

PERPETUAL INVESTMENT

No person is prepared to invest in anything if he is not certain of earning a profitable return on that investment. The greater the returns, the more profitable is that investment. Nevertheless, investments of this world will benefit at the most until one's death-and that could be extremely near. After death, all these investments would be transferred to the heirs who would use them or abuse them (which is not uncommon). The person who has toiled and laboured to acquire this wealth cannot, after death, benefit from that wealth in the least bit.

RETURNS AFTER DEATH

However, certain investments are such that one continues to reap benefits even after death. When one can no longer do any good deeds, these perpetual investments continue to earn him great rewards. These are the investments of the Hereafter which are permanent and perpetual. Allah Ta'ala says: "But you give preference to the worldly life whereas the hereafter is better and more enduring (remaining eternally)" (S. V.). Furthermore, in reality only what has been deposited in the Hereafter is what belongs to a person for Rasulullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) has said: "Verily your wealth is what you have sent ahead (to the Hereafter). What is left behind is

the wealth of your heirs."

One such investment is *Ilm* (knowledge of Deen). . Rasulullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wa-sallam) is reported to have said, "When the son of Adam (Alaihis Salaam) dies, all actions terminate except from three things; *Sadaqa-E-Jaariya* (continuous charity); that Knowledge from which benefit is being derived or a pious son who prays for him." (Muslim)

"But you give preference to the worldly life whereas the Hereafter is better and more enduring (remaining eternally)." (S.88 V.16:17)

Sadaqa-e-Jaariya has many forms. To dig a well so that people may freely use its water is *Sadaqa-e-Jaariya*. As long as people derive benefit from that well, the donor will continue earning the great rewards even after his death. The same applies to building a Musjid, Madressa, a home for travellers, donating a Quran or other deeni literature, etc.

DEENI KNOWLEDGE.

Imparting *Ilm* of the Quran and Hadeeth to one's child is a great investment. As long as he benefits from that knowledge the reward will also accrue to the one who

had imparted it. Furthermore, if the student then teaches it to someone else, and this chain continues, the tremendous rewards can barely be imagined. This reward is not only for the teacher. It is also for the one who had made it possible for the student to study by supporting him financially, fulfilling his needs, etc. Hence if one has no children who could be "invested", one can earn this reward by sponsoring a needy student.

PIOUS OFFSPRING.

By investing in *ILM*, one would have those pious children who would pray for their parents when their parents have passed away.

Therefore, think before you invest your hard -earned wealth. Invest it in a perpetual investment. Invest it in *ILM*. You will appreciate it when "your eyes have closed"- and that could be soon. You will realize what a great investment it was on that day when rands and cents (and all the rest of the wealth and riches of this world) will be of absolutely no value anymore. The only currency of that day will be our good deeds. Also remember, the bigger the investment, and the more sincere the intention, the greater the profits!!!

May Allah Ta'ala give us the ability to invest in *ILM* and earn

A CROWN FOR YOU

Teaching the Holy Quran to your child is no ordinary thing. Indeed absolutely nothing can compare to the virtue of learning the Holy Quran. Allah Ta'ala appreciates this so greatly that even the parents are tremendously rewarded for having taught their child the word of Allah Ta'ala.

Hazrath Ma'aaz Juhani (R.A.) reports that Rasulullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) said: "Whoever reads the Holy Quran and acts upon what is contained therein, his parents will be made to wear a crown on the day of Judgement, the brilliance of which will excel that of the sun if it (the sun) had to be in your worldly homes. So what do you think about the person who himself acts upon it?" (Abu Dawood)

The above is the astounding honour that will be bestowed upon the parents on the day of Qiyamah for having taught their child the Holy Quran. Is there any degree, doctorate or P. Hd of this world that can attain one such honour?

Besides the above, the one who memorises the Holy Quran will be blessed beyond imagination. Hazrath Ali (R.A.)

reports that Rasulullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) said: "Whoever reads the Holy Quran and memorises it and then regards it lawful as lawful and its unlawful as forbidden (ie. he practices according to its commands), Allah Ta'ala will enter him into Jannah. He will also accept his intercession in respect of ten such persons of his family who would have been doomed to Jahannam." In yet another Hadith it is reported that Rasulullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) said: "On the day of Judgement it will be said to the person of the Quran (the Hafiz): 'Recite the Quran and continue ascending the storeys of Jannah. Recite in the slow and proper manner you had been reading in the world for verily your final abode will be where you reach at the time of the last verse of your recitation.'" (Tirmizi)

This is honour. This is respect. This is something to strive for. By the Grace of Allah Ta'ala, many institutions have been established wherein your child could learn the Quran and also memorise it. It would be indeed a great pity if we do not take advantage of this golden opportunity.

