



SINNER TO SAINT

Among the people of the past, there was rumoured to be an alchemical formula which could transform any base metal into gold. Undoubtedly, if such a formula existed today, billions of people would try to acquire it, as through this formula, a worthless metal can be instantaneously transformed into a priceless treasure.

While such a formula does not exist, Allah Ta'ala has nevertheless blessed us with our own 'alchemical formula' – the blessed month of Ramadhaan.

During this blessed month, the reward of every good deed is multiplied exponentially. Allah Ta'ala's special mercy envelops the believers and sins are readily forgiven. The rebellious shayaateen are chained, and the dua of a fasting person is speedily answered. Finally, this blessed month contains Laylatul Qadr – the night which is greater than one thousand months in virtue.

APPRECIATE, HONOUR AND RESPECT

Such is the immense blessing and virtue of this month, which is the greatest month in the Islamic calendar, that just as the alchemical formula was reputed to turn metal into gold – this month has the potential to transform a sinner to a saint, completely changing the direction of his life.

However, in order for one to acquire the maximum benefit of this month, the condition is that one should **value, appreciate, honour and respect it**.

It is the divine promise of Allah Ta'ala in the Qur'aan Majeed that if the servant honours and appreciates the bounty of Allah Ta'ala, then Allah Ta'ala will bless him further. On the contrary, if a person does not honour and appreciate the bounty of Allah Ta'ala, but rather takes it for granted or deems it insignificant, then he will lose out and remain deprived.

On one occasion, a beggar came to Rasulullah

(sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam) and requested some assistance. Rasulullah (sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam) instructed that the beggar be given a date, however on seeing the date, the beggar did not take it as he regarded it to be something meagre and insignificant.

Another beggar then came to Rasulullah (sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam), and when he was given a date, he gratefully accepted it and exclaimed, "Subhaanallah! A date from the Rasul of Allah (sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam) himself!" Thereupon, Rasulullah (sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam) instructed the slave girl saying, "Go to Ummu Salamah, fetch the forty dirhams which are with her, and give them to this beggar." (*Musnad Ahmad #12574*)

When the month of Ramadhaan is among the greatest of Allah Ta'ala's blessings upon this ummah, then it is vitally important for each and every person to honour and appreciate this month. If we do so, by valuing every moment, refraining from all sins and futilities, and exerting ourselves in ibaadah and righteousness, then Allah Ta'ala will bless us further. Allah Ta'ala will grant us the taufeeq to continue leading lives of piety, and to increase in righteousness, during and after Ramadhaan as well.

BEWARE OF THE CURSE

On the contrary, if we ignore the auspiciousness of this month, continue to sin and engage in futilities and neglect engaging in ibaadah, then there is great fear that we may incur the curse of Hazrat Jibreel ('alaihi salaam). Hazrat Jibreel ('alaihi salaam) had said, "Woe to him who witnessed the blessed month of Ramadhaan, yet he let it pass without gaining forgiveness (i.e. he did not value this month and fulfil its rights)." To this curse,

(Cont. overleaf)

INSIDE...	Oppressing Family.....	Page 2
	Question: Padel in Ramadhaan.....	Page 3
	Remedy to Refrain From Sin.....	Page 4

SINNER TO SAINT

(FROM PAGE ONE)

Rasulullah (sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam) had said "Aameen" (*Mustadrak #7256*). Allah Ta'ala forbid, if this curse falls on someone due their disregard for such an auspicious month, what can then save such a person from his life being filled with turmoil?

THE GAUGE OF THE ENTIRE YEAR

Furthermore, on account of disrespecting this month, instead of our lives improving, we will continue to sin afterwards as well, and our condition may even deteriorate from bad to worse.

It is for this reason that Allaamah Ibnul Qayyim (rahimahullah) has mentioned, "The one whose Ramadhaan goes well, his entire year will go well... Ramadhaan is the yardstick through which one can gauge the entire year (i.e. if Ramadhaan is spent in righteousness, then there is hope that the entire year will be spent in righteousness, but if this golden opportunity is squandered and wasted in futility and sin, then the entire year will likewise be wasted in sin and futility)." (*Zaad-ul-Ma'aad 1/386*)

In essence, if we value and appreciate the blessed month of Ramadhaan, by making taubah from our sins, refraining from all evils and exerting ourselves in ibaadah, then there is hope that Allah Ta'ala will bless us with immense blessings which will remain with us until the next Ramadhaan.

