



FOREWORD

*All praises are for Allah Ta'ala, the Executioner of all affairs.
'Salaat and Salaam upon the best of all Creation,
Sayyidina Muhammad (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ), eternally.*

Hazrat¹ Maulana Yunus Patel Saheb (رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ)² was the Khalifa³ of two great luminaries: Hazrat Maulana Hakeem Muḥammad Akhtar Saheb (Mudda Zilluhu)⁴ and Hazrat Mufti Maḥmood Hasan Gangohi (رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ), and was, himself, the mentor, preceptor and spiritual guide of thousands throughout the world.

Hazrat Maulana was an epitome of piety and righteousness, and an ocean of wisdom in his guidance and advice to Saalikeen (those seeking the Path to Allah Ta'ala).

This book is a compilation of selected replies to Islaahi correspondence, much of which was taken from the e-mails that came from various parts of the world. The compilation of these questions and replies was prepared with Hazrat Maulana (رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ)'s guidance and direction. It was hoped that many more benefit from the advice and prescriptions given, since the same questions were asked by different people.

¹ *Hazrat* : literally means, 'the respected' . A title used when addressing a religious luminary

² 'May the mercy of Allah be upon him.' This is mentioned after the name of a religious personality who is deceased.

³ *Khalifa* : Deputy or representative of a Shaykh.

⁴ *Mudda Zilluhu* : meaning, May his shadow be over us for a long time.

This book contains 20 letters with their respective replies, and it was completed in Hazrat Maulana's lifetime, in Ramadaan 1429 (September 2008).

Confidentiality has been upheld, letters have been edited, and no names and details are made known or published.

May Allah Ta'ala make this book solely for His Pleasure, and accept the very humble effort. May He make it a *Sadaqa-e-Jaariyah* for Hazrat Maulana, as well as myself and all those who contributed in its publication. May Allah Ta'ala grant us all a deep understanding of the knowledge acquired, accompanied with the '*Taufeeq*' of practice on the Commandments of Allah Ta'ala and the beautiful teachings of Rasulullah (ﷺ) - with sincerity and Divine acceptance.

May Allah Ta'ala grant Hazrat Maulana (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ) the best of Aakhirah.

[Rabiul Awwal 1434 / January 2013]

NB.: Do not touch the Arabic script of the Aayaat (verses) of the Qur'aan Shareef if not in a state of Taharah (cleanliness) – i.e. Wudhu, or Ghusl (if required).

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

IN THE NAME OF ALLAH⁵,
THE COMPASSIONATE, THE MERCIFUL.

قَدْ أَفْلَحَ مَنْ زَكَّاهَا ۖ وَقَدْ خَابَ مَنْ دَسَّاهَا ۖ

“INDEED HE SUCCEEDS WHO PURIFIES HIS SELF.”

“AND INDEED HE FAILS WHO CORRUPTS HIS SELF.”

[SURAH ASH-SHAMS 91 : 9 /10]

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَكُونُوا مَعَ الصَّادِقِينَ ۖ

“O YOU WHO BELIEVE, FEAR ALLAH AND JOIN
THE COMPANY OF THE TRUTHFUL ONES
(THE PIOUS, THE AULIYA ALLAH).”

[SURAH TAUBAH 9 : 119]

وَالَّذِينَ جَاهَدُوا فِينَا لَنَهْدِيَنَّهُمْ سُبُلَنَا ۗ وَإِنَّ اللَّهَ لَمَعَ الْمُحْسِنِينَ ۖ

AND THOSE WHO STRIVE FOR US - WE WILL SURELY GUIDE
THEM TO OUR WAYS. AND INDEED, ALLAH IS WITH THE
DOERS OF GOOD.

[SURAH ANKABOOT 29 : 69]

⁵ Allah : The Name of the Creator of the Universe

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LETTER ONE

Bay`ah and Tasawwuf

Question

As-Salaamu alaikum warahmatullah

Respected Maulana,

I would like to know about Sufism. Is it a part of Islam or is it something which has just been made up by fraudulent people who are marketing it as religion? What I hear sometimes makes me think this is a “hoax” – a money-making racket. Many talk about shaykhs, peers, taking bay`ah, Islaahun nafs, etc. I would appreciate a correct understanding of the ideology. What is the purpose?

Reply

Bismihi Ta’ala

Respected Sister in Islam,

Wa-alaykumus Salaam wa-Rahmatullahi wa-Barakaatuhu

- 1.) “Sufism”, or Tasawwuf / Tariqah is very much a part of Islamic teachings. Shariah is knowledge and Tariqah is acting upon that knowledge. It covers all aspects of Deen, by following in the footsteps of Rasulullah (صلى الله عليه وسلم), and revolves around the purification of the heart and soul, the reformation of the nafs (self / ego), developing intense love for Allah Ta’ala and a connection with Him, such that we submit to Him, with heart, mind, soul and body. The Qur`aan Shareef

alludes to Tazkiyah (purification of the soul) and Islaah (reformation) a number of times.

- 2.) Unfortunately, many have spoilt the good name of “Sufism” or Tasawwuf, by introducing actions which are not in conformity with Islamic teachings. Some people have made Tasawwuf appear like another religion, or they have brought into Tasawwuf, the ideas and rites of mysticism from other religions. Moreover, there are many bogus ‘peers’ who are just in it for money. Therefore caution needs to be exercised in choosing a spiritual mentor.
- 3.) Bay`ah is a practice (Sunnah) of Rasulallah (صلى الله عليه وسلم), which has been carried down, through the ages, by our spiritual guides.

It is through the Barakah (blessings) of Bay`ah that a person is able to easily and steadily traverse and progress through the different stages in the spiritual world, in a more efficient manner. The seeker is constantly drawing direction and guidance from the spiritual guide who has proficiency and expertise in the field.

Bay`ah is choosing a spiritual doctor (a Shaykh) for your spiritual ailments. The Shaykh must be one whom you are most compatible with, and whose teachings, you readily accept and follow. Of course, the Shaykh must be on Haq. There are many fraudulent people in the guise of the pious. The Shaykh must be learned,

experienced, pious and wise – for such a person must have your best interests at heart.

The objectives are Islaah and complete obedience to Allah Ta’ala and Rasulullah (ﷺ). The mureed (disciple) should therefore inform the Shaykh of his or her spiritual weaknesses: *hasad* (jealousy), *kibr* (pride), *riyaa* (ostentation), *hirs* (greed), *hubbud-dunya* (obsessive love for the world) and so forth – or sins such as missing out Salaah due to laziness, backbiting, casting lustful gazes, listening to music, being involved in an illicit relationship, etc.

The Shaykh, if he is ‘Kaamil’⁶, will not look down upon his mureed when informed of such sicknesses – just as a doctor will not look down upon his patient, because his patient has cancer, or a brain tumour, or some other disease or disorder.

The right of the mureed over the Shaykh is that the Shaykh then makes Islaah of that spiritual malady – thus the Shaykh prescribes some remedy and also makes Dua. For the mureed to experience the benefits and curative properties in the Shaykh’s treatment, it becomes necessary to now follow the Shaykh’s advice. This is the mode and manner to restore spiritual health.

As an example: The mureed thinks himself to be pious and great, and better than others. He looks down upon those who do not do good deeds as he does, who do

⁶ *Kaamil* : a devout, proficient, learned and impeccable Shariah adherent

not dress according to the Sunnah like he does, or who do not have a beard as he does. ...He considers himself superior, and considers others as sinful, immoral and condemned to hell-fire. This then is *ujub* (conceit) and *takabbur* (pride).

The mureed should thus explain his condition by informing his Shaykh: *I think of myself as pious. I see my piety to be my achievement because of my efforts. I look down upon those who do not do what I do. I do not keep their company because I consider it is below my dignity to be with such people. ...etc.*

So the Shaykh will prescribe some suitable remedy, depending on various other aspects of the mureed.

If the mureed has a problem in controlling his anger, he should inform the Shaykh: *I am very temperamental – and I lose my anger when my wife does something wrong, even if it is something small. I sometimes swear her, curse her, and even threaten with Talaaq....*

The mureed must spell out his weakness by giving an example of his behaviour.

Just saying that I have anger, pride, jealousy is not very helpful to the Shaykh. ...What makes you feel that you have pride or jealousy?

The more specific you are in informing of your sickness, the more specific and exact will be the remedy, Insha-Allah.

4.) In this journey of love, the mureed will experience different spiritual states and conditions. However, this is, as I generally describe, the scenery, enroute, as we travel to reach our destination. The scenery, no matter how beautiful, is not the destination. The objective is securing the Pleasure of Allah Ta’ala.

...This too requires explanation. You could listen to the talk or read the book: **Feeling spiritually low?** – which you will find on the website (YunusPatel.co.za).

5.) You can also listen to the talks: **“Tasawwuf made Easy”**, and can download the book **‘Ikhlaas’** from the same website. The book includes some discussion on Tasawwuf.

6.) May Allah Ta’ala fill our hearts with His Love and guide us all on the Path of Divine Love, and grant each one of us the crown of His Friendship. May Allah Ta’ala grant Taufeeq of obedience and protect us from anything that is displeasing to Him.

