

The guest is coming

When an extremely distinguished guest has announced that he will be arriving soon, preparations commence well in advance for that great occasion. Thereafter, from the moment he comes until he has finally departed, all attention is fixed towards him. The Ummah is going to be visited very soon by a guest whose rank and status is beyond our imagination. The guest is the blessed month of RAMADHAN.

Yes indeed. Ramadhan is a guest that will come and very shortly depart. Unlike other guests, it requires nothing. Rather it grants such abundant blessings to those who will appreciate and honour it that these blessings cannot be achieved at other times. Should we then not be enthusiastic about the arrival of this month?

Rasulullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) used to so eagerly await the arrival of the month of Ramadhan that from the time the moon of Rajab was sighted he would make the following dua: *"O Allah, Bless us in the month of Rajab and Sha'ban and cause us to reach Ramadhan."*

TAQWA

What is the true appreciation and honour of this most distinguished guest? Simply to immerse oneself in the remembrance of Allah Ta'ala. The fundamental object of Ramadhan is a month long training to develop *Taqwa* (piety). The Fast, Taraweeh, recitation of the Glorious Qur'an, Zikr, etc. are all for this same purpose. The bottom line of *Taqwa* is abstention from ALL sin. Thus if one engages in all acts of Ibadah but does not refrain from sin, he has defeated the purpose of

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INDEBTED?

Whether one wishes to answer the call of nature or commence a multi-million rand business, one will find complete guidance in the Shariah with regards to that aspect. Islam is a complete way of life. It has not **only** given mankind the method of worshipping Allah Ta'ala in the manner of Salaah, Fasting, etc. Rather it has covered even the most mundane of activities. Adherence to ALL these laws is essential. To ignore some of these aspects is tantamount to rejecting part of Deen. Allah Ta'ala says: *"Do you Believe in part of the Book and reject part of it? There is no retribution for those who do that except disgrace in the worldly life and on the Day of Judgement they will be returned to the most severe punishment"* (2:85).

Therefore salvation lies in following EVERY aspect of Deen. However, nowadays Deen is regarded as something which only pertains to Salaah, Zakaah, Fasting and Haj. These are indeed the pillars of Deen. To neglect these aspects is extremely serious. However, equally serious is neglecting the aspect of *Huququl Ibaad* (the rights of mankind). In fact it is a little more serious. This can be gauged from the following Hadith: Rasulullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) once asked the Sahaaba (R.A.): "Do you know who is a pauper?" They replied: "A pauper according to us is the one who has no wealth and no possessions." Rasulullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) said: "Verily the pauper of my Ummah is the one who will come on the Day of Qiyamah with much Salaah, Fasts and Zakaah to his credit. However he will come in the condition that he had sworn at this person, slandered another, hit somebody, usurped somebody's wealth, and shed someone's blood. Hence these people will be given his good deeds (all his Salaah, Haj, etc. will be given to these people who were harmed by him as compensation). If his good deeds are exhausted before his accounts have been settled, the sins of those who were harmed would be put onto him and then he would be flung into the fire." (Muslim v.2, pg.320) Thus the severity of violating the rights of people is manifest. All one's hard-earned good deeds will be lost. What a tragedy!!!

Huququl Ibaad pertains to many aspects. However, most people default in matters concerning money. When it comes to money, very often Deen is relegated to the back seat, even if the person is outwardly pious. The apparent piety also does not refrain many people from usurping the rights of others, etc. We should consider at this point how 'wise' we really are. In reality we are depositing our good deeds in the accounts of others and we ourselves are becoming paupers!!! What greater foolishness can there be?

DEBTS

One of the most common weak points is payment of debts. There are times when a person genuinely intends paying back the debt but due to unforeseen circumstances is suddenly not able to do so. In such a case, the creditor/s should be immediately contacted and extra time for the repayment should be sought. At the same time one should take immediate steps to repay his debts. All luxuries should be disposed of and the cash realized therefrom should be immediately paid to the creditors. Indeed this may result in a drop in one's standard of living. However this should not be considered at all. What should be considered is that death is hovering above us all the time. It could strike at any moment and separate us forever from this world. To leave this world with the burden of debts is no small thing. When any person passed away Rasulullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) would first enquire as to whether he had any debts for which he does not have any funds to pay. If it was replied in

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the affirmative, Rasulullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) would not perform the Janazah Salaah unless someone took the responsibility of fulfilling the debts (Tirmizi v.1 p.127). Rasulullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) is also reported to have said that all sins of a martyr are forgiven except debt (Mishkaat p.330). Thus it is extremely foolish to live like a millionaire on borrowed money in this world and be an absolute pauper in the Hereafter.

