

Baba (honorific)

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Baba (Persian: بابا, Urdu: , Pashto: ; Sanskrit, Punjabi, Bengali, Hindi and Marathi: बाबा; father; grandfather; wise old man; sir,^[1]) is a Persian honorific term used in several West and South Asian cultures. It is used as a mark of respect to refer to Sufi saints.^[*citation needed*]

The Bektashi Order, headquartered in Albania, use the term of *baba* for all its priesthood.^[*citation needed*]

During the Muslim rule in South Asia it was also used for Hindu and Sikh ascetics (sannyasis) is also be used as a suffix or prefix to their names e.g.: Ramdev Baba, Baba Ramdevji, etc.^{[1][2]} *Baba* is also a title accorded to the head of certain order of Sufi saints: Baba Bulleh Shah and Rehman Baba.^[1] The Persian term was also adopted in Malaysia as an honorific of respect to address Chinese people born in British Straits Settlement.^{[3][4]}

In Shona, a language spoken in Zimbabwe, and also in Yoruba, a language spoken by the Yoruba culture in the south western part of Nigeria, Baba is an honorific for father, wise man or, simply, elderly man. It is also a term of respect used by wives, other women, children and other youth to an older man.^[*citation needed*]

See also

- Baba (name)
- Indian honorifics

References

- ↑ ^{*a b c*} Platts, John T. (John Thompson). A dictionary of Urdu, classical Hindi, and English. London: W. H. Allen & Co., 1884.
- ↑ Hunter, William Wilson; James Sutherland Cotton, Richard Burn, William Stevenson Meyer, Great Britain India Office (1908). *Imperial Gazetteer of India* **20**. Clarendon Press. p. 295.
- ↑ Ooi, Keat Gin (2004). *Southeast Asia : A Historical Encyclopedia, From Angkor Wat to East Timor*. Santa Barbara, Calif: ABC-CLIO. p. 198. ISBN 1-57607-770-5.
- ↑ *Baba* in Weiner, E. S. C.; Simpson, J. R. (1989). *The Oxford English dictionary*. Oxford: Clarendon Press. ISBN 0-19-861186-2.

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Categories: Honorifics | Turkish titles | Titles in Iran | Titles in Afghanistan | Titles in Pakistan | Titles in India | Ecclesiastical titles | Persian words and phrases | Islam stubs | India stubs

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Baba (name)

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Baba is a name and may refer to:

Contents

- 1 Given name
- 2 Surname
- 3 Honorific
- 4 Nickname
- 5 See also

Given name

- Baba Boeoy (born 1968), American radio producer
- Baba Ishak, Seljuk Turk
- Ahmad Baba al Massufi (1556–1627), Malian politician
- Baba Novac, a Serbian hajduk and a national hero in Serbia and Romania
- Prabhat Ranjan Sarkar (1921-1990), Indian tantric master known as Baba
- Sai Baba of Shirdi (died 1918), Indian saint
- Baba Vanga (1911–1996), Bulgarian prophet
- Babasaheb Ambedkar (14 April 1891 - 6 December 1956), an Indian jurist, politician, philosopher, anthropologist, historian and economist.
- Sanjay Dutt (born 1959), Bollywood Actor known as BABA

Surname

- Aglar Baba, Turkish religious leader
- Corneliu Baba (1906–1997), Romanian painter
- Frank Shozo Baba (1915–2008), Japanese American worked for Voice of America and Japan
- Ghafar Baba (1925–2006), Malaysian politician
- Gül Baba (died 1541), Ottoman Bektashi dervish poet
- James Baba, Ugandan politician
- Jaroslav Bába (born 1984), Czech high jumper
- Kikutaro Baba (1905–2001), Japanese malacologist
- Masao Baba (1892-1947), Japanese general
- Baba Nobuharu (1514/15-1575), Japanese samurai
- Otman Baba, Sufi saint
- Shohei Baba (1938–1999), Japanese wrestler
- Tupeni Baba, Fijian politician

Honorific

Baba is often used as an honorific for "father", "grandfather" or "sir", usually prefixed or suffixed to a name or sobriquet.