Was-Salaamu alaykum wa-Rahmatullahi wa-Barakaatuhu
Yunus Patel (Maulana)



LETTER TWO

Homosexual Inclinations

Question

As-Salaamu 'alaikum,

I am a Muslim male who was very normal in my nature until recently. Having watched a movie which explicitly encouraged homosexuality, I now find myself strongly attracted to other males, to the extent that it is extremely difficult to restrain the desire to engage in Haraam. Evil thoughts constantly plague my mind. I am overcome with remorse and very ashamed of these feelings and also afraid of giving into my desires, knowing that this is a very major sin. Please help.

Reply

Bismihi Ta'ala

Respected Brother in Islam,

Wa-alaykumus Salaam waRahmatullahi waBarakaatuhu

- 1.) Being ashamed of one's sins and wanting to keep them concealed is a sign of Imaan. Of course, this does not mean that a Muslim continues secretly indulging in disobedience to Allah Ta'ala and makes no effort of giving up sins.
- 2.) Thoughts should be ignored, but if these feelings are being entertained, effort has to be made in diverting the attention. Keep the mind distracted and occupied

with some work or activity – either some form of Ibaadah or something permissible.

- 3.) Often, the cause of boys/men suddenly feeling inclined and attracted to other males is due to watching some film with such content (i.e. of homosexuality). The purpose of such films is promotion and encouragement of sin, and the effects of such viewing are such that even an otherwise normal male will begin having evil thoughts and desires in respect to other men.

Others too have written of such experiences, so you are not alone in your anguish. Recently a teacher wrote to me, stating that he was a normal Muslim male – who had a complete aversion to homosexuality. However, after viewing **just one** film on homosexuality, found himself overcome with lust when it came to his male students. He too was overcome with fear that he must not fall into the sin. He found himself very weak to the demands of his evil desires, but was also making every effort to curb them. And yet prior to viewing this film, he was sickened at the sin. So it was one movie that triggered off such a volatile situation in his personal and spiritual life. ...May Allah Ta’ala save all.

- 4.) Make the effort of reading 2 Rakaats of Salaatut Taubah and Salaatul Haajah every day, with sincere Dua thereafter that Allah Ta’ala forgive and change your feelings and protect you from the mischief of nafs and shaytaan.
- 5.) Keep reading :

يَا حَيُّ يَا قَيُّوْمُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا أَنْتَ سُبْحَانَكَ إِنِّي كُنْتُ مِنَ الظَّالِمِيْنَ

"O All Living, Self-Subsistent, there is no deity worthy of being worshipped but Thee, You are above all deficiencies and weaknesses. I am indeed of the wrongdoers"

- 6.) Continue meditating over the punishment that was meted out to the people of Lut (عليهم السلام) and the Shar`i Punishments for the person engaging in the act; together with the fact that indulgence in the sin draws the curses of Allah Ta'ala and Rasulullah (صلى الله عليه وسلم) - and a person under such a curse is deprived altogether of the Mercy of Allah Ta'ala. (May Allah Ta'ala protect us.)
- 7.) Try and give Sadaqah⁷ in some form, on a daily basis, with the intention that Allah Ta'ala grant complete change in your feelings and protect you.
- 8.) If Zam Zam⁸ is available, drink it with the intention of cure from your evil, base desires – for Zam Zam is a cure for whatever is intended, when drinking it.
- 9.) Lower your gaze when it comes to such young boys / handsome men, where you fear there will be some kind of attraction. Do not be alone with anyone.
- 10.) Keep yourself occupied. Even when retiring to bed, try to listen to some Zikr or Naath Shareef until you fall off to sleep.

⁷ Sadaqah : charity

⁸ Zam-Zam : Sacred water from a well near the Ka'bah in Makkah Shareef.

- 11.) Try and sleep in a state of Wudhu⁹, read the Masnoon Duas and Ayatul Kursi (Surah 2 : Verse 225).
- 12.) These are actually the whisperings, encouragement and deception of shaytaan and nafs. Both are trying to deceive and convince you that this is your nature, so that shaytaan can ruin your worldly life and your Hereafter, and the nafs can get some temporary gratification, not considering consequences – i.e. its own humiliation and disgrace. With effort and striving, you will, Insha-Allah, overcome both of them.
- 13.) At least you feel remorse over your weakness. Consider the effort you are now making to address your weakness and to come out of the sin, as a sign that Allah Ta’ala is with you and He will support and assist you in your efforts to give it up.
- 14.) Fantasizing about men (or women) is Haraam. I generally give a standard prescription to those who write about having the weakness. It is titled, **Giving up Haraam Fantasizing**, and will be found on the website <http://yunuspatel.co.za>. Alhamdulillah, many have found this beneficial in giving up the sin. You too should make the effort to follow the advice given.
- 15.) May Allah Ta’ala grant complete cure from this sickness, protect from any Haraam indulgence and purify the heart of such evil feelings.

Was-Salaamu alaykum wa-Rahmatullahi wa-Barakaatuhu
Yunus Patel (Maulana)

⁹ Wudhu : Ablution

LETTER THREE

Marrying a non-Muslim

Question

As-Salaamu 'alaikum,

I am in my 20s and still not married. The Muslim boys I know are of dubious and doubtful character, womanisers or into drugs, drink and other Haraam. Their character also leaves little to be liked.

I am working with a man who is very good-natured and very kind-hearted. He also respects me and is very keen on marrying me but he is a Christian. I consider him better than hundreds of Muslim men, so I would like to know if it is permissible to marry him? He will not force me to give up my faith. It is just that I am worried about what the community will say and I think this decision will hurt my parents. I also want to form an Islamic home and bring up my children in a religious environment. However, he is offering me what I want in a husband also. Please advise.

Reply

Bismih Ta'ala

Respected Sister in Islam

Wa-alaykumus Salaam wa-Rahmatullahi wa-Barakaatuhu

- 1.) Whilst the character of many Muslims is far from being described as “admirable” or “noble”, their acknowledgment, recognition and belief in the Oneness of Allah Ta’ala and the Prophethood of Rasulullah (ﷺ), is evidence of them being better in the Sight of Allah Ta’ala. In the Hereafter, there will be

salvation for even that Muslim who may have lived a sinful life.

As an example: A person steals a car or is involved in fraud. The government will punish him according to his crime. However, if he betrays his government and is found guilty of high treason, this will incur a punishment which will be, by far, much more severe – because of the magnitude of his crime.

The same with the Muslim and non-Muslim: The Muslim who is sinful will be punished according to his sins, but inevitably, his Imaan will be a means of securing him salvation. He will enter Jannah.

The non-Muslim, on the other hand, can seemingly have the most noble character and deeds, but because he is committing high treason against his Creator and Nourisher, by rejecting Him (even though Allah Ta’ala’s signs are evident everywhere), or by associating partners to Him, then no matter how good a character he has or how much of service he renders to others, it will not be valid in the Court of Allah Ta’ala – because the “High Treason” – the *Kufr*¹⁰ and *Shirk*¹¹, by far, exceed all limits of disobedience, for which there can be no bail or parole (that is, if the person dies in that condition of disbelief).

The condition of the Believer and that of the disbeliever can also be likened to money. We have money which is genuine and money which is counterfeit. If someone has a

¹⁰ *Kufr* : Disbelief

¹¹ *Shirk* : Associating partners to Allah Ta’ala

R100 note which is old, crumpled and even torn, but it is genuine, it will be valid for use.

If a person has a brand-new, clean, crisp, R100 note but it is counterfeit, the government will reject it.

Similarly, the Muslim can be 'torn and crumpled' in his character, even in deeds, but due to his Imaan, he is accepted by Allah Ta'ala. The Non- Muslim can have good character and can be engaged in good deeds, but he is like that counterfeit note, and will not be accepted by Allah Ta'ala.

- 2.) No one is saying that this man will not accept Islam. We make Dua that Allah Ta'ala guide him to Islam, but presently, he has no intention to do so. As such, marriage will not be valid to him.
- 3.) Allah Ta'ala advises us with that which is in our best interests :

“AND DO NOT MARRY UNBELIEVING WOMEN (IDOLATERS) UNTIL THEY BELIEVE; AND A SLAVE WOMAN WHO BELIEVES (I.E. IN TAUHEED) IS BETTER THAN AN UNBELIEVING WOMAN, EVEN THOUGH SHE MAY ATTRACT YOU.

NOR MARRY (YOUR GIRLS) TO UNBELIEVERS UNTIL THEY BELIEVE: A MAN SLAVE WHO BELIEVES (I.E. IN TAUHEED) IS BETTER THAN AN UNBELIEVER, EVEN THOUGH HE MAY ATTRACT YOU.

