

Protection of Faith

(For Islamic Brothers)



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

Protection of Faith

الصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ وَعَالِي إِلِكِ وَأَصْحَابِكَ يَا حَبِيبَ اللَّهِ
 الصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا نَبِيَّ اللَّهِ وَعَالِي إِلِكِ وَأَصْحَابِكَ يَا نُوْرَ اللَّهِ

نَوَيْتُ سُنَّتَ الْإِعْتِكَافِ

Translation: I have made the intention of Sunnah P'tikaf.

Dear Islamic brothers! Whenever you enter a Masjid, upon remembering, make the intention of l'tikaf because as long as you stay in the Masjid you will keep getting the reward of l'tikaf. Remember! There is no Shar'i permission to eat and drink, sleep or do Sahari and Iftari even to drink Zamzam water and the water on which *Dam* has been made in a Masjid. However, if the intention of l'tikaf is made, all these acts will become permissible. One should not make intention to observe l'tikaf only to eat, drink or sleep, but rather he should do it for pleasing Allah Almighty.

It is stated in *Fatawa Shaami*: If someone wants to eat, drink, sleep in a Masjid, he should make intention to observe l'tikaf, do Zikr of Allah Almighty for some time, then whatever he wants he can do (i.e. now if he wants to eat, drink or sleep, he can do so.).

Virtue of Salat upon the Prophet ﷺ

The Beloved Prophet ﷺ has stated:

مَنْ صَلَّى عَلَيَّ صَلَاةً لَمْ تَنْزِلِ الْمَلَائِكَةُ تُصَلِّيْ عَلَيَّ مَا صَلَّى عَلَيَّ فَلْيَقُلْ عَبْدٌ مِنْ ذَلِكَ أَوْ يُكْتَبُ

Meaning, “Whosoever sends Salat upon me, the angels will continue to make supplications of mercy for him for as long as he sends Salat upon me. Thus, it is the choice of the slave whether he sends a little amount [of Salat] or a lot.”¹

صَلُّوا عَلَيَّ الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيَّ مُحَمَّدٍ

The Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ has stated: **أَفْضَلُ الْعَمَلِ النَّيَّةُ الصَّادِقَةُ** A truthful intention is the best action.² O devotees of the Prophet! Get into the habit of making good intentions before every action, because a good intention can be the cause of entering Paradise. Before listening to the Bayan, make good intentions. For example,

- you will listen to the entire Bayan to gain the knowledge of Islam;
- you will sit in a respectful manner;
- you will refrain from laziness during the bayan;
- you will listen to the bayan to reform yourself, and
- whatever you hear and learn, you will attempt to pass onto others.

صَلُّوا عَلَيَّ الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيَّ مُحَمَّدٍ

Dear Islamic brothers! In today’s speech, we will listen to various accounts and narrations regarding the “Protection of Faith”. Let us first listen to a faith-refreshing incident:

The Maid of Pharoah’s Daughter

It is reported that Pharoah’s daughter appointed a pious woman to be her maid. The righteous woman would help her day and night in any

¹ *Musnad Imam Ahmad, vol. 5, p. 324, Hadith 1568*

² *Jami’ al-Saghīr, p. 81, Hadith 1284*

way she could. Once, whilst she was combing the hair of Pharaoh's daughter, the comb fell from her hand and she instinctively said **سُبْحَانَ اللَّهِ** out aloud. When the disbelieving daughter of Pharaoh heard this, she asked, "Did you praise my father Pharaoh?" The pious woman replied, "No! I glorified Allah Almighty, Who created me, your father and the entire universe. There is none worthy of worship except Him; He is One and has no partner." Upon hearing the beliefs of this pious woman, Pharaoh's daughter said, "I will tell my father that you do not accept him to be God." "Go ahead and tell him", the pious woman replied, not becoming unnerved by her threats.

So, she told her father and he summoned the maid and said, "I have heard that you believe in a God other than me. Your safety is in leaving this new religion, taking me as your God and worshipping me. Otherwise, you will be punished severely." "Do what you will; I will never turn to disbelief", the pious woman replied defiantly. Pharaoh became enraged and ordered for oil to be heated in a large copper pot. As the oil began to boil, her son was thrown into the boiling oil and moments later, his bones rose to the top. The tyrant Pharaoh asked, "Do you take me as your God?" The woman replied, "I will never accept you as my God. My Lord is the Owner of the worlds." One by one, Pharaoh threw her children into the boiling oil, but the strong and patient woman did not waver in her faith.

Pharaoh acknowledged that she would never abandon her faith, so the tyrant ordered his guards, "Throw her into the oil like her children." As the guards approached her, Pharaoh asked her if she had any last requests. She said, "Yes! I have one desire. When I am cast into the boiling oil and my flesh is consumed, take this cauldron and put it in my hut near the edge of the city. Then demolish the hut so our house becomes our place of burial. Pharaoh said, "We will fulfil this wish of yours." Thus, the brave, believing woman was thrown into the boiling oil and not long after, her bones floated to the top too.

The Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ stated: On the Night of Mi'raj, I sensed a beautiful fragrance. So, I asked, "O Jibril عَلَيْهِ السَّلَام! What is this fragrance?" He replied, "This is the fragrance of the maid of Pharaoh's daughter and her children."³

صَلُّوا عَلَى الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ

سُبْحَانَ اللهِ! Dear Islamic brothers! You heard of the immovable faith of the patient, strong and believing woman. She witnessed her dear children being martyred one by one but she remained patient. She sacrificed herself and the life of her children but did not abandon her treasure of faith. Without a doubt, those who understand the true value of Iman would not abandon it at any cost even for a moment. They only feel pleasure in sacrificing their lives for Islam and their faith.

Their faith is so firm that no worldly power can remove it from their hearts. This is why the mercy and blessings of Allah Almighty continue to envelop these pious individuals, such that even after their deaths, pleasant aromas emanate from their graves. It is unfortunate that today it has become increasingly difficult to remain steadfast upon Iman. Out of greed and the pursuit of attaining wealth abroad, some foolish people even declare themselves as non-Muslims on visa application forms. By doing this, they are only making themselves deserving of Hell.

The Ameer of Ahl al-Sunnah دَامَتْ بَرَكَاتُهُمْ الْعَالَمِيَّةُ mentions the ruling about such people in his book "Kufriyah Kalimat kay Baray Main Sawal Jawab": [Doing this] is Kufir [disbelief]. The ruling of Kufir also applies to anyone who declares themselves as members of the non-Muslim community in order to pay off debts; remove poverty; gain an increase in wealth; get a job with non-believers, fill in a visa form or for another

³ Kanz ul 'Umaal, juz. 14, vol. 7, p. 10, Hadith 37834, Uyoon al- Hikayaat, vol. 2, pp. 141 - 142

monetary reason.⁴

صَلُّوا عَلَى الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ

Dear Islamic brothers! Islam is a noble and dignified religion. Those who are blessed by Allah Almighty, they acquire the priceless treasure of Iman in this world, and the fortunate ones who remain steadfast upon Iman are prosperous in both worlds. Hence, it is imperative for every Muslim to protect this blessing and remain steadfast upon it while understanding its value.

This is because leaving this world in a state of Iman is of great importance for a Muslim. If we depart from this world with our faith intact, the trials of the grave and the Hereafter will become easy. Dying upon faith is a cause of salvation for us in the Hereafter; one can perform a countless number of good deeds in this world but if he does not die in a state of Iman, those deeds will be of no benefit. It is mentioned in a Hadith: **إِنَّمَا الْأَعْمَالُ بِالنَّوَاتِيحِ** Verily, [the rewards of] the deeds are dependent on their endings [i.e. dying upon faith or disbelief].⁵

In relation to the **importance of Iman** and its preservation, it is mentioned in verse 30 of Surah Ha Meem al-Sajdah:

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ قَالُوا رَبُّنَا اللَّهُ ثُمَّ اسْتَقَامُوا تَتَنَزَّلُ عَلَيْهِمُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ أَلَّا تَخَافُوا وَلَا تَحْزَنُوا

أَبشِرُوا بِالْجَنَّةِ الَّتِي كُنتُمْ تُوعَدُونَ ﴿٣٠﴾

Indeed, those who said, “Allah is our Lord,” then remained firm upon it, the angels descend upon them (saying), “Do not fear nor grieve, and be happy for

⁴ Kufriyah Kalimat Kay Baray Main Suwal Jawab, p. 453

⁵ Bukhari, vol. 4, p. 274, Hadith 6607

the Paradise which you were promised.”⁶

It is written in **Tafseer Siraat ul-Jinaan**: Indeed, those who said “Only Allah Almighty is our Lord” whilst accepting Allah to be their Lord and testifying to His Oneness, and then remained steadfast on this belief and its requirements, the angels descend upon them from Allah Almighty. They bring glad tidings and say do not fear the matters of the Hereafter and do not grieve over family and other things that you left behind. Rejoice for the Paradise that was promised to you in this world on the tongue of the Allah’s noble Messengers عَلَيْهِمُ الصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ.⁷

صَلُّوا عَلَى الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ

Encouragement to Remain Steadfast upon Islam

Dear Islamic brothers! Remaining steadfast upon Islam is of the utmost importance. If we die in a state of Iman, we will attain salvation. Glad tidings of Paradise have been given to those who remain firm upon Islam and adhere to the injunctions of the Quran. The Quran also commands us to leave this world in a state of Iman. Hence, it is mentioned in verse 102 of Surah Aale ‘Imran:

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ تَقَاتِهِ وَلَا تَمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا وَأَنْتُمْ مُسْلِمُونَ ﴿١٠٢﴾

O believers! Fear Allah as He should be rightfully feared, and never die but as Muslims.⁸

Dear Islamic brothers! The latter part of the verse **tells us to die only as Muslims**. The meaning of this is that we must strive to remain firm

