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Jamadal-Awwal 1434

Email: alislam24@gmail.com

Website: alislam24.weebly.com

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STORIES OF INSPIRATION

THE CARPENTER

A highly skilled carpenter who had grown old was ready to retire. He told his employer of his plans to leave the house building business and live a more leisurely life with his family. He would miss the pay check, but he needed to retire.

The employer was sorry to see his good worker go and asked if he could build just one more house as a personal favour. The carpenter agreed to this proposal but made sure that this will be his last project. Being in a mood to retire, the carpenter was not paying much attention to building this house. His heart was not in his work. He resorted to poor workmanship and used inferior materials. It was an unfortunate way to end his career.

When the job was done, the carpenter called his employer and showed him the house. The employer handed over some papers and the front door key to the carpenter and said "This is your

house, my gift to you."

The carpenter was in a shock! What a shame! If he had only known that he was building his own house, he would have made it better than any other house that he ever built!

Our situation can be compared to this carpenter. Allah (S.W.T) has sent us to this world to build our homes in paradise by obeying His commands. Now, we have to decide how well we wish to build the homes where we will live forever.

-END-

A BROTHER LIKE THAT

Shuaib received an automobile from his brother as an Eid present. On Eid day when Shuaib came out of his house, a street urchin was walking around the shiny new car, admiring it. "Is this your car, Uncle?" he asked. Shuaib nodded. "My brother gave it to me for Eid." The boy was astounded.

"You mean your brother gave it to you and it didn't cost you anything? Boy, I wish..." He hesitated. Of course Shuaib knew what he was going to wish for. He was going to wish he had a brother like that. But what the lad said jarred Shuaib all the way down to his heels. "I wish," the boy went on, "that I could be a brother like that." Shuaib looked at the boy in astonishment, then impulsively he added, "Would you like to take a ride in my automobile?" "Oh yes, I'd love that."

After a short ride, the boy turned and with his eyes aglow, said,

"Uncle, would you mind driving in front of my house?" Shuaib smiled a little. He thought he knew what the lad wanted. He wanted to show his neighbours that he could ride home in a big automobile. But Shuaib was wrong again. "Will you stop where those two steps are?" the boy asked. He ran up the steps. Then in a little while Shuaib heard him coming back, but he was not coming fast. He was carrying his little crippled brother. He sat him down on the bottom step, then sort of squeezed up against him and pointed to the car.

"There it is, little brother, just like I told you upstairs. His brother gave it to him for Eid and it didn't cost him a penny. And some day I'm going to give you one just like it...then you can see for yourself all the pretty things in the Shop windows that I've been trying to tell you about."

Shuaib got out and lifted the boy to the front seat of his car. The shining-eyed older brother climbed in beside him and the three of them began a memorable ride. That Eid, Shuaib learned

what the Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W) meant when he had said:
"Love for your brother what you love for yourself".

-END-

THE FISHERMAN

An investment banker was at the pier of a small coastal village when a small boat with just one fisherman docked. Inside the small boat were several large yellow fin tuna. The investment banker complimented the fisherman on the quality of his fish and asked how long it took to catch them.

The fisherman replied, "Only a little while."

The investment banker then asked, "Why didn't you stay out longer and catch more fish?"

The fisherman said, "With this I have more than enough to support my family's needs."

The investment banker then asked, "But what do you do with the rest of your time?"

The fisherman said, "I sleep late, fish a little, play with my children, take siesta with my wife, stroll into the village each evening and spend time with my family, I have a full and busy life."

The investment banker scoffed, "I am a Harvard MBA and could help you. You should spend more time fishing; and with the proceeds, buy a bigger boat: With the proceeds from the bigger boat you could buy several boats. Eventually you would have a fleet of fishing boats. Instead of selling your catch to a middleman you would sell directly to the processor; eventually opening your own cannery. You would control the product, processing and distribution. You would need to leave this small coastal fishing village and move to a big town and eventually to the city where you will run your ever-expanding enterprise."

The fisherman asked, "But, how long will this all take?"

To which the investment banker replied, "15 to 20 years."

"But what then?" asked the fisherman.

The investment banker laughed and said that's the best part. "When the time is right you would announce an IPO and sell your company stock to the public and become very rich, you would make millions."

"Millions?...Then what?"

The investment banker said, "Then you would retire. Move to a small coastal fishing village where you would sleep late, fish a little, play with your kids, take siesta with your wife, stroll to the village in the evenings and spend time with your family."

-END-



Al-Islam 24's

Blogs & Bloggers

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WHAT WILL YOU TAKE WITH YOU WHEN YOU DIE?

