

Twenty-Third Rule **REMEMBRANCE, RECOLLECTION** **AND EVIL THOUGHTS**

Imam al-Sadiq (AS) has said,

Remembering God often is one of the most important acts that God has made incumbent upon His servants.

Beware that by this I do not mean just reciting the praises of God The Almighty. Rather I mean remembering what God has allowed, what He has forbidden, obeying God and abandoning sins.

Unus ibn Abdul Rahman narrated that Luqman said to his son

O' my dear son! Be careful when you enter a gathering to sit with those who are remembering God. This way your knowledge will increase if you are knowledgeable, and you will become knowledgeable if you are ignorant. There is hope that God will spread the shade of His Mercy upon them, and you may benefit from His Mercy, too. Nevertheless, if you see some people who do not remember God, do not sit with them since you will not gain any knowledge if you are knowledgeable, and you will be more misguided if you are ignorant, and God may encompass them with the shadow of His Chastisement in which case you will be chastised too.

al-Khumeini (AR) quotes Imam al-Baqir (AS), who quotes The Prophet (S) who then quotes Allah (SWT), The Almighty as having said,

By My Honor, My Glory, My Greatness, My Light, My Loftiness, and By The Highness of My Station! When My slave gives preference to his desire over My wish, I put his affairs into confusion; make his life baffling in this world and his heart preoccupied with the world, although I do not give him anything of it except what I have preordained for him.

In addition, by My Honor, My Glory, My Greatness, My Light, My Loftiness, and By The Highness of My Station! If My slave prefers My wish to his desire, My Angels protect him, The Heavens and the earth guarantee his sustenance, and I look after his trade and bring the world to him though it should be reluctant and recalcitrant.

One vital condition for a spiritual traveler in his divine struggle to attain The Pleasure of The Almighty is to control the flight of his or her imagination, so that The Devil and his armies can be over-powered and taken control.

It has been said that,

If you are determined on self-rectification and have made your mind to purify your inner self and banish satanic forces, you need to prevent your mind from nursing corrupt and sinful thoughts, and always divert it to high and noble ideas.

In the beginning, it may appear difficult since Shaytan and his forces glorify bad things in your eyes. However, with little concentration and attention everything becomes easy. In addition, if you have been successful in your attempts, thank Allah (SWT) Almighty for His help, and pursue these matters further. Dear servant of Allah (SWT) seeks for God's help at every moment. Pray and beg humbly in the court of your Lord. As Allah (SWT) states in The Qur'an,

Whenever those who practice piety are troubled by an evil thought from Shaytan, they remember Allah (SWT) and then they forthwith see the light.

(Qur'an - Chapter 7, Verse 201)

Allah, in His Infinite Mercy is very much forgiving and we should take heed of this kind of treatment from The Almighty. So much that

Al-Sadiq (AS) says,

'When a servant turns to God with sincere repentance (tawbatan nasuhan), God loves him and covers him (i.e. his sins) in the world and The Hereafter.' I said, 'And how does He cover him?

'The Imam (AS) replied, "He makes the two Angels (assigned to write his deeds) forget that which they have written of his sins. Then He inspires his bodily members (saying), "Do conceal his sins," and He inspires the earth's places (saying), "Conceal the sins that he used to commit over you." Then he meets God, at the time that he meets Him, in such a manner that there is nothing to give witness against him regarding any sin."