



Extracted from the book Call to Righteousness,
written by the Amir of Ahl al-Sunnah امير اهل السنة والجماعة
with additions and adjustments.

The Importance of An Islamic Environment

Shaykh-e-Tareeqat, Ameer-e-Ahl-e-Sunnat
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Majlis-e-Tarajim (Dawat-e-Islami)

دینی ماحول سے روکنے کا نقصان

The Importance of an Islamic Environment

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This booklet was originally written in Urdu by the Amir of Ahl al-Sunnah, Mawlana Muhammad Ilyas Attar Qadiri. **Dawat-e-Islami's Translation Department** has translated it into English. If you find any mistake in translation or composition, please inform the Translation Department on the following postal or email address with the intention of earning reward.

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The Importance of an Islamic Environment

An English translation of *Dinī Māhōul sē Roknē kā Nuqsān*



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الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ وَالصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَى سَيِّدِ الْمُرْسَلِينَ
أَمَّا بَعْدُ فَأَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Du‘ā for reading this book

Read the following du‘ā before reading a religious book or an Islamic lesson. You will remember whatever you study
إِنْ شَاءَ اللَّهُ -

اللَّهُمَّ افْتَحْ عَلَيْنَا حِكْمَتَكَ وَانْشُرْ
عَلَيْنَا رَحْمَتَكَ يَا ذَا الْجَلَالِ وَالْإِكْرَامِ

O Allah عَزَّوَجَلَّ! Open the doors of knowledge and wisdom for us, and have mercy on us! O You Who is most glorious and honourable! (*Al-Mustaṭraf*, vol. 1, pp. 40)

Note:

Recite *ṣalāt* upon the Prophet ﷺ once before and after.

Table of Contents

The Importance of an Islamic Environment	1
Attar's prayer	1
The excellences of reciting ṣalāt upon the Prophet ﷺ	1
When a family opposed the sunnah	2
Modern Muslims and their distance from the sunnah	3
Pushed to heroin addiction	4
The importance of raising one's children correctly	5
Reckless transgression	6
Explaining the poetry of Imam Aḥmad Razā Khān	7
Does a son strike his father?	8
Fate of a negligent father	9
Avoiding Islamic environments because of one's family	11
Success after struggle	12
Terrifying sights post-death	13
Death immediately after shaving	17
Who did the Prophet dislike?	18
The terrifying scene of the Last Day	19
If the Prophet ﷺ becomes displeased	20
A disaster before death	21
Fashion trends and the fashion-minded	21

Grow a beard that pleases the beloved Prophet ﷺ.....	22
Thirty detriments of shaving the beard.....	23
I had extremely evil character.....	25
Dawat-e-Islami's rising number of institutes	26
2 pearls of wisdom regarding Quranic education.....	28

The Importance of an Islamic Environment

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ وَالصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَى سَيِّدِ الْمُرْسَلِينَ
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The Importance of an Islamic Environment ¹

Attar's prayer

O Lord of the Prophet! Whoever reads or listens to the 29-page booklet, *The Importance of an Islamic Environment*, always keep them in and around Islamic environments. Forgive them and their parents without accountability.

أَمِينَ بِجَاهِ النَّبِيِّ الْأَمِينِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ

The excellences of reciting ṣalāt upon the Prophet ﷺ

The final Prophet of Allah ﷺ said, “Beautify your gatherings by reciting ṣalāt upon me, as your recital of ṣalāt upon me shall be light for you on the Day of Judgement.”²

صَلُّوا عَلَى الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ

¹ This content has been extracted from the book *Call to Righteousness*.

² *Al-Jāmi‘ al-Ṣaghīr*: 4580

When a family opposed the sunnah

Dear Islamic brothers!

Regretfully, our circumstances worsen day by day. Depravity is predominant everywhere you look. Immoral fashion trends are firmly in effect. Televisions broadcast all kinds of improper films and programmes. The widespread availability of the internet has opened doors for new forms of tribulation.

In the midst of this, those who call themselves Muslims do not care for the sunnah of Allah's final Messenger ﷺ.

There was once a young man hailing from Karachi's Orangi Town, who bore affiliation with Dawat-e-Islami. He had never shaved and kept his beard right from when it grew (keeping a beard is a renowned sunnah of the Prophet ﷺ).