BY: NAFISA KADER

A wise pious rich man, sensing his approaching death, called his son & gave him these instructions: "My son, I shall be leaving you very shortly. On the day when I die, & they have washed my body & wrapped it in the shroud, I want you to put 1 of my socks on my foot. This is my final request of you."

Soon after this, the old man died, leaving behind his goods, property, his children & dependents. The body had been washed almost wrapped in the shroud, when the son remembered his father's wish. Finding 1 of his old socks, he handed it to the washer of the dead, saying, "In accordance with my father's last request, please put this sock on his foot."

"That is impossible," said the man. "Such a thing is impermissible in Islam. I cannot act against the Sacred Law." But the son insisted, "That was my father's final request; it must certainly

be carried out.”

The man refused . “If you won’t take my word for it, go ask the mufti. He will confirm that it is not permissible.” Holding up the funeral, they consulted the mufti & scholars, all of whom declared that this was not permissible in Islam. Just then, an aged friend of the deceased interrupted saying to the son: “My boy, your late father entrusted me with a letter to give you after his death.” And he gave the boy an envelope. Surprised, the boy opened the envelope and read his father’s letter:

“My son, all this wealth & property I have left to you. Now you see: at the last moment, they won’t even let you give me an old sock to wear. When you die, you too will also be refused to keep anything but your shroud. This is all you will be able to carry over from this fleeting world into the Hereafter. So pull yourself together & be prepared. Spend the fortune I have left you, not for the satisfaction of vain desires, but in ways pleasing to Allah, that you may achieve honour in both worlds.” [\[nafisaonalislam24.tumblr.com\]](https://nafisaonalislam24.tumblr.com)

THANKFULNESS TO ALLAH (S.W.T)

BY: NAFISA KADER

Suhaib ibn Sinan narrated that the Prophet said:

“How remarkable is the case of the believer! There is good for him in everything, but this is not the case for anyone except for the believer. When the believer receives any good, he is thankful to Allah, and gets a reward. And when some misfortune befalls him, he endures it patiently, for which he is (also) rewarded.” {Fiqh as-Sunnah, vol.4, p.1.}

How can WE thank Allah (SWT)?

1. Prostration
2. Dhikr of Allah
3. Kindness to Allah's creations
4. Making Shukr for all that Allah has bestowed upon us - be it plenty or few.

These are but a few ways of showing gratitude to OUR Creator. How many of us take time each day to reflect upon all that Allah has provided us?

We have so much to be grateful for yet we take these blessings bestowed upon us for granted. Before the end of each day, let us take a moment to reflect upon these blessings. Let us recite 'Subhanallah!' 'Alhamdulillah!' 'Allahu Akbar!'

Indeed we are the most blessed of Allah's creations!

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DUA'S & SUPPLICATIONS

Dua's from the Qur'an

Rabbana taqabbal minna innaka antas Sameeaul Aleem

Our Lord! Accept (this service) from us: For Thou art the All-Hearing, the All-knowing [2:127]

Rabbana wa-j'alna Muslimayni laka ma min Dhurriyatina 'Ummatan Muslimatan laka wa 'Arina Manasikana wa tub 'alayna 'innaka 'antat-Tawwabu-Raheem

Our Lord! Make of us Muslims, bowing to Thy (Will), and of our progeny a people Muslim, bowing to Thy (will); and show us our place for the celebration of (due) rites; and turn unto us (in Mercy); for Thou art the Oft-Returning, Most Merciful [2:128]

Rabbana atina fid-dunya hasanatan wa fil 'akhirati hasanatan waqina 'adhaban-nar

Our Lord! Grant us good in this world and good in the hereafter, and save us from the chastisement of the fire [2:201]

Rabbana afrigh 'alayna sabran wa thabbit aqdamana wansurna 'alal-qawmil-kafirin

Our Lord! Bestow on us endurance, make our foothold sure, and give us help against the disbelieving folk [2:250]

Dua's for Students

IN EVERY ISSUE, THERE WILL BE 1 DUA FOR STUDENTS TO RECITE BEFORE THEY STUDY

Dua before class:

اَللّٰهُمَّ اَخْرِجْنِيْ مِنْ ظُلُمَاتِ الْوَهْمِ وَ اَكْرِمْنِيْ بِنُوْرِ الْفَهْمِ
اَللّٰهُمَّ افْتَحْ عَلَيْنَا اَبْوَابَ رَحْمَتِكَ وَ اَنْشُرْ عَلَيْنَا خَزَائِنَ
عُلُوْمِكَ بِرَحْمَتِكَ يَا اَرْحَمَ الرَّاحِمِيْنَ

O Allah, please bring me out of the darkness of doubt and favour me
with the light of comprehension,

O Allah, open to us the doors of your mercy and unfold for us the
treasure of your knowledge by your mercy O the most merciful of the
merciful ones.



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