THE VIRTUES OF

[The Salaah Series - Book Three]

Compiled through the Blessings of Ghaus ul Waqt Huzoor Sayyidi Mufti e Azam Hind ᆶ

By a humble servant of Allah Muhammad Afthab Cassim Qaadiri Razvi Noori

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> IMAM MUSTAFA RAZA RESEARCH CENTRE OVERPORT, DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA

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Compiler's Note

All Praise is due to Allah, Durood and Salaams upon our Beloved Rasool 🖉 and upon his Noble family, and Illustrious Companions, and upon the Ulama e Haq Ahle Sunnat Wal Jama'at, and all those who will follow the path of righteousness until the last day.

By the Grace of Allah, The Mercy of Sayyiduna Rasoolullah blessings of the Awliyah and Masha'ikh, especially my Beloved Shaykh e Kaamil Huzoor Sayyidi Taajush Shariah and my mentor Huzoor Sayyidi Muhad'dith e Kabeer, and the Duas of Qa'id e Millat Huzoor Asjad Raza Khan, and the blessings of my beloved parents, you have before you the booklet **'The Virtues of Salaah'**.

Like the other Books in the Series which have been launched by Imam Mustafa Raza Research Centre, the idea behind this book is to help one another to increase our Islamic knowledge so that we may perform our Ibaadat correctly. This is Book Three in the Salaah Series and has been extracted from Bahaar e Shariat and other authentic books.

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Sag e Mufti e Azam **-Muhammad Afthab Cassim Qaadiri Razvi Noori** Imam Mustafa Raza Research Centre

This Book is Dedicated To

THE BELOVED OF IMAM HUSAIN

[Allah Shower Rains of Mercy upon His Holy Mazaar]

In The Love of Our Murshid e Kaamil

The Qutb ul Aqtaab of The Era Sayyidi Taajush Shariah Hazrat Allama Mufti MOHAMMED AKHTAR RAZA KHAN QAADIRI AZHARI 🐳

For The Esaal e Sawaab of My Beloved Mother

SAYYIDAH KHADIJA GOOLAM RASOOL

& All The Marhooms of The Ahle Sunnat

Allah Exalt Them and all Marhooms of The Ahle Sunnat with an Exalted Place in Holy Paradise. Aameen.

دَنْ الْتَحْجُ الْتَحْجُ الْتَحْجُ مُ

Question: What does the Holy Qur'an say about the performance of Salaah?

Answer: Almighty Allah says,

هُدًى لِّلُمُتَّقِينَ أَنْ الَّذِيْنَ يُؤْمِنُوْنَ بِالْغَيْبِ وَيُقِيْمُوْنَ الصَّلوة وَمِمَّارَزَقْنَهُمُ يُنْفِقُونَ

Therein is Guidance for those who fear (Allah). Those who believe without seeing, and who keep Namaaz well-established, and (who) spend in Our way from the sustenance which We have given them. [Surah 2, Verse 2-3]

Almighty Allah says,

وَأَقِيْمُوا الصَّلُوةَ وَاتُوا الزَّكُوةَ وَارْكَعُوًا مَعَ الرُّكِعِينَ ٢

And keep Namaaz (obligatory Prayer) well-established, and pay Zakaat (obligatory charity), and bow down (make RUKU') with those who bow down. [Surah 2, Verse 43] **Question:** What does the Holy Qur'an say about protecting your Salaah?

Answer: Almighty Allah says,

حْفِظُوًا عَلَى الصَّلَوٰتِ وَالصَّلوةِ الْوُسْطِي وَقُوْمُوَا لِلهِ قَنِتِينَ ٢

'Guard all your Prayers, (particularly) the middle Prayer; and stand before Allah in sincere reverence.' [Surah 2, Verse 238]

Question: What does the Holy Qur'an say about Salaah (Namaaz) being heavy or difficult upon the worshippers?

Answer: Almighty Allah says,

وَإِنَّهَا لَكَبِيرَةُ إِلَّا عَلَى الْخُشِعِينَ ٢

It (Namaaz) is definitely heavy, except unto those, who humble (bow) themselves before Me sincerely. [Surah 2, Verse 45]

Question: What does the Holy Qur'an say about intentionally omitting your prayer?

