

WEEKLY BOOKLET: 343



The Account of the tenth Shaykh of the Qadiriyyah
Razawiyyah 'Attariyyah spiritual order:

BLESSINGS OF رحمة الله عليه SARI AL-SAQATI

ENGLISH



01 Cleansing the heart of
an alcoholic

03 Introduction

10 Fighting the nafs for
30 years

21 Advice to his family
and followers

Presented by: (DA'WAT-UL-ISLAMI)
AL-MADINAH-TUL-ILMIA
Islamic Research Center

فيضانِ امامِ سرى سقظى ءحمة اللوعآيه

Faizan-e-Imam Sari Saqati ءحمة اللوعآيه

Blessings of Imam Sarī al-Saqāṭī

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Blessings of Imam Sarī al-Saqāṭī

Faizan-e-Imam Sari Saqati رحمه الله عليه



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الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ وَالصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَى خَاتَمِ النَّبِيِّينَ
أَنَابَعْدُ فَأَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Supplication for reading this book

Read the following supplication before you read a religious book or begin an Islamic lesson; you will remember whatever you study بِسْمِ اللَّهِ:

اللَّهُمَّ افْتَحْ عَلَيْنَا حِكْمَتَكَ وَأَنْشُرْ
عَلَيْنَا رَحْمَتَكَ يَا ذَا الْجَلَالِ وَالْإِكْرَامِ

O Allah! Open the doors of knowledge and wisdom for us and have mercy on us! O He Who is the Most Glorious and Honourable! (*Al-Mustaṭraf, vol. 1, p. 40*)

Note:

Recite *ṣalāt* upon the beloved Prophet ﷺ once before and after.

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Blessings of Imam Sarī al-Saqāṭī

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ وَالصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَى خَاتَمِ النَّبِيِّينَ
أَمَّا بَعْدُ فَأَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Blessings of Imam Sarī al-Saqāṭī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ

Supplication of Attar: O Allah Almighty! Whoever reads or listens to the 28-page booklet *Blessings of Imam Sarī al-Saqāṭī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ*, grant him devotion for Your saints and the ability to follow their example. Bless him with steadfastness in the environment of Dawat-e-Islami and forgive him without accountability.

أَمِيرُنْ بِجَاهِ خَاتَمِ النَّبِيِّينَ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ

Virtue of *salāt* upon the beloved Prophet ﷺ

The final Prophet صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ said, “Woe to him who will not see me on the Day of Judgement.”

Lady ‘Ā’ishah رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا asked, “O Messenger of Allah صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ! Who will be unable to see you?”

The beloved Prophet صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ answered, “The miserly.”

“Who is miserly?” Lady ‘Ā’ishah رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا asked.

He replied, “The one who my name is mentioned before and he

does not send *ṣalāt* upon me is miserly.”¹

صَلُّوا عَلَى الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ

Cleansing the heart of an alcoholic

An esteemed pious predecessor of the Qādiriyyah Razawiyyah ‘Aṭṭāriyyah spiritual order passed by a drunken man lying on the floor with alcohol coming out his mouth. Despite his awful condition, he was calling out to Allah Almighty in a loud voice. The pious man رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ said, “O Allah! This man is remembering you in such a state that is not befitting to Your majesty.” Then he called for water, washed the man’s face and left. When the man regained consciousness, the people told him that the famous saint Sayyidunā Sarī al-Saqāṭī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ saw his condition and washed his face. He was very embarrassed and reproached his lower self, “O self! May you be destroyed! If you have no shame in front of Allah and His saints, who will you have shame before?” Then he repented for his sins.

When Imam Sarī al-Saqāṭī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ slept that night, he heard a voice in his dream, saying, “O Sarī! You washed that drunkard’s face for our pleasure, so we have washed his heart for your sake.”

In the morning, Imam Sarī al-Saqāṭī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ asked about the

¹ *Afḍal al-Ṣalawāt ‘alā Sayyid al-Sādāt*, p. 45

man's whereabouts and found him praying in the masjid.

After he completed the prayer, the imam asked, "How are you my brother?"

The man replied, "My master! Why do you ask about my state whereas Allah Most Generous has made you aware, that because of you, He cleansed my heart and rectified my condition."

The imam asked, "Who informed you of this?"

The man answered, "The One who purified my heart of everyone other than Him and showered His pardon, grace and pleasure upon me."¹

May Allah have mercy upon them and forgive us without accountability for their sake.

