

A PRECIOUS PRESENT

**GOLDEN
NECKLACE**

PART -- III

By

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PEARLS

TO THE BELOVED DAUGHTERS

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IN THE NAME OF ALLAH, MOST GRACIOUS, MOST MERCIFUL

TO THE BELOVED DAUGHTERS

Dear daughters!

You may have seen necklaces of various sorts.

They may be of silver or gold, studded or simple, small or large, real or artificial. Their glamour and glitter will all the same enchant you to possess one for yourself!

But just think for a while!

These necklaces are such that their glitter vanishes or fades away after a while. Most of them turn out to be artificial. There is always the fear of breakage, loss or robbery, even at the risk of injury or loss of life.

I have prepared for you a necklace of such beauty that its pearls are genuine and highly precious. Its glamour is more enduring. You adorn yourself with it. You

will then be the sparkling gem in the eyes of all.

And what is more, it will be a boon to you in the Hereafter.

MAY ALLAH BLESS YOU.

Your well-wisher,

AFZAL HUSSAIN

ONE PURDAH

The most precious ornament for girls is their modesty (bashfulness). Prudent girls always preserve this ornament with great care. They know that its loss would disgrace them in the eyes of all. The more they protect it the more shall they be honoured and dignified.

Observance of Purdah is the best way of protecting their modesty. Thereby they will neither come in public view nor will their modesty be outraged. That is why good daughters keep themselves off from the sight of strangers.

Strangers are after all strangers. They keep themselves secluded even from their kith and kin. They do not even come in the presence of their father and brothers attired in such thin dress which they suspect might reveal their person.

That way, amongst the virtuous ladies, innumerable are those who take particular care in this respect, but the case of Bibi

Ayishah is unique and exemplary in this respect.

On one occasion a blind man came to her with certain problems concerning 'Deen' (way of life as ordained by Allah). She was well versed with all matters concerning 'Deen' and the precepts of the Prophet. And why not? She was the most beloved wife of the Prophet. Many stalwart companions came to her to learn portion of 'Deen' (knowledge of religion) from her. She had sanction from the Prophet to impart such knowledge. Well, when this blind man arrived there, she observed Purdah before him. Over this, surprisingly he at once asked her: "Why do you observe Purdah when I cannot see you?" Bibi Ayishah replied: "You may not see me, but I can all the same see you."

What she said was reasonable and the man had to keep quiet.

One more event in her life proves her extreme caution in the matter of observance of Purdah:

The beloved Prophet and Hadrath Abu Bakr (RAZ) were buried in the same

chamber. In this chamber, there was space for one more burial, which Bibi Ayishah had reserved for herself, but later on, when Hadrath Umar (RAZ) begged permission from her to be buried by the side of the Prophet, she agreed to give Umar (RAZ) precedence over herself. On his martyrdom, Hadrath Umar was thus buried there only. Of the first two graves, one was that of her husband, and another, that of her father. But after the burial of Hadrath Umar, she never entered the chamber unveiled.

So far as she herself was concerned, in boundless degree was her regard for the observance of Purdah.

Once her niece came before her donning a thin wrapper over her head and chest. Seeing her in this state Bibi Ayishah was much enraged and instantly tore off the wrapper. She then sent for a wrapper of coarse cloth and made her to wear it.

Once Bibi Ayishah went as guest in some one's house. There she observed some young women were offering prayers without wrapper over their head and shoulders. Very sternly she stopped them

from doing so, and told them:

“In future no girl shall offer Namaz (prayer) without putting on wrapper.”

EXERCISE

1. Who was Bibi Ayishah (RAZ)?
2. Why did she observe Purdah before a blind man?
3. Why did she tear off the wrapper of her niece?
4. “The most precious ornament for girls is their modesty.” How?

TWO

**(ZIKR), REMEMBRANCE OF
ALLAH**

There is great blessing in the name of ALLAH. That is why we commence all our (good) works in the name of Allah. It is the regular practice of the pious slaves of Allah that they remember Allah most while standing or sitting and they hymn praise of Allah every moment of their life. They gain immense benefit out of it. Allah is pleased with them and He grants them myriad bounties. Secondly, the more we remember His Excellences, the more we strive ourselves to be good, so that we may be reckoned as His chosen slaves.

There lived in our country a great noble man. His name was Maulana Ilias. He passed away only a few years ago. He was exceedingly pious and God-fearing. All the while his absorbing thought was to incline people to make them learn and to disseminate the knowledge of religion to others.

