

SUMMER IMMERSION

CERTAINTY IN TRANSMISSION



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SESSION 7

Hadith 53: The Trusted Advisor

المستشار مؤتمن

The one who is consulted is entrusted (with a trust).

• Vocabulary & Concepts:

- **مستشار (Mustashār):** Advisor, one whose counsel is sought. This is the Ism al-Maf'ul (objective noun). It can refer to someone in an official capacity or someone asked for advice informally, like a friend.
- **مستشير (Mustashīr):** The Ism al-Fa'il (subjective noun), meaning the one who seeks counsel.
- **استشار (Istishāra):** To seek counsel.
- **مشورة (Mashūra) / شورة (Shūra):** Consultation, derived from the same root.
- **أمانة (Amānah):** Trust, safekeeping. The word is derived from aman (to be safe and secure).
- **إِئْتَمَانَ (I'tamana):** To entrust someone with something.
- **مؤتمن (Mu'taman):** One who has been entrusted with something.

• Explanation:

- Seeking advice (mashwara/shura) is a very important concept in Islam.

- Allah describes believers:

وَأَمْرُهُمْ شُورًا بَيْنَهُمْ

Their affairs are decided by consultation among themselves. (Qur'an 42:38)

- The Prophet ﷺ was instructed to consult his companions:

وَشَاوِرْهُمْ فِي الْأَمْرِ

And consult them in the matter. (Qur'an 3:159)

- ****Istikhāra:**** Seeking goodness (khair) from Allah in personal matters. The outcome of Istikhara can manifest as the matter becoming easy and facilitated, one option becoming accessible while others drift away, or a strong inclination and contentment in the heart towards a particular choice.
- **Etiquettes of Seeking Counsel:**
 - Go only to a well-wisher who has no vested interest, not someone with a conflict of interest or who is competing with you.
 - Seek advice from someone knowledgeable and experienced in the relevant field. For example, for a career path, consult someone who knows that field.
 - Accept advice sincerely; do not try to manipulate the advisor to say what you want to hear. If you are genuinely seeking advice, take it, even if you ultimately choose not to act upon it.
 - Avoid "shopping around" excessively for advice from multiple people, as this can lead to confusion and devalues the advice given. An anecdote illustrates this: a youngster who sought advice from several prominent sheikhs about his life's direction was eventually told to stop, as they couldn't advise him without knowing him well or having a strong rapport, and giving advice is a serious matter.

- **Etiquettes for the Advisor:**

- Keep the conversation private; confidentiality is a crucial part of the trust (amanah).
- Only advise on matters you know about or have experience with. Do not speak without sufficient knowledge, as if giving a fatwa. Before advising, consider if you can answer to Allah for your advice. If you don't know enough, clearly and plainly state that you are not the right person for this, as it is the wise thing to do. Giving advice without knowledge, sometimes driven by ego, can cause trouble for others and oneself.
- Always advise in the best interest of the seeker; avoid betrayal (khiyānah). For example, if advising on a business venture, do not discourage someone due to a personal conflict of interest (e.g., not wanting a competitor).
- If you are genuinely unable to give helpful advice, honestly admit your lack of knowledge or experience rather than speaking without basis.

- **Benefit:**

- Guiding someone to good earns the advisor a share in the reward.

Hadith: Save Yourself from the Fire

فَتَّقُوا النَّارَ وَلَوْ بِشِقِّ تَمْرٍ

- *Save yourselves from the Fire, even if it is with half a date (in charity).*

- **Explanation:**

- On the Day of Judgment, there will be no interpreter between Allah and His servant, and each person will face their deeds directly. This will be a frightening moment.

- **Arabic:**

- "فَيَنْظُرُ إِلَى أَيَّمَنَ مِنْهُ ... فَلَا يَرَى إِلَّا مَا قَدَّمَ"
 ■ He will look to his right... and see only what he has done.

- "وَيَنْظُرُ إِلَىٰ أَشْأَمٍ مِنْهُ ... فَلَا يَرَىٰ إِلَّا مَا قَدَّمَ"
 ■ *He will look to his left... and see only what he has done.*
- "وَيَنْظُرُ تِلْقَاءَ وَجْهِ ... فَلَا يَرَىٰ إِلَّا النَّارَ"
 ■ *He will look ahead... and see only the Fire.*
- Even small acts of charity, like half a date, can save a person from Hellfire. If you have only a little change, give sadaqah now, as it could be your salvation.
- Take advantage of every opportunity to do good, even in "dead time" or moments of inactivity, such as during commutes, waiting, or while doing chores at home. Use these times for dhikr (remembrance of Allah), reading Quran, or learning a new dua.
- Example: If you arrive at the mosque and the imam is already in sajdah, join him immediately in sajdah even if you've missed the rak'ah. Don't miss that one sajdah, as it could be the one that brings Allah's forgiveness and mercy.
- The righteous predecessors (salaf) were extremely diligent about not letting opportunities for good deeds go. They would spend and do amal whenever possible. They taught their students not to coddle themselves, as there is never a "perfect time" to do good; one should do whatever they can with the time they have. An anecdote recounts Shaykh Muhammad Zakariya telling a student with a headache that he reads with his mouth, not his head, implying he should continue reading Quran.

