

## **Eighth Rule**

# **CENSURING AND ADMONITION**

We need to remind ourselves that we are the best judge of our actions. We should criticize ourselves whenever Shaytan lures us into a vice. We need to lay all the cards on the table by analyzing why we committed the sin in the first place, ponder over the future, develop weapons and be vigilant. With the help and assistance from Allah (SWT), we will be successful.

al-Khumeini (AR) writes the following for those of us, who are heedless of their actions and accept Shaytan as their friend,

O' Callous Self! You have wasted precious years of your life in pursuance of hedonistic and sensuous propensities. Moreover, nothing is gained except regret and sense of loss. You should be regretful before Allah (SWT) for your past deeds, and commence a new journey in the direction of His prescribed goal, the journey that leads to the life of eternity and perpetual bliss. You should not bargain short-lived transitory joys, which are hard to obtain for eternal bliss and felicity.

Fearing Allah is one way to achieve success in this stage. Allah (SWT), The Most High, The Most Sublime, has clearly stated,

I give you whatever you ask Me, but still you go on sinning. I hide these sins, one after another, one evil deed after another. I am ashamed of you but you are not ashamed of Me!

O' Son of Adam (AS)! Obey Me to the extent of your needs towards Me; disobey Me to the extent of your ability to tolerate The Fire of Hell; collect wealth in this world according to the length of your stay here; collect for your hereafter according to the length of your stay there; do not think that your death is far and your bounties are available, or your sins are hidden.

The best wisdom is fear of Almighty Allah (SWT); the best of wealth is contentment; the best of belongings is piety, the worst of your weapons is lies, and the worst of your advice is gossip.

O' Son of Adam (AS)! Collect provisions (by doing good deeds) in abundance - indeed, the way is long, very long. Purify your deeds, because, indeed, The Examiner is All Seeing! Lighten your weight, because, indeed, the path is thin, very thin! Delay your sleep for the grave and your pride towards The Scale! In addition, delay your enjoyment until Heaven! And delay your rest until Hereafter! And delay your pleasures until you meet Heavenly Ladies with big eyes! Be for Me and I will be for You! Seek nearness towards Me by despising this world! Keep away from The Fire of Hell by forsaking the wicked people and loving the pious! Indeed, Allah (SWT) will not waste the reward of the benevolent people!

al-Harith, son of al-Mughirah or his father, reports from as-Sadiq (AS). I asked him (AS),

'What was mentioned in The Testament of Luqman (AS)?' 'There were marvelous things in it,' he said, 'and the most wonderful of that which he said to his son was this - have such a fear of Allah (SWT) Almighty that were you to come to Him with the virtues of the two worlds, He would still chastise you. And, put such a hope in Allah (SWT) that were you to come to Him with the sins of the two worlds, He would still have compassion for you.'

al-Sadiq (AS) added, my father al-Baqir (AS) used to say,

There is no believer who does not have two lights in his heart - the light of fear and the light of hope. Were one of these to be measured it would not exceed the other and were the other one to be measured, it would not exceed this one.

al-Kulayni (AR) reports in al-Kafi with his chain of narrators from al-Baqir (AS), who quotes The Messenger of Allah (S) having said, Allah (SWT), The Sublime and The Blessed, said,

The workers (of deeds) for My sake should not, for My reward, trust the works they have done. For verily, should they labor and toil for all their lives in My service and worship, they would fall short in their worship and will not attain to the reality of My service in what they seek with Me of My Magnanimity and Bounty, My Paradise and the high stations in My Proximity. Rather, they should rely upon My Mercy, put hope in My Favor, and be contented of their good opinion of Me, for verily, therein My Mercy will reach them, My Good Pleasure will go forth to them, and My Forgiveness shall envelop them. For, indeed, I am Allah (SWT), The Beneficent and The Merciful, and I have been named so on that account.

In al-Kafi, al-Kulayni (AS), with his chain of narrators, reports from al-Sadiq (AS) on the authority of an unnamed narrator who narrated it to Ibn Abi Najran, that he said to The Imam (AS); *'There are some people who commit sins and say we are hopeful. They remain in this condition until death comes to them.'* The Imam (AS) said,

They are a people who have been swept away by false hopes. They lie, they are not the hopeful; for verily, one who has hope of something pursues it, and one who fears something flees from it. Be apprehensive of your desires in the same way as you are apprehensive of your enemies. For there is no greater enemy for human beings than their own desires and what their tongues reap.

The first and foremost advice is to develop Fear of Allah (SWT), The Almighty and The Master on The Day of Judgment. Most certainly, fear of Allah (SWT) repels evil in the same way as the insecticides repel insects. Fear Allah (SWT) for He deserves to be feared. How sincere is al-Sajjad (AS) in saying,

Glory is to You, O Allah (SWT)! I wonder how anyone who knows You does not have fear in You.

Undoubtedly, The Accursed Shaytan has many ways to enter our souls and persuade us to do evil. We need to be careful of his tricks and ways of seducing us from obeying our Loving Allah (SWT). For once, let us ask the dead as to what is the best provision to accompany a dead person in his grave; a similar question was asked by Imam Ali (AS) at a cemetery and he replied,

The people inside the graves exclaim, *'Surely the best provision to accompany you inside your grave is Fear of Allah (SWT).'*