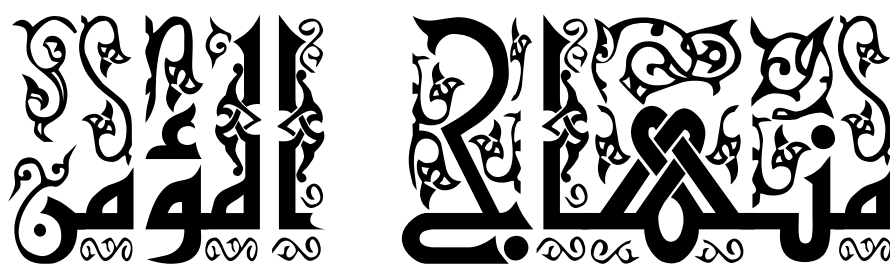


O Allah! Open the Doors of Your Mercy

MINHAJ-UL MU'MIN



The Way of the Believer

A Compilation by the
Iqra Arabic School Faculty

IQRA ACADEMY
OF RESEARCH & PUBLICATION
MANGALORE 575002



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FOREWORD

In the Name of Allah, The Most Beneficent, the Most Merciful

All Praise is due to Allah, the Lord of the '*Alamin*, and May Allah's *Salawat* and *Salam* be upon the leader of the Messengers Muhammad, his family, companions and all those who follow him.

To proceed: The last twenty five years have witnessed a sharp increase in the frontier of education by the Muslim *Ummah* – especially with the newer generation showing much promise. One would be surprised to learn that the literacy rates of Muslims at the time of India's independence was a mere 16 per cent. But all Praise is due to Allah, the figures today have scaled to around 60 per cent. Consequently, more doctors and engineers graduated in these 15 years, than have been in the last 50.

Regrettably however, this generation is also witnessing a significant drop in the pursuit of Islamic educational disciplines; with more than half of Muslim youth remaining ignorant. The status quo calls for scaled-up efforts to acquaint them with Islamic fundamentals, the *Seerah* (Prophetic biography), directives, jurisprudence and related historical information. All Praise is due to Allah that a range of initiatives undertaken presently to achieve this end are meeting success the world over.

Regular and flexible courses such as Sunday schools reflect the tangible concerns to help the *Ummah* remain steadfast on faith. In this sense, Iqra Arabic School, managed by the Moulana Abul Hasan Ali Nadwi Education foundation has played a momentous role: While it offers a wide array of full and part-time classes catering to Muslim students studying in secular schools; many of its books, like those designed for summer classes, have gained popularity and are well

received. The fruitful endeavors of the Iqra fraternity – under the auspices of the distinguished Mr. Syed Beary and the esteemed Moulana Saalim Khalifa Nadwi – deserves appreciation and serves schools elsewhere in exemplary fashion.

A vital link in the sequence of these events is the *Minhaj-ul Mu'min*, which has been put together in an assiduous and careful manner by the Iqra fraternity. This book has been structured keeping in mind, the psychology and requirements of the western-educated reader. The nature of this book should also allow elders to derive benefit of it.

Allah, the Most High, has bestowed the Iqra fraternity with articulate writing and rhetorical skills. Their successful experiences in framing syllabi for texts – comprising of the fundamentals of Islam is worthy of mention. I have personally utilized their services for the compilation of books at the Moulana Abul Hasan Ali Nadwi Islamic Academy, Bhatkal. Their untiring efforts and self-sacrifices in keeping the younger generation steadfast on the right path – under the able leadership of Moulana Saalim Khalifa Nadwi – places them above their contemporary companions and the '*Ulama*.

I am hopeful this work reflecting the passion of their hearts and the courage of their convictions, will Inshallah *indhallah* be accepted, and *indhannaas* well received. I pray to Allah that this work becomes the medium of bringing the younger generation closer to Islam and keeping them steadfast on *Iman* – Ameen.

MOHAMMED ILYAS NADWI

General Secretary

Moulana Abul Hasan Ali Nadwi Islamic Academy

EDITORS' PREFACE

In the Name of Allah, The Most Beneficent, the Most Merciful

All Praise is for Allah alone. He is the Lord of the 'Alamin. Verily, we send the highest *Salawat* and *Salam* upon our beloved Prophet, his blessed family, his companions, and those who follow them with *Iman* till the Day of Reckoning. *Then after:*

Minhaj-ul Mu'min or "The Way of the Believer" is a consequence of the responsibility, which the 'Ulama at Iqra Arabic School entrusted upon our incompetent shoulders i.e. the compilation of a book meant for those who intended to familiarize themselves with the beauty of *Islam*. However all praise is due to our Lord as much as He may wish – that this book has come into being solely relying upon Allah *Ta'ala*, and not the least upon our ignorant knowledge.

Consequentially, the purpose of this book – written in the first person narrative – is meant to serve as a "*bashaara*" or glad tidings to the reader, in his or her efforts of progressing in knowledge. Therefore, it is not to be construed to adequately encompass the issues contained herein; much the less even represent the commandments of the *Shariah* in a few pages.

To this effect, we have quoted from authentic sources of *Islamic* literature – in a way that is hoped to be easily comprehended by the reader. However, no work is free of errors; and so we ask Allah, the Most Merciful, to forgive us for any inadvertent mistakes. Readers are graciously requested to bring to our attention, any errors on part of translation or interpretation despite our best efforts to check them.

We ask Allah *Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala* by His beautiful Names and Attributes, that He accepts this work as being done purely

for His sake; and make it beneficial for all those who read it, and reward all those who have had anything to do with its realization. We would also like to take this opportunity of requesting our dear readers to remember us in their *Du'as* to Allah, the Most Merciful.

And the last of our request is all praise and thanks are to Allah, the Lord of the '*Alamin*.

The Editors at the Iqra Academy
Dhul Hijjah, 1433H

The Messenger of Allah صلى الله عليه وسلم said,

« إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يَقْبَلُ مِنَ الْعَمَلِ إِلَّا مَا

كَانَ لَهُ خَالِصًا وَابْتُغِيَ بِهِ وَجْهُهُ »

“Undoubtedly, Allah does not accept any deed, except that which is done only for His sake.”¹

¹ Recorded by An-Nasai and it is authentic

THE MU'MIN LIVES THE *Shahadah*

Laa Ilaaha Illa Allah

O my Brothers and Sisters in Iman, our lives begin in the Name of Allah, as the Adhan is sounded in our ears; and is hoped to end in His Name with “La Ilaaha Illa Allah” as our last words. And when we have borne witness that Allah is our Rabb, then we direct our lives upon His commandments.

Allah Subhanahu wa Ta'ala Says,

﴿إِنَّ الَّذِينَ قَالُوا رَبُّنَا اللَّهُ ثُمَّ اسْتَقَامُوا فَلَا خَوْفٌ عَلَيْهِمْ وَلَا هُمْ يَحْزَنُونَ﴾

“Verily, those who say: “Our Lord is Allah,” and thereafter stand firm, on them shall be no fear, nor shall they grieve.” [46:13]

Imam At-Tabari narrated that Abu Bakr As-Siddiq (May Allah be pleased with him) said, “They are those who did not associate anything with Allah in worship.” And how “beautiful” are the glad tidings for such a believer, as Allah Says:

﴿إِنَّ الَّذِينَ قَالُوا رَبُّنَا اللَّهُ ثُمَّ اسْتَقَامُوا تَتَنَزَّلُ عَلَيْهِمُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ أَلَّا تَخَافُوا وَلَا تَحْزَنُوا
وَأَبْشِرُوا بِالْجَنَّةِ الَّتِي كُنتُمْ تُوعَدُونَ﴾

“Verily, those who say: ‘Our Lord is Allah,’ and then they stand firm, on them the angels will descend (at the time of their death) (saying): ‘Fear not, nor grieve! But receive the glad tidings of Paradise which you have been promised!’” [41:30]

And in the following verses,

﴿ نَحْنُ أَوْلِيَائُكُمْ فِي الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا وَفِي الْآخِرَةِ ۖ وَلَكُمْ فِيهَا مَا تَشْتَهِي أَنْفُسُكُمْ وَلَكُمْ فِيهَا
مَا تَدَّعُونَ ۖ نُزُلًا مِنْ غَفُورٍ رَحِيمٍ ﴾

“We have been your friends in the life of this world and are (so) in the Hereafter. Therein you shall have (all) that your inner-selves desire, and therein you shall have (all) for which you ask. An entertainment from (Allah), the Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful.” [41:31-32]

Imam Ibn Kathir said in his *Tafsir* (commentary) while commenting on these verses,

“The angels will descend on them at the time of death assuring them that they should not fear as regards what they will face in the Hereafter nor grieve over what they are leaving behind in this world like their children, family, property or debt, for Allah will take care of all that. The angels will also give them glad tiding of the Paradise which they have been promised. They will also tell them: ‘We have been your friends and companions in the life of the world guiding you to the right path with the command of Allah. We will also be your friends in the Hereafter, keeping your company in the graves. We will relieve your fears on the Day of Resurrection, help you pass the bridge and take you to Paradise.’ The angels will also tell them, ‘You shall have all that you desire in *Jannah* and all that you request for shall be provided for you. All this is an entertainment and favour from Allah, for it is He Who forgives your sins and have mercy on you.’”

And how Great is the reward that lies in wait for the believer?

The Messenger of Allah (*Peace be upon him*) said, “Musa (*Upon him be peace*) asked his Rabb: ‘Who amongst the inhabitants of Jannah will be the lowest in rank?’ He said: ‘It will be a person who will be admitted into Jannah last of all when all the dwellers of Jannah have entered Jannah.’ It will be said to him: ‘Enter Jannah.’ But he will say: ‘O my Rabb! How should I enter while the people have settled in their apartments and taken their shares?’ It will be said to him:

« أَتَرْضَى أَنْ يَكُونَ لَكَ مِثْلُ مُلْكٍ مَلِكٍ مِنْ مُلُوكِ الدُّنْيَا ؟ »

‘Will you be satisfied and pleased if you have a kingdom like that of a monarch of the world?’ He will say: ‘I will be content, my Rabb.’

Allah will say:

« لَكَ ذَلِكَ وَمِثْلُهُ وَمِثْلُهُ وَمِثْلُهُ وَمِثْلُهُ »

‘For you is that, and like that, and like that, and like that, and like that.’ He will say at the fifth time: ‘I am well-pleased, my Rabb’.

Allah will say:

« هَذَا لَكَ وَعَشْرَةُ أَمْثَالِهِ ، وَلَكَ مَا اشْتَهَتْ نَفْسُكَ وَلَدَّتْ عَيْنُكَ »

It is for you and ten times more like it. You will have whatever your soul desires and whatever your eyes could delight in. He will say: I am well-pleased, my Rabb.”²

So that my believers, is the rank of the least one in Jannah. And whenever you find Jannah mentioned in this book, you may wish to recall this *hadith* of the least, for that would help you realize Allah’s favors upon you even more.

² Recorded by Muslim

But not equal are those who transgress and disbelieve thereby following shaytan, the outcast. And they shall be recompensed for their evil in Hell, whose fire never dies down at all – one that is eternal.

Allah ‘Azza wa Jall Says,

﴿يُرِيدُونَ أَنْ يُخْرِجُوا مِنَ النَّارِ وَمَا هُمْ بِخَارِجِينَ مِنْهَا وَلَهُمْ عَذَابٌ مُّقِيمٌ﴾

“They will long to get out of the Fire, but never will they get out therefrom, and theirs will be a lasting torment.” [5: 37]

And the Messenger of Allah (Peace be upon him) said:

« نَارُكُمْ جُزْءٌ مِنْ سَبْعِينَ جُزْءًا مِنْ نَارِ جَهَنَّمَ »

قِيلَ: يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ إِنْ كَانَتْ لَكَافِيَةً

“Your fire (in the world) is one part from seventy parts of the fire of Hell.” For which the Sahabah replied, O Messenger of Allah, even this would have been enough!”³

But be cheerful O believers, for Allah’s Mercy is limitless. Those in whose hearts is *Iman*, will certainly be taken out from Hell, as the Prophet (Peace be upon him) has said:

« وَعِزَّتِي وَجَلَالِي وَكِبَرِيَّائِي ۖ وَعَظَمَتِي لِأُخْرِجَنَّ مِنْهَا مَنْ قَالَ : لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ »

“Allah will say (on the Day of Resurrection): ‘By My Honour, and By My Majesty, and By My Greatness, and By My Sublimity; whoever has said Laa Ilaha illa Allah, I will certainly take him out of the (hell) fire.’”⁴

³ Recorded by Al Bukhari

⁴ Recorded by Al-Bukhari

Muhammad Rasulullah

Could we even enlist the favors that our beloved Prophet (*Peace be upon him*) has done unto us? This *Shahadah* has reached us upon our Prophet's (*Peace be upon him*) untiring efforts in the face of fear and adversity.

Munib Al-Azdi (*May Allah be pleased with him*) narrates:⁵ “In the days of my ignorance i.e. before I accepted Islam, I saw the Messenger of Allah, who would say:

« يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ قُولُوا : لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ تَفْلِحُوا »

“O My people, say ‘*Laa Ilaaha Illa Allah*’ and be successful.”

Some of them spat at his face, and someone threw dust at him and some abused him till mid-day. Then a girl brought a bowl of water with which he washed his face and hands, and said, “O my little daughter! Do not fear your father's sudden murder or disgrace.” This girl was Zainab, the daughter of the Prophet (*Peace be upon him*).

Yet, the Prophet (*Peace be upon him*) was always concerned for You – his *Ummah*. ‘Ummul Mu’mineen ‘Aisha (*May Allah be pleased with her*) said that once I saw the Prophet (*Peace be upon him*) quite delighted. I said: O Messenger of Allah, supplicate to Allah for me. He supplicated: “O Allah, forgive ‘Aisha, all her past sins and future sins, and her secret sins and her open sins.”

⁵ Recorded by At-Tabrani and Al-Haithami in *Majma ‘Az-Zawaid*

Hearing this 'Aisha laughed so much that her head touched her lap. (Thereupon) the Messenger of Allah (*Peace be upon him*) said: "Are you very happy with my 'Dua? She replied: Why should I not be happy with your 'Dua for me? He said:

« وَاللَّهِ إِنَّهَا لَدَعَوْتِي لِأُمَّتِي فِي كُلِّ صَلَاةٍ »

"I swear by Allah! This is my Du'a for my Ummah in every Salat."⁶

And on the frightful *Youmal Qiyamah*, or the Day of Resurrection, the sun shall be brought close to the creation until there is a mile between it and them, Mankind will sweat according to what they have done; the sweat reaching to the ankles of some, to the knees of others, to the waist of others, while some will have their mouths covered with sweat.⁷ And on that day, mankind will be in confusion running from one Prophet to another (*Upon them be peace*), requesting them to intercede with Allah to help them. When they will finally reach the Prophet (*Peace be upon him*) who, with Allah's permission will oblige; what are the words that he says?

« يَا رَبِّ أُمَّتِي أُمَّتِي »

"O My Rabb, My Ummah! My Ummah!"⁸

This, O believers, was our Prophet (*Peace be upon him*), who suffered for us, wept before Allah in his *Du'a* for us, and who will, Inshallah intercede for us on *Youmal Qiyamah*.

⁶ Recorded by Al-Bazzar who said its men are sahih except for one who is classed trustworthy. Also see Al-Haithami in Majma 'Az-Zawaid

⁷ Recorded by Muslim

⁸ Recorded by Al Bukhari

‘Aisha narrates⁹ that a man came to the Prophet (*Peace be upon him*), and said: “O Messenger of Allah! You are more beloved to me than myself, and more beloved to me than my wife and my wealth, and more beloved to me than my children. Indeed when I am in my house and I think of you, I lose my patience until I reach and see you. When I remember that you and I are going to die, I know that as you enter *Jannah*, you will be elevated along with the Prophets; and if I enter *Jannah*, I fear that I may not see you.”

The Prophet (*Peace be upon him*) did not reply to him until Jibril descended with the revelation of this *Aayah*:

﴿وَمَنْ يُطِعِ اللَّهَ وَالرَّسُولَ فَأُولَٰئِكَ مَعَ الَّذِينَ أَنْعَمَ اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِمْ مِنَ النَّبِيِّينَ وَالصِّدِّيقِينَ وَالشُّهَدَاءِ وَالصَّالِحِينَ ۚ وَحَسُنَ أُولَٰئِكَ رَفِيقًا﴾

“And whoso obeys Allah and the Messenger (Muhammad), then they will be in the company of those on whom Allah has bestowed His Grace, of the Prophets, the Siddiqun, the Martyrs, and the Righteous. And how excellent these companions are!” [4: 69]”

And never forget the glad tidings which the Prophet (*Peace be upon him*) has given You, dear brother or Sister in *Iman*:

« إِنَّهُ لَا يَدْخُلُ الْجَنَّةَ إِلَّا الْمُؤْمِنُونَ »

“Indeed, none shall enter *Jannah* except the *Mu'mininun* (the believers).”¹⁰

⁹ Recorded by At-Tabrani in *Sagheer* and *al-Awsat* and its men are *sahih* except for one who is classed trustworthy. Also see Al-Haithami in *Majma 'Az-Zawaid*

¹⁰ Recorded by Muslim

THE MU'MIN REMEMBERS ALLAH

The Remembrance of Allah

﴿ فَادْكُرُونِي أَذْكُرْكُمْ ﴾

“Therefore remember Me. I will remember you.” [2:152]

1. REMEMBER ALLAH

The Messenger of Allah (*Peace be upon him*) said:

« يَقُولُ اللَّهُ تَعَالَى: أَنَا عِنْدَ ظَنِّ عَبْدِي بِي، وَأَنَا مَعَهُ إِذَا ذَكَرَنِي، فَإِنْ ذَكَرَنِي فِي نَفْسِهِ ذَكَرْتُهُ فِي نَفْسِي، وَإِنْ ذَكَرَنِي فِي مَلَأٍ ذَكَرْتُهُ فِي مَلَأٍ خَيْرٍ مِنْهُمْ، وَإِنْ تَقَرَّبَ إِلَيَّ بِشِبْرٍ، تَقَرَّبْتُ إِلَيْهِ ذِرَاعًا، وَإِنْ تَقَرَّبَ إِلَيَّ ذِرَاعًا، تَقَرَّبْتُ إِلَيْهِ بَاعًا، وَإِنْ أَتَانِي يَمْشِي، أَتَيْتُهُ هَرْوَلَةً »

Allah the Most High says: ‘I am just as My slave thinks I am. I am with him when he remembers Me. If he remembers Me in himself, I remember him in Myself; and if he remembers me in a gathering, I remember him in a better gathering (of the angels). If he comes closer to Me by a span¹¹, I go closer to him an arm’s length; if he comes towards Me an arm’s length, I go towards him two-arm’s length; and if he comes to me walking, I run unto him.’¹²

Dear brother or sister in *Iman*, see with what great love and mercy Allah turns towards us when we remember him. And isn’t it only befitting that “*The Love of the beloved must be unconditionally returned*”, as Imam Ibn Qayyim Al-Jawziyyah pens in the opening lines of his poem “Love of Allah.”

¹¹ The distance from the tip of the thumb to the tip of the little finger

¹² Recorded by Al-Bukhari, Muslim, At-Tirmidhi and Ibn Maajah

2. THOSE ALIVE BEFORE ALLAH

Only those people who remember Allah, are considered alive before him as the Prophet (*Peace be upon him*) said:

« مَثَلُ الَّذِي يَذْكُرُ رَبَّهُ وَالَّذِي لَا يَذْكُرُهُ مَثَلُ الْحَيِّ وَالْمَيِّتِ »

“The similitude of the one who remembers his Rabb and the one who does not remember Him, is like that of the living and the dead.”¹³

3. ENTER THE HIGHEST JANNAH EASILY

Messenger of Allah (*Peace be upon him*) said:

« لَيَذْكُرَنَّ اللَّهُ قَوْمٌ عَلَى الْفُرْشِ الْمُمَهَّدَةِ يُدْخِلُهُمُ الْجَنَّاتِ الْعُلَى »

“There are many a people who remember Allah on their soft beds; and for this, they will enter the highest (of) Jannah.”¹⁴

Let none of us, let go of this easy routine to please Allah before we sleep – thereby achieving the highest Jannah.

4. THE CAUSE OF YOUR SATISFACTION IN JANNAH

That the *dhikr* of Allah is the greatest, will be realized by the dwellers of Jannah, as the Prophet (*Peace be upon him*) said:

« لَيْسَ يَتَحَسَّرُ أَهْلُ الْجَنَّةِ عَلَى شَيْءٍ إِلَّا عَلَى سَاعَةٍ مَرَّتْ بِهِمْ لَمْ يَذْكُرُوا اللَّهَ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ »

فِيهَا »

“The dwellers of Jannah will not regret over anything except the time spent by them (in their worldly lives), without the remembrance of Allah, the Possessor of Might and Glory.”¹⁵

¹³ Recorded by Al-Bukhari and Muslim

¹⁴ Recorded by At-Tabrani and it is classed sahih. Also by Al-Haithami and Al-Hakim

¹⁵ Recorded by At-Tabrani, Al-Hakim and Al-Bayhaqi and it is classed hasan.