⁶ [Kanz-ul-Iman (translation of Quran)] (Part 24, Surah Ha Meem Al-Sajdah, verse 30)

⁷ Ruh al-Bayan, para 24, Ha Meem Al-Sajdah, Ayat 30, vol. 8, pp. 254 – 255, Siraat ul Jinaan, vol. 8, p. 631

⁸ [Kanz-ul-Iman (translation of Quran)] (Part 4, Surah Aale ‘Imran, verse 102)

upon Islam in every moment of our lives, so when death comes to us, it will be in a state of Islam.⁹

صَلُّوا عَلَى الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ

The Importance of Iman in the Light of Hadith

Dear Islamic brothers! We should always be concerned about the preservation of our faith. We must protect ourselves from the deception and evil whispers of the carnal self (*nafs*) and Satan. Remember! Just as the people who remain firm upon their faith have been promised Paradise in the Quran, the Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ has also mentioned the importance of Iman and its protection in the Hadith. For encouragement, here are some Hadith about the preservation of Iman.

Concern for the Protection of Iman

The Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ stated: A time will soon come upon the people in which adopting seclusion will be necessary. At that time, only the faith of the one who will run from one mountain to another, or one place to another, out of concern for his Iman, will remain safe. Similar to how a bird or fox travels to different places with their offspring. He صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ then said: During that age, the herder of goats who offers Salah according to the best of his knowledge, pays Zakat and remains distant from people, will be upon goodness.¹⁰

A Person will be Raised in the State he Dies

The Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ said: **يُبْعَثُ كُلُّ عَبْدٍ عَلَى مَا مَاتَ عَلَيْهِ** – “Every slave will be raised in the state in which he dies.”¹¹ Mufti Ahmad Yar Khan

⁹ *Siraat ul Jinaan, vol. 2, p. 20*

¹⁰ *Al-Matalib Al-'Aaliyah, vol. 8, p. 597, Hadith 4366*

¹¹ *Muslim, p. 1178, Hadith 2878*

رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ states regarding this Hadith: The condition in which one dies is taken into account. If a person dies upon disbelief, he will be resurrected upon disbelief, even if he was a believer during his life, and if he dies upon faith, he will be raised in that state, even if he was a disbeliever during his life.¹²

Allamah Abdur Rauf Munaawi رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ states concerning this Hadith: Imam Jalal ul-Din Suyuti رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ has deduced from this Hadith that on the Day of Judgement, the one who plays the flute will be resurrected with his flute and an alcoholic will be raised with his drink. Whereas a Mu'azzin will be raised while giving the Azaan.¹³

صَلُّوا عَلَى النَّبِيِّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ

Dear Islamic brothers! We come to know from the above-mentioned narrations to not be lazy when it comes to the protection of our faith. We should not fall prey to the false notion that we will die as Muslims just because we were born as Muslims and our ancestors were Muslims. It is possible that we remain steadfast upon faith our entire lives, perform a countless number of good deeds but مَعَادَةَ اللَّهِ utter words of disbelief at the time of death, resulting in us dying upon disbelief. Therefore, we should always make Du'a for the protection of our Iman and be concerned for its preservation at the time of death.

The noble scholars state, "The one who does not have fear during his life that his faith could be snatched from him, he will be at great risk of losing his Iman at the time of death."¹⁴ It is unfortunate that most of us have no worry for the preservation of our faith. If we do have any concern, then it is for increasing our bank balance; if we have worry, it is for outdoing one another in worldly affairs; if we have concern, it is

¹² *Mirat ul Manajeeh, vol. 7, p. 153*

¹³ *Al-Tayseer, vol. 2, p. 507*

¹⁴ *Malfuzaat Ala Hazrat, p. 495*

for gaining respect and fame. However, none of us have the guarantee of our faith remaining intact at the time of death. **مَعَادَ اللَّهِ** What will we do if our faith is taken from us due to the evil of our sins? Sayyiduna Abu Darda **رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ** would say, “By Allah! No one can be certain about whether his faith will remain intact or not at the time of death.”¹⁵

Satan taking the Form of Friends

Hujjat al-Islam Imam Muhammad Ghazali **رَحِمَهُ اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ** states: When the soul begins to leave a person’s body, the Devil arrives with his followers and takes the form of his deceased relatives, e.g., his parents, brothers, sisters and friends. The Devil says to him, “O so-and-so! Soon you will die whereas we have already experienced death. Thus, [leave the fold of Islam and] embrace such-and-such religion as it is accepted in the court of Allah the Merciful.” If the dying man does not accept the Devil’s claims, the Devil and his followers take the form of his other friends and say, “[Leave Islam] and accept such-and-such religion.” Like this, they remind him of all the false beliefs of every religion. Thus, the one who is destined to lose his faith, deviates in that moment and adopts a false religion.¹⁶

صَلُّوا عَلَى الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ

Dear Islamic brothers! You have heard how difficult and dangerous the trials of death are. At that time, you will be gasping for breath, you will not be in the right frame of mind, you will feel severely thirsty, and whilst this is occurring, the accursed Devil and his offspring come to you, not in their original forms, but in forms resembling your relatives, parents, siblings and friends. By doing so, he attempts to take Iman away from the believers in various ways. Our pious predecessors **رَضِيَ اللَّهُ**

¹⁵ *Kimiya e Sa’adat, vol. 2, p. 825*

¹⁶ *Majmu’ah Rasaail Imam Al-Ghazali, p. 511*

عَلَيْهِمْ أَجْعِبِينَ would remain distressed in regards to protecting their faith at the time of death.

