

Tuesday Dec. 26

Foundations of the Spiritual Path  
Sidi Ahmad Zarruq

Sidi Ahmad Zarruq:

- Died in Libya and is buried there
- He was an orphan raised by his grandmother Umm Albineen
- He described her tarbiyah that she used to hide food in his house when he was young. He would come home from where he was memorizing the Qur'an. She would say, there is no food in the house and to make dua to Allah for food. Then she would like let's find food in the house. When he got older he realized she was teaching him tawwakul.
- He was very bright. He was a cobbler which was traditionally in Morocco. Poor students of knowledge would learn a trade in order to provide for himself.
- He excelled and eventually set out in the East, which was part of the tradition called Ar-Rihla, which would mean to finish the studies in another place.
- He made his Hajj and ended up staying in Cairo. There is a pillar in Al-Azhar for Zarruq where he used to teach where it still is today.
- He wrote commentaries on books on fiqh.
- He excelled in tasawwuf. He was very critical on the tasawwuf that existed during his time. During his time there was a lot of innovations (bidah).

There are two types of Tasawwuf

- Philosophical tasawwuf (metaphysical) – deals with spiritual things that happen to people, spiritual states of people
- Tasawwuf of behavior – where Sidi Ahmad Zarruq focused on. The tasawwuf that helped people implement this aspect of behavioral modification. He wrote a few books that were very critical that dealt with innovations.

Normative Islam

- What the general agreement of the scholars is.

The Prophet (s) mission starts at the beginning of The End.

Fiqh meant understanding to the Sahabas

There was no word 'Aqeedah during the time of the Prophet (s) and the Sahabas.

“Denying tasawwuf is like denying psychology. There is no psychology in Islam. There is no understanding of the self.” – Shaykh Hamza Yusuf

- He was kicked out of Fez because the Wasitiyah overthrew the government in the 15<sup>th</sup> century. A Jewish ministry got into an altercation with a woman Sharifa (descendent of Muhammad (s)).
- Sidi Ahmad Zarruq refused the fatwa saying that the Jews broke their dhimmitude. He wrote to his Shaykh saying what happened and his Shaykh said to him that it was all from his nafs.
- “Except for a wali, everything is your fault” – Abdul Hakim Murad

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the 20 qualities of a mutaqi

- 1- al iman bilillah
- 2- al iman bil malikau
- 3- al iman bil kutub
- 4- al iman bil rasul
- 5- al iman bil akhir
- 6- al iman bil ghair
- 7- al iman bil siyam
- 8- zakat
- 9
- 10- hajj al bayt
- 11- itaul ul maal al hubbhi
- 12 –
- 13 – suppressing anger forgiving ppl
- 14 – dhikrAllah, istighfar
- 15 – fulfilling your convenance
- 16 – dealing with hardship with patience
- 17 – justice and charity
- 18 – to magnify the symbols of god
- 19 –
- 20 – lowering your voice

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Wednesday Dec. 27

- Allah is al-Halim the forbearing. Patience with his creation.
- To be concerned with other peoples is a waste of time
- Iman is either sabr or shukr. Shukr is the higher of the two. The righteous of people are grateful for tribulations.
- Disease of the heart is being angry at the divine decree. It doesn't mean you're not sad or upset, but your not angry "Why did God do this to me? Why me?" That's not our business. That's really the Muslims are a powerful ummah.
- "Hell is heaven for people who love to find things to complain about". Complainers end up there.
- Here, we should be like 'SubhanAllah' we're in a "minimal security prison". We get an allowance.
- One of the signs of the end of time that Muslims will not look at the source of there money.
- Dunya is always wanting more. You will never get greed filled.
- Tawfeeq – Allah's plan and your plan match. Allah is the one that gives tawfeeq
- Mursi's advice to Ibn Ata'illah: You can be in obedience, disobedience, prosperity, and adversity
  - o Respond of obedience – recognize this gift from Allah
  - o Respond of disodience – its tawbah
  - o Respond of prosperity - Gratitude
  - o Respond of adversity – patience

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- The merchant is the most beneficial occupation in the world, and that is why the Prophet Muhammad (s) was a merchant. The merchant is not like a doctor. The doctor benefits you from time to time. Who needs an engineer? Everyone needs a merchant. All these clothes we wear. Someone bought the wool and cotton. Everything you look at is commerce. 99% in the world is due to the merchant
  - Hurma – sanctity. Protecting the sanctity of women is the job of the men. Some of the Arabs call women hurma.
  - How do you expect Allah to preserve your hurma if you don't preserve His hurma.
  - People in the Muslim world use Arabic newspapers as toilet paper. Allah is written on these newspapers. People eat on these same newspapers.
  - The foundation of proper conduct are five things:
    - o The first thing you have to do is talib al ilm. Seeking knowledge. Ibn Majah has a hadith that seeking knowledge is obligatory for all Muslims.
    - o Accompanying spiritual guides and being with other believers. "Birds of a feather flock together". In your not in the company with believers then your in trouble. Shaytan for the humans is like the wolf for the sheep. The wolf would eat the one away from the flock. Keeping the company of mashaeikh.
    - o Abandoning dispensations. Sticking to the rulings for the particular madhab.
    - o Managing ones times for the litanies. The Sudanese say if you don't have a wurd, you're a monkey. Wurd ul Qur'an. You should recite a portion of the Qur'an everyday. Yaseen in the morning.
      - Shaykh Nuh maybe said "if someone doesn't read 2 juz a day, I don't trust his fatwa." – Shaykh Hamza Yusuf
    - o Guarding against the ego to free it of whims and save it from destruction tendencies
  - To check to see how much Qur'an you have to read is not good to do. "How much do I have left?"
  - Shaykh ul ilm – person with knowledge, doesn't have to be righteous. If you know grammar you can teach it.
  - Shaykh ul tarbiya – his adab is transformed into you
  - Shaykh ul tarqiyya – someone who elevates your state. Your heart begins to open up to Allah. This one is ma'dun. They don't exist anymore. He felt that the real shuyukh of this don't exist anymore during his time (Sidi Ahmad Zarruq). Shaykh Hamza said that Sidi Ahmad Zarruq was worried about the imposters and these fake shuyukh.
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Thursday Dec. 28

- Istikhama and islah are two different things
- Except the books of the kalb. You need to read these books daily because they are about the heart.
- People have done dhikr too much in extreme ways that they have become crazy. You have to do it moderately. Over the counter dhikr – salawat on the Nabi (s)
- To self indulgent you will end up looking like a fool
- Ahmed ibn Hanbal was asked “How can I be free of people’s problems.” He then said, “Give them your rights but don’t expect them for your rights.” Don’t expect things from people and you will never be disappointed and then often you will be surprised.
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