

Weekly Booklet



Theft



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چوری ڈکیتی

Theft

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Theft



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الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ وَالصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَى خَاتَمِ النَّبِيِّينَ
أَتَابَعْدُ فَأَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Dua for reading this book

Recite the following before you read a religious book or begin an Islamic lesson; you will remember whatever you study **اِنْ شَاءَ اللَّهُ**.

اللَّهُمَّ افْتَحْ عَلَيْنَا حِكْمَتَكَ وَادْنُرْ
عَلَيْنَا رَحْمَتَكَ يَا ذَا الْجَلَالِ وَالْإِكْرَامِ

O Allah! Open the doors of knowledge and wisdom for us and have mercy on us! O He Who is the Most Glorious and Honourable! (Al-Mustatraf, vol. 1, p. 40)

Note:

Recite ṣalāt upon the Prophet ﷺ once before and after.

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The excellences of sending ṣalāt upon the Prophet ﷺ

جَاءَ رَجُلٌ إِلَى النَّبِيِّ فَشَكَا إِلَيْهِ الْفَقْرَ وَضِيقَ الْعَيْشِ وَالْمَعَاشِ

A man came to the Prophet ﷺ and complained of poverty, hunger, difficult living conditions, and constricted livelihood.

The Prophet ﷺ declared:

إِذَا دَخَلْتَ مَنْزِلَكَ فَسَلِّمْ إِنْ كَانَ فِيهِ أَحَدٌ أَوْ لَمْ يَكُنْ فِيهِ أَحَدٌ

When you enter your home, say **السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكُمْ** whether somebody is there or not.

He further explained to the man, “You are then to send salam upon me and recite **قُلْ هُوَ اللَّهُ أَحَدٌ** once.”

The man did this and Allah unfurled his sustenance, such that he began distributing it to his neighbours and family.¹

¹ Sa‘ādat al-Dārayn, p. 48

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صَلُّوا عَلَى الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ

An angel at the seventh Heaven

The Companion Zayd b. Ḥāritha رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ once rented a mule in Ṭā'if, intending to travel elsewhere. The individual he rented it from was a thief. He had the Companion sit upon the mule and they both departed together, until eventually reaching a quiet and uninhabited area, laden with corpses.

The thief withdrew a dagger and bolted towards the Companion with ill intent, but Zayd b. Ḥāritha رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ said, “Before you kill me, let me offer just two units of salah.” The cursed thief remarked, “You can read salah. Many I have killed before you read salah, but it did not save their lives.”

Zayd b. Ḥāritha رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ recalls:

He attempted to kill me after I finished salah. I exclaimed “يَا أَرْحَمَ الرَّاحِمِينَ” and a voice rang out from the unseen, saying, “O you! Do not kill him!”

The thief was startled and frantically looked around to see who said this. When nobody was found, he advanced yet again to take my life. Yet again, I exclaimed “يَا أَرْحَمَ الرَّاحِمِينَ”.

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We heard a voice from the unseen again. After shouting “يَا أَرْحَمَ الرَّاحِمِينَ” for a third time, I saw a figure riding a horse with spear in hand, the point of which was ablaze. The figure stabbed the spear through the thief’s body, killing him in an instant.

The figure (who was an angel) then said, “When you recited ‘يَا أَرْحَمَ الرَّاحِمِينَ’ the first time, I was at the seventh Heaven. When you said it a second time, I was at the sky of the world. When you said it a third time, I arrived to help you.”¹

May Allah have mercy upon him and forgive us without accountability for his sake.

امِينُ بِجَاهِ خَاتِمِ النَّبِيِّينَ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ

صَلُّوا عَلَى الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ

The oppression that is theft

Huge calamities and massive problems are removed when the name of Allah is mentioned.

¹ Al-Istī‘āb Fī Ma‘rifat al-Aṣḥāb, vol. 2, p. 117; Karamāt-i-Ṣaḥāba, p. 322

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Along with taking up all visible means, we should beseech Allah and ask Him to remove our worries. There are similar astonishing stories of people receiving help from the unseen.

The death of the thief in the previous incident teaches us many lessons. Thieves cause countless worries and problems for people, the latter of whom are already anxious due to rising costs of living. Especially, armed robberies can inflict untold psychological and physical damage.

