

Contents

Foreword	
Obituary	
Harms of wisawis and the remedy	
The wisdom behind women outnumbering men	
The reason for mustahabát (optional ibádat	
The whisperings of Shaitán	
The role of the sheikh	
The reality of zuhd (abstinence)	
The objective is to be tárikud-dunyá and not matrú kud-dunyá	
Perfection in abdiyét (bondsmanship)	
The sálik should display joy and enthusiasm	
The remedy for wisáwis	
Sabr is also ibádat	
The cause of grief: gair-ikhtiyárí wisáwis & dreams	
The condition of some Sahábah مهنع للها ضير	
Importance of í'timád and í'tiqád	
Qissah	
The importance of the sheikh's teachings	
A qissah concerning an 'álim	
Shaitán's ploy is to divert from a greater task to a lesser one	
A qissah	
Differentiating between good and evil	
Dreams and their interpretation	
Another dream	
The mind and heart are being invited to sukún	
The position of the tafsír of Abdullah Ibn Abbás ماهنع للها ضير	
This talk is directed to the tálibe-sádiq	
A qissah	
The noble and dignified status of a kámil mu'min	
The basis of entering Jannat at the first instance	
A letter and its reply: the status of Tahajjud	
In summary & Dua	

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Hadhrat Mauláná Muhammad Masíhulláh Khán Sáhib

(هیلع للها تحمر) was born in *Sarai Barlah* in the district of *Aligarh* in the year 1329 or 1330 Hijrî (1911/1912 CE). Hadhrat's (هیلع للها تحمر) lineage is linked to the noble *Sharwání* family of landed nobility, and being linked to *Sayyid Hussain Ghaurí* (هیلع للها تحمر), the lineage is also *Sayyid*.

(هیلع للها تحمر) attended the local government school up to standard six, but did not continue with his secular education, preferring to study *Dín*, which he studied initially in his hometown and, thereafter, completing his studies in *Deoband*. Hadhrat (هیلع للها) became *bay'at* to Hadhrat Mauláná Ashraf Alí Sáhib Thánwí

(هیلع للها تحمر), from whom Hadhrat (هیلع للها تحمر) received his *Khiláfat*. This was in the same year that Hadhrat (هیلع للها تحمر) qualified from *Deoband*.

(هیلع للها تحمر) stationed Hadhrat (هیلع للها تحمر) in *Jalálábád*, where Hadhrat (هیلع للها تحمر) established a *madrasah*, *Miftáhul-Ulúm*, and a *khánqáh*. *Sálikín* who came to *Jalálábád* for their self-rectification would stay in the *khánqáh*. Hadhrat

(هیلع للها تحمر) passed away in *Jalálábád* in the early hours of Friday, on the 17th *Jamádul-Ulá* 1413 Hijrî. (14th November 1992).

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Number Twenty Two

FOREWORD

Alhamdulillah, solely with the fadhil of Alláh Ta'álá and the barkat of Hadhratjí هيلع للها نحر and the du'ás of well-wishers, this booklet, For Friends Number Twenty Two, is ready.

back when I was still at medical school, came to mind. At the year-end, after the written examination, we also had to pass an oral examination. I dreaded this oral examination as I was not clued up on psychiatry with its different schools of thought and approaches. Also, the examination was to be conducted by an external examiner, which meant that there was an unknown, unfamiliar specialist from outside to question us. When my turn came I braced myself for the worst as I sat in front of the examiner. It so happened that he was the head of the country's panel overlooking mental hospitals. To my utter surprise – and delight – he asked me none of the questions I had dreaded he would ask. Instead, he wanted to know why there were fewer Muslim (or Indian) patients in mental hospitals than other groups. What followed was more a discussion than an examination. (Alhamdulillah, I managed to pass the examination!)

built-in mechanisms to prevent mental illnesses. Of the many forces that come into play one important factor is the role that the sheikh of Tasawwuf plays in removing many phobias and other mental conditions, a fact well-recognised but not emphasised enough.

era. Anxiety states, panic states and other associated conditions are frequent occurrences. Post traumatic stress has also become common. Not only are we faced with "natural" tragedies like ill health, deaths of close ones and natural disasters but tragedies arising from motor accidents and crime have also increased in leaps and bounds. All of these cause stress.

stress. This majlis that is in your hands is a case in point on the

role that a sheikh plays in helping us with certain problems of a mental nature. The advice given in this majlis has far-reaching effects beyond just the situations discussed.

can only be done if the muríd has proper faith and confidence in the sheikh – I'timád and I'tiqád. It follows that the muríd has to obey the advice and instructions given by the sheikh and he has to keep on informing his sheikh on his progress or lack of it.

has its benefits but real progress is to be obtained by communicating regularly with one's sheikh and making him aware of one's condition.

the ability to act on the valuable advices contained in this majlis.

Obituary

Reference had been made in some past issues that several of the majális that have been translated from tapes, have been done from majális recorded by brother Yusuf (Knobbs) Bulbulia (brother of marhoom Hashim Bulbulia) during his visits to Jalálábád.

that brother Yusuf passed away on the 19th December 2010 in Johannesburg shortly after arriving from Cape Town. He was 65 years old.

Dr. I.M.

میجرلان محرلا للها مسب
میرکلا هلوسر لیع لیصن و هدمحن

[This is a translation of a majlis held by Hadhrat Mauláná Muhammad Masíhulláh Khán Sáhib هيلع للها تحمر in Jalálábád, India, on Saturday, the 5th Jamádu-l-Ukhrá 1409, corresponding to the 14th January 1989.]

