

THE IMPORTANCE OF PRAYER



MAULANA
ABDUL SATTAR *حفظہ اللہ*



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PRAYER



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ABDUL SATTAR** حفظه الله



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الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ وَالصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ.
أَمَّا بَعْدُ!

فَاعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ ﴿ بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ ﴿
﴿قَدْ أَفْلَحَ الْمُؤْمِنُونَ الَّذِينَ هُمْ فِي صَلَاتِهِمْ خِشْعُونَ﴾ (سورة المؤمنون)
﴿مَا سَلَكَكُمْ فِي سَقَرٍ ﴿ قَالُوا لَمْ نَكُ مِنَ الْمُصَلِّينَ ﴿﴾ (سورة المدثر)
صَدَقَ اللَّهُ الْعَظِيمُ.

وَعَنْ عَلِي رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ قَالَ: قَالَ النَّبِيُّ ﷺ: "عَلَيْكُمْ الصَّلَاةُ وَالرَّكُوعَةُ وَمَا
مَلَكَتْ أَيْمَانُكُمْ وَفِي رِوَايَةٍ الصَّلَاةُ وَمَا مَلَكَتْ أَيْمَانُكُمْ" (ابن كثير)
صَدَقَ اللَّهُ الْعَظِيمُ.

اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِ سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَبَارِكْ وَسَلِّمْ

A Way to Worship Allah ﷻ

My respected Muslims elders, dear brothers and Muslim community's sacred mothers and daughters!

Allah ﷻ has instilled a love for Him in the human disposition and Trusted His Introduction and Relationship to humans when they were sent down to Earth. Then Allah ﷻ Set Conditions to fulfil this love by Issuing Commandments which would increase the depth of this divine love so that humans could further strengthen this relationship. Similarly, Allah ﷻ affirmed the Duty of Prayer which is actually a way to worship Allah ﷻ .

When the Holy Prophet ﷺ received the gift of Prayer on





the Night of Miraj, the Companions of the Holy Prophet ﷺ were overjoyed to receive such a gift that allowed them to communicate directly with Allah ﷻ.

State of Prayer

The Holy Prophet ﷺ expressed about the prayer:

"When the servant says: (الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ) Praise be to Allah ﷻ, The Lord of the universe, Allah ﷻ the Highest says: "حَمِدَنِي عَبْدِي" My servant has praised Me. And when he (the servant) says: (الرَّحْمَنُ الرَّحِيمُ) The Most Compassionate, the Merciful, Allah ﷻ the Highest says: "أَثْنَى عَلَيَّ عَبْدِي" My servant has lauded Me. And when he (the servant) says: (مَلِكِ يَوْمِ الدِّينِ) Master of the Day of Judgment, He remarks: "مَجَّدَنِي عَبْدِي" My servant has glorified Me. And sometimes He would say: My servant entrusted (his affairs) to Me. And when he (the worshipper) says: (إِيَّاكَ نَعْبُدُ وَإِيَّاكَ نَسْتَعِينُ) Thee do we worship and of Thee do we ask help, He Allah ﷻ says: "هَذَا بَيْنِي وَبَيْنَ عَبْدِي وَلِعَبْدِي مَا سَأَلَ" This is between Me and My servant, and My servant will receive what he asks for. Then, when he (the worshipper) says: Guide us to the straight path, the path of those to whom Thou hast been Gracious not of those who have incurred Thy displeasure, nor of those who have gone astray, He Allah ﷻ says: This is for My servant, and My servant will receive what he asks for. As the servant keeps praying, Allah ﷻ Keeps Replying till he heeds Allah ﷻ (Sahih Muslim)





Prayer is a Unique Asset

Prayer is a unique asset gifted to Muslims by Allah ﷻ . May Allah ﷻ Bless us with the appreciation of this act. So then who tires of speaking with the Beloved and who tires of the love and companionship of the Beloved? We are often amazed to hear of a person praying all night and spends their night in such a manner; we are amazed because we have not been blessed with this love and appreciation of saying the prayer as yet. If we are blessed as such, we would not be amazed. Humans build relations based on love or respect. It is obvious that you enjoy conversing with the one that you love. You feel lucky and proud when you sit in conversation with the one that you hold in respect. Humans have such bonds of love and respect with Allah ﷻ .

Allah ﷻ Says:

﴿وَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا أَشَدُّ حُبًّا لِلَّهِ﴾

“But those who believe are most firm in their love for Allah ﷻ .”