The Qur'an is the Mu'min's Companion

﴿وَلَقَدْ يَسَّرْنَا الْقُرْآنَ لِلذِّكْرِ فَهَلْ مِنْ مُدَكِّرٍ﴾

“And We have indeed made the Qur'an easy to understand and remember, then is there any one who will remember (or receive admonition?)” [54:17]

1. THE BEST

If Allah Subhanahu wa Ta'ala were to rank his slaves, then the people of Qur'aan are the best, for the Messenger of Allah (Peace be upon him) said:

« خَيْرُكُمْ مَنْ تَعَلَّمَ الْقُرْآنَ وَعَلَّمَهُ »

“The best amongst you is the one who learns the Qur'an and teaches it.”¹⁶

2. EVERY LETTER COUNTS

When even a single good deed could make a difference on Youmal Qiyamah, why let go of the rewards that comes from every letter of the Qur'an as the Prophet (Peace be upon him) said:

« مَنْ قَرَأَ حَرْفًا مِنْ كِتَابِ اللَّهِ فَلَهُ حَسَنَةٌ ، وَالْحَسَنَةُ بِعَشْرِ أَمْثَالِهَا ، لَا أَقُولُ : أَلَمْ حَرْفٌ وَلَكِنْ : أَلِفٌ حَرْفٌ ، وَلَامٌ حَرْفٌ ، وَمِيمٌ حَرْفٌ »

“Whoever recites a letter from the Book of Allah, he will be credited with a good deed, and a good deed gets a ten-fold reward. I do not say that Alif-Lam-Mim is one letter, but Alif is a letter, Lam is a letter and Mim is a letter”¹⁷

¹⁶ Recorded by Al- Bukhari

¹⁷ Recorded by Al-Hakim and At-Tirmidhi who classed it hasan sahih

3. THE SPECIAL PEOPLE OF ALLAH

The Messenger of Allah (*Peace be upon him*) said,

« أَهْلُ الْقُرْآنِ هُمْ أَهْلُ اللَّهِ وَ خَاصَّتُهُ »

*“The people of the Qur’an, they are the people of Allah and His Special ones.”*¹⁸

May Allah be praised! Could there be anything greater than Allah Himself regarding someone **special**, and what would be his reward?

4. IN THE COMPANY OF NOBLE ANGELS

When the people of this world take pride in their connections, the one proficient in the Qur’an will be with the Noble Angels. And the one who cannot read fluently, yet persists, will be better than them as the Messenger of Allah (*Peace be upon him*) said:

« الَّذِي يَقْرَأُ الْقُرْآنَ وَهُوَ مَاهِرٌ بِهِ مَعَ السَّفَرَةِ الْكِرَامِ الْبَرَّةِ ، وَالَّذِي يَقْرَأُ الْقُرْآنَ وَيَتَتَعْتَعُ فِيهِ وَهُوَ عَلَيْهِ شَاقٌّ لَهُ أَجْرَانِ »

*“The one who is proficient in the recitation of the Qur’an will be with the honorable and obedient scribes¹⁹(angels) and he who recites the Qur’an and finds it difficult to recite, doing his best to recite it in the best way possible, will have a double reward”*²⁰

The mercy of Allah knows no bounds. This *hadith* serves as a reminder that even those who are not good enough hope to earn more with their efforts.

¹⁸ Recorded by An-Nasai, Ahmad, Ibn Maajah and Al-Hakim

¹⁹ Imam Bukhari has taken it to mean “one who makes reconciliation.” i.e. the angels who bring Wahy and chastisement from Allah.

²⁰ Recorded by Al-Bukhari and Muslim

5. CLIMB THE LEVELS OF JANNAH

The more one remembers the correct recitation of the *Qur'an*, the higher will be his position in *Jannah*. The Messenger of Allah (*Peace be upon him*) said:

« يُقَالُ لِصَاحِبِ الْقُرْآنِ : اقْرَأْ وَارْتَقِ وَرَتِّلْ كَمَا كُنْتَ تُرَتِّلُ فِي الدُّنْيَا ، فَإِنَّ مَنْزِلَتَكَ عِنْدَ آخِرِ آيَةٍ تَقْرُؤُهَا »

*“The one who was devoted to the Qur'an will be told on the Day of Resurrection: ‘Recite and ascend (in ranks) as you used to recite when you were in the world. Your rank will be at the last Ayah you recite.’”*²¹

Perhaps, the status of the lowest man in *Jannah* (see page 12) would help in realizing this *hadith* better. And doesn't it take just a few minutes to retain one *Aayah* from the *Qur'an*?

6. THE QUR'AN IS AN INTERCEDER

Abu Daud records that the Prophet (*Peace be upon him*) said:

« مِنْ الْقُرْآنِ سُورَةٌ ثَلَاثُونَ آيَةً شَفَعَتْ لِرَجُلٍ حَتَّى غُفِرَ لَهُ ، وَهِيَ ﴿ تَبَارَكَ الَّذِي بِيَدِهِ الْمُلْكُ ﴾ »

“There is a Surah in the Qur'an which contains thirty Ayat which kept interceding for a man until his sins are forgiven. This Surah is ‘Blessed is He in Whose Hand is the dominion.’ (Surah Mulk 67).”

Surah *Al-Mulk*'s virtues, especially in defending from the punishment of the grave finds mention in many *Ahaadith*²². And the Prophet (*Peace be upon him*) would not sleep until he

²¹ Recorded by Abu Dawud, At-Tirmidhi, An-Nasai, Ibn Maajah and Sahih Ibn Hibban

²² Recorded by At-Tirmidhi and Mustadrak of Al-Hakim

had recited *Surah Alif Laam Meem Sajdah* (32) and *Surah Al-Mulk* (67)²³.

7. COMPLETE THE QUR'AN MANY TIMES OVER

Let's resolve to complete at least a third of the *Qur'an* easily everyday, for Allah's Messenger (*Peace be upon him*) has said:

« قُلْ هُوَ اللَّهُ أَحَدٌ اللَّهُ الصَّمَدُ » : ثُلُثُ الْقُرْآنِ »

“(Surah) *Qul Huwallahu Ahad* is equivalent to one-third of the *Qur'an*.”²⁴

8. BUILD AS MANY PALACES FOR YOURSELF

Muadh bin Anas Al-Juhani (*May Allah be pleased*) narrates that the Messenger of Allah (*Peace be upon him*) said:

« مَنْ قَرَأَ ﴿ قُلْ هُوَ اللَّهُ أَحَدٌ ﴾ حَتَّى يَخْتِمَهَا عَشْرَ مَرَّاتٍ بَنَى اللَّهُ لَهُ قَصْرًا فِي الْجَنَّةِ »

“Whoever recites *Qul Huwallahu Ahad* (Surah *Ikhlaas*) till he finishes it ten times, Allah will build for him a Palace in *Jannah*.”²⁵

Various descriptions have been given by the Prophet (*Peace be upon him*) about the palaces of *Jannah*. While the *Ghurafaa*²⁶ have been described to be transparent; the pavilions made from a single hollowed-out pearl are sixty miles high,²⁷ according to some reports, they are sixty miles wide. Allah's mercy is truly boundless! Could anyone turn away from such great bounties whose completion only takes a few minutes?

²³ Recorded by At-Tirmidhi

²⁴ Recorded by Al-Bukhari

²⁵ Recorded by Ahmad, and it is classed sahih. Ad-Darimi reports a similar hadith in his *Musnad* on the authority of Imam Sa'eed bin Al-Musayyib.

²⁶ See “The Virtues of Nafl Salat”

²⁷ Recorded by Al-Bukhari on the authority of Abdullah ibn Qays

Why is my Dad proud that his Son is a Hafiz?

Read Master Nashwan Hameed's (Hifz 5th grade) 1st Place Winning speech delivered at Iqra Arabic School's Annual Elocution Competition 1433H

A lot of people often ask my parents, what class is your son in...what class... is your son in?

But I want to tell all the people gathered here, that it is of course a great blessing and favor that Allah ‘Azza wa Jall has bestowed on my parents and me, that my father tells them that “My Son is being a *Hafiz* first, and then he tells that I am in my fifth standard at Iqra School.”

So why is my father feeling proud that I am being a *Hafiz*? After all I could choose to be a part of the so-called secular schools, and like I’ve heard some of the folks outside say, I could become c-o-o-l around my hip friends circle, yeah my “hip” friends circle?

Yeah, so why am I proud like my Dad to say that I am being *Hafiz*? I’ll tell you why.

Very soon the Day of Judgment is to occur, my people. And once the time of our passing has arrived, and then there is no second chance. I, You, and everyone, will then witness what Allah ‘Azza wa Jall says in the *Qur’an*:

﴿يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ اتَّقُوا رَبَّكُمُ ۖ إِنَّ زَلْزَلَةَ السَّاعَةِ شَيْءٌ عَظِيمٌ﴾

“O Mankind! Fear your Lord and be dutiful to Him! Verily the Earthquake of the Hour that is of Judgment is a terrible thing.”
[22:1]

﴿يَوْمَ تَرُؤُنَهَا تَذْهَلُ كُلُّ مُرْضِعَةٍ عَمَّا أَرْضَعَتْ وَتَضَعُ كُلُّ ذَاتِ حَمْلٍ حَمْلَهَا
وَتَرَى النَّاسَ سُكَارَىٰ وَمَا هُمْ بِسُكَارَىٰ وَلَٰكِنَّ عَذَابَ اللَّهِ شَدِيدٌ﴾

“The Day you shall see it, every nursing mother will forget her nursing, and every pregnant one will drop her load, and you shall see mankind as in drunken state, yet they will not be drunken but severe will be the torment of Allah.” [22:2]

I may be too young to fully understand the gravity behind this verse, but at least what I know is nothing is dearer to a mother...“NOTHING!”... than the baby that she is carrying for months... So just imagine how severe the time would be for-her-to-drop-her-load? Subhanallah!

And then we will be held accountable for everything and we can't escape it!

We can't escape it by saying that I was busy calculating the profit margin of my business...or by asking Allah to send us back – NO!

At that time Insha Allah, *My parents will be made to wear a crown, whose light will be better than the light of the sun...*and it's not just that but Rasulullah (Peace be upon him) said, *“If the Sun were to*

rise in your houses." This *hadith* has been narrated by Abu Dawud, Ahmad and Hakim. Rasulullah (*Peace be upon him*) then said, "*What do you think about the person who himself acts upon it?*" Subhanallah!

And that's not all, a *Hafiz* will be able to intercede for Ten²⁸ such members of his family and save them from the fire of hell...not one, two, three or five but ten. Subhanallah!

May be there are many here, who would want to be *Hafiz* listening to this...but are despaired owing to their time or age...But my Allah is *Arhamur-Raahimeen* dear people. He is Most Loving, so don't be sad my people. Even though you can't go ahead, but if you make any one a *Hafiz* from your time or money, then Inshallah, you too would get all the rewards that a *Hafiz* gets.²⁹ He could be any one, your son or daughter...or any student doing *hifz* whom you sponsor.

Every child in this world tries to get into a career by which he tries to make his parents proud and do justice to their investment. This is my way of doing them proud. That's why my Dad feels proud to say that he is the father of a son who is being a *Hafiz*!

And I pray to Allah that he gives me, You, and every one of us the *tawfiq* to do more good deeds that are pleasing to Him and accept them – *Aameen*.

²⁸ Recorded by Ibn Maajah, Ahmad, At-Tirmidhi and Ad-Darimi

²⁹ This is based on several authentic ahadith of Allah's Messenger (*Peace be upon him*)

The Adhkaar

﴿وَالذَّاكِرِينَ اللَّهَ كَثِيرًا وَالذَّاكِرَاتِ أَعَدَّ اللَّهُ لَهُم مَّغْفِرَةً وَأَجْرًا عَظِيمًا﴾

“And the men and the women who remember Allah much with their hearts and tongues. Allah has prepared for them forgiveness and a great reward.” [33:35]

1. THE MOST EXCELLENT *DHIKR*

The Messenger of Allah (*Peace be upon him*) said,

« أَفْضَلُ الذِّكْرِ: لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ »

“The most excellent dhikr is: *La ilaha ill Allah*.”³⁰

The ‘Ulama mention that Allah primarily sent His prophets for this *kalimah*. And since it forms the basis of His *Deen* – that undoubtedly makes it, the best *dhikr*.

It is also narrated that when Musa (*Upon him be peace*) asked Allah to grant him words of remembrance that were meant exclusively for him – it was said: “*Recite La ilaha ill Allah*.”³¹

2. THE DEAREST WORDS TO ALLAH

The Messenger of Allah (*Peace be upon him*) said,

« أَحَبُّ الْكَلَامِ إِلَى اللَّهِ أَرْبَعٌ : سُبْحَانَ اللَّهِ ، وَالْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ ، وَلَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ ، وَاللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ »

“The dearest words to Allah are four: *Subhan-Allah, Al-hamdu lillah, La ilaha ill Allah and Allahu Akbar*.”³²

³⁰ Recorded by Ibn Maajah, An-Nasai and At-Tirmidhi who said it is *hasan*

³¹ Hadith recorded by An-Nasai and Ibn Hibban

In another narration, it is stated that these are “*the best words to Allah.*”³³

3. THEY MEAN MORE THAN THE WORLD

The Messenger of Allah (*Peace be upon him*) said,

« لَأَنْ أَقُولَ : سُبْحَانَ اللَّهِ ، وَالْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ ، وَلَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ ، وَاللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ »

أَحَبُّ إِلَيَّ مِمَّا طَلَعَتْ عَلَيْهِ الشَّمْسُ »

“That I say: “Subhan-Allah (Allah is free from imperfection), Al-hamdu lillah (all praise is due to Allah), La ilaha ill Allah (there is None to be worshipped except Allah) and Allahu Akbar (Allah is the Greatest)’, is dearer to me than anything over which the sun rises.”³⁴

That these words are dearer to the Prophet (*Peace be upon him*) than what the sun has risen upon i.e. the entire world, goes to show how invaluable they are with him.

4. THE *DHIKR* OF HOURS IN SECONDS!

Juwairiyah bint Al-Harith reported³⁵, the Mother of the Believers: The Prophet (*Peace be upon him*) came out of my apartment in the morning as I was busy in performing the dawn prayer. He came back in the forenoon and found me sitting there. The Prophet(*Peace be upon him*) said, “Are you still in the same position as I left you?” I replied in the affirmative.

Thereupon the Prophet(*Peace be upon him*) said:

³² Recorded by Muslim

³³ Recorded by Muslim

³⁴ Recorded by Muslim

³⁵ Recorded by Muslim

“I recited four words three times after I had left you. If these are to be weighed against all you have recited since morning, these will be heavier. These are:

« سُبْحَانَ اللَّهِ وَبِحَمْدِهِ عَدَدَ خَلْقِهِ ، وَرِضَا نَفْسِهِ ، وَزِنَةَ عَرْشِهِ ، وَمِدَادَ كَلِمَاتِهِ »

Subhan-Allahi wa bihamdihee, ‘adada khalqihee, wa rida nafihee, wa zinatah ‘arshihee, wa midaada kalimatihi”³⁶

The *dhikr* of these words are highly rewarding. See how the recitation of a few moments equals hours of uninterrupted *dhikr*. This is Allah’s great favor through which, we too can make up for *dhikr* that we have always wished to complete. Let none of us let go of a few seconds to complete them.

6. PLANT TREES IN JANNAH

When “the space that a whip takes to occupy in Jannah is better than the world and all that is in it,”³⁷ how would it be, if beautiful orchards were waiting for you in Jannah, whose trees you can plant right here, as the Prophet (Peace be upon him) said:

« قُلْ سُبْحَانَ اللَّهِ ، وَالْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ ، وَلَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ ، وَاللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ ،

يُغْرَسُ لَكَ بِكُلِّ وَاحِدَةٍ شَجَرَةٌ فِي الْجَنَّةِ »

“Say, Subhan-Allah, Al-hamdu lillah, La ilaha ill Allah and Allahu Akbar –for each one of these words a tree will be planted for you in Jannah.”³⁸

³⁶ Allah is free from imperfection and I begin with His praise, as many times as the number of His creatures, in accordance with His Good Pleasure, equal to the weight of His Throne and equal to the ink that may be used in recording the words (for His Praise)."

³⁷ Recorded by Al-Bukhari

³⁸ Recorded by Ibn Maajah and it is authentic. At-Tirmidhi also records something close.

7. INCREASE YOUR TREASURES OF JANNAH

The Messenger of Allah (*Peace be upon him*) said to Abu Musa, “Shall I not guide you to a treasure from the treasures of Jannah?” I said: “Yes, O Messenger of Allah!” Thereupon he (*Peace be upon him*) said (recite):

« لَا حَوْلَ وَلَا قُوَّةَ إِلَّا بِاللَّهِ »

“La hawla wa la quwwata illa billah (*There is no Power or Might except by Allah*)”³⁹

8. GET UNCOUNTABLE REWARDS!

Ubadah bin Samit (*May Allah be pleased with him*) narrates that the Prophet (*Peace be upon him*) said:

«مَنْ اسْتَغْفَرَ لِلْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ كُتِبَ لَهُ بِكُلِّ مُؤْمِنٍ وَ مُؤْمِنَةٍ حَسَنَةٌ»

“The one who asks forgiveness for Mu'min men and Mu'min women, Allah writes for him a virtue for every Mu'min man and Mu'min woman.”⁴⁰

Allahu Akbar! How easy is it to be credited with so many good deeds instantly. The following prayer of Prophet Ibrahim as occurs in the *Qur'an* is considered ideal for getting all the rewards as promised by this *hadith*:

﴿ رَبَّنَا اغْفِرْ لِي وَلِوَالِدَيَّ وَلِلْمُؤْمِنِينَ يَوْمَ يَقُومُ الْحِسَابُ ﴾

“Our Lord! Forgive me and my parents, and (all) the believers on the Day when the reckoning will be established.” [14:41]

³⁹ Recorded by Al-Bukhari and Muslim

⁴⁰ Recorded by At-Tabrani, and it is authentic; also see Al-Haithami in Majma 'uz Zawaid

The Adhkaar of Morning & Evening

1. BE THE BEST ON THE DAY OF RESURRECTION

Let no-one surpass you on the Day of Resurrection by following the words of Allah's Messenger (*Peace be upon him*) who said: *"The one who recites in the morning and in the evening:*

« سُبْحَانَ اللَّهِ وَبِحَمْدِهِ »

Subhan-Allahi wa bihamdihi (Allah is free from imperfection and I begin with praising Him) One hundred times, will not be excelled on the Day of Resurrection by anyone with better deeds than the one who utters the same words or utters more of these words."⁴¹

2. ALLAH WILL PLEASE YOU WITH THIS

The Messenger of Allah has said: *"The one who says in the morning and evening, it will be his right upon Allah to please him."*⁴²

« رَضِيتُ بِاللَّهِ رَبًّا ، وَبِالْإِسْلَامِ دِينًا ، وَبِمُحَمَّدٍ نَبِيًّا »

*"Radeethu billahi rabbann, wa bil Islaami deenaw wa bi Muhammadin Nabiyyaa."*⁴³

In another narration, these words are to be repeated three times.⁴⁴ And remember the *hadith* of Musa (*Upon him be peace*) – from page twelve – on how Allah pleases the dweller of *Jannah* who is of the least Rank?

⁴¹ Recorded by Muslim

⁴² Recorded by At-Tirmidhi, An Nasai, Ibn Sunni and Ahmad

⁴³ We are pleased with Allah as Rabb, and with Islam as a religion and with Muhammad, (May peace and blessings of Allah be upon Him) as a Messenger

⁴⁴ Recorded in Musnad Ahmad

3. THANK ALLAH COMPLETELY FOR THE DAY

A few words recited in the morning and evening would be counted for having thanked Allah for the entire day, as the Prophet has said⁴⁵: “*The one who says (this) in the morning, then indeed he will have expressed a complete shukr or thanks for all the bounties of the day; and the one who says the same in the evening will have expressed a complete thanks for all the bounties of the night:*

« اللَّهُمَّ مَا أَصْبَحَ بِي مِنْ نِعْمَةٍ أَوْ بِأَحَدٍ مِنْ خَلْقِكَ فَمِنْكَ وَحْدَكَ ،
لَا شَرِيكَ لَكَ ، فَلكَ الْحَمْدُ وَلَكَشُّكْرُ »

*Allahumma maa Asbaha bi min ni'mathan faminka wahdhaka, laa shareeka laka, falakal hamdu wa lakash-shukr.*⁴⁶ For evening, change “*asbaha* أَصْبَحَ to *amsa* أَمْسَى ”

4. GET THE PROPHET'S (*Peace be upon him*) INTERCESSION

Don't miss the chance of receiving the Prophet's (*Peace be upon him*) intercession, who said: “*Who recites blessings upon me (i.e. says)*

« اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى نَبِيِّنَا مُحَمَّدٍ »

*Allahumma Salli wa Sallim 'alaa Nabiyyinaa Muhammad*⁴⁷

Ten times in the morning and evening will obtain my intercession on the Day of Resurrection.”⁴⁸

⁴⁵ Recorded by Abu Dawud and An-Nasai

⁴⁶ O Allah, whatever blessing that I, or any of Your creatures has risen upon this morning (night); has indeed come from You alone. You have no partner, and to you are all praises and all thanks.