HARMS OF WISÁWIS AND THE REMEDY

If an individual is a muríd and his heart wanders in a certain direction on a gair-ikhtiyárí (non-volitional) basis, but his mind deliberately follows in that direction – on a volitional, ikhtiyárí basis – the end result is vexation and difficulties (pareshání)⁽¹⁾. And he achieves nothing. At this time there is a great need for firmness (mazbúti).

temperament – then a fire, a blaze (not a major one, perhaps, but a minor one) arises within him. That is, he is now overcome with a burning anxiety. It is now very difficult to suppress it. And it is now necessary to oppose it with a great deal of firmness. He should on no account act in accordance with it. He should suppress it, no matter how much force is required. Never act accordingly. Absolutely not. He should tackle the task of opposing it. Then, inshá-Alláh Ta'álá, his weak temperament will be reversed.

be burdensome but this is its cure. This is the teaching for him. Now, in this age, these conditions appear rapidly to affect one. That is why it will be taxing in the beginning.

and intestines are sturdy, will not be affected by such influences because he has an inner strength. This prevents the condition from developing and, if it has developed, he will repel it.

1. Hadhrat هيلع للها تحمر is drawing a difference between a thought coming unintentionally into the heart and then the individual deliberately pursues this line of thought mentally.

limbs and intestines, he will be quickly affected. The affliction is

very powerful. To repel the affliction requires a great deal of effort. But this strain has to be borne with steadfastness. Once this has been done a few times, the individual's temperament will become stabilised, inshá-Alláh Ta'álá, and the strain will cease.

to suppress this anxiety is a tremendous strain on one who is weak mentally and weak constitutionally. However, act against it forcefully – not in accordance with its dictates but contrary to its dictates. By doing so, inshá-Alláh Ta'álá, the individual will develop stability and equilibrium⁽²⁾.

Whenever a situation presents causing worry and anxiety, one should quickly move away from it.

[At this point some lady apparently appeared (in full purdah) for some need of hers. Hadhrat's topic digressed at this point.]

The wisdom behind women outnumbering men

If a world-wide census is taken as to the numbers of men and women, will the number of women be more or that of men? I do not know. This is also a special field of study.

be evident from this that Alláh Ta'álá has given men permission to marry four women if they are able to do so with fairness and justice (adl aur insáf). When this permission has been given to marry four women, where will these (extra) women come from?

conclusion is based on applying the first principles of logic. This is a deduction. Otherwise, where will they come from?

2. Hadhrat هيلع للها تحمر is referring to the extreme anxiety state, which may include panic attacks, which arises in the person when assailed by certain thoughts. This condition then prevents him from carrying out even his normal duties.

four hundred women, then each man could marry four women. However, a condition has been laid down for this:

أَلَا مُنْفَخٌ بِإِيفٍ ، عَبْرُو ثَلَاثُو إِيْتَمِّمْ ءِ اسْتَلَا بِمُ مَكَلٌ بَاطٌ أَمْ أُوحِكْنَافُ إِيْمْتِيْلَا إِيْفُ أُوْطِيْسُقْتُ أَلَا مُنْفَخُ
بِكَاوِ أَوْلُوْعَتُ أَلَا إِيْ نَدَا كِلَاذُ ، مُكْنَمِيَا تَكَلْمُ أَمْ وَأُ كَدِيْكَوْفُ أُوْلُدَعَتُ

... and if you fear that you shall not be able to deal justly with the orphan, then marry women who seem good to you, two or three, or four; and if you fear that you shall not be able to deal justly (with so many), then (only) one or (the captives) that your right hands possess (slave girls). In this way it is more likely that you will not be unjust. S.4.3.

two. Four is even more far-fetched. Now, to live with fairness and justice – is it an easy task? No. It is very difficult!

when it came to his pious wives. Despite this, Rasúlulláh ملسو هيلع للها لىص observed strict justice.

The reason for mustahabát (optional ibádat)

One can understand that Alláh Ta'ála has kept mustahabát with the fará'idh and wájbát of the shari'at. One has an option here. Together with the necessities, some aspects have been kept as mustahabát (meritorious) and mustahsanát (commendable). One has a choice. Why is that? The reason is that entry into Jannat is not dependent on these but they are there to attain elevated ranks.

أَوْلِيْمَعُ أُمَّمٌ تَجْرَدُ لِكَلُو

... and for all there will be (assigned) ranks according to what they do... S.46.19.

in worldly matters, one should also have a desire to progress to higher levels in matters of the ákhirat.

He carries out his duties in a good and systematic manner, with fairness and justice. His superior is happy with him and he gets promoted. He keeps on progressing till he becomes head of the

regional office and then progresses to become head at the main office.

progresses to become an inspector and then goes on to become the superintendent. So, due to outstanding performance, the individual progresses higher and higher in official ranks. This should be our efforts as far as the ákhirat is concerned. If this was not possible, why is it said:

الْوَلَمَعِ أَمِّمْ تَجَرَدَ لِكُلُو

... and for all there will be (assigned) ranks according to what they do... S.46.19.

will attain ranks according to his a'mál. Entry into Jannat is dependent on imán and elevated stages are dependent on taqwá here? Nobody is speaking.

[A háfiz present recited the relevant áyet.]

Very well. What is the áyet?

نُوعَجَّهِيَ أَمْ لِي لَّا تَمَّ الْبَلَقُ أَوْ نَأَكْ

They used to sleep only a little of the night. S.51.17.

those who sleep very little at night and when dawn approaches they then repent abundantly.

نُورُ فَعَثَسِي مُهْ رَاحَسُ الْآبُو

...and before the dawning of each day, they would seek forgiveness; S.51.18.

part was spent in ibádat – they separated their sides from places of comfort. This appears in Surah Alif-Lám-Mim Sajdah. The áyet is:

أَعْمَطُوْ أَفُوْخَ مَّهْبِرَ نُوْعُدِّيْ عَجَاضَمَلَانِعَ مَّهْبُوْنُجَ فَيِ اجْنَّتْ

Their sides are separated from their beds whilst they call their Rabb out of

major part of the night is spent in ibádat and they sleep very little. Despite this, as the dawn approaches, they make istigfár. See, a principle has been enunciated, because a kitáb of law has principles and hardly any secondary details. Yes, a few such details may be found. We now need to see its application. One principle has been laid down.