Mewat is a city in close proximity to Delhi. Thousands of Muslims were inhabiting that area, but they were ignorant of 'Deen' (knowledge of religion). Women and children drew blank in this respect. For many years Maulana Ilyas engaged himself in teaching 'Deen' to the residents of this area. He also inclined them to disseminate their knowledge of religion to others. May Allah's choicest blessings be on him.

The mother, under whose sweet and tender care, this noble man was nursed and brought up was also an exceedingly pious lady. She knew the whole Quran by heart. People always found her engaged either in recitation of the Quran, or she was with rosary in hand in the act of praising Allah. She knew the Quran by heart so well that while she performed the household duties, she also recited the Quran.

It was her practice to recite daily more than four 'Paras' (thirtieth part) of the Quran. Besides this she made following 'Zikr' (remembrance of Allah):

'Bismillaahir-Rahmaanir-Rahim' (In the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Mer-

ciful) ... 1900 times daily.

'Subhana Allahe, Al-hamdu Lillahi' (Glory be to Allah and Praise be to Allah) ... 200 times each.

'La ilaha Ill-Allahu, Allahu Akbar' (There is no deity save Allah, Allah is the Greatest of all) ... 200 times each.

'Hasbunallahu wa Ni'-mal-Wakiil' (Allah is sufficient for us! Most Excellent is He in Whom we trust)! ... 100 times.

'Laa -' ilaaha illa' Anta Subhaanaka 'innii kuntu minaz-zaalimiin' (There is no God save Thee. Be Thou glorified! Lo! I have been a wrong-doer) ... 100 times.

'Ya-Hayyu Ya-Qayyumu' (O Allah! the Living, the Eternal!) ... 200 times.

'Allahumma Salle 'Ala Muhammadin wa barik wa sallim.' (Oh Allah! Shower Thy Mercy on Muhammad, and shower Thy Blessings and Peace on him) ... 5000 times.

and many other 'Zikr' (remembrances) and 'Azkar' (praises of Allah) she used to recite a multiple times. All this was besides and in addition to the attendance of household duties, which she herself performed. She

found time to do all these because, unlike ordinary women, she never wasted her precious time in useless idle talk.

Every year in the month of Ramazan she used to complete the reading of the Quran forty times. No wonder that the great Maulana Ilyas was nursed and brought up in the lap of such a pious lady.

EXERCISE

1. Who was Maulana Ilyas?
2. Where is the region of Mewat? What was the state of Muslims there?
3. What favour did Maulana confer on them?
4. What do you know about the mother of Maulana?
5. What all remembrances and praises of Allah did she recite, and how many times was each recitation?
6. What was her practice in the recitation of the Quran?

THREE

SERVICE TO PARENTS

Hadrath Shu'eb was a very renowned Prophet of Allah.

Allah had raised him to reform the people of Mada'in.

He had grown very old and infirm and had lost his eyes.

He was not blessed with son, but had only two daughters. These two girls performed all the household duties and earned livelihood for themselves as well as for their parents. There was a goat-herd in their house. Both the girls used to take the goat-herd to pasture-land for grazing, and after taking them to the pond for water, they would return their weary way home.

One day it so happened that the two daughters had taken their goat-herd to the pond. At this time other shepherds were taking out water from the pond for their cattle. These two girls were extremely coy and bashful. They stood aside with their goat-herd. Just then a stranger noticed

them. He approached them and enquired from them the reason of their waiting. The girls said: "In our house there is no male member. Our father is an old and blind man. We two sisters take the goats for pasturage. When all the herdsmen finish giving water to their cattle and leave the pond, then we take our goat-herd for water." The stranger took pity on them and extended help to them. He drew water and made the goats drink. The girls returned home with their goats and narrated the whole story to their blind father.

Hadrath Shu'eb sent for the stranger. The elder daughter, Safoora, bashfully went and called the stranger. On their reaching home, it came to be known that he was Hadrath Musa (PBUH), who had given a fatal blow to a tyrant of Pharaoh, as he had intuition that he might turn out to be a tyrant. On his death he fled from there lest some one might kill him.