Hadith: Loud Dhikr and the Treasure of Jannah

- ****Context:**** This Hadith is part of a lengthier Hadith in Sahih Muslim. The Prophet ﷺ was traveling with companions who were saying takbeer very loudly when ascending slopes and subhanAllah when descending.

- **Arabic:**

- "يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ ارْزُقُوا عَلَى أَنْفُسِكُمْ"
- O people, take it easy on yourselves.
- "إِنَّمَا تَدْعُونَ سَمِيعًا قَرِيبًا"
- You are calling upon a Hearing, Near Lord.
- "لَا حَوْلَ وَلَا قُوَّةَ إِلَّا بِاللَّهِ كُنُوزُ الْجَنَّةِ"
- There is no power nor strength except with Allah – a treasure from the treasures of Paradise.

- **Vocabulary & Explanation:**

- ****حَوْلَ (Hawl):****Lexically means movement and planning. It also means the ability to avert or remove harm.
- ****قُوَّةَ (Quwwa):****Strength, power. It also means the ability to bring benefit.
- **Meaning of "لَا حَوْلَ وَلَا قُوَّةَ إِلَّا بِاللَّهِ":**
 - There is no ability to plan anything, nor any strength to execute anything, but from Allah.
 - There is no ability to remove harm, nor any power to bring benefit, but from Allah.
 - (Most common interpretation) There is no ability to abstain from sin (ma'siyah), nor any power to do good, but from Allah.
 - This kalima is beloved to Allah because it expresses complete submission and reliance on Him. It is an appeal to Allah for strength to abstain from evil and do good deeds.
- ****Benefits:****It is a means to drive away shayṭān and waswasa (whispers). When one directs attention to Allah and acknowledges that they cannot do good or abstain from evil without His help, shayṭān cannot do anything.
- ****Reward:****The reward for saying it is immense, a "massive treasure" that a person will discover in Jannah.

- ****Practical Sunnah:****Say "Allahu Akbar" when ascending (e.g., stairs, plane taking off) and "SubhanAllah" when descending (e.g., stairs, plane coming down).

Hadith 56: Poetry and Its Place in Islam

لأن يمتلئ جوف أحدكم قبحاً خير له من أن يمتلئ شعراً

- *For one of you to have his belly filled with pus is better than to have it filled with poetry.*
- This Hadith was narrated after the Prophet ﷺ encountered a person reciting couplets and instructed his companions to quiet him down. The condemnation of poetry in this Hadith is for two main reasons:
 - ****Poetry with indecent themes:****This refers to poetry that goes against high morals, character, ethics, or Islamic beliefs and values.
 - ****Excessive preoccupation:****When poetry becomes so consuming that it distracts a person from necessary religious knowledge (ilm al-deen), such as praying salah, reading Quran, doing dhikr of Allah, or fulfilling their duties and obligations in life.
- ****Permissible Poetry:****Poetry that praises Allah, the Prophet ﷺ, or has good themes (e.g., about the Hereafter, Jannah, the grandeur of Islam, the greatness of the Sahaba) is permissible.
 - The Prophet ﷺ himself used to listen to the poetry of Hassan ibn Thabit, who would recite his poetry in the masjid, praising Allah and His Messenger.
 - Abdullah ibn Rawaha (r.a.) recited poetry praising the Prophet ﷺ and warning the mushrikeen during the Umrah al-Qadah, and the Prophet ﷺ affirmed its impact, saying it stung them more than arrows.

- ****Condemned Songs:**** Many scholars use these ahadith to address modern songs, as their themes are often indecent, inciting people to fulfill desires and lust unlawfully, promoting vulgarity, indecency, and recklessness, and leading to a loss of haya (modesty/integrity). Such songs can invite towards violence, crime, drugs, and alcohol. A Hadith states that an angel accompanies a person reciting Quran while traveling, but a shaytan accompanies one reciting (condemned) poetry. Listening to such poetry is sinful, drives away angels, and brings shayateen.
- ****Balance:**** Even good poetry should not distract a person from the ilm of Quran, Hadith, or other religious obligations.

Final Reflections

- The study of these ahadith teaches the importance of trust, sincerity, and integrity in seeking and giving advice, emphasizing that it is a serious amanah.
- Small deeds, even half a date in charity, can be the means of salvation, highlighting the importance of seizing every opportunity for good.
- Reliance on Allah is central; "لا حول ولا قوة إلا بالله" is a powerful reminder of human weakness and Allah's ultimate power, serving as a treasure for the believer.
- Poetry is only condemned when it distracts from deen or promotes indecency; good poetry that praises Allah and Islam is encouraged.
- We are encouraged to continue to study, memorize, and practice the teachings of the Prophet ﷺ, and to share them with others.
- May Allah accept our efforts, grant us benefit, and allow us to be among those who receive the Prophet's ﷺ intercession and access to Hawth al-Kawthar on the Day of Judgment.