

Bismillaahir Rahmaanir Raheem

“And the weighing [of deeds] that Day will be the truth. So, those whose scales are heavy will be the successful. And those whose scales are light are the ones who will lose themselves for what injustice they were doing toward Our Verses.”

(The Quran 7: 8, 9)

This book shows you how to make your scales heavy by doing simple deeds, so that you may succeed in the Hereafter.

THE KEYS TO JANNAH

By

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INTRODUCTION

Praise be to Allah and peace be upon those whom He selected

It is the nature of man that he runs behind profits and tries to avoid losses. Allah, the Creator of man, has considered this aspect of man, and announced rewards for man's good deeds and punishments for his bad deeds, so that man may practise good deeds and avoid bad deeds. The knowledge of excellence of good deeds and the knowledge of punishments for bad deeds prepare man's mind to practise good deeds and avoid bad deeds. Keeping this fact in mind, Al-hamdu lillaah, this book has been prepared. This book deals with only excellence of good deeds. Punishments for bad deeds can be read in the book, Major Sins, by Shams-ud-Deen Adh-dhahabi. In this book, excellences of good deeds have been collected from only authentic Ahadith (the Traditions of Prophet Muhammed (s.a.w.s.)) i.e. from only Saheeh Bukhari and Saheeh Muslim.

Is it difficult to practise good deeds?

It is the nature of man that he feels tough in the beginning of any work. But if he remains steadfast in the activity chosen, he adopts it as a habit and the work becomes easy for him, keeping this fact in mind if one starts practicing good deeds, in a few months, he will

accustom to good deeds. Good deeds will become his habits and enter his lifestyle, insha Allah.

This book has been prepared to earn As-Sadaqat Al-Jaariyah. So, if you want to earn As-Sadaqat Al-Jaariyah, Buy as many copies of this book as you can and give as a gift to your relatives and friends, and earn a lot of As-Sadaqat Al-Jaariyah. This book can be used for giving lessons of Hadith at homes, mosques, madrasas and schools, and can earn a lot of As-Sadaqat Al-Jaariyah. I request heads of mosques and Da'wah centres and the readers of this book to buy as many copies of this book as you can and distribute them free fee-sabeelillaah among Muslims.

Allah says: "Whoever intercedes in a good cause becomes a partner therein: and whoever recommends and helps an evil cause, shares in its burden: Allah has power over all things." (4:85)

Abu Huraira reported Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) as saying: He who called (people) to righteousness, there would be reward (assured) for him like the rewards of those who adhered to it, without their rewards being diminished in any respect. And he who called (people) to error, he shall have to carry (the burden) of its sin, like those who committed it, without their sins being diminished in any respect. (Saheeh Muslim - Book 034, Hadith Number 6470)

Tell your friends about this book on facebook, twitter and other social network sites. A little effort on your side can help Islam grow and you may get rewards for that in the hereafter. I invoke Allah to make this book achieve its goal.

Dr. Noorul Hussain K.

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1.1 Excellence of Intentions

1. Narrated by 'Umar bin Al-Khattab that I heard Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) saying: "The reward of deeds depends upon the intentions and every person will get the reward according to what he has intended. So whoever emigrated for worldly benefits or for a woman to marry, his emigration was for what he emigrated for." (Saheeh Bukhari - Volumn 001, Book 001, Hadith Number 001)

Our intention plays a key role in getting the rewards of our good deeds. To get excellence of good deeds, one should be sincere in one's intention. Pleasure of Allah must be the sole intention of the doer. The rewards will flow naturally, insha Allah.

2. Narrated by Abu Huraira that Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) said: "Allah says: 'If My slave intends to do a bad deed then (O Angels) do not write it unless he commits it; if he commits it, then write it as it is, but if he refrains from doing it for My Sake, then write it as a good deed (in his account). (On the other hand,) if he intends to do a good deed, but does not do it, then write a good deed (in his account), and if he does it, then write it for him (in his account) as ten good deeds upto seven-hundred

- good deeds."* (Saheeh Bukhari - Volumn 009, Book 093, Hadith Number 592)
3. *Narrated by Abu Huraira that Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) said: "If any one of you improve (follows strictly) his Islamic religion, then he will be rewarded ten times to seven hundred times for his each good deed, and a bad deed will be recorded as it is." (Saheeh Bukhari - Volumn 001, Book 002, Hadith Number 040)*

2.1 Excellence of Kalimah Toyyibah

1. *It is narrated on the authority of Abu Huraira that Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) said: "Faith has over seventy branches or over sixty branches, the most excellent of which is the declaration that laa Ilaaha illallaah (There is no God but Allah), and the humblest of which is the removal of what is injurious from the path: and modesty is the branch of faith." (Saheeh Muslim - Book 001, Hadith Number 0056)*
2. *It is narrated on the authority of Abu Huraira: "We were accompanying the Apostle (s.a.w.s.) in a march (towards Tabuk). The provisions with the people were almost depleted. (And the situation became so critical) that they (the men of the army) decided to slaughter some of their camels. Upon this, Umar said (to Allah's Messenger): Messenger of Allah, I wish*

that you should pool together what has been left out of the provisions with the people and then invoke Allah (for the blessings) upon it. He (the Holy Prophet) did it accordingly. The one who had wheat in his possession came there with wheat. He who had dates with him came there with dates. He (the Holy Prophet) invoked (Allah) for the blessings upon them (provisions). (And there was such a miraculous increase in the stocks) that the people replenished their provisions fully. At that time, he (the Holy Prophet) said: 'I bear testimony to the fact that there is no God but Allah, and I am His messenger. The bondsman who would meet Allah without entertaining any doubt about these (two fundamentals) would enter heaven.'" (Saheeh Muslim - Book 001, Hadith Number 0041) in the very next Hadith, Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) said: "I bear testimony that there is no God but Allah, and I am the messenger of Allah. The man who meets his Lord without harbouring any doubt about these two (truths) would never be kept away from Paradise." (Saheeh Muslim - Book 001, Hadith Number 0042)

- 3. It is narrated on the authority of Ubadah b. Samit that Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) observed: "He who said: 'There is no God but Allah, He is One and there is no associate with Him, that Muhammed is His servant and His messenger, that Christ is His*

- servant and the son of His slave-girl and he (Christ) is His Word which He communicated to Mary, and he (Christ) is His Spirit, that Paradise is a fact and Hell is a fact,' Allah would make him (he who affirms these truths) enter Paradise through whichever of its eight doors he would like." (Saheeh Muslim - Book 001, Hadith Number 0043)*
4. *Ubada b. Samit says that I heard Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) say: "He who testifies that there is no God but Allah, and that Muhammed is the messenger of Allah, Allah would prohibit the fire of Hell for him." (Saheeh Muslim - Book 001, Hadith Number 0045)*
5. *Narrated by Abu Huraira that he (Abu Huraira) said: "O Allah's Apostle! Who will be the luckiest person, who will gain your intercession on the Day of Resurrection?" Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) said: "O Abu Huraira! I have thought that none would ask me about it before you as I know your longing for the (learning of) Ahadith. The fortunate person who will have my intercession on the Day of Resurrection will be the one who said sincerely from the bottom of his heart 'None has the right to be worshipped but Allah.'" (Saheeh Bukhari - Volumn 001, Book 003, Hadith Number 098, and Saheeh Muslim)*

6. Narrated by Anas bin Malik: "Once Mu'adh was along with Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) as a companion rider. Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) said: 'O Mu'adh bin Jabal!' Mu'adh replied: 'Labbaik and Sa'daik. O Allah's Apostle!' Again the Prophet said: 'O Mu'adh!' Mu'adh said thrice: 'Labbaik and Sa'daik, O Allah's Apostle!' Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) said: "From the Hell-fire, Allah will save him who testifies sincerely that none has the right to be worshipped but Allah, and Muhammed is His Apostle.'" Mu'adh said: 'O Allah's Apostle! Should I not inform people about it so that they may have glad tidings?' He replied: 'When people hear about it, they will solely depend on it.' Then Mu'adh narrated the above-mentioned Hadith just before his death, because of the fear of sin of concealing the Hadith." (Saheeh Bukhari - Volumn 001, Book 003, Hadith Number 130)
7. Abu Huraira reported Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) as saying: "There are ninety-nine names of Allah. He who commits them to memory would get into Paradise. Verily, Allah is Odd (He is one, and it is an odd number) and He loves odd number." (Saheeh Muslim - Book 035, Hadith Number 6475)

2.2 Excellence of the Person Who does not Associate Anything with Allah

1. *Abu Huraim reported Allah's Messenger (may peace be upon him) as saying: "The deeds of people would be presented every week on two days: Monday and Thursday, and every believing servant would be granted pardon except the one in whose (heart) there is rancour against his brother and it would be said: 'Leave them and put them off until they are turned to reconciliation.'" (Saheeh Muslim - Book 032, Hadith Number 6224).*
2. *It is narrated on the authority of Mu'adh b. Jabal that he said: "I was riding behind Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) on an ass known as 'Ufair. He (the Holy Prophet) said: 'Mu'adh, do you know what Right has Allah over His bondsmen and what right have His bondsmen over Him?' I replied: 'Allah knows the best and his Messenger.' Upon this, he (the Holy Prophet) said: 'The Right of Allah over His bondsmen is that they should worship Allah and should not associate anything with Him, and the right of His bondsmen over Allah is that He does not punish him who associates nothing with Him.' I said to the Messenger of Allah: 'Should I then give the tidings to the people?' He (the Holy Prophet) said: 'Do not tell them this good news, for they would depend in it alone.'" (Saheeh Muslim - Book 01, Hadith Number 47).*

2.3 Excellence of Worship in the Period of General Turmoil

1. *Ma'qil b. Yasar reported Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) as saying: "Worshipping during the period of widespread turmoil is like emigration towards me." (Saheeh Muslim - Book 041, Hadith Number 7042).*

2.4 Excellence of a Person Who Loves Allah's Messenger

1. *Anas b. Malik reported: "Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) and I were coming out of the mosque. We met a person on the threshold of the mosque and he said to Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.): 'When would be the Last Hour?' Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) said: 'What preparation have you made for that?' The man became silent and then said: 'Allah's Messenger, I have made no significant preparation with Salaat and fasting and charity but I, however, love Allah and His Messenger.' Thereupon the Holy Prophet (s.a.w.s.) said: 'You would be along with one whom you love.'" (Saheeh Muslim - Book 032, Hadith Number 6385, and Saheeh Bukhari)*

2.5 Eminence of Madinah

1. *Amir b. Sa'd reported on the authority of his father (r.a.) that Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) said: "I have declared sacred the territory between the two lava plains of Madinah, so its trees should not be cut down, nor its game be killed. Madinah is the best for them if they knew. No one leaves it disliking it without Allah putting in it someone better than he; and no one will stay there in spite of its hardships and distress without my being an intercessor or witness on behalf of him on the Day of Resurrection."* (Saheeh Muslim - Book 007, Hadith Number 3154)
2. *Anas b. Malik (r.a.) reported that Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) said: "O Allah! Increase in Madinah twice the blessings (Thou showered) on Mecca."* (Saheeh Muslim - Book 007, Hadith Number 3162, and Saheeh Bukhari)

2.6 Excellence of Al-Masjid Al-Haram and Al-Masjid An-Nabviyah

1. *Yahya b. Sa'id reported that I said to Abu Salih: "Did you hear Abu Huraira (r.a.) making a mention of the excellence of Salaat in the mosque of Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.)?" He said: "No (I did not hear directly from Abu Huraira), but I heard Abdullah b. Ibrahim b. Qariz say that he had heard from Abu Huraira (r.a.)"*

that Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) had said: 'Salaat in this mosque of mine is better than a thousand Salaats or is like one thousand Salaats observed in other mosques besides it, except that it be in al-Masjid al-Haram.'" (Saheeh Muslim - Book 007, Hadith Number 3212)

2.7 Excellence of Building a Mosque

1. *Mahmud b. Labid reported that when 'Uthman b. 'Affan (r.a.) intended to build the mosque (of the Prophet) the people did not approve of it. They liked that it should be kept in the same state. Thereupon, he said: "I heard Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) say: 'He who built a mosque for Allah, Allah would build a house for him like it in Paradise.'" (Saheeh Muslim - Book 004, Hadith Number 1085, and Saheeh Bukhari)*

2.8 Excellence of Taking Care of Mosques

1. *It is narrated on the authority of Abu Huraira that a dark-complexioned woman used to sweep the mosque. Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) missed her and inquired about her. The people told him that she died. He asked why they did not inform him, and it appears as if they had treated her or her affairs as of*

little account. He (the Holy Prophet) said: "Lead me to her grave." They led him to that place and he said Salaat over her and then remarked: "Verily, these graves are full of darkness for their dwellers. Verily, the Mighty and Glorious Allah illuminates them for their occupants by reason of my Salaat over them." (Saheeh Muslim - Book 004, Hadith Number 2088, and Saheeh Bukhari)

3.1 Excellence of Purification

- 1. Abu Malik al-Ash'ari reported that Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) said: "Cleanliness is half of faith and al-Hamdu Lillaah (Praise be to Allah) fills the scale, and Subhan Allah (Glory be to Allah) and al-Hamdu Lillaah (Praise be to Allah) fill-up what is between the heavens and the earth, and Salaat is a light, and charity is proof (of one's faith) and endurance is a brightness and the Quran is a proof on your behalf or against you. All men go out early in the morning and sell themselves, thereby setting themselves free or destroying themselves." (Saheeh Muslim - Book 002, Hadith Number 0432).*

3.2 Excellence of Ablution

1. *Abu Huraira reported that Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) said: "When a bondsman washes his face (in course of ablution), every sin he contemplated with his eyes will be washed away from his face along with water or with the last drop of water. When he washes his hands, every sin they wrought will be effaced from his hands with the water or with the last drop of water. When he washes his feet, every sin towards which his feet have walked would be washed away with the water or with the last drop of water with the result that he comes out pure from all sins." (Saheeh Muslim - Book 002, Hadith Number 0475).*
2. *Uthman b. 'Affan reported that Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) said: "He who performed ablution well, his sins would come out from his body, even from under his nails." (Saheeh Muslim - Book 002, Hadith Number 0476).*
3. *Nu'aim b. 'Abdullah reported that he saw Abu Huraira perform ablution: "He (Abu Huraira) washed his face and washed his hands up to the arms. He then washed his feet and reached up to the shanks and then said: 'I heard Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) say that My people would come with bright faces and bright hands and feet on account of the marks of ablution, so he who can increase the lustre of his forehead (and that of his*

- hands and legs) should do so.” (Saheeh Muslim - Book 002, Hadith Number 0478).
4. Abu Hazim reported: “I was (standing) behind Abu Huraira and he was performing the ablution for Salaat. He extended the (washing) of his hand that it went up to his armpit. I said to him: ‘O Abu Huraira, what kind of ablution is this?’ He said: ‘O of the tribe of Farookh, you are here. If I knew that you were here, I would have never performed ablution like this. I have heard my Friend (s.a.w.s.) say: ‘In a believer adornment would reach the places where ablution reaches.’” (Saheeh Muslim - Book 002, Hadith Number 0484)
5. Abu Huraira reported that Allah’s Messenger (s.a.w.s.) said: “Should I not suggest to you that by which Allah obliterates the sins and elevates the ranks (of a man).” They (the hearers) said: “Yes, Messenger of Allah.” He said: “Performing the ablution thoroughly despite odds, travel side of more paces towards the mosque, and waiting for the next Salaat after observing a Salaat, and that is mindfulness.” (Saheeh Muslim - Book 002, Hadith Number 0485).