PEARLS OF WISDOM

- * Obtain knowledge of Deen since to do so is obedience.
- * Its learning and teaching is *tasbeeh*.
- * It is the instrument of distinguishing between *Halaal* and *Haram* (lawful and forbidden)
- * Its research is equal to *Jihaad*.
- * With knowledge one gains the recognition of Allah Ta'ala.
- * To teach it to the one who does not have it is *Sadaqah*.
- * It is the road to *Jannah*.
- * The angels desire the friendship of the student of Deen.
- * They spread their wings under the feet of the student of Deen.
- * The animals in the jungle, the fish in the sea and even the ants pray for their forgiveness.
- * Knowledge elevates one's rank in this world and the next.

(Hazrath Ali Radhiallahu Anhu)

WHOLESALE

The severity of the crime of *Zina* (fornication) is well known to all. It will suffice to illustrate this by means of just one Hadith. Rasulullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) is reported to have said: "A fornicator does not engage in the act of *zina* while he is a Believer (ie. Imaan does not remain with him while he indulges in this sin). (Mishkaat) However, while this is the worst form of *zina*, this is **not** the **only** form of *zina*."

It is mentioned in one Hadith that "the *zina* of the eyes is to look (at what is forbidden), the *zina* of the ears is to listen (to sinful things), the *zina* of the hands is to touch (anything that is forbidden to touch or the touching of that which results in sin), the *zina* of the feet is walking (towards sin) and the *zina* of the heart is to wish and desire (by entertaining sinful and evil thoughts)." (Mishkaat)

Hence we find that Rasulullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) warned the Ummah from the misuse of these organs. The Quran also cautions us thus: "Verily the ears, eyes and heart; all of these you will be questioned about (on the day of Judgement)." (S.17 V.36). In yet another verse Allah Ta'ala says: "Today (the day of Judgement) We shall seal their mouths and their hands shall speak to Us (regarding the sins they were made to commit) and their feet will bear witness to what they used to do." (S.36 V.65)

One sure way of engaging in all these forms of *zina* almost simultaneously is by watching T.V.. One would most definitely be looking at *ghair mahrams* (those who one could marry). This is *zina* of the eyes. Likewise, one would inevitably listen to some music — regarding which Rasulullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) has warned that molten lead will be poured in the ears of those who indulge in the sin of listening to music. Hence one has engaged in the *zina* of the ears. When these two sins are inevitable in watching T.V., to go towards the box to watch it would be going towards sin — this is *zina* of the feet. Hence to press the button and switch it on would be to switch on something that will most definitely involve you in sin — this is *zina* of the hands. By watching the absolute filth that is spewed onto that screen results in evil thoughts — the *zina* of the heart.

Furthermore, often the entire family watches this filth together. This tantamounts to collective *zina*.

The final analysis is that all this adds up to wholesale *zina*. Think, dear Muslim. Think again. Are you not going to remove the *zina* box from

FEET IN FIRE

Lailatul Bara'ah- the fifteenth of Sha'baan is well known to one and all. It is a special night of great blessings and mercy of Allah Ta'ala. On this night a great number of people are forgiven. However, it is reported in a Hadith that even this great night some people are deprived of the forgiveness of Allah Ta'ala. Among them is the Musbil.

Who is a Musbil ?

According to the Ahaadith a person who wears any garment - be it a long kurta; pants or any other garment- below his ankles is termed a Musbil.

WARNINGS

The Ahaadith contain various warnings pertaining to those who wear their garments below their ankles. It is reported in a Hadith regarding such people that:

- * Allah Ta'ala will not speak to them on the day of Qiyaamah .
- * Allah Ta'ala will not look at them (with mercy).
- * He will not purify them (forgive them).
- * There'll be a painful punishment for them (Sahih Muslim)

In another Hadith Rasulullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) is reported to have said: "Whatever part of the *izaar* (pants) flows beneath the ankles will be in the fire (ie. the foot will be in fire)." (Mishkaat)

PRIDE

To wear one's garment below the ankles is not permissible at all, so has been termed as pride in the Hadith. Rasulullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) is reported to have said: "Beware of lowering your garments below your ankles for verily that is pride and Allah Ta'ala does not love pride " (Tirmizi).

Furthermore Rasulullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) did not even tolerate the Sahaaba (Radiallahu Anhum) lowering their garments below their ankles despite them being totally free from pride. Hazrath Ubayd bin Khalid (Radiallahu

Anhu) narrates that Rasulullah Alaihi Wasallam) once called him from behind and ordered him to raise his pants since it was below his ankles. He replied that it did not matter if it became dirty due to being lowered since it was a very old garment. Rasulullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) became annoyed and remarked: "Don't you have a noble example in me?" The Sahaabi (Radiallahu Anhu) reports that I izaar of Rasulullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) was until the shin.

While Hazrath Umar (Radiallahu Anhu) was on his deathbed, a youth came to visit him. As the youth was leaving Hazrath Umar (Radiallahu Anhu) noticed his trouser was below his ankles. Hazrath Umar (Radiallahu Anhu) immediately reproached him and ordered him to raise his pants above his ankles.

