

The MESSAGE Magazine



Spreading The Light of Knowledge

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The Importance of Family

In the name of Allah, The Most Beneficent, The Most Merciful.

In the last issue we looked at the importance of maintaining ties with other Muslims and the consequences of breaking those ties. This issue we take a look at the importance of family ties in Islam which are even more important. Sadly nowadays many people, Muslims and non-Muslims alike break off ties with their relatives for the most trivial of reasons. Unfortunately many of us do not realize the consequences of these actions in this life and the hereafter. Yes...you read that correctly there are consequences (i.e punishment) in this life as well...

The article on page six sheds more light on the issue of family ties in Islam. There are hadith that imply that whoever breaks off ties with their relatives will not enter paradise and even worse Allah will break off His ties with them in this life. Where does that leave such a person then?

For those of us reading this thinking but it's not my fault that I'm at odds with my relatives, then according to what has been related we should still treat relatives well even if they treat us badly.

Ultimately they will pay the price for their actions, possibly in this life and even worse in the hereafter. We have to make sure we don't go down the same road as them and ruin ourselves as well. At the end of the day it is a test from Allah and we should aim to pass it well for Allah's pleasure and our reward.

Some final food for thought is that there is much happening to Muslims all over the world today and we all want Muslims to get back on their feet and be strong again. Yet how can this happen if the very building blocks of society - the family - has members who are fighting each other and breaking ties with each other. You could never hope to build a strong wall with broken and damaged bricks...so what chance is there of building a strong society if the family is broken and damaged.

All good that comes from this magazine is from Allah and any mistakes are ours so please forgive us for any shortcomings.

The Message Team.



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Next issue out in February 2005 insha' Allah. Don't miss it!

Further copies of The Message may be obtained from the Bristol Muslim Cultural Society office.

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THE WORLD OF ANGELS

— Part 1 of 2 —

Belief in angels is one of the six pillars of belief or faith without which there is no faith. Whoever does not believe in any of these pillars is not a believer (mu'min). These pillars are belief in: Allaah, His angels, His Books, His Messengers, the Last Day, and that predestination, both good and bad, comes from Allaah.

Angels are a part of the world of the Unseen which we cannot comprehend. Allah has told us about them in many places in the Qur'aan and via His Prophet Muhammad (Peace & Blessings of Allaah be upon Him). There follows a number of proven reports concerning the angels, which hopefully will make you realize the greatness of the Creator and the greatness of this religion which has told us so much about them:

Of what are they created? ↩

They are created from light, as 'Aa'ishah reported: "The Messenger of Allah (Peace & Blessings of Allaah be upon Him) said: 'The angels are created from light, just as the jinn are created from smokeless fire and mankind is created from what you have been told about.'" (Reported by Muslim, no. 2996).

When were they created? ↩

We have no knowledge of precisely when they were created, because there is no text to tell us this. But they were created before mankind for certain, because the Qur'aan says (interpretation of the meaning): "Behold, your Lord said to the angels: 'I will create a vicegerent on earth.' . . ." [al-Baqarah 2:30] The fact that Allah told them of His intention to create man indicates that they already existed.

Their great size ↩

Allaah says concerning the angels of Hell: "O you who believe! Save yourselves and your families from a Fire whose fuel is Men and Stones, over which are (appointed) angels stern and severe, who flinch not (from executing) the Commands they receive from Allah, but do (precisely) what they are commanded." [al-Tahreem 66:6]

The greatest of all the angels is Jibreel (Gabriel), upon whom be peace, who was described in the following report: "From 'Abdullaah ibn Mas'ood, who said: the Messenger of Allah (Peace & Blessings of Allaah be upon Him) saw Jibreel in his true form. He had six hundred wings, each of which covered the horizon. There fell from his wings jewels, pearls and rubies, only Allah knows about them." It was reported by Ahmad in al-Musnad.