**UNBELIEVERS DO (BUT) BECKON YOU TO THE FIRE. BUT
ALLAH BECKONS BY HIS GRACE TO THE GARDEN (OF BLISS)
AND FORGIVENESS...'**

[SURAH BAQARAH 2 : 221]

- 4.) You mention his level of respect for you. ...But he has no respect for Allah Ta'ala. Which is more important? Would you prefer to live with a man who does not recognise Allah Ta'ala, does not respect Allah Ta'ala, does not love Allah Ta'ala?
- 5.) It is not a matter of worrying about society. It is matter of worrying about what Allah Ta'ala likes and dislikes for us and whether our actions will please Him or displease Him. You should also worry about the consequences that will inevitably follow in respect to living together : different religions, different cultures, living in a relationship that will not be valid, bringing up children in confusion of beliefs, influenced by different families, etc. You have to think long term.
- 6.) Yes, you should also consider your parents: You would cause them tremendous hurt. Consider the disgrace and embarrassment they will feel. ...Then you will be deprived of their Duas and blessings. How then will you enjoy any kind of happiness?
- 7.) If he is sincerely interested in accepting Islam – that is, he believes with all his heart that this is the true religion, and not so that he can marry you, it would be a different matter altogether, and also rewarding for you.

- 8.) Make Dua for his Hidayah (guidance). Send him suitable literature on Islam, and terminate contact with him. Do not communicate with him. If he wishes to find out more about Islam, refer him to an Aalim.
- 9.) You say that you want to “form an Islamic home” – How do you expect to do this by living with a Christian man?
- 10.) Trust, trust, trust in Allah Ta’ala. Insha-Allah, He will open doors for you to fulfill your desire to settle, form an Islamic home and please your parents. There is a time and place for everything and everyone.
- 11.) May Allah Ta’ala grant you a most suitable Muslim husband, with noble character; a husband who will offer you happiness and contentment and steadfastness on Deen.
- 12.) For a marriage proposal : Read daily, before sleeping : 111 times يَا جَامِعُ . Your mother can read يَا لَطِيفُ 111 times. Duroid Shareef should be read 11 times before and after. Make Dua. You can also read Surah Dahr every night (Juz 29, Surah 76).

Was-Salaamu alaykum wa-Rahmatullahi wa-Barakaatuhu
Yunus Patel (Maulana)



LETTER FOUR

Acquiring wealth

Question

I am a Hindu and want you to please foretell my future. Will I become rich in the future? I am not well off and am very desirous and ambitious of becoming a rich man. I would also like your suggestions on how to become rich.

Reply

Bismihi Ta'ala

- 1.) Sustenance, health, life – in fact, everything – is **predestined**. It is **only** Allah Ta'ala (God) who has total knowledge of all and everything, as well as what is going to happen. No human being can read your palm or tell your fortune in any other way, and thereby predict your future.

- 2.) However, we live in a world of means and thus we make use of the means, and then leave the decision to Allah Ta'ala. So we make an effort in acquiring our sustenance, in earning a livelihood. After this effort, whatever reaches us, should be appreciated, whether it is little or more. ...This is based on Divine Distribution, not on how much harder we work and strive. ...Many are professionals, but are without any kind of job or income. Despite their degrees, they are unable to earn a living.

- 3.) Amongst many things, five are mentioned in particular, which are **exclusive** to the knowledge of Allah Ta'ala. No one else knows about these five besides Allah. So no person can tell you about these five things.

ALLAH TA'ALA STATES IN HIS DIVINE BOOK:

“VERILY ALLAH, WITH HIM (ALONE) IS THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE HOUR (QIYAAMAH), HE SENDS DOWN THE RAIN, AND KNOWS THAT WHICH IS IN THE WOMBS. NO PERSON KNOWS WHAT HE WILL EARN TOMORROW, AND NO PERSON KNOWS IN WHAT LAND HE WILL DIE. VERILY, ALLAH IS ALL-KNOWING, ALL-AWARE (HE IS ACQUAINTED WITH ALL THINGS).”

[SURAH LUQMAN 31 : 34]

Thus, tomorrow is a secret known to Allah Ta'ala **Alone**. Included in this, is:

- The detailed knowledge of exactly what a person will be able to do.

All we can do is plan. However, we should not trust in those plans. Anything can happen - an accident, death, sickness, war, revolution, etc. which will then change those plans.
- All plans are subject to Allah Ta'ala's confirmation.
- **This part of the verse also refers to wealth, i.e. exactly how much money a person will earn for that day.**

- 4.) Look towards those who have less than you to appreciate what you have.
- 5.) For a Muslim, the true contentment lies not in material wealth and riches, rather in the contentment of the heart. This contentment is achieved with firm belief in Allah Ta'ala, His Final Prophet and Messenger, Muhammad (May Allah send salutations and peace upon him), belief in the Hereafter, and complete submission to Allah Ta'ala in this worldly life. The religion of Islam offers true fulfillment to heart and soul.
- 6.) Ambition is in its place. Who isn't ambitious? But this ambition must not be at the expense of rejecting the One who has created us, nourished us and sent us to this world with a **high** and **lofty** objective : And that objective is not amassing wealth, rather it is recognizing and submitting to the One who Controls our lives and all our affairs, and to whom is our inevitable return. So we work towards achieving His Pleasure. In this manner, we secure our salvation in the Hereafter, whereby we enter Paradise, God Willing – and it is here that every desire will be fulfilled ... without any effort.

So do not close your heart and mind towards the truth, rather work to achieve the truth and you will find yourself very rich within your heart and soul – and these riches cannot be stolen like material possessions.

- 7.) May God guide you to this richness which is truly enviable and which you too will consider the ultimate

bounty, because you will experience in your life, the treasures of both worlds.

***“The clouds and winds, the moon, the sun and
the sky are always at work,
So that you earn your living and do not eat in
forgetfulness.***

***The whole creation is involved in working
for you in obedience,
The law of justice will not be fulfilled if you
fail to obey Allah.”***

Yunus Patel (Maulana)



LETTER FIVE

Intolerance whilst teaching

Question

As-Salaamu ‘alaykum warahmatullah

I am a Madrasa teacher and find myself intolerant when it comes to some of my students, especially the ones who are weak and slow in learning. In my frustration, I sometimes insult such students and thereafter regret my behaviour. Due to their slowness, I even leave off testing them. Please advise on how to overcome my intolerance.

Reply

Bismihī Ta’ala

Sister in Islam,

Wa-alaykumus Salaam wa-Rahmatullahi wa-Barakaatuhu

- 1.) *Ahle Ilm*¹² are supposed to be *Ahle Hilm*¹³. Just as you would like that Allah Ta’ala tolerates you with all your weaknesses and shortcomings, so you will have to train your nafs to also tolerate others on their weaknesses. Being human means that we are prone to shortcomings and errors – each and every one of us.

- 2.) Comments that are uncalled for and that are hurtful to the children will invite regret. Learn to maintain silence.

¹² *Ahle Ilm* : People of Knowledge

¹³ *Ahle Hilm* : People of Tolerance

The Hadeeth mentions that a man does not slip so much with his foot as he does with his tongue.

- 3.) Moreover, you should adopt '*adl*'¹⁴ in respect to your students, otherwise not testing them due to their weakness, will be an injustice to them. Allah Ta'ala has entrusted these students to your care. This is an *amaanat*¹⁵. Win them over with love, compassion and affection. Encourage them with good words and with incentives.

If need be, get the brighter students to give some time to the weaker students, for revision purposes – that is, if you do not have sufficient time. However, do not be neglectful in giving *your* attention to the child.

- 4.) There are many excellent books by our pious Ulama and these book offer different methods of teaching, as well as excellent suggestions in dealing with students. You should try and obtain them, and follow through with the noble advice and guidance therein.

Was-Salaamu alaykum wa-Rahmatullahi wa-Barakaatuhu
Yunus Patel (Maulana)



¹⁴ *Adl* : justice

¹⁵ *Amaanat* : trust

LETTER SIX

Doubts in respect to Taharah

Question

As-Salaamu ‘alaikum

My problem is as follows : Every time I make Wudhu, I feel as if my Wudhu is not valid. I repeatedly wash my face, going beyond 3 times. When I take Ghusl, I consider that it is not valid and repeat it. When I make Istinja, I feel I am still not clean. I continue making Wudhu, Ghusl and Istinja but the doubts are not leaving me. I have been to many Aamils and follow different treatments, but the problem is persistent. I feel my sickness only increasing and am fed up of running after Aamils and doing the different treatments. Would be grateful for your help.

Reply

Bismih Ta’ala

Respected Brother,

Wa-alaykumus Salaam wa-Rahmatullahi wa-Barakaatuhu

- 1.) First of all : Put a complete stop to visiting Aamils. Just read the following :
 - 3 x Durood Shareef
 - 3 x Ayatul Kursi
 - 3 x 3 Quls
 - 11 x La Haula wala Quwata Illah Billah
 - 3 x Durood Shareef

Blow over yourself. Blow on water and drink. Make Taubah and Istighfaar from sins. Give some Sadaqah.

This will be sufficient to ward off Jinn and Jadu effects.
Do this morning and evening.