Answer: To omit performing Namaaz absolutely, i.e. to completely leave it out, is an outrageous and inexcusable act.

Almighty Allah says as follows concerning those who perform their Namaaz after the prescribed time has expired (i.e. they allow it to become Qaza):

فَوَيُلُ لِّلْمُصَلِّينَ ﴾ الَّذِيْنَ هُمْ عَنْ صَلَاتِهِمْ سَاهُوْنَ ﴾

'So, affliction unto those worshippers who are neglectful of their Namaaz.' [Surah 107, Verses 4-5]

Question: What is 'Waail'?

Answer: 'Waail' is an abyss in the depths of Hell, which Hell itself dreads and from the intensity of which, Hell itself asks deliverance from. Those who intentionally delay their Namaaz causing the time to expire (i.e. become Qaza), will be deserving of (Hell).

Almighty Allah says,

فَخَلَفَ مِنْ بَعْدِهِمْ خَلْفُ أَضَاعُوا الصَّلُوةَ وَاتَّبَعُوا الشَّهَوٰتِ فَسَوْفَ يَلْقَوْنَ غَيًّا الَى

'Then in their place, after them, came those undutiful ones; who ruined Namaaz and followed their lustful desires; so it is near that they will encounter in hell, the harshness of Ghay.' [Surah 19, Verse 59] Question: What is 'Ghay' and what is 'Habahab'?

Answer: 'Ghay' is an abyss in the depths of Hell. It is the deepest and the most scorching abyss. There is a well (pit) in Hell called 'Habahab'. When the fire (flames) of Hell is about to be extinguished (i.e. become less intense), Allah Almighty opens this well (pit), and the fire of Hell begins to blaze and rage like it did before.

Almighty Allah says,

كُلَّمَا خَبَتْ زِدُنْهُمْ سَعِيرًا ٢

'And whenever it is close to being extinguished, We shall cause it to rage.' [Surah 17, Verse 97]

Question: Who will be put into this well?

Answer: This well is for those who omit their Namaaz; and for adulterers and fornicators; and for those who consume alcohol; for those who take usury (interest); and for those who cause anguish and heartache to their parents.

Question: What can be further said about the virtue and excellence of Salaah?

Answer: Huzoor Sadrush Shariah Allama Mufti Qadi Amjad Ali Azmi Alaihir Rahma says, one may also ascertain the excellence and importance of Namaaz by the fact that Almighty Allah revealed all His commands upon the Beloved Rasool 🕮 on the earth, but when He willed to Reveal and Bestow Namaaz upon Him 🕮, Almighty Allah invited the Beloved Nabi 🕮 unto Himself, beyond the Divine Arsh, where He made Namaaz Fard. Allah blessed Him 🕮 with Namaaz i.e. Salaah, which is the most Blessed Gift (for the Ummah) on the eve of 'Isra'.

Question: Is Salaah a Pillar of Islam?

Answer: Yes indeed. Salaah is a grand pillar of Islam. It is reported in Sahih Bukhari and Muslim from Hazrat Ibn Umar رمن الله تعال عنها that Sayyiduna Rasoolullah عن said, **'The foundation of Islam is established on 5 Pillars.**

- 1. To bear testimony that there is none truly worthy of worship besides Allah and Muhammad 🕮 is the Most Chosen Servant and Prophet of Allah.
- 2. To establish Namaaz.
- 3. To give Zakaat.
- 4. To perform Hajj.
- 5. To Fast in the month of Ramadan.' [Mishkaat pg.12]

Nabi Kareem said, 'Namaaz is a pillar of Deen (Religion). Whosoever kept it established has kept Islam (well) established and whosoever has omitted it, he has ruined (his) Deen.' **Question:** What is the practice, i.e. blessed action which the Beloved Rasool is referred to as an action which will take one to Jannat and save him from hell?

Answer: That blessed practice or action is Salaah.

Imam Ahmed, Tirmizi and Ibn Majah report that Hazrat Mu'az معن الله تعان عنه says, 'I asked the Beloved Rasool ﷺ to inform me regarding that practice which will take me into Jannat and save me from Hell. He ﷺ said,

'Worship Allah and do not associate any partner with Him, and establish Namaaz and give Zakaat, and Fast in the month of Ramadan, and make Hajj of Baitullah (Kaaba).'

