

THE BEST IN ISLAM

Part 3

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Course outline

Course topics:

1. The best clothes
2. The best companions
3. The best creation
4. The best days
5. The best day
6. The days of sacrifice
7. The best in repaying debts
8. The best deeds I
9. The best deeds II
10. The best deeds III
11. The best dowry
12. What is the best in faith itself
13. The best believers

Course objectives:

1. To have a strong determination to opt for the best in all aspects in Islam
2. To get to know the evil deeds in order to avoid them
3. To try to be the best in everything

QUESTION & ANSWER BUCKET

TRANSCRIPTS

ASSESSMENT

Multiple Choice Questions

Match the Columns

True or False

COURSE DURATION

Video	–	2:40 min
Study Guide	–	35 min
Assessment	–	15 min
Total Duration	–	3 hours 30 mins

Lesson 1: The Best in Islam-Part 13

1. The Best Clothes

The colour

There are two statements about the Prophet (pbuh):

- i. That the best cloth is the white cloth.

So, there is particular emphasis on white. But this emphasis was because of the fact that Islam puts a premium on cleanliness and purification. And white is the colour which will require the most washing and cleaning for it to remain looking clean.

So, from this perspective, not necessarily that white is superior to other colours, but merely as an encouragement to use colours which would be natural motivations for people to keep clean.

- ii. Qatadah asked Anas ibn Malik "Which garment was most liked by Allah's Messenger?" And he replied, "the striped cotton cloaks". And this striped cotton usually was made in Yemen and included the colours green and others in it.

Type of garment

In terms of the type of garment that the Prophet himself preferred, Umm Salamah said, "The clothing which the Messenger of Allah liked the best was Al Qamees (the long shirt)" The long shirt is like what we call it Thawb today.

2. The Best Companions

The Prophet said, "The companions whom Allah considers best are those who are best to their companions. And the neighbours whom Allah considers best are those who are best to their neighbours."

The reasons being:

- i. The Prophet (pbuh) wants us to choose our companions carefully, because we will be raised on the Day of Judgment with our companions.
- ii. The Prophet (pbuh) also said that a person will follow the lifestyle of his friend. This is the nature of people that they are influenced by their companions.

- iii. The Prophet (pbuh) said that the good companion is like the perfume merchant. Either you buy from him or walk away smelling good

And the evil companion is like the blacksmith. Either sparks are going to hit your clothes and burn holes in them, or at least you will go away stinky because of smoke.

The Companion in travel

Ibn Abbas narrates that the prophet (pbuh) told him concerning the number of travellers, saying:

- i. one traveller by himself is a devil
- ii. two travellers are like two devils
- iii. Three travellers are a good group.

3. The Best Creation

Allah said in Surat Al Bayyinah, "Indeed those who believe and do righteous deeds are the best of creation." So, what makes people the best? It is the belief and righteous deeds.

If one has belief, but that belief is weak, so righteous deeds are few, then one may be punished in Hell for a period of time if Allah doesn't forgive his sins.

We should strive for the best but none of us should ever think that we have done enough good.

We do not know whether the evil deeds that we've done are eating the good deeds up.

So, if we're having bad intentions constantly, doing things for the wrong reasons, doing things for bad reasons, then this is going to indicate to us this is indicative of weak or no faith.

Eemaan is like the kernel and the righteous deeds are like the shell. No one can still have value without the other. The kernel cannot grow without the shell and the shell has no value if it has nothing in it.

4. The Best Days

Jabir ibn Abdullah quoted the Prophet (pbuh) as saying, the best days of this world are the 10 days. This refers to the last 10 days of Ramadan, the month of fasting. Those last 10 days are the days in which the Night of Power occurs. The greatest night of the year, which is worth 1000 months of prayer if one prays on that night.

It is the night on which the Quran was taken from the Lawh Al Mahfooz, in the highest heaven, down to the lowest heaven from there which the angel Jibreel would take the verses and the chapters and deliver them to Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) through recitation, etc.

It's also worth noting that the Prophet (pbuh) during Ramadan would fast and would seclude himself in the Masjid for those last 10 days. Not only would he fast as he normally would, and pray, etc., in the other days; in the last 10 years, he would seclude himself and focus more on various acts of worship for the, those last 10.

Lesson 2: The Best in Islam-Part 14

5. The Best Day

The best single day is Friday. Why?

- i. Abu Hurairah narrated from the Prophet (pbuh) that he said, "The day which Allah considers best is Friday".
- ii. It is the day of our weekly congregational prayer

What are we instructed to do?

- i. We should read Surah Al Kahf.
- ii. We should take a bath.
- iii. We should attend the congregational Salaah

6. The Days of Sacrifice (the 10th of Dhul Hijjah)

In terms of days in Hajj, Abdullah ibn Qurt quoted the Prophet (pbuh) as saying, the days which Allah, the Blessed and High, considers greatest are the days of sacrifice.

Those performing Hajj slaughter their sacrificial animals on this day, and those who have not got the chance to perform slaughter their sacrificial animals on it. Its blessings involve all.

