



LESSONS FROM KARBALA



Book 13

Tawba

Prepared by **'ASR'**

Please recite Surah-e-Fatiha for Syed Nadeem-ul-Hasan and Mr. & Mrs. Syed Naseem ul Hasan. You lovely people, we miss you!!!



EVERY DAY IS ASHURA
EVERY LAND IS KARBALA
HAL MIN NASIRIN YANSURNA
THE CALL IS STILL IN THE AIR
OUR HEARTS SAY
LABAIK YA HUSSEIN!
LABAIK YA HUSSEIN!
LABAIK YA HUSSEIN!

What is Tawba?

- 'Tawba' or 'repentance' is one of the greatest blessings of the Most Merciful Lord.
- It is one of the doors which He has always kept open for us.
- If it had been closed, no one would have ever attained salvation; such is human inclination towards evil.
- The Kind and Wise Lord ordained Tawba (repentance) to be a cure for the diseases of the soul and a means of purifying indecent deeds.
- Tawba can wash away man's sins so that he can obtain eternal salvation.
- Fortunate is the person who appreciates the value of this gate of Divine Mercy and benefits from it.
- And unfortunate is the one who remains deprived of Divine Mercy even though the paths leading to it are open for him.



- On the Day of Judgement (Qiyamat) man will find excuses and say, O Lord! I was unaware and ignorant; was chained by passions and desires and hence could not remain steadfast in the face of satanic instigations.
- In reply to these excuses he will be told: Did we not keep the doors of Tawbah (repentance) always open for you? Were you given highly difficult tasks and ordered to perform a duty beyond your power? Were the conditions of Tawbah beyond your ability?
- Allah (swt) has given us such a huge opportunity to wipe the sins off our book of deeds.
- We must do our best to take advantage of this opportunity and repent to the Almighty (swt).
- If we repent sincerely then it is guaranteed that Allah (swt) will forgive us.
- After all, Allah (swt) is the Almighty Lord and we should have faith in his divine mercy.



How to do Tawba...

- Tawba is to repent purely and piously in the presence of the Lord.
- The clothing of religion which was torn to pieces because of sins can be stitched with the threads of Tawbah.
- Such repentant people are also called Awliyaullah (Friends of Allah (swt)).
- However, the repentance should not merely be due to the desire of Paradise or fear of Hell.



- It should be due to a feeling of shame and remorse for not obeying Allah's (swt) commands.
- Sheikh Tusi writes in Tajreed al - Kalam, "It is not Tawba to worry about sins for fear of Hell."
- For the 'Istighfar' (repentance) to be meaningful, a person must undergo a mental reformation.
- This means that he is sorry and shameful about his earlier misdeeds and has decided to give up sins forever.

- In addition to that, the Tawba should be such that it may serve as a lesson even to others.
- A person should repent with such sincerity and such persistence that by observing his repentance other sinners may be inclined towards Tawba.
- In this way he also becomes a means of guidance for others.
- Finally, he should give an admonition to himself so thoroughly and honestly, and perform such a tawba that all marks of sins may vanish from his heart.
- His worship should be so intense that the radiance of faith completely removes the darkness of sins.
- He must be so involved in performing good deeds that his bad deeds are fully compensated for.
- Lastly, Tawbah includes a firm decision to give up sins forever because if a person does not have a strong enough will to refrain from sins it only indicates that he was not truly ashamed.
- Imam Ali (as) says:
"It cannot so happen that a man has really felt ashamed and yet he did not give up sins."

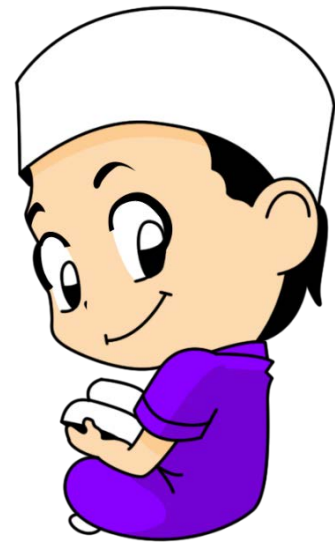


Out forever!!!

Practicing Tawba...

At Home:

- We all make mistakes at times.
- Sometimes we misbehave with our parents, lie about a test or even do something we weren't allowed to do.
- The important thing is that we do tawba for our mistakes.
- The first thing that we should do, is apologize to the person whom we have wronged.
- Be it our father, mother or any of our siblings.
- The next thing to do is to pray for forgiveness from Allah (swt).
- It is very important to ensure that the repentance is sincere.
- We should genuinely intend never to commit that sin ever again.