(سورة البقرة: ١٦٥)

A Momin is one who intensely loves Allah ﷻ . So my friends! If you are blessed with the love of prayer, you would want to keep praying. That's why it is quoted in Hadith that a Believer feels pleasure and is blessed with a refreshed mind in the Mosque like a fish feels alive in the river or the sea and just as the fish suffers out of the water, the Believer cannot withstand the separation from Allah ﷻ . That is why my friends, this is a compulsory obligation. May Allah ﷻ Bless us with the pleasure of this act.





The Most Important Obligation After Faith

The most important obligation after faith is the act of prayer. Allah ﷻ Has Mentioned this more than 80 times in the Holy Quran:

﴿اقِيْمُوا الصَّلٰوةَ﴾

“Establish Prayer”

He is the Emperor and the King and Saying it just once should suffice for us to say our prayer. Yet not only is He the Emperor and the King, but He is also The Merciful, The Beneficent, The One Who Loves the Most and The Most Forbearing. That's why humans are constantly reminded about this so that they don't forget about this compulsory obligation and are reminded to establish prayer.

No Concept of Islam without Prayer

Establishment of the prayer was considered extremely important during the Golden Age of Islam. Such that it was difficult to perceive an individual who did not pray as a Muslim. It is for this reason that hypocrites would make special arrangements and were regular in their prayer simply to hide their hypocrisy.

Hazrat Abdullah ibn Masood رضي الله عنه states:

“وَلَقَدْ رَأَيْتَنَا وَمَا يَتَخَلَّفُ عَنِ الصَّلَاةِ إِلَّا مُنَافِقٌ قَدْ عَلِمَ نِفَاقَهُ أَوْ مَرِيضٌ
إِنْ كَانَ الرَّجُلُ لِيَمْشِي بَيْنَ رَجُلَيْنِ حَتَّى يَأْتِيَ الصَّلَاةَ”

(الترغيب والترهيب، باب ترغيب في الصلاة)





"We used to see that an open hypocrite would be unable to pray (in the time of the Holy Prophet ﷺ, even hypocrites were not courageous enough to leave prayer in congregation) or that person who was extremely ill. A person who could limp into the mosque physically with the support of 2 people, he would also pray."

It was the Golden Age because there was no concept of Islam without the establishment of the prayer. So the hypocrites would regularly pray to hide their hypocrisy.

The Holy Prophet ﷺ said:

لَا دِينَ لِمَنْ لَا صَلَاةَ لَهُ
(الترغيب والترهيب، ج ١)

"He who does not have prayers has no religion."

The Holy Prophet ﷺ stated in another instance:

مَنْ تَرَكَ الصَّلَاةَ مُتَعَمِّدًا فَقَدْ كَفَرَ جَهَارًا
(الترغيب والترهيب، باب الترغيب في الصلاة الخمس)
(الترغيب والترهيب، ج ١)

"The one who deliberately leaves the prayer has clearly announced his disbelief"

Whoever leaves prayer deliberately has left the boundaries of faith. The Holy Prophet ﷺ did not state such warnings against much bigger sins like adultery and consumption of alcohol but my dear friends and honoured mothers and sisters! By Allah ﷻ, leaving prayers is a bigger sin than those mentioned before but because such importance is not associated with this sin nowadays, we do not consider it significant.





Nowadays when the search for a suitable match for marriage is conducted, a man consuming alcohol is not considered to possess a good character. Yet if that same man does not pray, he is still regarded to be a noble person. So what if he does not pray, at least his character is noble. Why? This is because Muslims do not value and honour prayer. Matchmaking for marriage is discontinued, as it should be when alerted of a candidate's poor character. Yet the candidate's ability to establish prayer is generally disregarded and whether he prays or not. This usually occurs when a sin spreads in society and is no longer considered evil by people.