- 2.) Ignore all the doubts when making Wudhu. It is possible to cover the face properly in washing 3 times. Thereafter, just ignore the doubts.
- 3.) When in the toilet : After relieving yourself, stand up, cough a few times, then make Istinja with toilet tissue. After this, wash the private part. Wear your underwear. Sprinkle a little water around the groin area. Then attribute whatever wetness you feel to that sprinkle. Ignore the doubts.
- 4.) When bathing : Soap your body properly once. When the soap is washed off, believe your body too has been washed.
- 5.) If you do not follow through with the above, you will suffer anxiety and the problem can even lead to a nervous breakdown and sicknesses.
- 6.) Read the book : *“Combating the Whisperings of shaytaan”* – found on the website (www.YunusPatel.co.za). Or send us your address, and we will post it to you.
- 7.) I make Dua for your complete recovery from all ailments – physical and spiritual.

Was-Salaamu alaykum wa-Rahmatullahi wa-Barakaatuhu
Yunus Patel (Maulana)



LETTER SEVEN

Revising Qur`aan Shareef for a Hafez

Question

As- Salaamu `alaykum warahmatullahi wabarakaatuhu

I am a Hafez of the Qur`aan Shareef, but find it very difficult to keep up with dhor, due to my responsibilities as the breadwinner, husband and father. As a result, there is neglect. The time is never enough to do the dhor I used to do as a student. I would appreciate Maulana's suggestions on how to maintain my dhor.

Reply

Bismih Ta'ala

Dear Brother in Islam,

Wa-alaykumus Salaam wa-Rahmatullahi wa-Barakaatuhu

- 1.) Every difficulty becomes easy on the path of Love and for the Lover of Allah Ta'ala, there is always time for the Beloved, and always a desire to be in communion with the Beloved.

The Qur`aan Shareef is the Kalaam (Speech) of Allah Ta'ala: When reciting it, you are listening to Allah Ta'ala and simultaneously, Allah Ta'ala is listening to you. The Hadeeth mentions : **“Almighty Allah listens to the voice of the reader of the Qur`aan more eagerly than does a master to the song of his singing slave girl.”**

We should be desirous of such opportunities whereby we are recipient to this special attention from Allah Ta'ala.

- 2.) The following is an easy prescription which I give to Huffaaz who are in professions and business:
- a. *Between the Azaan of Fajr and Fajr Salaah, after the 2 Sunnats of Fajr, read 3 Rukus of Qur`aan Shareef. After Fajr, read the same 3 Rukus. It will take \pm 5 minutes.*
 - b. *Before and after Zuhr do the same 3 Rukus only. Then before and after Asar, Maghrib and Esha respectively, the same 3.*
 - c. *In a day, you have done the same 3 Rukus \pm 10 times, allowing for some days when you cannot manage before or after.*
 - d. *Take the following 3 Rukus the next day and recite as explained above. In six days (average), you will complete a para. On Sunday, make dhor of that para, reading a few rukus each Salaah time.*
 - e. *In a month you will do \pm 4 paras, and in 7 months revision of the complete Qur`aan Shareef without much effort, Insha-Allah.*
 - f. *Continue like this for the rest of your life.*
- 3.) May Allah Ta'ala grant Barakah in time, preservation of His Kalaam in your heart, and Taufeeq of always reciting the Qur`aan Shareef.

Was-Salaamu alaykum wa-Rahmatullahi wa-Barakaatuhu
Yunus Patel (Maulana)

LETTER EIGHT

Living with In-laws

Question

Respected Maulana,

As-Salaamu 'alaikum

I live with my in-laws and there is free intermingling amongst the brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law. I come from a conservative home and am very uncomfortable in this situation. How do I live in such a home without getting involved in an informal relationship with the men in the home? Is there any proof in respect to keeping one's distance from one's brother-in-law? How should I dress before my father-in-law? What does Shariah say about having male servants? Because my in-laws keep male servants to do housework also.

Reply

Bismihī Ta'ala

Respected Sister in Islam,

Wa-alaykumus Salaam wa-Rahmatullahi wa-Barakaatuhu

- 1.) Sadly, we live in a time, where people are far too lax in respect to the laws of Shariah. As a result, innumerable problems abound – more especially on the home-front, with marital disputes, infidelity, disobedience of children and so forth. It seems as if a fire is burning in almost every home due to indulgence in sins. Intermingling with the opposite sex is a sin, but is no

longer frowned upon by the majority. It is rather considered a norm.

- 2.) It is not permissible to associate with one's brother-in-law (or sisters-in-law for males) in an informal or intimate manner. You should associate with the ladies, but if you are living in such a home as described in your letter, then observe the following :
 - *Keep the scarf low over the forehead.*
 - *Wear a loose modest dress or cloak.*
 - *Lower your gaze when crossing any non-mahram persons.*
 - *Do not engage in chit-chat with brothers-in-law and ghayr-mahareem.*
 - *Talk only what is essential with male servants, in a straightforward manner.*
- 3.) Your father-in-law is a Mahram, but if he is **young** or he is of **low morals**, some degree of "purdah" must be maintained, although the face can remain uncovered.
- 4.) Proof is in the Qur'aan and Sunnah. Nabi (ﷺ) said that the brother-in-law is like death. ...This is because if there is an informal and close relationship, it can easily lead to an illicit relationship and break-down in marriage. There is no shortage of proof of the same, in many, many families – where sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law have fallen into adulterous relationships, etc. Allah Ta'ala protect us all.

Was-Salaamu alaykum wa-Rahmatullahi wa-Barakaatuhu
Yunus Patel (Maulana)

LETTER NINE

Various Weaknesses

Question

As-Salaamu ‘alaikum Hazrat,

My weaknesses are as follows : I am neglectful of my Salaah. Laziness sets in at the time of Salaah, and I find flimsy excuses by which I forego the Salaah. I have the same habit when it comes to Tilawat. I don't give time. I also have the habit of speaking lies and cannot seem to give it up. I also gossip and take pleasure in speaking ill of others and I don't show any respect to my parents or seniors. I consider myself gullible at times and am very materialistic. I am persistent and demanding in getting what I want. Can you advise and offer me remedies for all of these ills?

Reply

Bismihī Ta‘ala

Respected Sister,

Wa-alaykumus Salaam wa-Rahmatullahi wa-Barakaatuhu

- 1.) The correct etiquette when writing to one's Shaykh is to address two or three concerns or weaknesses at a time, and not all weaknesses, at once. There are many others, like you, also seeking attention and time for Islaah, and they too have a right to be fulfilled.
- 2.) Be that as it may, acknowledgement of sins is a virtue in itself and is half the battle won. Masha-Allah. ...Your

sincerity will be evident if you make the effort in following through with the advices offered.

- 3.) Due to time restraint, I will try and briefly address the weaknesses which you mention :

Salaah :

Read the entire chapter of '*Fazaa`il-e-Salaah*' by Shaykhul Hadeeth, Hazrat Maulana Muhammad Zakariyya (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ). Read one Hadeeth from the section of *Fazaa`il*¹⁶ and one Hadeeth from the section which deals with warnings for those who neglect Salaah. Read the Ahaadeeth with their commentaries. Insha-Allah, before completing the chapters, you will be punctual with Salaah.

Also draw up a chart for one month, of the days of the week, together with the respective Salaah read each day – and give an honest account of the effort that you make in reading your Salaah in its correct time. Send this to me after one month.

Give Sadaqah of R20 each time that you make a Salaah, Qadha.

Qur`aan Shareef :

The Qur`aan Shareef also has a right upon us – that we read it daily. Make time for some recitation, even if it is just 2 Rukus a day, and thereafter increase gradually. Also read Surah Yaseen every morning.

¹⁶ *Fazaa`il* : Virtues

If you have not learnt proper Tajweed¹⁷ and pronunciation, make the effort to do so. It is Waajib¹⁸ to learn to read the Qur`aan Shareef correctly.

Whilst reading the Qur`aan Shareef, think : This is the Kalaam (Speech) of my Allah – of my Beloved. I am listening to the speech of Allah.

And since you are reading His Speech, He is also listening to you.

Lies :

A person asked Rasulallah (ﺻﻠﻮﺍﻟﻠﻪ ﻋﻠﻴﻪ ﻭﺳﻠﻢ) if a Muslim can be a coward (i.e. Is it possible that this weakness be found in him). He (ﺻﻠﻮﺍﻟﻠﻪ ﻋﻠﻴﻪ ﻭﺳﻠﻢ) replied : ‘Yes.’ He was then asked if a Muslim can be miserly and he (ﺻﻠﻮﺍﻟﻠﻪ ﻋﻠﻴﻪ ﻭﺳﻠﻢ) again replied: ‘Yes’. He was thereafter asked if a Muslim can be a liar and he (ﺻﻠﻮﺍﻟﻠﻪ ﻋﻠﻴﻪ ﻭﺳﻠﻢ) said: ‘**No.**’

Lies are so far removed from Imaan, and such an extremely bad habit, that Allah Ta’ala mentions it together with Shirk in the Qur`aan Shareef. The Qur`aan Shareef combines the sin of lying with the sin of idol worship in the same phrase.

The fact that Rasulallah (ﺻﻠﻮﺍﻟﻠﻪ ﻋﻠﻴﻪ ﻭﺳﻠﻢ) hated, detested and abhorred lies would suffice as a deterrent to the one who claims to be his follower.

