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Al-Ta'yyah of Abu Ishaq al-Ilbiri: Poem on Seeking Knowledge

From the course

[Poem on Seeking Knowledge \(Ta'yyah Abu Ishaq al-Ilbeeri\)](#)

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مَنْظُومَةُ أَبِي إِسْحَاقَ الْإِلْبِيرِيِّ

لِأَبِي إِسْحَاقَ إِبْرَاهِيمَ بْنِ مَسْعُودٍ الشَّجَبِيِّ الْغُرْنَاطِيِّ الْإِلْبِيرِيِّ

صَمَّهَ اللَّهُ (ت ٤٦٠ هـ)

[عدد الأبيات: ١١٢]

[البحر: الوافر]

تَفْتُ فُؤَادَكَ الْأَيَّامُ فَتَنَا *** وَتَنْحِتُ جِسْمَكَ السَّاعَاتُ فَحَتَا

1 -- The days have weakened your heart *** And the hours have traces on your body

This image shows a single page of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page, leaving small margins at the top and bottom. There is no handwriting or other markings on the paper.

وَتَدْعُوكَ الْمَنُونُ دُعَاءَ صِدْقٍ *** أَلَا يَا صَاحِبَ: أَنْتَ أُرِيدُ أَنْتَا

2 – And death calls you with a true call *** So oh my companion, perhaps your time is near

[illegible]

أَرَاكَ مُحِبُّ عَرَسًا ذَاتَ حِذْرِ *** أَبَتْ طَلَّافَهَا الْأَكْسِيَّاسُ بَنَاتَا

3 – I seen you desire the virgin wife [dunya] *** Who the intelligent ones have divorced and will never take her back

[illegible]

This image shows a full page of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page, providing a template for writing. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the page.

فَكَمْ ذَا أَنْتَ مُخْذُوعٌ وَحَتَّى *** مَتَى لَا تَرْعَوِي عَنْهَا وَحَتَّى ؟

5 – How long will you be deceived and tricked? *** And when will you cease from it?

[illegible]

6 – Oh Abu Bakr, I am calling you, perhaps you would respond *** To a great fortune which you will
reap if you only understand

7 – To a knowledge that will make you an Imaam*** Obeyed when commanding and when reprimanding

This image shows a full page of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page, typical of notebook or legal stationery. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the page.

وَيَجْلُو مَا بَيْنَكَ مِنْ غِشَاهَا *** وَيَهْدِيكَ السَّبِيلَ إِذَا ضَلَلْتَا

8 – And it will remove from your eyes that which is veiled *** And guide you to the path if you go astray

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وَتَحْمِلُ مِنْهُ فِي نَادِيكَ تَاجاً *** وَيَكْسُوكَ الْجَمَالَ إِذَا عَرَيْتَا

9 – And you will carry with it in your gatherings a crown [be respected] *** And cloth you with beauty
when uncovered

[illegible]

10 – You will grasp its benefits for as long as you live *** And its virtue will last with you when you are gone [dead]

[illegible]

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This image shows a full page of blank handwriting practice paper. It features approximately 28 evenly spaced horizontal grey lines across the entire page, providing a guide for letter height and placement. The background is a solid light blue color. There are no margins, text, or other markings present.

13 – It increases when it is spent abundantly *** And it decreases when you withhold from spending

فَلَوْ قَدْ دُفِتَ مِنْ حُلَاوَاهُ طَعْمًا *** لَا تَرْتِ التَّعْلَمَ وَاجْتَهَدْنَا

14 – If you would only taste from its sweetness *** You would have given preference to learning and you would strive for it

[illegible]

15 – And the enticing desires will not distract you from it *** Nor will the Dunya with its beauty tempt you

[illegible]

16 – Nor will its beautiful gardens distract you *** Neither will the virgin girl who you love her beauty
set you back

[illegible]

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18 – So persevere and take it seriously *** For if Allaah grants you it [knowledge] you will benefit

وَأَنَّ أُعْطِيَتْ فِيهِ طَوِيلٌ بَاعٌ *** وَقَالَ النَّاسُ : إِنَّكَ قَدْ عَلِمْتَنَا

19 – And if you have received a vast amount of it *** And the people say you have indeed learned

This image shows a full page of white paper with horizontal grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page, providing a template for writing or drawing. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the page.