But, if we disregard the sanctity of this month and fail to fulfil its rights, by continuing to sin and not repenting for our sins, then we will incur the curse of Rasulullah (sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam) and Hazrat Jibreel ('alaihi salaam). The disastrous outcome of this will be that after Ramadhaan as well, there is fear that we will continue to drift further and further away from Allah Ta'ala.

SATANIC TRAPS

The way through which Shaitaan causes a person to be deprived in this blessed month is to get him involved in sins and futile activities, thus wasting the valuable moments of this month.

Among the main tools of shaitaan, to ensnare people in sin and to waste their time, is the cell phone. Hence, special care should be taken to avoid all sins of the phone (such as music, movies and clips, communicating with non-mahrams, etc.) as well as the time-killers and 'backbiting factories' of the online groups and social media in general.

Nowadays another popular trap of Shaitaan is that of padel tennis. In many ways it has become one of the very common fitnas of the time. Due to falling in this trap, instead of standing on the musallah in salaah, one would be prancing about the padel court, displeasing Allah Ta'ala and squandering the golden opportunities of this month.

May Allah Ta'ala save us and assist us to value this golden month.

OPPRESSING FAMILY

Once Sayyiduna Umar (radhiyallahu 'anhu) saw an old man who was blind and cripple. Due to his blindness, the old man was being led by another person. Strangely though, the person leading the old man was actually pulling him along in violent jerks.

Observing this, Sayyiduna Umar (radhiyallahu 'anhu) remarked, "I have never ever observed a scene as terrible as this!"

One of the people seated in the gathering said, "Do you not recognize this person, O Ameerul Mu'mineen? He is the son of Sabghaa Sulami!"

Sayyiduna Umar (radhiyallahu 'anhu) then called the person leading Ibnu Sabghaa and asked him how this situation had come to be.

The man explained, "Sabghaa had ten sons. I was their cousin. I was also the only surviving child of my father (hence I had no other support). They were the closest of my family and were also my neighbours, yet they would oppress me and take my wealth unjustly.

"I implored them, in the name of Allah and for the sake of our relationship as family as well as being neighbors, to cease oppressing me, but to no avail.

"I continued to give them respite, until finally, when the sacred months entered, I raised my hands and made dua against them saying:

"O Allah! I place before you the dua of one who is in pain! Kill all the sons of Sabghaa – except for one!

Thereafter, strike his leg and leave him sitting (crippled), and leave him

(Cont. On page 4)

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

PADEL IN RAMADHAAN?

Q *With the popularity of Padel Tennis, certain padel courts have made special arrangements to open during the night in Ramadhaan so that after fasting in the day, people can still play padel at night. Is it correct to spend the nights in Ramadhaan playing padel?*

A Imagine that your parents have invited you for a special meal. Out of deep love for you, they prepare your favourite dishes, serve it in the best cutlery and eagerly await your arrival.

However, you arrive late and do not greet them or speak to them. Instead of enjoying the special dish they have painstakingly prepared for you, you pull out a packet of stale chips from your pocket and eat that. Then, after remaining there for just a few minutes, you leave early and walk out the door.

How will your parents feel? Naturally, they will be most hurt and disappointed. It is totally wrong that their son should ignore them and display such an indifferent attitude with them – especially when they went out of their way to invite him and feed him the best food. Any person, with even a fraction of understanding, will say that the conduct of this son is most shameful indeed.

BEST SPIRITUAL FOOD

In the same way, in the month of Ramadhaan, Allah Ta'ala has 'laid out' the very best rewards, blessings and mercies for us. It is as though we are being invited to partake to our hearts' content of the very best spiritual food that can be found.

At this time, the love which a believer has in his heart for his Beloved Creator will motivate him to honour this month by dedicating his time, effort and energy towards ibaadah.

He will refrain from all vain and futile activities, as to while away his time in futile frivolities is to show disinterest and disregard to the great bounties which Allah Ta'ala wishes to bestow him with in this month.

In one Hadith Rasulallah (sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam) explained the manner in which a believer prepares himself for the month of Ramadhaan saying, "Indeed, a believer prepares his financial strength to engage in ibaadah in Ramadhaan." (*Musnad Ahmad #8870*)

The meaning of this is that a believer wishes to engage in ibaadah in Ramadhaan. On account of spending the nights in ibaadah and performing lengthy rakaats of salaah at night, he will need to sleep for some time during the day. Similarly, he will wish to sit in i'tikaaf, during which he will not be able to leave the musjid.

