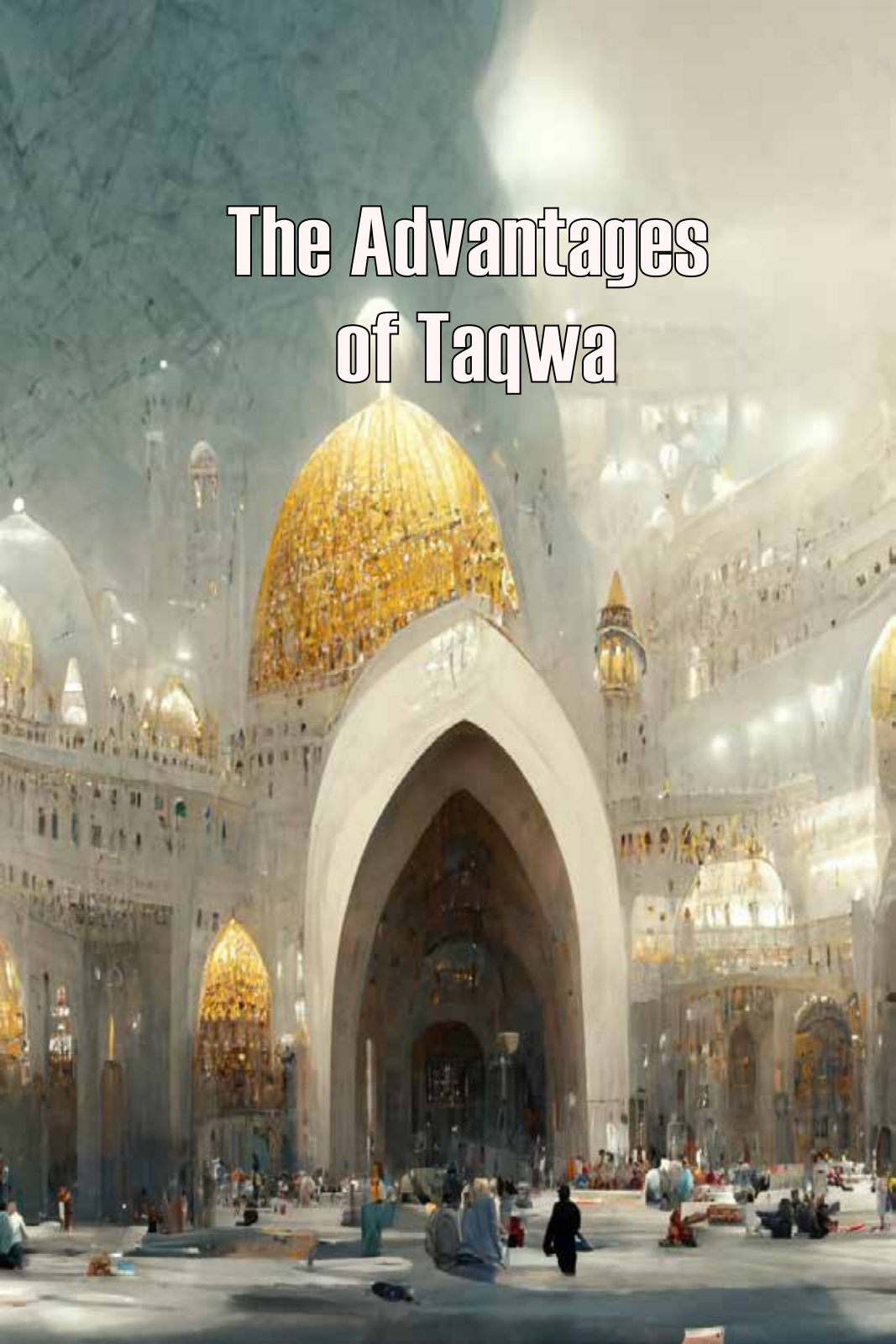


The Advantages of Taqwa



The Advantages of *Taqwa*

All praise is to Allâh. He cherishes those who obey Him and fear Him, and degrades and humiliates those who defy His orders, and disobey Him. I praise Him and thank Him for both His favors and afflictions. I bear witness that there is no god worthy of worship save Allâh ﷻ Alone, having no partners. I also bear witness that Muhammad ﷺ is His slave and Messenger. Verily, he is the best of the Prophets and the most noble of those who fear Allâh ﷻ. May the peace and blessings of Allâh ﷻ be upon him and upon every one who fears Allâh righteously.