Sayyiduna Mansoor bin Ammar رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ states: When the time of death approaches a person, his state is of 5 types:

1. Wealth for his inheritors.
2. His soul for the angels of death.
3. His flesh for the insects.
4. His bones for the soil.
5. Good deeds are for those who request their right on the Day of Judgement.

He further states: If an inheritor takes the wealth, it is bearable. Likewise, it is fine if the angel of death takes our soul. But, if only the Devil does not take our Iman at the time of death, otherwise we will be separated from Allah Almighty. We seek refuge in Allah from this because being distant from our Lord is an unbearable separation to which nothing can compare.¹⁷

Dear Islamic brothers! If the mercy and grace of Allah and His Messenger صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ do not accompany us at the time of death because of our sins, the Devil may overcome us and destroy our faith. I swear by Allah! We will be subjected to disgrace and we will be thrown into the blazing fire of Hell for eternity, and our fragile bodies will never be able to endure the severe punishment of Hell.

It is mentioned in verses 105-107 of Surah al-Kahf:

أُولَئِكَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا بِآيَاتِ رَبِّهِمْ وَلِقَائِهِ فَحَبِطَتْ أَعْمَالُهُمْ فَلَا نُقِيمُ لَهُمْ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ وَزْنًا

¹⁷ Hikayatayn aur Naseehatayn, p. 37

ذٰلِكَ جَزَاؤُهُمْ جَهَنَّمَ بِمَا كَفَرُوا وَاتَّخَذُوا آيَاتِي وَرُسُلِي هُزُوًا ﴿١٠٥﴾ اِنَّ الَّذِيْنَ اٰمَنُوْا

عَمِلُوا الصّٰلِحٰتِ كَانَتْ لَهُمْ جَنَّٰتُ الْفِرْدَوْسِ نُزُلًا ﴿١٠٦﴾

These are the people who disbelieved in the verses of their Lord and meeting Him, therefore all their deeds are in vain. We shall consequently not establish any weight (of good deeds) for them on the Day of Resurrection. This is their recompense; the Hellfire, because they disbelieved and made a mockery of My verses and My Messengers. Indeed, those who believed and did good deeds, Gardens of Firdaus (Paradise) are (for) their hospitality.¹⁸

Here is a summary of what “**Tafseer Siraat ul-Jinaan**” states regarding these verses, in the form of Madani Pearls:

- “Not establishing any weight” means that their seemingly righteous deeds will have no value nor will they have any weight, on the Day of Judgement.
- When their apparent righteous deeds are weighed against their disbelief and sins, all of their outward righteous deeds will prove to be weightless.
- The value and weight of good deeds is dependent upon faith and sincerity.
- When these people are void of faith and sincerity, how can their deeds bear any weight?
- The good deeds of some Muslims will also lack weight.
- The worst form of disbelief is to dishonour and ridicule a Prophet, the punishment of which is given in both worlds.

¹⁸ [Kanz-ul-Iman (translation of Quran)] (Part 16, Surah Al-Kahf, verses 105 - 107)

- The people who mock the righteous scholars are in desperate need of taking lessons from this.
- The bounties that Allah Almighty has prepared for the dwellers of Paradise are beyond human comprehension.¹⁹

صَلُّوا عَلَى الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ

The Pious Predecessors and their Concern for Iman

Dear Islamic brothers! Indeed, the fortunate Muslim is the one who spends his life performing actions that earn the pleasure of Allah Almighty and is successful in preserving his faith at the time of death. Therefore, everyone should be cautious and alert in regards to protecting their faith. Especially those who pray, observe fasts, give to charity and perform optional worship. Sometimes, the Devil deceives these people and makes them heedless regarding the preservation of their faith by whispering, “You have performed an abundance of good deeds, you can rest now. These deeds will earn you forgiveness and be enough to take you to Paradise.” If this thought enters your mind, disregard it immediately, and never rely on your deeds. To rid yourself of this satanic whisper, remember the accounts of our pious predecessors; how they feared Allah Almighty and how they were always concerned about their faith, despite their abundance of worship.