Having heard his case, Hadrath Shu'eb consoled Hadrath Musa (PBUH) and wished to give his elder daughter, Bibi Safoora, in marriage to him on this condi-

tion that he should graze his goat-herd for a period of at least eight to ten years. Hadrath Musa (PBUH) gave his consent to this. In this way, Bibi Safoora was pleased to accept as her Mehar (Dower), service to parents, in place of ornaments or money.

EXERCISE

1. Who was Hadrath Shu'eb (PBUH)?
2. How was his meeting with Hadrath Musa (PBUH) brought about?
3. On what condition the 'Nikah' of Bibi Safoora took place?
4. How did the daughters of Hadrath Shu'eb (PBUH) serve him?

FOUR

LOVE OF BROTHER

The love of sisters and brothers for one another is well known. They are nursed, caressed and brought up in the same lap. They always spend their childhood together, while standing or sitting, playing about or indulging in frolicsome activities. They even share their meals together. All these activities strengthen their union and inspire them to live in amity and love, and to co-operate in one another's difficulties. This childhood friendship is enduring throughout their lives and when occasion arises they are inspired to sacrifice their life and all to an amazing degree.

There is the story of one such sister, named Khola. She had great affection for her brother, Zarrar. On one occasion Zarrar was fighting with the enemy. While in action in the battle-field he received a deep wound and in this state he was captured by the enemy.

Hadrath Khola became restless when she

came to know about her brother's capture. The renowned Muslim army commander, Hadrath Khalid, set out with an army of one thousand soldiers to rescue him. Even Bibi Khola equipped herself with arms and rode on fastest speeding horse-back to provide help to her brother.

Bibi Khola had covered her body fully. Except her eyes no part of her body was visible, as such she could not be recognised by anybody. When people saw a fast speeding rider going past them, they stirred up their horses to reach him and have a close view of the person, but Bibi Khola was speeding faster and faster till she encountered the army of the enemy. Furious fight ensued. Like lightning, Bibi Khola rushed in, headlong in the enemy camp, and with a sweep of her sword started cutting off their heads. The Muslim army was wonderstruck as to who this cavalryman could be, who is fighting so valiantly at the risk of his life. The battle ended. Success crowned the Muslim army. The enemy was either killed or they fled from the field.

Now, on enquiry, Khalid (RAZ) came to know that this speeding rider was Bibi Khola, who was restive in her mad love for her brother, to extricate him from the enemy clutches. At last they defeated the enemy and Hadrath Zarrar was released.

There are many more brave deeds like these.

Sometimes, when the brother is surrounded in difficulties, the sister comes to his rescue, even at the cost of risking her own life, and at other times, it is the brother who rescues a sister who is caught in the enemy clutches. And in these acts of gallantry neither Bibi Khola, nor Hadrath Zarrar ever cared for their lives.

FIVE
BENEVOLENCE
(GENEROSITY)

Allah is Most Beneficent. He provides sustenance to all His obedient slaves as well as disobedient slaves. Because He is Himself Benevolent, He likes only those who spend in the name of Allah generously and wholeheartedly. Miserliness He abhors.

Those ladies who profess their love for Allah and hymn His praise, are really very generous. But Bibi Ayishah excels them all in this respect. Whatever she used to get, she used to give it all in the way of Allah, even before darkness enveloped.

On one occasion a companion of the Prophet came to her. She told him: "If I had ten thousand Dirhams with me, I would have given them all to you."

Accidentally, very same day some amount came to her. She at once sent for that companion and gave him ten thousand Dirhams .

On yet another occasion, her nephew.

Hadrath Abdullah (RAZ) sent her one lac Dirhams . That day she was fasting. Instantly, even without counting, she distributed the entire amount, in basketfuls to the needy. Out of this she never kept aside anything for her 'Iftar' (breaking the fast).

One day she was fasting. There was nothing in the house except a crumb of bread. Accidentally a beggar came and asked for alms. She gave that only crumb of bread to him.

Once she distributed seventy thousand Dirhams in charity, whereas, her own state was that she was in tattered and patched clothes.

After all, she was the worthy daughter of such a worthy father, who had sacrificed his entire wealth and property most ungrudgingly in the way of Allah. And whenever he was asked, as to what he has left over for his children, he would say: "Love of Allah and His Messenger! And this suffices us."

EXERCISE

1. Allah is pleased with whom?
2. What were the virtues in Bibi Ayishah?
3. What are the famous incidents relating to her magnanimity?

