

## Path to the Satisfaction of Needs

Explanation

Composed

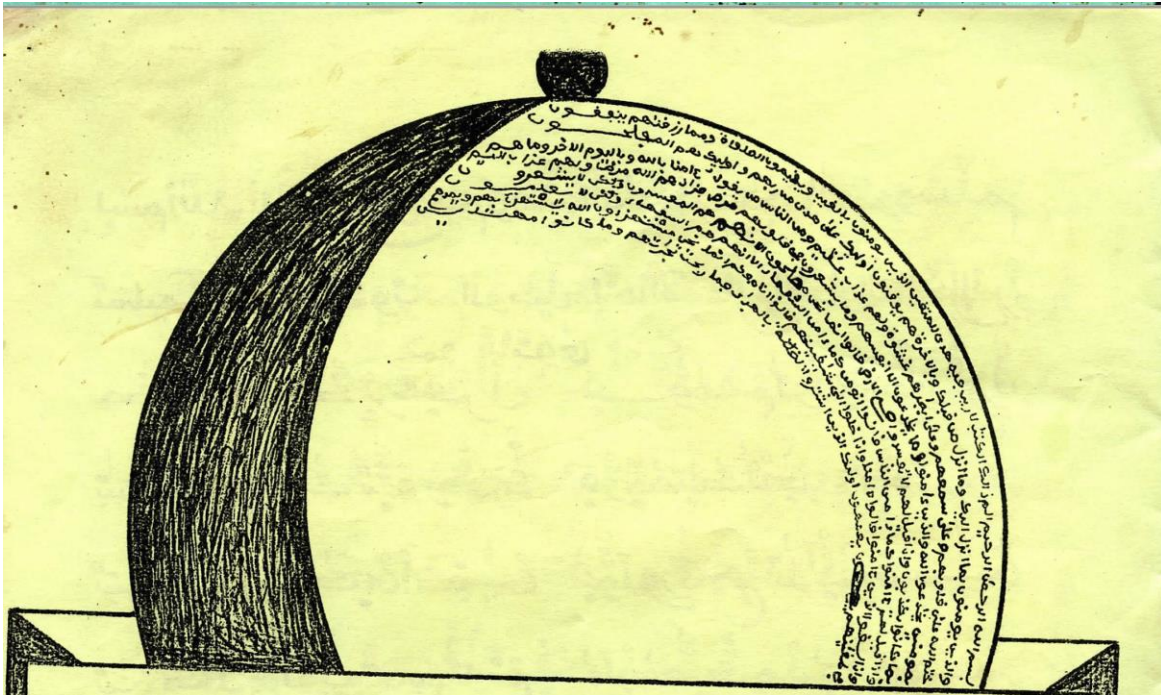
By Xaadim Njaay,

Son of Sëriñ Shaykh Njaay Golbi

Originally written by [Shaykh Ahmadu Bàmba], the Owner of the Mosque [of Tuubaa].<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> *Nahju Qaḍā'i l-Hāji* is an important Arabic text authored by Shaykh Ahmadu Bamba (1853-1927) also known as the *Owner of the Mosque of Tuubaa*. It was translated into Wolof Ajami poetry by Xaadim Njaay for broader dissemination.



Cover containing verses 1 through 16 of Chapter 2 of the Qur'ān (Al-Baqara: The Cow).

*Path to the Satisfaction of Needs*, explaining in Wolof the text of [Shaykh Ahmadu]

Bamba, the Owner of the Mosque

by the pen of he who bears the name of his Shaykh, Xaadim Rasuul Njaay

On April 6, 2003 CE

AH 1424

[Month] Ṣafar

A ḥ 3 d<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> The meaning is unknown.

[Page 1]

In the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful. O Allah, the Most High, bestow Your blessing and peace upon our master, Muhammad. Sufficient for us is Allah, and [He is] the best Disposer of affairs.<sup>3</sup> Actions are [rewarded] according to intentions, and everyone will get what was intended.<sup>4</sup>

*Hikma* [wisdom] teaches he who relentlessly works for something<sup>5</sup>

will get it. Let us cultivate steadfastness.