We hear news and see videos of robberies on social media almost every day. Sometimes, thieves coldheartedly break into the home of a soon-to-be-married girl and make off with her marriage items, which her and her family worked unimaginably hard to gather. Other times, they snatch away the hard-earned wage of a labourer and return home gleefully.

Remember, theft is **haram** and is an action that can take one to Hell.

Allah declares:

وَلَا تَأْكُلُوا أَمْوَالَكُمْ بَيْنَكُمْ بِالْبَاطِلِ

And do not consume the wealth of one another unjustly.¹

In *Tafsīr Khazā'in al-'Irfān*:

¹ Al-Quran, Al-Baqara, verse 188; translation from Kanz al-'Irfān

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This verse renders the illegitimate usurping of wealth as haram, whether done through theft, gambling, forbidden activities, in exchange for haram items, bribery, or false witnesses. These actions themselves are also haram.¹

Those who steal, perform armed robberies, and commit similar injustices; they should all fear Allah's hidden plan.

Death can come anywhere at any time. We even hear stories of thieves who accidentally shoot and kill their partners in crime. Other times, they get into skirmishes with police and lose their lives.

It is enough to understand the evil of theft from the following hadith of the final Prophet ﷺ; "Allah has cursed the thief."²

Those who steal for brief pleasure in this temporary world and amass a horde of haram wealth; they must repent sincerely to Allah. What will happen to them after they die if Allah decides to withhold His mercy from them? Who will save them from being punished in the grave and Hereafter?

Focus on living a modest lifestyle and earning permissible wealth. Even if they manage to steal large amounts of money

¹ Tafsīr Khazā' in al-'Irfān, part 2, under verse 188, p. 52

² Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim: hadīth 4408

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and live a lavish lifestyle, they will die one day, and their wealth will not assist them in the grave. Look at how a deceased person is shrouded. Have you seen any pockets on a shroud?

Perhaps these thieves steal from somebody who then prays against them in anguish, and this dua leads to their ruin in both worlds. Objectively, the lives of thieves, criminals, and other similar people are abhorrent. They live like mice running from cats. On occasion, the public or police deal with them in brutal fashion. Despite the ruthless way they are killed, nobody grieves over their deaths.

May Allah protect all Muslims and save us all from injustice, theft, and other similar calamities. May He bestow upon us death with faith, under the shade of the Green Dome, whilst lost in visions of the Prophet ﷺ. May our final resting place be Jannat al-Baqī'.

اٰمِيْنُ بِجَاةِ خَاتِمِ النَّبِيِّنَ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ

صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ

صَلُّوا عَلَى الْحَبِيبِ

The consequences of theft

Theft

The people who steal wealth and terrify innocent people with weapons should fear Allah, because both Quran and hadith contain innumerable warnings of punishment for thieves. The following verse mentions this:

إِنَّمَا جَزَاءُ الَّذِينَ يُحَارِبُونَ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ وَيَسْعَوْنَ فِي الْأَرْضِ فَسَادًا أَنْ يُقَتَّلُوا أَوْ
يُصَلَّبُوا أَوْ تُقَطَّعَ أَيْدِيهِمْ وَأَرْجُلُهُمْ مِنْ خِلَافٍ أَوْ يُنْفَوْا مِنَ الْأَرْضِ ذَلِكَ لَهُمْ جِزَاءٌ
فِي الدُّنْيَا وَلَهُمْ فِي الْآخِرَةِ عَذَابٌ عَظِيمٌ ﴿٣٣﴾

The only retribution for those who fight against Allah and His Messenger and strive to spread discord within the earth is that they be killed or crucified, or their hands and feet be cut off from opposite sides, or they be banished from the land (of that country). This is humiliation for them in this world, and there is severe punishment for them in the Hereafter.¹

What is theft?

Theft is the act of secretly taking someone's wealth unjustly.²

The wisdom of Islamic punishments

¹ Al-Quran, Al-Mā'ida, verse 33; translation from Kanz al-ʿIrfān

² Bahār-i-Sharīʿat, vol. 2, p. 413, part 9

Theft

Islam administers penalties and punishments according to the nature of the crime.

Minor crimes have small punishments, whilst a major ones incur severe penalties, ensuring societal peace and allowing people to live safely.

