



UNIS

Jumad-I 1422
August 2001

Issue 82

2301 Plymouth Rd, Ann Arbor, MI 48105. Ph: (734) 665-6772, (734) 665-8882, (734) 665-1992

Words to The Muslim Sister

My Dear Sister, Know that you are man's sister and half of humanity. You are a mother, wife, daughter, sister, aunt, grand daughter or grand mother. The Prophet said, what translated means, *Women are, indeed, men's partners.* [Abu Dawood]. You are a member of the great nation of Islam, the best nation ever produced for mankind. No other nation on earth has more great men, leaders and conquerors than this nation. It is the nation of guidance and the straight religion, and it leads humanity to righteousness and truth. It transforms people from worshippers of slaves to worshippers of the Lord of slaves, from life's pressures to the pleasures of the Life after, and from the injustice of other religions to the justice of Islam.

Your ancestors, great women of Islam, were one of the main reasons for this great nation to take this great place among all nations. Allah, Who granted Islam to this nation, made a high place for Muslim women, and decreed that they share in the responsibilities of enjoining truth, forbidding evil and raising the flag of Islam. He said, what translated means, *The believers, men and women, are loyalists of one another, they enjoin righteousness and forbid evil, they offer their prayers perfectly and give the Zakat, and obey Allah and His Messenger. Allah will leave His Mercy on them. Surely Allah is All-Mighty, All-Wise.* [9:71]

Allah has given Muslim women what they can bare of orders and duties. He is the God Who knows His creation, *Should He not know what He created? And He is the Most Kind, All-Aware (of everything).* [67:14].

My dear sister, you are called upon

today to truly become an active member of the Muslim nation, strive to establish victory for Allah's Word, implement the Quran and help build the generation of Iman.

What Do Your Enemies Want From You?

There are those who want to distract you from doing your duty. They want to distract you from meeting your noble obligation, which is, to defend the religion of Allah and raise His Word high. Those enemies use many methods:

First: They distract you from what Allah created you to perform of worship, belief and Da'wah (propagating Islam). They use this worldly life as their bate: Jewelry stores, fashions that originate in non-Muslim countries, new models all the time, desires raised, hunger that can never be satisfied, pleasures and competition for them and endless ways for joy. Allah did not create us for this. Indulging in these matters is usually accompanied by wasting time and money and igniting enmity and competition between the rich and the poor.

Second: They ignite enmity between you and man. To those sinners, you are a daughter that is put down, a humiliated mother, an abused wife and an oppressed sister! Men are always unjust, hypocrites, dictators, freedom-preventers and suppressers, according to them. There is a fabricated war that those evil ones are starting for no reason other than to direct you to rebel against your father, be arrogant with your brother and disobedient to your husband. They do not call for justice,

mercy and unity. They call for hatred, arrogance and destruction.

Third: They do not stop at their call for rebellion against parents, brothers and husbands, rather, they plot against Islam. They call upon you to rebel against the obligations of Islam and the decrees of the All-Knowing King. Islam, to them, is unjust and Islamic laws are imperfect and restrictive. They call upon you, day and night, to rebel and insist on the disobedience of this religion. They try to rid you of your religion. They try to rid you of comfort and safety under generous parenthood, happy marriage and good brotherly relations.

Those devils portray piety and honor as chains on freedom. To them, Hijab does not cover the head, but also covers the mind; prayer, fasting and Zakat are a waste of time and effort; and obedience to husbands is slavery and a return to the Stone Age. They distorted all facts and changed all truths, all to serve their evil goals.

Dear Sister, The goals that your enemies and the enemies of your religion are seeking to achieve are well known. They want you to be available for them to fulfill their evil desires whenever they wish. They want you to be a mistress that has no honor. They want you to be found everywhere, on roads and in places of sin, without honor, religion or manners. They seek for you only what they want you to do. The Western world has gone through this all. Women of the West are the part of society that is facing injustice and dishonor. They strive to please men who keep changing partners and seek pleasures but with no responsibility and no consideration of the evil

consequences of their sinful actions. O Muslim sister, read and know about those women who discarded shyness and honor and followed their desires, what was the result of their deeds? Was their end honorable and desirable, or was it a shameful and hated end?

