

RAMADAN

IMMERSION



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Waheed

Introduction

- Allah SWT mentioned in the Quran:

ثُمَّ قَسَتْ قُلُوبُكُمْ مِنْ بَعْدِ ذَلِكَ فَهِيَ كَالْحِجَارَةِ أَوْ أَشَدُّ قَسْوَةً

Even then your hearts became hardened like a rock or even harder. (2:74)

- One day when Prophet Musa AS was walking, he saw a rock that was crying. He asked the rock why it was crying. It said that it knew that there was going to be a verse in the Quran that says:

فَاتَّقُوا النَّارَ الَّتِي وَقُودُهَا النَّاسُ وَالْحِجَارَةُ أُعِدَّتْ لِلْكَافِرِينَ

Then beware the Fire whose fuel is people and stones, prepared for the disbelievers (2:24)

- Because of this verse, the rock feared that it might be a rock of the fire of Hell. It asked Musa AS to intercede for it in front of Allah that He frees it from being one of those rocks. Musa AS spoke to Allah, came back, and gave the glad tidings to the rock that it would not be thrown into hell.
- Later, Musa AS passed by again and saw the rock crying even more. Musa AS asked why it was crying, even though it was going to be free from the fire. The rock said, "The tears of fear have ended and now the tears of gratitude have begun."
 - The Prophet SAW used to stand for so long in prayer that his feet would swell. But, he wasn't standing because he was afraid of Hellfire. He was standing for so long in front of Allah out of gratitude towards his Creator.

- Imam Bukhari was teaching his students a hadith and he noticed that some of the students were getting tired at the end of the day. He said to his students who were fatigued, “Enjoy the moment. The people of dunya never get bored of dunya. And the people of business never get bored of business. You all are in the garden of Allah’s Prophet (SAW) where the narrations of the Prophet SAW are being mentioned.”
 - It is a blessing to be a part of a class where the narrations of the Prophet SAW are being shared.

Hadith #1

عَنِ ابْنِ عَبَّاسٍ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمَا قَالَ: قَالَ النَّبِيُّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ: نِعْمَتَانِ مَغْبُورٌ فِيهِمَا كَثِيرٌ مِنَ النَّاسِ: الصَّحَّةُ وَالْفَرَاغُ

Narrated Ibn `Abbas: The Prophet said: There are two blessings which many people are deceived about: Health and spare time.

- The word **مَغْبُورٌ** is like buying a product for a higher value that it is actually worth.
 - A person who spends their entire life thinking that they are doing something useful, but they realize that all of that time/effort has gone to waste.
 - It is a person who has lost because they wasted their time and blessings.
- The first blessing mentioned in this hadith is the blessing of time.
 - Life is minutes and seconds and it does not come back again.
 - If you are able to spend your life correctly once, then it is as if you lived multiple lives.
 - If you spent your life incorrectly, then it is as if you haven’t even lived.
 - One poet said: Some people have left us but they are still alive (due to the work they have contributed) and there are others who are alive but it is as if they are dead (because they do not contribute to the world).

- Hasan Al-Basari used to say: I met some individuals who were more obsessive over their time than you are over your money.
- If we lose out in our value of time, not only are we losing in this world, but we are also losing in the next.
- Then the Prophet SAW mentioned the blessing of health.
 - He SAW said: Take advantage of five things before you lose them. One of these was to value your health before you lose it.
- The Prophet SAW said that those who worshipped Allah when they were young and healthy and they become old and weak, then Allah will give them the same reward that they received when they were young.
- Pious people get distracted too, but, their distractions are from one good action to another good action.

Hadith #2

مَا مَثَلُ الدُّنْيَا فِي الْآخِرَةِ إِلَّا مَثَلُ مَا يَجْعَلُ أَحَدُكُمْ
إِصْبَعَهُ فِي الْيَمِّ فَلْيَنْظُرْ بِمَ يَرْجِعُ

Al-Mustawrid reported: The Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings be upon him, said: What is the example of this worldly life in comparison to the Hereafter other than one of you dipping his finger in the sea? Let him see what he brings forth.

- This hadith describes how small the dunya is compared to the akhira.
 - The dunya is the amount of water which remains on a person's finger after dipping it into the entire ocean, while the ocean represents the akhira.
 - Although the dunya is so insignificant, we continue to chase after it.
- Allah SWT teaches us the dua through the Quran:

رَبَّنَا آتِنَا فِي الدُّنْيَا حَسَنَةً وَفِي الْآخِرَةِ حَسَنَةً وَقِنَا عَذَابَ النَّارِ

Our Lord, give us goodness in this world, and goodness in the Hereafter, and protect us from the torment of the Fire. (2:201)

- Having good in this dunya is not a bad thing until it becomes an obstacle to a person's akhira.
- Oftentimes, we recite this dua without making an equal effort for goodness in both this dunya and the akhirah.
 - We focus more on the dunya and when it comes to the akhirah, we become lazy and find our ibadah to be difficult.
- When someone understands the true nature of the dunya, the joys of this life do not get too exaggerated and you become more mature in dealing with your affairs.
- The dunya is not the primary life of ours.
 - When the Prophet SAW was digging the trench in preparation for the battle of Khandaq and they were enduring a lot of difficulty, he said:

اللَّهُمَّ لَا عَيْشَ لَنَا إِلَّا عَيْشُ الْآخِرَةِ

O Allah, there is no life, except for the life of the akhirah."

