

# NEWSLETTER

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Issue Nine

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## When the GOINGS get TOUGH...

As she lay in bed, Faatimah could not help but stare glaringly at her beautiful doll, "baby Saalihah", who was the apple of her eye. Tears streamed down her cheeks as she began to reminisce about the magical moments of joy and happiness that she enjoyed in her short-lived marriage, which ended in the tragic death of her 'prince charming'. The fatal motorcar accident will forever remain etched in her mind.

*It was a life she had dreamt of, after having lived her infancy and youth as an orphan. However, she never expected her dreams to materialise, and then be snatched away after such a short span of time.*

She had barely staggered out of that ordeal when she suffered another blow. Her little "baby Saalihah" was diagnosed with leukaemia. She was her last straw of hope that she could clutch on to, and now she had little or nothing to live for – hoping only for the best. Every coming day was to be faced with the realisation that the fate of her daughter was unknown.

*"It never rains, but pours on some".*

Just a day before "baby Saalihah's" diagnosis, she was handed a two-weeks-notice by her landlord! He required the flat for a close relative of his. It felt as if there was no end

to the list of problems and complications she was enduring and braving.

*As a single mother, she now needed to see to the intensive medical treatment of her 'little angel' and also find a place to live. And all of this had to happen in double quick time!*

With all these thoughts plaguing her shattered mind and heart, Faatimah looked out of the window to experience the spectacular scene of a fading cloud-cover over a brilliant full moon.

This spectacular scene reminded her of the fact that life will have its brilliant and enjoyable moments. But there shall also be periodic patches of darkness and dimness. Life will definitely pose its challenges, but they play a great role in us appreciating the ease and comfort that was enjoyed before, and that which will be enjoyed in the future.

*The splendour of the moon, its lighting effect on the skyline, the calm and the comfort that it brings to the eye and heart, and the light it provides would never be appreciated without the cloud cover. Such grandeur would never be cherished without the waxing and the waning of the moon.*

*Life in this world is exactly the same.*

There would be times of extreme happiness and joy, days of immense gloominess and murkiness, and days with a mixture of both.

*In essence, life can never be a 'bed of roses' without thorns.*

As this realisation struck her, she understood deep down that crying and complaining will be of no avail. She needed to be strong at heart, having a deep rooted conviction in the Alleviator of all hardships and worries, Allah Ta'ala, and understanding that He alone in His infinite wisdom knows why this 'thick cloud cover' had overwhelmed the 'brilliant sheen' in her life.

*A spark of hope was now ignited in her heart causing her to forget her sorrow and grief. It was as if an entire mountain was lifted from her head.*

Indeed life is a severe test and struggle! For some it's a test in luxury and affluence, while for others a test in difficulty and adversity. However, a successful woman is she who does not succumb to the emotional ploys of Shaitaan and begins blaming others for her predicament, nor does she become

*(Cont. Next Page)*

oblivious of the Great Being who has put her to the test.

Initially, exercising patience will be difficult and burdensome, but when one is determined, then Allah Ta'ala will divinely strengthen that person. Nabi (sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam) said: "He who persistently adopts sabr, Allah Ta'ala will bless him with sabr." (Saheeh Bukhaari #1469)

Imagine a person appearing on the Day of Qiyaamah without having to render an account of his deeds and he then receives his rewards without any restrictions and limits. Imagine his emotions when his rewards will continue to be heaped onto his scales of deeds.

*How fortunate and privileged will such a person be!*

Indeed this will be the case for those who patiently bore the hardships and difficulties that they underwent in this worldly life. Allah Ta'ala states in the Quraan Majeed: "The saabiroon will be granted their reward in full without any measure (and limit)." (Surah Zumar v10)

Ibnu 'Abbaas (radhiyallahu 'anhuma) reports that Nabi (sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam) said: "A martyr will be brought forward on the Day of Qiyaamah and he will be made to render an account of his actions. Thereafter, a generous person will be summoned and he will also be made to render an account of his actions. Eventually, those who were afflicted with difficulties and calamities (and bore them with tolerance and patience) will be called forward. No scale will be erected for them, nor will any register of deeds be placed before them. Instead, rewards will be showered and heaped over them, to such an extent that on seeing the rewards that they are receiving, those who passed their worldly lives in comfort and ease will begin to wish at that moment – if only had their bodies been slit with scissors in their worldly life – they too could be entitled to such rewards." (Majma'uz Zawaaid #3817)

*Who could be better examples than Rasullullah (sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam) and the Sahaabah (radhiyallahu 'anhum) in displaying what sabr really means.*

There was never a moment in the life of Nabi (sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam) that passed without him undergoing some difficulty or

the other, yet never was a word of complaint ever uttered from the blessed tongue of Nabi (sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam).