Advice for My Sister in Islam

Be proud of your religion and the religion of your ancestors. Be a good example for your sons and daughters and sincere in your belonging to this mighty nation. Know that honor is an honor to all wise people, and that adultery is dishonorable to all nations, even if some called it freedom. Know that adultery is also done with the eyes by seeing, with the ears by listening, and with the mouth by kissing, as was mentioned in a Hadith related by Imam Muslim. Your happiness is in being an obedient and believing daughter, a loyal and generous wife and a pious and merciful mother. Know that prayer is the cornerstone of Islam. Fasting one day, for the sake of Allah, takes your face seventy years away from Hellfire, as the Hadith, related by Al-Bukhari and Muslim, states. Charity is a major cause for gaining forgiveness and for repentance to be accepted. Those women who are showing parts of their bodies to men will not enter Paradise or smell its fragrance and are cursed, as in the Hadith related by Imam Muslim. Hijab is an honor and protection for you. Hijab must be modest in color and not exotic, wide and thick and not revealing, different from the dress of non-Muslim women and men.

My Dear Sister, These are words from the heart. These are words of good and sincere advice. Beware of the loyalists of Satan who want to lead you astray. Be a slave of Allah, righteous and descendent of righteous women and know your role in building this great nation. Perform your duty and do not be a cause for destruction. Be a maker of righteous generation that will lead mankind, again, to what is right and proper, to the great religion of Islam.

SOME FUNDAMENTALS OF ISLAM

All praise is due to Allah for giving us the blessing of Islam. We seek help, forgiveness, and guidance from the creator of all worlds and heavens: Almighty Allah. We seek refuge by Allah from the evils of our souls, and from the sinful of our deeds. We bear witness that there is no deity worthy of worshipping except for Almighty Allah, and that Muhammad (pbuh) is the last Prophet and the seal of all Messengers.

With the grace of Allah, we will be discussing the issue of Belief in Islam from a relatively different angle and a new perspective. *Read carefully this verse found in Chapter: (9, Repentance, Al-Tawba), Verse: 111.*

“Verily, Allah has traded the believers for their souls and their belongings, by rewarding them Jannah “Paradise” . . .

If we truly implement this verse in our lives, the entire world will become of no weight in our eyes. The average life span of today’s humans is 60-70 years; so, how much would those relatively few years compare in weight to what Allah has traded us for? This verse entails a reward but first mandates a responsibility; it entails a right but first a duty! As to the reward and right, it is the grand victory and the promising awarding and allowance into Allah’s heavens. But the portion of the “deal” that we will talk about is mainly the obligatory part of the trade. Almighty Allah directs us to the fact that if we want to win Jannah, we have to realize the meaning of Islam as full surrender to whatever Allah choose for us to encounter on the face of this earth—in order to win his Jannah. Also, if we look at the linguistic meaning of Islam in the Arabic language, we will find the infinitive of the verb “Aslam” “became a Muslim “ is the same verb used to convey the meaning of surrender and giving up to a more powerful and a more superior entity.

Knowledge of the Contractual Criteria of the “Deal”

The “deal” with Almighty Allah involves taking Allah’s book and the His Prophet’s Ahadeeth as the ultimate criterion in all of our life affairs. Therefore, it first entails gaining knowledge of the “language” our nation

speaks: The Quran and Sunnah. In order to know what is allowed and what is considered a violation, we have to carefully study the “law” that categorizes deeds into plausible and condemned ones. Consequently, it becomes imperative for those who want to take-part of that “deal” to study what rules they are granted to live by. Which should lead us to dedication to learn about this wonderful deen, to learn it and teach it—as this great religion was built on learn and teach principles. Allah (swt) could have given the Prophet the entire Quran in one night, but rather he made the angel Gibreel teach the Prophet little by little, then the Prophet taught the deen to his companions, then his companions traveled east and west spreading the principles of this great message to all people, all colors, and all races. Also, to take part in the deal we have to comply with what we learn or get taught. For the prophet (pbuh) has said what could be interpreted as follows: “Everyone of my nation will be rewarded Jannah, except those who refuse to get in Jannah, so the companions said with exclamation: “who would possibly refuse to get in Jannah?” then the prophet replied: “those who obey me (my message) will be allowed in Jannah, and those who refuse to obey me (my message) are merely refusing to win Jannah.