3.3 Excellence of Reciting Kalimah Shahadah after Ablution

1. 'Uqba b. 'Amir reported: "We were entrusted with the task of tending the camels. On my turn when I came back in the evening after grazing them in the pastures, I found Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) stand and address the people. I heard his words (he said): 'If any Muslim performs ablution well, then stands and prays two rak'ahs, setting about them with his heart as well as his face, Paradise would be guaranteed to him.' I said: 'What a fine thing is this!' And a narrator who was before me said: 'The first was better than even this.' When I cast a glance, I saw that it was 'Umair who said: 'I see that you have just come and observed (that the Prophet said,) 'If anyone amongst you performs the ablution, and then completes the ablution well and then says: *Ash-hadu anlaa ilaaha illallaahu Wahdahu laa shareeka lahu wa ash-hadu anna Muhammadan 'abduhu wa rasooluhu* (I testify that there is no God but Allah, He is One, He has no partner, and I testify that Muhammed is the servant of Allah and His Messenger,) the eight gates of Paradise would be opened for him and he may enter through whichever of them he wishes.'" (Saheeh Muslim - Book 002, Hadith Number 0451).

3.4 Excellence of Performing Two Rak'ahs after Ablution

1. *Humran, the freed slave of 'Uthman, said: "Uthman b. 'Affan called for ablution water and this is how he performed the ablution. He washed his hands thrice. He then rinsed his mouth and cleaned his nose with water (three times). He then washed his face three times, then washed his right arm up to the elbow three times, then washed his left arm like that, then wiped his head; then washed his right foot up to the ankle three times, then washed his left foot like that, and then said: 'I saw Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) perform ablution like this ablution of mine. Then Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) said: He who performs ablution like this ablution of mine and then stood up (for Salaat) and offered two rak'ahs of Salaat without allowing his thoughts to be distracted, all his previous sins are expiated.'" (Saheeh Muslim - Book 002, Hadith Number 0436).*
2. *Narrated by Humran (The slave of 'Uthman): "I saw 'Uthman bin 'Affan asking for a tumbler of water (and when it was brought) he poured water over his hands and washed them thrice and then put his right hand in the water container and rinsed his mouth, washed his nose by putting water in it and then blowing it out. Then, he washed his face and forearms up to the elbows thrice, passed his wet hands over his head and washed his feet up to the ankles thrice. Then, he said, 'Allah's Messenger*

(s.a.w.s.) said: If anyone Performs ablution like that of mine and offers a two-rak'ahs Salaat during which he does not think of anything else, then, his past sins will be forgiven." After performing the ablution 'Uthman said, "I am going to tell you a Hadith which I would not have told you, had I not been compelled by a certain Holy Verse (the sub narrator 'Urwa said: "This verse is, 'Verily, those who conceal the clear signs and the guidance which we have sent down...)" (2:159). I heard the Prophet saying, 'If a man performs ablution perfectly and then offers the compulsory congregational Salaat, Allah will forgive his sins committed between that (Salaat) and the (next) Salaat till he offers it. (Saheeh Bukhari - Volumn 001, Book 004, Hadith Number 161.)

3. Abu Huraira reported: "Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) said to Bilal: 'Bilal, narrate to me which act at the time of morning Salaat you did in Islam for which you hope to receive good reward, for I heard during the night the sound of your steps before me in Paradise.' Bilal said: 'I did not do any act in Islam for which I hope to get any benefit but this that when I perform complete ablution during the night or day I observe Salaat with that purification what Allah has ordained for me to pray.'" (Saheeh Muslim - Book 031, Hadith Number 6015).

4. 1 Excellence of Adhan and its Relevants

1. Narrated by 'Abdul Rahman: "Abu Sa'id Al-Khudri told my father, 'I see you liking sheep and the wilderness. So whenever you are with your sheep or in the wilderness and you want to pronounce Adhan for the Salaat raise your voice, for whoever hears the Adhan, whether a human being, a jinn or any other creature, will be a witness for you on the Day of Resurrection.' Abu Sa'id added, 'I heard it (this narration) from Allah's Apostle.'" (Saheeh Bukhari - Volumn 001, Book 011, Hadith Number 583)
2. Narrated by Abu Huraira that Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) said: "If the people knew the reward for pronouncing the Adhan and for standing in the first row (in congregational Salaats) and found no other way to get that except by drawing lots they would draw lots." (Saheeh Bukhari - Volumn 001, Book 011, Hadith Number 589, and Saheeh Muslim - Book 004, Hadith Number 0877)
3. Yahya narrated it on the authority of his uncle that he had been sitting in the company of Mu'awiya b. Abu Sufyan when the Mu'adhdhin called (Muslims) to Salaat. Mu'awiya said: "I heard Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) saying, 'The Mu'adhdhins will have

the longest necks on the Day of Resurrection.” (Saheeh Muslim - Book 004, Hadith Number 0750)

4. *Anas b. Malik reported: "Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) used to attack the enemy when it was dawn. He would listen to the Adhan. So if he heard an Adhan, he stopped; otherwise made an attack. Once on hearing a man saying: 'Allah is the Greatest, Allah is the Greatest,' Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) remarked: 'He is following al-Fitra (al-Islam).' Then hearing him saying: 'I testify that there is no God but Allah, there is no God but Allah,' Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) said: 'You have come out of the Fire (of Hell).' They looked at him and found that he was a goatherd." (Saheeh Muslim - Book 004, Hadith Number 0745)*
5. *'Umar b. al-Khattab reported that Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) said: "When the Mu'adhdhin says: 'Allah is the Greatest, Allah is the Greatest,' and one of you should make this response: 'Allah is the Greatest, Allah is the Greatest.' (and when the Mu'adhdhin) says: 'I testify that there is no God but Allah,' one should respond: 'I testify that there is no God but Allah,' and when he says: 'I testify that Muhammed is the Messenger of Allah,' one should make a response: 'I testify that Muhammed is Allah's Messenger.' When he (the Mu'adhdhin) says: 'Come to Salaat,' one should make a response: 'There is no might and no*

power except with Allah.’ When he (the Mu’adhdhin) says: ‘Come to salvation,’ one should respond: ‘There is no might and no power except with Allah.’ And when he (the Mu’adhdhin) says: ‘Allah is the Greatest, Allah is the Greatest,’ then make a response: ‘Allah is the Greatest, Allah is the Greatest.’ When he (the Mu’adhdhin) says: ‘There is no God but Allah,’ and he who makes a response from the heart: ‘There is no God but Allah,’ he will enter Paradise.” (Saheeh Muslim - Book 004, Hadith Number 0748)

6. *Sa’d b. Abu Waqqas reported that Allah’s Messenger (s.a.w.s.) said: “If anyone says on hearing the Mu’adhdhin: Ash-hadu anlaa ilaaha illallaahu Wahdahu laa shareeka lahu wa ash-hadu anna Muhammadan ‘abduhu wa rasooluhu Razeetu billahi Rabban wa bi Muhammadin Rasoolan wa bil Islami Deenan (I testify that there is no God but Allah alone. Who has no partner, and that Muhammed is His servant and His Messenger, (and that) I am satisfied with Allah as my Lord, with Muhammed as Messenger, and with Islam as Deen (code of life)), his sins will be forgiven.” (Saheeh Muslim - Book 004, Hadith Number 0749)*
7. *Abu Sufyan reported it on the authority of Jabir that he had heard Allah’s Messenger (s.a.w.s.) say: “When Satan hears the call to Salaat, he runs away to a distance like that of Rauha.”*

Sulaimin said: "I asked him about Rauha." He replied: "It is at a distance of thirty-six miles from Madinah." (Saheeh Muslim - Book 004, Hadith Number 0751)

8. *Narrated by Jabir bin 'Abdullah that Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) said, "Whoever after listening to the Adhan says, 'Allahumma Rabba hadhihid-da'watit-taammati was-salaatil qa'imati, aati Muhammadan al-wasilata wal-fadilata, wab'athhu maqaman mahmudanil-ladhi wa'adtahu (O Allah! Lord of this perfect call (of not ascribing partners to You) and of the regular Salaat which is going to be established! Kindly give Muhammed the right of intercession and superiority and send him (on the Day of Judgment) to the best and the highest place in Paradise which You promised him),' then permission will be granted to me to intercede for him on the Day of Resurrection". (Saheeh Bukhari - Volumn 001, Book 011, Hadith Number 588)*

5.1 Excellence of Salaat (prayer)

1. *'Amr b Sa'id b al-'As reported that I was with Uthman that he called for ablution water and said: "I heard Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) say: 'When the time for a prescribed Salaat comes, if any Muslim perform ablution well and offers his Salaat with humility and bowing, it will be an expiation for his past sins, so*

- long as he has not committed a major sin; and this applies to for all times.” (Saheeh Muslim - Book 002, Hadith Number 0441)*
2. *Narrated by Abu Huraira that He heard Allah’s Messenger (s.a.w.s.) as saying: "Does anything of filthiness remain (on the body of) any one of you if there is a river at your door in which you take bath five times daily?" They said: "Nothing of filthiness will remain (on the body)." He (the Prophet) said: "That is the similitude of the five Salaats by which Allah obliterates sins.” (Saheeh Muslim - Book 004, Hadith Number 1410, and Saheeh Bukhari)*
 3. *Narrated by Abdullah bin Mas’ud that I asked Allah's Apostle, "O Allah's Apostle! What is the best deed?" He replied, "To offer the Salaats at their early stated fixed times." I asked, "What is the next in goodness?" He replied, "To be good and dutiful to your parents." I further asked, "What is the next in goodness?" He replied, "To participate in Jihad in Allah's Cause." (Saheeh Bukhari - Volumn 004, Book 052, Hadith Number 041, and Saheeh Muslim).*

5.2 Excellence of Salaat (prayer) in Congregation

1. *Narrated by Abu Huraira that The Prophet said: "The Salaat offered in congregation is twenty five times more superior (in*

reward) to the Salaat offered alone in one's house or in a business center, because if one performs ablution and does it perfectly, and then proceeds to the mosque with the sole intention of praying, then for each step which he takes towards the mosque, Allah upgrades him a degree in reward and (forgives) crosses out one sin till he enters the mosque. When he enters the mosque, he is considered in Salaat as long as he is waiting for the Salaat and the angels keep on asking for Allah's forgiveness for him and they keep on saying: 'O Allah! Be Merciful to him, O Allah! Forgive him, as long as he keeps on sitting at his praying place and does not pass wind.'" (See Hadith No. 620). (Saheeh Bukhari - Volumn 001, Book 008, Hadith Number 466)

2. Ibn Umar reported Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) as saying: "Salaat said in a congregation is twenty-seven degrees more excellent than Salaat said by a single person." (Saheeh Muslim - Book 004, Hadith Number 1365, and Saheeh Bukhari)
3. Abu Huraira reported that Allah's Messenger (may peace be upon him) said: "He who purified himself in his house and then he walked to one of the houses of Allah for the sake of performing a Fard (obligatory act) out of the Fara'id (obligatory acts) of Allah, both his steps (would be significant) as one of

- them would obliterate his sin and the second one would raise his status. (Saheeh Muslim - Book 004, Hadith Number 1409, and Saheeh Bukhari)*
- 4. Hammam b. Munabbih reported that-this is out of (those ahadith) which Abu Huraira narrated to us from Muhammed, Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.). And he (Abu Huraira) while making a mention of ahadith reported that Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) said: "Every step that you take towards Salaat is a Sadaqa." (Saheeh Muslim - Book 005, Hadith Number 2204, and Saheeh Bukhari)*
 - 5. Ata' b. Yasar reported, on the authority of Abu Huraira, Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) as saying: "He who went towards the mosque in the morning or evening, Allah would arrange a feast for him in the morning or evening in Paradise." (Saheeh Muslim - Book 004, Hadith Number 1412)*
 - 6. Jundab b. 'Abdullah reported Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) as saying: "He who prayed the Morning Salaat (in congregation) he is in fact under the protection of Allah. And it can never happen that Allah should demand anything from you in connection with the protection (that He guarantees). And should not one get it, He would then throw him in the fire of Hell." (Saheeh Muslim - Book 004, Hadith Number 1381)*

7. *'Abd al-Rahman b. Abd 'Amr reported that 'Uthman b. 'Affan said: "O son of my brother! I heard Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) say: 'He who observed the 'Isha Salaat in congregation, it was as if he prayed up to the midnight, and he who prayed the morning Salaat in congregation, it was as if he prayed the whole night.'" (Saheeh Muslim - Book 004, Hadith Number 1379)*
8. *Narrated by Abu Huraira that Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) said, "If the people knew the reward for pronouncing the Adhan and for standing in the first row (in congregational Salaats) and found no other way to get that except by drawing lots they would draw lots, and if they knew the reward of the Zuhr Salaat (in the early moments of its stated time) they would race for it (go early) and if they knew the reward of 'Isha' and Fajr (morning) Salaats in congregation, they would come to offer them even if they had to crawl." (Saheeh Bukhari - Volumn 001, Book 011, Hadith Number 589, and Muslim - Book 004, Hadith Number 0877)*
9. *Abu Huraira said: "The best rows for men are the first rows, and the worst ones the last ones, and the best rows for women are the last ones and the worst ones for them are the first ones." (Saheeh Muslim - Book 004, Hadith Number 0881)*

5.3 Excellence of Saying during the Salaat (prayer)

1. *Ibn 'Umar reported: "While we said Salaat with Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.), one among the people said: 'Allahu Akbar Kabeera wal hamdu lillaahi kaseera wa sub-haanallaahi bukratoun wa aseela (Allah is truly Great, praise be to Allah in abundance. Glory be to Allah in the morning and the evening.)' Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) said: 'Who uttered such and such words?' A person among the people said: 'It is I, Messenger of Allah.' He (the Holy Prophet) said: 'It (its utterance) surprised me, for the doors of heaven were opened for It.' Ibn 'Umar said: 'I have not abandoned them (these words) since I heard Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) saying this.'"* (Saheeh Muslim - Book 004, Hadith Number 1248)

5.4 Excellence of Saying Aameen

1. *Abu Huraira reported that Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) said: "When anyone amongst you utters Aameen in Salaat and the angels in the sky also utter Aameen, and this (utterance of the one) synchronises with (that of) the other, all his previous sins are pardoned."* (Saheeh Muslim - Book 004, Hadith Number 0813)

2. Abu Musa said: "Verily Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) addressed us and taught us how to observe Salaat (properly). He (the Holy Prophet) said: 'When you pray make your rows straight and let anyone amongst you act as your Imam. Recite the takbir when he recites it and when he recites: Not of those with whom Thou art angry, nor of those who went astray, say: Aameen. Allah would respond you.'" (Saheeh Muslim - Book 004, Hadith Number 0800)

5.5 Excellence of Saying After Ruku'

1. Abu Huraira reported that Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) said: "When the Imam says: 'Sami'Allahu liman hamidah (Allah listens to him who praises Him.)' you should say: 'Rabban lakal hamd (O Allah, our Lord for Thee is the praise.)' for if anyone says that synchronises with what the angels say, his past sins will be forgiven.'" (Saheeh Muslim - Book 004, Hadith Number 0809)

5.6 Excellence of Prostration (As-Sajdah)

1. Ma'dan b. Talha reported: "I met Thauban, the freed slave of Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.), and asked him to tell me about an act for which, if I do it, Allah will admit me to Paradise, or I asked about the act which was loved most by Allah. He gave no reply. I again asked and he gave no reply. I asked him for the