When one studies the lives of the glorious women of Islam, one such woman stands out as a glaring example, fitting the description of *As-Saabiraat* (the women who patiently persevere for the sake of Allah Ta'ala) – regarding whom Allah Ta'ala speaks of in the Quraan Majeed. She was even described as *As-Saabirah* and *Ash-Shaakirah* (the one who patiently persevered for the sake of Allah Ta'ala and who was grateful to Him).

*This was none other than Asmaa' bintu Abi Bakr (radhiyallahu 'anhuma).*

*There was hardly a difficulty that women presently face, which she had not undergone. If we speak of domestic problems then she experienced it as a daughter and as a wife.*

Her illustrious father, Abu Bakr (radhiyallahu 'anhu) had divorced her mother Qutailah when she was young. Hence, she grew up with a step mother. After many years of marriage with Zubair (radhiyallahu 'anhu) she was unable to gel and blend with his temperament. Hence, this eventually led to them parting ways.

If we look at her financial standing, here too she had undergone constraints. In her advanced life she lost her sight, and in this state, her illustrious son 'Abdullah bin Zubair (radhiyallahu 'anhuma) was mercilessly slain by the infamous Hajjaaj bin Yusuf.

*Despite all these difficulties, she never became suicidal, or as we would say, a 'loony'.*

She understood that this was all a test from Allah Ta'ala. Hence she patiently underwent these difficulties while placing her trust and hope in Allah Ta'ala alone, and turning to Him only!

*There was no need for counselling or requesting a Moulana for a ta'weez or a special wazeefah. She fully understood that life will certainly have its cloud-covers but only to reap the rewards of the Hereafter.*

Hence, adopting her approach in facing the challenges of life will definitely bring about ease and serenity in our hearts and mind,

and allow life to be a pleasant and comforting experience.

*In all of this tragedy, test and trauma, she maintained her loyalty and allegiance to Allah Ta'ala. Her predicament did not make her oblivious of the fact that she was after all a bondswoman of Allah Ta'ala.*

In fact, on one occasion after making hijrah to Madeenah Munawwarah, her mother Qutailah who was a disbeliever paid her a visit. Naturally, a woman would rush forward to receive her mother. *And why not, when they last met more than six years previously?*

A mother is after all the person a woman would normally turn to when she experiences any problem or undergoes any difficulty. This was certainly not the case with Asmaa' (radhiyallahu 'anha). Upon her mother's arrival, she declined to entertain her and accept the gifts that she had brought unless she first sought permission from Nabi (sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam).

*What a mighty lesson for each one of us?*

*Emotions cannot override the laws of sharee'ah. Deen has the greatest priority in every person's life. Whether it is a wedding, a funeral, a family get-together or any other situation, the pristine yet simple deen and sunnah of Nabi (sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam) must be upheld under all circumstances.*

*If one is unsure regarding a matter, then first enquire from those who are knowledgeable, righteous and experienced.*

Rashly and foolishly many rush into doing things and enquire *only* after the action – only to realise that they had broken the laws of deen. Why should one put oneself into such dilemmas when the simple solution is – *first refer to those who know before embarking on any matter.*

Even when it comes to solving a problem or overcoming a predicament, one should only act after:

- receiving guidance from those who know;
- adopting only those methods and means that are approved by the sharee'ah.

# Ummi!

O my Sister!

*"When last did you, as a mother have a decent discussion with your child, or when was the last time you as a daughter, conversed with your mother?"*

You may be already giving yourself a pat on the back, all excited that you will receive full marks for this question, since the last time was a mere moment or just a few hours ago.

