



Mudhakkirah al-Hadeeth an-Nabawee

by Rabee Bin Haadee Umayr al-Madkhalee

Trans. Abu Naasir Abid Zargar

The Most Beloved of Deeds to Allaah

From Abdullaah bin Masood (radiallahu anhu) who said:

I asked the Messenger of Allaah (sallallahu alaihi wasallam) which of the deeds is most beloved to Allaah, The Mighty and Majestic?"

He said: "Prayer at its time".

I said "Then which?"

He said: "Honouring the parents".

I said "Then which?"

He said: "Jihad in the Path of Allaah".

Reported by al-Bukhaaree¹, Muslim² and Ahmad³.

The Reporter of the Hadeeth

Abdullaah bin Masood – his biography has already preceded in Hadeeth No. 5.

The Meaning of the Hadeeth

The eminent companion Abdullaah bin Masood was from the reciters of the Companions and from their jurists and scholars. His questions to the Messenger of Allaah (sallallahu alaihi wasallam) were based upon his understanding and comprehension. So just as he asked here about the most beloved of the deeds to Allaah, then we also find him asking about the greatest and most severe of the sins, so the Messenger of Allaah answered him: *"That you make a rival alongside Allaah, even though He created you"*.

So he said: *"Then which?"*

¹ Hadeeth no. 5970.

² Hadeeth no. 137-139.

³ 1/418.

So he said: *“That you kill your child fearing that he should eat with you (i.e. share your food)”*. So he said: *“Then which?”* So the Messenger of Allaah said: *“That you commit adultery with your neighbour’s wife”*.

So just as he was eager to know the most beloved of the deeds to Allaah, he was similarly keen to know the most hated of the deeds to Him.

This hadeeth contains an explanation of the three matters which are the most beloved of the deeds to Allaah:

The First: Prayer at its time. It is the second pillar from the pillars of Islaam and the first form of worship to be legislated. The Messenger of Allaah (sallallaahu alaihi wasallam) did not receive it like the rest of the forms of worship via Jibreel, rather Allaah took His slave Muhammad (sallallaahu alaihi wasallam) for a journey from al-Masjid al-Haraam to Masjid al-Aqsa and then raised him to the Heaven. There, above the highest Heaven his Lord entrusted him, honoured him and spoke to him with its obligation directly. So this is a proof of its excellence.

So when the slave prays, he confides in his Lord and the best time for the prayer by which the slave draws closer to Allaah is the earliest of its times, just as the Messenger of Allaah (sallallaahu alaihi wasallam) used to fulfill it during the earliest of its times and he indicated that in his speech, as occurs in this hadeeth.

The Second: Honouring the parents The right of the parents is great and Allaah connected it to His tawheed in many different verses. He, the Most High, said:

“Worship Allaah and join none with Him (in worship); and do good to parents.” [an-Nisaa:36]

He, the Most High, said:

“Say: O Muhammad: “Come, I will recite what your Lord has prohibited you from: Join not anything in worship with Him; be good and dutiful to your parents...” [al-An’aam:151]

He, the Most High, said:

“And you Lord has decreed that you should worship none but Him. And that you be dutiful to your parents.” [al-Israa’:23]

In the purified Sunnah many ahadeeth prove the excellence of the rights of the parents, from them the above hadeeth, and also:

*“Shall I not inform you of the greatest of the major sins.” They said “Of course, O Messenger of Allaah.” He said: “Shirk with Allaah and disobedience of the parents.”*⁴

And from them:

*“Allaah curses the one who curses his parents”*⁵

And from them, when the Prophet (sallallaahu alaihi wasallam) was asked:

“Who is the most deserving from the people of my kindness?”

He said “Your mother.”

He said: “Then who?” He said “Your mother.”

He said: “Then who?” He said “Your mother.”

He said: “Then who?” He said “Your father.”

So it is obligatory upon the Muslim to establish this great right even if they are disbelievers since their right from the child does not become nullified.

“But if they (both) strive with you to make you join in worship with Me others that of which you have no knowledge, then obey them not; but behave with them in the world kindly, and follow the path of him who turns to Me in repentance and in obedience.” [Luqmaan:15]

The Third: Jihaad in the path of Allaah. Jihaad is the peak of the mountain of Islaam and by it the Word of Allaah becomes uppermost. By it Allaah makes Islaam manifest over the other religions, as was achieved by the jihaad of the Messenger of Allaah (sallallaahu alaihi wasallam) and his noble Companions after him. They sold their souls and wealth in the path of Allaah and strove for the sake of Allaah with a true jihaad. So Allaah elevated Islaam due to them and manifested it over all the other religions by their hands, and He elevated

⁴ al-Bukhaari no.5976 and Muslim no.143.

⁵ Muslim no.43-45, an-Ni’saaee 7/205 and Ahmad 1/108,118.

them and strengthened them with it and He made them chiefs, masters, scholars and leaders of the dunyaa.

They were true to Allaah in their transaction which took place between them and Him, and it is the saying of the Most High:

“Verily Allaah has purchased of the believers their lives and their properties; for the price that theirs shall be Paradise. They fight in Allaah’s cause, so they kill (others) and are killed. It is a promise in truth which is binding on Him in the Tauraat and the Injeel and the Qur’aan. And who is truer to his covenant than Allaah? Then rejoice in the bargain which you have been concluded. That is the supreme success.” [at-Tawbah:111]

The verses and ahadeeth regarding the status of jihaad and its excellence are many. So let the Muslims refer to them and let them comprehend that there is no honour for them, and no happiness in the dunyaa and the Hereafter except by adhering to the deen and jihaad in the path of Allaah.

And they were not subjected to humiliation, disgrace and mastery by the nations of disbelief who were conquerors over them, except due to their negligence of their deen and their abandonment of jihaad in the path of Allaah.

So it is obligatory that they resume a new life by returning to Allaah and jihaad in His path just as the Messenger of Allaah (sallallaahu alaihi wasallam) said:

*“When you take part in ‘eenah transactions and become satisfied with cultivation, and you pursue the tails of cows and you abandon jihaad in the path of Allaah, Allaah will send humiliation upon you and He will not remove it until you return to your deen”.*⁶

The Benefits of the Hadeeth

- 1) Affirmation of the attribute of Love for Allaah, in a manner which befits His Majesty.
- 2) Prayer at its earliest time is from the most excellent of the deeds and the most beloved of them to Allaah.

⁶ Abu Dawood no.3462, Ahmad 2/64 and al-Baihaqee in as-Sunan al-Kubraa 5/316.

- 3) The right of parents is great and honouring them and establishing their rights are from the most beloved of the deeds to Allaah.
- 4) The excellence of jihad in the path of Allaah and the dependence of the honour and strength of the Muslims upon its establishment. This is proved by many verses and ahadeeth.