Effective Remedies For Spiritual Maladies

KHANQĀH AKHTARI

Hazrat Maulana Abdul Hamid Ishaq
DAAMAT BARAKAA'TUHUM

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NAME OF THE BOOK: EFFECTIVE REMEDIES FOR SPIRITUAL MALADIES

By

Sheikh-ul-Arab Wal Ajam
Arifbillah Hazrat Moulana Shah Hakeem Muhammad Akhtar Saheb
(Daamat Barakaatuhum)

COMPiled by: RASHID KAJEE

REVISED EDITION: RAMAZANUL MUBARAK 1430, SEP: 2009

COMPOSING: Syed Azeem-ul-Haq Haqqui

COPIES: 1000

Published by
AKHTARI PUBLICATION
AZAADVILLE, (SOUTH AFRICA)

Also Available From
ASHRAFUL MADARIS
KHAAQAH IMDADIYAH ASHRAFIYYAH
GULSHAN IQBAL BLOCK-2
KARACHI, PAKISTAN
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### PART ONE

**ISLAM’S ANSWER TO LOVE AFFAIRS**

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*(JEALOUSY & IT’S REMEDY)*
TRANSLATOR’S FOREWORD

In every age, Allah (سمِّعَ التَّعَالَى) has chosen a handful of people for the upliftment of mankind. In this Ummah too, many such great personalities have rendered their fair share of service to the Ummah. Even at the present moment, there are the chosen ones busy fulfilling their mission of life, which is to be of service to the Ummah. Hazrat Moulana Shah Hakeem Mohammed Akhtar Saheb (زامِر تَّكَمِّس) is amongst this honourable and chosen group. Allah (غُرُوْرُ جُلُ) has chosen him for the reformation of the Ummah in this day and age, in a most unique manner, that is well suited to the requirements of our present day world.

In this regard, scores of people throughout the various countries of the world have benefitted and continue to benefit from his blessed personage. Not only have they benefitted from his captivating and stirring discourses and pearls of wisdom (Mawaiz and Malfoozat), but also from his prolific writings and literary works. This book is yet another gem from the hands of Hazrat Moulana Shah Hakeem Mohammed Akhtar Saheb (زامِر تَّكَمِّس). It addresses the present day problems of the Ummah in a very moving and appealing style.

After reading this book a number of times and finding it of tremendous benefit to myself, Allah (غُرُوْرُ جُلُ) created the urge within my heart to render it into the English language, in order that Muslims generally, and particularly those Muslims living in the promiscuous environment of the western world, benefit from it.

Allah (غُرُوْرُ جُلُ) in His infinite mercy and grace, made it possible for this opportunity to arise, and I set out in all earnestness to publish the book, after having translated it. It was a most
beautiful and appropriate coincidence that a few days before completion, our country was blessed and honoured with the presence of Hazrat Moulana Shah Hakeem Mohammed Akhtar Saheb (رح), the author of this book.

He was much delighted and pleased to learn that this Kitab had been translated into English and on one occasion during a journey, he even wrote an appreciation and many Duas on behalf of this humble servant. May Allah (ع) accept those Duas. Due to his consistent Duas and urging, the book materialized in printed form in a short span of time, in his presence, Alhamdolillah. At that time, only the first part was printed. Now in the second edition, the entire book, encompassing part one and two is complete, Alhamdolillah.

I have rendered a few changes to the original book as far as the sequence is concerned by changing the setting out slightly and I have also added captions and sub-headings generously throughout the translation in order to facilitate reference to the various issues. The content and subject matter however is original and unchanged.

May Allah (ع) accept it and make it a means of benefit to the Ummah.

Aameen.

Zubair Bayat
Azaadvillo
South Africa
June 1992
AUTHOR’S FOREWORD

This book “ROOH KI BIMARIA AUR UNKA ILAAJ” that deals with various spiritual ailments, such as ILLICIT LOVE AFFAIRS, ANGER, PRIDE, OSTENTATION, GEEBAT (SLANDER), etc. and their remedies, has proven to be of tremendous benefit and value for the Ummah at large. However, due to being in Urdu, it was beyond the comprehension of those countries where this language is not prevalent. It was therefore of vital importance that this Kitab be translated into the English language for the guidance of these people. May Allah reward Mufti Zubair Saheb for translating this book into English, due to the great and dire need in this direction. May Allah render it a great Thawaab-e-Jariyah on his behalf.

Aameen.

It is hoped that this kitab will soon be printed and made available to the Ummah. In those countries where English is the spoken language, this work will be greatly appreciated by the public. May Allah accept this work and bless it with a beautiful acceptance. Aameen. May Allah also give him the ability to translate my other works into English at the quickest opportunity. May Allah assist him.

Aameen.

(Hazrat Moulana Hakeem)
Mohammed Akhtar
Skeerpoort, Transvaal
South Africa
Wednesday, 4 Rajab 1410
31 January 1990.
INTRODUCTION

This ayat includes in it’s purview those ignorant poets, authors and pseudo-sufis and their misguided and depraved followers, who not only consider lustful gazes, illicit relationships and illegal love affairs as permissible, but also a means of thawaab, spiritual elevation and Divine Proximity. Nauzubillah! Thus they deceive their gullible mureeds (disciples) and ultimately destroy their dunya and Aakhirah (world and Hereafter).

Hazrat Hakeemul-Ummah, Moulana Ashraf Ali Thanwi (رحیم اللہ علیہ) has written an independent treatise in refutation of this blasphemous, kufr ideology entitled “Tameezul-Ishq-minal-Fisq” (The Distinction between Love and Sensuality), wherein he conclusively proves illicit love-relationships as an outright transgression of Allah (عزّ و جلّ)’s Divine Law and a terrible affliction of the soul and heart.

The author has personally read the recorded writings of Hazrat Thanwi (رحیم اللہ علیہ) on this subject; He writes:

“Any relationship with a strange (Ghair-mahram) woman or a handsome beardless youth (Amrad); whether such a relationship
entails looking at them, conversing with them to please the carnal self (nafs), associating with them in privacy, adorning the self or voice to please them and to gain their admiration; all these are the result of a colossal and destructive spiritual malady with such tragic consequences, that are beyond description. I desire to elucidate the evils of this spiritual malady in a separate booklet, INSHA-ALLAH,”

It was after reading these lines that the thought of compiling such a book came to mind, thus fulfilling a lasting urge within my heart and also accomplishing the desire of Hazrat Moulana Thanwi (rta). Placing my trust and reliance upon Allah (زرب العزوت), I now commence with the actual work. May Allah (زرب العزوت), through His infinite mercy and grace accept it from me and make it beneficial for the Ummah.

Aameen.

رزَّنا تَقَبَّلْ مِنَا إِنَّكَ أَنتَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ
حَقَّكَ رَبِّ الْمُوَسِّلِينَ عَلَيْهِ الصَّلْوَةُ وَالْطَّلْعَةُ

Ahqar
Muhammad Akhtar (عَمَّامَاكَ العَزَبَ) Ghalsh-e-Iqbal Karachi Pakistan
PART ONE

ISLAM’S ANSWER TO LOVE AFFAIRS
(SECTION 1: FROM THE QUR’AAN)

PURITY FROM ALLAH ALONE

Allah (زَبَّ العَزَّ) states in the Qur’aan Majeed:

“Had it not been for the Grace and Mercy of Allah (زَبَّ العَزَّ) upon you, none of you would have ever been purified, but Allah (زَبَّ العَزَّ) purifies whomsoever He desires to.”

(Para 18; Surah Noor, Juzz of Ayah 21)

Benefit:

From this Ayat it becomes apparent that together with striving to attain spiritual purification, it is also essential to attain the graces (goodness) and mercy of Allah (زَبَّ العَزَّ). We have to constantly entreat and implore Him for His mercy and beg Him to include us amongst those whom He has purified.

Hazrat Moulana Rumi (رَحْمَةَ اللَّهِ) writes:

“O Allah! If a thousand chains of carnal desires and satanic deceptions have shackled our feet, we have nothing to fear if Your graces are upon us.”
BELIEVERS! LOWER YOUR GAZES!

Allah (سَبْعَةُ وَعَالَى) states:

“Tell the believing men and women to lower their gazes and protect their sexual organs.
That is purer for them.”

(Para 18; Surah Noor, Juzz of Ayah 30)

Benefit:
In this verse, Allah (زَبْتُ العَزْوَت) has mentioned the controlling of the sexual organs in conjunction with the protection of the gaze, illustrating thereby that the controlling of the sexual organs is based upon the protection of the gaze. He who does not protect his gaze is bound to lose control over his sexual desires and organs.

STAY AWAY FROM ZINA

“And come not near unto adultery, Verily!
it is an obscenity and an evil way.”

(Para 15; Surah Bani Isra’eel, Juzz of Ayah 32)

Benefit:
In this verse, Allah (زَبْتُ العَزْوَت) has prohibited us from even approaching Zina (adultery); thus educating us to the fact that: ANY CAUSE THAT LEADS UPTO A HARAAM ACT IS ALSO HARAAM, and thus to be totally avoided.

Human instinct is such that no sooner do a strange man and woman meet in privacy, that a sensation of mutual attraction permeates the atmosphere between them. This attraction
develops from stage to stage, from mere affection to uncontrollable passion and ultimately into the irreversible stage, where it is almost impossible to control the *Nafs*, and finally the shameful deed of *Zina* is perpetrated.

Thus Allah (ﷻ) has made easy for us the beautiful pathway to chastity, purity and piety (*Taqwa*), by declaring unlawful all those factors that contribute to the commission of *Zina*.

**SODOMY AND THE NATION OF LOOT (َِّلْوَطُ بُنْيَانُ)**

“And Loot, When he said unto his folk: Will you commit an obscenity that none has ever committed before you? You fulfil your lust on men instead of women? Indeed, you are a wanton nation.”

(Para 8; Surah Al-A’raaf, Juzz of Ayah 80, 81)

**Benefit:**
In these verses, Allah (ﷻ) emphatically denounces the unnatural, perverted manner of sexual gratification that was practised by the nation of *Loot* (َِّلْوَطُ بُنْيَانُ), the people of Sodom (and which become known thereafter as sodomy.)

At another juncture in the Qur’aan Majeed Allah (ﷻ) has described the punishment inflicted upon this sick nation. *Hazrat Jibra’eel* (ِّيبَرَعْلُ) lifted their entire city into the sky, inverted them and brought them crashing down onto earth with a terrific bang. Thereafter, boulders and rocks rained down upon them from the sky. These stones were of a different composition altogether, and each had the name of the culprit
to be pelted by it inscribed upon it. **Hazrat Moulana Phoolpuri (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ)** most aptly comments on this incident: “The actions of this nation were perverted and unnatural, thus the punishment meted out to them was a befitting one, THEY WERE INVERTED!”

Despite the sincerest of warnings from **Hazrat Loot (ذُبَيْخَةٌ)**, they remained persistent in their foul deeds and doings; thus 400000 of them were annihilated in a single moment.

Allah (زُبَيْخَةٌ) made them a lesson unto mankind right upto the Day of Judgement, that even today, traces of their destruction are present in the Dead Sea, also known as the **“SEA OF LOOT”**, the water of which is so dense and bitter, it will not permit any tree or vegetation to grow upon it’s shores.

**PURDAH IS COMPULSORY**

“And let them not stamp their feet so as to reveal what they hide of their adornment (anklets)”. *(Para 18; Surah Noor, Juzz of Ayah 31)*

In the verses prior to this verse, Allah (زُبَيْخَةٌ) has ordered the concealing of the organs of beauty; the face, the hair, the breasts, etc. In this verse, as a further precautionary measure, women have been prevented from even striking their feet on the ground, lest the sound of their jingling anklets arouse undue attention towards them.

It is on these grounds that many **Fuqaha-Izaam** (Jurists) have declared the female voice as an object of **Purdah** (concealment). Similarly the applying of **itr** (scents) and the donning of attractive outerclothes is also forbidden when leaving the home on the very same basis.
“O Wives of the Nabi! You are not like any other women. If you fear Allah, then be not soft of speech (when conversing with strange men at times of dire necessity), lest he in whose heart is a disease (spiritual corruption) aspire (for you)”.  

(Para 22; Surah Al-Ahzaab, Juzz of Ayah 32)

The following are the regulations to be deduced from this verse:

1. At times of dire necessity, it is permissible to converse with a strange male from behind a veil.

2. This conversation, although permissible, must be conducted deliberately in a firm tone. It is not permissible for a woman to speak in soft, alluring tones with a male, even from behind a veil. (A point of note for girls’ Madrasas, their students and teachers).

3. If this is the regulation for women, the same regulation will apply to men to a greater extent.

4. The pervert that derives pleasure and satisfaction from listening to the voice of a strange woman’s, has been declared as spiritually ill in the words of the Qur’aan Majeed.

5. Those men who appoint females as receptionists, secretaries, telephonists, etc. should scrutinize their intentions for doing so and take special heed to this verse.
DECEIT OF THE HEART AND EYE

“He (Allah رَبُّ الْأَمْوَاتِ knows the deceit of the eyes and all that which the hearts conceal,”
(Para 24; Surah Mu’min, Juzz of Ayah 19)

Benefit:

Allah (زَبَّ الْأَمْوَاتِ) is aware of the surreptitious movements of the eye as it casts a lustful glance. He is also aware of the evil thoughts, ideas and images that are conjured up in the heart.

The realization that Allah (زَبَّ الْأَمْوَاتِ) is aware of these nefarious activities,, creates a sense of shame, regret and guilt within the heart resulting in Taubah (repentance). This verse is therefore a wonderful prescription for people suffering from the malady of lustful gazes and thoughts. However, this remedy is only effective when applied practically over a period of time. Constant meditation upon the contents of this Ayat, coupled with Zikrullah and Wazaif, will develop the desired level of determination to abstain from this sin.

Hakeemul Ummat Hazrat Thanwi (رضي الله عنه) says that the original and the only cure from all spiritual ailments is determination and will-power. Meditation (Muraqaba) and Zikr are mere supplements to the strengthening of will-power. Mere Zikr and Meditation are not sufficient to eradicate spiritual diseases.

A person once complained to Hazrat Thanwi (رضي الله عنه), that he was very greatly inclined towards beauty; that it was virtually impossible for him to lower his gaze from a beautiful form or figure. Hazrat Thanwi (رضي الله عنه) replied: “It is an unchallenged axiom of reality, that the ability to do something necessarily entails within it the ability to refrain therefrom.
RECKONING FOR SENSES

“Verily the ear, the eye and the heart, with regard to each of these, it will be questioned.”

(Para 15; Surah Al-Isra, Juzz of Ayah 36)

“Verily, thy Lord is Ever-Watchful”

(Para 30; Surah Al-Fajr, Juzz of Ayah 14)

Both these verses indicate towards the great responsibility attached to the correct usage of the senses, a reckoning whereof will have to be rendered on the Day of Qiyamah.

IMPORTANT NOTE

Those treading the path towards Allah (زَبُّ الْمُرَّتِ)’s pleasure (Saalikeen) and Muslims at large, should understand well, that the closer a person draws towards satisfying the unlawful desires of his Nafs, the further he draws away from Allah (زَبُّ الْمُرَّتِ). Hence, this mortal enemy should be kept under constant surveillance and control at all times.

Hazrat Hakeemul-Ummah, Moulana Ashraf Ali Thanwi (رَحْمَتُهُمُ اللٰٰهُمَّ عَلَيهِم) says:

“The person that begins to derive pleasure by listening to the voice of another male or by gazing at his features, etc. should immediately leave his company, (for this is the beginning of a calamity).”
In short, any object whereby the *Nafs* derives illegal pleasure, should be discarded at once. Even a little unlawful pleasure for the *Nafs* is not free from imminent danger and calamity. A little opportunity for an enemy is surely destructive. The *Nafs* is the greatest of enemies, greater than *Shaytaan* himself.

The *Nafs* gains strength and courage from little pleasures and grows stronger and stronger in this way, until it eventually drags the *Saalik* and *Mu’min* into major sins.

