

# Hadith 23



**On the authority of Abu Malik al-Harith bin Asim al-Ashari (RA) who said: The Messenger of Allah (SAW) said:**

**"Purity is half of Iman. Alhamdulillah (praise be to Allah) fills the scales, and subhan-Allah (how far from imperfection is Allah) and Alhamdulillah (praise be to Allah) fill that which is between heaven and earth. And the Salah (prayer) is a light, and charity is a proof, and patience is illumination, and the Qur'an is a proof either for you or against you. Every person starts his day as a vendor of his soul, either freeing it or bringing about its ruin."**

**[Muslim]**

# “Purification is half of the faith”



## Possible translations:

1. Purification is similar to half of the prayer
  2. Purification is half of the faith because it encompasses the outward forms of submission
  3. Purification from associating partners with Allah and sinful living is half of the faith
  4. Purification in the sense of avoiding sins is half of the faith
  5. Performing ablution is an act of faith
  6. Ablution is half of the faith because it removes the external impurities
  7. Purification of the heart from its spiritual diseases is one half of faith
- If we conclude that Al-Tuhoor is ablution, then this Hadith discusses the following; **1) Wudhu 2) Rememberance of Allah, 3) Prayer, 4) Zakah, 5) fasting, 6) followed by a general reference to applying the Qur'an**

# “The phrase Alhamdulillah fills the scale”



- Reward is from making this expression whilst thinking about its meaning and submitting to its implications (Al-Haitami)
- Must be a verbal statement with involvement of heart and mind
- Difference of opinion on – “fills the scale”
  - Metaphorical. If ‘Alhamdulillah’ had physical mass, it would fill the scale
  - Literal meaning. Allah will give deeds and mass on the Day of Judgment. The physical manifestation Allah will give to the statement Alhamdulillah, will fill the scale

# Belief in the scale (Al-Mizan)



- As for Al-Mizan, we believe in it. Allah has referred to it in various verses in the Qur'an.

“We shall set up scales (mawazin) of justice for the Day of Judgment, so that not a soul will be dealt with unjustly in the least. And if there be (no more than) the weight of a mustard seed, We will bring it (to account.) And enough are We to take account.”

(Al-Anbiyaa, 47)

(Ibn Abu Al-Izz)

# The meaning and importance of SubhanAllah



- Denies that Allah could have any blemish, shortcoming, imperfection, or defect
- Allah is complete, perfect, and free from needs
- It denies that Allah has partners, a spouse, or children
- “There are two statements that are light on the tongue but heavy on the scale and beloved to Allah:  
(SubhanAllahi wa bi hamdihi subhanAllah Al-Adheem)” (Far above is Allah from every imperfection and I glorify His praises, High is Allah above any imperfection or want, the Great)  
(Bukhari and Muslim)

# The importance of dhikr



- Ibn Al-Qayyim calls dhikr the food for the hearts, the weapon by which one fights, the cure for the diseases, and the connection between the servant and his Lord. (Madarij Al-saalikeen)
- Dhikr leads to an exalted level of Ihsaan
- “The similitude of the one who remembers his Lord and the one who doesn’t is like that of the living and the dead.” (Al-Bukhari)

# “Prayer is a light”



- 3 ways to understand this in Arabic:

- Simile. Prayer is like light
- Prayer is full of light
- Prayer gives light

- The Prophet (SAW) didn't confine 'light' to any particular type, left it general

- All 3 meanings could be plausible and acceptable

(Ibn Al-Uthaymeen)

- Noor (light)
- Burhaan (rays)
- Diyaa' (Illumination)

# “Charity is a proof”



- The Prophet (SAW) described charity as ‘burhaan’
- Burhaan are the rays emitted from the Sun, which clearly point to the existence of the source (the Sun)
- Hence ‘proof’ or ‘definitive truth’ is called burhaan
  - Sadaqah is proof of someone’s true faith. We give from what we love.
  - Sadaqah will be a proof for us on the Day of Judgement. A proof for support and help

(Al-Nawawi, Sharh Sahih)



# “Patience is a brightness”



- Either:
  - Patience is used in reference to fasting. Fasting is brightness.
  - Literal approach. Patience itself is a brightness.
- As long as a person has praiseworthy patience, he will have light and guidance that will keep him along the Straight Path  
(Al-Nawawi, Sharh Sahih)

## “The Qur’an is either an argument for or against you”



- “And We send down of the Qur’an that which is a healing and a mercy to those who believe. And it increases the wrongdoers nothing but loss.” (Al-Israa, 82)
- Qatada commented on this verse – no one sits with the Qur’an except that it will increase or decrease him.” (Quoted in Al-Qurtubi)
- The Qur’an is a book of guidance

# “And everyone goes out in the morning and sells himself, either freeing or destroying himself”



- A reality, every morning we either obey Allah or disobey Him
- Al Qari mentions – Everyone who abandons this World and gives preference to the Hereafter purchased himself from his Lord for this World. Therefore, he sets himself free. Whoever abandons the Hereafter and gives preference to this World, then he is selling the Hereafter and is destroying himself.

(Al Qari, Vol 1)

- The Prophet (SAW) uses the word baa'ya'a – implying exchanging something for something else. It could mean buying or selling
- In other words, every morning the person goes out and either buys himself from Allah, or he sells himself to Shaytaan

# Summary of the Hadith



- The mercy and blessings of Allah. Certain deeds are easy to perform and heavy on the scale
- “Purification is half of faith.”
  1. Purification means wudhu, hence half of prayer (faith)
  2. Purifying yourself from associating partners with Allah, or committing sins
- Saying Alhamdulillah, with belief and adherence, is great in Allah’s sight. It fills the scale.
- Saying SubhanAllah and Alhamdulillah together fills what is between the Heavens and the Earth
- “Prayer is a light” – The effect of prayer is like a light of guidance. Prayer keeps us from sinning. Prayer will be transformed into light to guide us to Paradise



- “Charity is proof” – a proof of true belief in Allah. Charity will be a clear proof when we are questioned about wealth on the Last Day
- Patience helps us to perform obligatory deeds, abstain from evil deeds, and behaving properly in every situation
- The Qur’an is either a proof for us, or against us, no third category. The Qur’an will be a witness for or against us.
- Every day, we are taking ourselves towards our own rescue, or our own destruction