



## PROBLEMS UPON PROBLEMS ... & SOLUTIONS

**F**inancial difficulties... marital problems... strained relations with relatives... quarrels with neighbours and associates... rebellious children... a general feeling of total and utter misery... all these - and worse - are the order of the day. Among the chief reasons for the conditions is simply SIN. "FUN" has become the object of life and SIN is Shaitaan's bait which lures one towards the deception of FUN. After nibbling on the bait, one takes a bigger "bite" and is firmly hooked by Shaitaan. Then Shaitaan flings one into the frying pan of restlessness, despair and disaster.

### FINANCIAL WOES

Just as adopting taqwa and a life of righteousness attracts barakah in one's sustenance and brings ease in all matters, likewise indulging in sins and evils causes a person to face great difficulty in acquiring his sustenance and causes the barakah in the sustenance to be lost. Rasulullah (sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam) clearly declared, "A person is deprived of sustenance due to the sin that he commits." (*Sunan Ibni Maajah #4022*)

Many a time, a person toils from morning until night and takes every financial precaution, yet at the end of the month, he still struggles to make ends meet. No matter what he does, he just cannot seem to escape his financial woes. While there could be many reasons for this, often this difficulty is the result of his sins and evils.

### DON'T BE DECEIVED!

The pious are also sometimes tested with hardship and difficulty. They adopt sabr during these trials and this becomes a means of them making great strides of progress in their Deen and gaining special proximity to Allah Ta'ala. On the contrary, if one is living a life of disobedience and sin, the calamities are a direct consequence of sin.

However, sometimes despite sinning abundantly, a person does not outwardly perceive any ill-effects or negative consequences of his actions. In such a situation, one should never be deceived into thinking that he 'got away' with the sin. Rather, Allah Ta'ala is giving us respite. If we use this respite to repent, then well and good. Otherwise, if we use it to sin further, then a time will come when suddenly, out of the blue, without any warning, punishment will befall us, and we will not even be able to fathom where the punishment came from.

Thus, Abu Haazim (rahimahullah) mentioned, "When you see that your Rabb is continuing to give you His favours, despite the fact that you are disobeying Him, then you should really begin to fear (that His punishment may befall you at any moment)." (*Hilyatul Awliya vol. 3, pg. 18*)

### STRAINED RELATIONSHIPS

Today, almost every other person has some form of problem in his relationship with people. Be it the children, spouse, relative, employer, employee, neighbour, friends, in-laws or anyone else - misunderstandings and quarrels are rife and in many instances there is little love in the hearts for one another.

While there may be other causes as well, an important factor to consider is that when a person has problems in his relationship with Allah Ta'ala, then this will affect his relationships with people and he will have problems with them as well. The mubaarak hadeeth explains that when a person leads a life of piety, he becomes beloved to Allah Ta'ala. This has a ripple effect, causing this person to become beloved to the angels and the people. Conversely, if he displeases Allah Ta'ala, then the effect of this is that the angels become displeased with him and people also begin to hate and dislike him. (*Saheeh Muslim #2637*)

Likewise, when a person disobeys Allah Ta'ala, then Allah Ta'ala causes others to disobey and defy him as well. Fudhail bin 'Iyaadh (rahimahullah) said, "Indeed if I disobey Allah Ta'ala, then I certainly see the effect in the conduct and behaviour of my animal and my slave girl." (*Zammul Hawaa pg. 197*) Thus, when a person's children become rebellious, or the spouse becomes difficult, etc., often it is on account of one's sins and evil.

### DARKNESS OF THE HEART

The most severe impact of sin is directly on the heart. Due to repeatedly sinning, the entire heart becomes engulfed in darkness. As a result, due to the heart being starved of its nourishment - the zikr and obedience of Allah Ta'ala - one begins to feel wretched and

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# PROBLEMS UPON PROBLEMS ... & SOLUTIONS

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miserable. No matter what is done to try and bring happiness and fulfilment, it will fail. After trying to artificially please the heart with all sorts of entertainment and amusements, the hollow and depressed feelings will return with greater intensity.

