



PARADISE

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EDITORIAL

The Prophet's Advice to Mu'aadh ibn Jabal

Abu Thalabah AlKhashani narrated that the Prophet PBUH said: *"After you there will come the days of patience (require patience). Patience during those (days) will be like grasping a live coal. During those (days) the reward for the one who adheres to the Commands of Allah will be equivalent to the reward of fifty men who did an action like his."* He said, *"O Messenger of Allah, the reward of fifty of them?"* He said, *"The reward of fifty of you (companions)."* (Abu Dawud 4341; Ibn Majah 4014)

Allah tests Muslims with trials and tribulations (fitnah) to separate those who earnestly worship and obey Allah from those who disobey Him. At times of tribulations, Muslims are required to pay special attention to their religious commitment and spare no pains to steer away from temptations.

The Muslim attitude towards tribulations should include: 1-Deliberation, gentleness and forbearance that enable Muslims to see things as they really are. 2-Patience, which will differentiate between the determined and the weak. 3-Justice and fairness on the individual and communal level in all deeds and words, and examining matters (their pros and cons) thoroughly, which will protect Muslims from attributing to Islam things that are not in accordance with the Commands of Allah.

Mu'aadh bin Jabal reported from the Messenger of Allah (SAW) that he said, "Fear Allah wheresoever you may be, and follow up an evil deed with a good one, it will efface it (the evil deed). And deal with mankind with good manners." Reported by at-Tirmidhee and he said that it was a Hasan hadeeth.

[Al-Haakim reports it in al-Mustadrak and states that it meets the conditions of Bukhaaree and Muslim. Adh-Dhahabee agreed.]

This hadeeth is one of the Forty Ahaadeeth of the author, may Allah have mercy upon him, and in it is that the Prophet (SAW) gave three great and important pieces of advice: THE FIRST: He said, "have taqwaa of Allah wheresoever you may be." Taqwaa means to stay away from the forbidden matters and to enact the obligatory matters – this is taqwaa! That you enact what Allah has commanded you, sincerely for Allah and in compliance to the Messenger of Allah (SAW), and that you leave what Allah has forbidden due to His prohibiting it and to steer clear of it.

For example that you establish the greatest obligation that Allah has imposed upon you after the testimony of faith – the prayer, and you establish it completely - fulfilling all of its conditions and pillars and obligations, fulfilling all of these perfectly. So whosoever leaves off any of these conditions, pillars or obligations then he has not feared Allah (to the best of his ability), rather he has been deficient in this to the extent of what he left out.

In Zakaah, the Taqwaa of Allah lies in your calculating all of your property on which the Zakaah is due, and your giving the Zakaah as a means of purifying yourself without any miserliness or tightfistedness, or delay. And whosoever does not do this than he has not feared Allah.

In fasting, the Taqwaa of Allah lies in your establishing the fast as you have been commanded, distancing yourself from idle speech, obscene words and mannerisms, boisterous behavior, backbiting and spreading tales and other such things that

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would make the fast deficient and remove the spirit of fasting. The true meaning of fasting is to fast from that which Allah, Azza wa Jall, has made forbidden. The same applies to all of the obligations that are used to establish obedience to Allah, and compliance to His command, sincerely for Him and in following His Messenger. Likewise all the forbidden actions are to be left in compliance to His prohibition.

THE SECOND: "and follow up an evil deed with a good one, it will efface it (the evil deed)." Meaning that when you perform an evil action then follow it up with a good action for the good action effaces the evil. And from the good actions to be performed after the evil is that you repent to Allah for this evil action, for indeed repentance is from the most noble and excellent of the good actions as Allah has said, "indeed Allah Loves those who repent and those who purify themselves." (2:222) And He said, "and repent to Allah all of you, O believers so that you may be successful." (24:31)

Similarly righteous actions expiate the evil actions as the Prophet (SAW) said, "the five daily prayers and one Jumu'ah to the next Jumu'ah, and one Ramadan to the next Ramadan, is an expiation for what lies between them as long as one refrains from the major sins." [Muslim], and he said, "one Umrah to the next is an expiation for what is between them." [Bukhaaree].

Therefore, the good actions efface the evil.

THE THIRD: "and deal with mankind with good manners." The first two pieces of advice were those related to relationship with the Creator, this third relates to relationship of the creation to the creation. This being to deal with mankind with the best manners such that you will be praised and not blamed. This by having a cheerful complexion, being truthful in speech, speaking to others nicely and other such good manners.

There are a large number of texts concerning the excellence of having good manners to the extent that the Messenger (SAW) said, "the most complete believer with respect to faith is the one with the best manners." And he informed us that the most deserving of mankind to him (SAW) and the closest to him in ranking on the Day of Judgment would be those with the best manners.

So noble manners, along with their being a way to beautify gatherings and the person who possesses them being beloved to the people, contain a huge reward which will be bestowed upon the person on the Day of Judgment.

So preserve these three pieces of advice from the Prophet (SAW) and Allah is the Grantor of Success.

By: Shaykh Muhammad ibn Salih al Uthaymeen

Upcoming HIC Events

1. Special General Assembly meeting

Saturday May 3, 2003 @ 6:00 P.M.

Please plan to attend

The meeting will be preceded by a potluck dinner

The following is on the agenda for this meeting:

- HIC election process
- Membership dues
- Weekend school format
- IAH expansion & other related issues

2. Health & Fitness Fair

The Huntsville Islamic Center (HIC) will be conducting a Health & Fitness Fair on Saturday, May 11, 2003. Muslim Medical Professionals and other interested individuals are needed to assist in planning and conducting this event; More highlights will be forthcoming. Stay tuned! For more info, contact Zakiyyah Shakoor, Event Coordinator or email healthfair@huntsvilleislamiccenter.org

3. Dawa Event

The Huntsville Islamic Center will be inviting two well known speakers: Dr. Zulfiqar Ali Shah and Dr. William Baker to talk about: "The Common Thread: Religion, politics and Tolerance" on June 13, 2003. For more information please check our website: <http://www.huntsvilleislamiccenter.org/dawaevent.html> .