Nickname

- Baba, Grandmother (Slavic Languages)

See also

- Baba (honorific)

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Categories: Given names | Surnames | Turkish-language surnames | Turkish masculine given names | Arabic-language surnames

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Indian honorifics

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Indian honorifics are honorific titles or appendices to names used in India, covering formal and informal social, commercial, and religious relationships. These may take the form of prefixes, suffixes or replacements.

Contents

- 1 Prefix type
- 2 Replacement type
- 3 Suffix type
- 4 Honorifics
- 5 See also

Prefix type

The most common honorifics in India are usually placed immediately before the name of the subject. Honorifics which can be used of any adult of the appropriate sex include "'Sri"' (also written as *Shri*), "'Smt"' and "'Kum"'.^[*citation needed*]

Sri (Sanskrit: श्री.; also *Sree*, *Shri*, *Shree*, *Siri* or *Seri*) is the most commonly used honorific for men. The title is derived from the Sanskrit श्रीमन्, "*śrīman*", and is akin to the English term "Mister".

Unmarried women bear the title *Kum* (कुमारी, read as *kumārī*) as they would the English "Miss", while married women employ *Smt* (श्रीमती, read as *śrīmatī*), the equivalent of "Mrs".

Replacement type

Some honorifics act as complete replacements for a name, as "**Bhavān**" (Sanskrit: भवान्) or "**Bhavatī**" (Sanskrit: भवती), "**Seth**", "**Sethji**", "**Sethaani**" (fem.).

Baba and **Babaji** mean "Father", and denote very great respect, usually also indicating the bearer's spiritual mastery. **Swami** and **Goswami** are titles for monks and nuns, i.e. those who have enter the path of *sannyasa* or renunciation. In Hinduism, **paṇḍit** is a title given to a scholar or teacher, particularly one skilled in Sanskrit and Hindu law, religion, music or philosophy. It is thus the origin of the English word pundit, which carries a somewhat similar connotation of learnedness.

Suffix type

- The traditional Hindi honorific suffix is *-ji*. For example M.K. Gandhi, known outside India the title *Mahatma*, was also often referred to as "Gandhi-ji" and "Bapu-ji".

Honorifics

- Baba
- Babaji
- Babu
- Begum
- Chhatrapati
- Dastur / Dastoor
- Guru
- Hazrat or Hadrat / Hadhrat
- Khan
- Maharaj
- Mahātmā
- Mirza
- Pandit
- Prabhupāda
- Rai (Indian)
- Raj
- Sahib
- Sardar
- Seth (following a man's name, indicative of power/wealth)
- Sri (also Shri, Shree)
- Sri Sri
- Swami
- Ustad

See also

- Sikh titles
- Maratha titles

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Categories: Name stubs | Honorifics by country | Titles in India

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baba

Definition from Wiktionary, the free dictionary

*See also: **Appendix:Variations of "baba"***

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English

Etymology

As one of the first utterances many babies are able to say, ***baba*** (like *mama*, *papa*, and *dada*) has come to be used in many languages as a term for various family members:

- father: Arabic, Chinese, Greek, Marathi, Hindi, Bengali, Persian, Swahili, Turkish, Yoruba
- grandmother: many Slavic language (such as Bulgarian, Russian and Polish), Yiddish, Japanese
- baby: Afrikaans, Sinhala

These terms often continue to be used by English speakers whose families came from one of these cultures. In some cases, they may become more widely used in localities that have been heavily influenced by an immigrant community. Some senses were extensions of one of these family terms in the original languages ("old woman" from "grandmother", "holy man" from "father"). The "cake" sense comes through French, from Polish *baba* ("old woman"). The Middle Eastern word ***baba*** (as in *Ali Baba*) is rather a term of endearment, and is ultimately derived from Persian بابا (*bābā*, "father") (from Old Persian *pāpa*; as opposed to the Arabic words أبو (*ʿābu*) and أب (*ʿab*), as well as the Turkish word *ata*; see also Papak) , and is linguistically related to the common European word *papa* and the word *pope*, having the same Indo-European origin.