Aided by the poisonous doses of satanic ideas and whispers, the *Nafs* grows bold and rebellious and overpowers the person, leaving him helpless to resist the temptation of sin and transgression.

It is for this reason that one saintly poet warns:

"Place no trust upon the deadly carnal-self (Nafs),
Even though it becomes as obedient as an angel
always remain suspicious of it’s motives."

Association with females and handsome youths is extremely detrimental, especially to the *Saalik*, because his heart develops a degree of sensitivity due to the blessings of *Zikrullah* and hence becomes extremely receptive towards any object of beauty. When *Shaytaan* despairs of misleading him through any other method or device, he attempts to ensnare the *Saalik* through illicit love affairs with women and handsome lads.

Once *Hazrat Moosa* (ﷺ) requested; “O Allah! I wish to meet You.”

The reply came:

"Leave your desires (nafs) and come!"
SECTION 2
(FROM THE HADITH)

ADULTERY OF THE WHOLE BODY

Rasulullah (صلى الله عليه وسلم) said:

- To gaze at a strange (ghair mahram) woman is Zina (adultery) of the eyes.
- To listen to passion-stirring words is Zina of the ears.
- To converse with a strange woman and derive pleasure therefrom is Zina of the tongue,
- To touch a strange women is Zina of the hands,
- To walk towards her is Zina of the feet,
- The heart desires and craves,
- The sexual organ then either testifies to these or denies them.

*(Muslim)*

N.B. It is only through protection of these organs that the heart and private parts will be protected, just as the country whose borders are unguarded is prone to attacks on it’s headquarters and vital installations.

RIGHTS OF THE ROAD

Rasulullah (صلى الله عليه وسلم) said:

“Abstain from sitting on the roadsides; if you have no option, then fulfil the rights of the road.” The Sahaba (رَضُوْنَاهُمُ الْلَّهُمَّ) enquired about it’s rights. He replied:

“Keep your gazes low, cause no inconvenience to anyone, reply to the Salaam, enjoin good and forbid evil.”

ACCIDENTAL GAZES

Hazrat Jareer (رضي الله عنه) enquired from Rasulullah (صلى الله عليه وسلم) regarding the accidental gaze. He replied:
It is apparent from this Hadith that an accidental gaze is forgiven, but to continue staring thereafter is forbidden. The gaze should immediately be turned in another direction.

**PURDAH EVEN FROM THE BLIND**

Hazrat Umme-Salma and Hazrat Maymoona were once in the presence of Rasulullah when a blind Sahabi, Hazrat Abdullah bin Ummi-Maktoom, came to him, upon which Rasulullah instructed them to observe Purdah.

They replied: “O Rasulullah is he not blind?” (in other words, why should we make Purdah from a blind man?) Rasulullah answered:

“Are the two of you blind?” (Tirmidhi)

**N.B.** Thus women are not allowed to look at strange men, even though they are within the purdah themselves. Where the Qur’aan Majeed prohibits men from gazing at women, in the very next verse women are also instructed to keep their gazes low from strange men. (Refer to Surah 24, Verse 31.) It is thus unlawful for them to look at any strange man. Many women are totally ignorant of this Mas’ala. Many are there who peep and stare away at strange men from the slits of their veils (Niqaab), thinking that none is looking at them, but remember Allah is Ever-Present, Ever-Watchful.

**YOUNG CHILDREN**

Imaam Zuhri states;

“If gazing at a young, immature girl (or boy) excites the passion, then it will not be permissible to gaze at any part of his/her body.”
N.B. Consider the daily reports of child abuse, molestation and paedophilia in our present-day societies in the light of this Mas’ala, and appreciate the beautiful teachings of Islam and the advices of our righteous predecessors!

**BROTHER IN LAW IS MAUT (DEATH)**

Rasulullah (صلی اللہ علیه وآله وسلم) said:

“Abstain from the company of strange women..”

One Sahabi (صحابہ) asked Nabi (صلی اللہ علیه وآله وسلم) regarding the brother-in-law (being in privacy with his sister-in-law, his brother’s wife). Nabi (صلی اللہ علیه وآله وسلم) replied;

“The brother-in-law is (like) Maut,” *(Bukhari, Muslim)*

N.B. Included with the brother-in-law are his cousins, nephews and uncles as well as other close relatives of the husband. “Like Maut” means, just as a person flees and fears Maut, so too should he fear the privacy of such people with his wife. Allah forbid! The consequences of this can be terrible for the entire family, possibly for generations to come?

**PRIVACY WITH STRANGERS**

Rasulullah (صلی اللہ علیه وآله وسلم) said:

“A person may not sit in privacy with a strange woman except that any of her Mahram (close family members whom she is not allowed to marry) be present with her.” *(Bukhari, Muslim)*

**HANDBSOME YOUTH**

“Do not gaze at beardless youth, for they reflect the beauty of the Hoor (Women of Jannah).” *(At-Takasshuf from Musnad Ahmad)*
The ignorant pseudo-\textit{Sufis} freely indulge in acts of pleasure with handsome lads. Some even consider it a means of attaining Divine Love whereas considering a \textit{Haraam} act to be a means of gaining Allah (عَزّ وَجَلّ)'s pleasure is a manifest act of \textit{Kufr} and apostasy (irtidaad).

\textbf{SODOMY}

\textit{Hazrat Jabir} (رضي الله عنه) reports that Rasulullah (صلى الله عليه وسلم) said:

\begin{center}
إن أُخَرَّفَ مَا أَخَافُ عَلَى أُمِيْتَيْ عَمَلٍ قَوَّمٍ لُوطٍ
\end{center}

“The action I fear most for my Ummah is the action of the nation of Loot (الإبْتَسَار) i.e. Sodomy.”

(\textit{Tirmidhi}) (\textit{Ibn Majah pg. 312})

\textbf{ACCURSED ONE}

\textit{Hazrat Abdullah bin Abbas} and \textit{Hazrat Abu Hurairah} (رضي الله عنهم) report from Rasulullah (صلى الله عليه وسلم):

\begin{center}
ملَهْوُنَّ مَنْ عَمَلَ قَوْمَ لُوطَ
\end{center}

“Accursed is he who commits the act of the nation of Loot (الإبْتَسَار)”

(\textit{Mishkaat; pg. 313})

\textbf{PUNISHMENT OF SODOMY}

\textit{Hazrat Abubakr} (رضي الله عنهم) destroyed two homosexuals by having a wall crushed upon them.

\textbf{UNNATURAL SEX}

Rasulullah (صلى الله عليه وسلم) said:

“\textit{Allah} (زَبَعُ الْمَرْجَعَة) will not cast a glance of Mercy towards the person who, commits the act of sodomy or anal sex with his wife.”

(\textit{Mishkaat pg. 313})
ADULTERY EVEN INTELLECTUALLY UNACCEPTABLE

Once a youth presented himself before Rasulullah (ṣallallāhu 'alaihi wasallāhu) seeking his permission to commit adultery. Rasulullah (ṣallallāhu 'alaihi wasallāhu) questioned him in the following manner:

- “Is your mother alive?”
- “Yes” he replied.
- “Would you like anyone to commit adultery with her?”
- “Ya Rasulullah! I would greatly dislike it!”
- “Is your maternal aunt alive? Is your paternal aunt alive? Is your sister alive?” “Would you like anyone to commit adultery with any one of them?”

(With regard to each one of the above women he posed the same questions and the youth expressed his displeasure upon every question in the same way.) Thereafter Rasulullah (ṣallallāhu 'alaihi wasallāhu) explained to him:

“The person with whom you desire to commit this act would be someone’s mother, aunt or sister!”

Thereafter, Rasulullah (ṣallallāhu 'alaihi wasallāhu) struck his chest with his auspicious hand and prayed for him:

اللَّهُ أَغْفِرْلَهُ وَطَهِّرْ قَلْبَهُ وَأَحْصِنِ فَرْجَهُ

“O Allah! forgive him, purify his heart and protect his private parts,”

(Musnad-Ahmad)

Due to the great wisdom and kindness of Rasulullah (ṣallallāhu 'alaihi wasallāhu), this person never forgot this valuable lesson and never did the thought of adultery pass through his heart for the rest of his life!

MARRIAGE - A FORT

Hazrat Ukaaf (rahimahullāhu) reports that Rasulullah (ṣallallāhu 'alaihi wasallāhu) said: Karfas was an Aabid (devout worshipper) who lived on the seashore and remained engaged in worship (Ibadah) for
three hundred years; fasting during the day and worshipping during the night. Once he became infatuated with a woman as a result of which he eventually became a kaafir and discarded all his ibadah. Allah (زَبَبُ الْمَرْتُ) saved him from this misfortune through some of his good deeds and forgave him.”

Thereafter addressing me (Ukaaf) he said: “O Ukaaf! Marry” or else

وَأَلَا فَأَنَّتِ مِنَ النَّفْسِيَّ

“You will be at a loss.”

As a result of not marrying, Rasulullah (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وسلم) termed Hazrat Ukaaf (بَنِي الْمَدِينَةِ) as: “The brother of Shaytaan” and then he said:

“The greatest weapon of Shaytaan against the pious, is woman”. (Jam’ul Fawaid pg. 571)

Thereafter, Hazrat Ukaaf (بَنِي الْمَدِينَةِ) married. (Jam’ul-Fawaid; pg. 571)

In one Hadith, Rasulullah (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وسلم) said:

شَرّاً كُمُ غُدَّاءِبِكُمْ وَأَرَادُتُ مُوَّزَّكُمْ غُدَّاءِبِكُمْ

“The worst of you are those that are unmarried (despite possessing the means to marry) and the worst of those that die amongst you are the unmarried.”

**A TRUE DESTITUTE**

Rasulullah (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وسلم) said:

- A destitute is he who has no wife.

The Sahaba (رَأِيْهُمُ الْمَدِينَةِ) enquired:

- Even though he may possess much wealth?

Rasulullah (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وسلم) replied in the affirmative.

Thereafter Rasulullah (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وسلم) said:

- A destitute is she, (a destitute is she) who has no husband.

The Sahaba (رَأِيْهُمُ الْمَدِينَةِ) enquired:

- Even though she may possess much wealth.

Rasulullah (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وسلم) replied: “Even though she may possess much wealth.” (Targheeb)
PIOUS WIFE

Rasulullah (ﷺ) said:

“The whole world is an object of use and benefit, and the best means of benefit is a pious woman.”

DEEN - THE ONLY CRITERION

Rasulullah (ﷺ) said:

“Do not marry women solely for their beauty or wealth; because beauty may lead her towards evil (infidelity) and wealth will cause her to rebel and disobey. Thus make Deen the criterion and marry religious (pious) women.”

(Jam’ul-Fawaid p.571)

REWARD OF CHASTITY

In a Hadith:

من عشق و كتم و غف نام مات فهو شهيد

“The person that takes fancy (to another), conceals (his fancy and desire) and remains chaste (and pure from the sin) and thus dies (in this state: of purity); he will be regarded as a Shaheed (Martyr).”

(Az-Tasaneef Hakeemul Ummat Thanwi)

WOMEN SNARES OF SHAYTAAN

Rasulullah (ﷺ) said:

اليسا حيائل السيطان

“Women are the snares of Shaytaan (whereby he waylays and misleads men).”

(Razeen)

POISONOUS ARROWS

It is reported in a Hadith-e-Qudsi:
The (evil) gaze is a poisonous arrow from the arrows of Iblees. He that abstains from it out of My fear, I will grant him in return such Imaan (faith), the sweetness of which he will experience within his heart.”

(Kanzul A’amaal Vol, 5 Pg. 328)

All ARE THE SAME

In a Hadith:

“When any of you happened to look at a beautiful woman that attracted him, he should resort to his wife and fulfil his desire with her, for they both possess the same object of fulfilling his desire.”

SECTION 3
THE WOEFUL TALE OF BAL’AM BA’URA

Hazrat Abdullah bin Abbas narrates that Bal’am bin Baura was an Aalim of high standing and status. He lived in Jerusalem, near Kan’aan. Some narrations attribute him to the Bani Israeel. After the destruction of Firaun and the conquest of Egypt, Allah (زب ائذآر) commanded the Bani Israeel to take up arms against the Jabbaareen (a tyrant nation). The Jabbaareen, fully aware that Bal’am had been granted the knowledge of the wonderful and most powerful “Isme-A’azam” the great name of Allah (زب ائذآر) that causes...
any Dua to be instantly accepted), resorted to him for assistance against the Bani Israeel through the Isme-A’azam. Initially he resisted this request, explaining that Nabi Moosa (PBUH) was on the side of the Bani Israeel, and hence it would be impossible for him to use the Ismi-A’azam against the Nabi of Allah. When they grew persistent in their entreaties, he promised to resort to Istikharah (seek divine guidance) in this matter. He was informed via the Istikharah never to budge to their request as this would result in certain destruction for him. Failing in this ploy, the Jabbaareen attempted another strategy. They showered Bal’am with various “gifts” and “tokens”, which he readily accepted. In essence, this was clear-cut bribery. His wife was manipulated to pressurize him into accepting their request. Blinded by the love of wife and wealth, he finally surrendered to their whims and set out on his sinister errand. At this stage, the Majestic Power of Allah (SWT) came into operation and all the curses he began uttering against Hazrat Moosa (PBUH) and the Bani Israeel, turned into curses for the Jabbaareen. The Jabbaareen panicked at this dramatic event and were soon destroyed by the “doings of their own hands.” The punishment that was meted out to Bal’am has been recorded in the Qur’aan Majeed:

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الكلبِ إن تحمل علىه يلَّهَثُ أو تَرْكُهُ يَلَّهَثُ
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“Thus his (Bal’am) likeness is as the likeness of a dog.
If you drive him (dog) away he (dog) lolls his tongue out.”

(Para; 9 Surah Al-A’raaf, Juzz of Ayah 176)

Before his gruesome end, he gathered the people and explained to them that he had destroyed himself but would show them an effective strategy to overcome the Bani Israeel. He advised them to dress their beautiful maiden girls in eye-catching and revealing apparel; then despatch them into the army of Bani Israeel. Since the soldiers were away
from home for a long period of time, they would easily succumb to this temptation and ultimately bring upon themselves the wrath of Allah (زُبَرُ الْجُعُورُ) and resultant defeat, due to their transgression. This plan was executed, and as predicted, the soldiers succumbed despite much reprisal and warnings from Hazrat Moosa (ع). The result was a severe plague upon the Bani Israeel, wherein 70,000 of them perished. The culprits were then publicly executed and left to hang on the gallows as a gruesome reminder to the entire nation. Only when all had sincerely repented, was the punishment alleviated from them.

SECTION - 4
THE ADVICE OF HAZRAT MOULANA YAQUB NANOTWI SAHEB

Hazrat states:
The gaze should only be utilized to the extent of necessity and never to attain unlawful pleasure, for pleasure has no limitation. And he that craves for it, will never attain satisfaction and contentment. It is only the person that fulfils his desires within the limitations of necessity that can attain true contentment.

Thus the endowments of a strange woman are no different from that of a person’s own wife; to differentiate between the two is nothing but the deception and trickery of Shaytaan. (At-Tasharruf Vol.3)

SECTION - 5
SIX ADVICES OF HAZRAT THANWI

An illicit love relationship is in reality an affliction and calamity from Allah (زُبَرُ الْجُعُورُ); as a result of which the Ruh (soul)
becomes greatly agitated and tormented. Sleep becomes Haraam, the thought of the beloved constantly haunts the mind and a state between life and death prevails over the heart, a condition that can veritably be compared to that of the people of Jahannam.

Hazrat Khwaja Sahib (R.A.) used to say:

وَكِيلَ مِثْلِ اِنْ تَشْتَهِي رَخْوُنَ كُلُوْ لَذَّهْبَار
پُرْهُ رُنْسَا وَقَنَا عَذَابَ النَّارِ

“When gazing at the rosy red cheeks of the beloved, think for a moment of the “rosy” glow of Jahannam, and recite at once: “RABBANA WA QINA AZAABAN NAAR” “And save us from the fire of Hell”

Falling in love with a handsome lad is much more severe than an illicit love relationship with a woman. It is possible that some day he may marry the woman, but when two males are involved, no such possibility exists.