There are countless other wisdoms behind this. As long as the Islamic punishment for theft was practised, business caravans laden with valuable goods travelled without fear, and this boosted economy greatly. The situation today is so delicate that people are robbed after they withdraw money from a bank, phones and cash are stolen, the public does not feel safe when travelling by bus, and even those travelling in their own vehicles have the same feelings.¹

Seven hadith regarding theft

- 1) Abū Hurayra رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ reports that the Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ said, “Allah has cursed the thief.”²
- 2) He who steals publicly is not from us.³

Mufti Aḥmad Yār Khān رَحِمَهُ اللهُ عَلَيْهِ said:

¹ Tafsīr Şirāṭ al-Jinān, part 6, under verse 33, vol. 2, p. 423

² Şaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī: hadith 6783

³ Sunan Abī Dāwūd: hadith 4391

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This hadith means, “Whoever is unjust and steals people’s wealth, leaving them helpless; such an oppressor is excluded from my way and group.”

This does not mean these actions nullify one’s faith. Instead, said actions ruin one’s deeds, not their faith. Keep in mind that the punishment for theft varies, and in some cases a thief is put to the gallows.¹

- 3) When a thief steals and a robber loots, they are not mu' mins at that time, as people are then left looking at their wealth with rueful eyes. So, refrain from this, refrain from this.²

Mufti Sharīf al-Ḥaḡ al-Amjadī رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ said:

This hadith could also imply that someone with complete faith could never perform this action, or that it does not befit a mu' min for him to sin.³

Mufti Aḡmad Yār Khān رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ said:

When committing these sins, the sinner has the light of faith removed from him but does not become a disbeliever, nor are these actions disbelief.

When a robber steals publicly whilst the owner of the wealth spectates helplessly or cannot defend himself,

¹ Mir'āt al-Manājīh, vol. 5, p. 305

² Ṣaḡīḡ al-Bukhārī: hadith 5578; Ṣaḡīḡ Muslim, p. 52, hadith 207

³ Nuzhat al-Qārī, vol. 5, p. 749

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the criminal has committed three crimes: taking possession of someone else's wealth unlawfully, stealing publicly, and not feeling regret after hearing the cries of victims. This is a collection of sins which contrast with the status of a believer.¹

Shaykh 'Abd al-Muṣṭafā al-A'ẓamī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ said:

When stealing, the abhorrence of this sin means the light of faith separates from the thief. When he repents, the light returns.

Let it be clear; looting, usurping land and property, borrowing something and not returning it, taking loans and not repaying them, and betraying someone when entrusted with an item etc. are all major sins like theft.

These all can lead to Allah sending His wrath upon an individual and punishing them in Hellfire.²

4) Umm al-Mu'minīn, Lady 'Āisha رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا narrates:

The Quraysh were worried about a woman from the Banī Makhzūm who had committed theft. "Who will intercede for her with Allah's Messenger?", they asked. Some said, "Nobody would dare to do so except Usāma

¹ Mir'āt al-Manājīh, vol. 1, p. 73

² Jahannam Kē Khatarāt, pp. 39-40 Selected

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b. Zayd, as he is loved by Allah's Messenger.”

When Usāma mentioned this to him, the Messenger of Allah ﷺ said, “Do you attempt to intercede in a matter related to a punishment from the punishments of Allah?”

He then stood and delivered a sermon, declaring, “What destroyed those before you was the fact they left a nobleman alone if he stole, whilst if a weak individual did this, they would penalise him. By Allah! If Fāṭima, daughter of Muhammad, stole, I would cut off her hand.”¹

Commentary: Being merciful to a criminal is to punish them correctly without compromise. Upholding the law of Allah ensures safety in the land, and punishments are the rights of Allah which cannot be forgiven by people.

The Prophet ﷺ mentioned his daughter's name to highlight the importance of equality; that every guilty person will be punished irrespective of their status.

