



COMPANIONSHIP
OF THE **PIOUS**



MAULANA
ABDUL SATTAR *دوست برکاتہم*



COMPANIONSHIP
OF THE
PIOUS



MAULANA
ABDUL SATTAR ولست بركاتهم



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الحمد لله والصلوة والسلام على سيدنا محمد وعلى أهله واصحابه اجمعين.
اما بعد.

فاعوذ بالله من الشيطان الرجيم. بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم.

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَكُونُوا مَعَ الصَّادِقِينَ (التوبة: 119)

وقال رسول الله ﷺ

لَا تُصَاحِبِ إِلَّا مُؤْمِنًا، وَلَا يَأْكُلْ طَعَامَكَ إِلَّا تَقِيًّا

اللهم صل على سيدنا محمد وعلى آل سيدنا محمد وبارك وسلم

The Biggest Asset for Muslims

My esteemed Muslim elders and brothers and the respected mothers and sisters of the Muslim community, Allah ﷻ granted us the chance to live through and experience the holy month of Ramadan. Every Muslim tries their hardest to gather piety and love and fear of Allah ﷻ to the best of their abilities. My friends! Piety is a huge asset and significant wealth for the followers of Islam. Often, this wealth earned during the month of Ramadan favors them during the remaining months, and it is due to these assets that the Muslims can spend the rest of the year like Ramadan: with piety, self-restraint, and Awe of Allah ﷻ .

A season that is liked and appreciated goes by smoothly. And the wealth accumulated during that season ensures that the rest of the days are spent in comfort. Similarly, if the Holy month of Ramadan of a Muslim is spent with piety and is spent in the way outlined by Islam, then this Holy month goes by smoothly and successfully, and the rest of the life passes by in the same way.





Protect Your Piety

My dear comrades! When the season is good, and an individual accumulates an abundance of wealth, and he becomes the owner of great prosperity, but the situation of the city is not ideal, and there is a danger to his treasury, then that person becomes more vigilant about his safety. When he had no money, there was nothing to watch over but his acquisition of wealth will entail guards, watchmen, multiple lockers in the bank; in short, the person will put all his resources towards acquiring proper means of protection and safety. His friends and acquaintances will all suggest increasing security, getting a personal guard, watchman outside the shop. Because with the acquisition of wealth comes a natural desire to protect it, and so the security around it will tighten.

Friends, in the same way, when Muslims think of their piety as an important asset, one that holds the utmost significance for them, they worry about protecting it, shielding it to the best of their abilities, and starting to strategize about how to preserve it.

Specifically, when the strength of the faith is not that strong, the desire to secure this asset should increase fourfold. Nowadays, our faith is getting weak. It is under constant attack by the evil strutting on the streets. Nudity has reached the doorstep of every house, indecency and obscenity has spread throughout the society, lawful and halal things are hard to come by; the heart and brain have gone into the state of impurity, and all sense of honor and decency has disappeared. There is no sign of trustworthiness and integrity, and the reality of Iman or faith is fading fast. All these are the reasons to hold onto and strive to protect the faith and piety Muslims have left; these dark times dictate





the necessity of giving importance to these precious assets' safekeeping, even more than before.

Dear companions, the situation was much better before. Back then, the protection of faith against society's evils was comparatively more straightforward because there was an environment of purity in houses. The ambiance of a mosque promised easy attainment of piety. Even the markets were free of the immorality that they are associated with nowadays. A mother's lap used to provide all the qualities necessary for a more comfortable, better way forward; friends' company was beneficial. So the piety of a person was safe at home and in the school and universities; the situation was not so dire; it was easy to do good and avoid evil. But the circumstances are not the same. These are dangerous times. Everything is fully equipped to rob the Muslims of their assets of piety and faith. The web has been woven, and it is getting tighter around us, and our enemies are vigilant and ready for the slightest weakness. The surroundings are brimming with obscenity and impurity. Nothing is safe, not houses, nor educational institutes, nor offices and places of work. Now that the affairs are so tumultuous, the desire to shield one's faith and piety should be more vital than ever, lest we let the precious asset, earned after so much effort, slip out of our hands.

How to Protect Piety

Our Allah ﷻ is most merciful and kind; he is guiding the Muslims of today just like He guided the Muslims of the first century, and has given instructions to preserve this asset. Allah ﷻ has declared:

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَكُونُوا مَعَ الصَّٰدِقِينَ ﴿١٠١﴾





“O you who believe! fear ALLAH ﷻ and be in the company of the truthful.” (Al-Tawba:119)

This is the way to protect the faith, and if God wills, this will keep the asset safe and sound, and it will increase in the amount.

He ﷻ declared:

وَكُونُوا مَعَ الصَّادِقِينَ

“And be in the company of the truthful.”

Adopt their company, become friends with them, walk alongside them, only then will you be able to conserve the wealth you have accumulated after so many efforts over so many years.

The command to side with the trustworthy and pious ones and adopt a good company has been given because it helps shape a person's character significantly. If a man from a virtuous family falls into a bad company, he can easily be corrupted, and a man from a questionable family can be set on the right path if his company is good. Similarly, a girl from a suspicious family can attain the wealth of piety by adopting a good companionship and surrounding herself with believers. The environment and company can shape a person for the good or bad.

The Perils of Being Bereft of a Good Company

This is how it usually goes: Muslims make a lot of effort in the Holy month of Ramadan and try their best to acquire as much of the wealth of piety as possible. This entails regular Tahajjud prayers, Nawafil, staying up all night to do Zikr, regular recitation of the Quran; they weep in front of their Lord Allah ﷻ and beg for His Forgiveness and His Blessings. After





Ramadan though, general surroundings change, bringing about a decrease in the enthusiasm with which Islam was being practiced. It becomes hard to maintain the same pace. Thus, to stay on the right path and keep that righteousness, it is essential to retain a good company in the future.

Yes, fellow believers, if surrounded by the right people, Allah ﷻ will keep on granting this asset. If that company is not sustained, then the whole routine being religiously followed during Ramadan will change. Gone will be the regularity of Tahajjud, and with it sometimes even the Fajr prayer. Where multiple chapters of the Quran were finished in one day, it'll be hard to maintain that same flow afterward, The Quran would lie untouched for days, and the formerly pleasurable visits to the mosque will seem burdensome and might end altogether.

The Company You keep Affects Your Actions

Allah ﷻ has defined the way to avoid such deprivation. He ﷻ declared:

وَكُونُوا مَعَ الصَّادِقِينَ ﴿

“And be in the company of the truthful”

If the people you seek and hang around with are excellent and pure, you will stay on the right path; if you sit with the pious, you gain piety, sit with those who love Allah ﷻ and find your heart full of devotion to The All-Mighty. The company you seek shapes and molds you. It is human nature to adopt the mannerisms and ways they see or hear about and experience; their thoughts, habits, and manners all start to get molded by the people surrounding them. If people around them possess bad characteristics, they will





pick up on those and be affected by them. That is why our Lord has instructed us to adopt the company of good, pure, and pious people.