If gazing at a child excites the emotions and inflames the passions, then to look at, fondle or touch such a child is also Haraam.

N.B. Consider this advice in the light of daily child abuse reports!

Homosexual partners become disgraced in each other’s eyes forever.

If the Nafs displays even a slight inclination or fancy to a person when gazing or conversing with him, his company should be left immediately.

When the Nafs begins to take a fancy to a certain form or figure, Shaytaan grasps the opportunity and amplifies the beauty of the desired object many fold in the imagination of the fancier. Eventually the evil deed is committed and it is only
then that the balloon of amplified beauty is burst. Now what seemed to be extreme beauty is nothing but a false illusion. Gazing at the object now evokes feelings of contempt and nausea.

Hazrat Thanwi further states: “When man inclines towards a form, it becomes embedded in his mind and heart. He may thereafter, recite as much “La Hawla” as he desires and blow upon his chest, he will not attain salvation from this malady since his reading is bereft of sincerity and a firm resolve to abstain from this evil.”

SECTION - 6
WORDS OF WISDOM
HAZRAT JALALUDDIN RUMI

The youth that is regarded as the “Prince of the creation” in his prime (due to his delicate beauty), is shunned by the very people when a beard begins to appear on his face!

The hearts and souls of the lovers of Allah ( tảiب العَزْوُت) take solace and comfort in the thought of attaining the pleasure of glancing at His Noble Countenance in Jannah (as is promised in the Qur’aan Majeed); but the unfortunate wretch, that is tricked and deceived by Shaytaan into admiring the vanishing beauty of perishable beings, knows no peace of mind or happiness. They openly confess their agitation and dissatisfaction to the world. (One doctor came to my Murshid (spiritual guide), Hazrat Phoolpuri ( رجی رزگ) and complained
about his miserable state due to having an illicit relationship. How fortunate are the Lovers of Allah (رضو الله عنه), who never fear separation from their Beloved, for even a fraction of a second? (for He is Ever-Present).

True love should only be inculcated for the Being that is “Hayyun-la-Yamoot” (Ever-Living, Never-Dying). What is accomplished by dying for those who themselves are perishable? Such love can never be true and enduring, for the pleasure of eternal love is eternal; that of perishing love, temporary.

Fancy for a perishable figure or form is not love, it is infatuation. It is the rebellion of the base and carnal self (Nafs) after enjoying and partaking of Allah (رضو الله عنه)’s bounties and favours. Had these favours of Allah (رضو الله عنه) to be snatched away from this “lover”, his “love” would have evaporated like water vapour in the atmosphere.

Shaikh Sadi Shirazi (رضي الله عنه), the great sufi-poet of Iran narrates that the disease of infatuation and “love-sickness” had reached “epidemic proportions” in Damascus. Allah (رضو الله عنه)’s anger and wrath was inflamed and the entire populace was afflicted by a terrible drought and famine. Close to perishing due to hunger, a few of the so-called “lovers” were given an option between their “beloved” and a slice of bread. One slice of bread was sufficient to extinguish their “passion” and “romance”!

SECTION - 7
A GRAVE MISCONCEPTION

The crime of lustful gazing, which has been proven to be totally Haraam and unlawful in no unambiguous terms in the Qur’aan Majeed and Hadith Shareef, has been embellished
by *Shaytaan* for some ignorant poets and pseudo-*sufis*. These wretched souls have been hoodwinked into believing that so long as the heart is pure, it is permissible to cast admiring glances at beautiful women and handsome lads.

It should well be remembered that even though passionate feelings are not immediately experienced, through a process of slow-poisoning, *Shaytaan* contaminates the mind, and love overpowers the heart. At this stage, peace of mind is totally shattered and a state of agitation and anxiety sets in.

At times the feelings of love are so subtle that it is only upon the demise of the beloved that the pangs of separation are experienced and love suddenly manifests its latent existence.

Some persons vehemently assert the purity and clarity of their intentions when in the company of beautiful women and handsome lads. *Hazrat Thanwi* (رَضِيَ الله عَنْهُ) says regarding such people: “The honesty or falseness of such bold claims and assertions will soon be differentiated when such a person is granted a few hours of solitude with the beloved.”

So lethal and deadly is this unlawful solitude, that *Iblees* (Lucifer Incarnate) has boldly claimed: “If *Hasan Basri* and *Rabia Basriah* (رَضِيَ الله عَنْهُمَا) (two extremely high-ranking saints) were to meet in privacy, I would easily blacken their faces (through the ghastly sin of adultery) and destroy their *Taqwa* (piety)”. It is on this basis that it is totally *Haraam* to be in solitude with a strange woman or boy.

An elderly person, who was a *Mureed* (disciple) of *Hazrat Haji Imdaadullah* (رَضِيَ الله عَنْهُ) once wrote to *Hazrat Moulana Thanwi* (رَضِيَ الله عَنْهُ):

“I have taken fancy to a handsome young lad. For the past few days he has been upset with me due to some reason."
Please show me some *Wazifah* (incantation, invocation) that may win his approval for me.” Some simple souls are not even aware of their diseases and maladies.

*Hazrat Thanwi* (رحمه الله) wrote to him:

“For Allah’s sake, take mercy upon your soul and repent from this *Haraam* (unlawful) relationship. Attaching the heart to any being other than Allah (زَوْجُ الْمُرْتَبِت) and yet hoping to traverse the path of *Tasawwuf* and Spiritual Rectification is impossible. Two extremes never meet.”

In old age, potency diminishes but desires and passion remain virile; at the same time the courage to combat the dictates of the *Nafs* (carnal self) weakens considerably. It is for this very reason that the *Ulama* and Pious Elders advocate greater precaution and alertness in the case of the elderly.

A special note of warning and heed to parents in this regard is never to leave their young, innocent children, especially their daughters, in the attendance or custody of lecherous old men. Some ignorant folk actually entrust their young and budding daughters to the company of fraudulent *Sufis* in total innocence and trust. These marauding wolves in human form then encourage these innocent, young souls to render them various “services” for which they promise “great rewards”; claiming all the while that their *nafs* have been overwhelmed and exterminated, hence it is perfectly permissible for them to indulge and enjoy such “services!” *Nauzubillah!* Are these satanic looters unaware that Rasulullah (صلى الله عليه وسلم) commanded his wives to exercise *Purdah* (veil) from even a blind *Sahabi* (رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمَا) and that he himself only conversed with strange women from behind a screen or veil? Do they not know that even when women pledged allegiance (*Bay’t*) to him, this was also done via a cloth and never directly did he hold a strange woman’s hand? Do these fools wish us to believe that their hearts and *Nafs* are purer than the blessed
and pure souls of Rasulullah (صلى الله عليه وسلم) and his honourable wives and companions (رضي الله عنهم)? Such blasphemous claims are tantamount to clearcut apostasy and renegation.

Some people desire to acquire Allah’s pleasure but refuse to sacrifice any of their pleasures and desires; they baulk from abstaining or conforming to the restrictions and impositions of the Shariah. This is indeed a strange desire! True Love surrenders to even the slightest indications and preferences of the Beloved!

SECTION - 8
SAYINGS OF SHAIIKH SAADI (رحمه الله)

O Travellers of the path to Allah! The heart is given away by casting glances. If you wish to grant your heart to none besides Allah (زَيْدُ اللهُ عَلَيْهِمُ الرَّحْمَةِ), then lower your gazes and close your eyes to the creation.

It is reported in the Hadith that a sudden (involuntary) glance is forgiven and excused, however it may not be followed by a second glance, as this is not permissible.

Shaikh Saadi (رحمه الله), claims that he is perfectly acquainted with the ways of love and courtship, just as the Arabs are acquainted with their horses.

He claims that had Laila and Majnoon (two renowned lovers) seen his era, they would have expressed their love for each other from his treasury of verses and poetry! He goes on to explain that, despite love’s apparent glamour, it is in reality nothing but hallucinations and fantasies. The real and genuine tranquility of heart lies only in attaching it to Allah (زَيْدُ اللهُ عَلَيْهِمُ الرَّحْمَةِ), and turning the gaze away from the creation.
The author, in his humble opinion claims that the entire universe is constantly undergoing change. If the whole universe undergoes transformation, it is natural that its components and particles will undergo the same process. Thus the changing and perishing of beautiful objects, which are components of this ever-changing universe, is an undeniable fact of reality. When even sins and transgression destroy the pleasures of this transitory existence, then it is indeed foolish to grant preference to this fleeting dream over the eternal, everlasting life of the Hereafter.

The person that makes a created object the ambition of his life, he has sold himself into the slavery of a slave; a helpless slave in the hand’s of another helpless slave like himself. He thus brings “bondage upon bondage” on himself.

Prostrate and submit your desire before Allah (رزب أعزه) and then observe the pleasure and sweetness of 'ibadat.

He who shatters his desires for the pleasure of Allah (رزب أعزه) becomes a means for the guidance of others, who see the path to Allah (رزب أعزه) through the Noor (effulgence) of his shattered heart.

While walking in a public place, if the gaze is directed at a strange woman, the Noor of the heart is extinguished and the heart becomes unsettled and restless.

If there is a beautiful woman or lad living in the vicinity, then the possibility of committing a major sin is highly probable and such a person is in mortal danger. He should immediately leave the vicinity or else lead a life of extreme precaution and abstinence.

Some people that were afflicted by this malady requested the author for some remedy. I directed them to Zikrullah and
prohibited them from meeting or seeing their beloved ones. Hardly a few days had elapsed, when they returned and expressed their appreciation for the advice. The proper cure for this malady is redirecting the heart towards the Real Beloved. This is achieved by abundance of Zikr and the Suhbat (Companionship) of the True Lovers of Allah Ta’ala (the Auliya-Allah).

The person who discards his personal desires for the sake of Allah’s (زبّ العَزْوَي) pleasure, is generally considered by the ignorant masses as a person who is leading a very restricted and deprived existence, whereas he alone knows what pleasure Allah (زبّ العَزْوَي) pours into the depths of his heart!

When a person suffering from love-sickness repents at the hands of a true Waliullah (Friend of Allah) and traverses the path of Love, he will quickly reach his destination. Day-to-day experiences indicate that those whose hearts are easily moved and affected by beauty, when directed in the correct avenue, become extremely valuable and precious.

When the soul is leaving the body, it matters not whether it is sapped away in a gutter or on a king’s throne; the only differentiating factor is whether the heart is attached to Allah (زبّ العَزْوَي) or not!

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**SECTION - 9**

**HEALTH HAZARDS**

- The physical harms of lustful gazes are many.
- Casting lustful glances causes tremendous physical harm and damage. As a result of lustful gazes, precious semen is lost in large quantities in the form of nocturnal emissions (wet-dreams), etc.
This causes the bladder to weaken, because of which drops of urine and Mazee (a thin liquid preceding semen) begin to drip continuously. This creates countless problems, confusions and anxiety in the matter of Taharah and Ibadat.

Some of the harms:

1. The brain is weakened.
2. The heart is damaged and palpitates unnaturally.
3. Pains occur in the back and calves.
4. Dizziness and nausea is experienced.
5. Momentary black outs.
7. Lack of stimulus and initiative.
8. Depression, frustration, listlessness.
9. Insomnia, irritation.
10. Loss of temper, bad moods and a host of other complications erode the physical body.

N.B. Semen is an extremely precious commodity which has to be highly treasured, else the consequences of abusing it will be catastrophic in later life.

SECTION - 10
A FEW EYE-OPENING INCIDENTS

Incident - 1
I personally have met some unfortunate persons who were afflicted by this terrible malady. One such person, a shopkeeper, was in great distress. His business was in shambles; dust covered the shelves that were empty of stocks. Upon seeing me, he called me in, explaining that his business was on the brink of insolvency, his children were suffering due to his
poverty and he personally was emotionally drained. I enquired the reason for his pitiable condition. He replied that it was the result of an illicit love-relationship. Allah (زَبَّ أَمْوَاتِ) alone knows what became of him thereafter.

**Incident - 2**

A youngster in shabby clothing was busy sweeping the floor of a shop. Nearby, his father was begging for alms, in great disgrace. Local residents explained that he was once a wealthy farmer, a millionaire, but his unworthy son (the youngster sweeping floors) fell prey to this terrible malady (illicit love affair) and was eventually imprisoned. Thousands were spent on releasing him and on court cases. The entire empire collapsed and the father and son were now leading a life of disgrace and penury.

**Incident - 3**

The son of a certain doctor, who went to London to study for an Engineering Degree, explained to me that he had become involved in an illicit love affair there. As a result, he eventually became totally impotent. Despite experimenting with various medications and treatments, he failed to regain his manhood. In the meanwhile, he was married to a girl from a respectable and noteworthy family, but discovering his impotency, she demanded a divorce within the week. Now he only remains indoors due to the disgrace that has befallen him, awaiting death to relieve him of his miseries.

**Incident - 4**

A certain *Mureed* (Seeker of Allah Ta’ala) went to a *Shaikh* (Spiritual Guide) for self-reformation and spiritual upliftment. Perchance his gaze fell upon a female servant of the *Shaikh* and he began to take a fancy to her. *Shaytaan* further embellished her charms in his mind and embedded the poisonous arrow of desire and passion into his heart. The female servant on the otherhand was a pious, upright soul
and she immediately sensed the evil and dark nature of the Mureed’s gaze. The maid immediately reported the Mureed’s behaviour to the Shaikh, who devised a scheme whereby he hoped to cure the Mureed and rid him of this malady, once and for all.

He thus fed the maid servant food containing a purgative (laxative) and commanded her to gather the faeces in a separate bucket. After a few days of diarrhoea and dehydration, her appearance became pathetic; her complexion pale and her body was emaciated.

The Shaikh then sent her in the presence of the Mureed, who upon seeing her in this abject state, turned his face away in disgust and disapproval. The Shaikh appeared on the scene and addressing the Mureed said to him:

“O person! If you truly love her why did you turn your face away from her now? She is still the same person with the same body. The only exception is this bucket of faeces that has left her body. Your love for her has been extinguished by the defaecation of this filth. It seems that your love was for this bucket of filth and not for her, else you would not have turned your face away from her now. The Mureed was overcome with remorse and sincerely repented from this evil habit.

**Incident - 5**

Hazrat Thanwi (رضي الله عنه) narrates the incident of a certain person who was habituated to casting lustful glances. When prevented from this, he retorted: “What is wrong in it? I am admiring the beauty of Allah’s wonderful creation!” An Aalim who overheard him say this, replied to him in such words - words that made him “see stars in broad daylight!” He said: “If you are so desirous of seeing Allah’s Power and Majesty, you should rather look at your mother’s genitals and reflect on how a huge fool like yourself, was born out of such a
minute opening” This stunning reply rendered him utterly speechless. Thus Allah disgraces those who mock at His Divine Laws (Shariah).

**Incident - 6**

A certain saint, who was living in a deserted area at the foot of a mountain, was once requested by his friends to settle down in the city. He declined the offer, explaining that the city has many objects of attraction; and he could easily succumb to these, “Where the mud is thick, even the elephant slips!”

**Incident - 7**

Once Shaikh Sadi met a handsome youth who was studying in a certain Masjid of Damascus. The youth implored him to stay on, in order that he benefit from the Shaikh’s knowledge and companionship. The Shaikh, becoming suspicious of the ulterior motives of his Nafs excused himself and immediately set-off from that place. Herein lies a great lesson for us, that such an accomplished and perfect saint such as Shaikh Sadi even distrusted himself.

**Incident - 8**

It is narrated that because Imam Muhammed was still a beardless youth when he began attending the lessons of Imam Abu Hanifah, the Imam used to seat him behind himself, in order that his gaze does not fall upon him. When he observed the shadow of his beard-hair in the light of the lamp, the Imam then permitted him to come forward. ALLAHU-AKBAR! Despite his lofty level of Taqwa, Imam Abu Hanifah exercised such precaution that serves as a lasting lesson for all.