The whisperings of Shaitán

نَطِيئَاتُ الشَّيْطَانِ يُوْحِيْنَ بِهَا

Evil whispering is only from Shaitán...

Why?

أَوْثَمًا نِيدِلَا تُزْحِلْ

... that he may cause grief to those who believe; S.58.10.

are instilled in the hearts. I am not saying anything. These are basic principles.

occupation a person is involved in, he has the experience. Those who are mashá'ikh in the field of fiqh, they will have experience on fiqhí details. They have expertise and insight in the field of fiqh. As ahqar mentioned previously, that person who is running a medical practice where people with various illnesses consult him and most of them recover, he will have experience and expertise in physical illnesses.

The role of the sheikh

Similar is the case of the sheikh dealing with batiní (spiritual) illnesses. People with various illnesses come to him and the majority are cured. For example: Before turning to the sheikh for self-rectification – before making rujú' to him – what were his worldly cravings? What was the state of his greed and avarice? How much was he drawn towards making progress materially? What was the

level of his innate anger? From the aspect of his actions, to what extent was he involved in worthless activities, in seeking glamour and in sins? What was his lifestyle like at home, his harshness and cruelty? What was the form of his disputing with outsiders? To what extent did he burn in jealousy at seeing the worldly progress of others? Etc., etc.

qualities that were in him have been removed and an indifference to materialism is entering his heart. And this is the objective.

The reality of zuhd (abstinence)

The objective is that there should be disaffection from materialism – that is zuhd. Even if he is a king in his external state, his heart is in a state of zuhd as far as materialism is concerned. There should be a continuous process of disaffection. This is the objective.

kamál – there is no great achievement in that. The kamál is that he has these items but they have no place in his heart. This is the meaning of zuhd. The real (or original) sunnat of zuhd is this.

The objective is to be tárikud-dunyá and not matrú kud-dunyá

We thus have two conditions: One is “tárikud-dunyá” and the other is “matrú kud-dunyá”.

dunyá”.

A “**tárikud-dunyá**”: A person whose heart has distanced itself from items that are labelled as “worldly” – but which, in actual fact, are not “worldly”.

A “**matrú kud-dunyá**”: A person who has nothing. When he does not possess anything then from what does he distance himself from? He has nothing to distance himself from.

items but he attaches no value to these in his heart. The normal means that exist to attain an item he utilises, because the order is to utilise these means, but his gaze and his heartfelt faith and confidence are on Alláh Ta’álá. And this is the Sunnah method.

(3) لها تحمر هيلع that if – Alláh forbid – some material loss occurs, he

does not sit down with grief; he does not involve himself in its preoccupation; he does not let his mind delve into this and that; he does not allow his temperament to brood over it and descend into grief. In fact, he is unconcerned. He has suffered a financial loss but he has not sat down aggrieved. It is not so that he had certain hopes and now he is overcome with hopelessness.

Perfection in abdiyet (bondsmanship)

From this it comes out that he does not boast about this. In the same way he does not boast about his staying awake at night in ibádat. However, he remembers and pictures to himself his shortcomings.

even. Then – may Alláh Ta’álá save, may Alláh Ta’álá save us – after having committed evil, why should one not make taubah? Having committed a sin why should one not be repentant and make taubah?

Therefore, he makes istigfár.

3. Hadhratjí’s هيلع للها تحمر practice was to read out the lectures of Hadhratwálá’s هيلع للها تحمر every Friday after the Jumu’ah salát.

what degree of abdiyet are they not exhibiting – that they involve themselves in so much ibádat and then they still make istigfár. How great is this abdiyet not! This is abdiyete-kámilah – perfection in exhibiting bondsmanship. Their gaze is not on their own efforts. They show gratitude for the taufíq to perform deeds. Their gaze is on their shortcomings. They then make istigfár. There is no arrogance by them gazing on their ibádat and piety. However, they display humility. How good bondsmen are they not!”

هيلع للها تحمر in connection with his ibádat: “I cannot achieve perfection in abdiyet.” Hadhratwálá هيلع للها تحمر wrote back, “The day that you consider that you have achieved perfection in your abdiyet, that is the day of your ‘mátim’!”

that commences when somebody passes away.

perfection, that is the day of 'mátim'. What an amazing statement he made! In other words, that is the day for crying tears. A very true statement.

هيلع للها تحمر did not write, "What is the elevated degree of Alláh Ta'áálá's grandeur and majesty, and what is the level of your ibádat that you have considered your ibádat commensurate with His status?" He merely wrote back, "That is the day of 'mátim'".

work. That is all. Shift your gaze away from considering it to be perfection. Otherwise Shaitán will appear. Shaitán will present himself in order to make you weep – for no reason at all, merely out of mischief – in order to remove any cheerfulness, to make the soul dispirited. Shaitán will come to demoralise you.

The sálik should display joy and enthusiasm

Yesterday Hadhratwála هيلع للها تحمر mentioned in his lecture that the sálik should display happiness. Upon this, ahqar repeatedly placed tremendous stress on it that when the sálik executes the orders (of the sharí'at), taking special care to do so to the best of his abilities, bearing in his heart its honourable status, it is necessary for him to be joyful. There should be no laziness. In other words, his temperament should be open all the time. This is necessary. Anything that brings about a decrease in his enthusiasm should be avoided and removed as quickly as possible. Otherwise Shaitán will appear.

trouble such persons (sálikín) to a greater extent. This is the problem. Ordinary people are not troubled as much.

counting: two and two rupees equal four, and three and three rupees equal six. Where are goods obtainable cheaply and where are they expensive? Buy from the cheaper source and sell at the expensive outlet. So, the question about the state of their minds does not arise. Their minds are set there.