O servants of Allâh ﷻ! Fear Allâh and have *Taqwa*, as you were created for it. All the favors and bounties that Allâh ﷻ has granted you and done for you are to help you achieve *Taqwa*. *Taqwa* is to train yourselves to stay away from everything that may lead you to Allâh's wrath, and hence His torment. This is to be achieved by abiding by Allâh's commandments, and staying away from His prohibitions. You must prepare yourselves to only do what Allâh ﷻ likes you to do. It was reported that Ali Bin Abi Talib ؑ said: "*Taqwa* is to fear Allâh, the Magnificent, to abide by the revelation, to be content with the little (of provision), and to be ready for the departure (death)."

O Muslims! We really need *Taqwa* more than we need water and air, even if all what it brings for us is the love of Allâh ﷻ, it will certainly be sufficient. He who has gained the love of the Allâh has indeed gained the love of people. Allâh ﷻ says:

﴿إِنَّ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ سَيَجْعَلُ لَهُمُ الرَّحْمَنُ وُدًّا﴾

"Verily, those who believe [in the Oneness of Allâh and in His Messenger (Muhammad ﷺ)] and work deeds of righteousness, the Most Gracious (Allâh) will bestow love for them (in the hearts of the believers)." (19:96)

Also He says:

﴿إِنَّ اللَّهَ يُحِبُّ الْمُتَّقِينَ﴾

“Verily, Allâh loves *Al-Muttaqûn* (those who have *Taqwa*).”
(9:7)

There is a *Hadith* that states when Allâh ﷻ loves someone, He will set acceptance for him on earth. So fear Allâh, O people, and be aware that Allâh and His Messenger have recommended that all the people fear Him. A Muslim must cling to His Lord’s advice and recommendation. Allâh ﷻ says:

﴿وَلَقَدْ وَصَّيْنَا الَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْكِتَابَ مِنْ قَبْلِكُمْ وَإِيَّاكُمْ أَنْ اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ﴾

“And verily, We have recommended to the people of the Scripture before you, and to you (O Muslims) that you (all) fear Allâh.” (4:131)

The Messenger of Allâh ﷺ said:

«اتَّقِ اللَّهَ حَيْثُمَا كُنْتَ.»

“Fear Allâh wherever you are.”

By fearing Allâh ﷻ, man is protected from troubles, impediments are removed from his way, and doubts are no longer lingering in his heart. By *Taqwa*, Allâh turns man’s grief and hardship into happiness and comfort, and will help him find a way out of his misery and destitution. Allâh will further provide for him from sources that he could never have considered or imagined. In this regard Allâh ﷻ says:

﴿وَمَنْ يَتَّقِ اللَّهَ يَجْعَلْ لَهُ مَخْرَجًا وَيَرْزُقْهُ مِنْ حَيْثُ لَا يَحْتَسِبُ﴾

“And whosoever fears Allâh and keeps his duty to Him, He will make a way for him to get out (from every difficulty). And He will provide him from (sources) he never could imagine.”
(65:2,3)

﴿وَمَنْ يَتَّقِ اللَّهَ يَجْعَلْ لَكُمْ مِنْ أَمْرِهِ يُسْرًا﴾

“And whosoever fears Allâh and keeps his duty to Him, He will make his matter easy for him.” (65:4)

By fearing Allâh ﷻ, man matures intellectually and becomes more brilliant. He gains the ability to distinguish between truth and

falsehood, both the beneficial matters and the harmful ones. By fearing Allâh ﷻ, man's sins and wrongdoings are expiated and hence forgiven. Allâh ﷻ says:

﴿ يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا إِن تَتَّقُوا اللَّهَ يَجْعَلْ لَكُمْ فُرْقَانًا وَيُكَفِّرْ عَنْكُمْ سَيِّئَاتِكُمْ وَيَغْفِرْ لَكُمْ ﴾

“O you who believe! If you obey and fear Allâh, He will grant you *Furqân* [(a criterion to judge between right and wrong), or (*Makhrâj*, i.e. a way for you to get out from every difficulty)], and will expiate for you your sins, and forgive you.” (8:29)

﴿ يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَاٰمِنُوْا بِرِسُوْلِهِ يُوَفِّكُم مِّنْ رَّحْمَتِهِ وَيَجْعَلْ لَكُمْ نُورًا تَمْشُوْنَ بِهٖ وَيَغْفِرْ لَكُمْ ﴾

“O you who believe! Fear Allâh, and believe in His Messenger (Muhammad ﷺ), He will give you a double portion of His Mercy, and He will give you a light by which you shall walk (straight). And He will forgive you.” (57:28)

By fearing Allâh ﷻ, man shall be secure and protected, while other people are frightened. He will be happy while all others are sad, and optimistic while others are pessimistic.

