130 ANSWERS FROM A SUFI MASTER
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A'udhu bi-Llahi min ash-shaytani 'r-rajim...
Bismillahir-rahmanir-rahim,
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PREFACE

Why have we compiled this book?

*A‘udhu bi-llahi min ash-shaytani r-rajiim*
*Bismillahir-rahumir-rahiim*

During the time I lived in Lefke in the years 2000-2012, I was in the habit of taking notes of the talks Shaykh Nazim Efendi gave and also of private conversations that I witnessed. When Shaykh Efendi came home from the mosque, he would often meet with guests and give them advice. Quite apart from his sohba, pearls poured from his mouth as he dispensed words of wisdom when resting at home in his room, or while drinking tea and coffee, wandering about in his garden, talking to his family, or when inspecting the kitchens. I wished that these precious words would not be lost, so I tried to be by his side at every opportunity and take notes. I was able to do this because I was often present as a translator for some of the ladies who came to visit the Shaykh, and also because I would be asked to serve tea and coffee to the Shaykh and his guests.

But it never entered my mind to make a book of these notes. It was an Argentinian friend who gave me this idea. With Shaykh Efendi’s permission I began to attend these private consultations more frequently and started taking notes.
The resulting book contains a portion of the notes that I took down over the years. While choosing among the questions and answers from my notes, I made sure to include such answers as were given repeatedly. I wanted as many people as possible to profit from these counsels, not just the few who happened to be present at the time.

Even if at times the advice seems to be given in answer to a specific and private problem, it can also be said to address more general aspects and thus be of wider interest. The fact that Shaykh Efendi gave his permission to the publication of this book, lends credibility to such an interpretation. In particular, Shaykh Efendi’s counsels to pregnant women are of interest, for instance regarding ultrasound scans, or the giving of alms and performing animal sacrifices during a pregnancy, or general advice concerning women working outside of their homes. Of course, as in every matter, there can always be exceptions arising from necessity.

The Shaykh would counsel some people against having surgery, but it would be a mistake to take this as a general precept for everyone. These are very personal matters. When Shaykh Efendi would tell pregnant women not to go to see doctors, he meant that they shouldn’t go unless there was real need to do so. He also would advise to take medicine in case of serious ailments, but not to go popping pills as if they were sweets.

For a murid, the words of his murshid are words of Truth, and they are not contrary to the Qur’an and the sunna.

When I had completed this book of questions and answers, I showed it to Shaykh Mehmet Efendi at the Beylerbeyi dergah in Istanbul.
After reading the draft of the book, he asked me to add explanations in some places, and to point out that some words were spoken in jest. We also omitted a few questions that might lead to misunderstandings.

I wish to thank everyone who helped in the compilation of this book, may Allah grant them ample reward.

Thanks especially to the American sisters Radhia Shukrullah and Karima Sperling, who checked and edited the book. May Allah be pleased with Shaykh Efendi and grant him high stations and make him attain intercession. May these counsels be effective and beneficial to many. For the soul of our treasured Master Shaykh Nazim Efendi, al-Fatiha.

Pelin Peker

Istanbul, Ramadan 1, 1435 (June 28, 2014)
FOREWORD
By Shaykh Bahauddin

*Bismillahir-rahmanir-rahim*

Service through books is the greatest service. If a foreword to this book should be required, I would like to say, that Allah addressed His servants by means of the written word. This means that the servants may detect His address in a book. A book is written word, and the written word is not lost.

Therefore, however personal the questions might be, however private a consultation it may have been, the intention of this work was of sharing with people, because there are so many different kinds of people. These 125 questions mean that 125 different people may receive answers to 125 different questions.

You will take from this what concerns you in particular, and what does not concern you, you may pass on to another. There are no hesitations or misgivings to publishing a work of this kind. At the very least it shows that Shaykh Efendi means to address all people, his words are there for everybody, whether in private, in public or in matters of legal concern.
I have always recommended the writing and publishing of books. I have so far produced two books of my own. In the beginning, when the question of books came up, I was frightened, but later I realised that this was a great service.

Anyone having to do with it performs part of that service: whether he is the writer or the one commissioning the book, the seller or the one organising the sale, the one distributing it for free or the one giving it in charity.

As the old saying goes, one piece of advice is worth a thousand camels. Since people nowadays are left without advice, we are keen to give them at least some advice for free, and the best way of doing this is through a book. A book does not create confusion.

As much as we are taken over by electronics, however much we are immersed in the world of the internet and the virtual world, there is more wisdom and wit to be found in a book, a book is more stable throughout the ages, and a book simply seems the healthier option. In case of an electrical failure, a book is still at hand; if the computer packs up today, you still have access to a book.

I mean, if anything should happen, a book is still the easiest way to gain access to information. Open it to the page you desire, and it is all there in front of you. But other devices all have their particular difficulties, connectivity problems etc.

Books are also the cheapest - say, a book costs ten Euro, or five Euro or even only one Euro; besides, it is the easiest thing to get a hold of.

Other reading devices will cost you much more, for a computer you pay at least a thousand Euros, and at the end of the day it is a burden to you.
I am now delivering foreword at your request, although really no other words can precede Shaykh Efendi’s words, but it is a word spoken out of necessity. We are ashamed to place a foreword before the words of our Shaykh and if there was no need for it, we would not have done so.

wa min Allah at-tawfiq, al-Fatiha.

Shaykh Bahauddin Adil
Lefke, March 29, 2014
130 ANSWERS FROM A SUFI MASTER

1st Answer

A man came and asked the Shaykh: “Can you give me some advice for my spiritual practice?”
The Shaykh said: “Get married.”
The man said: “I am already married.”
The Shaykh replied: “Good, then you are complete.”
[The Shaykh once said: “Marriage is the first step in tariqat (Sufi Way) and is half of your faith.” (Hadith)].

2nd Answer

Someone asked: “How do I get power against shaytan?”
The Shaykh answered: “Say, La hawla wa la quwwata illa biLlahil aliyal azim (There is no power except by Allah the High and the Mighty) 100 times.”

3rd Answer

A visitor to the Shaykh asked: “How can we keep our minds pure?”
The Shaykh replied: With dhikr (remembrance of God). The heart is saying ‘Allah’. When each drop of blood passes through the heart it should say ‘Allah’, because the heart is saying ‘Allah’.
When it is saying this, that drop will go throughout the whole body with the Name of Allah. Without *dhikr* the heart cannot be purified.”

### 4th Answer

A man asked the Shaykh: “What do you want from me?”

The Shaykh answered: “Be with Allah, not with satanas, shaytan.”

The Shaykh then touched the man’s long beard and said: “This is good. Satanás doesn’t like it.”

### 5th Answer

Two girls who had just received their university diplomas asked for a blessing and some advice.

The Shaykh asked them: “What do you study?”

The girls answered: “Literature.”

The Shaykh asked one of them: “Let’s hear you recite a poem.”

The girl felt embarrassed so the Shaykh told the girl that he would recite a poem for her: “Get to know yourself, get to know yourself. If you don’t know yourself they will hit you on your neck…”

The Shaykh laughed and advised them to marry as quickly as possible, and to pray. “Whoever is not praying is in darkness,” he said.
On Saturday June 17, 2006 a group from Turkey arrived to ask the Shaykh for advice.

The Shaykh said to them: “Unripe people come here. Those who come here don’t come as perfect, complete (kamil) ones. Therefore we must endure, be patient.

The one who makes dhikr (remembrance of God) comes closer to Allah.

Also recite the Mawlid (a poem by Suleyman Chelebi celebrating the birth of the Prophet Muhammad (s.a.w.)

