

True

Hope

PodSeries - Vol 25

Shaykh

Pod

BOOKS

Achieve Noble Character

True Hope

PodSeries, Volume 25

ShaykhPod Books

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TRUE HOPE

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All praises are for Allah, the Exalted, Lord of the worlds, who has given us the inspiration, opportunity and strength to complete this volume. Blessings and peace be upon the Holy Prophet Muhammad whose path has been chosen by Allah, the Exalted, for the salvation of mankind.

We would like to express our deepest appreciation to the entire ShaykhPod family, especially our little star, Yusuf, whose continued support and advice has inspired the development of ShaykhPod Books.

We pray that Allah, the Exalted, completes His favour on us and accepts each letter of this book in His august court and allows it to testify on our behalf on the Last Day.

All praise to Allah, the Exalted, Lord of the worlds and endless blessings and peace be upon the Holy Prophet Muhammad, on his blessed Household and Companions, may Allah be pleased with them all.

Compiler's Notes

We have tried diligently to do justice in this volume however if there are any short falls found then the compiler is personally and solely responsible for them.

We accept the possibility of faults and shortcomings in an effort to complete such a difficult task. We might have unconsciously stumbled and committed errors for which we ask for indulgence and forgiveness of our readers and the drawing of our attention thereto will be appreciated. We earnestly invite constructive suggestions which can be made to ShaykhPod.Books@gmail.com.

Introduction

The following book will discuss an important aspect of Noble Character namely, hope in Allah, the Exalted.

According to the Hadith found in Jami At Tirmidhi, number 2003, the Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, has advised that the heaviest thing in the Scales of Judgment Day will be Noble Character. It is one of qualities of the Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, which Allah, the Exalted, complimented in Chapter 68 Al Qalam, Verse 4 of the Holy Quran:

“And indeed, you are of a great moral character.”

Therefore, it is a duty on all Muslims to gain and act on the teachings of the Holy Quran and the traditions of the Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, in order to Achieve Noble Character.

True Hope in Allah, the Exalted

One should always rely on the infinite mercy of Allah, the Exalted, as losing hope in it leads to unbelief. Chapter 12 Yusuf, verse 87:

“...Indeed, no one despairs of relief from Allah except the disbelieving people.”

Unfortunately, many muslims nowadays place all their hope in worldly people and due to this they always face disappointment. But if they only turned to Allah, the Exalted, through sincere obedience, which involves fulfilling His commands, refraining from His prohibitions and facing destiny with patience then they would never be disappointed. When one hopes in Allah, the Exalted, He blesses the person with independence from people. Chapter 33 Al Ahzab, verse 3:

“And rely upon Allah; and sufficient is Allah as Disposer of affairs.”

When one gains the support of someone in authority they feel secure from potential threats. But if one secures the support of Allah, the Exalted, through sincere obedience then they gain security from every possible threat in both worlds. This is the key to success and peace of mind in this world and in the next.

Unfortunately, many try to take advantage of the mercy of Allah, the Exalted. They avoid struggling for righteous deeds and instead expect Allah, the Exalted, to shower them with mercy. This is not true hope it is in fact only wishful thinking and this attitude disrespects Allah, the Exalted. One needs to struggle and work towards pleasing Allah, the Exalted, in order to trigger the

descent of His mercy. For example, some believe that as Allah, the Exalted, is All Forgiving it gives them a license to commit sins and simply hope Allah, the Exalted, will forgive them. True hope is when one sows the seeds of good deeds and struggles against sins and then believes Allah, the Exalted, will forgive them. The former are those who have been deceived by the world and the Devil. Chapter 35 Fatir, verse 5:

“O mankind, indeed the promise of Allah is truth, so let not the worldly life delude you and be not deceived about Allah by the Deceiver [i.e., Satan].”

One would never commit a sin in front of a pious person even if they are very forgiving and merciful to others so how can one possibly believe committing sins while assuming Allah, the Exalted, will forgive them be correct? This mentality only mocks Allah, the Exalted, and Islamic teachings. Those who falsely believe this are the same misguided people who fail to show the same level of trust in the mercy of Allah, the Exalted, in other aspects of their lives. For example, instead of trusting in the promise of Allah, the Exalted, in respect to their provision they instead turn to the prohibited. It is amazing how they rely on the forgiveness of Allah, the Exalted, but not on His mercy in other aspects of their lives.