He sadly contracted blood cancer. I (referring to the Amir of the Ahl al-Sunnah, the author of this work) visited him in hospital. He was close to death and could no longer speak. I was shocked to see his beard had been shaved away. The poor young man raised his hand towards his face with extreme difficulty and made a despairing gesture. It was as if he wanted to say, "مَعَاذَ اللَّهِ" I did not shave my beard. My family did this when I was asleep or unconscious." Sadly, he passed away a few days later.

May Allah forgive him without accountability and grant those who shaved his beard the ability to repent.

اٰمِيْن بِجَاهِ خَاتَمِ النَّبِيِّيْنَ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ

Modern Muslims and their distance from the sunnah

We live in extremely sensitive times. Tragically, those calling themselves Muslims forcefully keep their children away from the sunnah, and they even punish them for doing so on occasion. I have seen a host of similar heartrending incidents – we ask Allah to protect us.

When certain young Islamic brothers came close to Dawat-e-Islami's Islamic environment and grew their beards, their households reacted harshly. For simply growing their beards, they were verbally and physically abused, such that they were even cast out of their own homes. In select cases, some even had their beards cut in their sleep.

Let us now discuss an incident that took place before Dawat-e-Islami came into existence. A young man began spending time with me, and being positively influenced by religious company, he began to say **اَلْسَّلَامُ عَلَيْكُمْ** when entering and exiting his home. He also began saying **اِنْ شَاءَ اللّٰهُ** during his conversations. His parents, who called themselves Muslims, were alarmed by this for some reason. "What is the matter?", they questioned, "Why have you started saying salaam and **اِنْ شَاءَ اللّٰهُ** these days?"

As soon as this poor soul mentioned my name, his family prevented him from spending time with me. They said, "From today, you're

The Importance of an Islamic Environment

not spending any more time with that mullah.” That young man eventually succumbed to modernity.

Pushed to heroin addiction

A young man from Hyderabad (Pakistan) became affiliated with Dawat-e-Islami, circa 1988. Besides now offering salah regularly, he adorned his face with a beard and his head with an ‘imāmah. He also began studying in Madrassat al-Madinah.

He came from a wealthy family, who sadly could not understand the change that had occurred in his life. They stood in staunch opposition to this and caused him immense difficulties, even obstructing him from acting upon the sunnah. They wanted him to leave Dawat-e-Islami’s Islamic environment, to which he would cry, “Don’t force me to do this, or you’ll regret it.”

His words fell on deaf ears. After three years of having his own family oppose him, he left Dawat-e-Islami due to the immense pressure he suffered, shaving his beard in the process. As his elder brother was a doctor, he also enrolled into a medical college in Faisalabad (Pakistan) to become one. He then developed a drug addiction due to being around the wrong people. Falling seriously ill, he was sent back to his family in Hyderabad.

His father spent millions on his treatment to no avail. The young man’s addiction worsened instead, ultimately resulting in him taking cocaine. He lost huge amounts of weight and developed

The Importance of an Islamic Environment

a black layer over his teeth. At the time of writing, he suffers from severe mental and addiction-related issues.

By the grace of Allah, his father is now affiliated with Dawat-e-Islami. He wistfully laments, “If I had realised the importance of Dawat-e-Islami at that time and not prevented my son from being involved with it, this would not have happened.”

May Allah give this young man the ability to recover from his addiction and be involved with Dawat-e-Islami once again.

امِين بِجَاهِ خَاتَمِ النَّبِيِّينَ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ

The importance of raising one's children correctly

This true story holds great admonition for parents who stop their children from attending sunnah-inspired gatherings, travelling in Madani qafilahs, spending time with pious Muslims, growing their beards, following the sunnah, and joining Islamic environments.

Your child is indeed beloved to you, but never forget, they are a slave of Allah, a member of the final Prophet's nation, and a part of Islamic society.

If you cannot raise them to worship Allah correctly; if you fall short in having them act upon the sunnah of the Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ; if you fail to teach them what their

The Importance of an Islamic Environment

responsibilities are as a Muslim, then do not hope for them to obey or listen to you in life.

It is only Islam that teaches children to obey their parents and fulfil their rights. One commonly sees parents who neglected their children's upbringing complaining of the latter's state everywhere they go. They should not forget they themselves are to blame for this.

They taught their children the alphabet, but not how to recite the Quran. They educated them about secular customs and values but did not show them the sunnahs of the Messenger of Allah ﷺ. They lectured them on matters of general knowledge for hours, yet they did not encourage them to seek obligatory Islamic knowledge. They taught their children to love money but not how to love the Prophet ﷺ. They nurtured fear of worldly failure in them, but they did not teach them to fear what will happen in the grave and on the Day of Judgement. They taught them how to say, "Hello, how are you?", but not how to properly greet another with salaam.