- third time, and he said: 'I asked Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) about that and he said: Make frequent prostrations before Allah, for you will not make one prostration without raising you a degree because of it, and removing a sin from you, because of it.'* (Saheeh Muslim - Book 004, Hadith Number 0989)
2. *Rabi'a b. Ka'b said: "I was with Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) one night and I brought him water and what he required. He said to me: 'Ask (anything you like).'* I said: *'I ask your company in Paradise.'* He (the Holy Prophet) said: *'Or anything else besides it.'* I said: *'That is all (what I require).'* He said: *'Then help me to achieve this for you by a lot of prostration.'* (Saheeh Muslim - Book 004, Hadith Number 0990)
3. *Abu Huraira reported that Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) said: "A servant comes nearest to his Lord while he is in Sajdah (prostration), so make supplication (in this state)."* (Saheeh Muslim - Book 004, Hadith Number 0979)

5.7 Excellence of Nawafil

1. *Narrated by Ibn 'Umar that the Prophet (s.a.w.s.) said: "Offer some of your Salaats (Nawafil) at home, and do not make your houses as graves."* (Saheeh Bukhari - Volumn 001, Book 008, Hadith Number 424)

2. *Umm Habiba, the wife of the Messenger of Allah (s.a.w.s.), reported Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) as saying: "If any Muslim servant (of Allah) prays for the sake of Allah twelve rak'ahs (of Sun'an) every day, over and above the obligatory ones, Allah will build for him a house in Paradise, or a house will be built for him in Paradise; and I have not abandoned to observe them (after hearing it from the Messenger of Allah (s.a.w.s.))." (Saheeh Muslim - Book 004, Hadith Number 1581)*
3. *'Aisha (r.a.) reported Allah's Messenger as saying: "The two rak'ahs at dawn are better than this world and what it contains." (Saheeh Muslim - Book 004, Hadith Number 1573)*

5.8 Excellence of the Last Hours of Night and Night Salaat (prayer)

1. *Abu Haraira reported Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) as saying: "The most excellent fast after Ramadan is Allah's month, al-Muharram, and the most excellent Salaat after what is prescribed (i.e. Fard) is Salaat of the night (i.e. Tahajjud)." (Saheeh Muslim - Book 006, Hadith Number 2611)*
2. *Jabir reported that I heard Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) as saying: "There is an hour during the night in which no Muslim bondman will ask Allah for good in this world and in the*

hereafter but He will grant it to him.” (Saheeh Muslim - Book 004, Hadith Number 1655)

3. Abu Huraira reported Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) as saying: "When half of the night or two-third of it is over. Allah, the Blessed and the Exalted, descends to the lowest heaven and says: 'Is there any beggar, so that he be given? Is there any supplicator so that he be answered? Is there any beggar of forgiveness so that he be forgiven?' (And Allah continues it saying) till it is daybreak." (Saheeh Muslim - Book 004, Hadith Number 1658)

5.9 Excellence of Jumu'ah

1. Abu Huraira reported Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) as saying: "The best day on which the sun has risen is Friday. On that day, Adam was created. On that day, he was made to enter Paradise. On that day, he was expelled from it." (Saheeh Muslim - Book 004, Hadith Number 1856)
2. Abu Huraira reported Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) as saying: "There is a time on Friday at which no Muslim would ask Allah for what is good but He would give it to him. This is a very short time." (Saheeh Muslim - Book 004, Hadith Number 1853).

3. *Abu Burda b. Abu Musa al-Ash'ari reported that 'Abdullah b. Umar said to me: "Did you hear anything from your father narrating something from Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) about the time on Friday?" I said: "Yes, I heard him say from Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) (these words): 'It is between the time when the Imam sits down and the end of the Salaat.'* (Saheeh Muslim - Book 004, Hadith Number 1855)

5.10 Excellence of Attending Jumu'ah's Khutbah after taking Bath

1. *Narrated by Salman Al-Farsi that The Prophet (s.a.w.s.) said: "Whoever takes a bath on Friday, purifies himself as much as he can, then uses his (hair) oil or perfumes himself with the scent of his house, then proceeds (for the Jumu'ah Salaat) and does not separate two persons sitting together (in the mosque), then prays as much as (Allah has) written for him and then remains silent while the Imam is delivering the Khutba, his sins in-between the present and the last Friday would be forgiven."* (Saheeh Bukhari - Volumn 002, Book 013, Hadith Number 008, and Saheeh Muslim)
2. *Narrated by Abu Huraira that Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) said: "Any person who takes a bath on Friday like the bath of Janabah*

and then goes for the Salaat (first), it is as if he has sacrificed a camel (in Allah's cause). Whoever goes second, it is as if he has sacrificed a cow. Whoever goes third, it is as if he has sacrificed a horned ram. If one goes fourth, it is as if he has sacrificed a hen. And whoever goes fifth, it is as if he has offered an egg. When the Imam comes (i.e. starts delivering the Khutba), the angels present themselves to listen to the Khutba." (Saheeh Bukhari - Volumn 002, Book 013, Hadith Number 006).

5.11 Excellence of Seeking Refuge with Allah from Khinzab

1. *Uthman b. Abu al-'As reported that he came to Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) and said: "Allah's Messenger, the Satan intervenes between me and my Salaat and my reciting of the Quran and he confounds me." Thereupon Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) said: "That is (the doing of the Satan) who is known as Khinzab. When you perceive its effect, seek refuge with Allah from it, and spit three times to your left." Uthman b. Abu al-'As said: "I did that and Allah dispelled that from me." (Saheeh Muslim - Book 026, Hadith Number 5463)*

5.12 Excellence of Attending Funeral Ceremony

1. Abu Huraira reported Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) as saying: "He who attends the funeral till the Salaat (Al-Janazah) is offered, for him is the reward of one qirat. And he who attends (the Salaat and stays) till he is buried, for him is the reward of two qirats." It was said: "What are the qirats?" He said: "They are equivalent to two huge mountains." (Saheeh Muslim - Book 004, Hadith Number 2062)

5.13 Excellence of a Dead Person whose Funeral Salaat (prayer) is Attended by 100 or 40 Muslims.

1. 'Aisha reported Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) saying: "If a company of Muslims numbering one hundred pray over a dead person, all of them interceding for him, their intercession for him will be accepted." (Saheeh Muslim - Book 004, Hadith Number 2071)
2. a son of 'Abdullah b. 'Abbas died in Qudaid or 'Usfan. He said to Kuraib to see as to how many people had gathered there for his (funeral). He (Kuraib) said: "So I went out and I informed him about people who had gathered there." He (Ibn 'Abbas) said: "Do you think they are forty?" He (Kuraib) said: "Yes." Ibn 'Abbas then said to them: "Bring him (the dead body) out for I have heard Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) as saying: 'If any

Muslim dies and forty men who associate nothing with Allah stand over his Salaat (they offer Salaat over him), Allah will accept them as intercessors for him.’ (Saheeh Muslim - Book 004, Hadith Number 2072)

5.14 Excellence of a Dead Person whom Muslims Appreciate

1. *Anas b. Malik reported that there passed a bier (being carried by people) and it was lauded in good terms. Upon this Allah’s Messenger (s.a.w.s.) said: “It has become certain, it has become certain, it has become certain.” And there passed a bier and it was condemned in bad words. Upon this Allah’s Messenger (s.a.w.s.) said: “It has become certain, it has become certain, it has become certain.” 'Umar said: “May my father and mother be ransom for you! There passed a bier and it was praised in good terms, and you said: ‘It has become certain, it has become certain, it has become certain.’ And there passed a bier and it was condemned in bad words, and you said: ‘It has become certain, it has become certain, it has become certain.’ Upon this Allah’s Messenger (s.a.w.s.) said: “For him whom you praised in good terms, Paradise has become certain; and for him whom you condemned in bad words, Hell has become certain. You are Allah's witnesses on the earth, you are Allah's witnesses on the*

- earth, you are Allah's witnesses on the earth.” (Saheeh Muslim - Book 004, Hadith Number 2072, and Saheeh Bukhari)*
2. *Narrated by Abu Al-Aswad: “I came to Madinah when an epidemic had broken out. While I was sitting with 'Umar bin Al-Khattab a funeral procession passed by and the people praised the deceased. 'Umar said: 'It has been affirmed to him.' And another funeral procession passed by and the people praised the deceased. 'Umar said: 'It has been affirmed to him.' A third (funeral procession) passed by and the people spoke badly of the deceased. He said: 'It has been affirmed to him.' I (Abu Al-Aswad) asked: 'O chief of the believers! What has been affirmed?' He replied: 'I said the same as the Prophet had said, that is: 'if four persons testify the piety of a Muslim, Allah will grant him Paradise.' We asked: 'If three persons testify his piety?' He (the Prophet) replied: 'Even three.' Then we asked: 'If two?' He replied: 'Even two.' We did not ask him regarding one witness.” (Saheeh Bukhari - Volumn 002, Book 023, Hadith Number 449)*

5.15 Excellence of a Muslim who dies in Plague

1. *Narrated by 'Aisha: “I (The wife of the Prophet) asked Allah's Messenger about the plague. He told me: 'It was a Punishment*

sent by Allah on whom he wished, and Allah made it a source of mercy for the believers. For if one at the time of an epidemic plague stays in his town patiently hoping for Allah's Reward and believing that nothing will befall him except what Allah has written for him, he will get the reward of a martyr." (Saheeh Bukhari - Volumn 004, Book 056, Hadith Number 680)

2. *Narrated by Abu Huraira that Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) said: "Five (people) are regarded as martyrs: they are those who die because of plague, abdominal disease, drowning or a falling building etc., and the martyrs in Allah's Cause." (Saheeh Bukhari - Volumn 004, Book 052, Hadith Number 082)*

5.16 Excellence of a Muslim whose Three or Two Children Die

1. *Narrated by Anas that the Prophet said: "A Muslim whose three children die before the age of puberty will be granted Paradise by Allah." (Saheeh Bukhari - Volumn 002, Book 023, Hadith Number 340)*
2. *Narrated by Abu Sa'id that the Prophet preached to women and said: "A woman whose three children died would be screened from the Hell Fire by them." Hearing that, a woman asked: "If two died?" The Prophet replied: "Even two (would screen her from the (Hell) Fire.)" And Abu Huraira added: "Those children*

- should be below the age of puberty." (Saheeh Bukhari - Volumn 002, Book 023, Hadith Number 341)*
3. *Narrated by Anas bin Malik that I heard Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) saying: "Allah said: 'If I deprive my slave of his two beloved things (i.e., his eyes) and he remains patient, I will let him enter Paradise in compensation for them.'" (Saheeh Bukhari - Volumn 007, Book 070, Hadith Number 557)*

5.17 Excellence of a Muslim who observes patience at his dear one's death

1. *Narrated by Abu Huraira that Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) said: "Allah says: 'I have nothing to give but Paradise as a reward to my believer slave, who, if I cause his dear friend (or relative) to die, remains patient (and hopes for Allah's Reward).'" (Saheeh Bukhari - Volumn 008, Book 076, Hadith Number 432)*

6.1 Excellence of Fasting

1. *Sahl b.Sa'd (r.a.) reported Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) as saying: "In Paradise there is a gate which is called Rayyan through which only the observers of fasting would enter on the Day of Resurrection. None else would enter along with them. It would be proclaimed: 'Where are the observers of fast that they*

should be admitted into it?' And when the last of them would enter, it would be closed and no one would enter it." (Saheeh Muslim - Book 006, Hadith Number 2569).

Paradise has eight gates. Rayyan is one of the eight gates of Paradise, and it is reserved for the observers of fast. This clearly means that if you keep fast according to Sunnah, one of the eight gates of Paradise is open for you.

2. Narrated by Abu Huraira that Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) said: "Allah said: 'All the deeds of Adam's sons (people) are for them, except fasting which is for Me, and I will give the reward for it.' Fasting is a shield or protection from the fire and from committing sins. If one of you is fasting, he should avoid sexual relation with his wife and quarreling. And if somebody should fight or quarrel with him, he should say, 'I am fasting.' By Him in Whose Hands my soul is, the unpleasant smell coming out from the mouth of a fasting person is better in the sight of Allah than the smell of musk. There are two pleasures for the fasting person, one at the time of breaking his fast, and the other at the time when he will meet his Lord; then he will be pleased because of his fasting." (Saheeh Bukhari - Volumn 003, Book 031, Hadith

- Number 128, and Saheeh Muslim - Book 006, Hadith Number 2566).*
- 3. Abu Sa'id al Khudri (r.a.) reported Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) as saying: "Every servant of Allah who observes fast for a day in the way of Allah, Allah would make, because of this day, his face farther from the Fire (of Hell) to the extent of seventy years' distance." (Saheeh Muslim - Book 006, Hadith Number 2570, and Saheeh Bukhari)*

6.2 Excellence of the Month of Ramadan

- 1. Abu Huraira reported Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) as saying: "When there comes the month of Ramadan, the gates of mercy are opened, and the gates of Hell are locked and the devils are chained." (Saheeh Muslim - Book 006, Hadith Number 2361).*

6.3 Excellence of the Fasts of Ramadan and Lailat-ul-Qadr

- 1. Abu Huraira reported Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) as saying: "He who observed the fasts of Ramadan with faith and seeking reward (from Allah), all his previous sins would be forgiven. And he who observed Salaat on Lailat-ul-Qadr with faith and seeking reward (from Allah), all his previous sins would be forgiven." (Saheeh Muslim - Book 004, Hadith Number 1664).*

6.4 Excellence of Iftaar

1. *Sahl b. Sa'd (r.a.) reported Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) as saying: "The people will continue to prosper as long as they hasten the breaking of the fast." (Saheeh Muslim - Book 006, Hadith Number 2417)*

6.5 Excellence of At-Taraweeh

1. *Abu Huraira reported Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) as saying: "He who observed Salaat at night during Ramadan with faith and seeking his reward from Allah, his previous sins would be forgiven." (Saheeh Muslim - Book 004, Hadith Number 1662).*

6.6 Excellence of Observing Fast for Six Days in the Month of Shawwal after Ramadhan

1. *Abu Ayyub al-Ansari (r.a.) reported Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) as saying: "He who observed the fast of Ramadan and then followed it with six (fasts) of Shawwal, it would be as if he fasted perpetually." (Saheeh Muslim - Book 006, Hadith Number 2614).*

6.7 Excellence of the Fast of Muharram

1. *Abu Haraira (r.a.) reported Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) as saying: "The most excellent fast after Ramadan is Allah's month: al-Muharram, and the most excellent Salaat after what is prescribed (i.e. Fard) is Salaat of the night (i.e. Tahajjud)." (Saheeh Muslim - Book 006, Hadith Number 2611).*

6.8 Excellence of Observing Fast for Three Days during Every Month, and Fasting on the Day of 'Arafa, and 'Ashura

1. *Abu Qatada reported that a person came to Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) and said: "How do you observe fast?" Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) felt annoyed. When 'Umar (r.a.) noticed his annoyance, he said: "We are well pleased with Allah as our Lord, with Islam as our Code of Life, and with Muhammed as our Prophet. We seek refuge with Allah from the anger of Allah and that of His Messenger." 'Umar kept on repeating these words till his (the Prophet's) anger calmed down. Then Umar said: "Messenger of Allah, what is the position of one who perpetually observes fasts?" Thereupon he said: "He neither fasted nor broke it," or he said: "He did not fast and he did not break it." He ('Umar) said: "What about him who observes fast for two days and breaks one day." Thereupon he (s.a.w.s.) said: "Is anyone capable of doing it?" He ('Umar) said: "What is the*

position of him who observes fast for a day and breaks on the other day?" Thereupon he (s.a.w.s.) said: "That is the fast of David (peace be upon him)." He ('Umar) said: "What about him who observes fast one day and breaks it for two days." Thereupon he (s.a.w.s.) said: "I wish I were given strength to observe that." Thereafter he (s.a.w.s.) said: "The observance of three days' fast every Month and that of Ramadan every year is a perpetual fasting. I hope from Allah that fasting on the day of 'Arafa may atone for the sins of the preceding and the coming years and I hope from Allah that fasting on the day of Ashura may atone for the sins of the preceding year." (Saheeh Muslim - Book 006, Hadith Number 2602).