Dín, to those who are pursuing Dín with dedication. The robber of imán comes to such persons.

The remedy for wisáwis

That is why Alláh Ta'álá has shown the remedy for these thoughts, that one should ignore them completely; one should be completely unconcerned, completely thoughtless and not incline at all, to the extent that such thoughts become non-existent. As far as possible live like that.

أَوْثَمًا نَبِيًّا لَا تَزْحِيلُ نَطِيئَتَا نِيْمٍ يُؤْمِنُ بِهَا

Evil whispering is only from Shaitán that he may cause grief to those who believe. S.58.10.

mu'min. So, O Muslims! Do not give a thought to such thoughts. Keep in mind Haqq Ta'álá's remedy. From where does the sheikh write from? He writes from there, because the gaze of the sheikh is on Him. The mudarris does not have this vision.

"For something to occur in conformity with your hopes, this is in conformity with your temperament. For it not to occur in conformity with your hopes, this will be in conformity with Bárí Ta'álá's temperament."

wishes of Alláh Ta'álá it is in conformity with your affairs, as this is in accordance with the wishes of Záte-Haqq. From your side you should be in conformity with Záte-Haqq.

wealth and so forth – which are part and parcel of insán's necessities – where will there be despondency and grief? Yes, such thoughts may come but they will not be entertained. Will he willfully bring them on? No. Will he expand them? No. However, he will crush them. This is haqqe-abdiyét bi-haqqe-ma'búdiyét (the rights of bondsmanship in relation to the rights of the Master).

Sabr is also ibádat

(This is exhibiting sabr), because sabr is also an act of esoteric worship – it is an act of ibádat of the batin. Alláh Ta'álá desired that

such an event should occur causing him grief, as is demanded by him being human, and he made use of sabr. To make sabr is to be in conformity with Alláh Ta'álá and not to make sabr is to be discordant.

bring to mind grief and to expand it, is contrary to sabr. Where can this be in conformity with Alláh Ta'álá's wishes? So, to be desirous of being in conformity with one's own desires and to remain thus is contrary to abdiyét. So, to be regular with pious deeds (a'mále-sálihah) and to maintain a state of hopefulness, is the condition of best of deeds (khairul-amal):

أَدْرَمَ رِيحًا وَأَبَاوَتْ كَبْرَ دَنْعٍ رِيحًا تَحْلِصًا يُتَقَبَّلُو

...and the good deeds which are lasting are better in your

Rabb's sight for reward, and better for the end result. S.19.76.

Rabb. Also, to be hopeful is khair. With khairul-amal (good/ pious deeds) and khairul-'umíd (good/ optimistic hopes) one should have positive expectations. It cannot happen to the contrary. This is a promise. However, that there should only be goodness and no harms at all from the worldly point of view, this is not promised. The reason is that, if no difficulties presented themselves, how could the ibádat of sabr and other qualities be practised? This has also been kept in place.

The cause of grief: gair-ikhtiyári wisáwis & dreams

So, gair-ikhtiyári thoughts and gair-ikhtiyári wisáwis cause grief. This is what is being discussed. However, to deliberately set one's mind in pursuit of these thoughts is contrary to abdiyét, contrary to being an abd and contrary to ibádat.

(pleasure) of Záte-Bárió-Ta'álá. But you have directed your mind opposite to radhá'. You have flung it into worry.

They are attached and closely linked to you. More or less everybody will have them. However, the dignified and gracious attitude of abdiyét is that no attention is paid to them. Deliberately

directing one's attention – what is termed “qasdí-fikrí-soch” – is not done.

When seeing fearful dreams

Included in the category of thoughts and wisáwis coming on a gair-ikhtiyári basis, are the seeing of dreams. Dreams come on a gair-ikhtiyári basis and cannot cause harm in any way. They are no cause for anxiety. Alláh Ta'ála is consoling us, teaching us and giving us the remedy that there is no harm in them, neither worldly nor as far as the ákhirat is concerned.

(wealth) or ábrú (honour). So, can dreams cause any harm to one's health, one's wealth or one's honour? Therefore, why be grieved (by dreams) when your eyes open? So, be without concern. Rather, lightly spit thrice to the side in the direction of the side of the body that your eyes opened on and recite “Lá-howla...” thrice, turn on the other side and do the same thrice. This is the antidote for Shaitáni dreams. Now remain unconcerned. Why are you grieving? Has the dream caused any physical harm, any material loss or any dishonour?

reason is that your actions and efforts played no part in bringing on these wisáwis and gair-ikhtiyári dreams. So, there can be no harmful consequences in the ákhirat. The reason is that there is no sin committed: harm in the ákhirat comes from sinning. Whereas, this is not committing a sin – there is no part played by one's volitional deeds (ikhtiyári amal). So, why is there grief?

mu'mins to grieve by instilling a diversity of thoughts. Alláh Ta'ála is saying, “O Muslims! Do not direct your thoughts thither. There will be no accounting, no questioning from My side. To the contrary, I am happier even to a greater extent that what a good mu'min he is that, despite such thoughts and wisáwis coming from Shaitán, he is unconcerned. Neither is there any weakness from the aspect of his aqá'id nor is there any indolence in his deeds. What a solid mu'min is he that he is performing his ma'múlát (schedule of

daily ibádat) punctually and he is firmly grounded in his aqá'ide-ímáníyah. What an excellent mu'min is he, that this shows the elevated stage of the perfection of his imán!"

