

STAY AWAY FROM MAJOR SINS

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ نَحْمَدُهُ وَنَسْتَعِينُهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ. وَنَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ شُرُورِ أَنْفُسِنَا وَمِنْ سَيِّئَاتِ أَعْمَالِنَا. مَنْ يَهْدِهِ اللَّهُ فَلَا مُضِلَّ لَهُ وَمَنْ يَضِلَّ فَلَا هَادِيَ لَهُ.

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

قُلْ إِنِّي أَخَافُ إِنْ عَصَيْتُ رَبِّي عَذَابَ يَوْمٍ عَظِيمٍ ﴿١٥﴾

أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ. اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ.

أَمَّا بَعْدُ،

فِيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَ أَوْصِيكُمْ وَآيَايَ بِتَقْوَى اللَّهِ، فَقَدْ فَازَ الْمُتَّقُونَ.

Let us increase our righteousness to Allah the Almighty by doing all that He prescribes and avoiding all that He prohibits. May we be blessed by Allah the Almighty in this life and the hereafter.

Dear brothers and sisters,

As humans, we are never free from committing sins. However, it is imperative that we stay clear from committing major sins as it can affect our faith as muslims. Among the major sins stated by the Prophet (pbuh) in a hadith narrated by Imam al-Tirmizi:

قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ أَلَا أُحَدِّثُكُمْ بِأَكْبَرِ الْكَبَائِرِ قَالُوا بَلَى
يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ قَالَ الْإِشْرَاكُ بِاللَّهِ وَعُقُوقُ الْوَالِدَيْنِ قَالَ وَجَلَسَ وَكَانَ مُتَّكِئًا
فَقَالَ وَشَهَادَةُ الزُّورِ أَوْ قَوْلُ الزُّورِ فَمَا زَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ
يَقُولُهَا حَتَّى قُلْنَا لَيْتَهُ سَكَتَ

Which means: *The Prophet (pbuh) said: Should I inform you about the greatest of the great sins? His companions said 'Yes, O Allah's Messenger!' The Prophet (pbuh) said; associating others with Allah in worship, and being undutiful to the parents. He was reclining, then he sat up and said; And I warn you against false testimony and false speech. Then the Prophet (pbuh) repeated it several times till we said in our hearts, may he stop repeating it.*

Be reminded that there are numerous actions that can be considered as major sins. However, in the hadith stated above, the Prophet (pbuh) mentioned only three of them which are shirk, disobeying parents and false testimony. Examples of shirk are believing in the powers of deviant shaman, witchcraft, horoscope, assisting help from jinn, using talisman and etc.

The other example is being undutiful to parents. We must obey our parents as long as they do not ask us to commit prohibited acts. Allah the Almighty says in chapter 17 (surah al-Isra') verse 23:

وَقَضَىٰ رَبُّكَ أَلَّا تَعْبُدُوا إِلَّا إِيَّاهُ وَبِالْوَالِدَيْنِ إِحْسَانًا ۖ إِمَّا يَبُلُغَنَّ عِنْدَكَ
الْكِبَرَ أَحَدُهُمَا أَوْ كِلَاهُمَا فَلَا تَقُلْ لَهُمَا أُفٍّ وَلَا نَهْرَهُمَا وَقُلْ لَهُمَا

قَوْلًا كَرِيمًا ﴿٢٣﴾

Which means: *And your Lord has decreed that you not worship except Him, and to parents, good treatment. Whether one or both of them reach old age [while] with you, say not to them [so much as], "uff," and do not repel them but speak to them a noble word.*

Dear brothers and sisters,

There are among us who have been tested by Allah the Almighty with the test of losing one or both parents while we still need their love and care. The Prophet (pbuh) was tested with the loss of his father when he was still in his mother's womb. His mother died when he was 6 years old,. He lived with his beloved grandfather but not for long. He was subsequently raised by his uncle Abu Talib.

Some of us are tested with having in our care an aged parent or having both aged parents who might also be suffering from senility. Are we able to serve and look after them as they had done for us when we were young? Lucky are those who managed to go through this test. But many fail to deal with it because they are too busy with their worldly affairs.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Being a false witness is also a major sin. This is happening rampantly in our society today due to ignorance and not being afraid of punishment from Allah the Almighty. When an incident occurs, a person is paid to be a false witness who is willing to deny the truth. Imam Zahabi Rahimahullah said: *Indeed a false witness causes great sins i.e. to lie and to commit cruelty to those who are innocent and deny their rights.*

If we live with knowledge and proper guidance, the world would be such a peaceful place that is bestowed with the blessings of Allah the Almighty. The opposite happens if there's ignorance which will cause humans not to take Allah's command seriously, disbelieve in Allah, disobey parents and be false witnesses in order to get temporary enjoyment of the world. It is not too late for us to be obedient to Allah's commands and to carry out His orders as well as to abandon all His prohibitions for the sake of being blessed in this world and in the hereafter.

Besides the major sins mentioned above, there are others mentioned by Imam az-Zahabi in his book al-Kabar ir which include usury, consuming orphan's wealth, accusing chaste women that would tarnish their chastity, gambling, adultery, drinking alcohol, sodomy, women who resemble men and vice versa, robbery, snatch theft, refusing to pay tithe (zakat), not performing the five daily prayers, badmouthing others, bribery, criminal breach of trust and etc.

Allah the Almighty said in chapter 4(surah an-Nisa') verse 31:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

إِنْ تَجْتَنِبُوا كَبَائِرَ مَا نُهَوْنَ عَنْهُ نَكْفَرْ عَنْكُمْ سَيِّئَاتِكُمْ

وَنُدْخِلْكُمْ مَدْخَلًا كَرِيمًا

Yang bermaksud: *Jika kamu menjauhkan dosa-dosa besar yang dilarang kamu melakukannya, Kami akan ampunkan kesalahan-kesalahan (dosa kecil) kamu, dan Kami akan masukkan kamu ke tempat yang mulia (syurga).*

Which means: *If you avoid the major sins which you are forbidden, We will remove from you your lesser sins and admit you to a noble entrance [into Paradise].*

بَارَكَ اللهُ لِيْ وَلَكُمْ فِي الْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيْمِ وَنَفَعَنِيْ وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيْهِ مِنَ الْآيَاتِ وَالذِّكْرِ
الْحَكِيْمِ وَتَقَبَّلَ مِنِّيْ وَمِنْكُمْ تِلَاوَتَهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيْعُ الْعَلِيْمُ. أَقُولُ قَوْلِيْ هَذَا
وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللهَ الْعَظِيْمَ لِيْ وَلَكُمْ وَلِسَائِرِ الْمُسْلِمِيْنَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ وَالْمُؤْمِنِيْنَ
وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ الْأَحْيَاءِ مِنْهُمْ وَالْأَمْوَاتِ فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُوْرُ الرَّحِيْمُ.