

Glimpses Of The Lives Of Righteous People

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Publisher's Note

Everyone wants to live life to the fullest. Everyone has some goals, some ambitions and some desires about the life he wants to live.

Not each person is similar to other about the likes regarding the life. The environment, family values, knowledge, education and profession affect the mental attitude to form about life, resulting in the making of the temperament of the person. Then after his behaviour is developed as how to live a life.

If a person has no type of mental bounds then he is apt to adopt free ways to acquire whatever his goals and ambitions are, and to fulfill his desires by all possible means no matter fair or unfair.

But the person who has some good knowledge about the reality of life, his attitude about life, and its goals and ambitions will be different and so will be the ways of fulfilling his desires. He will found himself bound to adopt only the fair and legal ways.

Islam has presented clear conceptions regarding life and death, likes and dislikes, forbidden and allowed, and things legal and illegal. Our pious Predecessors have tried their utmost to live life according to them. In this book, we

are presenting the glimpses of their lives so as to think over our conceptions of life and mend them accordingly to what is right. The contents of the book are interesting and motivating. We hope that people will get benefitted from it.

Abdul-Malik Mujahid
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Introduction

Indeed, all praise is for Allâh; we praise Him, repent to Him, and seek His forgiveness and help. We seek refuge in Allâh from the evil of our own selves and of our wicked deeds. Whomsoever Allâh guides, none can lead astray; and whomsoever Allâh leads astray, none can guide. And I bear witness that none has the right to be worshipped except Allâh alone, and He has no partner; and I bear witness that our Prophet Muhammad is His slave and Messenger.

Allah Almighty says:

﴿يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ تَقَاتِهِ ۖ وَلَا تَمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا وَأَنتُمْ مُسْلِمُونَ ﴿١٠٢﴾﴾

"O you who believe! Fear Allâh (by doing all that He has ordered and by abstaining from all that He has forbidden) as He should be feared. (Obey Him, be thankful to Him, and remember Him always), and die not except in the state of Islam [as Muslims (with complete submission to Allâh)]."^[1]

And:

﴿يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ اتَّقُوا رَبَّكُمُ الَّذِي خَلَقَكُمْ مِنْ نَفْسٍ وَجَدَّوْهُ وَخَلَقَ مِنْهَا زَوْجَهَا وَبَثَّ

^[1] Qur'ân 3:102

مِنْهُمَا رَجُلًا كَثِيرًا وَنِسَاءً وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ الَّذِي تَسَاءَلُونَ بِهِ وَالْأَرْحَامَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ كَانَ عَلَيْكُمْ رَقِيبًا ﴿١﴾

"O mankind! Be dutiful to your Lord, Who created you from a single person (Adam), and from him (Adam) He created his wife [Hawwa (Eve)], and from them both He created many men and women; and fear Allâh through Whom you demand your mutual (rights), and (do not cut the relations of) the wombs (kinship). Surely, Allâh is Ever and All-Watcher over you."^[1]

And:

﴿يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَقُولُوا قَوْلًا سَدِيدًا ﴿٧﴾ يُصْلِحْ لَكُمْ أَعْمَالَكُمْ وَيَغْفِرْ لَكُمْ ذُنُوبَكُمْ وَمَنْ يُطِيعِ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ فَقَدْ فَازَ فَوْزًا عَظِيمًا ﴿٧﴾﴾

"O you who believe! Keep your duty to Allâh and fear Him, and speak (always) the truth. He will direct you to do righteous good deeds and will forgive you your sins. And whosoever obeys Allâh and His Messenger (ﷺ) he has indeed achieved a great achievement (i.e. he will be saved from the Hell-fire and made to enter Paradise)."^[2]

Indeed, the most truthful speech is Allâh's Book, and the best guidance is that of Muhammad (ﷺ). The most evil of affairs are newly invented ones (in the religion), for every newly invented practice is an innovation (*Bid'ah*), every innovation is misguidance, and every misguidance is in the Fire.

