



CRUCIAL TIME

The word "curse" itself evokes an unpleasant feeling. How much more terrible it would be if that curse is invoked by the greatest angel of Allah Ta'ala? Surely any true Mu'min (Believer) would do everything in his capacity to avoid becoming a target of that curse. Hazrath Kaab bin Ujrah (R.A.) reports that once Rasulullah (sallallahu alaihi wasallam) called the Sahaaba (R.A.) close to the mimbar (pulpit). He then ascended the mimbar and upon ascending each step he said "Aameen." When he descended, the Sahaaba (R.A.) asked him the reason for having said "Aameen" on each step. Rasulullah (sallallahu alaihi wasallam) replied: "When I ascended the first step Jibraeel (A.S.) appeared before me and said: "Woe to him who found the blessed month of Ramadhan and let it pass him by without gaining forgiveness." Upon that I said: "Aameen." When I ascended the second step he said: "Woe to him before whom thy name is mentioned and he does not recite Durood on you. I replied "Aameen." When I ascended the third step he said: "Woe unto him in whose presence both his parents or either one of them attains old age and (through failure to serve them) he is not allowed to enter Jannah. I said: "Aameen" (Targheeb).

In the light of the above Hadith can any Mu'min be casual and careless about the great month of Ramadhan and risk the curse of Hazrath Jibraeel (A.S.)? Can any person afford to let this great month go by without having exerted himself in order to gain the forgiveness of Allah Ta'ala? How then is this forgiveness gained and how is it lost?

SINCERE REPENTENCE

The answer to both the above questions are clear as day light. Make sincere tawba (repent), keep all the fasts, perform all the salaah including taraweeh, recite as much of the Qur'an as possible, engage in Deeni efforts that are totally in conformance to the Shariah and keep yourself occupied in other righteous deeds. Insha-Allah the mercy of Allah Ta'ala will pour down upon you and complete forgiveness will be attained. However, failing to sincerely repent, neglecting the fasts, salaah and other obligations or engaging in any sin will deprive one of the forgiveness of Allah Ta'ala. This also exposes one to the curse of Hazrath Jibraeel (A.S.) mentioned above.

The month of Ramadhan is a month of reaping tremendous rewards and blessings, not a time to incur

curses. It is a month when rewards of righteous actions are multiplied manifold and blessings are showered down. It would be the height of ingratitude and also utter foolishness to ignore these blessings and become involved in sins.

MILLENNIUM CELEBRATIONS?

This Ramadhan is a crucial one. It is coming at a time when the fitna and vices will be intensified to a degree unwitnessed by people of this era. The distractions and temptations will be at their highest level. Ramadhan could not have come at a better time. With the barakah of Ramadhan it is hoped that people will easily refrain from all the fitna and evil of the millennium celebrations and other such activities. It will indeed be a tragedy of unimaginable magnitude if Muslims fall into the trap of Shaitaan and become involved in these evil celebrations in the month of Ramadhan. It is something to greatly fear. The wrath of Allah Ta'ala descends where many people openly and recklessly indulge in sins.

Involvement in these evil celebrations could either be by personally going to the venues where they are taking place, or to be glued to the box and participate by watching. (In fact Ramadhan is a time to finally cast out this instrument of Shaitaan forever — the instrument that brings all the evil right into one's home at the flick of a button.) Rasulullah (sallallahu alaihi wasallam) is reported to have said: "The one who is not present where an evil takes place but is happy about it is like the one who was present (at the place of evil)" (Mishkaat). Likewise, many people "just drive down to see the Christmas lights" or engage in other similar activities. This also falls under the same category of participation to some degree. Hence not only must one be far away from all evil, one must utterly loathe it.