## DEAD HEART

If there is still no repentance and the darkness of the heart increases, eventually the person loses the vision of the heart. When the heart is robbed of its noor and steeped in darkness, then the person loses the ability to distinguish between right and wrong, good and bad. His heart becomes sealed and he loses the motivation and taufeeq (ability) to carry out good deeds. This is the worst effect of sin - far more severe than losing billions and becoming a pauper, may Allah Ta'ala protect us!

When a person plunges to this level, no matter who speaks to him or advises him, he is not receptive. The more he sins, the more he is attracted to sin, and the more averse he becomes to piety and good deeds. If he is invited to a party, he will excitedly accept, but if he is called to the masjid, he will feel irritated. The reason is that his heart is dead. Muhammad bin Waasi' (rahimahullah) once said, **"Continuously committing sins causes the death of the heart."** (Al-Uqoobaat pg. 70)

## LOSS OF IMAAN

Sinning not only causes problems, miseries, difficulties and calamities in this world, but it can even cause a person to be deprived of his greatest wealth, treasure and asset - his imaan. There are incidents of apparently good people having uttered words of kufr before they passed away which shocked those around them. Later it became known that the person was addicted to intoxicants or zina, etc. and persisted in his evil habit. This was the result of such a disastrous end.

## SOLUTION

The solution to our problems is to adopt taqwa. Allah Ta'ala declares in the Quraan Majeed: "The one who adopts taqwa for Allah, He will grant give him a solution (to every problem) and grant him sustenance from sources he cannot imagine(.)" (Surah Talaaq v2-3).

The very object of Ramadhaan is to acquire the priceless wealth of taqwa. The essence of taqwa is to give up all sin. This is the prescription to acquire the true success of this world and the Hereafter. Together with taking advantage of this special time to sincerely repent and turn to Allah Ta'ala, the following guidelines should also be adopted to remain steadfast on taqwa:

\* **Get rid of the means of sins.** For instance, if social media has trapped you into illicit chatting or other sins, delete social media. If the smart phone has dropped you into pornography, be smart and get rid of it.

\* **Keep good company.** If the company you keep inclines you towards taking intoxicants, or their talk fills your ears and heart with vulgarity, you are at a very high risk of indulging in intoxicants and you will most likely become vulgar and abusive. Therefore totally refrain from company that is not conducive. Apart from human company; books, the phone and other electronic devices are also one's company. If it is not used correctly, it can destroy one's Deen, marriage, family and every good. Join the company of the 'Ulama and Mashaayikh, attend their programs and take their advices to heart.

\* **Dedicate some time daily for tilawat of the Quraan Majeed, zikr and tasbeehaat as well as ta'leem in one's home.** Insha-Allah this will become the means of much benefit and keep one steadfast in taqwa.

May Allah Ta'ala forgive all our sins and assist us to lead lives of purity and piety.

# UNIVERSAL SOLUTION

**A** person came to Hasan Basri (rahimahullah) and complained of drought. Hearing his complaint, Hasan Basri (rahimahullah) said, **"Seek forgiveness from Allah Ta'ala."** Another person then complained of poverty. To this person as well, Hasan Basri (rahimahullah) gave the same advice saying: **"Seek forgiveness from Allah Ta'ala."** A third person then said to him, "Please ask Allah Ta'ala to bless me with a child." Hasan Basri (rahimahullah) replied by giving him the same advice which he had given to the previous two people. He said, **"Seek forgiveness from Allah Ta'ala."** Finally, a fourth person complained that the crops in his orchard had insufficient rainfall. Hasan Basri (rahimahullah) advised him saying, **"Seek forgiveness from Allah Ta'ala."**

## FOUR COMPLAINTS

Observing that four different people had come, with four different complaints, yet each had received the exact same answer, the people who were present were quite surprised. Hence, they asked Hasan Basri (rahimahullah) the reason for him giving the exact same advice to each person.