Debts should be paid promptly when they are due. Rasulullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) is reported to have said: "The delaying of a wealthy person (in paying his debts) is OPPRESSION" (Mishkaat p.251). This means that despite being wealthy (having assets of any nature in excess of one's basic necessities) if one delays in paying his debts after they become due, he is guilty of the severe crime of oppression. Thus to keep one's creditors waiting while one undertakes journeys for Haj, Umrah, etc. is absolutely incorrect. The Shariah does not sanction the performance of *Nafil* actions when this involves committing oppression. All the reward of one's Ibadah will be transferred to the oppressed one on the day of Qiyamah. It is therefore *Fardh* to pay one's debts first unless the creditor HAPPILY extends the time of payment.

"AM I DEAD?"

One should be polite and courteous to the creditor when he requests payment for the debt that is due to him. One should not retort by saying: "I will not run away with your money" or "Am I dead?" or as many say "Do you think I am a thief?" You are not doing the creditor a favour. You are paying him what is his. Therefore, these remarks are uncalled for. It is reported in a Hadith that once a person came to Rasulullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) and demanded payment of his debt a few days before it was due. In his demand he used harsh words against Rasulullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam). Umar (R.A.) was enraged and threatened to behead him. Rasulullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) calmly said to Umar (R.A.): "Both of us were in need of something besides

these words. You should have rather advised me to fulfil the debt and advised him to ask in a polite and proper manner. Now go and pay him his debt and give him so much more for having threatened him." Here we find that despite the debt not yet being due, Rasulullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) not only paid back the debt but granted him something more for having being threatened by Umar (R.A.).

DA'WAH?

Often the victim of the unpaid debt is a non-Muslim. When Muslims default in their payments to non-Muslims, they create an aversion in that persons heart for Muslims in general. Is this *Da'wah* towards Islam or is it turning people away from Deen? Many Muslim suppliers have also commented that they do not wish to do business with Muslims. This is indeed an extremely sad state of affairs.

Unless there is an extremely urgent need, one should refrain from taking a debt. Often people fall into debt due to greed. This greed makes them plunge into loans — especially the accursed loans and OD's of the banks. The end result is insolvencies, disgrace and utter misery.

Therefore it is better to make do with less rather than succumb to greed and fall into debt. Abu Saeed Khudri (R.A.) reports that he heard Rasulullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) saying: "I seek refuge with Allah from Kufr and debt." A person asked: "O Rasul of Allah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam), are you equating debts with kufr and seeking refuge from both of them?" Rasulullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) replied: "Yes" (Nasai). In another narration it is reported that debts are the flag of Allah on the earth. When He wishes to disgrace a person, He loads upon him the burden of debts (Hakim).

Remember well! A debt will remain a debt unless paid or forgiven by the creditor. If it is not paid in this world, it will have to be fulfilled in the Hereafter much more dearly. It is therefore better to clear one's accounts here and be saved from the destruction of the Hereafter. C

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Ramadhan. It is therefore vitally important that we totally abstain from ALL sin in this month. One has to be especially careful about guarding the eyes and ears from sin as well as refraining from backbiting since one falls into these sins very easily. If just this one month is passed diligently without the commission of any sin, *Insha-Allah* the next eleven months will pass likewise.

As for *Nafil Ibadah*, among the various good actions, Rasulullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) is reported to have exhorted the Ummah to engage excessively in the following four aspects in the month of Ramadhan: Recitation of the *Kalimah*, *Istighfaar* (seeking forgiveness), begging for Jannah and seeking refuge from Jahannum.