اٰمِيْنَ بِجَاهِ خَاتِمِ النَّبِيِّنَ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ

صَلُّوْا عَلٰى الْحَبِيْبِ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلٰى مُحَمَّدٍ

Introduction

O devotees of the saints! The personality who changed the life of the alcoholic is the tenth shaykh of the Qādiriyah Razawiyah 'Aṭṭāriyyah spiritual order, Sayyidunā Sarī b. Mughallis al-Saqāṭī رحمته الله عليه. According to one opinion, he was

¹ *Al-Rawḍ Al-Fā'iq*, p. 245

born in Baghdad in the year 155 AH. His name is Sarī, which means “brave man”, and his teknonym is Abu al-Ḥasan. He is known as Saqāṭī because he initially sold saqaṭ (i.e. bric-a-brac). He is the disciple of Sayyidunā Ma‘rūf al-Karkhī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ and the teacher and maternal uncle of Sayyidunā Junaid al-Baghdādī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ.¹

Cause of change in life

Sayyidunā Sarī al-Saqāṭī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ sold retail goods in the marketplace in Baghdad. One day, Sayyidunā Ḥabīb al-Ra‘ī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ went to his shop. He presented some items to him to distribute amongst the poor. He replied, “خَيْرًاكَ اللَّهُ.” May Allah grant you the ability to perform good deeds. This statement changed Imam Sarī’s life completely.²

Shajarah Qādiriyah Razawiyah ‘Aṭṭāriyyah

The renowned spiritual guide and leader of Ahl al-Sunnah, Mawlana Ilyas Attar al-Qadiri دَاعِيَةُ بَرَكَاتِهِ الْعَالِيَةِ, has permitted every disciple and devotee to read the Shajarah Sharīf. In the Shajarah, a supplication is made through the intermediation of Sayyidunā Sarī al-Saqāṭī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ:

¹ *Tadhkirat al-Awliyā*’, vol. 1, p. 246

² *Sharīf al-Tawārīkh*, vol. 1, p. 499

Bahr-e-Ma'roof-o-Saree ma'roof day bay-khud saree

Explanation: بے خود ساری - for the sake of. معروف - goodness. ہجر - humility, obedience.

In this hemistich, a supplication is made through the intermediation of the 9th and 10th shuyūkh (i.e. Sayyidunā Ma'arūf al-Karkhī and Sayyidunā Sarī al-Saqāṭī رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِمَا) of the spiritual order.

Meaning of supplicatory couplet: O Allah! Grant me goodness for the sake of Sayyidunā Ma'arūf al-Karkhī رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ, and grant me humility for the sake of Sayyidunā Sarī al-Saqāṭī رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ.

اٰمِيْنَ بِجَاهِ خَاتِمِ النَّبِيِّينَ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ

صَلُّوْا عَلٰى الْحَبِيْبِ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلٰى مُحَمَّدٍ

Arabic Shajarah

The Reviver of Islam, the Imām of Ahl al-Sunnah, Imām Aḥmad Razā Khān رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ, wrote a Shajarah in Arabic in the form of *ṣalāt*. Within it, Imam Sarī al-Saqāṭī رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ is mentioned in the following way:

اَللّٰهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ وَبَارِكْ عَلَيْهِ وَعَلَيْهِمْ وَعَلَى الْمَوْلَى السَّيِّدِ مُحَمَّدِ بْنِ اَلْسَّقَطِيِّ رَضِيَ اللهُ تَعَالَى عَنْهُ

O Allah! Send mercy and blessings upon him [the Prophet ﷺ], his family, his companions, and upon our master Shaykh Sarī al-Saqāṭī رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ.¹

The greatest worshipper

Imam Sarī al-Saqāṭī رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ had a section in his shop that was hidden from the public by a veil. He would go behind it and perform 1,000 units of nafl prayer.²

Sayyidunā Junaid al-Baghdādī رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ states:

I have not seen a greater worshipper than Sayyidunā Sarī al-Saqāṭī رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ. He passed away at the age of 98, and I only saw him rest when he reached the time of his death. One day, he did not recite a part of a litany and said, “It is not possible for me to make up for what I missed.” (i.e. His religious commitments were so many that he did not have time to recite the litany.)³

Lifechanging statement

Imam al-Saqāṭī رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ was delivering a speech in the Jāmi‘ Masjid of Baghdad when a wealthy man wearing expensive clothes joined with his friends to listen. During the speech, the imam said, “Is it surprising how the weak disobeys the strong?”

¹ *Tareekh wa Sharh Shajrah Qadiriyyah Barkatiyyah Razawiyyah*, p. 109

² *Tadhkirat al-Awliyā’*, vol. 1, p. 246

³ *Siyar A‘lām al-Nubalā’*, vol. 10, p. 149

The young man was affected by this and left after the speech ended. He visited the imam the next day and said, “Yesterday, you said it was strange how the weak disobeyed the strong. Tell me what you meant by this.” Sayyidunā Sarī al-Saqāṭī رَحِمَهُ اللهُ عَلَيْهِ said, “There is no one more powerful than Allah, and nothing weaker than humans, yet humans persist in disobeying Him.” The young man screamed after hearing this. The man returned the next day wearing two simple white cloths. He said, “Tell me how to connect to Allah.” The imam replied, “if you want to worship, fast during the day and spend the night in optional prayer.”¹

O devotees of the Prophet! The advice of Imam al-Saqāṭī رَحِمَهُ اللهُ عَلَيْهِ is a great lesson for us. Whenever the lower self and Satan incite thoughts of sinning, if only we think about who we are disobeying: He is Allah the All Powerful who punishes us weak humans when we sin. May Allah grant us the ability to perform actions that are beloved to Him.