The Messenger of Allah (Peace & Blessings of Allaah be upon Him) said, describing Jibreel:

"I saw Jibreel descending from heaven, and his great size filled the space between heaven and earth." (Reported by Muslim, no. 177).

Among the greatest angels are those who carry the Throne (of Allaah), who were described in the following report: "From Jaabir ibn 'Abdullaah from the Prophet (Peace & Blessings of Allaah be upon Him), who said: 'I have been given permission to speak about one of the angels of Allaah who carry the Throne. The distance between his ear-lobes and his shoulders is equivalent to a seven-hundred-year journey.'" (Sunan Abee Daawood, Kitaab al-Sunnah, Baab fi'l-Jahamiyyah).

They have wings ↩

Allah says (interpretation of the meaning): "Praise be to Allaah, Who created (out of nothing) the heavens and the earth, Who made the angels messengers with wings - two, or three, or four (pairs) adds to Creation as He pleases: for Allah has power over all things." [Faatir 35:1]

Their beauty ↩

Allaah said, describing Jibreel, upon whom be peace (interpretation of the meaning): "He [the Prophet] has been taught by one Mighty in Power, Dhoo Mirrah (free from any defect in body and mind), then he rose and became stable." [al-Najm 53:5-6]

Ibn 'Abbaas said: "'Dhoo Mirrah means that he has a beautiful appearance." Qutaadah said: "He is tall and beautiful."

The idea that angels are beautiful is firmly established in all people's minds, so much so that they liken a beautiful human to an angel, as the women said about Yoosuf: ". . . When they [the women] saw him, they did extol him and (in their amazement) cut their hands: they said: 'Allah preserve us! no mortal is this! This is none other than a noble angel!'" [Yoosuf 12:31]

Their differences in size and status ❧

The angels are not all of one size or status; there are differences between them just as there are differences in virtue. The best of them are those that were present at the battle of Badr, as is stated in the hadeeth narrated by Mu'aadh ibn Rifa'ah al-Zura'iqi from his father, who had been one of the people present at Badr. He said: "Jibreel came to the Prophet (Peace & Blessings of Allaah be upon Him) and asked, 'How do you rate the people among you who were present at Badr?' He said: 'They are the best of the Muslims,' or something similar. [Jibreel] said: 'So it is with the angels who were present at Badr.'" (Reported by al-Bukhaari, no. 3992).

They do not eat or drink ❧

This is indicated by the conversation between Ibraaheem, the "friend" of Allaah and the angels who visited him. Allaah says (interpretation of the meaning):

"Then he turned quickly to his household, brought out a fatted calf, and placed it before them. He said, 'Will you not eat?' (When they did not eat), he conceived a fear of them. They said: 'Fear not,' and they gave him glad tidings of a son endowed with knowledge." [al-Dhaariyaat 51:26-28]

Elsewhere, Allah says (interpretation of the meaning):

"But when he [Ibraaheem] saw their hands went not towards the (meal), he felt some mistrust of them, and conceived a fear of them. They said: 'Fear not: we have been sent against the people of Lut.'" [Hud 11:70]

They do not get bored or tired of remembering and worshipping Allah

Allah says (interpretation of the meaning):

"They celebrate His praises night and day, nor do they ever slacken." [al-Anbiyaa' 21:20]

"... For in the presence of your Lord are those who celebrate His praises by night and by day. And they never become tired (nor feel themselves above it)." [Fussilat 41:38]

Their number ❧

The angels are many, and their number is known only to Allah. The Prophet (Peace & Blessings of Allaah be upon Him) said, described the Much-Frequented House (al-Bayt al-Ma'moor) in the seventh heaven:

"Then I was taken up to the Much-Frequented House: every day seventy thousand angels visit it and leave, never returning to it again, another [group] coming after them." (Reported by al-Bukhaari, Fath, no. 3207).

