

by Imam Zafrullah Domun

As you might recall, last week we spoke about Hazrat Abu Dharr (ra) and some pieces of advice that he received from the Holy Prophet Mohammad (saw). Today *incha* Allah we will continue speaking about the series of advice that the Holy Prophet Mohammad (saw) gave him. Here they are:

“Oh Abu Dharr! Be in the world as if you are a stranger or like one simply passing by as in a journey and count yourself as among the people of the graves.”

“Oh Abu Dharr! When you wake up in the morning don't talk to yourself about tonight and when night has come don't worry of the morning for surely you don't know what your state will be tomorrow.”

“Oh Abu Dharr! Beware that may not over take you a fatal accident during stumbling. The stumbling will not be averted. It will not be possible to return (to correct your mistake). Will not praise you the one you left behind of what you left behind. Will not excuse you, the one you will meet (Allah), of what you were so busy conducting (in the world, carelessly).

Oh Abu Dharr! Be greedier, in terms of your time (life span) more than of your gold and silver coins (wealth).

Oh Abu Dharr! Does any of you wait for wealth that will make him oppressive, or poverty that will make him a forgotten thing, or sickness that will destroy, or old age that will not permit him to do anything but sit, or death that will finish him off, or the great deceiver, Dajjal - surely he is the most evil of those things awaited; or the hour (Day of Judgment) which is more calamitous and bitter. Most surely the worst of men in position with Allah on the Day of Judgement is he who didn't benefit from his knowledge. He who seeks knowledge in order to divert people's attention towards himself will surely not smell the fragrance of Paradise.

Oh Abu Dharr! He who seeks knowledge to deceive by it others will not even smell the fragrance of Paradise.

Oh Abu Dharr! When you are asked of some knowledge you know not of say, "I do not know!" You will be saved of its consequences. Don't make judgment of that which you haven't knowledge, you will be saved from the wrath of Allah on the Day of Judgement.

Oh Abu Dharr! There will be a day when a group of people of Paradise will be over a group of people of Hell and they will say, "What has made you enter hell-fire? For surely we entered paradise by you teaching us and your disciplining (educating) us!" They will say, we used to bid others to do good while we ourselves didn't do it."

Oh Abu Dharr! Surely the rights Allah (s) has over us are greater than his servant can possibly fulfill! Surely the favors of Allah are more than His servants can ever encompass. This is why they pass night and day repenting.

Oh Abu Dharr! You are surely in the passing of night and day where life is short, deeds are recorded and death comes suddenly. Whoever sows good is on the verge of reaping good and whoever sows evil is on the verge of reaping regret. And for every sower in the like of that which he sowed. Will not pass a slow person even a moment and a greedy person will not reach that which is not destined for him. Whoever is given good, Allah gave it to him and whoever is protected from evil, then Allah protected him.

Oh Abu Dharr! The pious are the masters. And the learned are the leaders. Keeping their company is increase (in good). Surely the believer sees his sin as if it is a boulder, he fears that it will fall on him and surely the unbeliever sees his sin as if it is a fly passing on his nose.

Oh Abu Dharr! Surely Allah (s), when He wills good for a servant he puts his sins before his two eyes. When he wills bad for a servant he makes him forget his sins.

Oh Abu Dharr! Don't look at the smallness of the sin but look at the One you disobeyed.

Oh Abu Dharr! Surely the believer is stronger in his fleeing from sin than a sparrow when thrown from his nest.

Oh Abu Dharr! He whose words conform with his deed so he is the one who has attained his share. He whose words don't conform with his deed then he is only destroying himself.

Oh Abu Dharr! Surely a man's sustenance is prohibited (from reaching him) because of a sin he did.

Oh Abu Dharr! Leave that which you have nothing to do with. Do not speak of that which does not concern you and guard your tongue like you guard your money.

Oh Abu Dharr! Surely Allah, glorious is His praise, will enter a people into paradise and will give them until they are weary and above them there will be a people in the highest grades. So, when they will look to them they will recognize them so they will say. "Oh, our Lord, they are our brothers, we use to be together in the world so why have you favored them over us." So, it will be said, "Far from it, far from it! Surely, they used to be hungry while you were satiated, they used to be thirsty while you were quenched, they used to stand (in prayer) while you used to sleep, they used to rise (take a stand) while you used to go low (be passive, relax).

Oh Abu Dharr! Allah, glorious is His praise, has made the pleasure of my eye in Salat, and has made me to love the Salat like food is made loveable to the hungry and water to the thirsty. And surely the hungry one, when he eats, he is satiated and the thirsty one, when he drinks he is quenched but I am not satiated from Salat.

Oh Abu Dharr! Anyone who voluntarily does 12 raka'at other than the obligatory, he has a definite right to a house in paradise.