Our days and nights pass in whatever way we live. Days come and go whether we keep fast or enjoy food. But if we keep fast for three days every month, we can get the reward of perpetual fasting. This will be infinitely helpful in the Hereafter, insha Allah. So why should we not make it our habit to keep fast three days every month? Moreover, if we keep fasts once a year on the days of 'Arafa, Ashura and Muharram and Shawwal along with Ramadhan, we can collect all the rewards of fasting.

7.1 Excellence of Sadaqaat

1. *Hudhaifa and Abu Shaiba reported Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) as saying: "Every act of goodness is sadaqa." (Saheeh Muslim - Book 005, Hadith Number 2197)*
2. *Abu Dharr reported that some of the people from among the Companions of the Messenger of Allah (s.a.w.s.) said to him: "Messenger of Allah, the rich have taken away all the rewards. They observe Salaat as we do, they keep the fasts as we keep, and they give Sadaqa out of their surplus riches." Upon this, he (s.a.w.s.) said: "Has Allah not prescribed for you (a course) by following which you can (also) do sadaqa? In every declaration of the glorification of Allah (i.e. saying Subhan Allah) there is a Sadaqa, and every Takbir (i.e. saying Allahu Akbar) is a sadaqa, and every praise of His (saying al-Hamdu Lillaah) is a Sadaqa and every declaration that There is no God but Allah (La ilaaha illallaahu) is a sadaqa, and enjoining of good is a sadaqa, and forbidding of that which is evil is a Sadaqa, and in man's sexual Intercourse (with his wife,) there is a Sadaqa." They (the Companions) said: "Messenger of Allah, is there reward for him who satisfies his sexual passion among us?" He (s.a.w.s.) said: "Tell me, if he were to satisfy it with something forbidden, would it not be a sin on his part? Similarly, if he were to satisfy it with*

- something lawful, he should have a reward." (Saheeh Muslim - Book 005, Hadith Number 2198)*
3. *Abu Huraira reported that Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) had said: "Seven are (the persons) whom Allah would give protection with His Shade on the Day when there would be no shade but that of Him (i.e. on the Day of Judgment, and they are): (1) a just ruler, (2) a juvenile who spent his juvenile in the worship of Allah, (3) a person whose heart is attached with the mosques, (4) two persons who love and meet each other and depart from each other for the sake of Allah, (5) a man whom a beautiful woman of high rank seduces (for illicit relation), but he says (rejecting the offer): "I fear Allah," (6) a person who gives charity and conceals it (to such an extent) that the right hand does not know what the left has given, and (7) a person who remembered Allah in privacy and his eyes shed tears." (Saheeh Muslim - Book 005, Hadith Number 2248)*
4. *Abu Huraira reported Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) as saying: "If anyone gives as Sadaqa the equivalent to a date from that which earned honestly, for Allah accepts that which is lawful, the Lord would accept it with His Right Hand even if it is a date. It would foster in the Hand of the Lord, as one of you fosters his colt, till*

- it becomes bigger than a mountain.” (Saheeh Muslim - Book 005, Hadith Number 2211, and Saheeh Bukhari)*
5. *Abu Huraira reported Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) as saying: "There is never a day wherein servants (of Allah) get up in the morning, but are not visited by two angels. One of them says: 'O Allah, give him more who spends (for the sake of Allah),' and the other says: 'O Allah, bring destruction to one who withholds (from spending for the sake of Allah).” (Saheeh Muslim - Book 005, Hadith Number 2205, and Saheeh Bukhari)*
6. *Abu Huraira reported Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) as saying: "Verily, Allah, the Exalted and Glorious, would say on the Day of Resurrection: 'O son of Adam, I asked food from you but you did not feed Me.' He (son of Adam) would say: 'My Lord, how could I feed Thee whereas Thou art the Lord of the worlds?' He (Allah) said: 'Didn't you know that such and such servant of Mine asked food from you but you did not feed him, and were you not aware that if you had fed him you would have found Me by his side? (The Lord would again say:) 'O son of Adam, I asked drink from you but you did not provide Me.' He (son of Adam) would say: 'My Lord, how could I provide Thee whereas Thou art the Lord of the worlds?' Thereupon He (Allah) would say: 'Such and such of servant of Mine asked you for a drink but you did not provide*

- him, and had you provided him drink you would have found Me near him.” (Saheeh Muslim - Book 032, Hadith Number 6232)*
7. *Abu Huraira reported Allah’s Messenger (s.a.w.s.) as saying: “A man expressed his intention to give charity, so he came out with charity and placed it in the hand of an adulteress (unknowingly). In the morning, the people were talking and saying: ‘charity was given to an adulteress last night.’ He (the giver of Sadaqa) said: ‘O Allah, to Thee be the praise - (what a misfortune it is that charity has been given) to an adulteress.’ He then again expressed his intention to give charity. So he went out with the charity and placed it in the hand of a rich person (unknowingly). In the morning the people were talking and saying: ‘Charity was given to a rich person.’ He (the giver of charity) said: ‘O Allah, to Thee be the praise - (what a misfortune it is that charity has been given) to a well to do person.’ He then expressed his intention to give charity, so he went out with charity and placed it in the hand of a thief (unknowingly). In the morning, the people were talking and saying: ‘Charity was given to a thief.’ So he said: ‘O Allah, to Thee be the praise (what a misfortune it is that charity has been given to) an adulteress, to a rich person, to a thief!’ There came (the angel to him) and he was told: ‘Your charity has been accepted. As for the adulteress (the charity*

might become the means) whereby she might restrain herself from fornication. The rich man might perhaps learn a lesson and spend from what Allah has given him, and the thief might thereby refrain from committing theft.' (Saheeh Muslim - Book 005, Hadith Number 2230)

8. *Abu Huraira reported Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) as saying that Allah said: "Spend, I will bestow upon you." And Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) said: "The Right Hand of Allah is full and spending (the riches) liberally during day and night will not diminish (the resources of Allah). Don't you see what (an enormous amount of resources) He has spent since He created the heaven and the earth, and what is in His right hand has not decreased? His Throne is upon the water. And in His other hand is death, and He elevates and degrades (whom He likes)."* (Saheeh Muslim - Book 005, Hadith Number 2179, and Saheeh Bukhari)

7.2 Excellence of Spending on the Family

1. *Hakim b. Hizam reported Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) having said this: "The most excellent Sadaqa or the best of Sadaqa is that after giving which the (giver) remains rich and the upper hand is better than the lower hand, and begin (charity) from the*

- members of your household.” (Saheeh Muslim - Book 005, Hadith Number 2254, and Saheeh Bukhari)*
2. *Abu Umama reported Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) as saying: "O son of Adam, it is better for you if you spend your surplus (wealth), but if you withhold it, it is evil for you. There is (however) no reproach for you (if you withhold means necessary) for a living. And begin (charity) with your dependants. The upper hand is better than the lower hand.” (Saheeh Muslim - Book 005, Hadith Number 2256)*
 3. *Abu Mas'ud reported Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) as saying: "When a Muslim spends on his family seeking reward for it from Allah, it counts for him as sadaqa.” (Saheeh Muslim - Book 005, Hadith Number 2192, and Saheeh Bukhari)*
 4. *Thauban reported Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) as saying: "The most excellent dinar is one that a person spends on his family, and the dinar which he spends on his animal in Allah's path, and the dinar he spends on his companions in Allah's path.” (Saheeh Muslim - Book 005, Hadith Number 2180)*
 5. *Abu Huraira reported Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) as saying: "Of the dinar you spend as a contribution in Allah's path, or to set free a slave or as a sadaqa given to a needy or to support your family, the one yielding the greatest reward is that which you*

- spent on your family.” (Saheeh Muslim - Book 005, Hadith Number 2181)*
6. *'Aisha, the wife of the Messenger of Allah (s.a.w.s.), said: "A woman came to me along with her two daughters. She asked me for (charity) but she found nothing with me except one date. So I gave her that. She accepted it and then divided it between her two daughters and herself ate nothing out of that. She then got up and went out, and so did her two daughters. (In the meanwhile) Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) visited me and I narrated to him her story. Thereupon Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) said: 'He who is involved (in the responsibility) of (bringing up) daughters, and he accords benevolent treatment towards them, there would be protection for him against Hell-Fire.” (Saheeh Muslim - Book 032, Hadith Number 6362)*
7. *Anas b. Malik reported Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) as saying: "He, who brought up two girls properly till they grew up, he and I would come (together very closely) on the Day of Resurrection, and he interlaced his fingers (for explaining the point of nearness between him and that person).” (Saheeh Muslim - Book 032, Hadith Number 6364)*
8. *Narrated by Sa'd: "Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) came to visit me during my ailment which had been aggravated during Hajjat-al-*

Wida'. I said to him: 'You see how sick I am. I have much property but have no heir except my only daughter. May I give two-third of my property in charity?' He (s.a.w.s.) said: 'No.' I said: 'Half of it?' He (s.a.w.s.) said: 'No.' I said: 'One third?' He (s.a.w.s.) said: 'One third is too much, for to leave your heirs rich is better than to leave them poor, begging of others. Nothing you spend seeking Allah's pleasure but you shall get a reward for it, even for what you put in the mouth of your wife.'"
(Saheeh Bukhari - Volumn 007, Book 070, Hadith Number 572)

9. *Zainab, the wife of 'Abdullah (b. Mas'ud), reported that Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) said: "O women, give sadaqa even though it be some of your jewellery." I returned to 'Abdullah and said: "You are a person with empty hands, whereas Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) has commanded us to give sadaqa, so better go to him and ask if this will suffice for me; otherwise I shall give it to someone else. 'Abdullah said to me: "You better go yourself." So I went and there was another woman of the Ansar at the door of Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) having the same purpose as I had. Now Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) was invested with awe (so we did not like to knock). Then Bilal came out and we said to him: "Go to Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) and inform him that there are two women at the door asking him whether it will serve*

them to give sadaqa to their spouses and to orphans who are under their charge, but do not inform him who we are.” Bilal went to Allah’s Messenger (s.a.w.s.) and asked him (what these women had instructed him to ask). Allah’s Messenger (s.a.w.s.) asked him who these women were. He (Bilal) said: “There is woman of Ansar and Zainab.” Upon this Allah’s Messenger (s.a.w.s.) said: “Which of the Zainabs?” He said: “The wife of ‘Abdullah. Allah’s Messenger (s.a.w.s.) said: “There are two rewards for them, the reward of kinship and the reward of Sadaqa.” (Saheeh Muslim - Book 005, Hadith Number 2188)

7.3 Excellence of Spending on Widows and Orphans

- 1. Abu Huraira reported that Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) said: “One who makes efforts (for earning to be spent) on a widow and the destitute is like a striver in the cause of Allah.” And I think he (s.a.w.s.) also said: “He is like one who constantly stands for Salaat and observes fast without breaking it.” (Saheeh Muslim - Book 042, Hadith Number 7107, and Saheeh Bukhari)*
- 2. Abu Huraira reported that Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) said: “One who looks after the orphan whether he is his relative or not, I and he would be together in Paradise like this.” And Malik*

(explained it) with the gesture by drawing his index finger and middle finger close together. (Saheeh Muslim - Book 042, Hadith Number 7108, and Saheeh Bukhari - Volumn 008, Book 073, Hadith Number 034.)

7.4 Excellence of Feeding Animals

- 1. Abu Huraira reported Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) as sayings: "A person suffered from intense thirst while on a journey, when he found a well. He climbed down into it and drank (water) and then came out and saw a dog lolling its tongue on account of thirst and eating the moistened earth. The person said: 'This dog has suffered from thirst as I had suffered from it.' He climbed down into the well, filled his shoe with water, then caught it in his mouth until he climbed up and made the dog drink it. So Allah appreciated this act of his and pardoned him." Then they (the Companions around him) said: "Allah's Messenger, is there for us a reward even for (serving) such animals?" He said: "Yes, there is a reward for service to every living animal." (Saheeh Muslim - Book 026, Hadith Number 5577, and Saheeh Bukhari)*
- 2. Jabir (r.a.) reported Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) as saying: "When a Muslim plants a tree, he will get the reward of charity. For what is eaten out of that is charity; what is stolen out of*

- that, what the beasts eat out of that, what the birds eat out of that is charity for him. (In short) none incurs a loss to him but it becomes a charity on his part.” (Saheeh Muslim - Book 010, Hadith Number 3764)*
3. *Anas reported Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) as saying: "Never does a Muslim plant trees or cultivate land, and birds or a man or a beast eat out of them but that is a charity on his behalf." (Saheeh Muslim - Book 010, Hadith Number 3769, and Saheeh Bukhari)*

8.1 Excellence of Jihaad in Allah's Cause

1. *Narrated by Abu Huraira that the Prophet (s.a.w.s.) was asked: "Which is the best deed?" He (s.a.w.s.) said: "To believe in Allah and His Apostle." He (s.a.w.s.) was then asked: "Which is the next (in goodness)?" He (s.a.w.s.) said: "To participate in Jihad in Allah's Cause." He (s.a.w.s.) was then asked: "Which is the next?" He (s.a.w.s.) said: "To perform Hajj-Mabroor." (Saheeh Bukhari - Volumn 002, Book 026, Hadith Number 594, and Saheeh Muslim)*

Jihad in Allah's Cause is one of the faraidh (obligatory acts) commanded by Allah. And According to this Hadith, it is superior to Hajj-Mabroor.