'Abdullaah said: "The Messenger of Allaah (Peace & Blessings of Allaah be upon Him) said: 'Hell will be brought forth that day by means of seventy thousand ropes, each of which will be pulled by seventy thousand angels.'" (Reported by Muslim, no. 2842).

Their names ❧

The angels have names, but we know only the names of a few of them. We have to believe in the names reported in the Qur'aan and Sunnah texts, as a part of general belief in the angels. Among the names of angels that are known to us are:

(1) Jibreel (Gabriel) and (2) Mikaa'eel (Michael)

"Say: Whoever is an enemy to Jibreel - for he brings down the (revelation) to your heart by Allah's will, a confirmation of what went before, and guidance and glad tidings to those who believe -

Whoever is an enemy to Allah, and His angels and prophets, to Jibreel and Mikaa'eel - Lo! Allah is an enemy to those who reject Faith." [al-Baqarah 2:97-98]

(3) Israafeel

From Abu Salamah ibn 'Abd al-Rahmaan ibn 'Awf, who said: "I asked 'Aa'ishah the Mother of the Believers about what the Prophet (Peace & Blessings of Allaah be upon Him) used to start his prayer with when he got up to pray at night (qiyaam al-layl). She said: 'When he got up to pray at night, he would start his prayer (with the words): 'O Allah, Lord of Jibreel, Mikaa'eel and Israafeel, Creator of heaven and earth, Knower of the unseen and the seen, You are the Judge of the matters in which Your slaves differ; guide me with regard to disputed matters of Truth by Your permission, for You guide whomever You will to the Straight Path.'" (Reported by Muslim, no. 270).

(4) Maalik

He is the Keeper of Hell, as Allah says (interpretation of the meaning): "They [the people in Hell] will cry: 'O Malik! Would that your Lord put an end to us!'. . ." [al-Zukhruf 43:77]

(5) Munkar and (6) Nakeer

From Abu Hurayrah, who said: "The Messenger of Allah (Peace & Blessings of Allaah be upon Him) said: 'When the deceased is buried (or he said: when one of you is buried), there come to him two blue-black angels, one of whom is called Munkar and the other Nakeer. They ask him, 'What did you used to say about this man?' and he says what he used to say: 'He is the slave and Messenger of Allah: I bear witness that there is no god except Allah and that Muhammad is the slave and Messenger of Allah. They say, 'We knew beforehand that you used to say this.' Then his grave will be widened for him to a size of seventy cubits by seventy cubits and it will be illuminated for him. Then they tell him, 'Sleep.' He says, 'Go back to my family and tell them.' They tell him, 'Sleep like a bridegroom whom no-one will wake up except his most beloved,' until Allah raises him up. If (the deceased) was a hypocrite, he says, 'I heard the people saying something so I said something similar; I do not know.' They say: 'We knew beforehand that you used to say this.' The earth will be told to squeeze him, so he will be crushed until his ribs are interlocked, and he will remain like that until Allah raises him up.'" (reported by al-Tirmidhi, no. 1071).



Abu 'Isa said: It is a ghareeb hasan hadeeth. It is judged hasan in Saheeh al-Jaami', no. 724).

(7) Haaroot and (8) Maaroot

Allaah says (interpretation of the meaning):

". . . and such things as came down at Babylon to the angels Haaroot and Maaroot . . ." [al-Baqarah 2:102]

". . . and none can know the forces of your Lord, except He. And this is no other than a warning to mankind." [al-Muddaththir 74:31]

Their powers ←

The angels have great powers given to them by Allaah, including the following:

The ability to take on different forms. Allah has given the angels the ability to take on forms other than their own. Allah sent Jibreel to Maryam (Mary) in the form of a man, as Allah says:

". . . Then We sent to her Our angel, and he appeared before her as a man in all respects." [Maryam 19:17]