One should never lose hope in the infinite mercy of Allah, the Exalted, irrespective of the magnitude of their sins. No matter how many sins one commits they are limited whereas the mercy of Allah, the Exalted, is infinite. The limited can never overcome the unlimited.

The Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, once advised in a Hadith found in Sahih Muslim, number 6974, that Allah, the Exalted, created one hundred parts of mercy and spread only one part onto this Earth amongst the creation. This single part is the reason the creation are merciful to one another. One can observe this part even in dangerous wild animals that protect and feed their offspring. On Judgment Day Allah, the

Exalted, will reunite this one part with the other ninety nine parts and spread it all over the believers.

Due to someone's physical and social weakness if their rights are taken from them they should not lose hope and become depressed. They should instead turn to Allah, the Exalted, in sincere obedience and truly believe that He will do justice, sooner or later. A muslim should have more faith in the legal system setup by Allah, the Exalted, over the legal system of this world. Criminals may escape a worldly legal system but they will not be able to escape the justice of Allah, the Exalted. Chapter 32 As Sajdah, verse 12:

"If you could but see when the criminals are hanging their heads before their Lord, [saying], "Our Lord, we have seen and heard, so return us [to the world]; we will work righteousness. Indeed, we are [now] certain."

A successful muslim will never lose faith in this perfect legal system and therefore remain patient.

If muslims accept Allah, the Exalted, as the Lord and Cherisher of the universe then why do they pursue worldly solutions and people beyond the normal means? Muslims should beg from His door through sincere obedience instead of placing hope in the creation that are dependent on His power also. When muslims rely and place their hopes in people Allah, the Exalted, leaves their management to them. Why would He help if a muslim places their hope in other than Him? But if they placed hope in Allah, the Exalted, through sincere obedience then He would certainly help them. Chapter 30 Ar Rum, verse 47:

"...and incumbent upon Us was support of the believers."

One should never lose hope in the mercy and forgiveness of Allah, the Exalted, but in order to obtain these blessings one must struggle for them by resisting their evil desires and instead turn to Allah, the Exalted, in sincere obedience. The mercy of Allah, the Exalted, is always prepared to encompass a muslim. The harder a muslim struggles for it the greater it rushes towards them. But this positive and merciful reaction requires effort. The same way one cannot obtain anything from the material world without effort they can only obtain the mercy of Allah, the Exalted, when they struggle to obey Him in every aspect of their life. A muslim only needs to make the first step towards Allah, the Exalted, and they will observe how His mercy overcomes them in every moment of their life. This is why the Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, advised in a Hadith found in Jami At Tirmidhi, number 3540, that when a muslim hopes and struggles for the mercy of Allah, the Exalted, He will forgive them even if their sins filled the space between the Heavens and the Earth.

A balance between fear of punishment and hope in the mercy of Allah, the Exalted, is required. When a muslim adopts one and abandons the other it will always spell disaster. When one drowns themselves in fear of Allah, the Exalted, it will lead them to lose hope in Allah, the Exalted, which can lead to unbelief. Chapter 12 Yusuf, verse 87:

"...Indeed, no one despairs of relief from Allah except the disbelieving people."

The Devil uses this extreme mentality to persuade a muslim not to turn back to Allah, the Exalted, in sincere repentance as their sins are too great. If the Devil is successful then the muslim continues plunging deeper in the ocean of sins which will eventually destroy them.

As the intensity of one's faith fluctuates one should lean towards fear or hope in order to maintain themselves in equilibrium and on the correct path. For

example, when one is facing misfortune they should turn to hope by believing their hardship will eventually turn to a time of ease. Conversely, when they are facing good fortune they should turn to fear. They should not become heedless to their sins just because they have been blessed and hence turn to Allah, the Exalted, with gratitude and sincere repentance for their past sins. It is advised that muslims should lean towards fear when they are healthy and lean towards hope when they are ill or close to death. Fear is preferred during times of health as it prevents sins which is better than performing voluntary good deeds which hope inspires. Hope is preferred during illness and especially, at the time of death as this has been commanded by the Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, in a Hadith found in Sahih Muslim, number 7229.

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