The Sign of a Friend of Allah ﷺ

The respected Sahaba ﷺ once asked the Prophet ﷺ of Allah:

"Ya Rasool Allah ﷺ! Who are the friends of Allah ﷻ? How can we recognize a friend of Allah ﷻ so that we may adopt his company and spend time with him?"

The Prophet ﷺ replied:

الَّذِينَ إِذَا رُؤُوا ذُكِرَ اللَّهُ

"When you see them, you get reminded of your Lord Allah ﷻ."

If just the sight of certain people is enough to remind us of our Lord, those are the kind of people with whom to maintain a camaraderie! My Friends! For the protection of your faith, embrace the society of Muslims who fill your heart with devotion for your Lord and create a wariness for the Hereafter in your mind and heart. Our Prophet ﷺ Said:

لَا تُصَاحِبْ إِلَّا مُؤْمِنًا

"May your companionship be with the believers only." (Sunan Abi Dawood)

Meaning your companions, acquaintances and friends should all be believers.

Futile Companionship

Dear people! The person who our esteemed Prophet ﷺ declared as a believer or MOMIN is not the one who says





"أَمَنَّا بِاللَّهِ" but does not possess any of the qualities of a believer. He ﷺ declared:

وَمَا هُمْ بِمُؤْمِنِينَ

"They are not Believers."

يُخَدِعُونَ اللَّهَ وَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا

"They try to deceive ALLAH and those who believe" (surah baqra: 09)

Such people betray Allah All-Mighty and the believers of Islam because they profess their loyalty to the religion, but do not have the gift of faith in their hearts.

That is why the company of such Muslims should not be sought: those whose families have forgone the rite of offering the Fajr prayers, who do not discriminate between Halaal and Haraam, and whose women profess hatred towards observing modesty and Purdah. Whose gatherings hold discourses making fun of the religion the followers of the faith. It doesn't matter if they are from religious, virtuous families; their company is of no use. Spending time with such people would not be beneficial; it would not be successful in invoking love for Allah ﷻ in one's heart, and so, such an acquaintance would be futile.

Who Are the Believers?

Allah ﷻ, the Almighty has described the believers in His Holy Book such as:

إِنَّمَا الْمُؤْمِنُونَ الَّذِينَ إِذَا ذُكِرَ اللَّهُ وَجِلَتْ قُلُوبُهُمْ وَإِذَا تُلِيَتْ عَلَيْهِمْ
 آيَاتُهُ زَادَتْهُمْ إِيمَانًا وَعَلَىٰ رَبِّهِمْ يَتَوَكَّلُونَ * الَّذِينَ يُقِيمُونَ الصَّلَاةَ وَمِمَّا
 رَزَقْتَهُمْ يُنْفِقُونَ * أُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الْمُؤْمِنُونَ حَقًّا لَهُمْ دَرَجَاتٌ عِنْدَ رَبِّهِمْ
 وَمَغْفِرَةٌ وَرِزْقٌ كَرِيمٌ





"Certainly, The believers are Those whose hearts are filled with awe, when (the name of) ALLAH ﷻ is mentioned; and when his verses are recited to them, it makes them more developed in faith; and in their lord they place their trust. (They are) those who establish Salah, and give away from what we have given to them. Those are the believers in reality. For them there are high ranks with their Lord, and forgiveness, and dignified provision" (Al-Anfal:2-4)

These are the believers, whose hearts are filled with Allah's ﷻ Might, and Awe, so filled with Awe that Allah's ﷻ mere mention instills fear in them. When His verses are recited in front of them, their hearts tremble, and their faith increases, they feel satisfaction and fulfillment in obeying Our Lord's orders, His Faraiz and Wajibaat, they feel joy in fulfilling His Commands.

These are the truly successful people. Allah ﷻ has decreed:

قَدْ أَفْلَحَ الْمُؤْمِنُونَ ﴿١﴾

"Success is really attained by the believers" (surah Al-mu'minun:1)

Who are the believers? Allah ﷻ has decreed

وَالَّذِينَ هُمْ فِي صَلَاتِهِمْ خَاشِعُونَ ﴿٢﴾ وَالَّذِينَ هُمْ عَنِ اللَّغْوِ مُعْرِضُونَ ﴿٣﴾

وَالَّذِينَ هُمْ لِلرِّكْوَةِ فَعِلُونَ ﴿٤﴾

وَالَّذِينَ هُمْ لِأُذُنِهِمْ فَهْمٌ ﴿٥﴾ إِلَّا عَلَىٰ أَرْجُلِهِمْ أَوْ مَا مَلَكَتْ أَيْمَانُهُمْ

فَأَيْتَهُمْ غَيْرُ مَلُومِينَ ﴿٦﴾ فَمَنْ أَتَىٰ ذَٰلِكَ فَأُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الْعَادُونَ ﴿٧﴾

وَالَّذِينَ هُمْ لِأَمْتِهِمْ وَعَهْدِهِمْ رِعُونَ ﴿٨﴾ وَالَّذِينَ هُمْ عَلَىٰ صَلَاتِهِمْ يُحَافِظُونَ ﴿٩﴾

"Who concentrate their attention in humbleness when offering Salah (prayers)[2] and who keep themselves away





from vain things[3], and who are performers of Zakah[4], and who guard their private parts[5] except from their wives or from those (bondwomen who are) owned by their hands, as they are not to be blamed[6] However, those who seek (sexual pleasure) beyond that are the transgressors[7] and (success is attained) by those who honestly look after their trusts and covenant[8], and who consistently observe their prayers [9]"(Al-Mu'minun:2-9)

The Qualities Possessed by the Believers

The believers are those who possess the following seven qualities:

1. Prayers are performed with veneration.
2. Avoid ill-speech.
3. Give Zakat.
4. Protect their private parts.
5. Trustworthy.
6. Attend to their promise.
7. Carefully maintain their prayers

That is why friends, if we adopt these believers' company, the company of those who possess these qualities abundantly, then if Allah ﷻ wills, our lives will be enriched with these qualities too.

Rasool Allah ﷺ said:

لَا تُصَاحِبْ إِلَّا مُؤْمِنًا

"Only adopt the company of believers."

Because if we adopt their company, if we gain their





companionship, then we will be successful too.

