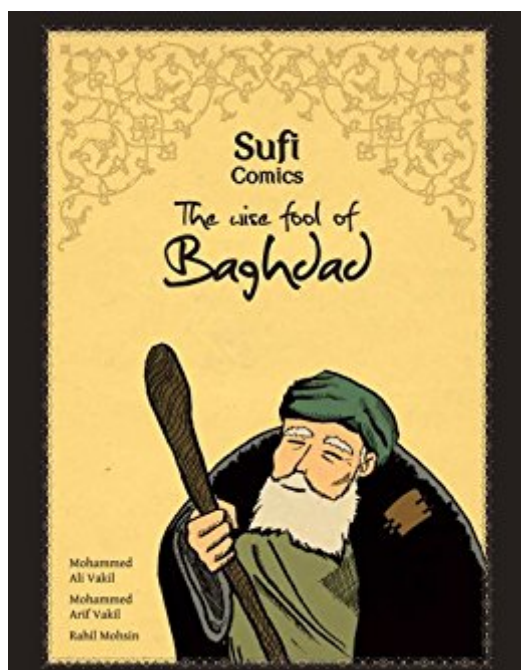


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# Sufi Comics: The Wise Fool Of Baghdad



## Synopsis

What can a man dressed in rags and ostensibly mad teach us about life? Everything as it turns out. Bahloul who lived in Baghdad, circa the 8th century AD, feigned madness to escape the oppression of the ruling class, and he dispensed wisdom in strange and amusing ways. The Wise Fool of Baghdad is a collection of these true stories, richly illustrated in the Turkish-Iranian miniature style. Every story is followed by sacred verses of the Holy Qur'an and traditions, inscribed in Arabic by Muqtar Ahmed, one of India's finest Islamic calligraphers. In the crazy times we live in, you will probably need a fool to make sense of it all.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I know many of these stories as Nasrudding Khwaja tales, but the principle is the same. Wisdom is not always given through schools, but through the absurd. These stories demonstrate ethics, learnings, and spiritual guidance in a way that zen koans work, moving you out of the ordinary. The illustrations are wonderful. Great follow-up to the first volume put out by them and hopefully a taste of what comes next.

In the Kindle format, this book is unreadable to me (text too small). Perhaps because it is a comic, it is not possible to enlarge the text. It was incompatible with Kindle for PC, so I just gave up.

Beautifully illustrated and presented. The stories help us reflect on ourselves, but are fun to read at the same time. The author does a wonderful job in using the stories to link wise verses from the Koran to everyday problems we face in the world, and specifically in India.

This book is stunning! These great stories not only provide great Sufi teachings but put a smile on my face with their wit and humor. The artwork is extraordinary making this book worth owning just to see the ornateness of the drawings. The author clearly put a great deal of thought and effort into this work. I can't wait for the next one!

I'm not aligned with any religion but greatly enjoyed these comics for the window they provided into an unfamiliar culture. The artwork is pleasing, and the meaning of each story will resonate with anyone, regardless of background.

Though are generally targeted at a junior audience, I was drawn to this one because of the alleged "Sufi" tag and the +ve reviews. And did come away the wisdom (once again) not to trust reviews much. This comic is based on the stories of Wahab Ibn Amr (AKA Bahlool Dana, or the Wise Fool) who is said to have lived in Baghdad in the 8th century; and whose resting place is said to be still preserved. The graphics are of a different style, which are well, different. There is no depth here, even for kids, except for possibly couple of tales. On the other hand there is the usual drivel about how the girl child is the most sublime phenomenon in the cosmos; and how she should be kept "1st". And that in a condescending tone of the "enlightened" wanting to enlighten creatures of the dark. Perhaps the authors are totally oblivious about the toxin on feminism in the west and what it is doing to society (which is now gaining ground rapidly in India). Perhaps this hackneyed, propaganda driven theme should not find place in a comic which claims to be what it claims. But if it does, perhaps it would be worthwhile to mention the flip side of the coin. But that is possibly beyond the ken of its creators. This and other content seems to be designed more to indoctrinate rather than dispense anything more sublime. The authors do admit that they have taken artistic liberty and do not adhere to historical accuracy. Maybe, that's also why this comic is devoid of essence which one would have hoped to find, at least concealed. Lastly, if you still want it, know that this comic is incompatible with Kindle for PC. Those who have the ereader would already know its useless for

comics. Phone screens will be most inappropriate for reading comics. So get it only if you have a tablet.

• The Wise Fool of Baghdad • has simple messages for living related in a brilliant way. This book has a central character, Bahlool Dana - the wise fool. Bahlool feigns madness to escape punishment from the authorities and the powerful, whose corrupt practices he criticizes. He provides guidance to one and all on issues related to humanity. The central theme in the book is to be humble and considerate to the poor. In many stories, one is reminded of Birbal and Naseeruddin Hodja, like whom Bahlool uses his intellect to get justice for the poor. The Wise Fool of Baghdad has exceptional artwork and presentation. The book has illustrations in full colour and artwork in all the pages. The relevant verses from the Quran and Hadith (the Prophetâ™s (saw) life & sayings) are depicted with excellent calligraphy. The book will appeal to both adults and children. With the great artwork, it is difficult to put it down and I ended up reading the whole book in a single go!

I really enjoyed the way each lesson was illustrated. I liked the commentary as well along with corresponding hadiths and ayaHs. I can see this as a fun book to read and discuss with my children when they are older.

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