



# DROWNING!

**D**id you know that an adult can drown in just 60 seconds, and a child can drown in just 20 seconds? Did you know that it takes just half a cup of water entering your lungs to cause you to drown? Did you know that in most cases, drownings are silent, without any desperate splashing or shouting for help? Did you know that the majority of drownings occur within 10 meters of safety?

The above statistics probably come as a surprise to most people, but they highlight a crucial point – drowning occurs very quickly, and it is generally due to a brief lapse in the attention of those supervising the children. Thus, experts advise that when children are in water, adults should scan the water every 10 seconds, looking for signs of distress, and should be able to reach a child in trouble within 20 seconds.

## IMAAAN DROWNING

Now, just as a child can drown in water and lose his life, there is another form of drowning which is even worse than drowning in water. This is the drowning of our children's Imaan in the floods of fitnah (Deeni and Imaani trials). This drowning is far worse and far more tragic, as the child losing his Imaan, and later on passing away in a state of disbelief, will result in him being condemned to Jahannam for eternity.

When we examine the two forms of drowning, we find that they are similar in most respects. A child's Imaan can be affected in mere seconds, and it takes just a small influence, such as a movie, book, or corrupt friend, to drown his Imaan. Likewise, the drowning of the Imaan is generally silent, due to which parents only recognize the damage when it is already too late. Similarly, the drowning of the Imaan can take place close to home – or even under the parents' roof – if the parents are lax and do not exercise vigilance in monitoring and supervising their children.

Hence, just as parents need to constantly keep an eye on their children when they are in the water, and need to look out for signs of distress, parents must keep an eye on their children in these times of fitnah and look

out for signs of the Imaan being eroded and destroyed. Subtle changes in the child's attitude and behaviour, such as a change in language (use of vulgar language, etc.), changes in dressing and secretive and furtive behaviour are all signs that should sound the warning bells.

Nevertheless, among the main fitnahs which cause a child's Imaan to drown are the following:

## FRIENDS

The blessed Hadeeth of Rasulullah (sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam) teaches us that a person's behaviour, attitude, mindset and ways will be moulded by his friends and the company that he keeps. (*Sunan Abi Dawood #4833*) Hence, most smokers and drug users will admit that the habit commenced through the influence of friends. Likewise, in many cases, watching pornography and other similar evils were also learnt through corrupt friends.

## MEDIA

Books (novels), movies, songs and TV series are all major contributors to the loss of Imaan. In regard to these influences, it should be borne in mind that the danger to the Imaan is over and above the sin of listening to music and watching movies and TV (as photography and movies of animate objects are haraam).

Such is the subtle yet fatal influence of such media, that a child once professed that he finds more inspiration in watching *The Lord of the Rings* (a certain movie based on a fictitious novel) than he finds in reading incidents from the lives of the illustrious Sahaabah (radhiyallahu 'anhum) - Allah Ta'ala forbid!

Similarly, such media has even managed to romanticize lesbianism, satanism and other evils which a believer, by his very nature, should abhor and detest.

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# DROWNING!

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## CELL PHONE AND INTERNET

Though it's been said before, the danger can never be overstated and hence it will be said again – at the mere swipe of a finger, the cell phone and internet gives one access to the darkest of evils and most twisted of sins. Furthermore, social media has promoted illicit relationships to such an extent that let alone the effect it has on the youth - it has even caused countless marriages to shatter and fall apart. Through a cell phone and the internet, one can access every other fitnah such as corrupt friends, illicit relationships, movies, etc.

## OTHER INFLUENCES

Other influences include the school curriculum which now preaches tolerance and support for LGBTQ+ relationships, advocates for equality between men and women, teaches Darwin's theory of human evolution, etc. whereas these teachings diametrically oppose the pristine teachings and beliefs of Islam.

If any parent is negligent in supervising his child and the child thereafter drowns, the parents will forever be blameworthy as their negligence led to the disaster that befell their child. In the very same way, if we are negligent in monitoring the Imaan of our children, we will be taken to task by Allah Ta'ala, as it is the fardh obligation of every parent to make an effort to save his household from Jahannam.

## SAFETY AT HOME

Rasulullah (sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam) has advised that in times of fitnah, people will find safety through remaining at home. (*Sunan Tirmizi #2406*) Likewise, another Hadeeth mentions that when Dajjaal emerges, people will try to keep their family members at home so that they remain safe. (*Musnad Ahmad #5353*) Thus, we should exercise extreme caution in sending our children out of the home (e.g. sleepovers, etc.), as their Imaan can drown in mere moments.