The Holy Prophet ﷺ also said:

وَالْمُؤْمِنُ مَنْ أَمِنَهُ النَّاسُ عَلَى دِمَائِهِمْ وَأَمْوَالِهِمْ

“A believer is one who people can trust with their lives and their wealth.” (Tirmidhi)

Indeed, a believer is one with whom one feels completely secure doing any dealings or business, one feels confident that one's life, money, and dignity are safe, and no harm can come to them now. Our beloved Prophet ﷺ has declared that adopting a believer's company, befriending a believer, and appreciating a believer's companionship is beneficial because he who is a believer does not lie. When he speaks, he always tells the truth. When he gives advice, he is sincere, and when he participates in something, he does not betray, and when he walks alongside you, he is always there to help. Prophet ﷺ said:

الْمُؤْمِنُ لِلْمُؤْمِنِ كَالْبُنْيَانِ يَشُدُّ بَعْضُهُ بَعْضًا
وَشَبَّكَ يَدَيْهِ أَصَابِعِهِ.

A believer to another believer is like a building, whose different parts enforce each other then clasped his hands with his fingers interlaced(while saying this).(Bukhari)

This Hadeeth signifies that a believer is the bricks of a building for another. Just like the blocks support each other and provide strength to each other, believers form a support system for one another, become pillars for each other, worldly matters, and religious affairs. Whenever one feels a bit weak, the other encourages him and strengthens his resolve, and if he starts to fall, his comrade is there to support him. If he starts to wander, his companion stops him and guides him back onto the path of righteousness and back towards his Lord, and this is all because he made a





friend out of another believer and chose a virtuous company for himself. If help is needed, he will find sympathy; if he sins and falls back onto old habits, his friend will come forward and take his hand to guide him back towards the right path. This is the way of living of the believers, and such are the virtues of maintaining such a company.

Admirable People

Some individuals came to the Holy Prophet ﷺ. He ﷺ asked them:

مَنْ أَنْتُمْ؟

“Who are you?”

They replied,

الْمُؤْمِنُونَ

"We are believers."

(This was how the Muslims of that time introduced themselves, they used to feel pride in being possessors of the faith, they used to say Alhamdulillah, We are believers and due to Allah's ﷻ grace, we are Muslims.)

إِنِّي مِنَ الْمُسْلِمِينَ

'I am surely of those who submit' (Ha-Meem:33)

My Friends! Thank Allah ﷻ for his mercy that made us a believer gave us a chance to obey Him and gave us the gift of being a Muslim; this is the best gift, the biggest asset one can possess. And so, the newcomers declared “O Prophet of Allah ﷺ! We are believers". The Holy Prophet ﷺ asked,

إِنَّ لِكُلِّ قَوْلٍ حَقِيقَةً، فَمَا حَقِيقَةُ قَوْلِكُمْ وَ إِيْمَانِكُمْ؟

“Every declaration has some reality; what is the proof of your faith and this quote?” That is, every declaration that is





made is based on a fact, so what is the truth behind your declaration? And what is the proof that you are a believer?

They replied

"O Prophet ﷺ

خَمْسَ عَشْرَةَ خَصْلَةً

We have fifteen qualities."

خَمْسٌ مِّنْهَا أَمَرْتَنَا رُسُلُكَ أَنْ نُؤْمِنَ بِهَا

"Five are those which your messengers instructed us to believe and obey."

وْخَمْسٌ مِّنْهَا أَمَرْتَنَا رُسُلُكَ أَنْ نَعْمَلَ بِهَا

"And five are those which your messengers instructed us to act upon."

وْخَمْسٌ مِّنْهَا تَخَلَّفْنَا بِهَا فِي الْجَاهِلِيَّةِ فَنَحْنُ عَلَيْهَا إِلَّا أَنْ تَكْرَهَ مِنْهَا شَيْئًا

"And five are those which we had adopted during the dark ages, and still possessed, if you like them, we will keep practicing them, and if you dislike them, we will reject them at once."

Rasul ﷺ replied,

وَمَا الْخَمْسُ الَّتِي أَمَرْتَكُمْ رُسُلِي أَنْ تُؤْمِنُوا بِهَا؟

"What are the five things that my messengers instructed you to believe in and obey?"

They replied,

أَمَرْتَنَا رُسُلُكَ أَنْ نُؤْمِنَ بِاللَّهِ وَمَلَائِكَتِهِ وَكُتُبِهِ وَرُسُلِهِ وَالْبَعْثِ بَعْدَ الْمَوْتِ

"Your messengers instructed us to believe in Allah ﷻ, and His Angels, and His Books, and His Prophets ﷺ and on Day of Judgment."

The Holy Prophet ﷺ Inquired,





وَمَا الْخَمْسُ الَّتِي أَمَرْتُمْ أَنْ تَعْمَلُوا بِهَا؟

"And what are those five things that they instructed you to act upon?"

They replied,

أَمَرْتَنَا رَسُولُكَ أَنْ نَقُولَ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ، وَنُقِيمَ الصَّلَاةَ، وَنُؤْتِيَ الزَّكَاةَ،
وَنُصُومَ رَمَضَانَ، وَنَحُجَّ الْبَيْتَ مَنْ اسْتَطَاعَ إِلَيْهِ سَبِيلًا

"Your messenger told us to state that Allah ﷻ is divine and Almighty, instructed us to offer the prayers regularly, and pay the Zakat, and fast in the holy month of Ramadan, and if we have the means, perform the Pilgrimage in the Holy House of Allah ﷻ."

Rasul ﷺ asked,

وَمَا الْخَمْسُ الَّتِي تَخَلَّفْتُمْ بِهَا أَنْتُمْ فِي الْجَاهِلِيَّةِ؟

"And what are those five qualities you have possessed since the dark ages?"

They replied

الشُّكْرُ عِنْدَ الرَّخَاءِ ، وَالصَّبْرُ عِنْدَ الْبَلَاءِ ، وَالرِّضَا بِمَرِّ الْقَضَاءِ
وَالصِّدْقُ فِي مَوَاطِنِ الْبَلَاءِ ، وَالصَّبْرُ عِنْدَ شِمَاتِهِ الْأَعْدَاءِ

"When Allah ﷻ showed us good times, we thanked and praised the Almighty, when hardship befell us, we bore it patiently and we accepted disagreeable fate and fortune, stayed steady during war, and when our foes criticized and condemned us, we braced us ourselves and endured it.

Meaning الشُّكْرُ عِنْدَ الرَّخَاءِ they used to praise and thank Allah when He bestowed gifts onto them. Nowadays, the more Allah ﷻ gives us Muslims, the more we complain; everyone is whining and grumbling in this day and age. Meanwhile, even in the dark ages, they use to Thank Allah ﷻ, yet we are incredibly ungrateful despite being Muslims. The other quality they possessed was that وَالصَّبْرُ عِنْدَ الْبَلَاءِ they use to





bear any and every misfortune patiently.