¹ Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī, vol. 2, p. 468, hadith 3475

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Allah announced: **وَلَا تَأْخُذْكُمْ بِهِمَا رَأْفَةٌ فِي دِينِ اللَّهِ** – “And let not any pity for them take hold of you in the religion of Allah.”^{1 2}

- 5) I saw a man in Hell who stole the belongings of ḥajj pilgrims with his crooked staff. When people saw him steal, he would remark, “I am not a thief. These things have just gotten caught on my staff.” He was leaning on it in Hell, saying, “I am the thief with a crooked staff.”³

Commentary: The man with the **مِجْن** (i.e. stick)⁴ was named ‘Amr Ibn Laḥā. He stole wherever he went. In fact, he was a serial thief who stole the clothes of ḥajj pilgrims in broad daylight without getting caught. If he was apprehended, he claimed the items got caught on his staff. Otherwise, he stole freely.⁵

صَلُّوا عَلَى الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ

تُوبُوا إِلَى اللَّهِ! أَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ

¹ Al-Quran, Al-Nūr, verse 2; translation from Kanz al-‘Irfān

² Mir‘āt al-Manājīh, vol. 5, p. 309

³ Jam‘a al-Jawāmi‘, vol. 3, p. 27, hadith 7076

⁴ The word **مِجْن** is used in this hadith which means: a staff affixed with iron on its ends and with a curved hook, like a hockey stick. (Asha‘at al-Lam‘āt, vol. 3, p. 57)

⁵ Mir‘āt al-Manājīh, vol. 4, p. 316

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صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَى الْحَبِيبِ

- 6) Oppression shall take the form of darkneses on the Day of Judgement.¹

Mufti Sharif al-Ḥaq al-Amjadī رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ explains this hadith:

When someone oppresses others, he commits many sins. He disobeys Allah and his Messenger and harms weak Muslims. He also may swears whilst stealing, or commits them all these actions at once, as is often seen. This is why as punishment, the sins of the oppressor will become darkneses which engulf him.²

- 7) A body sustained with haram will never enter Paradise.³

Imam Dhahabī al-Shāfi‘ī رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ explains:

Those who fall under this warning are robbers, thieves, comedians, traitors, fraudsters, those who borrow something but do not return it, those who deceive when weighing and measuring products, those who conceal the faults of a product when selling it, and gamblers.⁴

¹ Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim: hadith 6577

² Nuzhat al-Qārī, vol. 3, p. 668

³ Musnad Abī Ya‘lā: hadith 79

⁴ 76 Kabīra Gunāh, p. 90

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In *Mir 'āt al-Manājīh*:

Just as a piece of cloth drenched in oil catches fire quickly, the flesh fed by usury, bribery, gambling, theft and other forbidden methods of acquiring wealth will burn quickly in the fire of Hell.

Since food makes blood and blood makes flesh, one's food should be pure, or the foul effects of haram food effect the entire body.¹

The robber who looted a caravan alone

Before repenting and becoming a famous saint, Fuḍayl b. 'Iyāḍ رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ was a very dangerous thief who could loot an entire caravan without help.

Once, a caravan took up stay in his neighbourhood as night set in. As he drew near intending to steal, he heard some people of the caravan say, "Let's not stay here and take another route. There's a dangerous bandit around here, named Fuḍayl,"

Hearing this, he began trembling and shaking. He then exclaimed "O people! I am Fuḍayl b. 'Iyāḍ, standing before you. Pass by here with no fear. You are safe from me. By Allah! I will never disobey Him again after today." He left, repented from all his sins, and began walking the path of sainthood.

¹ *Mir 'āt al-Manājīh*, vol. 4, p. 258

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According to one narration, he invited the people of the caravan to his home and said, “Consider yourself safe from Fuḍayl b. ‘Iyād.” He then left to bring food for their animals, and as he returned, he heard someone reciting this verse:

أَلَمْ يَأْنِ لِلَّذِينَ آمَنُوا أَنْ تَخْشَعَ قُلُوبُهُمْ لِذِكْرِ اللَّهِ

Has Has the time not come for those who believe that their hearts submit to the remembrance of Allah¹

He began to cry and place earth on his clothes. “Yes, of course!”, he said, “By Allah! The time has come, the time has come.” He continued crying and repented of his sins.²

May Allah have mercy upon him and forgive us without accountability for his sake.

امِينُ بِجَاهِ خَاتِمِ النَّبِيِّينَ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ

صَلُّوا عَلَى الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ

Be brothers!

When someone steals, he usually commits more sins in the process.

¹ Al-Quran, Al-Ḥadīd, verse 16; translation from Kanz al-‘Irfān

² ‘Uyūn al-Ḥikāyāt, p. 212

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These include scaring Muslims, harming them, physically abusing them, using weapons, making away with money, and hurting women to take their jewellery.

Our beloved Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ once asked, “Do you know who a Muslim is?” The Companions رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُمْ replied, “Allah and His Messenger know best.” He proclaimed, “A Muslim is he from whose tongue and hands ‘other’ Muslims remain safe.”

The Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ also asked, “Do you know who a true mu'min is?” The Companions replied, “Allah and His Messenger know best.” He explained, “A mu'min is he from whom people of faith consider their lives and wealth to be safe.”¹

In another hadith: “O slaves of Allah! Be brothers! A Muslim is the brother of a Muslim. Do not oppress him or humiliate him.”²

The Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ said, “Do not scare another Muslim, as this is an immense oppression.”³

An additional hadith: “Whoever unjustly looks at a Muslim with an intimidating gaze; for this, Allah shall make him fearful on the Day of Judgement.”⁴

¹ Musnad Imām Aḥmad: hadith 6942

² Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim: hadith 6541

³ Al-Targhīb wa al-Tarhīb: hadith 4301

⁴ Al-Mu‘jam al-Kabīr: hadith 7536

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Misfortunate folk

The Prophet ﷺ said:

مَنْ أَدَى مُسْلِمًا فَقَدْ أَدَى اللَّهَ وَمَنْ أَدَى اللَّهَ فَقَدْ أَدَى اللَّهَ

Whoever harms a Muslim harms me, and whoever harms me
“harms” Allah.¹

He also declared, “Whoever ‘harms’ Allah shall be punished by Him in the end.”²

Shaykh Ismā‘īl al-Ḥaqqī رَحِمَهُ اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ said:

Harming a Muslim is to harm the Prophet ﷺ, and harming him is an action which displeases Allah.

If a person harms the Prophet ﷺ and displeases Allah, he becomes cursed in this world and the Hereafter. The very same applies to he who he harms Muslims.³

The Ṭābi‘ī Mujāhid رَحِمَهُ اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ said:

The inmates of Hell will be punished with a severe itch. One of them will scratch himself until his bones appear through his skin.

¹ Mu’jam al-Awsat, vol. 2, p. 386, hadith 3607

² Sunan al-Tirmidhi, vol. 5, p. 463, hadith 3888

³ Tafseer Ruh al-Bayan, part 22, under verse 58, vol. 7, p. 239

Theft

A call will be made to him, asking, “O so-and-so! Does this hurt you?” He will say yes in reply. The voice will explain, “You hurt Muslims. This is punishment for that.”¹

صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ صَلُّوا عَلَى الْحَبِيبِ

The robber who became a saint

When Allah wills for somebody to be guided, it happens without delay. Abū Bakr b. Hawā رَحِمَهُ اللهُ عَلَيْهِ was a robber who could steal from huge groups of people by himself.

A caravan once stopped near him and set up tents. As he drew nearer, he heard a woman speaking to her husband in a tent, saying, “Night is near and Abū Bakr b. Hawā is in this forest. Let us hope he does not come here!”

This is what led to him being guided. “Abū Bakr”, he said to himself, “Women in tents fear you, yet you do not fear your Lord!” He repented immediately and returned home.

In his sleep, he saw the Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ and Abū Bakr al-Şiddīq رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ in his dream. He asked if he could give bay‘a, and the Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ declared, “Your namesake will take bay‘a from you.”

Abū Bakr al-Şiddīq took bay‘a from him and placed his ‘imāma upon the head of the latter. When Abū Bakr b. Hawā awoke, he

¹ Iḥyā’ al-‘Ulūm, vol. 2, p. 242

Theft

found the ‘imāma with him. He later founded the Hawāriyya spiritual order.¹

May Allah have mercy upon him and forgive us without accountability for his sake.

اٰمِيْنُ بِجَاهِ خَاتِمِ النَّبِيِّينَ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ

صَلُّوْا عَلٰى الْحَبِيْبِ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلٰى مُحَمَّدٍ

The boiling water of Hell

Abū al-Nūr Bashīr Kotlawī رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ writes:

As for those who earned money from usury, bribery, fraud, and other impermissible means, they will be made to stand before the true King (Allah) on the Day of Judgement. He will give them boiling water from Hell to drink, whilst they must account for their misdeed. All thieves will be seized.