**But wait a minute ...**

*"Zainab, get in the bathroom!" "Yumna, did you do your homework?" and "Mummy, your silly maid burnt my jeans!"*

These are **not** decent discussions and constructive conversations.

I'm referring to the intimate exchanges, where the daughter confides in her mother, and her mother gives her correct guidance on how to weather the tempestuous tornadoes of life and navigate herself to calmer waters.

Below are a few paraphrased snippets of a rich conversation, brimming with lessons, that took place between a seventy three year old son and his hundred year old mother, just a few hours before sacrificing his soul in the path of Allah Ta'ala.

**Guess what? ... If you thought you're too old to speak to your mother, I bet you're not yet seventy three!**

The son, who was besieged in the best of lands, Makkah Mukarramah, 'traitored' by not only his men, but even his own blood (sons), approaches his aged and blind mother and presents his predicament to her. He enquired whether he should accept the offer of his enemy to surrender on any sum of wealth.

You would most probably be expecting her to say:

*"Accept the offer, spare your life and serve your aged mother."*

But her answer was totally different and absolutely mind-boggling.

Her firm reply was:

*"You know yourself better. If you were fighting for material gain, then you are a wicked soul who has destroyed himself and his army. And O my son, if you were fighting for Allah Ta'ala, then remember that the truth is as strong as ever. In any case how much longer do you expect to live in this world?"*

**Wow! A hundred year old woman exhorting her son to reject the offer, ignore the odds and fight in the face of death!**

The least you can do, my sister, is to encourage your children towards righteous activities and not become an impediment in them progressing in deen.

The son draws closer, kisses his mother on the forehead and responds:

*"By Allah! Neither was I inclined to the material possessions of this temporary life, nor did I desire to live longer in it. The sole reason for me posing this question to you was to ascertain whether you are backing me in my decision to persevere and lay down my life. Now, you have only added to my resolve."*

He then goes on to console and comfort her saying:

*"O my beloved mother! I will be martyred very shortly, so don't allow your grief over my loss to consume you, rather be pleased with the decision of Allah Ta'ala. Take solace from the fact that throughout his life your son neither committed an intentional sin, nor has he indulged in a shameless act ever. The be all and end all in his life was the pleasure of his Creator."*

The mother replies:

*"O my son! Continue with your mission. I am optimistic that Allah Ta'ala will grant me the courage to bare your loss patiently."*

Who do we marvel at? Is it the son who stood out, or the mother who withstood?

**Never forget! As you sow, so shall you reap.**

If you sow the correct values and instil good qualities in your children, they will become the coolness of your eyes when you need them the most – in old age.

The opposite, however, is also unfortunately true.

If you sow the wrong 'seeds' in them, or simply neglect them, allowing the weeds of evil to sink their roots into your potential rose garden, the day may come when you will be engulfed by such regret that being beneath the earth will hold more appeal to you than being above.

The dialogue doesn't end here. He now requests his mother to make du'aa for him, to which she responds:

*"I always make du'aa for you."*

**Imagine his emotions, the heaviness he must have felt in his heart, the lump in his throat, and the tears in his eyes. Yet, he knew that if anything would benefit him, it was his mother's incredible and powerful du'aas.**

At that critical juncture, she supplicated in these words:

*"O Allah! Pity the lengthy rakaats of salaah that he would offer, the raging thirst that he endured (during his optional fasts) in the scorching heat of Makkah and Madeenah, and have mercy on him due to his obedience to his mother and father. O Allah! I have handed him over to You and I am totally at ease with*

*Your decision. So reward me on his loss, the reward of the patient and the grateful ones."*

To you, who are fortunate enough to still enjoy the affectionate shade of a parent! Value it before it's too late. Don't just ask for du'aas but take du'aas (i.e. serve them in a way that they feel obliged to make du'aa for you).

And as a parent, never underestimate the power of begging Allah Ta'ala on behalf of your little ones. While they may not be going to battle against an outward enemy, they are definitely often fighting a losing battle against the ever-increasing forces of the devil.

Next, the aged mother asks her son to come close. She then embraces and kisses him bidding him farewell before he embarks on his one way journey to the Hereafter, never to return.