Accept Your Fate

The third quality that these believers possessed since the dark time was that they accepted their fate ungrudgingly, no matter what came their way. If hard fortune befell them, they took it as a token from Allah ﷻ wholeheartedly and did not complain or protest. They knew that Allah ﷻ is All-Knowing, All-Wise, and The Most Merciful. They thought that if that was His decision for them, it was the right one because there is no one with more wisdom, more knowledge than Allah ﷻ, and no one is more merciful than Allah Almighty. If the mother slapped her child, an onlooker would never criticize her because her love is exemplary. The slap would be considered something borne out of necessity or beneficial for the child; after all, she is a mother. Like this, the Muslims of the earlier times considered Allah ﷻ more Merciful, loving, and caring than their mothers, the Most merciful of all. And if a bitter pill came their way that seemed hard to swallow, they accepted it gladly and wholeheartedly because it came from Allah ﷻ, and if he decided it, indeed, there must lie some benefit in it.

The fourth quality that they possessed was that:

وَالصِّدْقُ فِي مَوَاطِنِ اللَّيِّقَاءِ

“They stayed steadfast during the war.”

This statement signifies that they never turned their backs or ran away when they were fighting with their enemies and were standing in the battlefield.

The fifth quality was:

وَالصَّبْرُ عِنْدَ شَمَاتَةِ الْأَعْدَاءِ





"When our foes denounce us, we bear it patiently."

That is, they did not curse out their enemies, even if they faced abuse about their loved ones. Nowadays, the situation is so terrible that the Muslims casually use abusive language without a second thought; it has become a trend for them to converse in such a disgraceful and reviling manner among their acquaintances. The discourse has gotten so filthy that abusive language is now used as a joke, casually bandied about in the street, the youth is engaging in incredibly offensive and degrading language, words that would make one's ears bleed.

So they declared that even in the dark ages, they did not indulge in coarse dialogue, even when faced with revilement.

The Holy Prophet ﷺ was pleased that their introduction was very apt: they introduced themselves as **الْمُؤْمِنُونَ** believers and possessed all the qualities necessary for one.

Our Beloved Prophet ﷺ then said,

"Tell me a sign that shows you are people of faith."

They said "O Rasool of Allah ﷺ Please judge us based on the fifteen qualities we possess."

So Rasool ﷺ became very happy with their belief and their pure characters and said,

عَلَمَاءُ حُكَمَاءُ كَادُوا مِنْ صِدْقِهِمْ أَنْ يَكُونُوا أَنْبِيَاءَ

"You possess an abundance of knowledge and wisdom, you could have been messengers of Allah for all the qualities you possess."

These are wonderful attributes. Then our Beloved Prophet ﷺ Said

وَأَنَا أَزِيدُكُمْ خَمْسًا فَتَيْتُمْ لَكُمْ عِشْرُونَ خَصَلَةً. إِنْ كُنْتُمْ كَمَا تَقُولُونَ



فَلَا تَجْمَعُوا مَالًا تَأْكُلُونَ.

"I will add five more for you so that there will be twenty. If you are who you say You are, don't gather more than you can eat."

My Friends, when we die, all our worldly possessions get left behind. We keep chanting **مَالِي مَالِي** 'My wealth, my Wealth!' But Rasool ﷺ told us that of a person's wealth, only three things are his: whatever he eats and makes use of, whatever he wears till it's old, or he gives as a charity, and this is what he stores for himself as a reward for the Hereafter. Often the worldly wealth gets inherited by people whom the owner disliked or goes into the possession of disobedient children, the very sight of whom got his blood boiling, so how can that wealth be claimed as one's property?

Rasool ﷺ said

"This is not your wealth. Indeed it is a burden on you, and you will have to account for it, but it is not yours."

Crossing the limit is Harmful.

Allah ﷻ describes worldly affairs as such:

إِنَّمَا مَثَلُ الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا كَمَاءٍ أَنْزَلْنَاهُ مِنَ السَّمَاءِ

"The example of worldly life is just like the water We sent down from the sky," (Surah Yunus:24)

Just like water doesn't stay static, life is unpredictable; it never stays the same. One day you have, and the next day you don't. Just like that, the worldly affairs and possession don't stay the same. One day you have wealth, but poverty might follow, sometimes you feel like you're in the prime of your health, but the next moment might find you bedridden and unable to move. You might see the best of



times in one part of your life, but the next day might bring a decade of misery. SO we need to understand that the reality of this world is like water, it keeps changing. Water is only useful when it stays at a certain level, that water at its level fertilizes crops, populate lands, give satisfaction to human, and benefits animals and other creations. But if the same water rises above its level, chaos ensues, settlements are destroyed, generations are ruined, houses and villages are flooded and swept away. Why is it so? Because water rose above the level. Just like that, this world is only beneficial to a certain extent: as long as we give life the importance it deserves, the world will keep functioning, but if we get unnecessarily invested in it, we might end up losing more than we bargained. A boat surrounded by water on all sides will stay afloat as long as the sea is not choppy, and water stays at a certain point. But if the conditions change for the worse, the boat will capsize, and none will survive.

Dear Companions! Do not be overzealous in your pursuit of this world; keep your passion for it in containment; this shouldn't take over one's heart and makes life all about running after the materialistic things, because this heart is for Allah Almighty. If the boat of our heart gets flooded with the world's water, it will destroy us.

That is why the beloved Prophet ﷺ declared:

لَا تَجْمَعُوا مَا لَا تَأْكُلُونَ

“Do not gather more than you eat.”

And the second thing He ﷺ said was:

وَلَا تَبْنُوا مَا لَا تَسْكُنُونَ

“Do not build more buildings than you can reside in.”

A young man built a beautiful house for himself and invited his neighbors to view and praise his magnificent building. People were amazed; they showered him and his home with





compliments. Among these was an older man who came to view the house too. He praised the building generously, but then said, 'Son! This house has many qualities, its awe-inspiring, but it has two faults that have completely overshadowed all his beauty'. The young man said, 'Everyone is praising the house old man, what are the faults that are only visible to you?' He said, 'Young Man! Firstly, this house is not eternal. Secondly, its resident will not live forever'.

The layout of a durable Society

My Friends! The hearts of the people during those times had not hardened yet. The sight of a dead body wrapped in a shroud, a funeral procession going into the graveyard, a person taking their last breath in their arms, all these can soften hearts and affect them; their hearts were innocent and got affected by these sights. So when that young man heard what that elderly gentleman has said, his heart changed, and he said, 'Please tell me of a house that will last forever and where the owner of the house will live forever too!'. (Tell me such a society so that I can make an effort and build a house there too). The old man said, 'Certainly! Allah ﷻ has outlined the vision of such a society in His Holy Book.

