

الله

SLOUGH 10th – 11th Dec, 2016

RETREAT FOR SISTERS – CHILDREN WELCOME

# PRACTICAL SUFISM

WITH

**SHAYKHA UMM AYMAN**

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Registration: <https://goo.gl/j5yU5b>



Sacred  
KNOWLEDGE

## His Eminence al-Sayyid al-Sharif

# Shaykh Muhammad al-Yaqoubi



Shaykh Sayyid Muhammad al-Yaqoubi is one of the greatest scholars in the world today. For several years running, the Royal Aal al-Bayt Institute has placed him as one of the 500 most influential Muslims in the world.

Shaykh Muhammad al-Yaqoubi is the Patron of SKT Welfare, bringing help, hope and solace to all parts of the world.

He is a caller to Islam and guide towards Allah. Thousands have embraced Islam and found a spiritual home through his powerful speeches, penetrating lectures, wise words and loving compassionate approach. He

supports and guides the seeker, and shows the way to follow the Prophetic Sunnah in all its aspects.

Shaykh Muhammad descends from a scholarly family that traces its roots back to the Prophet Muhammad (Allah bless him and salute him). Combining Shari'a and Sufi teachings, he follows the great legacy of the majority of Sunni scholars and luminaries throughout history, including his late father Sayyid Ibrahim al-Yaqoubi (Allah show him mercy), and numerous great scholars and gnostics of his family. He was born and raised in Damascus, and taught in the world famous Grand Umayyad Mosque, until he was forced into exile, due to his uncompromising defence of the justice and mercy of Sharia. Today, Shaykh Muhammad al-Yaqoubi lives in Morocco. He is married and has four children.

# OUR TEACHERS

## **Shaykha Umm Ayman**

Shaykha Umm Ayman (Dr. Barbro Klingmann) was born in Sweden. She is a scientist by profession, and studied many years in Damascus under the guidance of Shaykh Muhammad al-Yaqoubi, covering a wide range of subjects, such as Arabic and Tajweed, Quran and Hadith, Aqeeda and Fiqh, Sira and Tassawuf. She has attended Shaykh Muhammad's recitals of the major books of Hadith, and was granted ijazat by him.

## **Ustadha Maryam**

Ustadha Maryam Johnson is a teacher at the Al-Aqsa school in Leicester. She studied for three years in Damascus and holds a diploma in Arabic and Islamic sciences from the Abu Nur Institute. She was granted ijaza in Tajweed by Ustadh Anas al Hibri. She is a student of Shaykh Muhammad al-Yaqoubi.

## **Sayyida Aasia**

Sayyida Aasia Biddles, born in Kenya and resident in Leicester, is a descendant of the Prophet Muhammad (may Allah bless and salute him). She is a wife and mother of the kind that inspire and guide others through their state. Her children – Sitti AmatuAllah and Sitti AmatrRahman, young scholars to be inshaAllah, will be teaching the children on this programme.

# Programme

## **SATURDAY**

- 9:30 Main session / Sh. Umm Ayman  
12:00 Motherhood: Brining up Awlia  
w/ Sayyida Aasia  
1 – 3 pm Activity Break  
3 pm Sayyida Fatima w/ Us. Maryam  
4 pm Maghrib salat, Shadhili dhikr – Hadra  
6:15 pm Activity Break  
7 pm Evening Meal

## **SUNDAY**

- 9:30 Main session w/ Sh. Umm Ayman  
12:00 Activity Break  
1 pm Miracle Salawt – for children  
w/ Sh. Umm Ayman  
3:15 pm Qasida Burda rcital  
4 pm Maghrib salat  
RUBY MAWLID  
7 pm Evening Meal

### **Activities:**

*Mothers workshop \* Juniors programme \* Hadith recital \*  
Futuwwa: Sufi Ethics \* Qasida instruction*