SIX

MODESTY, INDIGNATION

Virtuous bondswomen are exceedingly modest and indignant. Allah forbid! If there is any assault on their dignity or chastity, they risk their lives to save their honour.

You may have heard the name of a Muslim country which is named as Turkey. Turkey is a country quite far off from our country and is situated in the West adjoining to Europe. When the Muslim rulers there developed amongst them various weaknesses and they grew powerless, Europeans wanted to attack and usurp their land.

On one occasion, the army of the enemy attacked one town in Turkey. By chance, all the male members happened to be on the battle-ground. These tyrants started killing the ladies in veil, girls and small children. One soldier entered a house, wherein a woman had delivered a child. She was in her period of parturition. The child was sleep-

ing by the side of the mother. That beastly tyrant killed that baby even before the eyes of the mother. The poor mother tossed about in anguish in utter helplessness. Thereafter the cruel man wanted to violate her honour. He said.

“I will make you my wife.”

What an irony of fate! Just a moment ago he had brutally killed her new-born child, whose body smeared in blood was still lying before her. In spite of all this atrocity she bore it with patience, but when she heard this ugly talk, in her indignance, she became ferocious. This assault on her honour was no longer bearable to her. Yet she swallowed the insult and kept quiet, waiting for a chance to strike. By chance, the armyman felt the need to go for nature's call. He removed his military dress and weapons and placed them on the ground, and went away to attend nature's call. The woman took hold of the weapons, and no sooner did the armyman enter the house, than she made a lightning attack on him and killed him. In this way she protected her honour.

EXERCISE

1. Where is Turkey situated and in whose occupation is it?
2. Why did the enemy attack Turkey? What treatment did they mete out to women and children?
3. How did the Turkish woman protect her honour and dignity?

SEVEN

BRAVERY (VALOUR)

Hadrath Hamza (RAZ) was the uncle of our beloved Prophet (PBUH). He was very powerful and brave. Many stalwart brave men used to tremble when they heard the name of Hadrath Hamza (RAZ). He had one sister, named Bibi Safia (RAZ). She was the aunt of our beloved Prophet (PBUH). Like her brother, Bibi Safia (RAZ) was also very brave and bold.

It is related, once the infidels of Makka attacked Medina. The Jews who lived in the vicinity of Medina, had entered into treaty with the Muslims, but treacherously they too joined hands with the infidels and along with the infidels, they attacked the Muslims.

Our beloved Prophet collected all the male members and set out to combat the enemy. The women-folk and children, he put them in a fortress under the care of

some companion. Thinking these ladies to be in an unprotected state the Jews sent a contingent of army to attack them. This contingent encircled the fortress and camped there, and they sent their spy to ascertain if the ladies were really alone and protectionless. Bibi Safia (RAZ) noticed this spy from the Jews camp and informed the person who was in charge of them to attack him. But that gentleman sat down idle and motionless, saying: "If I had so much of courage, why would I have been amongst the fold of women like this? Would not I have gone to the battle field to fight the enemy? Quite disappointed at the cowardice of this man, Bibi Safia herself took hold of a bamboo stick and hit the enemy's spy with such force that it broke his head and he died on the spot.

Now she again went to the guard and told him:

"I have finished him, but he is a man, how can I touch his body? You better go and sever his head and throw it outside the fortress wall on the side where the army is standing, so that they may

flee from the field, sensing danger from inside.”

But this coward man could not do even as much. At last she was compelled to go there herself and after beheading him threw the head outside the fortress where the Jew army was standing. When the Jews noticed the head of their companion spy, they understood that there were men also in the fortress. Hence out of fear they all took to heels.

EIGHT

STEADFASTNESS

You may have heard the name of Maulana Sayyid Abul Ala Maududi. He was an eminent Islamic scholar of his time. He died about ten years ago. Allah had blessed him with great power of understanding. He had a great attachment with Islam and was constantly thinking of how to make the 'Deen' (the way of life as ordained by Allah)—Islam—prevail over the whole of Allah's earth and how to make people follow the straight path as shown by Allah through Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

As he invited people to the same straight path to which all the Prophets of Allah and their true followers in different countries and times had invited and which was shown in its final and complete form by Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), his call was responded to by many people. Gradually many people in many countries agreed with

him. He formed an organisation of like-minded people which is given to making efforts at establishing Allah's 'Deen' in the world.