At School:

- There are many times in school when we get in a fight with another person.
- On several such occasions, we may say that it is not our fault.
- But deep down inside we know that we also made a mistake.
- Instead of just trying to push away our guilty conscience, we should face it.
- The first thing to do is to apologize for what we had done wrong.
- Then we need to repent sincerely to Allah (swt) for our mistake.
- After all this, we should make a commitment to ourselves to do our best to never repeat our wrong doing.
- Inshallah, with Allah's (swt) help, we won't fall victim to Shaitan's temptations in such a manner ever again.



At Public Places:

- When we do something wrong, especially in front of a lot of people, it is often very difficult to own up.
- But it is important that if we are at fault, we should always be eager to apologize.
- We should have the courage to ask forgiveness.
- After saying sorry to the person whom we have wronged, we should repent in our prayers.
- We should do tawba to Allah (swt) for committing the sin.
- Intention of feeling sad about our sin and commitment to not repeat it again are the key elements of sincere repentance.



Tawba in Karbala...

- A true example of Tawba or repentance was portrayed for us in the desert of Karbala, about fourteen hundred years ago.



- When Umar bin Saad began to advance, Hurr asked him, "May God make you prosperous. Will you truly fight this man (Imam Hussain (as))?"
- He replied, "Yes, by God. I will battle in which heads shall fall and hands severed."
- Hurr said, "Are you not inclined to accept one of Hussain's proposals?"
- Umar said,
"By God, if it were left to me, I would be. But your governor has rejected that option."

- Hurr distanced himself from the people and went next to a member of his tribe by the name of Qurrah bin Qays.
- He asked,
"Qurrah, have you already given water to your horse today?"
- He replied in the negative.
- Hurr asked,
"Do you want to give it water?"
- Qurrah reported later,
"I suspected, by God, that Hurr wanted to flee the battleground but did not want me to see him do that, fearing my objection. Thus, I said, 'I have not yet watered it - let me provide it with water.' Then, I withdrew from him. By God, if he had informed me of his true intention, I would have joined him to Hussain."
- Hurr began to advance gradually toward Hussain.
- A member of his tribe, Muhajir bin Aws, asked him,
"What do you intend to do, Hurr? Do you wish to attack?"
- He kept quiet and shuddered.
- Muhajir continued, "O Hurr, by God, your conduct arouses suspicion. By God, I have never seen you behave like this. If I were asked to identify the most courageous person in Kufah, I could not neglect mentioning your name. So, what of the nervousness I see in you today?"
- Hurr replied,
"By God, I have offered my soul a choice between

heaven and hell. By God, I will not give priority to anything in relation to heaven, even if it entails that I be cut to pieces and burnt."

- He whipped his horse and came next to Hussain (as).

- He said,

"May God accept my sacrifice to safeguard your life, son of the Messenger of God. I was the one who prevented you from returning. I monitored your movements on the road and forced you to halt at this place. By God - the one, who has no other - I never imagined that the people would reject your proposals and come to this state of affairs. I justified my behaviour by saying to myself that I was justified to obey these people on some issues- for perhaps, they will not consider me disobedient and, in the final analysis, they will accept one of your proposals. By God, if I had thought that they might reject your proposals,



I would not have joined them against you. I have come to seek repentance from my lord for what I have done and offer my life before you in expiation. Would you accept that as my repentance?"

- Imam Hussain (a.s) replied,
"Yes. May God accept your repentance and forgive you. What is your name?"
- He replied, "I am Hurr bin Yazid."
- Hussain (as) said,
"You are a free man (Hurr), just as your mother named you. God willing, you are free in this life and in the hereafter. Come down."
- Hurr said,
"I will be a better horseman for you than a foot soldier. I will fight them on my horse and will dismount only at the end of my life."
- Hussain said, "Do what you think is best."
- Hurr went forth to address his followers,
"People, will you not accept one of the proposals presented by Hussain? Through it God may offer you a way to avoid war and conflict with him?"
- They replied,
"The person in authority here is Umar bin Saad, so speak to him."
- Hurr spoke to him in similar fashion and Umar replied,
"I am eager to find a way out, if I could."
- Hurr continued his address,
"O people of Kufa, may your mothers be deprived of you. You invited him and when he came to you, you

betrayed him. You had resolved to lay down your lives for him and now you confront him with the intent to kill. You have grasped his life by the throat and have surrounded him from all directions. You prevent him from returning to another place where he can find safety and security for himself and his family. He has come into your hands like a prisoner who can produce no benefit for himself or repel harm. You deny him, his womenfolk, his children and his followers the waters of the Euphrates, which the Jews, Christians and Magians come to for drink. Even the pigs and dogs roll in the Euphrates. They may die from the severity of thirst. How evil has been your treatment of the progeny of Muhammad (pbuh). May God deny you water on the Day of Resurrection if you do not repent and end what you scheme to do on this day and this hour."

- Some opponents threw arrows at him.
- He went in front of Imam Hussain (as) and shielded him.



