

How to please the Almighty Allah ?

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Treading the path towards Allah's religion is a satisfying journey. Whosoever, wishes to seek the knowledge of Islam in order to please the Almighty Allah, will surely be rewarded highly.

The Messenger of Allah (S.A.W.), says: "If anyone travels on a road in search of knowledge, Allah will cause him to travel on the roads of Paradise. The angels will lower their wings in their great pleasure for one who seeks knowledge, the inhabitants of the Heavens and the Earth and the fish in the ocean will ask for forgiveness for the learned man.

The superiority over the learned man over the devout is like that of the moon, on the night when it is full, over the rest

of the stars. The learned are the heirs of the Prophets, and the Prophets leave neither dinar nor dirham (money), but they leave only knowledge, and he who takes it, takes an abundant portion." (Abu Dawood, Bk 25, No. 3634)

According to the above Hadith, the seeker in search of Allah's divine knowledge, even gains the supplications of the fish in the sea. The reason the fish are mentioned is to show to what extent the virtues of the learned man stretch to.

Everything in the Heavens and the Earth pray for such a person. One does not have to leave home to become a "seeker of knowledge", one can enjoy in Islamic classes, lectures, or even research Islamic literature with the intention of seeking knowledge to gain the pleasure of the Almighty.

Remedy of the Month

Once, the Prophet S.A.W. came to the masjid for Salaat, where he noticed some people laughing and giggling. He remarked: "If you remembered your death, I would not see you like this. Think of your death often. Not a single day passes when the grave does not call out: I am a wilderness, I am a place of dust, and I am a place of worms.

When a Believer is laid in the grave it says; Welcome to you. Of all the people walking on the earth, I liked you best. Now that you have come into me, you will see how I entertain you. It then expands as far as the occupant can

see. A door from Paradise is opened in the grave and through this door; he gets the fresh and fragrant air of Paradise.

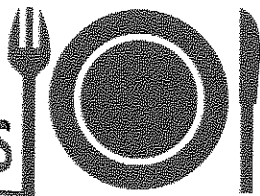
But when an evil man is laid in the grave it says; No word of welcome for you. Of all the persons walking on the earth, I disliked you most. Now that you have come to me, you will see how I treat you! It then closes upon him that his ribs penetrate into the other side of the ribs. As many as 70 serpents are set upon him, to keep biting him till the Day of Qiyamah.

These serpents are so poisonous that if one of them spurts its

venom upon the earth, not a single blade of grass would ever grow." Fear of Allah is the basic and essential qualification of a Muslim. The Prophet S.A.W. advised the believers to remember death, and the fear of Allah should be ever present in their hearts.

"The grave is either a garden of Paradise or a pit of Hell."





Prophet (saw) favourite foods

Olives

Hazrat Umar bin Khataab R.A said that he heard the Prophet (S.A.W) saying "Eat olives or use olive oil in your cooking as olives are a blessed tree."

Another Hadith by Hazrat Abu Huraira R.A reports that he heard the Prophet (S.A.W) saying "Eat olives and apply olive oil because olives have blessings in them."

Fresh olives are great to use in salads. You can also put olives on pies or even on pizzas.

Olive oil is a sunnat of the Prophet (S.A.W) as we have learnt, and according to dietician's olive oil is the best oil to use for cooking.

Grilled Olive Oil haddock Fish

Ingredients:

- 4 Fillets of Fish
- 1 tsp Salt
- 1 tsp Black Pepper
- 2 tblsp Fresh Lemon
- ½ tsp Garlic
- 1 tsp Chilli Flakes
- 1 small Onion
- 4 large tblsp Olive Oil
- ½ cup Water

Method:

Marinate the fish in salt, lemon and garlic for 2 hrs. Place the fish in a baking tray. There will be some stock from the fish in the bowl left, use the same bowl with the stock and add the black pepper, chilli flakes, olive oil and water. Mix the sauce and pour over the fish. Slice the onions into circles and decorate over the fish and bake for 20 minutes. Put under the grill for a further 5 minutes then serve with sauté potatoes and salad. This dish is a great meal if you are on a healthy diet.

Sahabiyaat: Female Companions of the Prophet (saw)

Khadijah bint Khuwaylid

Khadijah may Allah be pleased with her came from a noble family. Her father Khuwaylid had been one of the most honoured leaders of their tribe until he was killed in a battle. Her husband had also died leaving her a very wealthy woman.