However, what Maulana Maududi and his organisation stood for was not liked by those who wanted the people to follow their own wishes and who thought that power in their hands was not given to them by Allah as a trust but they had it in their own right and can use it in whichever way they liked. Therefore they created difficulties for him and levelled false and fabricated accusations against him. But Maulana Maududi was so firm in his belief and steadfast in his faith that he was not all worried but continued with his mission undauntedly. His opponents finally went to the extent that they implicated him in a false case and sentenced him to be hanged at the gallows.

The horrible news spread like wild-fire in the whole world and every Islam-loving person everywhere was shocked to hear it. But Maulana Maududi slept calmly in his prison cell with the satisfaction that Allah

had accepted his efforts for which He had awarded him with martyrdom.

But that was not the case with thousands and thousands of other good Muslims who felt deeply concerned and perturbed over the news. They thought what after all his crime? Is giving the call to Allah's creatures to follow Allah's path is a heinous crime in a Muslim country? Has the world degraded so much that it cannot bear such noble people who invite people to righteousness in all sincerity without expecting any reward other than Allah's pleasure?

The horrible news reached Maulana's wife also. How distressed she would have felt can well be imagined. But the fortitude showed by the courageous lady deserves all praise. She was in agony but only for a while, then she became calm thinking that if Maulana Saheb's life was required for keeping aloft Allah's 'Deen' then she should submit to the will of Allah. But if Allah wanted to keep him alive then no power on earth can do the slightest harm to him.

Allah so rewarded his patience and fortitude that very soon there came the news on the radio that the death sentence against him had been withdrawn. Maulana Maududi was released from jail and rejoined his wife and children and friends in glory and continued with his mission of keeping aloft the flag of Islam with added vigour and zeal.

NINE

PATIENCE

‘Although patience is bitter, it has sweet fruits.’

This is indeed a truth. Those daughters who have faith in this reality, relish its deliciousness.

Just think it for yourself! Breathes there the man who has no sorrow or pain in life? Death visits every house. There is loss of life and property. Sometimes, accidentally, your house or property is on fire, you suffer loss in business, your crops fail, your things are stolen or lost through negligence. Obviously, there is no use wailing and crying over these losses which are not going to return to you. Unnecessarily you will either waste your time or shatter your health due to despair and disappointment. In such difficult or unpleasant situations from which escape seems difficult, if only this realisation dawns on you that whatever we have is in fact given to us or trust from Allah, Who is Most Merciful and Kind. So

long as a thing is useful or necessary, He allows it to remain with us, otherwise He takes back the things He has given to us in trust. In such a state of mind, the highest shock or sorrow would cause you the least perplexity. And if you recite:

“Ah! We all belong to Allah, and to Him shall we return.” Your mind and heart shall gain calm composure and you shall be well satisfied, and in lieu of it Allah will bestow on you greater Bounties from His limitless Treasure.

In the Islamic fold there have been many virtuous ladies, each excelling the other in forbearance and gratitude to Allah. Allah has granted them the sweetest reward for their patience.

“And with Allah is the fairest of rewards.” (III:195)

Amongst these ladies was one Bibi Umm Salim. Her husband's name was Abu Talha (RAZ). Hadrath Abu Talha (RAZ) was the faithful companion of our beloved Prophet (PBUH). Bibi Umm Salim had a sweet and lovely child. He was the darling of the parents. Even the Prophet himself used to

visit their house at times. He used to talk to this child and share his joy and merriment.

On one occasion this child fell seriously ill. His condition became day by day precarious. One day on some urgent mission, Abu Talha (RAZ) had to go out. Accidentally the child expired on that very day. The mother felt extreme discomfort. And why should she not be grieved? It was the lobe of her heart, yet this forbearing lady recited 'Inna Lillahe', and bore the loss with a heavy heart. She warned all the members of the house not to break this sad news before her husband when he returns. She wrapped the dead body in a piece of cloth and keeping it aside, began to attend to her household work.

Hadrath Abu Talha (RAZ) returned. He enquired about the child's welfare. She replied him in a round about way. The husband took his meals with satisfaction. When he had his fill and rest, she said:

“Well my dear! If some one borrows a thing from some body and the owner then

claims it, then what should be done?"

Husband : "Whoever's thing it is, should be returned to him with pleasure."

Wife : "Then have patience. Our beloved child, who was a trust from Allah, has been taken back by Him."