Reckless transgression

Dear Islamic brothers! The wanton and open perpetration of sin, the availability of TV and the internet, widespread immorality, and corrupted home environments have all adversely affected our characters and personalities.

Although not impossible, it certainly becomes extremely difficult for a person caught amid this to perform virtuous deeds. This is why parents, alongside taking care of their children's outward appearances, food, clothing, and other necessities, should continuously strive to ensure they are raised in the best possible Islamic manner.

Not only this, but parents should also focus on reforming themselves simultaneously. How can a drowning person rescue others? How can a heedless sleeping person awaken someone else? How can a selfish person raise others to great heights? Parents must perform good deeds, please Allah, avoid sin, strive to be saved from Hellfire, and walk the path to Paradise by the mercy of Allah. They must walk this path themselves if they want their beloved children to do the same.

Dawat-e-Islami is a huge blessing when it comes to putting this into effect. Its publishing wing, Maktabat al-Madinah, has a host of literature for one to read pertaining to how one can go about raising their children in light of the Quran, hadith, and the understanding of our pious predecessors.

Sūnā jungle rāt andhērī chā 'ī badlī kālī hai

Sōnē wālō jāgtē rahiyo chōrōn kī rakhwālī hai

Explaining the poetry of Imam Aḥmad Razā Khān

This couplet could mean:

The Importance of an Islamic Environment

O Muslims! The world is like a deserted jungle. Overhead, a dark night has set in, with black clouds looming. One should not sleep in these frightful circumstances. If by chance one falls asleep, they should awaken immediately, as those who were meant to be protectors have been revealed as robbers and thieves.

In other words, the darkness of negligence and carnal desires has spread everywhere. Never consider the *nafs* and Satan who always accompany you to be your well-wishers. They are not protectors, but thieves. Stay alert at all costs! Stay vigilant! May it not be that these thieves steal your faith.

صَلُّوا عَلَى الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ

Does a son strike his father?

As written in *Tanbīh al-Ghāfilīn*, a person came to the Samarqandi scholar Abū Ḥaṣṣ ḥمزة اللہ علیہ and said, “My son has hit me.”

The scholar was taken aback. “It’s possible for a son to hit his father? This can happen?”, he asked. The person begrudgingly said yes. Abū Ḥaṣṣ then asked if the person had taught his son

Islamic knowledge, manners, and the Quran. The latter replied in the negative for all three.

“So, what does your son do for a living?”, he asked, to which the person explained his son was a farmer. As this discussion went on, the scholar asked the person if he knew why his son struck him, to which the person said he did not.

Intending to rectify the situation and highlight a point to the person, Abū Ḥafṣ then said:

Perhaps he was sat on his donkey and headed to his field for work in the morning, with a bull in front of him and a dog behind. Since he did not know how to recite the Quran and was hence deprived of spirituality, he may have been singing some song in heedlessness. Meanwhile, you must have come in front of him, and he thought you to be a bull.

He then struck you on your head to move you forward. Be thankful your head is not bleeding.¹

Fate of a negligent father

Dear Islamic brothers! Observe the grave consequences of not providing one's offspring with an Islamic upbringing. Today, countless parents complain their children swear and verbally abuse them or threaten to have them thrown out of the home.

¹ *Tanbih al-Ghāfilīn*, p. 68

The Importance of an Islamic Environment

To deal with this, raising children in complete accordance with Islamic law and the sunnah is what shall benefit parents in this world and the Hereafter. Without this, although they shall have temporary succour in this life, success in the Hereafter will be far from reach.

Let us now look at the story of a father who neglected his children's upbringing. The jurist Abū al-Layth Samarqandī رحمه الله عليه said:

Narrations dictate the closest tie to a man being his wife, then his children. They will beseech before Allah (on the Day of Judgement), "O Lord, grant us our right from this man, as he never taught us Islam and fed us haram whilst we were unaware."

The man shall then be beaten severely for earning haram, such that his skin and flesh will come off.

He will then be brought to his scale of deeds. His good deeds shall be brought forth by angels and equal a mountain in size. One of his family members shall come forth and say, "I am short of good deeds." The latter shall then take from some of the man's good deeds. Another will come and say, "You made me consume something earned with interest." They will also take good deeds from him.

