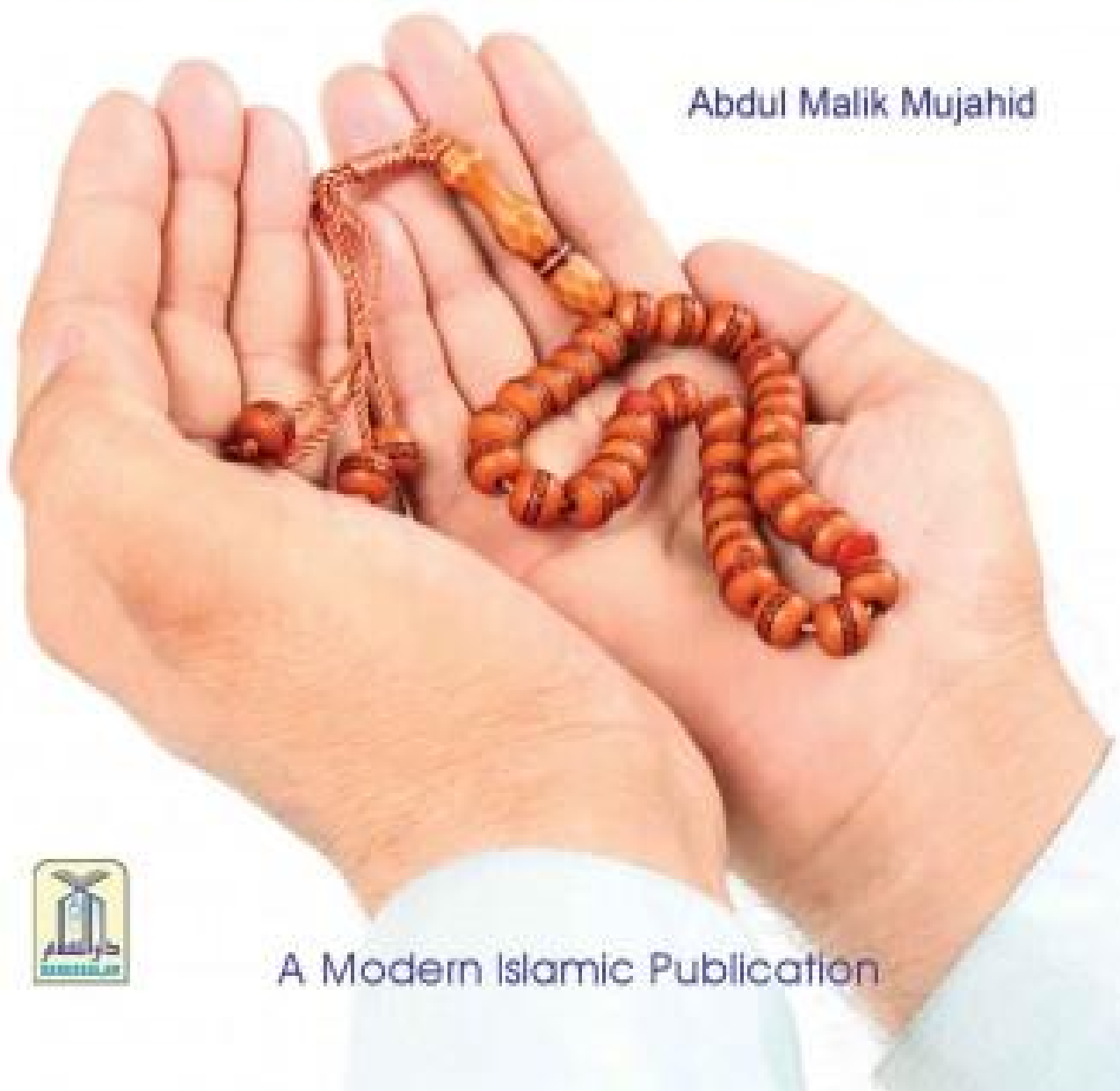


GOLDEN STORIES OF ACCEPTED PRAYERS

Abdul Malik Mujahid



A Modern Islamic Publication

The Golden Stories of Accepted Prayers

Written By: Abdul Malik Mujahid

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Publisher's Note

What are invocations? In a real sense these are requests which come from the bottom of our hearts to Allah Almighty. Allah is always ready and happy to receive prayers from anyone at any time.

If you're facing any difficulties or trouble you should immediately turn to Allah for help. The best invocations are those narrated by the Prophet. If you don't speak Arabic, you can pray in your mother tongue.

When we pray we should feel assured that Allah will accept our requests. We should do so with complete sincerity and devotion.

Prayers can be made at any time, but there is a greater possibility our prayers will be accepted if we do so at specific times:

Once Aisha asked Allah's Messenger (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him), "If I find Lailatul Qadr (the Night of Power), what should I ask of Allah?"

Allah's Messenger (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) said, "You should say,

اللَّهُمَّ إِنَّكَ عَفُوٌّ كَرِيمٌ تُحِبُّ الْعَفْوَ فَاعْفُ عَنِّيْ

'O Allah, Merciful and Compassionate, forgive me.'

The invocations of parents are also accepted by Allah (SWT). We should be obedient and loyal to our parents. This will make them happy and they'll regularly pray for us.

Allah (SWT) also accepts invocations after midnight from Tahajjud prayer.

Allah (SWT) also accepts invocations after we perform our obligatory prayers.

After reciting tashahhud and praying for the Prophet, we should pray for ourselves because Allah accepts invocations at this time.

Prayers are also accepted between athaan and iqama, because Allah's Messenger (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) said,

لَا يُرَدُّ الدُّعَاءُ بَيْنَ الْأَذَانِ وَالْإِقَامَةِ

"Between athaan and iqama invocations are not rejected."

Invocations are also effective when made after two-thirds of the night has passed.

Invocations are also accepted during the athaan.

On Friday, between Asr and Maghrib prayer, there is a specific time when invocations are accepted, according to a hadeeth of the Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him).

Prayers can also be made when drinking Zamzam.

Allah also accepts the prayers of his slaves on Arafat during Hajj.

Prayers are also granted during Ramadan.

The first 10 days after Dhul Hijjah are blessed and is a time when Allah accepts invocations.

When making our supplications to Almighty Allah, we must abstain from all prohibited behavior and actions, including the use of ill-gotten money.

We should remember to only seek assistance and guidance from Allah (SWT).

I'm thankful to my entire team for their cooperation and hard work in producing this publication. This includes particularly Qari Muhammad Iqbal, Abdul Waghied Misbach, Professor Muhammad Zulfiqar and our senior artist Shahzad Ahmad.

A Servant of the Qur'an and Sunnah

Abdul Malik Mujahid

October 2012, Dhul Hijjah 1433

I'm the Prayer of my father Ibrahim



Thousands of years ago, Ibrahim Khalilullah and his son Isma'il built the Ka'bah in the dry and waterless valley of Makkah. The Ka'bah was made the first place for the worship of Allah Almighty in this universe. This Holy Sanctuary undoubtedly possesses an exalted status and unparalleled glory.

Imam al-Qastalani writes:

“The House of Allah was built ten times. It was first built by angels. The second time by Adam, the third time by Adam's son Sheeth, the fourth time by Ibrahim, the fifth time by the community of 'Amalqa, the sixth time by the tribe of Banu Jurhum, the seventh time by Qusay ibn Kilab, the forefather of Allah's Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him), the eighth time by the Quraish, the ninth time by Abdullah bin Zubair and the tenth time by Hajjaj bin Yusuf.”

“The House of Allah was built ten times. Ibrahim and Isma'il built the Holy Ka'bah the fourth time.”

When the Ka'bah was being built by Ibrahim and Isma'il for the fourth time and its walls raised, Ibrahim asked his son to bring him a stone to stand on, so that he could finish the building.

Isma'il then brought the stone for Ibrahim to stand on. This stone was later known as Maqam Ibrahim (the Station of Ibrahim).

After he completed building Allah's House, Ibrahim uttered the following supplication:

﴿وَإِذْ قَالَ إِبْرَاهِيمُ رَبِّ اجْعَلْ هَذَا بَلَدًا آمِنًا وَارْزُقْ أَهْلَهُ مِنَ الثَّمَرَاتِ مَنْ آمَنَ مِنْهُمْ بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ﴾

“And (remember) when Ibrahim (Abraham) said, “My Lord, make this city (Makkah) a place of security and provide its people with fruits, such of them as believe in Allah and the Last Day.”

Ibrahim had the honor of having his supplication answered. True to his prayer, the place is still an abode of peace that commands great respect. Fruits grown across the world are abundantly available to its residents throughout the year. Then Ibrahim and Isma'il made another supplication:

﴿رَبَّنَا وَابْعَثْ فِيهِمْ رَسُولًا مِنْهُمْ يَتْلُو عَلَيْهِمْ

ءَايَاتِكَ وَيُعَلِّمُهُمُ الْكِتَابَ وَالْحِكْمَةَ وَيُزَكِّيهِمْ إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ الْعَزِيزُ الْحَكِيمُ﴾

“Our Lord! And send amongst them a Messenger of their own (and indeed Allah answered their invocation by sending Muhammad), who shall recite to them Your Verses and instruct them in the Book (this Qur’ān) and Al-Hikmah (full knowledge of the Islamic laws and jurisprudence or wisdom or Prophet’s legal ways), and purify them. Verily, You are the All-Mighty, the All-Wise.”

By ‘purification’ they implied that he would purify their souls and entire way of life including their behavior, characters, habits, social dealings, interactions and politics. This was the practical responsibility of Allah’s Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) to the Companions, which he fulfilled to the best of his ability.

Thousands of years have elapsed since the father and the son prayed, and Allah Almighty granted their prayers. Then the birth of the best of creation, the chief of Adam’s progeny, the one who intercedes with Allah on behalf of the sinful, Muhammad, took place.

The Companions said,

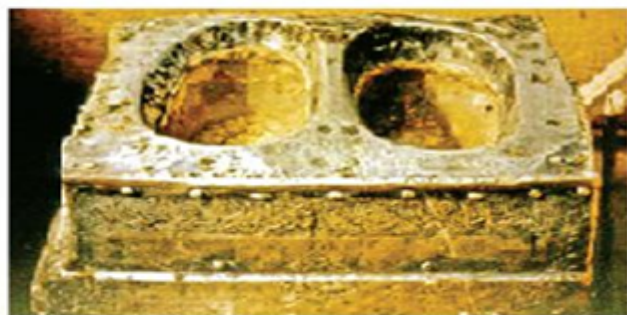
‘أَنَا دَعْوَةُ أَبِي إِبْرَاهِيمَ ، وَبُشْرَى عِيسَى ابْنِ مَرْيَمَ ،
وَرَأَتْ أُمِّي أَنَّهُ خَرَجَ مِنْهَا نُورٌ ضَاءَتْ لَهُ قُصُورُ الشَّامِ’

“O Allah’s Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him)! Tell us something about your origin.” The Prophet replied, “I am the prayer of my father Ibrahim and the glad tidings of ‘Isa Ibn Maryam (Jesus Christ, the son of Mary). My mother had a dream that a light emanated from her body that lit the castles of Syria.”

Esteemed readers, this Light of Guidance was the eminent being of our Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) whose auspicious birth eliminated the darkness of infidelity and polytheism, and illuminated the whole world with the light of Islamic Monotheism and Prophetic Sunnah.



Muqam -e-Ibrahim



The stone where Ibrahim stood for the building of Holy Ka'ba

Her Last Prayer was also Granted



Dr. Ahmad was a renowned and sought-after physician in his country. People had to wait for many days before they could get an appointment with him.

The eminent doctor was once invited to an international medical conference which was to be held in a major city in his country. He had to deliver a paper and receive a shield and a commendation certificate in recognition of his services to medicine. As he headed out to the airport, he felt pleased that he was going to be honored by his peers and colleagues that evening.

After the usual check-in at the airport, he boarded the plane, which took off as scheduled. After about 45 minutes, an airhostess made the following announcement: “Dear passengers, due to a technical problem we are being forced to land at a nearby airport instead of the scheduled destination. We deeply regret the inconvenience.”

“Delegations from around the world have come to attend this event, and now you’re telling us that the alternative plane will arrive after 16 hours!”

The plane landed at the airport without any difficulty and the passengers disembarked and went to the lounge. After some time, the airport authorities announced that it was not possible to fix the problem immediately and that the passengers would have to wait for the arrival of an alternative plane. No-one knew when the other plane would arrive. A little while later it was announced that the other plane would only arrive the following day.

Dr. Ahmad was quite shocked at the announcement. This was an important night which he had been looking forward to for several weeks. He got up from his seat, went to a senior airport official, introduced himself and said: “I’m a doctor and I was on my way to present a paper tonight. Delegations from around the world have come to attend this event, and now you’re telling us that the alternative plane will arrive after 16 hours!”

The officer replied, “With all due respect doctor, we can fully appreciate the inconvenience that you’re experiencing, but I cannot do anything. Moreover, it’s not my responsibility to arrange for an alternative plane. It takes only three to four hours by road to reach the city where you have to attend the conference. If you are in a great hurry, I suggest you get a rental car from the airport and drive to your destination.”



Dr. Ahmad did not like driving long distances, but he had no other option. He hired a car and started towards his destination. He had not gone far when all of a sudden the weather turned bad. Dense, dark clouds covered the sky and there was a heavy downpour, coupled with a violent storm. Dr. Ahmad then lost his way in the dark. Hungry and tired, he desperately searched for some shelter and something to eat.

As he was driving past a small village, he impulsively stopped his vehicle in front of one of the houses and knocked on the door. He heard the frail and feeble voice of an old woman from inside saying: "Whoever you are, please come in, the door is open." When Dr. Ahmad went into the house, he found an elderly woman sitting on a rocking chair. The doctor said: "The battery of my mobile has run down. May I use your mobile phone?" The old woman smiled and said, "My son, what are you talking about? Perhaps you don't know where you are. We don't have electricity or phones here. You are in a small village where there are no civic amenities. You look hungry and thirsty, and it seems you have lost your way. There is a meal and tea on the table, please eat something before we talk." Dr. Ahmad thanked the elderly woman and being tired and famished after his eventful journey, started eating.

Suddenly someone stirred on the cot beside the old woman's chair, and he heard a baby crying. The old woman patted the baby to sleep and supplicated tenderly and humbly for its wellbeing. Dr. Ahmad finished his meal and said to the woman, "O mother, your good manners, kindness and hospitality have won my heart. I'm sure Allah Almighty will answer all your prayers."

"My son," the old woman said, "Allah has always answered and granted my prayers. Only one prayer remains unanswered because of my weak faith. You are a traveler, please pray that it may also be answered."

Dr. Ahmad was curious and said, "What prayer has not been answered? Please let me know what you want; I'm just like your son. God willing, I will do my best to carry out your wish."

The woman said, "My dear son! This supplication is not for my sake, it is for this orphan baby, my grandson. His parents have passed away and he is suffering from a bone disease that has incapacitated him. He cannot move or walk. I've tried various treatments and taken him to eminent doctors but to no avail. All the doctors have been unable to find a cure for him. People have advised me to take the baby to a certain Dr. Ahmad who is reputed to have the expertise to treat such cases. He is a renowned surgeon and can successfully operate on the child, but he lives far from here. It's not easy to reach him. As you can see, I'm an old woman with one foot in the grave. I'm extremely worried about who will take care of him after I die. This is why I've been praying to Allah Almighty; so that He may create an opportunity for me to take the baby to Dr. Ahmad so that he can be treated and cured."

Dr. Ahmad's eyes filled with tears and with a quiver in his voice, said: "O mother! My plane developed a technical fault, and I was forced to give up my journey due to a violent storm and torrential rain. Allah Almighty brought me to your house. Your last prayer has also been answered. Allah, the Lord of Honor, has created this situation. If Allah wills it, I will treat your grandson."

﴿أَمَّنْ يُجِيبُ الْمُضْطَرَّ إِذَا دَعَاهُ وَيَكْشِفُ السُّوءَ وَيَجْعَلُكُمْ
خُلَفَاءَ الْأَرْضِ أَءِلَٰهٌ مَّعَ اللَّهِ قَلِيلًا مَّا تَذَكَّرُونَ﴾

“Is not He (better than your gods) Who responds to the distressed one, when he calls on Him, and Who removes the evil, and makes you inheritors of the earth, generation after generation? Is there any ilah (god) with Allah? Little is that you remember!”

“O mother, your good manners, kindness and hospitality have won my heart. I’m sure Allah Almighty will answer all your prayers. ”

Dear readers, I’ve taken this incident from Mawsoo’at-ul-Qisas and thought deeply about which city this incident took place. To my mind, Dr. Ahmad left Riyadh for Abha and after the plane developed a fault, perhaps it landed at Taif airport. Allah (SWT) knows best.

Never Harm Anyone



I once came across a person in a marketplace with only one arm who said that if people heard his story they would never harm anyone ever again. When I asked him what happened, he told me the following story:

“I was a government employee, a police official to be precise. One day I saw a fisherman carrying a big fish. I approached him and said, ‘Give this fish to me.’ He said he had no objection to giving me the fish, but I had to pay the price he wanted. ‘I have nothing to eat at home and my children are waiting for me to bring them something to eat. I put a lot of effort into catching this fish,’ he said. My immediate reaction was to start beating him; and I then snatched the fish from his hands. But as I headed home, the fish suddenly jerked and bit my thumb. I felt a severe pain, which worsened when I got home. It was at night and I thought I would go to the doctor the next day. I did not sleep that entire night because of the intense pain.”

“The following morning I again went to the doctor who advised me to have the hand amputated. So my hand was cut off”



“Early the next morning I went to a doctor and showed him the injured thumb. He said that the thumb had turned gangrenous and I had to have it amputated for my own health. He warned that even a minor delay would cost me my whole hand. I immediately asked him to go ahead with the amputation. He then cut off my thumb. When I got back home, I still felt severe pain in my hand. I was in agony that entire night. The following morning I again went to the doctor who advised me to have the hand amputated. So my hand was cut off. I thought my ordeal was over, but the pain only worsened. I started screaming in pain and crying out for help. When the doctor examined me, he said the amputation of the entire arm was the only solution because the infection could spread to my entire body.”

“The people in my locality soon heard what had happened. One religious person approached me asking, ‘What caused your injury?’ When I told him the story of the fish, he said, ‘You should’ve gone to the fisherman the moment the fish bit you and begged his pardon. Only one part of your body has been amputated. You still have time; search for the fisherman and somehow bring him round.’ I immediately started searching for the fisherman, but he had left our city. I eventually found him in another city. The moment I saw him, I fell at his feet and said weeping: “Forgive me for the sake of Allah, forgive me for the sake of Allah (SWT)!”

“The fisherman asked me who I was. I told him I was the person who had stolen his fish, and showed him that my hand had been amputated. When the fisherman saw this, he burst into tears. Then he said, ‘O my brother, after seeing you in this distress, my heart goes out to you. Indeed, I forgive you for the sake of Allah (SWT).’ Then I said,

“Please tell me if you put a curse on me when I beat you and took the fish from you.”

‘Dear brother! Please tell me if you had put a curse on me when I beat you and took the fish from you.’”

“The fisherman said he had cursed me by saying:

‘فَأَرْنِي قُدْرَتَكَ فِيهِ’

‘O Allah (SWT)! I’m weak; he is strong who has taken away my sustenance forcefully and wrongfully. O my Sustainer, plunge this man into trouble and distress and show me Your Power and Providence.’”

“I said, ‘O my brother! Allah (SWT) has shown you His Power and Providence. I seek forgiveness from Allah Almighty for my sins.’”

“My immediate reaction was to start beating him. I then snatched the fish from his hands. But as I headed home, the fish suddenly jerked and bit my thumb.”

Unseen Help



A great scholar and master of prophetic narrations, Al-Hassan bin Sufyan An-Naswi was a very pious and virtuous person. During his quest for knowledge, he went with nine other students to study hadith in Egypt with a certain Shaykh-ul-hadith.

But after a few days they had nothing to eat because their money had run out. After suffering for three days, they had no other option but to go outside and beg. For honorable, self-respecting and conscientious young men, begging was no easy task. It was finally decided they would draw lots to determine who would go outside and beg. It fell on the shoulders of Imam Al-Hassan bin Sufyan.

“Instead of begging, Imam Al-Hassan bin Sufyan performed two rak’ahs and supplicated in the mosque.”

Instead of stretching his hands out to people, Imam Al-Hassan bin Sufyan performed two rak’ahs and then started a long supplication in a corner of the mosque. He lifted his hands to the heavens and prayed to Allah Almighty in absolute humility. He was still kneeling in supplication when a well-dressed and handsome young man entered the mosque and asked for him. The other hadith students pointed towards him. The Imam raised his head and ended his prayer. The young man said to him: “O Shaykh, the present Egyptian ruler, Amir Ahmad bin Tulun Abul Abbas Turki, has sent me to you. He extends his greetings and begs your pardon for being unaware of your circumstances. Taking care of you was one of his responsibilities. He apologizes for this act of omission. He will present himself to you tomorrow. I’ve brought you something from him which you must accept.” The young man placed pouches containing a hundred dinars each before every student.

The hadith students were very pleased at this generous and kind gesture and asked the young man, “How did Amir Ibn Tulun come to think of us?” The young man said, “The Amir was taking a nap in the afternoon when he saw in a dream a lance-bearing horse rider floating in the air towards him. The rider approached the Amir, poked him in the side with the lance and said in an imperious tone, ‘Rise and help Al-Hassan bin Sufyan and his companions! Go and help them! They’ve been hungry for the past three days.’ The Amir woke up and immediately gave me the dinars to deliver to you.”

Shortly afterwards the Egyptian ruler went to the mosque to see the hadith students in person. He purchased the land around the mosque and donated it to the mosque and the students.

Nothing is Difficult for Allah (SWT)

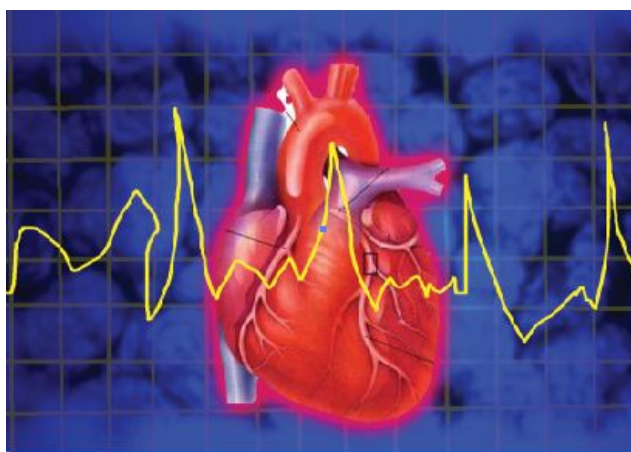


The middle-aged man had been lying unconscious for months under a white sheet in the intensive care unit of the hospital, oblivious to his surroundings, with medical equipment and feeding tubes attached to his body. A computer was constantly noting his heartbeat and recording his other vital signs. Doctors in white coats examined the patient at regular intervals but would always shake their heads in disappointment. A nurse also watched over the patient.

His wife and their fourteen-year-old son would visit without fail twice a day. They would look at him with great affection and love, change his clothes and smooth the creases of his blankets. They often asked the nurse on duty, “Is there any sign of improvement?” The nurse would only shrug her shoulders.

They would leave the hospital with a sense of helplessness. Then when all seemed lost, both started praying regularly for him to the Lord of the heavens. They would look to the sky, seeking mercy, often weeping uncontrollably.

The doctors and paramedics felt sorry for them and wondered why they visited him so often. One day a doctor asked the woman, “Why do you take the trouble to visit twice a day? He is not recovering at all.” The wife simply replied:



وَاللَّهُ الْمُسْتَعَانُ، وَاللَّهُ الْمُسْتَعَانُ،

“I seek Allah’s help; I seek Allah’s help.”

Then one day a miracle took place at the hospital. The patient, who had been lying paralyzed for months started moving in his bed, opened his eyes, removed the oxygen mask and called the nurse.

The nurse was astonished and could not believe her eyes. She rushed over to the patient. The patient asked her to remove all the medical paraphernalia attached to his body, but the nurse replied that only the doctors could remove the machines. She called the doctor who was also completely shocked at the patient's remarkable recovery. The doctor ordered an immediate examination of the patient, asked for the machines to be removed, the room tidied and the patient cleaned.

“Why do you take the trouble to visit twice a day? He’s not recovering at all.”

After some time, when visiting hours began, the man's wife and son arrived at the usual time. When they went into the room, they could hardly believe their eyes. They both burst into tears of joy. The family's husband and father had been cured!

When the doctor saw this happy scene, he asked the wife: “Were you hopeful that one day your husband would completely regain his health?” She said: “Yes, I was sure that one day I'd find my husband fully recovered, waiting for me when I came to visit him in the hospital.”

The doctor then said: “Your husband has his health back but to tell you the truth, the credit cannot go to the hospital or the doctors. There are limitations to medical science. We try to treat the patient to the best of our knowledge and abilities. I ask you by Allah (SWT), what have you been doing during this time, what routine have you been following?”

The woman replied: “I'll tell you the truth because you've asked me in the name of Almighty Allah. When I first visited my husband, I was satisfied that he was stable and his condition was not deteriorating. I supplicated for him. In our neighborhood, my son and I gave charity and alms to beggars and the needy and asked them to pray for my ailing husband. Today Allah Almighty has rewarded me for my patience and prayers. I have my husband back.”

Dear readers, this incident makes it clear that we should never lose hope in Allah's mercy. We should stick to charitable acts, patience and prayer. If we do so, Allah, the Lord of Honor, will certainly bless us.

“Today Allah Almighty has rewarded me for my patience and prayers. I have my husband back. ”

The Importance of Prayer on the Battlefield



At one stage during the siege of Kabul by the Muslims, when it was time for Dhuhr, the commander of the Muslims, Qutayba bin Muslim, performed the prayer and knelt in supplication before Allah Almighty, saying: “O Allah! Grant us (this) conquest and Your help, because conquests and help are invariably from you.”

There were about 100,000 Muslim troops involved in the battle. After performing the Dhuhr prayer, Qutayba bin Muslim issued orders for his men to find Muhammad bin Wasai, a pious and mustajab-ud-da'wah person. This was at a critical time in the battle, with many lives at stake.

The warriors found Muhammad bin Wasai leaning on his lance, weeping bitterly, raising his finger heavenwards and saying: “O Ever-Living and the One Who sustains and protects all that exists!”



When the soldiers reported back to Qutayba bin Muslim, tears welled up in his eyes and he said:

وَالَّذِي نَفْسِي بِيَدِهِ! لَأُضْبِعُ مُحَمَّدَ بْنَ وَاسِعٍ خَيْرٌ عِنْدِي
مِنْ مِائَةِ أَلْفِ سَيْفٍ شَهِيرٍ وَمِنْ مِائَةِ أَلْفِ مُقَاتِلٍ طَرِيرٍ

“By Allah in Whose hands is my soul! To me, Muhammad bin Wasai’s finger (raised heavenwards) is better than one hundred thousand unsheathed scintillating swords and one hundred thousand fighting troops.”

Then a fierce battle ensued. Allah Almighty blessed the Muslims with a great victory and subjected their enemy to a humiliating defeat. The Muslims conquered Kabul by the time it was ‘Asr prayer, which they performed inside the conquered city.

“Muhammad bin Wasai’s finger (raised heavenwards) is better than one hundred thousand unsheathed swords and one hundred thousand fighting troops.”

The Honor of Having a Prayer Granted



“Now it is only You Who can help me in this state of confusion.”

The elderly man talking to me on the telephone from a far-off place had asked me for the quotation of a book several times. As many as 50,000 copies of the book were to be printed. My responsibility was to go through it to check the authenticity of its contents. I had skimmed over it and found that many parts could not be substantiated by the Qur'an or Sunnah. I asked myself many times whether I should publish it. I was tempted by the prospect of a large profit. Even a little profit on each copy would have made an ample amount. I was also indebted to the elderly man, whom I called Mian Sahib, for the many favors he had done for me. He had given me money often when I needed it most.

When the telephone rang I knew it was Mian Sahib calling me to ask about the quotation. I raised my eyes to the heavens and said to Allah Almighty:

“Should I seek Your pleasure or oblige Mian Sahib? I don't want to make Mian Sahib angry. Now it is only You Who can help me in this state of confusion.” Praying fervently in my heart, I lifted the receiver. It was Mian Sahib, who immediately asked, “Why haven't you sent the quotation?” Instead of replying to his query, I asked him a counter question very politely, “Why do you publish these books?”

As expected, his reply was that his objective was to earn the pleasure of Allah (SWT).

“We should not publish anything inadvertently that might earn the wrath of Allah Almighty.”

“Mian Sahib, you publish books after great effort and hard work. Shouldn't we, before we print these books, get them reviewed by some religious scholar, so that if there is anything contrary to the Qur'an and Sunnah, it can be excluded from the text? We should not publish anything inadvertently that might earn the wrath of Allah Almighty.”

Esteemed readers, Allah Almighty granted my prayer. Mian Sahib's tone changed. He said, “To heck with these writers! I have asked my staff many times to look at the draft in minute detail to ensure that

it is error-free.” Then we digressed and the topic of quotations was dropped from our conversation. Al-Hamdulillah, my prayer was answered.

(From the compiler’s diary)

‘O Allah, O Allah!’



When people are in trouble – whether they are on a ship caught in a violent storm, or lose their way in the desert - they will always turn to Allah for help. With hands raised to the sky, they would cry out, “O Allah, O Allah!”

Only One Being can redress our problems and fulfill our needs. This is the Lord of the heavens and the earth. To Him we raise our hands during the night prayer. We look to Him in all our difficulties and emergencies.

His Name is on our lips during supplications and prayers. Our hearts and souls find peace in His Name. O Allah, O Allah! Your Name is so beautiful!

“Only One Being can redress our problems and fulfill our needs. This is the Lord of the heavens and the earth. To Him we raise our hands during the night prayer. We look to Him in all our difficulties and emergencies. ”

The Lord of Troubled and Helpless Souls



He was not guilty but found himself in jail on a murder charge. Someone had been killed in his camp and he was arrested along with other suspects. He pleaded not guilty but could not convince the policemen of his innocence.

Then he thought of calling on God. He did not identify himself as a Christian, Hindu or Sikh. He had no connection to Islam. He then started praying to Jesus, Prophet Isa. Many days passed but he did not get any help.

Then he called on Musa, Prophet Moses, but he remained in prison. Then he prayed to various idols and deities but nothing happened. He would cry quietly out of worry and stress.

One day he thought of calling on the Lord of the Muslims for help. "Maybe my prayer will be granted and I'll be released," he said to himself. Then he raised his hands heavenwards and said in his own language: "O the Lord and God of Muslims! I am not a Muslim, but I have tried all options and found them of no use. O Allah! Now I beg at Your door and seek Your help; relieve me of this ordeal." He kept praying for a long time to be set free. He had barely lowered his hands after his prayers when a policeman opened his cell door.

"Sadeeq (colloquialism for friend), come out. We have fully investigated the case and found you innocent. You are being set free," said the officer.

"I need to worship God Who helps troubled and helpless souls and grants their prayers. My true Lord has answered my prayers. "

He was overjoyed and immediately headed towards a Maktab Jaliyat (Islamic Centre for Da'wah and Guidance) and met the administrator there. He told him that he wanted to revert to Islam and recite the Shahadah, which is the testimony of faith: "I bear witness that there is no deity worthy of worship but Allah (SWT) and Muhammad is His Messenger." The administrator asked him if he had any doubts or questions. He said that he had received replies to all his questions. "I need to worship God Who helps troubled and helpless souls and grants their prayers. My true Lord has answered my prayers," he said.

Dear readers, I heard the account of this story during I'tikaaf from the administrator of the Maktab Jaliyat. I wrote it down after making slight changes. This incident probably happened in some Saudi city.

“O the Lord and God of Muslims! I am not a Muslim, but I have tried all options and found them of no use. O Allah! Now I beg at Your door and seek Your help; relieve me of this ordeal.”

A Mother Accepts Allah's Will



This incident was taken from the lecture of the head of the Department of Cardiology at a major hospital in Saudi Arabia:

“It was Tuesday when I carried out the operation on the child. The next day, his health was a bit better and he was playing. At 11.15 am on Thursday, the nurse came to me crying out: ‘Doctor, doctor! The child has stopped breathing! It seems his heart has stopped working!’ I immediately rushed to see him and started gently massaging his chest for about 45 minutes but did not get any heartbeat. However, Allah, the Lord of Honor, granted him a new lease on life and his heart gradually started beating again. I thanked Allah Almighty and when I was completely satisfied with his condition, I looked for his relatives to tell them what had happened.”

“Alhamdulillah, O Allah! If there is any good in my child's life, please grant him life.”

“It is always difficult to tell parents about the condition of their sickly children. When I later found his mother I told her that her son's heart had stopped beating and that I had thought he was clinically dead.”

“Some mothers react badly to such news and would often cry and wail and blame the doctor. But this great lady did not cry. Instead, she listened to me with great patience and only said ‘Al-Hamdulillah (Praise be to Allah)’. Then she left.”

“The child was in the intensive care unit. When he moved slightly after ten days, we thanked Allah that he was regaining consciousness. But around twelve days later, his heart stopped beating again. We gave him cardiac massage for 45 minutes, but there was no heartbeat. I told his mother that there were few signs of hope.”

“When his mother heard this, she said ‘Al-Hamdulillah (Praise be to God)’ instead of weeping and wailing. She raised her face heavenwards and prayed: ‘O Allah! If there is any good in the recovery of my child, please cure him.’ Miraculously, his heart started beating once again, much to our relief. We thanked Allah. You can imagine how happy his mother must have been.”

“Over the following days and weeks the child's health fluctuated, sometimes improving and other times deteriorating. But his mother seemed resigned to the decree of Allah. Most of her time was spent in dua (supplication).”

“After three-and-a-half months, the child was still in the intensive care unit and developed swelling on his brain. A team of doctors constantly attended to him but his condition grew critical and it seemed impossible he would survive. I was in charge of the intensive care unit and started preparing his mother mentally for the bad news that he might not survive. ‘Even if he does not suffer a heart attack, he has developed a swelling in the head which poses a serious threat to his life,’ I told her.”

“I recognized the child we had treated. He was like a blooming beautiful flower, healthy and lively, free of disease, playing beside his parents.”

“Again the woman said, ‘Alhamdulillah’ before she left me. I noticed that she had a very deep attachment to Allah. Her words, ‘O Allah, if there is any good in the recovery of my child, please cure him’ were enough to prove her unshakeable faith in Allah. I had never seen such a woman in 23 years of service at the hospital.”

“Then one day the child suffered renal failure. We were certain that this time he would not survive. I again plucked up the courage to inform the mother, but as usual, she said, ‘Alhamdulillah’.”

“The child struggled for about four months when all of a sudden he contracted a strange disease, which I had never treated in my entire medical career. We, the doctors, were very worried because his chest started swelling. We tried everything we could, but his health deteriorated. I told his mother that there was no way we could save him. She said, as always, ‘Alhamdulillah’ and added: ‘O Allah! If there is any good in my child’s life, please grant him life.’”

“After six months the child was unable to move, speak, hear or see. But his mother, a paragon of patience, still clung onto him and prayed for his recovery.”

“She has never missed tahajjud prayer without a valid excuse. I’ve never heard her lying, insulting or making fun of anyone. She always prays for me and for barakah (blessings)”

“After eight long months, all her prayers finally bore fruit, the boy recovered completely. He was soon seen playing and running at her side. It was hard to believe that he had ever been in such a critical state.”

“After one-and-a-half years, a colleague of mine at the hospital informed me that a husband and wife with their two children were sitting in the waiting room to see me. When I asked him who they were, he said he did not know. When I went to them, I recognized the child we had treated. He was like a blooming beautiful flower, healthy and lively, free of disease, playing beside his parents. His newborn brother was being held by his mother. The parents had come to thank me. Pointing to the newborn, I asked them in good humor whether he was their thirteenth or fourteenth child.”

“The father said to me that their eldest boy had been born after 17 years of marriage. I took him into another room and told him privately that I had never seen such a patient and grateful lady as his wife. Allah Almighty blessed them with a beautiful child after 17 years who was chronically ill, but she had shown unmatched affection, diligence and courage while taking care of him.”



“Her husband held my hand and said that he had married her 19 years ago. ‘She has never missed tahajjud prayer without a valid excuse. I have never heard her telling a lie, insulting or making fun of anyone. Whenever I get home, she receives me warmly. She always prays for me and for barakah (blessings).’ He said he would never marry a second woman because of the God-fearing nature of his wife. ‘I could not bring myself to break her heart,’ the husband said. This was the answer to the question I wanted to ask him. I was stunned into silence.”

Four Supplications for Four Dirhams

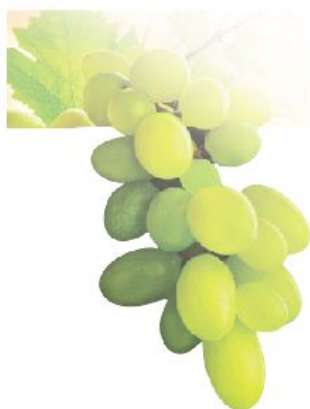
There was once a rich man who was a chronic alcoholic and a very proud and arrogant person. His wealth had gone to his head. He did not care for anyone and hosted drunken orgies all the time.



One day, during one such party at his house, he gave his servant four dirhams and asked him to go buy some fruit for his guests. On the way, the servant came across a pious worshipper; Mansoor bin Ammar, who was a homeless itinerant, but whose prayers were all answered (mustajab-ud-da'wah). The servant heard him saying: "Whoever gives me four dirhams, I will send up four prayers for him." The servant immediately took out the four dirhams and handed them over to the righteous man.

Mansoor bin 'Ammar said: "Tell me the four supplications that I should make for you." The servant said, "My master is extremely cruel; first of all pray that I can be rid of him. The other prayer is that Allah Almighty compensates me for the four dirhams I've given you. The third prayer is that Allah grants my master, who is a drunkard and guilty of major sins, the power to seek repentance. The fourth is that Allah forgives me, my master, you and the people present here." Mansoor bin 'Ammar then uttered these supplications for the servant.

"I seek repentance from Him; I will never touch wine again."



The servant then returned home and was rebuked by his master for being so late and asked why he had no fruit. In response, the servant told him what had happened with Mansoor bin Ammar. As he was listening to the servant's story, the anger drained from the master's face. He then asked the servant what prayers Mansoor bin Ammar had made for him. The servant replied that he had asked him to pray that he be freed from being a servant. The master immediately said, "You are free from this moment. What was your second supplication?" The servant replied: "May Allah grant me good compensation for the four dirhams." The master said, "I hereby announce that I give you four thousand dirhams in compensation. What was your third supplication?" The servant said that he prayed that Allah might grant him (the master) the guidance to seek repentance.

The master bowed his head and burst into tears. He got up, broke the drinking vessels and said in a determined voice: "I seek repentance from Him; I will never touch wine ever again." Then he asked the servant what his fourth prayer was. The servant said that his fourth prayer was for Allah to forgive him, his master, Mansoor bin Ammar and the whole community. The master said that he was unable to do anything about this matter. "This is not in my power. This is for Allah, Who is the most Kind and Forgiving," he added.

That night the master dreamt he received glad tidings: "You have done what was in your power. Do you think what is in Allah's power will not be done by Him? Allah (SWT) has forgiven you, your servant, Mansoor bin Ammar and all the people present."