صَلُّوا عَلَى الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ

Never stretched his legs

Sayyidunā Sarī al-Saqāṭī was sitting down with his legs spread out in the maṣjīd when he heard a voice from the unseen, “Is

¹ *Rawḍ al-Rayāḥīn*, p. 171, with some changes

this the manner of sitting in the court of kings?” From that moment onwards, the feet which he retracted were only spread out again when he passed away and his body was laid out to be washed. He did not even stretch them out in sleep.¹

Knowledge and rank

Imam Sarī al-Saqāṭī رَحِمَهُ اللهُ عَلَيْهِ listened to and reported narrations from major, renowned Hadith masters, but he refrained from transmitting a lot [out of caution], which is why his reports are few.²

Did not leave his home

Sayyidunā Junaid al-Baghdādī رَحِمَهُ اللهُ عَلَيْهِ states, “I heard Sayyidunā Sarī al-Saqāṭī رَحِمَهُ اللهُ عَلَيْهِ say, ‘If it were not for Jumu‘ah and congregational prayers, I would have stayed in my home until I died.’”³

Dear Islamic brothers! If there is no need or shar‘ī compulsion, it is beneficial to remain at home rather than walking on the streets aimlessly. It is stated in a Hadith:

The companion of the Prophet, Sayyidunā ‘Uqbah b. ‘Āmir رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ, asked, “O Messenger of Allah صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ!

¹ *Saba’ Sanābil*, p. 131

² *Hilyat al-Awliyā’*, vol. 10, p. 131

³ *Baḥr al-Dumū’*, p. 39

What is salvation?” The Prophet ﷺ answered, “Control your tongue, let your home suffice you, and cry over your sins.”¹

Six useless actions

Imam Sarī al-Saqāṭī رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ tells those who repent to turn away from desires of their lower self and to refrain from useless activities pertaining to:

1. Conversation.
2. Looking.
3. Wandering.
4. Eating.
5. Drinking.
6. Clothing.²

Nowadays, goodness in solitude is only attainable if one protects himself from sinning in secret. If someone uses mobiles and internet to commits sins in private, this type of solitude leads to Hell. Useless social gatherings can lead to sins, and allowing your eyes to roam can make one accustomed to frivolity and lead to evil

¹ *Sunan al-Tirmidhī*, vol. 4, p. 182, Hadith 2,414

² *Qūt al-Qulūb*, vol. 1, p. 367

glances. Busy yourself in the remembrance of Allah Almighty and His Messenger ﷺ, irrespective of whether you are alone or in public. Perform *dhikr*, send *ṣalāt* upon the beloved Prophet ﷺ, recite the noble Quran, watch Madani Channel, and obtain religious knowledge. Utilising your time like this will allow you to gain a treasure of reward. **إِنْ شَاءَ اللَّهُ**

The leader of Ahl al-Sunnah, Mawlānā Ilyās ‘Aṭṭār al-Qādirī **داعية** **بَرَكَاتِهِ الْعَالِيَةِ**, writes:

If a scholar is needed by the Muslim community and he can benefit them, he should not live in seclusion. Other people, after fulfilling their religious duties and the rights of their families, if they spend the rest of their time in seclusion (on the condition that they are acquainted with the etiquettes of staying in seclusion¹), then that is very beneficial for them.²

صَلُّوا عَلَيَّ الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيَّ مُحَمَّدٍ

Worshipping at night

Sayyidunā Junaid al-Baghdādī **رحمته الله عليه** states:

We were sitting with Imam Sarī al-Saqāṭī **رحمته الله عليه** and

¹ Read *Lubāb al-Ihyā'*, Explanation of Seclusion, pp. 163-165 for more information. A detailed explanation can be found in *Ihyā al-'Ulūm*, vol. 2.

² *Gheebat Ki Tabah Kariyan*, 264

he said, “O youth! I am a lesson for you. Perform good deeds, because deeds are in fact performed during youth.”

Sayyidunā Junaid al-Baghdādī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ also states:

Imam Sarī al-Saqatī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ would begin praying as soon as the night started. He would spend the first part of the night crying and trying to console himself repeatedly, such that he would start sobbing and weep.”¹

Dear Islamic brothers! Youth is a carefree period of life where the carnal desires can make it difficult to spend time in worship and spiritual development. The Devil and the lower self try their utmost to distract the youth from performing good deeds and acting upon the Sunnah, and lead them to sin instead. For the sake of the noble saints رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ, may Allah grant us the ability to perform good deeds in all stages of life, and the ability to refrain from sin and evil company.

