

LETTER TWENTY
CONCERNING WORKING HARD

With His Glorious Name ﷻ
Allah, Allah, Allah

Dear Munīr Ahmad:

Assalāmu ʿalaykum wa rahmatullāhi wa barakātuhu.

I am well and hope that you are too. This *faqīr* was in Karachi for a limited time and so we could only meet for a short time. Make up for our short physical meeting with a strong spiritual connection.

A person is like a flourmill, which is only useful if it churns wheat into flour. Likewise, a person is useful and worthy in this world only with remembrance [*dhikr*]. Just like stagnant, standing water becomes a breeding ground for filth, an empty and carefree mind becomes a hive for useless and scorned thoughts.

The devil's [*shaytān*'s] first efforts are to make a person neglectful and forgetful of the remembrance of Allah ﷻ. In war, the first thing victors do is to disarm their prisoners of war. Likewise, the first thing that *shaytān* does once he overcomes someone is to make him forgetful of Allah ﷻ. Allah ﷻ says in the Holy Quran: “*The devil got the better of them: So he made them forget the remembrance of Allah.*” (58:19) A *hadīth* tells us that the devil [*shaytān*] says, “I ruined mankind through sin, and mankind ruined

me through the testimony “there is no deity worthy of worship except Allah [*lā ilāha illallāh*].”

Sow the seed of good deeds every moment of your life so that one day you will find a garden. Each second of time is like a piece of gold. Just as grains of sand together form a sand dune, seconds of time form a man’s life. You must have learned in your science class that celestial objects are always in motion, and so this is a sign from nature that we too should always be involved in work and not remain stagnant. Those who merely fill their stomachs are animals, those who do no work are without life, and those who have the habit of hard work are true men.

Only if we work hard in this life will we have peace and comfort in the Hereafter. People should work hard and be ill at ease so that they can be in comfort later. Protect yourself from distracting thoughts, and propel yourself forward in remembrance [*dhikr*] and spiritual development [*sulūk*] with determination. A man must do one task very well, and not multiple tasks haphazardly. Our elders [*mashā’ikb*] have referred to this as the main route of progress in spiritual development [*tasawwuf*]. This *faqīr* will make supplication that Allah ﷻ draw you nearer to Him.

Was-salām ma’ al-ikrām,

Faqīr Zulfīqar Ahmad Naqshbandī Mujaddidī