# Our doors are open

by *Shaykh Muhammad Al-Yaqoubi*

Our doors are open; some chose to watch from outside while others knocked and entered. Some of those who entered preferred to sit at the threshold in service of the household; it did not take them long to be admitted. Most of the visitors went in around the busied themselves in looking at the beauty of house. The first drink was offered but not of all of them took it, some felt not thirsty. Most of the ones who tasted it never had enough of it and stopped in the corridor asking for more. For them, it was the elixir; they, out of ecstasy, kept talking about the drink and asking for more of it till they were intoxicated and thus unable to attend the party. They forgot that the drink was just to welcome them in and the food was to be served afterwards and greater pleasures are anticipated. Those who went in and sat at the banquet had the greatest honour of the company of the landlord. The secrets were given to them, and the veils were removed for them and remained in the house while others were still in the open yard either amazed at the beauty of the house or intoxicated by the first cup.

# The Basics of Tasawwuf

By *Shaykh Muhammad Al-Yaqoubi*

- 1- **Definition:** Purification of the heart.
  - True devotion to Allah in the ways He likes by the means He likes.
  - Acting upon knowledge;
  - Acquiring the good characters and getting rid of the bad.
- 2- **Subject:** Allah, as how He can be known; or hearts & souls, as how to purify them.
- 3- **Fruit:** The purification of the heart and knowing the Master of the worlds and attaining the Station of *ihsân*.
- 4- **Merit:** Tasawwuf is of high merit. Its nobility stems from its subject. *Ihsân* is one of the three levels of this *deen* and the highest.
- 5- **Relation to other disciplines:** It is the base of the *Sharia*; without it acts of worship become imperfect. It is the core of *Quran* and *Sunnah* and the tissue of Muslims spiritual life.
- 6- **Name:** The word "tasawwuf" is derived from *souf* (wool). Tasawwuf has been known by this name since the second century of *hijra*, i.e. the time of the *salaf*. It has been frequently called *`ilm as-Sulûk* (initiatic traveling & spiritual behaviour), *`ilm al-Ihsân*, *`ilm at-Tarbiyah* (cultivation) or *`ilm at-Tazkiyah* (purification).
- 7- **The pioneer:** The pioneer of this branch of knowledge is of course the Prophet (s). Many hadiths highlight the spiritual dimension of a Muslim's life.[2.2] The earliest scholar who elaborated on it is *al-Hasan al-Basriy*.

- 8- **Sources:** Tasawwuf is derived from Quran and Sunnah[2.1].The sayings of the great scholars represent a rich treasure for the seekers and the masters.[07]
- 9- **Ruling:** Acquiring tasawwuf is fard i.e. obligatory; since all human beings are susceptible to sins save for Prophets. Imam Abul Hasan ash-Shadiliy said:

“He who does not truly acquire this discipline will die persisting on major sins without being aware of it.”

- 10- **What it tackles:** Tasawwuf tackles some of the cardinal elements of the deen such as sincerity; truthfulness; religious cautioness (wara'); conscious awareness (khushû') reliance; asceticism; love; and similarly their opposites, which are the diseases of the hearts such as insincerity; hypocrisy; arrogance; greed etc.

It also tackles subtle subjects such as the passing of thoughts; the states of the heart; inspirations. One of its most important subjects is dhikr, the remembrance (i.e. in the evocation & recitation of the name) of Allah and its virtues; another is the shaykh and his qualifications, the disciple, murid, and his adab.

11- **Basic works in tasawwuf:**

- The Beauty of the Righteous by al-Hafiz Abu Nuaym al-Asfahani
- The Revival of the Sciences of the Deen- (Ihya) al-Imam al- Ghazali
- Al-Risalah of Imam Abul Qasim al-Qushayriy
- The Aphorisms, al-Hikam, of Imam Ibn Atta'llah
- Revelation of the Unseen by Imam Abdul Qadir al-Jaylaniy
- Awarif Al-Ma'arif, by al-Suhrawardi
- Qawa'id Al-Tasawwuf, by Imam Ahmad Zarooq



## The Hadith of Mercy

The hadith of Mercy (*Hadith al-Rahma*) is normally the first hadith that a teacher of Ahl al-Sunnah transmits to his or her students, in order to remind them of the Mercy of Allah. Mercy is also an attribute of His Messenger, our Master Muhammad (may Allah bless him and salute him), a central aspect of his Sunnah, and of the message of Islam.