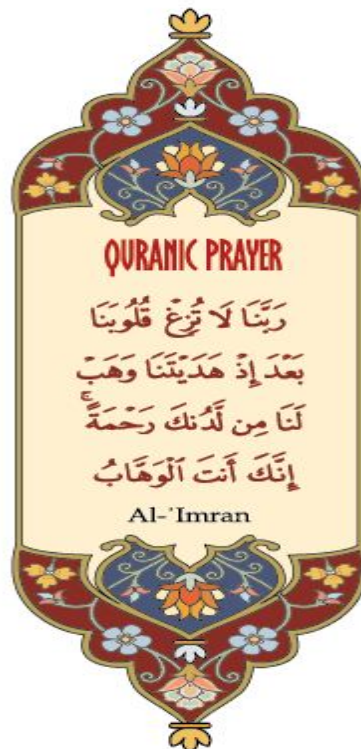
A Young Man's Faith



This incident was related by Shaykh Abdul Aziz Aqeel in his moving lecture titled “Lessons from various incidents”. It is about a close, pious relative of the Shaykh who was blind and a Hafiz (one who has memorized the Qur’an). Young and old loved him. When the Shaykh was 17 he went to see his relative, who asked him why he was not married. When the Shaykh said he had financial problems, his relative advised him to pray for Allah’s guidance. He then told him how he got married:

“I come from an extremely poor family. We led a miserable life. I was ugly and blind from birth. I had no possessions and it was unlikely someone would let me marry his daughter. Even so, I wanted to get married. I went to my respected father and said, ‘Dear father, I want to get married.’ My father first laughed heartily and then said: ‘Come on son, why should someone let you marry his daughter? You’re congenitally blind and we are poor and are from the lowest strata in society.’ He made some self-deprecating remarks and said: ‘Be patient. Our plight is apparent. Let’s see what Allah (SWT) has in store for us.’”

“O my Allah! You have the power to do anything You want. Favor me with Your Mercy and make marriage easy for me.”



“I was completely disheartened by my father’s remarks. I then went to my mother. I was around 24 or 25 years of age at that time. I wanted her to talk to my father. When I raised the issue of marriage with her, she exclaimed: ‘Son, have you lost your mind? Where will we get the money for your wedding?’

We desperately need money ourselves; our creditors keep pestering us with demands for payment and you are thinking of marriage!”

“In short, my mother made such hurtful remarks that I burst into tears. After I had calmed down, I thought that perhaps my parents were not ready yet to talk to me about such matters. I resolved to talk to them again. But when I did raise the issue with them a few days later, I was again unsuccessful.”

“Then I thought that I was really stupid; I should rather be knocking on the door of my Lord. I offered supererogatory prayers late at night and invoked Allah sobbing uncontrollably. I said: ‘My Master! People say I’m a pauper. O Lord, You made me poor. They say I’m blind. O my Lord, it is You Who has deprived me of eyesight. People say I’m an ugly fellow. O my Sustainer, you made me so. Only You are my Master, my Lord, my Sustainer. There is none worthy of worship except You. O God, You know I have a desire to get married, but I don’t have the means. My parents are people of humble means. I have accepted their excuse because they are really very poor. But O my Allah! You have the power to do anything You want. Favor me with Your Mercy and make marriage easy for me.’”

“After I prayed, I felt sleepy and went to lie down. I fell asleep and had a dream that I was standing in a place that was quite hot. Then suddenly a canopy descended from the heavens which provided me with shade. I felt a strange coolness and contentment. When I woke up I felt very happy.”

“Early the next morning I went to a scholar who could interpret dreams and told him what I had seen. He asked me if I was married. I replied in the negative. When he asked me why I was not married, I told him about the constraints I had in my life. The scholar asked if I had prayed while weeping inconsolably. I said that I had. He said, ‘Go and seek the hand of the best girl in your family. Go, the door is open.’”

“I thought of the girl for whom our whole family had the highest regard. I asked my parents to go and seek her hand for me. This time my father scolded me even more severely and flatly refused to do so. I made up my mind to approach the father of the girl myself. When I arrived at their home I met her father, greeted him and plucked up the courage to ask him what I had on my mind. He was pleased rather than angry and said: ‘You have learnt the Qur’an by heart. We will not be able to find a better match than you for our daughter, but we must get her consent.’ He went to the girl, told her about me, and said, ‘Daughter, it’s true he is blind but we should also take into account that he is a hafiz and qari of the Holy Qur’an. Anyhow, I will not do anything without your consent. If you are willing, I will proceed with the proposal, placing trust in Allah Almighty.’ The obedient daughter replied: ‘Dear father, do as you wish.’ The proposal was finalized and within a week this pious girl graced our home.”

“Come on son, why should someone let you marry his daughter? You know you are congenitally blind and we are poor and are from the lowest strata in society.”

The Patience of Ayub



Ayyub, one of the descendants of Allah's chosen Prophet and Friend, Ibrahim , was known for his patience. He was very rich, with extensive agricultural land in Bosinah near Damascus in Syria. His abundant property and cattle made him the biggest and the most influential landlord in the area. Besides being extremely affluent, he was also very generous and spent lavishly on the poor, needy and widows. He never refused anyone who asked him for help.

Ayyub remained constantly grateful to Allah. He always thanked Allah Almighty for all his blessings. It is the Sunnah (way) of Allah Almighty that He tests the faith of his chosen people. So Allah Almighty put Ayyub to the test. The houses in which his children lived collapsed and they were crushed under the debris. A gang of bandits drove away all his cattle; and his agricultural produce was reduced to ashes. Ayyub himself contracted leprosy. The disease ate away his flesh and he was in great distress.

All his friends and relatives abandoned him except his wife Eliyyah. Two old friends occasionally visited him. Eliyyah was a righteous woman who had been a companion of Ayyub in the good days. She said, "I was with him in prosperity; now that he is facing hard times, I should stand by him."

The people expelled Ayyub from their area. Eliyyah took him to a camp outside the village. She spread soft ashes under him and tried to comfort him in every possible way.

"And (remember) Ayyub (Job), when he cried to his Lord: 'Verily, distress has seized me, and You are the Most Merciful of all those who show mercy.'"

They now had a place to stay but food was still a problem. Ayyub was unable to do anything. The people of his village would not go near him, let alone help him. Eliyyah mustered up the courage and started doing chores at various households. She cooked food for people and washed their dishes. Whatever she earned after the daylong drudgery, she brought to Ayyub. In short, she served Ayyub devotedly, without complaint, for 18 years during his trials and tribulations. Ayyub could also be praised for his patience. He constantly prayed to Allah, despite his troubles.

Once Eliyyah said: "Why don't you pray to your Lord God to relieve you of your suffering?"

At this, Ayyub got angry and said, "I have had 70 years of prosperity. If I spend as many years in distress, the score will be settled."



Eliyyah was very upset with the reply, but she said nothing. One day the two friends who occasionally visited Ayyub came to him. One of the friends said to the other that it seemed that Ayyub had committed a major sin for which he was being punished so severely.

“Why should I fool you, O gentle lady? Believe me, I am Ayyub. My trial is over and Allah has made me completely healthy.”

Ayyub had heard all kinds of hurtful things, but this remark was too harsh for him to bear. He grew restless and sought the help of Allah (SWT). The Noble Qur’an mentions his prayer:

﴿وَأَيُّوبَ إِذْ نَادَىٰ رَبَّهُ أَنِّي مَسَّنِيَ الضُّرُّ وَأَنْتَ أَرْحَمُ الرَّاحِمِينَ﴾

“And (remember) Ayyub (Job), when he cried to his Lord: ‘Verily, distress has seized me, and You are the Most Merciful of all those who show mercy.’”

Allah Almighty answered his prayer:

﴿فَأَسْتَجَبْنَا لَهُ، فَكَشَفْنَا مَا بِهِ مِنْ ضُرٍّ، وَآتَيْنَاهُ أَهْلَهُ،
وَمِثْلَهُمْ مَعَهُمْ رَحْمَةً مِنَّا وَذِكْرَىٰ لِلْعَابِدِينَ﴾

“So We answered his call, and We removed the distress that was on him, and We restored his family to him (that he had lost) and the like thereof along with them as a mercy from Ourselves and a Reminder for all those who worship Us.”

A little while later, Ayyub went to answer the call of nature. Normally his wife would take him, but on this particular day she was delayed at work. Allah Almighty sent a revelation to Ayyub to strike the earth with his foot. When he did so, a spring of cold and sweet water gushed out. Allah Almighty told him to drink and bathe with the water. When he did so, he recovered instantly.

“I have had 70 years of prosperity. If I spend as many years in distress, the score will be settled.”

Ayyub then became even more handsome than ever before, his skin glowed and he was dressed in the best of clothing by the angels. There was a rain of gold locusts around him. When his wife came home, she did not recognize him and asked, “O slave of Allah! My husband Ayyub, the prophet, who looked pale and sickly, was here. Have you seen him?”

Smiling, Ayyub said, “O bondswoman of Allah! I am the same Ayyub.”

Astonished, she said: “Don’t [try to] fool me, [I’m] an aggrieved woman.”

He said: “Why should I fool you, O gentle lady? Believe me, I am Ayyub. My trial is over and Allah (SWT) has made me completely healthy.”

At this, Eliyyah gave thanks to Allah (SWT).

Allah (SWT) doubled his wealth: Two clouds showered his two fields with gold and silver; and he regained all his lost riches, property, children, cattle and servants.

Afterwards, Ayyub lived for another 70 years and preached the religion of Ibrahim. His patience has become proverbial.

The Character of a True Scholar



My name is Ibrahim and I work as a fisherman on a small, motorized fishing boat. I have an old friend, Shaykh Muhammad bin Salih Al-Munajjid, who is a learned scholar and practices what he preaches. He is a brilliant speaker who preaches at the biggest mosque in Al-Khobar in Saudi Arabia.

Every now and then we would go out together. Once I insisted that the Shaykh go out to sea with me to catch fish and enjoy the glory of the ocean.

The Shaykh agreed so we decided to go for our adventure after ‘Asr (late afternoon prayer) on a Thursday. His three-year-old son Anas was also with him. We boarded the vessel and set sail. The sea was calm and when we had gone a great distance out to sea, I stopped the boat and cast the net. Soon I caught a big fish. Seeing the struggling fish, little Anas cried out in fear. I tried to assure him that the fish would not harm him. Shaykh Al-Munajjid smiled at his son’s terror and managed to soothe the child.

“The Shaykh asked me to perform ablution and pray in the water. He seemed completely satisfied with the will of Allah.”

Then we decided to move to another area to fish but the engine would not start. I then started the reserve engine and headed back to the coast. We had just started when I discovered water beside the engine.

I was completely surprised and could not understand how water had entered the boat. I showed the Shaykh what was happening and asked him to start removing the water. All of a sudden, the vessel capsized. The Shaykh did not know how to swim. He threw Anas towards me. Then a strong wave hit us and we went under the water. I surfaced minutes later. Those were the most critical moments of my life. The only thing on my mind was to find out where the Shaykh was. I looked all around but did not see him. I was extremely worried and swam around, scouring the area. At last he surfaced behind me, holding tightly onto a floating gallon water container.

Then I also discovered that the box containing the life rings had opened in our earlier scramble to drain water from the boat. Some were floating on the water. The instant I caught sight of them, I grabbed one and threw it towards the Shaykh. He held onto both the container and the life ring as we started swimming to the coast.

I was fervently hoping that the Border Security Force or some fishermen would come to our rescue. The Shaykh had strong faith and was completely engrossed in invoking Allah. He asked me to follow suit and to perform ablution and pray in the water. He seemed completely satisfied with the will of Allah (SWT).

We were drifting in treacherous currents and I was fearful that we would be separated from each other. I knew that we could drown. I asked the Shaykh to forgive me for persuading him to go out to sea, but he was satisfied and resigned to his fate.

Just after sunset I performed ablution and prayed. It was getting dark. The Shaykh was constantly calling out to tell me where he was. However, the distance between us was gradually widening because of the strong waves. Eventually I lost contact with the Shaykh and could no longer hear him.

“We were drifting in treacherous currents and I was fearful that we would be separated from each other. I knew that we could drown.”

The Shaykh had given me a precious trust in the form of Anas. I was more concerned about him than myself. When Anas asked me where his father was I did not know what to say. He burst into tears as I tried to console him. Trusting in Allah, I continued out to the shore, praising and glorifying Allah. Suddenly Anas screamed that he had lost his shoe. He insisted that he wanted it back. Bewildered, I told him that his shoe had sunk and could not be recovered. I said that he would get a new pair but he continued weeping uncontrollably. Angry, I stripped him of the other shoe and threw it into the sea, which then immediately made him stop crying.

When it was time for ‘Isha (night prayer), I again prayed. I realized that difficulties play an important role in quickening and waking up the heart of a person.

As I struggled to reach the shore, Anas cried out: “Uncle! See there’s a huge fish.” I went numb with fear. I sought refuge with Allah from the potential threat and asked Anas where he saw the fish. I thought it might be a Qirsh (shark). He told me that he saw the fish behind him. I looked around but could not see it. I then thought that Anas may have mistaken my bare flapping feet for a fish.

After swimming for several hours I was exhausted and extremely thirsty. Three-year-old Anas, who was on my shoulders, sometimes fainted and would weep bitterly whenever he regained consciousness. Then I heard the call to Fajr prayer coming from somewhere and immediately felt hopeful we would make it. At long last, as the sun rose, we reached the shore. I put Anas down on the sand, lay down next to him and thanked Allah (SWT) with all my heart.

The shore was deserted. I thought about going to the port after recovering a little and informing the Border Security Force about the Shaykh so that he might be rescued.

Then a vehicle approached us, stopped, and a man got out. He asked me what we were doing there. When I told him what had happened to us, he said he was happy that we had made it and confessed that he had been a little fearful because he thought we were some kind of sea creature. He then helped us into the vehicle and after a long drive dropped us at the border security office.

At the security office, we were immediately given medical treatment and put on drips. I drank water with some difficulty. The commanding officer came to see us. He was a sociable and affable person. When I told him about the Shaykh, he immediately ordered a search. The only clue that I could offer them was that the Shaykh was holding onto a gallon container and a life ring.

After an extensive search for over an hour by divers and other sea rescue personnel, the Shaykh was found alive and well. I went with the commanding officer and other security officials to receive the Shaykh.

The moment he stepped onto the shore, the Shaykh turned towards the Qiblah and prostrated to give thanks to Allah (SWT). I had not thought of such a gesture of thanksgiving. I then also prostrated to show my gratitude to Allah. The Shaykh shook hands with all of us. Then he smiled and embraced Anas tightly. It was an emotional reunion of father and son. I expressed profound gratitude to Allah (SWT) for sparing me the perennial pangs of remorse.

Cured of Backbiting

There was a woman who had the annoying habit of backbiting. She knew that it was a great sin and would at times, after intense soul-searching, try hard to get rid of her bad behavior. But all her attempts failed.

While in Allah's House, she called on the Almighty, hanging her head meekly: "O Allah, you know that my tongue will get me into serious trouble. O my Lord, rectify it. It should only be used for Your glorification."

Allah Almighty answered her humble prayer and cured her of backbiting. When she went home, her tongue was kept busy invoking Allah (SWT).

"O Allah, you know that my tongue will get me into serious trouble. O my Lord, rectify it. It should only be used for Your glorification."

A Daughter's Prayer Against her Father



Although Arab society has changed a great deal, there are greedy fathers from some tribes who refuse to let their daughters marry because they want to retain control of their salaries. This practice can be found in many societies across the world.

I heard about the following incident from a number of Saudi speakers. I do not doubt its authenticity because Allah Almighty instantly answers the prayers of a wronged person, as in this case. However, I do not claim that this incident is one hundred percent true:

“O Allah! Deprive this man (our father) of his hands and feet as he has deprived us of the right to marriage.”

A father had four daughters who were all employed and earned reasonable salaries. Motivated by greed for their earnings, he refused to let them marry. Such fathers use various pretexts to prevent a marriage, including raising questions about the family background and social status of prospective suitors.



The girls were extremely worried about the situation. A little while later they went to perform ‘Umrah (lesser pilgrimage to Allah’s House). The moment they entered the Holy Sanctuary, one of the girls said to her father: “Father, let me supplicate Allah with a prayer to which you may say ‘Aameen’ (May it be so).”

The father said “Aameen” not knowing that the girl had prayed with her hands raised: “O Allah! Deprive this man (our father) of his hands and feet as he has deprived us of the right to marriage.” All the other girls said “Aameen” to the prayer.

They had barely finished the prayer when their father's hands and feet were paralyzed. He had provoked Divine wrath on account of his greed.

A House along a Canal



This incident happened in the Saudi capital, Riyadh. In the holy month of Ramadan, a pious woman gathered her children every day before iftar (the time for breaking the fast after sunset) and asked them to pray with her. Then she raised her hands and said: “O Allah! Provide us with our own house by the side of a flowing canal.” The children then all raised their hands and repeated the prayer.

The woman’s husband laughed at them and said: “Your wish for a house is understandable, but what do you mean by a canal flowing beside the house? How will this canal come to our desert area?”

The wife replied: “Don’t worry about it; this is a matter between us and Allah Almighty. He (Allah) says: ‘Call upon Me and I will respond to your call.’ So we will seek from Him whatever comes to our mind again and again.”

“O Allah! Provide us with our own house by the side of a flowing canal. The children then all raised their hands and repeated the prayer.”

In short, she gathered the children daily and prayed to Allah. When the holy month of Ramadan was over her husband asked sarcastically: “Now tell me where is your house and the canal?”

The lady replied with firm faith: “Allah Almighty will certainly give us a house; He will fulfill all our desires.”

What happened next was related by the woman herself: “I had barely finished fasting the six days of Shawwal when one day a strange incident happened. My husband was coming out of the mosque after ‘Asr prayer. A well-known and affluent person of Riyadh stopped him. My husband did not recognize him. The person said salaam to my husband and said: ‘I have a house with my father living in half of it. The other half is vacant. Allah Almighty has blessed me and my children with a lot of property and we don’t need the vacant portion. Today I left my place with the intention of offering the remaining portion of the house to the first person who comes out of the mosque after ‘Asr prayer. I’ve come across you here. Now my request is that you accept half of our house as a gift.’”

“We were reluctant to accept the offer without paying anything. However, the man said, ‘If you insist on paying for the house, you may give me whatever amount you can arrange easily.’ We collected money from different sources, which amounted to around 8,000 riyals. We handed over that amount to the gentleman. Now we were the owners of half a house in a posh locality of Riyadh. It is quite true that whoever calls upon Allah with sincerity in his or her heart, Allah Almighty does answer their call.”

“However, one thing perturbed me. I had asked Allah for a canal to flow alongside the house, but there was no canal. I asked a religious scholar whether Allah Almighty blesses a person with what he or she seeks from Him. I sought a house on the bank of a canal from Allah Almighty but I got the house without any canal.”

The religious scholar was astonished at my firm belief. He asked me what lay in front of my new house. I replied that there was a beautiful mosque there. The religious scholar smiled and said, “That is the canal.”

“The religious scholar said the beautiful mosque in front of our house was the canal I had asked Allah for.”

There is a hadith that once the Prophet of Allah said to the Companions: “If a person lives in a house by the side of a flowing canal and he takes a bath in it five times a day, will any dirt or impurity remain on his body?” The Companions replied: “No, O Prophet of Allah! No dirt or impurity will remain on his body.” The Prophet said: “This is the case with praying five times a day by means of which Allah Almighty removes sins.”

A Special Prayer of Allah's Messenger (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him)



Abu Hurairah reported that once Allah's Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) said: "There is a supplication for every prophet (that is definitely answered at all times). I have reserved my supplication for the intercession of my Ummah on the Day of Resurrection."

Anas bin Maalik reported Allah's Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) as having said: "For every prophet there is a prayer that will surely be answered. Every prophet appealed to Allah with that prayer in his time and it was accepted. I will utter that prayer on the Day of Resurrection for the shafa'ah (intercession) of my Ummah."

Abu Hurairah narrated a hadith in which Allah's Messenger (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) said: "For every prophet is a prayer that he made for his Ummah and it was granted. I intend to keep my prayer for the intercession of my Ummah on the Day of Resurrection."

There is a long hadith of Sahih Muslim in which it is stated that on the Day of Resurrection, when people find themselves in serious trouble, they will go to different prophets with requests to intercede for them with Allah Almighty. The prophets will all express their inability to do so. Finally, people will go to Allah's Messenger (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) and appeal for him to intercede with Allah on their behalf. What happens next is given below in the words of Allah's Messenger (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him):

"When they come to me for intercession on their behalf, I will say in the affirmative that I am prepared to intercede for them with Allah (SWT). I will seek permission from Allah and it would be granted. I will offer praises to Him standing in His presence in words I cannot describe now. Those words would be inspired by Allah Almighty on that occasion.

“Then I will fall down in prostration. It would be said to me: ‘O Muhammad! Raise your head, speak and you shall be heard; seek what you want and it will be granted; intercede and your intercession will be accepted.’ I will raise my head and say: ‘O my Lord! My Ummah, my Ummah!’ It would be said to me to bring out from the Fire those whose hearts contain faith equal to a grain of wheat or barley seed. I shall fetch out of the Fire all such people.

“O Muhammad! Raise your head, speak and you shall be heard; seek what you want and it will be granted; intercede and your intercession will be accepted”

“I shall return, offer praises to Allah in the same words and fall down in prostration. It would be again said to me: ‘Raise your head, speak and you shall be heard; seek and it will be granted to you; intercede and your intercession will be accepted.’ I will again request: ‘O Allah! My Ummah, my Ummah!’ It would be said to me: Go bring out from the Fire those whose hearts contain faith equal to a mustard seed. I would again go fetch all such people out of the Fire.

“I will return to the Tribunal of the Lord for the third time, offer praises in the same words and fall down in prostration. It will be said to me once again: ‘O Muhammad! Raise your head; speak and you shall be heard; seek and you will be granted; intercede and your intercession will be accepted.’ I would request again: ‘O my Lord! My Ummah, my Ummah!’ It would be said to me: Go bring out from the Fire all those people in whose heart is the least possible amount of faith. I will go fetch all such people from Hell.”

How Could I Have Murdered You?



“Two strong and sturdy bodyguards were standing behind you.”

An Arab Muslim girl studying in London once went to a friend’s place for a function and could not return home early despite trying to do so. When she left the party, it was already past midnight. Her house was far away and the quickest way was the underground train system. The London Underground was a dangerous place at night. Every other day TV channels and newspapers reported criminal activities there.

Notwithstanding her apprehensions, the girl decided to go home by train. She was not religious at all, but rather a very liberal and free-thinking person. As she reached the station, fear ran down her spine because the place was completely deserted. Only one other person was standing there. She felt quite scared. However, she mustered up the courage, composed herself and started reciting whatever she had memorized from the Holy Qur’an. A short while later a train came in, she boarded it and got home safely.

The following day she got the shock of her life when she was reading the newspaper. At the same station she had been the previous night, a young girl was murdered. The killer had been arrested.

“At the same station she had been the previous night, a young girl was murdered. The killer had been arrested.”

She then went to the local police station and told the officers there that she was also present at the station some time before the murder and that she could recognize the killer. When she was taken to the suspect’s cell, she asked him: “Do you recognize me?” He replied: “Yes, I recognize you. Last night you were at the station.” The girl asked why he had let her go. He answered, “How could I harm you? Two strong and sturdy bodyguards were standing behind you.” Upon hearing this, the girl was overwhelmed by feelings of gratitude and her belief in the help and unseen support of Allah Almighty was strengthened.

If we call on Allah (SWT) from the depths of our heart and trust in His help and support, we will never be deprived of His mercy.

Deprived of Eyesight, not Insight



In a city many years ago hunger, poverty and disease ran rampant. There was a smallpox epidemic and no known cure for it. A child would fall victim to the disease and his or her parents could do nothing but be patient.

One day a mother noticed her child groping for the wall while walking. She soon realized that the effects of smallpox had claimed her son's eyes. She was a pious woman with sound faith, firmly grounded in her belief in Allah (SWT). She did not cry or get angry, but would constantly supplicate, glorify and praise Allah.

She would perform ablution and perform a two-rak'ah prayer with extreme humility and reverence. Then she would implore Allah: "O Allah! You have deprived him of eyesight, but O my Lord, don't deprive him of insight. O Allah! Grant him understanding of religion and make him a hafiz (one who learns the Qur'an by heart)." She would say her prayer while weeping bitterly.

This child was brought up in the care of that patient and grateful woman. He memorized the holy Qur'an at the age of eight or nine years. After learning the Qur'an by heart, he began learning hadiths and went on to acquire religious knowledge. He memorized the books of Seerah (the Holy Prophet's biography), and fiqh (Islamic jurisprudence). He also memorized various explanations of the Qur'an. Thus, the blind child grew up into a righteous ally of Allah. He got married and had four children, all of whom memorized the Qur'an. One of them even became a great religious scholar.

Confession of Sin Brings Rain



“No grounds (for complaint) can be against the Muhsinun (those who do good). We confess our sins. Forgive us and send down rain.”

Once, when the people of Damascus went out to perform istisqa prayer Bilal bin Sa’ad said to them: “Will you not confess to having committed sins?” The people replied: “Why?” Then Bilal bin Sa’ad said: “O Allah! You have said,

﴿ مَا عَلَى الْمُحْسِنِينَ مِنْ سَبِيلٍ ﴾

‘No grounds (for complaint) can be against the Muhsinun (those who do good).’

We confess our sins. Forgive us and send down rain.” It rained the same day.

When there was a severe drought during the reign of the Umayyad caliph of Andalus, Abd Al-Rahman An-Nasir, the qadhi of Cordova, Munthir bin Saeed, persuaded people to perform istisqa. He was a great scholar and a matchless speaker. Munthir bin Saeed fasted for many days to prepare and then gathered the people in a vast open field. The Caliph An-Nasir sat on a pulpit to address the people.



Munthir bin Saeed then presented himself in the field walking with great humility and subservience. He greeted the people Assalamu‘ Alaikum, but then did not say anything for quite some time, which was unusual for him. People looked at each other in surprise. Then he plucked up the courage and

started to speak: “O people! Allah Almighty has enjoined mercy upon Himself. Seek forgiveness from your Lord and turn to Him. Do virtuous acts and attain proximity to Him.” Having heard his moving speech, people burst into tears. Then all of them prayed to Allah very humbly and devotedly. It rained heavily that day before sunset.

People should ponder why their supplications are not answered these days. They implore for rain but their prayers are not granted.



‘O Death, You’re Welcome’



This is the story of a pious and virtuous girl who grew up in an exemplary environment. She was the paragon of virtue and piety. She considered herself answerable to Allah (SWT) for each and every act or word that she uttered. Then Allah (SWT) blessed her with a pious and righteous husband. She was happy and moved to a small town where her husband worked.

Life went on peacefully and she soon fell pregnant. When it was time for the baby to be delivered, a doctor said that she needed to have a Caesarean. Her husband then took her to the only hospital in town. The hospital administration informed them that the female doctor who would perform the medical operation would only be available in four days, and that if they wanted to have a Caesarean, they would have to employ the male doctor. The condition of the woman was deteriorating rapidly. They could not wait for four days to pass, as this delay could be life-threatening. Her husband was prepared for the operation, but when the woman came to know of it, she cried:

وَاللَّهِ لَا يَكُونُ هَذَا أَبَدًا!

“By Allah, this will never happen. I would rather die than have a male stranger operate and deliver the baby!”

Her husband said to her very gently: “Try to understand. My self-respect cannot brook it either that a male stranger looks upon you, but your life is at stake. You know many makruh (offensive/undesirable) things become permissible in such a situation.” She smiled and said: “None of us will live forever in this world. If my death is preordained this way, I welcome it and am happily prepared to embrace it. Have you not heard the saying of the Prophet that

وَالْمَرْأَةُ تَمُوتُ فِي نِفَاسِهَا شَهِادَةً

“If a woman dies in the state of nifas (post-natal bleeding), she dies a martyr?”

And the Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) also said:

مَنْ تَرَكَ لِلَّهِ شَيْئًا عَوَّضَهُ اللَّهُ خَيْرًا مِنْهُ

‘Whoever gives up a thing for the sake of Allah Almighty, He gives him/her something better in return.’”

At her insistence, her husband took her home from the hospital. At home, her health started improving and she delivered the child normally without needing an operation. Both the husband and wife thanked Allah (SWT). Later the wife would recall the incident and say to her husband:

‘مَنْ تَرَكَ لِلَّهِ شَيْئًا عَوَّضَهُ اللَّهُ خَيْرًا مِنْهُ‘

“I told you rightly that the one who gives up a thing for the sake of Allah Almighty, He gives him or her something better in return.”



وَإِذَا مَرَضْتِ
فَهُوَ يَشْفِيكِ

Vision Restored Near the Ka’bah



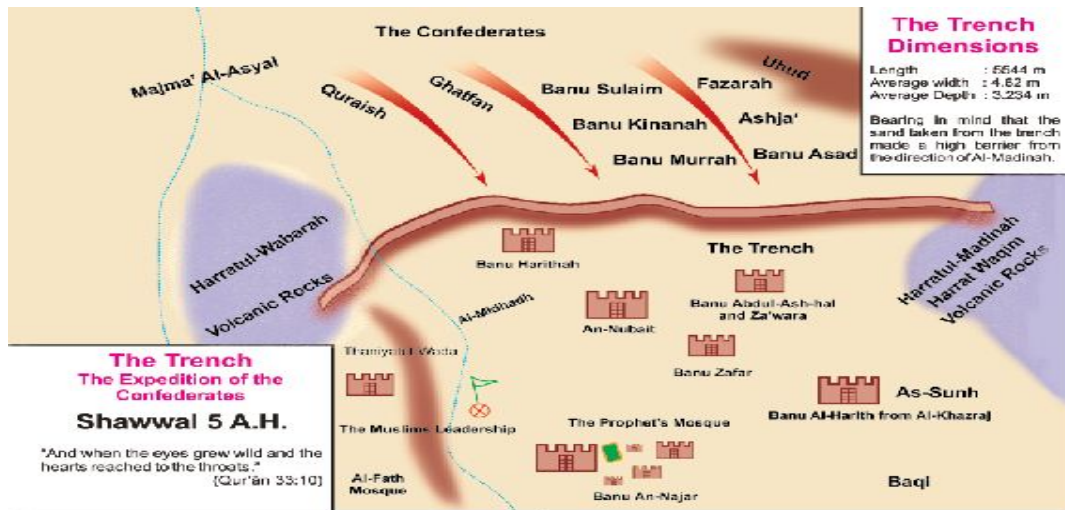
When a 27-year-old woman lost her eyesight in an accident, she had the best medical treatment but could not recover. She went to many hospitals but was disappointed everywhere. Someone advised her: “You are running from pillar to post. Why don’t you turn to the court from where nobody returns unsuccessful? You should go to Makkah, perform ‘Umrah, drink Zamzam, and pray to Allah that He restores your eyesight.” The suggestion appealed to the girl and she at once made up her mind to act upon it.

At the Ka’bah she prayed and appealed to Allah (SWT) from the bottom of her heart. A close relative of the woman said she was circumambulating the Ka’bah one day when she suddenly fell down. When she regained consciousness and stood up, she could see Allah’s House. She then also saw her loved ones around her. Allah Almighty had listened to her entreaties!

Esteemed readers, if we implore Allah with a sincere heart, He does listen to our prayers. However, this is subject to the condition that we make ourselves worthy of having our prayers answered.

“You should go to Makkah, perform ‘Umrah, drink Zam zam, and pray to Allah that He restores your eyesight.”

The Prophet's Supplication in the Battle of the Trench



Allah's Messenger (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) uttered the following supplication on the occasion of the Battle of Khandaq:

اَللّٰهُمَّ مُنْزِلَ الْكِتَابِ، سَرِيْعَ الْحِسَابِ، اِهْزِمِ الْاَحْزَابَ، اِهْزِمْهُمْ وَزَلْزِلْهُمْ؛

"O Allah! O Revealer of the Book! O Who is swift at reckoning! May these enemy troops suffer defeat and destruction!"



As a result of his supplication, Allah Almighty sent a strong storm and winds which uprooted the enemy's camp, carried away their utensils, made their mounts flee, and made it impossible to kindle fires for cooking. After an uneasy calm, they returned and suffered a great humiliation. Allah Almighty mentions this extraordinary incident in the following Qur'anic verse:

﴿يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اذْكُرُوا نِعْمَةَ اللَّهِ عَلَيْكُمْ إِذْ جَاءَتْكُمْ
جُنُودٌ فَأَرْسَلْنَا عَلَيْهِمْ رِيحًا وَجُنُودًا لَّمْ تَرَوْهَا
وَكَانَ اللَّهُ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ بَصِيرًا﴾

“O you who believe! Remember Allah’s Favor to you, when there came against you hosts, and We sent against them a wind and forces that you saw not (troops of angels during the battle of Al-Ahzab [the Confederates]). And Allah is Ever All-Seer of what you do.”

Allah’s Messenger (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) often remembered this great Divine Favor and said:

‘لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ، صَدَقَ وَعْدُهُ، وَنَصَرَ عَبْدَهُ، وَأَعَزَّ جُنْدَهُ، وَغَلَبَ
الْأَحْزَابَ وَحْدَهُ، فَلَا شَيْءَ بَعْدَهُ’

“There is no god worthy of worship but Allah, the One. He was true to His word and helped His servant, overpowered the army and sent the enemy troops fleeing.”

Allah Almighty Restores Vision



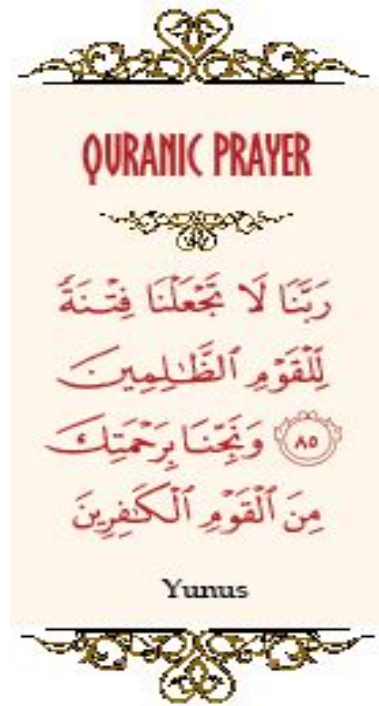
Imam Muhammad bin Ismail al-Bukhari lost his eyesight in childhood. His mother prayed and implored Allah Almighty to restore her son's vision. One night his mother had a dream that Ibrahim said: "O pious bondswoman of Allah! Allah has granted your prayers by restoring your son's eyesight." The next morning the mother of Imam al-Bukhari found that her son could see again. Allah Almighty wanted Imam al-Bukhari to preserve hadith. He compiled a collection of narrations that the Ummah unanimously considers the most authentic book after the Qur'an.

Imam al-Bukhari possessed an extraordinary memory. He devoted himself to learning hadith from early childhood. He was not even ten years old when he sat in scholarly circles of great teachers who recognized his knowledge and learning. Whenever he had differences with people of knowledge, his opinion invariably proved true.

Invaluable Prayers for the Faithful

Yahya bin Umar Tamimi was a close associate of the renowned muhaddith Sufyan bin 'Ainiya. Once Yahya set out for jihad (holy war) and spent all his valuables. When he returned home, he met Sufyan bin 'Ainiya. Sufyan said to him: "You should not regret what you've spent in the cause of jihad. You have done a great job. Do you know the personages who have prayed for you?"

"The angels and the prophets have all prayed for you because you've spent your wealth in the cause of jihad."



Yahya asked in surprise: "Who are the personages who have prayed for me?"

Sufyan bin 'Ainiya said: "The angels who lift the Throne have prayed for you." Amazed, Yahya asked: "How is that?" Sufyan asked if he had not heard the saying of Allah Almighty:

﴿الَّذِينَ يَحْمِلُونَ الْعَرْشَ وَمَنْ حَوْلَهُ يُسَبِّحُونَ بِحَمْدِ رَبِّهِمْ
وَيُؤْمِنُونَ بِهِ، وَيَسْتَغْفِرُونَ لِلَّذِينَ آمَنُوا﴾

"Those (angels) who bear the Throne (of Allah) and those around it glorify the praises of their Lord, and believe in Him, and ask forgiveness for those who believe."

Sufyan said that if this was not enough, Nuh had also prayed for him (Yahya). Yahya asked, "How is that?" Sufyan bin Ainiya asked if he had not read in the Noble Qur'an:

﴿رَبِّ اغْفِرْ لِي وَلِوَلَدِي وَلِمَنْ دَخَلَ بَيْتِي
مُؤْمِنًا وَلِلْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ﴾

“My Lord! Forgive me, and my parents, and him who enters my home as a believer, and all the believing men and women.”

“The matter does not stop here,” Sufyan said to Yahya, “Even Ibrahim has prayed for you.” Yahya again asked curiously, “How is that?” Sufyan bin Ainiya again pointed him to the Book of Allah:

﴿ رَبَّنَا اغْفِرْ لِي وَلِوَالِدَيَّ وَلِلْمُؤْمِنِينَ يَوْمَ يَقُومُ الْحِسَابُ ﴾

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

At this, Yahya’s curiosity was aroused. He asked Sufyan if Prophet Muhammad had also prayed for the faithful. Sufyan said that Allah’s Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) was the most kind and generous of people and would not neglect the faithful of his Ummah? Allah the Most High says:

﴿ وَأَسْتَغْفِرْ لَذَنُوبِكَ وَلِلْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ ۚ ﴾

“And ask forgiveness for your sin, and also for (the sin of) believing men and believing women.”

Revolutionary Change through Prayer



The Imam of a mosque told me the following story: “Once a man came to me and said that his son had started talking gibberish and was in a frenzied state. He said: ‘Perhaps my son is under a spell or is possessed by some jinn. I don’t understand what is happening.’ I asked him to send his son to me. When the boy came to me, I saw that he was an adolescent. As I talked with him in an extremely kind and gentle tone, he burst into tears and said: ‘I was born and have grown up in a household where no-one is concerned with religion or faith. They do not pray, fast or recite the Qur’an. We recklessly indulge in useless acts and sins. My father has never prayed. He occasionally performs Jumu’ah prayer.’”

“I was born and have grown up in a household where no-one is concerned with religion or faith. They do not pray, fast or recite the Qur’an.”

“I advised him to do his father a great favor. He should pray for his guidance and prostrate before Allah Almighty in the solitude of the night. The boy started doing so fervently. When all the other members of his family were enjoying a deep and peaceful sleep, he would get up, perform ablution, offer tahajjud prayer and prostrate in supplication before Allah (SWT), moaning and sobbing. This routine continued for many days.

As chance would have it, one day his father went on a journey. He returned home late at night and was astonished to find his son in a dark room praying to Allah Almighty. He went closer to eavesdrop. The son was saying:

يَا رَبِّ اهْدِ وَالِدِي
يَا رَبِّ! افْتَحْ عَلَى قَلْبِهِ وَلَا تَجْعَلْهُ مِنْ أَهْلِ النَّارِ

“O my Lord, guide my father! O my Lord, open his heart to faith and don’t let him fall into the category of people doomed to Hell!”

Dazed and dumbfounded, the father remained standing there for a while. Then he took a bath and prayed behind his son. He sought forgiveness for his sins and vowed to change his ways. He wept bitterly, stricken with regret and remorse. In this way, this small boy became a guide for his father and the whole family.

‘Trust Allah and Perform the Surgery’



We often see the following Qur’anic verse displayed prominently in hospitals, medical centers and other places:

﴿وَإِذَا مَرِضْتُ فَهُوَ يَشْفِينِ﴾

“And when I am ill, it is He Who cures me.”

However, the father of a newborn clarified its exact meaning for me. I was deeply moved by his strong faith and complete trust in Allah Almighty. As a doctor, I was faced with a nine-day-old infant who was suffering from several potentially fatal health problems. The most dangerous threat to him was that he had a hole in the heart which required urgent surgery. The mere idea of performing major heart surgery on such a tiny, vulnerable creature was enough to shake a person. The odds were that the operation might claim his life which would obviously cause great consternation in his parent’s heart. But I was utterly astonished when I talked with the child’s father. He said in an extremely confident tone: “Do you fear that the baby may pass away? That would only mean one more person on the list of patients who expire at this hospital.

“The nine-day-old infant was suffering from several potentially fatal health problems including a hole in the heart which required urgent surgery.”

Will it see you get a bad name?” I said there was no such thing on my mind. He said that then I should prepare for the operation in the name of Allah. “Cure lies neither in your hands nor in mine. If He has decreed life, he shall survive. If Allah has predetermined a short lifespan for him, no operation on earth can keep him alive.”

﴿فَإِذَا جَاءَ أَجْلُهُمْ لَا يَسْتَأْخِرُونَ سَاعَةً وَلَا يَسْقُدُونُ﴾

“When their term comes, neither can they delay it nor can they advance it an hour (or a moment).”

