad & Adhkar, as well as Tarbiyya and Tarqiyya (constant spiritual elevation & growth).

Tarbiyya within the Tariqa Tijaniyya is a very unique and mystical form of spiritual training or education, it occurs by the Himma or Spiritual Force of Shaykh Ahmad al-Tijani (ra) and with the appearance of its Fayda or its promised Divine Flood of Gnosis, Tarbiyya is the unique gift of Shaykh al-Islam Alhajj Ibrahim Niasse (ra), who manifest this great Tijani Divine Flood or Spiritual Effusion in the year 1929/30. The Tijani Fayda brings the direct Knowledge of God to all of those connected with it, who receive its Tarbiyya.

The Tariqa Tijaniyya is different from other Turuq in the same way that the Ummah of Prophet Muhammad (saws) is different from others Communities. We belong to the Two Seals: the Seal of the Prophets AND the Seal of the Saints!

This is the short answer. See your Muqaddam or Shaykh for more information.
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