In this way, his family will take all his good deeds. He will look at them wistfully and sigh, “Now I am only left shouldering the sins and injustice I committed for you.” Angels will announce, “This is the person whose good deeds have been taken by his family and who has entered Hellfire because of them.”¹

Avoiding Islamic environments because of one’s family

Many Islamic brothers were initially inspired by Dawat-e-Islami, grew their beards, began carrying out obligatory acts of worship, and adopted the sunnah, only to leave everything due to family pressure or external influence.

This servant of Madinah (the author) humbly and lovingly says to those who have experienced this that Dawat-e-Islami is your own sunnah-inspired movement. I ask you to come back to it before death takes you from the joys of this life and stations you in a dark grave. Then, you will rue the missed chances you had to perform good deeds and wish you would have performed as many as possible.

I wholeheartedly exhort you to be strong and take a step forward once again. To save yourself from sin and be consistent in performing good deeds, come back to the sunnah-inspired

¹ *Qurrat al-‘Uyūn*, p. 401

The Importance of an Islamic Environment

Islamic environment of Dawat-e-Islami. Maybe you will not face opposition like last time, as people's thinking changes over time.

If you do face opposition of any kind, you are to deal with it with nothing but kindness, softness, and gentleness. Your character and actions will surely then inspire others towards goodness. Detractors will develop good opinions of Dawat-e-Islami through your forbearance.

Look at this encouraging and heart-warming story.

Success after struggle

An Islamic brother from Muzaffargarh, Punjab (Pakistan), was inspired by Dawat-e-Islami's Islamic environment and grew his beard. **مَعَاذَ اللَّهِ** His home did not contain a religious atmosphere at that time.

Due to this, his family members stood in adamant resistance to his decision. This led him to being pressured into cutting his beard, but he did not cut ties with Dawat-e-Islami completely.

He continued attending sunnah-inspired gatherings whenever he could and consistently offered salah throughout this time. Reinspired, he grew his beard again eventually. His family objected yet again and subjected him to a longer period of disapproval than before. Yet again, he succumbed to pressure and shaved his beard. **أَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ** For the third and final time he grew his beard, but this time, his family did not oppose him like before.

He also adorned his head with an *‘imāmah*, settled comfortably into Dawat-e-Islami, and began working for Islam. Today (at the time of writing), approximately 14 years have passed, and he remains with a beard and *‘imāmah*. May Allah keep him steadfast upon these sunnahs until he leaves this world. He himself says he worries about what would happen if he left this world without acting upon the sunnah.

May Allah always bless Dawat-e-Islami, which took this person from the constricted walkways of ruin and placed him upon the broad path to Paradise. It was this very movement which caused profound inward and outward change in him, leading to his previously obstinate family also acknowledging its positive impact.

صَلُّوا عَلَى الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ

Terrifying sights post-death

Dear Islamic brothers! O those who love Allah’s Messenger! Make sincere and unshakeable intention to grow your beards. This is an auspicious sunnah of the final Prophet ﷺ – no matter what difficulties you face, have firm resolve to hold onto this sunnah and take it into your graves with you. Bear in mind, shaving the beard and shortening it less than a fist-length are both prohibited.

I now present to the reader an extract from Maktabat al-Madinah’s booklet, *Black Scorpions*, with slight amendments.

The Importance of an Islamic Environment

O heedless Islamic brother! Come to your senses! You will be absolutely helpless after death. Your loved ones and well-wishers will take your clothes away and dress you in a funeral shroud. No matter how wealthy you are, you will be wrapped in the same simple shroud given to a lonely person who died with nobody around. If you have a car, it will be left behind in your garage. Your expensive clothes will remain in your wardrobe. Your bitterly hard-earned wealth will be distributed among your heirs. Your family and friends will cry whilst your enemies rejoice. Your loved ones will carry you on their shoulders to a horrifyingly silent place you would never go to alone, especially at night.

The simple thought of being there alone shook you to your core. Today, your loved ones dig a hole in the ground for you, cover you in earth, and leave you completely alone. None of them would spend a night, or even an hour with you where you are buried. Even your children will leave you in the ground by yourself. One by one, your friends and family will disappear from your sight, your heart sinking further into despair each time.

Suddenly, two fearsome angels (Munkar and Nakīr) with terrifying appearances will tear apart the walls of your grave with their lengthy teeth. They will then be right in front of you, with flames blazing from their eyes and menacing black hair trailing down to their feet.

They will forcefully sit you up in your grave and sternly question, مَنْ رَبُّكَ؟ - “Who is your Lord?”, and مَا دِينُكَ؟ - “What is your religion?”