I took these words to heart. I was like a person who was roused from a slumber of heedlessness, completely at a loss. I said: “By Allah, you have spoken the truth. Who am I to provide the cure? We doctors are just means. Then why should I be miserly in doing my part? What Allah has pre-destined for this baby will be done.” I placed my trust in Allah Almighty and started operating on the infant. Allah Almighty granted me success when there was virtually no chance of it. Now when I see the child playing in the compound of his house, my faith in the following verse is further strengthened:

﴿وَإِذَا مَرِضْتُ فَهُوَ يَشْفِينِ﴾

“And when I am ill, it is He Who cures me.”

It is Almighty Allah, Who revives a person whose bones have turned to dust. The keys to all affairs are in His control and custody. How humble and short-sighted is the man who only thinks about causes and forgets about the Real Doer of all things!

“Cure lies neither in your hands nor in mine. If Allah has predetermined a short lifespan for him, no operation on earth can keep him alive.”

‘Why Seek Something From a Helpless Person?’



Samarkand Square

Abu Ghiyas was a great religious scholar and pious person who lived a very ascetic life. He believed in al-amr bilma'ruf wa al-nahy 'an al-munkar (commanding the good and forbidding evil) and did not fear any worldly ruler. He was devoted to praying and seeking Allah's help in all matters. A resident of Bukhara, Abu Ghiyas was on his way one day to see his brother when he came across some slaves of the governor of Bukhara, Nasar Bin Ahmad. The slaves were busy making arrangements for a grand feast for the governor. Abu Ghiyas said to himself: "If I don't take the opportunity to speak the truth today, I will be partly responsible for their excesses." He raised his face heavenwards, prayed to Allah, and sought His help. He held out his staff and ran after the slaves. Caught unawares, the slaves fled to the palace and told the governor what had happened.

The governor called for Abu Ghiyas, and when he presented himself, asked him: "Do you know that the person who rebels against the Caliph eats his breakfast in prison?" Abu Ghiyas replied: "Do you know that the person who rebels against Allah (SWT) eats his breakfast in Hell?" The governor asked who had made him the muhtasib (ombudsman). He replied: "The One who has made you the governor." The governor said that he was made the governor by the Caliph. Abu Ghiyas said that he was appointed muhtasib by the Lord of the Caliph. The governor said, "I hereby appoint you the muhtasib of Samarqand." Abu Ghiyas said, "I hereby relieve myself of the job." The governor said: "You are quite a character! Earlier you were not made the muhtasib, but you became the muhtasib on your own. Now when you are officially being made muhtasib, you are not prepared to take charge." He replied: "If you make me muhtasib, you may also terminate my services. But when Allah Almighty makes me muhtasib, nobody can remove me from the job."

"Why should I seek anything from a helpless person like you? Why should I not turn to Him for fulfillment of all my desires, Who has never returned me empty-handed?"

Rendered speechless, the governor changed the topic and said: "If you have any desire, tell me." Abu Ghiyas said, "Return my youth." The governor expressed his inability to do so and asked what else he could do for him. Abu Ghiyas said: "You should write to the chief of Hell so that I should not be taken into Hell." The governor laughed and said it was not in his power to do so. Abu Ghiyas said: "Then you should write to Ridhwan (the angel in charge of Paradise) for him to allow me to enter Paradise." Ashamed, the governor again expressed his inability to do so. Abu Ghiyas said: "Then why should I seek anything from a helpless person like you? Why should I not turn to Him for fulfillment of all my desires, Who has never returned me empty-handed?" The governor said: "You may go now."

The Prophet Supplicates for Umm Haram Bint Milhan

“Some of my Ummah will go on jihad (holy war) in the cause of Allah. They will ride the waves of the sea like kings sit on thrones.”

Anas bin Malik narrated the following hadith. According to his account, whenever Allah’s Messenger (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) went to Quba, he visited the house of Umm Haram bint Milhan. The wife of Ubada bin Samit, Umm Haram bint Milhan would serve him food. Once, after eating a meal, the Prophet slept there for a while. After some time, he woke up smiling. Umm Haram bint Milhan asked him: “O Allah’s Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him)! What has made you smile?” He said: “Some of my Ummah were presented before me who will go on jihad (holy war) in the cause of Allah. They will ride the waves of the sea like kings sit on thrones.”

Umm Haram Bint Milhan asked him: “Invoke Allah so that He may make me one of them.” He supplicated for her, slept and woke up smiling.

Umm Haram again asked why he was smiling. He said: “Some more persons from my Ummah were presented to me. They will go on jihad in the way of Allah. They will ride on the sea waves like kings sit on thrones.”

Umm Haram said: “Pray to Allah that he may make me one of them.”

He said: “You are included amongst the first ones.”

She then sailed with the mujahideen (warriors) during the caliphate of Amir Mu’awiyah. After she disembarked, she fell from her riding animal and passed away.

Prayer of an Old Woman



The Holy Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) said, “Have mercy on those on the earth, (and) the Lord of the heavens will have mercy on you.”

There was once a rich man with a heart ailment who could not find a cure despite going to the best doctors in his home country and abroad. His condition continued to deteriorate every day. Doctors suggested that he had to have urgent surgery but they could not say with certainty whether or not the operation would be successful.

When he heard this, he asked the doctors if he could return to his homeland and see his family and friends because he was not sure whether he would survive the operation. The doctors respected his wish and gave him leave on the condition that he returned for the operation as soon as possible.

So he went home and spent some time with his family and friends. He disposed of some matters and prepared for the trip back. Before leaving he went to a nearby market with a friend and happened to pass a butcher’s shop. He noticed an old woman picking up discarded meat and bones. He was shocked to see how poor she was. He called her and asked respectfully: “O mother, what are you doing?” She said: “I’m a poor woman and I live with my three daughters in grinding poverty. We often starve for many days. It has been ages since we last tasted meat.”

“As the prayers gushed forth from the core of the poor old woman’s heart, he felt a change inside him, as if his heart condition was improving and he was recovering.”

When he heard her sorry tale, he said to her: “Come with me.” He took her to the shop and told the butcher: “Give this woman as much meat as she needs.” The woman said one-kilogram would be enough for them. He told the butcher to immediately give her two kilograms of meat and the same amount every week. Then he paid the butcher for a year’s supply in advance. The old woman raised her hands and started supplicating for him with whatever prayers came into her mind. The prayers gushed forth from the core of the old woman’s heart. She was still passionately uttering prayers when he felt a change inside him. He felt as if his heart condition was improving and he was recovering. When he returned home, he encountered his daughter. Seeing him, his daughter said: “Masha’ Allah, you’re looking quite fresh and healthy.” He told his daughter what had happened to him that day. She was very happy and prayed for her father: “O Almighty Allah! Grant my father health. Just as my father relieved the old woman of her need, relieve him of his ailment.”

He then packed his bags and went back to the hospital abroad for treatment. During his medical examination before the operation, the doctors were completely bewildered because they noticed that his heart was functioning quite normally. It seemed like a miracle. Countless questions were on the lips of the doctors. “How did this happen? How could a person with such a serious health condition recover? In reply to all these questions, he raised his eyes heavenwards. Eyes brimming with tears, he sobbed and said: “It is The Most Merciful of those who show mercy Who has cured me.”

Allah Almighty has absolute power and can do anything. This person was close to death. He had gone back home to say goodbye to his family and friends when the incident with the old woman took place. When his heart softened towards the destitute old woman, it attracted the Mercy of the Most Merciful and Generous, Owner of the Great Throne above the heavens. The Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful is He. Allah Almighty had mercy on him and removed his illness. The Holy Prophet has rightly remarked:

‘ارْحَمُوا مَنْ فِي الْأَرْضِ، يَرْحَمَكُم مَّنْ فِي السَّمَاءِ’

“Have mercy on those on the earth, the Lord of the heavens will have mercy on you.”

Allah Most High says:

﴿إِنَّ رَحْمَتَ اللَّهِ قَرِيبٌ مِّنَ الْمُحْسِنِينَ﴾

“Surely, Allah’s Mercy is (ever) near to the good-doers.”

Allah’s Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) said: “Whoever wants their prayers answered and hardships removed, they should help those suffering hardships.”

One Whose Prayers are Surely Answered

One night Imam Ahmad bin Hanbal heard somebody knocking at his door. When the imam asked who was outside, the answer came: "I'm a young man." The imam allowed him to enter.

The young man said: "My mother has been paralyzed and there is no effective treatment. She has sent me to you so that you may pray to Allah Almighty for her recovery." The imam said to the young man: "Who told you I am mustajab-ud-da'wah (one whose prayers are surely answered)? Go back to your mother and ask her to pray for us instead."

"My mother has been paralyzed and there is no effective treatment. She has sent me to you so that you may pray to Allah Almighty for her recovery."

Greatly disappointed, the young man started weeping profusely. As he was leaving, the imam's mother saw him and asked: "Why are you weeping?" He replied: "I asked the imam to pray for my mother, but he didn't pray for her." The imam's mother said: "Go to your mother in peace; I've heard Ahmad bin Hanbal praying for your mother." Having heard this, the young man returned to his home and immediately noticed that his mother's health had improved. Thanks to the spiritual influence (barakah) of Imam Ahmad bin Hanbal, Allah Almighty cured her.

As You Sow, So Shall You Reap

Umm Anmaar was an extremely cruel woman. When her slave Khabbab bin Aratt embraced Islam, she persecuted him in a variety of ways. Once she saw Allah's Messenger (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) speaking to Khabbab while passing by his workshop. She was so incensed that she went to his workshop, took a red hot piece of iron from the furnace and placed it on his head. Khabbab fainted from the excruciating pain. She repeated this act again and again. When the agony grew unbearable, Khabbab bin Aratt cursed Umm Anmaar by praying for her to be punished.

When Allah's Messenger (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) was permitted to emigrate to Madinah, Khabbab bin Aratt was one of the companions who packed his bags for the journey. Allah Almighty then showed him how Umm Anmaar was to be punished. She suffered a nerve-racking headache, worse than she had ever experienced before. She barked like a rabid dog. Her children sought treatment for her everywhere, but to no avail. Then somebody told them that she might get relief if her head was cauterized with red hot iron as was done to animals. There was no other cure available. The treatment with a red hot iron was so terribly painful that she forgot her headache.

The Prophet's Supplication for Umar bin Al-Khattab



Allah's Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) prayed at a critical juncture for his companion:

اللَّهُمَّ أَعِزَّ الْإِسْلَامَ بِأَحَبِّ هَذَيْنِ الرَّجُلَيْنِ إِلَيْكَ :
بِأَبِي جَهْلٍ أَوْ بِعُمَرَ بْنِ الْخَطَّابِ

“O Allah! Support Islam through Umar bin Al-Khattab or Amr bin Hisham: whoever is more beloved to You.”

Allah Almighty honored his wish by granting the prayer and Umar bin Al-Khattab accepted Islam. Allah's Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) gave him the title of Al-Faruq (one who distinguishes between right and wrong).

Imam Ibn Ishaq recorded the following statement of Abdullah bin Mas'ood, in his matchless Seerah (biography) of the Prophet, that the conversion of Umar bin Al-Khattab was a symbol of victory. His migration, support and rule were altogether a divine blessing. Before his conversion, Muslims could not pray in the Ka'bah. However, when he embraced Islam, the Muslims somehow managed to overcome the Quraish, entered the Ka'bah and prayed there. Abdullah bin Mas'ood said that they were able to pray in the holy precincts only after Umar bin Al-Khattab accepted Islam.

Most Islamic conquests were made during the caliphate of Umar bin Al-Khattab, the Commander of the Faithful. Persia, Palestine, Syria and Egypt were conquered during his reign. The Islamic caliphate ruled over an area greater than those of the empires of Rome and Persia.

“Allah Almighty honored the wish and prayer of the Prophet and Umar bin Al-Khattab accepted Islam. The Prophet then gave him the title of Al-Faruq (one who distinguishes between right and wrong).”

رَبِّ إِنِّي أَعُوذُ بِكَ أَنْ
أَسْأَلَكَ مَا لَيْسَ لِي بِهِ
عِلْمٌ وَإِلَّا تَغْفِرْ لِي وَتَرْحَمْنِي
أَكُن مِّنَ الْخَسِرِينَ

Hud

QURANIC PRAYER

The Angel of Death Arrives!

This incident is absolutely true and occurred in an Arab country about twelve years ago. It was reported by local newspapers and was the talk of the town. It is about how people can brag and utter wrong things because of arrogance, the exuberance of youth or because they are obsessed with power and self. They don't know that prayers can be answered as they speak.

“If you dare, take out your mobile phone and call your Lord so that He may send the angel of death.”

A young girl was walking around coquettishly at a supermarket, exposing her body and physical charms. She was ostentatious and conceited, as if the world had been created for her. A pious and righteous young man passing by said to her gently: “Sister, refrain from exhibiting yourself in this manner. If the angel of death comes to you in this state, what will you say to your Lord after He calls you to account?” The arrogant girl replied: “If you dare, take out your mobile phone and call your Lord so that He may send the angel of death.”

The young man said: “She said such a terrible thing that I feared that the market would be turned upside down on us. Frightened, I left the place in a hurry. When I reached the far end of the market, I heard shrieks and screams behind me. When I turned back, I noticed people gathering at the same place where I had come across the girl. I was stunned to find her lying there dead. It was where she had challenged me to call the angel of death. I had left her the instant she uttered the challenge, but she had fallen there, face down and died.”

Goodness Worth the Weight of an Atom



On a flight home after a long journey, a number of young people were sitting around me laughing, smoking and gossiping. The plane was full so it was not possible for me to change my seat. To make things easier, I tried to sleep, but despite great effort, I couldn't do so.

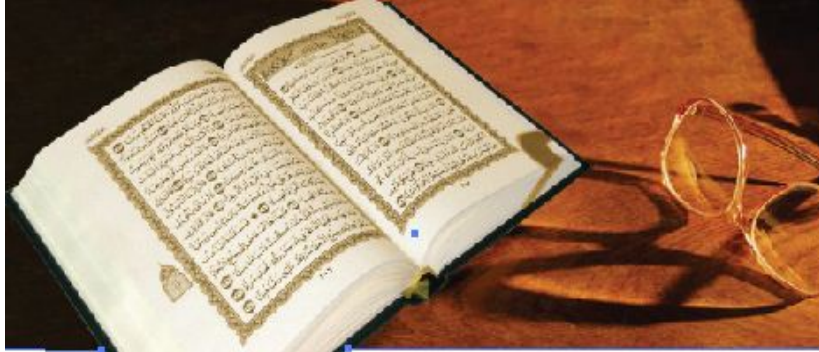
I took out the Holy Qur'an and started to recite from it in a low voice. After some time the young men fell silent. One started to read a magazine and another fell asleep as I recited. A young man sitting beside me suddenly said: "Please stop! I can't listen to it anymore." I thought he felt uneasy because of my voice, so I apologized and resumed reciting the Qur'an silently. But he still looked quite restless and impatient. He again addressed me and said, "Please stop! I really can't endure it any longer." He then got up from his seat and walked away. He returned after quite some time and apologized to me in a regretful tone before sitting down. He sat quietly for some time. I could not make out what was on his mind. The mysterious silence was broken after some time. He looked at me with tears in his eyes.



He then said: "It's been three years since I placed my forehead on the ground in prostration. I haven't read a single verse from the Qur'an. I have been travelling for one month and haven't distinguished between lawful and unlawful or right and wrong. When you started reciting the Qur'an, the world grew insignificant in my eyes. I felt suffocated. It seemed as if every verse was challenging me. I thought to myself: how long will this heedlessness and negligence continue? How long will I stick to

my ways? Then I went to the bathroom. Do you know why? I felt like weeping bitterly. I wanted to sob my heart out, away from the public gaze.”

“Despair not of the Mercy of Allah, verily Allah forgives all sins. Truly, He is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful.”



I told him about tawbah (repentance) and ruju' ilallah (turning to Allah), following which he remained sitting lost in his thoughts. When the flight landed and we disembarked, he beckoned me to stop. He wanted to ask me something in private. He said goodbye to his friends and approached me. His face looked quite changed: “Do you think Allah Almighty will accept my tawbah (repentance)?” I said that if he showed repentance with a sincere heart and vowed to avoid a life steeped in sin, Allah Almighty would surely accept his repentance and remit his sins.

The young man said, “But I have done many major sins.” I said to him, “Haven’t you heard this saying of Allah (SWT):

﴿ قُلْ يَعْبادِيَ الَّذِينَ أَسْرَفُوا عَلَىٰ
أَنفُسِهِمْ لَا تَقْنَطُوا مِن رَّحْمَةِ
اللَّهِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَغْفِرُ الذُّنُوبَ جَمِيعًا إِنَّهُ
هُوَ الْعَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ ﴾

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

I noticed a smile flicker across his face and tears in his eyes. Then he saw me off warmly.

Allah the Greatest is free from imperfection. He is the Most Pure Being. A man may fall to the lowest of the low by his transgression and disobedience, but if he has good worth an atom, it can transform his life. A tender shoot grows into a heavy tree in time. Likewise, the fate of man can change. Allah Most High says:

﴿ فَمَن يُرِدِ اللَّهُ أَن يَهْدِيَهُ، يَشْرَحْ صَدْرَهُ لِلْإِسْلَامِ وَمَن يُرِدْ أَن يُضِلَّهُ،
يَجْعَلْ صَدْرَهُ ضَيِّقًا حَرَجًا كَأَنَّمَا يَصَّعَّدُ فِي السَّمَاءِ ﴾

“And whomsoever Allah wills to guide, He opens his breast to Islam; and whomsoever He wills to send astray, He makes his breast closed and constricted, as if he is climbing up to the sky.”

‘I Want to Repent’



Imam Ahmad bin Hanbal had a neighbor who was leading a life of sin and impiety, and spent his time involved in frivolous pastimes. One day he went to the Imam and greeted him. Imam Ahmad bin Hanbal reciprocated the greeting half-heartedly and did not pay any special attention to him. The neighbor said to the Imam: “I know why I have not been able to attract your attention. However, a single dream has changed my life. I now want to repent of my sinful and wicked life.”

When Imam Ahmad bin Hanbal asked what he had seen in his dream, he said: “In my dream I saw the Holy Prophet sitting in a lofty place. Many people were sitting beneath him including myself. One by one they got up, approached the Holy Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) and asked him to pray for them. When everyone else had done so, I also wanted to ask him to supplicate in my favor but I felt ashamed because of my sins and wicked life.

“Then the Holy Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) addressed me: ‘Why don’t you ask me to supplicate for you?’ I said, ‘O Allah’s Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him)! I feel ashamed on account of my sins.’ Allah’s Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) said, ‘Do ask me to supplicate for you even if you feel ashamed of yourself. I will pray for you because you don’t abuse any of my companions.’ I stood up and he prayed for me too. Shortly afterwards I woke up. Allah Almighty stirred up a feeling of hatred inside me for my past life. Now you’ll find me a changed person.”

The Imam called his students and said: “Listen to this young man’s story, remember it and tell it to others because it is sure to benefit them.

“Do ask me to supplicate for you even if you feel ashamed of yourself. I will pray for you because you don’t abuse any of my companions.”



Death Doesn't Come Before its Time

“The next day the doctors were amazed to see that his condition had improved. He eventually recovered completely from the illness and was discharged from the hospital.”

When a patient's condition was deteriorating rapidly and doctors had almost given up on him recovering, he knocked at the door of the One Who does not let anyone's prayers go unanswered. With feeding tubes attached to his body and in a state of despair and despondency, he prayed to Allah, sobbing:

يَا رَبِّ لَيْسَ مِنِّي رَجَاءٌ إِلَّا فِيكَ،

“O my Lord! I have no hope except You.”

When he asked the doctors to remove the feeding tubes, they agreed because they had no hope that he would survive. They thought they could at least agree to fulfill his final wish.

The following day, however, the doctors were amazed to see that his condition had improved. Thereafter, he gradually got better. He eventually recovered completely from the illness and was discharged from the hospital. Allah has rightly said:

﴿لِكُلِّ أَجَلٍ كِتَابٌ﴾

(For) every matter there is a Decree (from Allah). ”

﴿فَإِذَا جَاءَ أَجْلُهُمْ لَا يَسْتَأْخِرُونَ سَاعَةً وَلَا يَسْتَقْدِمُونَ﴾

“When their term comes, neither can they delay it nor can they advance it an hour (or a moment).”

The Prophet prays for Ali bin Abi Talib



Sahl bin Sa'd narrated that he heard Allah's Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) saying one day before the victory of Khaybar: "Tomorrow I will give the flag to a person who loves Allah and His Prophet, and Allah and His Prophet also love him. He is the person at whose hands Allah Almighty will grant victory."

"When the Prophet of Allah applied his saliva to Ali's sore eyes and prayed for him, he was cured instantly. Then the Prophet gave him the flag."

The companions spent the night keen to know who would have the good fortune to get the flag. The next morning, when they went to the Prophet, he asked them where Ali bin Abi Talib was. The companions informed Allah's Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) that he had an ailment in his eyes. He asked them to fetch Ali.

When Ali bin Abi Talib came, the Prophet of Allah applied his saliva to his sore eyes and prayed for him. He was cured instantly as if he had never suffered from any ailment. Then the Prophet gave him the flag.

Ali bin Abi Talib said, "O Prophet of Allah (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him)! Should I fight against them until they become like us?"

The Prophet said: "Go until you face them and invite them to Islam and inform them of what Allah Almighty has enjoined them to do. By Allah (SWT)! If a single person receives guidance through you, that will be far better for you than red camels (the most precious asset of the ancient Arabs)."



Invocations at Dawn and Dusk



Ibn Abi Ad-Dunya, in his book Al-Hawatif, quotes Abu Asmar Al-‘Abdi as having reported that a person once came out at night in Kufa and saw some kind of throne in the distance. Curious, he went towards it and saw someone sitting on the throne. Some figures were gathered around who appeared to be devils or jinns. He then hid himself to the side of the gathering.

The chief sitting on the throne asked his audience: “How can I bring ‘Urwa bin Mughira under control?” One of them said: “I take this responsibility upon myself.” The chief said that the task should be performed immediately. Then one of the devils went to Madinah and returned alone after quite some time and said: “We cannot harm ‘Urwa bin Mughira.” The chief asked why it was beyond them to overcome him. The devil replied: “This is because of the words that he recites at dawn and dusk.” Then the party of devils dispersed and returned to their dwelling places.

"I believe in One Allah and refute idols, satanic powers and Taghut (false deities). I have grasped the most trustworthy handhold of Islam that will never break. Allah Almighty is All-Hearer and All-Knower."

This incident was etched on the mind of the person who had been hiding away. The next morning he purchased a camel and rode to Urwa bin Mughira in Madinah. He gave him an account of the incident and asked him what he recited at dawn and dusk. ‘Urwa bin Mughira replied that he invoked the following words at dawn and dusk:

أَصْبَحْتُ آمَنْتُ بِاللَّهِ وَحْدَهُ، وَكَفَرْتُ بِالْجِبْتِ وَالطَّاغُوتِ،
وَاسْتَمْسَكْتُ بِالْعُرْوَةِ الْوُثْقَى، لَا انْفِصَامَ لَهَا، وَاللَّهُ سَمِيعٌ عَلِيمٌ

"I have found the morning in a state where I believe in One Allah and refute idols, satanic powers and Taghut (false deities). I have grasped the most trustworthy handhold of Islam that will never break. Allah Almighty is All-Hearer and All-Knower."

The Healing Prayer of Allah's Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him)

Uthman bin Abu Al-'As reported that he once complained to Allah's Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) about pain in his body. The Prophet then told him: "Place your hand where you feel pain in the body and say Bismillah (in the Name of Allah) thrice and then invoke the following seven times:

"I seek refuge with Allah and His Power from the evil (of pain) that I feel and fear."

Uthman bin Abu Al-'As stated that he acted upon it and Allah Almighty relieved him of the pain. He added that he advised and urged his household and other people to do the same.

A Jewish Jinn

One day when I was praying at a mosque in Makkah, two young men from the city came to me and said: "Please visit our brother in hospital. He is suffering from an illness that the doctors do not understand. His liver has failed and his hands and feet are paralyzed. The doctors say he cannot be cured." I told them that I did not go to hospitals because doctors sometimes object to my presence; and that I always fear that something untoward might happen. I said that they could bring the patient to my house or the mosque. The two brothers said: "We don't want to bother you, but his condition does not permit us to bring him here." So I promised to go with them at night.

"His liver has failed and his hands and feet are paralyzed. The doctors say he cannot be cured."

I went with them one night and found the sick brother in agony and quite despondent. He complained that he had liver problems and that he had lost all movement and sensation in his hands. I consoled him by saying Allah would cure him. Then I started reciting from the Noble Qur'an. I had just finished half of what I had planned to recite when all of a sudden his hands started moving energetically. Seeing this, his brother cried out with wonder: "Allahu Akbar (Allah is Great), Allahu Akbar! His hands have started moving!" I continued to recite and his hands moved even more energetically. The condition of his face also changed and he looked like a completely different person. Then he raised a huge hue and cry. It was then that I realized that some jinn had possessed him and that it was making the noise.

I addressed the jinn: "Who are you?" He stammered: "I am Johanna." I asked what he was doing there. He replied, "I have possessed him because I like him very much. He is such a sophisticated person. Don't you like good people?" He was talking in a pure Arabic accent. I asked him how he had entered the man. He said that he had entered him where he lived.

Then I said to the jinn: "I will not punish you provided you never paralyze his hands and feet again. If you do it again, I will punish you severely." He promised not to repeat it again and our meeting ended.

The brothers and I agreed that the sick brother would be treated somewhere else so that other patients were not disturbed because of his cries and screams. When the doctors visited him the next day, they were astonished to see his hands and feet working quite normally. The brothers told the doctors that a Qur'anic practitioner had treated him. That was on the 27th of the holy month of Ramadan. At the request of the brothers, the doctors said he could spend Eid at home.

"When I started reciting from the Noble Qur'an, his paralyzed hands started moving energetically."

I met the patient again on the 28th Ramadan at his home. As usual, I started reciting the Holy Qur'an. Again, his condition changed and the jinn talked from within him. I said: "Johanna! You told me that you had paralyzed his hands and feet. Is the condition of his liver also because of you?" He replied: "By the One Who tore open the sea for Musa, I have nothing to do with his liver condition." I said: "You have sworn by Allah (SWT) and mentioned Musa." He said this was because he was a Jew.

Then I invited him to accept Islam as we often do with non-Muslim jinns but he refused. I mentioned the virtues and importance of Islam but he was not impressed. I continued to argue in favor of Islam but he refused and insisted on remaining a Jew. Then I demanded he should leave the man. He said he would not leave him until he found another place. I said: "You can go anywhere. You don't need permission before entering a country." Then he fell silent and I resumed reciting the Holy Qur'an. There was no reaction from him.

Then the sick brother stabilized completely, as if nothing had happened to him. I met one brother two years later and asked him about the man. He informed me he had died a year before from his liver disease, but that his hands and feet had worked quite normally.

‘O Redresser of My Grievances’

“O Redresser of my grievances! O the One Who helps me out in difficulties! O He Who relieves me of hardships! O He Who grants me His Blessings!”

Hassan Al-Basri, the famous preacher and scholar (21 AH to 110 AH or 642 CE to 728 CE), once went to Hajjaaj bin Yusuf (40 AH to 95 AH or 661 CE to 714 CE) in Wasit, Iraq, cast a cursory glance at the Iraqi governor’s palace and said: “The rulers serve as a warning to others. They build palaces and enjoy comfortable mounts, when in fact, these are the houses of greedy flies and moths. Then they marvel at what they’ve made.”

When Hassan Al-Basri came face to face with Hajjaaj bin Yusuf, he said: “O enemy of Allah! I know what you’ve wrought. The inhabitants of the earth and the heavens dislike wicked rulers.” Then Hassan Al-Basri left saying: “It is Almighty Allah’s covenant with the truthful ulama (scholars) that they shall call a spade a spade and shall not hide the truth.”

Hajjaaj was infuriated and said: “O people of Syria! This man from Basra has vilified me in my house, and there was no-one to prevent him from doing so. By Allah! I will murder him.” After a few days, some officials of Hajjaaj went to Hassan Al-Basri and arrested him. Hassan Al-Basri already knew what kind of views Hajjaaj had expressed about him. While he was being taken to the ruler, his lips kept moving all the way, as if he was reading something. When he was presented to Hajjaaj, there was a sword and a leather sheet spread out on the ground. They meant to slay him and prevent the floor from getting soiled by the blood. Hajjaaj bin Yusuf was foaming at the mouth with anger.

Hassan Al-Basri started speaking and advising Hajjaaj very gently. The ruler then asked his officials to take away the sword and remove the leather sheet. Hassan Al-Basri continued speaking. Hajjaaj bin Yusuf ordered them to lay the table and then he served Hassan Al-Basri food and dabbed a fine scent on him. Later the ruler saw him off very respectfully. When people asked Hassan Al-Basri what he had been reciting, he said he uttered the following prayer.

يَا غِيَاثِي عِنْدَ عَوْدَتِي، وَيَا عُذَّتِي عِنْدَ كُرْبَتِي وَيَا صَاحِبِي فِي شِدَّتِي،
وَيَا وَلِيِّي فِي نِعْمَتِي، وَيَا إِلَهِي وَإِلَهَ إِبْرَاهِيمَ وَإِسْمَاعِيلَ وَإِسْحَاقَ وَيَعْقُوبَ،
وَالْأَسْبَاطِ، وَمُوسَى وَعِيسَى وَيَارَبَّ النَّبِيِّينَ كُلِّهِمْ أَجْمَعِينَ،
وَيَارَبَّ كَهَيَعَصْ، وَطَهَ وَيَسَ، وَيَارَبَّ الْقُرْآنِ الْكَرِيمِ، صَلِّ عَلَى
مُحَمَّدٍ وَآلِهِ الطَّيِّبِينَ الطَّاهِرِينَ، وَارْزُقْنِي مَوَدَّةَ عَبْدِكَ الْحَجَّاجِ
وَحَيْرَهُ وَمَعْرُوفَهُ، وَاصْرِفْ عَنِّي أَذَاهُ وَشَرَّهُ وَمَكْرُوهَهُ وَمَعَرَّتَهُ،

“O Redresser of my grievances! O the One Who helps me out in difficulties! O He Who relieves me of hardships! O He Who grants me His Blessings! O my God! O Lord God of Ibrahim, Isma’il, Ya’qoob, their children Musa (Moses), ‘Isa (Jesus Christ) and all the prophets! O Lord of Ka-Ha-Ya-Sin, Taha, Yasin and the Holy Qur’an! Send benedictions upon Muhammad, his family and offspring and instil in the heart of Hajjaaj love for me; (that) I should receive only goodness from him; and save me from his wickedness, hatred and revenge.”

The Call from Allah (SWT) for Hajj



One year as the Hajj drew to a close and thousands of pilgrims were preparing to go home to their loved ones, two men sat next to each other at the airport waiting for their flights. One man was Saeed, a medical doctor. After exchanging greetings, the pilgrim said to Dr. Saeed:

“O brother, I’m a contractor and by the grace of Allah I won a tender for a project that allows me to earn sufficient money for my entire life. I therefore pledged to Almighty Allah that I would perform Hajj as thanksgiving for the blessing. Al-Hamdulillah, this is my tenth Hajj. I discharged the obligation of zakat (obligatory charity) in full before I came here so that my Hajj is accepted by Allah Almighty.”

Dr. Saeed nodded his head in acknowledgement and said: “May Allah accept your Hajj! May He accept your striving and remit your sins!” The contractor replied: “May Allah also accept everyone’s Hajj the same way!”

"I gave all the money I had saved for Hajj as an advance payment for the boy's treatment for six months."

Then he said to Dr. Saeed: “O brother, if you have a story about your Hajj, please share it with me.” Dr. Saeed said reluctantly: “I have a long story and I don’t want to give you a headache by telling you about it.” The contractor smiled and said: “For the sake of Allah (SWT), tell me your story. We have nothing else to do here except wait.” Dr. Saeed said: “Yes, you’re right. Let me tell you my story while we’re waiting for our flights.”

Dr. Saeed continued: “I completed my medical education and qualified as a neurologist many years ago. I practiced my profession for around thirty years. When I reached the age of retirement, had married off all my children and found myself in a relieved state of mind, I thought about discharging the obligation of Hajj with my savings. You know death keeps no calendar. So I wanted to perform Hajj which is one of the fundamental pillars of Islam. It is obligatory for every person who has the means and resources to perform it.”

“Saeed, a big businessman wants to perform Hajj but he insists he will not go without a doctor specialized in neurology.”



The contractor nodded his head and said: “You’re right.” Dr. Saeed said further: “One fine day, after discharging my official duties, I was about to go to the travel agent to pay him for the Hajj journey - having received all the money I had saved from my accountant - when an unexpected situation arose. I came across a woman whose paralyzed son was under treatment at our hospital. Grief and despondency were writ large on her face. She said: ‘Goodbye Dr. Saeed! From now on we won’t be able to visit this hospital.’ I was shocked to hear this and thought perhaps she was not satisfied with the treatment of her son and wanted to move him somewhere else. She said, ‘Dear doctor, Allah is my witness that you’ve extended fatherly affection to my son. There was a time when we had lost all hope that he would recover, but he has been greatly relieved after your treatment.’”

The contractor interrupted and said: “How strange that the woman admitted her son’s health had improved, was satisfied with the treatment, but was still bent on discontinuing it.”

“This was exactly what worried me,” replied Dr. Saeed and continued, “I contacted the hospital management and asked the cashier what had caused the woman to stop her son’s treatment. ‘Have I been inefficient in any way?’ I asked impatiently. The cashier told me that I was not to blame. He added, ‘In fact her husband lost his job unexpectedly and they could not pay for his treatment.’”

The contractor was sad after listening to the story and said: “Yes, there are many other people like the poor woman’s husband who lost their jobs in the recent financial crunch. What did you do next?”



Dr. Saeed said: “I immediately met the hospital director and asked him to make arrangements for the hospital to pay for the treatment, but he flatly refused to oblige. He said: ‘Look doctor, this is a private hospital which works purely on a commercial basis. It’s not a charity. How can we treat a patient who can’t pay?’”

Dr. Saeed said: "I left the director's room with a heavy heart and leaden feet and went straight to the woman. It was easy to predict that the convalescing patient's recovery, achieved after a great struggle, would deteriorate if his treatment was stopped. Then I unconsciously shoved my hand into the pocket where I had my Hajj money. I was stuck for a moment and then I looked heavenwards praying to my Lord: 'O Allah! You know quite well how eager I am to visit your House and the Mosque of Your Holy Prophet. I've been saving for many years for this purpose and was counting the days to my departure. However, today I feel constrained to postpone fulfilling the promise that I made to You. I beg Your pardon for my mistake.' I then went to the cashier and handed over all the money that I had saved for Hajj. I asked him to use the amount as advance payment for the boy's treatment for six months and told him to tell the mother that the money had been paid from a special fund created for the needy at the hospital."

Tears welled up in the contractor's eyes and he asked the doctor how he had managed to perform Hajj when he had given all his savings away.

Dr. Saeed laughed and said: "I think you want to know the end of the story prematurely. Perhaps you've grown tired of my story. Wait for a moment to hear the next part. I returned home with a heavy heart. I was sad for having lost my only opportunity to perform Hajj. But I was also happy to have helped the woman. Now her son would get treatment. Tears were rolling down my cheeks when I fell asleep. I dreamed that I was circumambulating Allah's House and people were saying salaam to me and congratulating me on performing Hajj that had been accepted by Allah. They were saying, 'Hajji Saeed! We pray for you.' I had a strange sense of pleasure, although I knew I could not actually perform Hajj. Anyhow, I thanked Allah and was resigned to my fate.

"Your single Hajj is far more precious than (all) of mine! I've performed Hajj but Allah Himself has called you to His House."

"The instant I woke up, my telephone rang. It was the hospital director, who said: 'Saeed, a big businessman wants to perform Hajj but he insists he will not go without a doctor specialized in neurology. His personal physician, who was scheduled to go with him, cannot do so because his wife is about to give birth and he does not want to leave her alone. Are you ready to go with the businessman in place of his personal physician? I cannot afford to make him angry because he owns half the shares of the hospital. His displeasure can cost me my job.' I asked the director whether the businessman would allow me to perform Hajj. When he responded in the affirmative, I said: 'I will accompany him and not charge him any fee.' Now you can see that I've performed Hajj with great ease."

"When the businessman insisted on giving me some money, I told him the story of the woman. He ordered the hospital administration to treat the boy with funds from his (the businessman's) special account. He also started a special fund at the hospital for the treatment of needy patients. In addition, he also managed to find a job for the woman's husband."

The contractor stood up and kissed Dr. Saeed's forehead and said: "By Allah (SWT)! I've never been so ashamed in all my life. O brother, whenever I've performed Hajj, I thought I had done a great job and my ranking with Allah must have been raised, but today I realize that your single Hajj is far more precious than (all) of mine! I've performed Hajj but Allah Himself has called you to His House." He said repeatedly: "May Allah forgive me!"

A Strange Supplication



The Muslim general, Maslamah bin Abdul Malik, once laid siege to a fort and was trying to find a way to enter it and defeat the enemy.

Some of the Muslims noticed a hole in the wall of the fort where barely one person could enter. They looked at it carefully and then showed it to their companions. They knew it was a risky proposition to go into the fort through the hole because there was no way of knowing who was on the other side. Many lives could be lost.

The Muslims began looking at each other, wondering who would go first. An unknown soldier from the army came forward and said: "I'll go." "He went through the hole into fort and took charge of the situation. Many other soldiers followed him and the Muslims eventually conquered the fort."

After the conquest, Maslamah bin Abdul Malik asked who had gone through the hole first, but the soldier would not identify himself. When the general again had an announcement made, a soldier stepped forward and said to the announcer: "Seek permission from our commander because I want to meet him." When the announcer asked if he was the first person to enter the fort, the soldier replied that he knew that person. The announcer then took the soldier to Maslamah.

"O Allah! Bless me with the company of the person who first entered the fort through the hole."

The soldier told Maslamah that the person he was looking for would disclose his identity on three conditions. Maslamah said that they were prepared to fulfill the three conditions because he had done such a great job. He said his first condition was that his name should not be revealed to the Caliph, the second was that he should not be offered any reward and the third was that no one should be allowed to ask about his name or tribe. Maslamah agreed to the conditions. The soldier then said that he was the person the commander wanted to meet. After this incident, whenever Maslamah prayed, he would always say:

اللَّهُمَّ اجْعَلْنِي مَعَ صَاحِبِ النَّقَبِ

"O Allah! Bless me with the company of the person who first entered the fort through the hole."

How Allah Almighty Responds



In Al-Buraydah, Saudi Arabia, in 1361 AH, Abdullah bin Samhan and his son Ibrahim, who was about 15 years old, were travelling by camel with a group of people during extremely hot weather. To cope with the intense heat, they had to drink constantly. They had a long way to go and their water was running out.

Abdullah bin Samhan was well aware of the wells and ponds on the route, so when he saw no well nearby, he realized they were in serious trouble.

“A patch of cloud suddenly appeared in the sky from somewhere. It thundered over them and then it rained heavily”.

As their water supply rapidly dwindled, it was hard for them to continue their journey so they stopped their caravan. Then Abdullah bin Samhan took Muflah Sabee'i along and went to search for water.

They failed to find any trace of water. Then they ran completely out of water and became so thirsty and exhausted, they were unable to speak or move. They could only communicate through signs. With no more options, they turned to the only door available. They humbly implored Allah Almighty to help them in their predicament. Allah Almighty answered their call: A patch of cloud suddenly appeared in the sky from somewhere. It thundered over them and then it rained heavily. The men quenched their thirst to their hearts' content and filled all their water bags. They went back to the caravan and let their companions drink the stored water before resuming their journey.

Allah Almighty has rightly said:

﴿أَمَّنْ يُجِيبُ الْمُضْطَرَّ إِذَا دَعَاهُ وَيَكْشِفُ السُّوءَ وَيَجْعَلُكُمْ خُلَفَاءَ الْأَرْضِ أَلَيْسَ اللَّهُ بِكَافٍ عَبْدًا﴾

“Is not He (better than your gods) Who responds to the distressed one, when he calls on Him, and Who removes the evil, and makes you inheritors of the earth, generation after generation? Is there any ilah (god) with Allah? Nay, but most of them know not!”