**Incident - 9**

A similar incident is narrated about Hazrat Thanwi that once while he was engaged in his literary pursuits in the privacy of his study, a beardless youth suddenly appeared
there with a message for him from his nephew, Moulana Shabbeer Ali Saheb. He immediately vacated the room and acknowledged the message in full public view. Thereafter, he reprimanded his nephew, Moulana Shabbeer Ali for sending a beardless youth into his privacy.

It is for this reason that a saint observes: No matter how pure the intentions and how innocent the heart, privacy with a strange woman or a beardless youth is Haraam. Even if the person perchance, manages to remain chaste and clear of sin, he will not be spared the criticism of critics and the allegations and slandering of the suspicious. The Hadith teaches us to abstain from such matters that would cause undue suspicions in the minds of people towards us. (For example, going to a bar to drink a can of iced juice or to purchase ice cubes - Trans.)

**Incident - 10**

An inspiring anecdote is recorded regarding Hazrat Malik bin Dinar (رضي الله عنه) who, while passing happened to notice a beautiful slave girl dressed in expensive attire and sparkling ornaments strutting away, followed by her cavalcade of attendants.

He remarked: “I offer four Dirhams (a paltry figure) for the purchase of this maiden.” (Her master had paid a hundred thousand for her.) She ordered her attendants to overpower him and carry him along to her master’s palace that they may jest with him and amuse themselves for a while. When Hazrat Malik repeated his four Dirhams offer to her master, who roared away with laughter and thought this was some mentally-deranged vagabond, as he appeared in his tattered clothing and ragged appearance.
Little did he realize that this was a saint of high spiritual standing. He explained: “I have paid a staggering sum for this beautiful maiden and you only offer me four dirhams for her?” Hazrat Malik retorted at once: “A defective commodity deserves a defective price.” The owner: “What defect do you find in her?” Hazrat Malik: “Waste matter of a most repugnant nature is excreted from her body. If she does not brush her teeth for a month you would never stand near her. If she does not bath for a few days you will never approach her. When she ages she will lose all her beauty and charm and when she dies her body will decay and disintegrate completely.”

The master was dumb-struck and after a lengthy silence enquired: “Do you know of any woman that is pure of these defects?” Hazrat Malik replied: “Most certainly! The Hurs of Jannah are absolutely pure of these defects and blemishes. Neither do they relieve themselves nor do they emit any undesirable smell, their perspiration exudes a fragrant musk, their saliva would turn oceans sweet, their melodious voices would revive the dead, old age and death never overtakes them, they will always remain virgins and they are eagerly awaiting our arrival there. They never cast their glances on any strange man.”

The man immediately repented from his sinful life and giving away all his possessions and freeing his slaves, he set off in search of some place of solitude where he could devote himself to the worship of Allah. His slave-girl decided to accompany him and in this way this repentant couple spent the rest of their earthly days, attaining very high spiritual ranks.

This anecdote presents much food for thought to those who wish to mend their lives. A poet says: “Those long, glistening hair which seem so enchanting today, will appear more revolting than a donkey’s tail when she becomes old.”
**The First Favour**

It is reported in a *Hadith*:

*He who protects his gaze will be granted the sweetness of Iman.*

This is such a reward, that it supercedes the pleasures of both the worlds; and it is granted on the meagre sacrifice of the desires.

*Moulana Rumi* (رضي الله عنه) says:

*نيم جان باستاند وصد جان دید
اَخیر دو رو بهم تیاکیر آن دید

“How benevolent is Allah, he claims half the life in sacrifice and striving and grants a hundred lives in return.”

Besides the inferior pleasures of this world, Allah (سبحان و تعالى) grants a countless number of spiritual kingdoms to those that strive in His path.

**The Second Favour**

The *Mu’min* that lowers his gaze, attains the special proximity of Allah. It is reported in a *Hadith-e-Qudsi*; Allah (سبحان و تعالى) states:

*I am very close to the broken hearted.*

Due to lowering the gazes, the desires of the heart are certainly shattered, and this becomes the means of attaining the special proximity of Allah (سبحان و تعالى), that would not ordinarily be achieved by thousands of *Nawafil* and *Azkar*. 
**The Third Favour**

Such a person, due to his constant striving and sacrificing, attains the rank of martyrdom (*Shahadat*) of an allegorical (*Majazi*) nature.

*Hazrat Thanwi* (رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ) writes in his superb exegesis of the Qur’aan “*Tafseer Bayanul Qur’aan*” on the verses regarding martyrdom:

“It appears from certain Ahadith that some Awliya are also granted the stage of martyrdom. It can thus be alluded that Shahadat is of a dual nature, physical as well as allegorical.”

**The Fourth Favour**

Constant striving creates a state of anguish and suffering, yet these are the very factors that aid in traversing the path of Allah (سبحان وتعالى) at a tremendous pace, much more rapidly than those who experience no difficulties and hardships. As a result of constantly sacrificing his aspirations and longings at the alter of the Beloved, the *Mu’min* very rapidly traverses the path to the Beloved.

**The Fifth Favour**

The mighty mountain of *Tur* was shattered into fragments with one manifestation of Allah (سبحان وتعالى); every atom and particle aspired to attain this glory, thus the entire mountain was reduced to dust.

In a similar way, when the *Mu’min* lowers the gaze from beautiful “creatures,” the *Nafs* becomes greatly frustrated and it’s vexation causes the heart to shatter under the extreme pressure of grief and denial. The celestial light (*Nur* and effulgence) of Allah (سبحان وتعالى)’s manifestation now permeates every atom and fragment of this shattered heart!
**The Sixth Favour**
The physical martyr attains the glory of *Shahadat* once, at the hands of the enemy, whereas the *Saalik*, the symbolic martyr, his struggle and tussle with the rebellious *Nafs* is a life long battle. Thus he achieves “martyrdom” all the time!

It is for this reason that Rasulullah (ﷺ) has designated *Jihad* with the disbelievers as “*Jihade-Asghar*” (The small *Jihad*) and that of combating the unruly *Nafs* as “*Jihade-Akbar*” (The great *Jihad*).

In the physical battle, the Muslim world sympathizes upon the flowing of the *Mu‘min’s* blood. In the spiritual realm, Allah (ﷻ) alone witnesses the terrific struggle between the *Mu‘min* and his *Nafs*, Allah (ﷻ) greatly appreciates this sincere and noble sacrifice and He will cause such a heart to outshine the brilliant sun on the Day of Reckoning.

**The Seventh Favour**
Due to constant striving and exertion, the heart is softened. Such a heart experiences great pleasure and enjoyment in *Ibadah* and supplication. Furthermore, such a person’s *Duas* are readily accepted.

**The Eighth Favour**
Due to constant striving, the heart is nurtured, conditioned and fertile to absorb the rays of *Hidayat* (guidance), *Ma’rifat* (gnosis) and *Wilayat* (sainthood).

*Hazrat Moulana Rumi* (ﻕﺭﺍ ShoppingCart ( Tennessee ) states:

> **.provider**

> “Had the closeness and proximity of Allah been based solely on intelligence and reflection, Allah (ﷻ) would not have made it compulsory to strive against the Nafs.”
“And those that strive in Our path, most certainly, We will guide them upon our ways.”

The Ninth Favour

*Hazrat Ibrahim bin Adham* (رضي الله عنه) sacrificed the kingdom of *Balkh* for the sake of Allah ( سبحانه وتعالى) and discarding his regal life of luxuries and comforts, took refuge in a cave of *Nishapur*, where he engaged himself in acts of *Mujahada* against his *Nafs*. In return, Allah ( سبحانه وتعالى) would send sustenance for him directly from *Jannah*; the aroma of which would envelop the entire vicinity. Coincidentally, there happened to be another saint in the vicinity, who was previously an ordinary, menial labourer and for twelve years now he had sacrificed his occupation for Allah’s sake. All these years, Allah ( سبحانه وتعالى) made provision for his sustenance daily from the sky, that comprised of two slices of bread and some gravy. It came to his knowledge that *Ibrahim bin Adham* (رضي الله عنه) had just arrived in that area and was receiving a stately meal everyday from the Heavens. *Shaytaan* incited him to lodge a complaint about this apparent “injustice”; he that had toiled for years and years was still receiving a meagre provision, whereas this newcomer was receiving a sumptuous meal. A voice from the Unseen proclaimed: “O Ungrateful One! Go and resume your menial labour and earn your own living. You have merely sacrificed your humble occupation for Us. He has sacrificed the supreme kingdom of *Balkh*, it’s luxuries, pomp and prestige for Our sake!” The person repented at once.

The *Mu’min* who sacrifices his desires and yearnings in the path of Love, will be resurrected with people such as *Hazrat Adham* (اللهم صل انا عليه) *Insha Allah*. 
Some people are greatly moved by beauty and when love envelops their hearts, they are prepared to grant supreme sacrifices for the beloved. It is a well-known fact that a certain king of England actually relinquished the throne of England, for a common, low-class woman; when he was asked to choose between sovereignty over the British Empire or between his beloved, he opted for the latter.

The *Mu’min* when lowering his gaze from unlawful objects, figuratively sacrifices many such kingdoms for the pleasure of Allah (سبحانه و تعالى), which will earn him a seat amongst the high-ranking servants of Allah (سبحانه و تعالى) on the Day of *Qiyamah*.

It is the graces of Allah (سبحانه و تعالى) upon us that He has prohibited us from gazing at the beauty of perishable beings as this would lead to love and infatuation for a perishable object. While those that make Allah (سبحانه و تعالى) the object of their lives, Allah (سبحانه و تعالى) will grant them an opportunity to witness His Divine Countenance in *Jannah*, which supercedes the pleasures of both the worlds.

Our composition is of soil and clay, and by attaching the heart to a perishable being soil is being heaped upon soil, the lover and the beloved will all eventually turn into dust one day.

**The Tenth Favour**

The sacrificing of desires and cravings actually kindle the fire of *Taqwa*. When the desires are thrown into the flames of *Taqwa*, they serve as fuel and thereby increase the level and degree of *Taqwa* tremendously.

Allah (سبحانه و تعالى) says:

> وَأَمَّا مَنْ خَافَ مَقَامَ رَبِّهِ وَنَهَى النَّفْسُ عَنِ الْهُوَى فَإِنَّ الْجَنَّةَ هِيَ الْمَأْوَىِ
“As for him that feared to stand before his Lord and restrained his soul from lust, Jannah will be his abode.”

(Para 30; Surah Al Naziaat)

On the other hand, the person that acts according to his desires, is consuming fuel for the fire - the fire of Jahannam. The outcome of such an action is obvious.

**The Eleventh Favour**

Controlling the gaze creates a lustre and effulgence (Nur) within the heart, which quickly becomes manifest on the face of such a person. It is for this reason that the pious servants of Allah (سَبِيلَ وَرَضُوْنَا) have such a resplendent illumination upon their faces.

On the otherhand, lustful glances create a palor and darkness in the heart and on the face (which the chosen servants of Allah (سبیلِ و رضوُنَا) apprehend at once).

Once a person who had committed this sin, came before Hazrat Uthman (رضی اللہ عنہ). Hazrat Uthman (رضی اللہ عنہ) at once apprehended the darkness of it in his eyes and commented:

“How despicable are those from whose very-eyes the sin of zina oozes out!”

**The Twelfth Favour**

Hazrat Shah Waliullah (رضی اللہ عنہ) writes that surpressing the urges and impulsive desires of the Nafs and exercising control and patience at such occasions, earns a person the status of Wilayat-e-Khaassah (an advanced level of piety and sainthood).

It is on this basis that an eunuch (castrated man) cannot traverse beyond the bounds of Wilayat-e-Aammah (common piety) because he experiences none of the striving and sacrifice a potent man has to undergo.
Hence Rasulullah (صلى الله عليه وسلم) prohibited his companions from castration. Destroying one’s sexual strength and capacities, for fear of committing sin is no manhood, it is sheer cowardice. True courage and manhood lies only in controlling the urges of the carnal self and combatting the incitations and assaults of Iblees.

Moulana Rumi (رومي رضی اللہ عنہ) in this regard mentions that the similitude of the entire creation is that of immature children, while the only people that deserve to be entitled “Men” are the friends and obedient servants of Allah (سبحان و تعالى), those that have sacrificed every desire for Allah’s pleasure.

**The Thirteenth Favour**

Despite a violent urge to commit sins and cast lustful glances, a person controls his desires and combats his nafs, a Nur (celestial light) is created in the heart.

Hazrat Thanwi (رضی اللہ عنہ) says:

“The physical hardships experienced in this path (leading to Allah سبحانه و تعالى) is transformed into Nur within the heart.”

Just as a ball that is bounced against the ground with force and vigour springs to great heights, so too the Nafs; when repressed and subdued, springs to great heights and attains lofty stations in Allah (سبحان و تعالى)’s sight.
Many a soul, desirous of achieving spiritual reform and rectitude, face great difficulties in controlling the gaze. Despite meticulously and punctually completing their apportioned quota of *Nawafil* (superarogatory prayers) and *Azkar* and despite having lived under the guidance of an accomplished *Shaikh*, yet find themselves victim to this mortal spiritual disease.

It is important to note that the general cause of this ailment is an attitude of negligence and force of habit, which plague the victim well into old age and senility, if not remedied correctly and swiftly.

Lustful gazes bring in their wake, love and attachment for created objects and ordinary mortals, which in turn unsettles the heart and creates turbulence and confusion within the mind, making life a miserable and a bitter existence.

I now include a seven points plan-of-action which in reality is the brainchild and inspiration of my respected *Murshid* (Spiritual Mentor), *Hazrat Moulana Abrarul-Haq Saheb* (رَحْمَاتُ اللَّهِ عَلِيْهِ). This course of action, if adhered to strictly, will *Insha-Allah*, remove this malady in a short span of time. A countless number of people have not only attained salvation, they have also attained enhanced spirituality after effectively applying this remedial course in their lives.
It is strongly recommended that daily after completing the *Fajr Salaah*, these seven points be studied carefully and meditatively. This will leave it’s impression on the heart and mind for the remainder of the day, INSHA-ALLAH.

**THE SEVEN POINT REMEDY**

*Hazrat* writes:

The calamities and destructive consequences of lustful gazes are beyond description. The ultimate result is disgrace and misery in both the worlds. Nowadays, the media and other means of news and entertainment that are promulgating and aggravating this illness, are prevalent in escalating proportions throughout the world. I wish to introduce a concise but effective remedy to this ailment, which will greatly facilitate in eliminating this disease if practised meticulously:

**Point- 1**
Whenever females happen to pass or appear, keep the gazes low, notwithstanding the difficulty the *Nafs* will experience due to this self control.

**Point- 2**
Perchance the gaze fell upon a strange female, immediately lower the gaze even though you fear the loss of your life in the process (due to the severity of the restraint exercised upon the vehement desires of the *Nafs*)

**Point- 3**
Consider well, and constantly ponder upon the fact that this habit will bring in it’s wake:
1. Disgrace in society
2. Destruction of the *Nur* and pleasure of *Ibadah*
3. Severe chastisement in the Hereafter.
**Point- 4**
Upon commission of this act at least:
1. **4 Raka’ats of Nafl Salat** should be offered as a penalty and deterrent to the *Nafs*;
2. **Sadqah** given (as financial penalty) and
3. **Taubah** (repentance) should be offered in abundance.

**Point- 5**
It should be borne in mind that lustful glances stunt the spiritual capacities and propensities of the heart;

The heart is engulfed in an ominous state of darkness and anxiety, which is eliminated only after much effort and striving.

**Point- 6**
Reflect, that lustful glances result in inclination; inclination in affection, affection into blind, uncontrollable passion and this into sin and transgression and finally into utter ruination.

**Point- 7**
Lustful gazes destroys the urge and enthusiasm to engage in acts of worship and obedience until, Allah (سبحان وتعالى) forbid, disregard and contempt is created in the heart for these.

