

by Imam Zafrullah Domun

Today, we will continue speaking about and reflecting upon the wise advice that the Holy Prophet Mohammad (saw) gave his companion Hazrat Abu Dharr (ra). It is our hope and prayer that members will make the best use of these pieces of advice by doing their best to practice them in their daily life incha Allah.

The Holy Prophet (saw) said:

“Oh Abu Dharr! Doing wudu well during difficulties is among the things that wipe out sins, and frequenting the masjids, that is connecting (*al ribaat*).” For a definition of *Al ribaat*, please refer to last week’s sermon.

The Holy Prophet (saw) said:

“Oh Abu Dharr! Allah (s) says, "Surely the most beloved of the servants to me are they that love each other for my sake; they whose hearts are attached to masjids and the seekers of forgiveness at dawn. They are the ones that when I want to punish the people of the earth, I remember them, so I avert the punishment from them."

Oh Abu Dharr! Every sitting in the masjid is a waste except three; the recitation of one offering prayers, the remembrance of Allah, and the asking of knowledge.

Oh Abu Dharr! Be more concerned about doing deeds with piety than just doing deeds. Because it is not deemed little, that which is done with piety. And how can a deed be deemed little which is accepted? Allah says, "Allah only accepts from the pious."

Oh Abu Dharr! A man cannot be among the pious until his accounting of himself is stronger than the accounting a (business) partner takes of his partner. So, he knows from where his food comes from and from where his drink comes from and from where his cloths come from; from a lawful means or from a prohibited one.

Oh Abu Dharr! Whoever doesn't care from where he earns his money, Allah doesn't care from where He will enter him into Hell.

Oh Abu Dharr! Whoever it pleases that he may be the most honorable of mankind, let him fear Allah.

Oh Abu Dharr! The most beloved of you to Allah, magnificent is His praise, is the one who remembers Him most. And the most honorable of you to Allah is the most pious among you, and the most saved of you from the punishment of Allah is the strongest of you in awe of Him.

Oh Abu Dharr! Surely the God-fearing are they who are careful concerning those things which people are not generally concerned with, out of fear of falling into that which is doubtful.

Oh Abu Dharr! Whoever obeys Allah has remembered Him even if his prayers, fasting and recitation of Qur'an is little.

Oh Abu Dharr! The king of religion is piety and its crown is obedience.

Oh Abu Dharr! Be pious! You will be the best in worship among mankind and the best of your religion is piety.

Oh Abu Dharr! The Virtue of knowledge is greater than that of worship. And know you that if you prayed until your back becomes bent and you fasted until you became thin as strings, that would not benefit you unless it is done with piety.

Oh Abu Dharr! Surely the people of piety and abstinence in this world, they are the real friends of Allah.

Oh Abu Dharr! Whoever does not come on the day of Judgement with three qualities he has surely lost. So I said, 'What are the three, may my mother and father be sacrificed for you?' He said, "Piety that prevents him from that which Allah the Great and Majestic has made haraam for him, and clemency (*hilm*) by which he refutes the ignorance of the fools and good manners (*Khuluq*) with which he deals with the people.

Oh Abu Dharr! If you desire to be the strongest among the people, then depend and rely on Allah (SWT). And if you desire to be the most generous among the people, then fear Allah (SWT). And if you desire to be the wealthiest of people, then be more confident of what is in Allah's hands than in what is in your hands.

Oh Abu Dharr! If all of the people benefitted from this verse, it would have been enough for them: "And whoever fears Allah (SWT), He will provide a solution for him and grant him sustenance from where he least expects it. And

whoever depends and relies on Allah (SWT), then Allah (SWT) will take care of him, surely Allah will execute his affair.”

Oh Abu Dharr! Allah (SWT) says: By My Dignity and Majesty, if my servant prefers My desire over his desire, I will grant him wealth in himself and make his worry be directed to the Hereafter. And the heavens and earths will guarantee his sustenance, and I will relieve him from his tough time, and I will back him up in every business transaction.

Oh Abu Dharr! Be careful, Allah (SWT) is watching over you. Guard your actions and you will find Allah (SWT) with you. Shall I not teach you words which may benefit you by Allah’s help? I said: Yes, Oh Messenger of Allah. He (SA) said: Get to know Allah (SWT) in your time of leisure and comfort and Allah (SWT) will remember you in your hard times. If you ask, then ask Allah (SWT). And if you seek help, seek Allah’s help. Whatever will happen till the Day of Resurrection has already been recorded. If all of creation tried to help or benefit you in something which Allah (SWT) did not will for you, they will not be able to do so. And if they try to harm you with something which Allah (SWT) did not will for you, they will not be able to do so. If you are able to perform deeds for Allah (SWT) with pleasure and full conviction then do so. But if you cannot then remember that there is much good in being patient with what you dislike. Help comes with patience; relief comes after distress and with difficulty there is ease.