‘I was Transformed’



A young Muslim Moroccan man, who was brought up in a Western environment, was attached to Islam in name only. Islamic teachings were not part of his lifestyle, he rarely prayed and did not bother to distinguish between good and evil. Then one day his life was changed in an instant. He describes this incident in his own words:

"The moment I turned towards Allah, I felt such peace and tranquility that no blessing on earth could ever replace."



"I was watching the taraweeh prayers with my family being broadcast live from the Holy Precincts of Makkah on the 27th of Ramadan. The Holy Sanctuary and the heartrending recitation of the Imams charged the atmosphere. Every word of the recitation penetrated the heart and mind. Then a verse shook me and the haze of negligence was removed from my mind. The Imam was reciting this verse repeatedly in an impassioned style. Perhaps he knew that the verse would hit hard at sinful souls like mine. The verse was:

﴿قُلْ يَاعِبَادِيَ الَّذِينَ أَسْرَفُوا عَلَىٰ أَنْفُسِهِمْ
لَا تَقْنَطُوا مِن رَّحْمَةِ اللَّهِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ
يَعْفِرُ الذُّنُوبَ جَمِيعًا إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ﴾

'Say: O (you) 'Ibadi (Allah's slaves] who have transgressed against themselves (by committing evil deeds and sins)! Despair not of the Mercy of Allah, verily, Allah forgives all sins. Truly, He is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful.'

"Islamic teachings were not part of his lifestyle, he rarely prayed and did not bother to distinguish between good and evil."

I felt this verse struck deep into the core of my heart. At that moment, I realized that Allah's Mercy is all-encompassing. It is Allah Almighty Who remits all sins. I should turn to Allah Almighty to seek forgiveness for my sins. The moment I turned towards Allah, I felt such peace and tranquility that no blessing on earth could ever replace.

A Seeker of Paradise



Umm Ibrahim Hashimiyyah was a woman of Basra who was known for her piety and worship of Allah. When the Roman Christians launched an attack on Basra, the leading lights of the city persuaded the citizens to go on jihad (holy war).

One day the commander of the army, Abdul Wahid bin Zaid, stood up and delivered such an impressive speech in support of jihad that the allurements of the world were reduced to nothing in their eyes and they were prepared to say farewell to this temporary abode. They had only two objectives: To either defeat their enemy, forcing them to retreat, or to embrace martyrdom to earn Allah's pleasure and enjoy the blessings of Paradise.

Umm Ibrahim came forward from the audience and said to Abdul Wahid: "Abu Ubaid! You know my son Ibrahim. We've received many wedding proposals for him from well-off families of Basra. Now I've decided that I will marry my son to a Hoor (celestial maiden) whose qualities you've described in your speech. Can you arrange the marriage of my son with a Hoor? My son will go with you to the battlefield for jihad. May Allah Almighty have martyrdom in store for him and on the Day of Judgment, may he intercede for his parents!" Abdul Wahid bin Zaid replied: "O respected lady! If you do so, it would be a great success for you, your husband and your son."

"May Allah Almighty have martyrdom in store for him and on the Day of Judgment, may he intercede for his parents!"

The son who was listening to this dialogue spoke from the audience: "Dear mother, I agree to the proposed match." The mother asked the son again, "Are you prepared to marry a Hoor of Paradise after waging jihad for the pleasure of Allah, and are you determined to devote all your energies and give up sins for this purpose?" The son replied, "By Allah! I am willing to do so."

Then the woman addressed Allah Almighty and said:

اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي أَشْهَدُكَ أَنِّي قَدْ زَوَّجْتُ وَلَدِي هَذَا مِنْ هَذِهِ الْحُورِيَّةِ، بِدَلِّ مُهَجَّتِهِ
فِي سَبِيلِكَ، وَتَرَكْتُ الْعُودَةَ إِلَى الذُّنُوبِ فَتَقَبَّلْهُ مِنِّي يَا أَرْحَمَ الرَّاحِمِينَ

"O Allah! You are my witness that I have married my son to a Hoor of the Paradise and he will exert all his energies in Your way to get her. He will never return to sins O Most Merciful of the Merciful! Accept this son from me."

Then the woman went home to fetch 10,000 dinars that she handed over to Abu Ubaid and said: “This is the mahr of my son. You may spend it in jihad (holy war).” Then she bought a fine horse and costly weapons for her son. The army set out with full preparations and a firm resolve, with the following words on their lips:

﴿إِنَّ اللَّهَ اشْتَرَىٰ مِنَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ
أَنفُسَهُمْ وَأَمْوَالَهُمْ بِأَبْلِ لَهُمُ الْجَنَّةَ يُقَاتِلُونَ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ﴾

“Verily, Allah has purchased of the believers their lives and their properties for (the price) that theirs shall be Paradise. They fight in Allah’s Cause, so they kill (others) and are killed.”

When it was time to part with her son, Umm Ibrahim gave her son a shroud and scent and said: “O my beloved son! When you are about to face the enemy, make this your dress. Be scrupulously careful that you do not fall short in any manner in the way of Allah.” Then she embraced her son, kissed him on the forehead and said: “Allah willing, we will meet on the Day of Judgment.”

Describing the situation on the battlefield, Abdul Wahid said: “When we came face to face with our enemy, Ibrahim was in the forefront. He killed many Romans, but then the enemy troops circled him in large numbers. He fought chivalrously for quite some time. It was a wonder how a single person fought against so many people for so long! Finally, he embraced martyrdom and achieved success with Allah (SWT).”

Abdul Wahid continued: “When the battle was over and we returned to Basra with booty, the people received us warmly. Umm Ibrahim was among them. She met me and asked: ‘If my offering has been accepted, congratulate me, and if it hasn’t been accepted, offer me condolences.’ I replied that her offering had been accepted and that her son was among the martyrs who must be enjoying Allah’s bounties. Umm Ibrahim fell down and prostrated before Allah (SWT), gave Him thanks, and sang His praises for accepting her sacrifice.”

“The next day when she came to me, she was very happy. When I asked why, she said that she had had a dream that her son was in an exceptionally beautiful garden with a magnificent green dome. He was sitting on a throne studded with diamonds and jewels, with an extremely beautiful crown on his head. Seeing her, he said: ‘Dear mother! Be happy, your mahr has been accepted and the hand of the bride given to the groom.’”

Rust is Removed



I was born into a family that did not distinguish between lawful and unlawful means of living. Wine was placed on our table with other drinks; we had no qualms about business transactions involving interest; and we never bothered going to the mosque. There was a grand mosque in our neighborhood where Shaykh Ibrahim was the speaker. People liked his personality and speeches very much, but our family was not remotely interested in him. One day I was standing on the terrace of my house when I heard the voice of Shaykh Ibrahim. I was immediately attracted to his voice. After a short while, I found myself spontaneously going to the mosque. The Shaykh's speeches touched my mind and heart. I felt as if the rust that had accumulated inside me over the years was being scraped away and I was a totally changed person. Shaykh Ibrahim one day quoted the following saying of Allah's Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him):

أَيُّمَا جَسَدٍ نَبَتَ مِنْ حَرَامٍ فَالنَّارُ أُولَى بِهِ

"Hell is the most appropriate place for the body that is raised on unlawful means."

I was shocked to hear this. We were unknowingly drifting towards destruction and Hell. I wanted to leave home and go somewhere else. I knew it might not be easy or comfortable, and I might face difficulties, but at least I would be spared Hellfire. This was no small decision. In the end, however, I could not muster up the courage to do so. I then decided to give up eating at home. So while other members of my family ate the choicest food as usual, I ate yoghurt, cheese and bread that I bought as cheaply as possible. I did not want to use the money of my parents.

My mother was very sad about this. Without me at the table she could only eat a few morsels. She dearly wanted me to eat with the family again. She tried to bring me around by showing great love and affection, but I replied very respectfully and in a loving tone: "Dear mother, you know very well that my father's earnings are not lawful; that the money is tainted with interest. Wine is used as a normal drink at our table. Such a way of life will take us to Hell."

Gradually I won over my mother and she started praying regularly. Then my sister also joined us. But my father still nursed his pride, stubbornness and ego. He was not prepared to change his ways at all. However, we were not rude towards him; we treated him very respectfully. We tried to persuade him and also prayed for him in the last portion of the night, the time when prayers are granted. Even today, the invocations and supplications of my mother and sister for my father still resound in my ears.

One fine morning, our father came to us weeping bitterly. He embraced me and said: "I promise that I'll give up everything that might earn the wrath of Almighty Allah." When it was time for prayer, both of us, father and son, went to the mosque. Then we started going to the mosque regularly. We listened very attentively to Shaykh Ibrahim, whose speeches had guided us onto the right path. Al-

Hamdulillah, wine, interest and other abominable things have been completely eliminated from our home. Now our family obeys Allah and His Prophet in every matter.

Cure for the Evil Eye



I once went to a government office for some matter and a person there stared at me in such a way that I shuddered with terror. I immediately completed my business and left. When I got home, I felt totally physically and mentally exhausted. I went for a medical check-up but the doctor told me I was not suffering from any ailment and that there was nothing to worry about. Everything was quite normal, but I still felt completely fatigued. I thought that this was something beyond the scope of doctors.

“Why would anyone of you kill his brother? If anyone of you sees a quality in your brother, you should invoke blessings for him”

When I mentioned this to my sister-in-law, a very pious lady who practiced Qur’anic Ruqyah (healing with recitations from the Qur’an), she told me that I had come under the influence of the evil eye. When she started reciting the Qur’an over me, I started feeling better. After she had completed the Ruqyah, I felt as if nothing had happened. I was as healthy as I was before.

This story draws attention to the incident of Sahl bin Hunaif that was reported in a hadith of the Prophet.

Umamah bin Sahl bin Hunaif said: “My father was an attractive person with a beautiful body. Once he was taking a bath when Amir bin Rabi’ah passed by. He looked at my father’s body intently and said: ‘I’ve never seen such a fine-looking and beautiful body.’”

“My sister-in-law, a very pious lady who practiced Qur’anic Ruqyah, told me that I had come under the influence of the evil eye”

The moment he uttered these words, Sahl bin Hunaif fainted. When the Prophet was informed, he said that his companion had come under the influence of an evil eye and asked who had seen him while he was taking a bath.

When people said that Amir bin Rabi’ah was the person, the Prophet called Amir and said: “Why would anyone of you kill his brother? If anyone of you sees a quality in your brother, you should invoke blessings for him.”

Then he told Amir bin Rabi’ah to perform ablution, wash his face, his arms up to the elbows, his knees and his private parts, and gather all this water in a pot to sprinkle over Sahl bin Hunaif. When this was done, Sahl bin Hunaif recovered.

Yunus Prays in the Belly of the Fish



Yunus made the following supplication in the belly of the fish:

لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا أَنْتَ، سُبْحَانَكَ، إِنِّي كُنْتُ مِنَ الظَّالِمِينَ

None has the right to be worshipped but You (O Allah). Glorified (and Exalted) are You (above all the evil they associate with You)! Truly, I have been of the wrongdoers.

Almighty Allah listened to his supplication and said:



﴿وَذَا النُّونِ إِذْ ذَهَبَ مُغْضِبًا فَظَنَّ أَنْ لَنْ نَقْدِرَ عَلَيْهِ فَنَادَىٰ فِي الظُّلُمَاتِ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا أَنْتَ سُبْحَانَكَ إِنِّي كُنْتُ مِنَ الظَّالِمِينَ ﴿٨٧﴾ فَاسْتَجَبْنَا لَهُ وَبَجَيْنَاهُ مِنَ الْغَمِّ وَكَذَلِكَ نُنْجِي الْمُؤْمِنِينَ﴾

“And (remember) Dhun-Nun (Yunus or Jonah), when he went off in anger, and imagined that We shall not punish him (with the calamities which had befallen him)! But he cried through the darkness (saying): ‘La ilahailla Anta (none has the right to be worshipped but You O Allah). Glorified (and Exalted) are You (above all the evil they associate with You)! Truly, I have been of the wrongdoers.’ So, We answered his call, and delivered him from the distress, And thus We do deliver the believers (who believe in the Oneness of Allah, abstain from evil and work righteousness).”

Sa'd bin Abi Waqqas quoted Allah's Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) as having said:

﴿لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا أَنْتَ سُبْحَانَكَ
إِنِّي كُنْتُ مِنَ الظَّالِمِينَ﴾

“If the supplication made by the Companion of the Fish (a reference to Yunus, the prophet) is uttered by any Muslim while he calls Allah, Allah must answer his call.”

The Call of ‘Uqbah bin Nafi’



When the Caliph Mu’awiyah sent the Muslim army general Uqbah bin Nafi’ to Africa at the head of an army of 10,000 soldiers, the astute general raised the banners of victory everywhere.

When Uqbah established the city of Qairawan (in the region now known as Tunisia), people told him that the area was full of dangerous animals. So Uqbah announced three times in a loud voice while standing on the periphery of the area: “O animals of the valley! We are about to set up a town here, so you should settle somewhere else.” The people were stunned to see the wild beasts and other dangerous animals leaving the area and the nearby jungle in droves.

If a person has the right belief, is sincere in his mission, and has perfect faith and trust in Allah, everything in this universe helps him.

“The people were stunned to see the wild beasts and other dangerous animals leaving the area and the nearby jungle in droves”

A Mother's Prayer



An old woman wanted her only son to become a pious person but he was not interested in her advice. She was a very pious and righteous woman. She routinely prayed obligatory and supererogatory prayers, standing in worship before Allah at night, and reciting the Holy Qur'an.

Her son spent most of his time watching movies and TV serials. She was distressed at this, but could not bring herself to punish him. She thought her most effective option was prayer, so she called on Allah during the day and night to guide her son.

“This was a trap with which Satan has ensnared me and kept me away from my religion!”

One night, as she knelt in supplication before Allah (SWT), she heard a sound from her son's room. She hurried to see what was happening and was pleasantly surprised to see him picking up the TV set and throwing it outside his room, saying: “This was a trap with which Satan has ensnared me and kept me away from my religion!” The mother burst into tears of gratitude to Almighty Allah for answering her supplications.

﴿وَإِذَا سَأَلَكَ عِبَادِي عَنِّي فَإِنِّي قَرِيبٌ أُجِيبُ دَعْوَةَ الدَّاعِ
إِذَا دَعَانِ فَلْيَسْتَجِيبُوا لِي وَلْيُؤْمِنُوا بِي لَعَلَّهُمْ يَرْشُدُونَ﴾



And when My slaves ask you (O Muhammad) concerning Me, then (answer them), I am indeed near (to them by My Knowledge). I respond to the invocations of the supplicant when he calls on Me (without any mediator or intercessor). So let them obey Me and believe in Me, so that they may be led right.

A Pebble in the Ear

A man was sitting playing with pebbles one day, when somehow one got stuck in his ear. He tried his hardest but the pebble could not be removed. Over the years it caused him intense pain. One day he heard a qari reciting the following prayer:

﴿ اَمَّنْ يُجِيبُ الْمُضْطَرَّ إِذَا دَعَاهُ وَيَكْشِفُ السُّوءَ ﴾

“Is not He (better than your gods) Who responds to the distressed one, when he calls on Him, and Who removes the evil.”

The man burst into tears and praised Allah Almighty:

“O Allah! You are one Who listens to our lament while I am weak and helpless. O Allah! Relieve me of my trouble.”

The moment he uttered these words, the pebble fell out on its own.

‘The Seven Holy Invocations’

This story is about an opponent of the famous Umayyad Caliph Sulaiman bin Abdul Malik. Raja bin Sufyan, the minister of the Caliph, reported that when Sulaiman learnt that a person was planning a rebellion against him, the Caliph issued a decree for his assassination. The police were ordered to arrest him dead or alive.

"The pious person asked: "Who has stopped you from making the seven holy invocations?"

When this person was informed that a warrant for his arrest had been issued, he went into hiding and kept moving from place to place in search of a safe haven. The police raided different places to nab him. Wherever he went, his acquaintances told him that the police had already come there to look for him.

He finally decided to go to a place that did not fall within the Umayyad jurisdiction. He was travelling in a desert area when he saw a person praying on a mat in the distance. At first he feared that the person might hurt him. Then he thought that he had no riding animal or luggage that could be snatched away from him. Impressed by the devoted worship of the man, he joined him in his two-rak'ah prayers. When the man finished praying, he turned around and said: "O slave of Allah! Who are you and where are you roaming?" He replied that the Caliph's police force was after him and no-one was prepared to shelter him. He said, "You can see that I'm a weak and old man." The pious person asked: "Who has stopped you from making the seven holy invocations?" He asked what the man meant by the seven invocations. He replied that he should utter the following holy words:

”سُبْحَانَ الْوَاحِدِ الْأَحَدِ الَّذِي لَيْسَ غَيْرُهُ إِلَهٌ، سُبْحَانَ الدَّائِمِ
الَّذِي لَا نَفَادَ لَهُ، سُبْحَانَ الْقَدِيمِ الَّذِي لَا بَدْءَ لَهُ، سُبْحَانَ اللَّهِ
يُحْيِي وَيُمِيتُ، سُبْحَانَ اللَّهِ كُلِّ يَوْمٍ هُوَ فِي شَأْنٍ، سُبْحَانَ اللَّهِ خَلَقَ
مَا يُرَى وَمَا لَا يُرَى، سُبْحَانَ الَّذِي عَلِمَ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ بِغَيْرِ تَعْلِيمٍ“

“Glory to Allah, the One; there is no true god worthy of worship except Him. Glory to Him Who will live forever; He is Imperishable. Glory to Him Who is Self-Subsistent; Who has no beginning. Glory to Him Who grants life and death. Glory to Allah Who emerges with new glory every day. Glory to Allah Who has created everything, visible and invisible. Glory to Him Who knows everything without learning anything from anybody.”



He said: "I repeated the words after him to such an extent that I learnt them by heart. The worshiper left the place and I felt satisfied and at peace by constantly invoking the prayer. My heart was relieved

of fear and terror. I mustered up the courage and decided to return home, come what may. When I reached my home, I thought I should visit Caliph Sulaiman bin Abdul Malik, no matter what would happen. When I went to his royal court, it was the day for an open court when anyone could meet him. I went to his court in the guise of a visitor.”

“Seated on a high throne, the Caliph was looking at the visitors. Suddenly his eye fell upon me and he asked me to come closer to him. When I went towards him, he asked me to come even closer. He repeatedly asked me to come towards him, until I reached his throne. Then he asked me to sit on the throne beside him. I mustered up the courage and sat beside him. The Caliph said to me that it seemed that I was a magician and that I had cast a spell on him. On the other hand, he said, he had received information that I had rebelled against him. I told him that I was not a magician, did not know magic and had not cast a spell on him.”

"The Caliph said he could not understand why he could not carry out his decision to put me to death for rebelling against him."

“The Caliph said that he could not understand why he could not carry out his decision to put me to death me for rebelling against him. He said that whenever he looked at me he could not help calling me closer. ‘What is this if not magic?’ he said. Then the Caliph asked me to tell him the real cause behind this phenomenon. I told him about the person I had met me in the desert and the invocations he taught me. I said that it was the result of those supplications that Allah had answered and won him over. The Caliph not only forgave me but also honored me with gifts and a royal robe before I took leave of him.”

‘May Allah Never Forgive You!’

A blind person with a paralyzed hand, which was reduced to skin and bones, was making the rounds of Allah’s House and saying: “O Allah! Forgive me, but I didn’t think this would happen to me.”

Surprised at his words, people told him to fear Allah (SWT) and stop talking nonsense. However, the man kept saying: “If you listen to my story from the beginning to the end, you will surely say what I’m saying is right.”

He then told them that he was among the people who had played a key role in the martyrdom of Uthman. He said, “When I entered his room, his wife Na’ilah was also there. She had taken particular care to observe hijab (Islamic attire) even in that critical situation. She had also covered her face. I ordered her to remove her face covering. She asked me why she should do so. I told her that I wanted to slap her in the face. She asked whether I did not know what Allah’s Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) had said about Uthman, that why should he not show modesty before him (Uthman RA), as even the angels had regard for the modesty of Uthman.

My other companions were ashamed after listening to the hadith and withdrew, but I persisted. As she was adamant about not removing the veil, I slapped her hard on her veiled face. She said, ‘May Allah turn you blind and paralyze your hand and never forgive you!’ By Allah, the instant I came out, it became dark before my eyes and my hand was paralyzed and was reduced to skin and bones. These two supplications have been granted, but I fear that her third supplication may also be answered.”

Praying Around the Clock

“When you routinely recite the invocations prescribed for different times of the day, it will change your life completely”

It's hard to find a person in this world who is not suffering from some form of trouble and hardship. Everyone has worries and is in search of peace and good fortune. In my personal experience, people should always perform their prayers regularly and on time. This should provide relief for all grief and worries, insha' Allah (if Allah so wills).

I have a Saudi friend, Dr. Saeed Al-Qahtani, who has written a book “Hisnul-Muslim” consisting of authentic supplications, which has been translated into 31 languages. It is no exaggeration to say that millions of copies have been published. When you routinely recite the invocations prescribed for different times of the day, it will take a maximum of eight to ten minutes. Taking time out to do this will change your life completely. This is my first-hand experience. If you benefit from it - which will surely be the case insha' Allah - please pray for this humble scribe. Keep in mind that all the invocations contained in this book are, by the Grace of Allah, based on authentic hadiths.

Allah's Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) prays for Anas bin Maalik

Umm Sulaym Bint Milhan from the Banu Najjar, one of the first female Companions to accept Islam, had a great love and respect for Allah's Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him). She had been married to Maalik Bin Nadhr in the age of ignorance (before the advent of Islam). They had a son from that marriage who was later to become known as the servant of Islam.

Every mother loves her children very much and Umm Sulaym was no exception. She played with her beloved son Anas and exhorted him repeatedly to utter the words:

‘لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ مُحَمَّدٌ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ’

La ilaha ill-Allahu-Muhammad-ur-Rasulullah. When the innocent child babbled La ilaha ill-Allah, Umm Sulaym was extremely happy. Deeply annoyed over this, her husband Maalik said:

‘لَا تُفْسِدِي عَلَيَّ ابْنِي’

“Don't try to spoil my child!”

She replied: “Don't worry; I'm not spoiling him, I'm polishing him.” Maalik bin Nadhr later left for Syria where he was slain by some enemy while he was still an unbeliever.

When Allah's Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) migrated from Makkah to Madinah, this great lady noticed that there was no helper in the home of the Prophet to serve and run errands for him. She took little Anas to the Prophet and said:

‘يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ! خَادِمُكَ، ادْعُ اللَّهَ تَعَالَى لَهُ’

“O Allah's Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him)! I present little Anas to you. This son of mine will be your servant.”

Allah's Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) accepted Anas bin Maalik who started doing household chores for him and became famous as the Prophet's servant. This service continued for 10 years. During this period, he bore witness to the lofty morals of the Prophet in the following words:

‘اللَّهُمَّ أَكْثِرْ مَالَهُ، وَوَلَدَهُ وَبَارِكْ لَهُ فِيمَا أُعْطِيَتْهُ’

“I served Allah's Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) for 10 years; he never beat or scolded me during this period, nor said so much as a harsh word to me.”

“O Allah! Grant him riches and children in abundance and whatever You may grant him, bless that with barakah (plenty).”

One day, Umm Sulaym came to the Prophet and entreated: “O Allah's Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him)! This is your servant Anas. Supplicate to Allah for him.” Allah's Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) then prayed for him: “O Allah! Grant him riches and children in abundance and whatever You may grant him, bless that with barakah (plenty).”

"Allah increased his riches to the extent that his orchards in Madinah yielded produce twice a year while the orchards of all the other people bore fruit once a year."

What was the result of the prayer of Allah's Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him)? Anas himself said that Allah increased his riches to the extent that his orchards in Madinah yielded produce twice a year while the orchards of all other people bore fruit once a year. He had so many children that his grandchildren exceeded a hundred. He said that his lifespan was extended to such an extent that he grew weary of life and wanted to meet Allah (SWT).

The Prophet prays for the People of Thaqif



The tribe of Thaqif is one of the most famous Arab tribes. A very hardy people, they used to live in the area of Taif. It is well-known that when Allah's Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) went to Taif with the message of Tawhid (Oneness of Allah), they treated him badly. In spite of this, Allah's Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) prayed for them in the following words:

اللَّهُمَّ اهْدِ ثَقِيفًا وَآتِ بِهِمْ،

"O Allah! Grant Thaqif guidance and make them come to me."

In another narration, the words of his supplication have been reported as:

اللَّهُمَّ اهْدِ ثَقِيفًا،

"O Allah! Grant Thaqif guidance."

"In spite of their opposition, Allah's Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) prayed for them, 'O Allah! Grant Thaqif guidance and make them come to me.'"

Imam Ibn Ishaq narrated this incident in his Seerah (biography) of the Prophet. He wrote that when Allah's Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) returned from Tabuk in the holy month of Ramadan, a delegation from Thaqif came to him and embraced Islam. The Holy Prophet granted them amnesty and appointed Uthman bin Abu Al-'As as their chief. Even though he was the youngest among them, he had the greatest desire for learning. Abu Bakr As-Siddeeq said to the Prophet: "This boy amongst them has the greatest desire for understanding religious injunctions and acquiring knowledge of the Noble Qur'an."

﴿رَبَّنَا لَا تُؤَاخِذْنَا إِن نَّسِينَا أَوْ أَخْطَأْنَا رَبَّنَا وَلَا تَحْمِلْ
عَلَيْنَا إِصْرًا كَمَا حَمَلْتَهُ عَلَى الَّذِينَ مِن قَبْلِنَا رَبَّنَا وَلَا
تَحْمِلْنَا مَا لَا طَاقَةَ لَنَا بِهِ ۖ وَاعْفُ عَنَّا وَارْحَمْنَا أَنْتَ
مَوْلَانَا فَانصُرْنَا عَلَى الْقَوْمِ الْكَافِرِينَ﴾

Al-Baqarah

Supplications of Abu Salamah and Umm Salamah

The name of Umm Salamah was Hind bint Abi Umayyah and her father Abu Umayyah was famous for his generosity amongst the Quraish. His title was Zaad-ur-Rakib, the one who makes provisions for travelers.

Umm Salamah first married the cousin and foster brother of Allah's Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him), Abu Salamah bin Al-Asad. Both were among the first Companions to embrace Islam. They loved each other greatly and made major physical and financial sacrifices for Islam, especially when they migrated to Madinah.

"Then one day Allah's Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) sent her a marriage proposal. Umm Salamah (May Allah be pleased with her) knew that Allah's Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) was far superior to Abu Salamah."

One day while sitting and enjoying each other's company in their home in Madinah, Umm Salamah said to Abu Salamah: "I've heard that if a woman, whose husband has died, is entitled to Paradise and does not get married again after the husband's death, Allah Almighty will join them together in Paradise. Therefore let us pledge that I will not get married after you and you will not get married after me." Abu Salamah responded: "Would you agree to a suggestion of mine?" She replied: "Why not?" Abu Salamah said that if he died, she should get married again. Then he prayed to Allah: "O Allah! Bless Umm Salamah with a better husband after me, who would neither torment nor aggrieve her."

Shortly afterwards Abu Salamah participated in the battles of Badr and Uhud. He was wounded in the battle of Uhud but recovered. Subsequently, Allah's Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) assigned him the responsibility of leading an army against the tribe of Banu Asad. He also emerged victorious from that expedition. He captured as war bounty a number of enemy camels and returned at the head of a 150-strong army. This brigade had been sent after the moon of Muharram was sighted in 4 AH.

While they were returning, one of the wounds of Abu Salamah opened and he said to his wife, "Umm Salamah! I've heard from Allah's Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him):

لَا تُصِيبُ أَحَدًا مِنَ الْمُسْلِمِينَ مُصِيبَةٌ فَيَسْتَرْجِعُ عِنْدَ مُصِيبَتِهِ ثُمَّ يَقُولُ:
اللَّهُمَّ أَجْرْنِي فِي مُصِيبَتِي وَاخْلُفْ لِي خَيْرًا مِنْهَا، إِلَّا فَعَلَ ذَلِكَ بِهِ،

"When a Muslim faces some trouble and utters innalillaahi wa ina ilaihairaji'oon (Truly, to Allah we belong and truly, to Him we shall return) and says: O Allah! Grant me reward during this trouble of mine and grant me better than this,' he or she gets (what they have asked for)."

Shortly after he returned home, Abu Salamah passed away. The kind and merciful Prophet was informed of his death and he went to the house of his Companion and closed his eyes with his blessed and pure hands. Then he turned his face heavenwards and said:

"O Allah! Forgive Abu Salamah. Raise his rank and grade among the guided and grant his bereaved family a good successor. O Lord of the worlds! Forgive us and him. Expand and illumine his grave."

After the demise of Abu Salamah, Umm Salamah was grief-stricken. One day, she remembered the hadith that her husband had told her of Allah's Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him):

اللَّهُمَّ اغْفِرْ لِأَبِي سَلَمَةَ، وَارْزُقْ دَرَجَتَهُ فِي الْمَهْدِيِّينَ وَاخْلُفْهُ فِي عَقْبِهِ فِي
الْغَابِرِينَ، وَاغْفِرْ لَنَا وَلَهُ يَا رَبَّ الْعَالَمِينَ، وَافْسَحْ لَهُ فِي قَبْرِهِ وَنَوِّرْ لَهُ فِيهِ

*“O Allah! Grant me reward during this trouble of mine and grant me better than this.” Umm Salamah repeated these words and cherished the memories of the good old days. She said to herself:
“Who can be better than Abu Salamah for me?”*

A supplication is sure to have an effect, especially one taught by the Companion of Allah’s Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him). She persevered in invoking Allah with this prayer again and again.

Soon her ‘iddah (the waiting period prescribed for a wife after divorce or her husband’s death) was over and she started receiving marriage proposals. She was a sought-after bride because of her intelligence and status. She came from the tribe of Banu Makhzum, was a relative of Khalid bin Walid and the daughter of a respected and noble father. Many of the Companions proposed to her through messengers, but she rejected all such proposals. Then one day Allah’s Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) sent her a marriage proposal.

Umm Salamah knew that Allah’s Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) was far superior to Abu Salamah. So the supplications of both Abu Salamah and Umm Salamah were answered. Allah’s Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) married her and she enjoyed the great and exalted status of being Umm-ul-Mu’mineen (the Mother of the Believers). It was undoubtedly a great honor for her to become the respected wife of Allah’s Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him).

The Belief of Abu Muslim Al-Khawlani



Abu Muslim Al-Khawlani, who once lived in Yemen, embraced Islam during the lifetime of Allah's Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him), but never got to see or meet the Messenger.

He arrived in Madinah during the Caliphate of Abu Bakr As-Siddeeq. He was a righteous person, a holy warrior and one whose prayers were always granted.

He once stood on the bank of the Tigris (River Dajlah) among an army of Muslims. When the Muslims crossed the Tigris, their boats were damaged and they lost a considerable amount of their provisions because of the river's strong currents.

Abu Muslim Al-Khawlani addressed the army with firm belief and great faith: "We are bondservants and soldiers of Allah and have come to defend His faith. Our Sustainer is kind to us; He will answer our prayers without fail."

He added further: "If anyone of you has lost anything, tell me. I will pray to my Lord." A soldier stood up and said: "I've lost my sack." Abu Muslim raised his hands to pray and then said to the soldier: "Come with me." The soldier followed him and found the sack entangled with something on the bank. Allah (SWT) granted the prayer of his warrior who staunchly believed in His Oneness.

Supplications of the Companions



In the dry Arabian Peninsula, rain has always been highly significant. For hundreds of years the faithful have been offering salat-ul-istisqa in the open and in their homes for the mercy of rain in times of drought. They have been praying to the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful. Whenever Allah's Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) prayed for rain, it was invariably granted.

After the demise of the Prophet, the Companions faced a similar situation during the Caliphate of Umar Farooq when a drought hit the region. The Commander of the Faithful took the uncle of Allah's Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him), Abbas bin Abdul Muttalib (May Allah be pleased with him), and went out of Madinah to offer salat-ul-istisqa. They prayed to Allah for rain:

اَللّٰهُمَّ اِنَّا كُنَّا نَتَوَسَّلُ اِلَيْكَ بِنَبِيِّنَا فَتَسْقِيْنَا، وَاِنَّا نَتَوَسَّلُ اِلَيْكَ بِعَمِّ نَبِيِّنَا فَاسْقِنَا،

“O Lord! We used to invoke the wasilah (intercession) of our Prophet with You and You sent down rain. Today we seek rain through the wasilah (intercession) of the respected uncle of Allah's Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him). Send rain on us.”

Allah Almighty answered the prayer and it rained.

The act of the second Caliph shows that one form of permissible wasilah is that a pious person is asked to pray for you. The second permissible form of wasilah is to pray to Allah with reference to your virtuous acts as in the incident of the cave, when the three friends prayed to Allah (SWT). The third permissible form of wasilah is to invoke the Beautiful Names and Attributes of Allah Almighty while praying.

On the Day of Reckoning



There was once a person whose sole purpose in life, like other worldly people, was to amass wealth. His life's philosophy was completely materialistic. All his efforts were spent accumulating riches, property and a fat bank balance. He thought this would bring him peace and comfort. He was employed in an organization that collected tax from public transport.

One day the man said to a young Muslim preacher who came to settle his accounts: "Make your reckoning, settle your accounts." The preacher laughed and replied: "The real reckoning will be on the Day of Reckoning." This said, the preacher completed his business and left.

"His life's philosophy was completely materialistic. All his efforts were spent accumulating riches, property and a fat bank balance."

However, the preacher's words "the real reckoning will be on the Day of Reckoning" affected this person profoundly. He was haunted by the thought and wondered whether he had made proper preparations for the final Reckoning. He realized that he had become so involved in worldly pursuits that he had forgotten the real purpose of his life. He had never really cared about the Day of Reckoning. As this realization dawned on him he started crying and appealed to Allah:

"O Allah! Forgive me."

Many months after this incident, the Muslim preacher was praying in a mosque when he came across a person with a thick beard and signs of righteousness and piety on his face. He looked quite impressive because of the beard and radiant visage. The person greeted the preacher warmly and said: "Do you recognize me?" The young preacher said apologetically: "I don't recognize you."

"The preacher laughed and replied: 'The real reckoning will be on the Day of Reckoning.'"

"The man then said he was the same tax collector to whom the preacher had spoken to." The man told the preacher: "That short sentence proved more effective than long sermons and didactic speeches. Those words changed my life. I've been searching for you since that time so that I could express gratitude to my benefactor. Today Allah Almighty has arranged our meeting."

Later the two embraced and developed brotherly relations with the intention to earn the Pleasure of Allah (SWT).

رَبِّ أَدْخِلْنِي مُدْخَلَ صِدْقٍ
وَأَخْرِجْنِي مُخْرَجَ صِدْقٍ وَاجْعَلْ
لِي مِنْ لَدُنْكَ سُلْطٰنًا نَّصِيرًا



Al-Isra'

The Dervish and Sultan Muhammad Faateh



The dream that Muslims had cherished for centuries eventually came true when the Byzantines were defeated and Constantinople was conquered in 1453 CE. After its conquest, the name of the city was changed to Istanbul.

Riding a white horse, Sultan Muhammad Al-Faateh entered the city from the side where the Topkapi Palace would be built. The palace would be the primary residence of Ottoman Sultans for nearly 400 years of their 625-year reign. He was accompanied by ulama (religious scholars), army officers and other leaders.

"O dervish! I can't deny the significance of prayers but we should not discount this sword either in achieving the conquest."

Thousands of people had taken refuge in the basilica of Hagia Sophia (Aya Sofya) church expecting that by some miracle they would finally be rescued. Their priests had fostered the false hope that an angel would descend from Heaven who would exterminate the Muslims.



They believed that the Muslims would not be able to enter the basilica as the angel would not let them proceed beyond Jambar Lee Tash which was a distance of about 300 kilometers from Kaneesa (the Hagia Sophia church).

Some of the people believed the priests, but others did not and chose instead to try to catch a glimpse of the new conqueror as he rode into the city.

As Sultan Muhammad Faateh proceeded at the head of his army, a dervish from amongst the Ottoman Turks came forward and said: "O Sultan! You cannot overemphasize the importance of our prayers. This city has been conquered by dint of our prayers." Sultan Muhammad Faateh smiled, drew out his sword from the sheath and said: "O dervish! I can't deny the significance of prayers but we should not discount this sword either in achieving the conquest."

‘Amr bin Jamuh’s Prayer

“By Allah! There are some persons of Allah such that if they swear by Allah, He fulfils their oath. One such person is ‘Amr bin Jamuh. I have seen him enter Paradise limping.”

‘Amr bin Jamuh was from the Banu Salamah and an eminent person of Madinah. He limped because he had a disability in one leg. He had four young sons and his entire family had the honor of converting to Islam.

When Allah’s Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) set out for the Battle of Badr, ‘Amr bin Jamuh also got ready to go on jihad (holy war). But his sons stopped him, saying that he was exempt because of his disability. They insisted he should not go on the expedition, so ‘Amr did not take part in the Battle of Badr on 17 Ramadan 2 AH (624 CE). He was extremely disappointed at missing this opportunity.

Then a year later, when the opportunity of the Battle of Uhud arose, he said to his sons: “O my sons! You prevented me from going to the battlefield of Badr; don’t try to stop me from going to Uhud.” The sons said: “Dear father, you are exempt from jihad (holy war) on account of being physically incapacitated, under Shariah (Islamic law).”

But this old man who desired martyrdom limped to the Prophet and complained: “O Messenger of Allah, my sons are preventing me from this act of goodness (participating in jihad). They insist that I should not accompany you in the Battle of Uhud.” Then his heart’s desire came to his lips and he said:

وَاللّٰهُ اِنِّيْ لَارْجُوْ اَنْ اُسْتَشْهَدَ فَاَطَّاءُ بِعُرْجَتِيْ هَذِهِ فِي الْجَنَّةِ

“By Allah! I have a strong wish to be martyred in the way of Allah and thus limp my way to Paradise.”

Allah’s Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) repeated what his sons had already told him:

اَمَّا اَنْتَ فَقَدْ وَضَعَ اللّٰهُ عَنْكَ الْجِهَادَ

“You are physically incapacitated, so Allah has exempted you from the obligation of jihad.”

‘Amr was not religiously obligated to wage jihad, but seeing his passion, the Prophet advised the sons:

وَلَا عَلَيْكُمْ اَنْ تَدْعُوْهُ، لَعَلَّ اللّٰهُ اَنْ يَّرْزُقَهُ الشَّهَادَةَ

“There is no harm if you let him go on jihad. It is just possible that Allah Almighty may grant him the honor of martyrdom.”

Thus, ‘Amr bin Jamuh took his sword and left for the battlefield of Uhud. Looking at his house and his family, and raising his hands heavenwards he said: “O Allah! Grant me martyrdom and don’t bring me back home!”

“By Allah! I have a strong wish to be martyred in the way of Allah and thus limp my way to Paradise.”

The old man with the disability reached the battlefield and fought fiercely. In the end he was bestowed with the robe of martyrdom; his dearest wish was granted and his prayer answered.

When his wife Hind bint ‘Amr reached the battlefield, she discovered that her brother, Abdullah bin ‘Amr bin Haram, who had a deep friendship with ‘Amr bin Jamuh, had also been martyred. The friends were buried in the same grave. Allah’s Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) said: “By Allah! There are some persons of Allah such that if they swear by Allah (SWT), He fulfils their oath. One such person is ‘Amr bin Jamuh. I have seen him enter Paradise limping.”

The Rotten Bones



“He knew the bone had once been part of a living human being who breathed, walked, ate and drank like him, but had now been reduced to mere dust.”

This is the story of a man named Dinar Al-Ayyar who was known for fraud, sinful behavior and impiety. His mother constantly advised him to mend his ways but her advice fell on deaf ears.

One day he passed a graveyard and saw a decayed bone. When he picked up the bone, it disintegrated. He was shocked at this. He knew that the bone had once been part of a living human being who breathed, walked, ate and drank like him, but had now been reduced to mere dust. He thought that one day he would also be reduced to dust. And when Allah revived him by placing his spirit again into dust and asked him about his past life, what explanation would he offer for his misdeeds?