I'm Sorry...

When I commit a sin
And it's really, really bad
I start to feel guilty
And quite a bit sad

I knew I shouldn't have done that
Now I want to say
Sorry To Allah
So I get down and pray

With my head in sajdah
Tears flow from my eyes
I repent, I do tawba
I apologize

All of a sudden
My heart feels light
I feel peace and calm
My eyes shine bright

I smile to the heavens
And make a vow to Him
God, I promise
I'll never repeat the sin



Merits of Tawba

1. **It makes man a beloved of God:**

Allah (swt) says in Surah Baqarah, Verse 222:

"Surely Allah loves those who turn much (to Him).

2. **Evil deeds are turned into good deeds:**

Tawba does not only remove the darkness of sins but it also replaces the darkness with light.

Almighty says,

"Except him who repents and believes and does a good deed; so these are they of whom Allah changes the evil deeds to good ones; and Allah is Forgiving, Merciful. And whoever repents and does good, he surely turns to Allah a (goodly) turning."

(Surah Furqaan 25:70-71)

3. **Praiseworthy Prayer of Angels:**

Allah Almighty says,

"Those (angels) who bear the (Arsh) power and those around celebrate the praise of their Lord and believe in Him and ask protection for those who believe: Our Lord! Thou embraces all things in mercy and knowledge, therefore grant protection to those who turn (to Thee) and follow Thy way, and save them from the punishment of the hell..."

(Surah Momin 40:7)

4. The Repentant will go to Paradise:

Allah Almighty says,

"And those who when they commit an indecency or do injustice to their souls remember Allah and ask forgiveness for their faults - And Who forgives the faults but Allah, and (who) do not knowingly persist in what they have done. (as for) these - their reward is forgiveness from their Lord, and gardens beneath which rivers flow, to abide in them, and excellent is the reward of the labourers."

(Surah Aal-e-Imran 3:135-136)

5. Tawbah gives happiness in life:

Almighty Allah has said,

"And you that ask forgiveness of your Lord, then turn to Him; He will provide you with a goodly provision to an appointed term and bestow his Grace on everyone with Grace. (Surah Hud 11:3)





Did you know?



- In Quran, there are two angels referred to as 'Raqeeb' and 'Ateed'.
- Whatever a man does, sees or intends to do, is noticed and written down by these two angels.
- Someone asked Imam (as) as to how could 'Kiraman-Katebeen' know of the intentions (niyyah) of people (to perform good or bad deeds), so as to record them. The Imam replied that,
"When a person intends doing a good deed, a sweet fragrance emits from his mouth. The angels smell this fragrance and come to know. Whereas when a person intends doing an evil deed, a foul odor emits from his mouth, and the Angels become aware."
- If a person intends doing a good deed, one good deed is written down in his scrolls, and if he performs that intended deed, ten good deeds are written down.
- Whereas if a person intends doing an evil deed, the same is not written down in his scrolls till he actually performs it.
- As written in the Quran:
"Whoever brings a good deed. He shall have ten like it, and whoever brings an evil deed, he shall be recompensed only with the like of it, and they shall not be dealt with unjustly."
(Surah al-An'aam: 161)
- It is one of the countless mercies of Allah (swt) that when a person commits a sin, 'Ateed' tries to enter it in

his scrolls, but 'Raqeeb' tells him to wait lest the person may feel ashamed and apologize for his act.

- He does not record the deed for five or seven hours.
- And if within that period the person does not repent, 'Ateed' says: "Verily he is shameless," and then records one evil deed in his scrolls.



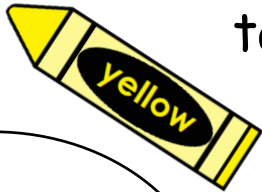
Words of Wisdom

- The Holy Prophet (saw) said:
"To be ashamed of one's sins is Tawba."
- Imam Baqir (as) said:
"Repenting on one's deed is enough Tawba."
- Imam Jafar Sadiq (as) said:
"There is no man who Allah did not forgive who had felt ashamed of his misdeed. Whenever a man feels ashamed of his fault and then begs pardon of Allah, He forgives all of his sins."
- Imam Sadiq (as) said:
"Allah becomes pleased with the Tawba of a Momin just as you are pleased on finding your lost thing."
- The Holy Prophet (saw) said:
"A repentant becomes like the one who had never sinned; rather better than him."



What did I do today???

Ahmed is a young boy who is trying to follow his religion. Here are some actions which he did today. Colour the ones that he should thank Allah for in yellow. Colour the ones that he should do tawba for in red.