Our aim is to serve humanity. Our meeting is for the pleasure of Allah and the Prophet (s.a.w.). Once a week or once a month, those who are connected should put their jobs aside and be present at the dhikr gathering.

Those who find no peace in this meeting are not able to find peace anywhere. And those who are not cured in this meeting are not able to find any cure even if “Luqman Hakim” (the sage mentioned in the Qur’an, Luqman the Wise) were to come.”

The Shaykh then recited loudly the first sentence of the Mawlid-i Sharif and said that when the Mawlid is chanted the spirituality of the Prophet (s.a.w.) is present. Without finding the Prophet (s.a.w.) nobody is able to reach Allah.”

“In every meeting recite the Mawlid” he advised.”
7th Answer

A visitor asked: How can we protect the (spiritual) energy that we acquire?

The Shaykh replied: Close the holes! The external (zahir) ones, and the internal (batin) ones.

8th Answer

A Turkish doctor whispered something in the ear of the Shaykh, which I could not hear.

The Shaykh said to him: “The strongest bond is the bond of love. The speed of a car, the speed of an airplane and the speed of a rocket are not the same. All of them have their own speeds. If there is no love it will be empty. If you do not have good actions, then you should have love. If there is no love, things will stay where they are.”

9th Answer

Some visitors asked: “We want our ikhlas, our sincerity, to increase. What can we do to achieve this?”

The Shaykh answered: “During every 24 hours, make your heart look to the Rawda-i sharif (the Tomb of the Prophet, alayhi s-salam) for three minutes. Its [light] will come to you. [Mawlana makes his fingers like an arrow and points them at his heart.] Either the tomb of the Holy Prophet or the Ka‘aba - all the time it will come to you. Do this for three, five or ten minutes.”
One lady came to visit the Shaykh for the first time. She said: “I’m a Buddhist but I want to take bayat (sufi initiation). Is that all right?”

The Shaykh answered in an upset but firm way: “No! How can you be a Buddhist and be in Islam/tariqa?”

Later on she asked the same question again. The Shaykh repeated in a strong way: “No!”

Then the lady asked: “Why am I here then?”

The Shaykh answered, smiling: “To take fresh air, for tourism... to go here and there.”

The lady continued: “My mother has depression and I have a bad relationship with her. Do you have any advice for me?”

The Shaykh said: “She is with shaytan, not with Allah. That is why she is depressed.”

The lady said: “I am ill also. Can you cure me? I had a car accident.”

The Shaykh said: “Your body is all right. Your mind...” (The Shaykh made a small gesture with his hand indicating that her mind is not stable).

Then she asked: “Can I come and visit you again? Or I must take bayat (initiation) to come here?”

The Shaykh answered: “If you say ‘La ilaha ill Allah, Muhammadun Rasulullah’. Do you accept ‘La ilaha ill Allah, Muhammadun Rasulullah’?”

She looked at him smiling and said: “Yes.”
Then the Shaykh asked for his staff to give her bayat. [It was the custom of the Prophet (s.a.w.) to take allegiance from women by holding one end of a stick while they held the other end.]

"Allah Hu, Allah Hu, Allah Hu, Hagg... (a part of the bayat)."

11th Answer

The Shaykh said: God will ask: “My servant, I gave you 24 hours. During these 24 hours, did you not find any time for praying? I gave you so many favours, have you been grateful?”

The Shaykh was giving advice to some visiting men: “When you come home take a bath and change all your clothes. You can’t carry people’s heaviness. They make a burden on you.

Change even this.” (The Shaykh points to his white prayer hat).

The Shaykh asked: “Do you pray?”

The guest said: “I try, but sometimes I miss it.”

The Shaykh responded: “Why are you alive? To pray to Allah. Pray! That is the way to protect yourself. Shaytan is attacking... making you angry and aggressive. If no praying, no peace, no baraka (blessing), no paradise. Easy! We have been created for Allah’s servanthood.

We have been created to be servants of Allah.”

The men tell the Shaykh about a woman who had several miscarriages.
The Shaykh said: “She should wear a ta‘wiz (protection). Sacrifice an animal for Nafisa Sultan and Shah Naqshband in the first month she feels pregnant.”

**12th Answer**

A lady said that some pregnant ladies were asking for permission to go to the doctor.

The Shaykh told her: “They should not go to the doctor. They should not take any medicine for normal sicknesses. The medicine that doctors are giving is not good.”

(Explanation of this advice from our present shaykh of the Naqshibandi tariqa, Shaykh Mehmet Adil:

* When Shaykh Efendi would tell pregnant women not to go to see doctors, he meant that they shouldn’t go unless there was real need to do so. He also would advise to take medicine in case of serious ailments, but not to go popping pills as if they were sweets.

**13th Answer**

A lady asked: When I’m giving sobbat (lecture), sometimes I become tongue-tied. What can I do about this?”

The Shaykh advised: “Say dastur! Dastur Ya Sayyidi, Ya Sultanul Awliya (permission, O Sultan of the Saints). It becomes difficult for you because nobody in the gathering understands you. They also bring their children and occupy themselves with them during the sobbat.”
For this reason your tongue gets tied (you are unable to talk)."

[Another time the Shaykh said that power comes to the one who talks from those who listen.]

14th Answer

A lady who wanted to get married asked for a prayer and for advice.

The Shaykh said: "There is naẓar, "bad-eye" on you. Everyday take a shower, and always wear a ta’wiz (amulet of protection). Pray two rakats (cycles of prayer) between Maghrib (sunset) and Isha (night) or after Isha. Then read Salatu l-tunjina (a prayer for the Prophet (s.a.w.) forty times and tell your wish to Allah."

15th Answer

A lady said: "O Shaykh, I am sick."

The Shaykh answered: "There is nothing wrong with you. You are like a lion [meaning strong]. Your mind is sick."

The lady insisted: "No, my body is sick."

The Shaykh replied: "Say, al-hamduliLlah (all praise to Allah). You are like a lion."

16th Answer

A pregnant lady entered together with her husband. The Shaykh put his stick on her belly and prayed for her.
He said that there is only one child inside, not two and that he was alive and giving response.

The Shaykh said: “Mened Ya Sultan Awliyah... Hu... Don’t go for an ultrasound. Everyday give sadaqa (charity) for the mother and the baby. Also give sadaqa when she is going to deliver the baby. Don’t allow them to give you an injection in your back [epidural].”

17th Answer

A lady told the Shaykh that she had had a bad dream.

The Shaykh answered: “When you have a bad dream, spit three times over your left shoulder. [The practice of the Prophet (s.a.w)]. Give sadaqa (charity), pray two rak’ats (cycles of prayer) and ask Allah to turn this dream to ‘khayr’ (goodness).”

18th Answer

The Shaykh was giving advice to a lady: “Why are you not married? You fight your nature. If a man or woman is married they may reach perfection, the highest level.

Islam says that you must not be celibate or you will never reach a real position, real level in the Divine Presence.

A man without a woman and a woman without a man are never going to be perfect. If anyone asks for marriage, don’t refuse.

If you do it will bring bad results and make a heavy burden on you.”
19th Answer

The Shaykh was talking to a man and asked: “Do you have money?”
The man answered: “We have money.”
The Shaykh retorted: “Money is not power. Power is from heavenly support.”

20th Answer

Somebody asked for advice on the telephone.
The Shaykh said “Do the business of akhira (the hereafter).

The business of dunya (this world) will stay here in dunya. The business of akhira you will meet over there. When you die everything else will be left here in dunya.

