

BENEFICIAL KNOWLEDGE

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The term "Beneficial Knowledge", is self explanatory. In the world, we have many different types of knowledge, some of which is beneficial to us, and some of which isn't. Beneficial knowledge is that Ilm which will help us to acquire our Hereafter and which will be of use to our Mankind.

Our Dearest Prophet Muhammad (s.a.w), has taught us to acquire only that specific knowledge which benefits us.

Undoubtedly, the Ilm of our Divine Religion, has many advantages for our way of lives. Islam is the only Religion, which teaches human rights, respect for one another, teaches the honour people should have for each other. Irrespective of their race, colour or religion.

Islam has also elevated the rank of those Muslims who acquire knowledge and

these people are regarded very high in the eyes of Allah (s.w.t.)

Seeking knowledge can be done in many different ways, whether we read books, research Islamic articles, or simply visit Islamic circles or Lectures.

These are all inclusive in being "a seeker of knowledge".

However the Ultimate seekers of knowledge are those who leave their homes in search of Ilm. Undoubtedly, these people will be blessed.

As numerous sacrifices will be made to acquire such Ilm. Not being at home, in amongst the luxuries of life just for the sheer pleasure of the Almighty. Ilm is Noor (divine light), which is exceptionally special. Without acting upon it, the Alim will never feel peace, their knowledge will hearten them towards what is right.

Remedy of the Month

Hadhrat Asma bint Yazid Ansari (RA) came to the Prophet (SAW) and said;

O Prophet of Allah (SAW) you are dearer to me than my parents. My Muslim women have deputed me as their representative to talk to you on their behalf. Verily you are the Allah for both men and women. We stay most part of our time within the four walls of our houses. We remain pinned to our duties of fulfilling the desire of men, bearing children for them and looking after their homes.

Not withstanding all this, men excel us in getting rewards for

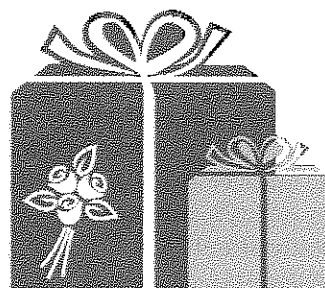
things which we are unable to do. They go and say their daily Salaat and weekly Jumah in the masjid, visit the sick, attend the funerals, and perform Hajj after Hajj and above all fight in the way of Allah. When they go for Hajj or Jihad, we look after their property, bring up their children and weave cloth for them. Do we not share their rewards with them?

The Prophet (SAW) addressing the Sahabah sitting around him, said; 'Did you hear a woman asking a better question?'

Sahabah replied, O Prophet of Allah! We never thought a woman

could put forward such a question' The Prophet (SAW) addressing Asma said, 'Listen attentively, and then go and tell the ladies who have sent you that when a woman seeks the pleasure of her husband and carries out her domestic functions to his satisfaction, she gets the same reward as the men get for all their services to Allah'.

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Recipes

Prophet (saw) favourite foods

In our last edition we learnt that Rice was one of our Prophet (saw) favourite food. Rice is one of the main dish we eat in our daily lives so I felt that a few more recipes of rice will be nice.

It is important to choose the right rice for each dish that you make. Basmati rice is probably the most common rice used. Basmati rice is ideal for most dishes and is great even as plain white rice. Another rice which is used a lot is Long grain. It is great for puddings. Rice is a very healthy food. It is important to remove as much starch as possible when using rice and one of the ways by doing this is to wash it thoroughly before cooking. It is even better if you use brown rice which is full of fibre.

This recipe is one of my favourites. It is easy and tasty and is a great dish to serve when you have guests.

Chinese Rice.

Ingredients:

1lb boneless chicken cubes, 1 medium onion chopped, 3tbl vegetable oil, 1tsp salt, 1tsp black pepper, 1 tsp garlic, ½ tsp ginger, 2 tbs dark soya sauce, 1 medium bowl mixed frozen vegetables, 1 green pepper cut into cubes, 2 cups basmati rice and 4 cups boiled water.