The Laws of Shariah are Irrevocable

My friends! The laws of Shariah are irrevocable. The importance of prayer in Islam will remain until the Day of Judgement. The role prayer plays in the life of a believer will remain until the Day of Judgement. The Holy Prophet ﷺ stated:

إِنَّ أَوَّلَ مَا يُحَاسَبُ بِهِ الْعَبْدُ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ مِنْ عَمَلِهِ صَلَاتُهُ فَإِنْ صَلَحَتْ
صَلَحَ سَائِرُ عَمَلِهِ وَإِنْ فَسَدَتْ فَسَدَ سَائِرُ عَمَلِهِ
(الترغيب والترهيب، باب الترغيب في الصلوة الخمس)

“On the Day of Resurrection, the first of a person's deeds will be counted is prayer if it comes out good and complete. then the rest of the deeds will also come out perfectly. If there is a shortcoming in the prayers, then there will be a shortcoming in all the deeds





Prayer is such an honourable act that amendments were brought about in the Holy Prophet's ﷺ Shariah for its protection and arrangement. This is because a person's faith is inconceivable without prayer. So amendments were made for the sake of all the Muslims.

Amendments Made Due to the Importance of Prayer

The amendments made due to the importance and arrangement of prayer to facilitate ordinary Muslims are listed below:

According to the law of Shariah, if you are unable to do the Wuzu (Ablution) you may perform the Tayyamum (Dry Ablution). If you are unable to use water, lightly wipe your body. Pray 2 rakats (units) if you are running out of time during travel. Pray while sitting if you are unable to stand. Pray using gestures if you are unable to sit. All these amendments were made to highlight the necessity of prayer to Muslims and their faith. There is no concept of Islam and faith without prayer. That's why it is impermissible to neglect prayer in any situation. In fact, it is further stated that the formal acceptance of prayers will only be from the one who has started to make up by praying his/her previously neglected prayers and proceeds to write the following in their will:

This is the number of prayers that I neglected when I lived and I started making up for my neglected prayers from





this year and if I leave this world then after I die, the Fidyah (compensation) for my neglected prayers should be paid first from my bequest.”

It is obligatory to do so and if such is not done and the prayers remain neglected, then this person will be considered a culprit in front of Allah ﷻ. If this person had started making up for their neglected prayers and drafted such a will, then it is expected that there is great hope with Allah ﷻ for His Mercy and that He will Provide Ease in such a situation. Even though the Shariah states that such a measure be taken, there is no concept of Islam without prayer and one’s faith in Islam is finished without prayer.

Admonition for Neglecting Prayers

While mentioning the dwellers of Hell in the Holy Quran, Allah ﷻ says that they will be asked:

﴿مَا سَلَكَكُمْ فِي سَقَرٍ﴾

“What has brought you to Saqar? (Hell)”

(سورة المدثر: ٤٢)

And they will say:

﴿لَمْ نَكُ مِنَ الْمُصَلِّينَ﴾

“We were not among those who offered Salah, (obligatory prayer)”

(سورة المدثر: ٤٣)

The dwellers of Hell will say that they were sent to Hell





because they neglected their prayers. When Allah ﷻ Will Order all human beings to bow down at the Plain of Resurrection on the Doomsday, some people will be unable to do so and their backs will be as straight as cane and they will be humiliated in front of all living beings. They will be questioned as to why they are not bowing down. These people will reply that because they were not used to bowing down to Allah ﷻ in the world, they are unable to do on Doomsday as well. So whoever fails to bow down to Allah ﷻ in this world will fail likewise on the Day of Judgement.

Parental Responsibility

So my dear friends! Prayer is the most important obligation in Islam after faith (Iman). Islam has arranged it as such that parents are encouraged to inculcate the habit of saying prayers in their children from a young age. If they are mindful and regular of their prayers from a tender age, children will not face such problems later in life.

The Holy Prophet ﷺ stated:

”مُرُوا أَوْلَادَكُمْ بِالصَّلَاةِ وَهُمْ أَبْنَاءُ سَبْعِ سِنِينَ وَاضْرِبُوهُمْ عَلَيْهَا وَهُمْ أَبْنَاءُ

عَشْرِ سِنِينَ”

(ابوداؤد)

“Teach your children to pray when they attain the age of seven years and punish them if they do not offer their prayers when they reach the age of ten.” (Abu Dawood)





This means that your children should be instructed to start their prayers at the age of 7 or 8 and chastise them if they don't do so by the age of 10. Even though children at this age are not mature or adults, such preparation is necessary because their relationship with Islam might break if they stop praying when they enter adolescence. Creating such a relationship and fostering the love and prestige of prayer will help them in offering prayer after adolescence.