*Hikma* teaches that if you persevere in knocking at a door,

it will open regardless of how tight it was closed.

*Hikma* teaches that the person who stays away from vanity

is among the wisest people.

*Hikma* teaches that those who do not control their baser instincts,

will not obtain Allah's satisfaction.

Those who always act as they please

will encounter severe obstacles on their way.

Those who fight a jihad of the soul (to purify their soul)

will realize they made a good choice when they are in their grave.

Someone said that a reign based on falsehood will not last.

It is the one based on truth that lasts forever.

Only truth perseveres; falsehood is but

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<sup>3</sup> Excerpt from the Quran 3: 173: Those to whom people [i.e., hypocrites] said, "Indeed, the people have gathered against you, so fear them." But it [merely] increased their faith, and they said, "Sufficient for us is Allah, and [He is] the best Disposer of affairs." Sahih International translation.

<sup>4</sup> A Hadith. See Hadith 1, 40 Hadith an-Nawawi: <https://40hadithnawawi.com/hadith/1-actions-are-by-intentions/>

<sup>5</sup> *Hikma* (Arabic: wisdom) is an important concept in Islamic philosophy that refers to the highest level of human understanding.

deceit. It vanishes like smoke.

In the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Most Merciful,

May Allah's blessing and peace be upon him [the Prophet].

[Page 2]

I thank Allah because a learned person who lacks moral character

is like good food with no salt.

Moral rectitude is the basis of education and prevents stupidity.

It enables people of humble origin to achieve great things.

I send the best and complete prayers

to Mustafaa [the Prophet], the one who rode Alburaax,<sup>6</sup>

and to his family and all the Muslims who follow his teachings.

May those who disobey them be disappointed.

They [the Prophet and his followers] fostered generosity and forbade animosity.

They tamed their souls, established worship, and cultivated unity.

They invested everything they had in the path of Allah,

and they did so without showing off and without hypocrisy.

Let us entrust ourselves to Allah, the Beneficent, the Provider,

and rely on Him for fortune and protection against misfortune.

[The Prophet and his companions] had divorced this worldly life and never ran after it.

They had turned to the Afterlife whose rewards will not be enough for worshipers.

Neither painful events nor poverty could not make them give up.

They followed Allah's orders with determination.

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<sup>6</sup> *Al-Muṣṣafā* (Arabic: the chosen one) is one of the names of Prophet Muhammad. *Alburaax* in Wolof (Arabic: *Al-Buraq*) is the name of the winged horse in Islam which transported Prophet Muhammad during his Night Journey from Mecca to Jerusalem.

They were steadfast in their compliance with His orders and their love of Him.

Riches could not make them change course.

They brought light to an era of so much darkness,

thanks to their knowledge, which aligned with their actions.

Indeed, those masters were wise and pious.

They were victorious and reaped the benefits of their wisdom.

May Allah shower them with blessings

and provide us with protection and blessings by His generosity.

[Page 3]

I pray again upon Mustafaa, who surpassed

all the other prophets, and I implore Allah to bestow more blessings on him.

I am going to compose verses to repeat what Bamba said

to the Murids, who are interested in moral rectitude.

It is this path that you can follow to ensure

that you will not have any worries in this life and the Hereafter.

Whoever takes a path that does not lead to education and good manners

is wasting energy and being irresponsible.

Education and good manners are the light of the heart, and they lead to paradise.

They also prevent punishment in the Afterlife and attract social esteem.

Whatever number of blessings Bamba gained in writing the original book,

may Allah bestow that to me too, for He is the Greatest Provider and Rewarder.

I urge all the Murids with the ability to hear

to open their ears to me so I can tell them the truth.

I have compiled here lessons of discipline and morality

that will serve any Muslim who follows them.

The title of the treatise is *Nahju Qaḍā'i l-Hāji* [Path to the Satisfaction of Needs],

originally authored in [Arabic] verse by Bamba, the Owner of the Mosque [of Tuubaa].

May Allah enable me to follow the footsteps of my namesake [Bamba] in helping

those who seek righteousness as well those who are unrighteous among us.

I implore Allah to enable me to complete the task.

I pray for health by the blessings of those who celebrate the Māggal.<sup>7</sup>

May this book help fulfill what its title signals.