If a child is able to swim, he will be safer in the water, though he will still be at risk. In fact, the stronger he is at swimming, the better his chances of survival will be. Thus, together with monitoring and supervising our children, we must make an effort to strengthen their Imaan so that they will be able to remain afloat and swim against the tides and floods of fitnahs.

This effort entails ensuring that the child attends the maktab madrasah, engaging in daily home ta'leem, and also illuminating the home and hearts with zikr, du'aa, recitation of the Quraan Majeed, etc.

These are the 'life vests' that will keep the child's Imaan afloat and help him to survive the temptations and fitnahs that try to drag him beneath the flood water and drown his Imaan.

*May Allah Ta'ala safeguard our Imaan and the Imaan of our progenies until the Day of Qiyaamah, Aameen.*

# WEATHERING THE STORM

Allah Ta'ala has created people with certain support structures. Our limbs are supported by bones and muscles, and our health is supported by an advanced immune system. However, the question is, "When we are caught in the storms of adversities and calamities, then what is our support structure at that time? When prices are skyrocketing, political instability is brewing and natural calamities are increasing, then how do we cope?"

The answer is that a Muslim's support structure, in the face of difficulties and disasters, is his Imaan. It is his firm belief in *taqdeer* that supports him – the belief that whatever was decreed to happen will certainly come to pass, and that no matter what, it was not possible for him to avoid this disaster. It is his belief that there is goodness in everything – no matter how difficult it may appear - that consoles him.

## CONVICTION

He has conviction that as long as Allah Ta'ala is pleased with him, he is successful, and that Allah Ta'ala will help him to recover and get back onto his feet once more. This conviction gives him the courage he requires to persevere amidst the hardship.

Through the blessing of remaining in the company of Rasulullah (sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam), the Sahaabah (radhiyallahu 'anhum) had perfected their Imaan. Hence, no matter what trials they faced, they were pillars of steadfastness and oceans of courage.

When 313 ill equipped Sahaabah (radhiyallahu 'anhum) faced the well-equipped army of the Quraish who outnumbered them 3-1, it was their Imaan that kept their feet firm. When Hazrat Bilaal (radhiyallahu 'anhu) was mercilessly tortured by the disbelievers, it was his Imaan that

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## QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

# MUSLIM CONFESSIONS?

**Q** *There is a social media page where people can anonymously submit confessions of their private sins. Others can come to this page and read the confessions. Many of these confessions are extremely explicit and shameless. Is it correct to submit or read such confessions?*

**A** In the Qur'aan Majeed, Allah Ta'ala declares, **"Allah does not like the public utterance of evil speech except by one who has been wronged (i.e. the oppressed person mentioning the oppression he suffered), And Allah is All-Hearing and All-Knowing."** (Surah Nisaa v. 148)

From this verse of the Qur'aan Majeed, we clearly understand that Allah Ta'ala does not like that the evil deeds and sins which people carry out should be publicized and advertised.

On hearing of this 'confessions' page, where people publicize the evil acts they commit in private, one wonders as to what the purpose of such a page may be, as this concept has no basis in Islam. In fact, it is reminiscent of Christianity, where people are taught to confess their private sins to the priest in order to acquire forgiveness.

In Islam, if one wishes to make taubah and repent from his sins committed in secret, then it is sufficient for one to confess his sin and repent to Allah Ta'ala. Furthermore, since people do not know of the evil one carried out in secret, one should express gratitude to Allah Ta'ala for concealing his sin and preserving his dignity among people.

### GRAVE SIN

Instead, if such a person has to advertise his sins before people, he will be committing a grave sin and will be inviting disasters and calamities into his life.

Rasulullah (sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam) warned us saying, "Every one of my ummah will receive safety from Allah Ta'ala, except for those who publicize." A Sahaabi then enquired, "O Rasul of Allah (sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam), Who are the ones who publicize?" Rasulullah (sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam) explained, **"(The one who publicizes refers to) the one who commits a sin at night, and Allah Ta'ala conceals it (i.e. his sin). Thereafter, when he awakens in the morning, he says, 'O so-and-so! I committed such-and-such sin last night!' In this manner, he removes the veil which Allah Ta'ala had placed over him (concealing his sins**

**from people)."** (Majma'uz Zawaa'id #17475)

In the Qur'aan Majeed as well, Allah Ta'ala warns us of the severe consequence of promoting immorality through publicizing sins and evils. Allah Ta'ala says, **"Indeed those who like that obscenity (and immorality) should be spread (and publicized) among the believers – they will receive a painful punishment in this world and in the Hereafter."** (Surah Noor v. 19)

### SHAMELESS

Likewise, reading these confessions is totally impermissible. In fact, it is a sad indication that a person has lost all vestiges of hayaa and shame, for only a shameless person will take pleasure in reading of the sins that others commit.

