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On Coughing

Ahmad b. Salih narrated from Muhammad b. 'Abd al-Salam, who said: I visited Al-Ridha', peace be upon him, with a group of people from Khurasan. We greeted him and he responded. He asked each of us our request and fulfilled it. Then he looked at me and said: "And you, make your request." I said: "O son of the Messenger of Allah, blessings of Allah on him and his family, I complain to you of a severe coughing." He asked: "Is it recent (*hadith*) or chronic (*'atiq*)?" I replied: "Both." He said: "Take one part of white pepper (*al-filfil al-abyad*), two parts of *abarfiyun*, and one part each of white hellebore, Indian nard, cardamom, saffron, and henbane. Sieve with a piece of silk and mix with an equal weight of honey which has had its froth removed. Take one grain (*habba*) with fennel water before sleeping, for chronic and recent coughs. Let the water be tepid and not cold. It will remove it [the cough] completely."

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