Angels also came to Ibraaheem in human form, and he did not know that they were angels until they told him so. Similarly, angels came to Lut in the form of young men with beautiful faces. Jibreel used to come to the Prophet (Peace & Blessings of Allaah be upon Him) in different forms: sometimes he would appear in the form of Dihyah al-Kalbi, a Sahaabee who was very handsome, and sometimes in the form of a Bedouin. The Sahaabah saw him in his human form, as is reported from 'Umar ibn al-Khattaab in the two Saheehs. ('Umar) said:

"One day while we were sitting with the Messenger of Allah (Peace & Blessings of Allaah be upon Him), there appeared before us a man whose clothes were exceedingly white and whose hair was exceedingly black; no signs of travel were to be seen on him, and none of us knew him. He walked up and sat down by the Prophet (Peace & Blessings of Allaah be upon Him). Resting his knees against his and placing his hands on his thighs, he said: 'O Muhammad, tell me about Islam.' . . ." (Saheeh Muslim, no. 8).

Many other ahaadeeth refer to the angels taking human forms, such as the hadeeth about the one who killed a hundred, in which it says ". . . there came to them an angel in human form . . ." and the hadeeth about the blind man, the bald man and the leper.

Their speed ←

The greatest speed known to man today is the speed of light; the angels are able to travel much faster than this. Hardly had an enquirer completed a question to the Prophet (Peace & Blessings of Allaah be upon Him), but Jibreel would bring the answer from Allah.

Next Issue: The various duties of the Angels.

From Islam Q&A (www.islam-qa.com)

end

The Virtues of Surah Al-Mulk

(Surah 67 of the Qur'an)

It was narrated from Abu Hurayrah that the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) said: "A soorah from the Qur'aan containing thirty verses will intercede for a man so that he will be forgiven. It is the soorah Tabaarak allaadhi bi yadihi'l-mulk [i.e., Soorat al-Mulk]."

Narrated by al-Tirmidhi, 2891; Abu Dawood, 1400; Ibn Maaajah, 3786.

Al-Tirmidhi said, this is a hasan hadeeth. It was classed as saheeh by Ibn Taymiyah in Majmoo' al-Fataawa, 22/277.

What is meant is that a person should read it every night, act in accordance with the rulings contained in it, and believe in the information mentioned in it.

It was narrated that 'Abd-Allaah ibn Mas'ood said: Whoever reads Tabaarak allaadhi bi yadihi'l-mulk [i.e., Soorah al-Mulk] every night, Allaah will protect him from the torment of the grave. At the time of the Messenger of Allaah (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) we used to call it al-maani'ah (that which protects). In the Book of Allaah it is a soorah which, whoever recites it every night has done very well.

Narrated by al-Nasaa'i, 6/179.

The scholars of the Standing Committee said:

On this basis there is the hope that whoever believes in this soorah and reads it regularly, seeking the pleasure of Allaah, learning the lessons contained in it and acting in accordance with the rulings contained therein, it will intercede for him [in the Hereafter].

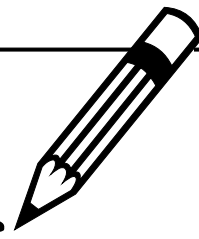
Fataawa al-Lajnah al-Daa'imah, 4/334, 335

And Allaah knows best.

From Islam Q&A (www.islam-qa.com)

end

Why I Chose Islam...



Sister Shariffa Carlo

The story of how I reverted to al-Islam is a story of plans. I made plans, the group I was with made plans, and Allah made plans. And Allah is the Best of Planners.

When I was a teenager, I came to the attention of a group of people with a very sinister agenda. They were and probably still are a loose association of individuals who work in government positions but have a special agenda - to destroy Islam. It is not a governmental group that I am aware of, they simply use their positions in the US government to advance their cause.

