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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ وَصَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيَّ سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ وَسَلَّمَ تَسْلِيمًا

Chapter Thirteen

On Mentioning How the *Shehu* Would Begin His Lectures

The *Shehu*, may Allah be pleased with him, use to open his lectures and sermons with the address of his *Imam*, *Shaykh Abd 'l-Qaadir al-Jaylani*, may Allah be pleased with him, which is: "All praises are due to Allah the Lord of the worlds." Then he would be silent. He would then say: "All praises are due to Allah to the number of His creation, to His contentment with Himself, to the beauty of His Throne, to the extent of His words, to the end of His knowledge, to the number of all things He has willed, created and originated. He is the Realizer of the unseen and the seen. He is the Compassionate the Merciful, the King, the Holy, the Mighty, the Wise. I bear witness that there is no deity except Him, the Unitary without partner. To Him belong the kingdom and to Him is the praise. He brings life and death and in his hands is all good and He has power over all things. I bear witness that Muhammad is His servant and messenger, *"who was sent with the Guidance and the religion of Truth in order that it may prevail over all religions, although the polytheist may hate it."* O Allah correct the affairs of the *Imam* and the *Umma*, of the ruler and the subjects. Bring their hearts in good and ward off the evils of one from the other. O Allah You are the Realizer of our secrets, so conceal them. You are the Realizer of our needs, so take care of them. You are the Realizer of our sins, so forgive us. You are the Realizer of our faults, so cover them. Do not see us where You have forbidden us, nor miss us where You have commanded us to be. Honor us with the integrity of obedience and do not humiliate us with disobedience. Preoccupy us with You from all else but You. Cut us off from everything that cuts us off from You. Make our main concern be Your remembrance, gratitude, excellence of Your worship and adherence to Your obedience."

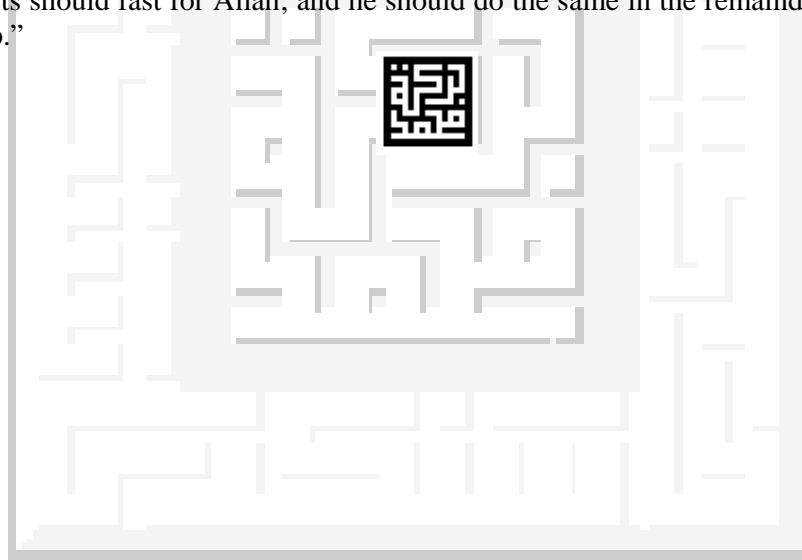
Then the *Shehu* would . . . and say: "There is no deity except Allah. It is what Allah has willed. There is no power nor might except with Allah, the Exalted the Mighty. O Allah do make us live in a state of heedlessness and do not seize us unawares. *'Our Lord do not take us for our forgetfulness and errors. Our Lord do not burden us with what You burdened those before us. Our Lord do not trouble us with what we cannot not bear. Pardon us, forgive us and be merciful to us. You are our Master, so help us against the disbelieving people.'*"

Sometimes the *Shehu* would open his lectures with the famous preface that preceded his books and letters. It was: "All praises are due to Allah the Lord of the Worlds. The best blessings and most perfect peace be upon our master Muhammad, his family and Companions - all of them. May Allah ta`ala be pleased with the masters among the *Taabi`uun*, the right-acting scholars, the four *Imams* who exercised independent judgment and those who follow them until the Day of Judgment."

Sometimes he would open his lectures with the authoritative chain of the prophetic tradition on mercy, giving the chain of authority of the protected friends of Allah ta'ala, when he noticed guest. Then he would follow that with some of the authoritative chains related in his book called Asaaneed 'd-Da'eef.

Sometimes he would mention after the introduction to his talks the prophetic traditions: *“Every action is by its intention.”* He would say: “By means of our authoritative chain connected back to the *Imam*, the *Haafidh* and proof, Abu Abdallah Muhammad ibn Isma'il ibn Ibrahim ibn al-Mughira ibn al-Ahnaf ibn Birnazaba al-Bukhari al-Ja'fi in a tradition by al-Hameed. He said al-Hameed narrated to us on the authority of Sulayman on the authority of Yahya ibn Sa'id al-Ansari. He said, ‘Muhammad ibn Ibrahim at-Tamimi informed me that he heard `Alqama ibn Waqas al-Laythi say, ‘I heard Umar ibn al-Khattab say upon the *minbar*, ‘I heard the Messenger of Allah, may Allah bless him and grant him peace say, *“Every action is by its intention. Verily a person will have only what he intends. For he whose emigration is for Allah and His Messenger, then his emigration is for what he emigrated for. However, he whose emigration is to seize some worldly thing or to marry some women, then his emigration is for what he emigrated for.”*

The Shehu would then say, “Correct your intentions in all your affairs, whether those regarding worship or the like. He who prays should pray for Allah. He who fasts should fast for Allah; and he should do the same in the remainder of acts of worship.”



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