Oh Abu Dharr! Be satisfied with the wealth of Allah (SWT) and Allah will grant you wealth. So, I said: ‘And what is that, Oh Messenger of Allah (SWT)’. He (SA) said: Lunch during the day and dinner during the night, whoever is content with whatever Allah (SWT) gives him, then he is the wealthiest of people.

Oh Abu Dharr! Allah (SWT) has said: ‘I do not accept the talk of the wise person, rather it is his focus and desire which matters. If his worry and desire is in what I love and is pleased in, then I will make his silence be recorded as thanks to Me and remembrance, and dignity, even though he did not talk’.

Oh Abu Dharr! Allah (SWT) does not look at your physical appearance or your financial status or your words, but He looks at your hearts and deeds.

Oh Abu Dharr! Here is piety, here is piety! (and he pointed to his chest)

Oh Abu Dharr! There are four things which does not affect anyone but a believer: silence which is the first thing in worship, humility to Allah (SWT),

remembrance of Allah (SWT) in every situation, and having little wealth or money.

Oh Abu Dharr! Hasten to do a good deed even if you don't get the opportunity to do so, so that you are not recorded among the heedless.

Oh Abu Dharr! Whoever owns what is between his legs and beard will enter the Paradise: I said: Oh, Messenger of Allah, shall we be accounted for what our tongue speaks? He answered:

Oh Abu Dharr! Surely, what brings people to fall into Hell-Fire on their noses is what their tongues say! You are safe so long as you are quiet, and when you speak, Allah (SWT) either writes it for you or against you.

Oh Abu Dharr! A man may speak words in a gathering to give advice but he falls in the Hell-Fire what is between the earth and heavens.

We seek Allah's protection from being such a person.

The Holy Prophet (saw) continued:

Oh Abu Dharr! Woe be to he who talks and lies to make a group of people laugh, woe be to him, woe be to him, woe be to him!

Oh Abu Dharr! Whoever observes silence will be saved, so be honest and don't ever lie.

I asked him, "Oh Messenger of Allah, what about the repentance of a man who intentionally lies?" He (SA) answered, "Repentance and the five obligatory prayers cleanse the sin."

Oh Abu Dharr! Beware of backbiting, for backbiting is worse than adultery! So I asked, "Oh Messenger of Allah, and why is that? He (SA) said: Because a man can commit adultery and then repents to Allah (SWT) and Allah (SWT) can forgive him. But the backbiting cannot be forgiven until those who were backbitten forgive first.

Oh Abu Dharr! To curse a believer is wickedness (*fosoq*), and fighting him is disbelief, and eating his flesh is a disobedience to Allah (SWT). The sanctity of his wealth and property is like the sanctity of his blood. I said: Oh, Messenger of Allah, and what is *Gheeba*? He answered: To say about your brother what he does not like to hear. I said: Oh, Messenger of Allah, what if that which is being said is really in that person? He said: Know that if you mentioned what is really in him, that is considered to be *Gheeba*, and if you spoke what is not really in him, then you have committed *Buhtan* (tale-

bearing). The word *fosoq* has also the following meanings according to Arabic dictionaries: The word *fosoq* encompasses “disorder, inappropriate behavior, debauchery, impiety, depravity, perversity, corruption, immorality, luxury, adultery, and vice”. One may understand the enormity of cursing a Muslim.

The Holy Prophet (saw) continued:

“Oh Abu Dharr! Whoever defends his Muslim brother from backbiting, he would deserve that Allah (SWT) emancipates him from Hell-Fire.

Oh Abu Dharr! Whoever sees his Muslim brother being backbitten and he is able to defend him and he defends him, Allah (SWT) will defend him in this life and the Hereafter. And if he fails to support him while he is capable of doing so, Allah (SWT) will not support him in this life and the Hereafter.

Oh Abu Dharr! He who engages in “*Qotaat*” will not enter Paradise. So I said: And what is the *Qotaat*? He answered: talebearing

Oh Abu Dharr! The tale-bearer will not rest from the punishment of Allah (SWT) in the Hereafter.

Oh Abu Dharr! Whoever has two faces and two tongues in this life, he will also have two tongues in Hell-Fire.

Oh Abu Dharr! The gatherings are confidential, and revealing the secret of your brother is betrayal, so avoid that and avoid the tribal meetings.

Oh Abu Dharr! The deeds of the people of this world are presented to Allah (SWT) from one Friday to another Friday on Monday and Thursday. *Istighfaar* (repentance) would be done on behalf of each believer except a servant who has grudges towards another believer. Someone will say to him, ‘Leave the deeds of these two persons until they make peace’”.

May Allah help each one amongst us to value these teachings and to put them into practice as long as we live, incha Allah. Ameen.