He ﷻ has declared:

إِنَّ الْمُتَّقِينَ فِي مَقَامٍ أَمِينٍ ﴿٥١﴾ فِي جَنَّاتٍ وَعُيُونٍ ﴿٥٢﴾ يَلْبَسُونَ مِنْ سُندُسٍ
وَإِسْتَبْرَقٍ مُتَقَابِلِينَ ﴿٥٣﴾ كَذَلِكَ وَزَوَّجْنَاهُمْ بِحُورٍ عِينٍ ﴿٥٤﴾ يَدْعُونَ فِيهَا بِكُلِّ
فَكِهَةٍ ءَامِنِينَ ﴿٥٥﴾ لَا يَدْخُلُونَهَا فِيهَا الْمَوْتُ إِلَّا الْمَوْتَةَ الْأُولَىٰ ۖ وَوَقَّهُمْ عَذَابَ
الْجَحِيمِ ﴿٥٦﴾ فَضَلًا مِّن رَّبِّكَ ۚ ذَٰلِكَ هُوَ الْفَوْزُ الْعَظِيمُ ﴿٥٧﴾

"Indeed the God-fearing will be in a place free from fear [51] in gardens and fountains[52] They will be dressed in fine silk and thick silk , facing each other[53] Thus (it will





happen) and We will marry them with houris having big dark eyes [54] They will call therein for every fruit peacefully [55] They will not taste death therein beyond the first death (they faced in the world) and he (ALLAH) will save them from the torment of Hell [56] as a favour from your Lord . That is the great achievement " (Al Dukhan:51-57)

Allah ﷻ also said:

مَثَلُ الْجَنَّةِ الَّتِي وُعدَ الْمُتَّقُونَ فِيهَا أَنهْرٌ مِن مَّاءٍ غَيْرِ آسِنٍ وَأَنهْرٌ
مِّن لَّبَنٍ لَّمْ يَتَغَيَّرْ طَعْمُهُ وَأَنهْرٌ مِّن حَمْرٍ لَّدَّةٍ لِلشُّرْبِ وَأَنهْرٌ مِّن عَسَلٍ
مُّصَفًّى وَلَهُمْ فِيهَا مِن كُلِّ الثَّمَرَاتِ وَمَغْفِرَةٌ مِّن رَّبِّهِمْ ۖ

"(Here is) a description of the paradise that is promised for the God-fearing! In it there are rivers of water, never spoiling, and rivers of milk, the taste of which would not go bad , and rivers of wine, delicious to the drinkers, and rivers of honey, fully purified. And for them there are all sorts of fruits, and forgiveness from their Lord. " (Muhammad:15)

And Allah ﷻ has displayed yet another scenario:

لَا يَسْمَعُونَ فِيهَا لَغْوًا وَلَا تَأْتِيَمًا ۖ إِلَّا قِيلًا سَلَامًا سَلَامًا ۖ وَأَصْحَابُ
الْيَمِينِ مَا وَأَصْحَابُ الْيَمِينِ ۖ فِي سِدْرٍ مَّخْضُودٍ ۖ وَطَلْحٍ مَّنضُودٍ
ۖ وَظِلٍّ مَّمْدُودٍ ۖ

ۖ وَمَاءٍ مَّسْكُوبٍ ۖ وَفَاكِهَةٍ كَثِيرَةٍ

ۖ لَا مَقْطُوعَةٍ وَلَا مَمْنُوعَةٍ ۖ وَفُرُشٍ مَّرْفُوعَةٍ

إِنَّا أَنشَأْنَهُنَّ إِنِشَاءً ۖ فَجَعَلْنَهُنَّ أَبْكَارًا ۖ عُرْبًا أَتْرَابًا ۖ لِأَصْحَابِ الْيَمِينِ ۖ

"They will hear neither an absurd talk in it, nor something leading to sin [25] but (they will hear) the words of Salam, Salam (as greetings)[26]And the people of the right?How lucky are the people of the right![27] (They will be) amid lote-





trees with no thorns,[28] and the trees of talh,(banana or a fragrant tree) having layers one upon the other[29] and a shade,spread all over [30] and water, poured forth,[31] and a lot of fruits[32] neither interrupted (in any season) nor prohibited [33] and mattresses of high quality [34] Surely we have made up those females in a special creation[35] And we have made them virgins [36] amorous to their husbands, matching them in age[37] for the people of the right[38]" (Al Waqia; 25-38)

My dear child, this society is durable; the one who resides there is imperishable and safe, and the houses there are secure, and the bounties are durable, everyone will be in their prime, no one will age. There will be health but not sickness, beauty but no blemishes, might but no weakness, life but no death. This society will be laden with such bounties, and they will multiply over the days."

When the young man heard all this, he declared: "Sir! I seek Allah's ﷻ forgiveness."

The World is not a Superiority Contest.

Thus our beloved Prophet ﷺ advised us:

وَلَا تَبْنُوا مَا لَا تَسْكُنُونَ

"Don't build more than you can reside in."

The third thing Rasool ﷺ Said was:

وَلَا تَتَنَافَسُوا فِي شَيْءٍ أَنْتُمْ عَنْهُ غَدًا زَائِلُونَ

"And don't try to gain superiority in matters which might slip out of your hand the next day."

Dear Fellow Muslims! This world will eventually slip out of our hands, so it is sheer foolishness to get ahead of others in worldly affairs. The place to gain superiority over others is this:





سَابِقُوا إِلَىٰ مَغْفِرَةٍ مِّن رَّبِّكُمْ وَجَنَّةٍ عَرْضُهَا كَعَرْضِ السَّمَاءِ وَالْأَرْضِ

“Compete each other in proceeding towards forgiveness from your Lord and to paradise the width of which is like the width of the sky and the earth. (Surah Al Hadeed:21)

Run towards Allah’s ﷻ forgiveness, run towards His Heaven, this is the place to gain an advantage over each other, compete with each other here! This is the place to observe who is ahead. It’s our bad luck that we have chosen the wrong competition in which to gain an advantage. Men or women, we’re all in the same boat currently. We are all thirsting to win in the worldly affairs. We are all striving to gain success in this world, envying each other for having the bigger car, building an immense business empire, acquiring the better jewelry, collecting gold, and being the C.E.O. of the better company.

Gaining Advantage is Intended in deen:

How many of us can claim to have expressed desires like ‘I wish my Prayers were better than his’, or that ‘I wish I could weep more copiously in front of the Lord at night as compared to the others’, or that ‘I wish I could gain more piety and beneficence every day as compared to the days before’? Very few spend their lives trying to act upon such desires, who make the Hereafter the competition to be won. Which battle did our beloved Prophet ﷺ want us to gain an advantage in? And which game are we, his followers, trying to gain the advantage in? He ﷺ declared:

وَلَا تَنَافَسُوا فِي شَيْءٍ أَنْتُمْ عَنْهُ غَدَا زَائِلُونَ

“Don’t try to gain superiority in that which will slip out of your hands.”

We will not live forever, nor is our existence everlasting. The





situations keep changing, and there will come a time when we will cease to exist. Then those very things for which we forgot the teachings of our Holy prophet ﷺ will slip out of our hands, and we will be left with nothing.

Gaining piety Should be given utmost importance.

The fourth thing that our Holy Prophet ﷺ told them was:

وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ الَّذِي إِلَيْهِ تُرْجَعُونَ وَ عَلَيْهِ تُعْرَضُونَ

“Have a fear of God in front of whom you shall return and in front of whom you’ll be presented.”

