

Summary of Kitab al-Tanwir

Chapter One: The author quotes proof-texts (dalil) from the Qur'an and Sunnah, showing how they form the foundation of the main theme of the book. He then analyzes the first of the Quranic verses, listing a number of elegant interpretations that can be derived from it.

Chapter Two: The author continues by analyzing the other proof-texts he originally quoted, demonstrating how the theme of tadbir is fundamental to living a life according to the principles of Qur'an and Sunnah.

Chapter Three: The author first lists the nine abiding stations (maqamat) of certainty (yaqin), and then explains how each one of them is not valid without the ceasing of self-management.

Chapter Four: After demonstrating the importance of the theme of the book in the first three chapters, the author gives a series of means or ways to actualize the ceasing of tadbir. He also illustrates certain lessons that can be derived from the stories of Adam s and of the Children of Israel, and discusses the nature of servitude.

Chapter Five: In this chapter the author calls the reader to cease self-management and self-direction, and explains why this is the noblest of the Divine charismatic gifts which are given to the friends (3awliya3) of 'Allah O. He explains how, when one directs his or her aspirations to 'Allah and is content with His management, at that point 'Allah Himself takes charge of his safety, protection and well being.

Chapter Six: The author discusses the Prophet 'Ibrahim s as a model of pure surrender and servitude. The chapter ends with a beautiful poem.

Chapter Seven: The author differentiates between praiseworthy and blameworthy tadbir, and how one can safely deal with the world and its wealth without becoming impure.

Chapter Eight: The author first discusses the difference between having worldly means of livelihood and being divested of them, and then goes on to discuss how the one with means should live and work, and the proper courtesies associated with having a living.. Finally, the author explains how to overcome the suggestions and insinuations of blameworthy tadbir, and the value of contentment.

Chapter Nine: This very short chapter explains the wisdom behind the creation of tadbir in the servants.

Chapter Ten: At this point, the author shifts focus slightly and concentrates on daily provision and sustenance (rizq) and tadbir in it. He also discusses the wisdom behind the existence of human need, and illustrates this with examples from the life of the Prophet Masa

Chapter Eleven: The author explains the purpose behind the creation of mankind, and how 'Allah O has taken the responsibility of providing for His slaves.

Chapter Twelve: Now begins a series of five chapters, each centering around a key verse of the Qur'an, focusing on the subject of daily provision (rizq). In this specific chapter, the author explains the uselessness of having anxiety over one's sustenance, since 'Allah awe' has already guaranteed it.

Chapter Thirteen: The second chapter on the subject of rizq. In this short chapter, the author shows how creation and provision are paired in the Qur'an, and concludes that if one is certain that 'Allah O is the Sole Creator, one should be certain that He is the Sole Provider.

Chapter Fourteen: The third chapter on the subject of rizq. The author demonstrates how the arrival of Divine sustenance comes after and as a consequence of commanding the family to prayer and patient persistence in it.

Chapter Fifteen: The fourth chapter on the subject of rizq. This short chapter goes further into the concept of the Divine guarantee of provision. The author argues here that if 'Allah O, provides for all of creation, as can be plainly seen, and if the human is the noblest of the creation, then how could He neglect the human?

Chapter Sixteen: This chapter is the last in the series dealing with the subject of rizq. It specifically discusses the Divine 'swearing' upon the guarantee of daily provision, and provides argument after argument for why it is unnecessary and a sign of the lack of faith to be in doubt about one's provision.

Chapter Seventeen: This chapter deals with the wisdom behind and the benefits of taking a means of livelihood. It also discusses the proper courtesies in seeking one's provision from 'Allah O.

Chapter Eighteen: This important chapter discusses the nature of relying upon the Divine as well as saving up provision for the future (iddikbar). The author explains that it is better, according to the dictates of certainty and reliance upon 'Allah O,?,,, not to hoard and save. He also discusses how to withhold the provision properly, namely, that one should withhold for the sake of 'Allah , and not out of a selfish lack of trust.

Chapter Nineteen: This chapter is an explanation of certain passages from the litany (hizb) of Sbaykb Abu'l cAbbas al-Mursi (the author's Sbaykb).

Chapter Twenty: This chapter is a series of examples and parables which illustrate the necessity of abandoning both tadbir and worry over provision. Chapter Twenty-One: This is the final chapter of the book, and is perhaps the most beautiful and eloquent of the Sbaykb's writings. It is taken from the point of view of 'Allah Himself, dto, and consists of 'Divine munajat,' or an intimate Divine soliloquy directed to the slave, calling him to cease tadbir.

The book ends with a concluding supplication.