Repent now and save yourself from this.²

Greater oppressor than a thief

¹ Jāmi‘ Karāmāt al-Awliyā’, vol. 1, p. 425; Malfuzāt Alā Hazrat, p. 445

² Sachī Hikāyāt, vol. 3, p. 16

Theft

In *Tafsir Qurṭubī*, “Thieves who stole from travellers and citizens are considered oppressors. Allah shall set upon them an even greater oppressor.”¹

The sin of murder

Some animalistic thieves increase their punishment in Hell by murdering the sole earner of the house, who leaves a widow and orphans behind. Sometimes, thieves shoot at others when they fear being caught or when faced with resistance. Even if they are not caught by the police and avoid the law, they will be captured and subject to severe punishment on the Day of Judgement if they do not repent sincerely.

Some criminals avoid jailtime through bribes or due to their influence, but there will be no escaping punishment on the Day of Judgement.

Killing an innocent Muslim is a major sin. Quran and hadith teach us of the stern penalty that comes with this.

وَمَنْ يَقْتُلْ مُؤْمِنًا مُتَعَمِّدًا فَجَزَاءُ جَهَنَّمَ لَخِلْدًا فِيهَا وَغَضِبَ اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَلَعَنَهُ وَ

أَعَدَّ لَهُ عَذَابًا عَظِيمًا ﴿٤٣﴾

¹ Tafsir Qurṭubī, part 8, under verse 128, vol. 4, p. 62

Theft

*And whosoever kills a Muslim intentionally, then his retribution is Hell; he will reside therein for a lasting phase, and Allah has placed His wrath upon him, and deprived him of mercy; and He has prepared severe punishment for him.*¹

The punishment for murder

Killing a Muslim is not a minor issue. Today, people resort to killing each other over small arguments, whereas hooliganism, terrorism, family disputes, and fighting are also common. The blood of Muslims is flowing like water nowadays, and the punishment for this in the Hereafter cannot be withstood.

The Prophet ﷺ said, “If all inhabitants of the earth and skies gathered to kill a Muslim, Allah would cast them all into Hell on their faces.”²

In another hadith: “In the sight of Allah, the murder of a mu'min is more significant than the world being destroyed.”³

صَلُّوا عَلَيَّ الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيَّ مُحَمَّدٍ

Disgrace on the Day of Judgement

Sharaf al-Dīn Ḥusayn b. Muhammad Ṭibī رَحِمَهُ اللهُ عَلَيْهِ said:

¹ Al-Quran, Al-Nisā', verse 93; translation from Kanz al-'Irfān

² Al-Mu'jam al-Ṣaghīr, vol. 2, p. 205

³ Sunan al-Nasā'ī: hadith 3992

Theft

A thief who stole zakat or other money in the world will be raised carrying the wealth he stole. If he stole an animal it will scream loudly, and all gathered on the Day of Judgement will come to know he is a thief, leaving him embarrassed and disgraced.”¹

The rank of martyrdom

If a person is patient when his money is stolen, he will receive the reward of giving charity. He who is killed whilst protecting himself, his wealth, or family, dies as a martyr.

The Prophet ﷺ explained:

Whoever dies protecting their wealth is a martyr. Whoever dies protecting himself is a martyr. Whoever dies protecting their religion is a martyr. Whoever dies protecting their family is a martyr.²

A wonderful thought

Shaykh Aḥmad b. Ḥarb’s neighbour was a victim of theft. The shaykh and his friends went to visit him.

The neighbour welcomed them with a smile on his face. “We heard you have been robbed and have come to support you during your distress”, the shaykh beamed.

¹ Sharḥ Ṭībī: under hadith 1779

² Jāmi‘ al-Tirmidhī: hadith 4101

Theft

The neighbour replied:

Yet, I am thanking Allah for what has happened, and are three things I must give thanks for as a must.

People took my property but not my life. I still possess half my wealth. My worldly condition was negatively affected, but my faith remains intact.¹

May Allah have mercy upon him and forgive us without accountability for his sake.

اُمِّينُ بِجَاهِ خَاتِمِ السَّيِّدِينَ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ

سُجِّدَ لِلَّهِ True slaves of Allah have these wonderful thoughts. Yes, the neighbour's wealth was stolen, but not all of it. Most importantly, he thought about how his faith remained untouched and completely intact. The pious never complained. They were patient and always content with the will of Allah. Faith is an invaluable treasure, and if it remains safe, there is no need to feel grief. We must try our utmost to protect it.

