

ILM UL MUKARRAM

Acquiring Honourable Knowledge

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TAFSEER UL QURAAAN

SURAH BAQARAH

We continue with our Tafseer / explanation of Surah Baqarah.

Alhamdulillah, we have completed 46 Ayat so far.

In the 47th Ayat Allah Ta'ala says:

O Children of Isra'il (Israel), remember My blessing / favour what I did to you, and that I gave you excellence / superiority over the worlds; [2:47]

The superiority of the Banu Isra'il over the rest of the people is that from their advent right until the revelation of the Quraan, they remained superior to all the other groups. There was no one equal to them. But when they opposed the last Nabi and the Quraan, their superiority ceased completely. Instead, they got the title of "those who have earned His anger" and "astray". On the other hand, the followers of Muhammad Sallallahu Alayhi Wa Sallam were given the honour of "you are the best of people".

And fear that day when no person will be of any avail to anyone in any way, nor shall intercession be accepted on anyone 's behalf, nor shall ransom / compensation be taken from him, and neither shall any be given support. [2:48]

Whenever a person experiences any problem, in most cases his family and friends try to help him out of the problem by:

- *fulfilling his dues.*

If this does not help,

- *they try to help him by interceding on his behalf.*

If this also does not help,

- *they try to free him by paying the fine or ransom on his behalf.*

If even this does not help,

- *they eventually bring together all their aides and try to save him by force.*

Allah, following this pattern, says that no person, irrespective of how close he may be to Allah, will not be able to help any unbelieving and disobedient enemy of Allah through any of these four ways.

The Banu Isra'il used to make the following claim:

"No matter what sin we commit, we will not be punished. Our forefathers who were prophets would get us pardoned."

Allah says this belief is incorrect.

(Remember) when We delivered you from the people of Pharaoh! They had been inflicting on you sever punishment, slaughtering your sons and leaving your women alive. In all that, there was a great trial from your Lord. [2:49]

Pharaoh had seen a dream, which was interpreted that a child will be born to the Banu Isra'il who would destroy his religion and kingdom. Pharaoh issued a decree that when any boy is born to the Banu Isra'il, he should be killed, if any girl is born, she should be spared in order to render service.

And (recall) when We parted / splitted the sea for you; then We saved you and drowned the people of Pharaoh while you were looking! [2:50]

And when We appointed forty nights for Musa, then you took the calf (as God) thereafter, and you were unjust. [2:51]

Hadhrat Musa Alayhis Salaam was assigned 40 days and nights in order to be given the Taurah. After Musa Alayhis Salaam had gone to the Mt. Tur, the Banu Isra'il began worshipping a calf made of steel. And made some sounds. They transgressed greatly.

Yet We pardoned you, even after that, so that you may show gratitude. [2:52]

Despite this obvious act of Shirk, Allah Ta'ala forgave them.

Then We gave Musa the Book and the Criterion (of right and wrong), so that you may find the right path. [2:53]

When Musa said to his people: O My people, you have wronged yourselves by your taking the calf (as God). So, turn in repentance to your Creator, and slay / kill yourselves. That will be better for you in the sight of your Creator. Then, He accepted your repentance. Indeed, He is the forgiver, the extremely-Merciful. [2:54]

Amongst the Banu Isra'il there were those who had not prostrated to the calf and those who did prostrate to the calf. Allah Ta'ala ordered those who had not prostrated should kill those who had prostrated. This was as means of completion of their repentance.

DARS UL HADITH

We continue with the topic we are discussing, that is "Kitabul Akhlaaq" The book of Manners.

Previously, we discussed 6 chapters:

1st chapter we learnt the importance of showing Mercy to one another.

2nd chapter we learnt the importance of showing Kindness to one another.

3rd chapter we learnt the importance of Generosity and to be away from stinginess and selfishness.

4th chapter we learnt the importance of forgiveness.

5th chapter Doing Good to and for people.