The Holy Prophet ﷺ Last Advice

The Holy Prophet ﷺ requested Hazrat Ali ؑ to bring a large bowl during his last days in this world. The Holy Prophet ﷺ stated a few words when Hazrat Ali ؑ brought the bowl. Hazrat Ali ؑ listened attentively as the Holy Prophet ﷺ said:

"الصَّلَاةَ وَمَا مَلَكَتْ أَيْمَانُكُمْ"
(سنن ابن ماجه)

"It is obligatory on you people to care (about the rights) of your subordinates and prayers" (Ibn Majah)

It is important to note the two things the Holy Prophet ﷺ mentioned while leaving this world was the care of your prayers and the rights of your subordinates. While taking his last few breaths, the Holy Prophet ﷺ again stated:

"الصَّلَاةَ وَمَا مَلَكَتْ أَيْمَانُكُمْ"
(سنن ابن ماجه)

"It is obligatory on you people to care (about the rights) of your subordinates and prayers" (Ibn Majah)





Even in his last moments on this Earth, the Holy Prophet ﷺ emphasized that the most significant right of Allah ﷻ is the establishment of prayer and the most imperative right towards other human beings is to treat your subordinates with kindness. It is these two rights that will be neglected most by the Muslim community by leaving of prayers and trampling the right of subordinates or those under your care. That is why it is stated to pay attention to these rights. As long as their rights are protected, everything that matters will be satisfactory. Whereas if these rights are squandered, then terrible situations will start happening.

Prayer Stops Immorality

That's why my friends, whoever is Blessed by the Allah ﷻ with the reality and importance of prayers can, I swear upon God, lead a faithfully rich life. This can only happen if Allah ﷻ Blesses this understanding as He ﷻ states in the Holy Quran:

﴿إِنَّ الصَّلَاةَ تَنْهَىٰ عَنِ الْفَحْشَاءِ وَالْمُنْكَرِ وَلَذِكْرُ اللَّهِ أَكْبَرُ﴾

“Surely Salah restrains one from shameful and evil acts. Indeed remembrance of Allah ﷻ is the greatest of all things.”

(سورة العنكبوت: ٤٥)

Just like water and fire cannot be mixed, prayers and sin can never be incorporated together. Similarly, disobedience and a life of faith will never mingle. The presence of sin in one's life indicates that one's prayer is incomplete or





inadequate. In essence, prayer keeps humans away from committing sins. Just like the nature of salt and chilies have remained consistent over the years with both having acidity and sharpness respectively, then why should the essence of prayer change as revealed in the Allah ﷻ Sacred Words? How can it end or finish? However, if you mixed salt or chilies with another ingredient their nature or essence changes. Similarly, my friends, if the remembrance of Allah ﷻ is missing from one's prayer and negligence becomes frequent, then this prayer is essentially not as mentioned by Allah ﷻ. Prayer fundamentally keeps sins and immorality away from the person who regularly establishes prayer.

The Reality of Prayer

When a young Ansari man (one who migrated to Medina with the Holy Prophet ﷺ) came to meet the Holy Prophet ﷺ, a Companion of the Holy Prophet ﷺ said, "O Messenger of Allah, he establishes the prayer and does some other misdeeds as well." The Holy Prophet ﷺ replied, "Let him be. His prayer will soon stop all his sins." If one is blessed with the reality of prayer, then Allah ﷻ Blesses one with a life that fits the mould of an Islamic lifestyle.

قَدْ أَفْلَحَ الْمُؤْمِنُونَ ﴿١﴾ الَّذِينَ هُمْ فِي صَلَاتِهِمْ خَاشِعُونَ ﴿٢﴾

"Success is really attained by the believers. Who concentrate their attention in humbleness when offering Salah (prayers)."

(سورة المؤمنون: ١، ٢)





So my friends! Our hearts and minds must understand the importance of prayer. Nowadays Muslims are only regular for the Jummah prayer or at most 4 prayers a day. My friends! This may seem bitter but I swear on Allah ﷻ! The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said that being negligent or lazy for the Fajr prayer is not worthy of a believer. This is a sign of hypocrisy and the person who ignores or neglects Fajr has rust on their heart which is causing them to miss this prayer.

Who is Satan's friend?

A believer was walking somewhere. He met Satan on his walk and asked him, "How can I become your follower?" Satan said, "Be negligent of your prayers and make false promises and you can become my follower." The believer swore that he would never undertake either of these acts after that day. Satan then swore that he would also never reveal the truth to the offspring of Adam ﷺ. If your prayers are being neglected or delayed, then Satan will excel and conquer you.