The condition of some Sahábah مهنع للها ضير

This was the preamble of the Hadíth Sharíf: When some Sahábah مهنع للها ضير related to Rasúlulláh ملسو هيلع للها لوص the state of (being bombarded by) wisáwis, that such-and such wisáwis came to them, that it would be better that they were burnt into charcoal...

You must have studied the Hadíth Sharíf.

alarmed as to consider it to better that they become burnt to charcoal. So, Rasúlulláh ملسو هيلع للها لوص reassured them, "This is open evidence of your imán. You are grieved; I am happy! So, you be happy with my happiness, because Shaitán's happiness lies in seeing you dejected, whereas my happiness lies in seeing you cheerful and happy. So, do you prefer to be happy with my happiness or do you prefer to be happy with Shaitán's happiness?"

your happiness." So, it is as if Rasúlulláh ملسو هيلع للها لوص is saying, "If you are happy with my happiness then I am asking: will there be grief after that? Not at all!" So much so, thereafter they had no complaints of any kind. Thoughts must have come to them subsequently, small or big, of one kind or another, but nobody had any complaints thereafter.

Importance of i'timád and i'tiqád

This is i'timád (trust and confidence) and this is i'tiqád (faith) in one's patron. Based on this i'timád and i'tiqád, they were cured for the rest of their lives. They became extremely happy and grief departed.

on a daily basis and then turning in misery to these thoughts. What i'timád and i'tiqád has he that he sits nursing such thoughts?

Qissah

That is why Hadhrat Shibli هيلع اللها تحمر asked one durwesh, “Which particular stage (maqám) are you striving for nowadays?” This incident was related to us by Hadhratwálá هيلع اللها تحمر. The durwesh replied, “The maqám of tawakkul (reliance on Alláh Ta’álá).” Hadhrat Shibli هيلع اللها تحمر then said, “Oho! Up to now you are still concerned about food and drink?”

there is another stage much higher than that.

altercations concerning thoughts, wisáwis and dreams. He continuously complains about these. If one speaks, now to whom must one speak? Out of shame he does not mention that he had written to his sheikh and his sheikh had replied in this manner and had shown this remedy. How must he write now? Nevertheless, he is still grieving.

his own thoughts and opinions. He is his own devotee.

The importance of the sheikh’s teachings

Were the statements of Rasúlulláh ملسو هيلع اللها لوص merely to console or were they the final say and permanent remedy?

heart by utilising this methodology? If this is his belief (that the sheikh spoke merely to console him) then this difficulty is the result of it.

and abstaining from evil, with the emphasis on the importance of observing the zahirí and batiní laws, it is done with the object of safeguarding his heart from matters that are gair-ikhtiyarí all the time. He should himself stay away from such actions that cause anxiety. If external events cause anxiety then he should keep his temperament clear of these. He should not incline towards them.

repelled. Do not worry about the energy needed but utilise a greater force to put an end to the force. Use a greater force to repel what is causing tumult and anxiety.

of his limbs, weakness of his insides and body and weakness of his mind, he should not repel that which is causing tumult and anxiety with force – he should merely ignore it. The reason is that

any attempt to repel thoughts is also inclining towards them.

attempt to repel is also to incline towards. And the advice given above is to remain aloof. Therefore, no attention is paid at all.

away from regrets. The instruction is being given: Be involved in work, in duties. "Záliká saríul imán" – this is clear evidence of imán. Be involved in work, in duties.

these are very forceful. There are many such incidents.

A qissah concerning an 'álim

An excellent 'álim and a good orator was bay'at to Hadhratwálá هيلع للها تحمر. After the demise of Hadhratwálá هيلع للها تحمر he came here. He had previously been in correspondence with me. He stayed at the Munníwálí Masjid, where the Kashmírí students now stay. There were no students there in those days. Those who stayed here resided in the madrasah.

(4). He was also an orator and a good one. After the Fajr namáz he came to see me. I was living upstairs. He knocked on the door. When I opened the upstairs door I saw that it was this Molvi Sáhib.

last night. It has frightened me. So, I have come to take permission to go home." I said, "Molvi Sáhib, what are you saying? Such an insignificant event and such a major effect! Just because of a dream!" He said, "The dream was of such a nature." I said, "Oho! What was this dream that affected you to such a great degree?" He explained, "The dream is this that I saw my neighbour, who is a very evil person, had abducted my wife." I said, "Molvi Sáhib, how can you say such a thing?" He said, "No really! My wife is very beautiful and she has big, beautiful eyes. Very beautiful, with beautiful big eyes! And my neighbour is a very wicked man." I said, "Very well. Khudá hafiz."⁽⁵⁾

4. This means that he was regular with his schedule of zikr and prescribed spiritual exercises.

5. "May Alláh protect you." This is a greeting given when somebody is departing.

once or twice and the person does not accept, then it is, "Very well. Khudá hafiz".

minded 'álim. After all, he was involved in zikr and shaghl. From his home he wrote a very remorseful letter, "When I reached home I found my wife very happy and cheerful. There was absolutely no cause for any alarm. I feel very regretful that I paid no heed to your explanation and admonition. I seek your forgiveness. I made a mistake."

And i'tiqád on one's senior Shaitán's heart was made happy and Rahmán's displeasure was incurred.

Such incidents in abundance: The student suddenly remembers his home; he sees a dream; his thoughts wander to his family; he thinks of his mother or his sister. Now anxiety sets in – his tabiyet is be-chen. To combat this is extremely difficult. Result: he wants to take leave and go home. He makes up various stories. Trying to explain to him he still does not want to understand.

involved in ta'lím and tarbiyet, Shaitán will assail him.

Shaitán's ploy is to divert from a greater task to a lesser one

Shaitán will divert a person from a greater Díní task to a lesser task, the task still being Díní. The reason is that the person will not pay any attention to worldly tasks for he has become very firm. Therefore, Shaitán will direct him to a Díní task.