Allah ﷻ has declared:

وَإِنْ تَجَهَّرَ بِالْقَوْلِ فَإِنَّهُ يَعْلَمُ السِّرَّ وَأَخْفَى

“If you pronounce the word aloud, then (it makes no difference, for) He certainly knows the secret and what is even more hidden” (Taha: 7)

He is the one who observes us in this dark and gloom, in our most private moments when we think no one can see us; nothing is hidden from Him. He knows what’s hidden in the most secret cover of our hearts:

وَحُصِّلَ مَا فِي الصُّدُورِ

“and all that is contained in the hearts will be exposed ” (Al-Adiyat: 10)

He will lay before us very hidden thought, carefully guarded emotion, even unsettling action ever performed because nothing is hidden from Him. He will show a complete picture of what was done in the night’s gloom when all was thought to be observed and well hidden.





وَسَرُّدُونَ إِلَىٰ عَالِمِ الْغَيْبِ وَالشَّهَادَةِ فَيُنَبِّئُكُمْ بِمَا كُنْتُمْ تَعْمَلُونَ ﴿١٠٥﴾

“Say, Do (what you do); ALLAH will see your deed, as will the Messenger and the believers. And you shall be returned to the knower of the Seen and the Unseen, then he will tell you what you have been doing” (Al-Tawba: 105)

Fear Allah ﷻ, be mindful of Allah ﷻ! Even when there is no one around, He is there, watching, in the most secluded corners, during the most private discourses, He is with us, where no sight, can access, He sees what is being done, He is the only presence in every room house and every part of the world.

Allah ﷻ All-Mighty has disclosed the advice given by a father to his son in His Holy Book as such:

يُبَيِّنُ لَهَا إِن تَكُ مِثْقَالَ حَبَّةٍ مِّنْ خَرْدَلٍ فَتَكُنْ فِي صَخْرَةٍ أَوْ فِي السَّمَوَاتِ
أَوْ فِي الْأَرْضِ يَأْتِ بِهَا اللَّهُ إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَطِيفٌ خَبِيرٌ ﴿١٦﴾

“(Luqman went on saying to his son,) “My dear son, in fact, if there be anything to the measure of a grain of rye, and it be (hidden) in a rock or in the heavens or in the earth, ALLAH will bring it forth. Surely ALLAH is All-fine, All-Aware” (Luqman:16)

Be Aware of Allah's Omnipotence:

So my dear son! Before lifting your eyes, opening your mouth, listening into someone's conversation, harming someone, or before acting on a desire, think, just for a moment, that there is an Entity Who is watching you. Who is observing your every move; whether you are at the bottom of the ocean, or hidden in the shadows of the mountain, whether you are surrounded by the blinding light or enveloped by the dark, whether you are on display or obscured from the eyes of the World, He can See you. Be mindful of Presence, He can see every move you're making, and He is Omnipresent, He is the





All-Mighty, He can take away your wealth in a second, and make a fool of you in front of the world in an instant. He can do anything. He shows His Might in the World often; how else do those at the height of popularity fall from grace? How do the healthiest get bedridden? Or a wealthy man reduced to begging on the street, dressed in tatters? My friend, He is Allah ﷻ! He is the Mightiest of them all, the Omnipresent, the Most Powerful!

That is why Rasool ﷺ said that the fourth thing is:

وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ الَّذِي إِلَيْهِ تُرْجَعُونَ

“Be fearful of God in front of whom you’ll be returned and وَ عَلَيْهِ تُعْرَضُونَ in front of whom you’ll be presented.”

The fifth point that Prophet ﷺ presented was:

وَارْغَبُوا فِيْمَا عَلَيْهِ تَقْدُمُونَ وَ فِيهِ تَخْلُدُونَ

“Find pleasure in where you have to return to, and live in forever (Hereafter)”

That is, find pleasure in performing the acts that will help you in the Hereafter and the Day of Judgment, for that is where you have to end up.

A heart filled with piety will provide handy.

So, what will be useful here? Allah ﷻ has declared:

يَوْمَ لَا يَنْفَعُ مَالٌ وَلَا بَنُونَ إِلَّا مَنْ أَتَى اللَّهَ بِقَلْبٍ سَلِيمٍ

“The Day when neither wealth will be of any use(to anyone) nor sons[88]except to him who will come to ALLAH with a sound heart[89] (Al-Shu’ara: 88-89)

Indeed only a clean, pure heart will be helpful there, no wealth or children or friends. Just a heart filled with love for Allah ﷻ, brimming with faith and piety and purity. Wealth and monetary security and young, healthy children, these





are the things that seem to guarantee a good life. A person who possesses the bounties mentioned above cannot arouse sympathy in the onlookers despite any problems they might be facing internally. But Allah ﷻ has declared:

يَوْمَ لَا يَنْفَعُ مَالٌ وَلَا بَنُونَ إِلَّا مَنْ أَتَى اللَّهَ بِقَلْبٍ سَلِيمٍ

The Day when neither wealth will be of any use (to anyone) nor sons except to him who will come to ALLAH with a sound heart (Al-Shu'ara: 88-89)

This signifies that none of the things that seem so important in the world will help the day of judgment; all that is needed is a heart alight with faith, filled with adoration for our All-Mighty.

Those believers described fifteen qualities, or Holy Prophet ﷺ imparted five more, and then our beloved Prophet ﷺ declared these twenty qualities to be the signs of faith.

So, this is the message that our Prophet ﷺ is conveying:

لَا تُصَاحِبْ إِلَّا مُؤْمِنًا

Maintain companionship with believers, make them your command. If you attain this wealth, your faith and piety will both be safe.

Alter the Environment of your home

Won't it be ideal if the ambiance of our homes became religious? If the relations between husband and wife became full of faith and the children were raised in an Islamic environment? Because most of the time in a person's life is spent at home, if the situation at home were ideal and followed all the religious principles, everyone would encourage each other to be mindful of Allah ﷻ and encourage in pious activities. Then the husband and wife would motivate each other to maintain prayers. If one felt like sleeping through tahajjud or fajr, the other one would





encourage them to rise. This would be possible if we tried to bring about a change in our households; if we tried to introduce a more religious way of living, if parents instilled the message of Islam in children's minds and if every mother tried to search for a pious daughter in law for her son. Alas, this mentality is nowhere to be found nowadays, not among youth or elders. Such teachings are disappearing fast from our society. We are all running after prosperity and affluence so lustfully that we are blind to all else.

Our beloved Prophet ﷺ described this as a sign that Judgement's day is close; when the buildings will be tall, people will make fun of the religious superiors, and friendships will be based on money and wealth. We prefer to befriend those who seem to have all their materialistic priorities together, rather than those who might not have much because they chose the right path. A husband and wife spend most of their time together, so if both were believers, both would benefit from each other's company; thus, the importance of introducing an Islamic way of living into our households.

