

## THE FRUITS OF FAITH

**Belief** contains a number of benefits. If ignoring all other things, we merely single out one of them viz. the pleasure of Allah, we can safely consider it to be the greatest bounty of Allah, as, a believer does not need anything more if his Allah is pleased with him in this world and in the world hereafter.

**But** no! In this world, the believers alone are the true men of Allah. They are the friends and beloved of Allah. Allah, constantly, rewards them by showering his beneficence and blessings over them. For a believer, his faith is the wellspring of all good and the source of all well-being. Whatever follows is an elaboration upon this theme.

**Allah is the Defender of the Believers:** For the direction and guidance of the mankind, Allah the Almighty started to send a chain of his messengers and apostles. All apostles called their respective people to submission to Allah and to obedience of His commands. Some people accepted their call and others rejected it. Allah redeemed those, who believed and destroyed the disbelievers. For instance, Allah saved Hadrat Nuh (*Alaihis Salam*) from the deluge and drowned the disbelievers. Similarly, Hadrat Ibrahim (*Alaihis Salam*) was saved from fire. Likewise, Allah facilitated the passage of Hadrat Musa (*Alaihis Salam*) and his followers, across the sea, but drowned Pharaoh and his army, which had followed them.

**According** to a tradition, recorded by Bukhari and Muslim, there was a man of Allah from Bani Israil named Juraij. He lived in a hermitage of his own praying all the time to Allah. He became famous for his piety, purity, devotion to Allah, honesty and chastity. Once a beautiful prostitute, enticed him to have sexual intercourse with her and every time she made an attempt for sexual intercourse with him, he rebuffed her. Feeling humiliated, she thought of plotting something to defame and malign him. With this objective, she had sexual intercourse with a shepherd living near the hermitage of Juraij and got conceived of him. When a baby boy was born to her, she told the people that it was the child of Juraij. The people became furious and turned against him. They beat him, destroyed his hermitage and intended to kill him for adultery.

**However**, Juraij was a believer in the real sense of the term. He was innocent and he had full faith and confidence in Allah. So he asked the people to let him pray for a while. He performed his prayer and invoked Allah. Thereafter, he

asked them to bring the infant to him. When the infant was brought to him, he tapped on his stomach and asked: Tell me O babe, who is your father. The infant replied such and such shepherd is my father. The people then learnt the truth and repented for their ill-treatment of him. They asked him for his forgiveness and promised to rebuild his hermitage with gold. He forgave them but said there was no need of rebuilding it with gold. It may be rebuilt with mud as it was originally.

**Thus** if a believer is upright and steadfast in his way then Allah will protect the believer and defend him unseen. Allah has pronounced in the holy Quran:

﴿إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَدْفَعُ عَنِ الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا ۖ وَالَّذِينَ هُمْ يَكْفُرُونَ﴾ **الحج: ٣٨**

(Translation of meaning) [*“Lo! Allah defendeth those who are true” (Al-Hajj: 38)*].

Allah comes to the aid of the believers in this world and the world hereafter, as He has promised:

﴿إِنَّا لَنَنْصُرُ رُسُلَنَا وَالَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا فِي الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا وَيَوْمَ يَقُومُ الْأَشْهَادُ﴾ **غافر: ٥١**

(Translation of meaning) [*“Lo! We verily do help Our messengers and those who believe, in the life of the world and on the day when the witnesses arise” (Ghafir: 51)*].

**Allah** the Almighty has further said that the angels keep on seeking forgiveness for the believers:

﴿الَّذِينَ يَحْمِلُونَ الْعَرْشَ وَمَنْ حَوْلَهُ يُسَبِّحُونَ بِحَمْدِ رَبِّهِمْ وَيُؤْمِنُونَ بِهِ وَيَسْتَغْفِرُونَ لِلَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا ۗ﴾ **غافر: ٧**

(Translation of meaning) [*“Those who bear the Throne, and all who are round about it, hymn the praises of their Lord and believe in Him and ask forgiveness for those who believe (Ghafir: 7)*].

**The** Messenger of Allah (*sallAllahu ‘alayhi wa sallam*) said:

" مَا مِنْ يَوْمٍ يُصْبِحُ الْعِبَادُ فِيهِ، إِلَّا مَلَكَانِ يَنْزِلَانِ، فَيَقُولُ أَحَدُهُمَا: اللَّهُمَّ أَعْطِ مُنْفِقًا خَلَفًا، وَيَقُولُ الْآخَرُ: اللَّهُمَّ أَعْطِ مُمْسِكًا تَلَفًا " (متفق عليه)

(Translation of meaning) “So long as a believer keeps on praying, at the dawn, two angels descend from the heaven. One of them says: O my God grant to the spender his good return and the other says: O my God return to the miser only loss”. He added that

" الْمَلَائِكَةُ تُصَلِّي عَلَى أَحَدِكُمْ مَا دَامَ فِي مُصَلَّاهُ الَّذِي صَلَّى فِيهِ، مَا لَمْ يُحْدِثْ، تَقُولُ: اللَّهُمَّ اغْفِرْ لَهُ، اللَّهُمَّ ارْحَمْهُ " (البخاري).