This was a reality that could not be denied. Allah Almighty says in the Noble Qur'an:

﴿وَضَرَبَ لَنَا مَثَلًا وَنَسِيَ خَلْقَهُ ۖ قَالَ مَنْ يُحْيِي الْعِظَامَ وَهِيَ رَمِيمٌ ۚ قُلْ يُحْيِيهَا الَّذِي أَنشَأَهَا أَوَّلَ مَرَّةٍ وَهُوَ بِكُلِّ خَلْقٍ عَلِيمٌ﴾

“And he puts forth for Us a parable, and forgets his own creation. He says: ‘Who will give life to these bones after they are rotten and have become dust?’ Say (O Muhammad: ‘He will give life to them Who created them for the first time! And He is All-Knower of every creation!’”

This person felt very ashamed of his past life and resolved to repent and atone for his misdeeds. He raised his face heavenwards and said:

“O Allah! My affairs are under Your control. Please accept my repentance and have mercy on me!”

Then he went to his mother who was pale and drawn and asked her: “If a fugitive slave is caught by his master, what treatment is meted out to him?” His mother replied that the master would fetter him and provide him with inferior food and clothes. He said to his mother: “I surrender myself to Allah like a runaway slave so that He may forgive my disobedience and rebellion.”

Allah's Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) taught us the same lesson through a pertinent example:

"O Allah! My affairs are under Your control. Please accept my repentance and have mercy on me!"

A person is crossing an arid desert. He has a riding animal and a limited supply of food and drink. He stops at a place to rest and sleep. When he wakes up, he finds the riding animal with his provisions are gone. He is worried and wonders how he'll be able to cross the desolate desert without the animal and food and drink. He fears that he may starve to death. You can imagine then how happy this person

would be if he suddenly finds his animal and supplies. But when a disobedient person turns to Allah, Allah Almighty is happier than such a person.

The Supplication of Dhun-Nun Al-Misri

Like Imam Ahmad bin Hanbal (780 CE to 855 CE or 164 AH to 241 AH), the Egyptian preacher and scholar, Dhun-Nun Al-Misri (796 CE to 859 CE or 180 AH to 245 AH), also proved very steadfast during the sedition of ‘Khalq Al-Quran’ (the contention that the Qur’an is created by man and not Allah). He was a person who was mustajab-ud-da’wat and he suffered many hardships during the sedition and when he rejected the overtures of various rulers. Dhun-Nun Al-Misri’s full name was Abu Faïd Thawban ibn Ibrahim.

At one stage the Abbasid Caliph Wathiq Billah in Baghdad, Iraq, at the behest of some wicked ulama, decided to kill Dhun-Nun Al-Misri. He issued a warrant to arrest him. Mats were laid down in the court of the Caliph and the executioner was ordered to be ready.

When Dhun-Nun Al-Misri was brought there, the people were astonished to see that the Caliph, instead of punishing him, received him very warmly. The Caliph sent for perfume and dabbed it on him with his own hands, saying: “Abu Faïd! I’ve caused you trouble for nothing. You can leave us secure and in peace.”

When he left the court, the vizier said to the Caliph: “I’ve never seen a person forgiven in such a manner.” Wathiq replied: “You’re right. But didn’t you see that his lips were moving; he must have been invoking Allah in prayer? Had we harmed him and he in turn invoked a curse on us, I think we would have suffered the consequences. It is for this reason that I ordered his release.”

The Prophet's Prayers for Madinah



Allah's Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) made the following supplications for Madinah:

اَللّٰهُمَّ! اجْعَلْ بِالْمَدِيْنَةِ ضِعْفِيْ مَا بِمَكَّةَ مِنَ الْبَرَكَهٖ

“O Allah! Bless Madinah twice (as much) as You have blessed Makkah.”

Another supplication of the Prophet has been reported in the following words:

اَللّٰهُمَّ! حَبِّبْ اِلَيْنَا الْمَدِيْنَةَ كَمَا حَبَبْتَ مَكَّةَ اَوْ اَشَدَّ وَ صَحِّحْهَا،
وَبَارِكْ لَنَا فِيْ صَاعِهَا وَمُدِّهَا وَحَوْلُ حُمَاهَا اِلَى الْجُحْفَةِ

“O Allah! Make Madinah as beloved to us as You have made Makkah. Nay, make Madinah more beloved to us than Makkah. Remove all ills of Madinah. Bless the sa' and mudd (two standards of weight and measurement) of Madinah for us. Transfer the fever in Madinah to Al-Juhfa.

Look at the blessings of the prayers of the Prophet. Abu Hurairah reported Allah's Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) as having said:

اَللّٰهُمَّ! بَارِكْ لَنَا فِيْ ثَمَرِنَا، وَبَارِكْ لَنَا فِيْ مَدِيْنَتِنَا، وَبَارِكْ لَنَا فِيْ صَاعِنَا، وَبَارِكْ
لَنَا فِيْ مُدَّنَا، اَللّٰهُمَّ! اِنَّ اِبْرَاهِيْمَ عَلَيْهِ الصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَبْدُكَ وَخَلِيْلُكَ وَنَبِيُّكَ،
وَإِنِّي عَبْدُكَ وَنَبِيُّكَ، وَإِنَّهُ دَعَاكَ لِمَكَّةَ، وَإِنِّي أَدْعُوكَ لِلْمَدِيْنَةِ بِمِثْلِ مَا دَعَاكَ
لِمَكَّةَ وَمِثْلَهُ مَعَهُ

“Angels have been deputed at the approaches to Madinah so that plague and the Dajjal (Antichrist) cannot enter Madinah.”

Abu Hurairah reported that when fruit ripened in Madinah, the people brought it to Allah’s Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him), who took it in his hand and supplicated:



“O Allah! Bless us in our fruits; bless us in our Madinah; bless us in our sa’ and bless us in our mudd. O Allah! Ibrahim was Your servant, Your friend. I am also Your servant and Your prophet. He prayed to You for Makkah, and I pray to You for Madinah, twice of what he (Ibrahim) sought for Makkah.”



After the prayer of blessing, he would then call the youngest child in the gathering and give him the fruit.

Ibn Khuzaymah Prays for Help

Ibn Jarir, Ibn Khuzaymah, Muhammad bin Nasar Marozi and Muhammad bin Haroon Royani were scholars who devoted themselves to religious learning. They faced many trials and tribulations, but never faltered in their commitment to Islam.

During a particularly hard time, they exhausted their entire provisions. They became so hungry that they decided to cast lots to determine who would be the one to seek help for them.

This task fell to Ibn Khuzaymah, who said: "Instead of mentioning our state to anyone, I will implore Allah, Who never lets any call go unanswered." He then started performing supererogatory prayers.

Soon there was a knock on the door while he was praying. When they opened the door, officials from the court of the Egyptian ruler were standing outside. They asked for Muhammad bin Nasar. When the scholars pointed him out, the officials handed him a pouch containing 50 dirhams. Then they asked for Ibn Jarir and also gave him 50 dirhams.

"Instead of mentioning our state to anyone, I will implore Allah, Who never lets any call go unanswered"

The scholars then asked their visitors how it was discovered that they needed help. The officials told them that the Egyptian ruler had dreamt the previous day that a few people were hungry in a particular place and was asked to arrange food for them. "He then sent us on a mission to extract an oath from you that whenever you run short of provisions, you should send your representative to him," said an official.

Allah's Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) Supplicates at Badr



When Allah's Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) set forth for Madinah from Makkah with his Companions on the Hijrah (622 CE), he abandoned everything in Makkah for the sake of Allah Almighty. The emigrants had few resources such as clothes and food for themselves and their animals. However, their hearts were illuminated with the light of faith.

They came out for the Battle of Badr the next year in 2 AH (623 CE). Allah's Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) made beautiful supplications for the holy Companions on the way to Badr, as reported in Sunan Abi Dawood.

Abdullah, the son of 'Amr bin Al-'As, who was well-known for his extraordinary intelligence, narrated that when Allah's Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) set out for Badr, he made the following three supplications to Allah Almighty:

اللَّهُمَّ إِنَّهُمْ حُفَاةٌ فَاحْمِلْهُمْ،
اللَّهُمَّ إِنَّهُمْ عُرَاةٌ فَاكْسُهُمْ،
اللَّهُمَّ إِنَّهُمْ جِيَاعٌ فَأَشْبِعْهُمْ،

*"O Allah! They are on foot, provide them with mounts; O Allah, they don't have clothes, clothe them;
O Allah, they are hungry, provide them with food."*

These three prayers of Allah's Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) were answered and they were granted victory by Allah, the Lord of Honor, on the Day of Badr. The soldiers each returned to Madinah with at least one or two camels and sufficient food and clothes.



‘O Allah! Reform My Morals’



One night Umm Darda saw Abu Darda praying repeatedly during *Qiyam-ul-layl* (standing in prayer late at night):

اللَّهُمَّ أَحْسَنْتَ خَلْقِي فَأَحْسِنْ خُلُقِي

“O Allah! You have made me beautiful; please beautify my morals as well.”

Umm Darda asked him the following morning: “You were making the same supplication again and again the whole night?” Abu Darda replied: “Good morals of a person take him to Paradise while bad morals take him to Hell. A person may be asleep while his forgiveness is ensured.” Umm Darda asked him how could this happen. He said: “His brother offers *tahajjud* prayer and seeks forgiveness from Allah for him, which he is granted. Then he seeks forgiveness for his brother and that prayer too is granted.”

‘Invoke Me, I will Respond’



Once, when a man of learning and wisdom came to Basra in Iraq, people gathered around him and asked why their prayers were not being answered, especially when Allah Almighty says:

﴿ادْعُونِي أَسْتَجِبْ لَكُمْ﴾

“Invoke Me, I will respond to your (invocation)”

He replied: “O people of Basra! Your hearts have become dead.” The people asked how this had come about. The scholar outlined several reasons for this:

You recognise Allah, but you don’t give Him His due.

You recite the Qur’an, but you don’t act upon it.

You claim to love Allah’s Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him), but you don’t act upon his *Sunnah*.

You claim to be the enemy of Satan, but you obey him.

You claim to have earned entry into Paradise, but you don’t make any effort for it.

You claim to have achieved deliverance from the Hellfire, but your misdeeds should see you sent to Hell.

You say that death is inevitable, but you don’t make preparations for it.

You find fault with other people, but you don’t see your own faults.

You bury your dead, but you don’t learn lessons from it.

You avail of the blessings of Allah Almighty, but you don’t thank Him.

The Messenger Prays for Abdullah bin Abbas

"When Abdullah was born, his father took him to Allah's Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him), who kissed him, gave him tahneek and blessed him"

He was the paternal cousin of Allah's Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) and was born three years before the Muslims and allies of the Messenger were boycotted and forced to live in the Shi'b Abi Talib area in Makkah. His mother Lubabah bint Al-Harith was the second woman who embraced Islam after the Mother of the Believers, Khadijah.

When Abdullah was born, his father took him to Allah's Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him), who kissed him, gave him tahneek and blessed him.

فَكَانَ أَوَّلَ مَا دَخَلَ جَوْفَهُ رِيقُ النَّبِيِّ الْمُبَارَكِ الطَّاهِرِ،
وَدَخَلَتْ مَعَهُ التَّقْوَى وَالْحِكْمَةُ،

"As a result of having shared the Prophet's saliva, the entire being of Abdullah, was filled with piety and wisdom."

Abdullah bin Abbas was from the Quraish, from the Banu Hashim tribe. He was very handsome and dignified. He came to Madinah with his father before the conquest of Makkah. His maternal aunt Maimuna bint Al-Harith Al-Halalian was the wife of Allah's Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him). The Prophet married her in 7 AH (629 CE).

"You are worthy of high esteem and great honor. How could I stand beside you?"

One day Abdullah was sleeping in the house of his aunt Maimuna. Allah's Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) was also staying there that night. When the Prophet woke up for the tahajjud prayer, Abdullah rushed to fetch him a vessel of water. Allah's Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) was pleased with this. When the Prophet stood for prayer, Abdullah joined him after performing ablution. The Prophet signaled him to stand beside him, but Abdullah preferred to stand behind.

When Allah's Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) finished the prayer, he asked: "Abdullah! Why have you offered your prayer standing behind me despite my signal to the contrary?" He replied very respectfully:

يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ! أَنْتَ أَجَلُّ فِي عَيْنِي وَأَعَزُّ مِنْ أَنْ أُوَازِيكَ،

"To me, the rank and status of Allah's Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) is lofty and exalted. You are worthy of high esteem and great honor. How could I stand beside you?"

The moment Allah's Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) heard these words and sentiments from his young cousin, he raised his hands heavenwards and made the following prayer for him:

اللَّهُمَّ آتِهِ الْحِكْمَةَ،

"O Allah, may he be bestowed with wisdom!"

In another report, Abdullah himself narrated:

‘أَجْلَسَنِي رَسُولُ اللَّهِ ﷺ فِي حِجْرِهِ وَمَسَحَ رَأْسِي وَدَعَا لِي بِالْبَرَكَةِ‘

“Allah’s Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) took me in his lap, touched my head with his hand to show affection, and invoked blessings for me.”

Abdullah bin Abbas was certainly fortunate to have Allah’s Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) pray for him several times!

"Allah’s Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) raised his hands heavenwards and prayed: ‘O Allah, may he be bestowed with wisdom!’"

The outcome of the Prophet’s blessings and prayers was that Abdullah was awarded the title of Hibr-ul-Ummah, which can be beautifully translated as “The Scholar of the Ummah”. Another of his titles was “The Interpreter of the Qur’an”. Umar Al-Farooq, the second caliph of Islam, allowed Abdullah bin Abbas to sit in his company despite his young age, and said: “Although he is young, he has more intelligence and wisdom than the elderly.” He also said: “One of his qualities is that he possesses an enquiring tongue (asks questions to gain knowledge) and has a wise heart and mind.”

The famous tab’i Masrooq bin Ajdah stated about him: “When I saw Abdullah bin Abbas, I kept looking at his beauty and I exclaimed that he was the most beautiful person. When he spoke, I said that he was the most eloquent person. When he narrated hadith, I was compelled to say that he was the most knowledgeable person.”

Using His Supreme Name

Buraidah Al-Aslami reported that the Prophet heard a man praying in the following words:

اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي أَسْأَلُكَ أَنْيَ أَشْهَدُ أَنَّكَ أَنْتَ اللَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا أَنْتَ الْوَاحِدُ
الصَّمَدُ الَّذِي لَمْ يَلِدْ وَلَمْ يُولَدْ وَلَمْ يَكُنْ لَهُ كُفُوًا أَحَدٌ

“O Allah! I ask You by virtue of my testimony that indeed You are Allah. There is no god worthy of worship besides You; You are The One, The Self-Sufficient Master, Whom all creatures need, Who does not beget nor was begotten, and none is co-equal with Him.”

The Prophet said: “By Him in Whose Hand is my soul, this man has indeed asked Allah (SWT) by virtue of His Ism-al-Azam (Supreme Name). If He is called by it, He answers and if He is asked by means of it, He grants.”

Trusting in Divine Protection



A close confidant of many Abbasid Caliphs, Manara is the narrator of this incident, which shows how Allah answers prayers and saves a person from the designs of jealous people. The intended victim in this story was a rich and influential Umayyad nobleman during the reign of Caliph Haroon Al-Rashid. The Abbasid Caliph was in power from 166 AH until his death in 187 AH (786 CE to 809 CE).

The Caliph received information that the nobleman, a descendant of Banu Umayyah, was living in Damascus. The report to the Caliph stated that the nobleman had an army of slaves. His sons were adept at horse riding and the use of weapons. Under his leadership, his slave army had launched many attacks on the Romans. This person was exceedingly generous. His kitchen was open to everyone. If he wanted to, he could harm the Caliphate considerably.

Haroon Al-Rashid was very concerned when he received this information in 186 AH (808 CE). Stationed in Kufa, Iraq, after returning from Hajj, he drew up an oath of allegiance for his succession which included his three sons Amin, Mamun and Mu'tamin.

Manara states:

"This nobleman was exceedingly generous. His kitchen was open to everyone. If he wanted to, he could harm the Caliphate considerably."

"Haroon Al-Rashid called me (to a) private (meeting). When I presented myself, he said that it was in connection with an important matter. He said that he was having sleepless nights out of fear and then told me about the nobleman from the Umayyad dynasty.

"He asked me to immediately set out for Damascus at the head of a hundred camel riders and give his letter to the nobleman. He also gave me fetters with directions to approach the nobleman. If he listened and complied with what I asked him, I was to fetter and bring the nobleman to him. However if he did not listen to me, the Caliph instructed that I should join forces with the Amir (chief) of Damascus and forcefully bring the nobleman to his court. He set a deadline of 13 days for me - 6 days each for the journey to and from the city, and one day for staying there. I was to return on the 14th day.

"He gave me a camel packsaddle and said I should sit on one side of it with the nobleman on the other side. He directed me to personally take care of the nobleman and that I should not assign this task to anyone else.

"He added that I should also make (detailed notes) on the residence of the nobleman - who lived there, the number of slaves and bondservants and the full extent of his wealth. He particularly called on me to remember whatever the nobleman said and ensure I miss nothing in my report."

Manara said that he then left Haroon Al-Rashid to go on his mission. "We traversed the way riding on camels and passed milestone after milestone. We halted only to pray, answer the call of nature or to rest.

“We reached Damascus at dusk on the sixth day. The gates of the walled city were closed. We did not deem it appropriate to knock at the gate and so stayed outside the city. When the gate was opened early the next morning, we entered the city in the clothes that we had been wearing during the journey. We reached the residence of the Umayyad nobleman in the heart of the city within minutes. His residence was surrounded by canopies under which his bondservants rested. I entered the residence without permission. The guards were about to stop me when my escort informed them that I was Manara, the messenger of the Caliph. So they allowed me to enter.

“As I stepped into the compound of the elegant residence, I caught sight of a few people sitting on one side and advanced towards them. Seeing I was a stranger, they rose and received me warmly. I asked whether the Umayyad nobleman was present among them. They replied in the negative and said that they were his sons and that he was taking a bath. I asked them to call him as I had come from far to see him. One of the boys rushed off to call him. In the meantime, I keenly observed the residence and its inhabitants. I noticed that it was full of people.

“The nobleman of the Umayyad dynasty turned up after quite some time. I had thought that he might go into hiding out of fear, but he staged an impressive entry, dressed in gorgeous attire. A considerable number of servants accompanied him. From his spectacular bearing, I knew he was the person I was looking for.

“He came towards me, greeted me gently and sat on a chair in a royal manner. He asked me about the Commander of the Faithful. I replied in a formal manner. We were still talking when baskets full of fruit were placed in front of us. He said: ‘Manara, come, let us eat some fruit.’ I apologized for not joining him. Instead of insisting, he started eating himself, accompanied by his servants. After eating the fruit, he washed his hands and ordered the tablecloth be spread out. Lavish food was laid on it. In terms of the sheer variety of food, it was no less than a meal served to a Caliph. He said to me: ‘Come Manara, join me in eating this meal.’ He called me by name just like the Caliph. I apologized once again for not eating. He did not insist on it either. He started eating with his nine sons, grandsons, close associates and servants. When I observed his manner of eating, I noticed that he ate like a king, in an extremely relaxed manner. Outwardly, he did not seem beset with any worry.”

“I thought that the nobleman was quite a character; that I would not be able to arrest him on my own and would have to seek the support of the Amir (chief) of Damascus. He did not seem concerned about me and did not ask why I had come. I felt great consternation when I reflected on his actions.

“I was lost in these thoughts while he finished eating, washed his hands and had incense brought for him. After perfuming himself, he stood up for prayer. He prayed Dhuhr with great humility and devotion. After the prayer, he knelt in supplications for quite some time. When he returned from the prayer niche, he came to me and asked: ‘Manara, tell me the purpose of your visit.’ I told him that the Commander of the Faithful had sent me to him. Then I held out the letter and handed it to him. He broke the wax seal, unrolled the letter and read it. He then called his sons and associates. I thought that he would have me beaten up, but when they came close to him, he told them to disperse, instructing them that no two persons should get together and that no-one should come out of their house until further orders.

"Haroon Al-Rashid said that he was having sleepless nights out of fear and then told me about the nobleman from the Umayyad dynasty."

“Then he showed them the letter of the Caliph saying that the Commander of the Faithful had summoned him and that he wanted to leave in compliance with his desire without wasting another moment. He asked them to take care of the people in his absence, and added that no slave should accompany him. Then he addressed me and said: ‘Manara, bring your handcuffs and fetters.’ I had the fetters brought there and a blacksmith was called to fit them onto his feet. I ordered the slaves to lift the nobleman onto one side of the packsaddle on a camel while I sat on the other side. We set forth immediately. I did not meet the Amir of Damascus or anyone else.”

“When we came out of Damascus, he started talking to me animatedly. When the beautiful garden of Ghotia came into view, he asked me if I had noticed it. I replied in the affirmative. ‘This garden is mine; it contains many rare trees,’ he said smiling. I was astonished. A few stretches ahead, there was another garden that belonged to him, he claimed. When we reached the fields of Mozah Hassaan and the villages of Saryah, the Umayyad nobleman said that it all belonged to him. He described the details of every field and building. My sense of wonder was heightening. I told him that I was surprised at his conduct. He asked me why I was astonished. I said: ‘Don’t you know that the Commander of the Faithful has serious concerns about you and has sent me to arrest and produce you before him? But you are talking of your gardens, land and property as if you don’t have a care in the world. I had taken you for a highly sensible person.’

“He laughed and said: ‘Manara, you’ve committed an error of judgment! I thought that since you’ve been a close associate of a number of Caliphs you must possess a sound intellect. However, now I realize that there is not much difference between your intellect and that of the common person. As for the fact that the Commander of the Faithful is worried because of me and that he has sent you to arrest me, I have full faith in Allah Almighty in this matter. All affairs are in the control of Allah Almighty. If He wills, the Commander of the Faithful cannot harm me even a little; and if He wants me to be slain at the hands of the Caliph, no power on earth can save me from being killed. This is a source of satisfaction for me. Now that I have come to know the extent of your knowledge and intellect, I won’t talk to you for the rest of the way.’

“Saying this, he fell silent. He really did not utter a word during the rest of the journey. He recited the Holy Qur’an and remained busy praising and glorifying Allah, supplicating and invoking Him. He prayed to his Lord, seeking His protection.

“It was the thirteenth day after Dhuhr prayer when the houses of the suburbs of Kufa came into view. Then I went to see the Commander of the Faithful, who asked me to give the entire account of my journey. I told him everything regarding the Umayyad nobleman and what I had experienced during the mission. I also told him about the conversation we had while riding the camel. Then the Commander of the Faithful agreed with me that the nobleman was undoubtedly worthy of respect and that they had dragged him there for nothing.”

“After his fetters were removed, the nobleman was presented to the Commander of the Faithful, who felt utterly ashamed of his behavior. The Umayyad nobleman moved forward and greeted the Caliph. The Commander of the Faithful made him sit beside him and enquired after him. The Caliph expressed regrets for troubling the nobleman unjustly and asked if he had any desires. The Umayyad nobleman refused the offer politely, thanked the Commander of the Faithful, and requested that he should be allowed to return home.

“The Commander of the Faithful insisted that the nobleman tell him if he could be of service, given the fact that he was a nobleman of his area who must surely have some needs. But the man said: ‘O Caliph! Your officials are very just and efficient and take care of all our needs. May Allah give you a good reward!’”

“Haroon Al-Rashid saw him off saying: ‘Have a safe journey. Do write to me if you have any problems.’ Then the Caliph told me: ‘Manara, escort the Umayyad nobleman safely back to his home.’ I carried out the orders and accompanied him back to Damascus.”

This is how Allah Almighty answered the prayers of the Umayyad nobleman. His righteousness and sincerity benefitted him in his meeting with the Caliph. Undoubtedly, Allah Almighty Himself protects His people and answers their prayers.

Allah's Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) Prays on the Battlefield



The Battle of Badr in 2 AH (624 CE) between Islam and the polytheists has become known as Yawm-ul-Furqan (the day when good was distinguished from evil). There were only 313 Muslims while the disbelievers were three times that number, at around 1,000 soldiers.

Following the advice of Saad bin Mu'adh, a command centre was built, from where the whole battlefield could be viewed. After straightening the battle lines, Allah's Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) went to the command centre.

The most beloved servant of Allah (SWT), the Noble Prophet, made supplications and prayers to his Lord in that hour of trial. He implored Allah in complete humility, weeping bitterly. He was actually teaching a lesson to his Ummah (the Muslim nation) that if they face hard times, they should call upon their Lord, bow their head before Him and not seek help from anyone else. According to the biographers of the Prophet, he prayed:

اللَّهُمَّ أَنْجِزْ لِي مَا وَعَدْتَنِي

"O my Lord! Please accomplish what You have promised me.

اللَّهُمَّ أَنْشِذْكَ عَهْدَكَ وَوَعْدَكَ

O Allah! I ask You for the fulfillment of Your Covenant and Promise."

Abu Bakr As-Siddeeq had the honor of being in the company of Allah's Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) at the command centre. Allah's Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) was looking on while the battle raged. During this intense fighting, Allah's Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) continued to entreat Allah, saying:

QURANIC PRAYER

رَبِّ إِنِّي أَعُوذُ بِكَ أَنْ
أَسْأَلَكَ مَا لَيْسَ لِي
بِهِ عِلْمٌ وَإِلَّا تَغْفِرْ لِي
وَتَرْحَمْنِي أَكُنَ مِنَ
الْخَاسِرِينَ

Hud

‘اللَّهُمَّ إِنْ تَهْلِكْ هَذِهِ الْعِصَابَةَ الْيَوْمَ لَا تُعْبَدُ’

“O Allah! If this small band of believers is destroyed, You will not be worshipped.”

‘اللَّهُمَّ إِنْ شِئْتَ لَمْ تُعْبَدَ بَعْدَ الْيَوْمِ أَبَدًا’

“O Allah! If You so will, there will be nobody on the face of this earth who would worship You.”

Allah’s Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) continued his supplication for a long time with hands outstretched and face towards the Qiblah in meek submission, until his mantle slipped from his shoulders. Abu Bakr As-Siddeeq, who was close to him, picked up his mantle and put it on his shoulders, saying: “O Messenger of Allah! This is sufficient; you have asked Allah humbly and pressing, He will surely listen to you.”

Allah the Lord of Honor granted the prayer of His beloved Prophet, who received the following revelation:

﴿أَنِّي مُمِدِّكُمْ بِأَلْفٍ مِنَ الْمَلَائِكَةِ مُرْدَفِينَ﴾

“I will help you with a thousand of the angels each behind the other (following one another) in succession.”

And Allah Almighty asked the angels:

﴿أَنِّي مَعَكُمْ فَثَبِّتُوا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا سَأُلْقِيَ فِي قُلُوبِ
الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا الرُّعْبَ﴾

“Verily, I am with you, so keep firm those who have believed. I will cast terror into the hearts of those who have disbelieved.”

Allah Almighty answered the prayer of His Prophet and fulfilled what He had promised him. Allah’s Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) was clad in armor that day. After consoling Abu Bakr As-Siddeeq (May Allah be pleased with him), he went out saying to his Companion:

﴿سَيُهْزَمُ الْجَمْعُ وَيُوَلُّونَ الدُّبُرَ ۖ بَلِ السَّاعَةُ مَوْعِدُهُمْ وَالسَّاعَةُ أَذْهَى وَأَمَرُ ۖ﴾

“Their multitude will be defeated, and they will show their backs. Nay, but the Hour is their appointed time (for their full recompense), and the Hour will be more grievous and more bitter.”

Those who had come to the battlefield arrogantly and proudly suffered a crushing defeat. Seventy of their chiefs were killed and as many captured.

A Complete Recovery

A Syrian from Damascus tells the story of how he fell ill and was told by doctors that they could do nothing for him. It was then that he turned to Allah Almighty for help:

“I’m married with two children, ten-year-old Samia and seven-year-old Faris. I went to work every day on my motorbike. One day as I was returning home from work I had a minor accident. I had a slight collision with a vehicle. I fell from my bike but was not injured and did not feel any kind of pain. I got back onto my motorbike and rode home.

“I became totally blind. All the doctors I approached could not help me. In addition, I had complete paralysis of my hands and slight paralysis in my legs.”

“After barely ten minutes I felt something enter my right eye. I immediately stopped the motorbike and asked a pedestrian: ‘Brother, can you please see if there’s anything in my eye.’ He looked at my eye but said that he couldn’t see any foreign object. It got so bad that I couldn’t see anything through the right eye. I rode home very quickly.”

“I showed my eye to a doctor who said that the arteries that enable the eye to see had been blocked. He ruled out the possibility of their reopening and sight being restored. Over the following four years, I lost sight in the left eye too and became totally blind. All the doctors I approached could not help me. In addition, I had complete paralysis of my hands and slight paralysis in my legs.”

“I went to all the major hospitals in Damascus and Syria, but to no avail. The Health Ministry of Syria sent all my reports to European doctors but they could also not help and advised that I should try recovering on my own. They said there was no hope that the arteries supplying the nerves would become unblocked.”

“I was not unduly worried about the categorical opinion of the European doctors. I contacted the Real Physician, Who says:

وَإِذَا مَرَضْتُ فَهُوَ يَشْفِينِ

“And when I am ill, it is He Who cures me.”

“Last year on the eve of Eid, my children went to their maternal relatives to celebrate the occasion while I went to my mother’s house. That night I felt the need to go to the toilet. When I got up, I stumbled and then fell down. My mother rushed to help me, but I was badly injured in the back of the head and lost consciousness.

“I regained consciousness after a few moments and saw my beloved mother and brother trying to lift me. I felt my right hand was able to move and then, after a few seconds, I also started to get feeling back in my left hand. I looked towards my mother and brother in delight. The most astonishing thing was that my left hand that had shrunk due to the paralysis, recovered its original size in no time. I got up from the bed to kiss the feet of my mother. I felt that Allah Almighty had cured me because I held her in high esteem.”

“I went to my doctor early the next morning. He did not recognize me and thought I was my healthy brother. When I said to him that I was his patient, he was dumbfounded. I told him what had happened. He examined me and declared that all the arteries in my eyes had resumed working normally with blood circulating through them.”

“I thanked Allah Almighty profusely for giving me a new lease on life. Now I pray to Allah Almighty that He enables me to recover all the losses that I sustained during my illness.”

A Time of Distress

Umar bin Al-Khattab, the second Caliph of Islam, was once asked about the most difficult times in his life. He described the following incident:

“We set out for the expedition of Tabuk in intensely hot weather and stopped on the way. Overwhelmed with raging thirst, we feared we would perish. Some of our companions slaughtered their camels and squeezed water from their stomachs to drink and sprinkle on their bodies. In this hour of difficulty, Abu Bakr As-Siddeeq asked the Prophet: ‘O Messenger of Allah! Allah Almighty has promised to do you good if you invoke Him, so pray to Allah Almighty.’ The Prophet asked: ‘Do you want me to pray?’ The Companion replied in the affirmative, whereupon Allah’s Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) raised his hands heavenwards. He had not yet lowered his hands when the sky became overcast with clouds and it started to rain heavily.”

“The people filled their utensils and water bags to the brim. We went out to see the extent of the rain and noticed that the rain did not go beyond the place we had stopped.”

This rain was the instantaneous response to the supplication of Allah’s Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him). Allah Almighty answered the prayer of His Prophet and brought ease to His people.

The Supplication of Az-Zubair ibn Al-‘Awwam



Az-Zubayr ibn Al-‘Awwam called his son ‘Abdullah ibn Az-Zubayra few days before he was martyred and said: “It seems that my final hour is near. However, the greatest of my concerns is about my debts. Do you think any of our property will be saved after our debts are settled?”

"Whenever I ran into difficulty for not being able to repay my debts, I said, 'O Master of Az-Zubayr, pay Az-Zubayr's debt!' And He (Allah) would invariably settle it."

Then he advised, “O son, sell our property to pay the debts. If any property is left over, then a third of it is for your children.” According to the report of Hisham, two sons of ‘Abdullah ibn Az-Zubayr—Khubayb and ‘Abbad—were the same age as the sons of Az-Zubayr ibn Al-‘Awwam. Az-Zubayr ibn Al-‘Awwam had nine sons and as many daughters.

‘Abdullah reported that after making the will about the settlement of debts, Az-Zubayr ibn Al-‘Awwam said, “If any debt remains to be paid and you are unable to settle it, seek the help of my Master.” Not understanding who he was referring to, ‘Abdullah asked his father who was his Master. He replied that Allah the Lord of Honor was His Master and added: “Whenever I ran into difficulty for not being able to repay my debts, I said, ‘O Master of Az-Zubayr, pay Az-Zubayr’s debt!’ And He would invariably settle it.”

When Az-Zubayr ibn Al-‘Awwam embraced martyrdom, he left no dirham or dinar behind, except for land and property, one of which was a jungle. He left behind 11 houses in Madinah, two in Basra, one in Kufa, and one in Egypt.

"Az-Zubayr ibn Al-‘Awwam had joined the Prophet and the four rightly-guided Caliphs on jihad expeditions."

The question may arise in the minds of readers how Az-Zubayr ibn Al-‘Awwam managed to incur such large debts when he owned such a vast estate. The answer is that whenever anyone approached him to leave money in his custody, he would say: “No, not as a trust, let it rather be a loan, for I fear that it might be spent by me. Therefore I cannot bear the burden of trust and instead I take up the responsibility of the debt.”

Az-Zubayr ibn Al-‘Awwam had never been a head of state, a collector of the land tax (kharaj) or held a government post. However, he had joined the Prophet and the four rightly-guided Caliphs on jihad expeditions. He had also traded in meat in Madinah. Moreover, he had a large number of slaves who ran his business.

‘Abdullah ibn Az-Zubayr said that when he worked out the debt that his father owed, it came to two million and two hundred thousand. When ‘Abdullah ibn Az-Zubayr met Hakim ibn Hizam, the latter said, “Nephew, how much debt does my brother (Az-Zubayr ibn Al-‘Awwam) owe?” ‘Abdullah ibn

Az-Zubayr did not reveal the exact amount and said, "A hundred thousand dirhams." Hakim ibn Hizam said that he did not think that even if all the property was sold, it would repay that amount.

‘Abdullah asked what he would think if the debts amounted to two million and two hundred thousand? Hakim ibn Hizam immediately said that he did not think that they would be able to pay such a huge amount. "However, think about it and if you are unable to cover any of it, ask me. I'll help you out," he added.

Az-Zubayr ibn Al-‘Awwam had purchased the jungle for one hundred and seventy thousand, and ‘Abdullah ibn Az-Zubayr sold it for one million and six hundred thousand. Then he announced that anyone to whom his father owed a debt should come to him in the jungle. ‘Abdullah ibn Ja‘far, to whom Az-Zubayr owed four hundred thousand, came and said to ‘Abdullah: "If you like, I will forgo this money." ‘Abdullah ibn Az-Zubayr said, "No."

‘Abdullah ibn Ja‘far said, "If you like, you can delay repayment. Repay it when you have the means."

‘Abdullah ibn Az-Zubayr did not agree to this offer also.

Ibn Ja‘far said, "So give me a piece of land."

Ibn Az-Zubayr said, "You can have such-and-such a piece of land."

In short, Ibn Az-Zubayr sold the jungle and paid the debts in full. After the repayment of debts, there remained four-and-a-half shares of the land. ‘Abdullah ibn Az-Zubayr went to Mu‘awiyah. As chance would have it, ‘Amr ibn ‘Uthman, Al-Mundhir ibn Az-Zubayr and Ibn Zam‘ah (RH) were also sitting there.

Mu‘awiyah said to Ibn Az-Zubayr, "At how much did you value the jungle?"

Ibn Az-Zubayr replied, "Each share at a hundred thousand."

Mu‘awiyah said, "How many shares remain?"

Ibn Az-Zubayr said, "Four-and-a-half shares."

Al-Mundhir ibn Az-Zubayr offered, "I will purchase a share for a hundred thousand."

‘Amr ibn ‘Uthman said, "I will purchase a share for a hundred thousand."

Ibn Zam‘ah said, "I will purchase a share for a hundred thousand."

Mu‘awiyah asked Ibn Az-Zubayr, "How many shares remain now?" He replied, "A share and a half."

Mu‘awiyah said, "I will purchase it for one hundred and fifty thousand."

Abdullah ibn Ja‘far later sold his share to Mu‘awiyah for six-hundred thousand dirhams.

When ‘Abdullah Ibn Az-Zubayr settled all the debts, the other sons of Az-Zubayr said, "Now distribute our inheritance among us." Ibn Az-Zubayr said, "No, by Allah, I will not distribute it until I have made this announcement for four successive years during the Hajj season: 'Anyone to whom Az-Zubayr owed a debt should come to us and we will repay it.'"

So he made this announcement every year during Hajj and after the four years had passed, he distributed the inheritance between them.

The Wonder of Prayer



Two young Kuwaiti men were returning home after performing the obligation of Hajj, when their vehicle broke down in the city of Riyadh. When they examined the engine, they realized that it had developed a major fault which would be too expensive for them to repair.

"The vehicle was fixed and the Riyadh governor paid the bill. The two young men thanked the person and the governor profusely and happily resumed their journey home"

It was noon and they sat on the footpath thinking of what to do next. After being quiet for a few moments, one of them raised his hands in supplication: "O Allah! We remembered You in prosperity and we invoke You in this hour of difficulty. O Allah! Relieve us of this difficulty. You are As-Samad (the Self-Sufficient Master, Whom all creatures need). Please help us."

After just a few seconds a large vehicle stopped close to them. A person stepped out, greeted them and asked: "What's the matter? Why are you sitting here in the scorching noon heat?" The young Kuwaiti men explained their problem. The newcomer said: "The governor of Riyadh saw you two sitting here when he passed by and asked me to see why you're stranded like this. He has directed me to solve your problem, if any. I've come to you at his behest. Let's go."

"O Allah! We remembered You in prosperity and we invoke You in this hour of difficulty. O Allah! Relieve us of this difficulty. You are As-Samad. Please help us."

The two young men said that they went along with the person to a magnificent palace. A table was laid for them and they ate a sumptuous meal. Then the man asked them about their vehicle. They said that their vehicle had broken down and needed repairs. He apologized for not being able to get it done because it was the weekend and the auto repair shops were closed.

At the insistence of the two young men, he agreed to try to see if it could be done. He somehow managed to get hold of a mechanic from the industrial area. The vehicle was fixed and the governor of Riyadh paid the bill. The two young men thanked the person and the governor profusely and happily resumed their journey home. Indeed, Allah Almighty has rightly said:



"And your Lord said: 'Invoke Me [i.e. believe in My Oneness and ask Me for anything], I will respond to your (invocation).'"

Subhan Allah! (Glory be to Allah).

Lost Documents are Found

As my stay in Britain was ending, I lost the bag containing all my documents, including my visa. I was extremely worried, but when the visa expired, I was allowed to stay on for a week.

This extension passed in the twinkling of an eye and I then received a notice to visit the visa office and the police station. I was expecting it. Before I was about to leave for the visa office, the idea struck me that I should supplicate to Allah after performing prayer. I hoped that Allah would relieve me of my troubles.

I started praying and made supplications while prostrating. When I finished the prayer, I suddenly saw the bag which had all my documents. I was completely overjoyed and could not believe my eyes. I stood up immediately, picked up the bag and found all my documents inside it. With eyes filled with tears, I prostrated to show my gratitude.

I thought that if I had prayed earlier for Allah's help, I would not have had to face trouble for so long. Afterwards I remembered that I had placed the bag in a particular place and forgotten about it.

A Letter of Recommendation

One day a woman went to a religious scholar who was well-known for practicing what he preached and told him: “Security guards have caught my son. Please send a recommendation note to the police station for them not to manhandle him.”

Upon hearing her request, the scholar stood up and made a long prayer. Meanwhile, the woman was seething with frustration because he was praying so long instead of giving her the required letter.

When he had finished, the woman said: “I came to you to seek your recommendation but you started offering supererogatory prayers instead!” He replied: “Sister, I was actually making a request in your favor. I prayed to Allah (SWT), the Lord of Honor, so that He may spare the life of your son. That’s what you were hankering after.”

He had barely risen off the prayer mat when another woman arrived and told the mother: “Congratulations, the police have released your son who is at home right now!” Hearing the good news, the mother immediately went home.

Yes! In order to get rid of worries in difficult times, nothing is better than prayer. Does a person not speak in whispers with Allah and establish close contact and proximity with Him in prayer? Prostration is the stage in prayer when a person gets very close to their Lord, the Sustainer.