May it lead to satisfying the needs of whoever wishes to know Bamba.

May Allah save me from arrogance and vanity

by the baraka of Muḥammadu l-Mufaḍḍal.<sup>8</sup>

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May Allah protect me from Satan and violence,

wherever it may come from.

May I follow the teachings of the Prophet

by the baraka of the servant of the Prophet, Bamba.

This was just a taste! Let me now serve what is in the pot!

Let no one be unwelcoming because Bamba is the one who cooked today!

You disciples, Muslims, and Murids,

listen again, and I will pass on to you the following teachings.

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<sup>7</sup> The *Māggal* is the yearly celebration of the day Shaykh Ahmadu Bamba in 1895 was arrested and subsequently deported to Gabon by the French colonial administration based on false allegations. His followers, the Murids, celebrate the day of his arrest as a day of spiritual and ethical victory of their leader. For more on the meaning of the *Māggal* among the Murids, see Fallou Ngom, *Muslims Beyond the Arab World: The Odyssey of Ajami and The Muridiyya* (Oxford University Press, 2016), 190–192.

<sup>8</sup> Muḥammadu l-Mufaḍḍal al-Mbakiyyu (Wolof: Sëriñ Muhammadu Faliilu Mbàkke; French-based spelling: Serigne Mouhamadou Fallilou Mbacké (1888-1968), is Bamba's son and the second Caliph of the Muridiyya, from 1945 to his passing in 1968.

The path to good manners begins with having mercy on children,

respecting the elderly, and treating your agemates with respect.

Be compassionate towards young people and do not hide [knowledge] from them.

Share with them that which can bring them blessings. Avoid stinginess with knowledge.

If you can, forgive every wrongdoing done to you

by your fellow human being. If you do this, it is best for you.

Humble yourself. Consider yourself the lowest in rank who deserves no praise.

When you embrace the path of discipline, expect no companion.

Treat your peers as you would want them

to behave towards you. Do not say: "They deserve it!"<sup>9</sup>

If you must sit in the company of people who are older than you,

let it be out of necessity, for important reasons

such as studying, eating, or resting.

Do not sit with someone older than you on the same bed.

Be calm and humble when seated in the company of someone older than you.

Do not sit too close to them nor point fingers or speak in parables.

If you are seated close to each other, do not spread your legs towards them.

Lower your gaze and don't be like a pillar of wood [be gentle]!

[Page 5]

Do not scrutinize your surroundings [in the company of someone older than you].

The one who does this shows a lack of maturity.

Allah asked the Prophet to teach Muslims

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<sup>9</sup> In Wolof, the expression *ndokke!* and *ñan!* are interjections used as approval of a deserved punishment. Here, the author is advising against gloating over one's misery, regardless of the situation.

to lower their gazes and not stare at their fellow human beings.

Sometimes, you will see a shepherd who stares at something

that negatively affects their heart.

If you let your eyes roam freely,

they will set on things that tempt you. Beware of transgression!<sup>10</sup>

For [transgression] does not make you a courageous person or a warrior,

even if you had been to war and exhausted all your ammunition!<sup>11</sup>

Those who have the discipline to control what they see and where they go

are the true warriors and the wise.

It is not righteous for an adult to be laughing out loud and screaming,

let alone rolling on the floor out of laughter.

It is equally unrighteous to tiptoe to peek or turn around to look

at what is hidden from you.

All these are signs of a lack of wisdom. If you are in the company of someone,

avoid being talkative and people will not be fed up with you nor criticize you.

If someone tries to tarnish your reputation, do not react [emotionally], but remain silent.

Know that having “don’t worry” as your motto is what will save you these days!<sup>12</sup>

To indulge in the exchange of criticism and insults

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<sup>10</sup> In the verses and the three preceding ones, the poet is alluding to the hadith about responsibility. According to Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim (Hadith 1829) the Prophet said: “Beware. every one of you is a shepherd and everyone is answerable with regard to his flock...” <https://sunnah.com/muslim:1829a>. The poet uses the image of the shepherd (Wolof: *sàmm*), and more specifically its diminutive (Wolof: *cam*) to suggest that the eyes are like cows that need to be controlled and not let to roam freely (Wolof: *wëtt*).