Tips for Memorizing the Qur'an

Allah says in the Holy Qur'an (interpretation of the meaning): "Those who recite the Book of Allah, establish regular prayer, and spend (in charity) out of what We have provided for them, secretly and openly, hope for commerce that will never fail" (Fatir 35:29)

Abdullah ibn Amr ibn Al-As may Allah bless him reported: The Prophet peace be upon him said, "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.'" [Abu Dawud and At-Tirmidhi].

This Hadith mentions the merit of those who memorize part or all of the Qur'an. Some scholars, in explaining this Hadith, have mentioned that the number of ranks (levels) in Paradise is equal to the number of ayahs in the Qur'an, and that a believer will rise one rank for each ayah that he or she memorizes.

In another Hadith, Othman ibn Affan may Allah bless him reported that the Messenger of Allah peace be upon him said, "The best amongst you is the one who learns the Qur'an and teaches it." [Al-Bukhari].

In what follows we list a few hints regarding memorizing the Qur'an, some of which were presented to us by the knowledgeable Sh. Osama Abdul-Azeem of Al-Azhar University in Cairo, Egypt.

- First, make sure to correct your tawbah (repentance to Allah), as sins do not leave any room for the Words of Allah. The Imam Al-Shafie has a famous verse of poetry in which he complained to his scholar about having difficulty in memorizing. His scholar advised him to abandon sins
- Have your intention ready, and bear in mind the reward and virtues of this great deed as mentioned in the Hadiths above. Ask Allah sincerely to assist you in accomplishing this.
- Dedicate a specific time each day (or every couple of days) for memorizing. This should be a time when you are not busy with other things.
- Use the same copy of the Qur'an each time. This is because your mind takes a 'snapshot' of the pages.
- Start with the surahs that are easiest to you. Many people recommend beginning with the last five juz's (the 30th, then the 29th, and so on).
- Other surahs to begin with are those that you enjoy reciting most of all, and those that you frequently listen to and thus probably already know part of by heart.
- The younger you are, the easier it will be. As you grow older, you get busier and your capacity for memorizing decreases. However, it's never too late in shaa Allah. If you haven't memorized a lot during your childhood or teens, you can still catch up.
- After completing a couple of ayahs, recite them in the next nafl (voluntary prayer) that you pray. Alternatively, practice them with a friend or your spouse.

Finally, it might be a good idea to work in groups, encouraging one another. If you are trying to get your children to memorize, you might want to create a sense of competition among them and then provide some reward to whoever memorizes best. May Allah guide us to all that pleases Him, Ameen.

HIC Activities

Friday Night Study Circles: 7:30 p.m. –9:00 p.m.

Two study circles for brothers and sisters.

Sunday Study Circle: 9:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Study circle for brothers and sisters.

Special General Assembly meeting & Monthly potluck dinner

Saturday, May 3rd at 6:30 P.M.

Tajweed classes

For brothers: Wednesday 7:45-9:00 PM.

For sisters : Wednesday 10:30-11:30 A.M.

Short Reminders

Every Monday and Wednesday after Isha prayer

Prayer Times at the Masjid

Fajr:	5:15 a.m.
Duhur:	1:00 p.m.
Asr:	4:45 p.m.
Maghrib:	Sunset
Isha:	9:00 p.m.
Jumu'a (Friday):	12:30 p.m.

HIC Library

We are, insha Allah, in the process of organizing HIC library and creating audio/video library in the masjid. Please return all books you borrowed from the HIC library to the masjid.

We also accept books, audio/video tapes donations. Jazakum Allah khair

Names of Allâh

" We shall show them Our Signs upon the horizons and within themselves until it is clear to them that it is the Real (the Truth)" (41:53).

Allah Self-disclosed through the manifestation of the Most Beautiful Names of which one Hadith relates the following Ninety-Nine Names of Allâh

2.AI-Rahîm: The Compassionate

"In the Name of Allah, the Merciful (Al-Rahmân), the Compassionate (Al-Rahîm)...." (1:1)

The Merciful and the Compassionate are qualities derived from rahamâ (mercy). The concept of mercy requires that there be an object of mercy, someone or something in need. The needs of the needy are satisfied through the Merciful without any intention, choosing, willing, or asking by the needy one. The mercy of the Merciful is perfect in the sense that Allah not only wills the satisfaction of the needs of the needy, which shows concern, but actually satisfies them. The Merciful is all-inclusive in that mercy is extended to the worthy and the unworthy alike and includes all their needs. There is a Hadith where the Messenger says, "Allah Most High has one hundred portions of mercy. He has given only one portion to the universe and that Allah has divided among all of creation." The feeling of mercy and compassion that Allah's creatures feel for each other is from this. The other ninety-nine portions are reserved for the Day of Judgment when Allah will bestow it upon the believers. The Qur'an says, "My mercy embraces everything" (7:156). A distinction should be made between the meanings of the two qualities of the Merciful and the Compassionate. The basic meaning to be understood from the Merciful is a kind of mercy which is beyond the reach of human potential and provides the needs for the nafs or soul for all creatures in this world regardless of their worthiness. The Compassionate, on the other hand, is the quality that Allah manifests to the believers, "He is compassionate to the believers" (33:43). Allah shows compassion towards those who use their free will to choose His way in order to be saved in the Hereafter. This is why it is said Allah is compassionate towards His believers.

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