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**AUTHOR’S ADVICE:**

**41-PEARLS**

*(REGARDING SOME PLOYS AND TRICKS OF THE NAFS)*

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**1. Indonesian Maidens**
A certain *Haji Saheb*, while in the *Haram Shareef*, once commented to me: “These young Indonesian maidens resemble flocks of pigeons in their white cloaks (*Burqas*). How bright the *Nur* is on their innocent faces!”
I replied to him: “Haji Saheb! repent in the name of Allah, This is a ploy of your Nafs. On the pretext of observing Nur, Shaytaan has tricked you into the sin of unlawful gazes. Is not the Kabah Shareef and the countenances of the pious Ulama and Auliya resplendent with sufficient Nur? Why is Nur only visible to you on the faces of these maidens?” ALHAMDOLILLAH, he realized his folly at once and repented immediately.

2. Secret Love

Hazrat Thanwi (رضي الله عنه) writes:
“At times, the Nafs conceals it’s fancy for a certain person and it is only upon demise of the fancied one, that this subtle fancy is exposed. The sign of this fancy is grief, sorrow, restlessness and a constant nagging thought of the deceased, Taubah should be resorted to at once.

3. Proportionate Progress

In proportion to the severity of the urge and desire to commit the sin, will be the degree of Nur created within the heart on repressing this urge. The path leading to Allah (سبحان وتعالى) is based only upon striving and sacrifice.

When Allah ( سبحانه وتعالى) is closer to us than our jugular veins (Qur’aan) then what is the meaning of “gaining His closeness”, “traversing His path”, etc? The spiritual Masters have defined it to mean striving against the unlawful desires of the Nafs and subjugating it totally to the obedience of it’s Creator and thereby experiencing the unexplicable delight of the constant consciousness of Allah’s presence and pleasure within the heart.

4. Enlightened Soul

Hazrat Thanwi (رضي الله عنه) states:
“Opposing the desires of the carnal self, besides creating Nur in the heart, also illuminates the Ruh (soul).”
5. **Nafsani Trickery**

At times the glance is cast away from the face, but after the woman has passed, lustful gazes are cast upon her rear or clothing and pleasure is derived therefrom. This is also a trick of the *Nafs* and care should be taken to avoid these *Nafsani* conspiracies.

6. **Sweet Tones**

When conversing with women, the tone and voice is “tuned” and softened in order to please and attract them; similarly, to do so when talking to handsome lads is *Haraam* and a sin. (The same rule applies to straightening the clothes, setting the hair and beard aright, etc. when apprehending the presence or appearance of strange women).

7. **Rolling Eyeballs**

At times a glance is cast only with the corner of the eyes. This is also detrimental to the spiritual well-being of the heart. This is a subtle contrivance of the *Nafs* whereby it attains pleasure and delight. Extreme precaution is essential; else the hard earned fruits of *Zikr*, *Taqwa* and *Mujahada* could easily be destroyed within moments.

8. **Imagination Running Wild**

Some people lower their gazes but derive great pleasure and satisfaction by conjuring images of the beloved in the mind’s eye, through the power of imagination.

Thus not only the physical eye, but even the “mental eye” has to be cast down from strange women. This is achieved by occupying the heart with *Zikr* and other wholesome thoughts.

9. **The Irresistible Moment**

In the Hadith, we are taught to flee as far away from sin, as East is from West. Intermingling and socialising with women,
engaging in intimate and alluring conversations with them and enjoying privacy with them is very conducive towards transgression and eventually becoming “intimately” involved.

Shaytaan’s chief strategy is to create pride, vainglory and a superiority complex within the Mu’min, whereby the Mu’min automatically becomes accursed in Allah’s sight and he is excommunicated from the Divine Court.

Failing in this strategy, Shaytaan’s next ploy is to involve the Mu’min with strange women and handsome lads. Through a gradual process, (so subtle in nature; the Mu’min hardly realises what he is heading towards) Shaytaan leads him step-by-step down the thorny path of illicit love. It all begins with a friendly smile, maybe a sympathetic word, a kind gesture. This is followed by friendship and uninhibited meeting and mingling. The barriers of strangeness and bashfulness are hurled aside and private meetings in secrecy are next on line. All the while, Shaytaan continues to release minute doses of poisonous love-potions into both the hearts. They, on the other hand, foolishly reassure their guilty consciences that this is only a “friendly relationship.” Shaytaan finally engineers the opportune moment of intimate privacy, when they are overcome by violent passion and uncontrollable desire, the irresistible moment, it becomes impossible to abstain from the heinous act.

How true the sayings,

“Where the mud is thick, even the elephant slides!”

10. Crafty Cloth Merchant

A certain cloth merchant, despite reaching his middle age, used to apply surma (collyrium) to his eyes for beautification; while his greedy, lustful gazes “devoured” every female that ventured into his shop; he would deceptively address them as sister, daughter, auntie and other such names. It is clearly
evident that these were the nefarious plottings of his carnal self, which had not only deceived this fraud, but also the poor women that cared to call at his shop.

11. Dance Party
A pious person once informed a saintly associate of his, that he intended to attend a function that night at some relative’s place where semi-nude women would entertain the guests with dancing, singing and other performances.

This saintly friend sincerely discouraged him from participating in this gathering of vice that would certainly destroy his hard-earned piety and cancel the Nur of his Zikr. He retorted: “How foolish of you to underestimate the magical powers of Zikr? What effect could sin have over a mighty act such as Zikr?”

How convincingly the Shaytaan misled him into believing evil to be virtue! The similitude of his unfounded and baseless reasoning is that of a wrestler, when told not to consume poison with his diet of nourishing, vitamin-filled foods, he retorts: “How foolish is he that underestimates the magical effects of vitamin foods? How could poison nullify its effects in anyway?”

These are the foolish thought-processes Shaytaan embellishes in the minds of some. If sin and transgression was not detrimental, why would Allah (سبقه) prevent us from the same?

Hence it is reported in one Hadith:

إِنْكَى الْمَخَارِمِ تَكُنْ أَغْبِيَ الْنَّاسِ

(“O Abu Huraira! Abstain from haraam (foods and acts); You will be the greatest worshipper (amongst people).”)
In matters pertaining to the beloved ones of the world, the slightest disapproval from the beloved is intolerable to the lover. How can we then remain complacent and unruffled about the disapproval of the Merciful, Beneficient Master?

Intellectuals such as Hazrat Imaam Ghazzali, Hazrat Thanwi and others have opined that even a single nonsensical statement is sufficient to blacken the heart and destroy its Nur. What could then be said about the severity of the major sins, such as listening to, gazing at and deriving pleasure from the performances of a totally strange women?

It is the unanimous opinion of all the Islamic authorities, that no person who is habituated to even a single sin, can ever be the Wali and friend of Allah.

A poet says:

وَقَوْمٌ يَذْعَرُونَ وَصَالَ لَيْلٍ
وَلَيْلٍ لَا تَقُرُّ بَهْمُ بَداً

Many claim to love Laila,
While Laila does not even have their names on her list of lovers!

**N.B. What is a Pseudo (Fraudulent) Sufi?**

There are some imposters who are clean shaven, trousers flowing below ankles, Salaat not performed in congregation and commission of the major sins yet, they make a great show of their punctuality with their Wazaij and Nawafil. They designate themselves as leaders and Imams of Tassawuf (Sufism). Out of sheer coincidence if any person attained cure at their hands or any of their Dua is accepted (through Allah’s graces), they become completely convinced of their spiritual powers and positions; all the while drifting further and further away from Deen. They do not realise that these
are no achievements at all in Islam; Allah has accepted the Dua of Shaytaan himself and granted him his request for respite till the Day of Qiyamah. Does this confer any level of Wilayat (saintliness) to Shaytaan? At times certain Kuffar commit supernatural and unconventional feats. Does this accord them any spiritual levels in Allah’s sight? Becoming deceived by these occurrences is the direct outcome of the ignorance of the Shari’at.

Hazrat Thanwi (رضا الله عنه) has clearly elucidated the essence of Tasawwuf (Sufism) in his work “Al-Qasdus-Sabeel” where he substantiates that Tasawwuf simply means strict compliance of not only the exoteric (Zahiri) but also the esoteric (Batini) commands of the Shari’ah and strict obedience and adherence to the Sunnah.

Anything beyond Shari’ah is manifest deviation, no matter how captivating it appears on the surface. Thus Zikr, Wazaif, Muraqabah (meditation), etc, are the aids towards steadfastness on Shariah, which is the actual goal of every Muslim’s life.

12. Lip Service

Some individuals, after deriving maximum pleasure by gazing at fashionable and smartly-clad women, then utter “La Hawla” in a hypocritical attempt to express their disapproval and commence with a lengthy discourse on the immorality and decadence of the present society.

These individuals are requested to first lower their gazes, then to recite “La Hawla” which would then prove highly beneficial for them. What benefit is derived by the hypocritical chanting of some Wazifah (incantation), while the gazes are cast around most recklessly? This is tantamount to deceiving and fooling one’s self!
13. Chain Reaction
One lustful gaze leads to another; just as one sin leads to another and one good deed to another,

After the first gaze is cast, the temptation and urge increases, while the power of resistance decreases. On the second gaze, temptation grows even stronger and resistance weakens proportionately, until the entire day passes by in disobedience and transgression.

Once the brakes have failed, nothing can hold back the vehicle; once the gaze is cast, a chain-reaction is set into motion, which continues without resistance.

14. Good Old Days
At times a person manages to control and protect his gazes for a number of days. Shaytaan then reminds him of the pleasure he used to experience in his former days and exhorts him in this way to revert to his former habits.

His mind and heart becomes corrupt and contaminated in this way and once the heart has been corrupted, the organs of the body can never remain unaffected. The heart has been described as the king of the body. Thus Shaytaan’s initial assault is upon the heart, and once he succeeds here, the ears, eyes, hands, etc. follow suit.

The eye and heart have a special and direct connection. They operate on the same wave length. The movements of the eye has a direct impact on the heart and vice-versa. Thus protection of the eye and heart are equally important. Neglect in the matter of one results in the corruption of the other. Alluding to this reality, Allah (ﷺ) states in the Qur’aan Shareef:
15. Fantasizing
At the time of cohabitation, some people fantasize by conjuring up images of beautiful women in the mind, in order to multiply their pleasure. This is *Haraam* for both husband and wife.

16. Pick and Choose
Some people cast a glance with this motive that, if the woman is beautiful they would turn away the gaze, and if it is the other way around, then there is no need to look away. This is a subtle trick of the *Nafs*. Whether the beauty is outstanding or ordinary, the gaze has nonetheless to be protected and controlled.

17. Death of the Wife
After the demise of the wife, it is forbidden to deliberately introduce thoughts of her in privacy and relive the moments of intimacy spent with her in the past. Death causes husband and wife to become strangers to each other in the *Shari’ah*.

However, if these thoughts assail the mind involuntarily, then the person is excused.

18. Accidental Glances
The pardoning of the first (accidental) gaze as narrated in the *Hadith* is only applicable to those circumstances and occasions where a woman is not expected to appear and she suddenly comes within sight. In this instance the first, glance (which was purely accidental) is forgiven,

To continue staring thereafter or to gaze for a second time or in the direction where a woman is expected to appear are all *Haraam* and sinful and do not fall within the purview of the forgiveness announced in this *Hadith*. 
It is thus compulsory to keep the gazes low in shopping areas, public places, offices, transport services, roads, etc where the emergence of females is in a greater proportion nowadays than even that of men.

The *Nafs* has to be kept under strict control in such places, otherwise on the pretext of the “first glance” the *Nafs* will spare none in its gluttonous desire for pleasure and delight. Never should the gaze be allowed to stray in such places.

**19. Queen of the Hoors**

Perchance the wife is not very attractive or pretty (but she is pious), then patience should be exercised for the few days of this fleeting existence. In the Hereafter, Allah will make her more beautiful than the *Hoors* (heavenly maidens) of *Jannah*, because of her *Iman* and righteous deeds. The *Hoors* will enviously admire her beauty.

The moments of this life are passing swiftly and soon the time for the union and meeting with our *Hoors* in *Jannah* will arrive, the beauty and grace of whom the *Qur’aan* bears testimony. How Merciful is Allah to his impatient servants! In order to pacify their urges and desires, Allah Himself presents a detailed description of the women of *Jannah*; like a compassionate father that writes to his son studying in a foreign country to maintain patience for the few days that he is to spend away from home; a match has already been arranged for him with a beautiful girl from a respectable family.

The Believer should look forward to the fact that soon he will receive a bevy of beautiful virgins in *Jannah* and in preparation, he should occasionally clean the *Masjid* and remove the litter as this is the dowry of the *Hurs* of *Jannah*. *(Hadith)*
It should always be remembered one’s humble chutney and Roti (bread and gravy) is better than enjoying someone else’s Biryani and Zarda (exquisite). Allah (سُورَةُ التَّرَابَضِ) has pre-ordained and fixed everyone’s partner and only that person will be his.

It is a tremendous bounty and favour of Allah (سُورَةُ التَّرَابَضِ), that even in this passing phase of life, He has made arrangements for our comfort in the form of spouses and wives, that we may fulfil our passions and carnal urges.

Just as the cup of weak, flavourless tea on the platform of the railway station is gulped down contentedly; a humble dwelling and a simple wife is sufficient to pass the fleeting days of this temporary life. A traveller should not anticipate the luxuries and comforts of home on a journey or in a foreign land.

Whatever arrangements Allah (سُورَةُ التَّرَابَضِ) has made in this world should be appreciated, for verily He is Hakim (The Master) & Hakeem (All-Wise) and He alone knows what is best and befitting for His servants.

The person that remains displeased and disgruntled with Allah (سُورَةُ التَّرَابَضِ)’s provisions and aspires to appease his cravings and urges in forbidden territory, will meet with severe disgrace and chastisement; while he that submits his whims to Allah (سُورَةُ التَّرَابَضِ)’s decisions, will find doors of peace and prosperity thrown open for him.

20. Ishq - A Parasite

Sharhe-Asbaab, a reputed reference work in Unani Medical Sciences, states the definition of “Ishq” (Love) as follows:

“Ishq” is the name of a certain parasitic plant which envelopes other plants and trees. The devastating effect it exercises on a lush, healthy tree is remarkable; the entire host tree withers away and dies out completely.
Similar is the effect of love on the human being; it destroys the life of both the worlds.

In this very book it is also stated: This disease afflicts only those that are weak-minded and puerile.

*(Sharhe-Asbaab; Vol. 1, Pg. 191)*

### 21. Heap of Disgrace

Inclination and love for handsome lads leads only to destruction and disgrace. A woman could someday be married, but no such possibilities exists in the case of male lovers. Eventually, both lover and beloved become disgraced in each other’s eyes and can never face each other for life.

### 22. To Do Or Not To Do

Some people claim their total helplessness with regard to controlling the gaze. This is indeed a staggering deception of *Shaytaan*. *Hazrat Thanwi* (رضا الله عنه) has written:

> “The ability to enact an action entails within it the capacity to abstain from it. This is a unanimous principle of reality.”

### 23. Sugar Coated Poison

*Haraam* pleasures lead to disgrace and humiliation in this worldly life and the Hereafter. Like a brilliantly patterned snake which apparently seems very lovable, yet no one would dare to touch it for fear of its venomous bite, sins and transgression contain within them destruction and misery. They result in the wrath and anger of *Allah* (سُلَيْمَانِي).

When opposing a petty dictator of some country, life becomes an unbearable hell and the safety of life is jeopardized; what then would be the plight of the unfortunate wretch that dares to flaunt the authority of the Almighty *Allah* and disobey His commands?
24. **Idle Mind - Devil’s Workshop**

A person convalescing from this malady, should avoid solitude for lengthy periods. *Shaytaan* utilizes these moments to stir and refresh memories of past pleasures and enjoyments. This causes confusion in the mind and may lead to retrogression towards former habits. It is vitally important that such a person leads an occupied and active life as this would divert him from sins and evil thoughts.

