



MADRASAH BAYTUL ILM

CAN YOU BEAR THE HEAT?

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Taking Lesson from One's Surroundings

It is the sign of an intelligent believer that he takes lesson from his surroundings which help him focus towards the hereafter. It is narrated regarding the great Shaykh Junaid Baghdādi ؒ that he was once walking with his disciples. At one point they passed by a person who had been executed and left in that position for people to see.

Shaykh Junaid Baghdādi ؒ also noticed that one of his hands and one of his feet had been cut off. He asked his disciples regarding this person's story. He was informed that this person was a thief who had repeatedly been caught for his crimes. He went through a series of punishments which eventually led to execution due to his persistence of the crime.

The great Shaykh Junaid Baghdādi ؒ turned to his disciples and explained that this person and his story held a very important lesson. He explained that one could take the lesson of Istiqāmah (steadfastness) from this person's story. He was so committed to his deed, though a bad one, that despite all these

punishments, he did not give up on it. If a criminal can be so steadfast on his crime, why can a believer not be steadfast on the worship of Allāh ﷻ?

These sorts of lessons and reminders should be taken from all our surroundings and situations. The current extreme hot weather that we are all experiencing is also a great opportunity for us to derive motivation towards our hereafter.

The Expedition of Tabuk

Shortly after the liberation of Makkah Mukarramah in the 8th year of Hijri, Nabi ﷺ began preparation for the Battle of Tabuk and he commanded all the believers to take part. This event occurred during the extremely hot summer season and many of the hypocrites were not willing to join. They started encouraging one another not to go out in this hot weather. Allāh ﷻ wished to remind them that by not fulfilling a command of Allāh ﷻ and his Nabi ﷺ for the sake of comfort in this world, a far greater discomfort awaits in the hereafter. Instead of making this heat an excuse, it should actually serve

as a motivator towards carrying out the command of Shari'ah. Allāh ﷻ mentions in the glorious Qur'ān, "They said that do not go out in this heat. Say (to them, Oh Rasulullāh ﷺ) that the fire of Jahannam is far more hotter." (9:81)

The Fire of the Hereafter

On the day of Judgement alone, the heat will be such that a person will not be able to bear it. Nabi ﷺ has described the scene that the sun will be brought near to the people until it is at distance of one or two *meel*. The people will sweat according to their deeds. Some will have sweat up to their ankles, some up to their knees, some up to their waists and some up to their mouths. (Tirmidhi)

The narrator of this hadith mentioned that Nabi ﷺ used the word '*meel*' which could mean the distance of one mile on earth or it could also mean the kuhl (surma) stick that is used to apply kuhl (surma) which would be an incredibly minute distance.

The fire and heat of Jahannam will be far worse. In

one hadith, Nabi ﷺ mentions, “The person who will have the least punishment from amongst the people of Jahannam on the day of Judgement will be a man under whose feet a smouldering coal will be placed (which will be so hot that) his brain will boil because of it.” (Bukhāri)

From this one hadith, we can just imagine the severity of the fire of Jahannam. And it is almost impossible to comprehend the extent to which this heat and punishment can reach. According to a hadith narrated by Imām Tirmidhi رحمه الله, Nabi ﷺ has described that the heat of this world only amounts to one seventieth of the fire of Jahannam. This means that the fire of Jahannam will be around 70 times stronger.

During the hot weather of this world, we should contemplate upon our situation. We have a sun that is over 93 million miles away from us. Yet its heat reaches such a stage where it becomes unbearable for us and leaves us in immense discomfort and uneasiness. However, we still have

some way of tolerating this heat; whether it be the use of an air conditioner, a fan, sitting in a shade, drinking cold fluids etc. But if due to our misdeeds, we have to face the punishment of fire and heat in the hereafter, where there will be no means of comfort or safety, how will we tolerate that?!

The Student and the Flame

An incident is narrated regarding a student who was studying in Delhi and residing in a Masjid. One night, a young lady living in the area went to visit some of her relatives when riots broke out in that part of the city. She ran into the Masjid for protection. The student saw her and panicked. He excused himself and explained that it was inappropriate for her to stay there. He said, “People may see us and I will be disgraced.” She responded, “But if I leave this Masjid, it is possible that my honour will be destroyed.” The student understood her helplessness and agreed. He made her sit in a far corner and continued with his studies.

Whilst studying, throughout the night, every now

and then he placed his finger on the flame of his lamp. The young lady sat watching this entire scene. In the morning he informed her that the situation outside had calmed down and she could now return home. However, the lady said, “I will not leave until you explain your action to me. Why were you placing your finger on the flame?” At first, the student refused to answer but after much persistence from the lady, he said, “Shaytān was inciting me to commit sin with you. Every time that thought came to mind, I placed my finger on the flame and told myself that if I cannot tolerate this small flame on just my finger, how will I tolerate the fire of Jahannam after committing this sin?” (Ādābul Muta’alimeen)

Conclusion

Our objective is to achieve success in the hereafter by saving ourselves from Jahannam and gaining entry into Jannah. Hence, whenever we face the extremely hot weather of this world and suffer through the discomfort, let us contemplate that this heat is nothing in comparison to the heat that a

person will face in the hereafter if he leads a sinful life. And let this be a constant reminder that motivates us towards the obedience of Allāh ﷻ.

It comes as no surprise that when our beloved Nabi ﷺ would experience the hot weather, his mind too would immediately turn towards the heat of Jahannam. It is narrated that Nabi ﷺ taught the following du'ā which should be recited on the occasion of hot weather:

لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ ، مَا أَشَدَّ حَرَّ هَذَا الْيَوْمِ ،
اللَّهُمَّ أَجِرْنِي مِنْ حَرِّ جَهَنَّمَ

Transliteration: Lā ilāha illallāhu, mā ashadda harra hādhal yawm, allāhumma ajirni min harri jahannam

*Translation: There is no diety except Allāh. How hot is this day! Oh Allāh, Protect me from the heat of Jahannam.
(‘Amalul-Yawmi Wal-Laylah)*

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