

Arabic Text of the Hadith Man Kunto Maula

مَنْ كُنْتُ مَوْلَاهُ فَعَلَيَّْ مَوْلَاهُ

Transliteration:

Man kuntu mawlahu fa 'Aliyyun mawlahu.

Urdu Translation:

”جس کا میں مولا (دوست، مددگار، ولی) ہوں، علی بھی اس کے مولا ہیں۔“

English Translation:

“Whoever considers me his mawla (beloved, protector, and loyal supporter), Ali is also his mawla.”

even simpler version:

“Whoever I am the mawla of, Ali is also his mawla.”

Hadith – Sunni Scholarly Position

The narration appears in Tirmidhi (3713). Scholars differed:

✓ Many declared it Hasan (good).

- Imam Tirmidhi
- Imam Ahmad (in some narrations)
- Ibn Hajar
- Al-Dhahabi

✓ Some considered certain chains weak.

Because some routes of narration have weak transmitters.

✓ Consensus:

Though individual chains differ in strength, **the overall meaning is accepted**, and the hadith is widely quoted in Sunni sources as a statement of virtue – *not* political authority.

Short Answer:

➔ **No.**

Sunni scholars agree that the hadith praises Ali **رضي الله عنه** but **does not appoint him** as the political leader after the Prophet ﷺ.

Reasons:

1. **Sahih hadiths clearly indicate Abu Bakr's priority** (prayer leadership, companionship, ijmā' of companions).
2. **The word “mawla” is never used by the Prophet ﷺ to mean “caliph.”**
3. **The companions understood the statement as respect**, not as a transfer of authority.
4. **Ali himself accepted Abu Bakr, Umar, and Uthman**, proving he did not interpret the hadith as political designation.