⁴⁷ O Allah, we ask You for peace and blessings upon Prophet Muhammad – See ‘Hisnul Muslim’ of Imam Sa'id bin Wahf Al-Qahtani, Darussalam Publications

⁴⁸ Recorded by At-Tabrani and its chain is reliable. See Majma uz-Zawaid

The Mu'min makes Du'a

﴿ وَقَالَ رَبُّكُمْ ادْعُونِي أَسْتَجِبْ لَكُمْ ﴾

“And your Rabb said: ‘Invoke Me,
I will respond to your (invocation).” [40:60]

1. DU'A IS THE BEST WORSHIP

Whenever you make *du'a* to your Lord, then you are worshipping him in the best way, for the Messenger of Allah (*Peace be upon him*) has said:

« أَفْضَلُ الْعِبَادَةِ الدُّعَاءُ »

“The best worship is *du'a* (supplication).”⁴⁹

2. YOUR EVERY DU'A IS ACCEPTED

The Messenger of Allah (*Peace be upon him*) said,

« إِنَّ رَبَّكُمْ حَيٌّ كَرِيمٌ ، يَسْتَحْيِي مَنْ عَبْدُهُ إِذَا رَفَعَ يَدَيْهِ أَنْ يَرُدَّهُمَا صِفْرًا »

“Indeed is your Lord Most Generous, when a slave of His raises his hands with needs before Him, he feels *haya* [shyness, modesty] to turn him down empty-handed.”⁵⁰

So know my brother or sister in faith, that your Lord will definitely, yes definitely grant all that you ask of him, and if you do not make *Du'a* to Him, then...

⁴⁹ Recorded Al-Hakim, Ibn 'Adee in al-Kaamil and Ibn Sa'd – it is authentic

⁵⁰ Recorded by the Four, except An-Nasai, and Al-Hakim classed it sahih

3. HE WILL BE DISPLEASED

The Messenger of Allah (*Peace be upon him*) said,

« مَنْ لَمْ يَسْأَلِ اللَّهَ يَغْضَبْ عَلَيْهِ »

*“Allah is angry with the one who does not invoke him.”*⁵¹

Look how generous your *Rabb* is, who is displeased when you don't invoke him. Our asking from those around us even a few times, could result in their displeasure, but Allah – the Lord of the ‘*Alamin* is telling you ‘Ask of Me, I will certainly grant you, but don't do otherwise.’

4. THE *DU'A* READ MOST OFTEN

Anas (*May Allah be pleased with him*) reported⁵²: The *du'a* most often recited by the Prophet (*Peace be upon him*) was:

« اللَّهُمَّ آتِنَا فِي الدُّنْيَا حَسَنَةً ، وَفِي الْآخِرَةِ حَسَنَةً ، وَقِنَا عَذَابَ النَّارِ »

*“Allahumma aatina fid-dunya hasanatan, wa fil-aakhirati hasanatan, wa qina ‘adhab-annar”*⁵³

When a companion asked Umm Salamah (*May Allah be pleased with her*), “O Mother of the Believers! Which supplication did the Messenger of Allah (*Peace be upon him*) make frequently when he was in your house?” She said:

« يَا مُقَلِّبَ الْقُلُوبِ ثَبِّتْ قَلْبِي عَلَى دِينِكَ »

“He supplicated frequently: ‘*Yaa Muqallibal-quloobi, thabbit qalbi ‘ala deenik.*’”⁵⁴ – This has been recorded by *At-Tirmidhi*.

⁵¹ Recorded by *At-Tirmidhi* and it is classed *hasan*

⁵² Recorded by *Al-Bukhari* and *Muslim*

⁵³ O Allah! grant us in this world that which is good and in the Hereafter that which is good, and save us from the punishment of the Fire

5. ALLAH WILL ANSWER WITH THIS DU'A:

Narrated Buraida (*May Allah be pleased with him*): The Prophet (*Peace be upon him*) heard a man saying:

« اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي أَسْأَلُكَ بِأَنِّي أَشْهَدُ أَنَّكَ أَنْتَ اللَّهُ ، لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا أَنْتَ ، الْأَحَدُ الصَّمَدُ ،
الَّذِي لَمْ يَلِدْ وَلَمْ يُولَدْ ، وَلَمْ يَكُنْ لَهُ كُفُوًا أَحَدٌ »

*Allahumma innnee as-aluka biannee ash hadhu annaka anthallah.
Laa ilaaha illaa anth. Al Ahadus Samad, Alladhee lam yalidh wa
lam yoo ladh, wa lam ya kullahoo kufuwan Ahad.*⁵⁵

Allah's Messenger (*Peace be upon him*) then said: "He has asked Allah by His Name by which when asked He gives, and by which when supplicated, He answers."⁵⁶

6. LET THE ANGELS MAKE DU'A FOR YOU

The Messenger of Allah (*Peace be upon him*) said,

« مَا مِنْ عَبْدٍ مُسْلِمٍ يَدْعُو لِأَخِيهِ بِظَهْرِ الْغَيْبِ إِلَّا قَالَ الْمَلَكُ : وَلَكَ بِمِثْلِ »

"Whenever a Muslim supplicates for his (Muslim) brother in his absence, the angels say: 'May the same be for you to'."⁵⁷

How easy it is for us to attain these words from the angels whose supplications are sure to be answered.

⁵⁴ O Controller of the hearts make my heart steadfast in Your religion

⁵⁵ O Allah, I ask You by virtue that I testify that You are Allah, there is None Worthy of worship except You, The One – The Self-Sufficient Master, Who did not beget and was not begotten and to Whom no one is equal.

⁵⁶ Recorded by the Four Imams of Hadith. Ibn Hibban classed it sahih

⁵⁷ Recorded by Muslim. Another Hadith in Muslim says: "The supplication of a Muslim for his (Muslim) brother in his absence will certainly be answered. Every time he makes a supplication for good for his brother, the angel appointed for this particular task says: 'Ameen! May it be for you, too.'"

So whatever *du'a* that you make for your brother or sister – be it for his or her forgiveness or to admit him or her to *Jannah* – know that it is accepted for both of you.

7. EVERY *DU'A* IS ACCEPTED UNTIL...

The Messenger of Allah (*Peace be upon him*) said,

« يُسْتَجَابُ لِأَحَدِكُمْ مَا لَمْ يَعْجَلْ : يَقُولُ : قَدْ دَعَوْتُ رَبِّي ، فَلَمْ يَسْتَجِبْ لِي »

“The supplication of every one of you will be granted if he does not get impatient and say: ‘I supplicated my Rabb but my prayer has not been granted.’”

We learn from this *hadith* that every *du'a* is accepted until it is met with frustration. The Prophet (*Peace be upon him*) has also mentioned that the *du'a* of every believer is answered either immediately, or an incoming harm is lifted away, or it is stored for the believer in the hereafter, which will be discussed further on.

The Messenger of Allah (*Peace be upon him*) said, *“When any one of you has performed Salat and wants to supplicate, let him praise Allah first then glorify Him in the beginning and then he should supplicate Allah for me (i.e. send Salawat). Then he may supplicate for whatever he likes.”*⁵⁸

To this effect, Imam Qasim bin ‘Abd said: “I said to Anas bin Malik, “O Abu Hamzah pray for us.” He said, “*Du'a* is elevated by good deeds.” And apt is the reminder of Imam Abu Hanifah: “Have the same relations with Allah inwardly, as you profess outwardly.”

⁵⁸ Recorded by At-Tirmidhi and Abu Dawud

The Mu'min sends Salawat upon his Prophet

1. SEND SALAWAT ON THE PROPHET

A Muslim sends *Salawat* (honor, grace, peace blessings etc) on his Prophet, for he, *(Peace be upon him)* said,

« مَنْ صَلَّى عَلَيَّ صَلَاةً ، صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ بِهَا عَشْرًا »

*“Whoever asks Allah to send peace and blessings upon me; then Allah will send peace and blessings upon him ten times.”*⁵⁹

And it states in another narration, *“Allah will raise him by ten ranks, and write for him ten virtues and erase ten sins from him.”*⁶⁰

Please see *hadith 4* in *“The Adhkaar of Morning and Evening”* for the manner in sending *Salawat*. And do not forget the words of the Prophet *(Peace be upon him)* who said: *“Supplicate Allah for me, for your supplication reaches me wherever you are.”*⁶¹

2. STAY CLOSE TO THE PROPHET *(Peace be upon him)* ON THE DAY OF RESURRECTION

Don't you wish to be close to the Prophet *(Peace be upon him)* on *Youmal Qiyamah*? If yes, then he, *(Peace be upon him)* said:

« أَوْلَى النَّاسِ بِي يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ أَكْثَرُهُمْ عَلَيَّ صَلَاةً »

*“The people who will be nearest to me on the Day of Resurrection will be those who send Salawat more often for me.”*⁶²

⁵⁹ Recorded by Muslim

⁶⁰ Recorded by An Nasai

⁶¹ Recorded by Abu Dawud

⁶² Recorded by At-Tirmidhi who said it is *hasan* and Ibn Hibban who classed it *sahih*

THE MU'MIN IS KNOWLEDGEABLE

The Mu'min always seeks Knowledge

﴿ قُلْ هَلْ يَسْتَوِي الَّذِينَ يَعْلَمُونَ وَالَّذِينَ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ ﴾

“Say: ‘Are those who know, equal to those who know not?’” [39:9]

1. IT IS OBLIGATORY

Muslims should know that seeking knowledge is not optional, but something that’s obligatory for them; as Allah’s Messenger (*Peace be upon him*) has said:

« طَلَبُ الْعِلْمِ فَرِيضَةٌ عَلَى كُلِّ مُسْلِمٍ »

“The search for knowledge is obligatory upon every Muslim.”⁶³

That knowledge is not to be confined, the Prophet has said, “Convey from me, even if it is an Aayah.”⁶⁴

2. ALLAH WANTS GOOD FOR YOU

Allah’s Messenger (*Peace be upon him*) said:

« مَنْ يُرِدِ اللَّهُ بِهِ خَيْرًا يُفَقِّهْهُ فِي الدِّينِ »

“When Allah wishes good for someone, He bestows upon him the understanding of Deen.”⁶⁵

That you have been learning *Deen* comes as excellent news for you – as Allah likes you and wants good for you. Your reading this, proves just that.

⁶³ Recorded by Ibn Maajah, and it is classed *hasan*

⁶⁴ Recorded by Al-Bukhari

⁶⁵ Recorded by Al-Bukhari and Muslim

3. YOU CAN BE THE BEST

Knowledge will not only illuminate you, but it will also make you the best, as the Prophet (*Peace be upon him*) said:

« خَيْرُكُمْ أَحَاسِنُكُمْ أَخْلَاقاً إِذَا فَقَّهُوا »

“The best amongst you are those who have the best character provided they have an understanding of Deen.”⁶⁶

4. MAKE JANNAH EASY FOR YOU

The Prophet (*Peace be upon him*) said:

« مَنْ سَلَكَ طَرِيقاً يَبْتَغِي فِيهِ عِلْماً سَهَّلَ اللَّهُ لَهُ طَرِيقاً إِلَى الْجَنَّةِ، وَإِنَّ الْمَلَائِكَةَ لَتَضَعُ أجنحتَهَا لِطَالِبِ الْعِلْمِ رِضاً بِمَا يَصْنَعُ »

“He who follows a path to acquire knowledge, Allah will make the path of Jannah easy to him. The angels lower their wings over the seeker of knowledge, being pleased with what he does.”⁶⁷

5. LET OTHERS DO GOOD-DEEDS FOR YOU

The one guiding others will get the same rewards as the doer, be it for prayer, fasting, charity, *Umrah*, *Hajj* or any other good deed; for Allah’s Messenger (*Peace be upon him*) has said:

« مَنْ دَعَا إِلَى هُدًى كَانَ لَهُ مِنَ الْأَجْرِ مِثْلُ أُجُورِ مَنْ تَبِعَهُ لَا يَنْقُصُ ذَلِكَ مِنْ أُجُورِهِمْ شَيْئاً »

“The one who calls or guides others to follow the Right Guidance will have a reward equal to the reward of those who follow him, without their reward being reduced in any respect on that account.”⁶⁸

⁶⁶ Recorded by Ibn Hibban and it is classed sahih. Al-Bukhari has something close

⁶⁷ Recorded by At-Tirmidhi who said it is hasan. A part of it was recorded by Muslim

6. GET THE REWARD OF HAJJ EVERY TIME

Allah's Messenger (*Peace be upon him*) said:

« مَنْ غَدَا إِلَى الْمَسْجِدِ لَا يُرِيدُ إِلَّا أَنْ يَتَعَلَّمَ خَيْرًا ، أَوْ يُعَلِّمَهُ ، كَانَ لَهُ
كَأَجْرِ حَاجٍّ تَامًّا حَجَّتَهُ »

*“Whoever goes to the Masjid, not desiring anything other than learning or teaching something good, his reward is like that of a Haaji who performs a complete Hajj.”*⁶⁹

So the next time you leave to listen to the Friday *khutbah* or simply to learn or teach at the mosque, know that you are getting the reward of a complete *Hajj*! Subhanallah!

7. REWARD FOR ALL THAT'S RECITED

Allah's Messenger (*Peace be upon him*) said:

« مَنْ عَلَّمَ آيَةً مِنْ كِتَابِ اللَّهِ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ كَانَ لَهُ ثَوَابُهَا مَا ثَلَيْتَ »

*“Whoever teaches a verse from the book of Allah-the Mighty and Sublime, will have the reward for having done so for all that is recited thereby.”*⁷⁰

ALTHOUGH THE VIRTUES OF KNOWLEDGE are uncountable, one must not forget Mu'adh bin Jabal's (*May Allah be pleased with him*) words as narrated in *Hilyat ul-Awliya*: “Learn whatever knowledge you wish to acquire, and Allah will not reward you, unless you act upon what you have learned”

⁶⁸ Recorded by Muslim

⁶⁹ Recorded by At-Tabrani and its men are trustworthy. Also see Al-Haithami in *Majma 'uz Zawa'id*

⁷⁰ An authentic hadith collected in *As Silsila As-Saheeha*. See “Magnificence of the Qur'an” by Mahmood Ad-Dausaree, Darussalam Publications

The Rank of an 'Aalim

1. ALLAH INCLUDED THEM IN THE SHAHADAH

Scholars have been given a tremendous status by Allah *Subhanahu wa Ta'ala*. Our Lord has honored them immensely by making them witnesses to the greatest of truths – by mentioning their testimony alongside His Own, and that of His angels! Scholars are thus, its proofs and its signs, indicating His *Tawhid*. And that indeed, is the greatest honor ever bestowed upon them. Allah says:

﴿شَهِدَ اللَّهُ أَنَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ وَالْمَلَائِكَةُ وَأُولُو الْعِلْمِ﴾

“Allah bears witness that La ilaha illa Huwa (none has the right to be worshipped but He), and the angels, and those having knowledge (also give this witness).” [3: 18]

2. ALLAH HAS RAISED THEIR STATUS IN BOTH THE WORLDS

Is this not a magnificent honor and reward for those learned in *Deen*, both in this world and the next; as Allah *Subhanahu wa Ta'ala* says:

﴿يَرْفَعُ اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا مِنْكُمْ وَالَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْعِلْمَ دَرَجَاتٍ ۚ﴾

“Allah will exalt in degree those of you who believe, and those who have been granted knowledge” [58: 11]

3. THEY HAVE BEEN LIKENED TO PROPHETS

Scholars have also been likened to Prophets; and how glorious is this position both in honor and reward! May Allah be praised. Allah's Messenger (*Peace be upon him*) has said:

« فَضْلُ الْعَالِمِ عَلَى الْعَابِدِ كَفَضْلِي عَلَى أَذْنَاكُمْ »

*"The superiority of the Scholar over the worshipper is like My superiority over the most inferior amongst you."*⁷¹

4. THEY ARE THE HEIRS OF THE PROPHETS

The Messenger of Allah (*Peace be upon him*) has said:

« وَإِنَّ الْعُلَمَاءَ وَرَثَةُ الْأَنْبِيَاءِ »

*"The Scholars are the heirs of the Prophets"*⁷²

Alhamdulillah! Look my dear brother or sister, now that you know that none receives a greater reward than the scholars, then why not become one? All it takes is an intention, and Allah *will* most definitely take you forward. That's how people from all ages and background are becoming the 'Ulama of Deen alongside their study and work.

You could begin with a teacher by learning a line of knowledge, or memorizing an *Aayah* from the *Qur'an*, if by that, you intend *hifz*. And remember the words of the Prophet (*Peace be upon him*):

« يُبْعَثُ كُلُّ عَبْدٍ عَلَى مِمَاتٍ عَلَيْهِ »

*"One will be raised alive after death in the same state in which he died."*⁷³

⁷¹ Recorded by At-Tirmidhi who said its hasan. Also by Ad-Darimi and Al-Bazzar

⁷² Recorded by Abu Dawud and At-Tirmidhi. At-Tabrani also reports something similar

⁷³ Recorded by Muslim

THE MU'MIN'S SALAT

Salat – The Pillar of Deen

﴿إِنِّي أَنَا اللَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا أَنَا فَاعْبُدْنِي وَأَقِمِ الصَّلَاةَ لِذِكْرِي﴾

“Verily! I am Allah! None has the right to be worshipped but I, so worship Me, and perform As-Salat for My Remembrance.” [20:14]

1. THE PROPHET’S (Peace be upon him) LAST WORDS

Ali (May Allah be pleased with him) narrates that the last words of the Messenger of Allah (Peace be upon him) were:

« الصَّلَاةُ الصَّلَاةُ ، اتَّقُ اللَّهَ فِيمَا مَلَكَتْ أَيْمَانُكُمْ »

“As-Salat, As-Salat; (and) I warn you about those whom your right hand possesses (i.e. your subordinates).” ⁷⁴

That the Prophet (Peace be upon him) reminded us of Salat in his last moments, signifies its sublime status in Deen. He, (Peace be upon him) also said: “The comfort and delight of my eyes is in Salat.”⁷⁵

2. THE MOST SUPERIOR DEED

No other deed can surpass As-Salat as the Messenger of Allah (Peace be upon him) said:

« أَفْضَلُ الْأَعْمَالِ الصَّلَاةُ لَوَقْتِهَا »

“The most superior deed is As-Salat, at the beginning of its time.”⁷⁶

⁷⁴ Recorded by Abu Dawud. Muslim also recorded the same with the inclusion of “Fear Allah with regards to your women, for they are a trust given to you and Allah made them Halal for you through Nikah.”

⁷⁵ Recorded by Ahmad and An-Nasai-it is classed hasan

⁷⁶ Recorded by Al-Bukhari, Muslim and Abu Dawud

3. EASY ENTRANCE FOR WOMEN IN JANNAH

See O Sister in *Iman*, how easily you can enter *Jannah* with your *Salat*, for the Prophet (*Peace be upon him*) has said:

« الْمَرْأَةُ إِذَا صَلَّتْ حَمْسَهَا ، وَصَامَتْ شَهْرَهَا ، وَأَخَصَّنَتْ فَرْجَهَا ، وَأَطَاعَتْ بَعْلَهَا
فَلْتَدْخُلْ مِنْ أَيِّ أَبْوَابِ الْجَنَّةِ شَاءَتْ »

*“If a woman prays regularly five times a day, fasts the month (of Ramadan), guards her chastity and obeys her husband, it will be said to her: ‘Enter Jannah from whichever gate you wish.’”*⁷⁷

4. THEIR UNMATCHED REWARDS

Umm Humayd Al-Saa’idiyyah (*May Allah be pleased with her*) said that she came to the Prophet (*Peace be upon him*) and said: “O Messenger of Allah, I love to pray with you.” He (*Peace be upon him*) said:

« قَدْ عَلِمْتُ أَنَّكَ تُحِبُّ الصَّلَاةَ مَعِيَ ، وَصَلَاتُكَ فِي بَيْتِكَ خَيْرٌ لَكَ مِنْ صَلَاتِكَ
فِي دَارِكَ ، وَصَلَاتُكَ فِي دَارِكَ خَيْرٌ لَكَ مِنْ صَلَاتِكَ فِي مَسْجِدِ قَوْمِكَ ، وَصَلَاتُكَ
فِي مَسْجِدِ قَوْمِكَ خَيْرٌ لَكَ مِنْ صَلَاتِكَ فِي مَسْجِدِي »

*“I know that you love to pray with me, but your praying in your room is better for you than your praying in your house, and your praying in your house is better for you than your praying in the mosque of your people, and your praying in the mosque of your people is better for you than your praying in my mosque.”*⁷⁸

And Ahmad narrates that he, (*Peace be upon him*) said: “Prayer in this Masjid of mine is superior to a thousand prayers elsewhere.”

⁷⁷ Recorded by Ahmad, At-Tabrani and Ibn Hibban. It is classed sahih

⁷⁸ Recorded by Ahmad and Ibn Khuzaima with a sahih chain of narration

The Virtues of Wudu

1. SINS DEPART IN WUDU

“Wudu is half the *Iman*”⁷⁹, and doing it causes sins to depart with ease; for Allah’s Messenger (*Peace be upon him*) has said:

« من تَوَضَّأَ فَأَحْسَنَ الْوُضُوءَ ، خَرَجَتْ خَطَايَاهُ مِنْ جَسَدِهِ حَتَّى تَخْرُجَ مِنْ تَحْتِ أَظْفَارِهِ »

“He who performs the wudu perfectly, his sins will depart from his body, even from under his nails.”⁸⁰

2. THE GATES OF JANNAH OPEN FOR YOU

The Messenger of Allah (*Peace be upon him*) said⁸¹:

« مَا مِنْكُمْ مِنْ أَحَدٍ يَتَوَضَّأُ فَيُبْلَغُ أَوْ فَيُسْبِغُ الْوُضُوءَ ، ثُمَّ يَقُولُ : أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ ؛ إِلَّا فُتِحَتْ لَهُ أَبْوَابُ الْجَنَّةِ الثَّمَانِيَّةُ يَدْخُلُ مِنْ أَيِّهَا شَاءَ »

“Whoever of you performs wudu carefully and then says: ‘Ash hadu an la ilaha illallahu Wahdahu la shareeka Lahu, wa ash hadu anna Muhammadan ‘abduhu wa Rasooluhu,’⁸² the eight gates of Jannah are opened for him. He may enter through whichever of these gates he likes.”