Shaykh Muhammad al-Yaqubi transmits this hadith from his father, Shaykh Ibrahim al-Yaqubi, through the most direct chain that exists in the world. In every link of the chain, it is the first hadith transmitted from the teacher to the student. The wording of the hadith is as follows:

الرَّاحِمُونَ يَرْحَمُهُمُ الرَّحْمَنُ (تبارك وتعالى)  
إِرْحَمُوا مَنْ فِي الْأَرْضِ يَرْحَمَكُم مَّن فِي السَّمَاءِ

To those who show mercy, the Merciful shows Mercy  
Show mercy to those on earth,  
then (the Angels) in heaven  
will show mercy to you



# Futuwwa: Brotherhood for Allah

By *Shaykh Muhammad Al-Yaqoubi*

We, indeed, the fakirs \* Are brothers in Allah  
We have hopes to become \* True servants of Allah

You are a brother of mine \* For the Sake of Allah  
And I am for all no more \* Than a servant, by Allah!

Take all that you need \* From me and thank Allah  
What I possess is for \* My brothers in Allah

I claim to own nothing \* As, all belongs to Allah  
We have nothing except \* Our need for Allah

We are a group of youths \* Who believe in Allah  
And struggle hard to get \* The Guidance of Allah

We pledged ourselves to love \* Each other for Allah  
Our only remedy is \* The remembrance of Allah

We offer our souls to support \* This deen of Allah  
And guard the covenants of all \* The people of Allah

We pardon everyone \* Of the creation of Allah  
We are pleased with all \* Which comes from Allah

Our brothers! Pray and salute \* The Messenger of Allah  
His Family and friends \* The Soldiers of Allah

# The Mother

From a poem of the erudite scholar *Shaykh Ibrahim al-Yaqoubi*

The secret of life, the garden of blissful hopes  
The symbol of trust, the bliss of all generations

The hymn of the soul, striking the strings of the hearts,  
when children sing it, like nightingales

The song of life, that makes flower buds open  
towards life, smiling, full of hope

O my Mother, how sweet is (the taste of)  
mentioning you on my tongue!  
Whenever you are mentioned,  
I begin to chant, raising you above the skies

How often did you wake until dawn all night,  
For me to spend the night in comfort  
How much efforts tired you  
For me to be safe and well guided.



*This is an excerpt from a poem that the great scholar Shaykh Ibrahim al-Yaqoubi wrote for his children in the year 1970, and taught his son Muhammad Abul Huda al-Yaqoubi when he was in 3rd grade. It was composed on the occasion of a school celebration for the welfare of the children, held in the neighbourhood of the Umayyad Mosque in Damascus.*

# Repent

*By Shaykh Muhammad Al-Yaqoubi*

Repent, repent, repent and cry  
Open your hands; pray and try  
Beseech Allah; and say here am I  
Have mercy on me before I die

Start your life anew today  
And throw the wrong of the past away  
Prepare good works for the Final Day  
And when God commands you, hear and obey

Thank the Lord by day and night  
Walk straight; and keep right  
Guided by the Divine Light  
To find the Garden at your sight

Embrace Islam and worship the Lord  
Allah, the only One adored  
Love Him most and step on-board  
With His servants for the reward

Believe in Muhammad, the perfect man  
The Seal of prophets; from Adnan  
Devote for him your life span  
In the hope of joining his caravan

Pray to Allah and recite the Quran  
Invoke His Names whenever you can  
To taste the sweetness of iman  
And reach the station of Ihsan



## The Secrets of al-Tawhid

The first verses of a poem by *Shaykh Muhammad Al-Yaqoubi*

In the Name of the Sublime Essence  
Is the Secret of Uniqueness  
So, invoke it in sincerity  
And repeat saying: Allāh; Allāh; Allāh

Visualise the Holy Great Name of Allāh  
Have its written form in your mind fixed  
And disclaim all you know so that  
The great opening comes to you from Allāh

Invoke the Name by the day and the night  
Until you are absent from the invocation  
Verily, all truths and secrets  
Are not comprehended but by the Name Allāh