When Sayyiduna Huzayfah رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ approached the time of his death, he cried and was severely worried. When the people asked why he was crying, he said, “I am not crying because I am leaving this world, for death is beloved to me. I am crying because I do not know if I am leaving this world while Allah Almighty is pleased with me or displeased with me.”²⁰

¹⁹ Tafseer Siraat ul Jinaan, vol. 6, pp. 37 - 40

²⁰ Usd Al-Ghaabah, vol. 1, p. 574

Protection of Iman and Seclusion

It is reported that a person would live his life in seclusion. Sayyiduna Abu Darda رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ went to him and asked why he lived like this. The man replied, “I have a fear in my heart that my Iman might be taken from me whilst I am completely unaware.”²¹

Weeping all Night

Sayyiduna Yusuf bin Asbaat رَحِمَهُ اللهُ عَلَيْهِ states: I once went to visit Sayyiduna Sufyan Thawri رَحِمَهُ اللهُ عَلَيْهِ. He رَحِمَهُ اللهُ عَلَيْهِ wept for the entire night. So, I asked him, “Are you crying out of fear of your sins?” Sayyiduna Sufyan Thawri رَحِمَهُ اللهُ عَلَيْهِ picked up a piece of straw and responded, “Sins hold less value than this piece of straw in the court of Allah Almighty; I fear that the treasure of faith may be taken from me.”²²

May I Die upon Faith

When the son of Sayyiduna Imam Ahmad bin Hanbal رَحِمَهُ اللهُ عَلَيْهِ asked him regarding his condition at the time of death, he replied, “This is not the time for an answer. Make du’a that Allah Almighty allows me to die upon faith, because the accursed Satan is pouring dirt over his head, and saying that it is a cause of sorrow and grief if I depart from this world in the state of Iman. I am telling him that I am still at risk from him even if I have one breath left in me.”²³

O devotees of the Awliya! You have heard the extent to which our pious predecessors رَحِمَهُ اللهُ عَلَيْهِمْ أَجْمَعِينَ feared Allah Almighty. They would spend their entire lives adhering to the Shar’iah and Sunnah; they spent every moment in the remembrance of Allah Almighty; these individuals were true devotees of the Prophet and were well aware of

²¹ *Qoot Al-Quloob, vol. 1, p. 388*

²² *Minhaj ul Aabideen, p. 155*

²³ *Tazkirah al-Awliya, juz 1, p. 199*

the deceit of the Devil and the carnal self. However, despite this, they would always remain fearful in regards to the preservation of their faith. They would tremble with fear over the mere thought of losing their faith. Whilst keeping the teachings of the Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ in mind, they would remain steadfast upon Islam.

Therefore, whilst fearing the hidden plan of Allah Almighty, and following in the footsteps of the Prophets عَلَيْهِمُ الرِّسَالَةُ وَالسَّلَامُ, companions عَلَيْهِمُ الرِّسَالَةُ and pious predecessors رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِمْ أَجْمَعِينَ, we should develop a passion to protect our Iman and busy ourselves in performing righteous actions. We must also supplicate to Allah Almighty to protect us from a bad end.

صَلُّوا عَلَى الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ

Actions that can Destroy our Faith

O devotees of the Prophet! Along with being the bounty and mercy of Allah Almighty, the protection of faith is also in the hands of the individual. Therefore, we should supplicate to Allah Almighty for the preservation of our faith, refrain from sins and engage ourselves in performing good deeds. If we wish to depart from this world with our faith intact, we must avoid those actions that can ruin our faith; leaving us deprived of an invaluable treasure. Let us hear about some actions that can destroy our faith and make a firm intention to refrain from committing these evil actions. May Allah Almighty protect our faith.

1. Adopting Bad Company

Dear Islamic brothers! Adopting bad company and accompanying people who hold corrupt beliefs can damage your faith. Just as staying in the company of alcoholics, gamblers and transgressors is a means of destruction, associating with people of deviant beliefs, listening to their speeches, reading their books, following them on social media,

eating with them and forming a relationship with them can be fatal for your faith. It will lead to destruction in this world and the Hereafter.

Therefore, in order to protect your Iman, adopt good company. Associating with people who fear Allah is imperative. It is unfortunate that there are many foolish Muslims who associate with evil friends, spend hours in conversation with them and carry out immoral acts. The evil effects of bad company have enveloped them, such that it has made them heedless of Allah's remembrance. They have become lazy in their worship but they have no remorse; they spend hours in useless conversation but they have no concern; they spend hours discussing useless and obscene things, and sometimes, make statements of disbelief and destroy their Iman, but they are oblivious to this.

Remember! Adopting bad company is harmful for us in this world and the Hereafter because bad company can sometimes destroy a person's faith. People tend to fear dangerous and poisonous animals and insects as they will cause harm to them, but they do not protect themselves from company that can destroy their faith.

Mufti Ahmad Yaar Khan رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ states: Stay away from evil company as much as possible, for it destroys your religion and your worldly life, and adopt good company as it benefits both one's religion and worldly life. The company of a snake will cost you your life, and associating with an evil friend will destroy your Iman.²⁴

How does evil company destroy one's Iman? Listen to this account and take heed from it:

Evil Company causes the Destruction of Iman

Sayyiduna Allamah Muhammad bin Ahmad Zahabi رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ states: There was a man who would remain in the company of alcoholics.