The distance between the two gate-panels of one of the gates of Jannah is the distance of forty-year’s walking⁸³. So who amongst us wouldn’t love for these gates to open easily?

⁷⁹ Recorded by Muslim

⁸⁰ Recorded by Muslim

⁸¹ Recorded by Muslim

⁸² I testify that there is None worthy of worship except Allah Alone, Who has no partners and that Muhammad is His slave and Messenger

⁸³ Recorded by Ahmad. Also see Muslim

The Great Virtues of Jama'th

1. DU'AS ARE GRANTED AFTER ADHAN

Allah's Messenger (*Peace be upon him*) has said,

« قُلْ كَمَا يَقُولُونَ فَإِذَا انْتَهَيْتَ فَسَلْ تُعْطَهُ »

“Say as they say (i.e. the Muaddhins) and when you finish ask (from Allah) and you will be granted.”⁸⁴

An Abu Dawud hadith also states that “The supplication made between the Adhan and the Iqamah is never rejected.” So let's not let go of these chances to ask from Allah, of what we desire.

2. AL-WASEELAH

Let the Messenger of Allah (*Peace be upon him*) intercede for You, as he said:

« مَنْ قَالَ حِينَ يَسْمَعُ النَّدَاءَ : اللَّهُمَّ رَبِّ هَذِهِ الدَّعْوَةُ التَّامَّةُ ، وَالصَّلَاةُ الْقَائِمَةُ ،
آتِ مُحَمَّدًا الْوَسِيلَةَ ، وَالْفَضِيلَةَ ، وَابْعَثْهُ مَقَامًا مَحْمُودًا الَّذِي وَعَدْتُهُ ، حَلَّتْ لَهُ
شَفَاعَتِي يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ »

“He who says upon hearing the Adhan: ‘Allahumma Rabba haadhihid da’wati ttaammati, wassalaatil qaa’imati, aati Muhammadanil wasilata wal fadhilata, wab’athu maqaaman Mahmooda nilladhee wa ‘adtahu’⁸⁵, it becomes binding upon me to intercede for him on the Day of Resurrection.”

⁸⁴ Recorded by Abu Dawud

⁸⁵ O Allah, Rabb of this perfect call (Da’wah) and of the established prayer (As-Salat), grant Muhammad the Wasilah and superiority, and raise him up to a praiseworthy position which You have promised him

3. THE VIRTUES OF JAMA'TH

The Messenger of Allah (*Peace be upon him*) said,

« صَلَاةُ الرَّجُلِ فِي جَمَاعَةٍ تُضَعَّفُ عَلَى صَلَاتِهِ فِي بَيْتِهِ وَفِي سُوقِهِ خَمْسًا وَعِشْرِينَ ضِعْفًا ، وَذَلِكَ أَنَّهُ إِذَا تَوَضَّأَ فَأَحْسَنَ الْوُضُوءَ ، ثُمَّ خَرَجَ إِلَى الْمَسْجِدِ ، لَا يُخْرِجُهُ إِلَّا الصَّلَاةُ ، لَمْ يَخْطُ خَطْوَةً إِلَّا رُفِعَتْ لَهُ بِهَا دَرَجَةٌ ، وَحُطَّتْ عَنْهُ بِهَا خَطِيئَةٌ ، فَإِذَا صَلَّى لَمْ تَزَلِ الْمَلَائِكَةُ تُصَلِّي عَلَيْهِ مَا دَامَ فِي مُصَلَّاهُ ، مَا لَمْ يُحْدِثْ تَقُولُ : اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَيْهِ ، اللَّهُمَّ ارْحَمْهُ ، وَلَا يَزَالُ فِي صَلَاةٍ مَا انتَظَرَ الصَّلَاةَ »

“A man’s Salat in a Jama’th is twenty-five times⁸⁶ more rewarding than his Salat at home or in his shop, and that is because when he performs his Wudu properly and proceeds towards the mosque with the purpose of performing Salat in congregation, he does not take a step without being raised a degree (in rank) for it, and having a sin remitted for it, till he enters the mosque. When he is performing Salat, the angels continue to invoke Blessings of Allah on him as long as he is in his place of worship in a state of Wudu. They say: ‘O Allah! Have mercy on him! O Allah! Forgive him.’ He is deemed to be engaged in Salat as long as he waits for it.”⁸⁷

May Allah be praised! How many are the benefits of a *Jama’th*: “Better than twenty five prayers; a rank in *Jannah* raised with a sin wiped out for each step (and we’ve read how the rank of the least one there is); and if you’re waiting for it in the Masjid—then you are actually in *Salat*, with the *du’a* of angels.”

⁸⁶ *Al-Bukhari & Muslim narrate another hadith stating that it is “twenty-seven times more rewarding”*

⁸⁷ *Recorded by Al-Bukhari and Muslim*

4. THE REWARD OF HAJJ!

How easy is it to get the reward of *Hajj* five times everyday, as the Messenger of Allah (*Peace be upon him*) said,

« مَنْ خَرَجَ مِنْ بَيْتِهِ مُتَطَهِّرًا إِلَى صَلَاةٍ مَكْتُوبَةٍ فَاجْرُهُ كَأَجْرِ الْحَاجِّ الْمُحْرِمِ »

*“The one who leaves his house with wudu to offer fard Salat, his reward is like that of a person performing Hajj in Ihram.”*⁸⁸

5. THE NUMBERLESS REWARDS OF JUMU'AH

Aws ibn Aws Thaqaff (*May Allah be pleased with him*) narrated that the Messenger of Allah (*Peace be upon him*) said:

« مَنْ غَسَلَ يَوْمَ الْجُمُعَةِ وَاعْتَسَلَ ثُمَّ بَكَرَ وَابْتَكَرَ وَمَشَى ، وَلَمْ يَزْكَبْ ، وَدَنَا مِنْ

الْإِمَامِ فَاسْتَمَعَ وَلَمْ يَلْغُ كَانَ لَهُ بِكُلِّ خُطْوَةٍ عَمَلُ سَنَةٍ أَجْرُ صِيَامِهَا وَقِيَامِهَا »

*“He who takes a bath properly on Friday, hastens to the Masjid very early and goes on foot and does not go riding, sits close to the Imam and listens (to the sermon) attentively, does not speak at all – then for each step (that he has taken) he will get the reward of one year’s fasting and one year of offering Salat at night.”*⁸⁹

May Allah be praised! Each of us could make up for all undone virtues, and hope to earn more by way of these words. Moreover, there exist many other virtues of the *Jumu'ah* prayer, which include a person’s (as one above) sins being forgiven from the present and the last *Jumu'ah*.⁹⁰

⁸⁸ Recorded by Abu Dawud

⁸⁹ Recorded by Abu Dawud, Ibn Maajah and Ahmad

⁹⁰ Recorded by Al-Bukhari

The Mu'min's Khushu in Salat

﴿وَقُومُوا لِلَّهِ قَانِتِينَ﴾

“And stand before Allah with obedience.” [2: 238]

That immense significance has been given to “*Khushu*” in prayer is evident in the words of Umar bin al-Khattab (*May Allah be pleased with him*), who said while standing on the *minbar*: “A man might have white hair in *Islam* [i.e. grown old as a Muslim], yet he has not completed even a single prayer for Allah, the Exalted!” He was asked, “Why is that?” He replied: “He does not perfect the prayer’s required *Khushu*, solemnness, and attending to Allah with his heart.”⁹¹

So O believers, how can any other good deed of the slave stand to be accepted, when his *Salat* will be the first thing that he will be called to account for, on the Day of Resurrection?⁹²

1. WHAT IS KHUSHU?

“*Khushu*” means that the heart stands before the Lord in humility and submission.”⁹³ This humility in-turn, is reflected on his or her body.

2. WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

It was reported that Ibn Abbas (*May Allah be pleased with him*) said: “You will only have from your prayer, that which you focused on.”⁹⁴ And the Prophet (*Peace be upon him*) said:

⁹¹ See *Al-Ihya* 10/202

⁹² See *Abu Dawud and At-Tabrani*

⁹³ See *al-Madaarij*, 1/520

« إِنَّ الرَّجُلَ لَيَنْصَرِفُ وَمَا كُتِبَ لَهُ إِلَّا عَشْرُ صَلَاتِهِ تُسْعُهَا ثَمْنُهَا سُبْعُهَا سُدُسُهَا
خُمْسُهَا رُبْعُهَا ثُلُثُهَا نِصْفُهَا »

“Indeed a person completes his Salat, and only one-tenth, from the maximum reward is written for him. Likewise for some, one-ninth, one-eighth, one-seventh, one-sixth, one-fifth, one-fourth, one-third or half of it is written.”⁹⁵

3. HOW DOES ONE INCREASE HIS KHUSHU?

The Messenger of Allah (Peace be upon him) said:

« صَلَّى صَلَاةَ مُودِّعٍ كَأَنَّكَ تَرَاهُ ، فَإِنْ كُنْتَ لَا تَرَاهُ ، فَإِنَّهُ يَرَاكَ »

“Offer Salat like the one who is bidding farewell to the world; and as though you see Allah, and if you do not see Him, truly He sees you.”⁹⁶

We have been commanded to pray “as though it is our last Salat”, and this is correct because no-one knows if he could live to pray another Salat; and “as though we are seeing Allah or that He is seeing us.” You should know that you are standing before Rabb-ul ‘Alamin, and remember the words of Allah’s Messenger (Peace be upon him):

« إِنَّ الرَّجُلَ إِذَا قَامَ يُصَلِّيَ أَقْبَلَ اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ بِوَجْهِهِ حَتَّى يَنْقَلِبَ أَوْ يُجِدِثَ حَدَثَ سُوءٍ »

“Verily, when a man stands for Salat, Allah turns His attention toward him until he completes his Salat or commits an act against the dedication of Salat.”⁹⁷

⁹⁴ See Madaarij al-Saalikeen, 1/112

⁹⁵ Recorded by Abu Dawud and Ahmad

⁹⁶ Recorded by Abu Muhammad Al-Ibrahim and it is classed hasan. See Jami As-Sagheer

⁹⁷ Recorded by Ibn Maajah. Abu Dawud and An-Nasai also recorded something close

The Virtues of Nafl Salat

1. BUILD A PALACE FOR YOURSELF IN JANNAH

For Allah's Messenger (*Peace be upon him*) has said:

« مَا مِنْ عَبْدٍ مُسْلِمٍ يُصَلِّيَ لِلَّهِ تَعَالَى كُلَّ يَوْمٍ ثِنْتَيْ
عَشْرَةَ رَكْعَةً تَطَوُّعًا غَيْرَ الْفَرِيضَةِ ، إِلَّا بَنَى اللَّهُ لَهُ بَيْتًا فِي الْجَنَّةِ »

“A house will be built in Jannah for every Muslim who offers twelve Rak'ah of optional Salat other than the fard Salat in a day and a night.”⁹⁸

2. DON'T YOU WISH FOR THE “GHURAFAA”?

The Messenger of Allah (*Peace be upon him*) said:

« إِنَّ فِي الْجَنَّةِ غُرَفًا يُرَى ظَاهِرُهَا مِنْ بَاطِنِهَا وَبَاطِنُهَا مِنْ ظَاهِرِهَا
أَعَدَّهَا اللَّهُ لِمَنْ أَطْعَمَ الطَّعَامَ وَأَفْشَى السَّلَامَ وَصَلَّى بِاللَّيْلِ وَالنَّاسُ نِيَامُ »

“In Jannah there are dwellings whose inside can be seen from the outside, and the outside can be seen from inside. Allah has prepared them for those who feed the hungry, spread the greetings of Salaam, and pray at night whilst the people are asleep.”⁹⁹

Imam Ibn Kathir said: “These will be lofty palaces, lofty Rooms, one above another, story upon story, well-constructed, strong and decorated.” Moreover, there exist many virtues of *Tahajjud* for “it was the tradition of the Saliheen and a means of gaining closeness to Allah.”¹⁰⁰ Any Salat offered after *Isha* will be counted as *Tahajjud*.¹⁰¹

⁹⁸ Recorded by Muslim

⁹⁹ Recorded by Ibn Hibban and it is authentic. Also by At-Tirmidhi with a slight difference

¹⁰⁰ Recorded by Al-Hakim who said it is sahih

¹⁰¹ Recorded by At-Tabrani and Al-Haithami in *Majma az-Zawaid*

THE MU'MIN IS CHARITABLE

The Mu'min's Zakah¹⁰² & Sadaqah

﴿وَأَقِمُوا الصَّلَاةَ وَآتُوا الزَّكَاةَ وَمَا تُقَدِّمُوا لِأَنفُسِكُمْ مِنْ خَيْرٍ تَجِدُوهُ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ﴾

“And perform As-Salat and give Zakat, and whatever of good (deeds) you send forth for yourselves before you, you shall find it with Allah.” [2:110]

1. HALF A DATE CAN SAVE YOU FROM HELL

Allah’s Messenger (*Peace be upon him*) has said,

« اتَّقُوا النَّارَ وَلَوْ بِشِقِّ تَمْرَةٍ »

“Protect yourself from Hell-fire even by giving half a date as charity.”¹⁰³

We learn from this *hadith* that Hell-fire could be averted by a half a date, though it’s almost close to nothing monetarily. Another *hadith* says that anything given the value of a date which has been legally earned is accepted and saved by Allah until it becomes like a mountain.¹⁰⁴

2. ALLAH WILL SPEND ON YOU

Allah’s Messenger (*Peace be upon him*) has said,

« قَالَ اللَّهُ تَعَالَى : أَنْفِقْ أَنْفِقْ عَلَيْكَ »

“Allah, the Exalted, says, ‘Spend (in charity), and I will spend on you.’”¹⁰⁵

When Allah ‘Azza wa Jall Himself says that He will spend on us, then we cannot even imagine what those delights would be. After all, He is *Malik-ul Amlaak*.

¹⁰² Zakat is obligatory as distinguished from Sadaqah. Please see a reliable Aalim for the same.

¹⁰³ Recorded by Al-Bukhari and Muslim

¹⁰⁴ Recorded by Al-Bukhari and Muslim

¹⁰⁵ Recorded by Al-Bukhari and Muslim

3. THE MOST EXCELLENT SADAQAH

The one who has little, yet gives something for the sake of Allah – is the most excellent *Sadaqah*, as the Messenger of Allah (*Peace be upon him*) has said:

« أَفْضَلُ الصَّدَقَةِ جُهْدُ الْمُقِلِّ »

“The most excellent Sadaqah is that given in a state of difficulty by one who has little (monetarily).”¹⁰⁶

4. SPONSORING THE ORPHAN GIVES YOU THE BEST

A small amount could allow you the company of Allah’s Messenger (*Peace be upon him*) in *Jannah*, as he said:

« أَنَا وَكَافِلُ الْيَتِيمِ فِي الْجَنَّةِ هَاكِذَا »

“I, and the one who brings up an orphan, will be like this in Jannah.” And he pointed his forefinger and middle finger with a slight gap in between them.¹⁰⁷

5. THE MASSIVE REWARD FOR BUILDING A MASJID

Allah’s Messenger (*Peace be upon him*) has said,

« مَنْ بَنَى مَسْجِدًا مَفْحَصَ قَطَاةٍ بَنَى اللَّهُ لَهُ بَيْتًا فِي الْجَنَّةِ »

“Whoever builds a masjid for Allah, even if it is as small as the nestling-place scratched out by the sandgrouse for its eggs, Allah will build a house for him in Jannah.”¹⁰⁸

The sandgrouse, which is a small pigeon-like bird, takes up very little space to nestle. So remember, your few rupees would be more than enough to build a beautiful Palace for you in *Jannah*.

¹⁰⁶ Recorded by Abu Dawud and Al-Hakim

¹⁰⁷ Recorded by Al-Bukhari

¹⁰⁸ Recorded by Ahmad and it is sahih from Ibn ‘Abbas. See Jami’ As-Saghir.

THE MU'MIN'S PILGRIMAGE

The Mu'min's Hajj & Umrah

﴿وَأَذِّنْ فِي النَّاسِ بِالْحَجِّ يَأْتُوكَ رِجَالًا وَعَلَى كُلِّ ضَامِرٍ يَأْتِينَ مِنْ كُلِّ فَجٍّ عَمِيقٍ﴾

“And proclaim to mankind the Hajj (pilgrimage). They will come to you on foot and on every lean camel, they will come from every deep and distant (wide) mountain highway (to perform Hajj).”

[22: 27]

Ibn ‘Abbaas (May Allah be pleased with him) said, “When Allah commanded Prophet Ibrahim (Upon him be peace) to proclaim Hajj among people, he said:

‘My Lord, how can I convey the message to the people as my voice cannot reach them?’ Allah said, ‘You call, it is Our duty to make it reach (everyone)!’ So, he stood in his position and said, ‘O you people! Your Lord has chosen a House, so perform pilgrimage to it.’

It was said that the mountains became leveled and his voice reached all parts of the earth and all that are in the wombs and loins of men were made to hear the call and everything that heard it, responded. So those for whom Allah has decreed to perform Hajj till the Day of Judgment responded with the saying,

‘Labbayk Allahumma Labbayk

Here I am at your service, O Allah, here I am.’”¹⁰⁹

¹⁰⁹ Related by Ibn Jarir

1. THE HAJJI RETURNS AS A NEWBORN BABY

Indeed fortunate are those, who return sinless as the Messenger of Allah (*Peace be upon him*) said:

« مَنْ حَجَّ ، فَلَمْ يَرْفُثْ ، وَلَمْ يَفْسُقْ ، رَجَعَ كَيَوْمٍ وَلَدَتْهُ أُمُّهُ »

*“Whoever performs Hajj and does not have sexual relations (with his wife), nor commits sin, nor disputes unjustly (during Hajj), then he returns from Hajj as pure and free from sins as on the day on which his mother gave birth to him.”*¹¹⁰

2. THE VIRTUES OF UMRAH & HAJJ

Allah’s Messenger (*Peace be upon him*) has said:

« الْعُمْرَةُ إِلَى الْعُمْرَةِ كَفَّارَةٌ لِمَا بَيْنَهُمَا ، وَالْحَجُّ الْمَبْرُورُ لَيْسَ لَهُ جَزَاءٌ إِلَّا الْجَنَّةُ »

*“(The performance of) ‘Umrah is an expiation for the sins committed between it and the previous ‘Umrah; and the reward of Hajj Mabruur¹¹¹ is nothing but Jannah.”*¹¹²

3. DO HAJJ WITH THE PROPHET (*Peace be upon him*)

How would it be if you were told that you could perform Hajj with the Prophet (*Peace be upon him*). The good news is that it’s still possible for he (*Peace be upon him*), has said:¹¹³

« عُمْرَةٌ فِي رَمَضَانَ تَعْدِلُ حَجَّةً مَعِيَ »

*“To perform ‘Umrah during Ramadan is equal to the performance of Hajj with Me.”*¹¹⁴

¹¹⁰ Recorded by Al-Bukhari and Muslim

¹¹¹ Mabruur: An accepted Hajj. Ahmad records that the Prophet (*Peace be upon him*) has said a Mabruur Hajj is, “in which food is served with generosity and Salam is spread.”