Upon this, all barriers, veils, and obstructions between you and the city of Madinah shall disappear. An indescribably beautiful and handsome face shall be shown to you, or the possessor of this wondrous appearance shall personally arrive.

Perhaps you will lower your eyes in modesty of who is before you, and shame over yourself. Maybe you will wonder:

How can I look up and show my face? Right now in front of me, is my beloved Prophet صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ, whose *kalimah* I would recite. I called myself his devotee and servant; I said I loved him, but I did not display this love by growing a beard.

The Prophet صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ himself said, “Keep the moustache very short, allow the beard to grow.”¹ Unfortunately, I lost myself in the fleeting beauty of this temporary world. Chasing fashion trends left me in ruin. Despite being strictly forbidden by the Prophet صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ, I shaved my beard and made my face like

¹ Sharḥ Ma'ānī al-Āthār li al-Ṭaḥāwī, vol. 4, p. 28

The Importance of an Islamic Environment

that of the non-Muslims! I made my face resemble his enemies!

What will happen now? What will happen if the Prophet ﷺ turns his sacred face away from me and says, “This face resembles that of my enemy, not of my follower.”

Allah forbid, if this happens, then what can we do? What will we feel at that time?

إِنْ شَاءَ اللَّهُ This will not happen. As for us, we must take on the Prophet’s sunnah whilst we are alive. Turn away from fashion trends as well as cultural practices and decorate your face with the sanctified sunnah of Allah’s final Prophet ﷺ, by growing your beard.

Do not fall for Satanic tricks and whispers, such as, “I’m not worthy of keeping a beard yet”, “I’m too young”, “I don’t have enough knowledge yet”, or “If someone asks me a religious question, I won’t know how to answer. When I’m able to do this, then I’ll keep a beard.”

Satan tricks people into thinking they are ‘worthy’. Remember, the biggest sign someone is unworthy is when they think of themselves as worthy. Even accomplished scholars do not answer every single question. Have you taken some kind of duty to answer them all? Do not succumb to the *nafs* and its deceptions. Even if your mother stops you, your father prevents

you, if everyone discourages you, even if your wedding is obstructed; whatever happens, the orders of Allah and His Messenger ﷺ must be obeyed.

Rest assured, if it is inscribed on Lawḥ al-Maḥfūz (the Preserved Tablet) for you to get married, it will certainly occur. If it is not inscribed, no worldly power can change this. How certain can we be of our lives (there is no knowing how long we shall live, so we should immediately take on the sunnah)?

Death immediately after shaving

Someone once told me an incident of a young man from Bangladesh who grew his beard. When his wedding approached, his parents forced him into getting his beard shaved.

He reluctantly went to a barber and had this done. After the shave, on his way home, he was crushed under a fast-moving vehicle while crossing the road and died instantly. All his wedding hopes were dashed. His parents were unable to save him. Neither his marriage took place nor did his beard remain.

Dear Islamic brothers! Come to your senses! Trust in Allah and make firm intention to grow your beards out of love for the Prophet ﷺ. Say, “No matter what happens, nothing will stop me from following this sunnah and keeping a beard.”

Who did the Prophet dislike?

Via the Companion ‘Abdullāh b. Ḥudhāfah رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ, the final Prophet صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ once sent a letter to Khusrow (a wretched Persian king) as an invitation to Islam. When it reached the latter, this despicable individual became angry, tore it up, and barked disrespectful phrases (which I do not want to mention here).

Khusrow then issued an order to Bādhān, his governor in Yemen, who was considered to have control over Arab lands (the drivel spoken by Khusrow is omitted here again). Resultingly, Bādhān ordered for a military team led by Kharkhassarah and a national officer named Bānwiyaḥ to observe the influence of the Prophet صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ.

When they arrived in Madinah and were brought before the Prophet صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ, the veins on their necks pulsated out of awe of the Prophetic presence. Since the two officers were Zoroastrian fire-worshippers, they did not have beards. Instead, their moustaches were grown to cover their upper lips. They used to refer to their king Khusrow as ‘lord’.

The Prophet صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ disliked their faces and said in revulsion, “May you be ruined! Who told you to look like this?” They replied, “Our lord Khusrow told us to.” The Prophet

صَلَّى اللّٰهُ عَلَيْهِ وَاٰلِهٖ وَسَلَّم said, “My Lord has ordered me to grow my beard and to trim my moustache.”¹

The terrifying scene of the Last Day

Dear Islamic brothers! Let us think over this incident. Read it again if you could not understand what took place. Kharkhassarah and Bānriyah were non-Muslims at that time. They were unaware of the rulings of Islamic law. Yet, the Prophet صَلَّى اللّٰهُ عَلَيْهِ وَاٰلِهٖ وَسَلَّم profoundly disliked how they had ruined and distorted the natural beauty of their faces. Despite being sent as رَحْبَةُ اللَّعْلَبَيْنِ, he declared, “May you be ruined!”

