

Value Of Friday



Allahu ta'ala has assigned Friday to Muslims. He declares at the end of Jum'a sura: ^[1] "O my slaves who have been honoured with iman ^[2]! When the adhan ^[3] (azan) of earlyafternoon prayer is said on Friday run to the mosque to listen to the khutba ^[4] and to perform Friday prayer. Stop buying and selling! Friday prayer and the khutba are more useful to you than your other businesses. After performing Friday prayer you may leave the mosque and disperse so that you can do your wordly affairs. You work, and expect your sustenance from Allahu ta'ala. Remember Allahu ta'ala very often so that you will be saved!"

After the salat those who want to work may go out to work, and those who want to spend their time reading the Qur'an al-karim and praying may stay in the mosque. Buying and selling is sahih ^[5] during the prayer time, yet it is sinful. Rasulallah (sallallahu alaihi wasallam) declared: "If a Muslim makes a ghusl ^[6] and goes to the mosque for Friday prayer, his week's sins will be forgiven and he will be given blessings for each step."

A hadith-i sharif ^[7] declares: "The most valuable of days is Friday. Friday is more valuable than the days of 'Iyd ^[8] and the day of Ashura (the tenth day of Muharram). Friday is the Believers' day of feast in this world and in the next."

Another hadith-i sharif declares: "Allahu ta'ala seals the hearts of those who do not perform the Friday prayer. They become unaware." Another hadith declares: "If a person does not perform three Friday prayers though there is no hindrance, Allahu ta'ala seals his heart. That is, he can never do any good." A person who does not perform a series of three Friday prayers without a good excuse becomes a munafiq ^[9]."

Abu Ali Daqqaq advised three things as he died: "On Friday perform a ghusl! Every night go to bed with an ablution! Remember Allahu ta'ala every moment!" A hadith-i sharif declares: "On Fridays there is a moment when any prayer a Believer sends is not refused." Some savants said that that moment is between the late afternoon and evening azans. Another hadith-i sharif declares: "If you say a certain prayer, 'Estaghfirullah-al-azim-allazi la ilaha illa huwal hayyal qayyuma wa atubu ilayh,' before the morning prayer of Friday all your sins will be forgiven." [But this is conditioned upon your having paid all your (material and spiritual) debts which you owe to creatures, performed the prayers of salat which you have omitted, and ceased from committing harams ^[10] .] Another hadith declares: "If a person says the sura of Ikhlas and the suras of Mu'awwazatayn seven times after Friday prayer Allahu ta'ala protects him against calamities, troubles and evil deeds for one week."

Worships done on Friday are given at least twice as many blessings as those that are given for worships done on other days. And sins committed on Friday are registered two-fold. A hadith-i sharif declares: "As Saturday was given to Jews and Sunday to Christians, Friday has been given to Muslims. On this day there are uses, barakats and goodnesses for Muslims."

GLOSSARY

[1] suura(t): a Qur'anic chapter [a chapter of the Qur'an].

[2] iman: faith, belief, beliefs of Islam; kalam, i'tiqad.

[3] adhan: i) the Muslim call to prayer. ii) the call to salat.

[4] khutba: the preaching delivered at mosque; the homily delivered at the pulpit by the imam at Jum'a and 'Iyd prayers (at the prayers of Friday and of Islamic festivals), which must be read in Arabic all over the world (sinful if read in another language).

[5] sahih: i) religiously lawful, valid; congruous to Islam; ii) (of a hadith) soundly transmitted, authentic according to the conditions laid by the scholars of hadith.

[6] ghusl: ablution of the whole body as defined in fiqh.

[7] hadith (sharif): i) a saying of the Prophet ('alaihi 's-salam).; al-Hadith ash-sharif: all the hadiths as a whole; ii) 'ilm al-hadith; iii) Books of the hadith ash-sharif. iv) Al-hadith al-qudsi, as-sahih, al-hasan: kinds of hadiths (for which, see Endless Bliss, II).

[8] iyd: one of the two Islamic festivals.

[9] munafiq: one in the disguise of a Muslim but disbelieves Islam, but believing in another religion; a hypocrite.

[10] haram: an action, word or thought prohibited by Allahu ta'ala.