

NEWSLETTER

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Planting the Seed of Piety

As we draw closer to the blessed month of Ramaḍān - a month in which the hearts are softened, the soul is disciplined, and taqwā becomes the central goal - it is helpful to reflect on the lives of those who embodied deep awareness of Allāh ﷻ. Their examples remind us that taqwā does not suddenly appear; it begins with small, consistent practices that slowly shape the heart.

One such example is the inspiring story of Sahl ibn Abdullāh al-Tustarī (RA), a renowned saint born in Tustar around 200 AH and who passed away in Basrah in 283 AH. Although he benefitted from the companionship of Zunnūn al-Miṣrī (RA), the foundation of his spiritual life was laid by his maternal uncle, Muḥammad ibn Sawwār (RA). Sahl (RA) narrates:

"One day, my uncle said to me: 'Why do you not remember Allāh ﷻ who created you?' I replied: 'How should I remember Him?' He said: 'When you lie down to sleep, say quietly in your heart, without moving your tongue:

Allāh ﷻ is with me.

Allāh ﷻ is watching me.

Allāh ﷻ is witness to everything I do.

Say it three times."

Sahl (RA) practised this regularly. When he told his uncle, the number was raised to seven times, then eleven, until eventually, as he continued with discipline, the sweetness of the remembrance of Allāh ﷻ settled firmly into his heart.

After a year, his uncle told him: "Hold firmly to this practice until you enter your grave. It will benefit you in this world and the next." Sahl (RA) remained steadfast on it throughout his life.

His uncle later said to him: "O Sahl! When a person knows that Allāh ﷻ is with him, watching him, and witnessing everything he does - how can he dare to disobey Allāh ﷻ? O Sahl, stay far away from every sin."

(Wafayāt al-A'yān, 2/429-430)

Reference: Rays of Radiance, vol. 2, p. 20-21. Adapted from Wafayāt al-A'yān, 2/429-430

100 ways to enter Jannah (91-95)

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Assembly of the Early Muslims in Dār al-Arqam and the Open Proclamation of Islam

As Islam slowly began to grow, a small but committed group of believers emerged in Makkah. To protect them from persecution and to allow them to learn directly from Rasūlullāh ﷺ, it was decided that they should gather in the home of Arqam (RA).

Arqam (RA) was among the earliest Muslims - reports mention that he was either the seventh or the tenth person to accept Islam. His house stood at the foot of Mount Şafā, making it an ideal and discreet location for the Muslims to meet. For many years, until the Islam of ‘Umar (RA), Rasūlullāh ﷺ and the Şahābah (RA) would regularly assemble and study Islam in this blessed house. After ‘Umar (RA) accepted Islam, the Muslims grew in strength and confidence, allowing them to gather more openly in places of their choice.

For the first three years, Rasūlullāh ﷺ continued to invite people to Islam quietly and individually. During this time, people accepted Islam gradually, and the number of believers continued to grow. After these three years passed, Rasūlullāh ﷺ received the command from Allāh ﷻ to deliver the message openly. Allāh ﷻ revealed:

فَاصْدَعْ بِمَا تُؤْمَرُ وَأَعْرِضْ عَنِ الْمُشْرِكِينَ

“Therefore proclaim openly what you have been commanded, and turn away from the disbelievers.” (Sūrah al-Ḥijr: 94)

Allāh ﷻ also commanded:

وَأَنْذِرْ عَشِيرَتَكَ الْأَقْرَبِينَ

“And warn your close relatives.” (Sūrah al-Shu‘arā’: 214)

And:

فَقُلْ إِنِّي نَذِيرٌ مُبِينٌ

“Say: Indeed, I am a clear warner.” (Sūrah al-Ḥijr: 89)

After receiving the command to invite openly, Rasūlullāh ﷺ ascended Mount Şafā and called out to the people of Quraysh, mentioning each tribe by name. When they gathered around him, he asked: “If I were to warn you of an enemy army coming from behind this mountain, ready to attack you, would you believe me?” They responded together: “Certainly! We have only ever known you to be truthful and trustworthy.” Rasūlullāh ﷺ then said: “I am warning you of a severe punishment that may come upon you if you reject the message I convey from Allāh ﷻ.”

At this, Abū Lahab shouted angrily: “May you be ruined! Is this why you gathered us here?” Because of his harsh rejection, Allāh ﷻ revealed Sūrah Lahab, condemning Abū Lahab and declaring his ultimate loss. This entire Sūrah was revealed in connection with this incident.

Reference: Muḥammad Idrīs Kāndhlawī, Seeratul Muşţafā (Page 58)

DID YOU KNOW?



Islam encourages beautiful manners when giving a gift (ḥadiyah). Our scholars mention several etiquettes that make this act even more rewarding:

- 1) Give a gift with sincerity. (Muwaţţā’ Mālik: Book 47, Ḥadīth: 16)
- 2) Do not give gifts that are doubtful or ḥarām. (Fath al-Bārī sharḥ Şaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī: vol. 5, p. 260)
- 3) Choose an appropriate time for giving a gift. (Şaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī: 2580)
- 4) Keep family members and people of goodness in high regard when giving gifts. (Şaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī: 2594)
- 5) Give a gift according to what the recipient prefers or likes. (Mawsū‘at al-Ādāb al-Islāmiyyah: 858)
- 6) When giving a gift, one should not remind the recipient of the favour. (Sūrah al-Baqarah: 264)

Taken from Sunan wa Ādāb, Abū Bakr ibn Muşţafā Patnī, p. 364–365