In the Qur'aan Majeed, Allah Ta'ala warns us that if people are engaged in an evil conversation, then we should immediately move away from them. Allah Ta'ala says, **"Indeed you will be like them (if you do not separate yourself from them)."** (Surah Nisaa v. 140)

From this verse, we understand that if a person peruses such immoral material, then in the court of Allah Ta'ala, he will be grouped among those who committed these sins, as he is pleased with the sins that they have committed.

We should bear in mind that making a public display of evils and sins, thus corrupting the community and polluting the environment with evil, is a recipe for destruction. Rasulullah (sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam) said, "When shamelessness becomes widespread among a people, to the extent that they publicize it, then plagues and other diseases and epidemics, which never afflicted the people who passed before them, begin to spread among them." (Sunan Ibnu Maajah #4019)

This blessed Hadith should prompt us to reflect and ponder over whether we, through publicizing our sins and evils, are not to blame for the difficulties that the ummah is undergoing.

*May Allah Ta'ala forgive us, bless us with hayaa and guide us to the straight path – Aameen.*

# WEATHERING THE STORM

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prompted him to continue uttering 'Ahad!' (I believe in One Allah!). When the women of the Sahaabah lost their husbands, fathers, brothers and sons in the Battle of Uhud, it was their firm Imaan that assisted them to keep their composure. They remained composed to such an extent that they first enquired about the well-being of Rasulullah (sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam) even before asking about the fate of their own kith and kin.

When a Believer conducts daily ta'leem in his home, discussing these inspirational incidents from the lives of the Sahaabah (radhiyallahu 'anhum), then the flame of Imaan is fanned within his heart and the hearts of his wife and children. When viewing the unique sacrifices of the Sahaabah (radhiyallahu 'anhum) for the sake of Deen, one realizes that the hardships that we suffer are really nothing in comparison to what they underwent. This provides us with a different perspective – the perspective of realizing how much we still have to be appreciative for, and how much we should thank Allah Ta'ala for all that we still enjoy. Sayyid Moulana Abul Hasan Ali Nadwi (R.A.) was a great saint and Aalim of international acclaim. His father passed away when he was just nine years old, after which he was raised by his mother in hardship and poverty. However, his respected mother ensured that she conducted regular ta'leem with her children, continuously reading to them from a kitaab written on the lives of the Sahaabah (radhiyallahu 'anhum). The effect of this was that her children developed the Imaani strength of heart and character which assisted

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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.

## TAKABBUR

Bismihi Ta'ala

Respected Mufti Saheb

Assalaamu alaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh

If someone does an action against the command of Allah Ta'ala, for example, he swears, then at once I think low of him in my heart, and my nafs (carnal-self) says to itself, "Your status in front of Allah Ta'ala is higher. Besides yourself everyone else is lower." Please prescribe a remedy for my malady.

**Reply:**

Bismihi Ta'ala

Respected brother/sister

To look at someone committing a sin and to think of oneself as better than that person is a major sin (one must hate and condemn the sin, not the sinner). Instead at that time look at your own faults. Ponder that "there are so many wrongs in my own life which I know of. How disgraced will I be on the day of Judgement! Every person will be asked regarding his own deeds. I will not be asked about the wrongs of others. To think low of others is in itself a major sin. It is not a trivial matter. Thus I will be asked, that 'when others broke our commands, what right did you have to think low of them?'" Ponder over this repeatedly in solitude. May Allah Ta'ala make this beneficial for us. (*Maktoobaat vol. 1 pg. 96*)

them to cope and shoulder the challenges they faced.

Moulana (R.A.) writes, "When reading of the pain and sacrifice of the Sahaabah (radhiyallahu 'anhum), we would all immediately forget our own grief and sorrow. Reading this kitaab was one of the means which we adopted to bring about an environment and atmosphere of consolation, patience and submission in the home. Within a few days of reading

this book, we would find that our hearts were consoled." (*Zikr-e-Khair*)

This is the support structure that every believer requires to face the ever-increasing challenges of our time – the support structure of Imaan. If we strengthen our Imaan, insha Allah we will be able to shoulder any burden and emerge from any storm unscathed. *May Allah Ta'ala bless us all with Imaani strength – ameen.*