Oh Abu Dharr! Surely, so long as you are in Salat, you are knocking on the door of the Great King, and whoever knocks much on the door of the King it will be opened for him.

Oh Abu Dharr! There is no believer that stands in prayer but falls on him goodness (birr) what is between him and the Throne. And an angel is appointed for him that calls out, "Oh son of Adam, if you knew what there is for you in Salat and who you are calling, you would not turn away.

Ah Abu Dharr! Glad tidings to those who will carry the banners on the Day of Resurrection, for they will go to Paradise ahead of the people. Verily, they are those who spent their days and nights in the mosque.

Oh Abu Dharr! A degree in heaven is above a degree (like steps) like what is between the sky and earth. And surely the servant raises his eye and light dazzles it, almost snatching his sight, so he is shocked by it and says, "What is this?" So it is said, "This is the light of your brother." So he will say, "My brother so and so? We use to work together in the world and he has been so much favored over me?" So it will be said, "He surely was better than you in deeds." Then will be put in his heart satisfaction until he is satisfied.

On Abu Dharr! This world is the prison of the believer and the paradise of the unbeliever. And no believer wakes up but is grieved in it. And how can he not be grieved in it when Allah has sworn that it will take him to Hell and He

didn't promise him that it will deliver him from it, and that he shall meet (in it) sicknesses and hardships and matters which will anger him and he will be wronged in it and won't be helped. He seeks reward from Allah and continues to be in grief (in it) until he departs from it. And when he departs from it, he attains to comfort and honor.

Oh Abu Dharr! Allah (s), has not been worshipped with a thing like that of length of grief.

Oh Abu Dharr! Whoever is given knowledge which doesn't cause him to cry simply because he has been given knowledge, it will not benefit him. Allah has described the learned and said, "Surely those who were given knowledge before it, when it is recited onto them they fall upon their faces in prostration and they say, "Glory be to our Lord. Surely the promise of Allah shall be done." They fall on their faces crying and they increase in humility.

Oh Abu Dharr! Whoever is able to cry, let him cry. Whoever isn't able to cry then let him have his heart feel sadness and let him try to cry. Surely the hard heart is far from Allah (s), but they don't realize.

Oh Abu Dharr! Allah (s) says, "I will not combine for my servant two fears nor two safeties. So, when he feels safe from me in the world, I make him fear on the Day of Judgement. And when he fears me in the world, I give him safety on the Day of Judgement."

Oh Abu Dharr! Surely the servant will be shown his sins on the Day of Judgement with him who did his sins (also) so he will say, "As for me, I was afraid, feeling anxiety (about my sins) so he will be forgiven.

Oh Abu Dharr! Surely the man does a good deed and he trusts (depends) on it and he (also) does despised deeds until Allah comes to him while angry. Surely the man who does an evil deed and he is afraid of it (its consequence) he will come safely on the Day of Judgement.

Oh Abu Dharr! Surely the servant commits a sin, so he is made to enter into heaven by it! So I said, "And how is that? By my mother and father Oh Messenger of Allah (s)." He said, "That sin in front of his eyes makes him repentant of it, fleeing to Allah (s) (from it), until he enters heaven!"

Oh Abu Dharr! Smart is the one who subjugates himself and acts for that which is after death, and weak is the one who follows his self and its caprice and then hopes in Allah so many a hope.

Oh Abu Dharr! Surely the first thing which will be removed from this community (Ummat) is safekeeping (amaanat) and humbleness until it will hardly be seen fearful (of God)

Oh Abu Dharr! The world is cursed! Is cursed what is in it except that by which Allah's face is sought. And there is nothing more hateful to Allah than the world. He created it then left it so He didn't look at it and will not look at it until stands the hour (Day of Judgement). And there is nothing more loveable to Allah than faith (*eeman*) in Him and abandoning of that which He ordered to be abandoned.

Oh Abu Dharr! Surely Allah (s), revealed to my brother Isa (a), "Oh Isa! Don't love the world for surely I don't love it and love the Hereafter for surely it is the house of return."

Oh Abu Dharr! Surely Jibreel (a) came to me with the treasures of the world and said, "Oh Muhammad (S.)! This is the treasures of the world (for you) and it will not decrease of your share (in the Hereafter) with your Lord." So I said, "My beloved Jibreel! I have no need of it. When I'm satiated, I thank my Lord and when I'm hungry, I ask Him."

Oh Abu Dharr! When Allah wants good for a servant He gives him understanding in religion and makes him abstemious in the world and makes him to see his own faults."

May Allah help each one amongst us to reflect upon these words of wisdom and may Allah, out of His Grace, help us to translate these words into deeds or may all of them be reflected in our character *incha* Allah.