2. *Narrated by Abu Huraira that the Prophet (s.a.w.s.) said: "There are one-hundred degrees in Paradise which Allah has prepared for those who carry on Jihad in His Cause. The distance between every two degrees is like the distance between the sky and the Earth. So if you ask Allah for anything, ask Him for the Firdaus. For it is the last part of Paradise and the highest part of Paradise. At its top there is the Throne of Ar-Rahmaan (the Ever-Merciful). From it, gush forth the rivers of Paradise." (Saheeh Bukhari - Volumn 009, Book 093, Hadith Number 519)*
3. *Abu Sa'id Khudri reported that Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) said (to him): "Abu Sa'id, whoever cheerfully accepts Allah as his Lord, Islam as his religion and Muhammed as his Apostle is necessarily entitled to enter Paradise." He (Abu Sa'id) wondered at it and said: "Messenger of Allah, repeat it for me." He (the Messenger of Allah) did that and said: "There is another act which elevates the position of a man in Paradise to one hundred grades (higher). And the elevation between one grade and the other is equal to the height of the heaven from the earth." He (Abu Sa'id) said: "What is that act?" He (s.a.w.s.) replied: "Jihad in the way of Allah! Jihad in the way of Allah!" (Saheeh Muslim - Book 020, Hadith Number 4645)*

4. *It has been narrated on the authority of Sahl b. Sa'd as-Sa'idi that Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) said: "A journey undertaken in the morning or evening (for Jihad) in the way of Allah (will merit a reward) better than the world and all that is in it." (Saheeh Muslim - Book 020, Hadith Number 4641, and Saheeh Bukhari)*
5. *Abu Huraira reported that Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) was asked: "What deed could be an equivalent of Jihad in the way of Allah, the Almighty and Exalted?" He (s.a.w.s.) answered: "You do not have the strength to do that." The narrator said: "They repeated the question twice or thrice. Every time he answered: 'You do not have the strength to do it.' When the question was asked for the third time, he said: 'One who goes out for Jihad is like a person who keeps fasts, stands in Salaat (continuously), (obeying) Allah's (behests contained in) the verses (of the Quran), and does not exhibit any lassitude in fasting and Salaat until the Mujahid returns from Jihad in the way of Allah, the Exalted.'" (Saheeh Muslim - Book 020, Hadith Number 4636)*
6. *It has been narrated (through a different chain of transmitters) on the same authority (i.e. Abu Sa'id Khadri) who said: "A man asked: 'Messenger of Allah, which of men is the best?' He (s.a.w.s.) said: 'A believer who fights staking his life and spending his wealth in the way of Allah.' He asked: 'Who is next*

- to him (in excellence)?' He (s.a.w.s.) said: 'Next to him is a man who lives an isolated life in a mountain gorge, worshipping his Lord and sparing men from his mischief.'" (Saheeh Muslim - Book 020, Hadith Number 4653)*
7. *It has been narrated on the authority of Abu Huraira that Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) said: "Of the men, he lives the best life who holds the reins of his horse (ever ready to march) in the way of Allah, flies on its back whenever he hears a fearful shriek, or a call for help, flies to it seeking death at places where it can be expected. (Next to him) is a man who lives with his sheep at a hill-top or in a valley, says his Salaats regularly, gives Zakat and worships his Lord until death comes to him. There is no better person among men except these two." (Saheeh Muslim - Book 020, Hadith Number 4655)*
8. *Narrated by Abu Huraira: "A man came to Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) and said: 'Instruct me as to such a deed as equals Jihad (in reward).' He (s.a.w.s.) replied: 'I do not find such a deed.' Then he (s.a.w.s.) added: 'Can you, while the Muslim fighter is in the battle-field, enter your mosque to perform Salaats without cease and fast and never break your fast?' The man said: 'But who can do that?'" Abu- Huraira added: "The Mujahid (i.e. Muslim fighter) is rewarded even for the footsteps*

- of his horse while it wanders about (for grazing) tied in a long rope." (Saheeh Bukhari - Volumn 004, Book 052, Hadith Number 044)*
9. *Narrated by Abu Huraira that I heard Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) saying: "The example of a Mujahid in Allah's cause, and Allah knows better who really strives in his cause, is like a person who fasts and prays continuously. Allah guarantees that He will admit the Mujahid in His Cause into Paradise if he is killed, otherwise He will return him to his home safely with rewards and war booty." (Saheeh Bukhari - Volumn 004, Book 052, Hadith Number 046)*
10. *Narrated by Anas that the Prophet (s.a.w.s.) said: "A single endeavor (of fighting) in Allah's Cause in the afternoon or in the forenoon is better than all the world and whatever is in it. A place in Paradise as small as the bow or lash of one of you is better than the entire world and whatever is in it. And if a hoor from Paradise appeared to the people of the earth, she would fill the space between Heaven and the Earth with light and pleasant scent and her head cover is better than the world and whatever is in it." (Saheeh Bukhari - Volumn 004, Book 052, Hadith Number 053)*

11. Narrated by Abu 'Abs (Who is 'Abdur-Rahman bin Jabir) that Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) said: "Anyone whose both feet get covered with dust in Allah's Cause will not be touched by the (Hell) fire." (Saheeh Bukhari - Volumn 004, Book 052, Hadith Number 066)
12. Narrated by Abu 'Abs that I heard the Prophet saying: "Anyone, whose feet are covered with dust in Allah's cause, shall be saved by Allah from the Hell-Fire." (Saheeh Bukhari - Volumn 002, Book 013, Hadith Number 030)
13. Salman reported that I heard Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) say: "Keeping watch for a day and a night is better (in point of reward) than fasting for a whole month and standing in Salaat every night. If a person dies (while, performing this duty), his (meritorious) activity will continue and he will go on receiving his reward for it perpetually and will be saved from the torture of the grave." (Saheeh Muslim - Book 020, Hadith Number 4703)
14. The tradition has been narrated on the authority of 'Abdullah b. Qais. He heard it from his father who, while facing the enemy, reported that Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) said: "Surely, the gates of Paradise are under the shadows of the swords." A man in a shabby condition got up and said: "Abu Musa, did you hear Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) say this?" He said: "Yes." (The

narrator said:) "He returned to his friends and said: 'I greet you (a farewell greeting).' Then he broke the sheath of his sword, threw it away, advanced with his (naked) sword towards the enemy and fought (them) with it until he was slain." (Saheeh Muslim - Book 020, Hadith Number 4681)

15. It has been narrated on the authority of Abu Huraira that the Messenger Allah (s.a.w.s.) said: "A disbeliever and a believer who killed him will never be gathered together in Hell." (Saheeh Muslim - Book 020, Hadith Number 4661)

8.2 Excellence of Seeking Martyrdom Sincerely

1. It has been narrated on the authority of Anas b. Malik that Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) said: "Whoever seeks martyrdom with sincerity shall get its reward, even if he does not achieve it." (Saheeh Muslim - Book 020, Hadith Number 4694)

2. It has been reported on the authority of Sahl b. Abu Umama b. Sahl b. Hunaif who learned the tradition from his father who (in turn) learned it from his grandfather that Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) said: "Who sought martyrdom with sincerity will be ranked by Allah among the martyrs even if he died on his bed." (Saheeh Muslim - Book 020, Hadith Number 4695)

3. Narrated by Abu Huraira the the Prophet (s.a.w.s.) said: "By Him in Whose Hands my life is! Were it not for some men amongst

the believers who dislike to be left behind me and whom I cannot provide with means of conveyance, I would certainly never remain behind any Sariya' (army-unit) setting out in Allah's Cause. By Him in Whose Hands my life is! I would love to be martyred in Allah's Cause and then get resurrected and then get martyred, and then get resurrected again and then get martyred and then get resurrected again and then get martyred." (Saheeh Bukhari - Volumn 004, Book 052, Hadith Number 054)

8.3 Excellence of Martyrs

- 1. It has been reported on the authority of 'Amr b. al-'As that Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) said: "All the sins of a Shaheed (martyr) are forgiven except debt." (Saheeh Muslim - Book 020, Hadith Number 4649)*
- 2. It has been narrated on the authority of Anas b. Malik (through a different chain of transmitters) that Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) said: "Nobody who enters Paradise will (ever like to) return to this world even if he were offered everything on the surface of the earth (as an inducement) except the martyr who will desire to return to this world and be killed ten times for the sake of the*

- great honour that has been bestowed upon him.” (Saheeh Muslim - Book 020, Hadith Number 4635)*
3. *Narrated by Anas bin Malik that the Prophet (s.a.w.s.) said: "Nobody who dies and finds good from Allah (in the Hereafter) would wish to come back to this world even if he were given the whole world and whatever is in it, except the martyr who, on seeing the superiority of martyrdom, would like to come back to the world and get killed again (in Allah's cause)." (Saheeh Bukhari - Volumn 004, Book 052, Hadith Number 053)*

8.4 Excellence of Archery

1. *Ibn Amir reported that I heard Allah’s Messenger (s.a.w.s.) say, while he was delivering a sermon from the pulpit: "Prepare to meet them with as much strength as you can afford. Beware! Strength is in archery. Beware! Strength is in archery. Beware! Strength is in archery." (Saheeh Muslim - Book 020, Hadith Number 4711)*

8.5 Excellence of Fighting for saving One’s Own Possession

1. *Abu Huraira reported: "A person came to Allah’s Messenger (s.a.w.s.) and said: 'Messenger of Allah, what do you think if a man comes to me in order to appropriate my possession?' He*

- (s.a.w.s.) said: 'Don't surrender your possession to him.' He (the inquirer) said: 'If he fights me?' He (s.a.w.s.) remarked: 'Then fight (with him).' He (the inquirer) again said: 'What do you think if I am killed?' He (s.a.w.s.) observed: 'You would be a martyr.' He (the inquirer) said: 'What do you think of him (Messenger of Allah,) if I kill him?' He (s.a.w.s.) said: 'He would be in the Fire.'" (Saheeh Muslim - Book 001, Hadith Number 0259)*
2. *Narrated by 'Abdullah bin 'Amr bin Al-'As that I heard the Prophet saying: "Whoever is killed for protecting his property, then he is a martyr." (Saheeh Bukhari - Volumn 003, Book 043, Hadith Number 660)*

8.6 Excellence of Spending on Jihaad in Allah's Cause

1. *It has been narrated on the authority of Abu Mas'ud al-Ansari who said that a man brought a muzzled she-camel and said: "It is (offered) in the way of Allah." Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) said: "For this you will have seven hundred she-camels on the Day of Judgment all of which will be muzzled." (Saheeh Muslim - Book 020, Hadith Number 4663)*

8.7 Excellence of Helping Those Who are Engaged in Jihaad in Allah's Cause

1. *It has been narrated on the authority of Zaid b. Khalid al-Juhani that Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) said: "Anybody who equips a warrior (going to fight) in the way of Allah (is like one who actually) fights. And anybody who looks well after his family in his absence (is also like one who actually) fights."* (Saheeh Muslim - Book 020, Hadith Number 4668, and Saheeh Bukhari)

9.1 Excellence of Hajj

1. *Narrated by 'Aisha (the mother of the believers): "I said: 'O Allah's Apostle! We consider Jihad as the best deed.' The Prophet said: 'The best Jihad (for women) is Hajj Mabrur.'* (Saheeh Bukhari - Volumn 002, Book 026, Hadith Number 595).
2. *Abu Huraira (r.a.) reported Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) as saying: "He who came to this House (Ka'ba with the intention of performing Pilgrimage), and neither spoke indecently nor did he act wickedly, would return (free from sin) as (on the very first day) his mother bore him."* (Saheeh Muslim - Book 007, Hadith Number 3129, and Saheeh Bukhari)
3. *Abu Huraira (r.a.) reported Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) as saying: 'An 'Umrah is expiation for the sins committed between*

it and the next, and Hajj which is accepted will receive no other reward than Paradise.” (Saheeh Muslim - Book 007, Hadith Number 3127, and Saheeh Bukhari)

9.2 Excellence of performing 'Umrah in the month of Ramadhan

1. *Ataa reported: "I heard Ibn Abbas (r.a.) narrating to us that Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) said to a woman: 'when the month of Ramadan comes, perform 'Umrah, for 'Umrah in this (month) is equal to Hajj (in reward).'" (Saheeh Muslim - Book 007, Hadith Number 2884, and Saheeh Bukhari)*

9.3 The Merit of the Day of 'Arafa (the 9th of Dhu'l-Hijja)

1. *'Aisha reported Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) as saying: "There is no day when Allah sets free more servants from Hell than the Day of 'Arafa. He draws near, then praises them to the angels, saying: 'What do these want?'" (Saheeh Muslim - Book 007, Hadith Number 3126)*

9.4 Excellence of getting head shaved on the day

1. Narrated by Abu Huraira that Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) said: "O Allah! Forgive those who get their heads shaved." The people asked: "Also those who get their hair cut short?" The Prophet (s.a.w.s.) said: "O Allah! Forgive those who get their heads shaved." The people said: "Also those who get their hair cut short?" The Prophet (s.a.w.s.) (invoked Allah for those who get their heads shaved and) at the third time said: "also (forgive) those who get their hair cut short." (Saheeh Bukhari - Volumn 002, Book 026, Hadith Number 786, and Saheeh Muslim)

10.1 Excellence of Knowledge

1. Narrated by Muawiya that I heard Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) saying: "If Allah wants to do good to a person, He makes him comprehend the religion. I am just a distributor, but the grant is from Allah. (And remember) that this nation (true Muslims) will keep on following Allah's teachings strictly and they will not be harmed by any one going on a different path till Allah's order (the Day of Judgment) is established." (Saheeh Bukhari - Volumn 001, Book 003, Hadith Number 071.)

10.2 Excellence of Learning and Teaching the Quran

1. *Narrated by Uthman bin Affan that the Prophet said: "The best among you (Muslims) are those who learn the Quran and teach it." (Saheeh Bukhari - Volumn 006, Book 061, Hadith Number 546)*
2. *'Uqba b. 'Amir reported: "When we were in Suffa, Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) came out and said: 'Which of you would like to go out every morning to Buthan or al-'Aqiq and bring two large she-camels without being guilty of sin or without severing the ties of kinship?' We said: 'Messenger of Allah, all of us would like to do it.' Upon this, he (s.a.w.s.) said: 'Does not one of you go out in the morning to the mosque and teach or recite two verses from the Book of Allah, the Majestic and Glorious? That is better for him than two she-camels, and three verses are better (than three she-camels) and four verses are better for him than four (she-camels), and to on their number in camels.'"* (Saheeh Muslim - Book 004, Hadith Number 1756)
3. *Abu Huraira reported Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) as saying: "He who alleviates the suffering of a brother out of the sufferings of the world, Allah will alleviate his suffering from the sufferings of the Day of Resurrection. He who finds relief for one who is hard pressed, Allah would make things easy for him in the Hereafter. He who conceals (the faults) of a Muslim, Allah would conceal his*

faults in the world and in the Hereafter. Allah is at the back of a servant so long as the servant is at the back of his brother. He who treads the path in search of knowledge, Allah would make that path easy, leading to Paradise for him. Those persons who assemble in the house among the houses of Allah (mosques) and recite the Book of Allah and they learn and teach the Quran (among themselves) there would descend upon them the tranquility and mercy would cover them and the angels would surround them and Allah makes a mention of them in the presence of those near Him. And he who is slow-paced in doing good deeds, his (high) descent does not make him go ahead.”
(Saheeh Muslim - Book 035, Hadith Number 6518)

4. *'Aisha reported Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) as saying: "One who is proficient in the Quran is associated with the noble, upright, recording angels. And he who falters in it and finds it difficult will have a double reward.”* (Saheeh Muslim - Book 004, Hadith Number 1745)
5. *'Amir b. Wathila reported that Nafi' b. 'Abd al-Harith met 'Umar at 'Usfan and 'Umar had employed him as a collector in Mecca. He ('Umar) said to him (Nafi'): "Whom have you appointed as collector over the people of the valley?" He said: "Ibn Abza." He said: "Who is Ibn Abza?" He said: "He is one of our freed*

slaves." He ('Umar) said: "So you have appointed a freed slave over them." He said: "He is well versed In the Book of Allah, the Exalted and Great, and he is well versed in the commandments and injunctions (of the Shari'ah)." 'Umar said: "So the Holy Prophet (s.a.w.s.) said: 'By this Book, Allah would exalt some peoples and degrade others.'" (Saheeh Muslim - Book 004, Hadith Number 1780)

10.3 Excellence of Reciting the Quran

1. Abu Musa al-Ash'ari reported Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) as saying: "A believer who recites the Quran is like an orange the fragrance of which is sweet and the taste of which is also sweet; a believer who does not recite the Quran is like a date which has no fragrance but has a sweet taste; and the hypocrite who recites the Quran is like a basil the fragrance of which is sweet, but the taste of which is bitter; and a hypocrite who does not recite the Quran is like the colocynth which has no fragrance and has a bitter taste." (Saheeh Muslim - Book 004, Hadith Number 1743)
2. Salim son of Abdullah b. 'Umar is reported to have said on the authority of his father that Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) observed: "Envy is not justified but in case of two persons only:

one who has been given (knowledge of) the Quran by Allah, and he recites it during the night and during the day (and acts upon it), and the person who has been given wealth by Allah, and he gives it in charity during the night and the day.” (Saheeh Muslim - Book 004, Hadith Number 1778, and Saheeh Bukhari)

10.4 Excellence of Spreading Knowledge (Da’wah and Tableegh)

1. *Abu Huraira reported Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) as saying: "He who called (people) to righteousness, there would be reward (assured) for him like the rewards of those who adhered to it, without their rewards being diminished in any respect. And he who called (people) to error, he shall have to carry (the burden) of its sin, like those who committed it, without their sins being diminished in any respect.” (Saheeh Muslim - Book 034, Hadith Number 6470)*
2. *Abu Mas'ud al-Ansari reported that a man came to Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) and said: "My riding beast has been killed, so give me an animal to ride upon." He (s.a.w.s.) said: "I don't have any (animal) with me." A man said: "Messenger of Allah, I*

- can guide him to one who will provide him with a riding beast."*
- Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) said: "One who guides to something good has a reward similar to that of its doer." (Saheeh Muslim - Book 020, Hadith Number 4665).*
3. *Mundhir b. Jarir reported on the authority of his father that Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) said: "He who sets a good precedent in Islam, there is a reward for him for this (act of goodness) and also reward of that person who acted according to it subsequently, without any deduction from their rewards; and he who sets in Islam an evil precedent, there is upon him the burden of that, and also the burden of him who acted upon it subsequently, without any deduction from their burden." (Saheeh Muslim - Book 05, Hadith Number 2219).*
4. *Sahl b. Sa'd reported that Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) said to 'Ali on the Day of Khaibar: "By Allah, if Allah guides aright even one person through you that is better for you than to possess the most valuable of the camels." (Saheeh Muslim - Book 05, Hadith Number 5918).*
5. *Abu Huraira (r.a.) reported Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) as saying: "When a man dies, his acts come to an end, but three: recurring charity, or knowledge (by which people) benefit, or a*

pious son, who prays for him (the deceased).” (Saheeh Muslim - Book 013, Hadith Number 4005)

If someone follows any of Islamic acts, he will get the reward of that act as promised in the Quran or Hadith. If someone tells others about any of Islamic acts, he will get the rewards equal to the sum of the rewards of those who learn from him and act upon it. He will get the rewards as many times as they act upon it. If they who learned from him tell others about the Islamic act, he will again get the rewards along with them. Even after death, the rewards will continue to come into the account of the person who taught people any act of Islam as long as people act upon what he taught them of Islam. So, the work of Da’wah and Tableegh is one of the best ways of earning great rewards. Through it, one person can get the rewards equal to the sum of the rewards of many people.