Hadith #3

عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ قَالَ قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ الدُّنْيَا سِجْنُ الْمُؤْمِنِ وَجَنَّةُ الْكَافِرِ

Abu Huraira reported: The Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings be upon him, said, "The world is a prison for the believer and a paradise for the unbeliever."

- When you are in prison, not only are you restricted, but you are separated from your loved ones.
 - This dunya is a prison because it separates us from our Prophet SAW and separates us from seeing Allah.
- Someone asked Umar ibn AbdulAziz if he ever had the urge to do something that was impermissible and if he ever felt limited by that. He answered that there are so many things that are halal and enjoyable, that he never had the urge to seek the haram.

- Hasan RA, the grandson of the Prophet SAW, was dressed up riding a beautiful horse one day. A Jewish person in Madinah saw him and said, "O the grandson of the Prophet! Your grandfather said, 'The world is a prison for the believer and a paradise for the unbeliever.' So, why did I see you riding a beautiful horse and enjoying life, while I have nothing?" Hasan said that compared to what we are going to see in the next world, this dunya is still a prison.
- There are people who enjoy this dunya, but it does not bring them true happiness because the only true happiness is attained in the akhirah.
- We should not crave this dunya, but we are allowed to enjoy it. Imam Shafii says in a poem:

إِنَّ لِلَّهِ عِبَادًا فُطِنًا طَلَّقُوا الدُّنْيَا وَخَافُوا الْفِتْنَا

Indeed Allah has intelligent servants
Who have divorced the world & who fear temptations

نَظَرُوا فِيهَا فَلَمَّا عَلِمُوا إِنَّهَا لَيْسَتْ لِحْيٍ وَطَنًا

They pondered in the world & when they knew
That it is not a homeland for a living person

جَعَلُوهَا لُجَّةً وَاتَّخَذُوا صَالِحَ الْأَعْمَالِ فِيهَا سَفُنًا

They took it as a deep sea & they made
Good actions in the world their ships

- The dunya is our means and we need it to survive, but, the minute that the love for the dunya enters into our hearts, it will destroy not only our akhirah, but it will also destroy our dunya.
- A Muslim should never be jealous because there are disbelievers who enjoy the dunya.
 - That does not mean that they are favored by Allah at all, nor does it mean that they are truly happy within themselves.
- The happiest moments of our lives are often the most simple moments that have nothing to do with money.

Hadith #4

عَنْ أَنَسِ بْنِ مَالِكٍ قَالَ قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يَظْلِمُ مُؤْمِنًا حَسَنَةً يُعْطَى بِهَا فِي الدُّنْيَا وَيُجْزَى بِهَا فِي الآخِرَةِ وَأَمَّا الْكَافِرُ فَيُطْعَمُ بِحَسَنَاتِ مَا عَمَلَ بِهَا لِلَّهِ فِي الدُّنْيَا حَتَّى إِذَا أَفْضَى إِلَى الآخِرَةِ لَمْ تَكُنْ لَهُ حَسَنَةٌ يُجْزَى بِهَا

Anas b. Malik reported that Allah's Messenger (ﷺ) said: Verily, Allah does not treat a believer unjustly in regard to his virtues. He would confer upon him (His blessing) in this world and would give him reward in the Hereafter. And as regards a non-believer, he would be made to taste the reward (of virtue in this world) what he has done for himself so much that when it would be the Hereafter, he would find no virtue for which he should be rewarded.

- If you do something good in this world, Allah will give you the reward for it in this world and in the akhirah. But a disbeliever only gets reward in this dunya.
- Allah SWT says in the Quran:

مَنْ يَعْمَلْ سُوءًا يُجْزَ بِهِ وَلَا يَجِدْ لَهُ مِنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ وَلِيًّا وَلَا نَصِيرًا

Whoever commits evil will be rewarded accordingly, and they will find no protector or helper besides Allah (4:123)

- This ayah was called **قَاسِمَةُ الظَّهْرِ** – the back breaker because when Abu Bakr heard it, it was so heavy on him that he couldn't stand anymore.
- Abu Bakr RA came to the Prophet SAW and said, "O messenger of Allah! Which one of us does not make mistakes?!" The Prophet SAW smiled and said, "Don't you go through difficulties in your life? Every time you go through something difficult, it is a reason for Allah to forgive you."
 - Once you are tested in this world with hardships and you are forgiven by Allah SWT, then there will no accountability for you in the akhirah.
 - The Prophet SAW said: Every time a Muslim goes through some worry or hardship, or even if a thorn pricks this person, Allah SWT forgives them.

- Our dunya is for akhirah. We are using it to get to something better, so make your dunya a form of ibaadah.
- Everything we have is only for Allah.
 - Allah SWT says in the Quran:

قُلْ إِنَّ صَلَاتِي وَنُسُكِي وَمَحْيَايَ وَمَمَاتِي لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ

Say, "My prayer and my worship, and my life and my death, are devoted to God, the Lord of the Worlds." (6:142)

- Zayd RA heard that anyone who has a horse and takes care of it, then everything he did for the horse will be weighed on the Day of Judgment and he will be rewarded for it because it was for the sake of Allah and serving His religion. Zayd RA bought 100 horses to take care of and said that if there was an opportunity to serve them for the sake of Allah, then he would give them up immediately.
- Once we know that something much better exists (akhirah), it is easier to move on from that which we are currently in (dunya).