Diligence in Prayers

So even if someone is a bit diligent in his prayers (speaking of men here), they pray four times a day or even more diligence is shown then five prayers are performed but without congregation. And if prayer is made in congregation then it is a big achievement. The honour of standing in the





first row of the congregation has left the Muslims of today. Previously, a Muslim's commitment to faith was checked by his attendance before the initial announcement of the congregational prayer. How many prayers has he prayed in the first row? This was used as his identification. Women tend to delay their prayers whereas the best time to pray for women is as soon as the call to prayer has been made as this is the supreme time to offer their prayers.

My dear friends! When prayers are not considered important then how can you understand the various benefits and virtues of prayers? The few people who are regular in their prayers do not offer them in the congregation and the ones who do offer in the congregation are not diligent in attending before the first call to prayer.

Diligence in Prayer by Hazrat Sayeed ibn Mussayab رضي الله عنه

Hazrat Sayeed ibn Mussayab رضي الله عنه is not a Companion of the Prophet ﷺ but a Follower of Allah ﷻ. He stated, "Forty years of my life have been spent in such a manner that I was present in the Mosque before the call to prayer had been made." (أَلْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ)

Magnificence in Worshipping Allah ﷻ

He had children and was busy in the daily affairs of life but he firmly believed in the following words of Allah ﷻ :





تَفَرَّغْ لِعِبَادَتِي أَمْلَأْ صَدْرَكَ غِنًى وَأَسُدُّ فَفَقْرَكَ

"سنن ابن ماجه"

"If you devote time for My Worship, I Will Fill your chest with contentment (or richness) and Will Close all the doors of your helplessness (or poverty)." (Ibn Majah)

What a lovely statement by Allah ﷻ! O Mankind! If you devote time specifically to worship me, just witness how I React! I Will Expand your chest with richness and Will Close all doors to poverty and worries.

People nowadays search for special invocations and supplications to read daily because their actions and resources have been restricted. In fact, Allah ﷻ Says that all restrictions can be removed simply by preparing to act on Allah ﷻ Commandments and by devoting time specifically for his worship. In doing so, Allah ﷻ Will Remove all kinds of poverty, restrictions and worries from your life. And listen to this as well:

وَأِنْ لَمْ تَفْعَلْ مَلَأْتُ صَدْرَكَ شُغْلًا وَلَمْ أُسَدِّ فَفَقْرَكَ

(سنن ابن ماجه)

"If you do not devote specific time for worshipping Allah ﷻ then your life will be filled with busyness and your restrictions and poverty will remain."

Life will then become so busy that free time will be hard to obtain. Muslims nowadays say that they do not have any free time to establish their prayers. Why were you born? What is the purpose of your life that you can't find the time to say your prayers? Will such a Muslim reply likewise





when faced by Allah ﷻ? He said: If you don't find the time to worship Me then I Will Immerse you in life's work and more than that, I Will Not Close the doors to your poverty, restrictions and worries. Your greed and ambition for more will never satisfy you. Your poverty and restrictions will never end and you will remain poor and a beggar.

How Followers of Allah ﷻ Prioritise Prayers

So Hazrat Sayeed ibn Mussayab رضي الله عنه said that thanks to Allah he was blessed to spend forty years of his life being present in the mosque before the call to prayer has been made. Mothers and sisters can prioritise their prayers in a manner that they prepare to say their prayers before the call to prayer has been made. They can wait on the prayer mat for the call to prayer.

One of our senior figures who has passed is Hazrat Shaikh Al Hind رحمته الله. There was once an annual meeting at the Darul Uloom Deoband. When Hazrat finished his ablution and was making his way towards the mosque, a number of people lined up to meet him. By the time he reached the mosque and stood in the row, the congregational prayer had started and he joined in the first unit. After Hazrat finished his prayers, he silently sat away in a corner which was very unusual for him. Others felt that he looked sad and full of sorrow. A few men from the audience went and questioned Hazrat about why he was feeling despondent. He said:





"I missed being present before the first call to prayer after 23 years"

I am not talking about the early days but about the people of the current time. There are still a few privileged people who are blessed by Allah ﷻ to be able to prioritise their presence before the first call to prayer. But because this is not considered important anymore that is why making it a priority has become difficult.

