

## **The Story about the Treatment for a Tanner**

**O**ne day a skin tanner was passing by the perfume shops in the market place. He had spent all his time with the tanning animal skins and had become used to the bad smell. So much so that when he smelled the fragrant smell of the scent, he could not bear it and fell unconscious. A big crowd gathered around him. Some were reciting Wazeefas and blowing over him in an effort to revive him. Others were sprinkling rose water on him. While some were massaging the palms of his hands and feet. In spite of all these efforts, he did not recover and seemed to be sinking deeper into unconsciousness. His brother heard what had happened and came running along. He smelt the fragrant scents and immediately understood that the scents were the cause of his unconsciousness. He announced, "Let no rose water be sprinkled over him. And let no fragrant scents be brought near him". The brother went away and brought some feces of a dog, hidden in the sleeve of his shirt. Moving through the crowd, he came to his brother and held the dog's feces to his nose. The bad smell of the feces immediately revived him. The people were surprised, wondering what strong perfume the brother had brought, which was not even found in those perfume selling shops.

Maulana Rumi (Rahmatullah Alaihe) says:

"His brother came along with dog's feces hidden in his sleeve and forcing his way through the crowd came to his brother. He brought his head near to the brother as if to tell him a secret and then brought the dog's feces to his nose and he was revived."

## **Lesson**

Those who become perplexed and agitated at the sweet-smell of Allah Ta'ala's and His Rasul's obedience and those who are not inclined to a life of following the Sunnah, should be considered as having the same sickness as the tanner. In their dirty way of living and the dirty environment of sin, they spend a whole lifetime, so their hearts and minds become familiar with those things and are inclined towards them.

The way of getting them to change is to gradually get them out of that environment of sin and to make them wander around in the fragrant gardens. They should be brought to the gatherings of the saintly ones. After frequenting these places for a couple of days, they will say, "In what dirty environment were we?" Then thinking about the life of the past, they will cry, sigh, and will be very grateful for the company of the righteous ones. Thus, gradually their noses will become used to the fragrant scents (i.e. in the love and service of Allah Ta'ala) and will be able to say:

*"It is as if day and night I am living in paradise,  
All these flowers are embroidered on the garden of my heart."*