On a similar basis, it is highly recommended to keep maturing youngsters engaged and absorbed in some beneficial activity or hobby; this would serve to keep them away from mischief and sin; the popular maxim “*An idle mind is the devil’s workshop*” is quite true.

25. **The Tides of Life**

Some *Saaliheen* (pious persons) despite faithfully abiding to their duties and prescribed spiritual remedies, find themselves overpowered by the desires of the carnal self and control their urges with great exertion and difficulties. This should not be a cause for undue concern or frustration.

At times, these urges are negligible and at times, formidable. The heart resembles an ocean, which experiences the vicissitudes of high and low tides, the constant ebb and flow.

Generally there are two conditions that engulf the heart; a feeling of elation and delight known as “*Bast*” or a state of depression and turmoil known as “*Qabz*.” During the high of “*Bast*”, the heart is greatly inclined towards obedience, worship and devotion. The pamperings and inciting of *Shaytaan* are minimal at this time and great pleasure is experienced in the various acts of *Ibadah*. During the low of “*Qabz*” the heart is uneasy and no pleasure is derived from *Ibadah*, everything seems mechanical and routine. The desire and urge to commit
sins is strong. Shaytaan seizes the opportunity to spread havoc in the mind through various depressing and belittling thoughts such as “You are wasting your time; You will never make it to the end; You are a weakling; You are depriving yourself while others are enjoying life,” etc.

At this stage, courage and level-headedness is required. An abundance of Taubah and Istighfaar should be rendered. It should be well understood that this is a trial and a test from Allah ( سبحانه وتعالى).

This condition prevails over the heart of almost any pious and saintly person, no matter how pious he maybe. Hazrat Peerane-Peer, Shaikh Abdul Qadir Jilani (رضا الله عنه) states with regard to his own spiritual condition:

“At times angels envy our lofty stages, at times Shaytaan wonders at our shameless actions. If this is the condition of the perfect and accomplished ones, where do we stand?”

The elders have written that these conditions of “Qabz” remove all egoistic feelings of greatness and creates a feeling of humility, submission and helplessness in a person, until eventually he regards himself as the most despicable creature in Allah’s creation. This lofty stage can never be attained in “Bast”. Allah ( سبحانه وتعالى) greatly appreciates and values the qualities of humility, meekness and self-effacement.

The state of “Qabz” is a temporary one; a person should wholeheartedly resign himself to Allah ( سبحانه وتعالى) and consider this to be of maximum benefit for himself.

26. Slow but Sure

At times elimination of lustful thoughts and feelings engages a lengthy period of time and effort. This should not cause disillusion and frustration as this is in no way detrimental to
spiritual development and progress; in fact, tremendous rewards will accrue for this *Mujahada* (striving). So long as these feelings are not given practical expression, there is no harm even though these feelings plague the soul for an entire lifetime thereafter.

In reality, the *Nafs* detests striving and struggle, but no attention should be paid to it’s protestation.

The desires of the heart maybe shattered, but the commands of Allah can at no time be transgressed. *Hazrat Moulana Rumi* (رَحْمَةَ اللَّهِ عَلَى هِمْ) records an anecdote in this regard about *Mahmood* and *Ayaz* (a king and his slave).

*Mahmood* presented a gem of rare beauty to his ministers and handing a hammer to each one of them, commanded them to shatter this gem before his eyes. None of them submitted to the royal request excusing themselves from destroying such a precious possession of the king. Eventually, *Ayaz* stepped forward and with one powerful blow, shattered the stately gem into a thousand fragments.

When asked regarding his peculiar reaction, *Ayaz* replied:

> “What could be more precious than the command of King Mahmood?”

(i.e. his command was more precious than the gem, thus it could not be broken.)

In a similar way, the unlawful desires of the heart must be shattered before the Divine Command of Allah (سبحان وتعالى).

27. **Sweetness of Imaan**

The immediate returns and reward for casting down the glance is the sweetness and delight of *Imaan* that will drench every chamber of the heart.
28. Oceans of Blood and Fire

If the desires of the heart are consistently sacrificed before the commands of Allah (سُلَيْمَانٍ وَعَلِيٍّ), such a person will Insha-Allah be resurrected with those that sacrificed their kingdoms for Allah (particular reference to Hazrat Ibrahim bin Adham (رضي الله عنه) who relinquished the throne of Balkh for Allah). After crossing the sea of blood and fire, their ships ultimately reach the shores of eternal peace and tranquility, never again to undergo any hardship whatsoever.

29. Health Complications

Lustful gazes causes excessive loss of precious semen, which in turn results in the weakening and malfunctioning of the vital organs; i.e. the kidneys, the heart, the brains, the eyes and the nerves. This in turn leads to many complications in the functional systems of the body. The health of a person is thus wrecked.

30. Ashen Faces

The countenance and eyes of those involved in this evil become completely pallid and lustreless. This is the direct effect of the curses of Rasulullah (صلی الله علیه) upon those who cast lustful gazes and those that are gazed at in this way. (i.e. those women that expose themselves to other’s gazes). The meaning of La’nat (curse) is, to be far removed from the mercies and grace of Allah (سُلَيْمَانٍ وَعَلِيٍّ).

A face that is the target of descending La’nat will certainly be fickle and Ashen.

31. Sinister Looks

An elderly man was studying a handsome youth with an evil intention. Due to his inherent piety, the youth immediately sensed and perceived the darkness that was emanating from that look and finding an opportune moment, he upbraided the elderly person regarding his foul deed. The person admitted his folly and resorted to repentance at once.
32. Bitter Life

No person can aspire to become the friend of Allah with this abhorred habit in his life. Never will he enjoy the sweetness and delight of Imaan and Ibadah.

Hazrat Thanwi ( ❞ ﷺ) comments:

“The denial of the sweetness of Ibadah and Zikr is no small punishment for the one that recklessly casts his gazes around.”

33. Heart to Heart

The similitude of one that gazes around, is that of a person who sells his heart away to a created being. The heart is not stolen away from the breast; it is snatched through the doorway of the eyes.

Alluding to this reality, Shaikh Sa’di ( ❞ ﷺ) writes:

“If you desire to protect your heart from being stolen, then close your eyes to the “beauties” of the world.”

The heart should only be gifted to Him who is the Creator and Maker of the heart. It is for this reason, that the saintly ones are referred to as “Ahle-Dil” - “People of the heart” because they have done justice to the heart by granting it to the Real Owner of the heart - Almighty Allah.

When the heart is stolen away by an ordinary created mortal, it’s suffering and torment knows no bounds (like a fish out of water). When it is placed in the custody of Allah (سُلَمُوءُ وَعَلَى), then He in return fills it with such peace, tranquility, happiness and delight, that great and mighty monarchs have not even dreamt about in their lives.

The entire creation is unaware of the pleasures that are conferred upon the hearts of the lovers of Allah (سُلَمُوءُ وَعَلَى). He that is the Creator of the sweetness in sugar and honey, alone knows what sweetness, bliss and comfort He can confer upon the hearts of His loving servants.
Allah (سَبِيلَة وَتَعَالَى) states in the Qur’aan Shareef:

آَلَّا بَدِّيْكَرُ اللَّهِ تَطْمَئِنَّ الْقُلُوبُ

“Verily in the remembrance of Allah do hearts find peace and tranquility”

The person that has spent an entire lifetime, bereft of this indescribable joy should attempt to experience the sweetness of Zikr by associating with some saintly personality for some time.

The “air-conditioner” of peace and tranquility is ever-operating in their company. The heart will testify to this fact, provided that the heart be kept completely neutral and unprejudiced. If Majnoon (a lover) could recognize Layla’s (his beloved) grave from it’s fragrance, it would be much easier to recognize the fragrance that emanates and exudes from the Friends of Allah - the Auliya.

The value of the Itr (perfume) bottle is in proportion to the value of the Itr it contains; thus the physical body and existence of the Auliya-Allah is highly precious, due to the invaluable Itr of the love of Allah (سَبِيلَة وَتَعَالَى) that they contain within themselves.

34. From Frying Pan to Fire

A little child that is snatched away from the protective lap of the mother by a total stranger, knows no end to his fretting and agitation.

Similarly, a heart that has been snatched away from it’s Creator and given over to a stranger (through lustful gazes and illicit love relationships) knows no peace and tranquility until it is returned to it’s Creator.
Sleep and food become Haraam upon this unfortunate wretch, and frustration develops to a stage where suicide seems the only escape from the torments of life. The stages ahead (of the Hereafter) are much severer and dreadful and to his utter dismay, the person finds himself jumping from the frying pan right onto the fire.

35. Step-by-Step Towards Hell
Lustful gazes lead to inclination, inclination towards affection, affection to love, and love overpowers the intellect and thinking powers of the lover. His actions are now based on mere impulse and emotions. His entire purpose of life is gratification of his passions and burning desires. He ignores the consequences and after-effects of his rash actions and ultimately lands himself in the midst of a hornet’s nest; facing disgrace, emotional upheaval, physical harassment in the form of imprisonment, assault and even loss of life, at times.

In this way his life is utterly ruined and destroyed. Hazrat Thanwi (ٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌٌ..
Death will soon relieve the believer of his striving and soon thereafter he will be granted entry into Jannah where his Hur (beautiful celestial damsel), with big, lustrous eyes and fair complexion will eagerly await to welcome him with outstretched arms. There follows then a life of untold happiness and joy.

No pleasure sacrificed, no desire shattered goes unrewarded in the Hereafter. Through sacrifices and striving, Allah (سُلَمِيْلَهُ وَتَعَالَى) takes half the life of His believing one, but grants him in return countless lives of joy and pleasure.

In this life the servant should gladly sacrifice his aspirations and lead a life in conformity to the Shari’ah and taste the pleasure of submission. His value in the Divine Court will increase manifold. 5 bricks of exact appearance and composition are utilized in different buildings. One is used in a brothel, a toilet, a local Masjid, in Musjide-Nabawi and one in the Kabah Shareef. In composition and cost they are exactly the same but due to their usage in various buildings, their value, worth and status varies greatly.

Thus, if this youth and life is applied to material gains, the end result is dust and soil; both will perish in a short while. On the other hand, if applied to the obedience and pleasure of Allah, it will result in Divine Pleasure, a shade beneath the Arsh and bounties that are inconceivable to the human mind.

To summarize; lustful gazes and infatuation with perishable beings is a terrible chastisement and affliction upon the soul that destroys the life of both the worlds.

Neglect of this malady only serves to aggravate this chronic spiritual disease. The remedy is to engage the services of an accomplished spiritual specialist, a Waliullah (saint) and act meticulously upon his advices and directives.
Never should the thought that the “patient” will be regarded contumuously or despicably by the “specialist”, prevent the patient from remedying himself. In reality, these personalities are greatly sympathetic and compassionate towards their “patients” and consider any service they could render as a means of their own salvation and acceptance in the Divine Court. Under no circumstances will they ever divulge the private matters of any individual. These are regarded as strictly confidential information.

37. Greatest Jihaad

The person who by repeated protection of the gazes has sacrificed and bled the aspirations of his heart is granted a heart brimming with compassion; due to which his speech becomes moving and touches the hearts of his audience, creating a restless urge for reform within their hearts.

Striving against the Nafs and maintaining iron-fisted control over it’s rebelliousness is indeed a great struggle and an allegorical Jihaad of the highest form.

The returns of these strivings is the creation of such a fragrance within the heart of a Mu’min, that not only overwhelms him, but even those that associate with him.

Hazrat Shah Waliullah writes regarding himself:

“I have within my breast a heart, brimming over with the gems of Allah’s love, who could be more fortunate and honoured beneath the kingdom of the heavens than myself, for owning such a priceless treasure?”

38. The Taste of Jannah on Earth

The person that desires to taste the pleasures of Jannah on earth, should spend some time in the auspicious companionship
of the Ahlullah (the people of Allah); he will attain such peace and pleasure, that kings would have fought him to snatch this away, had they only but perceived this condition.

Living in their company feels like the heavens have descended upon earth.

39. 4 Steps to Success
Following this prescribed remedy diligently will cure the malady of lustful gazes:

1. Acquire Taqwa,

2. Spending at least 40 days in the company of a “spiritual specialist”,

3. Informing the Shaikh about one’s faults and practicing precisely upon his prescriptions,

4. Patiently bearing the difficulties of contradicting the carnal desires of the Nafs. Soon these difficulties are transformed into ease.

40. Effective Remedy
An anecdote regarding the remedial measures prescribed by my spiritual guide and mentor, Hazrat Moulana Abrarul-Haq Saheb for a certain Mureed who was afflicted by this malady of lustful gazing, Hazrat stipulated a penalty of 5 rupees upon him for every lustful glance he casted. This remedy proved highly effective and within ten days he was completely cured.

41. Handsome Lads
Some words of wisdom regarding handsome lads: Hazrat Abu Huraira (رضي الله عنه) reports that Rasulullah صلی الله علیه وآله وسلم said:

“Do not stare at beardless youth.”
Hazrat Anas (رضي الله عنه) reports that Rasulullah (صلى الله عليه وسلم) said:

“Beware of beardless youth for they are a greater source of mischief than young maidens.”

Hazrat Umar (رضي الله عنه) used to say:

“I do not fear the danger of a wild animal let loose upon an Aalim, as much as I fear the danger of a beardless, handsome lad upon him.”

Hazrat Sufyan Thauri (رضي الله عنه) says:

“If every woman has one Shaitaan accompanying her, then a handsome lad has two.”

Imaam Ghazzali (رضي الله عنه) writes:

“Turning a hungry lion upon an Aabid (worshipper) is not as detrimental to him as a handsome lad left before him.”

LETTERS OF DISTRESS

THIS CHAPTER CONTAINS A RANDOM SELECTION OF LETTERS FROM THE OUTSTANDING WORKS OF HAZRAT THANWI (رضي الله عنه) ENTITLED TARBIYATUS - SAALIK

FROM A LOVE STRUCK HEART

Letter - 1

In 1901, I happened to undertake a journey to Shimla (India). Coincidentally while journeying that evening, I passed by a woman riding a horse, travelling in the opposite direction. My heart was captivated by her exceptional beauty. Never have I observed such splendid beauty in all my life. Six months have since elapsed and yet memories of her charming looks haunt
Appoint a special time for privacy daily. Recite the *Kalimah Tayyibah* in such a manner that with “LA ILAHA” imagine the love of every created being expelled from the heart and with “ILLALLAH” love of Allah being entrenched within the heart.

Thereafter contemplate upon death, the conditions after death, reckoning, etc.

Ponder upon her condition after her death; the corpse will rot and disintegrate; worms and insects will be feasting upon the decaying body.

In your spare time recite *Istighfaar* in abundance.

After two weeks inform me of your progress.

**Reply - 1**

My *Nafs* has overpowered me and I continue to commit major sins. I greatly regret my actions and after a sincere repentance, I resolve firmly not to go near those sins; but my resolutions are weak and soon I return to my former condition. Please assist me in remedying my situation.

**Letter - 1**

**Letter - 2**

Practicing upon Hazrat’s advice has created an inexplicable disinclination and detestation in my heart for this woman. I do not think of her anymore.

**Reply - 2**

**Effective Remedies For Spiritual Maladies**

**FROM ONE OF INCONSISTENT TAUBAH**

**Letter - 1**

**Letter - 2**

**ALHAMDULILLAH, Allah be praised a million times.**
Letter - 1

I am madly in love with a certain woman, I desire to rid my heart of this unlawful feeling—but I find myself helpless in this regard. Both my Deen and Dunya are suffering its consequences. Hazrat! Please assist.

Reply - 1

- Stipulate a stiff penalty upon the Nafs for every misdeed committed, Insha-Allah this will prove-tremendously beneficial.
- In my opinion, resorting to a former act after Taubah, requires a penalty ranging from 40 to 50 Rakaats of Nafil Salaat. After applying this remedy, inform me of your progress.