¹¹² Recorded by Al-Bukhari and Muslim

¹¹³ Recorded by Al-Bukhari, Abu Dawud and Ibn Hibban in his sahih

¹¹⁴ This however, will not absolve one from performing the obligatory Hajj

THE MU'MIN'S FASTING

The Mu'min's Ramadan

﴿ يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا كُتِبَ عَلَيْكُمُ الصِّيَامُ كَمَا كُتِبَ عَلَى الَّذِينَ مِنْ قَبْلِكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَتَّقُونَ ﴾

“O you who believe! Observing fasting is prescribed for you as it was prescribed for those before you, that you may become Al-Muttaqun (Righteous).” [2: 183]

1. FASTING IN THE MONTH OF RAMADAN

Ibadah in the blessed month of *Ramadan* will cause the forgiveness of sins as the Prophet (Peace be upon him) said:

« مَنْ صَامَ رَمَضَانَ إِيمَانًا وَاحْتِسَابًا غُفِرَ لَهُ مَا تَقَدَّمَ مِنْ ذَنْبِهِ »

“Whoever fasts the month of Ramadan with faith and seeking reward will be forgiven his previous sins.”¹¹⁵

2. THE GREATNESS OF RAMADAN

The reward for deeds are multiplied phenomenally in the month of Ramadan as the Prophet (Peace be upon him) said:

« مَنْ تَقَرَّبَ فِيهِ بِخُصْلَةٍ كَانَ كَمَنْ أَدَّى فَرِيضَةً فِيمَا سِوَاهُ وَ مَنْ أَدَّى فَرِيضَةً فِيهِ كَانَ »

كَمَنْ أَدَّى سَبْعِينَ فَرِيضَةً فِيمَا سِوَاهُ »

“Whoever intends drawing close to Allah by performing any virtuous deed (in Ramadan), for such a person will be the reward like the one who had performed a Fard at any other time. And whoever performs a Fard, shall be blessed with the reward of seventy Faraaid at any other time.”¹¹⁶

¹¹⁵ Recorded by Al-Bukhari and Muslim

¹¹⁶ Recorded by Ibn Khuzaima in his Sahih

3. GET REWARDS OF EXTRA FASTS

You could be rewarded for multiple fasts by following these words of the Prophet's (Peace be upon him):

« مَنْ فَطَّرَ صَائِمًا كَانَ لَهُ مِثْلُ أَجْرِ ، غَيْرَ أَنَّهُ لَا يَنْقُصُ مِنْ أَجْرِ الصَّائِمِ شَيْئًا »

“Whoever feeds the person who is breaking his fast, will receive a reward like the fasting person's reward; without the reward of the fasting person being diminished in the least.”¹¹⁷

4. THE REWARD OF QUENCHING THE THIRST

Quenching a fasting person's thirst will allow you to drink from the Prophet's (Peace be upon him) Haud as he said:

« وَمَنْ سَقَى صَائِمًا سَقَاهُ اللَّهُ مِنْ حَوْضِي شَرْبَةً لَا يَظْمَأُ حَتَّى يَدْخُلَ الْجَنَّةَ »

“And the one who gave a fasting person water to drink, Allah will grant him (the giver) to drink from My fountain (Haud), such a drink whereafter that person will never again feel thirsty until he enters Jannah.”¹¹⁸

5. THE GLORY OF LAYLATUL-QADR

The Qur'an says: “The night of Al-Qadr (Decree) is better than a thousand months (i.e. worshipping Allah in that night is better than worshipping Him a thousand months i.e. 83 years & 4 months)” [97:3]. Moreover, the Prophet (Peace be upon him) said:

« مَنْ قَامَ لَيْلَةَ الْقَدْرِ إِيمَانًا وَاحْتِسَابًا ، غُفِرَ لَهُ مَا تَقَدَّمَ مِنْ ذَنْبِهِ »

“Whoever stands for prayer during Laylatul Qadr with faith and seeking reward, he will be forgiven for his previous sins.”¹¹⁹

¹¹⁷ Recorded by At-Tirmidhi who said it is hasan sahih

¹¹⁸ Recorded by Ibn Khuzaima in his Sahih

¹¹⁹ Recorded by Al-Bukhari and Muslim

The Virtues of Nafl Fasts

Wouldn't you like to be rewarded as if fasting always? If so,

1. FAST THREE DAYS EVERY MONTH

Allah's Messenger (*Peace be upon him*) said:

« صَوْمُ ثَلَاثَةِ أَيَّامٍ مِنْ كُلِّ شَهْرٍ صَوْمُ الدَّهْرِ كُلِّهِ »

*"Fasting three days every month is the same as fasting all the time (i.e. the entire year)."*¹²⁰

2. FAST SIX DAYS IN SHAWWAL

Allah's Messenger (*Peace be upon him*) said:

« مَنْ صَامَ رَمَضَانَ وَاتَّبَعَهُ سِتًّا مِنْ شَوَّالٍ كَانَ كَصَوْمِ الدَّهْرِ »

*"Whoever fasts the month of Ramadan and follows it up by fasting six days of the month of Shawaal, it is as if he fasted all of the time."*¹²¹

3. FAST THE DAY OF 'ARAFAH

Allah's Messenger (*Peace be upon him*) said:

« صِيَامُ يَوْمِ عَرَفَةَ يُكَفِّرُ السَّنَةَ الْمَاضِيَةَ وَالْبَاقِيَةَ »

*"Fasting the day of 'Arafah expiates (the sins of) the previous year and the coming year."*¹²²

And Muslim records that the Prophet (*Peace be upon him*) said:

"And fasting the day of Aashuraa, I reckon that Allah will expiate (the sins of) the year that preceded it."

¹²⁰ Recorded by Al-Bukhari and Muslim

¹²¹ Recorded by Muslim

¹²² Recorded by Muslim

THE MU'MIN HAS A BEAUTIFUL CHARACTER

The Mu'min's Character

﴿وَإِنَّكَ لَعَلَىٰ خُلُقٍ عَظِيمٍ﴾

“And verily, you (O Muhammad) are on an exalted
(standard of) character.” [68:4]

Ummul Mu'mineen 'Aisha described him (*Peace be upon him*):
“His character was just [a reflection of] the *Qur'an*.”¹²³ And
Anas (May Allah be pleased with him) said, “I served him (*peace
be upon him*) for ten years, and he never said ‘Uff’ to me.”¹²⁴

1. THE BEST

Undoubtedly, the one endowed with good manners and character is second to none, as the Messenger of Allah (*Peace be upon him*) has said,

« إِنَّ مِنْ خِيَارِكُمْ أَحْسَنَكُمْ أَخْلَاقاً »

“The best of you is the best among you in character.”¹²⁵

2. THE MOST PERFECT

The person with good character, is also the one with a perfect *Iman*, as the Messenger of Allah (*Peace be upon him*) has said,

« أَكْمَلُ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ إِيمَاناً أَحْسَنُهُمْ خُلُقاً »

“The most perfect believer in faith among the believers is the one whose
character is most excellent.”¹²⁶

¹²³ Recorded by Muslim, Abu Dawud and Ahmad

¹²⁴ Recorded by Al-Bukhari and Muslim

¹²⁵ Recorded by Al-Bukhari and Muslim

3. THE REWARDS OF CONSTANT PRAYING & FASTING

On virtue of good character, you could be reckoned from those who are constantly at prayer or fasting, for the Messenger of Allah (*Peace be upon him*) has said,

« إِنَّ الْمُؤْمِنَ لَيُذْرِكُ بِحُسْنِ خُلُقِهِ دَرَجَةَ الصَّائِمِ الْقَائِمِ »

“A believer will attain by his good character the rank of one who prays during the night and observes fasting during the day.”¹²⁷

4. A HOUSE IN THE HIGHEST JANNAH

What's more? The one with good character would receive the glad tidings of the Messenger of Allah (*Peace be upon him*) who said, “*Anaa za'eemun*” or *I guarantee*,

« وَبَيِّتٍ فِي أَعْلَى الْجَنَّةِ لِمَنْ حَسَنَ خُلُقُهُ »

A house in the highest part of Jannah for one who has good character.”¹²⁸

5. THE ONE FOR WHOM HELL-FIRE IS FORBIDDEN

The Messenger of Allah (*Peace be upon him*) said, “*Shall I not tell you whom the (Hell) Fire is forbidden to touch?*”

« أَوْ بِمَنْ تَحْرُمُ عَلَيْهِ النَّارُ ؟ تَحْرُمُ عَلَى كُلِّ قَرِيبٍ ، هَيِّنٍ ، لَيِّنٍ ، سَهْلٍ »

“It is forbidden to touch a man who is always accessible, having polite and tender nature.”¹²⁹

Let all of us avert Hell-fire by being accessible and polite with everyone – be they our elders, our children, or our workers.

¹²⁶ Recorded by Tirmidhi who said it is *hasan sahih*

¹²⁷ Recorded by Abu Dawud

¹²⁸ Recorded by Abu Dawud

¹²⁹ Recorded by At-Tirmidhi who said it is *hasan*

6. THE DEAREST TO THE PROPHET (*Peace be upon him*)

Could there be anything better than Allah's Messenger (*Peace be upon him*) saying:

« *The* إِنَّ مِنْ أَحَبِّكُمْ إِلَيَّ ، وَأَقْرَبُكُمْ مِنِّي مَجْلِساً يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ ، أَحْسَنُكُمْ أَخْلَاقاً »
dearest and nearest among you to me on the Day of Resurrection will be one who is the best of you in character."¹³⁰

7. SUPPRESSING ANGER

The Prophet (*Peace be upon him*) said,

« مَنْ كَظَمَ غَيْظاً ، وَهُوَ قَادِرٌ عَلَى أَنْ يُنْفِذَهُ ، دَعَاهُ اللَّهُ سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى عَلَى رُؤُوسِ
 الْخَلَائِقِ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ حَتَّى يُخَيَّرَهُ مِنَ الْحُورِ الْعِينِ مَا شَاءَ »

*"The one who suppresses his anger when he was capable of giving vent to it, will be called out by Allah Ta'ala before all the creatures on the day of resurrection; and he will be asked to choose any of the Hur-al 'Ayn that he likes".*¹³¹

The patience of a few moments would bring for you, endless delights. And *"the one who guides others to this will be rewarded equally like that of its doer."*¹³² Remember dear brothers and sisters in Iman, *"Whoever restrains his anger, Allah will restrain His punishment from him on Youmal Qiyamah."*¹³³

And beautiful indeed are Imam Ibn Al-Jawziyyah's words to conclude our focus on good character: "Be in this world as the bee: it eats only good, produces only good, and when it rests upon anything it neither ruins it nor deflowers it."

¹³⁰ Recorded by At-Tirmidhi, who said it is hasan

¹³¹ Recorded by Abu Dawud, Ahmad, Ibn Maajah and At-Tirmidhi who said it is hasan

¹³² See Hadith 5, p. 40

¹³³ Recorded by Al-Bayhaqi and At-Tabrani in Al-Awsat

The Mu'min with his Wife

﴿وَعَاشِرُوهُنَّ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ﴾

“And live with them honourably” [4:19]

1. HE IS ALWAYS GOOD TO HER

A man shows good treatment to women, who could be his mother, his wife, his sister, his daughter or his aunt for the Messenger of Allah (*Peace be upon him*) has advised us saying:

« اسْتَوْصُوا بِالنِّسَاءِ خَيْرًا »

“Take good care of women”¹³⁴

2. SHE DECIDES IF YOU ARE THE “BEST” MUSLIM

Yes! If you are good with her, then be happy, as Allah’s Messenger (*Peace be upon him*) has said:

« خَيْرُكُمْ خَيْرُكُمْ لِنِسَائِهِمْ »

The best of you are those who are the best to their wives”¹³⁵

3. HE IS AFFECTIONATE WITH HER

A good husband is kind and merciful with his wife. The Messenger of Allah (*Peace be upon him*) said:

« وَإِنَّكَ لَنْ تُنْفِقَ نَفَقَةً تَبْتَغِي بِهَا وَجْهَ اللَّهِ إِلَّا أُجِرْتَ بِهَا حَتَّى مَا تَجْعَلُ فِي فِي امْرَأَتِكَ »

«

¹³⁴ Recorded by Al-Bukhari, Muslim and At-Tirmidhi

¹³⁵ Recorded by At-Tirmidhi and Ahmad – It is classed sahih

“Whatever you spend seeking thereby the Pleasure of Allah, will have its reward, even the morsel of food which you raise to your wife’s mouth.”¹³⁶

May Allah be praised who sent us His Messenger (*Peace be upon him*), who taught us that raising a mouthful to our wives would fetch a reward upon seeking Allah’s pleasure! How beautiful is this *hadith*, and how many relationships have revived with a smile upon following it.

4. HE NEVER FORGETS THE GOODNESS IN HER

An adorable and a lasting relationship between the spouses could be achieved, upon following the words of the Messenger of Allah (*Peace be upon him*), who said:

« لَا يَفْرَكُ مُؤْمِنٌ مُؤْمِنَةً إِنْ كَرِهَ مِنْهَا خُلُقًا رَضِيَ مِنْهَا آخَرَ »

“A believer must not hate (his wife) believing woman; if he dislikes one of her characteristics he will be pleased with another.”¹³⁷

A good husband is easy on his wife and does not remind her about her shortcomings or use abusive language against her.

5. HE AVOIDS AN ARGUMENT WITH HER

The next time he is tempted into an argument, let him remember what the Prophet (*Peace be upon him*), said,

« أَنَا زَعِيمٌ بَيْتٍ فِي رِضِ الْجَنَّةِ لِمَنْ تَرَكَ الْمِرَاءَ ، وَإِنْ كَانَ مُحِقًّا »

“I guarantee a house in Jannah for one who gives up arguing, even if he is in the right.”¹³⁸

¹³⁶ Recorded by Al-Bukhari and Muslim

¹³⁷ Recorded by Muslim

¹³⁸ Recorded by Abu Dawud

And Umar bin Al-Khattab (*May Allah be pleased with him*) would say: “Women’s anger should be dealt by remaining quiet.”

6. HE DOES NOT ILL-TREAT HER

‘Abdullah bin Zam‘ah (*May Allah be pleased with him*) reported that he heard the Prophet (*Peace be upon him*) give a sermon wherein he had made mention of women saying,

« يَعْمِدُ أَحَدُكُمْ فَيَجْلِدُ امْرَأَتَهُ جَلْدَ الْعَبْدِ فَلَعَلَّهٗ يُضَاجِعُهَا مِنْ آخِرِ يَوْمِهِ »

*“How can anyone of you beat his wife as if she were a slave, and then expect to embrace her at night?”*¹³⁹

When read in the context of the sermon, the Prophet’s (*Peace be upon him*) tone clearly suggests that he was admonishing those who ill-treated their wives. As such, those husbands who find mention in these words are indeed at great loss!

The *Mu'min* husband sees the impeccable example of his Prophet (*Peace be upon him*) who never hit anyone with his hand – neither a woman, nor a servant.¹⁴⁰

7. HE DOES NOT NEGLECT HER

A good husband is far from being apathetic¹⁴¹, stingy and tight-pursed with his dependents. He fears the words of Allah’s Messenger (*Peace be upon him*), who said:

« كَفَى بِالْمَرْءِ إِثْمًا أَنْ يُضَيِّعَ مَنْ يَفْقُوتُ »

*“Neglecting one’s own dependents is a reason enough for a man to commit a sin.”*¹⁴²

¹³⁹ Recorded by Al-Bukhari and Muslim

¹⁴⁰ Recorded by Muslim

¹⁴¹ Feeling or showing a lack of feeling, interest, concern etc.

The Mu'minah with her Husband

﴿ فَالصَّالِحَاتُ قَانِتَاتٌ حَافِظَاتٌ لِّلْغَيْبِ بِمَا حَفِظَ اللَّهُ ﴾

“Therefore the righteous women are devoutly obedient (to Allah and to their husbands), and guard in the husband's absence what Allah orders them to guard.” [4:34]

1. THE BEST WOMAN

The Messenger of Allah (*Peace be upon him*) was asked: “Who is the best woman?” He replied:

« الَّتِي تَسُرُّهُ إِذَا نَظَرَ ، وَتُطِيعُهُ إِذَا أَمَرَ ، وَلَا تُخَالِفُهُ فِي نَفْسِهَا وَلَا مَالِهَا بِمَا يَكْرَهُ »

“She who pleases her husband when he looks at her, obeys him when he instructs her, and who does not oppose him regarding herself and her riches, fearing his displeasure.”¹⁴³

These words of the Prophet (*Peace be upon him*) describe the best of women. And needless to say, when they are followed, not only would she be in the highest of the ranks; but that would also bring about a delightful, lasting relationship.

2. AND SUCH A WIFE IS GUARANTEED JANNAH

Absolutely! For the Prophet (*Peace be upon him*) has said:

« أَيُّمَا امْرَأَةٍ مَاتَتْ ، وَزَوْجُهَا عَنْهَا رَاضٍ دَخَلَتْ الْجَنَّةَ »

“Any woman dies while her husband is pleased with her, she will enter Jannah.”¹⁴⁴

¹⁴² Recorded by Abu Dawud

¹⁴³ Recorded by An-Nasai and Al-Bayhaqi – it is authentic. See Mishkat Al-Masabih

3. SHE IS THE BEST OF THIS WORLD!

If she is righteous, then there is nothing better in this world than her, for Allah's Messenger (*Peace be upon him*) has said:

« الدُّنْيَا مَتَاعٌ ، وَخَيْرُ مَتَاعِ الدُّنْيَا الْمَرْأَةُ الصَّالِحَةُ »

*“This world (i.e. its contents) is a provision; and the best provision of the world is a righteous woman.”*¹⁴⁵

4. SHE IS A GUARDIAN & A CARE-TAKER

She knows that she is the guardian at her husband's house and makes sure that her children are raised on *Deen* – for the Messenger of Allah (*Peace be upon him*) said:

« وَالْمَرْأَةُ رَاعِيَةٌ فِي بَيْتِ زَوْجِهَا وَمَسْئُولَةٌ عَنْ رَعِيَّتِهَا »

*“The woman is a guardian in her husband's house her children”*¹⁴⁶

5. SHE IS NOT UNGRATEFUL

Asma bint Yazeed (*May Allah be pleased with her*) relates that the Prophet (*Peace be upon him*) cautioned women from ingratitude towards their husbands saying:

« لَعَلَّ إِحْدَاكُنَّ تَطُولُ أَيْمَتُهَا بَيْنَ أَبْوَيْهَا ، وَتَعُسُّ ، فَيَرْزُقُهَا اللَّهُ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ زَوْجًا ، وَيَرْزُقُهَا

مِنْهُ مَالًا ً وَوَلَدًا ، فَتَغْضَبُ الْعُضْبَةَ ، فَرَأَتْ تَقُولُ : مَا رَأَيْتُ مِنْهُ يَوْمًا خَيْرًا قَطُّ »

*“One of you may stay unmarried for a long time, living with her parents, then Allah-the Mighty and Sublime, blesses her with a husband and blesses her with wealth and children from him, then she becomes angry and says, ‘I have never seen good from you!’”*¹⁴⁷

¹⁴⁴ Recorded by Ibn Maajah and At-Tirmidhi who said it is hasan. Also see At-Targhib

¹⁴⁵ Recorded by Muslim and Ibn Maajah

¹⁴⁶ Recorded by Al-Bukhari and Muslim

¹⁴⁷ Recorded by Abu Dawud, At-Tirmidhi, Ibn Maajah and Ahmad

A *Mu'mina* wife takes these words seriously, for she knows the saying of her Prophet (*Peace be upon him*): “I was shown the Hell-fire and that the majority of its dwellers were women who were disbelievers or ungrateful.”¹⁴⁸

As recorded in *Bukhari*, the Prophet (*Peace be upon him*) gave his wife Khadija (*May Allah be pleased with her*), the glad tidings of “a palace of hollowed pearls in Jannah.” Imam Ibn Kathir said: “This was because she never raised her voice over that of the Prophet (*Peace be upon him*) and was never displeased with him even for a day, and she never harmed in any way.”

And never forget that the Prophet (*Peace be upon him*) said that from the dwellers of Jannah is, “That woman, who when her husband becomes angry – goes to him, placing her hand upon him, and then saying, ‘I will not taste any sleep until you are pleased.’”¹⁴⁹

A Note to my Brothers & Sisters in Marriage

I wish to conclude these two chapters with a beautiful *hadith* of the Prophet (*Peace be upon him*) – which when acted upon, would only bring clouds of bliss to rain upon comfort in your marriage *Inshallah*. He (*Peace be upon him*), said:

« الْمُؤْمِنُ يَأْلَفُ وَ يُؤْلَفُ ، وَلَا خَيْرَ فِي مَنْ لَا يَأْلَفُ وَلَا يُؤْلَفُ »

“A believer loves and is loved. There is no goodness in the one, who neither loves nor is loved.”¹⁵⁰

¹⁴⁸ Recorded by *Al-Bukhari*

¹⁴⁹ Recorded by *At-Tabrani* and its narrators’ are those whose reports are accepted as *sahih*

¹⁵⁰ Recorded by *Ad-Dar Qutni* and it is classed *Sahih*. Also see *Jami As Sagheer*

The Mu'min with his Family & Guests

1. THE ONE WHOM ALLAH LOVES THE MOST

How very easy is to be the one whom Allah loves the most, by following these words of the Prophet (*Peace be upon him*):

« أَحَبُّ الْعِبَادِ إِلَى اللَّهِ تَعَالَى أَنْفَعُهُمْ لِعِيَالِهِ »

*“The slave whom Allah Ta’ala loves the most, is the one who is most beneficial to his family.”*¹⁵¹

He, (*Peace be upon him*) has also said, *“The best of you is he who is the best to his family, and I am the best to my family.”*¹⁵²

2. THE MOST EXCELLENT CHARITY

The next time you spend on your family for Allah’s sake, then you should know that it’s the most excellent charity; for the Messenger of Allah (*Peace be upon him*) has said:

« أَفْضَلُ دِينَارٍ يُنْفَقُهُ الرَّجُلُ: دِينَارٌ يُنْفَقُهُ عَلَى عِيَالِهِ »

*“The most excellent dinar (money in charity) is one that a person spends on his family.”*¹⁵³

3. HONORING GUESTS

Let none of us take lightly what the Messenger of Allah (*Peace be upon him*) said about taking care of guests:

« مَنْ كَانَ يُؤْمِنُ بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ فَلْيُكْرِمْ ضَيْفَهُ »

*“Whoever believes in Allah and the Last day should honor his guests.”*¹⁵⁴

¹⁵¹ Recorded by Ahmad and At-Tabrani – it is authentic. See Jami as-Sagheer

¹⁵² Recorded by At-Tirmidhi, Ibn Maajah and Ad-Darimi

¹⁵³ Recorded by Muslim

Parents & Children in the Mu'min's Life

﴿ وَقَضَىٰ رَبُّكَ إِلَّا تَعْبُدُوا إِلَّا إِيَّاهُ وَبِالْوَالِدَيْنِ إِحْسَانًا إِمَّا يَبُلُغَنَّ عِنْدَكَ الْكِبَرَ أَحَدُهُمَا أَوْ
كِلَاهُمَا فَلَا تَقُلْ لَهُمَا أُفٍّ وَلَا تَهْزُهُمَا وَقُلْ لَهُمَا قَوْلًا كَرِيمًا ﴾*

“And your Rabb has decreed that you worship none but Him. And that you be dutiful to your parents. If one of them or both of them attain old age in your life, say not to them a word of disrespect, nor shout at them, but address them in terms of honor.” [17:23]

1. THE BEST

The Messenger of Allah (*Peace be upon him*) said:

« أَفْضَلُ النَّاسِ مُؤْمِنٌ بَيْنَ كَرِيمَيْنِ »

“The best of the people is a believer in the service of two noble parents.”¹⁵⁵

Kindness to parents has also been answered to be *“the deed most loved by Allah after Salat (which was answered first).”¹⁵⁶*

