

My dearest beautiful children,

Assalamu alaykum wa rahmatullahi wa barakatuhu. When these words are being read to you I will no longer be amongst you. But we have been in this world together for many years and Allah knows how much I love you. And those of you who love me too inshallah we will be together soon in Jannah, as our Prophet ﷺ promises.

I beseech you, do not miss your prayers. If for some valid reason you do, make them up as soon as possible. Fast during Ramadan and certain days of the three months preceding Ramadan, and pay your Zakat.

Most importantly, in your daily lives, do not forget that you are a Muslim and a Sufi. Be kind, gentle, generous, and forgiving; be more attentive to the needs of your brothers and sisters in the dergah. First attend to your family; next your brothers and sisters in Islam and all human beings; then animals and plants, air, water and earth. These qualities inshallah will meet Allahu Ta'ala's approval, and He will be kind to us on yawmiddiyn.

Work hard for this world and whatever benefits it procures; but whatever money you make, know that it is not yours. So spend it freely for good deeds. Work even harder for the hereafter, every day, doing what Allahu Ta'ala has set as obligations, following the sunnah of our Prophet ﷺ.

For almost 50 years I have tried to convince you that your peace and happiness and rewards in this world and the next depend on being humble. All the misery which comes to us is from our own arrogance. Dervish means doorsill; do not mind if some people step on you. The more stepped on you are, the higher you will be in the opinion of Allah. Do not be afraid of pain and suffering; they too are the keys to Paradise. If you love Allah and the beloved of Allah, and help establish the same love in the hearts of others and are able to make Allahu Ta'ala love those whom you taught to love Him, Allahu Ta'ala promises to love you in return. That is the best thing a Muslim can do.

Your wives, husbands and children are not yours, but belong to Allahu Ta'ala. He has given you the responsibility to take care of them, and to teach them to be good Muslims and good human beings. That is one of the most important duties. To make that difficult duty light, Allahu Ta'ala has given us a natural love for our children, wives and husbands. Sadaqa jariyah is to leave behind something that is good for others, when one leaves this world. If you build a mosque, the benefit comes to you as much as it comes to those who pray in that mosque. If you build a hospital, from the thankfulness of the sick who are cured, the benefit comes to you. If you build a school, as people learn in that school, the benefit comes to you. Rasulallah ﷺ says that the best sadaqa jariyah is to leave behind children who are good Muslims and good human beings.

Do not forget the story which I have told you many times, what my shaykh, Muzaffer Efendi, rahmatullahi alayh, said to a young German lady, who asked to be informed about Islam: when you are about to do something or say something, first think: if it is good for you, then consider if it is also good for others. If it is good for both you and others, then do it or say it. But the words and the actions that Allahu Ta'ala loves most are those that are not good for you at all, that even may cost you your life, but that are good for many others. If you could remember and do this, you have taken many steps to become a perfect human being.

During my time as your father, that which worried me most was the question of "who will take my place?" One of the greatest gifts of Allahu Ta'ala to me was to bring Yurdaer Baba into our family. In many ways, he is much better than I was, and I have left this world tranquil and content, having left you in his care. May Allahu Ta'ala give him the strength, the patience, the wisdom, and long life to serve you better than I did.

Now I am here and you are there. I wish I could communicate to you about this life; perhaps I will be able to do so to some of you through your dreams.

May Allahu Ta'ala help you in facing the difficulties of the worldly life, and take you to Himself.

With love, like a mother cuddles her baby in her arms,

Baba