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Good Advice From an Ant

MAULĀNĀ SHEIKH NĀZIM AL-ḤAQ QĀNĪ, Lefke, Cyprus,
Sohbet from 6. *Shawwāl* 1428 / 17th of October 2007

*A‘ūdhu bi-llābi mina sb-sbaitāni r-rajīm,
bismi llābi r-raḥmāni r-raḥīm.*

Allāh, allāh, subḥānallāh.

[Dbikr:] *Allāh yā Da‘īm ... Allāh yā Jalīl
... Allāh dbu l-Jalāl ... Ḥasbun Allāh Rabbun
Allāh ... Ḥasbun allāh wa ni‘mal wakīl ni‘mal
maula wa ni‘mal naṣīr, ghufrānaka rabbanā wa
ilayka l-maṣīr.*

*As-salāmu ‘alaikum. Yā ayyuha l-mu‘minūn,
s-salāmu llābi ‘alaikum.*

*Madad, yā sultānu l-anbiyā‘, madad. Allāh,
Allāh, subḥānallāh. Ashhadu an lā ilāha illā
llāh wa ashhadu ana sayyidīnā muḥammadan
‘abdubu wa ḥabībubu wa rasūlub.*

May Allāh forgive us! For the honour of the most glorified, most praised one in the Divine Presence who came to teach people how a perfect servant should be. He didn’t come to teach you about your duniyā, your worldly works, no.

Madad, yā sultānu l-awliyā‘, madad, yā rijālallāh. As-salāmu ‘alaikum. Welcome to you!

The seal of Prophet’s mission was only to teach mankind how they should live, because we have been created for His servanthood. He created us to be His servants.

Allah Almighty says, “*wa mā kbalaqtu l-jinna wa l-insān illā li-ya‘budūn*” [51:56] and

it is so clear. I created jinns and mankind only for My servanthood to be My servants. That is the Divine Purpose as it is clearly mentioned in the Holy Book, in the holy Quran al-Karim: *illā*, only, *li-ya‘budūn*, to pray for Me. For prayer, servanthood and to obey. Yes, that is clear.

And He Almighty just prepared this world for mankind. He has created countless kinds of creatures. For what? For you, for mankind. Everything has a meaning, has a wisdom, has a purpose for its creation. You can’t say that anything was created without a meaning, without a reason, or without having a wisdom in its existence. Everything has just been created for some purpose, even the tiniest ant that can hardly be seen.

Sometimes I open my book and I can see such a small ant running so quickly. If we had such a quick movement we would not be in need of cars or any other vehicles. So quickly it is running, in one or two seconds it can cover perhaps ten centimeters. And you can’t even see its legs, no, it is impossible. I don’t think that anyone can look and see its legs, and its creation is perfect.

Perhaps you may look at it under a microscope, and you would be amazed at a creature that can run so quickly. It has a head, it has a body, it has senses, and it may send itself in any direction. *Subḥānallāh.*

What can you say? Is it a creature or has it created itself? What do you say?

Sometimes that ant appears to me. I have an old book, and when I open it suddenly it runs out from its hiding place. Its senses know when I am opening my book and it comes out running so quickly – *subbānallāb*, *subbānallāb*. If we could be at least equal to its creation and what it has been granted, we would never need to use cars or trains or any other transport, no. It is never in need of transport.

What is it eating? *Subbānallāb*. Anything that has a mouth must eat. What is its *rizq*, provision? From where is it coming?

I was asking the ant, “Do you have a market, a supermarket? Where are you running to? To buy something? Do you have money? Are you free to run anywhere?”

It said, “Yes, I am free.” *Naṣiḥun lisān*, speaking clearly. Not like us: eh, eh, eh, man ... If anyone begins to say, “Eh, eh, I...,” that means he is a liar. If a true person speaks, he is not afraid and he is speaking clearly. But a liar doesn’t finish and doesn’t understand saying, “Eh, eh, eh, I think, hmmm, I think so, eh ...,” this is a liar. You must know this. Therefore, mostly they are writing about their lives, writing the story of their lives. If you see that anyone is speaking about his life then he is true, listen to him.

If he is stuttering, “Eh, hmmm, eh, I think so ... eh, ah, I think so, yes, some rats are running onto ships, therefore, eh, hmm, oh our members of our government, mmm, hhhh, what shall we do? I am thinking eh, ehm that dogs are good.”

