



Commentary on the Book Sincere Counsel to the Students of Sacred Knowledge- Part 9¹

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

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

Text: “...Chapter Six Awakening After Heedlessness

My son, do not let your past carelessness make you lose hope of achieving good, for many people have come back to wakefulness after long sleep. Shaikh Abu Hakim, may Allah bestow His mercy upon him, told me what follows: “When I was a child, I spent my time in idle play and did not pay attention to Sacred Knowledge. Then my father Abu Abdullah, may Allah bestow His mercy upon him, wanted to talk to me and said: ‘My son, I will not be here for you forever, so take twenty dinars, open a bread shop and make some money. I said: What are you saying? So he said: ‘Open a cloth shop then’. I said: ‘How can you say this to me when I’m the son of the judge of judges. ‘Abdullah al-Damaghani? He replied: “But I do not see you seeking knowledge’. I said: ‘Give me a lecture right now’. He did so and I came forward to busy myself with knowledge. From thereon, I began taking the studying of Sacred Knowledge seriously so Allah gave me success in that ²”

Commentary: “The meaning is that he (Imam Ibn al-Jawzi) wants to make his son, Abul-Qasim as he mentioned his name earlier, not to despair. Even if a long time passed you without seeking knowledge, do not despair. He mentioned the story of the Scholar al-Damaghani and how his son was not concerned with knowledge. He said that in his childhood he was busy with idle play. So his father asked his son, who did not have acceptance for knowledge, to open a store to work in. It is as if he realized that he does not have concern for knowledge. So he said: “how can you say I should open a bread shop and I am the son of the Scholar”? He said: I do not see you have concern for knowledge. So he said: “Give me a lesson.”. So he gave him a lesson and he busied with knowledge from that day on. So he turned towards Knowledge and Allah gave him success in that until he became a Scholar. This is a summary of the story and this story has a high chain. Ibn al-Jawzi (may Allah have mercy upon him) mentions that al-Damaghani narrated the story to him himself”.

¹ The following is a translation and transcription of the eleventh 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/011.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

Text: "...My father died when I was 21 and at that time I was known for being idle..."

Commentary: "That is: playing. He did not have concern for knowledge nor the worldly life. Such a person is also referred to as one who is free of time [مُفَرَّغ]."

Text: "...When I went to claim a house I had inherited from its inhabitants, I heard them say: the Mudbir, i.e. al-Rabit [he who abandoned the adornment of life has arrived...]"

Commentary: "His father was an Imam. It is quoted from some of the companions of al-Halawani (may Allah have mercy upon him) that his father passed away while he was twenty years old. He was known for being idle, one free of time. So he came to claim a house he had inherited".

Text: "...I went to my mother and told her: You will find me in the masjid of Shaikh Abu al-Khattab if you need me..."

Commentary: "That is: if you need me, you will find me in the masjid".

Text: "...I accompanied him and did not leave except for delivering judgements. I then became a judge for a period of time. I say: I saw him delivering legal verdicts and debating..."

Commentary: "Subhanallah! Look at what occurred from one statement. He heard the people say: 'Look at the son of the Scholar so and so. He has wasted [himself]. Until the people called him a Mudbir. So he said: 'O my mother, if you need anything from me, then I am in the masjid of Shaikh so and so [i.e. Abu al-Khattab]'. [He remained there] until he became a Scholar.

Imam Ibn al-Jawzi (may Allah have mercy upon him) gave two examples: one from al-Halawani and one from al-Damaghani. al-Damaghani narrated the story himself and al-Halawani narrated the story himself. He (Imam Ibn al-Jawzi) says: "these two stories should make you not despair regarding knowledge even if you have lost some of your time or have wasted it". Holded yourself, O my son, to ittiba' (following the religion)".

Text: "...When you wake up say: 'Praise be to Allah who gave me life after having caused me to die, and He shall resurrect us....'"

Commentary: “Hold fast to following the religion and to the Adhkar. The Salaf did not used to speak about worldly matters at that time at all. If you want Allah to make you successful. Likewise, make the remembrances for when you awake”.

Text: “...and Praise be to Allah who holds the sky for falling on the earth except by His permission. Allah is truly benevolent and merciful to the people...”

Commentary: “This is not legislated for when waking up from sleep”.

Text: “...and on your way say: O Allah! I ask You by the right that those asking have upon you and by the right of this walking of mine. I did not leave [my home] in arrogance and pride, nor to be seen or heard. I only left out of fearing Your anger and seeking Your pleasure. I ask You to protect me from the Fire and forgive me my sins. Truly, none forgives sins but You....”

Commentary: “What is more authentic than this Hadith, as it has speech against it [i.e. regarding its weakness], is to say:

اللَّهُمَّ اجْعَلْ لِي فِي قَلْبِي نُورًا وَفِي لِسَانِي نُورًا وَفِي سَمْعِي نُورًا وَفِي بَصَرِي نُورًا وَمِنْ فَوْقِي نُورًا وَمِنْ
تَحْتِي نُورًا وَعَنْ يَمِينِي نُورًا وَعَنْ شِمَالِي نُورًا وَمِنْ بَيْنِ يَدَيَّ نُورًا وَمِنْ خَلْفِي نُورًا وَاجْعَلْ فِي نَفْسِي نُورًا
وَأَعْظِمْ لِي نُورًا

Place light in my heart, light in my tongue, light in my hearing, light in my sight, light above me, light below me, light on my right, light on my left, light in front of me, light behind me, place light in my soul, and make light abundant for me [Muslim no. 763]

This is especially for Fajr”.

Text: “...Be on the right side of the Imam...”

Commentary: “That is be on the right side of the Imam. It is better whether in the first row or other than it”.

Text: "...and when you have finished the Salah, say the following ten times: 'There is no deity worthy of worship but Allah alone without partners. His is all Kingship and His is all praise. He gives life and causes death. In His hand is all good and He is capable of anything...'"

Commentary: "If he says it hundred times it is better based on the Hadith of Abu Hurairah (may Allah be pleased with him) which is Agreed upon".

Text: "...After that, say SubhanAllah ten times, Alhamdulillah ten times, and Allahu Akbar ten times" ..."

Commentary: "What is better is to say SubhanAllah thirty three times, Alhamdulillah thirty three times, and Allahu Akbar thirty three times".

Text: "...Then recite the verse of the Footstool and ask Allah, Glorious is He, to accept your Salah. Then, remain seated and remember Allah, the Most High, till the sun has risen. Then, pray what Allah has written for you and If you can perform eight units, that is good" " ..."

Commentary: "That is: he reminds him not to leave the paths of worship. For turning towards worship is from the ways of guidance and success. So Imam Ibn al-Jawzi (may Allah have mercy upon him) guides his son to worship".

***** End of the Eleventh tape *****