One member of this group approached me because he saw that I was articulate, motivated and very much the women's rights advocate. He told me that if I studied International Relations with an emphasis in the Middle East, he would guarantee me a job at the American Embassy in Egypt. He wanted me to eventually go there to use my position in the country to talk to Muslim women and encourage the fledgling women's rights movement. I thought this was a great idea. I had seen the Muslim women on TV; I knew they were a poor oppressed group, and I wanted to lead them to the light of 20th century freedom.

With this intention, I went to college and began my education. I studied Quraan, hadith and Islamic history. I also studied the ways I could use this information. I learned how to twist the words to say what I wanted them to say. It was a valuable tool. Once I started learning, however, I began to be intrigued by this message. It made sense. That was very scary. Therefore, in order to counteract this effect, I began to take classes in Christianity. I chose to take classes with this one professor on campus because he had a good reputation and he had a Ph.D. in Theology from Harvard University. I felt I was in good hands. I was, but not for the reasons I thought. It turns out that this professor was a Unitarian Christian. He did not believe in the trinity or the divinity of Jesus. In actuality, he believed that Jesus was a prophet.

He proceeded to prove this by taking the Bible from its sources in Greek, Hebrew and Aramaic and show where they were changed. As he did this, he showed the historical events which shaped and followed these changes. By the time I finished this class, my deen had been destroyed,

but I was still not ready to accept Islam. As time went on, I continued to study, for myself and for my future career. This took about three years. In this time, I would question Muslims about their beliefs. One of the individuals I questioned was a Muslim brother with the MSA. Alhamdulillah, he saw my interest in the deen, and made it a personal effort to educate me about Islam. May Allah increase his reward. He would give me dawaa at every opportunity which presented itself.

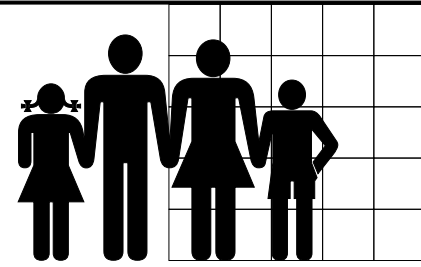
One day, this man contacts me, and he tells me about a group of Muslims who were visiting in town. He wanted me to meet them. I agreed. I went to meet with them after ishaa prayer. I was led to a room with at least 20 men in it. They all made space for me to sit, and I was placed face to face with an elderly Pakistani gentleman.

Mashallah, this brother was a very knowledgeable man in matters of Christianity. He and I discussed and argued the varying parts of the bible and the Quraan until the fajr. At this point, after having listened to this wise man tell me what I already knew, based on the class I had taken in Christianity, he did what no other individual had ever done. He invited me to become a Muslim. In the three years I had been searching and researching, no one had ever invited me. I had been taught, argued with and even insulted, but never invited. May Allah guide us all. So when he invited me, it clicked. I realized this was the time. I knew it was the truth, and I had to make a decision. Alhamdulillah, Allah opened my heart, and I said, "Yes. I want to be a Muslim." With that, the man led me in the shahadah - in English and in Arabic. I swear by Allah that when I took the shahadah, I felt the strangest sensation. I felt as if a huge, physical weight had just been lifted off my chest; I gasped for breath as if I were breathing for the first time in my life. Alhamdulillah, Allah had given me a new life - a clean slate - a chance for Jannah, and I pray that I live the rest of my days and die as a Muslim. Ameen

Shariffa A Carlo (Al Andalusia)

"I felt as if a huge, physical weight had just been lifted off my chest, I gasped for breath as if I were breathing for the first time in my life."

Family Ties



It is noteworthy that Islam is keen on building a strong society in which love, cooperation, and sympathy prevail. In order to achieve this, Islam has laid down certain rules to govern people's interaction with each other in the society, defining the rights and obligations of its members. Among social relations that attract Islam's attention is the kin relationship.