Read Dala’i’lu l-khayrat, it will increase your love of the Prophet (s.a.w.), of Allah, and of the angels, and also recite salawat (praises) on the Prophet (s.a.w).

If you do not respect our Prophet (s.a.w), Allah will not accept you in His Divine Presence. Respect our Prophet (s.a.w).”

21th Answer

A lady asked: “Is it okay to read the Holy Qur’an in Turkish?”
The Shaykh replied: “There is no Turkish Qur’an. Your husband should teach you [to read in Arabic].”

22th Answer

A lady told me that she asked the Shaykh how she could control her shaytan.

She said that the Shaykh replied: “Do you want to bypass me? Hold on to your Shaykh and read Dalā’il l-khayrat (a book of prayers on the Prophet (s.a.w.)).”

23th Answer

A lady asked for du’a (a prayer).

The Shaykh said to her: “Do you pray?”

The lady answered: “No.”

The Shaykh instructed: “Don’t let a day pass without making at least one sajda (prostration). Pray at least two rakats (prayer cycles).”

The lady said: “I thought I must pray five times a day.”

The Shaykh answered: “Pray two rak’ats a day. You take shower every day, don’t you? Afterwards pray two rakats. It is enough for you.”

The lady asked: “Can I pray any time?”

The Shaykh responded: “Yes.”
24th Answer

A lady complained that her husband lives as he likes; goes and comes as he likes and doesn’t take care of them. But she loves him and doesn’t want to divorce him.

The Shaykh said: “Tell him to pray two rak’ats. Otherwise if something bad happens to him, he cannot be saved. A man without sajda (prostration) is a difficult one.”

25th Answer

The Shaykh said: “Whoever is not praying is not happy. Pray two rak’ats (cycles of prayer) every day, it protects you from accidents and troubles.”

26th Answer

A lady said: “O Shaykh, I cannot have children.”

The Shaykh said: “If Allah gives, then you will have. Are you going to fight with Allah? You say he is drinking? Then he will not have a child. He should stop drinking alcohol and pray two rak’ats (cycles of prayer). Then he will have a child.”

27th Answer

A visitor told the Shaykh: “My daughter-in-law cannot have a baby.”
The Shaykh said: “She should recite astaghfiruLlah (Allah forgive me) 300 times and recite 100 salawat (prayers for the Prophet (s.a.w.)).

Also she should pray two rak’ats (prayer cycles) between Maghrib (sunset) and ‘Isha (night).”

**28th Answer**

The Shaykh gave this piece of advice to a student of medicine from England: “You must marry! That is why you don’t pass your exams. Also you must keep your prayers.”

**29th Answer**

A man from the Greek side of Cyprus, who was teaching children with mental problems, asked the Shaykh if his profession was all right.

The Shaykh answered: “Any work which gives benefit to people is acceptable. If it is giving harm then it is forbidden in all religions.”

**30th Answer**

The Shaykh said: “We are in need of true ones. It is very difficult to find them. We are asking for trustworthy people. Most people follow their egoistic desires. They don’t ask for Reality. Very few people ask for Reality. They ask for enjoyment. It’s so fake, never going to give benefit to our personality.”
We have been ordered to establish our personality on the big day. When you look at people from outside, so perfect! When you look at their actions, so bad!

Some people try to be on the good way, to reach to their real destination. They reach the angelic world. But mostly people run after their egos and the shaytanic way. One day we will be under the same flag - no wars, no envy, no hatred. Everyone is going to be like paradise people. That will be the time of Jesus Christ (as) and Sayyidna l-Mahdi (as).”

31th Answer

Some people from Istanbul were talking with the Shaykh about buying land and building a dergah (a sufi gathering place). They were asking for advice.

The Shaykh told them to buy a place outside the city and to make a simple building. He added: “If there is a war, the country will be safer than the city. It is better if people expand to places outside the city.”

32th Answer

A mother with her 2-3 year old son told the Shaykh that her son is sick all the time. The Shaykh looked at the boy’s t-shirt with short sleeves and said: “There is an evil eye on him. Don’t let him wear a shirt with no sleeves.”

[Another time I heard Shaykh say to a lady that she will become sick if she wears a shirt with no sleeves.]
33th Answer

A lady spoke to the Shaykh. The Shaykh asked if her husband had work and she said yes.

Then the Shaykh gave her this advice: “When your husband comes home he should change his clothes. When the evil eye from women and men touches him, he falls into darkness. Tell him to change his clothes otherwise he will become aggressive. Separate the clothes for work and those for home.

Don’t say - I don’t want children. Don’t say - how will we make a living? This is disbelief. Don’t make abortions. Don’t go to the doctor. Don’t deliver a baby with the doctor. Don’t do an ultrasound.”

(Explanation of this advice from our present shaykh of the Naqshibandì tariqa, Shaykh Mehmet Adîl:

* When Shaykh Efendi would tell pregnant women not to go to see doctors, he meant that they shouldn’t go unless there was real need to do so. He also would advise to take medicine in case of serious ailments, but not to go popping pills as if they were sweets.

34th Answer

Somebody asked about the permissibility of buying things on credit.

The Shaykh said: “Pay cash or pay in advance. This credit thing is a Jewish innovation.”
The Shaykh was giving advice to some university students in Cyprus.

He said: “Get married as soon as possible. Now you are like a rosebud [meaning the right age for marriage; when a rose is old then nobody wants it]. At this time nobody listens to advice, even if the Prophet (s.a.w.) himself came. Shaytan is saying: ‘Don’t get married’. They listen to that. The Prophet (s.a.w.) said to get married. They don’t listen to that.

Here there are dirty networks. You arrive clean, but you will leave dirty. There are places of shaytan to cheat you here. How are you able to study among young boys? Their poisonous looks take away your beauty and light.

Why are you studying? What have you learned? I will ask you a question. (The Shaykh looks to the girl studying law). What will happen to a man if he marries three times and gets divorced two times? What is his punishment?”

The girl said: “It is not a crime to get divorced.”

The Shaykh responded: “Yes, it is a crime! Either the man or the woman will be an oppressor. Whoever wants to destroy their family will be punished.”

Then the Shaykh made a du’a and added: “Whoever is not going clean [to akhira], will suffer a lot. A person should be subjected to a bastinado in order to prevent him from destroying his family. Most of them are the kind of creatures that either bite or kick.”
36th Answer

A visitor asked: “What is inside the ta‘wiz (the protection that murids wear next to their hearts at all times)?”

The Shaykh answered: “The Names of Allah. Whoever is wearing the Names of Allah, shaytan will not bother him – he will not be bothered by satan. This protects you from misfortune and troubles, and from the evil eye.”

37th Answer

A mother told the Shaykh that her two and a half year old child cries a lot during the night. What should she do? How can she deal with it?

The Shaykh gave six instructions:
1) Put a ta‘wiz (protection) into his pillow.
2) Read Ayat u-Kursi (2:255) and blow on the child.
3) Tie a red cloth on his bed.
4) Don’t make him sleep alone.
5) Give sadaqa (charity).
6) Don’t put any doll or stuffed animal in the sleeping room. Put them instead in the playing room. Jinn can enter into the dolls and disturb the child.
38th Answer

About travelling home the Shaykh said: “To return to one’s homeland is *fard* (obligatory). Even if it is once a year, you should go. You will feel better, you will feel at ease and relieved.”

39th Answer

A mother told the Shaykh that her son, who is three and a half years old, has asthma.

The Shaykh told her that it was because of the humidity, and that at night she should put a shirt made of newspaper on his chest.