The husband too was no ordinary person but a Companion. He too showed forbearance. Next day he presented himself before the Prophet and narrated the whole story. The Prophet was much impressed with the patience of both husband and wife. He prayed unto Allah in their favour. A few days later, one more child was born to the same Abu Talha (RAZ). They named him Abdullah. This Abdullah, when he grew up, became the most erudite man of learning and knowledge, and the one who practised what he preached, who illumined the name of his illustrious parents. Allah rewarded richly his mother for her patience and fortitude. Quite true! The fruit of pa-

tience is very sweet.

EXERCISE

1. Who was Bibi Umm Salim (RAZ)?
2. On the death of her child, what did she do?
3. What was the fruit of patience which Allah granted to Bibi Umm Salim?

TEN

BREAK NOT YOUR OATHS AFTER YOU HAVE TAKEN THEM

Repeated swearing is a bad habit, and to abjure it is still worse. In this way, one who takes oaths (repeatedly) Loses his credit. There is expiation of breaking the solemn oaths you have taken. Virtuous daughters do not take oath normally, but if at all they do, they take particular care to honour it.

Hadrath Abdullah (RAZ) was the nephew of Bibi Ayishah (RAZ). He was nursed and brought up in her care. Hadrat Abdullah (RAZ) honoured her in the likeness of mother and his behaviour with her was affectionate. As for Bibi Ayishah (RAZ), you know very well how magnanimous she was. At the cost of trouble to herself, whatever she used to get, she used to distribute it all amongst the poor. Hadrat Abdullah grieved much at the self-inflicted difficulties of his aunt. At last Hadrat Abdullah opened out

his heart and said: "Somehow the (generous) hand of my aunt should be held back. So much of generosity is no good that she should starve herself and give away all her wealth in charity to others". When Hadrath Ayishah (RAZ) came to know of it, she got angry at him and vowed not to speak with him any more. Hadrat Abdullah (RAZ) felt sorry for his aunt's overwhelming anger. He sought indirect recommendations from many persons for being forgiven for his utterance, but Bibi Ayishah turned away all of them on the pretext that she had taken a solemn vow. The perplexed Hadrath Abdullah then took respectable persons from the maternal grandfather's family and presented himself before her. Bibi Ayishah was talking to them from behind the curtain. Hadrath Abdullah made sudden dramatic entry into the chamber, clung to her and wept bitterly entreating her to pardon. The two mediators also reminded her of the Prophet's commands in respect of not speaking

with others. The Prophet has said: "It does not behoove a Muslim not to speak with brother Muslim for more than three days." Hearing this command of the Prophet, Bibi Ayishah started weeping and she forgave him and started to talk with him. But in expiation of this sin (of breaking oath) she kept on setting free many slaves; so much so that forty slaves were set free. With all this, whenever she remembered about the breaking of her oath she would burst forth in profuse weeping, so much so that her wrapper used to be drenched in tears.

EXERCISE

1. Why was Bibi Ayishah (RAZ) enraged on her nephew?
2. What efforts did Abdullah (RAZ) make to persuade her?
3. How did Bibi Ayishah (RAZ) start speaking with her nephew?

ELEVEN

TRUTHFULNESS

It is Allah Who has created all.

He is the Supreme Creator and Lord of the Universe.

It is He Who provides food for all. Therefore all are His slaves. He is the Sovereign Lord of all.

Very vast is the Kingdom of Allah. He has settled us on this earth, which is but a tiny spot in His vast Universe. He has sent Prophets to guide us and to tell us that on His Earth, only His Command should be obeyed. "All mankind should accept Me as their Sovereign and spend their life according to My Will and pleasure."

The four (Rightly Guided) Caliphs knew this truth very well. Therefore they not only obeyed His Command, both in words and deeds, but also made all Muslims to do the same. But after them, in imitation of the ignorant communities, amongst Muslims too the system of kingship came in vogue.

Now they themselves became the Kings instead of acknowledging the Sovereignty of Allah. They forced the ignorant public to follow their way of life. They began to consider 'Baitu'l Ma'l' (Public Treasury) as their own property instead of considering it as public property and they began to squander it for their own comforts and luxuries. On important government posts they began to appoint their kith and kin, and friends even if they were totally useless and lacked any merit. Thus principles of justice and fair-play were thrown to the winds and the common public was harassed and oppressed to an extreme degree. By rebelling against the laws of Allah, they were not only destroying themselves but the poor people too. Those helpless but well intentioned people who tried to prevent them from following the path of destruction, and objected to their wrong acts, instead of being obliged to them, these atrocious people considered them as their enemies and used to kill them by levelling

false allegations against them. In every age, Allah alone knows how many virtuous slaves of Allah have been done to death, and the 'Ummah' (community) deprived of its best cream of Allah's servants by these cruel men.