Having said so, we have to be honest with ourselves; there are things in everyone’s life that he struggles with in his deen. *If deen were so easy for our soul to perfect, then there would be no test in this life!* In order to distinguish between those who will comply with the parameters ordained by our Creator to live by and those who reject them, Allah has established some relatively hard principles in deen as “testing tools”. We will go over some of those “testing grounds” that our weak souls may not find them so natural to adhere to or easy to implement in our lives:

Belief in our ordained Fate (determined by Allah):

Since our deen establishes the fact that Allah created us to worship Him and be tested in performing such a special task, it becomes obvious that our in our lives

we will encounter obstacles which are actually the tests from Allah. The ways we take, deal with, accept, or reject those obstacles or tests determine our "grade" in the test. Allah (swt) has mentioned in the Quran in various places that he will be testing the believers to distinguish the true believers from the fake ones! Having reached the conclusion that life in nothing but a place of many tests (which are obligated events in our lives that we may not agree with or like to have) it comes clear to mind that **our main focus in life should be passing those tests that Allah brings our way—for that will determine which category we are in: the winners or the losers, the true believers or the fake.**

Furthermore, it has been narrated that the Prophet (pbuh) has said that Allah (swt) said in a Qudssi-Hadeeth what could be interpreted as follows: "When I test my servant with a harsh test and he still continue on praising me, I ask my angels (even though Allah is the All knowing) what is the condition of my servant after my test hit him? And the angels reply: he is still praising you for you give him. Allah (swt) says to them: tightens the situation a bit more on him, for I want to hear his praising while in-test. (Meaning that it is a beloved thing to Allah to hear the praising voice of a tested servant, and what is it that we are after in this life other than gaining Allah's love and Satisfaction?). Therefore, patience on this worldly test is a requirement to pass the ultimate test of this world "the herein".

So, if patience is applied correctly we would await a test or an affair that may not be favored by our short-sight, but still we would await those tests to come to prove to Allah that we true believers accepting anything He the Almighty chooses to test us with. Also, we should try to win Allah's pleasure in such tight moments by engaging in praising Him and remembering all the other blessings that we enjoy but not realize having until we lose!

Hope in Allah's Mercy:

Another Qudssi-Hadeeth tells us that Allah (swt) say the meaning of the following: "I am at the expectations of

my servant"... Meaning: if one says that Allah will never forgive me for doing the sins I have committed, then Allah won't forgive him! Allah (swt) is capable of forgiving all sins no matter how much or bad they are; but the reason He won't forgive a servant who made such a harsh prediction about Allah is not his sins, but rather his expectations about Allah! Therefore, we should always have the best expectations about Allah's qualities and attributes—or in other words: "Be greedy in expecting more and more of Allah's mercy".

Love of All Muslims:

Loving Muslims involves many duties that one should train his soul to attain. Loving Muslims ordains many actions upon us toward one another such as: checking each other Iman (faith) and try to help the Iman of he who needs our help (if a brother is having problems with his faith) and also benefit from those who are firm in their Iman. Jannah of Allah will not be filled even if Allah (swt) allows every creature He ever created into Jannah. So, why are we treating each other like we would take each other's places in Jannah? Muslim nowadays try to put down each others—either by calling each other "kafer (disbeliever) or Munafik (hypocrite) " and so on, or by thinking that they are in Jannah and the rest of the Muslim nation is in Hell! That is not the pattern of thinking or living the prophet has drawn for us. **Muslims are supposed to wish as good for themselves as they wish for the rest of the Muslim Ummah (nation).**

Life: Such a Hard Test!

There is no doubt in my mind, that every Muslim has said (at least once to himself): this life is so hard to pass through. And Al-Salf-Alsaleh (companions and successors of companions) have also established such a notion in their sayings. For example, Umar Ibn Al-Khatab has said when he was dying: "I wish my mother had never given birth to me." Umar (may Allah be pleased with him) as we may know, has spent his entire life after Islam in Allah's path, yet he realizes how harsh the accountability for the tests could get, so he wished he had

never existed. Another example: Al-Hassan Al-Bassry, the Imam of all Tabi_een (people who saw companions of the prophet, but never saw the prophet himself) has said: "Satan, life, my soul, and my desires are all enemies...so, where is Salvation and they work against me?" Out of this example, we realize that the same problems we may suffer from nowadays were still the problems of great companion and Salaf hundreds of years ago. Well, that is a good sign that we may find solutions to deal with our weak souls and to strengthen our faith, if we look closely at what those individuals were doing to over come the severity and difficulty of the test.

Muslim Scholars and Jurists in Islamic knowledge have studied for hundreds upon hundreds of years the biographies of thousands of companions along with thousands of sayings by the prophet himself, along with tens of Verses from the Quran. Such work was pertaining to the issue of getting through the tests of this life and finding Salvation from going astray in such a hard test called: LIFE. Scholars were able to come up with a collection of agreed-upon factors that would act as a magnetic shield donned on someone to keep him firm on the path of Allah and solid in his faith. Some of those factors are:

Full Involvement with Only the Pious and the Righteous:

To that regard, we can actually try the validity of this point by recalling the times when we were friends with impious Muslims, or even Non-Muslim friends and how we spent our times, and then compare that with the times spent with maybe a religious scholar that was visiting us, or a very pious friend that we have.