The daughter of the Shaykh, Haji Ruqiya added: “You can put some sesame oil on his chest and dress him in a woolen shirt over the newspaper shirt. This will absorb the humidity or protect from the humidity.”

40th Answer

A visitor asked a question about the water we drink.

The Shaykh said: “The bottled water you buy from the market is dead water. The minerals the body needs disappear because of the purification of the water.”
The Shaykh told the Sultan of Malaysia that most people have dead speech. Those who follow the steps of the Prophet (s.a.w.) and his inheritors, have speech that is alive.

Some ladies from Ankara were sitting around the Shaykh and one of them asked for himmah (spiritual power).

The lady said: “I want himmah for my illness.”

The Shaykh answered: “Go to Haji Bektashi Wali and tell him: ‘Your servant has sent me to you. My remedy is here.’ Then distribute ten loaves of bread to the people.”

[I have also heard Shaykh say to a lady who asked for du’a for her illness: “Go to the tomb of the saint where you live and ask for help and distribute some bread in charity.”]

Explanation: (Here it is important to know that you don’t ask the saint in the grave to cure you. Because the cure is from Allah. At the maqam we should pray to Allah to cure us for the honour of the revered saint who lies buried there.)
43th Answer

One lady asked for advice concerning her husband.

The Shaykh said: “Outside [at work] darkness is coming on him. When he comes home he should have a bath. Prepare clothes for home for him. He should not wear outdoor clothes in the home.

The wife continued: “Shaykh Efendi, they don’t make any profit [in their business].”

The Shaykh said: “They won’t because their relationship with Allah is not good. If they don’t pray two rak’ats, seven prophets will not intercede (shafa’at) for them. Their business will not go well. Either they put their foreheads to the ground in sajda (prostration), or they will be finished.

He should pray two rak’ats (prayer cycles) before going to bed.”

44th Answer

One lady asked about what name to give to a newborn baby.

The Shaykh said: “There is no benefit in names which are made-up, invented. Through the name, power comes to the person.

Khadijah was my mother’s name. People bearing this name are marked by suffering. I would give the name Fatima. The Fatimas are good.”
45th Answer

A visitor said: “My lungs are sick. They want me to have an operation. But I don’t want to.”

The Shaykh responded: “Don’t have the operation! If you do, you will pass away within three months.”

The lady added: “Also I have bronchitis.”

The Shaykh advised: “Protect yourself from the cold. Do you have pine pitch/pine resin?

When you pierce the pine tree, a gum, its natural resin will run out.

Boil this in the morning, at noon and in the evening, and drink it. It is bitter but it is the best cure. You don’t need any other medicine.”

46th Answer

A pregnant lady asked for advice.

The Shaykh said: “Do not go to the doctor. Every day your husband should give sadaqa (charity) for you and for the baby in your womb, two sadaqas (charitable offerings). You should also sacrifice [an animal and give the meat in charity].”
47th Answer

A singer asked about playing the piano.
The Shaykh answered: “Play the piano. Get together with people and play. Tell them to come and listen to the heavenly music.”

[The lady was very happy.]

48th Answer

A group of ladies from Istanbul came to the Shaykh to ask for advice.
The Shaykh told them:

“Don’t cook food for your husband without putting salt in it.
Don’t cook without saying BismiLlahir Rahmanir Rahim.

Encourage your husbands to pray. Who is not praying at all should pray at least two rak’ats a day. The one who is not praying, his business will not go well. Allah is not pleased with those of His servants who do not pray.

Avoid extravagance and wasteful expenditure.

Do not keep up with the latest fashion. Fashion is against the sunnah (practice) of the Prophet (s.a.w).

Take care to dress in the dress of Islam.

Recite the Mawlid (a poem by Suleyman Chelebi celebrating the birth of the Prophet).
Women should not wander around in the streets. Even when they go to *dhikr* (a gathering in Allah’s Name), they should be at home before evening.”

**49th Answer**

An old grandmother asked for du’a (blessing) and advice for her two grandchildren.

The Shaykh started singing in a joyful way: “Ballani, Ballani…” and then he continued: “In the morning when you are washing your faces, wash also your feet.

The ending of the person who is praying will be good.

The person who does not make *sajda* (prostration) is unclean and cannot enter Paradise.”

**50th Answer**

Somebody asked advice about doctors.

The Shaykh said jokingly: “There is a doctor, there is a director, and there is a tractor.

Now most of them are tractors. They do not know anything."

The Shaykh lay down on the sofa to rest. He said “Here we lie down and watch.”

The Shaykh started to imitate doctors in a funny way. He said: “Close your eyes!” The Shaykh closed his eyes.

“Open your mouth” he said, and opened his mouth. “Oh, I cannot breath…” “How you cannot breath?” he replied to himself. “Then you need nine X-Rays, nine of this, nine of that…”
He was smiling. Then we left the room to give him some time to rest.

51th Answer

A guest said: “O Shaykh, my child doesn’t eat food.”
The Shaykh answered: “Whatever he likes, give him from that, even if only a small amount. When he gets older it will be all right.”

52th Answer

A lady told the Shaykh about her dream. It was a very clear dream in which the Shaykh told her to draw a picture of an orange on her shoes. She asked the Shaykh what he meant by that.

His answer was short and sharp: “Nonsense.”

[I realised that all dreams we have about the Shaykh are not necessarily true. I remember he told us that there are three kinds of dreams.]

53th Answer

The Shaykh had just prayed the maghrib (sunset) prayer after breaking the fast. One lady told him that some young ladies in Lefke go out for a walk late in the evening after “isha.” The Shaykh told those young ladies to be at home before maghrib, before sunset prayer, because shaytan is outside after maghrib.

[Several times I have heard the Shaykh tell people, especially ladies, not to go out after maghrib (sunset).]
54th Answer

The Shaykh was sitting on the sofa in the TV room downstairs, surrounded by some Turkish ladies. One lady asked what to do about hair loss.

The Shaykh said: “Mix black henna with some olive oil and massage it into your hair once a week. Wash your hair with soft soap (Turkish: arap sabunu). This gives strength to the roots of your hair.”

55th Answer

Another lady asked the Shaykh what to recite for a young man 25 years of age to make him calmer.

The Shaykh answered: “Read forty Fatihah (the first surat of Quran) on some water and have him drink it. He should also wear a ta’wiz (protection) and get married.”

56th Answer

A lady told the Shaykh that invisible beings are bothering her and making problems for her.

The Shaykh advised her to:
1. Recite Ya Hafiz (O Protector);
2. Pray;
3. Read Ayatu l-kursi (2:255);
4. Wear a ta’wiz (protection).”
One lady told the Shaykh that she was working in the kitchen at her family’s restaurant. Nobody sees her there and she is covered.

The Shaykh didn’t like that she works there. He said: “Don’t work. The baraka of that restaurant will disappear, it will melt away.

It is not halal (lawful) for a woman to work in the streets and earn money. Do you understand? You should stay at home. (Sura Ahzap) This is the order of Allah. When you go out you should cover yourself. Look at her face! It is like a moon. The beauty of a person is in the face. In the old days when a wife got angry she went to the ‘kahve’, [the coffeehouse where only men sit and drink coffee] where her husband was sitting, and she would remove her scarf to make her nikab (marriage) null and void. It is very difficult. People do not know about this.”

[In the past I heard the Shaykh say that if the lady has not got a husband or a family to take care of her, only then may she go out to work.]

A mother asked for medicine for her four year old son who had bronchitis.

The Shaykh recommended: “Boil the pitch [resin] of the pine tree and make him drink this three times a day.”