فَلَا تَأْمَنُ سُؤَالَ اللَّهِ عَنْهُ *** بِتَوَيْخٍ : عَلِمْتَ ؛ فَهَلْ عَمِلْنَا؟

20 – Then do not feel safe from the question of Allaah *** Rebuking you saying, "You have learned, but have you acted?"

[illegible]

21 – For the peak of Knowledge is true fear of Allaah *** And it is not that you be referred to or praised

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22 – Indeed, the best of your clothes is the cloth of excellence *** However we see you have worn the clothing of evil

[illegible]

إِذَا مَا لَمْ يَفِدْكَ الْعِلْمُ خَيْرًا *** فَخَيْرٌ مِنْهُ أَنْ لَوْ قَدْ جَهَلْتَا

23 – And if you do not benefit from your knowledge any good *** Then it would have been better for you to be ignorant

This image shows a full page of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page, typical of notebook paper. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the page.

وَإِنْ أَلْقَاكَ فَهُمْ كَ فِي مَهَالٍ *** فَلَيْتَكَ شِمَّ لَيْتَكَ مَا فَهِمْنَا

24 – And if your understanding is faulty *** Then only if you initially did not understand!

This image shows a full page of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page, typical of notebook or legal stationery. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the page.

25 – If ignorant, you will reap fruits that are deficient *** And in the eyes of people you will be small,
even when old

This image shows a full page of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page, typical of notebook or legal stationery. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the page.

26 – While alive if you are ignorant, you will be overlooked *** And if knowledgeable, you will remain even if dead

[illegible]

وَتَذْكُرُ قَوْلِي لَكَ بَعْدَ حِينٍ *** إِذَا حَقَّ هِيَائِي يَوْمًا عَمِلْتَا

27 – You will remember my word to you after a time *** If you truly implement it one day

[illegible]

28 – And if you carry it and disregard the advice *** And fall prey to the wreckage [Dunya] to
accumulate it

This image shows a full page of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page, typical of notebook paper. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the page.

إِذَا أَبْصَرْتَ صَحْبَكَ فِي سَمَاءٍ *** قَدْ ارْتَفَعُوا عَلَيْكَ وَقَدْ سَفَلْنَا

30 – When you see your friend/peers [Taalib Al-‘Ilm] in lofty status *** Then certainly they have risen above you and will you remain lowly

[illegible]

31 – Then account yourself and leave off procrastination *** For the one who delays does not reach his goal

[illegible]

32 – And do not let money be your main concern *** For real wealth comes from what you learn [of
Islaam]

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33 – And the ignorant one has nothing to offer to the people *** Even if he possessed the land of Iraq

سَيَنْطِقُ عَنْكَ عِلْمُكَ فِي مَلَاءٍ *** وَيُكْتَبُ عَنْكَ يَوْمًا إِنْ كَتَمْتَا

34 – Your knowledge will soon attest for you in high regards *** And it will be recorded for you, even if
you hide it [knowledge]

This image shows a full page of blank, lined paper. It features approximately 28 evenly spaced horizontal grey lines across its entire width, providing a template for handwriting practice or general note-taking. The margins are consistent on all sides.

35 – What is the point of erecting buildings *** When your ignorance will only demolish it?

36 – You prefer money over knowledge, unknowingly *** Indeed you have not been just in your reasoning

37 – And between them in the divine text is a great difference *** You will know this if you read Taha [Surah Ta-Ha]

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38 – And if the rich one raises his flag of wealth *** Then your flag shall be raised with your knowledge

[illegible]

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40 – And if they ride on branded fine horses *** Then your ride is the fear of Allaah as a methodology

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41 – And no matter how many beautiful maidens he had intercourse with *** For how many maidens have you won over with wisdom?

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42 – And poverty will not harm you at all *** If you have knowledge of your Lord

43 – For how much goodness does he [Allaah] have in store for you *** If you fill your courtyard with his obedience?

This image shows a full page of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page, typical of notebook or legal stationery. There are no margins, text, or other markings present.

[illegible]

45 – But if you guard it with speech and action *** And do business with Allaah with it, then you have won

[illegible]

46 – For this Dunya [world] is nothing *** It grieves you for long periods and makes you happy for a short span

[illegible]

47 – And its likeness if you ponder over it *** Is like the fleeting shadow or a dream that you dreamt

[illegible]

48 – You are imprisoned in it, and you love it (Dunya) *** So how can you love something that you are imprisoned in?