Method:

Heat the oil and add onions. Cook until they are light brown and add the chicken. Add salt, black pepper, garlic, ginger and cook for 5-7 minutes. Then add the vegetables and pepper. Cook for a further 5-7 minutes then add the boiled water. Add the rice, soya sauce and salt as needed. Cook on low gas for 20 minutes and leave it covered. Serve with a nice green salad and some relish.

Relish: 2 Chopped tomatoes, 1tbl oil, ¼ tsp salt, ½ tsp chilli powder, handful chopped coriander, 2 tsp lemon juice.
Method: heat the oil and add the tomatoes. Add salt, chilli, lemon juice and coriander. Cook on a low gas for 8-10 minutes.

Sahabiyaat: Female Companions of the Prophet (saw)

Hafsa bint Umar

Hafsa, may Allah be pleased with her, was the daughter of 'Umar ibn al-Khattab. She had been previously married, but was widowed when she was only eighteen. 'Umar asked both Abu Bakr and 'Uthman ibn 'Affan, one after the other, if they would like to marry her, but they both declined because they knew that the Prophet (P.B.U.H) had expressed an interest in marrying her.

When 'Umar went to the Prophet (P.B.U.H) to complain about their behaviour, the Prophet smiled and said, "Hafsa will marry one better than 'Uthman and 'Uthman will marry one better than Hafsa." 'Umar was startled and then realised that it was the Prophet (P.B.U.H) who was asking for her hand in marriage. He was overcome with delight. They were married just after the battle of Badr, when Hafsa was about twenty years old and the Prophet (P.B.U.H) was fifty-six.

By this marriage, the Prophet (P.B.U.H) strengthened the ties between two of his closest companions, the two who would become the first two rightly guided khalifs after his death. He (P.B.U.H) was married to the daughter of Sayyiduna Abu Bakr, 'A'isha, and to the daughter of Sayyiduna 'Umar, Hafsa.

Two of the other closest companions of the Prophet (P.B.U.H) who would become the third and fourth rightly guided khalifs were also connected to the Prophet through marriage:

Sayyiduna 'Uthman ibn 'Affan had married Ruqayya, the daughter of the Prophet, in Makka, and then, after her death in Madinah soon after the battle of Badr, he married Umm Kulthum, also the daughter of the Prophet (P.B.U.H). It was because he married two of the daughters of the Prophet may Allah bless

him and grant him peace, that 'Uthman was given the title of Dhu 'n-Nurayn, which means 'the possessor of two lights'. And Sayyiduna 'Ali ibn Abi Talib had married Fatima, the youngest daughter of the Prophet, shortly before the Prophet (P.B.U.H) had married 'A'isha.

Some sources say that the Prophet (P.B.U.H) divorced Hafsa with a single divorce and that 'Umar was heart-broken when this happened and began to throw dust on his head. Then the Prophet took her back after Jibril had descended and said to him, "Take Hafsa back. she fasts and prays and she will be your wife in the Garden."

Like 'A'isha, Hafsa memorised the whole Qur'an by heart. The written copy of the Qur'an which was recorded by Zayd ibn Thabit on Abu Bakr's instructions, and which was recorded and then given to 'Umar for safekeeping, This then given by 'Umar to Hafsa to look after. When 'Uthman eventually became the khalif, he ordered for this Quraan to be meticulously checked, for its accuracy by referring to all the other written records of the Quraan and to all the muslims who knew the Quraan by heart. Then he instructed several written copies of the Quraan to be made so that they could be sent to the main centres of the rapidly expanding muslim empire.

Hafsa lived with the Prophet in Madinah for eight years, may Allah bless him and grant him peace, and lived on for another thirty-four years after his death, witnessing with joy the victories and expansion of Islam under her father's guidance, and with sorrow the troubles that beset the Muslim community after the murder of 'Uthman. She died in 47 AH at the age of sixty-three, may Allah be pleased with her.

FIQH

The excellence of Ablution (Wudhu)

There are numerous Ahadeeth narrated regarding the importance of Ablution also known as Wudhu.