The presence of the Unseen as well as the Seen  
The Treasure of secrets and covenants  
Power and authority over the world -  
Are all given to the people who invoke the Name Allāh

The key to the Door of annihilation  
Yet, in it is there the very lastingness  
The source of all names  
As the Essence is known by the Name Allāh

# Drink of Love

The first verses of a poem by *Shaykh Muhammad Al-Yaqoubi*  
In Praise of Shaykh Abdul Qadir al Jilani – radi Allahu Anh

Take the drink of love  
It is indeed your medicine and cure  
And walk the way to be nearer  
To the people of this quarter

Be absent from all the universe  
And fold remoteness in distance  
Protect this secret from all  
Save the people of this quarter

Negate the other oh man  
And annihilate to all forms  
Witness the transparency of the wine  
You will then enter this quarter

Our words are divine gifts  
Our silence is merely a cover  
Our door is open for anyone  
Who is heading to this quarter

Our tastes are delicacies  
Our secrets are of the essence  
Our moves when we shake  
May wake the dead of this quarter

# A greeting

Selections from the poem “A Greeting to Sham”  
by *Shaykh Muhammad Al-Yaqoubi*

A greeting of Friendliness and love  
A greeting of yearning to the companions  
A greeting from a passionate in affection  
A greeting that tells of love  
A greeting to the frequent visitor  
that says, 'welcome to your family'  
A greeting of the great opening  
and the Divine giving  
A greeting of good ends from Allah  
A greeting that floods with love  
A greeting that has no room for contamination  
A greeting of easiness and fertility  
A greeting of rain and the fall of rain  
A greeting to you, O, the beloved of the heart  
A greeting to you, O, the taker of the intellect  
A greeting from Allah to you, my friend  
A greeting that comes from the sublimity of the Lord  
A greeting of cure and medicine  
which is the greeting of my Beloved, the Elect  
A greeting of forgiveness of the sins  
A greeting of pardoning and repentance  
A greeting to you, O, my beloved  
A greeting that comes from a moist mouth  
A greeting to you whether I am close or far  
A greeting that comes from the soul and the heart.



# Prayers on the Prophet Muhammad

Prayers from “*Shifa al-Qulub*” – The healing of hearts  
by *Shaykh Muhammad Al-Yaqoubi*

اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ صَلَاةً مِنْ مُحِبِّ مُسْتَهَامٍ \*  
أَضْنَاهُ الْغَرَامُ \* صَلَاةً أَرَاهُ بِهَا فِي الْمَنَامِ \* وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ وَسَلَّمَ

*Allahumma salli ala Sayyidina Muhammadin min muhibbin mustahaam \*  
adnahul-gharaam \* salatan arahu biha fil-manaam \*  
wa ala alihi wa sahbihi wa sallim*

O Allah send blessings upon our Master Muhammad,  
from a lover captivated, consumed by passion,  
a blessing by which he will see him in his dream  
and upon his Family and Companions send blessings and peace.

# Beauty's delight

By Shaykh *Mudasser Hussain*

Kings in their realm  
Dazed by your light  
Long may you live  
Beauty's delight!

Tell me who's seen  
Nearby or far  
Majesty like  
Abul Huda?

To look upon  
Light of his face:  
A gift that makes  
All hearts to race

Those eyes of his  
Enchanting glance  
The mystics wield  
A loving trance!

So elegant  
From head to toe  
Beauty of The  
Prophet does show

Though body here  
His soul soars high  
Ask those who see  
Him passing by

Prayer answered  
By God so quick  
Run to him if  
Your hearts are sick

He prays for all  
Awake at night  
Never complains  
Of his own plight

Exiled from home  
Left all things there  
To speak the truth:  
Courage so rare

Be wary of  
Enmity here  
The Ahl-ul bayt  
Slander don't fear

The Lord is their  
Ally and Friend  
He will Himself  
Help and defend

He trusts Allah  
In ways complete  
Works hard though his  
Health does deplete

With all heart I  
Repent this day  
Of every look  
From him did stray

Of love now then  
Renew your vow  
Perchance he will  
Sweet love endow