While the rights of the mother has also been told to be three times more important than the father¹⁵⁷; it has been narrated that *“Allah’s pleasure lies in the pleasure of the father”¹⁵⁸*. Al-Bukhari also records, “and (of the) major sins after ascribing partners to Allah is to *“disobey parents.”*

¹⁵⁴ Recorded by Al-Bukhari

¹⁵⁵ Recorded by At-Tabrani and Ahmad – it is authentic. See Jami As-Sagheer

¹⁵⁶ Recorded by Al-Bukhari and Muslim

¹⁵⁷ Recorded by Al-Bukhari and Muslim

¹⁵⁸ Recorded by At-Tirmidhi who also recorded that *“The Father is the best gate of the gates of Jannah.”*

2. BEING JUST & LOVING WITH CHILDREN

Justice and love for children has been ordered frequently by the Prophet (*Peace be upon him*), who would even admonish some parents for ill-treating their children. He also said:

« سَاوُوا بَيْنَ أَوْلَادِكُمْ فِي الْعَطِيَّةِ ، فَلَوْ كُنْتُ مُفَضِّلًا أَحَدًا لَفَضَّلْتُ النِّسَاءَ »

*“Be just among your children, when it comes to giving to them. Were I to prefer some children over some others, I would prefer girls.”*¹⁵⁹

3. THE HIGH-STATUS OF DAUGHTERS

That daughters are raised honorably, and not insulted, offended or preferred over the son; invites the glad-tidings of the Prophet (*Peace be upon him*) who said:

« مَنْ وُلِدَتْ لَهُ أَنْثَى فَلَمْ يَرْيَئِهَا وَلَمْ يُهِنِّهَا وَلَمْ يُؤَثِّرْ وَلَدَهُ يَعْنِي الذَّكَرَ عَلَيْهَا أَدْخَلَهُ

لِللَّهِ بِهَا الْجَنَّةَ »

*“If anyone has a baby girl and he neither buries her alive, nor slights her, nor prefers his son over her; then Allah because of her, will send him to Jannah.”*¹⁶⁰

4. THE PARENT OF DAUGHTERS IS WITH THE PROPHET (*Peace be upon him*) IN JANNAH

How fortunate are the parents of daughters, for Allah's Messenger (*Peace be upon him*) has said:

« مَنْ عَالَ جَارِيَتَيْنِ دَخَلْتُ أَنَا وَهُوَ الْجَنَّةَ كَهَاتَيْنِ »

*“If anyone brings up two girls – he and I will be together in Jannah like these two fingers; pointing with his two fingers.”*¹⁶¹

¹⁵⁹ Recorded by Al-Bayhaqi and At-Tabrani

¹⁶⁰ Recorded by al-Hakim who said it is sahih

The Mu'min is Best to his Companions

1. THE BEST

The one helping and benefitting others is the best amongst all, as the Messenger of Allah (*Peace be upon him*) has said:

« خَيْرُ النَّاسِ أَنْفَعُهُمْ لِلنَّاسِ »

*“The best amongst people is the one who benefits people the most.”*¹⁶²

2. ALLAH WILL FULFILL YOUR NEEDS

A simple help that you render for your brother, could easily help you in fulfilling your needs from this world or the next, as the Prophet (*Peace be upon him*) said:

« مَنْ كَانَ فِي حَاجَةِ أَخِيهِ ، كَانَ اللَّهُ فِي حَاجَتِهِ »

*“If anyone fulfills his brother's needs, Allah will fulfill his needs.”*¹⁶³

3. IT IS BETTER THAN TEN YEARS OF IHTI'QAF

How great is this reward as the Prophet (*Peace be upon him*) said:

« مَنْ مَشَى فِي حَاجَةِ أَخِيهِ كَانَ خَيْرًا لَهُ مِنْ اعْتِكَافِهِ عَشْرَ سِنِينَ ، وَ مَنْ اعْتِكَفَ يَوْمًا

ابْتِغَاءَ وَجْهِ اللَّهِ جَعَلَ اللَّهُ بَيْنَهُ وَبَيْنَ النَّارِ ثَلَاثَ خَنَادِكٍ ، كُلُّ خَنَدَكٍ أَبْعَدُ مَا بَيْنَ الْخَافِقَيْنِ »

*“That one goes out for a brother's need, is better than ten years of Ihti'qaf. And the one who observes Ihti'qaf of one day for Allah's sake – three ditches are placed between him and the Hell-fire. Each ditch is wider than the distance between the world and the heavens.”*¹⁶⁴

¹⁶¹ Recorded by At-Tirmidhi who said it is hasan

¹⁶² Recorded by At-Tabrani and Ad-Dar Qutni – It is classed sahih

¹⁶³ Recorded By Al-Bukhari , Muslim and Abu Dawud

¹⁶⁴ Recorded by At-Tabrani and its chain is reliable. Also see Al-Haithami & Al-Hakim

4. THE PRAYER OF SEVENTY THOUSAND ANGELS

The Messenger of Allah (Peace be upon him) said:

« مَا مِنْ مُسْلِمٍ يَعُودُ مُسْلِمًا غُدُوَةً إِلَّا صَلَّى عَلَيْهِ سَبْعُونَ أَلْفَ مَلَكٍ حَتَّى يُمْسِيَ ، وَإِنْ

عَادَهُ عَشِيَّةً إِلَّا صَلَّى عَلَيْهِ سَبْعُونَ أَلْفَ مَلَكٍ حَتَّى يُصْبِحَ ، وَكَانَ لَهُ خَرِيفٌ فِي الْجَنَّةِ »

*“When a Muslim visits a sick Muslim at dawn, seventy thousand angels keep on praying for him till dusk. If he visits him in the evening, seventy thousand angels keep on praying for him till the morning; and he will have (his share of) reaped fruits in Jannah.”*¹⁶⁵

It has been narrated that *“Whosoever visits an ailing person or a brother of his to seek the Pleasure of Allah, an announcer (angel) calls out: ‘May you be happy, may your walking be blessed, and may you be awarded a dignified position in Jannah’”*.¹⁶⁶

5. THE MOST SUPERIOR DEED

The Prophet (Peace be upon him) has said:

« أَفْضَلُ الْأَعْمَالِ أَنْ تُدْخَلَ عَلَى أَخِيكَ الْمُؤْمِنِ سُورًا أَوْ تَقْضِيَ عَنْهُ دَيْنًا أَوْ تُطْعِمَهُ حُبْرًا »

*“The Most Superior deed is to bring happiness to Your Muslim brother; or to pay his debt for him, or to feed him some bread.”*¹⁶⁷

Abu Dawud also records a hadith that *“If any Muslim clothes a Muslim when he is bare, Allah will clothe him with the green garments of Jannah; If any Muslim feeds a Muslim when he is hungry, Allah will feed him with the fruits of Jannah; If any Muslim gives any Muslim a drink when he is thirsty, Allah ‘Azza wa Jall will give him drink from Ar-Raheeq Al-Makhthum.”*

¹⁶⁵ Recorded by At –Tirmidhi who said it is hasan

¹⁶⁶ Recorded by Tirmidhi who said it is hasan

¹⁶⁷ Recorded Ibn Abi-Dunya and Al-Bayhaqi – it is authentic. See Jami As-Sagheer

And helping your brother in his distress also is a means of reward, for the Prophet (*Peace be upon him*) said: “No believer comforts his brother in distress, except that Allah clothes him with a dress of nobility on the Day of Resurrection.”¹⁶⁸ To follow funerals is also the right (of the deceased) upon another Muslim.”¹⁶⁹

6. THE CLOSEST TO ALLAH

The Prophet (*Peace be upon him*) has said:

« إِنَّ أَوْلَى النَّاسِ بِاللَّهِ تَعَالَى مَنْ بَدَأَهُمْ بِسَلَامٍ »

“Truly, of all the people worthier to be close to Allah Ta’ala is the one who offers Salam first.”¹⁷⁰

As-Salam is a name amongst the names of Allah, which He has sent down to this world.¹⁷¹ He, (*Peace be upon him*) has said, “Spread Salam so you may be raised high.”¹⁷² To reciprocate As-Salam is also a right of a Muslim upon another Muslim.¹⁷³

7. A MUSLIM IS A BROTHER TO ANOTHER MUSLIM

The Prophet (*Peace be upon him*) has said:

« لَا يُؤْمِنُ أَحَدُكُمْ حَتَّى يُحِبَّ لِأَخِيهِ مَا يُحِبُّ لِنَفْسِهِ »

“No one of you becomes a true believer until he likes for his brother what he likes for himself.”¹⁷⁴

The ‘Ulama mention that all of the woes and problems of this world will perish should these Prophetic words be followed.

¹⁶⁸ Recorded by Ibn Maajah

¹⁶⁹ Recorded by Al-Bukhari

¹⁷⁰ Recorded by Abu Dawud

¹⁷¹ Recorded by At-Tabrani and Al-Bazzar. See At-Targeeb

¹⁷² Recorded by At-Tabrani and Al-Haithami in Majma uz-Zawaid – it is classed hasan

¹⁷³ Recorded by Al-Bukhari

¹⁷⁴ Recorded by al-Bukhari and Muslim

A Muslim also takes care of his brother, for “A Muslim is a brother of (another) Muslim, he neither wrongs him nor does he hand him over to one who does him wrong.”¹⁷⁵

We have also been urged to put in a word for our brothers by saying, “If you make intercession for him, you will be rewarded”¹⁷⁶

8. THE MU'MIN IS GRACIOUS TO HIS NEIGHBOR

A Mu'min does not forget what the Messenger of Allah (Peace be upon him) said about neighbors:

« مَنْ كَانَ يُؤْمِنُ بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ فليُحْسِنِ إِلَى جَارِهِ »

“Whoever believes in Allah and the Last day should do good to his neighbor”¹⁷⁷

9. THE MU'MIN IS TRUSTWORTHY

Our Deen has given immense significance to Amaanah or trust, wherein our Prophet (Peace be upon him) himself was known to be Al-Ameen or the trustworthy. Anas bin Malik (May Allah be pleased with him) reported that the Prophet (Peace be upon him) addressed us and said in a sermon:

« لَا إِيمَانَ لِمَنْ لَا أَمَانَةً ، وَلَا دِينَ لِمَنْ لَا عَهْدَ لَهُ »

“He has no Iman who is not trustworthy and he has no Deen who does not keep his promises.”¹⁷⁸

And remember, our “Deen is naseeha”¹⁷⁹ or sincerity “toward Allah, His Book, His Messenger, leaders of the Muslims and to their people.”¹⁸⁰

¹⁷⁵ Recorded by al-Bukhari and Muslim

¹⁷⁶ Recorded by al-Bukhari and Muslim

¹⁷⁷ Recorded by Muslim

¹⁷⁸ Recorded by Ibn-Hibban in Kitabul Iman – it is classed sahih

10. THE MU'MIN IS FORGIVING

The Prophet (*Peace be upon him*) has said:

« مَنْ أَقَالَ مُسْلِمًا عَشْرَتَهُ ، أَقَالَهُ اللَّهُ عَشْرَتَهُ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ »

*“The one who forgives the faults of a Muslim, Allah will forgive his faults on the Day of Resurrection.”*¹⁸¹

It is narrated that when Musa (*Upon him be peace*) asked Allah, “Who was the most revered slave to Him?” He, ‘*Azza wa Jall* said: “The one who forgives, despite being able to avenge.”¹⁸²

Dear brothers and sisters, don't you love for Allah to forgive your faults, and what would our fates be should He not? And Imam Ibnul Arabi would say: “Forgetting the harms caused by the brothers, causes your love of them to persist.”

11. THE MU'MIN DOESN'T STOP HIS CHARITY

The Prophet (*Peace be upon him*) has said:

« كُلُّ مَعْرُوفٍ صَدَقَةٌ »

*“Every good deed is charity”*¹⁸³

We have read before that a date given for the sake of Allah, could save us from Hell or add to our good deeds as a mountain. The Prophet (*Peace be upon him*) has also said: “Do not think little of any good deed, even meeting your brother with a cheerful face.”¹⁸⁴ And always remember, that your smile for a brother is also a *Sadaqah*.¹⁸⁵

¹⁷⁹ Recorded by Muslim

¹⁸⁰ Recorded by At-Tirmidhi who said it is *hasan*

¹⁸¹ Recorded by Ibn-Hibban and it is classed *sahih*

¹⁸² Recorded by Al-Bayhaqi in *Shu'bul Iman*

¹⁸³ Recorded by Al-Bukhari

¹⁸⁴ Recorded by Muslim

¹⁸⁵ Recorded by Tirmidhi and it is *hasan*

THE MU'MIN IS STEADFAST

The Mu'min in Grief

“I am really very sad and my heart cries out in pain. And all those I knew left me when I needed them the most. I don’t know what to do.”

Remember dear Brother or Sister in Iman,

1. RELATE YOUR GRIEF TO ALLAH

When Prophet Ya’qub (*Upon him be peace*) was gripped with immense distress, he relates his sorrow to Allah with these words:

﴿ إِنَّمَا أَشْكُو بَثِّي وَحُزْنِي إِلَى اللَّهِ ﴾

“I only complain of my grief and sorrow to Allah”

[12: 86]

2. HE IS ALWAYS THERE FOR YOU

Even if people have caused you pain and deserted you, don’t think even for an instant that You are all alone. You should know that your Lord is always there for you and loves you. Neither has He left you, nor does he hate you. He says unto you just as He said to His Prophet (*Peace be upon him*) in *Surah Ad-Duha* when he was greatly aggrieved:

﴿ مَا وَدَّعَكَ رَبُّكَ وَمَا قَلَى ﴾

“Your Lord (O Muhammad) has neither forsaken you nor hates you.” [93: 3]

3. HE KNOWS YOUR GRIEF & HE PRESCRIBES THE WAY

Your Creator is *Aleem*, The All-Knower, Who knows the state of your heart, and that He has revealed verses of consolation to His Prophet (*Peace be upon him*) which are for You:

﴿وَلَقَدْ نَعْلَمُ أَنَّكَ يَضِيقُ صَدْرُكَ بِمَا يَقُولُونَ﴾

“And We know that your heart feels distressed for what they say”
[15: 97]

And Allah Says in the next verse,

﴿فَسَبِّحْ بِحَمْدِ رَبِّكَ وَكُنْ مِنَ السَّاجِدِينَ﴾

“So glorify the praises of your Lord and be among those who prostrate.” [15: 98]

The Dhikr of Allah

The *dhikr* of Allah will comfort your heart and bring solace to it – as He, *Subhanahu wa Ta'ala* says:

﴿أَلَا بِذِكْرِ اللَّهِ تَطْمَئِنُّ الْقُلُوبُ﴾

“Verily, in the remembrance of Allah do hearts find rest.” [13: 28]

Sheikh Ali Abdur-Rahman Al-Hudhaifi, the *Imam of Masjid-un-Nabawi* said, “Among the rewards of remembrance of Allah is that it makes one love Allah, increases him in faith, makes his affairs easy, and protects him from the tricks and evil doings of Satan.”

4. HE WILL ANSWER YOUR PLEA

Allah Says,

﴿وَإِذَا سَأَلَكَ عِبَادِي عَنِّي فَإِنِّي قَرِيبٌ ۖ أُجِيبُ دَعْوَةَ الدَّاعِ إِذَا دَعَانِ ۖ﴾

“And when My slaves ask you (O Muhammad) concerning Me, then (answer them), I am indeed near. I respond to the invocations of the supplicant when he calls on Me.” [2: 186]

Imam Fuzayl bin ‘Iyadh said:

“If you lose hope in all people and you do not ask anything from them, your Lord will give you all that you want.”

5. AND NEVER GIVE-UP ON THE MOST MERCIFUL

Allah Says:

﴿وَلَا تَيْأَسُوا مِنْ رَوْحِ اللَّهِ ۚ إِنَّهُ لَا يَيْأَسُ مِنْ رَوْحِ اللَّهِ إِلَّا الْقَوْمُ الْكَافِرُونَ﴾

“And never give up hope of Allah's Mercy. Certainly no one despairs of Allah's Mercy, except the people who disbelieve.” [12:87]

So never give up on Allah's mercy dear brother or sister, for you are not the one who disbelieves in Him. Know that your calling upon Allah will bring the best for you, even if this period may seem long, as the Messenger of Allah (*Peace be upon him*) has said:

« مَا عَلَى الْأَرْضِ مُسْلِمٌ يَدْعُو اللَّهَ تَعَالَى بِدَعْوَةٍ إِلَّا آتَاهُ اللَّهُ إِيَّاهَا أَوْصَرَفَ عَنْهُ مِنْ

السُّوءِ مِثْلَهَا مَا لَمْ يَدْعُ بِمَآثِمٍ أَوْ قَطِيعَةٍ رَحِمَ »

“There is not a Muslim on this world who makes D’ua to Allah, Ta’ala except that Allah grants what is asked for; or some trouble is diverted from him equal to his prayer; or a reward is preserved for him (in the hereafter) until he prays for something sinful or for breaking relations.”

Upon hearing this, a companion said: “Then we shall supplicate to Allah more often”, for which the Prophet (Peace be upon him) replied:

« اللَّهُ أَكْثَرُ »

“Allah can give you even more (than you think).”¹⁸⁶

To this effect, there appears a narration on the authority of Jabir, which says:

“When Allah will grant a slave heaps of rewards in the hereafter in return for supplications that were apparently not answered in the world, he will say: ‘Alas! (how I wish) none of my supplications were answered in the world (so I was rewarded for all of them here).’¹⁸⁷

So do not despair but rejoice my dear brother or sister with the Prophet’s (Peace be upon him) words: *“Allah can give you even more than you think.”*

¹⁸⁶ Recorded by At-Tirmidhi who said it is hasan sahih and by Al-Hakim who said it is sahih. A similar version is recorded by Ahmad.

¹⁸⁷ Recorded by Al-Hakim in Mustadrak. Also, Al-Jami as-Sagheer min Hadeeth al-Basheer an-Nadheer lists something very close.

The Mu'min is Enduring

"I am the only one who knows the calamity that has befallen me.

No one can even imagine what I'm going through."

Remember dear Brother or Sister in Iman,

1. THIS LIFE IS A TEST

Allah Subhanahu wa Ta'ala Says,

﴿وَلَنَبْلُوَنَّكُمْ بِشَيْءٍ مِّنَ الْخَوْفِ وَالْجُوعِ وَنَقْصٍ مِّنَ الْأَمْوَالِ وَالْأَنْفُسِ وَالثَّمَرَاتِ ۗ
وَبَشِّرِ الصَّابِرِينَ﴾

"And certainly, We shall test you with something of fear, hunger, loss of wealth, lives and fruits, but give glad tidings to the patient." [2: 155]

So dear brother or sister in *Iman*, remember that this life is a test – for the hereafter is indeed forever. And should you patiently bear without grumbling, only for Allah's sake; then He promises you tremendous rewards as it happened with Umm Salamah about which we will read further on.

2. THE REWARDS OF PATIENCE

Allah Subhanahu wa Ta'ala says:

﴿إِنَّمَا يُوفَّى الصَّابِرُونَ أَجْرَهُمْ بِغَيْرِ حِسَابٍ﴾

"Only those who are patient shall receive their reward in full, without reckoning." [39: 10]

Imam Sulayman ibn Qasim said that the reward of every deed is known, except for the reward of patience, which will be like heavy rain. Imam Ahmad said: “Allah has mentioned patience in the *Qur'an* in ninety places.”¹⁸⁸ This highlights the immense significance that has been given to patience.

And Umm Salamah (*May Allah be pleased with her*) narrates¹⁸⁹, “I heard the Messenger of Allah (*Peace be upon him*) saying, ‘When a person suffers from a calamity and utters:

« إِنَّا لِلَّهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ ، اللَّهُمَّ أَجِرْنِي فِي مُصِيبَتِي وَاحْلِفْ لِي خَيْرًا مِنْهَا »

To Allah we belong and to Him is our return. O Allah! Compensate me in my affliction, recompense my loss and give me something better in exchange for it.

Then Allah surely compensates him with reward and better substitute.” Umm Salamah (*May Allah be pleased with her*) said: “When Abu Salamah died, I repeated the same supplication as the Messenger of Allah (*Peace be upon him*) had commanded me; So Allah then bestowed upon me the Messenger of Allah (*Peace be upon him* as a husband) better than him.

It is believed that she was initially reluctant to bring herself to say “and replace it with something which is better” because she thought, “Who could be better than Abu Salamah?” Allah soon answered her supplication by marrying her to the best – His Prophet (*Peace be upon him*).

Let all of us remember this *Du'a*, that the grace and blessings of Allah ‘Azza wa Jall be upon us always.

¹⁸⁸ See Imam Ibn Qayyim al-Jawziyyah’s “Uddat As-Sabireen wa Dhakirat”

¹⁸⁹ Recorded by Muslim

3. THE CAUSE FOR EXPIATION OF SINS

The Prophet's (*Peace be upon him*) words will come as great delight for you:

« مَا يُصِيبُ الْمُسْلِمَ مِنْ نَصَبٍ ، وَلَا وَصَبٍ ، وَلَا هَمٍّ ، وَلَا حَزَنٍ ، وَلَا أَذًى ، وَلَا غَمٍّ ،
حَتَّى الشَّوْكَةِ يُشَاكُهَا إِلَّا كَفَّرَ اللَّهُ بِهَا مِنْ خَطَايَاهُ »

*“Never a believer is stricken with a discomfort, an illness, an anxiety, a grief or mental worry or even the pricking of a thorn but Allah will expiate his sins in lieu of it.”*¹⁹⁰

4. BUT PATIENCE IS AT THE FIRST STRIKE...

Anas narrated that The Prophet (*Peace be upon him*) passed by a woman, who was crying over her son and said,

« اتَّقِ اللَّهَ وَاصْبِرْ »

“Fear Allah and be patient.”