Yet, Praise be to Allah, that in every age there have been births of holy men, who obstructed these cruel men on the spot, even at the cost of their own life and property. Leave alone men, even the women boldly stood up to them.

You know Hadrat Abdullah, the nephew of Bibi Ayishah (RAZ). He was the son of Bibi Asma (RAZ). After the four Rightly Guided Caliphs, When the system of kingship gained currency amongst the Muslims, he was one amongst those who opposed it. He struggled hard and restored Caliphate in Arabia. His Caliphate lasted for six or seven years. Ultimately, one Muslim king sent his vazir (minister) named Hajjaj, and got him martyred. Hajjaj hanged his corpse on the top of the hill, and

then went to Bibi Asma (RAZ) and called Hadrat Abdullah (RAZ) a heretic and a rebel. Bibi Asma could not bear this. She said:

“My son was not a heretic. He was exceedingly pious, given to Divine Adoration, and he was obedient to his mother. I had heard the Prophet say that in our clan two ‘Dajjals’ would be born, of them, the second would be worse than the first. So, the one has passed away, and the second is yourself.” Hajjaj, as he stood by, became speechless when he heard this reply. He hung down his head in full shame and departed from there. On reaching his camp he sent word:

“So long as Bibi Asma does not come begging for the corpse it shall remain hanging as it is.”

When she heard this, she said:

“Has that hour not yet come that the rider dismounts?”

When Hajjaj heard this reply, he got the corpse down and then it was buried.

EXERCISE

1. Who was Bibi Asma (RAZ)?
2. What do you know about Hadrath Abdullah (RAZ)?
3. What treatment did Hajjaj mete out to him?
4. What was the talk of Hajjaj with Bibi Asma (RAZ)?

TWELVE

CHARITIES OF MANIFOLD INCREASE

**(“CHARITY GIVEN IN SEEKING
ALLAH’S PLEASURE INCREASES
MANIFOLD”)**

Building of Mosques, establishment of schools, digging wells, digging canals of running water, construction of roads, bridges and inns and hospitals for the treatment of sick persons, are all works of public welfare. If all these noble works are done for the sole pleasure of Allah then there is an immense reward for these from Allah because save Allah no one knows how many people continue to receive benefit out of these deeds perennially. Therefore the initial builders of these welfare works are the constant recipients of reward. Such charities in the way of Allah are called charities of manifold increase.

Haroon Al-Rashid was a renowned

Muslim King. His wife's name was Zubeida. From childhood itself she was intelligent. Her grand-father, Mansur, showered great affection on his granddaughter and never liked to part with her.

Zubeida showed great interest in public utility works. She got bridges built in her country at various places. She arranged digging of wells and construction of inns at many places for the comfort of the travellers.

In Arabia there is great scarcity of water. These days, at least to some extent, arrangements have been made, but in the period of Zubeida, under Haroon Al-Rashid's rule, the Hajis experienced great hardship for water. Once she herself went to perform Hajj. Accidentally, that year there was much more scarcity of water. One leather water-carrier filled with water cost one Ashrafi. When Zubeida saw this state of affairs she felt greatly pained.

Her heart leaped out in sympathy for them and she decided to relieve them from

this hardship. The first thing she did was the cleaning of the well of 'Zam Zam', whereby the Makkans felt great relief. Therafter, on the way from Makka to Madina, wherever the caravans of Hajis halted, she arranged digging of wells and construction of rest houses for them.

Zubeida did not rest content at that. She wanted to make such lasting arrangements that the Makkans could get water constantly. She called for expert engineers and sought their advice. After a careful on-the-spot study they gave their opinion that at a distance of about fifty miles from Makka there is a fountain-head from where, by digging canal, water could be supplied to Makka. But digging canal was not an easy job. On the way there was a big range of hills which will have to be hewn to make way for the canal. This entailed lot of labour and high cost.

Zubeida said: "You do not worry at all about expenses. Even if a single stroke of pickaxe were to cost one Ashrafi, I would

most willingly pay for it.”