¹⁷ *Tajweed* : the art of reciting the Qur`aan Shareef in accordance with established rules or pronunciation and intonation.

¹⁸ *Waajib*: obligatory

What has been said above should be sufficient to give up such a bad habit. If not, then when you have uttered a lie, inform the person you have lied to: *'I am in the process of reforming myself and one of my weaknesses is my habit of lying. And as part of remedying this weakness, I have to inform you, that I have just spoken a lie. Please forgive me.'*

Gossip :

This too is a very major sin. Allah Ta'ala has prohibited this in the verse : **'NOR SPEAK ILL OF EACH OTHER BEHIND THEIR BACKS. WOULD ANY OF YOU LIKE TO EAT THE FLESH OF HIS DEAD BROTHER? NAY, YOU WOULD ABHOR IT... BUT FEAR ALLAH...'**(49:12)

When we have so much to account for, of our own actions, do we need the burden of accounting for speaking ill of others as well... or having to contend with their sins as a recompense for backbiting?

All you have to do is keep quiet. Why dishonour any person? Would you like that others speak ill of you, disclose your faults and be the means of your shame and humiliation and disgrace? ...No. **So like for others what you like for yourself – simple.**

If you continue, go up to the person, and tell her: *'I have made gheebat of you and request your forgiveness in this world...'* This should remedy the problem very quickly.

Disrespect to parents and elders / disobedient :

You may have heard the cliché: *What goes around comes around.*

Just as you treat your parents and elders, so will you be treated by your children and others who are junior to you.

Disrespect to parents is such a major sin that the person is punished even before death - in this world as well as the hereafter. Allah Ta'ala has said in the Qur`aan Shareef that we should not even say, 'uff' to them... so then what of anything worse?

Humbly apologize to your parents. Ask them to forgive you and to make Dua for you as well.

Make the effort to be good and obedient – and that obedience must obviously be within the parameters of Shariah. There is no obedience to creation if it entails disobedience to the Creator.

Gullible :

Deal with people with caution. Neither can you be too trusting, because most people will take you for a 'ride', so to speak. Nor should you be suspicious, because '*some suspicion is sin.*'

Materialistic :

Do not forget your destination. It is not this world... It is the Hereafter. This world is just part of the journey. It was created for our use... but we were created for the Akhirah - Jannah, Insha-Allah.

Make use of the things of this world, enjoy the material bounties given – but do not give your heart to “sand”. Give your heart to Allah Ta’ala. Do not invest all your energies and time and money and effort in a world that will perish – and which you too will be leaving. It must not be that we return to Allah Ta’ala as losers.

Try to curtail visits to shopping areas, since we become easily enamoured by the different or new products on the market. This tempts us to spend unnecessarily and even lavishly, or beyond our means – which is sinful. If we cannot afford those items, our hearts will be restless and in grief. So we spare ourselves that unnecessary grief, by going only out of necessity.

Persistent and demanding :

Do not make life difficult for others.

A Muslim is selfless and not selfish. A Muslim gives more than he takes. ...Learn to do things for others for the pleasure of Allah Ta’ala and Allah Ta’ala will then put into the hearts of others to do for you, without you demanding.

- 4.) To nurture and strengthen your Imaan, read the right literature and keep good company, and be practical on Deen.
- 5.) May Allah Ta'ala make it easy for you and all of us to give up all undesirable habits and to be practical on the Commandments of Allah Ta'ala and the teachings of Rasulullah (ﷺ).
- 6.) I have enclosed some of my kitaabs. Insha-Allah, you will find benefit in them.
- 7.) May Allah Ta'ala grant the best of both worlds and make you a good and pious Muslimah.

Was-Salaamu alaykum wa-Rahmatullahi wa-Barakaatuhu
Yunus Patel (Maulana)



LETTER TEN

Debts

Question

Respected Maulana

As-Salaamu ‘alaikum wa-Rahmatullah

I am caught up in major debts. I have a weakness of purchasing on credit, thinking I can cover my expenses in the months which are interest-free. However, I am now in debts, ‘over my head’ and don’t know how to come out. Is there any wazeefa which I can read?

Reply

Bismihī Ta’ala

Dear Brother,

Wa-alaykumus Salaam wa-Rahmatullahi wa-Barakaatuhu

- 1.) Cut down the credit cards. Do not purchase unnecessarily. Live within your budget. Get rid of surplus assets by selling – whether car, furniture or other material possessions, and pay off.
- 2.) Read the following Masnoon Dua for easy payment of debts –

اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي أَعُوذُكَ مِنَ الْهَمِّ وَالْحُزْنِ وَأَعُوذُكَ مِنَ الْعَجْزِ وَالْكَسَلِ
وَأَعُوذُكَ مِنَ الْجُبْنِ وَالْبُخْلِ وَأَعُوذُكَ مِنْ غَلَبَةِ الدَّيْنِ وَقَهْرِ الرِّجَالِ

"O Allah, I seek protection in You from all worries and grief, and I seek protection in You from helplessness and laziness, and I seek protection in You from miserliness and cowardice, and I seek protection in You from overpowering debt and from the high-handedness of men."

- 3.) We are all travellers on a long journey home – to Jannah, Insha-Allah. This world is just a stop en-route. We are all in transit until we board the flight of death.

A Muslim is thrifty with his time in the world, knowing that preparation has to be made for the journey ahead, and not in amassing the material things of this world. Whilst we make use of the things of this world, we should not give our hearts to them and become negligent of our purpose in this world.

- 4.) Curb your spending by limiting your visits to shopping centres. Go when necessary and just to those shops that have the items needed. Do not window shop or visit every shop and get caught by the temptation to spend unnecessarily. What you do not see, you will not desire.
- 5.) May Allah Ta'ala make it very easy to pay off all debts.

Was-Salaamu alaykum wa-Rahmatullahi wa-Barakaatuhu
Yunus Patel (Maulana)



LETTER ELEVEN

Children

Question

As-Salaamu ‘alaikum warahmatullah

Alhamdulillah, I am in hijab and punctual with Salaah and I try to please Allah Ta’ala and follow the Sunnah. However, since I have had my daughter, I find bringing her up to be very trying and sometimes I lose my temper. She is now two years old and besides being demanding, always wanting my attention, and disruptive, she also gets in my way every time I make Salaah, so much so that I break my Salaah and have to start over. I am very frustrated and take out my frustrations on my husband, who is very loving, caring and patient towards me.

Reply

Bismihī Ta’ala

Respected Sister

Wa-alaykumus Salaam wa-Rahmatullahi wa-Barakaatuhu

- 1.) Masha-Allah, it is very pleasing to note the effort that you are making to please Allah Ta’ala. May Allah Ta’ala grant Istiqaamah¹⁹ and acceptance.
- 2.) Islam has conferred upon the mother great rights due to having carried a baby for nine months, and suffering weakness upon weakness, thereafter the trauma of

¹⁹ *Istiqaamah* : steadfastness

childbirth and the many sacrifices that follow once the child has come into the world. On all of those sacrifices, Allah Ta'ala grants immense rewards.

- 3.) Almost all mothers describe the age of around 2 years as the 'terrible twos' – because toddlers generally become stubborn and rebellious and are a great test of patience. So you are not alone in that frustration.

Inculcate the quality of *Sabr* (patience) by thinking of the great rewards.

However, you should be careful not to allow your frustration to get the better of you, such that you begin to hit, slap or whack the child. Many, many mothers feel that since it is their children, they can do as they like – and it is generally not because of Tarbiyyah and discipline, but due to the frustration of their nafs. This frustration is then taken out on their children, and often it is 'zulm' (injustice). Keep in mind that your child is a trust from Allah Ta'ala – for which you will be questioned.

When distressed or frustrated, make a lot of Dua for your daughter – but do not ever curse, since a mother's Dua is immediately accepted.

Read: يَا لَطِيفُ x 7 and blow on her when she is troublesome and crying. Read Durood Shareef as well.

Add the following to your daily Duas:

رَبَّنَا هَبْ لَنَا مِنْ أَزْوَاجِنَا وَذُرِّيَّتِنَا قُرَّةَ أَعْيُنٍ وَاجْعَلْنَا لِلْمُتَّقِينَ إِمَامًا ۝

And those who say, "Our Lord, grant us from among our wives and offspring comfort to our eyes and make us an example for the righteous."

[Surah Furqaan 25 : 74]

- 4.) Anger and frustration are part of being human. However, do not give vent to such feelings in a manner which would be unacceptable and sinful. If you have, humbly apologize to your husband.
- 5.) Express gratitude that Allah Ta'ala has blessed you with a husband who is good. Do also show your husband, your appreciation.
- 6.) You do not need to break your Salaah if she obstructs you. You are allowed to take 2 or 3 steps back to allow for Sajda. You can even move forward as long as you do not go beyond the place of Sajda. Such 'obstruction' was even caused to Rasulullah (ﷺ). Sometimes his grandchild climbed on his back when he went into Sajda. He prolonged his Sajda to allow him to get off. Such obstruction is excused.
- 7.) The Ibaadah of a married person is superior to that of the Ibaadah of an unmarried person. This is because of the added responsibilities, as well as the demands that come along with marriage and parenting.
- 8.) There are many good kitaabs on the upbringing of children, which have been compiled by our respected Ulama. You should try and read these books and follow the noble guidance conveyed.