Question: Is it mentioned in the Hadith Shareef that Salaah wipes out one's sins?

Answer: Yes, this has been mentioned in the Hadith Shareef. It is narrated in Sahih Muslim from Hazrat Abu Hurairah رض الله تعالى عنه that Sayyiduna Rasoolullah عنه said,

'The five Salaahs, from Jummah to Jummah and from Ramadan to Ramadan, wipes out all the sins that are between them, as long as one abstains from Kaba'ir (major sins).' [Mishkaat pg.57]

Question: What can we understand from the Hadith Shareef regarding the cleaning and spiritual effects of Salaah?

Answer: This has been beautifully explained by the Beloved Rasool المن الله تعان عنه الله تعان عنه (that Sayyiduna Rasoolullah المن said

'Tell me, if someone has a river outside his door and he bathes in it five times a day, will there be any dirt left on his body?'

They replied, 'No'. He 🕮 said,

'This is the very example of the five daily Salaahs. Almighty Allah removes ones sins due to this.' [Mishkaat pg.57]

Sahihain have reported from Hazrat Ibn Mas'ud رس الله تعالى عنه that a person committed a sin and thereafter came (to Rasoolullah ﷺ) and confessed. Upon this, the verse:

وَاَقِمِ الصَّلُوةَ طَرَفَي النَّهَارِ وَزُلَفًا مِّنَ الَّيْلِ ⁴ إِنَّ الْحَسَنٰتِ يُذْهِبُنَ السَّيّاتِ لَمَ ذَلِكَ ذِكْرَى لِلذُّكِرِيْنَ شَ

'And establish Namaaz on both ends of day and in some portion of the night. Undoubtedly, good deeds remove sins. This is advice to those who accept advice.' [Surah 11, Verse 114].

The person asked, 'Ya Rasool'Allah ﷺ is this command specific to me?' He ﷺ said, **'It is for my entire Ummah.'** [Mishkaat pg.58]

Question: Which action is most beloved to Almighty Allah?

Answer: It is reported in Sahih Bukhari and Muslim from Hazrat Abdullah Ibn Mas'ud رهی الله تعالی عنه. He says, 'I asked Rasoolullah الله regarding which action (good deed) is most beloved to Allah. He said, **'Namaaz in its appointed time.'** I asked what was thereafter; (and) he said, **'To be kind towards your parents'**, (and) I asked what was after that, and he said, **'To make Jihad in Allah's way.'** [Mishkaat pg.58]

Baihaqi reported from Hazrat Umar من الله تعالى that a person asked, 'Ya Rasool'Allah ﷺ in Islam which is the most beloved deed by Allah?' The Beloved Rasool ﷺ said,

'To perform Namaaz in its appointed time (He and further said), and one who has omitted his Namaaz has no Deen, (for) Namaaz is the pillar of Deen.'

Question: From what age should children be instructed to perform their Salaah?

Answer: Abu Dawud reported from Amr bin Shu'aib who narrated from his father, who narrated from his grandfather that Rasoolullah said,

'When your children reach the age of seven, instruct them to perform Namaaz, i.e. Salaah, and when they reach the age of ten compel them to perform it, even if one has to hit them.' [Mishkaat pg.58]

It must be noted that hitting here does not mean that one should severely beat ones child, but it merely means that one should be stern and reprimand him so that he may realise the importance of Namaaz. It is disallowed to beat and abuse ones child inhumanely under any circumstances. **Question:** What happens to the sins of a person when he or she performs their Salaah?

Answer: Their sins fall away. Imam Ahmed reported from Hazrat Abu Zarr من الله تعالى الله الله beloved Rasool الله once went out in cold weather, during autumn. He الله held two branches and the leaves began to fall off. He الله said, 'O Abu Zarr!' I said, 'I am present Ya Rasool'Allah الله. He الله then said,

'When a Muslim servant performs Namaaz for Allah, his sins are shed, just as the leaves have fallen from this tree.' [Mishkaat pg.58]

Question: Are there any special benefits for one who walks, or goes towards the Masjid for Salaah?