<sup>11</sup> In reference to a Sufi teaching that Bamba emphasized: the only war worth fighting is that against the carnal soul and the transgression of divine injunctions. For more on this see, see Cheikh Anta Babou, *Fighting the Greater Jihad: Amadu Bamba and the Founding of the Muridiyya of Senegal, 1853–1913* (Ohio University Press, 2007).

<sup>12</sup> Given that this Wolof translation of *Nahju* was completed in 2003, at a time when Mohamed Ndao, alias Tyson—named after the American boxer Mike Tyson—(active between 1995 and 2015), was the undefeated champion of the Senegalese wrestling arena, the translator may be borrowing a Wolof expression that Ndao popularized and used as his motto: *Bul faale*, translated here as “don’t worry!”



is not lawful for a Muslim. The same is true about physical violence !

The best way to keep your flaws secret is through silence!

The one who masters their tongue will surpass whomever they compete with!

Many times you might have responded when keeping silent would have been better for you!

Never engage in heated arguments with someone who is lost and careless.

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When you are seated in the company of someone older than you,

smile when laughter is acceptable, but do not laugh out loud.

Loud laughter is not beneficial, for it stains the roots of the heart!

When you speak, speak in a low voice, not like a talking bird!

Remain silent and only respond to questions when asked,

and in that case, do not go off-topic nor engage in small talk!

If [an older person] neglects you or happens to be angry at you,

whatever the case, beg their pardon and remain silent.

When you leave [from a sitting position on the sand], do so carefully.

Do not stand up abruptly, spreading sand on people's eyes!

Refrain from sleeping in public when everyone else is awake!

If you are hanging out with people at night, go to bed as soon as you feel sleepy!

If you make food and sex your primary concerns,

nothing differentiates you from an animal, and you will not get any [spiritual] rewards!

[Of those two needs] stick to what sustains you,

the minimum. Do not abuse them!

Refrain from using your hands for things that lack purpose.

Use them only for what is beneficial!

If you know that someone older than you needs something,

do the service for them, if it is licit.

When discussing with someone, refrain from telling them: "You are lying!"

or "what you said is not true!" or "you are wrong!"<sup>13</sup>

or use other expressions that might anger them.

Even if you were talking to a child, these are not decent or adequate phrases!

If someone says something you are unsure about or do not know about,

do not refute what they said but do not confirm it either.

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Instead, respond politely, with good manners

so that they do not get mad and fight you, for this is not part of ethics!

Cultivate the habit of only using polite language,

if not, keep silent as the Prophet advised!

Refrain from an excess of laughter, except if it is something funny,

and avoid wandering, if you have nothing to do!

Avoid showing off your body or uncovering your loincloths!

Cover your body if you want to be ethical.

Showing your *avra* is also a sign of stupidity.<sup>14</sup>

It also signals a lack of morals and good character.

This is because to cover one's body and to be veiled

are religious obligations: So, be persistent in respecting them!

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<sup>13</sup> In Wolof culture, these expressions are seen as extremely rude, especially if said to someone older.

<sup>14</sup> *Avra* from the Arabic '*avra*', which refers to parts of the body that must be covered with clothing when appearing in public or to those other than one's spouse. There is a disagreement in the exact body parts that constitute '*avra*' as illustrated in the Islamic veil debate.

If you walk up to a person, greet them; if you meet someone,

return their greetings if they greet you. This is what decency requires!

When shaking hands, do not do so vigorously and do not withdraw yours first.

Perform the *sujuút* and do not greet them silently!<sup>15</sup>

It is reported that when two people greet each other and pray

for each other, that is an efficient way to absolve their sins!

Before you get in someone's room,

announce yourself first, and do not walk in abruptly like an uncultured person!

If you are given permission, walk in.

But if your announcement is ignored, leave at once!

Do not try to peep, for you may see something meant to be a secret!

Beware, the overly curious will always cause harm!

When looking for friends, do not choose the wicked,

the fool, or the one who lacks faith in God!

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Wisdom teaches that everyone is judged

according to their companionship. Make sure your friends are virtuous ones!