²⁴ *Mirat ul Manajeeh, vol. 6, p. 591*

When the time of his death approached, someone encouraged him to recite the kalimah, but he said, “You should drink and give me some too.” **مَعَاذَ اللَّهِ** he died without reciting the kalimah. (If this is the state of the one who adopts the company of alcoholics, then what is the consequence of consuming alcohol!) At the time of death, a chess-player was encouraged to recite the kalimah. He responded with, “**شَاهِكْ** [i.e. your king]”. He died after saying this.²⁵

صَلُّوا عَلَى الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ

O devotees of the Prophet! Make an intention to befriend good people, to stay in the company of people with the correct beliefs, those who fear Allah Almighty and love the Prophet **صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ**, those who perform nafl worship as well as fulfil the obligations, those who invite towards good and forbid evil, those who remain concerned for the protection of their Iman. In order to attain all of this, associate yourself with the religious environment of Dawat e Islami, the movement of prophetic devotees. **إِنْ شَاءَ اللَّهُ** you will be successful in both worlds.

صَلُّوا عَلَى الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ

2. Having Religious Discussions without Knowledge

Dear Islamic brothers! Another cause of losing your Iman is to discuss matters of Islam without any knowledge. Only discuss things that you are certain about; forming your own conclusions based on your own intellect and understanding is damaging to your Iman. Some people fall into the depths of Kufr while doing so and they are oblivious to it. Our society is full of people who possess little religious knowledge, yet they

²⁵ *Kitab Al-Kabair, p. 103*

engage in useless discussions as if they have a treasure of knowledge. These ignorant individuals even utter statements of disbelief.

Imam Ahmad Raza Khan رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ states the following regarding such people on pages 159 to 160 of the 24th volume of Fatawa Razawiyah: If a person commits theft and fornication, then despite these acts being sins, they are not as destructive as speaking about divine knowledge without adequate research and knowledge. Due to his lack of research and knowledge, he will commit Kufr and be oblivious to it! His example is like the one who does not know how to swim but he jumps into a raging river. Also, the deception of Satan regarding beliefs and religion is not something that is hidden. And Allah is All-Knowing.²⁶

3. Not Protecting the Tongue

Dear Islamic brothers! Not restraining the tongue can also be a cause of losing your faith. The state of people today is that they utter whatever comes to their mind. The concept of being mindful of what earns the pleasure and displeasure of Allah Almighty is vanishing. The youth of today listen to and sing songs that contain phrases of Kufr. People use the tongue to mock and joke about Paradise, Hell, the Angels and Allah Almighty. Others use the tongue to utter statements of Kufr when complaining about their poverty. When the breadwinner or a young person passes away, they utter words of disbelief and complain to Allah Almighty with this tongue.

For the sake of Allah! Come to your senses, restrain your tongue, and prevent it from uttering useless, immoral and disbelieving statements. Remember, sometimes a statement of Kufr unintentionally leaves the tongue and it becomes a cause of destroying our faith and making us worthy of Hell.

²⁶ *Al-Hadeeqah tul Nadiyyah, vol. 2, p. 270*

Here are two statements of the Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ to help us develop a mindset of protecting our Iman:

- The Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ said, “A man says something to make his friends laugh, but it causes him to fall [in Hell] further than [the distance of the star] Suraya.”²⁷
- The Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ said, “A man utters a statement that earns the displeasure of Allah Almighty without realising that it will earn His displeasure. But due to this, Allah Almighty decrees His displeasure for him until the Day of Judgement.”²⁸

اللَّهُمَّ اجْرِني مِنَ النَّارِ – O Allah! Grant me salvation from the Fire (of Hell)!

يَا مُجِيبُ يَا مُجِيبُ يَا مُجِيبُ – O provider of salvation, o provider of salvation, o provider of salvation!

بِرَحْمَتِكَ يَا أَرْحَمَ الرَّحِيمِينَ – have mercy upon us for the sake of your mercy, o the Most Merciful.

صَلُّوا عَلَى الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ

4. Not saving yourself from sins

Dear Islamic brothers! Another cause of one’s faith being ruined is that a person remains engaged in sin, day and night. The negative effect of this continuous sinning can ultimately result in a person losing faith.

‘Allamah Isma’el Haqqi رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ states the following in this regard: The manner in which denying the verses of Allah Almighty and ridiculing them is disbelief (*Kufr*), the result of which is eternal

²⁷ Musnad Imam Ahmad, Musnad Abi Hurayrah, vol. 3, p. 366, Hadith 9231

²⁸ Tirmizi, vol. 4, p. 143, Hadith 2326

punishment in Hellfire, the very same applies if a believer persists in sinning. This is also an action which can result in a believer dying in a state of disbelief.

Sayyiduna Abu Ishaq Fazari رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ states: A person would sit with me frequently, but he would cover half of his face. When I asked him the reason why, he explained, "I would steal the shrouds of the deceased. One day, a woman was buried, so I went to her grave. When I dug up her grave and pulled her shroud, she lifted her hand and struck my face." (Sayyiduna Abu Ishaq says,) When he removed the cover, I saw five finger marks on his face. When I asked him about what happened after he was struck, he said, "I left the shroud where it was, closed the grave and covered it with soil. I then made a firm intention within my heart that I would never open anyone's grave again."