6th chapter we learnt that even the smallest act of goodness is precious in the judgement of Allah.

These are all qualities we must bring within us, to be better Muslims, better husband or/and wife, better father or/and mother and a better son or/and daughter.

This week's chapter is SELF-DENIAL

A superior form of kindness is that though a person may be needing a thing himself, he gives it to someone who wants it. This is called self-sacrifice, and without doubt, it is a virtue of the highest order.

Sahl ibn Sa'ad narrates that once a woman came to the Messenger of Allah Sallallahu Alayhi Wa Sallam with a shawl as a gift and begged him to wear it.

Nabi Sallallahu Alayhi Wa Sallam accepted the gift and wore it.

His condition, at that time, was such that he really needed a shawl.

On seeing him wearing it, a companion said: "Messenger of Allah, this shawl is very good, please give it to me".

Nabi Sallallahu Alayhi Wa Sallam said Ok and gave him the shawl.

After the Messenger of Allah Sallallahu Alayhi Wa Sallam had gone, some companions rebuked the person (who had asked for the shawl) and said to him, "You did a wrong thing. You knew that the Messenger of Allah needed it himself and it was in a state of want that He Sallallahu Alayhi Wa Sallam had accepted it from the lady, yet you asked for it knowing well that it is his habit to give away whatever anyone asked for from him."

The companion replied: "I did so for the sake of its blessedness, I thought that as the Messenger of Allah Sallallahu Alayhi Wa Sallam had worn the shawl, it would make a good shroud for me".

Abu Huraira reported that a person came to Allah's Messenger (Sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) and said:

I am hard pressed by hunger. He sent (message) to one of his wives (to procure food for him), but she said:

By Him Who has sent you with Truth, there is nothing with me (to serve him) but only water.

He (Sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) then sent the (same) message to another, and she gave the same reply, until all of them gave the same reply:

By Him Who has sent you with the Truth, there is nothing with me but only water,

Whereupon Nabi (Sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) said:

"Allaah would show mercy to him who will entertain this guest tonight".

A person from the Ansar stood up and said:

“O Messenger of Allaah, I (am ready to entertain)”.

He took him to his house and said to his wife:

“Is there anything with you (to serve the guest)?”

She said: “there is nothing except the food for the children”.

He said: “Distract the attention of the children with something and make them sleep, and when the guest enters extinguish the lamp and give him the impression that we are eating”

So, they sat down, and the guest had his meal.

When it was morning he went to Allah’s Nabi (Sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) who said:

“Allaah was well pleased with what you both did for your guest this night”.

It is related by Abu Hurayrah that the Messenger of Allah (Sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) said:

“A believer is an embodiment of love,

There is no virtue in him who does not love others and others do not love him”.

This Hadith shows that to have a loving and affectionate nature is a religious requirement for a Muslim. If he does not care for others and others do not care for him, he is devoid of virtue and his existence is of no benefit to society.

ILM UL FIQH

Chapter 1: THE IMPORTANCE OF SALAAH

We continue our discussion on the topic of Salaah which we started a few months back.

Last month we discussed, the timing of each Salaah i.e when each Salaah is to be performed.

Our next topic is:

Sleeping before Isha Salaah

We find in a Hadith, Abu Barzah al-Aslami reported, “the Nabi of Allah disliked sleeping before Isha and talking after Isha”.

Therefore, sleeping before praying Isha Salaah is disapproved.

Like was talking after Isha Salaah.

However, it is allowed to have useful conversation, if one is sure that one will not miss the morning Fajr Salaah.

We find a Hadith, Abdullah ibn Abbas reported: “I slept in the home of Maymunah one night when the Nabi of Allah was there. I watched to see how the Nabi of Allah prayed during the night. The Nabi of Allah talked with his wife for a while and then slept”.