[Haji Ruqiya said that this dries out the mucus in the lungs; it is good for coughing also. You boil it in water and drink it.]
59th Answer

The Shaykh was sitting together with his two deputies and some ladies, and was giving them some advice:

“Shaytan should not rule us. The person who is ruled by shaytan will go to hell. This point is important. If the person is controlling shaytan, then he will go to paradise. Whoever is controlled by shaytan, his way is to hell. This is a “sobbat”. Even to say as little as this, is considered a sobbat (religious teaching).

My Shaykh, Sultanu l-Awliya, may Allah sanctify his secret, told me: ‘Nazim Efendi, I have given 7000 sobbats to you’.

There are 7000 sobbats of his that he gave to my heart. These come to me without my needing to look for them in books. The meaning of 7000 sobbats is that they are 7000 different kinds of medicine. According to the need of a person we give from these medicines. During a sobbat, listen, pay attention to it. You may benefit.”

The Shaykh continued to tell of some advice that he once heard: “A man said: ‘O my son, regard every night as Laylatu l-Qadr (the holy night in Ramadan when the Quran was revealed) and everyone as Sayyidina Khidr (as) (the holy man known as the Green Man)’.

The Shaykh looked at one of the ladies and said: “Do not fight! “
60th Answer

A visitor said: “We visit the maqam (tomb) of Shaykh Sharafuddin every three months. Is this all right?”

The Shaykh replied: “You don’t need to go there every three months. His spirituality comes to you.”

61st Answer

The Shaykh said: “The closeness of Allah is not external. It is spiritual. Allah is in each atom within us. Every atom has a connection. If there is no connection the atom will die. Is there any place where Allah is not?”

“The saints have a dhikr - Allah shahidi, Allah naziri Allah ma’i. - Allah sees me, Allah looks after me, Allah is with me [the prayer of Sahl at-Tustari, a 9th century Sufi]. ‘ilmu l-yaqin, aynu l-yaqin, baqqu l-yaqin’. Becoming yaqin [certainty] and vanishing...

The Absolute Being of Allah is Absolute...

According to the different Names of Allah there will be a tajalli, manifestation. The Name on the earth differs from the Names on other planets. The orbit of each of the seven planets is unique. You are in the ocean.

The one who belongs to us, we will not leave him to someone else, and we will not keep someone who belongs to someone else. We will not commit theft.

A car will carry a load according to its power. Some of the cars can take 100 tons. Each murshid (guide) can accept people according to his level.
If he has no power, then he himself and the people behind him will stay where they are.

We struggle either for Allah or for our ego.”

62th Answer

A man asked: “Would you give some advice for my wife?”

The Shaykh answered playfully: “She may take two rings in her hands and dance in front of the mirror. (A joke) Better for her to work at home.”

63th Answer

The Shaykh was talking to some Turkish men at the breakfast table. I was able to join near the end and I heard him saying: “You cannot enter the majlis, (the Grand National Assembly) without a tie. They invented the tie to represent the cross of Jesus Christ. They force us to wear it. It is to represent the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. Well, in reality he was not crucified.

Then they say her scarf represents ‘that’ [they complain about Muslim women wearing a headcovering] but look, what does the tie represent?”

64th Answer

The Shaykh was sitting in the garden with some ladies to answer their questions. They asked for du’a for their different problems.
To one of the ladies he said:

“Allah is not pleased when women work together with men. It is forbidden. It is haram. Therefore the light, the nur has been taken away from those women. The women who dress immodestly also lose their sexual attractiveness, and then their husbands leave them and go to street walkers, prostitutes. They do not satisfy them either.

The light is taken away from those women who work closely together with men.”

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65th Answer

One lady, with tears in her eyes, was telling the Shaykh about her different problems and asking for du’a (a prayer). Then she said that her niece, a 15 year old girl, committed suicide. The young girl, the daughter of a bank director, took her father’s gun and shot herself. The lady was asking if she will be punished.

The Shaykh answered: “No, she did not do it on purpose. If somebody hangs himself, he will be hanged all the time up to the Judgment Day. If somebody cuts himself then he will be cut up to the Day of Judgment. If he shoots himself then he will be shot up to the Day of Judgment. If he burns himself he will be burned up to the Day of Judgment. If he drowns himself then he will be drowned every day up to the Day of Judgment.”

“Your lying in the grave for 70 years has no value. One breath of ‘La ilaha illa Allah’ on this earth is of more value.”
“Salad sobbat” in the garden with the Shaykh. We were having a salad made of lettuce and dry bread before ‘asr’ prayers in the garden with some Turkish ladies. The Shaykh was reading one sentence from Dala‘ilu l-khayrat (a book of Prayers on the Prophet (s.a.w.)).

He said: “Your actions take you either to paradise or to hell. If somebody keeps this secret he will be with Allah. Whoever is with Allah, his affairs will be smooth. Whoever leaves Allah, his affairs will not prosper.

A lot of people come and complain about their businesses. If our business is for Allah it will not be spoiled. If there is any adulteration, if there is a little bit of dirt in the milk pot then that milk will be spoiled. The milk cannot tolerate any adulteration. If you do any business or if you do anything for Allah then do not be scared. If any fraud is involved, then it is finished, it will be spoiled. Then you must throw it away.

Do you think Allah opens the way for those who do business without keeping His order? No! But to unbelievers He will give way. Dunya (this world) is for unbelievers, so He will give it to them because they do not have akhira (the next world). Dunya has no value. If all of Lefke (the Shaykh’s village in Northern Cyprus) belongs to me, what value does that have?

What we are eating is this...[showing the salad on the table]. What we are sitting on is this big... [showing the small size of the chair]. Where we sleep is hardly bigger than this. What else do we want?
I want peace! Where can you find peace? Where is peace? You will get peace through being with Allah. Whoever is with Allah will be peaceful. If you are not with Allah you will be with shaytan. The one who is with shaytan, his business is ruined.”

The Shaykh continued: “One person is giving advice. He says: O my brother, your actions belong either to paradise or to hell. This is the measurement of every action. When you do something, it will make you either gain or lose. That action or that business leads you either to paradise or to hell. Look at yourself. What are you doing? What are you saying? What do you work with? For what do you work? Either it is written on this side or on that side. There is no third option. Either it belongs to paradise or to hell. Our religion is easy. Its measurement is complete.

You do not need to read a lot of books. It is enough if you learn a few things. A person who is going to be a driver is not required by the authorities to know everything about the car. What is here? What is there? What is in the engine? Is he able to drive? Yes! Then finished!”

One lady then asked: “We do not know about our actions. Do we do things for Allah? Are our actions for Allah?”

The Shaykh replied: “If your conscience tells you that you are doing something for Allah, then it is all right.”
67th Answer

A visitor asked: “O Shaykh, what can I do not to be scared of mice?”

The Shaykh, smiling, said: “Say meeow, meeow.”

The visitor asked “How many times?”

The Shaykh replied: “100 times!” (A joke)

68th Answer

Mawlana was in the garden looking at the beautiful flowers. Then he looked to a lady who was having problems getting along with the people around her and said: “Look carefully at this tulip. It gives refreshment. Try to be like that.”

69th Answer

A lady was asking for advice for her eye problem, a scratch in the eye.

The Shaykh told her: “Take three cloves of garlic, smash them and mix them with honey every morning. Power will come to you.”

70th Answer

A lady was complaining that she has pains here and there in her body. She asked for advice.
The Shaykh said: “Stand in front of the mirror and dance!”

The lady replied: “How did you know I used to do this?”

71th Answer

Someone asked what to do for waswasa (shaytanic insinuation, wicked thoughts, evil whisperings)?