The Superiority of Saying Prayers after the First Call to Prayer

So my friends! Prioritise congregational prayers, standing in the first row and your presence in the mosque before the first call to prayer. The superiority of a Muslim's presence before the first call to prayer have been defined in several Hadiths. The Holy Prophet ﷺ once said:

مَنْ صَلَّى لِلَّهِ أَرْبَعِينَ يَوْمًا فِي جَمَاعَةٍ يُدْرِكُ التَّكْبِيرَةَ الْأُولَى كُتِبَ لَهُ "
بِرَاءَتَانِ: بَرَاءَةٌ مِنَ النَّارِ وَبَرَاءَةٌ مِنَ النِّفَاقِ "
(رَوَاهُ التِّرْمِذِيُّ)

"Whoever performs Salat for Allah for forty days in the congregation, catching the first Takbir, two absolutions are written for him: absolution from the Fire, and absolution from hypocrisy." (Tirmidhi)

Humility is at the Crux of Prayers

My friends! It is important to have humility while offering





your prayers. There is a hidden side and an exposed side to everything. There are the outward actions in prayers such as the methods to recite the Praise of Allah ﷻ, Surah Al-Fatiha, various Surahs; as well as the proper technique of standing, bowing for the Rukoh; all of these are the extrinsic actions of offering prayers. The hidden endeavour of offering prayers is to be humble and to be actively aware of Allah ﷻ Presence.

Allah ﷻ Expresses in the Holy Quran:

﴿وَلَذِكْرُ اللَّهِ أَكْبَرُ﴾

"Indeed remembrance of Allah ﷻ is the greatest of all things."

(سورة العنكبوت: ٤٥)

Why do prayers refrain us from committing sins? This is because there is remembrance of Allah ﷻ in offering prayers. Scholars have written that only those prayers that contain the remembrance of Allah ﷻ can stop you from doing bad deeds. If I examine my life, I dare say I can find a single unit of prayer that contains the remembrance of Allah ﷻ from start to finish.

Oh my dear friends! It is God Who is the Most Generous that despite such inattentiveness during our meetings, He meets us and Does Not revile us. If you meet any other person with such negligent behaviour, they would refuse to invite you to their next gathering or meeting. He will say that while I invite you to my meeting, your attention is elsewhere. While you have come to talk to me but your





thoughts are somewhere else. It is God who is the Most Merciful and the Most Generous that he lets us off and waits for us to improve if not today or tomorrow, then may be the day after. He Meets us despite our inattentiveness and laxness.

Humility is Desired in Prayers

But my friends! Humility in prayers is desirable and we should have the urge to pray with humility while our attention should be focused on Allah ﷻ from the beginning to the end. There is an exercise to practise this. We have been praying in the same direction since childhood.

Every human being searches for the best and superior of things nowadays. When buying fruit, you will look for the best bananas, apples and mangoes. Only then will you purchase it. Similarly, we continue to search for the best quality of goods elsewhere including the finest car, house and employment. Oh my dear friends! Worry about the quality of your prayers. You worry about the quality of every little thing, yet you do not ponder on the quality of your prayers. So my friends, be concerned that Allah ﷻ Blesses us with prayers that are of superior quality.

Creating Humility in Prayers

Hazrat Maulana Manzoor Ahmed Noumani رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ wrote a few directives on inspiring humility in prayers. Firstly, he





wrote about wondering who you are standing in front of. Actually, we are inattentive when we make the intention to pray and are unmindful of whatever we recite during our prayers. Often we repeat the same Surah innumerable times in different units of the prayers. This is all due to laxity and heedlessness. Be mindful of Who you are facing in your prayers before you make the intention to pray.

When Hazrat Ali ؓ performed the ablution (wuzu), his complexion would change. He further stated that it was time to appear in Allah ﷻ Court when preparing for the ablution. It was time to appear in the Emperor's Court and he was unsure of what would happen. That's why my friends, please be aware of Who's Court you are appearing in. You are more mindful of meeting someone when you love and honour someone. Similarly, the Shariah has prescribed the ablution before performing your prayers. If one's ablution is of a high standard then, if Allah ﷻ Wills, their prayers will also be of a high level.

That is why it is important to pay attention to while doing the ablution. Be conscious of what you are doing, why you are doing it and why you are washing these body parts. It's because it is time to appear in Allah ﷻ Court and Allah ﷻ Loves cleanliness. When a Muslim is washing each body part during the ablution, they are also making the intention of cleansing their hidden and internal sins. When they wash their faces, they are making the intention of nullifying the evil caused by the sins committed by their faces. Likewise, when they cleanse their feet, they are making the intention





of nullifying the evil caused by the sins committed by their feet. So, they are blessed with visible and hidden cleanliness.