Noun

baba (*plural babas*)

1. A kind of sponge cake soaked in rum-flavoured syrup.
2. (*esp. among people of East European ancestry*) A grandmother. [quotations ▼]
3. An old woman, especially a traditional old woman from an eastern European culture. [quotations ▼]
4. (*esp. among people of Indian ancestry*) A father. [quotations ▼]
5. (*Hinduism, Islam, Sikhism*) A holy man, a spiritual leader. [quotations ▼]

6. (*India, dated*) A baby, child. [quotations ▼]

7. In baby talk, often used for a variety of words beginning with *b*, such as *bottle* or *blanket*. [quotations ▼]

Related terms

- baba au rhum
- rhumbaba, rum baba
- baba ganoush
- babushka

Translations

5. A holy man, a spiritual leader

[show ▼]

Anagrams

- abab
 - abba, ABBA
-

Afrikaans

Noun

baba (*plural* **babas**)

1. baby

Verb

baba (*present* **baba**, *present participle* **babaende**, *past participle* **gebaba**)

1. to treat with gentle care, to coddle
-

Albanian

Etymology

Ottoman Turkish بابا (*baba*)

Pronunciation

- IPA^(key): [baba] (*Tosk*)
- IPA^(key): [baba] (*Gheg*)

Noun

baba *m* (definite singular **babi**, plural **baballarë**)

- father

Synonyms

- atë

Derived terms

- Baba Dimri

Crimean Tatar

Noun

baba

- father
- dad

Declension

declension of baba	[hide ▲]
nominative	baba
genitive	babanıñ
dative	babağa
accusative	babanı
locative	babada
ablative	babadan

Czech

Etymology

From Proto-Slavic **baba*.

Noun

baba *f*

- crone, hag

2. coward, milksop

Related terms

- bába
- babka
- bábí
- babí
- babička
- babizna

Finnish

Pronunciation

- Hyphenation: ba·ba

Noun

baba

1. Baba, babka, a type of cake.

Declension

Declension of baba (type kala) [hide ▲]

	singular	plural
nominative	baba	babat
genitive	baban	babojen babain ¹
partitive	babaa	baboja
accusative	baba baban	babat
inessive	babassa	baboissa
elative	babasta	baboista
illative	babaan	baboihin
adessive	baballa	baboilla
ablative	babalta	baboilta
allative	baballe	baboille
essive	babana	baboina
translative	babaksi	baboiksi
instructive	–	baboin
abessive	babatta	baboitta

comitative – baboineen

1) Rare.

French

Etymology

From Polish *baba*, introduced in France in the eighteenth century at the court of Stanisław Leszczyński, king of Poland, duke of Lorraine and father-in-law of Louis XV.

Pronunciation

- IPA^(key): /ba.ba/

Noun

baba *m* (plural **babas**)

- baba (type of cake) [quotations ▼]

References

- "baba (<http://www.cnrtl.fr/lexicographie/baba>)" in *le Trésor de la langue française informatisé (The Digitized Treasury of the French Language)*.
-

German

Etymology

A link of the term with the American *bye-bye* is possible but not certain.

Interjection

baba

- (informal, chiefly in Austria)* see you, so long

Usage notes

- In Austria, especially East Austria, **baba** is the most commonly used informal term for saying "goodbye".
-

Hiligaynon

Noun

bába and bábâ

- mouth
-

Hungarian

Pronunciation

- IPA^(key): /ˈbɒbɒ/
- Hyphenation: ba·ba

Noun

baba (*plural* **babák**)

- doll
- baby (very young child)

Declension

declension of *baba*

[hide ▲]

	singular	plural
nominative	baba	babák
accusative	babát	babákat
dative	babának	babáknak
instrumental	babával	babákkal
causal-final	babáért	babákért
translative	babává	babákká
terminative	babáig	babákig
essive-formal	babaként	babákként
essive-modal	-	-
inessive	babában	babákban
superessive	babán	babákon
adessive	babánál	babáknál
illative	babába	babákba
sublative	babára	babákra
allative	babához	babákhoz
elative	babából	babákból
delative	babáról	babákról

ablative	babától	babáktól
-----------------	---------	----------

possessives of <i>baba</i>	[show ▼]
-----------------------------------	----------

Derived terms

- babakocsi
- kisbaba
- próbababa
- rongybaba

Japanese

Romanization

baba

1. *Rōmaji reading of* ばば

Lower Sorbian

Etymology

From Proto-Slavic **baba*.