Nevertheless, besides the aspect of pride, to lower one's pants below the ankles involves *tashabbuh* (imitating the Jews and Christians) since this is their way. The way of Rasulullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) and his followers is to wear the pants above the ankles. Thus we should take heed of the warning of Rasulullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) that "whosoever immitates a nation will be raised with them."

Point to Ponder

Let us suppose a Kaafir had to suggest to us to disobey and ignore the Ahaadith of Rasulullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) regarding not lowering the trouser below the ankles. How would you have reacted to such a suggestion ? We would be furious and enraged. Yet we have succumbed to the subtle indoctrination of the enemies of Rasulullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) and adopted their way of dressing. As a result we find the majority of Muslims flagrantly violating these Ahaadith and recklessly ignoring the warnings against lowering the pants below the ankles.

May Allah Ta'ala save us from this flagrant violation and enable us to adopt the noble example of Rasulullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam).

LAILATUL BARA'AH EVERY NIGHT

One of the great virtues of the fifteenth night of Sha'baan is that Allah Ta'ala descends to the lowest Heaven. Thereafter a proclaimer proclaims: "Is there anyone seeking forgiveness that I may forgive him? .Is there anyone who desires anything so that I may grant his wishes?" Thus Allah Ta'ala fulfils the requests of those who seek of Him on this great night. This virtue is attained from the beginning of the night until the break of dawn.

However , during the last portion of every night the same virtue is attained. Hazrath Abu Hurairah (R.A.) reports that Rasulullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) said: "Almighty Allah Descends to the nearest heaven during the last third of every night. He then proclaims: "Is there anyone who will make dua unto me that I may accept his dua? Is there anyone who will ask of me that I may grant him? Is there anyone who desires forgiveness that I may forgive him?" (Bukhari p. 153)

Thus while one should take full advantage of the night of Bara'ah, one should also make an effort to attain this virtue every night by rising in the last third of the night and engaging in Tahajjud and dua. May Allah Ta'ala grant us the ability to do so. Aameen.

DEPRIVED

Among the nights of great virtue and significance is the night of Bara'ah (the fifteenth night of Sha'baan). It is reported in many narrations that on this night Allah Ta'ala forgives numerous people. In one narration it is reported that Allah Ta'ala forgives more people than the number of hair on the goats of the tribe of Banu Kalb (a tribe well known for the great number of goats that it had).

However, even on this virtuous nights when the Mercy of Allah Ta'ala is showering down in torrents, some unfortunate souls are deprived of the forgiveness of Allah Ta'ala. Several Ahadith mention that these most unfortunate people are the following :

1. Idolators (those who ascribe partners to Allah Ta'ala in His Being or His qualities)
2. Those who harbour enmity against others.
3. Consumers of alcohol.
4. Those who disobey their parents.
5. Those who wear their trousers, kurtas, lungis, etc. below their ankles.
6. Those who commit adultery.
7. Murderers.
8. Those who sever family ties.

The severity of these sins can be gauged from the fact that they become an obstacle from receiving the forgiveness of Allah Ta'ala on such a great night. The solution is however very simple. Allah Ta'ala has kept the doors of *Taubah* and repentance wide open. If we are involved in any of the above sins, all that is required is sincere repentance. It is also important to note that among the conditions of repentance is that one should deeply regret having committed that sin and resolve not to commit it in future.

It is also a time to swallow one's pride and make amends with those family members with whom one has severed family ties. Pride cast Shaitaan into Jahannum. It will deprive us as well from the forgiveness showered down on this night and lead us also on the road of Shaitaan.

Furthermore, one should also repent from those sins which pertain to *Huqooqul Ibaad* (rights of our fellow men). However one should realize that such sins will only be forgiven when the rights of the wronged person are given to him or forgiveness is obtained from him.

May Allah Ta'ala save us from being among those who are deprived on this great night. Aameen.

DISHONOURING THE MUSJID

It is narrated from Hassan (R.A.) that Rasulullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) said: "A time will come upon the people when they will sit in the Musjid and engage in worldly talk. Hence do not sit with them for Allah Ta'ala has no need for them. (Mishkaat p.17)

EXCESSIVE KILLING

Abu Moosa (R.A.) reports that Rasulullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) said: "Verily after you (the Sahaaba) such a time will come in which knowledge will be lifted and mischief will be rife." The Sahaaba (R.A.) asked: "What is meant by mischief O Messenger of Allah?" Rasulullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) replied: "killing!" (Tirmizi)

FREE TIME

Hazrath Ibn Abbaas (R.A.) narrates that Rasulullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) said: "Two favours (of Allah Ta'ala) are such that many people are in deception with regards to them (thinking that they will remain forever) : health and free time." (Sahih Bukhari)

INVITE TO GUIDANCE

"The one who invites people to guidance, for him is the reward of all those who had followed him without their reward being decreased in any way. Similarly the one who invites towards falsehood, for him is the sin equal to the sin of all those who had followed him without their sin being decreased in any way." (Muslim)

COMPILED AND PUBLISHED BY:
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