

سلوي عن الأُحباب

للولي الصالح سيدي محمد الطيب رحمه الله تعالى ورضي عنه

Sulūwī 'ani l-Aḥbāb is a poem written by Shaykh Muḥammad al-Ṭayyib رحمه الله تعالى (d 1313) AH is internationally renowned. It speaks about the relationship between the lover of Allāh, and his Beloved - Allāh. The poem is sung in Maqām al-'Ajam, one of the seven major tunes in Oriental music.

Shaykh Muḥammad al-Ṭayyib was a great walī and Quṭb, reviving the Shādhilī ṭariqa in Shām. He was famous not only in Syria and his murīds spread from Yemen to Istanbul, and from Irāq to North Africa. He was a great scholar of Sharī`ah like his father who was a great walī and `ārif. He migrated with his father from Algeria and his family is very close to Shaykh Muḥammad al-Ya`qoubī`s family: he was the maternal uncle of Shaykh Muḥammad`s father`s uncle, Shaykh Sharīf رحمه الله تعالى. He was also the Shaykh of Shaykh Muḥammad`s grandfather, Sayyid Ism`āil al-Ya`qoubī رحمه الله تعالى.

During his time nearly all the scholars of Syria were Shaykh al-Ṭayyib`s murīds, including Shaykh Badr al-Dīn al-Ḥasanī - al-Muḥaddith al-Akbar - who died 41 years after him, Shaykh Amīn Su`ayd and Shaykh Tawfiq al-Ayyūbī, all of whom were great scholars of `aqīdah, fiqh, uṣūl al-fiqh, ḥadīth, logic, the Arabic language and taṣawwuf. They described his dhikr circle as having 200 turbans including the Muftī of Shām. It`s probably the case that the eastern part of the Islamic world never witnessed an `ārif or waliy of his rank for over 400 years.

His works are very few but we have many of his words documented by his students. About twelve years ago, Shaykh Muḥammad found the only manuscript of Shaykh al-Ṭayyib`s Ṣūfī autobiography. Attached to it were forty pages detailing his miracles and 10 pages of his Ṣūfī aphorisms which were documented by his students. Shaykh Muḥammad plans to publish the autobiography inshā Allāh. His shrine is in Mezzah, Damascus, behind the Children`s Hospital. One of Shaykh al-Ṭayyib`s descendants lives near the mosque and the entrance to the shrine is from their house.

سُلُوِي عَنِ الْأُحْبَابِ حَرَّمَهُ الْحُبُّ فَإِنْ هَجَرُونِي فَالْعَذَابُ بِهِمْ عَذْبٌ

Forgetfulness of the Beloved is forbidden in Love;
if they abandon me the punishment from them is sweet.

وَهَيْهَاتَ يَوْمًا أَنْ أَمِيلَ إِلَى السَّوَى وَكَيْفَ وَقَلْبِي مُدْنَفٌ بِهِمْ صَبٌّ

Far it is the idea that I would once turn to the others;
how come whilst my heart is completely absorbed by them.

فَإِنْ حَدَّثُوا أَرْوَى الْحَدِيثِ بِسَائِرِي فَنِعْمَ الشِّفَا ذِكْرُ الْأَحِبَّةِ وَالطَّبُّ

If the Beloved speaks I relate the hadith not only with my tongue but with all my body;
and what a good remedy and medicine is the remembrance of the Beloved

فَلِلَّهِ عَيْشٌ قَدْ تَقَضَّ بِقُرْبِهِمْ وَكَأْسُ الْهَنَا صَافٍ وَمَعْنَى اللَّقَا رَحْبٌ

May Allāh reward them for a life that was spent in their closeness;
the glass of bliss was pure and the place of meeting was so vast.

سَقَوْنِي شَرَابَ الْأُنْسِ صِرْفًا مُقَدَّسًا عَنِ الْمَرْجِ لَمَّا أَنْ تَمَزَّقَتِ الْحُجُبُ

They gave me the drink of pleasure, pure, sanctified and not mixed;
It was offered when the veils were removed.

فَقَالَتْ سُلَيْمَى قَرِّ عَيْنًا بِمَا تَرَى وَطَبَّ فِي الْهَوَى نَفْسًا فَقَدْ حَصَلَ الْقُرْبُ

Sulayma said be pleased with what you're witnessing now
and have a good heart in love because you are now close to us

أَلَمْ تَدْرِ أَنَّ الْوَصْلَ أَضْحَى مَقَامُهُ عَزِيزاً رَفِيعاً لَا تُطَاوِلُهُ الشُّهُبُ

Don't you know that waṣal (getting close/together with the Beloved)
Is a very rare station, not even achieved by meteors.

حِمَانًا مَنِيعٌ دُونَهُ الْحَتْفُ يَا فَتَى وَأَنَّ الْهَوَى مَرْقَاهُ مُسْتَوْعِرٌ صَعْبُ

Our sanctuary is protected, to reach it you may have to give your soul.
O young man don't you know the ladder of love is very high?

فَكَمْ مُغْرَمٍ أَضْحَى مُعْنَى وَلَمْ يَفِرْ بِنَظْرَةِ إِسْعَافٍ بِهَا يَسْكُنُ الْقَلْبُ

How many a lover became exhausted (because of their struggle) [^]
and they never achieved one relieving look from the Beloved to tranquil their hearts.

تُوجَّجُ نَارُ الْوَجْدِ بَيْنَ ضُلُوعِهِ وَأَجْفَانُهُ مِثْلُ الْغَمَامِ لَهَا سَكْبُ

The fire of love is burning in his heart;
And his eyebrows are like clouds shedding tears (like clouds shedding rain).

يَرَى رُوحَهُ تَنْحَطُّ قَدْرًا بِلَمْحَةٍ وَإِنْ عَدَّهَا يَوْمًا لَعَمْرِي هُوَ الذَّنْبُ

The Lover observes his soul getting from I stage to another stage in a moment of time.
If he considers that moment a day then he's committing a sin.

فَمَنْ شَاءَ أَنْ يَحْيَى وَيَحْظَى بِنَظْرَةٍ بِنَا فَلَيْمَتْ وَجَدًا وَإِلَّا فَلَا يَصُبُّ

The Beloved speaks: Anyone who wants to live and get a look from us,
(in the course of love) for us let him die.

Other than that if your not prepared to give your soul to Allāh don't step in the path.