Very often, a person without a moral compass will mislead a naïve one,

and this is possible because the latter befriended the former!

Refrain from staring at someone's *anra* to a point where you may tumble!

Know that Allah's decision will not be deferred:

If you stripped someone of their honor, Allah would do the same to you,

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<sup>15</sup> As a sign of respect and admiration, Murid males have the custom of putting their foreheads on the hands of the people they greet [*sujuút*], in lieu of the kiss of the hands in other cultures.

and your damaging hidden secret will be revealed to all!

Strive to only talk about people's virtues, if you talk about people!

Do not slander anybody, nor should you discriminate!

If you want to be safe, safeguard your faith,

have a good reputation, and be full of blessings,

then don't mention people's hidden secrets with your mouth,

for you have your own hidden secrets and people have their mouths too!

Know that missing appointments and lying

are habits of those with no honor.

Mustafaa [Prophet Muhammad] advised us to be truthful,<sup>16</sup>

for the truthful ones will reap great rewards!

Doing good deeds leads you to paradise,

when you enter *Dār al-Na'īm*, you will forget the hardships of this life!<sup>17</sup>

Sometimes there are insignificant worshipers who always strive to be truthful

that Allah will forgive them and grant them salvation.

Wisdom teaches you to refrain from lying. Lying is bad!

It necessarily leads to immorality, if you do not stay away from it!

Immorality inevitably leads you to the hellfire:

*Jabannama*, *Ḥuṭama*, or *Saqara*!<sup>18</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> As the following hadith illustrates: "There are three signs of a hypocrite: When he speaks, he lies; when he makes a promise, he breaks it; and when he is trusted, he betrays his trust." Riyadh as-Salihin, Hadith 199: <https://sunnah.com/riyadussalihin:199>.

<sup>17</sup> *Dār al-Na'īm* (House of Bliss) generally refers to paradise, but more specifically to one of the seven levels of paradise: *Jannat al-Na'īm*. See Q 10:9.

<sup>18</sup> There are seven levels of hell in Islam. See for example Q 67:6, Q 104:4-6; and Q 54:48 for references to *Jabannama*, *Ḥuṭama*, and *Saqar*, respectively.

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Sometimes you may see people who lie frequently,

until Allah makes them liars who will be disciplined.

Take care of your parents and support them!

When they get old, be their primary caretaker!

Seek their pleasure day and night!

If they task you with something, do your best. Never say, "No!"

To the person who is older than you, be they a neighbor or stranger,

be courteous and helpful to them!

Treat all human beings in the best of ways possible,

be welcoming and loving, and be careful with the unrighteous ones!

Cultivate genuine love for other human beings and speak softly

to them; be diplomatic and friendly!

It is said that maintaining courteous relationships with human beings alone

constitutes half of intelligence! Courtesy is a sign of fortitude!

Develop the habit of paying visits to saints,

and always offer them your services to the best of your ability!

Seek their prayers and often offer them pious gifts!

If they ask you to do something, do so immediately!

To honor scholars with integrity who live by knowledge

is akin to worshiping God, the Owner of the Throne!

When you are with an authority figure, show them respect,

whether traveling together or at their corner!

Sit on the floor instead of sharing the furniture they have on the floor,

whether they have a mat or a mattress on the floor!

When food is served and you are ready to eat,

wait for them to tell you to start if you are eating from the same receptacle!

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[In this case], serve them vegetables or meat, and do not look at them when they take bites!

And if you see in the food something that might make them want to throw up, hide it!

Take care of their needs and be their right hand!

Be in charge of fetching water, firewood, and cooking for them!

If you are traveling with someone,

help them with packing and unpacking!

Care for them, watch after them,

and do not neglect their animals or luggage!

Be helpful to them using physical and financial efforts!

Beg their pardon, if you fail at something and do not relent!

Blessings always come from a sea of hardships,

and if you want to cross a sea, you must be prepared to endure hardships!

Those who do not wish to endure any hardships and are lazy,

if they are not careful will, they may receive Allah's whips,

for such traits do not bring success to the Murid [the Sufi disciple]!

Know that when you are in the path of righteousness, you will hear that you are crazy!