9.) May Allah Ta'ala make easy the upbringing of your daughter, and may He make her the coolness of your eyes and the comfort and delight of your heart. May Allah Ta'ala make easy all your tasks.

Was-Salaamu alaykum wa-Rahmatullahi wa-Barakaatuhu
Yunus Patel (Maulana)



LETTER TWELVE

Illicit relationships

Question

As-Salaamu ‘alaikum warahmatullah

I was involved with someone who is very well-known in the community for his religious activities. He secretly courted me and promised to marry me but now I have been told that he returned to his hometown and married someone else. I feel angry and betrayed. I had trusted him so much. It is very difficult for me to accept that he has done what he has. As it is, I have so many problems at home. My father is involved with another woman and he is so abusive and violent to my own mother. And my mother just stays on, with patience. I am making plenty of Dua, but not seeing any acceptance. So I'd like to know if Allah is helping me or making my life more complicated. After all, I am also trying to give up some of my sins.

Reply

Bismihī Ta'ala

Dear Sister,

Wa-alaykumus Salaam wa-Rahmatullahi wa-Barakaatuhu

- 1.) One of the beliefs of a Muslim is: *Whatever has befallen you, could never have missed you and whatever has missed you, could never have befallen you.* ...This is Taqdeer.

- 2.) However, the fact that the courtship was Haraam played a role in things not working out. It was Haraam to pursue the relationship. And indulgence in Haraam invites the displeasure, anger and curse of Allah Ta'ala on such persons. When He is not happy with such a relationship, it can never be successful. ...It cannot end in happiness, unless both make sincere Taubah and make the Haraam relationship Halaal, with Nikah.
- 3.) You mention that you placed a lot of trust in him. ...You should understand that if a person is not loyal and faithful to Allah Ta'ala, he will not be loyal and faithful to you. If a person disobeys Allah Ta'ala openly, this is proof of his disloyalty. The contact that the person maintained with you was disobedience to Allah Ta'ala. He should know better since he is rendering religious services. This itself was a sign that all will not work out favourably between the two of you, because there was a lack of 'Taqwa' (abstinence and fear of Allah Ta'ala).
- 4.) Consider what has happened as the past. Forget about it. Bury it. All your questions to him will not undo what has been done. He is married and he is enjoying life, so why mourn and waste your tears over him.
- 5.) However it is very important that you make sincere Taubah for the Haraam contact that you had with him.
- 6.) May Allah Ta'ala give your father Hidayah – to give up the sin or marry the woman. Some senior member of the family or an Aalim should be requested to speak to him or counsel him.

- 7.) May Allah Ta'ala greatly reward your mother for her patience and tolerance.
- 8.) If your father is so violent and aggressive, causes such physical harm, and is not prepared to go for counseling and rectify his behaviour, then your mother should take the matter up with the social welfare department or the Jamiatul Ulama in your area for a resolution to the problem.
- 9.) You should definitely not make such statements as '*Is Allah helping me or making my life more complicated...*' This is very, very dangerous for one's Imaan and leaves one on the threshold of kufr. It is necessary that you sincerely ask Allah Ta'ala for forgiveness for such irrational statements.
- 10.) Allah Ta'ala's assistance is with those who are '*Muhsineen*' (doers of good), those who abstain from Haraam and also fulfill all commands and rights that are directed to them.
- 11.) When Allah Ta'ala answered the Dua of shaytaan who was already '*rajeem*' (rejected / accursed), why would He not answer your Dua? ...Allah Ta'ala is to His Servant as is His servant's expectation of Him. If you have doubts about Allah Ta'ala answering your Duas and being able to assist you, then you should not expect acceptance of Dua and His assistance.

...But if you have conviction, that Allah Ta'ala is Kind, Compassionate, Forgiving and Generous and He is the

One who is All Powerful and that absolutely nothing is difficult for Him, and with that Imaan, you make Dua, you will see the fruit of your Dua at some stage.

- 12.) Masha-Allah for the efforts in giving up sins. However, **all** sins have to be given up, to earn the Pleasure of Allah Ta'ala. Sins such as television viewing, music, reading immoral magazines and literature, casting lustful gazes, speaking lies, gossiping, chatting over the internet with boys, etc. And of course, it should go without saying : Reading Salaah punctually, dressing modestly and fulfilling all other rights of Allah Ta'ala, of Rasulallah (ﷺ), of parents, and others.
- 13.) Befriend some good, pious Muslim girls, who will be a good influence and who will offer you encouragement.
- 14.) May Allah Ta'ala grant us His Recognition and Intense Love for Him.

Was-Salaamu alaykum wa-Rahmatullahi wa-Barakaatuhu
Yunus Patel (Maulana)



LETTER THIRTEEN

Winning the lottery

Question

As-Salaamu ‘alaikum wa Rahmatullah

I am very tired of my circumstances. My family is very poor and there is much difficulty. Sir, will you please help me to win the lottery? I know it is Haraam but my situation is a very desperate one. If you were in my situation, you would understand.

Reply

Bismihi Ta’ala

Sister in Islam,

Wa-alaykumus Salaam wa-Rahmatullahi wa-Barakaatuhu

- 1.) We should understand that life in this world is a test – and that Allah Ta’ala will test us in respect to various conditions such as fear, hunger, loss in wealth and life, sickness, and so forth. However, Allah Ta’ala also gives glad tidings to those who bear these difficulties with patience.

You should always keep in mind that Allah Ta’ala does not burden a servant more than His servant can bear: Allah Ta’ala mentions this as well: **“ON NO SOUL DOES ALLAH PLACE A BURDEN GREATER THAN IT CAN BEAR...”** (2:286)

- 2.) Winning the lottery is no solution to a Muslim’s problems. Haraam will only bring more problems and very severe azaab (punishment) from Allah Ta’ala.

- 3.) Read the extract, on gambling, taken from one of my books, which I will include at the end of the letter. Insha-Allah, this will give an understanding of how grave the sin is.
- 4.) You and your family will have to check your lives and see if it is in conformity with Deen. Are all the family members punctual with Salaah five times a day? Is there abstinence from sins, such as music, television viewing, etc?

If not, you have to understand that problems must arise and they will increase, unless we resort to sincere repentance (Taubah) and become obedient to Allah Ta'ala and Rasulullah (ﷺ). On obedience, Allah Ta'ala promises all kinds of blessings – in health, wealth and life.

- 5.) Make sincere Taubah, turn to Allah Ta'ala, beg of Him – Insha-Allah, conditions will become favourable.
- 6.) Are you in such dire and desperate circumstances where you do not have food at home, shelter, cannot pay for water and electricity, etc? If so, you should go to one of the Muslim welfare organizations in your area and ask for financial assistance and the members of the family should make some effort to obtain Halaal earnings. Home industry is a thriving business. The ladies in the family can sew, cook, bake or make something and sell from home. But poverty is no justification for the lottery.

- 7.) Allah Ta'ala mentions that after every difficulty there is ease. May Allah Ta'ala open doors of Halaal Rizq (sustenance) and grant ease and aafiyah, prosperity and plenty of happiness.

Was-Salaamu alaykum wa-Rahmatullahi wa-Barakaatuhu
Yunus Patel (Maulana)



Gambling...²⁰

...There are those who, on reading of some person winning 6 million Rands in the lottery, desire to also buy a lottery ticket. And this desire increases in intensity when reflecting over so many digits in a winning. Once more, the command of Jihad is declared against the nafs.

I always say that a Muslim should consider every Haraam Rand, Dollar or Pound won in a lottery or in gambling or coming in any Haraam way (interest, fraud, theft, insurance, etc.) as one pig. If we do not consider every Haraam Rand as a pig, then there is a weakness in our Imaan. If a person wins 6 million or 13 million Rands, Dollars or Pounds, we should consider that the person has won 6 million or 13 million pigs.

If a Muslim is told that he has won 6 million pigs, which are accommodated on a very large farm, then immediately that Muslim will say : 'La haula wa la quwata illah Billah'²¹ – whereas, just as that pig is filth and Haraam, so too are the winnings of the National Lotto or any other form of gambling.

May Allah Ta'ala grant us the understanding.

²⁰ Extract from the book, "Kicking the Habit"

²¹ There is no Power and Might except with Allah.

LETTER FOURTEEN

Jealousy

Question

*As-Salaamu ‘alaykum
Respected Maulana Saheb,*

My problem is that I do not like to see my brother get ahead in good deeds. For example : There is a strong resentment when I see him engaged in Zikrullah, listening to Islamic lectures, reading Islamic literature and so forth. Basically, I do not like to see him doing any good deeds. This gets so strong that many times I do not do good deeds in the fear that he will see me and start doing the same. For example: I would want to read Qur`aan Shareef but I would not, in fear that he will see me and start doing the same.

This is a daily occurrence and I am thinking that it may be hasad, even though not related to worldly issues. It is with ‘a`maal’. Please help me cure this disease.