When Muhammad (P.B.U.H) was still a young man she entrusted him with some of her wealth asking him to trade with it in Syria on her behalf. He pbuh was already well known for his honesty, truthfulness and truth worthiness. He returned from Syria after having made a large profit for Khadijah.

After hearing his account of the journey she decided that he would make the best of husbands. After the prophet's uncle Abu Talib had given the proposed marriage, his blessing they were married. For the next fifteen years they lived happily together. Besides Allah, a wife best knows her husband, both his good and bad qualities his strength and his weakness. The more Khadijah came to know about her husband the more she loved and respected him.

It became Muhammad's custom each year to spend the month of Ramadan in seclusion and reflection, in a cave on the mountain of hira Towards the end of Ramadan Muhammad (P.B.U.H) suddenly appeared at their house trembling with fear and saying "cover me up" "cover me up". Khadijah was very alarmed to see him in such a state. She wrapped a blanket around his shoulders and when he had calmed down she asked him what happened. The Prophet SAW replied an angel came and squeezed his neck and told him to read. "IQRA" The angel repeated this thrice and then left him go. As Khadijah

listened to Muhammad's words she did not share any of these fears. She realized that something tremendous and awe-inspiring had happened to her husband ,and she was certain ,knowing him as she did, that he was neither mad nor possessed.

"Do not worry she said", "for him who has dominion over Khadijas' soul, I hope that you are the prophet of this nation. Allah would never humiliate you, for you are good to your relatives, you are true to your word, you help those who are in need, you support the weak, you feed the guest and you answer the call of those who are in distress."

When Muhammad (P.B.U.H) was a little more relaxed, Khadijah took him to see her cousin, Waraqa ibn Nawfal, for he was a man of knowledge, and she was sure that he would be able to explain the meaning of what had just happened to her beloved husband. Waraqa said" this is the seal of the prophet hood"

Khadijah was overjoyed to find that her understanding of what happened had been confirmed.

In the difficult years that followed Khadijah was a source of comfort to Muhammad (P.B.U.H) in the difficulties which he had to face. All her wealth was spent in the path of Allah, helping to spread the message of her husband, helping to free slaves who had embraced Islam, and helping to feed and shelter the community of Muslims that surely began to grow in numbers and strength. Khadijah had done all she could to help the prophet (P.B.U.H).

May Allah give us all patience like Khadijah.

FIQH

How to perform Wudhu (Ablution)

One should first prepare for Wudhu by first facing the Qiblah (if possible) then making sure the area where one is going to perform Wudhu is a high and clean place. After having completed these preparations, one should first make Niyyat (intention) at heart that I am performing Wudhu to remove any impurities.

To start your practical Wudhu first recite Bismillah.

1. Then using clean and Paak water first wash both hands up to the wrists three times.
2. Gargle your mouth three times and use a Miswak (if possible) to clean your teeth.
3. Using your right hand insert water into your nostrils and clean your nose three times. (Cleaning your nose from inside should be done with your left hand)
4. Wash your face three times, washing from the hair line of the

forehead to the underneath the chin and from one ear lobe to the other.

5. Make Khilal of the beard by passing your fingers through the beard.
6. Wash your right arm including the elbows three times then do the same with the left arm.
7. Make Khilal of the fingers by passing your fingers through each other making sure no part is left dry.
- 8 A. Do Masah by wetting your hands and passing the last three fingers over the top of your head right down to the back and then bring your hands back by using your palms doing Masah of the side of your head. (above the ears)
 - B. Then using your thumb and index finger do Masah of your ears, inserting the index finger in the opening of your ears and use your thumb to make Masah of behind your ears.
 - C. Finally using the back of your hand perform Masah of your nape.
9. Wash both feet including the ankles three times, first washing the right then the left.

ISLAMIC NAMES

Boys:

- Faadhil - Honorable, Outstanding
- Faaruuq - One who distinguishes truth from falsehood
- Fawwaz - Successful
- Fayyadh - Generous
- Fudhail - Excellent in character

Girls:

- Faaidhah - Benefit, advantage
- Farah - joy
- Faatimah - A daughter of the Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W)
- Fawziyah - Successful
- Firdaws - Highest garden in paradise

10. Do Khilal of the toes by inserting your little finger of the left hand in between your toes beginning with the little toes of the right foot and ending with the little toe of the left foot.

End your Wudhu by reciting the Kalimah Shahadat.

AQAID

The deeper meaning of Imaan (faith), is to believe in Allah and his Messenger (s.a.w), however only to have belief is not sufficient enough. One must act upon the commands of Allah and his Prophet (s.a.w).