Díní work. So, he discards the greater Díní task and gets involved in the lesser one.

Greater Díní task is very difficult. Yes, if he has spent a considerable time with a muhaqqiq⁽⁶⁾ and he has listened with great attention, having proper i'timád and i'tiqád in him, he may be able to differentiate somewhat. Otherwise it is very difficult.

A qissah

Hadhratwálá هيلع للها تحمر explained:

Jihád was in progress. This person had the urge, time and again, to go and participate in the jihád. He became gravely concerned: Why this repeated insistence on going in jihád?

Sincere seeker / one travelling along the path of Tasawwuf). Do you understand? To repeat: From the side of Alláh Ta'álá guidance comes to one who is a tálibe-sádiq and who has a sincere concern.

Pondered over it, he caught up! He addressed his nafs, from where the urge was emanating, "I have caught up! I am fighting you daily – jihád against you is for twenty-fours daily. You have become frustrated at this, so you are encouraging me towards that jihád which is not in the category of nafíre-ám⁽⁷⁾. What I am involved in is also jihád. Your vain desires, your lusts, your desires for super-luxuries, your unlawful relationships are relinquished and up-rooted. So, continuously I am waging jihád against you. The sword of 'Lá'⁽⁸⁾, sharpened on both sides, is being slashed on you twenty-four hours daily. Wanting to escape this, you are suggesting I participate in that jihád. You wretched fellow! I will not go! You are stopping me from a greater ibádat and you want to take me towards a lesser ibádat."

هيلع للها تحمر.

6. A sheikh-e-kámil – one who has in-depth knowledge and an insight into realities.
7. Nafíre-ám is that situation where it is announced that each and every Muslim has to take up arms and go out in jihád.
8. Lá – No. This is a reference not only to the unlawful demands of the nafs but it is also referring to the broader concept of the Kalimáh-Tayyibah, Lá-iláha-illalláh. There is no deity worthy of worship besides Alláh.

Differentiating between good and evil

To continue: Shaitán approaches the tálibe-ilm and the tálibe-tarbiyet frequently. He diverts from a greater ibádat to a lesser ibádat. To be able to differentiate in this melee, in this mix-up, is not the work of everybody. Take the opinion of one on whom you have í'timád and í'tiqád. It can happen that, occasionally, his opinion may be wrong. Some people may show one feature externally and may show another internally. Some may exhibit extreme evil externally but their internal condition may be extremely good.

Dreams and their interpretation

Similarly, sometimes a dream may indicate something very good but its internal meaning may indicate evil. Now, how can one pay any attention to dreams?

Faeces. The dream appears to be a foreboding of great evil but, in its interpretation, in its bátin, it brings good news. Seeing himself covered in impurity it seems that he is in anticipation of some wealth. It is possible that he will receive some wealth from some place:

Covered with impurities. It is possible that he will attain greater wealth. So, what did the záhir indicate and what did the bátin indicate?

هيلع للها تحمر related this. Its interpretation has also been published.)

هيلع للها تحمر a person came to him and commenced to relate to him the dream he had, "I saw Rasúlulláh ملسو هيلع للها لىص in my dream last night. He came to visit me at my humble home. He was dressed in royal clothing..." Hadrhat Sháh Abdul-Azíz هيلع للها تحمر exclaimed, "Go quickly! Go home and quickly empty your house. It is about to collapse!"

ملسو هيلع للها لىص is paying a visit and the interpretation is that of ruination and destruction. The house was about to collapse. He was told to go quickly. He had í'timád and í'tiqád. He left. He quickly started evacuating the house, taking out his wife, children, goods

and so forth. When he had done so the roof fell in and the house collapsed.

هيلع لها تَحْمِر narrated that somebody enquired from Hadhrat Sháh Abdul-Azíz هيلع لها تَحْمِر, "Hadhrat, how did you manage to interpret that Rasúlulláh ملسو هيلع لها لىص coming to visit and you said what you said?" Sháh Sáhíb replied, "Yes. My mind immediately focused on that áyet of the Qur'án Sharíf:

فَلِذَا أَهْلَهَا عَزَعَالٌ وَلِعَجْوَاهُ دَسْفًا تَيْرِقْ أَوْلُخْدَ إِذَا كَوَّلْمَانِيَا
When kings enter a town, they ruin it...S.27.34.

Commence to destroy the place. They do this to show their force, their might, their power, their firmness, in order to establish a following. They start destroying. He had said that Rasúlulláh لها لىص هيلع ملسو appeared in royal clothing. So, I gave this interpretation that appears in the Qur'án Sharíf, that this is the habit of kings after conquering."

foretold something else.

: Another person had a dream that he was copulating with his mother. He even needed to make ghusl when he woke up. On the surface this dream is horrendous, that he is copulating with his own mother. However, the interpretation is good: He will develop abdiyet and faná'iyet in him.

Any concern for people, he is tossing himself in the earth. As one should toss around in the earth, he is doing just that, without any concern of what people would say. This insane person is rolling in the sand. He is squashing himself into the earth.

Squashing himself.

Have become terrified. He must have questioned himself as to whether he still had imán or not the way he had conducted himself with his mother.

The mind and heart are being invited to sukún

The above dreams have been related for clarification. The opinions and statements of the buzurgs: what were their deeds and actions? What does the Qur'án Sharíf state? In which direction is the Kalám of Alláh Ta'álá directing our attention? It is to clear the minds of those who are occupied with the work of Dín with due concentration and importance. It is to remove mental turmoil. It is to put an end to the disarray of thoughts afflicting them.

tranquillity). With muhabbat Záte-Bá-rí-Ta'álá is giving ta'lím to His own on how to keep oneself with basháshat (cheer and happiness).