EID

One aspect that has exceeded the bounds is "Eid shopping." Most definitely the day of Eid is a joyous occasion. Rasulullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) has encouraged that one should don the best clothing that he owns on this day. However, there is no mention anywhere that one MUST purchase new clothing, shoes, etc. for every member of the family, even if this means falling into debt. Simply, one must don the best clothing in one's possession. One evil of the present custom of "Eid shopping" is that the valuable hours of Ramadhan are spent going from shop to shop or sizing garments. That time which should have been spent in the recitation of the Glorious Qur'an, zikr, etc. is wasted in elaborate preparations for Eid. The true Eid in reality is for that person who has fruitfully spent the precious moments of Ramadhan and has earned the forgiveness of Allah Ta'ala. Furthermore, Eid is an Islamic occasion. Does it make sense that on this extremely auspicious Islamic occasion we are draped in Western fashion? At least on this day one should be attired in the Sunnah clothing (for the entire day — not only until Eid Salaah).

SPREADING IMMORALITY

Allah Ta'ala says in the Glorious Qur'an: "*Verily those who love that immorality should spread among the Believers, for them is a painful punishment in the world and the Hereafter.*" (24: 19)

The spread of immorality is a severe cancer which eats away the moral fibre of society. Extremely detestable actions then become the norm. Those who oppose these abominations are termed "eccentric" (odd). The end result is the sick society that is to be found in most parts of the world, especially in Western countries.

Having drifted with the tide, many Muslims have also become engulfed in various aspects of immorality. If any Muslim were to be asked: "Do you love to spread immorality?" his answer will be an emphatic "NO." Yet in various ways many are actually promoting this cancer. This is very similar to a drug dealer vigorously denying that he loves that people should take drugs!!!

Therefore, a person who is opposed to the spread of the cancer of immorality will remain miles away from all such things that in any way aid its spreading. No consideration should be given to any social conditions or to any financial implications in this matter. The only thing to be considered is Deen.

T.V.

Among the worst promoters of immorality in this age is the accursed T.V. Even the most ignorant person knows well enough how much of absolute filth is spewed onto its screen. Teenage sons and daughters together with their mothers and fathers watch the the lewd and lurid "romantic" scenes that constantly appear on the face of this shaitaan. The adopting of the shameless and immoral western attire by Muslim men and especially women is the achievement of this T.V. Having such an immoral tool in one's home is tacit promotion of immorality. Those who detest the spread of immorality will detest this tool of immorality as well and will therefore get rid of it immediately.

MAGAZINES

Another tool that fosters an environment of utter immorality is the filthy magazines and books. Recently with the relaxation of censorship laws in this country there has been a tremendous upsurge in the amount of sordid literature. Muslims buying or selling such magazines and books should realize that they are actively involved in spreading immorality. For a paltry profit (which in this case is Haraam) the moral fibre of society is being hacked and slashed.

ADVERTS

Sustenance is in the hands of Allah Ta'ala. One will only receive what He has decreed. Having forgotten this, in an effort to boost one's business the Deen of Allah Ta'ala is totally ignored. Thus one finds adverts with shameless and utterly disgusting pictures of semi-clad women. Not only does this deprive one of the *Barakah* in one's earnings, one will also have to share the sin of all those thousands of people who will become involved in the Zina of the eyes by looking at those pictures (The same applies to the selling of the lurid magazines mentioned above). It will not make the least bit of difference to one's business and sustenance if one refrains from such Haraam practices. Rather it will bring more *barakah*.

ENTERTAINMENT

Treasure the modesty and morality of the Muslims, especially the impressionable minds of our innocent children. Do not "lovingly" hack and slash away their Islamic values by exposing them to the "zina box" and the sordid literature. For your "entertainment" you may have purchased a T.V. and video. Do you realize that you are entertaining yourself with the destruction of YOUR CHILDREN? May Allah Ta'ala save us. G

O FRIEND OF ALLAH!!

"The aspiration and goal of every Believer is to earn the Pleasure of Allah Ta'ala and become His Friend. Allah Ta'ala says in the Glorious Qur'an: "None are His Friends except the *Muttaqoon* (pious ones)." Thus it is evident that the condition for becoming the friend of Allah Ta'ala is the adoption of *Taqwa*. The dictates of *Taqwa* is that one should abstain from every major and minor sin.

Nowadays many people engage in various good deeds. Nafil Salaah is also performed in abundance. Umras and Haj are performed every year. Tasbeehs are also in the hands. In many cases the proper Islamic attire is donned. However, despite all this the involvement in sins has not terminated. Videos and shameless films are still being watched. Glances are cast upon every woman passing on the street. The heart is engaged in evil thoughts. Together with this sinning one can never become the *Wali* (friend) of Allah Ta'ala. Despite the *Tahajjud* Salaah, *Nafil* Haj and Umras and the numerous *tasbees*, due to these sins such a person is a *Faasiq* (flagrant sinner) in the sight of Allah Ta'ala.