Allah says in the Qur'aan; "Verily, the most honourable of you with Allah is that (believer) who is the most righteous of you." (Al-

Hujuraat,49:13)

The Most righteous person will only be successful if he/she has the taqwa (piety), which is needed in order to be aware of Allah's existence at all times. If a person is aware that Allah is always watching him, then it will be easier to control one's desires. However, piety can only be obtained if one has the fear of Allah. Many times in the Qur'aan it states that one must fear Allah. One cannot fear Allah if he/she does not have the true Love of Allah embedded within their hearts.

The Love of Allah is essential for

any believer to be successful in this life and the Hereafter. One must understand the concept of loving Allah, as an example we have sincere love for our parents and would never wish to hurt or disappoint them in anyway. This is the concept that must be understood, when it means to fear Allah, it is not saying to tremble when you hear you Lord's name, but to have the fear of ever disobeying or doing anything that might result in the anger of the Almighty.

If one attains the pleasure of Allah they will have a fruitful and content life.

Poems

O people of Islam
O children of Adam
Keep close with your kinship
Be kind in your relationship,
Unite with your Muslim
community
So that no one can break that
unity
Be honest with each other
Show love to one another
Guide your brothers and sisters
the right way
Do not tempt them to go
astray
Encourage them to pray their
salat
Remind them to pay their
zakat
Keep doing your zikr
Allah will take away your fikr
Ask Allah for forgiveness,
And to accept our repentance
Ask Allah to open the gates of
his mercy
And seek protection from
sorrow and anxiety
Love Allah and all that he has
created
And obey the commands Allah
and his Rasul S.A.W. have
stated.

Upbringing of Children

Naming the child

It is the parents duty and the right of the newborn child to be given a suitable, decent and appropriate Islamic name, within seven days. A Name affects the child's behaviour, character and habits. For example if a girl is named Saaleha, which means pious, by constantly calling her by that name she will hopefully gain the qualities of piety, where as if she was named something like Kaaziba which means liar she would possibly become a liar.

In a hadith in Abu Dawood it is mentioned:

'Verily on the day of Qiyaamah you shall be called by your names and your fathers names so keep good names'.i.e. with good meaning.

While choosing names for children, the following points should be kept in mind, when you choose a name of AllahTaa'la it should be prefixed by a word denoting submission to him. For example: Abdullah, Abdul Rahman, Abdul Ghaffar etc.

Prophet (S.A.W) said, 'out of your names, Allah likes Abdullah and Abdur Rahman the most and that children should be named after the names of the Ambiyaa.'

According to a Hadith on the day of Qiyaamah, the worst of all persons in the eyes of Allah and liable to punishment will be the one Whom people call Shaahin Shaah (king of all monarchs). Only Allah, the Exalted, is Shaahin Shaah and the kingdom belongs to him alone. (Muslim)

When keeping the names of Nabis

THE NAME OF ALLAH AL MALIKO (THE SOVEREIGN LORD)

IF READ ABUNDANTLY AFTER
ZAWAL, THE READER WILL BE
GIVEN ABUNDANT WEALTH,
INSHALLAH

and Walis there is a lot of barkat but care should be taken that when the name is taken, that person should not be sworn. Or else it would be disrespect to those pious people.

Hazrat Abu Rafe(R.A) narrates that Rasullullah (S.A.W) said; when you name someone Mohammed neither beat him nor deprive him"

It is related that Rasullullah (S.A.W) said; whoever is named after me with the hope of being blessed, he will be blessed and be in peace till the day of Qiyaamah"

It is further related that Rasullullah (S.A.W) said:

'To whomsoever a boy is born and is named Mohammed because of love for me and with the intention of the barkat of my name, then he and his son will enter Jannat' (kanzul Ummah).

If there is a fear that some names will not be pronounced correctly, or only half the name will be called, then it is better to avoid such names.

Children's name should not be distorted or westernise names like, for example Sulaiman: Sam or Fatima: fatti, Tima. Or Khadija: tija etc.

It is also common in our society for people to keep a name which may sound nice to them, but in reality it has no meaning at all, such names should not be kept. Parents should ensure that when choosing a name for their child they must do so with intention that the child will be blessed with barkat of that name.

HADEETH

HAZRAT ABU HURAYRAH
RELATES HOW THE
PROPHET NEVER CRITI-
CIZED FOOD. IF HE LIKED
IT, HE ATE IT, IF, HE DID
NOT HE JUST LEFT IT.
(BUKARI, MUSLIM)