Hasan Basri (rahimahullah) replied, "I did not give them this advice from my own side (rather, I acquired this advice from the Quraan Majeed). In Surah Nooh (in the Quraan Majeed), Allah Ta'ala says (mentioning the advice which Nabi Nooh [alaihiss salaam] gave to his people), 'Seek forgiveness from your Rabb, indeed He is most forgiving. (If you seek forgiveness

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## THE RIGHT INFLUENCE

**Q** My wife spends a lot of time on social media, especially Instagram, and she follows many influencers. Some influencers express their views on Deeni topics such as hijaab, women's rights and the like, but often it does not seem correct. A relative stopped wearing the niqaab after reading the blog of one such person. Another influencer mentioned that The LGBT movement should be supported as they are a marginalized group and their rights are suppressed. Please advise.

**A** Imaam Tirmizi (rahimahullah), the well-known Muhaddith (hadeeth scholar) has concluded his magnificent compilation of hadeeth of shamaa'il (the noble and most blessed characteristics of Rasulullah [sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam] with an advice of the great Taabi'ee, Imaam Muhammad bin Seereen (rahimahullah). Imaam Ibnu Seereen (rahimahullah) said: "Verily this knowledge (of the Quraan and sunnah) is Deen. Therefore, be careful of whom you take your Deen from." (*Al-Shamaail Al-Muhammadiyah #417; Saheeh Muslim #26*)

The selection of this statement by a scholar of the caliber of Imaam Tirmizi (rahimahullah) as the conclusion of his highly acclaimed compilation of hadeeth is very significant indeed. The message in it is profound. The knowledge of Deen must be acquired from the people of Deen — those who have acquired an in-depth understanding of the Quraan and sunnah from authentic teachers. Deen is not a pastime which may be taken from all and sundry who express their personal opinions which have no basis in Deen. Not being careful of whom one takes one's knowledge from can be fatal for one's imaan.

### ABANDONED NIQAAB

The lady who abandoned her niqaab as a result of the influence of the ignorant blogger highlights the danger of reading such blogs. It will lead to deviation and destruction of one's Deen. There is a lengthy narration in Saheeh Bukhaari about the incident of *ifk* (slander). One of the details mentioned is that while on a journey, a Sahaabi (radhiyallahu 'anhu) came past and noticed that Sayyidah 'Aishah (radhiyallahu 'anha) had fallen asleep on the desert sand. He loudly exclaimed "*innaa lillaahi wa innaa ilayhi raaji'oon*". Upon this she awoke. She then says that she first immediately covered her face with her *jilbaab* (the long loose sheet which covers the head and body). This was done for no other reason except to conceal her face from a non-mahram. Sayyidah 'Aishah (radhiyallahu 'anha) knew very well the

application of the verse of hijaab and the various injunctions of Rasulullah (sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam) in this regard, hence this was her immediate reaction. Had the lady in question acquired knowledge from authentic knowledgeable people, they would have told her about this incident in the hadeeth. She would not have then been wrongly influenced.

### OVER THE BRINK

As for the "advice" to support the LGBT cause, this so called "advice" can push those who get influenced over the brink of imaan. Can a Muslim ever express support for anything that Deen has clearly declared a terrible sin? If it has been declared "legal", does that make it permissible? Consuming pork and alcohol is totally haraam in Deen but "legal". Can any Muslim support its consumption? Prostitutes claim their "rights" are suppressed. Will this "marginalized" group also be supported? Being a peaceful citizen of a country does not mean that one must abandon one's beliefs, or support that which will negate one's beliefs.