She said, “Away from me! My calamity has not befallen you and you are not aware of it.” The woman was later told that it was the Prophet (*Peace be upon him* who had advised). She came to his door where she found no doorkeeper. She said, “(I am sorry) I did not know you.”

The Messenger of Allah (*Peace be upon him*) said,

« إِنَّمَا الصَّبْرُ عِنْدَ الصَّدْمَةِ الْأُولَى »

*“Indeed, true patience is with the first shock.”*¹⁹¹

¹⁹⁰ Recorded by Al-Bukhari

¹⁹¹ Recorded by Al-Bukhari, Muslim, Abu Dawud, At-Tirmidhi and An-Nasai

5. ... AND JANNAH WILL BE YOURS

The Messenger of Allah (*Peace be upon him*) said,

« يَقُولُ اللَّهُ تَعَالَى: ابْنُ آدَمَ إِنْ صَبَرْتَ وَاحْتَسَبْتَ عِنْدَ الصَّدَمَةِ الْأُولَى
لَمْ أَرِ ضَ ثَوَابًا دُونَ الْجَنَّةِ »

*“Allah, the Most High Says: ‘Son of Adam! If you bear the first affliction patiently for recompense, I will not agree for you a reward less than Jannah.’”*¹⁹²

So my dear brother or sister in Islam, know that a strong believer will be favored greatly by Allah, therefore let not your calamities aggrieve you. Imam Ibn Taymiyyah would say: “A calamity that makes you turn to Allah is better for you, than a blessing which makes you forget the remembrance of Allah.” Perhaps that is the reason *Imam Al-Haram*, Sheikh Sa’ud Ash-Shuraim said, “Pain (affliction) is often, a disguised atonement from Allah.”

And dear believer, never forget Allah *Ta’ala*’s promise which he repeats twice in *Surah Al-Inshirah* for you:

﴿ فَإِنَّ مَعَ الْعُسْرِ يُسْرًا ﴾

“Verily, along with every hardship is relief.”

﴿ إِنَّ مَعَ الْعُسْرِ يُسْرًا ﴾

“Verily, along with every hardship is relief.” [94: 4 and 5]

¹⁹² Recorded by Ibn Maajah and it is classed hasan

The Mu'min Returns to His Lord

“I have done some very-very bad things.

I don't know if I will be even forgiven.”

My Dear Brother or Sister,

Remember what your Prophet (Peace be upon him)said:¹⁹³

« مَا أَحَبُّ آتٍ إِلَى الدُّنْيَا بِهَٰذِهِ الْآيَةِ ﴿قُلْ يَا عِبَادِيَ الَّذِينَ أَسْرَفُوا عَلَىٰ أَنْفُسِهِمْ لَا

تَقْنَطُوا مِنْ رَحْمَةِ اللَّهِ ۚ إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَغْفِرُ الذُّنُوبَ جَمِيعًا ۚ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ ﴾ »

“I would not take the whole world and its bounties for this verse:

‘Say: ‘O My slaves who have transgressed against themselves (by committing evil deeds and sins)! Despair not of the Mercy of Allah, verily Allah forgives all sins. Truly, He is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful.’” [39:53]

This verse was revealed when some pagans who had committed terrible sins had approached the Messenger of Allah (Peace be upon him) asking him if their sins too could be atoned. So my dear brother or sister, never despair from the mercy of Allah for w-h-a-t-e-v-e-r sin that may have been done. Your Lord will forgive you no matter what it was. And know that your Lord only wants you to “return” to Him—and that’s what “*tawbah*” translates into.

So Listen to Him in your Prophet’s (Peace be upon him)words:

¹⁹³ Recorded by Ahmad

« قَالَ اللَّهُ تَعَالَى: يَا ابْنَ آدَمَ ، إِنَّكَ مَا دَعَوْتَنِي وَرَجَوْتَنِي غَفَرْتُ لَكَ عَلَى مَا كَانَ مِنْكَ وَلَا أُبَالِي ، يَا ابْنَ آدَمَ ، لَوْ بَلَغَتْ ذُنُوبُكَ عَنَانَ السَّمَاءِ ، ثُمَّ اسْتَغْفَرْتَنِي ، غَفَرْتُ لَكَ وَلَا أُبَالِي ، يَا ابْنَ آدَمَ ، إِنَّكَ لَوْ أَتَيْتَنِي بِقُرَابِ الْأَرْضِ حَطَايَا ، ثُمَّ لَقَيْتَنِي لَا تُشْرِكُ بِي شَيْئًا ، لَأَتَيْتُكَ بِقُرَابِهَا مَغْفِرَةً »

“Allah, the Exalted, has said: ‘O son of Adam! I shall go on forgiving you so long as you pray to Me and aspire for My forgiveness whatever may be your sins. O son of Adam! I do not care even if your sins should pile up to the sky and should you beg pardon of Me, I would forgive you. O son of Adam! If you come to Me with an earthful of sins and meet Me, not associating anything with Me in worship, I will match it with an earthful of forgiveness.’”¹⁹⁴

1. ALLAH IS OVERJOYED WHEN YOU RETURN TO HIM

Dear Brother or Sister, know that your *Rabb* loves you more than you can imagine. A woman was seen running and searching for her child. And whenever she saw a child, she would take hold of it, press it against her belly and give it a suck. The Prophet (*Peace be upon him*) said concerning her to his *Sahabah*:

« اللَّهُ أَرْحَمُ بِعِبَادِهِ مِنْ هَذِهِ بَوْلَدِهَا »

“Allah is more compassionate to his slave than this woman is to her child.”¹⁹⁵

And Al-Hafiz Ibn Hajar relates that, *“After continuous search, she finally found her baby. She took the baby and hugged him.”*

¹⁹⁴ Recorded by At-Tirmidhi who said it is *hasan*

¹⁹⁵ Recorded by Al-Bukhari

The Messenger of Allah (Peace be upon him) also said:

« اللَّهُ أَفْرَحُ بِتَوْبَةِ عَبْدِهِ مِنْ أَحَدِكُمْ سَقَطَ عَلَى بَعِيرِهِ وَقَدْ أَضَلَّهُ فِي أَرْضٍ فَلَاةٍ »

*“Verily, Allah is more delighted with the repentance of His slave than a person who lost his camel in a desert land and then finds it (unexpectedly)”.*¹⁹⁶

So know my brother or sister, all you have to do is to return to Him by asking Him forgiveness and thereafter be steady on that promise of abstention.

2. THE BEST FOR SEEKING FORGIVENESS

The Messenger of Allah (Peace be upon him) has said,

“The best supplication for seeking forgiveness is to say:

« اللَّهُمَّ أَنْتَ رَبِّي لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا أَنْتَ خَلَقْتَنِي وَأَنَا عَبْدُكَ ، وَأَنَا عَلَى عَهْدِكَ وَوَعْدِكَ مَا اسْتَطَعْتُ ، أَعُوذُ بِكَ مِنْ شَرِّ مَا صَنَعْتُ ، أَبُوءُ لَكَ بِنِعْمَتِكَ عَلَيَّ ، وَأَبُوءُ بِذَنْبِي ، فَاغْفِرْ لِي ، فَإِنَّهُ لَا يَغْفِرُ الذُّنُوبَ إِلَّا أَنْتَ »

‘Allahumma Anta Rabbi, la ilaha illa Anta, khalaqtani wa ana ‘abduka, wa ana ‘ala ‘ahdika wa wa’dika mastata’tu, a’udhu bika min sharri ma sana’tu, abu’u laka bini’matika ‘alayya, wa abu’u bidhanbi faghfir li, fa innahu la yaghfirudh-dhunuba illa Anta.’”

*He who supplicates in these terms during the day with firm belief in it and dies on the same day, he will be one of the dwellers of Jannah; and if anyone supplicates in these terms during the night with firm belief in it and dies before the morning, he will be one of the dwellers of Jannah.”*¹⁹⁷

¹⁹⁶ Recorded by Al-Bukhari and Muslim

¹⁹⁷ O Allah! You are my Rabb. There is None worthy of worship except You. You have created me, and I am Your slave, and I hold to Your Covenant as far as I can. I seek

*The Perfect Mu'min*¹⁹⁸

A BELIEVER NOT ONLY FOLLOWS the fard acts of *Deen*, but he is also the one whose faith is unshakeable and whose reliance on Allah is complete. The more problems he faces, the more his faith becomes strong.

He could pray, and may see that his prayers are not being answered; yet he does not change, because he knows that he is owned by his Lord Who knows what is best for him.

A strong faith opens in strong hardships.

Yahya (*Upon him be peace*), son of Zakariyya (*Upon him be peace*), is an excellent example for a Mu'min. He was even killed by a tyrant king; yet, the Prophet remained patient with his Lord's decree. Allah 'Azza wa Jall says in the *Qur'an*:

﴿وَلَنَبْلُوَنَّكُمْ حَتَّىٰ نَعْلَمَ الْمُجَاهِدِينَ مِنْكُمْ وَالصَّابِرِينَ﴾

“And surely, We shall try you until We test those who strive hard
and the patient ones” [47: 31]

Similarly all the Prophets and the believers were tested from Allah *Subhanahu wa Ta'ala*. Ya'qub (*Upon him be peace*) cried for eighty years when his son Yusuf (*Upon him be peace*), was gone.

refuge in You from the evil of what I have done. I acknowledge the favours that You have bestowed upon me, and I confess my sins. Pardon me, for none but You has the power to pardon

¹⁹⁸ Amended from Imam Ibn Qayyim al-Jawziyyah's "The Perfect Believer"

But, he never gave up; all he said when his other son was gone too was:

﴿عَسَى اللَّهُ أَنْ يَأْتِيَنِي بِهِمْ جَمِيعٌ﴾

“May be Allah will bring them (back) all to me” [12: 83]

Musa (*Upon him be peace*) prayed against Firáwn, who killed children and magicians for 40 years before he was answered.

It is in such situations when the faith of a believer is seen, and not just in *fard* acts. So when we believe in Allah and are tested from Allah, this test should only increase our submission and pleasure, and not otherwise. And that is the explanation of the meaning of Allah *Subhanahu wa Ta'ala* words,

﴿رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمْ وَرَضُوا عَنْهُ﴾

“Allah is pleased with them” [5: 119]

Imam Hasan Al-Basri said: “People are the same in health but when hardship befalls them, they show difference.”

Remember O Believers,

We cannot afford to make do without steadfastness in our *Iman*, as Imam Ibn Taymiyyah said, “Deeds of the hearts, like loving Allah, worshipping Him with sincerity, thanking Him for His favors, bearing His decisions with patience, fearing Him and hoping for what is with Him are all part of the foundations and pillars of the religion.”

THE MU'MIN IS CHASTE

The Mu'min's Chastity is Undefiled

﴿ قُلْ لِلْمُؤْمِنِينَ يَغُضُّوا مِنْ أَبْصَارِهِمْ وَيَحْفَظُوا فُرُوجَهُمْ ۚ ذَٰلِكَ أَزْكَىٰ لَهُمْ ۖ إِنَّ اللَّهَ خَبِيرٌ بِمَا يَصْنَعُونَ ۝ وَقُلْ لِلْمُؤْمِنَاتِ يَغْضُضْنَ مِنْ أَبْصَارِهِنَّ وَيَحْفَظْنَ فُرُوجَهُنَّ ۖ ﴾

“Tell the believing men to lower their gaze (from looking at forbidden things), and protect their private parts. That is purer for them. Verily, Allah is All-Aware of what they do. And tell the believing women to lower their gaze (from looking at forbidden things), and protect their private parts.” [24:30-31]

1. DON'T FOLLOW UPON THE FIRST

Allah ‘Azza wa Jall has prescribed for us a *Deen*, wherein He has commanded us in His infinite wisdom, to guard ourselves from *faahishaa*.¹⁹⁹ Jarir bin ‘Abdullah (May Allah be pleased with him) said: I asked the Messenger of Allah (Peace be upon him) about the accidental glance (upon a woman not allowed to look at) and he ordered:

« اصْرِفْ بَصَرَكَ »

“Turn your eyes away.”²⁰⁰

A believer knows that acting upon these words of the Prophet (Peace be upon him), is what protects “our” women in our absence. In return, they also check the looker’s thoughts before they get the better of him.

¹⁹⁹ All that is sinful, shameful, lustful, promiscuous, evil, etc.

²⁰⁰ Recorded by Muslim

2. THE EYE INDULGES IN SIN

Allah's Messenger (*Peace be upon him*) said,

« الْعَيْنَانِ زَنَاهُمَا النَّظَرُ »

*"The zina of the eye is the (lustful) look."*²⁰¹

There remains a severe torment in store for those who indulge in illicit sex. And should the eye engage in the same, then it too would meet...

3. THE FATE OF THOSE WHO TRESPASS

The Prophet (*Peace be upon him*) said in a longer narration,

*"...and so we set out and came to something like a hole like an oven; with a narrow top and wide bottom, and the fire was kindling underneath that hole. He said, 'We looked inside, and there were naked men and women and there would rise up fire from beneath them and when it reached them, they screamed, and I said, 'Who are these (people) O Jibreel?', He said, 'These are the fornicators.'"*²⁰²

May Allah save us all of us from being even close to such torment – *Ameen*

4. NOT A BELIEVER

Allah's Messenger (*Peace be upon him*) said,

« لَا يَزْنِي الزَّانِي حِينَ يَزْنِي وَهُوَ مُؤْمِنٌ »

*"When the fornicator is committing fornication, he is not a believer."*²⁰³

And when he is not a believer what could his torment be should he or she meet his or her end while at it?

²⁰¹ Recorded by Al-Bukhari and Muslim

²⁰² Recorded by Al-Bukhari

²⁰³ Recorded by Al-Bukhari and Muslim, and it is the same for the one who drinks alcohol

BUT THE ONE WHO REMAINS CHASTE WILL HAVE A “TREMENDOUS” REWARD

Allah Subhanahu wa Ta'ala Says:

﴿وَأَمَّا مَنْ خَافَ مَقَامَ رَبِّهِ وَنَهَى النَّفْسَ عَنِ الْهَوَىٰ ۖ فَإِنَّ الْجَنَّةَ هِيَ الْمَأْوَىٰ﴾

“But as for him who feared standing before his Lord, and restrained himself from impure evil desires, and lusts.

Verily, Jannah will be his abode.” [79:40-41]

1. THE FIRST TO ENTER JANNAH

The Messenger of Allah (*Peace be upon him*) said that the first three to enter *Jannah* were shown to him, and one of them was “... a *Muta’affif* or a chaste person.”²⁰⁴

2. ALLAH WILL GIVE YOU BETTER THAN THAT

Yes! Whatever that you have left for the sake of Allah, then Allah the Most High, will give you that which is much more better, for the Messenger of Allah (*Peace be upon him*) has said:

« مَنْ تَرَكَ شَيْئًا لِلَّهِ عَوَّضَهُ اللَّهُ خَيْرًا مِنْهُ »

“Whosoever leaves something for the sake of Allah; then Allah, will replace it with something better than it.”²⁰⁵

²⁰⁴ Recorded by At-Tirmidhi and it is classed hasan. Also see *Jami’ Al-Usool* attributed to Ahmad and al-Bayhaqi

²⁰⁵ Recorded by Ahmad, Al-Marwazee and An-Nasai – It is classed sahih

3. A MASSIVE REWARD

Allah's Messenger (*Peace be upon him*) has said,

« إِنَّ عِظَمَ الْجَزَاءِ مَعَ عِظَمِ الْبَلَاءِ »

*"Verily the greatness of reward is relative to the greatness of affliction."*²⁰⁶

So know O believers, the greater your patience and steadfastness in the face of restraint, then greater will be Allah's reward that's in store for you. *How great?* The one who restrains will know the answer!

4. YOU WILL BE FROM ALLAH'S "CHOSEN SLAVES"

And nothing will equal that! The one who keeps his chastity from *faahishaa*, will be Inshallah reckoned from the "chosen slaves" of Allah *Subhanahu wa Ta'ala*. For the Most High describes Yusuf (*Upon him be Peace*) with the same, who turned to Him upon seduction from the Ruler's wife:

﴿كَذَلِكَ لِنَصْرِفَ عَنْهُ السُّوءَ وَالْفَحْشَاءَ ۚ إِنَّهُ مِنْ عِبَادِنَا الْمُخْلَصِينَ﴾

"Thus it was, that We might turn away from him evil and illegal sexual intercourse. Surely, he was one of Our chosen, (guided) slaves." [12:24]

"So the next time you are *tempted* to turn back at that beautiful face, remember Allah's promises for You."

²⁰⁶ Recorded by Ibn Maajah and At-Tirmidhi who said it is *hasan*

THE MU'MIN BUSINESSMAN

The Mu'min's Way of Profit

1. THE HONEST BUSINESSMAN'S REWARD

When a Muslim businessman observes truthfulness in his trading and financial transactions, then he deserves the glad tidings of Allah's Messenger (*Peace be upon him*) who said,

« التَّاجِرُ الصَّدُوقُ لَأَمِينٌ مَعَ النَّبِيِّينَ وَالصِّدِّيقِينَ وَالشُّهَدَاءِ »

*"A truthful and trustworthy businessman will be among the Prophets, the Siddiqueen (the foremost in the truth), and the Martyrs."*²⁰⁷

2. NO GREATER PROFIT-MARGIN THAN THIS:

The Prophet (*Peace be upon him*) said, "Whoever enters a market and says (the following), Allah will record for him million virtues, and erase a million sins, and raises his status by a million ranks."²⁰⁸

« لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ لَهُ الْمُلْكُ وَلَهُ الْحَمْدُ يُحْيِي وَيُمِيتُ

وَهُوَ حَيٌّ لَا يَمُوتُ بِيَدِهِ الْخَيْرُ وَهُوَ عَلَى كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ »

*"Laa Ilaaha illallahu wah dahoo laa shareekalahu, laahul mulku walahul Hamdu, yuhyee wa yu meethu, wahuwa hayyul laa yamootu biyadihil khairu wahuwa 'alaa kulli shayy in Qadeer."*²⁰⁹

People are often concerned that their work keeps them from doing Allah's *dhikr*. But rejoice O my people at work, for this *hadith* ensures that the rest will have to catch up with You, in terms of rewards.

²⁰⁷ Recorded by At-Tirmidhi who said it is *hasan*

²⁰⁸ Recorded by At-Tirmidhi and Ibn Maajah – It is classed *hasan*

²⁰⁹ "There is None worthy of worship besides Allah, Who is Alone and has no partner. His is the Kingdom, and to Him is all praise. He gives life and causes death. He is the Ever-Living and Eternal. In His hands is all good, and He has power over all things."

3. BE THE BEST

As the Prophet (*Peace be upon him*) said,

« إِنَّ خَيْرَكُمْ أَحْسَنُكُمْ قَضَاءً »

*“The best of you is the one who is best in repaying his debts.”*²¹⁰

To this effect, we have been ordered to, *“Pay the labourer his wages before his sweat dries.”*²¹¹

4. DU'A FOR REPAYING DEBTS

Abu Dawud records that Abu Umamah (*May Allah be pleased with him*) mentioned to the Prophet (*Peace be upon him*) that he was surrounded with tensions because of his debts. The Prophet (*Peace be upon him*) said, *“Shall I not teach you those words by saying which Allah will remove your tensions and pay your debts?”* He said: *“Yes, please tell me, O Messenger of Allah!”* He (*Peace be upon him*) said: *“Say in the morning and evening:*

« اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي أَعُوذُ بِكَ مِنَ الْهَمِّ وَالْحَزَنِ ، وَأَعُوذُ بِكَ مِنَ الْعَجْزِ وَالْكَسَلِ
وَأَعُوذُ بِكَ مِنَ الْبُخْلِ وَالْجُبْنِ وَأَعُوذُ بِكَ مِنْ غَلَبَةِ الدَّيْنِ وَقَهْرِ الرِّجَالِ »

*“Allahumma innee A'oodhubika minal hammi wal hazani, wa a'oodhubika minal 'Ajzi wal kasali, wa a'oodhubika minal bukhli wal jubni, wa a'oodhubika min ghalabatid-dayni wa qahrir-rijaal.”*²¹²

Abu Umamah (*May Allah be pleased with him*) says, *“So I did that, and indeed Allah removed my tensions and cleared all my debts.”*

²¹⁰ Recorded by Al-Bukhari and Muslim

²¹¹ Recorded by Ibn Maajah

²¹² O Allah I seek refuge in You from worry and grief, I seek refuge in You from hopelessness and laziness, I seek refuge in You from miserliness and cowardice, and I seek refuge in You from overwhelming debt and from the oppression of men.”

5. THE BELIEVER DOES NOT DEAL WITH INTEREST

Allah Subhanahu wa Ta'ala warns us in Surah Al-Baqara,

﴿ يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَذَرُوا مَا بَقِيَ مِنَ الرِّبَا إِن كُنتُمْ مُؤْمِنِينَ ۝
فَإِنْ لَّمْ تَفْعَلُوا فَأْذَنُوا بِحَرْبٍ مِنَ اللَّهِ وَرَسُولِهِ ﴾

“O you who believe! Be afraid of Allah and give up what remains from Riba (usury-Interest), if you are believers. And if you do not do it, then take a notice of war from Allah and His Messenger.”
[2: 278, 279]

6. THE CURSE OF THE PROPHET

(لَعَنَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ أَكِلَ الرِّبَا وَمُوكِلَهُ)

“The Messenger of Allah (Peace be upon him) cursed the one who accepts usury and the one who pays it.”²¹³ “and the one who records it, and the two persons who stand witness to it.”²¹⁴

We have to understand that transactions based on usury (interest) could be clouded in different names. Therefore, it becomes all the more important that we exercise care in our monetary dealings. And sufficient for us is Allah’s warning in this regard!