On the Day of Judgement, all humans will be gathered, and all will be worried for themselves. Mothers will flee from their sons, and sons will run from their fathers.

At that time, sinners will place all their hopes in none other than the Prophet صَلَّى اللّٰهُ عَلَيْهِ وَاٰلِهٖ وَسَلَّم. All people will have to present themselves before him. Bear in mind, we will be resurrected in the same state in which we die. A bearded person shall be raised with a beard, whilst a clean-shaven person will be raised as such.

O you who peel the sunnah away from your faces! If the Prophet صَلَّى اللّٰهُ عَلَيْهِ وَاٰلِهٖ وَسَلَّم asks if you love him, you shall say, “You are

¹ *Tarikh al-Khamīs*, vol. 2, p. 35; *Fatāwā al-Riḍāwiyyah*, vol. 22, p. 647

The Importance of an Islamic Environment

everything to us! We hold you dearer than even our parents, children and wealth.”

What if the Prophet ﷺ responds by saying:

If you truly loved me more than your parents, children, and wealth, and if you lived in the world just for me and were prepared to die upon my name, why did you make your face resemble my enemies? Did my hadith not reach you?

1. Keep the moustache very short, allow the beard to grow.¹
2. He who acts upon my sunnah is mine, and he who turns away from it is not.²
3. Whoever does not act upon my sunnah is not mine.³

If the Prophet ﷺ becomes displeased

O those fond of fashion! Having reminded you of these hadith, what will we do if the Prophet ﷺ becomes displeased with us? Whose door will you plead at? Whose door will you seek intercession at? Who will save you from the wrath of Allah?

Right now, you still have a chance. You have time if you are still breathing. Repent immediately. Follow the beautiful sunnah of

¹ *Sharḥ Ma'ānī al-Āthār li al-Taḥāwī*, vol. 4, p. 28

² *Tarīkh Ibn 'Asākir*, vol. 38, p. 127

³ *Sunan Ibn Mājah*: 1846

the Prophet ﷺ by growing your beard. Keep this sign of love upon your face. Push aside the wishful thinking, “I am still young”, “I will grow it later”, or “I will keep it after marriage”.

O my naive Islamic brothers! Do not fall for Satanic tricks! He will coerce your friends and relatives to say, “You’re too young to grow a beard. Grow it later.” This is a major Satanic ploy. He has destroyed many using this.

A disaster before death

A young man was once associated with Dawat-e-Islami for almost a year and grew his beard in this time. Perhaps due to the company of bad friends, he shaved his beard and did not attend Dawat-e-Islami’s weekly sunnah-inspiring gathering held in Karachi on Thursday night. On Friday, he went to the shoreline for a picnic along with his friends. He accidentally drowned at sea just 15 days after cutting his beard.

Fashion trends and the fashion-minded

That young man was around 20 years old. According to some, he was not old enough to grow a beard. Yet, is this the reason why he shaved his beard just 15 days before his death? No, it was his destiny and the evil effect of bad company.

May Allah forgive him! This young man left us with an important lesson. Anyone thinking of leaving the Islamic

The Importance of an Islamic Environment

environment of Dawat-e-Islami or adopting the company of those who are fond of triviality, should reflect over this story. May it not be so that you too become a similar story for others.

Fear being destroyed by others who already have been. Maybe the end of your life is drawing close, and Satan is trying his best to ruin you. Perhaps a few moments of bad company could corrupt you to the extent you lose your entire life's worth of good deeds.

Stay away from those who miss salah and indulge in sin. Allah Himself declares in the 68th verse of Sūrah Al-An‘ām:

وَمَا يُنْسِيَنَّكَ الشَّيْطَانُ فَلَا تَتَقَعَّدْ بَعْدَ الذِّكْرِ مَعَ الْقَوْمِ الظَّالِمِينَ ﴿٦٨﴾

And if Satan causes you to forget, then on remembering, do not sit with the oppressors.¹

Grow a beard that pleases the beloved Prophet ﷺ

O those who love Allah's Messenger! Heed my words and do not be arrogant in your youth. Do not make worldly matters an excuse. Come take refuge in the shelter given by the Prophet ﷺ and ask Allah for forgiveness. Also, one must apologise to the Prophet ﷺ and ask him to excuse you.

