



Commentary on the Book Sincere Counsel to the Students of Sacred Knowledge- Part 10¹

Explained by: Shaikh Yahya bin ‘Ali al-Hajuri (may Allah preserve him)

Transcribed and Translated by: Faisal bin Abdul Qadir bin Hassan Abu Sulaymaan

Text: “..Sacred Knowledge supersedes all Voluntary Actions.”²”

Commentary: "It is as if Ibn al-Jawzi (may Allah have mercy upon him) is advising us to have time for worship, time for seeking knowledge, time for relaxing. His advice is for you and everyone”.

Text: “...Once you have reviewed your lesson till forenoon, pray eight units of Salat al-duha [the forenoon prayer]...”

Commentary: “These eight raka’at are not a must. He can pray two raka’at , or he can pray four raka’at , or he can increase on that however he wants as Hafidh as-Suyooti (may Allah have mercy upon him) mentions in *al-Haawi*.³ He has a treatise where he mentions a group of the evidences for the Salat al-duha [and the number of raka’at]. However, it comes in a Hadith he (ﷺ) prayed it four raka’at and one can increase upon that as much as he wants. It is not restricted to eight raka’at. What is correct is that he prays Salat al-duha two raka’at, or four raka’at, or eight raka’at. The evidences show that it has types and if he increases on that, then there is no harm”.

Text: “...Then keep yourself busy with reading and copying texts till ‘Asr time...”

¹ The following is a translation and transcription of the twelfth tape of the Shaikh’s commentary. The original tape can be found here:

http://www.sh-yahia.net/nwe_sounds/durus/Gesture%20to%20the%20liver%20advice%20boy/012.mp3

² The English translation of the text is based on the translation of the book *Sincere Counsel To the Students of Sacred Knowledge* printed by Dar as-Sunnah Publishers

³ The Shaikh (may Allah preserve him) has an abridgement of this book. He comments on the research of Imam as-Suyooti (may Allah have mercy upon him) saying, after mentioning his proofs, “**Upon this, whoever restricts to what is established from the Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) in terms of praying two until eight raka’at of Salat-Duha, then this is more deserving. Whoever increases upon eight, then he is not detested due to the absence of evidence that calls to detestation**” [al-’Ithaafaat bi Talkhees al-Haawi (pg. 16)]

Commentary: “(مطالعة) is reading. If you finish reviewing your lesson till forenoon, then stand and pray Salat al-duha. Then when you finish the prayer, then busy in reading and copying texts till ‘Asr time. That is: copying texts and information. Then read books”.

Text: “...return to your studies until Maghrib time...”

Commentary: “Return to your lesson. If there is time [before that] for resting., then Prophet (ﷺ), whenever used to have lunch, he would like to rest at the time of *zammal*. Then he (the student) returns to the lesson.”.

Text: “...After [praying] Maghrib, pray two units, reading two Juz’ of Quran in them...”

Commentary: [The Shaikh expresses some amazement at that by saying Mashallah and asks Allah to increase us]

Text: “...And study again after praying the Salah of ‘Isha...”

Commentary: “Even if he did not memorize the Quran, then let him take a Mushaf and recite in the Qiyaam al-Layl. He should review it and review it. Then when he is proficient in that, he can have someone else listen to it. It is possible for him to memorize the Quran in the Qiyaam ul-Layl. Is this not so? Yes”

[Then the Shaikh answers a question about repeating a verse in the prayer and how a person can do so with whatever verse he wishes. The Prophet (ﷺ) repeated the verse:

إِنْ تُعَذِّبُهُمْ فَإِنَّهُمْ عِبَادُكَ وَإِنْ تَغْفِرَ لَهُمْ فَإِنَّكَ أَنْتَ الْعَزِيزُ الْحَكِيمُ

"If You punish them, they are Your slaves, and if You forgive them, verily You, only You are the All-Mighty, the All-Wise." [5:118]

In the night prayer" [Muslim no. 202].

Text: “...Then lay down on your right side, say *subhanAllah* thirty three times, *alhamdulillah* thirty three times, and *Allahu Akbar* thirty four times...”

Commentary: “That is before sleeping he glorifies Allah thirty-three times, praises Allah thirty three times, and extols Allah thirty four times. This is a beautiful Sunnah from the Hadith of Ali ibn Abi Talib (may Allah be pleased with him) [Bukhari and Muslim]. It is from the means which assist in obtaining energy/enthusiasm. [As he (ﷺ) said]

فَهَذَا خَيْرٌ لَكُمْ مِنْ خَادِمٍ

So this is better for both of you than a servant [Bukhari and Muslim]”.

Text: “...Say: O Allah! Protect me from Your punishment on the day You shall gather Your slaves...”

Commentary: “This is correct. This is also from the remembrances of sleeping.

This is easy and from the supplications of sleep”

Text: “...When you open your eyes after sleep, know what your soul has now taken its share. Get up, perform ablution and pray what you can in the darkness of the night. Open your prayer with two light units, and follow them with two units, reciting two juz’ from the Quran in them...”

Commentary: “Before that he recites the supplication:

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي أَحْيَانَا بَعْدَ مَا أَمَاتَنَا وَإِلَيْهِ النُّشُورُ

"All praise is for Allah who gave us life after having taken it from us and unto Him is the resurrection."

It is well-known Hadith [Bukhari and Muslim]. This is whether he awakes from sleep during the day or night”.

Text: “...After that, start your studies, as Sacred Knowledge is better than all voluntary actions...”

Commentary: “Beautiful. When he stands for the night, he prays. Then he reviews and studies knowledge. This is because Sacred Knowledge is better than all voluntary actions. This is general”.

******* End of the Twelfth tape *******