10.5 Excellence of Surah Al-Fatiha

- 1. Abu Huraira reported that Allah’s Messenger (s.a.w.s.) said: “If anyone observes Salaat in which he does not recite Umm Al-Quran, It is deficient [he said this three times] and not complete.” It was said to Abu Huraira: “At times when we are behind the Imam.” He said: “Recite it inwardly, for he had heard Allah’s Messenger (s.a.w.s.) declare that Allah the Exalted had*

said: 'I have divided the Salaat into two halves between Me and My servant, and My servant will receive what he asks. When the servant says: 'Praise be to Allah, the Lord of the universe,' Allah the Most High says: 'My servant has praised me.' And when he (the servant) says: 'The Most Compassionate, the Merciful,' Allah the Most High says: 'My servant has lauded me.' And when he (the servant) says: 'Master of the Day of Judgment,' He remarks: 'My servant has glorified me,' and sometimes He would say: 'My servant entrusted (his affairs) to me.' And when he (the worshipper) says: 'Thee do we worship and Thee do we ask for help,' He (Allah) says: 'This is between Me and My servant, and My servant will receive what he asks for.' Then, when he (the worshipper) says: 'Guide us to the straight path, the path of those to whom Thou hast been Gracious, not of those who have incurred Thy displeasure, nor of those who have gone astray,' He (Allah) says: 'This is for My servant, and My servant will receive what he asks for.'" (Saheeh Muslim - Book 004, Hadith Number 0775)

- 2. Abu Sa'id Khudri reported that some persons amongst the Companions of Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) set out on a journey and they happened to pass by a tribe from the tribes of Arabia. They demanded hospitality from the members of that tribe, but*

they did not extend any hospitality to them. They said to them: "Is there any incantator amongst you, as the chief of the tribe has been stung by a scorpion?" A person amongst us said: "Yes." So he came to him and he practised incantation with the help of Surah al-Fatiha and the person became all right." He was given a flock of sheep (as recompense), but he refused to accept that, saying: "I shall make a mention of it to Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.), and if he approves of it, then I shall accept it." So we came to Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) and made a mention of that to him and he (the companion) said: "Allah's Messenger! By Allah, I did not practice incantation but with Surah al-Fatiha of the Holy Book." He (s.a.w.s.) smiled and said: "How did you come to know that it can be used (as incantation)? Take that and allocate a share for me along with your share." (Saheeh Muslim - Book 026, Hadith Number 5458)

- 3. Ibn 'Abbas reported that while Gabriel was sitting with the Apostle (s.a.w.s.) he heard a creaking sound above him. He lifted his head and said: "This is a gate opened in heaven today which had never been opened before." Then when an angel descended through it, he said: "This is an angel who came down to the earth who had-never come down before." He greeted and said: "Rejoice in two lights given to you which have not been*

given to any prophet before you: Fatiha al-Kitab and the concluding (two) verses of Surah al-Baqara. You will never recite a letter from them, but you will be given.” (Saheeh Muslim - Book 004, Hadith Number 1760)

10.6 Excellence of Surah Baqara

1. *Abu Huraira reported Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) as saying: "Do not make your houses as graveyards. Satan runs away from the house in which Surah Baqara is recited.” (Saheeh Muslim - Book 004, Hadith Number 1707)*
2. *Abu Umama said he heard Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) say: "Recite the Quran, for on the Day of Resurrection, it will come as an intercessor for those who recite It. Recite the two bright ones, Al-Baqara and Surah Al-'Imran, for on the Day of Resurrection they will come as two clouds or two shades, or two flocks of birds in ranks, pleading for those who recite them. Recite Surah al-Baqara, for to take recourse to it is a blessing and to give it up is a cause of grief, and the magicians cannot confront it.” (Saheeh Muslim - Book 004, Hadith Number 1757)*

10.7 Excellence of Aayat Al-Kursi

1. *Ubayy b. Ka'b said that Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) said: "O Abu al-Mundhir, do you know the verse from the Book of Allah which, according to you, is the greatest?" I said: "Allah and His Apostle (s.a.w.s.) know best." He again said: "Abu al-Mundhir, do you know the verse from the Book of Allah which, according to you, is the greatest?" I said: "Allah, there is no god but He, the Living, the Eternal (Aayat Al-Kursi i.e. Surah Baqarah: 255)." Thereupon he struck me on my breast and said: "May knowledge be pleasant for you, O Abu al-Mundhir!" (Saheeh Muslim - Book 004, Hadith Number 1768)*
2. *Narrated by Abu Huraira: "Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) ordered me to guard the Zakat revenue of Ramadan. Then somebody came to me and started stealing of the foodstuff. I caught him and said, 'I will take you to Allah's Apostle.' That person said (to me), 'Please don't take me to Allah's Messenger and I will tell you a few words by which Allah will benefit you. When you go to your bed, recite Aayat al-Kursi (Al-Quran - 2:255). From Allah, there will be a guard who will protect you all night long, and Satan will not be able to come near you till dawn.' (When the Prophet heard the story) he (s.a.w.s.) said (to me), 'He (who came to you at night) told you the truth although he is a liar,*

and it was Satan.’ (Saheeh Bukhari - Volumn 006, Book 061, Hadith Number 530)

10.8 Excellence of Last Two verses of Surah Baqara

- 1. It is narrated on the authority of Abdullah (b. Umar) that when Allah’s Messenger (s.a.w.s.) was taken for the Night journey, he was taken to Sidrat-ul-Muntaha, where terminates everything that ascends from the earth and is held there, and where terminates everything that descends from above it and is held there. Allah’s Messenger (s.a.w.s.) was given three (things): he was given five Salaats, he was given the concluding verses of Sura al-Baqara, and remission of serious Sins for those among his Ummah who do not associate anything with Allah. (Saheeh Muslim - Book 001, Hadith Number 0329)*
- 2. Abu Mas'ud reported Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) as saying: "If somebody recites the last two Verses of Surah Al-Baqara at night, that will be sufficient for him." (Saheeh Bukhari - Volumn 006, Book 061, Hadith Number 530, and Saheeh Muslim - Book 004, Hadith Number 1763)*

10.9 Excellence of the First and Last Ten Verses of Surah Al-Kahf

1. *Abu Darda' reported Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) as saying: "If anyone learns by heart the first (or the last) ten verses of the Surah Al-Kahf, he will be protected from the Dajjal." (Saheeh Muslim - Book 004, Hadith Number 1766)*

10.10 Excellence of Surah Al-Ikhlās

1. *Abu Huraira reported that Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) came out to us and said: "I am going to recite before you one-third of the Quran." He (s.a.w.s.) then recited: "Qul HuwAllahu Ahad (Say: He, Allah, is One.)" to the end of the Surah (i.e. Surah Ikhlas.) (Saheeh Muslim - Book 004, Hadith Number 1772)*
2. *It is reported on the authority of Abu Huraira that Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) said: "Get together, for I am going to recite one-third of the Quran before you." And those, who could get together, gathered there. Then Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) came out and recited: "Qul HuwAllahu Ahad (Say: He, Allah, is One)." He then entered (his house). Some of us said to the others: "Perhaps there has been some news from the heaven on account of which he has gone inside (the house)." Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) again came out and said: "I told you that I was going to recite one-third of the Quran; keep in mind, this*

(Surah Ikhlas) is equivalent to one-third of the Quran." (Saheeh Muslim - Book 004, Hadith Number 1771)

3. *Abu Qatada reported that Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) said: "Allah divided the Quran into three parts, and he made: Qul HuwAllahu Ahad (Say: He, Allah, is One), (i.e. Surah Ikhlas) one part out of the (three) parts of the Quran." (Saheeh Muslim - Book 004, Hadith Number 1770)*
4. *Narrated by Abu Said Al-Khudri that the Prophet (s.a.w.s.) said to his companions: "Is it difficult for any of you to recite one third of the Quran in one night?" This suggestion was difficult for them, so they said: "Who among us has the power to do so, O Allah's Apostle?" Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) replied: "Qul HuwAllahu Ahad (Say: He, Allah, is One), (i.e. Surah Ikhlas) is equal to one third of the Quran." (Saheeh Bukhari - Volumn 006, Book 061, Hadith Number 534)*

Note: *It takes only ten seconds to recite surah Al-Ikhlas (i.e. chapter 112 of the Quran). In ten seconds, you can earn as much virtues as reading the one-third of the Quran. If someone recites surah Al-Ikhlas thrice (which takes only thirty seconds) it is as if he read the whole Quran. If someone recites surah Al-Ikhlas thirty times (which takes only five minutes) it is as if he read the whole Quran 10 times. If someone recites surah Al-Ikhlas sixty times*

(which takes only ten minutes) it is as if he read the whole Quran 20 times. If we spend daily 5 or 10 minutes in reciting just surah Al-Ikhlās, we can earn as much virtues as reading the whole Quran 10 or 20 times respectively. So, why should we not make it our habit, and earn as much virtues as reading the whole Quran 10 or 20 times?

Question: *If we can earn as much virtues as reading the whole Quran by just reciting surah Al-Ikhlās thrice, then what is the use of reading the other chapters of the Quran?*

There are two answers of this question: a) if your intention is only to earn more and more virtues, then reciting surah Al-Ikhlās more and more times is enough for you. If your intention is to learn the Commands and Laws of Allah, to learn Codes of Living, to know what is right and what is wrong, what is good and what is bad for you, and what is beneficial and what is harmful to you, and to get Guidance in all walks of life, then you must read the whole Quran.

b) Different chapters of the Quran have different excellences and reading the whole Quran has its own excellence as mentioned in this book. So to get those excellences, you must read the whole Quran.

5. Narrated by Abu Said Al-Khudri: "A man heard another man reciting Qul HuwAllahu Ahad (Say: He, Allah, is One), (i.e. Surah Ikhlas) repeatedly. The next morning he came to Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) and informed him about it as if he thought that it was not enough to recite. On that Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) said: 'By Him in Whose Hand my life is, this Surah is equal to one-third of the Quran!'" (Saheeh Bukhari - Volumn 006, Book 061, Hadith Number 533)
6. 'Aisha reported: "Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) sent a man in charge of an expedition and he would recite for his Companions during their Salaat, ending (recitation) with Qul HuwAllahu Ahad (Say: He, Allah, is One), (i.e. Surah Ikhlas). When they returned, it was mentioned to Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.). He (s.a.w.s.) told them to ask him why he had done like that. So they asked him and he said: 'Verily, it is an Attribute of the Compassionate One (Allah), and (for this reason) I love to recite it.' Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) thereupon said: 'Inform him that Allah loves him.'" (Saheeh Muslim - Book 004, Hadith Number 1773)

**10.11 Excellence of the Mu'awwazatain (i.e. Surah Al-Falaq
and Surah An-Nas)**

1. *'Uqba b. 'Amir reported that Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) said to me: "There have been sent down to me verses the like of which had never been seen before. They are the Mu'awwazatain (i.e. Surah Al-Falaq and Surah An-Nas)." (Saheeh Muslim - Book 004, Hadith Number 1775)*

11.1 Excellence of Zikr

1. *Abu Huraira reported Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) as saying that Allah, the Exalted and Glorious, thus stated: "I am near the thought of My servant as he thinks about Me, and I am with him when he remembers Me. If he remembers Me in his heart, I remember him in My Heart. If he remembers Me in assembly, I remember him in assembly better than it. And if he draws near Me by the span of a palm, I draw near him by the cubit. If he draws near Me by the cubit, I draw near him by the space (covered by) two hands. And if he walks towards Me, I rush towards him." (Saheeh Muslim - Book 035, Hadith Number 6471, and Saheeh Bukhari)*
2. *Narrated by Abu Musa that the Prophet said: "The example of the one, who celebrates the Praises of his Lord (Allah), in comparison to the one who does not celebrate the Praises of his*

- Lord, is that of a living creature compared to a dead one.”*
(Saheeh Bukhari - Volumn 008, Book 075, Hadith Number 416)
3. *Abu Sa'id Khudri reported that Mu'awiya reported that Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) went out to the circle of his Companions and said: "What makes you sit?" They said: "We are sitting here in order to remember Allah and to praise Him for He guided us to the path of Islam and He conferred favours upon us." Thereupon he took swear in the Name of Allah from them and asked if that only was the purpose of their sitting there. They said: "By Allah, we are not sitting here but for this very purpose." He (s.a.w.s.) said: "I am not asking you to take an oath because of any allegation against you but for the fact that Gabriel came to me and he informed me that Allah, the Exalted and Glorious, was mentioning to the angels about your magnificence." (Saheeh Muslim - Book 035, Hadith Number 6521)*
4. *Abu Huraira reported that Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) was travelling along the path leading to Mecca that he happened to pass by a mountain called Jumdan. He said: "Proceed on, it is Jumdan. Mufarradun have gone ahead." They (the Companions of the Holy Prophet) said: "Allah's Messenger, who are Mufarradun?" He (s.a.w.s.) said: "They are those males and*

females who remember Allah much.” (Saheeh Muslim - Book 035, Hadith Number 6474)

11.2 Excellence of Reciting Sub-haan Allah, Allahu Akbar, and Al-hamdu lillaah

1. *Abu Malik al-Ash'ari reported that Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) said: "Cleanliness is half of Eemaan (faith) and Al-Hamdu Lillaah (Praise be to Allah) fills the scale, and Sub-haan Allah (Glory be to Allah) and Al-Hamdu Lillaah (Praise be to Allah) fill-up what is between the heavens and the earth, and Salaat is a light, and charity is a proof (of one's faith) and endurance is a brightness and the Holy Quran is a proof on your behalf or against you. All men go out early in the morning and sell themselves, thereby setting themselves free or destroying themselves." (Saheeh Muslim - Book 002, Hadith Number 0432)*
2. *Samura b. Jundub reported: "The dearest words to Allah are four: Sub-haan Allah (Glory be to Allah), Al-Hamdu lillaah (Praise be to Allah), Laa ilaaha illallaah (There is no God but Allah), Allahu Akbar (Allah is the Greatest). There is no harm for you in which order you begin (them while remembering Allah)." (Saheeh Muslim - Book 025, Hadith Number 5329)*