Answer: It is reported in Sahih Muslim Shareef from Hazrat Abu Hurairah د من الله تعال منه عنام that Rasoolullah الله said,

'When a person performs Tahaarat (Ghusl and Wudu) at his home and then walks towards the Masjid to fulfil his Fard, then one sin is washed away on every step (which he takes) and on the next step (Which he takes), his status is elevated by one fold.'

Question: What are the blessings of performing Salaah with complete sincerity and devotion?

Answer: Tabrani reported from Hazrat Abu Umaama متى الله تعالى عنه that Rasoolullah المحقي said, 'When a servant stands in Prayer (i.e. for Namaaz), then the Doors of Jannat (paradise) are opened unto him and the veils are removed from between him and His Creator, and the Maidens of Jannat welcome him; for as long as he does not blow his nose or clear his throat.' **Answer:** What will a person be held accountable for first on the Day of Reckoning?

Question: Tabrani reported in Awsat from Hazrat Anas رهى الله تعان عنه that Rasoolullah المحافي said,

'On the Day of Qiyaamat, the servant will first be held accountable for his Namaaz. If this is in order, then the rest of his actions (deeds) will be in order, and if this is flawed then all will be regarded as being flawed.'

Question: Do the Nafil (optional) Salaahs also become substitute for other incomplete or impaired Salaahs?

Answer: Imam Ahmed, Abu Dawud, Nasa'i and Ibn Majah have reported a narration from Tameem Daari رقن الله تعال عنه wherein it is mentioned that, if one completed his Namaaz in full, it will be recorded as being fulfilled properly, and if it is not completed correctly (i.e. if there is some impairment in it etc.), it will then be said to the Angels, 'Observe if there are any Nawafil (optional Namaaz) of my servant, so that you may use it to fulfil his Fard'. The accountability for his Zakaat will be taken in a similar manner, followed by (accountability) for the rest of his actions.

Question: If (Allah Forbid) a Muslim enters Jahannam temporarily due to some of his sins, will his Namaaz benefit him there as well?

Answer: Allah save us from the fire of hell and its torment, but if one does end up in hell-fire, it is reported in Abu Dawud and Ibn Majah from Hazrat Abu Hurairah (من الله تعالى that Rasoolullah عن said, 'When a Muslim enters Jahanum (and we seek protection in Allah from that), then the fire of hell will devour his entire body, except for the limbs on which he performs Sajdah, for Allah has made such limbs Haraam (forbidden) upon the fire (of Hell).'

Further, it must noted that if a sinful Muslim enters the fire of hell to pay for his sins, then no matter how sinful he may be, as long as he is a true Muslim, he will pay for his sins and then through the intercession of Sayyiduna Rasoolullah and or through the special blessings of Sayyiduna Rasoolullah and or through the intercession of any other pious and beloved servants of Allah, he will be removed from the fire of hell and allowed to enter Holy Paradise.

Question:

Does the earth on which we perform our Salaah also receive any excellence?

Answer: Yes, it does. Tabrani has mentioned in Awsat from Hazrat Anas من الله تعالى that Rasoolullah صن said,

'Not a single morning or evening passes by without one portion of the earth calling out to another portion of the earth saying; did a servant pass by you today, who performed his Namaaz on you, or made Zikr-e-Ilaahi (remembered Allah)? If it replies in the positive, it is afforded superiority based on this.'

Question: What is the key to Jannat, i.e. Paradise?

Answer: It is reported in Sahih Muslim from Hazrat Jaabir رض الله تعال عنه that Sayyiduna Rasoolullah الله said, 'Namaaz is the Key to Paradise, and Tahaarat (purification) is the Key to Namaaz.' **Question:** What is the benefit of leaving home after performing Tahaarat, i.e. wudu, so that you may perform Salaah?

Answer: Abu Dawud reported from Ibn Umaama رض الله تعالى عنه that Rasoolullah عن said,

'The reward of one who leaves his home after performing proper Tahaarat (ablution) to fulfil his Fard Namaaz is like that person who has journeyed for Hajj, and the reward of one who leaves his home for Chasht Namaaz, is like one who has journeyed for Umrah. If a person does not behave in an obscene manner between two Salaahs, then his Namaaz shall attain the exalted level of acceptance.'