Reinforcement in Piety is Intended

Believers are each other's advocates when it comes to good deeds. Allah ﷻ has declared:

وَتَعَاوَنُوا عَلَى الْبِرِّ وَالتَّقْوَى

“Help each other in righteousness and piety” (Al-Ma'eda: 2)

So a husband and wife help each other maintain their piety. Imagine, if you will, a scene where the husband wakes up for tahajjud, but the wife doesn't. He playfully splashes some water on her face, and she wakes up with a start, which raises the husband to start laughing, and the wife joins in. Allah Almighty starts to smile after witnessing this sweet exchange. Such was the life of Muslims.





لَا تُصَاحِبْ إِلَّا مُؤْمِنًا

"May your companions be one of faith."

So try and make such societies and acquaintances, go to such gatherings that induce your heart's piety. Make the ambiance of your home such that Allah ﷻ feels pleasure watching you.

The second thing which Rasool ﷺ said was:

وَلَا يَأْكُلُ طَعَامَكَ إِلَّا تَقِيٌّ

"Let no one but a pious man dine at your abodes"(Tirmidhi)

It seems like our beloved Prophet ﷺ gave this advice after keeping in mind the evils our society has fallen into nowadays.

Impiety destroys homes

A family can be destroyed by a simple visitation of an irreligious person. An impious friend of husband or brother can be a threat to the wife's or sister's dignity. This is why Our Holy Prophet ﷺ declared that no one should be allowed to dine with a family other than a pious person. Because, let us suppose a woman's husband comes home with an immoral friend, that friend will cast an eye on the wife, and if he has bad intentions, it might lead to the destruction of the family. My friends! Well established homes have been destroyed, and it's still happening. An immoral man dining with the family, with impure thoughts, casting an evil eye upon the women of the house, and eventually leaving behind a wreck. Such situations oft arise, even though our Lord has instructed us to lower our gaze, as is stated in His Book:

قُلْ لِلْمُؤْمِنِينَ يَغُضُّوا مِنْ أَبْصَارِهِمْ وَيَحْفَظُوا فُرُوجَهُمْ

"Tell the believing men that they must lower their gazes and





guard their private parts ” (Al- Noor: 30)

If we maintain a pious company and a believer came to the house, he would never lift his gaze or stare at the women, and their dignities would not be in danger. Just like that, Allah ﷻ declared:

وَقُلْ لِلْمُؤْمِنَاتِ يَغْضُضْنَ مِنْ أَبْصُرِهِنَّ

“And tell the believing women that they must lower their gazes” (Al-Noor: 31)

This order is not just for the men, but this is a quality that our Holy Lord wants to see in the women of faith as well, that they do not lift their gazes, but keep them lowered and keep their modesty protected.

Our beloved Prophet ﷺ knew of the circumstances that would befall his flock. So he gave us excellent advice, he warned us of the evils that could come into existence in our society! He warned us that when irreligious people are allowed in the house, and the women maintain open and friendly interactions with them, vileness takes root and all that's left of former happy families are ruins.

Why the sudden rise in divorce rates?

Social gatherings, wedding events, schools and colleges, parks, and clubs all serve as secret meeting spots. Thanks to those, we often end up destroying families; young children end up having to choose between quarreling parents, the courts are full of divorce cases, and once happy households are now filled with the ruins of bitterly ended marriages. Once, the word "divorce" was unheard of; however, it's being tossed casually in every other house nowadays. The happiness of parents marrying off their daughters with love and a multitude of prayers is often short-lived. Our society's





filth and uncouthness have laid waste to the love and respect between spouses and shredded the trust and loyalty that was once abundant – leaving behind the tattered remains.

This brings to mind the excellent advice given by our Beloved Prophet ﷺ to let only pious Muslims dine at your abodes. Because maintaining the companionship of pious Muslims ensures that no evil will enter our homes; rather, our tables will be filled with people of faith who understand and respect the boundaries set by our religion. The people who keep their gazes lowered and do not let lustful thoughts enter their minds, who give the women of the house the respect they deserve, and who have pure thoughts and motives – and these are the people who pose no threat to the well-being and happiness of a family.

Things to do

The moments spent during the Holy month of Ramadan are very precious. The blessings of piety gathered during that month are invaluable and should be cherished and protected at all costs. How incredible would it be if we were to spend our whole lives in the same manner as we spend it during the Holy month of Ramadan – with the same devotion and love for Allah ﷻ that we find ourselves experiencing in Ramadan? My dear friends, if we follow at least five (5) things after Ramadan, our lives would possibly be changed for the better.

The first thing that we need to adopt is control over our tongues. Our beloved Prophet ﷺ said,

"Sometimes, a man on the cusp of entering Heaven is pushed into the depths of Hell because of a slip of his tongue."

Hazrat Aqba-Bin-Umer رضي الله عنه once asked the Holy Prophet ﷺ:





"O Prophet ﷺ! What is the way to achieve salvation in this time of evil temptations?"


To which the Beloved Prophet ﷺ replied,

أَمْلِكْ عَلَيْكَ لِسَانَكَ وَلَيْسَعَكَ بَيْتَكَ وَابْكِ عَلَى خَطِيئَتِكَ

"Hold your tongue, and make your home your haven, and cry over your mistakes."(Tirmidhi)

Evil temptations from all sides surround us, there is darkness everywhere, no perceptible way out, and we have lost the ability to discern right from wrong. In such times, we should refrain from commenting on hearsay and rumors, and should not make uninvited observations on other people's situations. Instead, we should take a good, hard look at our own mistakes and faults, and try to make changes and improvements in our own lives. **أَمْلِكْ عَلَيْكَ لِسَانَكَ** Wrongful propagandas are being spread everywhere, we are being fed disinformation and nothing can be believed.

A Ray of Hope in the Dark

This is indeed the season of evil tidings and temptations. So the Sahabi  asked Rasool ﷺ about a way out and a way to protect one's self from such times. Rasool ﷺ then replied that the path to salvation is **أَمْلِكْ لِسَانَكَ** through keeping a check on one's tongue, refraining from useless conversations, and steering clear of commenting on and discussing others. What harm would it bring to us if we stopped gossiping and stopped commenting on and interfering in other people's lives? What good would our remarks do anyway? Our observation about someone may be wrong, and then we would be guilty of not only backbiting but also of placing unwarranted blame on someone. If our character assassination of someone leads others to point fingers at





them, then the responsibility for the whole situation would be on us.

وَلْيَسَعْ

The second thing that Rasool ﷺ advised the Sahabi ؓ was

وَلْيَسَعْكَ بَيْتُكَ

To make his home his haven. That is, he advised وَلْيَسَعْكَ بَيْتُكَ against leaving the house unnecessarily in these dark times when evilness is all around us and has taken over our marketplaces, the streets, and even our homes. So, He ﷺ advised us to refrain from leaving our homes without need, lest our eyes, or ears, or brains, or hearts become attracted towards evil.