Noun

baba *f*

1. midwife
2. old woman
3. woman
4. sponge cake

Malay

Etymology

Voiced bapa.

Pronunciation

- (*Johor-Selangor*) IPA^(key): /babə/

- (*Riau-Lingga*) IPA^(key): /baba/
- Rhymes: -abə, -bə, -ə
- Rhymes: -ə

Noun

baba

1. father (male parent)

Synonyms

- bapa (bapanda, bapai, bapak, bapang, papa)
- ayah (ayahanda, aya, yah)
- abah (aba, bah)
- rama

Polish

Pronunciation

- IPA^(key): /'baba/

Etymology 1

From Proto-Slavic **baba*.

Noun

baba *f*

1. (*pejorative*) old woman, woman

Declension

declension of <i>baba</i>			[hide ▲]
	singular	plural	
nominative	baba	baby	
genitive	baby	bab	
dative	babie	babom	
accusative	babę	baby	
instrumental	babą	babami	
locative	babie	babach	
vocative	babo	baby	

Etymology 2

Noun

baba *m*

- baba (a holy man, a spiritual leader)

Declension

declension of <i>baba</i>		[hide ▲]
	singular	plural
nominative	baba	babowie
genitive	baby	babów
dative	babie	babom
accusative	babę	babów
instrumental	babą	babami
locative	babie	babach
vocative	babo	babowie

Portuguese

Etymology

From the hypothetical Latin word **baba*.

Pronunciation

- IPA^(key): /ˈba.ba/

Noun

baba *f* (*plural* **babas**)

- drool, dribble

See also

- babar-se

Romanian

Pronunciation

- IPA^(key): [ˈba.ba]

Noun

baba *f* (singular, nominative/accusative, definite form of **babā**)

- the old woman
-

Serbo-Croatian

Etymology

From Proto-Slavic **baba*.

Pronunciation

- IPA^(key): /bâba/
- Hyphenation: ba·ba

Noun

bàba *f* (Cyrillic spelling **баба**)

- grandmother
- granny, grandma
- (usually pejorative) old woman
- (pejorative) female person

Declension

declension of <i>baba</i>			[hide ▲]
	singular	plural	
nominative	bàba	babe	
genitive	babe	bâbā	
dative	babi	babama	
accusative	babu	babe	
vocative	babo	babe	
locative	babi	babama	
instrumental	babom	babama	

Synonyms

- (*grandmother; grandma*): báka, nena

References

- “baba (http://hjp.novi-liber.hr/index.php?show=search_by_id&id=e1lvWg%3D%3D)” in *Hrvatski jezični portal*
-

Slovak

Etymology

From Proto-Slavic **baba*.

Noun

baba *f*

- (colloquial)* old woman
 - (colloquial)* midwife
-

Slovene

Etymology

From Proto-Slavic **baba*.

Noun

bába *f* (^{???} please provide the genitive!, ^{???} please provide the nominative plural!)

- old woman, hag
-

Spanish

Etymology

From the hypothetical Latin word **baba*.

Pronunciation

- IPA^(key): /ˈbaβa/

Noun

baba *f* (*plural* **babas**)

1. drool, dribble

La chacha lavaba, y mientras lavaba, la **baba** se le caía — *The maid washed, and as she washed, she drooled.* (classroom example of b/v use)

Related terms

- babear
- babero
- baboso
- babosa

See also

- cieno
 - lama
-

Swahili

Noun

baba (*n class, plural baba*)

1. father (male parent)

Coordinate terms

- mama
-

Tagalog

Adverb

baba

1. low

Noun

baba

1. chin

Verb

baba

- to descend

Turkish

Pronunciation

- IPA^(key): /baˈba/
- Hyphenation: ba·ba

Noun

baba

- father
- Saint (as in Gül Baba)