Reply

Bismihī Ta’ala

Dear brother in Islam,

Wa-alaykumus Salaam wa-Rahmatullahi wa-Barakaatuhu

- 1.) Yes, it is Hasad. Why burn your heart? You should be happy that your brother is setting a noble example and you should emulate him, or yourself do good deeds that he will emulate. If he copies you in good deeds, all those deeds become yours. You will get the reward for

all his deeds as well. SubhanAllah! How generous Allah Ta'ala is!

- 2.) Hasad destroys your own good deeds – so ultimately you lose out. Allah Ta'ala grants Taufeeq and we make Dua that Allah Ta'ala grant us the Taufeeq to also do more good deeds, with Ikhlās and acceptance.

Hasad is being unhappy with the decisions of Allah Ta'ala and what He grants to people – but if there is desire for the same bounties, make Dua that Allah Ta'ala blesses you also. In this regard, make Dua to be blessed with such obedience as well.

- 3.) Be happy for him. Praise him, within limits, on his efforts. And be grateful that Allah Ta'ala blessed you with a brother who is good company – and not a brother who is taking you to sins.

Was-Salaamu alaykum wa-Rahmatullahi wa-Barakaatuhu
Yunus Patel (Maulana)



LETTER FIFTEEN

Mujaahadah and Taubah

Question

As-Salaamu alaykum wa-Rahmatullahi wa-Barakaatuhu

Maulana, despite having spent 5 years at Madrasa, and being occupied in the khidmat of Deen, I still find myself weak with regard to nafs and shaytaan. I still fall into some sin or the other. This makes me very despondent and a feeling of darkness envelops me. I carry out some good a'maal and then spoil them with some bad deed. There are times when I find myself intending to do something displeasing to Allah Ta'ala, then though I find restlessness in my heart, I give in to nafs and shaytaan. After this, I cry in repentance, but after some time, fall into some sin again.

I try to read Tahajjud but would like to become regular in its performance. I have been told that it is not good to sleep during the time of Fajr and would like to verify.

Reply

Bismih Ta'ala

Sister in Islam,

Wa-alaykumus Salaam wa-Rahmatullahi wa-Barakaatuhu

- 1.) The Hadeeth states that all of the children of Hazrat Aadam (عليه السلام) are sinners but the best of them are those who make Taubah.

“To err is human” – but every experience, good or bad, should be a means by which we draw lessons.

As we go through the mill of life, we draw from our experiences and learn the dark and dangerous zones of life, the red light areas and the green light areas of life. But it becomes easier to escape the dark alleys of sins, when we follow someone who has a lamp or torch. Sometimes we think that the short cut is better, but the longer route is spiritually safer. However, it is only a spiritual guide who can lead us down the right path... otherwise, nafs and shaytaan make us branch off at some stage, taking us far from Allah Ta’ala’s pleasure. (Allah Ta’ala protect us all).

- 2.) The Fatwa²² given by your heart, by means of the restlessness, was that this deed is wrong.
- 3.) Regret, remorse and tears of repentance are dearly loved by Allah Ta’ala. It even honours a person with higher spiritual stages, conditional to the person being sincere. So be hopeful. Allah Ta’ala is Loving, Merciful and Forgiving. Alhamdulillah, He has given you the Taufeeq of Taubah, but this should not make you complacent.
- 4.) Retrace your steps to obedience. Give up sins and continue with the Fardh and Waajib and Sunnah. Allah Ta’ala will grant the Taufeeq to do even more when you prove yourself in the efforts that you will now make to obey Him.

²² Fatwa : ruling

- 5.) Listen to my weekly talks (which are audio-streamed). Read the kitaabs again, especially “**Combating the whisperings of shaytaan**” and “**Aashiq-e-Sawdiq**”. Insha-Allah, there will be benefit and improvement.
- 6.) You can wake up half an hour before Fajr for Tahajjud and stay awake right until Ishraaq. The morning is blessed for the Ummah of Nabi (ﷺ). Work towards having a rest in the afternoons. But if you cannot do so, then sleep when sleep comes, but not at the cost of a Fardh Salaah. It is not a sin to sleep after Fajr Salaah, as some make it out to be.

If you find it difficult to wake up for Tahajjud, read 2 Rakaats (or more) before the Witr and you will get the reward, Insha-Allah. You will also get more reward in abstaining from sin, than reading Tahajjud – although, the merits of Tahajjud are very great. So if that too can be secured, it is a precious bounty.

- 7.) Making Dua. Request the same.

Was-Salaamu alaykum wa-Rahmatullahi wa-Barakaatuhu
Yunus Patel (Maulana)



LETTER 16

Horoscopes

Question

As-Salaamu alaykum wa-Rahmatullahi wa-Barakaatuhu

My question is that should we believe in horoscope and signs, because sometimes I read things about my sign and the prediction that is written for my sign upsets me, if there is something scary. I want to know whether this information is true or useless. Please clarify this.

May Allah bless you.

Reply

Bismihī Ta'ala

Respected Sister in Islam,

Wa-alaykumus Salaam wa-Rahmatullahi wa-Barakaatuhu

- 1.) It is Haraam (forbidden) to believe in horoscopes. You should not even look at it in newspapers, etc. Make sincere Taubah. It is all useless information but very dangerous for one's Imaan.
- 2.) Fortune tellers are disbelievers because they are claiming to have knowledge of the Unseen, which is exclusive to Allah Ta'ala. It is a money-making industry which millions have become easy prey to. Reading palms, looking into crystal balls, reading tarot cards, etc. are all Haraam.

- 3.) Moreover, a person who believes in such fortune telling, that is, that the fortune teller has the knowledge of the Unseen, loses his Imaan. Rasulullah (ﺻﻠﻮﺍﻟﻠﻪ ﻋﻠﻴﻪ ﻭﺳﻠﻢ) said : *“Whoever goes to a fortune teller or a soothsayer and believes in what he says has disbelieved in what was revealed to Muhammad (ﺻﻠﻮﺍﻟﻠﻪ ﻋﻠﻴﻪ ﻭﺳﻠﻢ).”*

- 4.) If one reads horoscopes or visits such people out of curiosity but does not believe, then too the person has committed a serious sin. It is mentioned in a Hadeeth : *“Whoever goes to a fortune teller and asks him about something, his prayers will not be accepted for forty nights.”* (Of course, the person will have to pray, as well as repent for the sin).

- 5.) All in all, this is a very grave sin which many Muslims take lightly, spending a lot of time and money in having their futures being read. We seek Allah Ta’ala’s Protection.

Was-Salaamu alaykum wa-Rahmatullahi wa-Barakaatuhu
Yunus Patel (Maulana)



LETTER SEVENTEEN

Reading Mawaa`iz

Question

*My very beloved Hazrat Maulana,
As-Salaamu alaykum wa-Rahmatullahi wa-Barakaatuhu*

Hope Hazrat is keeping well, Insha-Allah.

Alhamdulillah although Hazrat did not reply in writing to my query about not completing the prescribed Zikr, I firmly believe that Hazrat must have made Dua for me. Alhamdulillah, I am experiencing the effects of those Duas since the time I sent the previous letter and even before Hazrat's reply. Alhamdulillah, I am completing my Zikr or at least most of it.

Hazrat Mufti Saheb has advised me to read the Mawaa`iz of Hazrat Hakeemul Ummah (Rahimahullah). Alhamdulillah, I am really enjoying it. However, when I come across a unique and interesting incident or explanation, the first thought that comes to my mind is that I must remember this so that I may relate it to my students or relate it in a bayaan. Is this contrary to Ikhlaas? I get the feeling that ideally one should remember such things for the purpose of one's own practice.

Reply

Bismihī Ta'ala

Wa-alaykumus Salaam wa-Rahmatullahi wa-Barakaatuhu

- 1.) Alhamdulillah, I am well. Making lots of Dua for your progress.
- 2.) Masha-Allah, pleased to read that you are steadfast on Zikr.
- 3.) Hazrat Maulana Ashraf Ali Thanwi (رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ)ʼs Mawaa`iz are a must for our Ulama. If you come across such incidents or explanations, the first Niyyah should be amal, then sharing it with others, for the pleasure of Allah Ta'ala.
- 4.) Convey my Salaams to the family, with request for Duas.

Was-Salaamu alaykum wa-Rahmatullahi wa-Barakaatuhu
Yunus Patel (Maulana)



LETTER EIGHTEEN

Studying Deen

Question

Dearest Hazrat

As-Salaamu alaykum wa-Rahmatullahi wa-Barakaatuhu

With Hazrat's duas, Alhamdulillah, the Umrah was a very beautiful and spiritually energizing experience. Please make Dua that Allah Ta'ala accepts. I always remembered to convey Hazrat's Salaam, when at the Raudha Mubarak.

We experienced a number of setbacks during the safr, with delays, etc., but I considered that there must be khair in Allah Ta'ala's decisions for us. Alhamdulillah, we returned safely.

I would appreciate some understanding of the Zikr sessions that are held at the Masjid.