The third thing He ﷺ said was:

وَأَبِكْ عَلَى خَطِيئَتِكَ

“Keep crying over your sins.”

We need to take a long, hard look at our lives, pay penance for all our wrongdoings and shortcomings, and cry in front of our Merciful Lord for His forgiveness.

The Prophet ﷺ has also given us guidance about upcoming events saying,

وَاسْتَقْبِلُوا أَمْوَاجَ الْبَلَاءِ بِالْذُّعَاءِ وَالتَّضَرُّعِ

"Gain sustenance against the upcoming evil through crying and supplication." (Shobal-Iman)

If one supplicates wholeheartedly before Allah ﷻ, begs in front of Him, and asks for His forgiveness, he will gain protection from the upcoming evil and pain and sorrow and will be saved from all forthcoming trials.

Make a Habit of Going to the Mosque

If we wish to spend our whole lives like we spend the Holy





month of Ramadan, we need to keep control of our tongues, i.e., speak carefully, and avoid indulgence in gossip and backbiting. The second thing that men in particular, need to make a habit of is offering their daily prayers in the mosque. Mosques are where Allah's ﷺ angels congregate, where Allah's mercy is showered upon those in the congregation. The company there is guaranteed to be the best possible, full of men of faith whose hearts are filled with Godliness. A few minutes spent in such men's company can change the lives of those in attendance for good.

During the time of our esteemed Prophet ﷺ, attendance of the fajr prayers had a special distinction for the Muslims. Indeed, offering the fajr prayers was considered a sign of faith. Generally, the fajr and isha prayers are the most difficult for those without faith. The Prophet ﷺ of Allah ﷻ said,

إِنَّ أَتَقَلَّ صَلَاةٍ عَلَى الْمُنَافِقِينَ صَلَاةُ الْعِشَاءِ وَ صَلَاةُ الْفَجْرِ

"Indeed, the most difficult prayers for the hypocrites are the fajr and isha prayers."(Muslim)

The people of faith, the pious, and the believers used to wake up early in the morning for tahajjud, and their women used to wake up early for tahajjud too, and our Prophet ﷺ used to pray,

اللَّهُمَّ بَارِكْ لِأُمَّتِي فِي بُكُورِهَا

"O Allah ﷻ ! Bless my nation in their early mornings (what they do early in the morning)."(Ibn Majah)

Friends! When these believers used to supplicate in front of Allah ﷻ early in the morning, Allah ﷻ would fill their laps with blessings. They gained prosperity in health, wealth, sustenance, and their homes and families. Nowadays, we see sickness and disease everywhere; every second person is on his deathbed or suffering from some ailment; our hospitals are full of patients.

A big reason for these calamities and ailments is that the





House of Allah ﷻ is empty. We have abandoned our mosques. The courts are full, jails are full, marketplaces are brimming with people, but mosques are vacant, save a few people who are not enough to fill the vast halls, and rid the mosques of their echoing emptiness. There was a time when mosques were packed, which was when jails and courts were empty.

Establish Prayers Regularly

Indeed friends! When Muslims stopped heading towards mosques, the hospitals started filling up, jails and courts got congested because our lives are bereft of blessings. And the only way to gain Allah's ﷻ favor and get back in His good books is to repopulate mosques. Establish prayers. No matter what, men should head to mosques for prayers five times a day, come rain or shine because that would entail gaining the company of angels and the beloved believers of Allah ﷻ, and of those who have pure hearts and then we can hope for acceptance of our prayers and favors from our Lord. In the same way, women should establish prayers by offering them on time: as soon as adhan is given. Also, they should pray according to the guidelines established by Allah ﷻ and His Prophet ﷺ.

So, these are two of the five things we should follow to turn our lives around. Guarding our tongue, and establishing prayers. The third thing we need to adopt is to be aware that Allah ﷻ is always watching us. There are two ways to be vigilant and aware of Allah ﷻ: one, by thanking Him wholeheartedly for all the blessings He showers upon us all day long, every day, and two, by seeking His forgiveness and shelter when we see someone in sorrow or distress. Keep praying for protection and forgiveness and keep expressing gratitude for all that He has given us, and that way, we can gain awareness of Allah's ﷻ presence.





Don't Delay Repentance

The fourth thing to always remember is that humans tend to err, they forget, make mistakes, indulge in sins, but Allah's forgiveness should always be sought, and efforts should be made to achieve atonement for the wrong as soon as possible. Sins tend to have a snowball effect; one sin attracts another, more significant sin, and another and another until they completely stain our heart and mind. But if one repents as soon as he transgresses, the store of piety will not be depleted, and the heart will not be stained. Even better would be to offer two rakats asking Allah ﷻ for His forgiveness, but if not possible, remorse, at least, should be shown in front of the Almighty and an oath taken to never indulge in that sin again.

Treat it like a Need

Finally, the fifth thing is

وَكُونُوا مَعَ الصَّادِقِينَ

“Be in the company of the truthful”

That some time should be spent in a pious company. It would be ideal to spend at least half an hour or so in believers' company, but if not possible, at least an hour every two days, or once a week is essential. Make a habit out of it, include it in your routine and take women and children along on your excursions too, so that they may benefit from it too. Doing so will strengthen our faith and convince us to spend our lives in the ways outlined by Allah ﷻ Almighty and our beloved Prophet ﷺ. Treat this as a necessity, and your need, and make it a regular occurrence; otherwise, the evil residing in our society will slowly but surely guide you away from the right path.





Passion is of Essence

Another important aspect is you should always attend pious gatherings with the aim of acting upon what is being discussed there. Attend these gatherings respectfully, with an open mind, change your life for the better, listen carefully to what is being said, and listen with reverence. Allah ﷻ will reward you and bless you every time you listen to that discourse, be it the 10th or the 100th time. If your intentions are pure, and you sit in good company with the passion of gaining knowledge burning in your heart, Allah ﷻ Himself will guide the discourse in the direction you want. It will seem as if the speaker has read your heart and is speaking directly to you, and you will be able to find the answers you are looking for.

My friends! Lets make a pact to set aside our worldly matters and spend some time in pious company. Spend some time with believers and people of faith, at least once a week. Convince yourself to listen to conversations about our religion, Allah ﷻ, and our beloved Prophet ﷺ so that you may find your heart bursting with affection for our Allah ﷻ and all that He has decreed. Suppose we make this a part of our life. In that case, we can hope that our Beneficent Lord will have mercy on us and will help us stay connected to our religion and Him, and if He wills, we will be able to spend the rest of our lives with piety, protecting our faith and getting closer to Allah ﷻ !

May Allah ﷻ grant us the ability to act upon all that He wills, and may He help us refrain from idle gossip.

وَ آخِرُ دَعْوَانَا أَنِ الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ





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