The Holy Prophet ﷺ similarly stated:

"غُفِرَ لَهُ مَا تَقَدَّمَ مِنْ ذَنْبِهِ"
(سنن ابن ماجه)

"All his previous sins are forgiven" (Ibn-Majah)

Allah ﷻ Will Cleanse all of their sins if they make this intention with mindfulness to perform the ablution. When the ablution is near perfection and complete with attention to each detail, the more beneficial it will be for your prayers. The Holy Prophet ﷺ also taught a supplication after the completion of the ablution:

"اللَّهُمَّ اجْعَلْنِي مِنَ التَّوَّابِينَ
وَاجْعَلْنِي مِنَ الْمُتَطَهِّرِينَ"
(الترمذي)

"O Allah, make me of those who return to You often in repentance and make me of those who remain clean and pure" (Tirmidhi)

سبحان الله What a lovely supplication this is that if it is accepted then O Allah ﷻ! Please Include me with those who call on You and those who seek visible and hidden purity. The person who appears before Allah ﷻ in such a state of purity is sure to achieve a superior level in their prayers.

That's why after a man performed the ablution, the hem of his trousers was below his ankles. The Holy Prophet ﷺ





directed him to redo his ablution. After he repeated his ablution, the man returned with the hem of his trousers below his ankles again. The Holy Prophet ﷺ directed him again to redo his ablution. He returned in the same state for the third time and said: “O Messenger of Allah ﷺ! This is the only way I know how to do the ablution. If I am making a mistake, please guide me.” The Holy Prophet ﷺ stated: “Raise the hem of your trousers above your ankles.” Even though the ablution is not invalidated by the lowered trouser hem, the Holy Prophet ﷺ still instructed the man to repeat his ablution. It is because this is a major sin and by committing such a sin after performing the ablution and before offering the prayers, he would be deprived of the benefits and luminosity of the prayers due to the evilness of such a sinful act. That is why one must strive to gain obvious and hidden purity after performing the ablution to gain the maximum magnificence from one’s prayers when appearing before the Almighty Allah.

Sins Destroy Radiance

My dear friends! Committing major sins does not annul the ablution but it does destroy the radiance gained from the act. A man is coming from home after performing the ablution and his gaze is free to roam. Although his ablution will not be negated, it will lose its lustre. The worship he engages in after entering the mosque will lose its luminosity by committing such a major sin.





The Superiority of Visiting the Mosque

Whoever leaves their home after performing the ablution with the intention of offering their prayers while safeguarding against sins on the way, Allah ﷻ Will Reward them with a higher level of Jannat and forgive one sin with every step taken.

The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said:

إِنَّ أَحَدَكُمْ إِذَا تَوَضَّأَ فَأَحْسَنَ الْوُضُوءَ ثُمَّ أَتَى الْمَسْجِدَ لَا يَتَهَرَّهٖ إِلَّا الصَّلَاةُ
لَمْ يَخْطُ خَطْوَةً إِلَّا رَفَعَهُ اللَّهُ عَرَّ وَجَلَّ بِهَا دَرَجَةً وَحَطَّ عَنْهُ بِهَا خَطِيئَةٌ
حَتَّى يَدْخُلَ الْمَسْجِدَ

(سنن ابن ماجه)

“When any one of you performs ablution and does it well, then he comes to the mosque for no other purpose than prayer, he does not take one step but Allah will raise him one degree (in status) thereby, and remove one sin from him thereby, until he enters the mosque.” (Ibn Majah)

So my dear friends! If Allah ﷻ has Blessed you with understanding the importance of offering prayers then we need to improve our prayers by being attentive and focusing on Who we are addressing. My Lord will Reply to each word that I recite.

Who is the closest to Allah ﷻ ?

It has been revealed in the Sayings of the Holy Prophet ﷺ that a person achieves nearest proximity with Allah ﷻ during the prostration. The joy and pleasure felt while





offering prayers mirrors the emotions of a small child laying his head in his mother's lap. One also feels like they have rested their head on Allah ﷻ Knees and is not prepared to raise their head up again. That's why the Holy Prophet ﷺ would spend extended time during each position of the prayers. When he used to prostrate, he would do so for a prolonged period. He understood the reasoning. For this reason, the Holy Prophet ﷺ prayers of just 2 units remain incomparable to the whole Muslim nation.

