

The Story of Rasulullah's (Sallellaho Alaihe Wasallam) Visit to the Sick

A companion of the Holy Prophet (Sallellaho Alaihe Wasallam) fell ill and became very weak. Rasulullah (Sallellaho Alaihe Wasallam) went to visit him. He was so ill that it appeared as if he had reached the end of his life. When Rasulullah (Sallellaho Alaihe Wasallam) saw his condition, he expressed great sympathy. When the sick Sahabi saw Rasulullah (Sallellaho Alaihe Wasallam), he was overjoyed. It appeared as if he was endowed with new life. It was as if a dead person sprung back to life. He said, "This sickness has made me a very fortunate person that it became the cause of the king of believers coming to visit me." He also said, "O my sickness, my fever, my sorrow, my pain and sleeplessness by night, blessed be you all. You are the cause of Rasulullah (Sallellaho Alaihe Wasallam) coming to visit me today".

Rasulullah (Sallellaho Alaihe Wasallam) asked the sick man, "Do you remember any special dua'a you made during the time of your good health?" He replied, "O Rasulullah (Sallellaho Alaihe Wasallam), I cannot remember what dua'a I made." Then after a short while through the blessings of Rasulullah (Sallellaho Alaihe Wasallam), he remembered and said: "Ya Rasulullah (Sallellaho Alaihe Wasallam) I now remember the dua'a. It was this, "O Allah Ta'ala! In view of my shortcomings, in my deeds and in view of my faults, I beseech Thee, grant me the punishment in this world, which You would give in the Hereafter. So that I may be exempted from punishment in the Hereafter. This dua'a, I kept making up till this day. Until the time came that a heavy sickness covered me and I found myself in distress because of the illness. Due to this sickness, I am unable to perform my Zikr and Wazifas as I did in my healthy days. And now I am unaware of my relatives and good or evil ones."

Hearing this dua'a, Rasulullah (Sallellaho Alaihe Wasallam) showed some displeasure and prohibited him from making such a dua'a: "In the future, do not make such a dua'a".

Rasulullah (Sallellaho Alaihe Wasallam) declared such a dua'a does not befit a servant of Allah Ta'ala. He declared it to be against serfdom to Allah Ta'ala. To beg Allah Ta'ala to send down punishment is tantamount to making the claim that you have the power to withstand it. Therefore, Rasulullah (Sallellaho Alaihe Wasallam) advised him: "O You, what strength do you possess that on a sick ant like yourself Allah Ta'ala should place a big mountain of calamity? But pray: O Allah Ta'ala, ease for me my difficulty." So that He may change the thorns of your distress to a garden of comfort.

Grant to us the good of this worldly life, and grant to us the good of the life of the Hereafter".

Lesson

This story teaches us never to pray to Allah Ta'ala for calamities. We should at all times pray for our welfare and well-being in both the worlds, while admitting before Him our weakness and our inability. For example, if a person has the illness of looking at women, he should pray for rectification and should endeavor to treat the malady by consulting the saintly ones and asking them to pray for him. He should never become distressed and say, "O Allah Ta'ala, this malady of mine is not good. It would be better if you make me completely blind, so that I am not plagued by the sins of my eyes". Such a dua'a will be foolishness. As far as possible, one should pray for health, safety, protection from calamities and welfare.

I heard my Shaikh Hazrat Phulpuri (Rahmatullah Alaihe) say that Hazrat Mansoor (Rahmatullah Alaihe) used to perform Nafil Salaah in the sun while there was a place to do so in the shade. A saintly elder endowed with 'nisbat' (close connection with Allah Ta'ala) said: "This man will soon face a great calamity". This means that when there is ease in front of you, then do not prefer difficulty. When you have to choose between calamity on the one side and calamity on the other side, then choose the lighter of the two as is mentioned in the Hadith.