¹ Al-Quran, 6:68, Translation from Kanz al-'Irfān

This is the court of mercy; no one returns empty-handed. Remove the sign of the enemies of Allah and His Messenger ﷺ from your face forever and adorn it with the goodness of the Prophetic sunnah.

Satan is a devious trickster. Even if you overcome him and grow your beard, he will still attempt to exert control over you by having you keep the beard in an improper fashion. He will try to have you keep the beard following certain fashion trends.

Shaving the beard or shortening it less than a fist-length are both haram. Do grow your beard, but do so in a manner liked by our Prophet ﷺ. Grow it to a complete fist-length.

Thirty detriments of shaving the beard

In the 22nd volume of *Fatāwā al-Riḍāwiyyah* is a work entitled *كَبْعَةُ الصُّلْحَى فِي إِعْقَاءِ الدُّلْحَى*. This discusses the condemnation of shaving the beard and shortening it to less than a fist-length. The end of this work contains some censures, warnings, and punishments related to this. (References have been removed for brevity. Those who wish to see them should refer to *Fatāwā al-Riḍāwiyyah*)

1. Those who shave their beards are disobedient to Allah Almighty and His Messenger ﷺ.
2. They are under Satan's command.

The Importance of an Islamic Environment

3. They display great foolishness.
4. Allah is displeased with them.
5. The Prophet ﷺ is displeased with them.
6. The Prophet ﷺ dislikes seeing such a face.
7. They are not from the group of the Prophet ﷺ.
8. They have changed their nature and distorted what Allah created.
9. They are considered effeminate.
10. They have violated their covenant with Allah.
11. They are not considered honourable.
12. Their action is worthy of repulsion.
13. Their testimonies are not valid.
14. They may fall into destruction.
15. They await divine punishment.
16. They are the enemies of Allah, and He is severely displeased with them.
17. They incur the wrath of Allah morning and evening.
18. Their faces will be distorted on the Day of Judgement.

19. Allah and His beloved Prophet ﷺ have cursed them. They are misfortune in this world and the Hereafter. The curse of Allah, the angels, and humans is upon them. Angels say اٰمِيْن upon their being cursed.
20. Allah will not have mercy on them.
21. They will not enter Paradise.
22. Allah will make them enter Hell - وَالْعِيَاذُ بِاللّٰهِ تَعَالٰى.

I had extremely evil character

Dear Islamic brothers! To develop passion for growing a beard, adorning your head with an *‘imāmah*, keeping sunnah-compliant hair, wearing sunnah-inspired clothing, as well as to learn and teach the Quran, stay with the Islamic environment of Dawat-e-Islami.

Make it your routine to travel with Madani qafilahs and act according to the Pious Deeds booklet.

An Islamic brother from Karachi had extremely wicked character once. He would talk wantonly with his friends late into the night. Neither did he have regard for his parents' honour, nor was he conscious of wasting his precious time. He lived in heedlessness. His family members, however, were extremely upset about his wrongdoings. They tried to help better him, as they feared his misdeeds would give a bad name to the entire family.

The Importance of an Islamic Environment

One day, his brother had him meet a pious person. The latter affectionately invited him to attend a weekly sunnah-inspired gathering of Dawat-e-Islami and to join Madrassat al-Madinah (for adults). The pious person also spoke about the blessings that come from following Islamic law.

This tremendous individual effort had great effect on the man's heart, and he could not refuse the invitation to join Madrassat al-Madinah. By the grace of Allah, he learnt how to recite the Quran correctly. Being around those who love the Messenger of Allah and who live their lives in accordance with sunnah benefited him deeply. He now shows great love for Islam, adorning his face with a beard and his head with an *ʿimāmah*.

Not only is he attempting to lead a life following the sunnah, but also encouraging others to do the same.

At the time of writing, he currently works as a head of affairs, working to propagate the sunnah.

صَلُّوا عَلَى الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ

Dawat-e-Islami's rising number of institutes

The Importance of an Islamic Environment

Dear Islamic brothers! Someone began acting upon the sunnah and calling others to it by the blessings of individual effort and Madrassat al-Madinah.

I humbly request all Islamic brothers and sisters to gain admission to their respective Madrassat al-Madinahs (for males and females). If you have not learnt the correct method of reciting the Quran, I exhort you to do so. If you have learnt how to recite correctly, then begin teaching others by first liaising with your local head of affairs.