FROM ONE MADLY IN LOVE

Reply - 1

- Leave the company of the beloved one immediately. This separation should be both, physical and intellectual.
- Physical separation entails that you do not converse with her, nor do you allow her to converse with you. Do not look at her, do not allow anyone to discuss her in your presence, nor should you ever discuss her before anyone.
- Mental separation entails that you do not deliberately entertain or introduce any thoughts about her in the mind. Involuntarily, if her thought or image flashes in your mind, engage yourself in some diversive activity at once.
- Make Dua abundantly to Allah for assistance.
- Constantly engage in Zikr of Allah no matter how routine or mechanical it appears.
- Thereafter inform me of your progress.
Letter - 2

Allah be praised! I am already beginning to feel a decrease in my sentiments for her.

Reply - 2

Insha-Allah, you will make further progress. Continue with the prescription.

Letter - 3

Love for her has almost diminished completely from my heart. Whenever her thought comes to mind, a slight pang is experienced in the heart, Hazrat is requested to make Dua that Allah Ta’ala removes all traces from my heart.

Reply - 3

The remedy is the same as above. Adopt total separation under all circumstances; all emotions will disappear. If any inclination still remains thereafter, do not be concerned about it, for this is harmless.

FROM ONE AFFILICTED BY LUSTFUL GAZES

Letter

When gazing at handsome lads, a fire of desire is kindled within my heart. However, I immediately turn away my gaze.

Reply

Together with the physical gaze the “mental” gaze should also be turned away.

The simplest method of achieving this is by directing the thoughts in another direction. It is a unanimously accepted principle of psychology that the mind cannot concentrate on two varying subjects simultaneously. Thus no effort should be expended in attempting to remove these thoughts (as this is extremely difficult); nor should the causes be pondered upon as this would only compound the problem.
The best remedy is to redirect the thoughts, and the problem will automatically be solved. This is the only effective solution. At times such terrible thoughts afflict the mind that a person begins to doubt the validity of his imaan; there is no cause for concern so long as these thoughts “appear” and are not voluntarily “introduced”.

A certain group amongst the Sahaba (رضي الله عنهم) complained to Rasulullah (صلى الله عليه وسلم) about the evil nature of the thoughts crossing their minds; they preferred to be burnt to cinders than mentioning these thoughts to anyone. Rasulullah (صلى الله عليه وسلم) exclaimed: “Praise be to Allah who has confined the scheming and plotting of Shaytaan to mere thoughts and has not allowed it to proceed beyond that.”

The authorities of Ahadith have deduced from this Hadith that those experiencing such thoughts should not despair or be depressed; in fact they ought to be happy and cheerful because it is the engineering of Shaytaan that has brought about these thoughts. The Mu’min’s happiness greatly disturbs and angers the Shaitaan. When he observes the Mu’min’s indifference to his whisperings, he becomes frustrated and terminates his activities at once.

It is also recommended that “A’uzu” be recited on such occasions. In short, Zikr is an invaluable remedy to this problem because, turning the attention to Allah means turning the heart away from everything besides Him. Thus, the “whispers” will terminate immediately, as the mind cannot concentrate and focus on two subjects in one and the same moment.

May Allah save us all from the deadly spiritual malady of lustful gazing and illicit love affairs.

AAMEEN.

End Of Part One
PATR TWO
CHAPTER -1
IGNORANCE & IT’S REMEDY

Hadith - 1
Rasulullah (صلى الله عليه وسلم) said:

“The world and all its contents are cursed except the remembrance of Allah Ta’ala and that which is the like thereof, the Aalim and the Student of Deeni-knowledge.” (Tirmizi, Ibn-Majah)

Those material objects that assist in maintaining the Zikr of Allah (سُلُطَانُ وَتَعَالَى) such as food, drink, clothing and other such necessities of life are contained within the purview of the term “and the like thereof” and “remembrance of Allah (سُلُطَانُ وَتَعَالَى)” entails all forms of Ibadat and Obedience (Ta’aat), wherein the acquisition of knowledge is also included; in fact it is the foundation and basis of all other acts of Ibadat; without it no possibility exists of correct Ibadat being rendered by the servant of Allah. It was to emphasize this important fact that Rasulullah (صلى الله عليه وسلم) mentioned “the Aalim and the Student of Deen” separately although they had already come within the general purview of “Zikrullah”.

Hadith - 2
In one tradition, it is mentioned that the acquisition of knowledge for the pleasure of Allah (سُلُطَانُ وَتَعَالَى) is on par with the Fear of Allah (سُلُطَانُ وَتَعَالَى); travelling for the acquisition of knowledge is Ibadat; memorising it is equal to Tasbeeh; discussing academic topics of ilm equals Jihad (Striving in the path of Allah); reading it is equal to Sadaqah (Charity); imparting it to the family is a means of acquiring Allah’s closeness; because knowledge differentiates between lawful and unlawful, it is a signpost of the road leading to Jannah (Paradise), it is a companion in solitude, it is a companion
on a lone journey, it is a guide in happiness and grief, and a weapon against enemies, Allah (زَبّ الْغَزُوْرَ) elevates the fraternity of the Ulama due to this knowledge. They become such leaders who set the trend for their followers; such people whose models are emulated; whose opinions are resorted to; they are such people who the angels wish to befriend and these angels rub their wings upon them (out of love and honour), every dry and wet object begs pardon on their behalf, until even the fish in the sea, the wild animals of the jungle and the venomous animals pray for their forgiveness. All this because knowledge is the light of the heart, the sight of the eyes. Through it, the servant of Allah becomes an exalted member of the community and Ummah and acquires the lofty stations of the world and Hereafter. Studying this knowledge is equal to fasting, learning it is on par with Tahajjud Salaah; through it, ties are joined and Halaal is distinguished from Haraam; it is the Imam of Amal, Amal is subservient to it; the fortunate are inspired with it and the wretched are deprived of it. (Fazaile-Zikr)

Hadith - 3
Rasulullah (صلى الله عليه وسلم) said: “The virtue of an Aalim upon an Aabid (a worshipper who is a non-Aalim) is similar to my virtue upon the lowest amongst you. Allah (زَبّ الْغَزُوْرَ), His angels, the inhabitants of the earth and the skies, even the ants in their ant-holes and the fish in the seas, send blessings upon those that impart the knowledge of Deen to others.” (Tirmizi)

Hadith - 4
One learned man (Faqeeh) is severer upon Shaytaan than a thousand Aabid (worshippers). (Tirmizi)

Hadith - 5
Three persons are such, whom none other than a hypocrite would ridicule and consider inferior; an elderly Muslim, an Aalim and a Just Ruler. (Jam’ul-Fawaid)
**Hadith - 6**

He who teaches another person will attain the reward of the person who practices without having the practicing one’s rewards reduced in anyway.

**Hadith - 7**

It is compulsory upon every Muslim to acquire the knowledge of Deen. *(Jam’ul-Fawaid)*

**Hadith - 8**

When passing the gardens of Jannah, eat well. The Sahaba (رضي الله عنهم) enquired: “O Rasulullah (صلى الله عليه وسلم) what are the Gardens of Jannah?” He replied: “The gatherings of knowledge.”

*(Jam’ul-Fawaid)*

**Hadith - 9**

It is not permissible for an Aalim to remain silent upon his knowledge, neither is it permissible for an ignorant person to remain silent upon his ignorance (by not going to the Ulama and acquiring the knowledge of Deen), Allah (زب الله) says:

“Ask the people of knowledge if you do not know.”

*(Jam’ul-Fawaid)*

**Hadith - 10**

A person who acquires the knowledge of Deen other than the Pleasure of Allah should prepare his abode in Hell-fire. *(Targheeb)*

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**CHAPTER - 2**

**ANGER & IT’S REMEDY**

The maidservant of Hazrat Ali bin Hussain (رضي الله عنه) accidentally dropped boiling water on her master, an act that infuriated him and caused his face to turn scarlet in anger. She immediately recited the verse:

وَالَّذِينَ أَنْتَفِعُونَ الْغَيْظَ

“And those who restrain anger”
Upon which he immediately calmed down. She continued reciting:

وُلُّهُ نِّيَحْبُ الْمُحْسِنِينَ

“And those that forgive people”

Whereupon he forgave her, and when she recited:

وَاللهُ يُحْبِبُ الْمُحْسِنِينَ

“And Allah loves those that do good.”

He set her free.

In the state of anger, the intelligence is clouded and the consequences of actions are forgotten due to which such deeds and actions are committed by the limbs and tongue, which result in destruction of life, respect and families, which in turn brings in it’s wake irreplaceable damage and countless miseries and anxieties in the form of guilt, legal battles, sleepless nights and torment of mind; which naturally hampers all worldly and spiritual progress. Anger is the antithesis of human behaviour. The way of the pious servants of Allah (سَبِيلُ الرَّحْمَنِ) is not only to forgive the oppressor, but to pray for him as well.

Two men were arguing when Moulana Rumi (رضي الله عنه) passed by. He intervened and requested them to hurl their abuse at him because he would not retaliate thereto. This caused both of them to repent and they thanked him greatly.

**Remedy**

1. Remove the object or person of anger immediately. If this is not possible move away yourself.

2. Weigh his shortcoming against your own shortcomings before Allah (سَبِيلُ الرَّحْمَنِ) and consider then that if Allah (سَبِيلُ الرَّحْمَنِ) had to truly exercise His wrath upon you, what would you do? Just as you desire forgiveness, so too does he desire to be forgiven for his error. Forgive him.

3. Recite *Ta’awwuz* continuosly.
Once the anger has subsided and punitive measures are required, for example, the rectification of one’s erring children, then consider the offence well and mete out the appropriate remedial treatment accordingly.

Once Hazrat Moulana Zakariyya Saheb was chiding and reprimanding an assistant who continued to plead for pardon on his error. The Shaikh enquired as to how often did he expect him to forgive him. Hazrat Moulana Ilyas Saheb who was present there at that time, was overhearing the conversation, exclaimed softly: “Just as much as you would love to be forgiven on the Day of Judgement, forgive that much!” These few words calmed him down completely. Friends! these words, if remembered in anger, will serve well to extinguish the flames of anger and wrath!

Hazrat Abubakr in a fit of anger, swore not to assist his needy nephew Hazrat Mistaah, whereupon the following verses of the Qur’aan were revealed:

![Qur’aan verse](Para 18; Surah Noor, Juzz of Ayah 22)

“And let not those among you who are blessed with graces and wealth swear not to give (any sort of help) to their kinsmen, Al-Masaakin (the poor), and those who left their homes for Allah’s Cause. Let them pardon and forgive. Do you not love that Allah should for give you? And Allah is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful.”

(Para 18; Surah Noor, Juzz of Ayah 22)
When these verses were revealed Hazrat Abubakr (رضي الله عنه) exclaimed: “Most certainly! Most certainly!” Saying so, he immediately resumed his financial assistance to his nephew Hazrat Mistaah (رضي الله عنه) and according to some narrations even doubled his assistance. It is narrated in the Ahadith:

**Hadith - 1**

“He is not a powerful man who overpowers others in combat; a powerful man is he who overpowers his emotions at the time of anger.”

**Hadith - 2**

“The best gulp that is drunk by a Muslim is the gulp of anger.”

**Hadith - 3**

“A Muslim who is in the position of venting his anger and yet subdues his anger, Allah (زب) will fill his heart with faith and security.”

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**CHAPTER - 3**

**JEALOUSY & IT’S REMEDY**

Jealousy can be defined as a state of anger, grief and misery upon witnessing the successes of another person, accompanied by hope and desire for the person’s failure. This is Haraam and condemned strongly in Islam. Jealousy implies displeasure at the decree and distribution of Allah (زب) and questioning His wisdom and authority of granting whom He desires and how He desires. If this feeling is experienced without desiring the failure of the other person but hoping that the blessing remains with the envied one and granted to the envier, then such a feeling is termed as “Ghibtah” which is permissible.
The religious harm of jealousy is the destruction of righteous deeds; it’s worldly harm is the perpetual state of grief, sorrow and heartache experienced by the jealous one.

"Jealousy devours good deeds just as fire devours dry wood."

(Hadith)

A Wonderful Remedy

Hazrat Moulana Thanwi (رضي الله عنه) prescribed the following remedy (to be acted upon for 3 weeks at least) to a person who complained of suffering this destructive spiritual remedy:

1. **Dua** to be made on behalf of the object of jealousy at least once daily.
2. Praising him verbally amongst one’s associates.
3. To occasionally invite him home for a meal.
4. Occasionnally to bless him with a gift.
5. Meeting him before departing on a journey and bringing him a gift upon the return.

After three weeks of applying this remedy, he wrote back stating that half his illness had disappeared. He was asked to continue for another three weeks. This time his reply was that all feelings of hatred and malice had changed to love and compassion. Undoubtedly, the remedy is bitter, but the peace of mind and happiness that is acquired through meticulous application of this bitter remedy is unsurpassable and incomparable to the continuous heartache and destruction that was experienced hitherto.
CHAPTER - 4
PRIDE & IT’S REMEDY

Allah (眇 york) states:

“Most abhorrable is the abode of the haughty ones.”

Hadith - 1
Rasulullah (眇 york) says:

“Allah (眇 york) says that Pride is My Mantle, whosoever wishes to snatch it from Me, I will deal with him.”

Hadith - 2
Rasulullah (眇 york) said:

“The person that has pride to the extent of a mustard-seed in his heart, will not enter Jannah (Paradise).”

Pride has been defined in the Hadith as considering others to be low and contemptible, to treat them in a belittling manner and to reject the truth. The proud one is bereft of humility and never attains salvation from anger and jealousy. It is almost impossible for him to discard ostentatious behaviour towards people and he can never be kind, polite and courteous towards people; he wallows in his self-conceived notion of self-esteem and haughtiness.

It is reported in the Hadith that when a person adopts humility for the pleasure of Allah (眇 york), while considering himself to be despicable and inferior, he is actually elevated and honourable in the sight of Allah (眇 york). On the other hand, when he considers himself to be superior and laudable, he is contemptible and lowly in Allah’s sight, and the creation also hold him in this regard.
Remedy

1. Always ponder over the sins committed and ponder over Allah (رزبُ الْحَرْثُ)’s seizure of the sinful ones.

2. When this frame of mind is developed, no scope remains to think of the faults of others, let alone thinking of others in a degrading manner.

3. How can he who suffers from leprosy laugh and jeer at a person suffering from a common cold?

4. Always fear the end of life, the last minutes of one’s existence, and it’s outcome. This is better-understood by the example of a girl, beautifully attired and dressed on her wedding day. Her friends were lauding praises upon her, while she was crying away. The reason she forwarded for this strange behaviour was:

   “It is useless getting pleased with the praises of my friends alone. Until my husband does not approve of me, I cannot truly be satisfied and happy. My happiness pends on his pleasure alone.”

   The moral to learn from this incident: Until the Creator Himself does not express His approval and pleasure, the praises of the creation are of no avail. He who has no knowledge of what his end would be upon (whether Imaan or disbelief), he has no right to be proud and haughty. Hazrat Abdul Qadir Jilani (رَضِيُ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ) states:

   “When I take Islam with me safely into the Qabr (grave), then only do I have the right to celebrate and be happy.”

   It is for this reason that the Auliya-Allah never boast or brag about their achievements because none has any guarantee, upon how his condition would be when departing from this world. For this reason, the Auliya-Allah constantly request Duas from even ordinary folks for a favourable end. It is the foolishness of imbeciles who form a favourable opinion about themselves even before their Creator has decided about them.
THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN VANITY AND PRIDE

Pride entails considering someone else as inferior and oneself as superior, while Ujub (Vanity) entails considering oneself laudable and praiseworthy without considering the next person inferior. Both are prohibited in Islam.

When a servant considers himself to be unworthy and inferior, he is elevated in Allah’s sight, and when he considers himself to be superior, then he appears disgraceful and despicable in Allah’s sight.

Even though sin and transgression is hated in Islam, but in the same breath it is impermissible to despise the sinner and the per-petrator of evil. Similarly a Kafir’s disbelief should be abhorred, not his person; for it is quite likely and possible that his end be destined on Imaan.