Just close your eyes and imagine the scene; an old woman, a hundred years old, embracing her son who was the "coolness of her eyes and a delight to her heart", knowing that this was the last time she would ever meet, touch and

smell him.

As she hugged him, she felt the hardness of his armour, and commented:

*"O my son! If you truly desire martyrdom, I don't expect you to wear this."*

He replied:

*"O my mother! I only wore it to keep you at ease and to comfort you."*

What an invaluable lesson indeed! We should leave no stone unturned in bringing comfort to our elderly and make it our mission to save them from the least bit of inconvenience.

The mother, whose resolve was firmer than the plate of his armour, instructed her son to remove it. Thereafter, as he donned the rest of his clothing, she urged him to ensure that his lower garment was fastened tightly so that his 'awrah (private area) does not get exposed when he falls to the ground as a martyr.

Amazing! Look at her concern! She was prepared to accept her son as a martyr but could not tolerate his 'awrah being exposed in the process!

Here is a situation where steps are being taken to ensure that the body is not exposed after death. We, on the contrary, go out of our way and even spend a fat sum to acquire the garment which is most revealing, just to look 'gorgeous' according to today's warped definition of the word.

If you have not yet figured out who this outstanding son and 'withstanding' mother was ... it was none other than Sayyiduna 'Abdullah bin Zubair (radhiyallahu 'anhuma) and his patient, enduring and tolerant mother, Sayyidah Asmaa' (radhiyallahu 'anha).

May Allah Ta'ala make us parents the like of Asmaa' (radhiyallahu 'anha) and children the like of 'Abdullah bin Zubair (radhiyallahu 'anhuma).

From the Pen of Hazrat Moulana Yunus Patel Sahab (rahimahullah)

## Serving One's Husband

Letter

Respected Moulana

As Salaamu 'alaikum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakaatuh

Where does it say in Islam that a woman has to serve her husband? Why did the Sahaabiyyaat serve their husbands, if it is not in Islam? Why did Hazrat Fatima (radhiyallahu 'anha) do housework if it is not in Islam? Why should we serve our husbands? Why?

Reply

Bismillahir Rahmaanir Raheem

Respected Sister in Islam

Wa 'alaikumus Salaam wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakaatuh

1. There are many ahaadeeth which mention the wives serving their husbands. The life of Sayyidah Faatimah (radhiyallahu 'anha) and many other Sahaabiyyaat (radhiyallahu 'anhunna) [including Asmaa' radhiyallahu 'anha] bear testimony to this khidmat (service). It

also reflected their kindness and selflessness as well as their support and assistance towards nurturing their marriage and maintaining a good home environment.

A wife should go the extra mile by cooking, cleaning, and carrying out other household chores. This should not be considered as demeaning or debasing. On the contrary, with the correct intentions, even these tasks are categorized as 'ibaadaat and draw great rewards.

At the same time, husbands must understand that cooking, feeding, house cleaning, etc. are not the duties or obligation of the wife. If the husband can afford to, he should employ someone. If he is unable to, he should consider it a favour from his wife and should be patient and tolerant if there is some deficiency or shortcoming. He should not be intolerant or abusive.

2. I always advise that we should not go by the book of 'My Rights'; rather by the book of love, *ihsaan* and *khidmat*. If husband and wife work as a team, and each one goes out of his or her way to fulfill the rights of the other, not just demanding one's own rights, then that will be a means of enjoying Jannah in this world also.

Of course, rights have been clearly defined so that no person falls short in fulfilling them, or that no person violates the rights of the other.

It has been very aptly said: *"In khidmat, you will get 'izzat (honour); in giving love, you will receive love."*

In undertaking this khidmat of one's husband or generally, with others as well – a person earns respect. And in giving love, one will invite the same insha-Allah.

3. From another perspective, the western world raises objections when a woman serves her husband faithfully and lovingly – but strangely finds no wrong with women serving hundreds of strange men, as airhostesses, waitresses, etc. Yet these women are not only subjected to all forms of harassment; they are terribly exploited and even brought out as cheap labour. This is what is demeaning and degrading.

Islam, on the other hand, has placed a woman on a pedestal, crowning her with respect and honour, as the queen of her husband's home.

Was Salaamu alaikum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakaatuh

Yunus Patel (Moulana)



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