"Blood relations, like a brother, parental or maternal uncle, cousins and all your kindred have the right to kinship each in accordance with his or her nearness. Allah Almighty says: "And give to the kindred his due." (Al-Isra': 26) And, "Worship Allah and join none with Him in worship, and do good to parents, kins-folk..." (An-Nisa': 36)

Relatives have to maintain good ties and extend physical and financial support in accordance with the relative exigencies and nearness of kinship. It is an injunction dictated by canonical laws, reason and human nature. Qura'nic and Prophetic texts emphasize the necessity of cementing kindred ties and maintaining them abound.

Al-Bukhari reported on the authority of Abu Hurairah, who quoted the Prophet, peace be blessings be upon him, as saying: "Allah created His creation, and when He had finished it, the womb (referring to ties of kinship) got up and caught hold of Allah whereupon Allah said, "What is the matter?' On that, it said, 'I seek refuge with you from those who sever the ties of kith and kin.' On that Allah said, 'Will you be satisfied if I bestow My favors on him who keeps your ties, and withhold My favors from him who severs your ties?' On that it said, 'Yes, O my Lord!' Then Allah said, 'That is for you.' " Abu Huraira added: If you wish, you can recite: "Would you then if you were given the authority. do

mischief in the land and sever your ties of kinship." (Muhammad: 22-23)

The Prophet, peace be blessings be upon him, said: "Whoever believes in Allah and the Last Day should maintain good relation with his kindred." (Reported by al-Bukhari and Muslim)

Unfortunately, a lot of people have neglected this right and no longer discharge their obligations, material, social or moral towards their kin. Days and long months could elapse without even paying one's relations a visit or gaining their favor with a present. It has become a habit that one finds it difficult to even try to satisfy a certain need or ward off a misfortune that happens to befall them.

Some people behave differently. They maintain good ties as long as their kindred do the same, but otherwise they sever them. Real cherishing of blood relation is not observed in anticipation of equal reaction on the part of one's kin; but the ties should be maintained for Allah's sake only, maybe this is done from one side only while neglecting the behavior of the other side in its return. `Abdullah ibn `Amr ibn Al-`Aas quotes the Prophet, peace be blessings be upon him, as saying: "Al-Wasil (one who maintain good relation with his kinship) is not the one who recompenses the good done to him by his relatives, but Al-Wasil is the one who keeps good relations with those relatives who have severed the bond of kinship with him." (Reported by al-Bukhari)

Abu Hurairah quotes a person as saying: "O Messenger of Allah, I have relatives with whom I try to have close relationship, but they sever (this relation). They return my good treatment with bad behavior, my kind approach with harsh manner. Upon this

he (the Prophet) said: "If it is so as you say, then you in fact throw hot ashes (upon their faces) and so long as you adhere to this (path of righteousness), Allah will always help you and He will protect you against their mischief." (Reported by Muslim)

Maintaining good ties with one's kindred is bound to earn one Allah's mercy, affluence and deliverance from distress, in addition to amity, attachment and spirit of cooperation that will envelop the whole atmosphere of the family in both adversity and prosperity. It goes without saying that severance of kinship ties melt away all these benefits and sow the fruit of discord among relatives."

Excerpted, with slight modifications, from <http://www.iad.org/Islam/rkin.html>

Allah Almighty knows best.

From Islamonline.net

Some other hadith on this subject:

The Prophet (peace be blessings of Allah be upon him) said: "One who severs family ties will never go to Paradise."

The Prophet (peace be blessings of Allah be upon him) said: "The word 'Ar-Rahm' (womb) derives its name from 'Ar-Rahman' (i.e Allah). So whosoever keeps good relations with it (womb i.e Kith and kin), Allah will keep good relations with him, and whosoever will sever it (i.e severs his bonds of Kith and kin) Allah will sever his relations with him - i.e Allah will sever his ties with that person who deliberately breaks off family ties with their relatives. This is a situation no-one in their right mind would want to be in or receive as a punishment.

Both of the above ahaadith are from Sahih Bukhari.

end

Surviving Skirmishes With **SATAN**

Make no mistake about it. He is there and is plotting to lead us astray. We are actually at war with Satan.