صَلُّوا عَلَى الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ

The bird moved closer

Sayyidunā Aḥmad b. Khalaf رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ states:

One day, I visited Imam Sarī al-Saqatī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ and he

¹ *Hilyat al-Awliyā'*, vol. 10, p. 131, number 14,761

said, ‘Shall I not inform you of the amazing account of a sparrow that would come and alight on the veranda. I used to take a piece of bread, break it into small pieces, and the bird would sit on the edge of my finger and eat from my palm. One day, when it landed on the veranda, I broke a piece of bread in my palm, but it did not come to eat. So, I thought about why the bird was wary of me, and I remembered that I ate a fine quality of salt. So, I said in my heart, “I have repented from the salt,” whereupon the bird sat on my finger, ate the bread, and then flew off.’¹

This is the rank of the elect slaves of Allah Almighty! If only we could suppress our desires for the pleasure of Allah Almighty and pursue a life of good deeds. The noble saints **رحمۃ اللہ** opposed their *nafs* constantly.

Cold water

Sayyidunā Sarī al-Saqāṭī **رحمۃ اللہ علیہ** was fasting, and he placed a vessel of water in an alcove in the wall in order for it to become cold. After the ‘Asr prayer, he saw heavenly maidens during his meditation. When one of them walked past him, he asked, “Why are you here?” She replied she was here for so-and-so slave of Allah. Another heavenly maiden passed by, and he asked again, to which she replied, “I am here for the one who does not place

¹ *Hilyat al-Awliyā*, vol. 10, p. 127, number: 14,741

water to cool while fasting.” The imam responded, “If you are telling the truth, knock the vessel over.” After the maiden knocked the vessel down, the imam woke up because of the noise and saw that his drinking vessel was broken on the floor.¹

Fighting the nafs for 30 years

Imam Sarī al-Saqāṭī رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ states, “For 30 years my nafs has told me to dip a carrot into the juice of dates and eat it. Still, I have not succumbed to my desires.”²

O devotees of the Prophet! The pious people of Allah Almighty strive for the eternal blessings of the hereafter by sacrificing the temporary pleasures of this world.

صَلُّوا عَلَى الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ

A reputation for eating pure food

Sayyidunā Hasan Bazzāz رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ states:

Imam Sarī al-Saqāṭī رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ was famous for his piety, scrutinising his food and eating that which is pure, so much so that this reached Imam Aḥmad b. Ḥanbal رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ, and he described him as, “The shaykh who is famous for eating pure food.”³

¹ *Al-Risālah al-Qushayriyyah*, p. 30, *Malfoozat-e-Ala Hazrat*, p. 158,

² *Ḥilyat al-Awliyā'*, vol. 10, p. 119, number 14,693

³ *Ḥilyat al-Awliyā'*, vol. 10, p. 130, number 14,760

An excellent example of piety

Imam Sarī al-Saqāṭī رحمته اللّٰه عليه states:

I desired to eat a morsel of food which I would not be questioned about by Allah, and which would not be a favour of the people upon me, but I could not find such a morsel.¹

One day, we left Makkah to travel elsewhere, and when we stopped to rest in a jungle, I saw a cluster of vegetables in flowing water. I reached out and took them from the water and said, 'أَلْحَعْدَةَ لِلَّهِ', thinking they were lawful and there was no favour in this from any person. When I took them, an onlooker who was carrying vegetables like the ones I was holding said, 'O Abu al- Ḥasan! Give those to me and take these instead.' I replied, 'There is no favour from anyone in the vegetables I found, whereas there is an exchange in those which you are offering. Perhaps you wish to favour me, but I am looking for something that neither involves the favours of creation, nor questioning from Allah.'²

صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ صَلُّوا عَلَى الْحَبِيبِ

¹ *Hilyat al-Awliyā'*, vol. 10, p. 120, number 14,694

² *Hilyat al-Awliyā'*, vol. 10, p. 120, number 14,695

An ideal business

Sayyidunā Sarī al-Saqāṭī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ purchased a measure of almonds for 60 dinars. He wrote down its profit in his daily ledger as 3 dinars. It seemed he was content with making a profit of half a dinar for every 10 dinars. After a few days, the measure of almonds he had was worth 90 dinars. A commission agent entered the shop asking for almonds, so he said to him, “Take them.”

The agent asked, “For how much?”

He replied, “For 63 dinars.”

The customer, who was a pious man, responded, “The price of these almonds has become 90 dinars.”

Imam Sarī al-Saqāṭī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ explained, “I resolved to do something which I will not forsake. Therefore, I will only sell the almonds for 63 dinars.”

