

SUMMARY OF MAJLIS

Date: 20th Dhul-Qa'dah 1426 AH / 23rd December 2005

Occasion: Friday Majlis

Topic: Al-Isti'adha – Part 13

“And say: My Lord! I seek Your protection from the promptings of devils; and I seek Your protection, my Lord, from their presence near me”.

(23:97-98)

WAYS OF EFFECTIVE ISTI'ADHA –con't on AL-IKHLAAS

We were looking at ways of rendering our **Isti'adha** effective and in the last session, we were talking about having **Ikhlaas** (Sincerity of Intention) whenever we do good deeds. The Holy Quran tells us that: When **Shaytan** was thrown out from the rank of the Angels, he had promised to mislead the children of Prophet Adam (as). But he did also refer to a group of people whom he would never be able to mislead. Who are they? Quran says: **“He said: By Your might, I will surely pervert them. Except for Your servants who are MUKHLISOON (sincere to You)”.** **(38:82-83).** And the way to have **Ikhlaas** is to do good deeds purely for the sake of Allah (SWT) and no body else.

REWARDS FOR SINCERITY OF INTENTION

In Islam, 'sincerity of intention' plays a significant role in the acceptance of good deeds so much so that if the intention of a good deed is for Allah (SWT) 's sake then even if one is unable to accomplish it, he gets the reward of one who has actually performed the deed. Imam Ameer al-Mumineen (as) has said, **“A good intention is one of the two good deeds”.** **(Ghurar al-Hikam)** In other words, every good deed has two sides: One is its intention and the other is the deed itself. If a person has good intention of performing a good deed for Allah (SWT), he is rewarded for it even if he fails to perform that act. The Holy Prophet (saww) had said to Abu Dhar, **“O Abu Dhar! Desire to do a good act even if you are unable to do it so that you are not written among the negligent”.** **(Bihar al-Anwaar)**

[In the battle of Jamal, a companion of Imam Ali (as) took a deep sigh and said, “How I wish my brother too had participated in this Jihad”. *The person's brother was known to be a true friend of Imam (as) but he could not participate in the battle for some reasons.* Imam (as) asked, **“Is your brother desirous to participate in the battle with sincerity of heart?”** The man said, “Yes!” Thereupon, Imam (as) said, **“Don't worry! He is one of us in this expedition! Because of his true intent, he is as good as one taking part in the battle. There are lot of others who will desire to have participated with us in battle of truth and falsehood. They haven't yet arrived in this world but are in the loins of their parents. No doubt this participation is because of true intent and desire of the heart”.**] **(Al-Isti'adha)**

SUCCESS IN ALL AFFAIRS

It is through **Ikhlaas** 'sincerity' that one is able to succeed in his affairs. Imam Ali (as) says: **“Success in affairs lies in sincerity of intention”.** **(Ghurar al-Hikam)** He (as) has also said, **“One who is sincere attains his hopes”.** **(Ghurar al-Hikam)**

INCIDENT OF MALIK DINAR

[There was a man called Malik Dinar. He was a bullion merchant meaning one who was an expert in making gold and silver in form of solid bars. This man progressed well in his profession but then he became victim of his own greed. He thought of becoming a trustee of Umavi Jami' Mosque in Damascus because he saw lots of funds would be at his disposal as a trustee. In this greed, he disposed all his assets and distributed his wealth in charity. Since the trustee is expected to be extremely pious and simple, so he went and stayed in the Mosque. Whenever he found any person entering the Mosque, he would stand up to pray. The purpose was to attract the people to his piety so that they could appoint him as a trustee. Apparently people began to suspect him, so they scoffed and ridiculed him. They would even tell him, "O Malik! What is your intention?" Finally he realized that because of his greed, he would neither benefit anything in this world nor in the Hereafter. That night, with a broken heart, he resorted to **Istighfar**. On the following morning, he was surprised to see: The same people who had ridiculed him, according him with respect and asking him to pray for them. Soon the word also spread that the most pious person in Damascus is Malik Dinar. People of importance came to him and offered him the position of trustee, for which he had given up everything, but the man declined and said, "I have acquired the goodwill of Allah (SWT) with great difficulty and I am not in need of anything else".] (**Al-Isti'adha**)

Some people are not religious in its true sense; they just strive to show others that they are religious. Everything has its own essence through which they are recognized. The essence of religion is **Ikhlaas** 'sincerity'.

"Look! Only exclusive faith is worthy of Allah..." (39:3)

"Say: Indeed I have been commanded to worship Allah with exclusive faith in Him". (39:11)

The Holy Prophet (saww) has said, **"Prayer is not your standing and your sitting. The essence of prayer is your sincerity and your wanting of Allah's pleasure". (Sharh ibn Abil-Hadeed)**

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