Hazrat Hakeemul-Ummah (رحمه الله) used to remark:

☞ “Presently, I consider myself Inferior to every Muslim and Believer and in matters of the future, inferior even to the disbelievers and animals for I do not know what my end would be upon, belief or disbelief?”

Hazrat Mujadid-Alif-Thani (رحمه الله) states:

☞ “A Mu’min (Believer) will not attain perfection until he does not consider himself inferior to animals and disbelievers even.”

When it is the sole right of Allah ( سبحانه وتعالی) alone to forgive the most heinous of crimes and seize upon the minutest fault, who then has the authority to form a high opinion of himself and view others with an eye of contempt.
Shaikh Saadi Shirazi (رَبّ الْبُرَّاتِ) states:

“The beloved ones of Allah attain positions superior to even the angels, due to their considering themselves inferior to dogs.”

Imaam Ghazzali (رَمَيِّ اللَّهِ) states:

“Allah (زَبِيلُ الْعَرْوُتِ) has concealed the potentiality of Wilayat (sainthood) within the hearts of His servants; therefore never consider any person to be inferior, no matter how sinful he maybe for it is very possible that such a person may someday repent sincerely and attain high positions, as history has proven time and again that many a drunkard and sinful persons have suddenly repented and become the leading Auliya of their eras; the example of which is that of a handsome young prince whose countenance is marred by grime and dirt, but when washed away and removed, his face shines forth like the full moon in radiance.”

It does not behove man to become proud, since even great and mighty monarchs have become the prey of worms, once placed into their graves. Just as the student who boasts even before his examination results are announced is considered foolish and presumptuous, so too the person who is proud and boastful even before his Book of Deeds are judged is indeed a fool. This point can be better understood in the light of the following incident:

**Incident**

A person’s horse was disobedient, so he desired to sell it. A marketeer was hired to advertise and sell this horse. So moving and inspiring was his praise for the animal that the owner himself was affected by this false and exaggerated description of the animal and desired to retain it instead of selling it. The advertiser tried in vain to convince him that the horse was still the same disobedient beast that he had shortly wished to dispose of; but the owner, overcome by this false
propaganda of the advertiser would not listen to a single thing and took back his animal. Such is the parable of he who is well aware of his own faults and shortcomings, yet becomes inflated with pride and self-glory upon the slightest praise that he receives, considering himself to be totally deserving of it.

On the contrary, the Auliya-Allah become even more humble and bashful when praised by anyone, becoming ever more grateful to Allah for concealing their faults and shortcomings. Hazrat Haji Imdadullah used to say:

“It is the favour of Allah upon me that He has concealed my faults and sins, else these admirers would flee from my presence and none would call upon me anymore.”

Thus the good opinions of people is a great boon and favour of Allah upon a person; whereas considering oneself as unworthy of any praise or commendation is accepting reality and surrendering to the hard facts of life.

### CHAPTER - 5

**OSTENTATION & IT’S REMEDY**

*Ibadat* or any other virtuous deed when performed with an ulterior motive, to attain or acquire any worldly end such as name, fame or popularity is known as *Riya* (ostentation) which is forbidden in *Shari’ah*.

**N.B.** If it is done with the intention of pleasing one’s *Ustadh*, *Shaikh* or a Pious Saintly personality then this would not be regarded as a form of *Riya* that is forbidden in Islam. Proof of this is: Once Rasulullah informed a certain *Sahabi* that he had heard him reciting *Qur’aan*. The *Sahabi* replied that, had he been aware of Rasulullah’s listening to him, he would have endeavoured to recite in a more melodious voice. Rasulullah did not reprimand
him on this intention thus proving the validity of the above Mas’ala.

A tradition of Muslim Shareef states that a person once questioned regarding that person who performs good deeds (with the intention of pleasing Allah) and people praise him and speak highly of him? (Is this also regarded as show?) Rasulullah (saw) replied: “This is the immediate glad-tidings for the believer in this world already.”

This Hadith should serve as an eye-opener to those who discard performance of good deeds for fear of others admiring and viewing their good deeds. This is incorrect. The experts in this field say that, just as the performing of good deeds for show is regarded as hypocrisy, so to is the discarding of good deeds for fear of showing-off also a subtle form of Riya and show. The safest course is to punctually perform one’s deeds on time, irrespective of who is present or who is not.

Riya is not an involuntary state or condition which automatically attaches itself to a person; rather it is a conscious intention of acquiring worldly ends. Mere thoughts or “whispers” (Wasawis) of Riya are not to be regarded as Riya. There is absolutely no harm in such thoughts flirting across the mind. Shaytaan uses this opportunity to frustrate and vex the Believer with such thoughts, ultimately hoping to denude and rob him of all his pious actions and deeds under the pretext of Riya.

Hazrat Thanwi (ra) explained this reality by way of a parable: A fly, when seated on the surface of a mirror appears to be within the mirror; whereas it is only seated on the surface and not within. Shaytaan is thus seated on the outside of the heart of a Believer and he inspires the Waswas (whisper) of Riya onto the surface of the heart of the Believer in order to trick him into believing that such show lurks within the heart.
too, thereby throwing him into a state of confusion and anxiety. Thus complete indifference and nonchalance should be expressed towards such feelings. This is the ideal remedy.

It is reported in *Tirmidhi Shareef* that once Hazrat Abu Hurairah (رضي الله عنه) was once performing *Salaah* at home when a person came in, sat down and began to observe him. This created a pleasurable sensation in his heart. He thus complained to Rasulullah (صلى الله عليه وسلم) about this state of affairs; to which he received the following reply:

“O Abu Hurairah! Allah have mercy on you. You shall be rewarded twice; one reward for stealthy worship and one reward for worship in public!”

One of the most reprehensible forms of *Riya* is to publicize one’s *Ibadat* and good deeds before friends and family. Sometimes this *Riya* assumes a very subtle form, by making certain remarks such as:

“I derived tremendous pleasure in my Tahajjud Prayers last night! or “Last night my eyes opened very early!” etc.

*Hazrat Thanwi* (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ) writes:

“One Haji Saheb destroyed the reward of two *Hajj* in one rash statement! It so happened that he was once entertaining a guest who asked for something to drink; immediately the servant was commanded “Bring it in the jug I had bought on my second *Hajj* trip”; thus destroying the reward of both the *Hajj* in one careless statement.”

**Remedy**

The remedy for *Riya* is to attain *Ikhlaas* (Sincerity) and the reality of *Ikhlaas* as explained in the *Ahadith* is that a person imagines Allah (زُبُرُ الْخَيْرَة) to be in front of him at all times. When the Grandeur and the Awe of Allah (زُبُرُ الْخَيْرَة)’s majestic presence is in the heart, the greatness of the creation dwindles away from the heart.
This constant awareness and consciousness of Allah’s presence is acquired by constant practice and striving. This contemplation should be practiced for a while in solitude, whereby the level of consciousness will eventually develop into a stage wherein Allah’s presence will be felt every moment of life. In reality, purity from show and development of sincerity is only acquired after spending some time in the companionship and nurturing of an accomplished Saint (Shaikhe-Kaamil). It is for this reason that Hazrat Thanwi (رَضُوۡنَا اللهُ عَلیْهِ) states that it is Fardh to establish an Islahi-Ta’aluq (Spiritual Rectification Contact) with a genuine Waliullah.

Hazrat Thanwi (رَضُوۡنَا اللهُ عَلیْهِ) writes that when performing good deeds it should be expressed verbally too that: “O Allah! I am performing this deed for Your pleasure.” In a few days Insha-Allah the Saalik will be rid of this destructive malady if he practices meticulously on what is prescribed here.

CHAPTER - 6
LOVE OF MATERIAL WEALTH & IT’S REMEDY

The love of this world is the root to all sins. This is the primary cause of negligence and carelessness towards the Life of the Hereafter. Constant and concentrated contemplation of death, the severer of all delights, will remove the love of material wealth from the heart. Regular visits to the graveyard and reflecting upon the fact that here lie young and old, rich and poor men and women, paupers and lords who all have now become the sustenance of ants and worms and have turned to soil and dust will create disdain for the world in the heart.
Total annihilation of the love of the world is not the goal; mere disinclination is the required object. Moulana Rumi (رَمَّانَ اللَّهِ) gives a beautiful parable of the world and Hereafter by that of a boat sailing upon water. Without the presence of the water (the world), the boat (man) will not be able to reach his destination (the Hereafter). However the water should always remain below the deck and not in the boat, else it will sink. Thus the world should always remain out of the heart, not within; else the heart will “drown”. Thus possessing the world is not in itself harmful in anyway. The world when possessed by an obedient person is a blessing of Allah (سَبِيلُ وَتَعَالَى) and when utilized by a transgressor becomes the means of disobedience to Allah (سَبِيلُ وَتَعَالَى).

It is most astonishing that the Creator of the world terms this world as “the showpiece of deception” (Qur’aanic Verses) and we the creation have attached our hearts to this house of deception and corruption. To trust on this world is like leaning and taking support upon a rotten rafter. It is indeed foolish to over-indulge in the pleasures of life when death is always upon the threshold. How beautiful is the Dua of Rasulullah (صلى الله عليه وسلم):

“O Allah! When others are deriving pleasure from the perishable objects of this temporary world, You cool our eyes through Your Worship and Ibadat.”

**Remedy**

Constant pondering on death, the solitude of the grave and separation from this world. Companionship with a Wali of Allah (سَبِيلُ وَتَعَالَى) is a superb remedy, coupled with shunning the company of the lovers and admirers of the world; as this disease is very contagious indeed.

Regular visits to the graveyard which induce remembrance of the Hereafter and constant engagement in Zikrullah.
Reflection in the coming and going of day and night; the power of the Creator and preparation to face Him for the Reckoning of deeds performed.

CHAPTER - 7
LOVE FOR FAME AND POPULARITY & IT’S REMEDY

Constant desire and aspiration for name and fame is a destructive spiritual illness termed as Hubbe-Jaah or love for fame. A person is deprived of accepting the truth due to this illness.

Rasulullah (صلى الله عليه وسلم) says: “Two hungry wolves released into a flock of sheep do not cause as much damage as love of wealth and popularity does to a Mu’min’s Deen.”

It is Haraam to desire fame and popularity. However, if a person is granted popularity without desiring it, as is normally in the case with the Auliya-Allah, then Allah (زب أنهر) will protect him because this was granted to him without his hankering or desiring for it.

The lover of fame always desires others to praise and speak highly of him and he eagerly lends an ear to such speech, thereby pampering his Nafs. Animals are fattened by eating grass and fodder, while a man’s Nafs is fattened by listening to his praise, (and the end result of a fattened animal is known to one and all... ! - Trans.)

Remedy

The remedy to this disease is to ponder over death. If the entire world were to fall at the feet of a person in reverence and adulation, it will be of no avail in the solitude of the grave for there will be none to salute and none to laud praises. Rather than striving for this temporary pleasure, the Everlasting pleasure of Allah’s acceptance and happiness should be aspired for.
Whenever praised, consider and appreciate that Allah (سُبْحَانَ اَللٰٰهِ وَبَرَى) is concealing our physical and spiritual shortcomings and defects. Amongst the physical defects, is that our stomachs and digestive systems are clogged with filth and muck in such a way that if a little hole was to be made therein, the stench would drive people far away. As far as spiritual defects are concerned, the filthy thoughts and ideas that cross our minds would horrify anyone that would come to know of it. Allah (سُبْحَانَ اَللٰٰهِ وَبَرَى) has concealed all these defects.

Instead of being grateful to Allah (سُبْحَانَ اَللٰٰهِ وَبَرَى) for this favour, how unbecoming it would be if we yet consider ourselves deserving of greatness and hanker after praise from the creation? The crux of this path leading to Allah is centered around debasing and effacing the ego (Fana-e-Nafs). How foolish and futile to crave for praises from such a weak creation who cannot in anyway harm or benefit one?

Love for praise is destructive because when man considers himself high and noble, he becomes complacent and smug and this is extremely dangerous for him. Shaytaan spent 4000 years in Ibadat yet his end was disgraceful. The Sahaba (شَيَّاٰتُ الْأَشْهَم) despite their lofty positions, feared that their deeds would be rejected.

To admire oneself before the Eternal Beauty and Grandeur of Allah (سُبْحَانَ اَللٰٰهِ وَبَرَى) is similar to a lover standing before his extremely beautiful beloved with a mirror in his hand, admiring himself. Such a lover, who is only interested in himself and who only admires himself, hardly tucring uwart. hi-beloved, deserves to be ejected and expelled from the presence of the beloved. Thus every commendable quality should be considered the gift of Allah (زَبْنُ الْمُؤْمِن) and He alone should be praised and adored.
CHAPTER - 8
GOSSIPING AND FALSE SUSPICIONS & IT’S REMEDY

This is an evil quality which is spreading like wild fire in the Ummah, especially amongst the so-called “pious” people. In a bid to establish their superiority over others, many a pious one becomes victim to this spiritual disease, Entertaining false suspicions and evil thoughts with regard to others has also become the fashion of the day. This malady is the root of all quarrels and disputes. It is the major cause of hatred and animosity amongst people.

Each and every evil thought or suspicion will be questioned about on the Day of Judgement. On the otherhand, there will be no reckoning for harbouring good thoughts with regard to others even if those thoughts happened to be contrary to reality. It is sheer folly to throw away one’s good deeds and earn others’ sins merely on the basis of false suspicions.

Allah (سُلْطَانُ وَتَعَالَى) has condemned both these maladies in the Qur’aan and has commanded His servants to abstain therefrom. The Ahadith describe gossiping to be worse than adultery and false suspicious have been described in the Ahadith as the worst form of lies and untruth.

It is due to the ever-growing habit of this sinful act that Hazrat Moulana Abrarul-Haq Saheb (رخیص) at the time of initiating Bay’t to a Mureed (disciple), takes a firm pledge from him to abstain, interalia from the above mentioned sins, lustful gazes and reciting Qur’aan without Tajweed.
**Remedy**

*Gheebah* (backbiting) is a destructive spiritual malady in both the worlds. Hereunder are mentioned some harms of *Gheebah* which, if reflected upon regularly will facilitate in abstaining from this evil:

1. *Gheebat* leads to mutual conflict and strife. The harms of disunity and enmity need no elaboration.

2. A darkness envelopes and clouds the heart stifling all spiritual progress and spiritual illumination.

3. Allah ( سبحانه وتعالى) becomes displeased with the backbiter and the person being backbited becomes his enemy and antagonist.

4. In the *Hadith*, *Gheebah* has been described as worse than *zina* (adultery) and fornication.

5. Allah ( سبحانه وتعالى) will not forgive the perpetrator of *Gheebah* until the backbited person does not forgive him because this sin is related to *Huququl-Ibaad* (rights of man).

6. *Gheebah* has been equated to eating the flesh of a dead brother. Just as this action is abhorred and detested, so should the perpetration of *Gheebah* be.

7. The backbiter is a cowardly person. Why does he discuss the faults of others behind their backs only and not in front of them?

8. The *Noor* (effulgence) of the face of a backbiter dissipates and is replaced by a hue of darkness and disgrace.
One of the greatest harms of Gheebah is that on the Day of Qiyamah, the backbiter will have to part with his hard-earned rewards to those he had backbited and in return relieve them of their burden of sins. Such a person has been described as the “Bankrupt Man” of the Hereafter.

If a person engages in Gheebah in the presence of another, the listener should immediately leave his presence without any consideration for his feelings or sentiments. It is sheer folly to destroy one’s Deen in favour of another person’s feelings.

One practical remedy is to inform the backbited person of one’s gossiping and beg his forgiveness, Doing so a few times will soon correct this malady.

It is highly recommended that the services of a qualified and accomplished Saint (Shaikhe-Kaamil) be employed in overcoming and combatting this malady.

N.B. It is permissible under certain circumstances to indulge in Gheebah. However the reason has to be sanctioned by the Shariah. It is always safer to refer to an Aalim and acquire his opinion before commencing with the act of Gheebah.

The End

Translation completed on 21-12-1985, Sat, 7-30 a.m. by the Infinite Graces of Allah (Subhanahu-wa-Ta’ala).