The commission agent replied, “I also took a covenant with Allah that I will never deceive a Muslim. So, I will only purchase them from you for 90 dinars.”

The imam, firm in his resolve, responded, “I will not sell them for more than 63 dinars.”

The imam was not willing to accept a profit greater than 3 dinars, and the commission agent was not prepared to pay so

little. So, no agreement was made, and the commission agent left.

After explaining this incident, Sayyidunā ‘Allān al-Khayyāt رحمته اللہ علیہ states:

Why would the supplications of people with such elite attributes and habits not be accepted? There is no doubt that Allah accepts their supplications. When someone devotes themselves to Allah, Allah Almighty solves all his affairs.”¹

May Allah have mercy upon them and forgive us without accountability for their sake.

اٰمِيْنُ بِجَاہِ خَاتِمِ النَّبِيِّنَ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ

Imam Sarī al-Saqāṭī رحمته اللہ علیہ was very passionate about looking after his Muslim brothers. It was a time in which people were pious and reliable. Unfortunately, our state today is the complete opposite. If the rate of necessities and other food items increase, shopkeepers celebrate and charge extortionate prices to reap maximum profits. Some people, when informed about future rate increases, refrain from selling an item in order to sell it for greater profit later on. There is a stark difference between the people of the past and us.

¹ *Iḥyā' al-'Ulūm*, vol. 2, p. 102; *Uyūn al-Hikāyāt*, p. 164, summarised

We ask Allah to make us compassionate towards our Muslim brothers for the sake of Imam Sarī al-Saqāṭī رحمة الله عليه. He رحمة الله عليه said, “I wish the sorrows and difficulties of every creation were transferred to me so they would be free from pain.”¹

Compassionate to creation

A pious predecessor states, “I saw many shaykhs, but none were more compassionate to creation than Shaykh Sarī al-Saqāṭī رحمة الله عليه.”² Read another example of his kindness to Muslims, and try to inculcate this same passion in your heart as well.

Giving all items of the shop in charity

One day, Imam Sarī al-Saqāṭī رحمة الله عليه said:

“I have been repenting for 30 years for saying أحسب الله once.”

He was asked why this was the case, so he explained:

“A fire spread across a marketplace in Baghdad and every shop was destroyed. My shop was in the same marketplace, but someone informed me that it was not destroyed, and I said, ‘أحسب الله.’ So, I have been ashamed for 30 years because I considered the loss of other Muslims to be beneficial for me.”

[He immediately felt as if he was not upset at their loss but

¹ *Sharīf al-Tawārīkh*, vol. 1, p. 501

² *Sharīf al-Tawārīkh*, vol. 1, p. 513

Blessings of Imam Sarī al-Saqāṭī

happy because his shop was not damaged.] So, as an expiation, he donated every item in his shop to the poor.¹

The presence of the pious is a blessing

Sayyidunā Hasan Bazzāz رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ states:

Imam Aḥmad b. Ḥanbal رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ and Sayyidunā Bishr al-Ḥāfī رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ were with us [in Baghdad], and we believed Allah protected us because of these pious people. When they both passed away, Sayyidunā Sarī al-Saqāṭī رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ was with us, and I believed Allah protected us because of him.²

Imām Aḥmad Razā Khān رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ says in the court of Imam Sarī al-Saqāṭī رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ:

Ya Saree aman az saqt dar dosra imdad kun

O Sarī al-Saqāṭī, my shaykh! Prevent me from falling at the doors of others; help me.³

Nine incidents of Imam Sarī al-Saqāṭī رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ

1. O Allah, teach them how to visit the Ill

Sayyidunā Sarī al-Saqāṭī رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ states:

¹ *Al-Risālah al-Qushayriyyah*, p. 29

² *Ḥilyat al-Awliyā'*, vol. 10, p. 130, number 14,759

³ *Hadā'iq-e-Bakhshish*, p. 329

When I fell ill in Tarsus, some people came whose visitation was not appealing to me. They sat for so long that I became annoyed with them. Before they left, they asked me to supplicate, so I said, **‘اللَّهُمَّ عَلَيْنَا كَيْفَ نَعُودُ الْبَرُصَىٰ’**.
O Allah, teach us how to visit the ill.¹

May Allah have mercy upon him and forgive us without accountability for their sake.

اٰمِيْنُ بِجَاهِ خَاتِمِ النَّبِيِّينَ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ

To read about how the beloved Prophet **صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ** visited his ailing Companions **رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُمْ**, and to learn the correct manner of visiting the ill, read the booklet *Visiting the Unwell*. This can be read on the Dawat-e-Islami website, www.dawateislami.net. If possible, purchase this booklet in bulk and distribute the copies in hospitals, clinics, etc. with the intention of conveying the reward to the deceased.