The results of such a comparison would be astonishing! Just the spirituality level that you would encounter being around those that are pious and obedient to Allah is totally different from when spending "rather wasting" time with those who are lost and going through their lives with a thick blind-fold—keeping them from seeing the light. Also, being with righteous Muslims all the time and making friends with only those who are on

what you are on (Islam) keep you from falling into the many traps of shaitan (satan)—for as we may know that satan uses people allies to accomplish his destructive work toward Muslims—who stand as satan’s biggest enemy and number one target in the herein.

Supplicating to Allah in the Last Third of the Night:

Many Ahadeeth has asserted that Allah (swt) descends to the lowest heaven and looks for those are asking for forgiveness or requesting special needs or repenting to Him—along with a promise from Allah to answer those supplications in that special time of the night. So, not only would you win whatever need you are supplicating for, but also you would increase your level of faith and bring your soul closer to Almighty Allah. And the companions used to say that **“one satisfied look from Allah is better to them than what earth and heavens have and what is in-between them”**. So, imagine that Allah (swt) after listening to your dear and sincere Du`aa (supplication) would bring you higher and higher in your piety and spirituality level—which will eventually bring you closer to Allah’s path and make you firmer in you deen. So, shouldn’t we at least spend an hour of the last portions of the night crying to Allah, asking Him to be with us to overcome this life?

Remembrance of Your Death:

By remembering our final moments on the face of this earth, one would be able to come to the true vision of seeing life as such a worthless place comparing to what is coming next. Prophet Muhammad peace be upon him has said, what could be interpreted as: “People are asleep, when they die they wake up”. Meaning: that we don’t realize what is ahead of us until we die, or, **that our life is nothing but a period of absent-mindedness, until we die then the real part of our creation starts: ACCOUNTABILITY.** Scholars used another hadeeth as well to determine that a person who doesn’t think about his death and how it could be at any time, that person will be labeled as “Ghafil” or absent-minded of his destiny and reality.

And a nice story in the same issue is when one of the righteous Salaf dug down a whole in the ground for himself in which he would go down every day in the afternoon for a while, cover the hole with pieces of wood and think and ponder that this is his grave! This great person, would soon scream in horror and kick off the pieces of wood and get up screaming: “ Here I am still alive, what can I prepare for the time when I can’t kick off the lid of my grave and I can’t get up and I can’t do any more deeds?”. Then he would spend most of his time thereafter in worshipping Allah—having tasted how one would one an extra hour to perform more good deeds to be saved and allowed in Allah’s paradise. Is it not the same case for all of us? Only, we don’t admit it!

Immediate repentance to Allah:

Scholars say that if a person delays repentance to Allah or leaving off a sin it will only get stronger inside of him and becomes harder to get rid off. Just like a tree, if some one tries to cut it off and finds it so hard to chop off then says I’ll leave it till next year.

Then, he comes next year only to find the tree became more deeply rooted in the ground and he is now a year older and weaker. So, why not act when the tree is weak and you are strong and wait until the tree is strong and you are weaker? Also, a key player in satan’s troops is the work “shall”. Satan will whisper in our ears constantly to delay leaving off a sin, promising that you “will” do this and that in the future—only to find out that that tomorrow doesn’t seem to ever come! So, one should act immediately and seek help from Allah to quit a sin and make “Jihad” with himself to obey Allah and refrain from doing any prohibitions in our deen, then constantly ask Allah for forgiveness.

I ask Almighty Allah to give us strength in the herein to accept His tests, have patience on what may come across our way and accept it as our fate by Allah. Also, I ask Allah to keep us as a united nation where everyone of us is as concerned about his brothers’ salvation as he is about his own

salvation. I ask Allah to give us the wisdom to become friends with only those who obey Allah and try to give dawa and invite the misled to obeying Allah—but not to get too close to them for it may affect our faith. I finally ask Allah to guide us to bless us with the ability to make decisions about our sins and make the immediate repentance and leave off our sins without listening to shaitan’s promises or his “shall do” illusions.

Editorial

Assalam wa Alaikum!!
 Thank you very much for your prayers and kind words.
 When writing letters to us do write your Official name, date and ID Number.
There will be no September '01 issue.
UNIS, 2301 Plymouth Rd.
Ann Arbor, MI 48105