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50 – You become naked when you wear her cloths *** And if you remove her clothing you become clothed

[illegible]

52 – And you were not created to inhabit her *** Rather to transit her, so take your purpose of creation seriously

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53 – And if she became destroyed, then increase her in ruining *** And guard your religion to the best of your ability

[illegible]

54 – And do not be sad over what you lost from her (Dunya) *** If you will be victorious in the next life

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

55 – For none benefits from what she brings that is temporary *** If they are deprived of what is eternal
[Paradise]

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[illegible]

57 – And what makes you pleased while you have been promised *** and you do not know whether you will be saved or destroyed

[illegible]

وَسَلَّ مِنْ رَبِّكَ التَّوْفِيقَ فِيهَا *** وَأَخْلَصَ فِي السُّؤَالِ إِذَا سَأَلْتَا

58 – And ask from your Lord to grant you success *** And be sincere in your asking when you ask

[illegible]

59 – And supplicate when you prostrate to him, confessing your sin *** With what was supplicated to the Lord by Dhun Nun son of Matta [Prophet Yunus]

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61 – And continuously increase his remembrance in the earth *** So he may remember you in the heavens when you remember Him

وَلَا تَقُلِ الصَّبَا فِيهِ امْتِهَالٌ *** وَفَكَرَّكُمْ صَغِيرٌ قَدْ دَفَنْتَا؟

62 – And do not say I am young, I have time *** Ponder, for how many get buried in their youth?

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63 – And say Oh advisor, rather you are the first *** To act upon your own advice if you could but see
your own actions

[illegible]

64 – You call me out and blame me for being negligent *** While you neglect to call yourself out

65 – And in my youth you would scare me with death *** Yet you don't know your condition when you
are old

[illegible]

66 – And in your youth you were on the right path *** So why in your old age would you override it

[illegible]

وَهَا أَنَا لَمْ أُخْضْ بِجَرِّ الْخَطَايَا *** كَمَا قَدْ خُضَّتْهُ حَتَّى غَرِقْنَا

67 – And I did not engage into an ocean of sins *** As you down up until you drown

[illegible]

68 – Nor did I drink from the mother of filth’s cup *** While drank from it until you became drunk

[illegible]

وَلَمْ أَنْشَأْ بِعَصْرِ فِيهِ نَفْعًا *** وَأَنْتَ نَشَأْتَ فِيهِ وَمَا أَنْتَفَعْنَا

69 – Nor was I brought up in a time in which there was much benefit *** While you were brought up in it
and did not benefit

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70 – Nor did I enter upon a valley in which there was oppression *** While you entered it and took part
in its transgression

[illegible]

لَقَدْ صَاحَبْتَ أَعْلَاماً كِبَاراً *** وَلَمْ أَرَكَ اقْتَدَيْتَ بِمَنْ صَحِبْتَ

71 – Verily you befriended the major scholars *** Yet I do not see you following the example of those
you befriended

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72 – And the book calls you, yet you do not respond *** And your grey hairs warns you, yet you do not heed the warning

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وَيَقْبُحُ بِالْفَتْحِ فِعْلُ التَّصَايِي *** وَأَقْبَحُ مِنْهُ شَيْخٌ قَدْ تَفَتَّى

73 – And the young doing what young people do is ugly *** But an elder behaving like a youth is more ugly

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74 – Condemn yourself, and do not condemn anyone else *** For your flaws are superior to the one you condemn

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[illegible]

76 – And if you were to cry tears of blood out of fear *** Due to your sins, I would still not say you are safe [from punishment]

[illegible]

77 – And who will guarantee you safety while you are a slave *** That was commanded, yet you did not follow or obey

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تَقُلْتَ مِنَ الذُّنُوبِ وَلَسْتَ تَخْشَى *** لِحِجْلِكَ أَنْ يُحْفَ إِذَا وَزِنَتْنا

78 – You are heavily burdened with sins and you do not fear *** Due to ignorance that you may be little on the scales [of good and bad]

[illegible]

وَتُشْفِقُ لِلْمُصِيبِ عَلَى الْمَعَاصِي *** وَتَرْحُمُهُ وَنَفْسَكَ مَا رَحِمْنَا

79 – And you pity the persistent sinner *** And have mercy on him, yet you forget to pity yourself

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80 – You slipped backwards and knocked yourself down *** Only if you had reached the appointed goal.
You wouldn't have went backwards

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81 – And if you were to meet your Lord without any sin *** And then be disputed concerning your account, then [in that case] you are destroyed