2. The world serves the saints

One day, Imam Sarī al-Saqāṭī's **رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ** sister went to visit her brother, and she saw an old woman cleaning his home. The old woman also made two pieces of bread for him every day. His sister told Imam Aḥmad b. Ḥanbal **رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ** about this, and

¹ *Nafahāt al-Uns*, p. 54

Blessings of Imam Sarī al-Saqāṭī

when the imam spoke to Imam Sarī al-Saqāṭī رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ, he replied, “Allah has made the world subservient to me, such that it spends money upon me and serves me.”¹

May Allah have mercy upon him and forgive us without accountability for his sake.

اُمِّيْنُ بِجَاهِ خَاتِمِ النَّبِيِّينَ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ

3. Successful in the court of Allah Almighty

Sayyidunā Junaid al-Baghdādī رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ states:

I had four dirhams, so I went to Sayyidunā Sarī al-Saqāṭī رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ and said, “I have come to give these four dirhams to you.” The shaykh said to me, “O son! Be happy for you have attained success. I needed four dirhams, so I supplicated, ‘O Allah! Send me four dirhams upon the hands of such a person who is successful in your court.’”²

May Allah have mercy upon them and forgive us without accountability for their sake.

اُمِّيْنُ بِجَاهِ خَاتِمِ النَّبِيِّينَ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ

¹ *Jāmi‘ Karāmāt al-Awliyā’*, vol. 2, p. 88, summarised

² *Jāmi‘ Karāmāt al-Awliyā’*, vol. 2, p. 89

4. Unique method of accountability

Imam Sarī al-Saqāṭī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ states out of humility:

I was unaware of an illness I was afflicted with for 30 years. Every Friday, I would go for the Jumu'ah prayer with a few individuals early in the morning, and we would sit in our own particular places which were known to the people, and we would not move from there. My neighbour passed away one Friday, and I intended to participate in his funeral. So, I partook in the funeral, but I arrived for the Friday prayer later than usual. As I approached the masjid, my *nafs* said to me, 'The people will see you arriving later than normal.' This saddened me, and I said to myself, 'You were performing these actions out of ostentation for 30 years and you were unaware of this.' So, I left my specific area¹ and started praying in different places, so that no place would be particularly associated with me.²

May Allah have mercy upon him and forgive us without accountability for his sake.

اٰمِيْنُ بِجَاهِ خَاتِمِ النَّبِيِّينَ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ

¹ Specifying a space for yourself to pray in at the masjid is disliked. (*Fatāwā Hindīyyah*, vol. 1, p. 108)

² *Hilyat al-Awliyā'*, vol. 10, p. 129, number 14,753

5. Performing 40 hajj through the blessings of supplication

Sayyidunā ‘Ali b. ‘Abd al-Ḥāmid al-Ghaḍa’irī رحمته اللّٰه عليه states:

One day, I went to Imam Sarī al-Saqāṭī’s home and knocked on the door. As the imam approached the door, I heard him supplicating, ‘O Allah! Whoever made me heedless of you, busy him in Your remembrance.’ One of the blessings of this supplication was that I walked from Aleppo (in Syria) to perform hajj 40 times.¹

May Allah have mercy upon him and forgive us without accountability for his sake.

اٰمِيْنُ بِجَاهِ خَاتِمِ النَّبِيِّينَ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ

6. Gaining the ability to worship

Sayyidunā Abū Ishāq رحمته اللّٰه عليه says:

When I visited Sayyidunā ‘Ali b. ‘Abd al-Ḥāmid al-Ghaḍa’irī رحمته اللّٰه عليه, I found him to be someone who worshipped and strived in spiritual endeavours the most. I waited for him to finish praying, but I could not

¹ *Al-Ansāb li al-Sam’āni*, vol. 9, p. 155

meet him as he was always praying. I said, “I have left my parents, wife, children, and my hometown to meet you. So, once you have finished praying, please spare some time to teach me from the knowledge given to you by Allah.”

He رَحْمَةُ اللّٰوَعَلِيَّه replied, “Sayyidunā Sarī al-Saqāṭī رَحْمَةُ اللّٰوَعَلِيَّه supplicated for me. When I went to his home and knocked on the door, I heard him make this supplication as he approached, ‘O Allah! Whoever interrupted me from supplicating in Your court, busy him in devotion to you, so that he does not pay any attention to me.’ Ever since I returned home, worshipping Allah and performing *dhikr* are my favourite actions. For this reason, due to the supplication of that pious saint, I do not become freed up for anything other than these deeds.”

Sayyidunā Abū Ishāq رَحْمَةُ اللّٰوَعَلِيَّه states,

I reflected on his words and found that he was saying this out of sadness and restlessness that brought about humility, and he was constantly tearful.¹

¹ *Baḥr al-Dumūʿ*, p. 115

Blessings of Imam Sarī al-Saqāṭī

May Allah have mercy upon them and forgive us without accountability for their sake.