“Not dogs. Do dogs run after rats? Cats are running after rats.” But he is a liar. Making government members to be occupied by rats. “What is your name?” ... “Yes, Sir. You are a specialist for cats ... for rats?” “Yes.” Is anyone here a specialist in cats? This gentlemen, whose name I don’t know, says that he is a specialist for rats. Anyone who is a specialist for cats? Anyone? Yes, I think that they are all lying, they are all

liars. ... You must speak to true ones who speak as missiles run. All people who stutter are liars.

What were we saying? I have forgotten why we said ... *subbānallāb*.

That small ant which I met in my home was speaking to me *naṣiḥun lisān*, clearly. Because its speech was true, with no bad motives, no. That is *mukbliṣ*, a sincere creature, telling the truth, accepting the truth and speaking truly, teaching us.

I asked it, “Where are you running to so quickly?”

“I am running to find my provision.”

“Do you have any markets?”

It said, “We have no need, everywhere that we run and we need something, it is ready for us.”

That is a good teaching for mankind. We should be like that small ant: everywhere that you go when you become hungry you should find a tray of food.

Ibrahim Adham – Allah bless him – was a Sultan, a big and rich sultan. He learned that his Sultanate would never give him any honour in the Divine Presence, and only in this life would people respect him as a sultan. But after leaving this life that sultanate would have no value.

Ibrahim said, “I am leaving everything and going to my Lord’s Holy House to be His servant, to be occupied only by servanthood. That is enough for me. Why am I wasting this short life with nonsense titles?”

And he gave everything away and left his sultanate and his treasures and took an old cloth, *kafiān*, cloak. And he took an ‘*aṣā*, stick, in his hand and an *ibrik*, kettle, for making *wuḍu’*. And he walked. When he reached the terrible desert of the Arabian Peninsula shayṭān came to him and said, “Oh, Ibrahim, where are you going?”

“To my Lord’s holy House, to the Lord’s House I am going.”



Inna li-Llabi wa inna ilayHi raji'un
 Recently Shaykh Husayn 'Ali al-Naqshbandi al-Rabbani
 of 'Afrin (near Aleppo, Syria), a khalifa of Grandsbaykh
 Mawlana Abd Allah ad-Daghbistani – qaddas.Allabu sirrabu –
 passed on to the Divine Mercy of his gracious Lord Allah, the
 All-Wise and All-Merciful. May Allah reward him generously
 for his untiring service to the Ummah of His Beloved, shower His
 blessings upon him, grant him the company of the Prophets, the
 Martyrs, the Awliya and the Righteous and unite him with the
 best of Creation, our liege-lord Muhammad – sallaLabu alayhi
 wa sallam – in the biggest stations of paradise! Fatihab!

Photo 1990 after Hajj in Shaykh Husayn's House.

“Oh Ibrāhīm, do you think that this desert is so easy to pass through to reach the House of the Lord? And you don't have a camel to ride and nothing to eat or drink and no one to guide you. You want to pass through this huge and terrible desert alone to reach the House of the Lord? Be careful! If you want to lose your life, then go!”

And he said, “I know who you are. Therefore, inspite of the fact that you are trying to make me afraid, I won't listen to you. Now I am taking an oath: For every step that I take I am going to pray two raka'ats. I am making an oath to my Lord that I am going to travel to His Holy House in such a way. Go away! He is looking after me. I will not listen to you!”

And he began on every step to pray two raka'ats and so he continued – *subhānallāb*.

And surrounding him was a cool valley. Anytime he needed water a spring appeared so that he could drink and make wuḍu'. Anytime he was in need of something to eat, he found a tray of what His Lord chose to give him in front of him. Perhaps for seven years or ten years he was travelling in such a way to the House of the Lord.

That small ant reminded me. When I asked it, “Where are you running?” it said, “I am running to find my provision.” I said, “Do you have any shops or markets?”

It said, “We don't need to buy anything from a shop or a market. Anywhere that I am in need, my Lord, my Creator is prepar-

ing something for me so that my physical being is happy and gives me refreshment.”

If you look up you can see that every creature has a mouth. That mouth has two purposes: one purpose is for eating and drinking,

and the second is that with the tongue in their mouth they are glorifying their creator!

The ant said, “I am a small one, but I am glorifying my Lord. Anywhere that I run, I can find what is necessary for my small body. And if you are a perfect person, you should be able to hear my glorification as the sound of thunder.”

Where are we living? Allah, Allah, Allah, Allah. That is a big teaching, teaching me, teaching you! Oh, *yā rabbanā, allimnā rushdanā*. Oh our Lord, make us truly believe and try and be your servants and to be occupied only by your servanthood. May Al-lāh forgive us.

For the honour of the most honoured one in His Divine Presence, Sayyidinā Muḥammad, *Fātiḥab*. ♦



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Resp. Salim Spohr