MORAL ATTRIBUTES ONE SHOULD ATTAIN OTHER THAN DOING IBADAT IN ORDER TO GET JANNAT IN THE HEREAFTER

Almighty Allah has created us only to worship Him. He has created this world for survival. In the holy Quran, Almighty Allah states,

*“I have created all the jinns and mankind only to worship me” (sura Az-Zariat, Verse:56)*

All the activities of our worldly life is the determiner of our condition in the hereafter. The person who abides by Allah’s laws and orders in every sector of his/her life and mostly importantly, is identified as a good person is more likely to experience the ever lasting peace of Jannah in the afterlife. Islam emphasizes that attaining Jannah (paradise) requires a combination of faith (iman) and good deeds (amal). Here are some aspects of moral character that are essential to develop alongside the worship of Allah (SWT):

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* **Taqwa (God-consciousness):** Taqwa, often translated as "God-consciousness" or "fear of God," is a cornerstone concept in Islam. It's more than just fearing punishment; it's a profound awareness and reverence for Allah (SWT) that permeates every aspect of a believer's life. It's a shield that protects you from displeasing Allah (SWT) and a compass that guides you towards righteous actions.

*"The heart of the believer is between the two fingers of the Most Merciful. He turns it wherever He wills." [Sahih Muslim]*

* **Honesty:** Honesty is a cornerstone of Islamic character. It requires truthfulness in your words and actions, with others and with yourself. This means being transparent and avoiding deception in all aspects of life. Honesty builds trust, strengthens relationships, and reflects your submission to Allah (SWT). By embodying honesty, you contribute to a more just and ethical society**.**

*“Speak the truth even if it is bitter." [Ibn Hibban]”*

* **Good Character and Compassion:** Cultivating compassion is an essential aspect of Islamic character. It goes beyond mere sympathy; it's about actively showing empathy, care, and concern for the well-being of others. Compassion motivates believers to alleviate suffering, offer support, and spread kindness throughout their interactions.

*The Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), known for his immense compassion, said, "The believers, in their mutual love, compassion, and mercy, are like one body. When one part of the body suffers, the whole body feels pain with fever." [Sahih Al-Bukhari]*

* **Serving Others and Charity:** Helping those in need and practicing charity are fundamental Islamic principles. They reflect your love for Allah (SWT) and your responsibility towards your fellow human beings. Extending a helping hand, whether through time, resources, or kind words, strengthens the community and brings blessings from Allah (SWT).

*The Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) emphasized the importance of helping others, saying, "The best of people are those who benefit others." [Sahih Al-Bukhari*]

**Sincerity (Ikhlas):** At the heart of Islamic faith lies the concept of Ikhlas, often translated as "sincerity." It signifies dedicating all your actions and intentions solely for the sake of Allah (SWT). This inner purity transcends outward performance, ensuring your deeds are motivated by genuine love and devotion to God. By striving for sincerity, you strengthen your connection with Allah (SWT) and earn His blessings.

*"[Say, 'Indeed, my prayers, my rites of sacrifice, my living and my dying are for Allah, Lord of the worlds - No partner has He. And with this I have been commanded, and I am the first of the Muslims.']" ([Quran, Al-An'am 6:162-163])*

* **Patience and Perseverance:** Patience (Sabr) grants resilience to face hardship with trust in Allah's (SWT) plan. Perseverance (Mujahadah) fuels continuous effort, overcoming challenges with unwavering faith. Together, they forge a path through life's storms, leading to inner peace and Allah's (SWT) blessings.

***“****Surely Allah is with the patients” (sura baqarah: verse:183)*

In conclusion, cultivating a strong moral character is the cornerstone of a fulfilling life in Islam. By embodying qualities like compassion, charity, patience, perseverance, sincerity, and honesty, you not only please Allah (SWT) but also contribute to a more just and peaceful world. These qualities are the building blocks of a righteous life, guiding you through challenges, strengthening your connection with Allah (SWT), and ultimately paving the way for success in this world and the hereafter.

OVERVIEW ON NIFAQ

Nifaq means deceit, pretence, dishonesty, manipulation, and harbouring double-faced thoughts. In other words, it involves maintaining a certain set of thoughts or beliefs secretly within oneself while displaying contradictory behavior or emotions outwardly. In Islamic terminology, Nifaq refers to hiding disbelief and opposition to Islam within oneself while outwardly speaking virtuous words to gain social and national advantages. It signifies practicing Islamic rituals and customs to showcase to others, while concealing opposition to Islam.

