



Mudhakkirah al-Hadeeth an-Nabawee

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The Consequences of Truthfulness and Falsehood

From Abdullaah ibn Mas'ood (radiallaahu anhu) who said that the Messenger of Allaah (sallallaahu alaihi wasallam) said:

“I order you to be truthful, for verily truthfulness leads to righteousness (al-birr) and verily righteousness leads to Paradise. And a man continues to be truthful and strives for truthfulness until he is written as a truthful person with Allaah.

Beware of falsehood, for verily falsehood leads to sinning (alfujoor) and verily sinning leads to the Fire. And a man continues to tell lies and strives upon falsehood until he is written as a liar with Allaah.”

Reported by al-Bukhaaree¹, Muslim², Ahmad³, Abu Dawood⁴, Maalik⁵, at-Tirmidhee⁶, Ibn Majah⁷, ad-Daarimi⁸ and the wording of the above hadeeth is that of Muslim.

The Meaning of the Hadeeth

Truthfulness: A noble characteristic from the foundations of excellent virtues. By it the life becomes upright and due to it an individual becomes praiseworthy. Truthfulness elevates an individual and raises his rank with

¹ Hadeeth no. 6094.

² Hadeeth no. 105.

³ Ahmad 1/8.

⁴ Hadeeth no. 4989.

⁵ Hadeeth no. 16 (2/989).

⁶ Hadeeth no.1971 (4/347).

⁷ Hadeeth no. 46 (1/18).

⁸ Hadeeth no. 2718 (2/210).

Allaah and with the people. So he becomes respected in speech, beloved to the people and acceptable as a witness and a narrator.

So it is upon you to strive for truthfulness in speech, in aqeedah (belief) and in action. Indeed, the noble Messenger (sallallaahualaihi wasallam) guided us to this great affair of tarbiyyah and it is the way to cultivate the character, to shape it and to strengthen it in oneself. This is because mankind strives for beautiful action and speech, one after the other, until this repetition has an effect upon his soul and whenever he persists upon a particular (good) action, then he increases his connection with his soul and thus he becomes firm and established in these good actions.

So whoever directs his soul to the stations of the *siddiqeen* (the truthful), and he makes truthfulness his character, his nature and his disposition and strives for truthfulness in his sayings and actions which are in agreement with each other, then by the help of Allaah, he achieves the station of the *siddiqeen*.

So just as truthfulness is from the foundations of excellent virtues, verily falsehood is from the foundations of depravity and evil manners. By it, the structure of society breaks down and the conduct of affairs becomes disordered and the liar falls in the eyes of the people. They do not believe him or rely upon him with regard to acting upon his false narrations and thus the Messenger of Allaah (sallallaahualaihi wasallam) warned us about him.

In the Qur'aan there are many verses denouncing falsehood and commanding avoidance of it and promising a severe punishment for it.

He, the Most High, said:

“And say not concerning that which your tongues put forth falsely: ‘This is lawful and this is forbidden, so as to invent lies against Allaah. Verily, those who invent lies against Allaah will never prosper. A passing brief enjoyment (will be theirs), but they will have a painful torment.’” [an-Nahl:116-117]

He, the Most High, said:

“It is only those who believe not in the Ayat of Allaah, who fabricate falsehood, and it is they who are the liars.”[an-Nahl:105]

Is not shirk and taking rivals which is the greatest of crimes and sins, the greatest of falsehood? And is not hypocrisy, which is worse than clear kufr,

nothing but falsehood? And similarly deception in conduct, showing off in actions – are all from the types of falsehood.

So keep far away, O Muslims, from falsehood and develop striving against it in yourself. For falsehood and striving in it, is destruction and a decline into the abyss of evil because it urges on the individual and leads him to the station of the evil-doers. And the evil-doers are in the Fire.

“And verily, the Fujjar will be in the blazing Fire. Therein they will enter, and taste its burning flame on the Day of Recompense.” [al-Infitar:14-15]

The Benefits of the Hadeeth

1) The obligation to adhere to truthfulness. He, the Most High said:

“O you who believe! fear Allaah and be with those who are true (in words and deeds).” [at-Tawbah:119]

2) The hadeeth contains a great educational principle, which is that whoever wishes to be moulded by lofty characteristics as truthfulness, patience and bravery, then let him strive, pursue and persist in them. So striving for truthfulness and by adhering to it he becomes truthful. And by persevering and enduring hardships he becomes patient and one who possesses good manners. By persisting in depravity and striving in it the individual becomes a liar and corrupt.

3) The hadeeth contains a warning from falsehood and a warning against striving in it. Falsehood leads to evil and evil leads to the Fire. We seek Allaah’s shelter from falsehood, evil and the Fire - Ameen.