His big guns and heavy artilleries are pointed directly at your front door, and his finger is on the trigger. What would you do? Who would you call? Well, it might surprise you to know that we, as Muslims, are under attack by a tremendous foe 24 hours a day, seven days a week. We tend to forget about him and his armies, because we don't see them camped out on our front lawns in tanks and battle fatigues, but make no mistake - they are there, and this is war.

Allah, subhanahu wa ta'ala, says, "He [Satan] said: Allow me respite until the day they are raised up. He [Allah] said: You are of those allowed respite. He said: Because You have sent me astray, I will sit waiting for them on Your straight path, then I will come in front of them and behind them, from their right and from their left and you will not find most of them being thankful." [7:14-17]

He also says in the Glorious Qur'an, "He [Satan] said: O my Lord, allow me respite until the Day they raised up, He [Allah] said: You are of those allowed respite until the Day of the time appointed. He said: Because You misled me, I shall adorn the path of error for them upon the earth and I shall mislead them all." [15:36-39]

He also says in the Glorious Qur'an, "He [Satan] said: O my Lord, allow me respite until the Day they are raised up. He [Allah] said: You are of those allowed respite until the Day of the time appointed. He said: Because You misled me, I shall adorn the path of error for them upon the earth and I shall mislead them all." [15:36-39]

These verses from the Qur'an tell us of Satan's intentions toward us, those who have chosen to take Allah's straight path. He has declared an all-out war against us, and his mission is to destroy us by taking us away from the truth and wrapping us in falsehood and evil. He has many weapons in his arsenal, and experience is on his side, but Allah, subhanahu wa ta'ala, has not left the

believers defenceless and without an extensive arsenal of their own.

It is imperative that we know about him, his ways, and the methods he uses to trick us and lead us astray. It is only by knowing him that we can successfully fight and ultimately defeat him. Allah says to us, "Do not follow the ways of the Satan as he is an open enemy to you." [2:168] Satan has many ways about him, to cause the believer to stray,

Some of these are:

▶▶ He causes us to forget. When the heart is weak and emaan is low, this is when Satan creeps into our souls, but as soon as we remember, we should strive to strengthen our positions. For Allah says, "If Satan causes you to forget, then do not sit after the remembrance in the company of the wrong-doers." [6:68]

▶▶ He beautifies disobedience, and makes obedience ugly in our eyes.

▶▶ He incites fear of him and his cohorts in our hearts. As Allah, subhanahu wa ta'ala, says, "It is only Satan that suggests to you the fear of his allies so fear them not, but fear Me, if you are true believers." [3:175]

▶▶ He causes us to procrastinate, and to put off doing good deeds. Apart from these, Satan also has different weapons or tools that he uses against the believers, such as:

▶▶ Argumentation and speaking about

Allah without knowledge. Allah says, "And among mankind is he who disputes concerning Allah, without knowledge and follows every rebellious Satan." [22:3]

▶▶ Breeding discord between the Muslims.

▶▶ Making us to call things by other than their proper names.

▶▶ Compelling us to nakedness.

▶▶ Music. An evil that takes people away from the remembrance of Allah and causes one to let their emotions be controlled by it.

▶▶ Changing the Creation of Allah.

Now that we know about the Satan, and his weapons, we must now become familiar with our own weapons, so that we can deploy them in the most effective manner. One of the greatest weapons we have against the Satan is Ikhlas or sincerity. For Allah says, "[Iblees] said: By Your Might, then I will surely mislead them all, except Your chosen slaves among them." [38:82-83]

Others include:

▶▶ Keeping with the Jama'ah, for it is the lone sheep who gets devoured by the wolf.

▶▶ Seeking refuge in Allah from the whispers of Satan.



"Surviving Skirmishes With Satan" continued from page 7

▶▶ Saying bismillah (in the Name of Allah) before starting every action.

