

*LETTER SEVEN*  
**CONCERNING GOODWILL**

With His Glorious Name ﷺ  
Allah, Allah, Allah

Dear respected *Hadrat Mufti* Rashid Ahmad (may the legacy of our scholars persist):

*As-salāmu °alaykum wa rahmatullāhi wa barakātuhu.*

This *faqīr* safely arrived in Washington D.C. twenty days ago after traveling to Moscow and Daghestan. It is snowing very hard here.

By the will of Allah [*māshā'Allah*] many people are entering the *tariqah* and learning both the importance of remembrance [*dhikr*] as well as the science of spirituality [*sulūk*]. However, the condition of the Muslim youth is pitiful. Desperately searching for inner calm and peace, they labor in their careers with such fervor. They have white and clean bodies but they carry black stones inside. They grow old yet remain lustful throughout their lives.

*The ears have entangled the senses with romantic tales,  
The eyes have caged the heart with base desires.*

Yet some are fortunate enough to have illuminated their hearts. They have established many Islamic centers and hold the Friday prayer regularly along with various weekend programs. In some areas, Muslims rent churches to establish the Friday prayer.

This *faqir* is trying to wake up the dormant and those who are busy pursuing the false attractions of this world. It is ironic that man only begins to value this life after a majority of it has passed. The purpose of *tasamwuf* and *sulūk* are to remind man: “Refine your manners with the manners of Allah ﷻ.”<sup>20</sup>

He whose manners are not rectified cannot benefit from *tasamwuf*. Always remain optimistic: the same nectar that the spider turns into poison, the bee turns into honey. Distance yourself from those who are cunning and fraudulent. They are like a small blanket: if one covers the face, then the feet are sure to show. However, always be kind and considerate: “*Religion is goodwill.*”<sup>21</sup>

The beasts of the jungle have not harmed man nearly as much as he has harmed himself. Do not spread thorns before those who spread thorns in your path – otherwise, the entire world will be covered with thorns. Remember that the sandal tree renders fragrant the very axe being used to cut it. Always walk with the flag of humility – otherwise, you will stumble and fall.

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<sup>20</sup> For example, since Allah ﷻ is the most Merciful, his servants should aim to be merciful towards one another.

<sup>21</sup> This is a statement of the Noble Prophet ﷺ.

Today the children of those scholars who barely consumed lawful [*halāl*] earnings fill themselves with the unlawful [*harām*]. Protect yourself from self-praise and arrogance. Such people have crumbled many mountains of knowledge.

After the first day of school a man asked his son what the teacher had taught. The son replied, “the ‘*alif*<sup>22</sup> is void.” A sign is enough for the wise. At times recite these lines of poetry when you are sitting in reflection [*murāqabah*].

*I am ashamed of my inferiority but reflect upon Your  
eminence.*

*But what can I do with my heart? It is yet desirous to meet  
You.*

*Was-salām ma'al-ikrām,*

*Faqīr Zulfīqar Ahmad Naqshbandī Mujaddidī*

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<sup>22</sup> ‘*Alif* is the only letter of the Arabic alphabet that stands tall without a bend or curve in its written form. Furthermore, it is also the only letter that remains void of the motions of the short vowels. Like the ‘*alif*, he who stands proud remains void of the spiritual states of the heart and the soul.