While it is hoped that Muslims will insha-Allah refrain from these fitna celebrations completely, nevertheless since the fitna and vices will escalate to an alarming level it is a time to be very fearful. When people in their multitudes start sinning openly, one should fear the azaab (punishment) of Allah Ta'ala. To save ourselves and the Ummah from the azaab, one must at least do the following:

(Continued overleaf)

INSIDE...	Umrah and Teeage Children.....	Page 2
	Questions: Christmas Greetings.....	Page 3
	Earthquakes.....	Page 3
	Zikr.....	Page 4

CRUCIAL TIME

CONT. FROM PG. 1

* ENJOIN THE GOOD AND FORBID THE EVIL

One of the aspects that bring down the azaab is forsaking the duty of amar bil ma'roof and nahy anil munkar (enjoining the good and forbidding the evil). Rasulallah (sallallahu alaihi wasallam) is reported to have said: "You must most certainly enjoin the good and forbid the evil or else a punishment from Allah Ta'ala will overcome you. Then you will call unto Him but your prayers will not be answered" (Mishkaat). This duty is to be fulfilled at every level with wisdom and in an appropriate manner, especially in our own homes.

* DUA

One should also engage excessively in dua in these trying times. Dua should be made earnestly and as often as possible. Dua is the weapon of the Believer. However, it should be remembered that the acceptance of dua is dependent greatly on halaal sustenance. Haraam sustenance is an obstacle to the acceptance of dua.

* SADAQA

Another important aspect is Sadaqa (charity). It is reported that during the month of Ramadhaan Rasulallah (sallallahu alaihi wasallam) was much more charitable than at other times. Sadaqa also holds back calamities and hardships. Therefore to the extent of one's ability one should give Sadaqa daily, even if one can only afford to give a few cents.

The month of Ramadhaan is not to be wasted. Let us use this crucial time to gain the best rewards and gain the forgiveness of Allah Ta'ala. If we fail, we could become the target of the curse of Jibraeel (A.S.). Then who can save us? May Allah Ta'ala enable us to be steadfast on Deen and to refrain from all sins. Aameen.

UMRAH AND YOUR TEENAGE CHILDREN

A journey to the Mubarak lands of Makkatul Mukarramah and Madinatul Munawwarah is an extremely great blessing. Just one opportunity to glance at the Ka'ba Shareef is worth more than all the costs incurred to reach there. What then can be said about the opportunity to perform tawaaf and sa'ee, to kiss the Hajre Aswad, to perform Salaah at Maqaame Ibrahim, to cry one's heart out at Multazam, to drink zam-zam at the well and merely to be in that Mubarak place? Then, what about the awe and ecstasy experienced when standing in front of the Raudah Mubarak - the resting place of Rasulallah (sallallahu alaihi wasallam) - and offering salaams! What about merely the blessing of being allowed to walk on that Mubarak land and breathe its fragrant air? Subhanallah! Subhanallah! It is the yearning of every heart and the cry of every soul to be granted this blessing over and over again.

DELICATE

While this journey is a tremendous blessing, it is also extremely delicate. If the etiquette of these places are not observed, one could return with a burden of great sin instead of tremendous blessings and rewards. Sayyidina Umar (R.A.) is reported to have said: "It is more severe upon me that I commit one sin in Makkah than committing seventy sins outside Makkah." Once a person was overheard making dua in the following words: "O Allah, I seek refuge in You from Thyself!" Being a strange dua, he was asked as to why he prayed in those words. He explained that while making tawaaf of the Ka'ba he gazed once at a strange woman. Immediately a hand came out from the corner of the Ka'ba and slapped him so hard that his one eye fell off. He then heard a voice saying: "This was the punishment for gazing at women while making tawaaf around our house. In future if you look again, we will take greater revenge" (Virtues of Haj).

ILLICIT ACTIVITIES

Thus it is vitally important that one fully observes the etiquette of the Mubarak places and refrains from all sin. However, one will only be able to conduct oneself correctly if one realises the value of the place in advance and learns the etiquette before departing. Learn it yourself and teach it to your children. It is tragic that unspeakable incidents concerning South Africans have occurred during Umrah and Haj. Many teenagers (and even adults) have become involved in illicit activities while on Umrah! Hotel foyers, lifts and the bazaars have become venues for clandestine meetings. It is therefore necessary that one adopts the following steps to ensure that the Umrah truly becomes a means of spiritual cleansing and not a journey of sins:

- * Learn the adaab (etiquette) of the place before departing from the Ulama and by reading any authentic literature on this subject.
- * Do not allow your children, especially young daughters, to go into the bazaars even for a little while without you for even an urgent necessity.
- * Strictly refrain from all intermingling. Ignoring the laws of hijab has resulted in much misery for many people.
- * Make a programme of ibaadat and adhere to it so that the time is not wasted.
- * Monitor your children's activities at all times.
- * Seek pious company so that one will be encouraged to spend the time in righteous deeds.
- * Most of all, make the Umrah a turning point in your life so that you return as a better Muslim who has shunned all sins and has become steadfast on Deen..