The Prayer of Abdullah bin Jahshat Uhud



Abdullah bin Jahsh was the brother of Zainab bint Jahsh, the Mother of the Believers. He embraced Islam at its inception in Makkah. He had the honor of migrating twice in the cause of Islam, first to Abyssinia and then to Madinah. He was a brave and valiant Companion, who could exercise extreme patience in the face of thirst and hunger.

In Rajab 2 AH, Allah's Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) sent him to a place called Nakhla, situated between Makkah and Taif, as a commander of 12 emigrants. Allah's Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) had given him a letter stating that after reaching Nakhla, he should ambush a caravan of the Quraish and gather news for the Muslims. For the first time in the history of Islam, he earmarked Khums from the war spoils of that battle.

"When describing this incident to his son, Sa'ad bin Abi Waqqas said: "The prayer of Abdullah bin Jahsh was better than mine."

Abdullah bin Jahsh had a passion for martyrdom. On the eve of the Battle of Uhud, he saw Sa'ad bin Abi Waqqas and said to him: "We are about to fight against the disbelievers and polytheists tomorrow. Come, let us pray together." Sa'ad agreed to the suggestion, so they went to one side of the battlefield.

First Sa'ad bin Abi Waqqas raised his hands and prayed: "O Allah, when the battle begins tomorrow, let me face a very strong and fierce enemy. Grant that I may attack him with all my might and repulse him with all my strength. O Allah! Grant that I may kill him and seize all his possessions." Abdullah bin Jahsh said Aameen to the prayer.

Abdullah bin Jahsh then raised his hands heavenwards and prayed:

اللَّهُمَّ ارْزُقْنِي غَدًا رَجُلًا شَدِيدًا حَرْدَهُ، شَدِيدًا بَأْسَهُ، أَقَاتِلْهُ فِيكَ، وَيُقَاتِلْنِي،
ثُمَّ يَأْخُذْنِي فَيَجِدْ عُنْفِي وَأُذُنِي، فَإِذَا لَقَيْتَكَ غَدًا، قُلْتُ: يَا عَبْدَ اللَّهِ
فِيمَ جُدَّ عُنْفُكَ وَأُذُنُكَ؟ فَأَقُولُ: فِيكَ وَفِي رَسُولِكَ، فَتَقُولُ: صَدَقْتُ،

"O Allah! Grant that I may face one of the toughest fighters tomorrow. Let him take hold of me and cut (off) my nose and ears. And when I appear before You on Judgment Day, You would ask me, 'Why are your nose and ears cut (off)?' To which I will reply, 'O Allah! They were cut in Your way and in the way of Your Prophet.' My only wish is that when you hear this reply, You say, 'Abdullah! What you say is right.'"

In turn, Sa'ad bin Abi Waqqas said Aameen.



Both Companions fought valiantly in the Battle of Uhud the next day. Abdullah bin Jahsh fought steadfastly against a powerful enemy soldier, Abul Hikam bin Akhnas bin Sharif, but the enemy fighter overpowered the Companion and martyred him. He was about forty years old at the time. The wish and prayer of Abdullah bin Jahsh for martyrdom was fulfilled. Then the enemy mutilated his body, cut off his nose and ears and strung them on a thread.

At the end of the war, Sa'ad bin Abi Waqqas searched for him among the martyrs, and found him with his nose and ears cut off. When describing this incident to his son, Sa'ad bin Abi Waqqas said:

"And when I appear before You on Judgment Day, You would ask me, 'Why are your nose and ears cut (off)?' To which I will reply, 'O Allah! They were cut in Your way and in the way of Your Prophet'"

“The prayer of Abdullah bin Jahsh was better than mine.”

Abdullah bin Jahsh was the nephew of Hamzah bin Abdul Muttalib, the chief of martyrs. His mother was Umaymah bint Abdul Muttalib. Abdullah and Hamzah were buried in the same grave.

Under Allah's Protection



Imam Abdullah Al-Qurtubi, the famous scholar, said:

“I was in the area of Cordova in Andalusia when my enemy saw me. There were many of them while I was all alone. However, I somehow stealthily slipped to the side and managed to escape. Meanwhile, the enemy was searching for me.

“I was in a desolate plain when suddenly two horse-riders came after me. Finding no place to hide, I sat on low ground and started reciting Surah Yasin amongst other chapters of the Holy Qur'an. They passed by me. Then after a while, they came in front of me. I remained sitting at the same place where I could hear them. They were saying: ‘It seems this person is a devil, since we saw him here in this place earlier, but now he is invisible.’”

“In fact Allah Almighty turned them blind to my presence. They passed in front of me and returned while I was there in that desolate plain with no place to hide. The Almighty Lord saved me from them by virtue of His Bounty. It is rightly said that nobody can hurt the person whom Allah (SWT) protects.”

‘It’s Your Duty to Guide Others’



When I joined the teaching staff at a Saudi school in a local village I discovered that the other teachers working there were ignoring a colleague because he was not performing his obligatory prayers five times a day. I was the seventh person to join the staff.

They disliked him and kept away from him. Perhaps they had tried to convince him but he would not budge, so there was a certain tension among them. Their attitude towards him was quite hostile. When it was recess, they ignored him and chatted among themselves.

I then resolved to reform the teacher. Being new at the school, I went up to him, introduced myself and sat down to talk with him. I did the same thing the following day. I asked him about himself and his circumstances.

"They were ignoring a colleague because he was not performing his obligatory prayers five times a day."

He gradually developed a kind of affection for me. I told him that I was looking for accommodation, and as he was living alone and his family had to still join him, I asked if he could let me stay with him for the time being. I offered to pay him rent for the accommodation. It was not easy to find a house to rent in that village.

After some initial reluctance, he agreed to the suggestion. However, he made it explicitly clear to me that he was not religiously observant, did not perform prayers and was rather distant from Islam. I said: "Never mind. Let us live together for some days. If we pull it off, well and good, otherwise I will find another house for myself."

"O Allah! You know how much effort I have made in serving your servant, and now I have succeeded in bringing him to the mosque. O my Lord! It is up to You to guide him."

I started staying with him the following day. I took it upon myself to serve him and did all the washing and cooking. Whenever I ironed my clothes, I ironed his as well. I never discussed prayers or any other religious matter during this time. Our relations improved further within a few days. He was impressed by my affable manners and I was ever ready to serve him.



One day I prepared tea just before Asr prayers, and poured it into a thermos flask which I placed on the table. I then called him to join me. We were drinking tea when we heard the call to prayer from a nearby mosque. I put my teacup on the table and stood up to leave for prayer. When he saw me getting up, he said: “You go to the mosque five times a day to offer prayer; don’t you get tired?” I said: “No, not at all. Instead, I feel at peace and draw satisfaction from doing this. You should give it a try if you want to.” He said, “Yes, I should try it.”

Then we went to the mosque. He had to perform ablution and it was still time before the imam was to lead the prayer, so I prayed the two rak’ah tahiyyat-al-masjid prayer. I then stood behind my friend raising my hands heavenwards: “O Allah! You know how much effort I have made in serving your servant, and now I have succeeded in bringing him to the mosque. O my Lord! It is up to You to guide him.” When the prayer was over, I asked my colleague how he felt in his heart. He said that he had never experienced such comfort before. I said to him, “After a while, it will be time for Maghrib (sunset) prayer. I request you to take a bath and perform ablution.” He nodded his head in agreement. Then Allah guided him and he began to strictly follow religious obligations. The bond of our friendship was further strengthened.

I told the other teachers at school: “Do you see now that your attitude towards him was not fair? By employing good manners, wisdom and prayer I have been able to draw him towards good.”

After some time, my colleague became an Islamic preacher. The government sent him abroad where he helped many people to embrace Islam Al-Hamdulillah!

The Supplication of ‘Asim bin Thabit



Abu Hurairah narrated that the Prophet once sent some Companions on a reconnoitering mission under the command of ‘Asim bin Thabit.

When they reached a place between ‘Usfan and Makkah, one of the tribes of Bani Hudhail called Lihyan got wind of their presence. About one hundred archers of the Lihyan sub-tribe chased them and found date stones at a place where it was suspected the Muslims had stopped. The Muslims had taken along dates to eat on their journey from Madinah. When the archers examined the stones, they noticed that they were the dates of Yathrib (Madinah). They then resumed their pursuit even more urgently and overtook the Muslims.

"Asim said that he did not want the protection of an unbeliever. Then he prayed to his Master: ‘O Allah! Inform Your Prophet about us’"

Seeing so many archers after them, ‘Asim bin Thabit and his companions took shelter in a high place. The people of Banu Lihyan encircled them and said: “If you come down, we shall give you protection.” ‘Asim said that he did not want the protection of an unbeliever. Then he prayed to his Master:

اللَّهُمَّ! أَخْبِرْ عَنَّا نَبِيَّكَ

“O Allah! Inform Your Prophet about us.”

Thus, Allah Almighty informed His Prophet through Jibril (Gabriel the Trustworthy).

After their refusal, the Banu Lihyan archers shot arrows killing ‘Asim bin Thabit and seven other warriors. Only three Muslims, including Khubaib Al-Ansari and Zaid survived. The disbelievers then promised them protection which they trusted and they came down. The infidels took the strings of their bows and tied them up.

The third warrior said, “This is the first breach of the pledge,” and refused to go with them. They fought with him, but he did not move, so they eventually killed him. Then they took Khubaib and Zaid and sold them in Makkah. Khubaib was bought by the sons of Al-Harith bin ‘Amr bin Naufal, because he had killed Al-Harith bin ‘Amr during the Battle of Badr.

"I don't care how I get killed in the way of Allah Almighty, because this death is for the sake of Allah. If He so wishes, He will bless the cut limbs."

Khubaib remained a captive with them for some days. The day they decided to kill him, Khubaib borrowed a razor from a daughter of Al-Harith to shave his pubic hair. After giving the razor to him, she went about her business. In the meanwhile, she said, her infant child crept up to Khubaib who

lifted it up and placed it on his thigh. She got scared and ran to retrieve the child. Khubaib asked her if she was afraid that he would kill the infant. "If Allah wills, I would never do that," said Khubaib.

Later the daughter of Al-Harith used to say, "I have never seen such a captive as Khubaib. I noticed him many times eating from a bunch of grapes and relishing them although this fruit was not available in Makkah at that time, and his feet were fettered with iron chains. Actually, it was the sustenance bestowed upon him by Allah."

"Allah Almighty sent down a cloud of wasps to protect his body and the infidels of the Quraish could not get close to harm it"

Then one day, the sons of Al-Harith bin Amr bin Naufal took him out of the Sanctuary of Makkah to kill him. Khubaib asked them to let him perform two rak'ah supererogatory prayers. After praying, he said to them: "Had you not said that I was afraid of death, I would have prayed for a longer time." Khubaib was the person who first started the tradition of praying two-rak'ah before being killed. Then he prayed, "O Allah! Count them all," and uttered the following verses:

مَا إِنْ أُبَالِيَ حِينَ أُقْتَلُ مُسْلِمًا
عَلَىٰ أَيِّ شِقِّ كَانَ لِلَّهِ مَضْرَعِي
وَذَلِكَ فِي ذَاتِ الْإِلَهِ وَإِنْ يَشَاءُ
يُبَارِكْ عَلَىٰ أَوْصَالِ شَلْوٍ مُّمَزَّعٍ

"When I am being martyred as a Muslim, I don't care how I get killed in the way of Allah Almighty, because this death is for the sake of Allah.

If He so wishes, He will bless the cut limbs."

Afterwards 'Uqbah bin Al-Harith rose and martyred Khubaib .

The Quraish had earlier sent some people to fetch the head of 'Asim bin Thabit so that it could be displayed publicly, because he had killed one of their chiefs during the Battle of Badr. Allah Almighty sent down a cloud of wasps to protect his body and the infidels of the Quraish could not get close to harm it.

A True Repentance

Ibn Al-Jawzi narrated, with reference to Muslim bin Ibrahim that a person went to Habib Farsi, who was known for his righteousness and asceticism, and said very arrogantly and in a commanding tone: "Listen to me!" Habib Farsi responded and said: "What is the matter?" The man said: "You owe me 300 dirhams. Pay back the amount immediately, otherwise I will file a suit against you in the court of the Qadhi and malign you amongst the people." Habib Farsi said: "My friend, I have never met you nor have we had any dealings before. I've never borrowed anything from you. Why are you demanding 300 dirhams from me? Your demand is wrong and completely unwarranted."

The person said: "You will have to give me the 300 dirhams. I will extract the amount by any means." Habib Farsi replied: "Please reconsider your demand until tomorrow if I really owe you this money. I will also think over it and check my papers. It's possible that I have forgotten it and may find it in black and white on a paper that may substantiate your claim. However, if my memory serves me right, we have never had any dealings or transactions before."

"Allah Almighty restored his paralyzed body to normal through His bounty, without any treatment."

Habib Farsi returned home and scrutinized all his accounts and documents, but could not find anything that supported the man's claim. Habib Farsi was a mustajab-ud-da'wat. He performed ablution after midnight, stood on his prayer mat and performed a two-rak'ah prayer. Then, he raised his hands and supplicated to Allah Almighty:

"O Allah! If this person has a rightful claim, give me the strength to settle his account. And if he is a liar, paralyze his hands so that people may know my truth and his falsehood."

The following day, the people witnessed a horrific scene. People were seen carrying on their shoulders the man who had made the false claim. He had suffered a stroke resulting in the paralysis of half his body. The moment the man reached Habib Farsi, he asked if he recognized him. He said that he was the same person who had tried to extort 300 dirhams from him the previous day. He admitted that it was a false claim and that he had had no dealings with him at all. He said: "I thought you would give in to the threat and accept my claim for the sake of your honor because you are a well-known gentleman who is held in esteem and who enjoys a good reputation."

Habib Farsi asked him: "Will you do such an act again and pester me or any other Muslim unfairly to extort money?" He said, "I will not do so at all. I repent of my sinful act and pledge that I will never do it again."

Habib Farsi again raised hands before the Divine and said very humbly:

اللَّهُمَّ! إِنْ كَانَ صَادِقًا فَلْبَسْهُ الْعَافِيَةَ

"O Allah! If he is true to his commitment, do cure him."

The instant he uttered the prayer the man stood up. Allah Almighty restored his paralyzed body to normal through His bounty, without any treatment. He started moving around, as if nothing had happened to him.

The Best Way to Seek Forgiveness

Shaddad bin 'Aws reported that the Prophet said that the most superior way to seek forgiveness from Allah (SWT) is to say:

“O Allah! You are my Lord. There is no true god except You. You have created me. I am your servant. I stick to the pledge and promise that I made with You, to the best of my ability. I seek Your refuge from the evil that I have done. I acknowledge Your blessings on me. I also confess my sins. Please forgive me; there is none who can forgive sins save You.”

If a person sincerely recites this prayer in the morning, and if he dies the same day, he will be among those who will earn entry into Paradise. And if he sincerely invokes this prayer during the night, and he dies before the morning, he will be among the people of Paradise.

“I feel bound to tell you that Sa‘ad did not go with the army to war, did not distribute the booty equally and did not deliver justice in legal verdicts”

A Curse of the Wronged



Mosque Sa'ad bin Abi Waqqas

When the people of Kufa complained about Sa'ad bin Abi Waqqas , the governor of Kufa, 'Umar bin Al-Khattab , the Commander of the Faithful, dismissed him and appointed 'Ammar bin Yasir as the new ruler.

The complaints against Sa'ad bin Abi Waqqas included the claim that he did not pray properly. 'Umar bin Al-Khattab sent for Sa'ad bin Abi Waqqas and said: "O Abu Ishaq (the patronymic name of Sa'ad)! The people of Kufa claim that you cannot even pray properly."

Sa'ad bin Abi Waqqas replied: "By Allah, I used to pray with them like Allah's Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) prayed. I never reduced anything from it. I prolong the first two rak'ahs of 'Isha (night) prayer and keep the last two rak'ahs short." 'Umar bin Al-Khattab said: "O Abu Ishaq! This was what I thought about you that you must lead their prayer according to the Sunnah (tradition of the Prophet [SA])."

"O Allah! If this servant of yours has lied and has stood up to show off, grant him a long life, increase his poverty and subject him to trials."

Then 'Umar sent a person with Sa'ad bin Abi Waqqas to Kufa. This person went from mosque to mosque in Kufa and asked the people about Sa'ad bin Abi Waqqas . All the people praised him, but a man called Usama bin Qatada, in the mosque of the tribe of Banu 'Abs, maligned him. He said:

فَإِنَّ سَعْدًا كَانَ لَا يَسِيرُ بِالسَّرِيَّةِ، وَلَا يَقْسِمُ بِالسَّوِيَّةِ، وَلَا يَعْدِلُ فِي الْقَضِيَّةِ

"As you have put us under an oath, I feel bound to tell you that Sa'ad did not go with the army to war, did not distribute the booty equally and did not deliver justice in legal verdicts."

Having listened to the complaint, Sa'ad bin Abi Waqqas said: "By Allah! Three of your complaints are false and frivolous. I will invoke Allah against you for three things:

اللَّهُمَّ إِنْ كَانَ عَبْدُكَ هَذَا كَاذِبًا، قَامَ رِيَاءً وَسُمْعَةً،

فَأُطِّلْ عُمرَهُ وَأُطِّلْ فَقْرَهُ وَعَرِّضْهُ لِلْفِتَنِ

"O Allah! If this servant of yours has lied and has stood up to show off, grant him a long life, increase his poverty and subject him to trials."

This person suffered following the curse of Sa'ad and would tell people he was an old man subjected to trials because of Sa'ad's invocation.

A narrator, Abdul Malik said that he saw this wretched person afterwards in such a state that his eyebrows were hanging over his eyes because of old age and he used to wink at young girls on the pathways.

‘O Allah! Give Him a Sign of Support’

Tufail bin ‘Amr was a popular chief of the Daws tribe. The people of his tribe valued his judgment and acted upon it. When he went to trade in Makkah, the chiefs of the Quraish gathered around him fearing that he might embrace Islam and become a follower of the Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him). They forbade Tufail bin Amr Ad-Dawsi from listening to the Prophet or to sit in his company.

"The Prophet of Allah communicated to me the message of Islam in a beautiful manner and recited a few verses from the Holy Qur'an"

The Quraish said to him: "You have come to our town as a guest of honor so we must warn you regarding an important matter. There is a person among us who has disturbed our peace and created schisms and dissensions among us. His speech has a magical effect. With it he creates rifts between a person and his parents, brothers and sisters and his wife. We are afraid that he might harm you or your people as he has harmed us. Therefore, beware, don't talk or listen to him at all."

Tufail said: "By Allah, they persistently poisoned my ears against Muhammad (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him), so much so that I resolved that I wouldn't let any speech of Muhammad enter my ears. Then I went to Allah's House and noticed that Allah's Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) was praying by the Ka'bah. I stood close to him. Although I did not want to listen to him, Allah enabled me to hear some of his speech, which sounded moving and impressive. I said to myself: 'What has happened to me? By Allah, I'm the chief of a tribe, a sensible person and not a child or a fool. I am an astute poet and have the ability to distinguish between good and bad speech. So why shouldn't I listen to his words? If he says something good, I should accept it and if he utters something that is not proper, I may give it up.'

"I was still sitting when the Prophet got up and left for home. I followed, caught up with him and said, 'O Muhammad! Your community has told me such-and-such things against you. By Allah, they have poisoned my ears against you to such a degree that I plugged my ears with cotton fearing that I might listen to what you had to say. Nevertheless, Allah Almighty, notwithstanding my intention to the contrary, made me hear a portion of your speech. I found your speech very impressive, so let me listen to your words.'"

Tufail said: "The Prophet of Allah communicated to me the message of Islam in a beautiful manner and recited a few verses from the Holy Qur'an. By Allah, I had never heard such superior speech nor had I received teaching better than that. I instantly recited the testimony of faith and entered the fold of Islam. I said: 'O Allah's Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) ! I am a person whose views carry great weight with the people of his community. I will go to them and call them to profess Islam. Therefore, please pray that I may be bestowed with a sign of support that may help to attract my community to Islam and enable them to listen to my message.' The Prophet prayed for me with the following words:

اللَّهُمَّ اجْعَلْ لَهُ آيَةً

'O Allah! Grant him a sign of support.'

Then I set out for my community. When the people of my community came into view, a light like that of a lamp shone in one of my eyes. I said: 'O Allah, shift this light in my eye to somewhere else because I fear that the people of my community might say that Allah Almighty has impaired my eye as punishment for abandoning my faith. The moment I uttered this prayer the light in my eye shifted to the upper part of my whip. Now the people could plainly see the light in the upper part of my whip, which looked like a hanging lantern.

“When I reached my people, my elderly father came to me. I said to him: ‘Dear father, please stay away from me, for now I have no relation with you that may bind us.’ My father asked me why this was the case. I told him that I had adopted Islam and become a follower of Prophet Muhammad. My father said that his faith was the same as mine. Then he testified to the oneness of Allah and the prophethood of Muhammad, saying:

‘أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ’

“I bear witness that Allah is One, Who has no partner; there is no god worthy of being worshipped except Him; and I testify that Muhammad is His servant and Messenger.”

“Thus he entered the fold of Islam. Meanwhile, my wife also came there. When I told her what I had told my father, she also embraced Islam. Then I went to the people of my community and called them to Islam but they evaded me and turned away. Thereafter, I went to Makkah, presented myself before Allah’s Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) and told him: ‘O Messenger of Allah (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him)! The people of the tribe of Daws have overpowered me and have been evasive about my call to Islam. Therefore, please invoke against them.’

“Allah’s Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) raised his hands and turned his face towards the Qiblah. I thought to myself that now the tribe of Daws would be destroyed and ruined, but the Prophet made the following supplication:

‘اللَّهُمَّ اهْدِ دَوْسًا، اللَّهُمَّ اهْدِ دَوْسًا، اللَّهُمَّ اهْدِ دَوْسًا’

‘O Allah, grant guidance to the people of Daws! O Allah, bring the people of Daws to the right path! O Allah, set the people of Daws on the straight path!’

Then the Prophet said to me:

‘ارْجِعْ إِلَى قَوْمِكَ فَادْعُهُمْ إِلَى اللَّهِ تَعَالَى وَارْفُقْ بِهِمْ’

‘Go back to your people; call them to Allah Almighty and treat them gently.’

Accordingly, when I returned home and preached to my people gently, many people from my tribe accepted Islam.”

Quraish Chiefs Face the Wrath of Allah



Before the Muslims migrated to Madinah, the Quraish of Makkah stepped up their persecution of the Muslims. As the light of Tawhid (Oneness of Allah) spread and people bowed their heads in submission to the One Lord, the anger and antagonism of the Quraish increased. They started publicly persecuting Allah's Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him).

One day, Abu Jahl was sitting with his companions in the compound of the Ka'bah. One of them thought of some mischief and asked who would go fetch the foetus of a she-camel and place it on the back of Muhammad when he prostrated during prayer.

Abdullah bin Mas'ood, who used to graze goats, witnessed this incident and stated:

"The most accursed person among them, Uqbah bin Abi Mu'ait rose, fetched the foetus, and waited for the Prophet to prostrate. After a while, when Allah's Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) went down to prostrate, this accursed person placed the foetus on his back between his shoulders."

The band of the Quraish laughed so much that they fell on each other. Allah's Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) remained in prostration and did not raise his head. Abdullah bin Mas'ood said: "I was the weakest person in my community. I witnessed the whole incident, but could not do anything. If only I had the power to rescue him!"

"When Allah's Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) went down to prostrate, this accursed person placed the foetus on his back between his shoulders."

Meanwhile, a man went to the house of Allah's Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) and informed Fatimah Az-Zahra (May Allah be pleased with her), who was a young girl at that time. She rushed to the Ka'bah, removed the filth from her father's shoulders, and cursed and rebuked the wrongdoers. Allah's Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) raised his head from prostration and said thrice: "O Allah! It is for You to deal with the Quraish."

The invocation by Allah's Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) against the Quraish hung heavy on them because they believed that prayers in Makkah are always answered. Afterwards the Prophet named them in his prayer: "O Allah! It is for You to deal with Abu Jahl, 'Utbah bin Rabi'ah, Shaiba bin Rabi'ah, Walid bin 'Uqbah, Umayyah bin Khalaf and 'Uqbah bin Abi Mu'ait." Allah's Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) also mentioned the name of the seventh person, which the narrator could not recall.

After some time, the battle of Badr was fought and the men who were cursed went to the battlefield. Abu Jahl, who had initiated the mischief, was fatally injured by two young men from the Ansar.

After the battle was over, Allah's Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) asked the Companions to see how Abu Jahl had died. The Companions dispersed to search for Abu Jahl. As chance would have it, Abdullah bin Mas'ood found him close to death and put his foot on his neck.

When the small-statured Abdullah bin Mas'ood lifted his chin to cut his throat, Abu Jahl opened his eyes. Abdullah bin Mas'ood said,

وَالَّذِي نَفْسِي بِيَدِهِ لَقَدْ رَأَيْتُ الَّذِينَ عَدَّ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ ﷺ صَرَعَى فِي قَلْبِ بَدْرٍ

"O enemy of Allah! At last Allah has humiliated you."

Abu Jahl replied, "How have I have been humiliated? You are killing a person of such a stature who has no match in the Quraish." Then he added, "(I wish) that some honorable person had murdered me instead of farmers!"

Shortly before his death, Abu Jahl asked Abdullah bin Mas'ood, "Tell me who has been victorious today?" He replied that Allah (SWT) and His Prophet had won.

Then he put his foot on the neck of the Pharaoh of the Muslim Ummah, Abu Jahl, who was unable to move because of his severe wounds. Even so, Abu Jahl said: "O goat herder! You have put your foot on a high and tough place." The Companion did not listen and beheaded him. The dead bodies of all the accursed persons including Abu Jahl were dragged and thrown into a pit near the battlefield.

"Allah's Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) raised his head from prostration and said thrice: "O Allah! It is for You to deal with the Quraish."

Abdullah bin Mas'ood said: "By the One Who has my soul in His hands! I saw all those persons lying dead in the dirty pit of Badr whom Allah's Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) had invoked against by name."

Dear readers, everyone faces difficult times in their lives. One should not become despondent but should stretch one's hands towards the Truthful, Merciful and Compassionate Lord and pray to Him. If Allah (SWT) so wills, the prayer will be answered and the distress relieved. Enemies will face humiliation, just as the enemies of Allah's Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) suffered defeat.

The Final Decision Lies with Allah (SWT)

When the Caliph Yazid bin Abdul Malik ordered that a rebel be executed, the condemned man spoke out and said: “Shortly Allah Almighty will provide the means for my release because He issues a new command for His people every day.”

Yazid said: “By Allah! I am about to behead you.” Then he ordered his officials to take him away to be slain.

The soldiers made the arrangements and were about to execute him when the famous tabi'i scholar Haisam bin Aswad Nakh'i arrived on the scene. He belonged to the elite of Kufa, was a famous speaker, excellent poet and an authentic narrator of hadith. Yazid bin Abdul Malik held him in high esteem. When he saw the rebel, he said: “O Commander of the Faithful! Hand this culprit over to me.” Yazid looked at him and said: “He is yours.”

The rebel left with the following words on his lips: “The Caliph challenged Allah and swore to kill a person, but Allah wished me not be slain.”

Allah's Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) Prays for 'Umar bin Akhtab

Once Allah's Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) touched the head of 'Umar bin Akhtab with his hand and prayed for him: "O Allah! Make him beautiful."

With the blessing of the prayer of Allah's Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him), he was granted exceptional beauty and lived for a hundred years. His hair was still black despite his old age and he had an exceptionally beautiful appearance.

A Case of False Testimony

During the caliphate of the Umayyad ruler Marwan bin Hakam, a woman named Arwa bint Uwais filed a case against Sa'id bin Zaid, one of the ten Companions who received tidings of Paradise in his lifetime.

Arwa claimed that he had seized a piece of her land. The dispute was brought before Marwan who summoned Sa'id very respectfully. The Companion had grown very old at this time. When the hearing started, he said: "How could I occupy her land after what I heard from Allah's Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him)?" Marwan said: "O Companion of the Prophet! Tell me what you heard from Allah's Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him)?" He replied:

مَنْ أَخَذَ شِبْرًا مِنَ الْأَرْضِ ظُلْمًا فَإِنَّهُ يُطَوَّقُهُ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ مِنْ سَبْعِ أَرْضِينَ

"I heard Allah's Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) say that he who wrongly occupies even a span of land would be made to wear seven earths around his neck."

Marwan said that after listening to the Companion's words, there was no need for any evidence, argument or witnesses to be brought forward, so he disposed of the case.

Sa'id was after all a Companion of the Prophet, who was insulted in his old age, accused and summoned to the court. He raised his hands heavenwards and prayed:

اللَّهُمَّ إِنْ كَانَتْ كَاذِبَةً، فَعَمِّ بَصَرَهَا وَاقْتُلْهَا فِي أَرْضِهَا

"O Allah! Turn this lying woman blind and kill her in her own land."

So it turned out that the woman went blind. One day as she was walking on her land, she fell into a pit and died.

A Little Girl is Saved



I heard this story when I was sitting in I'tikaf at Masjid Abdullah Al-Rajihi, a major mosque in the city of Riyadh, in the holy month of Ramadan in 1431 AH. Numerous religious scholars gave lectures during I'tikaf at the mosque. A person related the story and said that the famous Egyptian scholar Ash-Shaykh Muhammad Hassan had confirmed its veracity.

There was a woman who lived with her father-in-law, daughter and granddaughter in an Egyptian town. The family was very poor and often did not have anything to eat.

Then the little granddaughter fell sick and they had no money to pay for her medical treatment. One night her condition deteriorated seriously. The grandmother in desperation spread out a prayer mat and implored her Lord: "O my Master! I have nothing to eat at home, but I don't complain to You. Now my granddaughter has fallen seriously ill; I don't have any money for her treatment. I have pinned my hopes only on You. It is only You Who can help me out."

"O my Master! Now my granddaughter has fallen seriously ill; I don't have any money for her treatment. I have pinned my hopes only on You. It is only You Who can help me out."

She kept praying for a long time with hands outstretched, when suddenly there was a loud knocking at the door. When the door was opened it was a doctor with his medical case. He asked the woman where her granddaughter was. Then he examined the child, prescribed medicine for her and said that the medicine should be immediately bought from some pharmacy. He said there was no need to worry as the child would recover, Allah (SWT) willing.

The poor woman said that they didn't have any money to buy medicine. The doctor retorted, "If you don't have money for medicine, how will you pay my fee?" The family said that they did not have anything to offer.

The doctor's face turned red with anger and he said that if they did not have money, they should not have called him. They replied that they had not made any telephone call and did not even have a telephone connection at their home. He asked them who had called him. "Is this not your address?" he said reading out the address from a piece of paper.

"Providence so willed that the prayer of the old woman was answered. Allah had mercy on her and the doctor inadvertently came to their house instead of going to their neighbor's place"

What had happened was that their neighbor's daughter was also seriously ill and had called the doctor. Providence so willed that the prayer of the old woman was answered. Allah had mercy on her and the doctor inadvertently came to their house instead of going to their neighbor's place.

Meanwhile, the neighbor overheard their conversation and the doctor went over to the other house as well. He treated the other child and also received confirmation that the grandmother had spoken the truth.

He returned to the first house and said: “Don’t worry. I take it upon myself to bear the expenses of your child’s treatment. I’m also arranging a monthly stipend for your household expenses.” Later he sent the medicine for the child. Allah, the Lord of Honor, cured her and even arranged for money to cover their household expenses.

Penance for Idle Talk

Abu Hurairah reported Allah's Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) once saying:

“If a person sits in company where he indulges in idle talk but utters the following prayer before leaving, it will serve as penance for what happened in the company:

‘سُبْحَانَكَ اللَّهُمَّ وَبِحَمْدِكَ أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا أَنْتَ أَسْتَغْفِرُكَ وَأَتُوبُ إِلَيْكَ‘

‘O Allah! Glory be to You, and with Your praise I testify that there is no truthful God but You. I seek Your forgiveness and I repent to You.’

The Prayer of Al-Bara' ibn Malik Al-Ansari



Besides being courageous and daring, Al-Bara' ibn Malik ibn Nasr Al-Ansari was mustajab-ud-d'awat. When the Muslims were in a perilous position during the Battle of Yamamah (632 CE or 10 AH), the commander of the Muslims, Sayyidina Khalid bin Walid turned to Al-Bara' and said: "Charge, young man of the Ansar, and do your bit." Then Al-Bara' charged forward with his horse, praised and glorified Allah Almighty and said: "O Ansar of Madinah, let not anyone of you think today of Madinah. There's no Madinah for you after this day. Only Allah and Paradise should be in your sight."

Leading his people, he launched a fierce attack on the disbelievers of Yamamah and defeated them. On that day Al-Bara' ibn Malik confronted an exceptionally strong person called the 'Donkey of Yamamah'. Al-Bara' ibn Malik struck him with such a powerful blow that he fell over. Sayyidina Al-Bara' then drew the enemy's own sword and cut his head off with it.

The Muslims broke the enemy ranks and compelled them to seek refuge in a garden where Musailamah the Imposter was hiding. The enemy fighters now had high walls and a strong gate between them and the Muslims.

Thinking only of gaining entry into Paradise, Al-Bara' ibn Malik said to his companions: "Throw me into the garden so I can try to open the gate for you." His companions then helped him over the gate.

"Sayyidina Bara' ibn Malik said, 'O Allah, when we have crushed the ranks of the disbelievers, please call me to You.'"

This was the daring and bravery of this companion. He pitted himself against thousands of apostates. However, he succeeded in opening the gate after extremely intense fighting. He received more than 80 injuries from arrows, swords, spears and sticks. They took him home where he remained under treatment for one month. Sayyidina Khalid ibn Al-Walid himself supervised his treatment. After being nursed back to health, he was again ready to do battle.

Then the Muslims faced another tough challenge on the battlefield of Tustar against the Persians. The Muslim soldiers went to Al-Bara' and said: "Implore Allah; we believe that your prayer will surely be answered." Sayyidina Bara' ibn Malik said, "O Allah, when we have crushed the ranks of the disbelievers, please call me to You." The Muslims then launched an attack that crushed the enemy. Al-Bara' ibn Malik killed many great Persian warriors.

After the battle, the Muslims noticed that Al-Bara' ibn Mali was missing. After searching for him, they eventually found his body among the martyred.

Sayyidina Khalid Bin Walid had gallant warriors like Al-Bara' ibn Malikin his army, who changed the course of history. They confronted and defeated the two big powers of the time. The people trained by Allah's Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) were among the best ever seen.

The Effectiveness of Prayer



I traveled to China in 2004 on a very tiring route. No airline operated regular flights direct from Riyadh to China at that time. It took around 18 to 20 hours to reach my hotel in Chongqing, China via Dubai or Hong Kong or via Doha on a Qatar Airways flight. The city where I was getting our Baba Salam educational laptops manufactured was two hours from Chongqing.

It was 10pm when I reached Chongqing. Although the hotel was very comfortable, I was totally exhausted. I am in the habit of calling an employee of our organization or the owner of the local company to the airport so that he can look into any unforeseen problems.

"I said that I would not let my body be massaged by women, I was not so weak in faith to let that happen."

On that particular night, Abdul Karim received me at the airport. He had worked for us for the last 7 to 8 years. Abdul Karim was born in China and his Chinese name was "Shafing". After I disembarked, I'd told him, "Abdul Karim! I feel badly out of sorts. When I'm extremely tired as I now feel, I can't sleep early."

I asked Abdul Karim to immediately arrange a massage for me. Generally, women offer massage services in China. There are men as well, but they go home at 10pm. However, women are available until late at night.

He phoned a massage centre to check if I could use the facility. They replied that only women were available for massage at that time.

"Whoever gives up a thing for Allah's sake is in return granted a better thing by Almighty Allah."

I said that I would not let my body be massaged by women; I was not so weak in faith to let that happen. I asked Abdul Karim to go to the duty manager to check if they could find some man for the service, no matter how much money they would charge. I was feeling a great deal of pain and my body badly needed rest. I was scheduled to have official meetings with various people in the morning.

He returned disappointed after 15 to 20 minutes and confirmed that only women were available for massage. I absolutely declined to use the service. Then I prayed to the Lord: "O Allah! Following the truthful saying of Your dear Prophet Sayyidina Muhammad:

‘مَنْ تَرَكَ شَيْئًا لِلَّهِ عَوَّضَهُ اللَّهُ خَيْرًا مِنْهَا’

"Whoever gives up a thing for Allah's sake is in return granted a better thing by Almighty Allah."

"I'm not getting myself massaged by a girl for Your pleasure. Now enable me to sleep immediately and relieve my body of pain."

"When I got up for the morning prayer, I felt relieved and lightened. There was no trace of pain or tiredness in my body."

As soon as I uttered the prayer, my eyes started to close. Then I asked Abdul Karim to leave me alone. I can't recall whether he switched the light off. I only remember I was enjoying a deep sleep within a few minutes.

When I got up for the morning prayer, I felt relieved and lightened. There was no trace of pain or tiredness in my body. Allah's Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) has rightly said that Allah Almighty grants a better return if a person sacrifices for Him.

(From the compiler's diary)

A Prayer for Health

Ibn Abbas reported that the Holy Prophet once said: “The person who enquires after a patient whose death is not imminent, and utters the following words seven times sitting by him:

أَسْأَلُ اللَّهَ الْعَظِيمَ رَبَّ الْعَرْشِ الْعَظِيمِ أَنْ يَشْفِيكَ

‘I beg to Allah, the Incomparably Great, the Lord of the Great Throne that He may cure you.’

Allah Almighty cures the patient after this prayer is made by the one enquiring after his health.”



‘O Allah! Grant Him a Good Death’

A Saudi had a dream in which someone told him: “Make arrangements for the Umrah (minor pilgrimage) of the person with this phone number.” The phone number shown in the vision was very clear. When he woke up, he had a vivid recollection of the dream but thought it was his imagination and ignored it.



The next day he had the same dream, so he decided to seek the advice of an imam of a mosque in the neighborhood. After being described the dream, the imam said: “If you have the same dream again, note down the phone number, contact the person and provide him with the means to perform Umrah.”

As expected, he had the same dream a third time, so when he woke up he wrote down the telephone number. When he dialed the phone number later that day, it was a man who answered. After a brief introduction, he said: “I have been asked in a dream to provide you with the means to perform Umrah. I want to accomplish the noble task of getting you to undertake the minor pilgrimage.”

"If you have the same dream again, note down the phone number, contact the person and provide him with the means to perform Umrah."

The person on the other end of the telephone line laughed boisterously and said: “What are you talking about? It’s been ages since I last performed any mandatory prayer and you want me to perform Umrah!”

The one who had the dream implored him: "Look, my brother, I want you to go on Umrah. I will bear all the expenses." After arguing for a while, the person agreed to the offer on condition that the man who had the dream accompany him and brings him back to Riyadh at his expense. He agreed to the demand.

When the two met each other later, the dreamer noticed that the other person appeared to be quite wicked. His face betrayed that he was a drinker who rarely prayed. The dreamer was extremely astonished that he had been asked three times to take such a person to perform Umrah.

They then left for Noble Makkah to perform Umrah. When they arrived at the Meeqat, they took a bath and assumed Ihram before moving on towards the Holy Sanctuary.

When they arrived in Makkah, they circumambulated Allah's House, offered a two raka' prayer at Maqam Ibrahim, performed Sa'y between Safa and Marwa, had their heads shaven and thus completed their Umrah. Then they prepared to return home.

When they were about to leave the Holy Sanctuary, the person who had been persuaded to perform 'Umrah, said: "Friend, let me offer a two raka' prayer before leaving this sacred place. I'm not sure whether I'll ever be able to perform 'Umrah again." The other fellow had no reason to object to this noble wish, so he told him to pray to his heart's content.

So the man started to pray. He then prostrated for a long time. When it was quite late, the friend called him but got no response. Seeing his body was totally motionless, he jumped up to see if he was fine. When he touched him, he was shocked to discover that he was dead. This was the person of whom he had such a low opinion, but who had died in a state of prostration in Allah's house.

He envied his friend for dying in this manner, and with tears in his eyes, said to himself, "I wish we could all die like this!"

This fortunate person was given his last bath with Zamzam water and shrouded in the two sheets of unstitched cloth that he had worn while performing Umrah. Hundreds of thousands of Muslims performed the funeral prayer in the Sacred Mosque asking Allah to forgive his sins.