Praying for a thief

Rabī'ī b. Khuthaym's رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ horse was stolen and somebody nearby asked him to curse the thief. "No", he replied, "but I will pray for him." He then made the following dua, "O Allah! If the thief is

¹ Sachī Hikāyāt, vol. 4, p. 142

Theft

wealthy, make his heart content. If he is poor, make him rich.”¹

If anything is stolen from you (God forbid), conceal the difficulty instead of telling everyone, be patient, and earn reward. Telling anybody and everybody will not return what was stolen. By complaining, you deprive yourself of untold reward.

Virtues of Patience when oppressed

The final Prophet ﷺ declared:

When Allah gathers creation together, an announcer will say, ‘Where are the people of excellence?’ Some individuals shall stand, their number few. Angels shall meet them as they speedily head towards Paradise. “We see you dashing towards Paradise”, the angels will say, “Who are you?”

“We are the people of excellence”, they will reply. The angels will inquire, “What is your excellence?”

They shall say, “We were patient when oppressed and tolerated any evil conduct we faced.” They shall be told to enter Paradise, as the reward granted to those who performed good deeds is indeed splendid.²

¹ Ḥilyat al-Awliyā', vol. 2, p. 130, number 1696

² Al-Tarhīb wa al-Tarhīb: hadith 18

Theft

In another hadith, “When the maltreated are patient, Allah increments them in their honour.”¹

The penitence of a thief

أَلْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ Due to the religious environment Dawat-e-Islami provides, many thieves and criminals have repented and turned their lives around. One department within Dawat-e-Islami liaises with Islamic scholars. Members of this department visited Jāmiā Rashīdiyya (Sindh; Pakistan) and the head of hadith studies there related the following:

Let me tell you about the benefits of teaching Islamic knowledge in prisons. A criminal once caused chaos on the outskirts of Pir Jo Got. He had several run-ins with police and was imprisoned many times. Yet, he used his contacts to set himself free. In the end, Karachi police got their hands on him after another one of his crimes.

After serving his sentence, he visited me. I did not recognise him at first. He now had a beard and wore an ‘imāma. I saw marks of prostration on his forehead.

“أَلْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ”, he said, “Whilst I was in prison, the message of Dawat-e-Islami reached me.”

¹ Jāmi‘ al-Tirmidhī: hadith 2332

Theft

صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَى الْحَبِيبِ

Earn halal

The Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ said:

Rūḥ al-Qudus (Angel Jibrīl) placed this in my heart, that no soul shall die without acquiring its full sustenance.

Ensure to fear Allah, take a moderate path when seeking sustenance, and do not let a delay in acquiring it prompt you to seek it by disobeying Him. Only by obeying Allah can one acquire that which is with Him.¹

Commentary: Earn wealth through halal means and refrain from haram means. Earning through forbidden means is to exceed one's boundary. Also, not earning anything at all and remaining idle is another extreme.

Moderation entails not resorting to stealing, gambling, bribing, deceiving, or usurping, when one receives little sustenance or none at all.

Earn from lawful sources and maintain hope in Allah. He is in control of everybody's sustenance. Whatever you earned in haram fashion will reach you haram, and Allah will be

¹ Sharḥ al-Sunnah: hadith 4008

Theft

displeased. Even then, despite your efforts, you will only acquire what is written for you.

If you earn from halal means, it will reach you halal. Allah will be pleased with you, and you will be given your share.¹

The moustached criminal

The weekly gatherings of Dawat-e-Islami are an amazing source of Islamic knowledge. Participate in your local gatherings and receive great reward. Due to them, many people have transformed their lives.

A scholar and preacher of Dawat-e-Islami said:

In 1995, I met a man who committed eleven robberies and one murder. After serving a prison sentence, he was employed to work at a river and earned 3000 rupees. Yet, increased it to 10,000 by unlawfully selling trees and reselling stolen water. He had a large moustache and people feared him.

One day, I invited him to participate in Dawat-e-Islami's weekly gathering, but he rejected. I did not lose hope and continued to invite him, and he accepted after almost two years. He attended the gathering whilst carrying a gun. A scholar was delivering a speech about the punishment of Hell, and after hearing of this, he broke into sweat despite the severe winter cold.

¹ Mir'āt al-Manājīh, vol. 7, p. 114

Theft

After the gathering, he left saying, “What will become of me? I have committed many sins.” He worried himself sick, such that he developed a three-day long fever. He felt guilty, so he repented sincerely and began offering salah. He participated in the gathering the following Thursday and listened to a speech about Paradise, and this gave him solace.