The moment the Queen issued the orders, the work was commenced. After continuous toil for well over three years at a cost of one lac Ashrafi, the canal work was completed. When the engineers presented to her the account of expenditure, Zubeida threw away all the papers in the river, saying:

“Where is the need of account for us? We did all this for the sole pleasure of Allah. Whatever amount is due from us take it. If you owe anything to us, it is waived off.”

Even today, in Makka and its vicinity, there is the ‘canal of Zubeida.’

During the span of these over twelve centuries, whoever may have benefited from it, must have spontaneously prayed to Allah to shower His choicest blessings on Zubeida.

MEANING OF WORDS

Lesson 1.	Precious	= Of great value or beauty.
	Bashfulness	= Shyness.
	Prudent	= Careful, acting only after careful thought or planning.
	Outrage	= Extreme violence or cruelty.
	Seclude	= Keep (a person, oneself) apart from the company of others.
	Attired	= Dressed.
	Exemplary	= Serving as an example or warning.
	'Deen'	= Way of life as ordained by Allah.
	Stalwart	= Solidly built; firm and resolved.
	Quiet	= Free from excitement, trouble, anxiety.
	Precedence	= (Right to a) priority, or to a senior place.

	Martyrdom	= Suffering or death (caused greatly for his religious beliefs, or for the sake of great cause or principle.
	Veil	= Covering of fine net or other material to protect or hide woman's face, or as part of a head dress.
	'Zikr'	= Remembrance of Allah.
Lesson 2.	Wrapper	= 'Orni', Dupatta.
	Hymn	= Song of praise to Allah.
	Immense	= Very large.
	Myriad	= Very great number.
	Strive	= Struggle, make great efforts.
	Absorbing thought	= Complete application, diligence, perseverance.
	Disseminate	= Distribute or spread widely ideas, doctrines.
Lesson 3.	'Azkar'	= Praises of Allah.
	Renowned	= Famous, celebrated.
	Pasture	= Grassland for cattle.
	Fatal	= Causing, ending in death.
Lesson 4.	'Mehtar'	= Dower.
	Caress	= Loving or affectionate touch.
	Frolicsome	= Playful and merry.
	Enduring	= Lasting.
	Rescue	= Set free.

	Encounter	= Meet (an enemy or enemies); Find oneself faced by danger.
	Extricate	= Free, disentangle.
	Clutch	= Seize, take hold of tightly with the hands.
	Gallantry	= Bravery, chivalrous attention to women.
Lesson 5.	Benevolence	= Wish to do good, activity in doing good.
	Sustenance	= Nourishment.
	Tattered	= Ragged, Piece of cloth torn off or hanging loosely.
	Patched up	= Made roughly ready for use; Repaired.
	Ungrudgingly	= Without feeling of ill-will, resentment, envy or spite; Willingly.
Lesson 6.	Indignation	= Anger caused by injustice, misconduct etc.
	Indignant	= Angry and scornful, especially at injustice, or because of undeserved blame.
	Usurp	= Wrongfully take (subject's power authority, position).
	Parturition	= Child-birth.
	Ferocious	= Fierce, cruel, savage.
Lesson 7.	Valour	= Bravery

	Contingent	=	Body of troops.
	Sever	=	Cut.
Lesson 8.	Steadfastness	=	Firm and unchanging.
	Fabricate	=	Forge (a document) false story or events.
	Heinous	=	Odious, atrocious.
	Annulment	=	Declaration (that an earlier order) is invalid, of no effect.
Lesson 9.	Shatter	=	Break suddenly or violently in pieces.
	Perplexity	=	Mental difficulty caused by doubt.
	Precarious	=	Uncertain, unsafe, depending upon chance.
Lesson 10.	Abjure	=	(Formal) promise or swear solemnly on oath or in public to give up.
	Expiation	=	Make amends for, submit to punishment (for wrongdoing).
	Overwhelming	=	Crush, destroy, cause to feel confused or embarrassed.
	Mediator	=	One who acts as go-between or peace-maker.
	Behoove	=	It is right or necessary for one to do a thing.
Lesson 11.	Vogue	=	Current fashion, thing currently being done or used.

	Squander	= Waste (time, money).
	Allegation	= Statement, esp. one made without proof.
Lesson 12.	Heretic	= Person who holds an unorthodox opinion.
	Recipient	= Person who receives.
	Hewn	= Cut out, shaped by chopping.
	Perennially	= Lasting for a long time.