"He would buy food for our family and for the widow and her children. The woman who got the food prayed that Allah should grant him a good end!"

True to his promise, his friend had his body transported to Riyadh where it was buried. His family went to his house to offer their condolences. After a few days, the man who had the dream went to see his widow. After offering his condolences for her loss, he asked the woman what qualities her husband had which had resulted in him dying in such a good way in the Holy Sanctuary. He said that all God-fearing and righteous Muslims aspired to die in this manner.

The widow said: "Brother, you know my husband was not a gentleman. He had given up praying and fasting a long time ago. He was fond of drinking and kept a bottle of wine next to his bed. He went to sleep at night after drinking wine. He also drank wine before going out. I can't remember anything worthwhile about him."

"Oh yes, one thing good about him was that he helped a destitute widow and her little kids who live in our neighborhood. When he went to the bazaar at night, he would buy food for our family and for the widow and her children. When he came back from the bazaar, he would put food at her door and then call her to pick it up. The woman who got the food prayed that

اللَّهُ يُحْسِنُ خَاتِمَتَكَ

"Allah should grant him a good end!"

Dear readers, this is how Allah Almighty answered the prayer of that widow. The drinker died in a manner that is surely the envy of every Muslim. Allah's Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) has rightly said:

صَنَائِعُ الْمَعْرُوفِ تَقِي مَصَارِعَ الشُّوْءِ

"Good deeds save a person from a bad death."

A Christian Physician Converts to Islam

A religious scholar and his forty students living together near Baghdad, Iraq, did not have a proper source of income, except donations from people. If they received something to eat, they thanked Allah; and if they did not, they starved patiently without complaining.

After some time, the area was afflicted with a drought and the people stopped giving them donations. This worsened their already precarious situation.

"We have run out of food and drink. Islam forbids us from sitting idle. So let's leave this place and try to get some food somewhere."

One day the religious scholar said to his students: "We have run out of food and drink. Islam forbids us from sitting idle. So let's leave this place and try to get some food somewhere. Allah Almighty has commanded in His holy Book:

﴿فَامْشُوا فِي مَنَاكِبِهَا وَكُلُوا مِنْ رِزْقِهِ وَإِلَيْهِ النُّشُورُ﴾

'So walk in the paths thereof and eat of His provision. And to Him will be the Resurrection. (Al-Mulk 67: 15)'

"I would like to see a student of mine agree to this suggestion and leave this place. He should try to get some food for us," said the scholar.

So a student volunteered and left for Baghdad. As he reached a suburb of the city, he experienced intense hunger pangs and became so weak he could barely walk. His self-respect would not allow him to beg. He could not find anyone to help him.

He was becoming increasingly despondent when he saw a Christian physician's clinic. The place was crowded with patients being treated by the physician. The starving student also entered the clinic and sat to one side.



A beautiful mosque of Baghdad, Iraq

After a while, the physician saw him and asked what he was suffering from. He held out his hand helplessly so that the physician could feel his pulse. The physician felt his pulse and smiled: "I have diagnosed your disease and I know how to cure it." He then called his servant to immediately bring him some loaves of bread, roasted meat and halwa (a traditional eastern sweet).

The young man said to the Christian physician: “Sir, I am not the only one who is suffering from this disease; there are forty other persons undergoing the same ordeal.”

The physician called his servant to bring food for forty persons. The servant returned after some time with enough provisions for forty people. Then the Christian physician said to the young man: “Take along an employee of mine and immediately deliver the food to your fellows.”

"The Christian physician then called his servant to immediately bring him some loaves of bread, roasted meat and halwa for the Muslim student."

When they left with the food, the physician thought that he should find out whether the young man was telling the truth, so he followed them. When the student reached the place where his teacher and fellows were staying, he gave them the food.

The starving students wanted to eat immediately but the teacher would not allow them to touch a single morsel. He asked the student: “First tell me where and how you secured this food.” The Christian physician stood quietly at the door listening to their conversation.

When the young man told him everything, the teacher asked the students if they found it appropriate to eat the food sent by the Christian physician without paying him. The students asked the teacher what they could offer in return. The teacher replied, “Let’s pray that Allah Almighty saves from Hell the person who has sent us this food.” Everyone raised their hands and prayed very humbly for the physician to convert to Islam.

When the Christian physician heard their prayers and saw that they were praying for him despite their intense hunger, he broke down and wept. He knocked on the door and asked to enter. When the door was opened and he went in, he took off the cross that he was wearing and said:

أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا رَسُولُ اللَّهِ،

“None has the right to be worshipped but Allah, and Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah.”

The Power to Restore Life

I have good, golden memories of my childhood that include the image of my father chanting poetry in a sweet and melodious voice. I can still remember some of the verses:

“O my Master! Thou have power to do in a twinkling what You want to;

Thou may change hell to heaven and the earth to a galaxy of stars;

People suffering from consumption do show signs of life;

If Thou so wish, Thou may turn the dead into healthy living beings.”

I was quite young at that time, oblivious to what it meant to have the disease of tuberculosis. In the old days, it was called “a major disease” and considered almost incurable. One who contracted it was bound to die. As I grew up, I learnt what tuberculosis implied.

The verses express an intense pain. Once I asked my respected father the meaning of these poetic verses and he said, “A person used to love his wife fervently. As Allah Almighty desired, his wife fell prey to tuberculosis. He went all out to get a cure, but her condition deteriorated rapidly. One day the doctors declared that there was no hope for her.

“In that state of disappointment, he knelt in supplication before his Lord, praised and glorified Him in an extremely pained voice, and then prayed:

‘People suffering from consumption do show signs of life;

If Thou so wish, Thou may turn the dead into healthy living beings.’

“Allah Almighty favored him by answering his prayer and healed his wife by His Grace.” –

From the compiler’s diary

The Spiritual Benefit of Istisqa’



Allah’s Messenger (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) once prayed for Allah Almighty to grant barakah (blessings) on the assets and children of Sayyidina Anas Bin Malik. Anas bin Malik then became very rich because of the Prophet’s prayer.

One day, the keeper of his lands came to him and complained: “We have been afflicted with a bad drought. The soil is parched, trees have withered and the animals are extremely weak and feeble.”

After hearing this sorry state-of-affairs, Sayyidina Anas decided to perform the prayer of Istisqa’. Accompanied by his fellows, he went to an open place outside the populated area, and then prayed. He had hardly finished the prayer when it began to rain in torrents, providing ample water for the parched lands and animals.

Testimony of a Newborn

It has been reported by Sayyidina Abu Hurairah , in Sahih Al-Bukhari and Sahih Al-Muslim, that Allah's Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) said:

لَمْ يَتَكَلَّمْ فِي الْمَهْدِ إِلَّا ثَلَاثَةٌ

"Only three infants spoke in the cradle (in the history of humankind)."

The first was 'Isa (Peace be upon him), Jesus, who defended the virtue of his mother Maryam from the cradle. The story of the second baby, described below, revolves around the morality of a righteous Jew named Juraij.

Juraij was an extremely pious person who often used to pray all night. He had a hermitage built for worship in an isolated area where he dedicated his life to Allah. He was so absorbed in worship and living a life of abstinence that he became totally oblivious to the world around him.

"Furious at being ignored, his mother then cursed him: 'O Allah! Don't let him die until he sees the face of a prostitute.'"

One day, Juraij's mother came to visit after traveling a long distance. He was busy worshipping God when his mother called him, "O Juraij! It's your mother, I'm here." When Juraij heard her call, he said in his heart: "O Allah! My mother is calling me while I'm busy with prayer. Should I keep praying to You or give it up to respond to my mother's call?" He decided that it was best to continue his prayer and did not respond to his mother.

His mother waited for some time and then left. She came back the next day and again called out: "O Juraij! It's your mother." Juraij said to himself: "O Allah! I am busy with your worship while my mother is trying to attract my attention. What should I do?" However, he continued to pray.

His mother left and returned for the third time the following day. Juraij was absorbed in prayer as usual. His mother called again: "Son Juraij! Here I am." Juraij said in his heart: "O my Lord! I am torn between my mother and prayer." But he again decided to continue his prayer and ignore his mother.

Furious at being ignored, his mother then cursed him:

اللَّهُمَّ! لَا تُمِتَّهُ حَتَّى يَنْظُرَ إِلَى وُجُوهِ الْمُؤْمِسَاتِ

"O Allah! Don't let him die until he sees the face of a prostitute."

At this time, many Israelites were jealous of Juraij and his devotion to Allah. They wanted to drag him down to their level of wickedness.

The Israelites flouted Divine injunctions and ignored the importance of the veil. Their men and women mixed freely at parties. It is for this reason that there was rampant adultery, fornication, impiety and wickedness among them.

The curse of his mother coupled with the jealousy of the Israelites conspired to malign the pious life of Juraij. Matters were to become even worse when a beautiful woman of loose morals in the local village went to the Israelites and said: "If you permit me, I will seduce Juraij with my charms." They thought it was a good idea and agreed.

The coquettish woman adorned herself lavishly and went to tempt Juraij, but he did not even bother to look at her. Infuriated, she thought up another scheme to ensnare him. She went to a shepherd who lived near the hermitage and had sex with him. Many months later, when she gave birth to the child conceived from the intercourse with the shepherd, she claimed that it belonged to Juraij.

When the Israelites heard this news, they stormed Juraij's hermitage. They dragged him outside, beat him and demolished his place of worship. When Juraij asked them why they were beating him, the Jews said:

"By Divine Providence, the baby said: '(The) shepherd is my father.'"

"You are guilty of fornication with this immoral woman; and as a result she has given birth to your child."

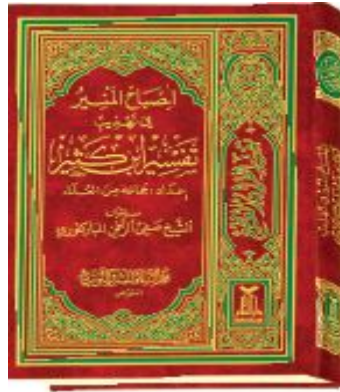
Juraij said: "Stop! Bring the newborn to me."

When the baby was brought to him, he said: "Let me pray." After praying, he went to the child, pressed its belly and asked: "O child! Tell me, who is your father?" By Divine Providence, the baby said: "(The) shepherd is my father."

The child's speech shocked the people and they immediately regretted what they had done to Juraij. They began to kiss and caress him out of reverence, and then said, "We'll rebuild your hermitage with gold." But he rejected their offer and said he wanted one of mud, as it was before. They then rebuilt his hermitage as he had requested.

This incident shows us that the prayer of a pious person is answered by Allah Almighty. It also shows how important it is for a person, no matter how righteous, to please his parents; because even an ordinary curse from a parent can have an adverse effect.

A Traveler's Prayer is Answered!



I've had numerous experiences in my life where my prayers were granted by the Divine Tribunal the moment I sent it up. I'm sure that many other people have also had such experiences. Allah Almighty must have relieved them of their woes and sorrows after receiving their prayers.

According to a holy tradition, the prayer of a traveler is more likely to be answered. In 1997 or 1998, Darussalam accomplished the great project of producing an abridged edition of Tafsir Ibn Kathir, which was completed by a team of religious scholars led by Maulana Abu Ashbal. Maulana Safi-ur-Rehman Mubarakpuri reviewed the work.

That tafsir (explanation of the holy Qur'an) was to be printed in one volume. We decided to print it in Italy. It was a time when Darussalam was progressing in leaps and bounds. In those days, I visited Italy every second or third month and supervised different projects. I used to stay there for four or five days and returned after speeding things up. It was not an easy task for the Italians to print Arabic books. The manager of L.E.G.O. Printing Press, Mr. Mauro Fontanari, treated me with great respect. Whenever I placed an order, he made sure it was printed as early as possible.

"Sorry Mr. Mujahid, we are awfully busy these days. We can't accept any order at this time. And if we do take it, we'll only be able to deliver after some months."

You may call it my overconfidence that I did not inform Mr. Fontanari about my new plan before travelling to Italy. We received an order for three thousand copies of the tafsir from a government institution in Riyadh on condition that we had the copies available in two months. This was a routine matter under normal circumstances. The tafsir could be printed in just two days in Italy.

I got the films prepared in Beirut before I arrived in Italy. When I told Mr. Fontanari about this new project and the timeframe for it, he shrugged his shoulders and said: "Sorry Mr. Mujahid, we are awfully busy these days doing a lot of important and urgent business. We can't accept any order at this time. And if we do take it, we'll only be able to deliver the service after some months."

It was totally unexpected and upsetting to hear this. I was confounded. I tried my hardest to persuade him. I told him that if we failed to supply the book on time as promised, we would be required to pay a fine; and it would damage our organization's reputation. Not impressed in the least, he said: "Sorry sir, I am unable to oblige you this time."

The next night was very tough for me. I was disheartened over this unexpected situation. Then I resolved to make a submission to the Divine Court where the affairs of the whole universe are decided. I stood before my Lord that night and uttered the following supplication:

"O Allah! You know that I am a traveler and You answer the prayers of a traveler. O Allah! May the book somehow be printed on time!" I continued to pray for some time.

I soon learnt that Mr. Fontanari was sympathetic and wanted to help me. When I asked him if someone else could help me in this connection, he replied with a faint smile: "Yes, Mr. Giulio Olivotto, who is the owner of our company, can change the schedule." I recalled that I had already met with him once. He visited the printing press two or three times a year. He had his own plane that he piloted himself. He was the owner of quite a number of companies.

"No matter, when Allah has brought him here, a meeting with him will take place."

I asked when he would visit again. Mr. Fontanari said that he did not know his schedule nor could he ask him for it. A number of our other projects were in progress at that printing press, so I stayed there from dawn to dusk, checking and clearing the proofs.

With only two days of my stay left, Mr. Fontanari picked me up at the hotel early in the morning as usual and said to me, "I have some surprising news for you." I asked him what it was. He replied that Mr. Olivotto was visiting them that day to have a meeting with the director of their company. I jumped with joy. I asked him if I could meet Mr. Olivotto. He said he could not organize an appointment on his own. However, he promised to somehow arrange a meeting if possible. He added that Mr. Olivotto was coming for a few hours and had a hectic schedule. I said, "No matter, when Allah has brought him here, a meeting with him will take place."

My Lord granted my prayer. How the meeting was organized and what we spoke about I will share in my book Golden Memories. In brief, we had a long meeting. He then called in Mr. Fontanari and said: "Mr. Mujahid is an important customer we can't ignore. Dispose of his order first, no matter how hard it may be to change our schedule." Al-Hamdulillah, this is how our tafsir was printed and reached Riyadh in time.

From the compiler's diary

Abu Hurairah Seeks a Prayer for His Mother

Sayyidina Abu Hurairah reported: “My mother was a polytheist who often got angry when I invited her to Islam every now and then.

“One day, I again called upon her to embrace Islam, but she flew into a rage and uttered some offensive remarks against Allah’s Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him). Deeply upset, I went to the Prophet with tears in my eyes and said, ‘I always invite my mother to Islam, and she always refuses. I asked her again to accept Islam today, but she said some things against you that have made me really sad. May I request you to pray that Allah guide my mother?’

“Allah’s Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) prayed very generously and cheerfully: ‘O Allah! Guide Abu Hurairah’s mother to the right path’ My joy knew no bounds to have Allah’s Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) pray for my mother. I returned home and found the door closed from the inside. My mother had heard the sound of my footsteps and said: ‘Abu Hurairah, wait until I open the door. In the meanwhile, I heard splashing of water. Then my mother hurriedly took a bath, got dressed, covered her head with a sheet of cloth and opened the door. As she opened the door, she said, ‘Abu Hurairah! I bear witness that none has the right to be worshipped but Allah, and that Muhammad is His Servant and Messenger.’

“I again went to the Prophet crying with joy and said: ‘O Allah’s Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him)! I have good news; Allah has answered your prayer and guided my mother to Islam.’ The Holy Prophet praised and glorified Allah and prayed for goodness. I further said: ‘Pray that Allah Almighty may instill love for me and for my mother in the believers and let our hearts be filled with their love.’ So he prayed, ‘Let there be love for Your servant Abu Hurairah and his mother in the hearts of the believers and let their hearts be filled with love for the believers.’

“Accordingly, this supplication was answered by Allah so that every believer who hears of me or sees me has love for me.”

Punishment for Torturing an Old Woman

Hassan Bin Abu Ja'far says that when the emir of their town was passing through the bazaar, protocol officials warned everyone: "Give way, give way." People gave way, except an old woman who was unable to walk. Then one of the policemen on duty came forward and started to beat her.

A scholar, Habib Abu Muhammad, who was also mustajab-ud-da'wat, saw the wretched woman being roughed up. Unable to do anything about this cruelty, he raised his hands heavenwards and prayed:

اللَّهُمَّ اقْطَعْ يَدَهُ

"O Allah! Cut off the hand of this cruel and callous policeman."

Three days later, the cruel policeman committed theft and was caught red-handed. The same hand with which he had thrashed the helpless old woman, was cut off as punishment.

The Reward for Hospitality



We take particular care not to miss funeral prayers whenever a friend, relative, or neighbor dies. We pray for Allah Almighty to forgive the deceased, for his soul to rest in peace and for him to gain entry into Paradise. This story is about the importance of funeral prayers:

Abha is a mountainous area in the south of Saudi Arabia with the backdrop of the spectacular Sarwat mountain chain. There are dozens of small villages in the area where simple Bedouins live.

When a Bedouin died in the area, the local people performed his funeral prayer and laid him to rest in a graveyard.

"The dreamer was surprised to see that the Bedouin, who was not considered a pious or God-fearing a person, was in Paradise."

A little while later, a neighbor or the imam of the mosque near the house of the deceased had a dream that he was in Paradise and enjoying its bounties and blessings. The dreamer was surprised to see that the Bedouin, who was not considered a pious or God-fearing a person, was also in Paradise.

When the dreamer asked the Bedouin how he had entered Paradise, the man replied that by the grace of Allah, this had happened because a neighbor prayed for him.

When the dreamer woke up, he decided to visit the neighbor that the Bedouin had identified as the man who prayed for him.

"O Allah! You know that we Bedouins have great respect for our guests. We treat them very generously, even beyond our means. O Allah! This deceased person has gone to You as a guest. Now You may treat him as befits Your glory."

He went to his house and asked him whether he had performed the funeral prayer for the deceased Bedouin. The neighbor said: "Yes, I did offer the funeral prayer for him. I vividly remember praying, 'O Allah! You know that we are Bedouins who live in a village. We extend great respect to our guests. We treat them very generously, even beyond our means. O Allah! This deceased person has gone to You as a guest. Now You may treat him as befits Your glory.'"

Allah the Lord of Honor is certainly kind and compassionate towards His servants and answers their prayers and supplications.

Allah's Messenger (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) Prays for The Companions

After their defeat at the Battle of Hunayn (8 AH or 630 CE), a band of the Banu Hawazin encamped in Awtas. Allah's Messenger (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) dispatched a group of Muslims headed by Abu 'Amir Ash'ari ('Ubaid bin Amer) to deal with these surviving enemy fighters. Sayyidina Abu Musa Ash'ari, whose name was Abdullah bin Qais, was included in this force.

They later faced and killed Duraïd bin Al-Simmah and routed his party. But during this skirmish, a person from the tribe of Banu Hashim fired an arrow at Abu Amer which hit him in the thigh. Abu Musa Ash'ari reported that he went to Abu Amer and asked him: "Uncle, who has struck you with the arrow?" He pointed to someone and said: "That's the person who hit me with the arrow."

Abu Musa charged at him. As the enemy was fleeing, Abu Musa challenged him to a duel saying: "Don't you feel ashamed; why don't you show some mettle." Stung by this insult, the enemy turned and fought, but was killed by Abu Musa. After killing the disbeliever, he went to Abu Amer and said: "Allah has had your attacker slain."

Abu Amer said: "Please draw the arrow from my knee." As he did so, a white substance resembling water gushed from the wound instead of blood. Abu Amer then said to Abu Musa: "Nephew, pay my salaam to Allah's Messenger (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) and ask him to pray for my forgiveness." Then Abu Amer appointed Abu Musa the leader of his army before embracing martyrdom.

Abu Musa narrated: "When I came into the presence of Allah's Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) at his home, he was lying on his cot without a bed sheet. The marks of the cot were visible on his flanks and his holy back. I related the whole incident and communicated to him the message of Abu Amer."

The Prophet of Mercy immediately performed ablution, raised his hands heavenwards and prayed to the Divine Tribunal for Abu Amer:

اللَّهُمَّ اجْعَلْهُ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ فَوْقَ كَثِيرٍ مِنْ خَلْقِكَ مِنَ النَّاسِ

"O Allah! Give him precedence over much of Your creation on Resurrection Day."

When Abu Musa Ash'ari noticed that the Prophet was in an extraordinarily generous mood, he thought he should take advantage of it and asked Allah's Messenger (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) to also pray for his forgiveness. The Holy Prophet granted his request and prayed:

اللَّهُمَّ اجْعَلْهُ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ فَوْقَ كَثِيرٍ مِنْ خَلْقِكَ مِنَ النَّاسِ

"O Allah! Please forgive the sins of Abdullah bin Qais and enter him into Paradise and the abode of honor on Resurrection Day."

Eminent ulama have also drawn the conclusion from this incident that if possible, ablution should be performed before praying.

The End of the Blasphemer



When Allah's Messenger (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) preached Tawhid (Islamic monotheism), Abu Lahab demonstrated the worst kind of enmity and insolence. When the Prophet went to various tribes to call them to Islam, Abu Lahab chased him away by throwing stones at his ankles, saying: "O people! Don't pay (any) heed to the call of this liar."

When Allah's Messenger (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) gathered the Quraish at Mount As-Safa and called out loudly: "Ya Sabahah", Abu Lahab also opposed him. It was on that occasion that Allah Almighty revealed Surah 111, Al-Masad and declared that Abu Lahab was doomed to hell.

"Utbah bin Abi Lahab approached the Prophet and shamelessly shouted at him that he rejected his revelations from Allah."

At that time two daughters of Allah's Messenger (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him), Sayyidah Ruqaiyah and Umm Kulthum, were to marry the two sons of Abu Lahab, namely 'Utbah and 'Utaibah. After the Surah Al-Masad was revealed, Abu Lahab said to his sons: "Look, Muhammad has condemned us. We are not able to look people in the face and have to hang our heads in shame." He said very angrily to his son 'Utbah, who at that stage had married Ruqaiyah: "Divorce the daughter of Muhammad at once." The son agreed to the order.

Then 'Utbah said: "I will go to the father of Ruqaiyah to say such an offensive thing against his Lord that it will shock him." So 'Utbah bin Abi Lahab approached the Prophet and shamelessly shouted at him that he rejected his revelations from Allah. "I disbelieve in:

'By the star when it goes down.'" (Qur'an 81:2 At-Takwir)

He then treated Allah's Messenger (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) with further disrespect by announcing his divorce from his innocent daughter Sayyidah Ruqaiyah. Then the Prophet invoked Allah's wrath on 'Utbah and supplicated:

اَللّٰهُمَّ! سَلِّطْ عَلَيْهِ كَلْبًا مِنْ كِلَابِكَ،

"O Allah! Set one of Your dogs on him."

Allah responded positively to the Messenger's supplication. It so happened that one day 'Utbah set out for Syria with some of his companions and stopped in Az-Zarqa for the night. There a lion approached the group and 'Utbah recalled Muhammad's words, and said: "Woe is me! This lion will devour me just as Muhammad cursed me. Muhammad (wants to kill) me in Syria while he lives in Makkah." As a precaution, the people made 'Utbah sleep surrounded by them and their animals. However, the lion jumped over everyone, grabbed 'Utbah by the neck and killed him.

The area of Az-Zarqa is near Amman, the capital of Jordan. When I travelled there, I also visited Az-Zarqa. The area was once a great centre of trade for the Arabs.

Biographers of the Holy Prophet have a difference of opinion on whether it was 'Utbah or 'Utaibah who was killed by the lion. Maulana Safi-ur-Rehman Mubarakpuri in his book *Ar-Raheeq Al-Makhtoom* (The Sealed Nectar) writes that 'Utaibah mistreated Allah's Messenger (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him), who cursed him and incurred the wrath of Allah (SWT).

Where is Allah (SWT)?



Some people mock Islam and Allah Almighty to demonstrate that they are “modern and enlightened”. What they really show is how confused they are.

This was certainly the case with a young man at a function of the Agriculture Department during the Golden Jubilee celebrations of Ain Shams University in Jordan. He stood up and said in an emotional manner, “If Allah exists in actual fact, then He should make me die as proof of His Being.”

"In fact, he challenged Allah Almighty and Allah Almighty condemned him to the death of a donkey."

His remarks caused shockwaves at the function. Someone whispered that he had tempted fate while another said that Allah Almighty in His wisdom had granted him an extra lease on life. One other person added that such views did not make any difference.

Then the insolent and arrogant young man went home. He felt very proud of himself for saying something that no one else had dared to say at his university.

When he got home, his mother was waiting for him with a cooked meal. He said to her: “Let me freshen up first. I’ll be back from the bathroom in a few minutes.” After taking a bath, he was drying his body with a towel in front of the mirror when all of a sudden he fell down dead.

After a while, his mother called to him: “Hurry up or you won’t be able to enjoy a hot meal.”

"He stood up and said in an emotional manner, “If Allah exists in actual fact, then He should make me die as proof of His Being.”"

Worried, she rushed to the bathroom only to find him lying on the floor. Hoping he was only in a coma, she managed to get him to a hospital. However, doctors who examined him there said he died because water had entered his ear.

Dr. Abdul Razzaq Naufal commented on this incident:

“In fact, he challenged Allah Almighty and Allah Almighty condemned him to the death of a donkey.”

It is said, on authority, that horses and donkeys die instantly if water enters their ears.

Prayer in Trouble & Distress

Renowned muhaddith Hafiz Ibn Hajar Al-‘Asqalani reports in his well-known book, Fateh-ul-Bari, that Abu Bakr Razi lived with Abu Nu‘aym in Isfahan to acquire knowledge of the prophetic tradition. A Sheikh called Abu Bakr Bin Ali, who was also there, was the grand mufti. One day the sultan got angry with the mufti over a fatwa (religious edict) that he had issued, and put him in prison.

“(Later) Abu Bakr Razi saw the Generous Prophet in a vision. To the right of the Holy Prophet was Gabriel - Jibreel - devoted to singing hymns of Allah’s praise. The Holy Prophet said to him: ‘Ask Abu Bakr Bin Ali to recite the prayer for distress given in Sahih Al-Bukhari and Allah Almighty will relieve him of the trouble.’”

"The Holy Prophet said to him: 'Ask Abu Bakr Bin Ali to recite the prayer for distress given in Sahih Al-Bukhari and Allah Almighty will relieve him of the trouble.'"

“Early the next morning Abu Bakr Razi communicated what he had dreamt to Sheikh Abu Bakr Bin Ali. The Sheikh began to repeat the prayer for distress. It did not take much time for the sultan to realize that he had committed a mistake by imprisoning the Sheikh. He then issued orders for the Sheikh to be released from the wrongful confinement.”

Abdullah Bin Abbas reported the following prayer for distress as recommended by Allah’s Messenger (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) in the hadith:

لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ الْعَظِيمُ الْحَلِيمُ،
لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ رَبُّ الْعَرْشِ الْعَظِيمِ،
لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ رَبُّ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَرَبُّ
الْأَرْضِ وَرَبُّ الْعَرْشِ الْكَرِيمِ،

“None has the right to be worshipped save Allah the Incomparably Great, the Compassionate. None has the right to be worshipped save Allah the Master of the Mighty Throne. None has the right to be worshipped save Allah the Master of the heavens and the Master of the earth, and the Master of the Exalted Throne.”

A Prayer for a Disbeliever

The renowned muhaddith Abdullah bin Mubarak was once staying at an inn when he met a very handsome young man, who was a Christian named Hassan bin 'Isa. Abdullah bin Mubarak later raised his hands heavenwards and prayed to Allah Almighty:

“O Allah! Grant him the honor of embracing Islam.”

The young man continued to meet with Abdullah bin Mubarak for a few days and then Allah Almighty answered his prayer: Hassan bin 'Isa entered the fold of Islam after declaring Shahadah.

A Supplication for Rain

Bakr bin Khanis states: “We had no rain for quite some time, so one day we went out to pray for it. The emir of the city and the qadi prayed along with us very humbly.

“There were no clouds in the sky and there appeared to be no chance of rain. I noticed a black man standing on my right side covered in a chador (large piece of cloth). The emir called on the people to go home. People were leaving when I overheard him; with his face covered in the chador, he was praying to his Lord:

‘O Allah! Send down the rain of mercy on us right now so that people may return home happily.’

“As soon as the black man finished his prayer, clouds gathered in the sky and it started to rain heavily. I wanted to meet him but he disappeared into the crowd. I searched all over, but could not find him anywhere.”

The Caliph Prays to Allah Almighty



During the period of the famous Abbasid Caliph Muhammad Ibn Mansur Al-Mahdi (126 AH to 169 AH, or 744 CE to 785 CE), there was a fierce storm with thunder booming in the sky. It became pitch dark as thick clouds covered the sky. The people thought doomsday was approaching. The narrator of this incident, Dawood bin Rashid says:

“A confidant of the Caliph, Sulaiman, noticed that Al-Mahdi was not present in his palace. He began to search for the Caliph. Then he found the Caliph prostrating with his head pressed against the ground and praying to the Divine Tribunal:

اللَّهُمَّ لَا تُشْمِتْ بِنَا أَعْدَاءَ نَا مِنْ الْأُمَمِ، وَلَا تَفْجَعْ بِنَا نَبِيَّنَا ﷺ،

اللَّهُمَّ إِنْ كُنْتَ أَخَذْتَ الْعَامَّةَ بِذُنُوبِي فَهَذِهِ نَاصِيَّتِي بِإِيدِكَ،

‘O Allah! Don’t please our enemies and grieve our Prophet by destroying us. Allah! If You have willed to call to account common people for my sins, then I surrender to You putting this sinful forehead of mine in dust.’

“Sulaiman said that the moment the Caliph ended his prayer, the storm passed, the wind died down and everything returned to normal.”

The Prayers of Grand Mufti Sheikh Ibn Baz

It was a great honor and one of the most significant days of my life when I accompanied Dr. Muhammad Mohsin Khan, the translator of the Noble Qur'an, to meet Sheikh Abdul Aziz bin Abdullah ibn Baz, the grand mufti of Saudi Arabia. He had invited us to lunch with great affection, as was his custom.

When we arrived at his home that day, there were not many guests. When we sat to eat, Sheikh Ibn Baz started to ask me questions about Darussalam. I was astonished to learn that he knew the ins and outs of printing. After lunch, all the guests sat together and was served tea.

In the meantime, some students from America arrived and wanted to ask him some questions. I had the honor of being the interpreter. After the question-and-answer session was over, Sheikh Ibn Baz again asked me about the publication of different books. He was sitting on a sofa while I sat at his feet. Dr. Mohsin Khan beckoned me to put my hands on the Sheikh's knees.

"He was undoubtedly a wali-Ullah (friend of Allah) whose whole life was devoted to learning, teaching, and solving the problems facing the Islamic world."

Then I asked Sheikh Ibn Baz to pray for me. He put his blessed hand on my head and uttered prayers for quite some time. He also advised me to publish the translations of books authored by the salaf salihin (pious predecessors). This was certainly a golden moment in my life.

There is no doubt that Sheikh Ibn Baz was the mujaddid of his age. I once asked Maulana Safi-ur-Rehman Mubarakpuri, the compiler of The Sealed Nectar, who he considered the mujaddid of the century. He replied that there could be more than one mujaddid in every century. He further said that there were two mujaddids in the century we were talking about - Sheikh Abdul Aziz bin Baz and Allama Nasiruddin Al-Bani, the late Albanian scholar.

The Islamic world no doubt benefitted a great deal from these two great men.

I swear that after Sheikh Ibn Baz prayed for me by putting his hand on my head, Darussalam made steady progress. He was undoubtedly a wali-Ullah (friend of Allah) whose whole life was devoted to learning, teaching, and solving the problems facing the Islamic world. Even to this day, I feel the effects of his prayer in all my affairs.

Dear readers, you should also ask some religious scholar to pray for you. Al-Hamdulillah (Praise be to Allah), I still go to unitarian and muhaddith ulama, and have them pray for me. I always get positive results from these prayers. It is quite clear that the prayers of pious men of knowledge are answered. – From the compiler's diary

A Potent Prayer

Fazil Bin Ayaz states: "Had I been a *mustajab-ud-da'wat*, I would have prayed to Allah: O Allah! Give us good rulers. If rulers are good, cities grow green and luxuriant, and thrive; with people who are satisfied and living in peace. On the other hand, if rulers are bad, they ruin habitations and empty the coffers because of their dishonesty and cruelty. They also make life hell for Allah's servants."

‘O Lord, Bless Us With Children’

We had been married for seven years and life was good. I had a wife who was pretty and full of life. But while we were prosperous and comfortable, I had a nagging ache in my heart and a sense of severe deprivation because we still did not have any children.

We had consulted many doctors, tried many medicines and received fertility treatment at home and abroad, but all to no avail. Some doctors declared me impotent while others found my wife infertile. Many others claimed they were able to treat us, but all these attempts were unsuccessful.

"We had consulted many doctors, tried many medicines and received fertility treatment at home and abroad, but all to no avail."

It got to a point where this weighed heavily on us, and all we could talk about at home was our inability to have offspring. Whenever someone recommended a treatment, we would rush off to try it out. We felt we were going to go mad.

One evening, as I was about to cross a road, I noticed an elderly person also poised to cross it. His eyesight was weak, so I held his hand and helped him over. When we stepped onto the divider to wait for the signal to cross another road, the old man asked me if I was married. I replied in the affirmative. Then he asked me how many babies I had. "Dear sir, I've been married for seven years but still don't have any children. I've run from pillar to post for treatment, tried many doctors and physicians but all in vain."

The elderly person said in an affectionate manner: "Son, you have not made the right call. I had the same problem. I did not have a child for many years after my marriage. But I did not give up hope. After every Salah I uttered the prayer made by Sayyidina Zakariya following which he was blessed with Sayyidina Yahya:

﴿رَبِّ لَا تَذَرْنِي فَرْدًا وَأَنْتَ خَيْرُ الْوَارِثِينَ﴾

"O My Lord! Leave me not single (childless), though You are the Best of the inheritors. '"(Al-Anbiya 21: 89)

"Al-Hamdulillah, now I have seven children. You shouldn't lose hope either and keep praying."

I returned home and told my wife what I had experienced. The suggestions of the elderly person appealed to us and we were sorry for ignoring the Divine Court where our wishes were sure to be granted. We firmly resolved to make up for this shortcoming.

Everything has its appointed time as preordained by Allah. A long time ago, an old woman had also offered the same advice to my wife but at that time we still believed in medical science.

Now we were tired of visiting doctors. We began to follow the old man's advice by appealing to Allah Almighty at the time of every mandatory prayer, in the solitude of the night, and during the hours when prayers are more likely to be answered. We implored Allah Almighty: "O Allah! Grant us the blessing of children."

At long last Allah Almighty took pity on us and answered our supplications, blessing us with a cute baby girl.

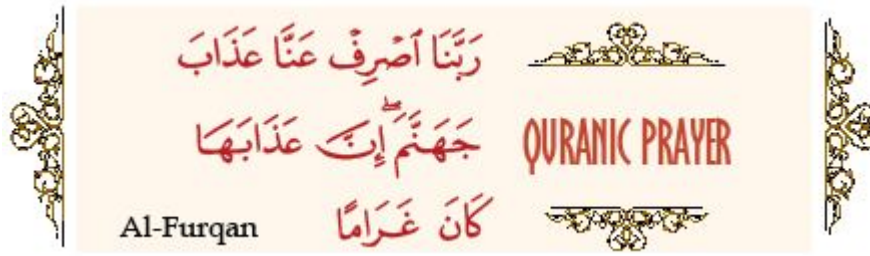
﴿فَتَبَارَكَ اللَّهُ أَحْسَنُ الْخَالِقِينَ﴾

“So, Blessed is Allah, the Best of creators.” (Al-Mu’minun 23: 14)

We were completely overjoyed and continued to pray regularly:

﴿رَبَّنَا هَبْ لَنَا مِنْ أَزْوَاجِنَا وَذُرِّيَّاتِنَا قُرَّةَ أَعْيُنٍ وَاجْعَلْنَا لِلْمُتَّقِينَ إِمَامًا﴾

“Our Lord! Bestow on us from our wives and our offspring the comfort of our eyes, and make us leaders of the Muttaqun (the pious).” (Al-Furqan 25: 74)



The Prophet Prays for Uthman

Before the Battle of Tabuk (8 AH or 630 CE), Allah's Messenger (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) appealed to his holy Companions to donate money for war expenses.

All the Companions agreed, but Sayyidina Uthman surpassed everyone. He had arranged a caravan for Syria that had 200 camels and about 291 kilograms of silver but decided to give it all as a donation for jihad. He thereafter gave another 100 camels loaded with provisions. In addition, he carried 1,000 dinars (about five kilograms of gold) and presented this himself to Allah's Messenger (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him). Grateful for his generosity, the Holy Prophet raised his hands heavenwards and prayed thrice:

“O Allah! I am pleased with Uthman; You may also be pleased with Uthman.”

Business Thrives After the Prophet Prays

Once the Messenger of Allah (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) gave his Companion, ‘Urwa bin Abi Al-Ja’dar Al-Barqi , one dinar to buy a she-goat from the bazaar. He went to the bazaar and bought a she-goat for one dinar.

On his way back, the Companion met a person who bought the goat from him for two dinars. So ‘Urwa went again to the bazaar, bought another she-goat for one dinar and returned to the Holy Prophet.

‘Urwa then gave the Prophet the goat and the extra one dinar. After the Prophet asked him what happened, he told him the whole story. Allah’s Messenger (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) was very happy because of his honesty and capacity for business. He then prayed for the Companion:

‘اللَّهُمَّ بَارِكْ لَهُ فِي صَفْقَةِ يَمِينِهِ‘

“O Allah! Bless his business (his buying and selling).”

Allah Almighty answered the prayer of His Beloved and the business of ‘Urwa bin Abi Al-Ja’dar Al-Barqi prospered. The biographers have written about him:

‘وَكَانَ لَوْ اشْتَرَى التُّرَابَ لَرَبِحَ فِيهِ‘

“If he purchased even dust, he would get benefit from it.”

Once he made a profit of 40,000 dirhams in a single day from buying and selling in the bazaar of Kufa.

A Storm Subsides Instantly



Abdullah bin Habib was a renowned religious scholar and muhaddith of Andulas. He was a mustajab-ud-da'wat person; and prayed all the time.

Once he went on a sea voyage to gain hadith knowledge. At one stage the sea became so rough, everyone thought the boat would capsize. He performed ritual ablution (wudhu) in that hour of trial, raised his hands heavenwards and then uttered a prayer worth reading and hearing:

اللَّهُمَّ إِنْ كُنْتَ تَعْلَمُ أَنَّ رِحْلَتِي هَذِهِ لِرَوْحِكَ خَالِصًا، وَلِإِحْيَاءِ سُنَنِ
رَسُولِكَ، فَاكْشِفْ عَنَّا هَذَا الْغَمَّ وَأَرِنَا رَحْمَتَكَ كَمَا أَرَيْتَنَا عَذَابَكَ،

“O Allah! You know that this journey of mine is purely for Your Pleasure and for the revival of the Sunnah of Your Beloved Prophet. O Allah! Keep this trouble away from us, and do show us Your mercy as You have shown Your torture.”

The instant he finished this prayer, Allah the Lord of Honor by His Grace relieved them of the trouble. The storm subsided, the water became calm and their ship reached the shore safely.

Martyrdom At Home



This incident is mentioned in Siyar A'lam an-Nubala (The Lives of Noble Figures). Haithem bin Imran Tai says: "I was sitting with Ayub bin Halbis - a blind person who had goodness in his nature, leanings towards religion and immense love for Allah – who was making the following supplication:

‘اللَّهُمَّ ارْزُقْنِي شَهَادَةً فِي سَبِيلِكَ’

‘O Allah! Grant me martyrdom in Your way.’”

Haithem said: "I thought to myself that one can (only) embrace martyrdom on the battlefield. He is blind. How can he embrace martyrdom while sitting at home?"