اٰمِيْنَ بِجَاهِ خَاتَمِ النَّبِيِّينَ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ

7. True servants and true devotees

Sayyidunā Junaid al-Baghdādī رَحِمَهُ اللهُ عَلَيْهِ said:

I was sleeping in Sayyidunā Sarī al-Saqāṭī's رَحِمَهُ اللهُ عَلَيْهِ home when, after a part of the night, he said, “O Junaid! Are you asleep?”

I replied, “No.”

He said, “Allah stood me in His court and said to me, ‘O Sarī! Do you know why I created creation?’

I replied, ‘No.’

Allah said, ‘I created the creation, and everyone claimed to love me. Then when I created the world, 90% of creation went towards the world and 10% remained behind. When I created Paradise, 90% of those became preoccupied in striving to attain Paradise and only 10% of them remained. When I tested the remaining creation with something of affliction, only 10% of them remained, and the rest became preoccupied with that affliction. I asked the remaining people, “You did not

choose the world or Paradise, and you did not run away from tribulation. What is your goal?”

They answered, “Our purpose is to live for You. We will love You no matter how You test us.”

I told them, “I will test you with such tribulations that even the mountains would be unable to withstand them. Will you be patient when faced with these difficulties?”

They answered, “Yes. O Allah! Test us however You wish.”

Then Allah Almighty said, ‘O Sari! These are my true servants and true devotees.’”¹

May Allah have mercy upon him and forgive us without accountability for his sake.

امِينُ بِجَاهِ خَاتِمِ النَّبِيِّينَ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ

8. Manner of caution

Sayyidunā ‘Alī b. Hussain b. Ḥarb رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ states:

Sayyidunā Sarī al-Saqatī رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ had a cough, and my

¹ *Al-Rawḍ al-Fā’iq*, p. 256; *Shu‘ab al-Īmān*, vol. 1, p. 374, hadith 436 Summarised

father gave me medicine to give to him. Sarī al-Saqāṭī رحمته اللّٰه عليه asked, “What is the price of this medicine?”

I replied, “My father never told me.”

He said, “Convey my *salām* to him, and tell him that for 50 years I have been teaching people not to consume anything in exchange for their religion. Now, should I consume this medicine in exchange for my religion?”¹

Sayyidunā Sarī al-Saqāṭī رحمته اللّٰه عليه said, “It is despicable for a man to sell his religion and eat from that.”²

May Allah have mercy upon him and forgive us without accountability for his sake.

اٰمِيْنُ بِجَاهِ خَاتِمِ النَّبِيِّينَ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ

9. How can I complain?

Sayyidunā Junaid al-Baghdādī رحمته اللّٰه عليه said:

I went to visit Sarī al-Saqāṭī رحمته اللّٰه عليه when he fell ill, and I asked how he was. He answered, “How can I complain to my doctor about the illness when the illness is from the doctor himself [i.e. the test is from Allah Almighty].” Then I picked up a fan to give him some relief, and he said, “How can the wind from a fan give

¹ *Hilyat al-Awliyā'*, vol. 10, p. 120, Number 14,700

² *Hilyat al-Awliyā'*, vol. 10, p. 120, Number 14,699

relief to the one who is burning from the inside?” Then he recited Arabic poetry, which included, “O Allah! If there is anything that can provide me comfort, favour me with it for as long as I have even a little life left in me.”¹

May Allah have mercy upon him and forgive us without accountability for his sake.

اُمِّيْنُ بِجَاهِ خَاتِمِ النَّبِيِّينَ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ
صَلُّوْا عَلَيَّ الْحَبِيْبِ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيَّ مُحَمَّدٍ

Advice to his family and followers

Sayyidunā Junaid Baghdadi رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ said,

My shaykh Sarī al-Saqāṭī رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ supplicated for me: ‘May Allah make you an expert in Hadith before making you a sufi, and not make you a sufi before becoming a scholar of Hadith.’

Imām Muḥammad al-Ghazālī رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ explains the wisdom of this supplication:

Whoever acquires religious knowledge before adopting *taṣawwuf* is successful, but the one who wishes to adopt

¹ *Hilyat al-Awliyā'*, vol. 10, p. 291, number 15,270

taṣawwuf before attaining religious knowledge is on the path towards destruction **والعياذ بالله**.¹

Level of humility

Imam Sarī al-Saqāṭī **رحمته اللّٰه عليه** said out of humility, “Every day I look at my nose many times to check if my face has been made dull because of the sins I commit.”