Question: What are the blessings of performing Sajdah, i.e. prostrating in the Court of Almighty Allah?

Answer: Imam Ahmed has reported from Abu Zarr رض الله تعال عنه that Rasoolullah الله said,

'For the one who performs one Sajdah for Allah; Allah records for him one good deed, forgives one of his sins and elevates his status by one fold.'

Question: What are the blessings of also performing Namaaz away from the people, i.e. such as performing your Nafils etc. in complete privacy?

Answer: It is reported in Kanz ul Um'mal that Rasoolullah 🕮 said,

'The person who performs 2 Raka'ats of Namaaz in such a manner that with the exception of Allah and the Angels none other sees him then salvation from hell is written for him.'

Question: What is the sign of Imaan?

Answer: Sayyiduna Rasoolullah 🕮 said, 'There is a sign for everything and the sign (of recognition) of Imaan is Namaaz.'

Question: How many Daily Salaahs are Fard upon a Muslim?

Answer: Five Salaahs are Fard upon a Muslim daily. Imam Ahmed and Abu Dawud have reported from Ubadah bin Saamit رش الله تعان عنه that Rasoolullah عنه said,

'Almighty Allah has made five Salaahs Fard upon His servants. Whosoever performs Wudu properly, performed it (Namaaz) in its appointed time, fulfilled the Ruku, and prayed with devotion then Allah has given His Divine Promise that He shall forgive him. There is no promise for him who did not do so; Allah may either forgive him or punish him.'

Question: Do the Angels also perform Salaah, Ruku and Sujood etc.?

Answer: Yes they do. Dailmi has reported from Abu Sa'eed رض الله تعال عنه that Rasoolullah ﷺ said,

'Almighty Allah has not commanded any Fard, which is more virtuous than Tauheed (Accepting his Oneness) and Namaaz. If there were anything more virtuous than this, then He would have made it Fard upon the Angels. Some from amongst them are in Ruku while others are in Sajdah.'

Question: Does a person attain any special rewards and blessings from Almighty Allah if after performing Salaah, instead of rushing out, he remains seated reciting some Tasbeeh etc.?

Answer: Indeed he does. Abu Dawud reports from Hazrat Abu Hurairah د من الله تعال عنه that Rasoolullah عنه said,

'The Angels seek forgiveness for a person who performs his Namaaz and then remains seated until such time that his Wudu breaks or he stands up (from where he is seated). The Istighfar, which the Angels make on his behalf, is:

ٱللَّهُمَّ اغْفِرْلَهُ ٱللَّهُمَّ ارْحَبْهُ ٱللَّهُمَّ تُبْعَلَيْهِ

'Allahum'magh Firlahu Allahum'mar hamhu, Allahum'ma Tub Alaih'

'O Allah, Pardon him! O Allah, have Mercy on him! O Allah, accept his repentance!'

Question: What are the blessings of performing Fajr Salaah?

Answer: Tabrani has reported from Hazrat Ibn Umar رهن الله تعالى عنهما , that Rasoolullah على said, 'One who performs his Morning Prayer (Fajr) is in the Divine Protection of Allah until evening.'

Ibn Majah reported from Hazrat Salman Farsi رس الله تعال عنه) that Rasoolullah ﷺ said,

'One who has gone for the Morning Namaaz has gone towards it with the Flag of Imaan, and the one who has gone to the marketplace in the morning has gone with the flag of shaitaan.' Baihaqi reported in Sha'bul Imaan from Uthman رض الله تعالى عنه that one who goes for the morning Namaaz (Fajr) with the intention of attaining reward, it is as if he remained standing (in Ibaadat) for the entire night. The one who goes for Esha Namaaz is like one who remained standing in Ibaadat for half the night.

Question: What are the blessings of performing one's Fajr and Esha Salaahs with Jama'at?

Answer: It is reported from Hazrat Anas معن الله that Rasoolullah المعن that Rasoolullah المعن said,

'Almighty Allah will grant a person who consistently performs his Fajr and Esha Salaah with Jama'at (in congregation) for forty days, with salvation from two things; the first being from the fire (of Hell) and the second being from hypocrisy.'