The Shaykh said: “Say, A‘udhu bi-L{laha min ash-shaytani r-rajim (I seek protection in Allah from satan the accursed), forty times.”

72th Answer

A lady who has a kebab restaurant asked: “O Shaykh Efendi, there are mice in the roof, what can we do?”

The Shaykh joked: “Make kebabs of them and eat them!”

73th Answer

A lady who, after 13 years without children just delivered triplets, was asking for a du’a (prayer). One of her newborn babies had a hole in the heart.

The Shaykh said: “Do you think a car with a hole in it will be put in a car gallery? Do you think Allah would make a hole in the heart and put it there? Ultrasound treatment was the cause of this. It made a hole in the heart.”
74th Answer

A guest asked: “Some people want a du’a (prayer) from me? What shall I do?”

The Shaykh said: “On every occasion of dhikr (gathering for the remembrance of Allah) put water in the middle of the circle.”

[The Shaykh says that the middle of the dhikr circle is a garden from the gardens of paradise. Mercy will rain down there. Read one Fatiha (surat:1) and one Surat Ikhlas (surat:112) over the water.]

75th Answer

One visitor said: “Sayyidi, when I was a child my foot was scalded with boiling hot tea water. Now there is contraction in the foot.”

The Shaykh advised: “Every night massage your foot with olive oil. The muscles will become relaxed and loose.”

76th Answer

A lady having a problem with her husband was asking for advice, and crying.

The lady said: “Sayyidi, I have a big obstacle in front of me. I want my love to widen. I want to be able to love a liar, a thief, someone with no adab - to love them because of their Creator.”
The Shaykh answered: "There still is time... Be patient. It will change. The only one not changing is Allah."

The lady replied: "My Shaykh, have I fallen down?"

The Shaykh said: "There is no 'falling down'. Whether you fight or you sleep, the engine is still pulling you forward."

[The Shaykh says that once you take his hand you get aboard a train which continues to move to its destination whether you are aware or not.]

**77th Answer**

A guest asked about his daughter: "Sayyidi, her chances of marriage are not good, she has no suitors. Would you please make a du'a."

The Shaykh replied: "Those who do not pray, their chances of marriage are closed. She may pray two rak'at (cycles of prayer)."

**78th Answer**

One of the ladies was insisting on getting permission to go on Hajj.

The Shaykh said: "You will go if you are called. I have not heard from above, 'send her'."

The lady replied: "But I have had an inspiration..." The Shaykh said: "That does not matter."
79th Answer

A young university student was complaining about her stomach ache and headache.

The Shaykh advised: “You are affected by the evil eye. Leave what you have been drinking.”

80th Answer

The Shaykh was speaking to a group of ladies from Turkey:

“This is the seal [pointing to a picture on the wall] that was between the shoulders of our Holy Prophet (s.a.w.). Hang this on the wall at home. While looking at it, repeat three times: As-salatu wa s-salamu alayka ya RasulAllah, as-salatu wa s-salamu alayka ya Habibullah. As-salatu wa s-salamu alaykam as-Sayyidil awwalina wa l-akhirin. No misfortune or harm will come to you.”

81st Answer

The Shaykh was giving advice to some people who wanted a child:

“Pray two raka‘ats (cycles of prayer) every night for the sake of Allah. Recite kalimatu sh-shahada (ash-hadu an la ilaha illa-lah, wa ash-hadu anna Muhammadan ‘abduhu wa rasuluhu.) three times and 300 astagfiruLlah (Allah forgive) and pray to Allah to grant you a good and blessed child.”
82th Answer

A mother brought her 5 month old baby to the Shaykh because it was crying a lot.

The Shaykh sat down and touched the baby’s head, shoulders and chest and prayed.

“The baby has stomach pain” he said. “Give her chamomile and anise tea. Recite Ayatul Kursi (2:255) and put one ta’wiz (protection) on her left shoulder and another one in her pillow. The first 40 days after the birth one should place a piece of red muslin or gauze where the baby sleeps.”

83th Answer

An old couple came to visit the Shaykh. The old man had a lot of trouble walking and his head was bent almost to the ground. They sat on the sofa and the wife told the Shaykh: “O Shaykh, he is never laughing!”

The Shaykh started making jokes and telling a story: “Once upon a time there was a man who would never admit that he had grown old.

Mr. Huseyin, can you ride a donkey? If you will ride, then I will ride also, said the Shaykh and made the man laugh.

The Shaykh cheered the old man up with his jokes, then the man lifted both his arms and pretended to be dancing. This made the Shaykh happy too and he also lifted his arms. He smiled at the wife and said: “This is the way. Don’t leave the door of shukr, the door of gratefulness.”
[In one sohbat (teaching), the Shaykh said that one good laugh removes a whole year of worry and discomfort.]

84th Answer

Many guests were coming in and out of the room where the Shaykh was sitting. The Shaykh was making them laugh and later told them to pray two *rak'at*. One lady, without a headcovering and wearing a sleeveless T-shirt, and a teenage girl gave salams to the Shaykh and asked to kiss his hand and to be given a *ta'wiz* (amulet of protection). The young lady was wearing a very, very short skirt and stood directly in front of the Shaykh.

The Shaykh looked at the young girl, smiled slightly, and asked her: “Girl, are you a movie star?”

They burst out laughing.

85th Answer

The Shaykh advised a lady who said that she was trying to kill her ego: “Do not try to kill your ego. Try to train and educate it.”

86th Answer

A lady was asking for advice because of a tumor in her womb.

The Shaykh advised: “Drink onion juice for 40 days. You can add some water to it if you like.”
Haji Ruqiya added: “Drink half a Turkish tea glass full of onion juice produced by grating a raw onion.”

88th Answer

The Shaykh was talking to a group from Spain who were asking about Buddhism.

The Shaykh told them: “Buddhism is under the earth and Islam is up in the sky.”

One lady in the group said that she did not trust men and so could not trust ‘masters’.

The Shaykh said to her: “Don’t trust them. Trust only in God. When you are good with God then He will send you trustworthy ones.”

89th Answer

A lady told the Shaykh that invisible creatures were causing her problems.

The Shaykh recommended: “Recite Ya Hafiz (O Protector) every day. Make salawat (prayers on the Prophet (s.a.w.)), and perform your namaz (prayers). Read Ayatul-Kursi (2:255) before going to sleep.”

90th Answer

Someone asked: “I have an ear infection, would you make a du’a (prayer) please.”

The Shaykh advised: “Put a drop of olive oil in your ear before going to bed.”
91th Answer

Someone asked: “Can you suggest anything for ‘burning’ in the stomach?”

The Shaykh suggested: “Take thyme on an empty stomach. You may chew one big teaspoon of thyme, morning, noon, and evening.”

92th Answer

A man said to the Shaykh: “My wife’s liver is diseased, Sayyidi.”

The Shaykh answered: “Let her eat 21 raisins with the seeds. If she has no teeth, she may crush them before eating them. There is nothing as strengthening as raisins. They bring fresh color to the face and rejuvenate the liver. Do not let them cut away part of her liver. There is no need to take any medicine. She should be careful what she eats.”

93th Answer

A woman asked: “My son, who is four years old, has bronchitis. What would you suggest?”

The Shaykh replied: “Let him drink pine resin [boiled in water], three times a day.”

(Haji Ruqiya said it is good for coughing; it dries out the mucus. You should boil a little bit of pine pitch in water.)
94th Answer

A mother was saying that her son has problems with his teeth. The boy looked like he was around nine years old.

The Shaykh looked at the boy’s teeth and said: “Eat nuts, they make the teeth stronger.”