Junaid Baghdadi **رحمته اللّٰه عليه** reports that he heard Imam Sarī al-Saqāṭī **رحمته اللّٰه عليه** say, “I do not favour myself over anyone else.”²

Imam Sarī al-Saqāṭī **رحمته اللّٰه عليه** also states, “It is my wish to die someplace other than Baghdad because I fear that if my grave does not accept me, I will be disgraced in front of the people.”³

الله أكبر! The people of Allah Almighty acquired a great rank through their humility. The beloved Prophet **صلى الله عليه وآله وسلم** said, **مَنْ تَوَاضَعَ لِلَّهِ**, **رَفَعَهُ اللَّهُ**.” Whoever adopts humility for the sake of Allah, Allah will elevate his rank.⁴

¹ *Shari'at aw Tariqat*, p. 20

² *Hilyat al-Awliyā'*, vol. 10, p. 119, Number 14,691

³ *Al-Risālah al-Qushayriyyah*, p. 29

⁴ *Shu'ab Al-Īmān*, vol. 6, p. 276, Hadith 8,140; *Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim*, p. 1071, Hadith 6592, in meaning

It is because of the humility of the pious predecessors **رحمهم الله** that their lives are commemorated today. Gatherings are held in which we listen to their excellences and convey reward to them. A tree that bears fruit bows, whereas the similitude of one who is arrogant is that of a thorny tree, which neither bows nor is it benefited from. Therefore, bow to Allah Almighty, you will be honoured and become a source of benefit to others.

How to remain steadfast upon repentance

Imam Sarī al-Saqāṭī **رحمته الله عليه** states:

The first thing a person should do after repenting is abandon evil company and refrain from every action that leads him to sin. Instead of acting upon his desires, he must try his utmost to make emulation of the examples of the saints **رحمهم الله** more beloved to him than his own life.¹

True repentance

Imam Sarī al-Saqāṭī **رحمته الله عليه** said:

True repentance is not correct without advising yourself and your Muslim brothers. This is because the one who achieves true repentance wishes for other people to repent for their sins too.²

¹ *Qūt al-Qulūb*, vol. 1, p. 367 Selective or selected

² *Tafsīr al-Tha'labī*, juz' 28, Surah al-Taḥrīm, under verse 8, vol. 9, p. 350

Prisoner of birds

Imam Sarī al-Saqāṭī رحمته اللہ علیہ said:

If someone walks into an orchard in which every type of tree grows, and every kind of bird is sitting on them, each saying in its individual voice, **السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا وَرِيعَ اللَّهِ** (O saint of Allah! Peace be upon you), he is a prisoner of those birds if his soul feels relieved upon hearing this.¹

Final moments

Sayyidunā Junaid al-Baghdādī رحمته اللہ علیہ states:

I acted upon the Sunnah by visiting Sayyidunā Sarī al-Saqāṭī رحمته اللہ علیہ every three days. When I visited him one day, he was on his deathbed. I sat next to his head and cried. When my tears fell on his face, he opened his eyes and looked at me. I said, “Advise me.” The imam replied, “Do not sit in the company of evil people, and do not be heedless of Allah even in the company of the pious.” Then he رحمته اللہ علیہ passed away whilst performing the *dhikr* of Allah.²

¹ *Iḥyā' al-'Ulūm*, vol. 1, p. 170

² *Ḥilyat al-Awliyā'*, vol. 10, p. 129, number 14,750

He passed away after the Fajr azan on the 6th of Ramadan 253 AH. His tomb is located in the Shūnīziyyah cemetery, Baghdad.¹

Name written in the footnotes

A man who was present at the funeral saw Imam Sarī al-Saqāṭī رحمته اللوعليه in a dream and asked, “مَا فَعَلَ اللهُ بِكَ.” How has Allah dealt with you?

He replied, “Allah forgave me and everyone present at the funeral.”

The man said, “My master! I was present at the funeral too.” The imam took out a piece of paper, but he could not find the man’s name written on it.

The man said, “Indeed, I was present.”

When he looked again, he found the man’s name written in the margins.²

Beholding Allah Almighty

Sayyidunā Ya‘qūb b. ‘Abdullah رحمته اللوعليه said,

¹ *Tārīkh Baghdad*, vol. 9, p. 190

² *Tārīkh Ibn ‘Asākir*, vol. 20, p. 198. number 2406

Blessings of Imam Sarī al-Saqāṭī

I saw Imam Sarī al-Saqāṭī رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ in a dream and asked him, “How has Allah dealt with you?” He answered, “He permitted me to behold him.”¹

صَلُّوا عَلَيَّ الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيَّ مُحَمَّدٍ

¹ *Hilyat al-Awliyā*, vol. 9, p. 201, number 13,694

اللّٰه

**MAKE THE HEART OF AMEER
AHL AL-SUNNAH دَامَتْ بَرَكَاتُهُمُ الْعَالِيَةَ HAPPY.**

As per previous practice, please persuade the responsible Islamic brothers to observe the blessed I'tikaf for the entire sacred month of Ramadan, and kindly share the glad tidings with me.



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