Hazrat, this is my final year and I have many concerns. I humbly request special duas and guidance in respect to how to carry myself in this final year, studying Hadeeth.

Reply

Bismih Ta'ala

Wa-alaykumus Salaam wa-Rahmatullahi wa-Barakaatuhu

- 1.) Masha-Allah, very happy to read that the Umrah and Ziyarah went so well. May Allah Ta'ala accept all the Duas and Ibaadaat.

- 2.) JazakAllah Khayr for remembering me in your Duas and for conveying my Salaam.
- 3.) The Hadeeth mentions that safr²³ is a portion of suffering. So a musaafir²⁴ should expect some hiccups or difficulties whilst on travel. Dua should constantly be made for ease and aafiyah. Sadaqah should also be given out as a measure of protection.
- 4.) Yes, there is always khayr in Allah Ta'ala's decisions. The delay could have been a means of protection from some calamity or some loss.
- 5.) The Zikr sessions that are held in the Masjid are carried out by different Mashaa'ik²⁵ as a training for their students / mureeds. Their methods are based on experience, together with the benefits in making Zikr in that particular manner. Whilst not Sunnat or Waajib, there is a lot of benefit derived in their methodology. However, do not consider the method as an integral part of the Zikr.
- 6.) May Allah Ta'ala grant the best of both worlds and make your final year a most successful year, wherein you imbibe all the anwaar of Hadeeth.
- 7.) Complete Adab²⁶ is required when learning Deen, moreso with Tafseer and Hadeeth.

²³ *Safr*: travel

²⁴ *Musaafir* : traveller

²⁵ *Mashaa'ik* : plural of Shaykh

²⁶ *Adab* : respect

Try to remain with Wudhu, use Miswaak, and read plenty of Du'ood Shareef. Have utmost respect for your Ustaadh, otherwise that knowledge will be lost. Try and make your Ustaadh's khidmah²⁷.

It is imperative to abstain from sins. Make every effort to show your love for Nabi (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) by following the Sunnah. Make the Niyah of bringing the reality of each Hadeeth into your life.

When writing Hadeeth, write the Arabic " صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ " in full. Make Dua for deep understanding of the speech of Rasulallah (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ), acceptance in your endeavours and for Allah Ta'ala to use you in the khidmah of Hadeeth.

The following advice offers much 'food for thought':

Seeking out knowledge is not saying ; 'So and so related from so-and-so'; rather, seeking out knowledge is fearing Allah, the Possessor of Might and Majesty."

[Imam Sufyaan At-Thauree (رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ)]

"When you have written down (studied) ten Ahaadeeth, check if you notice an improvement in the way you walk, in your level of patience, and in your degree of self-dignity. For if you do not see any such improvement, then know that your knowledge harms you and does not benefit you."

[Advice given to Imam Sufyaan At-Thauree (رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ)
by his respected mother]

²⁷ Khidmah : service

8.) May Allah Ta'ala grant the best of both worlds, and accept your learning as well.

9.) Also requesting Duas.

Was-Salaamu alaykum wa-Rahmatullahi wa-Barakaatuhu
Yunus Patel (Maulana)



LETTER NINETEEN

Sihr and Treatment

Question

As-Salaamu alaykum wa-Rahmatullahi wa-Barakaatuhu

Respected Maulana, I always felt very strongly against people visiting Aamils and becoming obsessed in following different treatments when it comes to them having jinn / sihr problems. I feel that the Sunnah offers the perfect prescription, with the 'Quls' and other Masnoon duas. However, due to being affected by witchcraft by my in-laws, I too was encouraged to visit some aamils and ended up going for different treatments and feel worse than when I started. Moreover, I was told that since my in-laws are the cause, I should keep away from them but I think this may hurt my husband's feelings.

Would appreciate Maulana's guidance please.

Reply

Bismihī Ta'ala

Sister in Islam,

Wa-alaykumus Salaam wa-Rahmatullahi wa-Barakaatuhu

- 1.) A major problem these days is that many, many Muslims frequent aamils²⁸. But the majority find themselves in deeper problems. Of course, there are those who are genuine and do offer great assistance to such afflicted people. There is a place for taweez and

²⁸ *Aamils*: those who treat people afflicted with witchcraft or with the effects of Jinn.

wazeefas in Islam but for many it is a profession and they prove to be bogus. So one has to be very careful.

- 2.) The Sunnah of Nabi (ﷺ) has taught us how to deal with and what to read when affected with jealousy, witchcraft and even jinn. Much relief is found in adhering to these advices.
- 3.) Download and listen to the talk, **“Jinn and Jadu”** – found on the same site²⁹.
- 4.) I always discourage the habit that many women have, of visiting various Aamils. If it is a case of Sihr, then if you are aware of one reputable, pious aamil, it would be permissible to follow his treatment, but visiting half a dozen aamils generally worsens the situation.
- 5.) Moreover, there are many Aamils that escalate the individual’s problems. They also disclose information which is not necessarily true. Sometimes their information is taken from Jinns or from other avenues which make the information flawed and unreliable ... since it is plain lies and mischief.
- 6.) You should not entertain the opinion that your in-laws are doing Sihr on you. If this is a false accusation, it is a very, very serious sin in the sight of Allah Ta’ala. If they are jealous, their jealousy will cause them more harm than good.

²⁹ <http://yunuspatel.co.za>

- 7.) Adopt the following prescription, which is also very simple. Insha-Allah, you will see positive effects.

Read the following :

3 x Durood Shareef
3 x Ayatul Kursi
3 x 3 Quls
11 x La Haula wala Quwata Illah Billah
3 x Durood Shareef.

Blow over yourself. Blow on water and drink.

This will benefit in warding off Jinn and Jadu effects. Do this morning and evening.

Also make sincere Taubah and Istighfaar from all sins. Take out some Sadaqah.

- 8.) Do not break family ties. Your opinion that your in-laws are the cause of the problems must naturally be very upsetting and hurtful to your husband. This is, after all, his own mother and father. Yes, you should behave normal with all, and make Dua that Allah Ta'ala protects you from anyone's jealousy.
- 9.) Visit your in-laws, take some baking or some little gift for them. Win them over. Insha-Allah, their hearts will change.

Was-Salaamu alaykum wa-Rahmatullahi wa-Barakaatuhu
Yunus Patel (Maulana)

LETTER TWENTY

Marriage

Question

As-Salaamu alaykum wa-Rahmatullahi wa-Barakaatuhu

Respected Maulana, I wish to marry and settle down, because I find the temptations in the outside world very strong, and I want to protect my chastity. I would like to know how to go about in respect to marriage and any advice Maulana could please give to me.

Reply

Bismihī Ta'ala

Dear Brother,

Wa-alaykumus Salaam wa-Rahmatullahi wa-Barakaatuhu

- 1.) If you are wanting to marry, then the best is to inform your parents that you wish to now settle down. Enquire if they have any suitable girl in mind for you.

If you have an inclination towards a certain type of girl, make it known. For example, that she must be modestly dressed, or in purdah or someone who will be happy to be a housewife and not want to work, etc. They can then make enquiries of someone who would be suitable and compatible.

- 2.) The procedure is simple once some girl is recommended : You can go and see her and can even speak to her in the presence of a Mahram, and that too,

not as a lengthy conversation. A few simple but important questions; the rest can be found out discreetly.

If you take a liking to her and propose, and if she agrees, let everything that follows be most simple and inexpensive, to gain Barakah and earn the Pleasure of Allah Ta'ala.

Islam does not have 'engagements', mehndis, bridal showers, parties, and celebrating for one week prior to the Nikah. ...Once the answer is given, do not delay the Nikah. As I said, have it simple and Allah Ta'ala will bless the marriage.

Walima is a Sunnah, but this too must be done without any extravagance. Also, include the poor when inviting.

- 3.) In the interim – between the proposal and Nikah - there should be no communication and meeting, no taking drives, etc. with your wife-to-be, since she is still a ghair-mahram. Do not begin your marriage with the anger and curse of Allah Ta'ala by engaging in Haraam.
- 4.) Make a lot of Dua that Allah Ta'ala grants a good, compatible spouse who will be the source of happiness and goodness to you and an assistant in your Deen.
- 5.) Also read good Islamic literature in respect to the Masaa'il³⁰ of Nikah and Talaaq, as well as how to live with your wife. This is very important.

³⁰ *Masaa'il* : rules

- 6.) May Allah Ta'ala bless you with a good and compatible spouse, and grant you a very happy and successful marriage.

Was-Salaamu alaykum wa-Rahmatullahi wa-Barakaatuhu
Yunus Patel (Maulana)



***‘Do for Allah’s Pleasure,
Allah will give you from His Treasure...’***

[Hazrat Maulana Yunus Patel Saheb (Rahmatullahi ‘alayh)]

Publications

Tafweez – The Cure for Depression

Hedayatus Saalikeen – Book 1

Combating the Whisperings of Shaytaan

Aashiq-e-Sawdiq Part 1

Aashiq-e-Sawdiq Part 2

Ikhlaas

Kicking the Habit

Du`aa

Labour of Love

Removing the Safety Net

His Character was the Qur`aan

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