

Lesson 2

Doing Good only for Allah

STORIES TO READ AND LEARN FROM

Fighting Shaytan Only for Allah's Sake

Your actions should be for the sake of Allah only. Only then will you get the result you deserve.

In the time of Prophet Musa ('a) there lived a pious man, who used to remember Allah day and night.

One day this man heard about a tree that was being worshipped by some people. This news made him so angry that he went to find the tree and chop it down.

As the man reached the tree, Shaytan appeared in front of the man disguised as an old man.

Shaytan asked the pious man what he was going to do. The pious man said that some people worshipped this tree so he was going to chop it down.

Shaytan asked the pious man that if Allah wanted the tree to be chopped, would He not have sent a Prophet to do it? The pious man did not listen.

They began to argue and shout at each other until finally they began fighting.

The pious man managed to knock Shaytan down on to the ground and sat on him.

Shaytan begged him to let him go and told him that he had thought of a solution which would help the man in this world and the next. The man listened.

Shaytan continued that he would pay the man 2 dinars everyday, of which the man could partly spend on himself and partly on the poor. In exchange the man should leave the tree uncut till Allah commanded whether it was right or wrong to cut it.

The pious man was misled by Shaytan. He thought the suggestion was a good one and agreed.

The next day when the pious man woke up he found 2 dinars under his pillow. He was delighted and spent some on himself and some on the poor. But the following day there was no money to be found. This made him very angry, so he again took his axe and went to cut the tree.

On reaching the tree he again met Shaytan disguised as an old man, who asked him what he had come to do. The pious man replied that he had come to chop down the tree. To which Shaytan answered that he had no power to do this and it was better for him to go back home.

Again they fought but this time Shaytan succeeded in overpowering the pious man and knocked him down.

The pious man was very surprised and asked Shaytan why it was that last time they fought he managed to overpower him but this time he could not.

Shaytan replied that it was because the first time they fought the man had come for the sake of Allah only, but the second time the man had come for the sake of money that he didn't get.

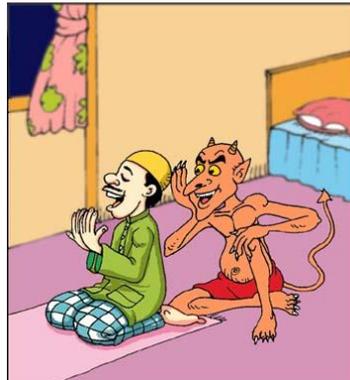
Moral: If you do something for the sake of Allah only, then Allah will give you special strength to carry it out.

Praying to Impress a Dog!

There was once a very pious man who used to wake up early in the morning before Fajr salāh to pray Salāt al-Layl (Tahajjud).

One morning he was praying his salāh in the masjid, when he heard a noise behind him. He thought to himself that someone had come into the masjid, so he started praying his salāh slower and more beautifully, to impress the person who had come in.

The man prayed his salāh so beautifully and so slowly, making sure that he said each word clearly, that it took him twice as long as normal to finish the salāh. When at last he finished, he turned around to see who it was that had come into the masjid, and he saw a dog sitting there, who had wandered in. The man had gotten up early in the morning and spent so much time and effort to pray his salāh and it was all for a dog!



To check if our niyyah is really “Qurbatan ilallāh” (only to come close to Allah), we should look at how we pray our salāh when we are at home on our own and when we pray at the masjid where others can see us. If there is a difference in the way we pray then our niyyah is not purely and sincerely for Allah only. Remember: we get absolutely no thawāb if we pray or do any good deed for anyone except Allah alone.

Lesson 3

Working Hard & Not Being Lazy

Imam Ja'far as-Sadiq ('a) wanted to show people to be sincere and to do things for Allah only. When we do things for Allah only we hide it from others because we don't want them to know the good we are doing otherwise our intention will be to impress people and not Allah.

So Imam Ja'far as-Sadiq ('a) used to wear simple and even old clothes on the inside and good clean clothes on the outside. Some people would wear comfortable clothes inside but wear patched clothes outside to show people that they were not attached to the world.

Similarly these people would not work and depend on others to support and feed them and then they would claim to trust in Allah for their food and expenses. Imam Ja'far as-Sadiq ('a) wanted to teach people that a mu'min works hard and then depends on Allah to help him. And if a person dies while working hard to earn a lawful living then it is like dying whilst fighting for Islam in a battle (Jihad).

Look at the story on the next page given as a comic strip. You can colour or paint it or even create your own comic strip with a fictitious story on the importance of working hard and not being lazy.