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR???

Q We have many Christian clients and customers. In December we give them Christmas gifts and also wish them a merry Christmas. Is this permissible?

A Christmas is a Christian religious holiday. Among their religious observances is that Christians exchange gifts and decorate their homes (for details see Al-Haadi vol.5 - Issue 4). Thus to give Christmas presents is totally forbidden as this involves one in a religious custom of the Christians.

To wish somebody "Merry Christmas" is tantamount to expressing one's happiness upon the person's baatil (false) religious custom. Indeed no Muslim will wish any person "Happy worshipping the cross" or "Happy bowing down to idols." Similarly one must totally refrain from wishing anybody "Merry Christmas." In fact it is worse and more severe than saying to a person who is drinking alcohol "Have a nice drink." Just as the latter is totally Haraam as it is an encouragement to commit sin, to wish somebody "Merry Christmas" is worse as it is a congratulation upon a belief system which includes shirk (polytheism) and kufr (disbelief). Likewise, Muslim businesses should not advertise "Christmas" specials or have "Christmas" sales. By all means they may have sales and maximise their turnovers. However, it should not be associated with "Christmas."

Q What is the position of celebrating New Year's Day in the Shariah?

A The first of January is the first day of the new year of the Gregorian calendar. It is interesting to note the beginnings of New Year's Day and what customs were associated with it. The World Book Encyclopedia states:

"The Roman ruler Julius Caesar established January 1 as New Year's Day in 46 B.C. The Romans dedicated this day to Janus, the god of gates, doors and beginnings. January was named after Janus, who had two faces - one looking forward and the other looking backward.

The early Romans gave each other New Year's gifts of branches from sacred trees. In later times, they gave coins, imprinted with pictures of Janus, or gold covered nuts."

Thus it is evident that, similar to Christmas, the Gregorian New Year itself and the celebrations that go with it have its basis on baatil religious customs. Therefore a Muslim and New Year's celebrations should be light years apart.

JAHILIYYA

This should not be treated lightly. Allah Ta'ala declares: "You regard it as trivial whereas by Allah it is serious." It is reported that when Rasulullah (sallallahu alaihi wasallam) came to Madinatul Munawwara, he found the people celebrating on two days of the year which were celebrated from the days of jahiliyya (ignorance). Rasulullah (sallallahu alaihi wasallam) forbade them from celebrating on these two days and declared: "Allah Ta'ala has given you two better days in return for it — Eidul Fitr and Eidul Adha" (Mishkaat).

Perhaps somebody may label this prohibition of participating in these kuffaar celebrations (and wishing them "Merry Christmas" etc.) as fanaticism. Indeed, every true Muslim is fanatical about safeguarding himself from kufr and shirk or anything that has even a slight association with them. It is the dictates of our Imaan that we totally shun all things that are associated with kufr and shirk. May Allah Ta'ala keep us firm and steadfast on Imaan and save us from anything that has even the slightest association with kufr and shirk at all times. Aameen.

EARTHQUAKES! WHY?

The Qur'an-al-kareem, in all its glory and might, declares: "When the earth will be shaken it's (final) earthquake."

The "final earthquake" (on the day of Judgment) will occur at it's appointed time. Allah Ta'ala alone knows when that appointed time will come. However, small reminders of the "final earthquake" are being manifested with increasing frequency. Just as the slightest movement of any atom cannot occur without the will of Allah Ta'ala, these earthquakes also only occur by His command.

Why do they occur? The Ahadith of Rasulullah (sallallahu alaihi wasallam) have given us the answer. It is reported that once in the time of Rasulullah (sallallahu alaihi wasallam) an earthquake was felt. Rasulullah (sallallahu alaihi wasallam) placed his hand on the ground and said: "Stop. That time (the Day of Judgment) has not yet arrived." Thereafter Rasulullah (sallallahu alaihi wasallam) turned to the Sahaaba (R.A.) and said: "Repent. Your Rabb (Nourisher and Sustainer) wishes that you should repent." This Hadith clearly indicates that by means of earthquakes Allah Ta'ala generates the fervour of repentance among his servants.