A person who performs all the *Faraaid* (compulsory acts), *Waajibs* and *Sunnatte Muakkadahs* and does not engage in much Nafil but refrains from every sin will become the *Wali* of Allah Ta'ala. Therefore adopt *Taqwa* and give up sinning immediately."

(The gist of a portion of the talk delivered by **Hazrath Moulana Hakim Muhammad Akhtar Saheb Daamat Barakatuhu**)

FAQIHUL UMMAH

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

RECITATION OF QU'RAN AND DUA

LETTER:

Respected Mufti Saheb

ā³⁄₄šZ æġŠfz â¹⁄₄Ā³⁄₄“ wē±šZ

.... Please advise me with regards to the following. Firstly, I do not have the true enthusiasm for the recitation of the Qur'an. Secondly, I am not much inclined towards dua....

REPLY:

Respected Brother

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ā³⁄₄šZ æġŠfz â¹⁄₄Ā³⁄₄“ wē±šZ

It gave me pleasure to know that you are punctual with your

May Allah Ta'ala grant you further progress. When reciting the Qur'an-e-Kareem meditate upon the fact that you are reciting to Allah Ta'ala. Be like a student who is reciting to his Ustaad while the awe of his Ustaad has engulfed him. Hence recite the Qur'an-e-Kareem with the intention that you are reciting to Allah Ta'ala in such a manner AS IF you can see Him. (This will create the desired enthusiasm)

Also remember that Dua is the essence of Ibadah. Whether it is *Zikr*, *Tilawat* or *Salaah*, the essence of it all is Dua. Keeping in mind Allah Ta'ala's favours and His kindness, engage in Dua with much humility. Ponder that only He can accept one's Duas and solve one's problems. He has commanded us: "Call unto Me, I will accept." Whosoever is granted the gift of Dua, unlimited mercies are showered upon him. His Dua passes through

THE GUIDE

The thoughts of a student in memory of Hazrath Moulana Maseehullah Khan Saheb (R.A.)

Travellers they were - wandering, along a path meandering.

They found a guide, who was to become their pride.

A descendent of the illuminating lamp (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam)

So they stood in line
And when he saw their plight,
He came, to their delight
And showed that path
Which was to be their guard
From the excess of wrong
And he took them along
Towards recognising Him to whom
we belong
Oh! He Who is most Beloved!

Only a Child

"...Most people do not give consideration to the proper nurturing of children while they are in their infancy. The common justification for this is: "He is still a child." However it is during childhood that habits are formed. The habits formed during this time remain forever. Therefore this is the time to instill correct character and proper thinking into the child. From his infancy the child lives with his parents and recognises them as being his parents. Hence no matter how greatly anyone may try to convince him later in his life that these people are not his parents, he will never believe it. This is how firmly a child sticks to whatever he has learnt in his infancy. It is rarely forgotten." (Hakimul Ummah)

COMPETITION

Hazrath Ubaadah bin Saamit (R.A.) reports that one day when Ramadhan had drawn near Rasulullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) said: "The month of Ramadhan, the month of Blessings has come to you. In this month Allah Ta'ala turns towards you, sends down upon you His special mercy, forgives your faults and accepts your duas. Allah Ta'ala also **appreciates your competition for the greatest amount of good** and boasts to the angels about you. Therefore show to Allah Ta'ala your righteousness for verily the most unfortunate person is he who is deprived of Allah's mercy in this month." (*Targheeb*)

With regards to worldly matters we always strive to do the best. As a result we very often end up competing with others who are also desirous of being the best. In the Hadith above this spirit of competing is commended. However, this is strictly restricted to competing in matters of Deen. This "competition" gives one more vigour to engage in excessive recitation of the Qur'an, zikr, etc. Nevertheless it is obvious that the intention in performing the good deeds should be solely the Pleasure of Allah Ta'ala.

SEHRI

Hazrath Ibn Umar (R.A.) reports that Rasulullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) said: "Verily Allah Ta'ala and His angels send mercy upon those who eat Sehri." (*Targheeb*)

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