3. *Abu Huraira reported Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) as saying:*
"The uttering of (these words): *Sub-haan Allah (Glory be to Allah), Al-Hamdu lillaah (Praise be to Allah), Laa ilaaha illallaah (There is no God but Allah), Allahu Akbar (Allah is the Greatest), is dearer to me than anything over which the sun rises."*
(*Saheeh Muslim - Book 035, Hadith Number 6512*)
4. *Narrated by Abu Huraira that Allah's Apostle said: "Allah has some angels who look for those who celebrate the Praises of Allah on the roads and paths. And when they find some people celebrating the Praises of Allah, they call each other saying: 'Come to the object of your pursuit.'* Then the angels encircle them with their wings up to the sky of the world. (When the angels go back), their Lord asks them though He knows better than them: 'What do My slaves say?' The angels reply: 'They say: *Sub-haan Allah, Allahu Akbar, and Al-hamdu lillaah.'* Allah then says: 'Did they see Me?' The angels reply: 'No! By Allah, they didn't see You.' Allah says: 'What would they have done if they had seen Me?' The angels reply: 'If they had seen You, they would have worshipped You more devoutly and celebrate Your Glory more deeply, and declare Your freedom from any resemblance to anything more often.' Allah says (to the angels): 'What do they ask Me for?' The angels reply: 'They ask You for

Paradise.' Allah says (to the angels): 'Did they see it?' The angels say: 'No! By Allah, O Lord! They did not see it.' Allah says: 'What would they have done if they had seen it?' The angels say: 'If they had seen it, they would have had greater covetousness for it and would have sought it with greater zeal and would have had greater desire for it.' Allah says: 'From what do they seek refuge?' The angels reply: 'They seek refuge from the (Hell) Fire.' Allah says: 'Did they see it?' The angels say: 'No By Allah, O Lord! They did not see it.' Allah says: 'What would they have done if they had seen it?' The angels say: 'If they had seen it they would have fled from it extremely and would have had extreme fear from it.' Then Allah says: 'I make you witnesses that I have forgiven them.' One of the angels would say: 'There was so-and-so amongst them, and he was not one of them, but he had just come for some need.' Allah would say: 'These are those people whose companions will not be reduced to misery.'" (Saheeh Bukhari - Volumn 008, Book 075, Hadith Number 417) In a tradition of Saheeh Muslim, Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) said: "Allah would say: 'I grant pardon to them, and confer upon them what they ask for and grant them protection against which they seek protection.' They (the angels) would again say: 'Our Lord, there is one amongst them such and such

simple servant who happened to pass by (that assembly) and sat there along with them (who had been participating in that assembly). He (the Lord) would say: 'I grant pardon to him also, for they are a people the seat-fellows of whom are in no way unfortunate.'" (Saheeh Muslim - Book 035, Hadith Number 6505)

5. *Abu Huraira reported Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) as saying: "If anyone extols Allah after every Salaat thirty-three times (i.e. says Sub-han Allah), and praises Allah thirty-three times (i.e. says Al-Hamdu lillaah), and declares His Greatness thirty-three times (i.e. says Allahu Akbar) - All these become ninety-nine times. And to complete a hundred says: 'La ilaaha illallaahu wahdahu laa shareeka lahu, lahul-mulk wa lahul-hamd wa huwa 'ala kulli shai'in qadir (There is no God but Allah, the One, having no partner with Him, His is the Sovereignty and all praise is due to Him and He is Powerful over everything)' his sins will be forgiven even if they are as abundant as the foam of the sea. (Saheeh Muslim - Book 004, Hadith Number 1243)*

6. *Narrated by Abu Huraira that the people said: "O Allah's Apostle! The rich people have got the highest degrees of prestige and the permanent pleasures (in this life and the life to come in the Hereafter)." He said: "How is that?" They said: "The rich pray as*

we pray, and strive in Allah's Cause as we do, and spend from their surplus wealth in charity, while we have no wealth (to spend likewise)." He said: "Shall I not tell you a thing, by doing which, you will catch up with those who are ahead of you and supersede those who will come after you, and nobody will be able to do such a good deed as you do except the one who does the same (deed as you do). That deed is to recite 'Sub-haan Allah ten times, and 'Al-Hamdu lillaah ten times, and 'Allahu Akbar' ten times after every Salaat." (Saheeh Bukhari - Volumn 008, Book 075, Hadith Number 341)

7. Narrated by Abu Huraira that the Prophet said: "Charity is obligatory everyday on every joint of a human being." (Saheeh Bukhari - Volumn 004, Book 052, Hadith Number 141)

8. 'Aisha reported Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) as saying: "Every one of the children of Adam has been created with three hundred and sixty joints. So he who declares the Glory of Allah (i.e. who recites Sub-haan Allah), praises Allah (i.e. who recites Al-Hamdu lillaah), declares: 'There is no God but Allah' (i.e. who recites Laa ilaaha illallaahu), Glorifies Allah (i.e. who recites Allahu Akbar), and seeks forgiveness from Allah (i.e. who recites Astaghfirullaaha), and removes stone or thorn or bone from people's path, and enjoins what is good and forbids from evil, to

the number of those three hundred and sixty-four, will walk that day having removed himself from Hell.” (Saheeh Muslim - Book 005, Hadith Number 2199)

9. *Mus'ab b. Sa'd reported that his father told him that he had been in the company of Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) while he (s.a.w.s.) said: "Is one amongst you powerless to get one thousand virtues every day." One amongst those who had been sitting there asked: "How can one amongst us get one thousand virtues every day?" He said: "Recite 'Sub-haan Allah (Glory be to Allah)' one hundred times for (by reciting them) one thousand virtues are recorded (to your credit) and one thousand vices are blotted out." (Saheeh Muslim - Book 035, Hadith Number 6517)*

It takes less than three minutes to recite Sub-haan Allah (Glory be to Allah) one hundred times, Is it not worth spending three minutes to earn one thousand virtues and to erase one thousand vices daily? You can recite Sub-haan Allah (Glory be to Allah) one hundred times while walking, driving, cooking, etc. So, why should we not make it our habit and earn one thousand virtues and erase one thousand vices daily?

10. *Narrated by 'Ali: "Fatima complained about the blisters on her hand because of using a mill-stone. She went to ask the Prophet for servant, but she did not find him (at home) and had to*

inform 'Aisha of her need. When he (s.a.w.s.) came, 'Aisha informed him about it. The Prophet came to us when we had gone to our beds. When I was going to get up, he (s.a.w.s.) said: 'Stay in your places,' and sat between us till I felt the coolness of his (s.a.w.s.) feet on my chest. The Prophet (s.a.w.s.) then said: 'Shall I not tell you of a thing which is better for you than a servant? When you (both) go to your beds, say 'Allahu Akbar' thirty-four times, and 'Sub-haan Allah' thirty-three times, 'Alhamdu lillaah' thirty-three times, for that is better for you than a servant.'" (Saheeh Bukhari - Volumn 008, Book 075, Hadith Number 330)

Zikr of Allah is the best stress-reliever, and it is the best medicine for tiredness.

11.3 Excellence of Reciting....

- 1. Narrated by Abu Huraira that Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) said: "Whoever says: 'La ilaaha illallaahu wahdahu laa shareeka lahu, lahul-mulk wa lahul-hamd wa huwa 'ala kulli shai'in qadir (There is no God but Allah, the One, having no partner with Him, His is the Sovereignty and all praise is due to Him and He is Powerful over everything)' one hundred times will get the same reward as given for manumitting ten slaves; and one hundred good deeds will be written in his accounts, and one hundred sins will be*

deducted from his accounts. It (his saying) will be a shield for him from Satan on that day till night. And nobody will be able to do a better deed except the one who recites more than he." (Saheeh Bukhari - Volumn 008, Book 075, Hadith Number 412, and Saheeh Muslim)

2. *'Amr b. Maimun reported: "He who uttered: 'La ilaaha illal-laahu wahdahu laa shareeka lahu, lahul-mulk wa lahul-hamd wa huwa 'ala kulli shai'in qadir (There is no God but Allah, the One, having no partner with Him, His is the Sovereignty and all praise is due to Him and He is Powerful over everything)' ten times, he is like the one who emancipated four slaves from the progeny of Isma'il."* Rabi' b. Khuthaim narrated a hadith like this. Sha'bi reported: "I said to Rabi': 'From whom did you hear it?' He said: 'From 'Amr b. Maimun.' I came to 'Amr b. Maimun and said to him: 'From whom did you hear this hadith?' He said: 'From Ibn Abi Laila.' I came to Ibn Abi Laila and said to him: 'From whom did you hear this hadith?' He said: 'From Abu Ayyub Ansari, who narrated from Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.).'" (Saheeh Muslim - Book 035, Hadith Number 6510, Saheeh Bukhari)

It takes only 2-3 minutes to recite La ilaha il-lallaahu Wahdahu to the end ten times. The reward is huge that is equal to the reward of emancipating four slaves from the progeny of Isma'il ('Alaihis

Salaam). The reward of emancipating a single slave: The Prophet (s.a.w.s.) said: "Whoever frees a Muslim slave, Allah will save all the parts of his body from the (Hell) Fire as he has freed the body-parts of the slave." (Saheeh Bukhari - Volumn 003, Book 046, Hadith Number 693, and Saheeh Muslim). So why should not we make it our habit, and earn daily as much reward as emancipating four slaves?

11.4 Excellence of Reciting Laa haula walaa quwwata illa billaah

1. Abu Musa reported that Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) said: "Abu Musa or Abdullah b Qais, should I not direct you to the words, (which form) the treasure of Paradise?" I said: "Allah's Messenger, what are these?" He said: "Laa haula walaa quwwata illa billaah (There is no might and no power but from Allah)." (Saheeh Muslim - Book 035, Hadith Number 6528)

11.5 Excellence of Reciting Sub-haan Allahi wa bihamdihi

1. Narrated by Abu Huraira that the Prophet (s.a.w.s.) said: "There are two expressions which are very easy for the tongue to say, but they are very heavy in the balance and are very dear to The Beneficent (Allah), and they are: 'Subhaan Allahil-'Azeem' and

'Subhaan Allahi wa bihamdihi.'" (Saheeh Bukhari - Volumn 008, Book 075, Hadith Number 415)

2. Narrated by Abu Huraira that Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) said: "Whoever says, 'Sub-haan Allahi wa bihamdihi,' one hundred times a day, all his sins will be forgiven even if they were as much as the foam of the sea." (Saheeh Bukhari - Volumn 008, Book 075, Hadith Number 414)

It takes less than five minutes to recite 'Sub-haan Allahi wa bihamdihi' one hundred times, and the reward is our sins will be forgiven. Remember, if all our sins are forgiven, we need just a single virtue to succeed in the Hereafter. Can't we do that much to compensate for our sins? Let us make it one of our habits.

11.6 Excellence of Miscellaneous Invocations

1. Narrated by 'Ubada bin As-Samit that the Prophet: "Whoever gets up at night and says: 'La ilaaha illallaahu Wahdahu la Sharika lahu Lahul-mulk, waLahul-hamd wahuwa 'ala kulli shai'in Qadir. Alhamdu lillaahi wa Sub-haan allaahi wa la ilaaha illallaahu wallaahu akbar wa la haula wala Quwwata illa billaah.'" (None has the right to be worshipped but Allah, He is the Only One and has no partners, For Him is the Kingdom and all the praises are due for Him, He is All-Powerful over every thing. All the praises are for Allah, All the

glories are for Allah, And none has the right to be worshipped but Allah, And Allah is Great And there is neither Might nor Power but from Allah), and then says: Allahummaghfirli (O Allah! Forgive me) or invokes (Allah), he will be responded to and if he performs ablution (and prays), his Salaat will be accepted." (Bukhari - Volumn 002, Book 021, Hadith Number 253)

2. Juwairiya reported that Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) came out from (her apartment) in the morning as she was busy in observing her dawn Salaat in her place of worship. He came back in the forenoon and she was still sitting there. He (the Holy Prophet) said to her: "You have been in the same seat since I left you." She said: "Yes." Thereupon Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) said: "I recited four words three times after I left you and if these are to be weighed against what you have recited since morning these would outweigh them and (these words) are: "'Sub-haan Allahi wa bihamdihi `adada Khalqihi wa ridha nafsihi wa zeenata `arshihi wa midaada kalimaatihi (Glory be to Allah with His praise as much as the number of His creation and as much as the pleasure of His Self and as much as the beauty of His Throne and as much as the ink (used in recording) words (for His Praise)." (Saheeh Muslim - Book 035, Hadith Number 6575)

3. Narrated by Shaddad bin Aus that the Prophet (s.a.w.s.) said: "The most superior way of asking for forgiveness from Allah is: 'Allaahumma anta Rabbi la ilaaha illa Anta, Anta Khalaqtani wa ana 'abduka, wa ana 'ala 'ahdika wa wa'dika mastata'tu, A'udhu bika min Sharri ma sana'tu, abu'u Laka bini'matika 'alaiyya, wa Abu'u Laka bizanbi faghfirli fa innahu laa yaghfiruz zunooba illa Anta.'" The Prophet (s.a.w.s.) added. "If somebody recites it during the day with firm Eemaan (faith) and dies on the same day before the evening, he will be from the people of Paradise; and if somebody recites it at night with firm Eemaan (faith) and dies before the morning, he will be from the people of Paradise." (Saheeh Bukhari - Volumn 008, Book 075, Hadith Number 318)

4. Narrated by Al-Bara' bin 'Azib: "When Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) went to bed, he used to sleep on his right side and then say: "Allaahumma aslamtu nafsi ilaika, wa wajjahtu waj-hi ilaika, wa fauwaztu Amri ilaika, wa alja'tu zahri ilaika, raghbatan wa rahbatan ilaika. La Malja'a wa la manja minka illa ilaika. Amantu bikitabika al-ladhi anzalta wa nabiiyyika al-ladhi arsalta." Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) said: "Whoever recites these words (after ablution before going to sleep at night) and dies the same night, he will die on the Islamic religion (as a Muslim)." (Saheeh Bukhari - Volumn 008, Book 075, Hadith Number 327, and Saheeh Muslim)

5. Abu Huraira reported that Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) said: "He who blesses me once, Allah would bless him ten times." (Saheeh Muslim - Book 004, Hadith Number 0808)

6. Umm Salama, the wife of the Messenger of Allah (s.a.w.s.), reported Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) as saying: "If any servant (of Allah) who suffers a calamity says: 'Innalillaahi wa inna ilaihi raaji'oon Allaahumma aujirni fee museebatee wa akhlifli khairam minha (We belong to Allah and to Him shall we return. O Allah, reward me for my affliction and give me something better than it in exchange for it,)' Allah will give him reward for affliction and would give him something better than it in exchange." (Saheeh Muslim - Book 004, Hadith Number 2000)

7. Khaula bint Hakim Sulamiyya reported that I heard Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) as saying: "When any one of you stays at a place, he should say: 'A'udhu bi kalimaatillaahi Taammati min sharri ma Khalaq (I seek refuge in the Perfect Word of Allah from the evil of that He created,)' nothing would then do him any harm until he moves from that place." Abu Huraira reported that a person came to Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) and said: "Allah's Messenger, I was stung by a scorpion during the night." Thereupon he said: "Had you recited these words in the evening: 'A'udhu bi kalimaatillaahi Taammati min sharri ma Khalaq (I seek refuge in the Perfect Word

of Allah from the evil of that He created,)' it would not have done any harm to you." (Saheeh Muslim - Book 035, Hadith Number 6542)