### HARAAM CAN NEVER BE REGARDED AS HALAAL

An extremely important aspect must be understood very well: Indulgence in every sin is forbidden. If one does not repent from the sin, he could be punished in the Hereafter by being cast into Jahannum. However, by virtue of his imaan he will one day be taken out of hell and sent to Jannah. However, if one regards any act which has been declared a sin in the Quraan Majeed as permissible, this will negate one's imaan. Without renewing one's imaan, one will be a disbeliever. If death comes in this condition, such a person will be condemned eternally to Jahannum. Therefore, never ever regard anything haraam as halaal. It will negate imaan.

By reading such blogs, one's imaan is exposed to grave danger. Hence totally refrain from reading such material. May Allah Ta'ala guide all to the correct understanding of Deen and save us from every fitnah, aameen.

# SIMPLE SOLUTION

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from Him,) He will cause the sky to rain upon you in abundance, and will help you with wealth and sons, and will cause gardens to grow for you, and cause rivers to flow for you.” (Tafseer Qurtubi vol. 21, pg. 255)

When a person leads a life of sin and transgression, then his evil actions become impediments that create difficulties in his life. However, if sins cause problems in a person’s worldly life, then they certainly cause even worse problems and more severe difficulties in one’s Deen, as they cause one to be distanced and deprived of the divine mercy of Allah Ta’ala.

The month of Ramadhaan is the special period in which the floodgates of Allah Ta’ala’s mercy are opened. However, despite the abundant mercies that are pouring during this auspicious month, certain unfortunate individuals will be deprived on account of their sins.

Therefore, before the onset of Ramadhaan, we should engage in abundant istighfaar and sincere repentance for all our sins. If we do so, insha-Allah we will enter this auspicious month free from the burden of sin and will thus benefit completely from the very beginning.

## FOUR ACTIONS

Rasulullah (sallallahu alaihi wasallam) has encouraged that four things be done **excessively**:

- Reciting the Kalimah (*la ilaaha illallah*)
- Istighfaar — seeking forgiveness
- Seeking Jannah
- Asking refuge from Jahannum

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## FAQEEHUL UMMAH

The sterling advice of *Faqeehul Ummah* Hazrat 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 an answer to a question posed to him.

### PROBLEMS AND DIFFICULTIES

Bismih Ta’ala

Respected Mufti Saheb

Assalaamu ‘alaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh

I am in severe problems and difficulties. I cannot even think why these difficulties have come upon me. What wrong have I done that I have been taken to task in this manner? Kindly make du’aa for me.

**Reply:**

Bismih Ta’ala

Respected brother/sister

I wholeheartedly make du’aa for you that Allah Ta’ala must remove your difficulties. May you be exonerated and freed from your difficulties in a most respectable manner.

Furthermore, I wish to draw your attention to another aspect. Never consider yourself as blameless and sinless. Daily we commit sins and still think that we have been taken to task despite being blameless. However, the reality is that there is a mountain of blame upon us. This can be understood by the following example: A light switch is switched on in one place and at a distance the bulb lights up. However, the connection between the two by means of the wiring is often not seen (but the link is certainly there). (Likewise our sins have “switched on” the problems though we cannot see it - translator).

May Allah Ta’ala forgive our sins. May He keep us with respect and safety and save us from sins. (*Tarbiyatut Taalibeen* pg. 179)

## CLEAN TONGUE

Rasulullah (sallallahu ‘alaihi wasallam) is reported to have said, “Among the things that will throw people most into Jahannum will be the harvest of their tongues.” Ramadhaan is a month of developing taqwa. A Mu-min with taqwa does not soil his tongue by uttering foul and putrid vulgar words. He also refrains from lying, backbiting, breaking hearts with sarcastic comments, mocking, etc. He keeps his tongue clean... so that he can take the pure name of Allah Ta’ala with a clean tongue.

He also keeps it sweet (within the limits of sharee’ah)... so that he spreads sweetness around, not bitterness with bitter words. Let us keep this Ramadhaan sweet in all aspects, be it ‘ibaadah, dealings or akhlaaq.