Our *Deen* commends bread earners for the role they play in raising the family – as Umar (May Allah be pleased with him) said, “I would like to breathe my last, only if I am buying for my family or trading.” This however is only true for those, whose sustenance comes from a *halal* source of income.

²¹³ Recorded by Muslim

²¹⁴ Recorded by At-Tirmidhi

THE MU'MIN TURNS AWAY FROM AL-LAGHW²¹⁵

²¹⁵ *i.e. dirty, false, evil, vain talk, falsehood, and all that Allah has forbidden*

The Mu'min doesn't indulge in Evil

1. THE MOST EXCELLENT BELIEVER

When the Messenger of Allah (*Peace be upon him*) was asked: "Who is the most excellent among the Muslims?" He said,

« مَنْ سَلِمَ الْمُسْلِمُونَ مِنْ لِسَانِهِ وَيَدِهِ »

*"One from whose tongue and hands the other Muslims are secure."*²¹⁶

The believer knows that he ought to take care of his words and actions, should he hope to become the most excellent one. And the Prophet (*Peace be upon him*) has said:

« لَيْسَ الْمُؤْمِنُ بِالطَّعَّانِ ، وَلَا اللَّعَّانِ ، وَلَا الْفَاحِشِ ، وَلَا الْبَذِيّ »

*"A true believer does not taunt or curse or abuse or talk indecently."*²¹⁷

2. THE BELIEVER HAS GOOD OPINION OF OTHERS

A believer is good mannered and does not think little of others, and nor does he slight them; for the Messenger of Allah (*Peace be upon him*) who said,

« بِحَسَبِ أَمْرِي مِنَ الشَّرِّ أَنْ يَحْقَرَ أَخَاهُ الْمُسْلِمَ »

*"It is enough evil for a Muslim to look down upon his (Muslim) brother."*²¹⁸

To this effect Imam Ibn Mazin said, "The believer seeks excuses for his brothers, while the hypocrite seeks out their faults."

²¹⁶ Recorded by Al-Bukhari and Muslim

²¹⁷ Recorded by At-Tirmidhi who said it is hasan

²¹⁸ Recorded by Muslim

3. THE BELIEVER IS NOT ENVIOUS

The believer does not allow his good deeds to be lost and follows the words of the Prophet (*Peace be upon him*) who said:

« إِيَّاكُمْ وَالْحَسَدَ ؛ فَإِنَّ الْحَسَدَ يَأْكُلُ الْحَسَنَاتِ كَمَا تَأْكُلُ النَّارُ الْحَطَبَ »

*“Beware of envy because envy consumes (destroys) the virtues just as the fire consumes the firewood,” or he said “grass.”*²¹⁹

4. THE BELIEVER DOES NOT RECALL HIS FAVORS

Reminding others of favors done, invites Allah’s punishment, for the Prophet (*Peace be upon him*) observed: *“There are three (types of) people to whom Allah will neither speak on the Day of Resurrection nor look at them, nor purify them, and they will have a painful chastisement.”* The Messenger of Allah (*Peace be upon him*) repeated it three times. And one of them is *“A Mannan or the one who recounts of his favours done to another.”*²²⁰

5. THE BELIEVER IS NOT ARROGANT

The believer does not allow any vice to come between him and *Jannah*; not even his pride, for the Messenger of Allah (*Peace be upon him*) said,

« لَا يَدْخُلُ الْجَنَّةَ مَنْ كَانَ فِي قَلْبِهِ مِثْقَالُ ذَرَّةٍ مِنْ كِبَرٍ »

*“The one who has even a speck of pride will not enter Jannah.”*²²¹

The believer is careful from being haughty, for he knows that the arrogant are from *“the people of the Hell-fire.”*²²²

²¹⁹ Recorded by Abu Dawud

²²⁰ Recorded by Muslim

²²¹ Recorded by Muslim

6. THE BELIEVER IS NOT ILL-WISHING

A believer does not wish ill for others, remembering the Prophet's (*Peace be upon him*) admonishment in this regard:

« لَا تُظْهِرِ الشَّمَاتَةَ لِأَخِيكَ فَيَرْحَمَهُ اللَّهُ وَيَبْتَلِيكَ »

*“Do not express pleasure at the misfortune of a (Muslim) brother lest Allah should bestow mercy upon him and make you suffer from a misfortune.”*²²³

And a believer is not double-faced with people, as the two-faced, *“will have two tongues of fire on Youmal Qiyamah”*²²⁴

7. THE BELIEVER TURNS AWAY FROM NIFAQ

A believer is fearful of *nifaq* or hypocrisy just as the *Sahabah* (*May Allah be pleased with them*) strived to stay away from it. The Messenger of Allah (*Peace be upon him*) who said,

« آيَةُ الْمُنَافِقِ ثَلَاثٌ : إِذَا حَدَّثَ كَذَبَ ، وَإِذَا وَعَدَ أَخْلَفَ ، وَإِذَا أُؤْتِمِنَ خَانَ »

*“There are three signs of a hypocrite: When he speaks, he lies, when he makes a promise, he breaks it, and when he is trusted, he betrays his trust.”*²²⁵

There exist many punishments for the one who engages his tongue in lies and falsehood. Also, when a man tells a lie, the angels move a mile away from him due to the foul odor that he comes with.²²⁶

Imam Sufyan At-Thawri said, “Do not make a promise to your brother and then break it, so that love turns to hate.”

²²² Recorded by Al-Bukhari

²²³ Recorded by At-Tirmidhi who said it is hasan

²²⁴ Recorded by Abu Dawud

²²⁵ Recorded by Al-Bukhari and Muslim

²²⁶ Recorded by At-Tirmidhi who said it is hasan

The Mu'min does not Backbite

﴿ وَلَا يَغْتَبِ بَعْضُكُم بَعْضًا أَيُّحِبُّ أَحَدُكُمْ أَنْ يَأْكُلَ لَحْمَ أَخِيهِ مَيْتًا فَكَرِهْتُمُوهُ وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ تَوَّابٌ رَحِيمٌ ﴾

“And backbite not one another. Would one of you like to eat the flesh of his dead brother? You would hate it (so hate backbiting). And fear Allah. Verily, Allah is the One Who forgives and accepts repentance, Most Merciful.” [49:12]

1. THE BACKBITER IS PUNISHED IN THE GRAVE

The Messenger of Allah (*Peace be upon him*) passed by two graves and said, “Both of them are being tortured, and they are not being tortured for a cardinal sin. But indeed they are great sins. One of them used not to save himself from being soiled with his urine,

« وَأَمَّا الْآخَرُ فَكَانَ لَا يَسْتَتِرُ مِنْ بَوْلِهِ »

*And the other one used to go about with calumnies.”*²²⁷

2. ALL HIS GOOD DEEDS WILL BE TAKEN AWAY

The Messenger of Allah (*Peace be upon him*) said:

“Whoever has done a wrong affecting his brother’s honor or something else, he must ask that one forgiveness now, before that Day comes when he will have neither Dinar nor Dirham. If he has any good deeds, then they will be deducted equal to his wrong doings; and if he has no good deeds, then the sins of the wronged will be taken and put on him.”²²⁸

²²⁷ Recorded by al-Bukhari and Muslim

²²⁸ Recorded by Al-Bukhari

Of the innumerable beauties of our *Deen* is that it protects our honor in our absence, even in the wrong. And when a man said to Imam Hasan Al-Basri: “You have gossiped about me. He (the Imam) said: “You have not reached such a position that you can control my *Hasanat* (or good deeds)!”

3. HE IS PUNISHED SEVERELY THEREAFTER

The Messenger of Allah (*Peace be upon him*) said:

“During the Mi’raj (the Night of Ascension), I saw a group of people who were scratching their chests and faces with their copper nails. I asked, ‘Who are these people, O Jibril? Jibril replied:

« هَؤُلَاءِ الَّذِينَ يَأْكُلُونَ لُحُومَ النَّاسِ ، وَيَقْعُونَ فِي أَعْرَاضِهِمْ »

‘These are the people who ate flesh of others (by backbiting) and trampled people's honour.’²²⁹

4. AND WHAT IS BACKBITING?

The Messenger of Allah (*Peace be upon him*) said,

« ذِكْرُكَ أَخَاكَ بِمَا يَكْرَهُ »

“Backbiting is talking about your (Muslim) brother in a manner which he dislikes.”

They said: “What if my (Muslim) brother is as I say.” He (*Peace be upon him*) said, “If he is actually as you say, then that is backbiting; but if that is not in him, that is slandering.”²³⁰

So severe is backbiting that some of the *Tabi’een* would say: “The *Sahabah* considered abstaining from backbiting as a great form of worship too, just as *Salah* and *fasting* were forms of worship.”

²²⁹ Recorded by Abu Dawud

²³⁰ Recorded by Muslim

The Mu'min Stays away from Riya

1. THE SHOW OF *DEEN* IS THE WORST!

The Messenger of Allah (*Peace be upon him*) said,

« مَنْ صَلَّى يُرَائِيَ فَقَدْ أَشْرَكَ ، وَمَنْ صَامَ يُرَائِيَ فَقَدْ أَشْرَكَ ، وَمَنْ تَصَدَّقَ يُرَائِيَ فَقَدْ

أَشْرَكَ »

*“Anyone who offers Salat (prayer) for show has undoubtedly done Shirk; and anyone who fasts for show has undoubtedly done Shirk; and anyone who gives Sadaqah (charity and alms) for show has undoubtedly done Shirk.”*²³¹

The believer knows that Allah forgives every sin except *Shirk* and disbelief, if he passed away before repentance. Therefore, he does not intend praise or commendation of people for his *Salat*, or for being generous to the poor. Therefore those who have engaged in *Riya* or display, are required to seek forgiveness from Allah ‘*Azza wa Jall* and refrain from doing so anymore. Surely, He is *Ghafoor* or the Forgiving One.

Imam Sufyan At-Thawri would say: “When good deeds are practised, the Angel records these in the Record of Goodness. When people speak about their good deeds, the Angel records the deeds in the Record of *Riya* (show and display).” And Imam Ibrahim Al-Taymi would say: “A person sincere to God hides his good deeds as much as he hides his bad deeds.”

²³¹ Recorded by Ahmad

So never forget, “Indeed, actions are upon intentions.”²³²

The Mu'min's Sense of Fashion

1. KNOW WHOM YOU'RE COPYING

The Messenger of Allah (*Peace be upon him*) said:

« مَنْ تَشَبَّهَ بِقَوْمٍ فَهُوَ مِنْهُمْ »

*“The one who copies any people is one of them.”*²³³

This *hadith* comes as delightful news to brothers and sisters who follow the way of Allah's Messenger (*Peace be upon him*); and at the same time, comes as warning for those who copy disbelievers and say “*that style's hot*”. And this couldn't be more evident in matters of appearance and attitude. Thus, one could choose to copy a film celebrity and hope to be with him or her, or one could follow the Prophet (*Peace be upon him*), and be of those who are with him.

2. ACCURSED ARE THOSE COPYING THE OPPOSITE SEX

(لَعَنَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ الْمُتَشَبِّهِينَ مِنَ الرِّجَالِ بِالنِّسَاءِ وَالْمُتَشَبِّهَاتِ مِنَ النِّسَاءِ بِالرِّجَالِ)

*The Messenger of Allah (Peace be upon him) cursed men who copy women and cursed women who copy men.*²³⁴

One must take a moment to reflect on how much of our behavior and appearance resembles the other sex. These

²³² Recorded by Al-Bukhari and Muslim

²³³ Recorded by Abu Dawud and Ibn Hibban classed it sahih

²³⁴ Recorded by Al-Bukhari

Prophetic words also bring in its fold those people who put on the attitude of the opposite sex.

And in matters of clothing, this has become all the more important when the line between the two has been blurred with accessories and labels like “unisex” and “the right fit”. This is not something to be shrugged off lightly, for it invites the curse of Allah’s Messenger (*Peace be upon him*).

3. OBSCENITY

The Messenger of Allah (*Peace be upon him*) said:

« إِنَّ اللَّهَ يُبْغِضُ الْفَاحِشَ الْبَذِيءَ »

“Indeed Allah hates the indecent and the obscene.”²³⁵

Indecency and obscenity refers to both speech and action. No one would dare to be hated by Allah ‘Azza wa Jall, would they? Then why continue the obscenity in clothing?

For Men

1. WEARING A BEARD

Allah’s Messenger (*Peace be upon him*) said:

« خَالِفُوا الْمُشْرِكِينَ ، أَحْفُوا الشَّوَارِبَ وَاعْفُوا اللَّحَى »

“Be different from the polytheists: trim the mustache and leave the beard.”²³⁶ And in the version of *hadith* recorded by Muslim: “...allow the beard to grow fully.”

²³⁵ Recorded by At-Tirmidhi who said it is sahih

²³⁶ Recorded by Al-Bukhari

Dear brother in *Iman*, know that we are to differ from them by allowing our beards to grow. And sufficient are the Prophet's (*Peace be upon him*) words that:

« مَنْ رَغِبَ عَنْ سُنَّتِي فَلَيْسَ مِنِّي »

*"Whoever turns away from my Sunnah does not belong to me."*²³⁷

2. HAIRSTYLES

(نَهَى رَسُولُ اللَّهِ عَنِ الْقَزَعِ)

*The Messenger of Allah (Peace be upon him) forbade shaving a part of the head.*²³⁸

Hairstyles with parts of head shaved like the *Mohican*, *short back & sides* are probably in vogue amongst our brothers. They must realize that they're giving into disobeying the Prophet (*Peace be upon him*) who forbade it. Thus, they should either shave their hair completely or retain them as permitted.

3. TROUSERS BELOW ANKLES

How fearsome will be the condition of the one, about whom the Messenger of Allah (*Peace be upon him*) has said:

« مَا أَسْفَلَ مِنَ الْكَعْبَيْنِ مِنَ الْإِزَارِ فِي النَّارِ »

*"What is below the ankles of the trousers is in the Hell-fire."*²³⁹

For Women

²³⁷ Recorded by Al-Bukhari and Muslim

²³⁸ Recorded by Al-Bukhari and Muslim

²³⁹ Recorded by Al-Bukhari

1. CLOTHING

When describing “People who will be punished in hell”, the Messenger of Allah (Peace be upon him) said:

« وَنِسَاءٌ كَاسِيَاتٌ عَارِيَاتٌ مُمِيلَاتٌ مَائِلَاتٌ ، رُؤُوسُهُنَّ كَأَسْنِمَةِ الْبُخْتِ الْمَائِلَةِ لَا يَدْخُلْنَ الْجَنَّةَ ، وَلَا يَجِدْنَ رِيحَهَا »

“And the women who will be dressed but appear to be naked, inclined to evil; and inclining others to it. Their heads will be like the humps of the Bactrian camel inclined to one side. They will not enter Jannah and they will not smell its fragrance.”²⁴⁰

This *hadith* warns women who wear provocative clothing thereby tempting others into promiscuity. And to those sisters who remain steadfast in *Deen* with regards to their clothing despite such influences around them, this *hadith* comes as a reliever that they will not meet the fate of such women. And know my sister in *Iman*, the *Ajr* from Allah, will be massive.

2. REJECTION OF PRAYERS

The Messenger of Allah (Peace be upon him) said:

« لَا يَقْبَلُ اللَّهُ صَلَاةَ حَائِضٍ إِلَّا بِخِمَارٍ »

“Allah does not accept the prayers of a woman who has reached puberty unless she wears the *khimar*.”²⁴¹

²⁴⁰ Recorded by Muslim, Ahmad and Bayhaqi. And the statement of Abu Hurairah in *Muwatta* continues with the addition that such women “will not smell its (Jannah’s) fragrance which is perceptible from a distance of five hundred years.”

²⁴¹ Recorded by Abu Dawud, At-Tirmidhi, Ibn Maajah and Ahmad

Even if all the world was given to the one who was told that her prayers would not be accepted, could that make her happy in the least?

And know my Sister in *Iman* that modesty on your part, will only add to your beauty.²⁴²

A Note of Encouragement to my Brothers and Sisters in Iman

The words of *Imam Al-Haram*, Sheikh Sa'ud Ash-Shuraim are apt in this context, who said: "The restraints imposed by our religion on people, are not meant to deprive them from the pleasures of this life – rather, its aim is to elevate them from mere animalism to complete humanity."

And, when the Prophet's *Sunnah* becomes dear to us, then acting upon these commandments becomes easier even at work, or between peers. And fear not the lessening of *rizq*, looks or position, but persevere *patiently* for the sake of Allah and revive these *Sunan*²⁴³; for You have been given the glad tidings of a great reward from Allah's Messenger (*Peace be upon him*) who said:

« وَمَنْ أَحْيَا سُنَّتِي فَقَدْ أَحَبَّنِي وَمَنْ أَحَبَّنِي كَانَ مَعِيَ فِي الْجَنَّةِ »

²⁴² See the hadith of At-Tirmidhi who said it is *hasan*

²⁴³ *Sunan* – plural of *Sunnah*

*“And the one who revives my Sunnah has indeed loved me;
and the one who loves me will be with me in Jannah.”²⁴⁴*

Now, is there greater happiness than that O believers?

THE *Successful* MU'MIN

²⁴⁴ Recorded by At-Tirmidhi who said it is hasan

ALLAH SUBHANAHU WA TA'ALA SAYS

﴿ قَدْ أَفْلَحَ الْمُؤْمِنُونَ ۝ الَّذِينَ هُمْ فِي صَلَاتِهِمْ خَاشِعُونَ ۝ وَالَّذِينَ هُمْ عَنْ اللَّغْوِ مُعْرِضُونَ ۝ وَالَّذِينَ هُمْ لِلزَّكَاةِ فَاعِلُونَ ۝ وَالَّذِينَ هُمْ لِفُرُوجِهِمْ حَافِظُونَ ۝ إِلَّا عَلَىٰ أَزْوَاجِهِمْ أَوْ مَا مَلَكَتْ أَيْمَانُهُمْ فَإِنَّهُمْ غَيْرُ مَلُومِينَ ۝ فَمَنْ ابْتَغَىٰ وَرَاءَ ذَلِكَ فَأُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الْعَادُونَ ۝ وَالَّذِينَ هُمْ لِأَمَانَاتِهِمْ وَعَهْدِهِمْ رَاعُونَ ۝ وَالَّذِينَ هُمْ عَلَىٰ صَلَوَاتِهِمْ يُحَافِظُونَ ۝ أُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الْوَارِثُونَ ۝ الَّذِينَ يَرِثُونَ الْفِرْدَوْسَ هُمْ فِيهَا خَالِدُونَ ﴾

- 1) Successful indeed are the Believers. 2) Those who offer their Salat with all solemnity and full submissiveness. 3) And those who turn away from Al-Laghw. 4) And those who pay the Zakat. 5) And those who guard their chastity. 6) Except from their wives or that their right hands possess - for then, they are free from blame; 7) But whoever seeks beyond that, then those are the transgressors; 8) Those who are faithfully true to their Amanat (i.e. all the duties that Allah has ordained) and to their covenants; 9) And those who strictly guard their prayers. 10)

These are indeed the inheritors. 11) Who shall inherit the Firdaus (Paradise). They shall dwell therein forever.

And so moved was the Prophet (*Peace be upon him*) upon revelation of these initial ten verses of *Surah Al-Mu'minun* (23), that he turned toward the *qibla*, raised his hands, and supplicated fervently to Allah, the Most Merciful with these beautiful words:

« اللَّهُمَّ زِدْنَا وَلَا تَنْقُصْنَا وَآكِرْمْنَا وَلَا تُهِنَّا وَاعْظِنَا وَلَا تَحْرِمْنَا وَآثِرْنَا وَلَا تُؤْثِر عَلَيْنَا
وَآرِضْنَا وَارْضَ عَنَّا »

*“O Allah. Increase our number, and do not decrease it; bestow honor upon us and do not disgrace us; bless us with Your bounties and do not deprive us of them, accept us and do not prefer others to us; be pleased with us and please us.”*²⁴⁵

And this, My dear Brothers and Sisters in *Iman*, is the *Minhaj-ul Mu'min* or the way of the believer. It commences with the *Shahadah*, and upon being successful, culminates in living eternally in *Al-Firdaus* which is the highest of the hundred levels of *Jannah* over which, is the Throne.²⁴⁶

You should know – May Allah have mercy on you, that none are more fortunate than the ones who keep drawing close to Allah *Subhanahu wa Ta'ala* with righteous acts of worship

²⁴⁵ Recorded by At-Tirmidhi and Ahmad

²⁴⁶ Recorded by Al-Bukhari

until He loves them.²⁴⁷ And always remember the words of the Prophet (*Peace be upon him*),

« أَحَبُّ الْأَعْمَالِ إِلَى اللَّهِ أَدْوَمُهَا وَإِنْ قَلَّ »

*“The deeds loved most by Allah are the ones that are done regularly, even if they are small.”*²⁴⁸

May Allah grant all of us the *tawfiq* to be successful believers – *Ameen*; and All Praise is for Allah, the Lord of the ‘*Alamin*.

²⁴⁷ See the Hadith of obligatory and voluntary deeds in *Al-Bukhari*

²⁴⁸ Recorded by *Al-Bukhari* and *Muslim*