﴿ اَلَا لِيْٓ اَنْ اَوْلِيَآءَ اللّٰهِ لَا خَوْفٌ عَلَيْهِمْ وَلَا هُمْ يَحْزَنُوْنَ ۝ الَّذِيْنَ ءَامَنُوْا وَكَانُوْا يَتَّقُوْنَ ۝ لَهُمُ الْبُشْرٰى فِى الْحَيٰوةِ الدُّنْيَا وَفِى الْاٰخِرَةِ ۙ ﴾

“No doubt! Verily, the *Auliya'* of Allâh [i.e. those who believe in the Oneness of Allâh and fear Allâh much (abstain from all kinds of sins and evil deeds which he has forbidden), and love Allâh much (perform all kinds of good deeds which He has ordained)], no fear shall come upon them nor shall they grieve. Those who believed (in the Oneness of Allâh — Islâmic Monotheism), and used to fear Allâh much (by abstaining from evil deeds and sins and by doing righteous deeds). For them are glad tidings, in the life of the present world (i.e. through a righteous dream seen by the person himself or shown to others), and in the Hereafter.” (10:62-64)

By fearing Allâh ﷻ, man becomes nearer to his Lord, thereupon he gains happiness and felicity in this life and the Hereafter:

﴿ يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَابْتَغُوا إِلَيْهِ الْوَسِيلَةَ وَجَاهِدُوا فِي سَبِيلِهِ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُفْلِحُونَ ﴾

“O you who believe! Do your duty to Allâh and fear Him. And seek the means of approach to Him, and strive hard in His Cause (as much as you can), so that you may be successful.” (5:35)

By fearing Allâh ﷻ, man shall have the peace of mind that his children, especially the weak ones, will be looked after and taken care of. Allâh ﷻ says:

﴿ وَيَخَشَى الَّذِينَ لَوْ تَرَكَوْا مِنْ خَلْفِهِمْ ذُرِّيَةً ضِعَافًا خَافُوا عَلَيْهِمْ فَلْيَتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَلْيَقُولُوا قَوْلًا سَدِيدًا ﴾

“And let those (executors and guardians) have the same fear in their minds as they would have for their own, if they had left weak offspring behind. So let them fear Allâh and speak right words.” (4:9)

O servants of Allâh! You are definitely departing this life. The travelers take provision to sustain their journey. Your journey to the Hereafter needs only one kind of provision. That is the fear from Allâh, *Taqwa*. It is the provision that guarantees for you eternal happiness, tranquillity, and a joyful life in the Garden of Paradise that is as wide as the heavens and earth together. These Gardens were made for those who fear Allâh ﷻ. For this and for other reasons, man knows that he cannot succeed without fearing Allâh ﷻ. *Taqwa* is his way out of the troubles in this life and the Hereafter, particularly when he is to pass over the Fire at one of the stages of the Day of Judgement. Only those who fear Allâh ﷻ can pass that stage intact. With *Taqwa* Allâh ﷻ will be with you, helping you, and Allâh only honors you if you have *Taqwa*. Allâh ﷻ says:

﴿ إِنَّ أَكْرَمَكُمْ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ أَتَقَىكُمْ ﴾

“Verily, the most honourable of you with Allâh is that (believer)

who has *At-Taqwâ* [i.e., he is one of the *Muttaqûn* (the pious.)].”
(49:13)

The Messenger of Allâh ﷺ said:

«لَا فَضْلَ لِعَرَبِيٍّ عَلَى عَجَمِيٍّ إِلَّا بِالتَّقْوَى»

“There is no preference of an Arab over a non-Arab except by virtues of *Taqwa*.”

Some of the early people said: “If a man gets out of the humiliation of wrongdoing to the honor of *Taqwa*, Allâh ﷻ will make him rich without wealth, strong and dignified without a tribe, and entertained without company.”

Fear Allâh, O servants of Allâh! Fearing Him is a cure from all your illnesses. Be certain to always remain in a state of *Taqwa*, for no one will be happy except those who keep themselves in that state. All others shall be sad and miserable. Fear Allâh ﷻ! *Taqwa*, is what you equip yourselves with to encounter your enemy, and thereby defeat him.

Fear Allâh ﷻ with yourselves, your families and wealth. Fear Allâh upon dealing with children, your *Arham* (relatives), your dependants and upon fulfilling trusts that Allâh has entrusted you with. In other words you should keep *Taqwa* before your eyes in every aspect of your life.

May Allâh ﷻ bless us all with His Book and benefit us with its *Âyat* and wisdom. By this, I conclude my speech and ask Allâh ﷻ to forgive all of our wrongdoings. Seek His forgiveness, as He is the All-Forgiving, Most Merciful.