^[1] Qur'ân 4:1

^[2] Qur'ân 33:70,71

Verily, Allâh (ﷻ) said about his righteous, obedient slaves:

﴿لَقَدْ كَانَ لَكُمْ فِيهِمْ أُسْوَةٌ حَسَنَةٌ لِّمَن كَانَ يَرْجُوا اللَّهَ وَالْيَوْمَ الْآخِرَ﴾

“Certainly, there has been in them an excellent example for you to follow – for those who look forward to (the Meeting with) Allâh – (for the reward from Him) and the Last Day.”^[1]

It often happens that in a single moment the course of a person’s life changes. How many of us remember the sermon we heard, the advice we received, or, for instance, the calamity we overcame that had the effect of bringing us closer to the teachings of Islam. When we are astray, when we are in a state of heedlessness, or when our hearts have hardened – it is especially at these times that we need a reminder to bring us back to correct guidance. Of course, the best reminder is Allâh’s Book; then, of course, we have the *Sunnah* of the Prophet (ﷺ). To be reminded about the reality of this life and the Hereafter, we must constantly study – reflectively – Allâh’s Book and the *Sunnah* as well as the biography of the Prophet (ﷺ). We would also do well to read about the lives of the Prophet’s Companions (رضي الله عنهم).

And finally, we would do well to read about the lives of righteous worshippers and scholars who followed the way of the Prophet (ﷺ), of his rightly-guided *Khalifahs*, of his Companions (رضي الله عنهم), and of the pious Muslims from the early generations of Islam. It is in the spirit of learning

^[1] Qur’ân 60:6

about the lives of righteous people and learning a lesson from their experiences, that I have compiled this book. In it, we catch only glimpses of the lives of righteous people who came before us, but though only glimpses they may be, I hope that we can learn some important lessons, lessons that will propel us into action and into remembering Allâh (ﷻ).

I tried my best to choose examples of those who shined and excelled in their sincerity and in their worship of Allâh (ﷻ). While others wander aimlessly through the different stages of life, they followed a studied course that leads to Paradise in the Hereafter. So sincere were they that, if they were recognized for doing a good deed, they would avoid taking any credit, choosing obscurity over fame, humble circumstances over extravagant living. Such were people who gained acceptance in the hearts of earth's dwellers. We ask Allâh 'Azza wa-Jall (the Possessor of might and majesty) to guide us to success and to make us among those who adhere to the teachings of Allâh's Book and the *Sunnah* of Allâh's Messenger (ﷺ).

Majdi Muhammad Ash-Shahâwi
Shirbâs – Fâriskûr – Dimyât

Sincere Advice

It is reported that a man was closely watching Bishr As-Sulaimi (ؒ), who was prolonging his prayer and performing it well. When Bishr completed his prayer, he said to the man, "Do not be deceived by what you have seen from me. For indeed, *Iblis* the Devil – may Allâh curse him – worshipped Allâh for thousands of years and then ended up being what he is now!"^[1]



^[1] *Bahrud-Dumū'*, page 171

Al-Miski (The One Who Exuded A Good Odor)

It is reported that Abu Bakr Al-Miski was once asked, "We always find a good odor emanating from you – why or how?" He answered, "By Allâh, for years now I have not used any perfume, but the reason for the good smell has to do with an ordeal that I passed through. A woman once tricked me into entering her home. Then she closed (and locked) the door behind her, after which she began to seduce me. I became utterly bewildered as to what I should do, for I had no options before me. I said to her, 'I need to go and purify myself.' She ordered her servant to take me to the bathroom, and when I entered it, I took feces in my hand and wiped it all over my body. Then I returned to her in that state. Shocked to see me like that, the woman ordered that I be removed from her home. I left and immediately took a shower. That very night I saw a dream; in it, it was said to me, 'You have

done that which no else has ever done. I will make your smell good and pure in this world and in the Hereafter.' When I woke up, the smell of perfume was emanating from my body, and it has continued to emanate from my body until this very moment."^[1]



^[1] *Al-Muwā'iz Wal-Majālis*, page 224

Taking Forgiveness To The Next Level

One day, when Ja'far As-Sâdiq wanted to perform ablution, he asked his slave to pour water on his hands from a jug. As the slave began to pour out the water, some of it splashed onto Ja'far's garment, which resulted in Ja'far giving his slave a reproachful look. Fearing punishment, the servant said:

﴿وَالْكَاظِمِينَ الْغَيْظَ﴾

Who repress anger.”’[1]

Ja'far reassuringly said, “I have repressed my anger.”