[I asked the mother what exactly the problem was and she told me that his teeth are weak. They looked very, very small.]

95th Answer

Someone asked: “O Shaykh, they have done some black magic on me. I feel such a heaviness because of this.”

The Shaykh answered: “Black magic cannot affect one who is in our tariqa (sufi way). Black magic cannot affect you. We are not playing a game here. Who is the one making the black magic?

Recite Sura Alam nasbran (surat 94) seven times and blow over some water [and drink it].”

96th Answer

A visitor told the Shaykh: “I have a goiter and I need an operation.”

The Shaykh said: “No need for that. You may drink white onion juice on an empty stomach.”
Put the onion in a mixer and drink the juice in the morning in a small coffee cup. Don’t eat or drink anything after that for one hour. Continue this 3 times a day for 40 days, and then ask us again.”

97th Answer

Someone asked: “Is there permission to buy a house on credit?”

The Shaykh said: “You may buy as much as you have the money for.”

98th Answer

The Shaykh was talking to a young lady from abroad who was about to leave for her country.

The Shaykh asked her: “Do you have money?”

The lady said that she had less money because of her traveling. The Shaykh looked at me and said in Turkish: “If she thinks of her money, then she can’t be a dervish.”

She is asking about khalwa (spiritual seclusion) of the heart. Mawlana says something in Arabic, which I don’t understand. But, according to the translation I got, he said: “Be among people, but be with Allah - without forgetting Allah.”

99th Answer

A visitor asked: “Isn’t it possible to believe in God without belonging to a religion?”
There are so many religions, so many different kinds of cultures and people. They all need to get together, to be in unity.”

The Shaykh replied: “What do all the religions say about who created the world?”

The visitor answered: “Allah!”

The Shaykh said: “Finished... finished. They all come together on one point. Did I create, did you create or did the people of the past create their world? Is there anyone who insists, ‘We have created the world’? No! Sometimes I am looking at myself “- [the Shaykh looks at his arms and hands] - “Who made man’s form and design? Did you make it? Did you decide about your own gender?”

This means there is a power controlling you. If a man does not understand this he is below the level of a donkey. How is the baby in the mother’s womb formed? Does the mother do it or does the father do it? They speak of ‘test-tube baby’ – they put together two seeds and place it in the womb of the mother, delivering the sperms to the power within.

Outside there is no ‘workshop’ for it. The ’workshop’ is in the womb of the mother.

If they are like animals, what can we tell them?”

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100th Answer

A lady said that her nephew, 17 years of age, fights a lot at home with his parents. She asks for help.

The Shaykh called for that young boy. He kissed the Shaykh’s hand and sat on the floor just in front of the Shaykh.
The Shaykh held the young boy’s hand, not letting it go. He was smiling and being very gentle with the boy.

Then the Shaykh said: “Instead of fighting outside, you may fight inside, at home.”

The boy smiled, seemingly surprised at the answer.

The Shaykh asked: “What do you like to do?”

The lady said: “He wants to learn the computer.”

The Shaykh said: “If you get a degree it is valid here, but not there. Better that you learn a craft, a handicraft. It is like a golden bracelet, wherever you go, you can use it. Being a carpenter is good. There is always a lot of work.

Get married. Outside there is so much dirtiness. If you get a disease you won’t get children, so be careful!”

The Shaykh held the face of the young boy between both his hands and said: “He is good looking. Evil eye, nazar, may reach you. Wear the “ta’wiz” (protection).

101th Answer

The Shaykh called a Turkish family into the room. A young pregnant lady and her husband came in. They owned a shop where they worked together. They said that they have no peace at home and asked for advice.

The Shaykh put his stick on the womb of the lady and prayed and started giving advice.

The Shaykh said: “Do not go to the doctor for an ultrasound.”

Looking to the husband, the Shaykh said: “Everyday give sadaga (charity) for the mother and for the baby.”
Give also *sadaqa* for yourself and for your car. This will keep accidents, calamity and misfortune away from you. When you come home from work, change your clothes and take a shower. There is more evil eye on you than on a woman.”

Turning to the lady, he said: “If you want peace at home you should only look to the eyes of your husband and he should only look to your eyes. Do not work outside. Everyday you go by car to your job. You will loose your baby. Respect your husband. Serve at home.”

(surat Ahzap)

### 102th Answer

A lady asked: “What can we do to make our problems go away?”

The Shaykh asked: “Do you pray?”

The lady answered: “Yes.”

The Shaykh continued: “Does your husband pray?”

The lady said: “No.”

The Shaykh advised: “He should pray.”

[Earlier I heard the Shaykh telling another lady that the reason she feels discomfort and distress is because her husband is not praying].

### 103th Answer

A lady said that her son-in-law has diabetes.

The Shaykh advised: “There is a yellow flower called sourgrass (oxalis pes-caprae, a common weed) that tastes
very sour. Put it in a blender with a little bit of salt. He should eat three glasses of this every day.

This flower is very easy to find in Cyprus. Everywhere in Lefke you may find it.”

104th Answer

A young lady wanted to get married, but there is no one asking for her.

The Shaykh recommended: “Read salatun tunjina (a prayer for the Prophet (s.a.w.)) 40 times a day and pray two raka’at (prayer cycles) as a prayer of urgent need.”

105th Answer

A young lady said that she has very weak eyesight, that she cannot see further than a distance of 20 cm.

The Shaykh told her to: “Crush three cloves of garlic and mix them with fresh honey and eat this early in the morning. GrandShaykh said that you may then see the stars even in the daytime!”

106th Answer

One lady, whose father was about to die, was asking the Shaykh how to prepare her father, who is not a Muslim, for his death.

The Shaykh said to her: “Ask him to say La ilaha illa Llab (There is no god but Allah). If he cannot say it, you say it for him.”
107th Answer

One sad looking young lady told the Shaykh: “O Shaykh, I have done so many wrong things.”

The Shaykh answered: “Everyone does wrong. Allah forgives. We are not prophets - meaning, we are not innocent. Prophets and saints are innocent, but we do wrong things. Allah says - “Repent, it is all right.”

A child may get his clothes dirty, but there is water. The child can wash his hands and become clean. He may change his clothes and become clean. Allah Almighty leaves the door of repentance open. Any time a servant says, ‘O our Lord, forgive us’, He forgives.”

108th Answer

A lady said: “I am pregnant and I am asking for blessings.”

The Shaykh advised: “Don’t go to the doctor. It is all right. Every day give one sadaqa (charity) for yourself and for your baby.

Keep two ta’wiz (the protection containing Allah’s Names) on you. When the baby comes, put one of them on the baby.

And cut your nails short. Long nails bring disease and are not good.”
109th Answer

Someone asked: “What should I do for waswasa (internal whispering)?”

The Shaykh said: “Say 40 times A‘udhu bi-Llahi min ash-shaytanir rajim (I seek refuge in Allah from the accursed satan)”

110th Answer

A four year old boy filled his ears with plastic dough. The doctors were unable to get it out. The only solution was to give him sedatives and make him go to sleep. The worried mother came asking for advice.

The Shaykh said: “Put a few drops of heated olive oil mixed with pepper in his ear every day”.

111th Answer

A lady shows me her face and tells me that she has an allergy to the sun. She had a lot of pimples on her skin. I asked the Shaykh and he said: “Put some blackseed oil on the skin.”

[This remedy Mawlana recommends also for ladies with menstrual pain - just to rub on their bellies].
112th Answer

A sister living in Lefke, told us that her son fell down and that his head was bleeding profusely. She was asking how to stop the bleeding.