NEW SIN

Once in the time of Sayyidina Umar (R.A.) an earthquake occurred. Hazrath Umar (R.A.) addressed the people and said: The reason for this earthquake is that you have committed a new sin. I swear in the name of Allah that if another earthquake takes place I will not live here anymore (Akhbar-e-Zalzalah).

Hazrath Aisha (R.A.) is reported

(Continued overleaf)

FAQIHUL UMMAH

The sterling advice of Faqihul Ummah Hazrath Mufti Mahmood Saheb (*Rahmatullahi Alaihi*) has helped thousands of people to overcome many problems and difficulties — especially in the line of *Islahun Nafs* (inner-self reformation). Hereunder is a reply to a letter seeking guidance.

MEDITATION DURING ZIKR

LETTER: Bismih Ta'ala

Respected Mufti Saheb

Assalamu Alaikum Warahmatullah

SUMMARY OF LETTER: Bismih Ta'ala

Respected Mufti Saheb

Assalamu Alaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuhu

What must one meditate on while reciting Istighfaar, Durood Shareef, the Third Kalimah, Laa ilaaha illallah and during the recitation of the Qur'an Shareef?

SUMMARY OF REPLY: Bismih Ta'ala

Respected Brother

Assalamu Alaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuhu

When reciting Istighfaar imagine that you are completely soiled with the filth of sins from head to toe. With the recitation of Istighfaar your sins are gradually being washed away. Think that just as a dirty cloth which is left under a running tap is gradually purified of the dirt and filth, likewise with the barakat of Istighfaar my sins are being washed away and my heart is being purified.

While reciting Durood Shareef imagine that the angels are presenting the gift of Durood Shareef from me, a sinner, to Rasulullah (sallallahu alaihi wasallam) and Rasulullah (sallallahu alaihi wasallam) is pleased with it.

While making zikr of the third kalimah and reciting subhanallah meditate that Allah Ta'ala is free of every blemish, upon reciting alhamdulillah that every perfection and greatness solely belongs to Allah Ta'ala. Meditate upon saying la ilaha illallah that there is none worthy of giving one's heart to and worthy of total allegiance besides Allah Ta'ala.

When you say Allahu Akbar that Allah Ta'ala is greater than everything that I have perceived and even greater than what I have not perceived.

During recitation of the Qur'an ponder that you are reciting to Allah Ta'ala. Recite as a child recites to his Ustaad (with utmost care and full concentration). (Tarbiyatut Taalibeen pg.78)

EARTHQUAKES!

(Continued from page 3)

to have said that earthquakes occur when adultery and fornication is indulged in freely (as if it was permissible), when intoxicants are consumed and singing, music and dancing becomes the past time of people (Akhbaar-e-Zalzalah).

Earthquakes are not just news items for table talk. They are a reminder to us. The violent shaking of the earth should shake our hearts, jolt us towards giving up all sins and make us sincerely repent .

ALIVE OR DEAD?

Rasulullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) is reported to have said: "The contrast between the person who glorifies Allah Ta'ala and the one who does not remember him is like that between the living and dead.

LATEST PUBLICATION

"LIVE LIKE BROTHERS - DEAL LIKE STRANGERS"

This booklet is a translation of an article by Hazrath Mufti Muhammad Taqi Uthmani Saheb (mudda zilluhu). The basic lesson expounded in this article is the total clarification of all our transactions and monetary matters. Hazrath Mufti Muhammad Taqi Saheb (mudda zilluhu), in his capacity as a judge of the Shariah court, has immense experience in these aspects. In the light of this experience he has vividly described the common problems that repeatedly occur in our dealings — and has given practical solutions to these problems.

It is essential for every person to study the advice contained in this booklet carefully and to implement the same in his / her life.

Write to Al-Haadi Publications for your copy at R4.50 each including postage. (R2.00 each direct from the Madrasah).

Foreign orders: \$3.00 including postage - Airmail