At the time of writing (14th Ramadan 1432 AH/15th August 2011), in Pakistan alone, around 766 Madrassat al-Madinahs for boys and 316 for girls are being run for Quranic memorisation and recital. Approximately 72,000 boys and girls are learning the Quran at these institutions.

In addition, the number of Madrassat al-Madinahs for adult Islamic brothers (which are usually held after 'Ishā' for almost 40 minutes) is 3,316.

The number of Madrassat al-Madinahs for adult Islamic sisters (which are held at different timings, ranging anywhere from 8 a.m, to 'aṣr salah, for one hour and 12 minutes) is 3,938.

As per the 10th of Rajab 1432 AH/12th June 2011, there are around 90 Jamiat al-Madinahs for Islamic brothers, whereupon they undergo courses to become scholars. For Islamic sisters,

The Importance of an Islamic Environment

there are 72 of these. There are 6,671 male students and 2,841 female students enrolled in these.¹

Across these institutes, education is provided free of cost. Their expenses are covered through contributions received from generous donators. It is essential for every Muslim to recite the Quran correctly and to be aware of obligatory religious knowledge.

2 pearls of wisdom regarding Quranic education

It is stated on pages 545-546 in volume 1 of *Bahār-e-Sharī‘at*:

1. Memorising one verse of the Quran is individually obligatory for every Muslim who is sane and has reached maturity. Memorising the entire Quran by heart is a communal obligation. It is necessary to memorise Sūrat al-Fātiḥah and one short sūrah, or that which is similar to the latter; for example, three short verses or one long verse.²

¹ **الحمد لله** As of June 2023, the total number of Madaris-ul-Madinah worldwide under Dawat-e-Islami is 14,290 with 456,773 students. A total of 117,588 male and female students have completed Quran memorisation, and 476,321 have completed Qur'ān recital. The combined total of these memorisation and recital students is 593,909.

In this way, the total number of Jamia-tul-Madinahs is approximately 1,350 (boys and girls). The total number of male and female students is 118,613, and the total number of graduates is 28,529.

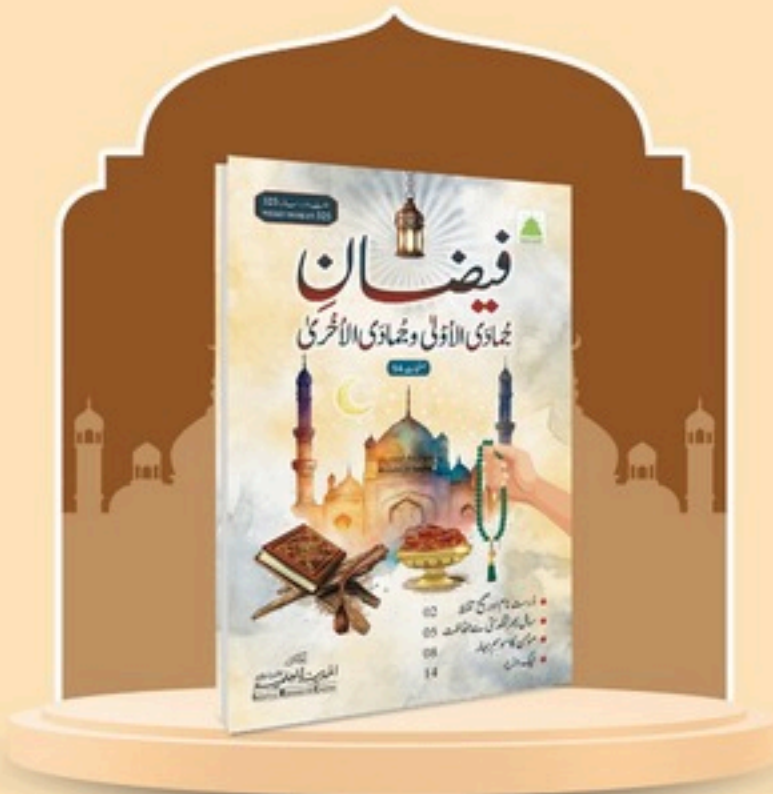
² *Durr al-Mukhtār*, vol. 2, p. 315

2. To be aware of as many jurisprudential rulings as one needs is a pertinent obligation. Learning rulings beyond one's needs is superior to memorising the entire Quran by heart.¹

صَلُّوا عَلَى الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ

¹ *Radd al-Muhtār*, vol. 2, p. 315

Next Week's Booklet



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