The Shaykh said: “Put a piece of a spider web over the wound.”

113th Answer

Two ladies were asking for a remedy for osteoporosis and jaundice.

For both illnesses the Shaykh gave the same advice:

“Take one fresh egg (one day old), wash it and put it in a small bowl and fill it with lemon juice to cover the egg. Leave it from the evening to the morning. Don’t cause the membrane to burst open. Just drink the sour juice which now contains the dissolved shell of the egg. If you do this three times it is enough. If you are not well then you may continue to do this for seven days. This takes away the poison in the gallbladder.

Also give sadaqa (charity). There is no limit for good deeds. The good deeds you do here, you will find over there.”

114th Answer

Someone asked: “Sayyidi, a 19 year old person has skin cancer. What would you suggest?”
The Shaykh said: “Is the cancer everywhere?”
The visitor answered: “No, only on one part of the skin.”
The Shaykh advised: “Put some blackseed oil on it.”

115th Answer

A lady asked: “Is there a remedy for my son, 5 years old, who has bronchitis?”

The Shaykh said: “Make a ‘shirt’ of newspaper for him. This is good for cold. Also keep his feet warm. Make him wear thick socks.”

The mother continued: “I have a problem with my lungs, coughing so much. I have a lot of mucus.”

The Shaykh said: “Drink pine resin three times a day.”

The Shaykh then started singing in Turkish: “Everybody has a problem. I also have a problem. The cure to my problem is Allah...”

116th Answer

A visitor asked: “What remedy would you give for high blood pressure and an enlarged prostate gland?”

The Shaykh replied: “For high blood pressure take some wild fennel, boil it and drink the tea.

For an enlarged prostate, grapefruit is best. Eat or - [the Shaykh makes a gesture with his hand, meaning to squeeze and drink it.]”
117th Answer

A lady said: “A doctor told me not to give milk to my four year old son because he gets bronchitis and asthma. He gets a lot of mucus in the chest. Should I give no milk at all?”

The Shaykh replied: “Give him a little bit only, and give it with coffee. This will lessen its harmfulness.”

118th Answer

A lady came to the Shaykh and said: “Some people are shouting, scolding, and attacking me -what shall I do?”

The Shaykh answered: “Be patient.”

The lady asked: “Is there any dhikr to recite?”

The Shaykh said: “La hawla wa la quwwata (There is no power except in Allah) 100 times a day.”

119th Answer

A lady said: “My marriage is like a Chinese torture. I can’t carry it anymore.”

The Shaykh asked: “Does your husband pray?”

The lady replied: “Well, he says he prays.”

The Shaykh asked: ”Does he smoke?”

The lady answered: “I don’t know.”

The Shaykh asked: ”Does he beat you?”

The lady replied: “No.”

The Shaykh said: “Be patient, be patient.”
120th Answer

One young lady with her beautiful newborn baby came and asked: “She is crying a lot at night, also she has the evil eye on her. What can I do?”

The Shaykh answered: “Let her wear ta’wiz (protection) and also put a prayer containing the names of Ashab ul-Kahf (The Sleepers in the Cave) under her pillow.”

The lady said: “Sometimes a black snake enters my room. I am very scared!”

The Shaykh asked: “Do you pray?”

The lady answered: “No!”

The Shaykh said: “Pray! Otherwise it will bite you!”

121th Answer

A lady was treated badly by another lady. She asked: “How shall I deal with such a difficult person?”

The Shaykh said: “Say: Ya Wadud! (O Loving One).

God says: O My innocent servant I will take revenge on the one who is oppressing you. If not now, then in the coming days. You cannot leave before you see that revenge has been exacted. If not here, then you will see it happen in the barzakh (after death).

They should watch themselves!

Let us be on the side of the just ones, not of the unjust ones!”
122th Answer

A visitor asked: “What would you suggest for pain in the kidneys?”

The Shaykh said: “Use what is called Tashkiran otu in Cyprus, (genus plantago – a common weed). Boil it and drink it. One waterglass a day cleans the kidneys.”

123th Answer

A lady asked for a du'a (prayer) for a young lady who is afraid of almost everything. The Shaykh looked at the young lady and said: “Call my name when you are scared.”

Then the Shaykh saw a plastic gun on the sofa and said: “Do not let children play with such things.”

124th Answer

A mother brought her five month old baby who she said cries a lot.

The Shaykh sat down and touched the head, shoulders, and chest of the baby and prayed.

The Shaykh said: “The baby has stomach pain. Give her chamomile and anise tea. Recite Ayatu l-kursi (2:255) and put one ta'wiz (written protection) on her left shoulder and another one in her pillow. The first 40 days after the birth one should keep a piece of red muslin tied near where the baby sleeps.”
The shaykh was giving advice to some guests: “It is good that he should be hungry. If he is full his heart may sleep. Eating 3 times a day is too much for a student.”

The Shaykh was having a meal with a religious leader and his family from Russia. He said:

“Lying in the grave for 70 years has no value. To say one breath of *La ilaha illa Llah* in this world is more valuable.”

A lady living in Lefke (the Shaykh’s village in Northern Cyprus) who intended to travel abroad for some months said in a very worried way: “O Shaykh efendi, there are so many traps out there...”

The Shaykh answered: “Call on me!”

One man recounted that the Shaykh asked him: “If a dog attacks you, what would you do?”

The man answered: “I would take a stone or a stick in my hand.”
The Shaykh said: “No, you should not do that. You should call for the owner. He will not let the dog attack you. Shaytan is the dog of Allah. Say, A‘udhu bi-Llahi min ash-shaytanir-rajiim, Bismi-Llahir-rahmanir-rahim, and shaytan will run away.”

129th Answer

In the dergah (sufi gathering place), crazy Ahmet was pouring water on the heads of two men. One of the men got angry and told the Shaykh: “I will take off this jubba (long coat) and this turban and I will get even with these crazy murids (disciples) of yours.”

The Shaykh answered: “One wing of a mu‘min (a believer) is patience and the other wing is shukr (thankfullness). If Ahmet had kissed your hand then you would have said: ‘Look, I have become someone important, he is kissing my hand.’ Your ego would swell and be puffed up. Now because he has poured water on your head you are spouting fire from anger. Whatever happens a believer, a mu‘min, should be only either patient or grateful.”

130th Answer

One brother’s wife passed away. He was left alone with two small children. The Shaykh told him a story: “Allah Almighty commanded Azra’il (as) (the Angel of death) to take the soul of a woman with two small children. Azra’il (as) objected: ‘But my Lord, she has two small children...’
Allah replied: ‘Do what I command you to do!’ Then Azra’il (as) obediently went and took her soul.

Many years later Azra’il (as) saw two horsemen riding towards him. Their approach was so grand and majestic that Azra’il (as) began to tremble. Allah Almighty then spoke and said: ‘Look how I have taken care of those two small children!’

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“My Shaykh Sultanul Awliya, may Allah sanctify his secret told me: 'Nazim Efendi, I have given 7000 sohbats to you'. There are 7000 sohbats of his that he gave to my heart. These come to me without my needing to look for them in books. The meaning of 7000 sohbats is that they are 7000 different kinds of medicine. According to the need of a person we give from these medicines. During a sohab, listen, pay attention to it. You may benefit.”

“Where can you find peace? Where is peace? You will get peace through being with Allah. Whoever is with Allah will be peaceful. If you are not with Allah you will be with shaytan. The one who is with shaytan, his business is ruined.”

“Your actions take you either to paradise or to hell. If somebody keeps this secret he will be with Allah.”

Shaykh Muhammed Nazim Adil al-Qubrusi al-Haqqani