When someone comes to you requesting something,

give it to them and do not be concerned at all,

for this material wealth is like unworthy hay that will burn!

If someone is in need, share your wealth with them!

Stingy people distance themselves from Allah and human beings!

If you are stingy, you will join the company of the insincere and local chiefs!<sup>19</sup>

Know that you will leave your wealth behind regardless of its size!

Let us refrain from desperately trying to save excessively!

The best thing is to strive to be generous and don't save excessively!

Know that your every act will be rewarded in the Afterlife!

Strive to be welcoming to guests in three ways:

with kind words, nice facial expressions, and good food!

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The Prophet said that those who believe in the Lord of the Hereafter

should treat their guests to the extent of their capacity!

Guests will recount their experience! Whatever good deed you do for them is commendable!

Guests will recount their experience, even if they are of high moral character!

Be patient with your guests when they arrive and do not ask them to leave!

Sometimes, smiling can be better than feeding your guests eggs or chicken!

Do not let anyone convince you to stop learning,

and when you know, act, and you will become a respected person!

Just like water nourishes plants, so too knowledge nourishes the heart!

Knowledge enlightens the mind and guards against darkness!

Do you not know that knowledge and piety are the means

through which one surpasses their peers? So, seek knowledge and be generous!

These are the two qualities that make someone superior, not lineage,

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<sup>19</sup> Here the writer refers to local chiefs who are known to be wealthy but do not use their resources to help the needy in their societies.

nor one's father's or mother's stature! So, be steadfast in the quest for knowledge!  
And trust Allah, and when you are learned and behave righteously,  
do not worry about anything, for Allah's promise will never fail!  
Preserve your body parts from sin and constantly be enriched by the lessons you learned!  
Sleep a little, eat a little, and sometimes skip dinners!  
Seek knowledge while you are young,  
and do not take something that is not yours!  
Whoever does not act according to this advice will regret it when they grow old,  
for it is impossible to get rid of a habit you have cultivated throughout your youth!  
If you wait until your mind and eyes become old  
and you begin planting your farm, know that nothing will grow there!  
Teaching adults is like writing on water,  
and teaching children is like writing on wet cement where it will stick!

[Page 12]

Very often, you may find a heart that is completely dead spiritually  
and it gets fully resuscitated by knowledge until it fully recovers!  
This is because knowledge is the light that enlightens and guides your soul,  
and it separates truth from untruth and other obscure things!  
If you are not fully committed to the quest of knowledge,  
it will not give you its husk, let alone its grains!  
Develop the habit of fasting, staying awake at night, and enduring physical activities.  
If you do this, you will soon be the heir of the [spiritual] champions!  
It is said that the quest of knowledge is a test and people incapable of enduring hardships  
cannot acquire it. So, cultivate perseverance like a runner!



Always be humble and appear imperfect,

for if you are arrogant, you will not cease to be ignorant!

Cultivate the habit of sitting on the floor and taking everything you do very seriously!

Do not worry about what others are doing, for Allah's decrees can surprise you!

Do not procrastinate for there is never enough time! It is at the happiest moment

that death often occurs and puts an end to any ongoing projects!

Keep reciting and reviewing your lessons!

Have you not seen how the cord [repeatedly] goes inside the well?

To the one who teaches you, be it your Shaykh or senior co-disciple,

show them respect! Do not deviate from the straight path, be it the size of a thread!

Be at their service and work for them whether in the afternoon

or the morning. Accept whatever task they assign you!

Do not laugh out loud or mess around

in front of them! Do not joke or goof around them!

Speak little in front of them and cultivate silence!

When in the company of your Shaykhs, do not walk ahead of them!

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Follow their instructions, even if they do not please you!

Let them be your guide in whatever you hear, think, and decide!

And when you can, offer them pious gifts!

Do not underestimate them, for you will have acted so wrongly if you do so!

To the disciples, women, and other family members [of the Shaykh],

and the servants, show respect and be their servant!

If you do so, the Shaykh will surely look at you

in a way that will make Allah bless you and elevate you!

A Shaykh's gaze at a disciple with an expression of good wishes

is a blessing and a sign of [the disciple's] strong faith!