▶▶ Reciting the Qur'an. The Messenger of Allah, sallallahu alayhe wa sallam, said, "Do not turn your homes into graveyards, indeed Satan flees from a house where surah al-Baqarah is recited." (Muslim)

▶▶ Straightening the rows in the salah. Anas bin Malik narrated that the Messenger of Allah said, "Stand close together, close the gaps and line up your shoulders, because by Him who has my soul in His Hands, I see the Satan coming into the gaps between the rows, like a missile." (Abu Dawud)

▶▶ Pointing with one's finger in Tashahhud, because Allah's Messenger, sallallahu alayhe wa sallam, said, "It is harder upon the Satan than a piece of iron." (Ahmad)

Know that Satan is our enemy, and that we should treat him as such. We need to fight him as he fights us, and we must use all that Allah has given us to defeat him. Although time and cunning is on his side, as true believers we know that Allah is on ours, and that with Allah is the victory.

By Sumayyah Bint Joan

Article courtesy of Al-Jumuah Magazine
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END

APPEAL

This magazine is produced entirely on a voluntary basis and is printed with donated funds. Hence without further donations or sponsorship the magazine will not be able to continue.

Therefore if anyone is interested in earning reward from Allah for the spreading of Islamic knowledge, we earnestly appeal for donations, sponsorship or advertising to allow this publication to continue.

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Please note Bristol Muslim Cultural Society does not finance this publication nor is it able to. As a result as already mentioned, The Message relies on the kind support of our readers and sponsors.

Easy Good Deeds

Narated By Abu Said Al-Khudri : The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said to his companions, "Is it difficult for any of you to recite one third of the Qur'an in one night?" This suggestion was difficult for them so they said, "Who among us has the power to do so, O Allah's Apostle?" Allah's Apostle replied: "Allah (the One, the Self-Sufficient Master Whom all creatures need.' (Surah Al-Ikhlis 112) is equal to one third of the Qur'an."

- From Sahih Bukhari

i.e the reward for reciting Surah Al-Ikhlis (Surah number 112 of the Qur'an) once is equal to the reward of reciting a third of the Qur'an - we shall cover the virtues of this surah in a future issue insha' Allah.

Abdullah bin Amr bin Al-'As reported that he heard the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), saying, "If anyone invokes blessings upon me once, Allah will bestow blessings upon him ten times over."

- From Sahih Muslim

Did You Know?

The word for 'sea' in the Qur'an is **Al-bahar** and occurs 32 times in the Qur'an. The word for 'land' in the Qur'an is **Al-bar** which occurs 13 times.

If we add up the total words of both "sea" and "land" we get 45. Now if we do a simple calculation:

$$32/45 \times 100 = 71.11111111\%$$

$$13/45 \times 100 = 28.88888888\%$$

Above is what we know today, the percentages of Water (Sea) and Land in the world!

Hadith Corner

Narrated By Abu Hurairah: Allah's Apostle (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: "When Allah completed the creation, He wrote in His Book which is with Him on His Throne, 'My Mercy overpowers My Anger'."

- From Sahih Bukhari

Whatever trouble, illness, anxiety, grief, pain or sorrow afflicts a Muslim, even if it is the pricking of a thorn, Allah removes in its stead some of his sins.

- From Sahih Muslim

[Note: This blessing is only for those who are patient and do not give up hope and struggle during the period of adversity]

It was narrated that Abu Hurairah said: The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: "Whoever relieves a Muslim of some distress in this world, Allah will relieve him of some distress on the Day of Resurrection. Whoever is easy-going with a debtor who is facing hardship, Allah will make it easy for him in this world and in the Hereafter. And whoever conceals a Muslim's faults, Allah will conceal his faults in this world and the Hereafter. And Allah will help His slave so long as His slave helps his brother."

- From Sahih Muslim

**Next issue out in 2 months
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Don't miss it!**

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