A person tainted with hypocrisy is called a Munafiq. They are the real traitors of Islam. Nifaqs are of two kinds.

1. Nifaq of Belief

2. Nifaq of Deeds.

Individuals tainted with such hypocrisy, even though they claim

to be believers for personal worldly gain, hold disbelief within them just like other disbelievers. Hypocrisy in Deeds refers to the manifestation of hypocrisy through outward actions and behaviours. a Hadith states,

‘The hypocrite has four characteristics, whoever has one of them has a characteristic of

hypocrisy until he gives it up:

1. when he is entrusted, he betrays the trust;

2. when he speaks, he lies;

3. when he makes a promise, he breaks it; and

4. when he disputes, he resorts to obscene speech.’

Revealing their character Allah the great says,

Meaning: ‘When they meet the believers they say, “We believe.” But when alone with their evil associates they say, “We are definitely with you; we were only mocking.’ (Surah Al-Baqarah, verse: 14)

To introduce the Munafiq and their characteristics, the Great Prophet (peace be upon him) says-

‘The signs of a hypocrite are three: when they speak, they tell lies; when they make a promise, they break it; when they are entrusted with something, they betray that trust. (Bukhari and Muslim)

Hypocrisy is considered the gravest sin in Islam. In both personal and social life, the impact of hypoceisy is exceedingly severe. The hypocritical nature undermines human integrity and character. Consequently, individuals become accustomed to deceit. The hypocrite, driven by selfish motives, becomes entangled in various unfair and dishonest activities. Moreover, many times, the hypocrisy of hypocrites is responsible for conflicts, controversies, instability, and unrest among people in society.

The fate of hypocrites will be extremely terrifying in the life hereafter. Allah the Great states about their fate-

Meaning: ‘Surely the hypocrites will be in the lowest depths of the Fire—and you will never find for them any helper.’ (Surah An-Nisa, verse: 145)

In conclusion, to avoid hypocrisy, we will always speak the truth, and we will shun lies; we will keep our promise; we will keep trust, and we will not quarrel and use obscenities.

SIGNIFICANCE OF HAJJ AND UMRAH IN REAL LIFE

Apart from Hajj, there is no other event that can portray people from various countries, races, and ethnicities in such a unified manner. The unique portrait of unity emerges when everyone collectively casts the eternal enemy, Satan. When a personwearing the sacred ihram attire proclaims Labbaik upon entering the Haram Sharif area and proceeds to perform the Tawaf around the Kaaba, distinctions of black and white, young and old, rich and poor vanish. Hajj is the largest Islamic congregation for Muslims around the world. It involves a massive gathering of countless Muslim believers from different countries who come together in the sacred city of Mecca with the goal of completing specific religious rites. Despite their varying backgrounds, during this time, everyone unites as brothers and sisters, collectively participating in the Hajj rituals and offering assistance to one another. As a result, a strong sense of global brotherhood is nurtured among the Muslims. Allah the Almighty says –

Meaning: ‘And call people to the pilgrimage. They will come to you on foot and on every lean camel from every distant path.’ (Surah Al-Hajj, verse: 27)

During hajj, An unparalleled atmosphere of emotion is created. People from all corners of the world gather. As a result, there is an opportunity to observe and learn about the diverse and rich cultures of people from different countries. This leads to discussions among them and the creation of paths for solving problems. Through the Hajj, we gain an understanding of global brotherhood. We will be inspired to establish equality in individuals, families, societies, and nations.

Meanwhile, Qurbani is not merely about the slaughter of animals. Qurbani represents a pathway to achieve Allah’s contentment and cleanse one’s heart and soul from impurities. Qurbani is a virtuous act of worship. It stands as a profound example of devotion in Islam. He also said,

‘For every hair of thesacrificial animal, there is a reward, and this reward is recorded in place of each hair.’ (Ahmad and Ibn Majah)

The teachings of Qurbani are very significant to develop consciousness about humanity. By incorporating the teachings of sacrifice into individual and societal life, we can shape a beautiful, prosperous, and benevolent society. Through the lessons of sacrifice, we will become ignited to be altruistic, compassionate, selfless, and disciplined. Instead of prioritizing personal happiness and desires, we will work for the betterment of society.

In this manner, we can contribute to the well-being of the people in society and the betterment of the nation. Hajj and Qurbani, while fulfilling religious obligations, promote global unity and social responsibility by fostering compassion and selflessness among Muslims.