﴿وَالْعَافِينَ عَنِ النَّاسِ﴾

“And who pardon men”,[2]

said the slave.

“I have indeed pardoned you,” said Ja'far.

[1] Qur'ân 3:134

[2] Qur'ân 3:134

﴿وَاللَّهُ يُحِبُّ الْمُحْسِنِينَ﴾ (١١٣)

"Verily, Allâh loves Al-Muhsinūn (the good-doers)",^[1]
said the slave expectantly.

"Go: You are free for the Countenance of Allâh (ﷻ), and
you may take from my wealth 1000 dinars."^[2]



^[1] Qur'ân 3:134

^[2] Bahrud-Dumū', page 173-174

Fear Of Allâh (ﷻ)

A righteous man said, "I once sat in the gathering of a preacher who spoke so well and with such eloquence that he moved everyone that was present into tears. Upon hearing the preacher mention the Hell-fire and the punishment that Allâh (ﷻ) prepared for those who disobey Him, a young man who was present let out a loud cry: 'Alas, my grief that I was undutiful to Allâh. I have wasted my life, forgotten my death, and done little in terms of good deeds.' He then faced the *Qiblah* and said, 'O Allâh, I turn towards You this day (and this moment), repenting to you with a repentance that is not tainted by a desire for anyone other than You to see me worshipping You. So accept, in spite of my shortcomings. Forgive me and have mercy on me in my loneliness. My God, to You do I return with all of my limbs, sincerely from my heart. Utter ruin will be my lot if you do not accept me.' He then fell down unconscious. We tried to move him, but he wouldn't budge he was dead. May Allâh have mercy on him."^[1]

^[1] *Al-Mawâ'iz Wal-Majâlis*, page 65

‘I Came To Steal From Him, But In The End, It Was He Who Stole Something From Me – My Heart’

It was a dark night on which the burglar scaled the wall of Mâlik bin Dinar’s house and stealthily made his way inside. To his utter disappointment, the thief found nothing in the house that was worth stealing; what’s more, the occupant of the house was actually inside and was busy praying.

Mâlik bin Dinar sensed the movement of the burglar, but without becoming alarmed, he turned around with perfect composure and extended greetings of peace to him. He then said, “My brother, may Allâh forgive you. You entered my home and found nothing worth taking, but I will not allow you to leave without gaining some benefit.

Mâlik stood up, approached the burglar with a jug of water in his hand, and said, “Here, perform ablution and

perform two units of prayer. If you do so, you will take away with you that which is better than what you came to find in the first place."

"Yes, how generous of you," said the burglar, somewhat stupefied and, more than anything else, humbled. He stood, made ablution, and performed two units of prayer. Upon completing them, he turned and said, "O Mâlik, will I be imposing upon you if I perform two more units of prayer."

"Perform as much as Allâh decrees for you," said Mâlik. The burglar turned worshipper continued to pray until the morning, at which time Mâlik said, "Go, and be good."

"Will I be imposing upon you if I stay here with you today, for I have made the intention to fast today."

"Stay as long as you want," said Mâlik. The man stayed with Mâlik for a number of days, spending the days fasting, and the nights standing up for prayer. Finally deciding to leave, the man said, "O Mâlik, I have made up my mind to repent."

"That (i.e., Allâh forgiving you and guiding you to repent) is in the Hand of Allâh 'Azza wa-Jall (the Possessor of might and majesty)," said Mâlik.

And in fact, the man did mend his ways and repent for his previous wayward existence. When the man left Mâlik's home, he came across another burglar he knew. Seeing the happy and serene expression on the man's face, the burglar said, "I think that you have finally found your treasure?"