



Mudhakkirah al-Hadeeth an-Nabawee

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The Signs of Hypocrisy

From Abdullah bin 'Amr (radiallaahu anhu) who said: The Messenger of Allaah (sallallaahu alaihi wasallam) said:

“Whoever has four characteristics will be a pure hypocrite. And whoever has one of them will have a part of hypocrisy until he gives it up: whenever he is entrusted he betrays; whenever he speaks he lies; whenever he makes a covenant he proves to be treacherous; whenever he quarrels he behaves in an evil and insulting manner.

Reported by al-Bukhaaree¹, Muslim², Abu Dawood³, at-Tirmidhee⁴, an-Nasaa'ee⁵ and Ahmad⁶.

The Reporter of the Hadeeth

The narrator of this hadeeth is Abdullah bin 'Amr al-Aas al-Qurashee as-Sahmee. His was known as Abu Muhammad and some say Abu Abdur Rahman. He was from the first and foremost amongst the Companions and one of the prolific narrators amongst them. He was from the Abaadillah (plural Abdullah), the fuqahaa (jurists) and from the ulema of the slaves of Allaah. He died in 68 A.H.

The Meaning of the Hadeeth

Hypocrisy is a big disease and a great danger to Islaam and the Muslims. It is a blameworthy characteristic of a people who manifest Islaam deceitfully and

¹ Kitaab ul-Imaan no. 34.

² Kitaab ul-Imaan no. 36.

³ Kitaab us-Sunnah no.4688.

⁴ Kitaab ul-Imaan no. 2632.

⁵ 8/102.

⁶ 2/189,198.

deceptively to achieve some material benefit by it, wishing to be saved from the swords of Islaam.

Allaah has cursed the hypocrites, censured them and promised them a great punishment in the lowest level of the Fire. He mentioned their blameworthy characteristics in many verses of the Noble Qur'aan. In Chapters al-Baqarah, an-Nisaa, at-Tawbah, al-Mujaadilah, al-Hashr and al-Munafiqun.

This is in order for the believers to recognise them and be warned about their evil, mischief and wickedness. The Messenger of Allaah (sallallaahu alaihi wasallam) clarified and explained in this hadeeth four of the characteristics of hypocrisy and their prominent signs.

The first: Betrayal of the trust

What an evil characteristic it is! Nothing is more repulsive than a person relying upon you and entrusting you with his wealth or his merchandise or one of his rights, and then you betray him.

Verily the scope of the trust (amaanah) is broad, it includes all that a person is entrusted with, even to the extent that it includes all of the deen. So everything that the Prophets came with from the beliefs and legislations is a trust upon the scholars. When they fall short in conveying it and spreading it, then that is betrayal on their part due to which they encounter the curses and anger of Allaah. He, the Most High said:

“Verily, those who conceal the clear proofs, evidences and the guidance, which We have sent down, after We have made it clear for the people in the Book, they are the ones cursed by Allaah and cursed by the cursers.” [al-Baqarah:159]

So it is obligatory upon the carriers of knowledge to convey what the Seal of the Prophets (sallallaahu alaihi wasallam) came with, for verily that is the greatest of the trusts. And hiding it and negligence of it is the greatest betrayal. He, the Most High said: **“O you who believe! Betray not Allaah and His Messenger, nor betray knowingly your amanat (trusts).”** [al-Anfaal:27]

The Second: Lying in speech

Verily lying in speech is the foundation of hypocrisy and it is from the most detested and repulsive of characteristics. All the nations respected truthfulness

and detested lying and despised the liars. So strive to be with those who are truthful in their speech and their actions. And keep far away from lying and the liars since it is from the characteristics of the lowest of mankind and they are the hypocrites, as occurs in this hadeeth.

Take a look at the hypocrites whose religion is based upon lies and see how Allaah has exposed them and uncovered their defects.

He, the Most High said:

“When the hypocrites come to you, they say: “We bear witness that you are indeed the Messenger of Allaah.” Allaah knows that you are indeed His Messenger, and Allaah bears witness that the hypocrites are liars indeed. They have made their oaths a screen (for their hypocrisy). Thus they hinder (men) from the Path of Allaah. Verily evil is what they used to do.” [al-Munaafiqun:1-2]

Thirdly: Betraying the promise or proving treacherous in making a covenant.

This is from the most repulsive of characteristics and the most despicable of them. And it is sufficient evil that from its punishments is the disease of hypocrisy.

He, the Most High said:

“So He punished them by putting hypocrisy into their hearts till the Day whereon they shall meet Him, because they broke that (covenant with Allaah) which they had promised to Him and because they used to tell lies.” [at-Tawbah:77]

Be cautious of falling into this despicable characteristic and strive to fulfil the promise and honour the covenant, so that you may become from those who take heed:

“Those who fulfil the covenant of Allaah and break not the Mithaq (bond, treaty).” [ar-Ra’d:20]

Fourthly: Evil and insulting manners during quarrelling and not referring to the truth.

It is a big sin and a dangerous crime. It leads to great evil and corruption such as seizure of property, lack of respect for people's honour, denying the rights of others, fighting the callers to the truth, hindering people from the truth and guidance and behaving with them in the ways and methods of sin and destruction.

So how much wealth has been seized, honours abused, and blood spilt due to the evil of the hypocrites and their quarrelling, and how many of those who aspire to the truth have they diverted from the Straight Path and from following the firm truth?

And if it were not for the evil in quarrelling you would see most of the Muslims clinging to the methodology of Allaah in conformity with the path of the believers from the Salaf us-Saliheen (pious predecessors).