Ibn Majah reported from Hazrat Ibn Umar رهن الله تعالى عنها that Rasoolullah ﷺ said,

'Allah Almighty declares salvation from hell, for the person who performs his Esha Namaaz with Jama'at in the Mosque for forty nights consecutively without missing the first Raka'at.'

Question: Which is the most difficult Salaah for a hypocrite?

Answer: Tabrani reports from Ibn Mas'ud من الله تعان عنه) that Rasoolullah said, 'The weightiest amongst the Salaahs for a hypocrite are the Esha and Fajr Salaahs. If only you knew the virtues of these Salaahs, you would have definitely presented yourselves for **them, even if it meant dragging yourself on your rear end.'** (In other words, by any means possible).

Question: What did the Beloved Rasool a person who goes to sleep without performing Esha Salaah?

Answer: Baz'zaar reported from Hazrat Ibn Umar رض الله تعال عنهما that Rasoolullah الله said,

'May Allah not allow his eyes to sleep, who sleeps before Esha.'

Question: What did the Beloved Rasool about those who miss their Namaaz (i.e. intentionally) and the harmful effects of it?

Answer: It is reported in Sahihain from Hazrat Naufil bin Mu'awiyah رهن الله تعالى عنها that Rasoolullah الله said,

'For one who missed his Namaaz, it is as if he has lost his family and wealth.'

Abu Nu'aim reported from Abu Sa'eed من الله تعالى عنه that Rasoolullah الله said,

'One who intentionally leaves out his Namaaz, has his name written on the door of hell.'

Imam Ahmed reported on the authority of Hazrat Umm-e-Aiman رض الله تسان منها that Rasoolullah ﷺ said,

'Do not omit your Namaaz intentionally for Allah and His Rasool are not responsible for the one who intentionally omits his Namaaz.'

Baihaqi reported from Hazrat Umar من الله تعالى عنه that Rasoolullah الله said,

'He who has omitted Namaaz has no Deen. Namaaz is the Pillar of Deen (Islam).'

Question: How will one's Namaaz benefit him of her if they safeguarded it, i.e. performed it as it should be performed?

Answer: Imam Ahmed, Daarimi and Baihaqi reported in Sha'bul Imaan that Rasoolullah ﷺ said,

'The Namaaz of one, who safeguarded it (i.e. he performed it punctually and consistently), shall be a lustre and a glowing light, and a means of salvation for him on the Day of Qiyaamat. And for the one who did not safeguard it, there is neither any light, nor radiance or salvation, and on the Day of Qiyaamat he will be with Qaroon, Firawn, Hamaan, and Ubay bin Khalf.' **Question:** How strict were the Sahaba e Kiraam regarding Salaah and those who omit Salaah?

Answer: Tirmizi reported from Hazrat Abdullah ibn Shaqiq رهی الله تعالی عنه that the Sahaba e Kiraam, i.e. the companions of Rasoolullah المع never regarded the omission of any amal (action) as kufr (i.e. cause one to become an infidel) except for Namaaz.

Numerous Ahadith have reported, wherein the apparent meaning of it demonstrates that it is kufr to omit Namaaz intentionally. This was the Madhab of certain Sahaba e Kiraam such as,

- Hazrat Ameer ul Mo'mineen Farooq e Azam
- Hazrat Abdur Rahmaan ibn Auf
- Hazrat Abdullah ibn Mas'ud
- Hazrat Abdullah ibn Ab'bas
- Hazrat Jaabir bin Abdullah
- Hazrat Mu'az ibn Jabal
- Hazrat Abu Hurairah
- Hazrat Abu Dardah رضى الله تعالى عنهم

This was also the view of certain A'ima (Righteous Leaders) such as Imam Ahmed bin Hambal, Ishaq bin Rahwiya, Abdullah ibn Mubarak and Imam Nakha'i. However, our Imam Azam and the other A'ima, including numerous Sahaba e Kiraam, do not pass the verdict of (Takfeer) kufr on such a person.

Therefore, this still cannot be regarded as a minor issue, whereas such great personalities have regarded such a person (i.e. one who intentionally omits his Namaaz) as a kaafir.