Sayyiduna Abu Ishaq Fazari رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ documented this incident in a letter and sent it to Sayyiduna Imam Awza'ee رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ. The latter wrote back and asked, "Were the faces of the Muslims who passed away facing the Qiblah?" Thus, Sayyiduna Abu Ishaq رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ went to the former thief and asked him this very question, who replied, "Most of their faces were turned away from the Qiblah."

When news of this was sent to Sayyiduna Imam Awza'ee رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ, he sent back a letter in which it was written رَأَيْتُمُوهُ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ, three times. Alongside this, Sayyiduna Imam Awza'ee رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ also said, "Whomever was found with their face turned away from the Qiblah, did not pass away upon the religion of Islam. Ask Allah Almighty for His pardon, His forgiveness, and His pleasure."²⁹

صَلُّوا عَلَى الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ

Dear Islamic brothers! The above-mentioned are some things that can

²⁹ *Sirat ul Jinaan, vol. 3, p. 137, Ruh Al-Bayan, Al-An'aam, Ayat 70, vol. 3, p. 51*

cause a person to suffer from a bad death. However, there are many other causes also, such as, missing Salah, drinking alcohol, disobeying parents, or harming other Muslims.³⁰ In order to preserve our faith, we should strive to avoid all of these bad actions, because the fortunate Muslim who succeeds in leaving this world with his faith intact, Allah Almighty, through His mercy, will grant him entry into Paradise, **إِنْ شَاءَ اللَّهُ**.

In order to die upon faith, alongside observing the obligatory (*Faraaid*) and necessary (*Wajibat*) acts of worship, our pious predecessors **رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِمْ أَجْمَعِينَ** have also prescribed various litanies for this purpose. The one who recites them will be successful in preserving his faith at the time of death, **إِنْ شَاءَ اللَّهُ**.

Let us now listen to five litanies we can recite to pass away with faith:

Five litanies for a good end

A person once came to the Imam of the Ahl al-Sunnah, Imam Ahmad Raza Khan **رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ**, and asked for the great Imam to make Du'a for him to pass away with his faith intact. Imam Ahmad Raza Khan **رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ** not only made Du'a for him, but went on to say:

1. Recite **يَا حَيُّ يَا قَيُّوْمُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا أَنْتَ** ('O Ever Living! O Self-Subsisting! There is no God except You'), 41 times every morning. Recite Salat upon the Prophet, before and after.³¹
2. After finishing all other litanies, recite **Surah Al-Kafiroon** every night before sleeping. Do not speak after having recited this. If you must speak again, then ensure to recite **Surah Al-Kafiroon** again, making this your final act before sleeping. **إِنْ شَاءَ اللَّهُ**, you will pass away

³⁰ *Sharh Al-Sudoor*, p. 27

³¹ *Al-Wazifa Al-Kareemah*, p. 21

with faith.³²

3. 3 times every morning and evening, recite **اللَّهُمَّ إِنَّا نَعُوذُ بِكَ مِنْ أَنْ نُشْرِكَ بِكَ شَيْئًا** **نَعْبُدُكَ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُكَ لِأَلَانَعْبُدُكَ** ('O Allah! We seek Your refuge from knowingly associating anything with You, and we repent for what we do not know').³³
4. It is written in *Tafseer Saawi*: "Whoever memorises the name of Sayyiduna Khidr **عَلَيْهِ السَّلَام**, including his teknonym (*kunyah*), parentage and appellation, will pass away with faith, **إِنْ شَاءَ اللَّهُ**. This is as follows: **أَبُو الْعَبَّاسِ بَلْبَاسِ بْنِ مَلِكَانَ الْخَضِرِ**.³⁴
5. Whosoever recites the following 3 times in the morning and evening, his religion, faith, life, wealth and children will remain safeguarded: **بِسْمِ اللَّهِ عَلَى دِينِي، بِسْمِ اللَّهِ عَلَى نَفْسِي وَوُلْدِي وَ أَهْلِي وَمَالِي** (May my religion, life, children, family and wealth be protected through the blessing of Allah's Name).³⁵

O Generous Lord! For the sake of the fragrant and blessed hair of Your beloved Prophet **صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ**, keep me safe from every calamity in this world, and save me from every sadness in the Hereafter. Another supplication I make to You is that when I am blessed with the opportunity to visit your beloved Messenger **صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ** in Madina al-Munawwara, may I remain engaged in reciting Salat and Salam in his auspicious court, and grant me death in that state.

