

LETTER TWENTY-ONE
CONCERNING TRUE HEARTS

With His Glorious Name ﷻ
Allah, Allah, Allah

Highly respected Zulfiqār Ahmad Siddīqī:

Assalāmu ʿalaykum wa rahmatullāhi wa barakātuhu.

I noticed your letter today and decided to reply right away. This *faqīr* reached Washington D.C. almost twenty days ago after having traveled through Moscow and Daghestan. It is snowing heavily here and everything appears white, but business is operating as usual. People are entering the *tariqah* and learning remembrance [*dhikr*].

The youth here are to be pitied. To attain peace they work all day in jobs that produce anything but peace. They have shining bodies on the outside but carry dark hearts within. It is sadly amazing that man only realizes the value of life when more than half of it has expired. Many people cannot control their lusts even in old age. Someone once said that the stubborn donkey has become old but still refuses to obey the master.

The inner base desires of a man blind him; he sacrifices eternal pleasures for the immediate and temporal. Our teeth fall out from eating Allah's ﷻ countless blessings, yet our tongues easily become weary of singing His praises. Are we blind that we do not

see the chickens bowing their heads for each morsel of food? Are we so intoxicated by this world that we do not value prayer? Remember that the devil [*shaytān*] refused to bow his head just once and was thrown out of the kingdom of Allah ﷻ. Likewise, the person who does not pray refuses to bow to his Creator forty times everyday!

Our sad state is that we think we are too good to die.

We would not be burdened with the worries of this life if only we lived our life according to Allah's ﷻ laws. You must have observed that racehorses are not put to work in the fields. Save yourself from the hypocrisy of seeming to be Allah's ﷻ friend on the outside while being His enemy within. Cunning is a small blanket, and if you cover your head with it, your feet will be naked. Walk humbly and cautiously otherwise you will trip and fall.

Try and establish the habit of always remaining optimistic. Instead of lamenting that there are thorns among the roses, be grateful that there are roses among the thorns. A honeybee turns the same nectar into honey that a spider turns into venom--to each his own.

If people shower you with undeserving praise, know that tin cannot become gold merely because ignorant people say so. A young man asked an elderly man, "Are you better or my dog?"

The elderly man answered, “There is a dark abyss in front of me – if I successfully cross it, then I am better, otherwise your dog.”
Hadrat Abū ʿImrān ؑ used to say that animals will see the pitiful state of humans on the Day of Judgment and be grateful that Allah ﷻ had not made them human.

Creatures of the jungle have not hurt man nearly as much as man has hurt other men. Hence you should cultivate kindness and etiquette within you. The purpose of spiritual development [*tasammuf*] is mercy towards creation. *Tasammuf* will not benefit anyone whose etiquette and manners are not perfected or improving. Do not spread thorns in the way of someone who spreads thorns in your path, otherwise the whole world will be full of thorns. Remember that the axe that cuts down the sandal tree also becomes fragrant with its scent. Signs are sufficient for the intelligent.

Was-salām maʿ al-ikrām,

Faqīr Zulfīqār Ahmad Naqshbandī *Mujaddidī*