Prohibited times

It is not permitted to pray any Salaah during 3 times in a day:

1. While the sun is rising.
2. At midday.
3. While the sun is setting.

Even Janaazah Salaah should not be prayed that this time nor Sajdah Tilawat be made at these times.

We find in a Hadith, Uqbah ibn Amir al-Juhani said, “There are three times during which the Nabi of Allah prohibited us from praying or burying our deceased: sunrise until the sun has risen, when the sun is at its meridian. And when the sun is setting until it has set”.

Makrooh / disliked times

There are 2 times when it will be Makrooh to pray Nafil Salaah.

1. To pray any Nafil Salaah after the Fajr Salaah until the sun has risen.
2. To pray any Nafil Salaah after Asr Salaah until the sun has set.

There is no harm in making up missed Salaah between these two times, like wise no harm in praying Janaazah Salaah and Sajdah Tilawat be made at these times.

Qada Salaah

It is obligatory to make up any missed Salaah, whether it is missed knowingly or forgetfully or because of sleep.

Missing a Salaah knowingly is a major sin and one must repent as soon as possible.

When a person misses a certain Salaah unintentionally because of sleep or forgetfulness, he must pray it as soon as he wakes up or remembers the Salaah.

Sahibe Tarteeb

That person who has no Qada Salaah.

If this person misses a Salaah or a few Salaah but less than 5 Salaah, then when he is making up his Salaah he will need to consider the order in making up the missed Salaah.

For e.g.

This person missed Zuhr Salaah, now comes into Asr Salaah, this person will first need to pray his Zuhr Salaah before he can pray his Asr Salaah.

However, if there is not enough time to pray Zuhr Salaah and then Asr Salaah, he should first pray Asr Salaah. *The preferred time of Isha is up to a third of the night.*

ILM UL AQAID

In the previous months we went over the beliefs regarding Allah Ta'ala in some detail and beliefs concerning nubuwwah, we also discussed our beliefs regarding the angles and the books that Allah Ta'ala sent.

Last month we started with the "Beliefs regarding signs of Qiyaamah.

The second Major sign: the appearance of dajjal.

The word dajjal is derived from the Arabic word dajl which means to deceive, to cheat.

Hence, dajjal means imposter, cheater, a liar. Many such dajjaals have appeared. Imaam Abu Dawood and Imaam Tirmizi have reported a Hadith of Rasulullah wherein he says:

"There will be thirty liars in my Ummat. Each one will claim to be a prophet – whereas I am the seal of prophethood."

The dajjal mentioned in the Ahaadith that will appear during the time of Hadrat Mahdi will be from a Jewish tribe.

He will be known as Maseeh.

He will be one-eyed.

His hair will be curly.

On his forehead will be inscribed the letters Kaaf – faa – raa, i.e. kufr which the true believers will be able to read.

This is the stamp of kufr which appears on his forehead.

He will appear between Syria and Iraq and claim to be a prophet.

He will thereafter go to Isfahaan where seventy thousand people will become his followers.

Here he will lay claim to divinity and spread dissension and corruption on the earth.

Two years before his appearance, there will be a severe drought.

To test the believers, Allah will allow him to demonstrate many supernatural feats.

He will burn a huge fire and call it Jahannam and he will also have a garden called Jannat.

He will move around with a large army and cause pillage and plunder in many lands.

He will then attempt to gain entry into Makkah and Madinah, but the angels will protect Makkah. Hence, he will not be able to enter Makkah.

He will then proceed to Madina and halt on the outskirts of Madinah at Mount Uhud. Madinah during that time will have seven gates. Two angels will be standing guard over these gates and dajjal will be unable to enter Madinah as well.

He will then travel towards Damascus where Hadrat Mahdi will be living.

Hadrat Mahdi will prepare a Muslim army to fight dajjal.

While preparing for battle against dajjal, Hadrat Isa, resting his hands on the shoulders of two angels, will descend from heaven. He will alight on the eastern Minaret of the Jaame Masjid of Damascus.

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