

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

**ILM UL MUKARRAM**  
**“DARSUL HADITH”**

**LESSONS FROM AHÂDEETH SHAREEF**

commentary on

**40 ahâdeeth | arba'een | of Imaam Nawawi**

رحمة الله عليه

with emphasis on perfecting one's character

Notes by Maulana Naeem Motala

**Hadith 18**

**Follow Up a Bad Deed with a Good Deed**

*Delivered as Jummah Bayaan Baitul Mukarram.*

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## Hadith 18

عَنْ أَبِي ذَرٍّ جُنْدَبِ بْنِ جُنَادَةَ، وَأَبِي عَبْدِ الرَّحْمَنِ مُعَاذِ بْنِ جَبَلٍ رَضِيَ  
اللَّهُ عَنْهُمَا،

عَنْ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ قَالَ  
: اتَّقِ اللَّهَ حَيْثُمَا كُنْتَ، وَاتَّبِعِ السَّيِّئَةَ الْحَسَنَةَ تَمَحُّهَا، وَخَالِقِ النَّاسَ بِخُلُقٍ  
حَسَنٍ

[ رَوَاهُ التِّرْمِذِيُّ ]

رقم: 1987 وَقَالَ: حَدِيثٌ حَسَنٌ، وَفِي بَعْضِ النُّسخِ: حَسَنٌ صَحِيحٌ

Hazrat Abu Dharr Jundub ibn Junadah, and Hazrat Abu Abdir Rahman Muadh bin  
Jabal Radiallahu Anhuma narrated that Rasullullah Sallallahu Alayhi Wa Sallam said:

“Fear Allah (have Taqwa) wherever you may be, and follow up a bad deed with a  
good deed which will wipe (the former) out, and behave well (with beautiful  
character) towards the people.”

[Tirmidhi]

### | BRIEF EXPLANTION |

This Hadith contains *three important advices*, which embrace all the good of this world and  
the hereafter, namely:

[1] Taqwa :

Fearing Allah *Subhaanahu Wa Ta'ala*, ie: fulfilling all the commandments of Allah  
*Subhaanahu Wa Ta'ala* and refraining from all the prohibitions of Allah *Subhaanahu Wa  
Ta'ala*.

Some scholars have mentioned the meaning of Taqwa as: *Allah must not see you in those  
places that Allah has prohibited you from, nor should Allah miss you in those places where  
Allah has commanded you to be in ...*

Amongst the many benefits of Taqwa :

- Allah will wipe out one's sins

- One becomes honourable and beloved in the sight of Allah
- At the time of death, a person will get glad tidings of Jannah
- Allah will grant one abundant reward [increase in Sawaab]
- Allah will make an opening for him from all difficulties
- Allah will grant one sustenance [Rozi] from unseen sources
- Allah will give one the criteria to discern between right and wrong [Furqaan]
- Whoever fears Allah, Allah will grant them success in both worlds and saves them from the fire of Jahannum and remains perpetually in Jannah.

[2] Follow up a bad deed with a good deed:

Follow up a bad deed with a good deed. The good deed will wipe out the bad deed. After slipping into sin, a person should perform any good action [deed] which will efface the effects of the sin.

Hazrat Ibn Mas'ud *Radiallahu Anhu* narrated: A man kissed a strange [Non Mahram] woman. Realizing the gravity of his sin, he came to Rasulullah *Sallallahu Alayhi Wa Sallam*, informed him about his transgression and desired that the Shar'ee punishment be implemented upon him so that he may be saved from the fire of Jahannum in the hereafter. Rasulullah *Sallallahu Alayhi Wa Sallam* had still not responded to him, when a verse was revealed :

وَأَقِمِ الصَّلَاةَ طَرَفِي النَّهَارِ وَزُلْفًا مِّنَ اللَّيْلِ إِنَّ الْحَسَنَاتِ يُدْهِبْنَ السَّيِّئَاتِ

*And establish prayer [Salaah] at the two ends of the day and a portion of the night. Verily, virtues [good deeds] repel vices [misdeeds] ~ Surah Hud 11:114*

After Rasulullah *Sallallahu Alayhi Wa Sallam* recited this verse to the man, the man asked Rasulullah *Sallallahu Alayhi Wa Sallam* whether this applies to him only.

Rasulullah *Sallallahu Alayhi Wa Sallam* said, "It applies to all of my Ummah."

*[Bukhaari and Muslim]*

What is meant [in this Hadith], is that a good deed becomes an atonement for an evil deed. For major sins to be obliterated, one has to make Taubah [sincere repentance]. However, minor sins are obliterated [forgiven] when a person follows up with performing a good deed after a bad deed.

There are numerous acts of Ibaadah that eliminate and wash away the minor sins of a person. An example [of minor sins being forgiven] is when a person performs Whudu [ablution], then this virtuous act of worship washes out all minor sins. Or, when a person keeps a Nafl fast on the 9th of *Zul-Hijjah*, then this wipes out the minor sins of the past and coming year.

[3] Behave well [with beautiful character] towards the people:

In a Hadith, Hazrat Abu Darda Radiallahu Anhu narrates: Rasulullah *Sallallahu Alayhi Wa Sallam* has mentioned :

مَا مِنْ شَيْءٍ أَثْقَلُ فِي مِيزَانِ الْمُؤْمِنِ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ مِنْ خُلُقٍ حَسَنٍ وَإِنَّ اللَّهَ  
لَيُبْغِضُ الْفَاحِشَ الْبَذِيءَ

“Nothing is heavier on the believer's Scale on the Day of Judgment than good character. For indeed Allah, Most High, is angered by the shameless obscene person”

[Tirmidhi]

A Believer is expected to maintain good conduct and character and speak well [kindly] to his fellow men; fulfil their needs ; not backbite/slander ; abstain from jealousy/hatred ; forgive the fault of someone who has done him wrong ; meet people with a smile ; fulfil the rights of those who do not fulfil his rights ; maintain relations with those who break ties with him ; be compassionate, kind, loving, caring ; share his food and belongings with others and those who are in need ... etc.

Rasulullah *Sallallahu Alayhi Wa Sallam* has mentioned: “The best of people are those with the most excellent character.” [Tabarani]