Slowly but surely, his life started to transform, such that he grew a beard as per the Sunna and began to wear an ‘imāma. He currently carries out Dawat-e-Islami’s religious activities and is actively involved in masjid building.

صَلُّوا عَلَيَّ الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيَّ مُحَمَّدٍ

The following spiritual remedies will provide safety for your life, family, and wealth. رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ

Six litanies for protection from theft

1) The fourth Caliph of Islam, ‘Alī b. Abī Ṭālib رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ said:

I heard the Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ say from the pulpit, “Whoever recites this (i.e. Āyat al-Kursī) at night before sleeping; Allah shall protect him, his home, and the homes in his vicinity.”¹

¹ Shu‘ab al-Īmān: hadith 2395

Theft

Commentary: By reciting this, all the homes in one's neighbourhood are protected from theft, fire, collapse, and all calamities until morning. This is a proven reality.¹

- 2) If Āyat al-Kursī is written, framed and hung in a high place in the house, said house will never suffer from poverty, there will be blessings in sustenance, and thieves will be unable to enter.²
- 3) Recite **يَا جَبْرِيْلُ** ten times and blow over your wealth. This will protect it from theft **إِنْ شَاءَ اللهُ**.³
- 4) Write the Quranic chapter al-Tawba or have someone write it for you. Laminate with plastic and place in your belongings. This will protect them from being stolen **إِنْ شَاءَ اللهُ**.⁴
- 5) If you have lost your belongings, recite this verse as much as you can and you will find them **إِنْ شَاءَ اللهُ**.⁵

¹ Mir'āt al-Manājīh, vol. 2, p. 126

² Madanī Panj Sūrah, p. 30

³ Ibid, p. 289

⁴ Chiryā aūr Andhā Sānp, p. 29

⁵ Ibid, p. 29

Theft

يُبَيِّنُ إِنَّهَا إِنْ تَأْكُلُ مِنْ قَالِ حَبَّةٍ مِنْ حَرْدَلٍ فَتَكُنْ فِي صَخْرَةٍ أَوْ فِي السَّمَوَاتِ أَوْ فِي

الْأَرْضِ يَأْتِ بِهَا اللَّهُ ۗ إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَطِيفٌ خَبِيرٌ ﴿١٦﴾¹

- 6) If you recite بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ 21 times before sleep, your wealth and belongings will be protected from theft, and you will remain safe from sudden death.²

A transformation due to the Atṭāriyya shajara

An Islamic brother from Karachi was a murīd of the Qādiriyya Atṭāriyya spiritual order. He swore an oath and said one day, armed thieves broke into his office and started looting the place. He had 90,000 rupees in his inside pocket and a few notes in the front. اَلْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ He was at ease, as he had recited this dua from the Atṭāriyya shajara: بِسْمِ اللَّهِ عَلَى دِينِي بِسْمِ اللَّهِ عَلَى نَفْسِي وَوُلْدِي وَأَهْلِي وَمَالِي.

The virtue of reciting this three times in the morning and evening is that one's faith, life, and wealth are protected.³

A robber approached and took 50 rupees from his pocket. He thought, "Regardless of whether it was 50 or 90,000, this dua will protect me from losing anything." As he thought this, the thief

¹ Al-Quran, Luqmān, verse 16

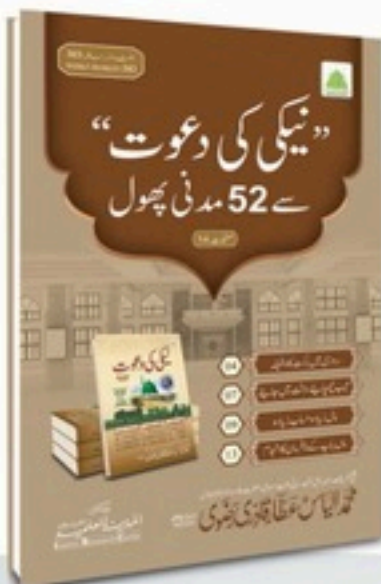
² Jannatī Zēwar, p. 579

³ Al-Wazīfat al-Karīma, p. 13

Theft

turned around and returned the 50 rupees, saying, “Mawlana, what will you remember?”

Next Weekly Booklet



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