Declension

declension of baba [hide ▲]		
	singular (tekil)	plural (çoğul)
nominative (yalın)	baba	babalar
definite accusative (belirtme)	babayı	babaları
dative (yönelme)	babaya	babalara
locative (bulunma)	babada	babalarda
ablative (çıkma)	babadan	babalardan
genitive (tamlayan)	babanın	babaların
possessive forms of baba		[show ▼]
predicative forms of baba		[show ▼]

Derived terms

- Âdem baba
- ağababa
- ana baba
- Arap Baba
- baba adam
- baba bucağı
- baba evi
- baba hindi
- baba mirası
- baba nasihati
- baba ocağı
- Baba Oruç
- baba tatlısı
- baba yadigârı
- baba yurdu
- babaanne
- babacan
- babayiğit
- ballıbaba
- büyük baba
- dedebaba
- devlet baba
- efendibaba
- Gani Baba
- Gül Baba
- Haçkalı Baba
- iskele babası
- kayın baba
- Mimi Baba
- Noel baba
- paşa baba
- Şam Baba
- Somuncu Baba
- üvey baba

Upper Sorbian

Etymology

From Proto-Slavic **baba*.

Noun

baba *f*

1. old woman, grandmother
2. midwife
3. dough, pastry
4. pelican (bird)

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Categories: English terms derived from French | English terms derived from Polish

| English terms derived from Persian | English terms derived from Old Persian | English nouns

| English countable nouns | Indian English | English dated terms | Afrikaans nouns | Afrikaans verbs

| Albanian terms derived from Ottoman Turkish | Albanian nouns | Crimean Tatar nouns | crh:Family

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| Upper Sorbian terms derived from Proto-Slavic

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Appendix:Variations of "baba"

Definition from Wiktionary, the free dictionary

The word “baba” appears in many languages with many variations in the use of capitalization, punctuation, diacritics, and in other scripts.

Contents

- 1 Capitalization and punctuation
- 2 Diacritics
- 3 Other scripts
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Capitalization and punctuation

- baba
- Baba
- -baba

Diacritics

- bába
- bàba
- babá
- babà
- babǎ
- babâ

Other scripts

- βάβα
- βαβά
- баба

See also

- Appendix:Variations of "a"
- Appendix:Variations of "b"
- Appendix:Variations of "ba"

Homophones

- babba

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Category: Variations of words

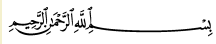
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Bektashi Order

 Part of a series on Shia Islam Twelvers	
The Fourteen Infallibles	
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•	Fatimah
and The Twelve Imams	
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	Hasan
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	al-Sajjad
	al-Baqir
	al-Sadiq
	al-Kadhim
	ar-Ridha
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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Part of a series on Nizari-Ismā'īli Batiniyya, Hurufiyya, Kaysanites and Twelver Shi'ism

Shi'ah Batin'iyya ALEVISM



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 Zahir · Batin · Buyruks · Poetry
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Ali · Hasan · Husayn
 al-Abidin · al-Baqir · al-Sadiq
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Practices

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Crucial figures and influences