It is compulsory for every Muslim intending to perform salaah to make Ablution, first without it salaah will not be valid.

I will narrate a few Ahadeeth regarding the advantages of wudhu so we can have a better understanding of the significance and value of it.

Hazrat Uthmaan-ibn-affan (R.A) reported Allah's messenger (PBUH) as saying: He who performs ablution and performs it in the proper manner, his sins will come out of his body, even from under his nails. (Muslim)

In another Hadeeth Hazrat Abu Hurayra (R.A) reports Allah's messenger (PBUH) as saying: When a Muslim or a Mumin (believer) washes his face whilst making ablution every sin that he committed with his eyes either by looking at unlawfully at things or persons will be washed out of his face along with the water, or with the last drop of water; and when he washes his hands, every sin that he committed with his hands, will come out from his hands with the water or with the last drop of water; and when he washes his feet; every sin, towards which his feet have walked, will come out with the water, or with the last drop of water; and, in the end, he will be

pure from all sins. (Muslim)
Whilst performing Ablution one should make sure that not even a small part of the wudhu area is left dry, this means that jewellery would also have to be removed in order for water to reach everywhere, and also the removing of nail polish and water proof make up, as this prevents the water from reaching the skin, resulting in wudhu not being complete.

QUESTIONS

Q1. One of my family members has severe eczema and was recently hospitalized. Currently he has to apply ointment once daily. The problem is he cannot perform wudhu as the ointment is to keep his skin lubricated, otherwise he begins to itch which worsens his condition.

We have thought of Tayammum but the question is because Tayammum is dusty and if he has any dust near his skin, it ignites the itching, What can we do?

A1. It is not necessary to perform Tayammum on a dusty object. As long as it is from an earthy substance. Tayammum can be performed on a clean brick, not having any dust, on it.

Q2. In wudhu could you tell me if I can wash one foot and dry it and then wash the other foot and dry it?

A2. It is permissible however; it is advisable to wash both feet consecutively.

Q3. During wudhu a little amount of blood comes out from the teeth when

ISLAMIC NAMES

Boys:

- Daa'wud - A Prophets name
Dhul fiqar - Name of the Prophets sword
Daanyaal - Name of a Prophet
Deen - Faith, religion
Dhaamin - One who stands surety for another, one who help
Dhakiyah - Bright, intelligent
Duha - Early morning
Durrah - Pearl, Name of a sahabi (R.A)
Dalal - spoiled one

Girls:

I salivate, it often happens in the middle and at the end of the wudhu, what should I do?

A3. If the blood is very little and the colour of the saliva is white or yellow, wudhu will not break. If the blood is equal to or more than the saliva, and is reddish in colour, wudhu will break. (Mufti Ibrahim Desai)

AQAID

Where is Allah? In the Sky?

"Verily, Allah is absolutely free of need of anything in the Worlds." (Quran: 29:6)

Allah mentions this attribute of Ghina or "freedom of need of anything whatsoever" in some seventeen verses in the Quran. It is a central point of Islamic Aqeedah and faith, and is the reason why it is impossible that Allah could be Jesus (upon whom be peace),

or be anyone else with a body and form: because bodies need space and time, while Allah has absolutely no need for anything. This is the Aqeedah of the Quran, and Muslim Scholars have kept it in view, in understanding other Quranic verses or hadiths. Muslims lift their hands to the sky when they make supplications (dua) to Allah, because the sky is the Qibla for dua, not that Allah occupies that particular direction.

Just as the Kaaba is the Qibla for prayer (salat), without Muslims believing that Allah is in that direction. Rather, Allah in His wisdom has made

the Qibla a sign (ayah) of Muslim Unity.

Allah hears, sees and knows everything. Hence, making supplication in any location is permissible. It is part of a Muslims' Aqeedah (faith), to believe that everything that happens is undoubtedly by the wish of Allah.