7. The Best in Repaying Debts is the Best of People

Abu Hurairah quoted the Prophet (pbuh) as saying, "the best of you is the one who is best in repaying his or her debts".

The Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) warned about debts saying in another Hadith, narrated by Abu Hurairah, "the believer's soul is kept in suspension until his debt, or her debts, are paid for them".

And when we look at the world nation, we can see the same thing happening on a global scale, where the powerful and the rich, first world nations trap third world nations in massive debts, which they can't pay off, due to the huge percentage of usury. The economies of these weak nations become under the control of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, which dictates to those countries what they can do and what they cannot do.

In America, more than 4 million in 1993 — The number is way more than that now— living and dying in the streets of America.

And when you go to look at these people, some of them are people who once had good jobs, etc, but they had lived so high that their debts became so much that when one little accident happened to them, and they could not make money any more to pay their obligations, they ended up kicked out of their houses, and their cars taken away, thus becoming homeless in the streets.

8. The Best Deeds I

Allah in the Quran in Surah Al Kahf, chapter 18, verse 46, said, "Wealth and children are this life's adornments, but good deeds that last, have a better reward in the sight of your Lord, and are a better source of hope."

In relation to the above, the following should be noted;

- i. good deeds are those that were done with good intentions, not those deeds done for show in order to impress others.
- ii. The Prophet (pbuh) said, "the best of people are those who are most beneficial to people." So, those good deeds which benefit others and continue to benefit generations after generations, are the best deeds.
- iii. As for the wealth, it will avail nothing in relation to the Hereafter. It is funny to know that the rich Christians were fooled into buying Papal indulgences that they had a place in Paradise, which would be signed by the pope, who was believed to be the representative of God. This is sheer delusion.
- iv. In the Quran in Surah Al Naml, chapter 27, verse 89, and Surah Al Qasas, chapter 28, verse 84, it is affirmed that 'whoever does a good deed will have better than it's worth'.
- v. Allah multiplies each good deed up to 10 times its value, and many more times above that as Allah wishes.

Lesson 3: The Best in Islam-Part 15

9. Best of Deeds II

It was narrated by Maa'iz that the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) said, "the best deeds are faith in Allah Alone, then Jihad, then Hajj, accepted by Allah, the superiority of which is like what is between the rising and setting of the sun in relation to the rest of deeds.

So in this Hadeeth, three things are mentioned:

- i. Faith: from an Islamic perspective, faith is a deed. It is a deed of the heart. But that deed of the heart is expressed by the tongue, and reflected physically by the limbs.
- ii. Jihaad; we're offering ourselves, putting our lives on the line for the sake of Allah, in defence of the Ummah.
- iii. In relation to the rest of deeds, Hajj, accepted by Allah is superior to the rest of deeds like what is between the rising and the setting of the sun in the relation to the rest of deeds.

The Hajj Mabroor is such Hajj that is performed in a way fulfilling all the conditions of validity.

Doing good deeds to the best of one's ability

In a narration by Thawbaan, the Prophet (pbuh) said, "Be upright, although you will never be able to be virtuous all the time. But know that the best of your deeds is Salaah, and that only a true believer will guard his Wudhoo."

The following points are made out of the Hadeeth:

- i. There will be times when we are up, and times when we're down.
- ii. The Prophet (pbuh) recognised this human weakness, and told us, not to worry. Because oftentimes, we feel that when we have done something we shouldn't have done, we start to lose hope.
- iii. No matter how hard we strive, we do have those times when our faith will not be at its peak.
- iv. The Prophet (pbuh) went on to identify for us the best single deed. And he said, it is the Salaah.

But for Salah to be the best outward action, we must have also that best inward action which is Eemaan.

So, the two are related, Eemaan is the best deed of the heart. Salah is the best deed of the limbs. And we said, these two are in fact, inseparable.

The criterion of salvation on the Day of Judgement

the Prophet (pbuh) informed us that the first thing we will be asked about on the Day of Judgment will be Salah.

In the case of judgment on the Day of Judgment, believers and disbelievers, the first thing they will be checked on is Salah. If they failed Salah, nothing else matters after that.

It has to be done properly not only the external fast movements with no involvement of the mind and heart.

Second, wudu' is a condition of the validity of the Salaah.

Whichever limb you wash, you should reflect on the sins done with it. Thus wudu' becomes a spiritual and physical cleanser which prepares us for the Salah.

Lesson 4: The Best in Islam-Part 16

10.The Best Deeds III

The good deed we do regularly

It was narrated by Aaishah that the prophet (pbuh) said: "the deeds which Allah loves most are those done regularly, even if they are small."

We should have no objection. Whatever Allah and His messenger decided to favour in deeds, things, persons, etc., we should accept, since Allah knows and we do not.

In Surah Al Baqarah, verse 216, Allah states there, perhaps you may dislike something which is good for you. And you may love something which is bad for you. Allah knows, and you do not.

This is a massive piece of advice for life, because our lives are between the things we dislike, and the things we like.

Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) he told us that the affair of the believer is amazing. And it is only in the case of the true believer, whenever good times come to them, they are thankful. And Allah rewards them for it. And when bad times befall them, they are patient, and Allah rewards them for it.

So, this is the way that we handle the circumstances. It is based on the principle that Allah said that you may like things which are bad for you, and you may hate things which are good for you. You don't know.

11.The Best Dowry

With regards to dowry, the Prophet (pbuh) had said, the best dowry is the easiest to fulfil.

So, this is advice to family, to women not to make the dowries so high, for the following reasons:

- i. It makes it difficult for the woman to get married in the first place.
- ii. Or it delays marriage.
- iii. This is harmful to society; it's harmful to the women. It's harmful to the man.
- iv. As a result of it, in some societies, lesbianism spreads, homosexuality spreads, corruption spreads, pornography and all these other kinds of things spread as a result of just high Mahr.

Lesson 5: The Best in Islam-Part 17

12.What is the Best in Faith Itself

The first Hadeeth we are looking at is the statement of the Prophet narrated by Abu Dharr, in which he quoted the Prophet (pbuh) as saying, "the best deed is faith in Allah, and Jihad in the path of Allah".

Faith in Islam begins with a belief in the heart. But that belief needs to be expressed on the tongue, and demonstrated by the limbs.

Worshipping or having faith in Allah but worshipping the idols under the delusion that Allah is part of His creation is not acceptable.

Praying to beings thinking them to be intermediaries between Allah and His creation is shirk and a worship that is not acceptable.

So, the best of deeds is:

- i. Faith in Allah alone
- ii. The second best or along with it is that of Jihad in Allah's path. The external expression of faith is that fighting in the way of Allah, Jihad Fee Sabeelillah.

Jihad is not restricted to going and fighting. In fact, the Prophet (pbuh), had expressed that the greatest Jihad is the struggle against one's own self, and one's own desires.

Jihad is to struggle against the evil side of the self, to overcome weaknesses and fight evil thoughts before they develop into actions so as to obey Allah.

Suicide in Islam

Prophet (pbuh) said that whoever kills himself by stabbing himself, throwing oneself of a mountain or whatever, will find himself in hell, perpetually doing the same thing, killing himself over and over.

So, the idea of suicide in Islam is forbidden.

Lesson 6: The Best in Islam-Part 18

13.The Best Believers

Uqbah Ibn Amir quoted Allah's messenger as saying, "the best believers according to their faith are those with the best character."

So, if Islam is the right religion, the right way, then those who profess it should be of the best character. But that can only take place if they have knowledge of the goals of Islam, and not merely ritual knowledge of the customs and traditions, rites and rituals.

Ma'qal Ibn Yasaar and Umir ibn Al Laythee, both quoted the Prophet (pbuh) as saying, "The best aspect of faith is patience and tolerance."

This is because;

- i. It is an indication that one has great trust in Allah that whatever He decides for him, should be good for him.
- ii. When our faith is weak, and the trust in the Allah is in shambles, then when calamity strikes, we start questioning the wisdom and mercy of Allah.
- iii. Our knowledge is limited and Allah's knowledge is infinite. Therefore, we may love something that turns out to be evil, and vice versa.
- iv. This prevents us from having a bad thought about Allah, when our prayers are not answered.

Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) told us, whoever strives to be patient, Allah helps him to be patient.

And the other aspect of faith was that of tolerance, being forgiving.

That's why the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) said, the believer who mixes with people and bears their harm is better than the believer who doesn't. So, being amongst people rather than running away to a monastery and hiding out, teaches you to be patient in the midst of struggle.

This Hadeeth addresses faith in action, that faith has to be a living concept, a life concept, a way of life.

Question and Answer Bucket

1. Why do you consider Jihaad to be so virtuous?

Ans. Jihad is the means of reforming the societies. It starts with fighting one's whims, caprices, and evil thought. So, if these are nipped in the bud, evil will be terminated. The second step is to try to correct the society's anti-Islamic behaviours. This is a great form of Jihaad. And when we fight the disbelievers, it is only because we want to protect people from religious persecution and oppression, and let them choose freely between Islam and other religions.

2. Why do you hold those who are killed in Jihad in high esteem?

Ans. All societies hold their fighters in high esteem. They even build for their martyrs, monuments, huge structures over their graves. They put their faces on stamps. They carve them into the mountains. People honour the martyr, who has given his life up, and sacrificed it for the cause that involves protecting the society, millions of lives, for the sake of, in our case, for the sake of God, and in their case, for the sake of the country, for the sake of the ruler, or whatever. Furthermore, Jihad is to protect people's lives, land, faith, and the like.

3. Why are those who spread corruption not punished and are given much time to practise their evil?

In Surah Aale Imran, 3rd chapter, verse 178, it is stated that the disbelievers should not think that postponing their punishment is good for them.

A swift punishment from Allah, when we do something wrong is a blessing. It is a blessing, as it stops us in our tracks. It stops us from the evil that we're committing. So, we should never think that it is in fact good for us that the punishment is delayed.