8. *Abu Dharr reported that Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) said: "There is no believing servant who supplicates for his brother behind his back (in his absence) that the Angels do not say: 'The same be for you too.'* (Saheeh Muslim - Book 035, Hadith Number 6588)

12.1 Excellence of Good Characters

1. *Narrated by Masruq that Abdullah bin 'Amr mentioned Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) saying that he was neither a Fahish nor a Mutafahish. Abdullah bin 'Amr added, Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) said:"The best among you are those who have the best manners and character."* (Saheeh Bukhari - Volumn 008, Book 073, Hadith Number 056B, and Saheeh Muslim)

2. *Narrated by Sahl bin Sa'd that Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) said: "Whoever gives a guarantee to me about (the chastity of) what is between his two jaw-bones and what is between his two legs (i.e. his tongue and his private parts), I guarantee Paradise for him."* (Saheeh Bukhari - Volumn 008, Book 076, Hadith Number 481)

3. *Narrated by Abu Musa that some people asked Allah's Apostle, "Whose Islam is the best? (i.e. who is the best Muslim)?" He (s.a.w.s.) replied: "One who avoids harming the Muslims with his tongue and hands." (Saheeh Bukhari - Volumn 001, Book 02, Hadith Number 010)*
4. *Haritha b. Wahb reported Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) as saying: "May I not inform you about the inmates of Paradise?" (And then informing about them) said: "Every meek person who is considered to be humble and if they were to adjure in the name of Allah, Allah would certainly fulfil it. May I not inform you about the inmates of Hell-Fire? They are all proud, mean and haughty." (Saheeh Muslim - Book 040, Hadith Number 6835)*
5. *Abu Sa'id al-Khudri reported that some people from among the Ansar begged Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) and he gave them. They again begged him and he again gave them, till when what was in his possession was exhausted, he (s.a.w.s.) said: "Whatever good (riches, goods) I have, I will not withhold it from you. He who refrains from begging, Allah safeguards him against want. He who seeks sufficiency, Allah would keep him in a state of sufficiency. He who shows endurance, Allah would grant him power to endure, and none is blessed with an*

- endowment better and greater than endurance.” (Saheeh Muslim - Book 005, Hadith Number 2291)*
6. *'Amr b. al-'As reported Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) as saying: "He is successful who has accepted Islam, who has been provided with sufficient for his want and been made contented by Allah with what He has given him.” (Saheeh Muslim - Book 005, Hadith Number 2293)*
7. *Salim reported on the authority of his father that Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) said: "A Muslim is the brother of a fellow-Muslim. He should neither commit oppression upon him nor ruin him. He who meets the need of a brother, Allah would meet his needs. He who relieved a Muslim from hardship, Allah would relieve him from the hardships of the Day of Resurrection. He who did not expose (the follies of a Muslim,) Allah would conceal his follies on the Day of Resurrection.” (Saheeh Muslim - Book 032, Hadith Number 6250)*
8. *Abu Huraira reported Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) as saying: "Charity does not in any way decrease the wealth. The servant who forgives Allah adds to his respect. And the one who shows humility (for Allah's Sake,) Allah elevates him in the estimation (of the people).” (Saheeh Muslim - Book 032, Hadith Number 6264)*

12.2 Excellence of Truthfulness

1. Narrated by 'Abdullah that the Prophet said: "Truthfulness leads to righteousness, and righteousness leads to Paradise. And a man keeps on telling the truth until he becomes a truthful person. Falsehood leads to Al-Fajur (i.e. wickedness, evil-doing), and Al-Fajur (wickedness) leads to the (Hell) Fire, and a man may keep on telling lies till he is written before Allah, a liar." (Saheeh Bukhari - Volumn 008, Book 073, Hadith Number 056B, and Saheeh Muslim)
2. Narrated by Hakim bin Hizam that the Prophet said: "The buyer and the seller have the option to cancel or to confirm the deal, as long as they have not parted or till they part. If they spoke the truth and told each other the defects of the things, then blessings would be in their deal; and if they hid something and told lies, the blessing of the deal would be lost." (Saheeh Bukhari - Volumn 003, Book 034, Hadith Number 296, and Saheeh Muslim)

12.3 Excellence of Kindness

1. 'Aisha, the wife of the Messenger of Allah (s.a.w.s.), reported that Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) said: "'Aisha, verily Allah is

- kind and He loves kindness and confers upon kindness which he does not confer upon severity and does not confer upon anything else besides it (kindness).” (Saheeh Muslim - Book 032, Hadith Number 6273)*
2. *'Aisha, the wife of the Messenger of Allah (s.a.w.s.), reported Allah’s Messenger (s.a.w.s.) as saying: “Kindness is not found in anything but it adds to its beauty and it is not withdrawn from anything but it makes it defective.” (Saheeh Muslim - Book 032, Hadith Number 6274, and Saheeh Bukhari)*

12.4 Excellence of Removing Harmful Thing from the Path

1. *It is narrated on the authority of Abu Huraira that Allah’s Messenger (may peace and blessings be upon him) said: Faith has over seventy branches or over sixty branches, the most excellent of which is the declaration that there is no God but Allah, and the humblest of which is the, removal of what is injurious from the path: and modesty is the branch of faith.” (Saheeh Muslim - Book 01, Hadith Number 0056, and Saheeh Bukhari)*
2. *Abu Huraira reported Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) as saying: “While a person was going along the path, he found a thorny branch upon it. He pushed it to a side and Allah approved (this*

- action) of him and (as a mark of appreciation) granted him pardon." (Saheeh Muslim - Book 032, Hadith Number 6339, and Saheeh Bukhari)
3. Abu Huraira reported Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) as saying: "A person while walking along the path saw the branches of a tree lying there, He said: 'By Allah, I shall remove these from here, so that these may not do harm to the Muslims.' (Because of this,) He was admitted to Paradise.'" (Saheeh Muslim - Book 032, Hadith Number 6340)
 4. Narrated by Jabir bin 'Abdullah that Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) said: "May Allah's mercy be on him who is lenient in his buying, selling and in demanding back his money." (Saheeh Bukhari - Volumn 003, Book 034, Hadith Number 290)

12.5 Excellence of Giving Respite while Collecting Debts

1. Hudhaifa (r.a.) reported Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) as saying: "A person died and he entered Paradise. It was said to him: 'What (act) did you do?' He said: 'I used to enter into transactions with people and I gave respite to the insolvent and did not show any strictness in case of accepting a coin or

- demanding cash payment.' (For this,) he was granted pardon."*
- Abu Mas'ud said: "I heard this from Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.)." (Saheeh Muslim - Book 010, Hadith Number 3790, and Saheeh Bukhari)*
2. *Abu Huraira (r.a.) reported Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) as saying: "There was a person who gave loans to the people and said to his men: 'When an insolvent comes to you show him leniency that Allah may overlook our (faults).'* So when he met Allah, He overlooked his faults (forgave him)." *(Saheeh Muslim - Book 010, Hadith Number 3793)*
3. *Abdullah b. Abu Qatada reported that Abu Qatada (r.a.) demanded (the payment of his debt) from his debtor but he disappeared. Later on, Abu Qatada found him, and he said: "I am hard up financially," whereupon he said: "(Do you state it) by Allah?" He said: "By Allah." Upon this, he (Abu Qatada) said: "I heard Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) as saying: 'He who loves that Allah saves him from the torments of the Day of Resurrection should give respite to the insolvent or remit (his debt)."* (Saheeh Muslim - Book 010, Hadith Number 3795)

12.6 Excellence of a Muslim Who Observes Patience at the Time of Illness and Injury

1. Narrated by 'Abdullah bin Mas'ud: "I visited Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) while he was suffering from a high fever. I touched him with my hand and said: 'O Allah's Apostle! You have a high fever.' Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) said: 'Yes, I have as much fever as two men of you have.' I said: 'Is it because you will get a double reward?' Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) said: 'Yes, no Muslim is afflicted with harm because of sickness or some other inconvenience, but that Allah will remove his sins for him as a tree sheds its leaves.'" (Saheeh Bukhari - Volumn 007, Book 070, Hadith Number 564, and Saheeh Muslim - Book 032, Hadith Number 6235)
2. Jabir b. Abdullah reported that Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) visited Umm Sa'ib or Umm Musayyib and said: "Umm Sa'ib or Umm Musayyib, why are you shivering?" She said: "It is fever and may it not be blessed by Allah." Whereupon he (the Holy Prophet) said: "Don't curse fever for it expiates the sin of the posterity of Adam just as furnace removes the alloy of iron." (Saheeh Muslim - Book 032, Hadith Number 6244)
3. 'Aisha reported Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) as saying: "A believer does not receive (the trouble) of running a thorn or more than that but Allah elevates him in rank or effaces his sins

- because of that.” (Saheeh Muslim - Book 032, Hadith Number 6238)*
4. *'Aisha reported that I heard Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) as saying: "There is nothing (in the form of trouble) that comes to a believer even if it is the pricking of a thorn, but by Allah, goodness is decreed for him or his sins are obliterated.” (Saheeh Muslim - Book 032, Hadith Number 6241, and Saheeh Bukhari)*
 5. *Narrated by Abu Sa'id Al-Khudri and Abu Huraira that the Prophet (s.a.w.s.) said: "No fatigue, nor disease, nor sorrow, nor sadness, nor hurt, nor distress befalls a Muslim, even if it were the prick he receives from a thorn, but that Allah expiates some of his sins for that." (Saheeh Bukhari - Volumn 007, Book 070, Hadith Number 545, and Saheeh Muslim - Book 032, Hadith Number 6242)*

12.7 Excellence of a Muslim Who Visits the Sick

1. *Abu Rabi' reported directly from Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) as saying: "The one who visits the sick is in fact like the one who is in the fruit-garden of Paradise so long as he does not return.” (Saheeh Muslim – Book 032, Hadith Number 6227)*
2. *Abu Huraira reported Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) as saying: "Verily, Allah, the Exalted and Glorious, would say on the Day of*

*Resurrection: 'O son of Adam, I was sick but you did not visit Me.' The servant would say: 'O my Lord! How could I visit Thee whereas Thou art the Lord of the worlds?' Thereupon Allah would say: 'Didn't you know that such and such servant of Mine was sick, but you did not visit him and **were you not aware of this that if you had visited him, you would have found Me by him?** O son of Adam, I asked food from you but you did not feed Me.' The servant would say: 'My Lord, how could I feed Thee whereas Thou art the Lord of the worlds?' Allah would say: 'Didn't you know that such and such servant of Mine asked food from you, but you did not feed him, **and were you not aware that if you had fed him you would have found him by My side?** (The Lord would again say:) O son of Adam, I asked drink from you but you did not provide Me.' The servant would say: 'My Lord, how could I provide Thee whereas Thou art the Lord of the worlds?' Thereupon Allah would say: 'Such and such of servant of Mine asked you for a drink but you did not provide him, **and had you provided him drink you would have found him near Me.**'" (Saheeh Muslim – Book 032, Hadith Number 6232)*

12.8 Excellence of Freeing a Muslim Slave

1. Narrated by Abu Huraira that the Prophet (s.a.w.s.) said:
"Whoever frees a Muslim slave, Allah will save all the parts of his body from the (Hell) Fire as he has freed the body-parts of the slave." (Saheeh Bukhari - Volumn 003, Book 046, Hadith Number 693, and Saheeh Muslim)

Many innocent Muslims are put behind the bars in Non-Islamic countries. If someone helps such Muslims get bail, he can expect from Allah the same reward as mentioned in this Hadith.

12.9 Excellence of Joining the Tie of relationship

1. 'Aisha reported Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) as saying: "The tie of kinship is suspended to the Throne and says: 'He who unites me, Allah would unite him; and he who severed me, Allah would sever him.'" (Saheeh Muslim - Book 032, Hadith Number 6198)
2. Anas b. Malik reported that I heard Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) as saying: "He, who is eager that his means of sustenance should be expanded for him or his age may be lengthened, should join the tie of relationship." (Saheeh Muslim - Book 032, Hadith Number 6202, and Saheeh Bukhari)
3. Abu Huraira reported that a person said to the Prophet (s.a.w.s.): "Allah's Messenger, I have relatives with whom I try to have close relationship, but they sever (this relation). I treat

them well, but they treat me ill. I am sweet to them but they are harsh towards me." Upon this, he (the Holy Prophet) said: "If it is so as you say, then you in fact throw hot ashes (upon their faces) and there would always remain with you on behalf of Allah (an angel to support you) who would keep you dominant over them so long as you adhere to this (path of righteousness)." (Saheeh Muslim - Book 032, Hadith Number 6204)

12.10 Excellence of Loving mutually for Allah's Sake

- 1. Abu Huraira reported Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) as saying: "Verily. Allah would say on the Day of Resurrection: 'Where are those who have mutual love for My Glory's sake? Today I shall shelter them in My shadow when there is no other shadow but the shadow of Mine.'" (Saheeh Muslim - Book 032, Hadith Number 6225)*
- 2. Abu Huraira reported Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) as saying: "A person visited his brother in another town and Allah deputed an Angel to wait for him on his way. When he (the person) came to him (the angel), he (the angel) said: 'Where do you intend to go?' He said: 'I intend to go to my brother in this town.' the angel said: "Have you done any favour to him (the repayment of which you intend to get)?" He said: "No, excepting this that I*

- love him for the sake of Allah, the Exalted and Glorious."*
- Thereupon the angel said: "I am a Messenger to you from Allah (came to inform you) that Allah loves you as you love him (for His sake.)" (Saheeh Muslim - Book 032, Hadith Number 6226)*
3. *Thauban reported Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) as saying: "Verily, when a Muslim visits his brother in Islam, he is supposed to remain in the fruit garden of Paradise until he returns." (Saheeh Muslim - Book 032, Hadith Number 6229)*

12.11 Excellence of the Person who is Dutiful to His Parents

1. *Narrated by Abdullah bin Mas'ud that I asked Allah's Apostle: "O Allah's Apostle! What is the best deed?" He (s.a.w.s.) replied: "To offer the Salaats at their early stated fixed times." I asked: "What is the next in goodness?" He (s.a.w.s.) replied: "To be good and dutiful to your parents." I further asked: "What is the next in goodness?" He (s.a.w.s.) replied: "To participate in Jihad in Allah's Cause." I did not ask Allah's Messenger anymore and if I had asked him more, he would have told me more. (Saheeh Bukhari - Volumn 004, Book 052, Hadith Number 041, and Saheeh Muslim)*
2. *Yazid b. Abu Habib reported that Na'im, the freed slave of Umm Salama, reported to him that 'Abdullah b. 'Amr b. 'As said:*

"There came to Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) a person and said: 'I owe allegiance to you for migration and Jihad seeking reward only from Allah.' He (the Holy Prophet) said: 'Is one from amongst your parents living?' He said: 'Yes, of course, both are living.' He (s.a.w.s.) further asked: 'Do you want to seek reward from Allah?' He said: 'Yes.' Thereupon Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) said: 'Go back to your parents and accord them with benevolent treatment.'" (Saheeh Muslim - Book 032, Hadith Number 6186)

3. *'Abdullah b. Umar reported Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.s.) as saying: "The finest act of goodness is that a person should treat kindly the loved ones of his father."* (Saheeh Muslim - Book 032, Hadith Number 6193)

The Book Ends Here

Islamic Terms

(s.a.w.s.): Sallallaahu `alaihi wa sallam (May Allah's Mercy and Peace be upon him)

(r.a.): Radhi Allahu `anhu/ha

Salaat: Prayer

Zakaat: obligatory charity.

About the Author

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