Many, of the disbelievers, especially from the pre-Islamic period of Ignorance, were extremely close to physical, perceptible realities and had little conception of anything besides as is attested to by their idols, which were images set up on the ground.

Poems

Journey to our destination

Where is my journey going to lead me?
Is it going to lead me to the road of
darkness
Or is it going to lead me to the road of
lightness
Jannat is from Allah, Jahannam is from
Allah
He is the creator Subhanalla
The world seems like a maze
Life seems like a daze
I don't know which way to go
I have to find out, I have to know
shall I go to the left or to the right
At this rate its going to be midnight
I've got to make a decision now
Because Allah talla is the one I turn to
and bow
I don't want to be late
Otherwise the Angels will shut the gate
One door says Jannat Alhamdulillah
One door says Jahannam Astagfirullah
Which doors are the angels going to take
me to
I pray to Allah, please have mercy on me
and grant me the key
I'm terrified the angels will take me to
the doors of Jahannam
Where the fire burns eternal flames
And then I shall be called by my parents
names
Buthsullallah if the angels take me to
the doors ofjannat
Then Inshallah I know I will have
gained success in my akhiraat
Where lies my destiny
It lies on my choice of journey
I pray Allah talla forgives me
And the whole of the Muslim community.
Ameen.

Upbringing of Children

Childbirth is indeed a very happy occasion in a Muslim home. Unfortunately Muslims express more joy when a boy is born and feel disheartened at the birth of a girl. Having children is a blessing from Allah and we should remember there are many people who long for children but die with the hope of having a child. Islam upholds equality and fair play. In showing kindness and compassion to children it does not discriminate between male and female. Even in this age as they did before some people dislike daughters. To discriminate against them is a sign of being ignorant of deen and weak in imaan. A Muslim submits happily to the will of Allah whether the new born is a boy or a girl. Gender is determined by Allah alone. Sayidinnah Rasullullah (s.a.w) has emphasised the proper care of daughters so that the habits of the days of jahliyaah may be obliterated from the minds of waverers. He has instructed us to pay proper attention to the care and training of daughters. He has assured us that whoever looks after two daughters (in another versions three daughters) (Humay-dii) until they are mature will be together with him on the day of qiyammah. It is reported in a hadith that a father who rears three daughters nourishes and clothes them will find that they will protect him from jahannam. (Ahmad and Humay-dii)
The rewards are numerous but dear sisters we have to remember that in order for us to gain these blessings we must ensure that we are living our lives according to the shariah and not adopting evil practices of the west throughout childbirth as this will not bring the mercy of Allah instead it will bring his displeasure.

THE NAME OF ALLAH

AR-RAHMAAN The Compassionate

If this Name is recited 100 times daily after Salaah, if Allah will's hard-heartedness and negligence will be removed from the reader's heart.

Remedy of the Month

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Hadhrat Asma (RA) returned very happily after getting this reply to her question.

Obedience and good behaviour towards husbands is a very good asset for the women, provided they know its value.

The Sahabah once said to the Prophet (SAW), 'In foreign countries, people prostrate before their Kings and Chiefs. You deserve such reverence much more'.

He (SAW) said, 'No! If it were permissible to prostrate before anybody besides Allah, I would have asked the women to prostrate before their husbands'. By Him who has my life in His hand, a woman cannot do what she owes to Allah until she has done what she owes to her husband'.

The following is reported to have been said by the Prophet (SAW) in this connection:

1. 'A woman whose husband is pleased with her at the time of her death, goes straight into Paradise'
2. 'A woman is cursed by the angels if her husband is displeased with her and she stays away from him in anger for the night'.
3. 'The Salaat of two persons hardly rises beyond their heads in its flight to heaven. These two persons are a runaway slave and a disobedient wife'.

HADEETH

ANGER IS THE DEVIL, AND THE DEVIL HAS BEEN CREATED FROM FIRE, AND FIRE IS EXTINGUISHED BY WATER, THEREFORE WHEN ANY OF YOU FELL ANGRY, YOU SHOULD PERFORM YOUR ABLUTIONS.
(ABU DAWUD)