Thus, before the moon of Ramadhaan is sighted, he ensures that all his financial needs for Ramadhaan are met so that he can dedicate all his time and energy in Ramadhaan to ibaadah. (*Fat-hur Rabbaani 9/231*)

When this is the outlook of a believer, where he trying to take care of his fardh obligation of providing for his family before hand for the month of Ramadhaan, so that his time in Ramadhaan is freed of all other engagements and responsibilities, then how can a believer ever engage in futilities in this blessed month?

It is mentioned that once Imaam Hasan Basri (rahimahullah) saw some people who were laughing and joking in the month of Ramadhaan. He said to them, "Allah Ta'ala has made the month of Ramadhaan a contest for His creation to compete with one another in carrying out good deeds to please Him. In this month, some people excel and attain success, while others lag behind and fail. It defies belief that a person can laugh, joke and play at such a time, when some people are attaining success and others are failing." (*Ihya Uloomid Deen 1/236*)

PADEL

As for padel tennis, can you imagine a businessman going to play padel in peak business time, or a person going to play padel on the day of his brother's wedding (let alone his own)? If he does so, he will be regarded as somewhat insane, due to the loss that the businessman will suffer, or due to disregarding such an important occasion in the case of the brother's wedding! Alas, due to not having the value and importance of Ramadhaan in our hearts, the extremely great loss we suffer due to neglect or lack of respect is not realised. However, when life comes to an end, then we certainly realise it. By then it will be too late.

Therefore, let us make the best of this Ramadhaan by TOTALLY refraining from all sinful as well as futile activities. Simple respect for the extremely auspicious month demands this from us. The loss that will be suffered due to neglect is also greater than all the material loss of this world.

May Allah Ta'ala grant us the correct understanding and bless us with the tawfeeq of truly respecting the most blessed month of Ramadhaan.

OPPRESSING FAMILY

(FROM PAGE 2)

blind to be led by me!"

"Within a year, they all died, besides this one. He became blind, and Allah afflicted him to be crippled in his legs, as you can see." (*Al-Birr was-Silah libnil Jowzi #261*)

In the Mubaarak Hadith, Rasulullah (sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam) has warned that there are two people whose sins are such, that over and above the punishment that awaits them in the Hereafter, Allah Ta'ala commences their punishment in this very world. One is the person who severs family ties, and the other is the oppressor. (*Sunan Tirmizi #2511*)

Hence, when a person not only severs ties with his relatives but also oppresses them (by withholding inheritance, etc.), then one can well imagine how much more serious and heinous the crime is in the sight of Allah Ta'ala!

SUFFERING OF HEREAFTER

Furthermore, the Hadith mentions that the dua of the oppressed person is speedily answered by Allah Ta'ala. Hence, we find that in this incident, Allah Ta'ala answered the oppressed man's dua and punished his oppressive relatives. Thus, we should always fear the dua of the oppressed, as if it does not cause us to suffer in this world, the suffering of the next world is very much worse.

The 15th of Sha'baan is the auspicious night when Allah Ta'ala

From the advices of ...

83

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.

KEEP ON REPENTING

(The letter was not published. The writer apparently complained of falling again into the very sin which he had previously repented from and for which he had begged forgiveness.) Hazrat (rahimahullah) gave the following reply:

Reply:

Bismihni Ta'ala

Respected brother/sister

Sometimes a person repents from his sin and seeks forgiveness. However he then falls into the same sin again. Hence he once again repents from the sin, and while repenting he makes a firm resolution never to commit that sin in future. Despite his sincere repentance he sometimes falls into the same sin yet again.

Nevertheless, even in a such a situation one should not lose hope and give up repentance. The mere fact that Allah Ta'ala keeps on giving one the ability and the Divine guidance to repent is in no way a small bounty or blessing. Soon one could be blessed with the tawfeeq of such sincere repentance, after which that sin will never be repeated.

The conditions all around have become impure and challenging (hence leading to people slipping into sin). May Allah Ta'ala protect us all and grant us steadfastness. (Maktoobaat vol. 5 pg. 55)

readily forgives the creation. However, even on this blessed occasion, when millions of people are forgiven by Allah Ta'ala, the one who severs ties is deprived of the mercy and forgiveness of Allah Ta'ala.

Similarly, before the month of Ramadhaan dawns, let us mend all broken ties, fulfil all outstanding rights (whether owed to relatives or others) and

ask hom we have wronged for forgiveness.

If we do not do so, there is great fear that we will be deprived of the immense blessings of Allah Ta'ala during this month.

All it requires is the humility to swallow our pride and suppress our ego. If we do so, Allah Ta'ala will be pleased with us and will bless us.