

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 9

Submission to Revelation

Delivered as Jummah Bayaan by Maulana Muhammad Rayhaan.

@ Baitul Mukarram.

1484b Dominion Road, Mt Roskill, Auckland.

عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ عَبْدِ الرَّحْمَنِ بْنِ صَخْرٍ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ قَالَ

سَمِعْتُ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ يَقُولُ

مَا نَهَيْتُكُمْ عَنْهُ فَاجْتَنِبُوهُ،

وَمَا أَمَرْتُكُمْ بِهِ فَأَتُوا مِنْهُ مَا اسْتَطَعْتُمْ،

فَإِنَّمَا أَهْلَكَ الَّذِينَ مِنْ قَبْلِكُمْ كَثْرَةُ مَسَائِلِهِمْ وَاخْتِلَافُهُمْ عَلَى أَنْبِيَائِهِمْ

Hazrat Abu Hurayrah Abdur`Rahman ibn Sakhr Radiyallahu Anhu narrates that:

Rasulullah Sallallahu Alayhi Wa Sallam said:

“What I have forbidden for you, avoid. What I have ordered you [to do], do as much of it as you can. For verily, it was only the excessive questioning and their disagreeing with their Prophets that destroyed [the nations] who were before you”.

We find in the Quraan, Allah Ta’ala says:

And whatever the Messenger gives you, take it, and whatever he forbids you from, abstain (from it).

And fear Allah. Indeed, Allah is severe in punishment.

In this Ayaat and Hadith, we are told to follow what our beloved Nabi *Sallallahu Alayhi Wa Sallam* has commanded us and refrain from that which He *Sallallahu Alayhi Wa Sallam* has stopped us from.

Our attention has been drawn to the fact that we should preoccupy ourselves with the command of *Rasulullah Sallallahu Alayhi Wasallam* and we should be avoiding His prohibition.

When we hear a command or prohibition, our concern should be directed towards obedience.

This Hadith also prohibits excessive questioning, because this practice destroyed previous nations.

They had questioned their *Ambiya Alayhimus Salaatu was Salaam* and then still acted contrary to their teachings.

This Ummah has been warned by Rasulullah Sallallahu Alayhi Wasallam of adopting the same attitude.

Therefore, we should refrain from:

- asking unnecessary questions,
- or questions indulging in details and technicalities,
- or questions that will lead to confusion or doubt,
- or questions that will bring difficulty upon us if we are given the answer.

To understand this Hadith, we look into an incident which prompted Rasulullah Sallallahu Alayhi Wasallam to mention this particular Hadith:

Rasulullah Sallallahu Alayhi Wasallam had addressed the Sahabah Radiyallahu Anhum and said:

“O people, Allah has made Hajj compulsory upon you, so perform the Hajj”.

A man asked: “...Every year, O Messenger of Allah [Sallallahu Alayhi Wasallam]?”

Rasulullah Sallallahu Alayhi Wasallam remained silent. The man asked the same question three times.

Rasulullah Sallallahu Alayhi Wasallam then said: “If I said yes, Hajj would become obligatory upon you [to perform it every year] and you would not be able to do it”.

Then Rasulullah Sallallahu Alayhi Wasallam said:

“Leave me, as I leave you ... for all that destroyed those before you was their questioning and their disagreement with their Messengers.

So, when I tell you to do something, do of it that which you are able [to the best of your ability] and if I forbid you something, then leave it alone”. [*Sahih Muslim*]

We are forbidden to ask about a great deal of those things [which are Halaal and Haraam], and which it is feared, the question would cause revelation of some hardship.

Hence, Rasulullah Sallallahu Alayhi Wasallam mentions in another Hadith:

“The greatest criminal of the Muslims against the Muslims is someone who asks about something [which has not been forbidden], but then it is declared forbidden because of his asking”. [*Sunan Abi Dawud*]

Imaam Awza'ee Rahmatullahi Alayh mentions:

“When Allah wants to deprive His servant the blessing of knowledge, He puts questions on his tongue, which are designed to cause difficulty to the people of knowledge [the Ulema] ... I think they are the people with the least knowledge ...”.