Be submissive [to your Shaykh], like a corpse in the hands of the washer,

or like a servant with their master!

If you honor your Shaykh, you will achieve your goals!

You will not be elevated unless you do so!

Sometimes, you see a brilliant scholar who has no students,

and the reason is that they were not submissive when they were a student!

Know that sincere relatives and friends

are difficult to have. They come with great benefits!

They are the ones who would leave their needs and attend to yours,

and would cause prejudice to themselves in order to benefit you!

When life gets hard and the waters get turbulent,

they would gather all their belongings to be by your side!

They would hide your flaws and wash your dirt!

These are the traits of true friends, relatives, and parents!

Praise be to Allah, let me stop the song here!

Whoever was lost, please come back to the path [of righteousness]!

[Page 14]

To anyone who is ill, this is your medicine! To anyone who is blind,

if you live by this wisdom, you will throw away your walking stick!

It is part of ethics that whatever is deemed virtuous,

if you know it, then you should live by it before you are blamed!

There are people, if you were to ask them:

“X, who raised you so well?” They would say: “From my childhood  
until now, I have kept an eye on what those who are astray do  
and I strive to stay away from that, every single day that God makes!”

Allah is the one Who sets people on the path of righteousness, and to Him we shall return, and He is the answer. We pray for ourselves and our allies that He may enable us to do that which satisfies Him, and we pray that He may enable us to perform acts that He approves. There is no power nor strength except in Allah, the Most Powerful. O Allah, bestow your blessing and peace upon our master, Muhammad, his family, and his companions.<sup>20</sup>

This is where I will end, *Nahju Qaḍā’i l-Ḥajjī*,

my explanation of Bamba’s writing, the Owner of the Mosque [of Tuubaa].

I give thanks to Allah, Who assists everyone who trusts Him,

for the gift He gave me so that I could produce this treasure!

May He enable me to enter paradise and save me

from ordeals, traps, and deprivation!

May the benefits of perfect prayers be bestowed abundantly on

Mustafaa [the Chosen Prophet] and on every genuine Murid!

Muhammad is the one given the privilege to intercede [on the Judgement Day],

and the one praised in the protected Qur’ān,

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<sup>20</sup> This paragraph is in Arabic in the original.

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due to his beautiful and exemplary manners,

which he did not inherit from either his mother, father, or grandparents.

May blessings be bestowed abundantly on his family and those who love him,

and his companions. May Allah give me what makes me worthy of having followers!

I implore Allah to forgive me in the name of their baraka,

and in the name of the Shaykh, whose last name is Mbakke!

May he be the source of bountiful blessings for me,

my shield against spiritual collapse, and may he make all my limbs healthy!

May Allah save me from damnation along with whoever holds in high esteem

this book of mine, and whoever prays facing the East [the Qibla in Mecca]<sup>21</sup>

May this [book] be, by the grace of Allah and the Prophet,

my protection until I enter paradise and am saved from the ordeals [of the Judgment Day]!

May it open for me the gates of paradise and save me from hellfire,

and facilitate my pilgrimage to Medina, the Radiant City!

May it be the source of my salvation and knowledge

with practice and worship. May it be my key to whatever door is closed!

May it bring to me, by the grace of our Grandmother Fatima,<sup>22</sup>

paradise, and a beautiful ending to this life when the time comes!

May the benefits of perfect prayers be bestowed abundantly

upon the Selected Prophet until the end of times,

as long as ethical conduct continues to bring divine rewards,

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<sup>21</sup> Here the writer refers to the direction toward the Kaaba in Mecca, Saudi Arabia.

<sup>22</sup> Daughter of Prophet Muhammad.

and the best of blessings in this life and the next,  
and as long as divine lights will continue illuminating  
the persevering and virtuous who deserve to be shielded from bad surprises!  
May the blessings be extended to the Prophet’s companions and his family members.  
May this book be appealing and enjoy a great success!  
“Exalted is your Lord, the Lord of might, above what they describe.  
And may peace be upon the messengers.  
And praise be to Allah, Lord of the worlds.”<sup>23</sup>

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<sup>23</sup> For the last three verses, see Q 37:180-182, Translation: Sahih International.