Accordance with the instructions and orders of Haqq Ta'álá, has he become Alláh Ta'álá's or not?

Own kin cheerful or sad, worried or free of worries, grieved or happy? Would you wish to keep the person and see the person cheerful or depressed and burdened?

Cheerful, free of worries) then Záte-Bá-rí-Ta'álá is giving ta'lím to His own. Rasúlulláh ملسو هيلع للها لوص is giving instructions that he wishes to keep such a person happy and to see such a person cheerful. The name given to such persons is "sálikín".

Instilled with freshness, with cheer, with peace and tranquillity. Any such undertakings which causes a diminishing of this cheer, or causes undue worry, the processes leading to them should be avoided. The processes should be shunned. Should these present themselves on a gair-ikhtiyá-rí basis, one should pay no attention to them. This is its methodology.

And worry in you then too do not incline towards this. Pay no attention to it even if you have to force yourself. Combat that force with your own force.

Will diminish. Otherwise that molehill will become a mountain. However, if you combat that force with your own force, the mountain will be reduced to a molehill.

What? Turned into ashes! What a mighty mountain that was that was reduced to a molehill!

Molehill or you can make the molehill into a mountain. Your murabbí haqíqí (spiritual guide) is advising you on the former – your wish is your own choice. What I am saying is that:

أَوْنَمَا نَبِيًّا لَا نُزْحِيلُ نَطِيًّا تَسْلَا نِمَ يَوْجَنَا أَمَّنَا

Evil whispering is only from Shaitán that he may cause grief to those who believe. S.58.10.

Saying – your murabbí-haqíqí is saying, “Not at all!” This is what I am saying. This is a remedy for one’s whole life, is it not?

seclusion or amongst people; staying with your sheikh or staying at a distance from him; in domestic gair-ikhtiyárí affairs as well as Díní gair-ikhtiyárí affairs – in all situations this is a remedy.

Was fair and pink and she thought her to be a likeable match for his son. Now, how did she know whether she had an abusive tongue or not or whether she had a bad character? Yes, she is chaste and pure. However, a tongue that is abusive, a raging temperament and stubbornness of habits...? How did the mother know she would be like that?

After a while she has to manage various tasks – she has to perform household duties and she also has to interact with others. She is now seen to be very abusive. May Alláh protect all! It turns out that she is extremely obstinate.

Little did he command her to be abusive or stubborn. This is gair-ikhtiyárí.

The position of the tafsír of Abdullah Ibn Abbás ماهنع للها ضير

Hadhrat Abdullah Ibn Abbás ماهنع للها ضير holds an important and pre-eminent position in the field of tafsír (commentary) of the Qur’án

Sharíf, so much so that his tafsír is given preference over that of others. In relation to the tafsír of the following:

مَجْرَدٌ يَهْلِعُ لِأَجْرِلُو

...and men are a degree above them (women)...S.2.228.

Above that of women, entails a very superior status, a very elevated status. He states further that if this is the case then men, meaning husbands, should have forbearance when anything occurs against their temperaments. They should have tolerance and exercise sabr when confronted by issues contrary to their temperaments. They should have forbearance so that they can exercise tolerance and sabr.

All these in mind.

هيلع للها تحمر, " My wife is so abusive that she keeps on saying horrible things. What should I do?" Hadhratwálá هيلع للها تحمر wrote back, "From your side you should deal with her with justice (adl); and on her injustice (be-adlí) you should make sabr."

You having a higher status? She has behaved like a woman and you have also behaved like a woman. When your status is higher then there should be only adl (justice) from your side and, on her be-adlí (injustice) you should make sabr.

The discussion today has centred around "gair-ikhtiyári".

this attitude?" The answer is, "Lifelong. Till the last breath."

This talk is directed to the tálibe-sádiq

These remarks are directed at the tálibe-sádiq – that person who is sincere in cleansing his character (tazkiyah), who is sincere in his self-rectification (isláh). The dunyádár – the worldly person – is not being addressed. This talk is directed at the tálibe-sádiq, one seeking his self-rectification, one who is sincere in his quest for his isláh.

Home to a much greater extent than outside. These may proceed

form the children and from the mother and father, and a great deal from the wife. They arise very little outside but much more within the household. These are all gair-ikhtiyárí. So, in matters that are gair-ikhtiyárí work should be taken from sabr and forbearance. No step must be taken that is contrary to the shari'at – either verbally or physically. My talk is directed to the tálibe-sádiq.

A qissah

Let me relate something: A young man, a husband, wrote to me, "My wife is very abusive. At times she uses extremely harsh language. Mostly I just listen. Sometimes I also tell her off." (Men from cultured families are like that.) "One day she was telling me off. I stood and listened silently. I then went outside. After a while I returned. She was busy doing her work. I went close to her, placed my hand on her head, lightly tapped her on her waist and, smilingly, with warmth and love, said, 'Darling wife, subhánalláh! What you told me just now was so eloquent! It sounded so beautiful! I have come to listen to it again. I was absolutely thrilled! What were you saying? Just repeat everything.' She started laughing. Hadhrat, that happened a long time ago. (We have not had a serious argument since!) Both our lives are now full of joy and pleasure!"

To first change oneself.

Morning to night. This ta'lím is for everybody. However, it is specifically for the tálibe-ilm (student of Dín) who is involved in studying the Dín with sincerity. It is for the tálibe-tarbiyet (one seeking his self-reformation) who is sincere in his quest. It is specifically for them. It is necessary for them to be cheerful all the time. There is a need for inshirah⁽⁹⁾. It is necessary for the temperament to be happy and cheerful at all times so that he may proceed towards Alláh Ta'álá bowing, drawn towards Him. His ma'múlát should be completed with cheerfulness.