**Forgot
to pray Fair.**

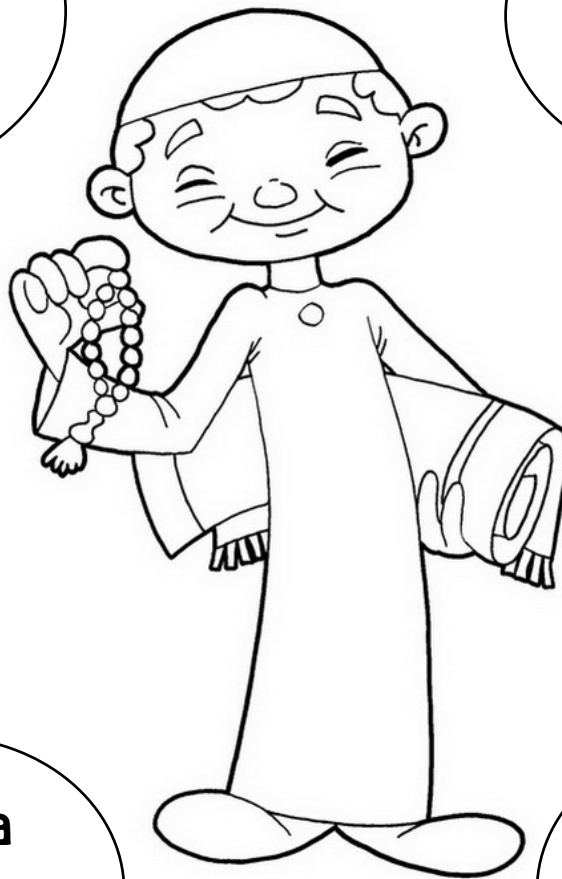
**Misbehaved
with my
father.**

**Obeded
my
mother.**

**Was kind
to my
brother.**

**Read a
religious
book.**

Told a lie.



Can you find me???

See if you can find all the hidden words!!!

T	A	W	B	A	G	J	W	Z	A	B	I	T	O	K	R
D	Z	R	H	A	A	S	T	G	M	E	R	C	Y	M	L
S	F	E	A	P	O	L	O	G	Y	N	B	Y	J	O	W
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Tawba

Repentance

Heart

Regret

Remorse

Forgiveness

Mercy

Beneficence

Love

Apology

Lessons from karbala...

Published so far :

Book 1-Patience

Book 2-Marifat of Imam (ajtf)

Book 3-Baseerat

Book 4-Tawakul

Book 5-Ikhlās

Book 6-Sacrifice

Book 7-Commmitment

Book 8-Prioritizing

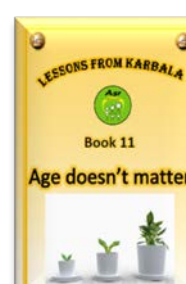
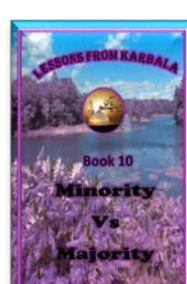
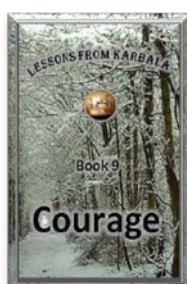
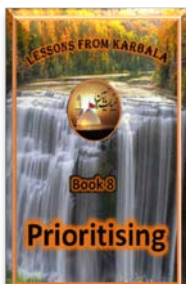
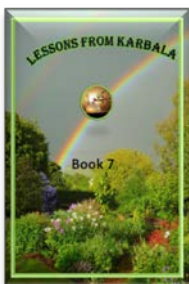
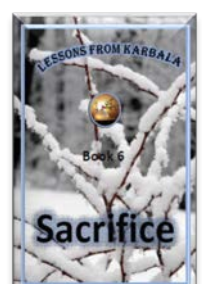
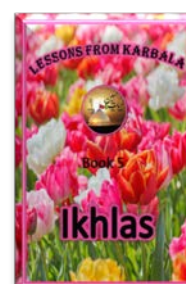
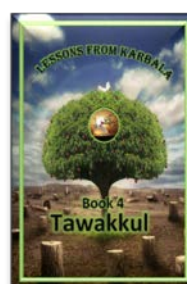
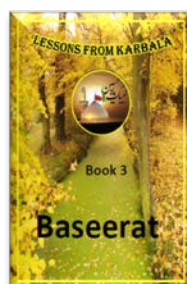
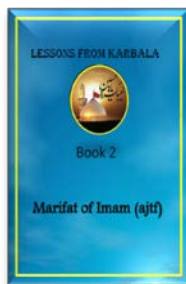
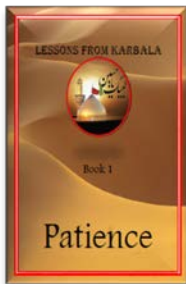
Book 9-Courage

Book 10-Minority vs majority

Book 11-Age doesn't matter

Book 12-Parents

Book 13-Tawba



Upcoming book :

Book 14

Loyalty

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