(Translation of meaning): O long as one of you remains on his seat after performing his *salat* the angels keep on praying for him and seeking His peace and mercy for him (Al-Bukhari).

**Faith Makes the Man Dependent on Divine Will:** A believer knows very well, that, whatever, happens in this world happens only by the divine Will. Whatever a man gets, whether, more or less, or good or bad, everything is ordained by Allah the Almighty. Whatever Allah has predetermined is bound to happen and nobody can ward off whatever has been settled by him. As a result of his faith, a believer is always dependent on the will of Allah and satisfied with it. The Messenger of Allah (*sallAllahu ‘alayhi wa sallam*) said:

«عَجَبًا لِأَمْرِ الْمُؤْمِنِ، إِنَّ أَمْرَهُ كُلَّهُ خَيْرٌ، وَلَيْسَ ذَاكَ لِأَحَدٍ إِلَّا لِلْمُؤْمِنِ، إِنْ أَصَابَتْهُ سَرَاءٌ شَكَرَ، فَكَانَ خَيْرًا لَهُ، وَإِنْ أَصَابَتْهُ ضَرَاءٌ، صَبَرَ فَكَانَ خَيْرًا لَهُ» (مسلم)

(Translation of meaning) “The case of a believer is amazing. It is an all round blessing for him. And this cannot be true except in the case of a believer. If he is met with affluence, he is grateful and if he is met with penury, it is still good for him [as he suffers it gracefully] (Muslim). Hadrat Hasan Basri (*Rahimahullah*) said: I am convinced that whatever livelihood Allah has determined for me nobody can take it of me and therefore, I am all content. And I am also convinced that nobody else can discharge my obligations, therefore, I devote myself wholeheartedly to discharging them.

**Faith is a Guarantee of Success:** Allah has proclaimed:

﴿إِنَّ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ كَانَتْ لَهُمْ جَنَّاتُ الْفِرْدَوْسِ نُزُلًا ۖ﴾ **الكهف: ١٠٧**

(Translation of meaning) [“Lo! Those who believe and do good work, theirs are the Gardens of Paradise for welcome” (*Kahf: 107*)].

**According** to a tradition of the Messenger of Allah (*sallAllahu ‘alayhi wa sallam*), Allah has proclaimed that:

«أَعَدَدْتُ لِعِبَادِي الصَّالِحِينَ مَا لَا عَيْنٌ رَأَتْ، وَلَا أُذُنٌ سَمِعَتْ، وَلَا خَطَرَ عَلَى قَلْبِ بَشَرٍ، فَاقْرَءُوا إِن شِئْتُمْ فَلَا تَعْلَمُ نَفْسٌ مَا أُخْفِيَ لَهُمْ مِنْ قُرَّةِ أَعْيُنٍ» (متفق عليه)

(Translation of meaning) I have prepared for my upright slaves what no eye could see and no ear could hear and no heart could imagine. If you so wish you may recite this *Ayat*: فَلَا تَعْلَمُ نَفْسٌ مَا أُخْفِيَ لَهُمْ مِنْ قُرَّةِ أَعْيُنٍ (Translation of meaning) [“So nobody knows what [God Almighty] has concealed for them of the coolness of eyes”] (Al-Bukhari & Muslim).

**Faith Begets Security:** Hadrat Abdullah Ibn Abbas (*RadhiAllahu Anhu*) was a child when the Messenger of Allah (*sallAllahu ‘alayhi wa sallam*) caught his hand and told him:

«يَا غُلَامُ إِنِّي أَعَلَّمُكَ كَلِمَاتٍ، احْفَظِ اللَّهَ يَحْفَظَكَ، احْفَظِ اللَّهَ تَجِدْهُ تُجَاهَكَ، إِذَا سَأَلْتَ فَاسْأَلِ اللَّهَ، وَإِذَا اسْتَعْنَيْتَ فَاسْتَعِنْ بِاللَّهِ، وَاعْلَمْ أَنَّ الْأُمَّةَ لَوْ اجْتَمَعَتْ عَلَى أَنْ يَنْفَعُوكَ بِشَيْءٍ لَمْ يَنْفَعُوكَ إِلَّا بِشَيْءٍ قَدْ كَتَبَهُ اللَّهُ لَكَ، وَلَوْ اجْتَمَعُوا عَلَى أَنْ يَضُرُّوكَ بِشَيْءٍ لَمْ يَضُرُّوكَ إِلَّا بِشَيْءٍ قَدْ كَتَبَهُ اللَّهُ عَلَيْكَ، رُفِعَتِ الْأَقْلَامُ وَجَفَّتِ الصُّحُفُ» (الترمذي).

(Translation of meaning) O my child I teach you certain words of Allah. Remember Allah, Allah will remember you. Invoke Allah and you will always find him with you. If you have to beg, beg only from Allah. If you need any succour seek succour only from Him. Believe it firmly that if all the people together plan to do something good to you they cannot except what Allah wills. The pens have been withdrawn and the books have dried up [meaning that everything has been predetermined and settled that and nothing can be changed] (Tirmizi).

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