Without worry. He is washing away their grief. He is extending an invitation for them to live with cheer. He is calling them towards a life of joy. He is instructing them to live blissfully. Remember that:

أَوْتَمَّا نَبَيِّدَا لَنْزَحِيلَ نَطِيئُ شَلَا نِمَ يُوَجِّنَا أَمَّا

Evil whispering is only from Shaitán that he may cause grief to those who believe. S.58.10.

9. "Inshirah – laying open; lack of prejudice". That is, an unencumbered spirit. A temperament that is not burdened.

Therefore, do not ever concern yourself about it – never ever. "My happiness is in this. So, if My happiness is in it, your happiness should also be in it. It is wrong to be dejected." The grief has turned into cheer and happiness. This is the invitation that Alláh Ta'álá is extending. And who does not accept the invitation of One who is great? Záte-Bá-rí-Ta'álá is extending an invitation to His own. And every mu'min belongs to Alláh Ta'álá. The status of every mu'min is different.

Yahzunal-lazína ámanú. The word is "ámanú" and not "attaqú". That is, the statement applies to those who believe and is not restricted to those who have taqwá. For those among the believers who have taqwá – a special degree of taqwá – they are in need even more so. This was the theme and this áyet came to mind.

The noble and dignified status of a kámil mu'min

Just see how good some bondsmen of Alláh Ta'álá are – they sleep very little at night. Alláh Ta'álá is saying, "There are such bondsmen of Mine who sleep only a small portion of the night." This is an áyet which did not come to mind fully up to now.

نُوعَجَّهِيَ أَمْ لِي لَّا نَمَّ الْبَلَقُ أَوْ نَأَكْ

They used to sleep only a little of the night. S.51.17.

very little at night and when dawn approaches...

نُورُ فَعْتَسَىٰ مِنْهُ رَأْسُ الْآبُو

.....and before the dawning of each day, they would
seek forgiveness; S.51.18.

Approaches, they display their abdiyeh. They do not boast that they stayed awake so long during the night, that they were busy with such and such ibádat, that they have attained an elevated status of ibádat and level of qabúli'at (acceptance). They do not do this but they preserve My majestic status of One worthy of worship and they display their status of abdiyeh. The greater portion of the night is spent in ibádat and they repent as dawn approaches. They display abdiyeh and do not boast."

with sincerity and truthfulness (ikhlás and sidq), there should be no conceit. One should only display humility and humbleness.

The basis of entering Jannat at the first instance

Now, what has been mentioned above concerning those who are mu'min muttaqí, who stay awake in ibádat at night and repent as dawn approaches, that they will enter Jannat – their permanent stay (dukhúle-khulúd) in Jannat is not dependent on this action.⁽¹⁰⁾

Instance (awwale-wehle) is dependent on imán and to continuously carry out wájib injunctions of the shari'at. To enter permanently into Jannat at the first instance – at the moment of death – entails carrying out continuously the essentials of the shari'at (mámúriat) and abstaining from what is forbidden (minhiyát). This is the means for permanent entry into Jannat immediately on dying.

Will also enter Jannat permanently but there is no promise that this will be immediately on dying.

In Jannat (dukhúle-khulúd) at the first instance (awwale-wehle).

What has been mentioned above about the muttaqí mu'min, that he continuously carries out what has been ordered (mámúr-bihá) and he continuously abstains from what is forbidden (minhí-anhá), for him is entry into Jannat at the first instance.

10. Hadhratjí هيلع للها تحمر discusses three issues from here onwards for the next few paragraphs: (1) Entry into Jannat but only after going to Jahannam. (2) Entry into Jannat at the first instance, without going to Jahannam. (3) Elevation in status in Jannat.

These there are also such who stay awake in ibádat during the greater part of the night, sleeping during the lesser portion, and then they direct their attention towards repentance, turning to Alláh Ta'ála in penitence, this is not the basis for permanent residence in Jannat – it is stated as an increase of status and attaining elevated stages. This is what was stated earlier on. To repeat: this is a basis for attaining elevated stages. And who is not desirous of higher stages in worldly matters? So, even to a greater degree, why should one not be desirous of this (i.e. of higher stages in the hereafter)?

On the back. Such bondsmen also exist. He has drawn our attention that they have focused their attention on the Dín, so you also focus your attention this way.

Those who are His to progress in stages in the hereafter. into sulúk, what is their motivation? It is:

أُولِمَعَ أُمَّمٌ تُجَرَّدُ لِكُلِّو

... and for all there will be (assigned) ranks according to what they do... S.46.19.

The awareness and necessities of the shari'at, and on the mustahbát, to the extent of one's health and ease, and to discard laziness.

A letter and its reply: the status of Tahajjud

Just today I have replied to a letter from a person staying overseas,

in Jiddah. He had written, "I perform the (Nafl saláts of) Ishráq, Chást, Awwábín and Tahajjud. However, at times, I deliberately do not perform them so that I do not elevate them to the position of being Fardh. I deliberately do not perform them."

Practise they are at the level of Fardh from the aspect of deeds. Definitely, our aqídah is that they are Nafl. However, permanence in performing deeds (dawáme-amal) the attitude is as one has towards what is Fardh. So, how can you deliberately not perform them?"

does not perform them? So, this is the remedy. As far as aqídah is concerned, they are not Fardh – our aqídah is that they are Nafl.

Nafl but they perform it (so regularly) as if it is Fardh.

In summary

So, the practical life of the sálik is to attain elevated stages. This is to be found in the pursuit of progress in performing deeds.

Du'á

May Alláh Ta'álá bless us to observe the rights that sulúk has on us – good sulúk, pious sulúk, pious behaviour – with ikhlás and sidq.

Khudá hafiz. Fí-amánilláh.