أَمِينٌ بِجَاهِ النَّبِيِّ الْأَمِينِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ

صَلُّوا عَلَى الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ

³² *Al- Wazifa Al-Kareemah*, p. 34

³³ *Al- Wazifa Al-Kareemah*, p. 17

³⁴ *Tafseer Saawi*, vol. 2, pp. 1207 - 1208

³⁵ *Al- Wazifa Al-Kareemah*, p. 17

Dear Islamic brothers! There are countless excellences of Layla-tul-Qadr, and an endless list of rewards for those who perform worship on this blessed night. Allah Almighty showers His mercy upon His servants, forgives them for their sins and grants them salvation from Hellfire. But there are some unfortunate people who remain deprived of being forgiven even on such a sacred night.

Flag-bearing angels descend

Sayyiduna Abdullah ibn ‘Abbas رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُمَا reports that the Messenger of Allah صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ said:

When Layla-tul-Qadr arrives, with the command of Allah Almighty, Sayyiduna Jibrael عَلَيْهِ السَّلَام descends to the earth whilst carrying a green flag, accompanied by a large group of angels. He then affixes the flag on top of the Ka’ba. Sayyiduna Jibrael عَلَيْهِ السَّلَام has one hundred arms, two of which he only opens on this night. These arms spread across the East and West. Sayyiduna Jibrael عَلَيْهِ السَّلَام then orders the angels (by saying), “On this night, if there is any Muslim who busies himself with standing (worshipping), Salah, or the Zikr of Allah, greet them with Salam, shake their hands and also say Aameen to their Du’as.”

This continues up until the time of dawn. When dawn arrives, Sayyiduna Jibrael عَلَيْهِ السَّلَام orders the angels to return. The angels then ask, “O Jibrael! What has been done regarding the needs of the believers from the *Ummah* of Allah’s Beloved صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ?” Sayyiduna Jibrael عَلَيْهِ السَّلَام replies, “Allah Almighty has cast a special gaze of mercy upon them, and forgiven them all except four types of people.”

Upon hearing this blessed Hadith, the honourable Companions عَلَيْهِمُ الرِّضْوَان asked, “O Messenger of Allah صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ! Who are those four types of people?” He صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ replied, “(1) The alcoholic, (2) The one

who is disobedient to his parents, (3) The one who breaks family ties (without a valid *Shar'i* reason), and (4) The one who harbours hatred and enmity for his Muslim brother.”³⁶

صَلُّوا عَلَى الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ

Dear Islamic brothers! You have heard about how the alcoholic, those who are disobedient to their parents, those who break family ties and those who are enemies of one another without reason, all remain deprived of the blessings of Layla-tul-Qadr. Think carefully! Are any of these aforementioned evils found within us? Do we perform any of these actions? Do we hurt the hearts of our parents? Do we break ties with our brothers, sisters, parents, aunties, uncles or cousins, without a valid *Shar'i* reason? Do we have hatred for other Muslims in our hearts? *مَعَادَةَ اللهِ*, if you do find any of these evils within yourself, make sincere repentance, and also make an intention to seek forgiveness from those whose rights you have violated. Otherwise, remember that the outcome of these sins is indeed dreadful.

Drinking alcohol, in particular, is destructive for a person's religion, faith, life, wealth, health and society at large. Alcohol is the mother of all evils, for when a person is intoxicated, they look at Haram, indulge in adultery, and carry out a whole host of other sins, by which they ruin themselves in this world and the Hereafter.

اللَّهُمَّ اجِرْنِي مِنَ النَّارِ O Allah! Grant me salvation from Hell!

يَا مُجِيبُ يَا مُجِيبُ يَا مُجِيبُ O provider of salvation, O provider of salvation, O provider of salvation!

بِرَحْمَتِكَ يَا أَرْحَمَ الرَّحِيمِينَ Have mercy upon us for the sake of Your mercy, O the Most Merciful.

صَلُّوا عَلَى الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ

³⁶ *Shu'ab Al-Iman, vol. 3, p. 336, Hadith 3695*

Encouragement to travel in Madani Qafilahs on the night before Eid

Dear Islamic brothers! The blessed month of Ramadan only has a few days remaining. Very soon, this guest will leave us. However, the blessed occasion of Eid will then be upon us, **إِنْ شَاءَ اللَّهُ**.

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ, Islamic brothers who were blessed to perform 'I'tikaf for the whole month of Ramadan, as well as other devotees of the Messenger, also take part in a Madani Qafilah from the night before Eid. Try your best, and make an intention to travel with these devotees of the Messenger on this Madani Qafilah. Contact your responsible Islamic brother and have your name registered. If possible, try to even pay your travel costs immediately.

May Allah Almighty bless us with the good fortune of being able to travel in the Madani Qafilah of the night before Eid.

أَمِينٌ بِجَاةِ النَّبِيِّ الْأَمِينِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ

*Faizan e Madani Qafilah! Jari Rahe Ga. **إِنْ شَاءَ اللَّهُ***

*Faizan e Madani Qafilah! Jari Rahe Ga. **إِنْ شَاءَ اللَّهُ***

*Faizan e Madani Qafilah! Jari Rahe Ga. **إِنْ شَاءَ اللَّهُ***

صَلُّوا عَلَى الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