Esteemed readers, it is a matter of heart. If you aspire after a thing from the core of your heart, it is not difficult for Allah, the Lord of the whole universe, to grant your wish. After some time, the enemy invaded Damascus and Ayub Bin Halbis was among the innocents massacred.

When the killers learnt what they had done, they burst into tears and repented. According to Imam Zahbi, this incident took place in 132 AH.

So Allah Almighty granted martyrdom to this man while he was at home.

Abu Hurairah's Fear of Allah

Just before he died, Sayyidina Abu Hurairah wept profusely. When people asked why he was crying, he replied:

‘مَا أَبْكِي عَلَى دُنْيَاكُمْ هَذِهِ، وَلَكِنْ عَلَى بُعْدِ سَفَرِي وَقِلَّةِ زَادِي، وَإِنِّي
أَمْسَيْتُ فِي صُعُودٍ مُهْبِطَةٍ عَلَى جَنَّةٍ أَوْ نَارٍ، فَلَا أَدْرِي أَيُّهُمَا يُؤْخَذُ بِي‘

“I am not weeping for your world, rather I am crying because the journey is too long but the provisions too little. My spirit is about to leave the dungeon of my body and I don't know whether it will be sent to Heaven or condemned to Hell.”

The ruler of the time, Marwan bin Hakam visited him to ask about his health, and before leaving him, prayed:

“Abu Hurairah! May Allah cure you.”

Sayyidina Abu Hurairah replied:

‘اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي أَحِبُّ لِقَائَكَ فَأَحِبِّ لِقَائِي‘

“O Allah, I am eager to meet You so may You also like to meet me.”

Marwan bin Hakam had just reached the middle of the bazaar when the news of Sayyidina Abu Hurairah's demise reached him.

Mercy for the Charitable

Sheikh Saleh Taqi describes in his own words how charity brings blessings and mercy from Allah: “When my five-year-old son fell ill, I could not find any medicines to treat him. With every passing day, his temperature rose higher and higher. He underwent a battery of medical tests to determine what was wrong with him. The diagnosis was not positive. They discovered that he suffered from a virtually incurable disease.”

"It was a time of great sorrow for me. I lost my peace of mind; and could not keep his agonized little face out of my mind."

“It was a time of great sorrow for me. I lost my peace of mind; and could not keep his agonized little face out of my mind. One day I suddenly recalled a saying of Allah’s Messenger (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him):

‘دَاوُوا مَرْضَاكُمْ بِالصَّدَقَةِ’

‘Cure your patients with Sadaqah.’ (As-Sahih Al-Jami’)

“I got up for tahajjud as usual and thought that I should do an act of charity in the dark of the night when no-one could see me. So while others were sleeping soundly in their warm beds, I went out in the freezing cold to find a needy person. I looked all over but could not find anyone. I only saw a cute white cat feeding its kitten with its breast milk. I could see it was hungry. I returned home to get some meat and then went back to give it to the white cat.

“I subsequently went to the mosque for the morning prayer. After praying, I lay down and fell asleep. I then dreamt that quite a large black crow was attacking my child who was screaming and crying for help. Suddenly the white cat that I had fed appeared, attacked the crow, and tore it to pieces. My son was safe and sound.

"If you have mercy on those who live on the earth, the One in heaven will have mercy upon you."

“I woke up and hurried to check on my baby son. There appeared to be signs of health on his face and his temperature had come down. I then took him for a medical examination. The doctors were astonished to find that he had recovered somewhat miraculously. More medical tests were conducted which were all negative for the fatal disease he had contracted. I thanked Allah profusely.

“Now by the Grace of Allah my son has grown up and become a hafiz-e-Quran and a good religious scholar. Whenever I look at him, I think about how sick he once was. I am relating this incident so that every reader can benefit from it and enjoy eternal bliss in this world and the Hereafter by pursuing this course. Allah’s Messenger (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) has said:

‘الرَّاحِمُونَ يَرْحَمُهُمُ الرَّحْمَنُ، ارْحَمُوا مَنْ فِي الْأَرْضِ يَرْحَمْكُمْ مَنْ فِي السَّمَاءِ’

‘The Most Gracious shows His mercy on the one who has mercy on others. If you have mercy on those who live on the earth, the One in heaven will have mercy upon you.’

Moreover Allah’s Messenger (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) said:

‘مَنْ لَا يَرْحَمْ لَا يُرْحَمْ’

'There will be no mercy for the one who does not show mercy to others.'

Repentant Sinners bring Allah Joy

Once Musa asked Allah Almighty: “O Allah! When a pious person of Yours calls You, how do You respond to him/her?” Allah Almighty said:

لَبَّيْكَ يَا عَبْدِي

“I say here I am, O My servant.”

Then Musa asked: “When a sinful person turns to You, how do You respond to him/her?”

Allah Almighty said:

لَبَّيْكَ يَا عَبْدِي، لَبَّيْكَ يَا عَبْدِي، لَبَّيْكَ يَا عَبْدِي

“I say here I am, O My servant; here I am, O My servant; here I am, O My servant.”

Surprised, Musa asked: “O my Lord! When a pious person calls You, he/she gets one reply ‘here I am, O My servant’ but a sinful person gets three replies, ‘here I am, O My servant’.”

Allah Almighty said that the pious person prayed to Him for fulfillment of his or her need (exalted states) whereas, “My sinful person prays to Me in the hope of My mercy.”

“When a sinful person turns to Him, Allah Almighty is happier than the person who has found his lost provisions.”

I have narrated this tradition here because it contains a message similar to a saying of the Blessed Prophet. Allah’s Messenger (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) explained this matter using an example:

“A person is travelling through an arid land. He has supplies of food, drink and provisions loaded onto a riding animal. He halts at a place to rest. When he rises after his sleep, his animal and supplies of food and drink has disappeared. He gets greatly concerned as to how he can survive without eating or drinking and travel such a long distance without the animal. He is totally disappointed. He fears that he will suffer the agony of a slow death.

“You may well imagine how that person feels when he suddenly finds his lost animal with all the supplies of food and drink on it. How happy would he not be? When a sinful person turns to Him, Allah Almighty is happier than the person who has found his lost provisions.”

Assured of Paradise

Allah's Messenger (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) once said: "As many as 70,000 individuals from my Ummah will enter paradise without being called to account." A holy Companion of Allah's Messenger (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him), 'Ukasha bin Mohsin, stood up and said: "Allah's Messenger (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him)! Pray to Allah to include me among those who will enter Paradise without being called to account."

The Prophet replied: "You are one of them."

Another Companion rose and requested: "Pray for me as well that I may also be included among those people."

The Holy Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) replied:

سَبَقَكَ بِهَا عُكَّاشَةُ

"'Ukasha has surpassed you (is assured of Paradise)."

A Woman Entitled to Paradise



Ata bin Abi Rabah was a special student of Ibn Abbas. One day Ibn Abbas said to Ata bin Abi Rabah: “May I show you a woman entitled to Paradise?” Ata replied, “Why not?” Ibn Abbas pointed to a black woman and said that one day she went to the Blessed Prophet and said: “I suffer from epileptic fits during which I lose consciousness and my body becomes uncovered. Can you please invoke Allah so that He can cure me of this disease?” The Holy Prophet said:

‘إِنْ شِئْتَ صَبَرْتُ وَلَكَ الْجَنَّةُ، وَإِنْ شِئْتَ دَعَوْتُ اللَّهَ أَنْ يُعَافِيكَ،’

“If you show patience, Allah Almighty will grant you Paradise in return; and if you prefer, I will pray to Allah that He may cure you of it.”

The woman said: “In that case, I will prefer to stay patient. Please do pray only that I may not get uncovered during fits.” So the blessed Prophet prayed for her.

This lady was wise, patient and grateful to Allah! She was not prepared to exchange anything, including freedom from her illness, for entry into Paradise.

Reading Ayat Al-Kursi After Fard Prayer



Verse number 255 of Surah Al-Baqarah is called Ayat Al-Kursi. There is great significance attached to Ayat Al-Kursi in ahadith (holy traditions). I believe that all of us has learnt it by heart, by the Grace of Allah. If you have not memorized it, please do so right now. Please check if your family, especially the children, have learnt it by heart.

There is great reward for reciting Ayat Al-Kursi after every fard (mandatory) prayer. Abu Umama has reported Allah's Messenger (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) saying:

مَنْ قَرَأَ آيَةَ الْكُرْسِيِّ فِي دُبُرِ كُلِّ صَلَاةٍ مَكْتُوبَةٍ
لَمْ يَمْنَعْهُ مِنْ دُخُولِ الْجَنَّةِ إِلَّا الْمَوْتُ،

“Whoever recites Ayat Al-Kursi after every Salah (prayer), only his death prevents him/her from entering Paradise.”

It only takes about a minute, or less, to read Ayat Al-Kursi. Thank God, the hadith quoted above is authentic.

The Message of a Fish



Ali Bin Harb once decided to go to Samarra from his city of Mosul to buy some goods. At that time the journey between the two Iraqi cities was made by boat across the Tigris River.

Ali Bin Harb and five other people got a boat, and with their provisions on board set sail on a clear day. They were all enjoying the trip; some talked, cherishing old memories while others sang songs.

Gradually everyone fell asleep, except Ali bin Harb, who was enjoying looking at what was happening on the banks of the river.



He said: "All of a sudden a fish appeared on the surface of the water. Before it could dive back under I caught hold of it. The rest of my companions woke up as I struggled with it. When they saw what a big fish it was, they were very happy and thanked Allah. One of them said that the fish could feed all of us and that we should row to the bank to cook it. Everyone agreed with his suggestion.

"When they saw what a big fish it was, they were very happy and thanked Allah. One of them said that the fish could feed all of us and that we should row to the bank to cook it."

"When we reached the bank, a startling scene greeted us. A dead man was lying there who had been killed with a knife. There was another person tied tightly with a rope and gagged with a piece of cloth to prevent him from raising the alarm or crying for help. We were perplexed. We untied the person and removed the cloth from his mouth. He was extremely terrified.

“When I woke up, he was tying me up. I resisted but he had already overpowered me. He forced the piece of cloth into my mouth so that I could not cry for help and seized all my possessions”

“He could hardly speak but managed to say, ‘I am dying for some water, please give me a little water.’ We gave him some; and then he told us what happened: ‘This slain person and I were in a caravan going to Baghdad from Mosul. He thought that I had many possessions and hung around hoping for an opportunity to rob me. The caravan encamped at night for some rest and then resumed its journey during the last portion of the night. I was asleep and nobody woke me up. God knows why they ignored me.

‘This person also did not go with the caravan. When I woke up, he was tying me up. I resisted but he had already overpowered me. He forced the piece of cloth into my mouth so that I could not cry for help and seized all my possessions. Then he pushed me down onto the ground and came at me with the sharp knife. He said that he could not let me live. He said that he was worried that I would cause trouble for him and try to get back my belongings.

‘Motivated by a desperate will to survive, I pushed my body against him with all my strength. Before he could react to my attack, I struck him again with my body. During the ensuing scuffle, the knife penetrated his belly and blood gushed from the wound. He resisted initially but as I pressed hard against him, he bled more profusely, his resistance dissipated and he died. Even after I had killed him, I was sure I would die because I was in such a helpless state. I could not remove the rope or the cloth from my mouth. I was also in an uninhabited area with little chance of someone rescuing me.

‘I began to call on Allah in my hour of helplessness and disappointment. You know that the supplication made by a person who is wronged is never rejected. Thus Allah Almighty sent you to rescue me.’ We then told him how Allah Almighty had brought us there by using the fish.”

“During all the hurly-burly and with our attention focused on the man, we saw that the fish had managed to get back to the river and was getting away. It was clear that the fish had accomplished its task, in compliance with the will of Allah. It had taken us to a place where we had saved the life of a wronged person.”

Prayer for Sa'd bin Mu'az



Sayyidina Sa'd bin Mu'adh was the chief of the Abdul Ashhal, a branch of the Banu Aus tribe. He rendered valuable services in the cause of Islam. He was wounded after an arrow hit him in Battle of the Trench (Ghazwa Ahzab) in 5 AH or 627 CE.

Allah's Messenger (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) ordered that his camp be set up in the prophetic mosque so that he could look after the companion himself. The wound proved fatal and Sa'd bin Mu'adh embraced martyrdom. Allah's Messenger (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) was very shocked at the loss. He placed the head of the devoted companion on his blessed knee and prayed:

"O Lord! Sa'd has really striven hard in Your way. He has believed in Your Prophet and fulfilled his covenant. O Lord, receive his spirit with the best reception with which You receive the spirits of Your friends."

Allah answered his Messenger's prayer. After the funeral prayer of Sa'd bin Mu'adh, the Prophet told the holy companions that 70,000 angels attended his funeral prayer.

Sustenance from Allah



Sayyidina Abu Hurairah states that Allah's Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) once told them about a person who had nothing to eat at home for his family. He was very hungry and very worried. When he left to look for some food, his desperate wife took out the grindstone, lit the oven and raised her hands heavenwards to pray.

"O Allah! Grant us sustenance."

Suddenly the grindstone began to move on its own. She noticed the pot next to the grindstone had been filled. She looked into the oven and found it full as well. When her husband returned home, he smelled food. When he asked her if she had found anything to eat, she said: "Yes, our Lord has provided us with sustenance." Then she told him everything.

The husband was very happy and said: "Let's lift one of the two flat stones of the millstone to see how much wheat is left." When he lifted the stone, Allah Almighty stopped providing the food.

When the incident was reported to the Blessed Prophet, he said:

أَمَّا إِنَّهُ لَوْ لَمْ يَرْفَعْهَا، لَمْ تَزَلْ تَدُورُ إِلَى يَوْمِ الْقِيَامَةِ

"Had he not lifted the grindstone, it would have kept moving (kept providing food) till doomsday."

A Holy Warrior Who Invaded Kabul



Ja'far bin Zaid Al-'Abdi stated: "I was amongst those mujahideen (holy warriors) who launched an attack on Kabul. Silah bin Ashaim was also present in the Muslim army. When we got close to the enemy territory, our emir instructed: 'Nobody should leave the army lest the enemy lays a hand on him.'

"As chance would have it, Silah bin Ashaim lost his mule which was loaded with all his goods. Silah performed ablution, offered a prayer of two rak'ahs and implored Allah: 'O Allah! Return my mule.' The people told him that the army was moving but he continued to pray and say: 'O Allah! I (have full faith and trust in) You that I will get my mule back.' He had not finished his prayer when his mule returned with the goods loaded on it."

I Won't Sell My Reward

Y a'qub bin Ja'far bin Sulaiman stated that he was with Mu'tasim in the battle of 'Umuria when they fought and defeated the Romans.

The background of the battle is quite interesting: A veiled Muslim woman went to the bazaar of 'Umuria for shopping. A Christian shopkeeper teased her and tried to remove her veil. Another Muslim present came to her rescue but the Christian shopkeepers killed him. Helpless, the woman cried: "Ah Mu'tasim! Come help me." All the shopkeepers laughed at her because Mu'tasim was hundreds of miles away and could not hear her cries.

"Helpless, the woman cried: "Ah Mu'tasim! Come help me." All the shopkeepers laughed at her because Mu'tasim was hundreds of miles away and could not hear her cries."

A Muslim who witnessed everything, said to himself: "I will communicate her appeal to Mu'tasim." He then set out until he reached Mu'tasim and gave him the whole account. The moment Mu'tasim heard the story, his face turned red with anger. Holding his sword in his hand, he said:

لَبَّيْكَ يَا أُخْتَاهُ، لَبَّيْكَ يَا أُخْتَاهُ،

"O my sister! Here I am at your service; here I am at your service."

He immediately mobilized his army, one of the largest in Islamic history.

Ya'qub bin Ja'far stated: "Mu'tasim had leather bags filled with water that stretched up to 10 miles, to meet the needs of his soldiers. These water provisions were taken to 'Umuria." Terrified by the invading Muslims, the Romans stayed inside the fort.

When the Muslims laid siege to 'Umuria, a Roman appeared on the wall of the fort and hurled abuses at the Blessed Prophet in Arabic to provoke the Muslims. The Muslims wanted to eliminate the wicked man immediately but they could not reach him with their arrows. They had to wait until they could conquer the fort.

"He took aim at the wicked person and shot him with an arrow that pierced his jugular vein. The blasphemer fell down and writhed on the ground in agony before he died."

Ya'qub bin Ja'far then said, "If Allah so wills, I will condemn him to hell." He took aim at the wicked person and shot him with an arrow that pierced his jugular vein. The blasphemer fell down and writhed on the ground in agony before he died. Jubilant, the Muslims shouted Allahu Akbar (Allah is Great).

Mu'tasim was also very happy and said: "Bring the marksman to me." When Ya'qub bin Ja'far presented himself, Mu'tasim asked him to introduce himself properly.

Ya'qub then proceeded to tell Mu'tasim his name and his lineage. Mu'tasim was really happy to know that Ya'qub was also from the Banu Abbas. The leader of the faithful thanked Allah for honoring a member of Banu Abbas with such a great reward.

Then Mu'tasim said: "Sell me the reward for eliminating the blasphemer against Allah's Messenger (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him)." Ya'qub replied: "O leader of the faithful, the reward (for this good deed) is not for sale." Mu'tasim offered him 100,000 dirhams if he was willing, but he refused to oblige. The leader of the faithful kept increasing the offer, until he offered 500,000

dirhams. Ya'qub said that he would never agree to sell the reward even if Mu'tasim offered him the whole world.

"Then Mu'tasim said: "Sell me the reward for eliminating the blasphemer against Allah's Messenger (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him)." Ya'qub replied: "O leader of the faithful, the reward (for this good deed) is not for sale.""

However, he said to Mu'tasim: "I give you half of the reward as a gift to which the Being of Allah Almighty is witness." Mu'tasim said: "May Allah Almighty grant you a better return! I am pleased with you."

Then the leader of the faithful asked Ya'qub where he learnt archery. He replied that he had learnt it in Basra. Mu'tasim said: "I want to give you a reward for being adept at archery." Ya'qub replied that he did not want any reward and was willing to teach anyone the skill free of charge. Then the leader of the faithful insisted and persuaded him to accept 100,000 dirhams.

The Supplication of Ata Khurasani

‘Ata Al-Khurasani always made this supplication at the end of his meetings:

‘اللَّهُمَّ هَبْ لَنَا يَقِينًا بِكَ حَتَّى تَهْوُونَ عَلَيْنَا مَصِيبَاتُ الدُّنْيَا، وَحَتَّى نَعْلَمَ أَنَّ
لَا يُصِيبُنَا إِلَّا مَا كُتِبَ عَلَيْنَا، وَلَا يَأْتِينَا مِنْ هَذَا الرِّزْقِ إِلَّا مَا قَسَمْتَ بِهِ‘

“O Allah! Grant us such perfect belief (so that) worldly misfortunes and personal adversities are worthless in our eyes. We should have faith that if a misfortune befalls us it has been preordained and we get the sustenance as has been predestined.”

‘Umar Seeks a Child’s Prayer

Sayyidina ‘Umar once saw a child walking in a street of Madinah. He stooped down and said to the little angel: “Son! Pray that Allah Almighty has mercy on us.” The holy Companions asked: “O leader of the faithful! You are asking a child to pray for you, though you are from amongst the Ashara Mubashara.” Saiyyidina ‘Umar replied: “I am requesting him to pray for me because he has not reached the age of puberty or has any sin yet in his register of deeds.”

A Mother Curses Her Son



In the Sanctuary of Makkah in 1422 AH, a person asked the Sheikh: “When I decided to get married, I developed differences with my mother over it. My mother got angry and said, ‘May Allah let you not live in wedded bliss.’”

“Respected Sheikh! I haven’t really experienced bliss or happiness since I married. I did make peace with my mother after the marriage, but despite this I couldn’t find the contentment or peace of mind I was looking for. What’s the reason for this?”

The Sheikh Al-Haram replied that the curse his mother put on him could not be counteracted by her pleasure after they reconciled.

Esteemed readers don’t let your parents get angry with you. Make sure they do not curse you because Allah Almighty answers the prayers of parents for their children.

The Prayer of Sayyidina Daniyal



Sayyidina ‘Ali bin Abi Talib states that Daniyal was brought before King Bakht Nasar (Nebuchadnezzar II) who incarcerated the prophet with two hungry lions.

When they opened the cell after five days, they expected that the lions had torn him to pieces. But they were astounded to see that Daniyal was standing in prayer while the two lions sat beside him as if they were keeping guard.

Bakht Nasar insisted: “Do tell me what you read so that these ferocious beasts could not harm you.” Daniyal said that he had uttered the following supplication:

“All praises are for Allah Who never ignores anybody who invokes and remembers Him; and nobody who attaches hope to Him goes unanswered. All praises are due to Allah Who never breaches the trust of the one who reposes one’s trust on Him. All praises are for Allah Whose support is sure after all other support and hopes fail. All praises are for Allah Who removes our misfortunes. All praises are due to Allah Who returns good with good. All praises are for Allah Who grants salvation as reward for patience.”

Surah Al-Ikhlās (At-Tawhīd)

Surah Al-Ikhlās is the 112th Surah of the Noble Qur'an. Almost every Muslim learns this short Surah by heart. It has an exalted status and glory. The Holy Prophet said that this Surah is equal to one third of the Qur'an.

It explains the doctrine of Tawhīd (Islamic Monotheism) and describes the Glory, Greatness and Attributes of Allah Almighty.

One holy Companion liked this Surah very much. Allah's Messenger (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) once appointed him to command an army unit. In that golden age, the commander was the imam for the prayers. When he led his companions, he would finish his recitation with Surah Ikhlās: Say (O Muhammad): "He is Allah, (the) One."

When they returned to Madinah Tayyibah, the soldiers told Allah's Messenger (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) that their commander recited Surah Al-Ikhlās every time before he bent for ruku'. Allah's Messenger (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) said to them: "Ask him why he did so." They asked him and he said, "It mentions the Attributes of the Most Gracious and I love to recite it." The Holy Prophet said: "Tell him that Allah loves him for this act."

According to another hadith, this Surah will ensure Paradise for the one who recites it.

Dear reader, we should recite this Surah three times every day at dawn and dusk. It hardly takes one and a half minutes and results in significant rewards from Allah (SWT).

Death from Two Sides

A person went to Hisham bin Abdul Malik and said: “O leader of the faithful, something strange happened to me on my way here.” Abdul Malik asked: “What happened to you?” The person replied: “I was going through the two mountains of Tai when a lion came to me from one side and a dragon approached me from the other side. I was trapped and very afraid. I looked towards the heavens and prayed for my survival:

يَا دَافِعَ الْمَكْرُوهِ قَدْ تَرَاهُمَا فَنَجِّنِي يَا رَبِّ مِنْ أَذَاهُمَا
وَمِنْ أَذَى مَنْ كَادَنِي سِوَاهُمَا لَا تَجْعَلَنَّ شُلُوبِي مِنْ قِرَاهُمَا

“O Who removes undesirable things! You see both (these creatures) charging at me. O my Lord! Deliver me from the harm that they can inflict on me. Moreover, save me from the evil designs of a mischief-maker. O Allah! Don’t let them feast on my body.”

When the two wild animals came up to him, he thought he was going to die, but they smelled him and then moved on. “As Allah willed, they spared me.”

Imam Ahmad Bin Hanbal's Prayers

At the behest of the Mu'tazilites, the Abbasid caliph Mamun Al-Rashid, promoted their ideology in a high-handed manner.

Mamun Al-Rashid was informed that Imam Ahmad bin Hanbal was still resisting their campaign, while almost everyone else had been subdued. Mamun ordered that he be arrested. As they brought the imam to the court, Mamun died. The angel of death took his life by the command of Allah.

The Spiritual Influence of Al-Fatihah

During the tawaf (the circumambulation of the Ka‘bah) one day, Imam Ibn Al-Qayyim Al-Jauziyah felt such a pain he was unable to move. He placed a hand where he was feeling the pain and recited Surah Al-Fatihah. He immediately felt relief, as if nothing had happened to him. Imam Ibn Al-Qayyim said he tried the Surah a number of times and invariably found it effective.

Besides Surah Al-Fatihah, Imam Ibn Al-Qayyim also highlighted the importance of zamzam water. “I held a bowl of zamzam water, recited Surah Al-Fatihah over it many times and drank it. I felt healthier than all the medicines put together. It has far-reaching effects. The effects of such holy words are according to the firmness of one’s faith and the strength of one’s belief.”

Total Faith in Allah

A fire once broke out in Basra and gutted many cottages. Astonishingly, one cottage remained completely intact.

At that time, the renowned holy companion Sayyidina Abu Musa Ash'ari was the governor of Basra. When he was informed about the cottage, he summoned its owner and asked him: "How come your cottage has remained safe and sound in that blazing fire whereas all other cottages around have been reduced to ashes!" He gave a surprising reply: "I said to Allah under oath: O Allah! I Swear on You for Your Being that my cottage should not burn."

After listening to his reply, Abu Musa Ash'ari said that he heard Allah's Messenger (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) saying:

سَيَكُونُ فِي أُمَّتِي رِجَالٌ طُلُسُ رُؤُوسِهِمْ،
دُنْسٌ ثِيَابِهِمْ، لَوْ أَقْسَمُوا عَلَى اللَّهِ لَأَبْرَهُمْ،

"There will be some individuals in my Ummah who will have unkempt hair and their dress will be worn-out because of poverty. But if they say something swearing on Allah, Allah shall for surely fulfill it."

The Lost Donkey

Qadi Abu Bakr Abdullah bin Ahmad Al-Qaffal was a renowned religious scholar and a jurist of Baghdad. One of his students, Qadi Hussain stated: “Once I was with Qadi Al-Qaffal when a villager came to him and complained that some agents of the sultan had taken his donkey from him.

“Qadi Al-Qaffat said to the villager: ‘Go take a bath, pray two rak’ahs and ask Allah Almighty to return your donkey to you.’ The villager was amazed that the Qadi (judge) was offering him this advice instead of administering justice. He thought that he could have done this on his own without the judge’s advice. He again filed a claim to have the donkey returned through a court order, but Qadi Al-Qaffal gave the same reply. The villager had no choice but to comply with the Qadi’s direction.

“After he left the court, Al-Qaffal sent an official to recover the donkey. When the villager had prayed and was about to leave the mosque, he found his donkey at the gate of the mosque. He thanked Allah for returning it.

“When the villager left with the animal, Al-Qaffal was asked why he had done so, to which he replied: ‘I wanted him to strengthen his bond with Allah so that instead of thanking us he gave thanks to Allah Almighty.’”

Justice from Allah (SWT)



There was a person who was poor but quite fortunate. His family included his wife, five children, two sisters and an elderly mother. He had a vegetable stall in a poor locality. He did not have the means to move the stall to a better place or sell other commodities to make more money.

His house was old and dilapidated; it was not worth calling a house. It had only one room and a small compound. The whole family had to sleep in that single room. They also had to cook there because they had no kitchen. When the man returned home in the evening, he would sometimes bring meat with vegetables and bread. The family members always received him warmly and gladly. They took the items and then devoted themselves to preparing a meal. They did not eat meat every day, only when he had good sales at the stall, otherwise they lived on vegetables.

A high court judge who lived in their neighborhood was very impressed with the family for being so content, despite their poverty. The judge often said he had never seen such a blessed and fortunate household. He said that when the head of the family returned home in the evening, the whole family received him warmly. He would always hear them praising and glorifying Allah. The judge said he wished he lived in that pleasant environment.

"They were constantly sad and cried often when eating their meal together. The fortunes of the household had changed with the death of the head of the family."

He said that they placed their meal on a big family plate and ate together; and ended the meal with praises and hymns of Allah and prayers recommended by the Holy Prophet. They then went happily and contentedly to their worn-out but neat and clean beds. They did not aspire to have any worldly riches. Their only wish was that they could live life in good health, and not be dependent on anyone.

On one autumn evening, the family was waiting for their head as usual when there was a knock at the door. When they opened up, it was three or four policemen. There was also an ambulance outside. The policemen broke the sad news that the head of their family had died in a road accident. They said that he closed his stall in the evening, bought meat from a nearby butcher, loaves of bread from a baker, and left for home. As he was crossing a road, a speeding vehicle knocked him over and crushed him. The poor soul died instantly.

Hearing the heart-rending news, people gathered together and made arrangements for his last rites. The next morning his funeral prayer was performed and he was laid to rest.

He was the sole breadwinner of the family, so now the big problem facing the bereaved family was how to keep the wolf from the door. The eldest son was just 15 years old and was studying at high school. There was no choice, so the youngster said goodbye to his education and started running the vegetable stall of his deceased father. The family went through the same old routine, but now they did not have any smiles on their faces. They were constantly sad and cried often when eating their meals together. The fortunes of the household had changed with the death of the head of the family.

Those difficult times passed at a snail's pace. When the eldest son reached the age of 18, the government conscripted him for military service. This was a further blow to the family because he was the main breadwinner. They were gravely concerned about what to do next. They thought that if the younger boy dropped out of school and sat at the stall, he would not be educated; but if he went to school, how could the family keep body and soul together? After serious reflection, they arrived at the conclusion that they should sell their house, so that they could deposit money with the government in exchange for the older son's conscription.

"O Master of heavens and the earth! You know my plight. Please provide me with the means to make payment on time for the exemption of my son from military services, so that he can return home and assume the responsibility for supporting the family"

They lived in Iraq where the government was legally empowered to conscript a young man from each house, without offering any compensation to his family. If a household wanted to avoid conscription, it was required to deposit 4,000 dinars with the government exchequer.

The eldest son who had been conscripted was subsequently sent to a military center in a nearby city. He joined the training with a heavy heart. He was not interested at all in learning how to use weapons. His instructors kept lecturing him but he was absorbed in his thoughts. He was constantly worried about his family. On a number of occasions instructors warned and asked him to be attentive but his mind was somewhere else.

One day the instructor asked him what the problem was with him. In response, he told his whole story so the instructor gave up advising him and reported his problem to their officer. Instead of finding some solution to the boy's problem, the officer shifted him to kitchen duty, where he washed dishes, cut meat, made fire and distributed food. It was his duty day and night.

His mother was also restless and worried. She mortgaged the house to a property dealer to get some money for daily expenses; and also put the house up for sale. Interested parties came to see their house and eventually, after around 20 days, it was sold for 4,000 dinars. The documentation for the transaction took another nine days. They only had one day left to deposit 4,000 dinars with the government to reverse the boy's conscription. The government's deadline was 30 days for depositing the amount to nullify the conscription. No applications were allowed after that time.

"On the way he learnt from talking with the naïve woman that she had 4,000 dinars in her possession. He then decided to rob her. He stabbed her several times and left her for dead."

The mother had to go to the city where her son was to pay the amount to the government authorities for his release. The city was 240 kilometers away. When she arrived at the bus stop, there was no one else to go to the city. The driver waited a long time for passengers, but nobody turned up. She was on tenterhooks. The life and honor of her whole family were at stake. She then told the driver she would pay the fare for the whole bus and that he should start driving.

The driver set out on the journey with only the woman. On the way he learnt from talking with the naïve woman that she had 4,000 dinars in her possession. He then decided to rob her. He stopped the vehicle in a deserted area, and forced her off the bus with a dagger. He then stabbed her several times and left her for dead. He took her bag with the money and then drove out to the city. When he reached the bus stand with the empty vehicle, his colleagues were not surprised because this was not an unusual occurrence.

He then waited for several passengers and went back on the same route. As he passed the place where he had committed the crime, he decided to stop, to see the body of the woman. He pretended that he had to answer the call of nature and would be back in a few minutes. When he reached the crime scene, he heard a feeble moan. He was infuriated and said: "O accursed woman! You are still alive." Then he stooped down to pick up a stone so that he could crush her head. When he lifted the stone,

there was a snake underneath, which bit him. He let out a painful cry and fell down writhing in agony. Hearing his cry, the passengers rushed to the spot. They were astonished to find a dying woman who could only utter: "Please get back my bag from the driver." The driver was not in any position to resist.

"Beware of the supplication of a wronged person as no screen intervenes between him and Allah."

When the passengers confronted the driver, he told them where he had hidden the bag. They recovered it and handed it over to the woman. Then the passengers stopped another vehicle bound for the city where the woman wanted to go. They asked the driver of the vehicle to transport the woman and the culprit to the hospital. On the way to the hospital, the culprit died from the snakebite because the venom had spread throughout his body.

However, the woman was hospitalized. The police were informed and investigated the matter. She was still unconscious but the officers found the address of her son in her possession and asked him to come to the hospital immediately. Doctors worked hard to treat her because if she stayed unconscious for too long it could be life threatening. She regained consciousness and opened her eyes slightly the next day. The moment she saw her son, her face lit up with happiness, "Son! I have brought the requisite amount of money. Pay the money to end your conscription and bid farewell to military service. Then she again became drowsy. The boy deposited the amount and was allowed to leave the military. The woman recovered gradually and was eventually discharged.

There were many manifestations of Almighty Allah's Providence in the incident. The driver left the woman half-dead. Had he not stopped at the spot while returning home, no one would have known about the poor woman, because the place was a no-go area with poisonous snakes and wild beasts. Even shepherds feared to go to that area. Her moaning was too weak to be heard by anyone. If the driver had not screamed loudly, no one could have reached her. If she had not been transported to the city of her destination, she would not have found her son. If she had not remained conscious for a few moments, she would not have told her son that the money had been arranged, so that he could pay the money to the government. All this was the doing of the All-Knowing and the Most Powerful Being.

When the judge in the neighborhood got wind of the news, he convinced friends and people living in the vicinity to help the family. They raised money and contacted the person who had purchased the house of the family. That person had also heard about the incident and was willing to return the house. So much money was collected that even after payment of 4,000 dinars, around 3,000 dinars were left over to renovate the home.

The son again took control of his late father's stall and their financial condition changed for the better. Customers from all over came to his stall. After some time, he shifted the stall to a better location. His business thrived and they became prosperous.

As they had not forgotten remembering and thanking Allah in grinding poverty and hard times, they were filled with the passion of thanksgiving to Allah. Many years passed and the children in the family grew up and became educated professionals. One became an engineer, the second a doctor and the third an army officer. Now their meals consisted of not just tea, bread and vegetables - their table was laid with a variety of food. The family was a classic example of those who never forget Allah, in poverty or prosperity.

In 1385 AH, the family moved to a palatial house along the Tigris River near the grand bridge of Baghdad. The family grew into four sub families. All the three elder sons got married and were blessed with children. They remained united in the inseparable bond of love and mutual respect. They never complained about each other. Their mother remained the head of the family. Every person in the family extended her the greatest possible respect.

There is an important point about this incident. When the woman was asked what she did when the driver stabbed her and left her to die, she said she prayed:

“O Master of heavens and the earth! You know my plight. Please provide me with the means to make payment on time for the exemption of my son from military services, so that he can return home and assume the responsibility for supporting the family.”

Allah Almighty answered her prayer and she got back her son and the lost money. The Real Master also dispensed justice against her enemy. Their poverty and adversity turned into prosperity. Allah’s Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) has rightly said:

‘اتَّقِ دَعْوَةَ الْمَظْلُومِ، فَإِنَّهُ لَيْسَ بَيْنَهَا وَبَيْنَ اللَّهِ حِجَابٌ’

“Beware of the supplication of a wronged person as no screen intervenes between him and Allah.”

‘You Are Weak Before Him’

Abdullah bin Muslim bin Muharib committed some mistake in the reign of renowned Abbasid caliph Haroon Al-Rashid; but when he appeared before the caliph, he said: “O leader of the faithful! You are far weaker and more helpless before His Being than I am before you. His Being has more power and authority to punish you than you have over me. Forgive me for the sake of His Exalted Being.” Haroon Al-Rashid forgave Abdullah bin Muslim because he had invoked Almighty Allah’s Power and Providence.

O Allah (SWT), Blind Her

Abu Muslim Khaulani was a great mustajab-ud-da'wat person. It was said about him that once children seeing a deer passing by asked him: "O Abu Muslim! Pray that we can catch this deer easily." Abu Muslim prayed for them and they were able to catch the deer quite easily.

'Uthman bin 'Ata said that when Abu Muslim entered his home, he would say salaam (the Islamic greeting). After he reached the middle of the house, he would utter Allahu Akbar (Allah is the Greatest). His wife would also respond with Allahu Akbar. Then as he entered his room, he took off his chador and shoes. He would then eat food laid out by his wife.

One day he returned home, said Allahu Akbar but he received no response from his wife. Then he again said Allahu Akbar at the door of his room but his wife still did not respond. That day his wife had not lit any lamp either. Abu Muslim noticed that his wife sitting in a sad mood drawing crisscross lines on the ground with a small piece of wood. Abu Muslim asked her what had happened.

The wife replied: "Other people are happier in times of plenty in their houses. You should approach Sayyidina Mu'awiyah and ask him for a servant and other provisions so that our life can also be comfortable." Abu Muslim thought that someone had misguided his wife because she was one who placed her trust in Allah. Then he said: "O Allah! Make her blind who has misguided my wife."

The woman who had misguided his wife was also present. After the holy person uttered the prayer, she suddenly complained that it had become very dark in the house. She said she could not see anything and began to wail and weep. Abu Muslim prayed that Allah should restore her eyesight, and then her sight returned. The woman went home and his wife again became an extremely righteous and God-fearing woman with complete trust in Allah (SWT).

Virtue and Prayer is Never Wasted

This incident is about a Kuwaiti who was a good Samaritan and known for his virtuous acts. He took an active part in righteous deeds that benefitted others. Allah Almighty blessed him with abundant wealth and riches.

One day it so happened, that he wanted to buy a house. He went to an estate agency and told them what he wanted including cost and location. The estate agency received him warmly and informed him that they had a house that would meet his specifications. They offered to show him the property.

The next day an employee of the real estate agency took the virtuous person to the house. During the visit, he saw a woman sitting in a corner surrounded by small children. She was weeping and praying:

“Allah is enough for us against this person who wants to force us out of the house.”

The purchaser hurriedly left the house, with the real estate agent rushing after him and saying: “Sir, do you like the house?” He replied, “Leave it! First tell me the story of that woman and her children.”

The agent said: “Sir, her husband died some time ago. He had two wives. The children from one widow are grown up and now want to get a share from the inheritance while this woman does not have any other house to live in. She is worried because she has nowhere to go with her orphaned children after the house is sold.”

That righteous person heaved a sigh, reflected a bit and then said: “What’s the asking price for this house?” When the agent told him the price, he said he was prepared to purchase the house and would pay the whole amount the next day. In the meanwhile, they should get the legal documents in order.

In short, he got possession of the house in a few days, following which the inheritance was distributed among the legal heirs. The woman and her children received their share as prescribed by Islamic law (Shariah).

One day the new owner entered the house. When the widow saw him, she was very worried and thought that he would surely ask them to vacate the house immediately. She had no option but to weep and seek protection from Allah (SWT).

Then the new owner said to her: “Sister, you don’t need to weep or worry. Take these documents; I have transferred this house to your name. Now you are the exclusive owner.”

The woman did not believe that righteous person’s words. However, when she was assured of the truth of his statement, she raised her hands heavenwards, gave thanks to Allah, and prayed for his health, wellbeing, business, and livelihood. She said: “O man of Allah! May Allah grant you livelihood in plenty and from such a source as you can’t imagine.”

Allah Almighty answered the prayers of the widow and subsequently blessed him with abundant riches, so that he became one of the richest people in Kuwait. Not only that, his children and grandchildren are now also among the most famous and richest people in Kuwait. There is still good and righteousness in them.

This is an incontrovertible fact:

“Is there any reward for good other than good?” (Ar-Rahman: 60)

Sayyidina Ali bin Abi Talib reports Allah’s Messenger (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) saying:

“Allah Almighty has created good and He may create the people who do good. Allah has instilled love for good in their hearts and endeared them good acts. He leads the seekers of good towards good as He makes water flow towards the barren land so that it may be revived and its owners may also become prosperous. Those who have good in this world will have good in the next world.”

Allah Almighty says in His Sacred Book Al-Quran Al-Karim:

“And whatever good you send before you for yourselves (Nawafil – non-obligatory acts of worship: prayers, charity, fasting, Hajj and ‘Umrah), you will certainly find it with Allah, better and greater in reward. And seek forgiveness of Allah.” (Al-Muzzammil: 20)