Each prayer carries its own weight and any person can increase the weight by improving it. The harder the work dedicated to its improvement, the better the quality of the prayer.

Enhancing Concentration during Prayers

So my friends! Enhance your prayers by increasing humility and when you offer the voluntary units (Nawafil and Sunnah) and when women offer the obligatory units (Fardh), recite them in a volume that reaches your ears. When men pray the compulsory units in congregation by standing behind the Imam, they don't recite. However, when they pray the voluntary units and when women pray the obligatory and voluntary units, they should recite it loud enough to hear themselves yet others should be unable to perceive them. It should only reach a volume that is loud enough for one's ears and not the person standing next to them. In this manner, neither person spoils their prayers. By only hearing yourself pray, you increase focus on your prayers.





Understand Your Prayers

Comprehend the meaning and essence of the words you recite in your prayers when you stand before Allah ﷻ. Be conscious of and understand the special words used to praise and remember Allah ﷻ. When you can make out the meanings of everything else, why can't you grasp what Allah ﷻ is saying? Interpret Surah Fatiha and recognize the meaning to appreciate how you are worshipping Allah ﷻ. What are you persistently asking from Allah ﷻ? Similarly, my friends remain hopeful of Allah ﷻ Blessings and Mercy after you have focused on your prayers by understanding the words being recited in a volume that only reaches your ears and by begging Him with humility and persistence.

Hazrat Ibrahim's ﷺ Supplication

After he completed the prestigious task of building the House of Allah ﷻ, Hazrat Ibrahim ﷺ made this supplication:

﴿رَبَّنَا تَقَبَّلْ مِنَّا إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ﴾

"Our Lord accept (this service) from us! Indeed, You - and You alone - are the All-Hearing the All-Knowing."

(سورة البقرة: ١٢٧)

Oh Allah ﷻ! Accept this from us. I have managed to make the maximum effort according to my ability. The onus is now on You. Please accept my efforts. You are Listening to my supplication and You are Aware of the secrets and plans hidden inside my heart. You certainly Know the reasoning behind my actions.





So my friends! Implore Allah ﷻ to Acknowledge and Accept your efforts before and after every action especially after your prayers and see the effects of this in your life.

The Holy Prophet ﷺ advised us in his last moments in this world to make special preparations for our prayers. Similarly my friends, groom your children to say their prayers regularly.

Allah ﷻ has Said:

﴿وَأْمُرْ أَهْلَكَ بِالصَّلَاةِ وَاصْطَبِرْ عَلَيْهَا﴾

“Bid your family to perform Salah, and adhere to it yourself.”

(سورة طه: ١٣٢)

Although this verse addresses the Holy Prophet ﷺ, it is aimed at the Muslim community as a whole. Muslims should be firm in establishing their prayers and should persuade their family members to do so as well.

Hazrat Luqman Hakim’s Advice to his Son

Hazrat Luqman Hakim is instructing his son:

﴿يُبَيِّتْ أَقِيمِ الصَّلَاةَ﴾

“O My dear son, establish Salah.”

(سورة لقمان: ١٧)

A wise father is instructing his dutiful son to establish the prayer and to endeavour greatly in order to do so.





Groom your Children to Establish Prayers

That's why my friends, it's important to groom your children to establish prayers. I repeat, it's important to groom your children to establish prayers. Strive to protect your children's prayers so that none of them skip or omit their prayers. This is the responsibility of both parents. If some family members fail to establish their prayers, then misfortune and inauspiciousness will enter such households. Such families will be faced with animosity, disease, troublesome circumstances resulting in a prohibitive environment. Then people will cause annoyances and agitations for such a household where Allah ﷻ Directives are being ignored. This directive is only second to having faith in Allah ﷻ and is of supreme importance.

I am stating today that the importance of establishing prayers has disappeared from us. Every other person comments on how everything is okay but they skip a prayer here and there. This is said without any hesitation. In the early days of Islamic society, not a single Muslim had the courage to miss a prayer as they would feel ashamed.

So my friends! Establish your prayers and groom your children to do so as well. Pay close attention to their prayers so that your children are raised properly in the Islamic manner from their childhood.

May Allah ﷻ Bless you and me to take action rather than relying on mere words. Ameen.

واخردعوانا ان الحمد لله رب العالمين





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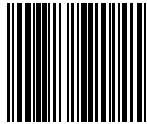
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