

LETTER TWENTY-THREE
CONCERNING THE EARLY MORNING

With His Glorious Name ﷻ
Allah, Allah, Allah

My dear daughter:

Assalāmu ʿalaykum wa rahmatullāhi wa barakātuhu.

May Allah ﷻ include you among the pious. I was glad to read that you take special care in observing prayer at its proper time.

You have written that you wake up with the call [*adhān*] of the morning [*fajr*] prayer. If I may suggest something, it would be much better if you could wake up just twenty minutes or so before the *adhān* so that you would be able to offer pre-dawn prayers [*tabajjud*] as well. A *hadīth* reminds us that an angel calls out in the last third of the night on behalf of Allah ﷻ: “Is there anyone to ask so that he may be answered?” Alas the Giver has to repeatedly ask, and the people who should be asking are sound asleep in their beds.

If you make a little bit of effort and try and wake up before *fajr* in order to offer four cycles [*rakʿāt*] of *tabajjud*, your name will be included among those who wake up in the last third of the night. A *hadīth* tells us that the person who increases the numbers of a group will be included within it. By arising only a few minutes before *fajr* you will still be counted as one of those who pray

tabajjud. In this day and age this is rare and highly rewarded. After *tabajjud* you should send salutations upon the Messenger ﷺ of Allah most humbly and lovingly.

Poverty-stricken we indeed are, but may nonetheless be summoned,

For we have sent presents of salutations before us.

After this you should be humble and ashamed as you recall your sins and ask for forgiveness from your Lord. It may be that tears of grief and shame sparkle like stars on your eyes and become an excuse for Allah ﷻ to pardon you.

May a tear be so true that its coming be accepted by You.

Next you should engage in remembrance [*dhikr*] and reflection [*muraqabah*], and after the morning [*fajr*] prayer you should open and read the Holy Quran with the desire and excitement of reading a love letter.

It is the way [*sunnah*] of the Prophet ﷺ to take a short rest/nap after lunch, which in turn makes waking for *tabajjud* easier. You should make all the effort you can, and it may be that Allah ﷻ grants you regularity in *tabajjud*.

*Wake so that your heart may be cleansed,
Why will your Lord not hear the ones who wake for His
sake?*

Regarding your question about background music playing in your mind, do not worry. You will automatically start hating Michael Jackson's music when the music of your heart's remembrance starts playing. Keep me informed from time to time regarding your condition and circumstances.

Was-salām ma' al-ikrām,

Faqir Zulfiqar Ahmad Naqshbandi *Mujaddidi*