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Related Muslim Tariqah
<p>Malamat'iyyah · Qalandar'iyyah Qadir'iyyah · Akbar'iyya · Rifa'iyya Uwaisi · Naqshband'iyyah Oweis'iyyah Mawlaw'iyya · Zahed'iyya · Safav'iyya Khalwat'iyyah · Bayram'iyyah · Jelveti Babai'iyyah · Huruf'iyya · Nuqtaw'iyya Alians · Bektashi folk religion · Çepni Bektash'iyyah · Jelal'iyya · Ni'matullahi Harabat'iyyah · Nurbaksh'iyya · Galibi</p>
Alevi history
<p>Umayyads · Abu Muslim al-Khorasani Abbasids · Babak Khorram-Din Giyaseddin Keyhüsrev II · Baba Ishak Bayezid Wali · Persecution of Alevis Şahkulu Rebellion · Şahkulu Baba Battle of Çaldıran · Yavuz Selim Abaza rebellion · Kuyucu Murad Paşa The Auspicious Event · Mahmud II Koçgiri Rebellion · Dersim Rebellion Seyid Riza · Dersim Massacre Maraş Massacre · Çorum Massacre · Sivas massacre</p>
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Shi'a states in Persia after Safavids
Afsharids · Shakis · Ganja Karabakh · Shirvan · Zands Qajar dynasty · Pahlavi dynasty · Iran
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The **Bektashi Order** (Turkish: *Bektaşî Tarikatı*), or the ideology of **Bektashism** (Turkish: *Bektaşilik*), is an Islamic Sufi order (*tariqat*) founded in the 13th century by the *Wali* (saint) Haji Bektash Veli who solely wrote in Turkish, his style was alike of the Turkistani authors yet resurfaces more of pre-Islamic elements. The order is particularly found throughout Anatolia and the Balkans. In addition to the spiritual teachings of Haji Bektash Veli, the Bektashi order was later significantly influenced during its formative period by the Hurufis (in the early 15th century), the Qalandariyya stream of Sufism, and to varying degrees the Ghulat Shia beliefs circulating in Anatolia during the 14th to 16th centuries. The mystical practices and rituals of the Bektashi order were systematized and structured by Balım Sultan in the 16th century after which many of the order's distinct practices and beliefs took shape.

A large number of academics consider Bektashism to have fused a number of Sunni, Shia and Sufi concepts, although the order contains rituals and doctrines that are distinct unto itself. Throughout its history Bektashis have always had wide appeal and influence among both the Ottoman intellectual elite as well as the peasantry.

Beliefs

The Bektashi Order is a Sufi order and shares much in common with other Islamic mystical movements, such as the need for an experienced spiritual guide — called a *baba* in Bektashi parlance — as well as the doctrine of "the four gates that must be traversed": the "Sharia" (*religious law*), "Tariqah" (*the spiritual path*), "Marifa" (*true knowledge*), "Haqiqah" (*truth*).

Bektashism places much emphasis on the concept of *Wahdat-ul-Wujood* وحدة الوجود, the "Unity of Being" that was formulated by Ibn Arabi. This has often been labeled as pantheism, although it is a concept closer to panentheism. Bektashism is also heavily permeated with Shiite concepts, such as the marked veneration of Ali, The Twelve Imams, and the ritual commemoration of Ashurah marking the Battle of Karbala. The old Persian holiday of Nowruz is celebrated by Bektashis as Imam Ali's birthday.

In keeping with the central belief of *Wahdat-ul-Wujood* the Bektashi see reality contained in Haqq-Muhammad-Ali, a single unified entity. Bektashi do not consider this a form of trinity. There are many other practices and ceremonies that share similarity with other faiths, such as a ritual meal (*muhabbet*) and yearly confession of sins to a *baba* (*magfirat-i zunub* مغفرة الذنوب). Bektashis base their practices and rituals on their non-orthodox and mystical interpretation and understanding of the Quran and the prophetic practice (Sunnah). They have no written doctrine specific to them, thus rules and rituals may differ depending on under whose influence one has been taught. Bektashis generally revere Sufi mystics outside of their own order, such as Ibn Arabi, Al-Ghazali and Jelalludin Rumi who are close in spirit to them.

Bektashis hold that the Quran has two levels of meaning: an outer (*zahir* ظاهر) and an inner (*batin* باطن). They hold the latter to be superior and eternal and this is reflected in their understanding of both the universe and humanity (This view can also be found in Ismailism—see Batiniyya).

Bektashism is also initiatic and members must traverse various levels or ranks as they progress along the spiritual path to the Reality. First level members are called *aşıks* عاشق. They are those who, while not having taken initiation into the order, are nevertheless drawn to it. Following initiation (called *nasip*) one becomes a *mühip* محب. After some time as a *mühip*, one can take further vows and become a *dervish*. The next level above dervish is that of *baba*. The *baba* (lit. father) is considered to be the head of a *tekke* and qualified to give spiritual guidance (*irshad* إرشاد). Above the *baba* is the rank of *halife-baba* (or *dede*, grandfather). Traditionally there were twelve of these, the most senior being the *dedebaba* (great-grandfather). The *dedebaba* was considered to be the highest ranking authority in the Bektashi Order. Traditionally the residence of the *dedebaba* was the Pir Evi (The Saint's Home) which was located in the shrine of Hajji Bektash Wali in the central Anatolian town of Hacıbektaş (aka Solucakarahüyük).