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وَمَا يَظْلِمُكَ فِي عَمَلٍ وَلَكِنْ *** عَسِيرٌ أَنْ تُقَوْمَ بِمَا حَمَلْنَا

82 – As he would not wrong you in anyway *** However heavy is the trust you carry

[illegible]

وَلَوْ قَدْ جِئْتَ يَوْمَ الْحَشْرِ فَرْدًا*** وَأَبْصَرْتَ الْمَنَازِلَ فِيهِ شَيْئًا

83 – And if you were to approach the Day of Gathering alone *** And visualize the various dwelling [levels]

[illegible]

84 – You would yearn in great regret *** For the amount of time you wasted in life

85 – You run away from the blazing sun and fear its heat *** So have you considered running away from the Hellfire

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

86 – Nor can you endure its least punishment *** As even if you were made of iron, you would melt in it

[illegible]

87 – And do not ignore, for the matter is serious *** For it is not how you perceive or think it to be

88 – Oh Abu Bakr, you have exposed the least of my flaws *** While most of them you have kept hidden

[illegible]

فَقُلْ مَا شِئْتُ فِيَّ مِنَ الْمَحَازِي *** وَضَاعِفَهَا فَإِنَّكَ قَدْ صَدَقْتَا

89 – So say what you wish about me from my shortcomings *** And increase for indeed you have spoken the truth

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90 – And whatever fault you found of me *** It is a praise compared to what I know of myself

91 – So do not be pleased in exposing other's flaws, for it is a great shame *** It causes your beloved ones to detest you

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92 – As goes from a face of nobility *** To one whose status becomes low after being high

93 – Just as obedience [to Allaah] causes your status to reach the skies *** And makes you close [to Allaah], even if you are far

94 – It causes your mention on earth to be beautiful *** And it opens the doors to good wherever you are

[illegible]

[illegible]

وَأَنْتَ الْآنَ لَمْ تُعْرِفْ بَعِيبٍ *** وَلَا دَنْسَتْ ثَوْبَكَ مُدْ نَشَأْتَ

96 – And you are currently not known for any shame *** and you have not stained your clothes since you began

[illegible]

97 – Nor have you proceeded to the places of vice *** Nor have you stepped foot in it or walked near it

This image shows a full page of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page, typical of notebook paper. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the page.

98 – And if you do not distance yourself, you will fall into it *** And who will save you if you fall into it?

[illegible]

[illegible]

100 – Thus you become a prisoner of your sin in bondage *** And how will you escape when you are imprisoned?

[illegible]

101 – So be warned of your nation's sons and be wary of them *** Just as you fear the lions and the tigers

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102 – And beware when you intermingle with the evil-doers and depart from them *** And be like Samiri when he isolated from the people when you are called

103 – And if they get ignorant with you, then say Peace *** Perhaps you will gain peace if you do that

This image shows a full page of blank, lined paper. It features approximately 20 evenly spaced horizontal grey lines across its entire width, providing a template for handwriting practice or general note-taking. The margins are consistent on all sides.

مَنْ لَكَ بِالسَّلَامَةِ فِي زَمَانٍ *** تَنَالُ الْعِصْمَ إِلَّا إِنْ عَصِمْتَ؟

104 – And who are you to receive safety in a time *** Where you are protected only if Allaah protects you?

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

105 – And do not stay in a district that is full of darkness *** And brings death to the heart except if you
are forced to remain

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106 – And travel west, for traveling west has good *** Or if your saliva [instinct] tells you travel east,
then go east

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107 – For having Zuhd [abstinence] in the world is not about being careless *** For with true Zuhd you would become a leader

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[illegible]

109 – And if you part from her [the Dunya] and exit her *** To the dwelling of peace, then you are saved

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110 – And if you honour her and stare at her in amazement *** Then certainly you have humiliated yourself

111 – Indeed I have gathered for you advices, so act upon it *** In your life, it is the best task to carry out

This image shows a full page of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page, typical of notebook or legal stationery. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the page.

وَطَوَّلْتُ الْعِتَابَ وَزِدْتُ فِيهِ *** لِأَنَّكَ فِي الْبَطَالَةِ قَدْ أَطَلَّتَا

112 – For I have lengthened my admonitions and increased in it *** Because you have spent long periods
in immoral acts

[illegible]

113 – And don't let my shortcomings and my forgetfulness distract you *** And take my advices
personally if you seek guidance

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

115 – And may the peace be upon the most complete of the Messengers of my Lord *** And his noble offspring, whenever they are mentioned

[illegible]