History

The Bektashi order was widespread in the Ottoman Empire, their lodges being scattered throughout Anatolia as well as many parts of Balkans and the imperial city of Constantinople. The order had close ties with the Janissary corps, the bulk of the Ottoman Army.^[4] With the abolition of Janissaries, the Bektashi order was banned throughout Ottoman Empire by Sultan Mahmud II in 1826. This decision was supported by the Sunni religious elite as well as the leaders of other, more orthodox, Sufi orders. Bektashi *tekkes* were closed and their dervishes were exiled. Bektashis slowly regained freedom with the coming of the Tanzimat era. After the foundation of republic, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk banned all Sufi orders and shut down the lodges in 1925. Consequently, the Bektashi leadership moved to Albania and established their headquarters in the city of Tirana. Among the most famous followers of Bektashi Sufism in the 19th century Balkans were Ali Pasha and Naim Frashëri.



World Headquarters of the Bektashi Community
in Tirana, Albania

Despite the negative effect of this ban on Bektashi culture, most Bektashis in Turkey have been generally supportive of secularism to this day, since these reforms have relatively relaxed the religious intolerance that had historically been shown against them by the official Sunni establishment.

In the Balkans the Bektashi order had a considerable impact on the Islamization of many areas, primarily Albania and Bulgaria, as well as parts of Macedonia. By the 18th century Bektashism began to gain a considerable hold over the population of southern Albania. Following the ban on Sufi orders in the Republic of Turkey, the Bektashi community's headquarters was moved from Hacibektaş in central

Anatolia to Tirana, Albania. In Albania the Bektashi community declared its separation from the Sunni community and they were perceived ever after as a distinct Islamic sect rather than a branch of Sunni Islam. Bektashism continued to flourish until the Second World War. After the communists took power in 1945, several babas and dervishes were executed and a gradual constriction of Bektashi influence began. Ultimately, in 1967 all *tekkes* were shut down when Enver Hoxha banned all religious practice. When this ban was rescinded in 1990 the Bektashism reestablished itself, although there were few left with any real knowledge of the spiritual path. Nevertheless many "tekkes" (*lodges*) operate today in Albania. The most recent head of the order in Albania was *Hajji* Reshat Bardhi *Dedebaba* (1935–2011) and the main *tekke* has been reopened in Tirana. In June 2011 *Baba* Edmond Brahimaj was chosen as the head of the Bektashi order by a council of Albanian babas. Today sympathy for the order is generally widespread in Albania where approximately 20% of Muslims identify themselves as having some connection to Bektashism.

There are also important Bektashi communities among the Albanian communities of Macedonia and Kosovo, the most important being the Harabati Baba Tekke in the city of Tetovo, which was until recently under the guidance of *Baba* Tahir Emini (1941–2006). Following the death of *Baba* Tahir Emini, the *dedelik* of Tirana appointed *Baba* Edmond Brahimaj (*Baba* Mondî), formerly head of the Turan Tekke of Korçë, to oversee the Harabati baba tekke. A splinter branch of the order has recently sprung up in the town of Kiçevo which has ties to the Turkish Bektashi community under Haydar Ercan Dede rather than Tirana. A smaller Bektashi *tekke*, the Dikmen Baba Tekkesi, is in operation in the Turkish-speaking town of Kanatlarci, Macedonia that also has stronger ties with Turkey's Bektashis. In Kosovo the relatively small Bektashi community has a *tekke* in the town of Đakovica (Gjakovë) and is under the leadership of *Baba* Mumin Lama and it recognizes the leadership of Tirana.



Bektashi khanka on the Kuz-Baba Hill in Vlorë,
Albania

In Bulgaria, the *türbes* of Kıdlemlî Baba, Ak Yazılı Baba, Demir Baba and Otman Baba function as heterodox Islamic pilgrimage sites and before 1842 were the centers of Bektashi *tekkes*.

Bektashis continue to be active in Turkey and their semi-clandestine organizations can be found in Istanbul, Ankara and Izmir. There are currently two rival claimants to the *dedebaba* in Turkey: Mustafa Eke and Haydar Ercan.

A large functioning Bektashi *tekke* was also established in the United States in 1954 by *Baba* Rexheb. This *tekke* is found in the Detroit suburb of Taylor and the tomb (*türbe*) of *Baba* Rexheb continues to draw pilgrims of all faiths.

Harabati Tekke controversy

In 2002 a group of armed members of the Islamic Community of Macedonia (ICM), the legally recognized organization which claims to represent all Muslims in Macedonia, invaded the Harabati Baba Tekke in an attempt to 'reclaim' the *tekke* as a mosque, although the facility has never functioned as such. Subsequently the Bektashi community of Macedonia has sued the Macedonian government for failing to restore the *tekke* to the Bektashi community, pursuant to a law passed in the early 1990s returning properties previously nationalized under the Yugoslav government. The law, however, deals with restitution to private citizens, rather than religious communities.^[5] The ICM claim to the *tekke* is based upon their contention to represent all Muslims in Macedonia; and indeed, they are one of two Muslim organizations recognized by the government, both Sunni. The Bektashi community filed for recognition as a separate religious community with the Macedonian government in 1993, but the Macedonian government has refused to recognize them.

Poetry and literature

Poetry plays an important role in the transmission of Bektashi spirituality. Several important Ottoman-era poets were Bektashis, and Yunus Emre, the most acclaimed poet of the Turkish language, is generally recognized as a subscriber to the Bektashi order.

A poem from Bektashi poet Balım Sultan (died 922 AH/1516 CE):

"İstivayı özler gözüm,
 Seb'al-mesânîdir yüzüm,
 Ene'l-Hakk'ı söyler sözüm,
 Miracımız dardır bizim,
 Haber aldık muhkemattan,
 Geçmeyiz zâttan sıfattan,
 Balım nihan söyler Hakk'tan,
 İrşâdımız sırdır bizim."
 "My eye seeks out repose;
 my face is the 'oft repeated seven (i.e. the Sura Al-Fatiha).
 My words proclaim 'I am the Truth';
 Our ascension is (by means of) the scaffold.
 We have become aware through the 'firm letters';
 We will not abandon essence or attributes.
 Balım speaks arcanelly of God;
 Our teaching is a mystery."

Humour

The telling of jokes and humorous tales is an important part of Bektashi culture and teaching. Frequently these poke fun at conventional religious views by counterpoising the Bektashi dervish as an iconoclastic figure. For example:

A Bektashi was praying in the mosque. While those around him were praying "May God grant me faith," he muttered "May God grant me plenty of wine." The imam heard him and asked angrily why instead of asking for faith like everyone else, he was asking God for something sinful. The Bektashi replied, "Well, everyone asks for what they don't have."

A Bektashi was a passenger in a rowing boat travelling from Eminönü to Üsküdar in Istanbul. When a storm blew up, the boatman tried to reassure him by saying "Fear not - God is great!" the Bektashi

replied, "Yes, God is great, but the boat is small."

An imam was preaching about the evils of alcohol and asked "If you put a pail of water and a pail of raki in front of a donkey, which one will he drink from?" A Bektashi in the congregation immediately answered. "The water!" "Indeed," said the imam, "and why is that?" "Because he's an ass."^[6]

Notes

- [1] <http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Template:Twelvers&action=edit>
- [2] http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Template:Shia_Islam&action=edit
- [3] <http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Template:Alevism&action=edit>
- [4] Nicolle, David; pg 29
- [5] Muslims of Macedonia (<http://www.greekhelsinki.gr/pdf/cedime-se-macedonia-muslims.PDF>)
- [6] (http://www.hacibektas.com/index.php?id=bektasi_fikralari) *Hacıbektas Web*

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External links

- The Bektashi order of Sufis (<http://www.bektashiorder.com>)
- The Bektashi Order of Dervishes (<http://www.hermetics.org/bektashi.html>)

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