

## WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

In the name of Allah, the Merciful, the Compassionate.

Praise be to Allah, King of kings, and Lord of the worlds. Praise to Him who leads, guides, and delivers from error and going astray.

I witness that there is no god other than Allah, the just Judge. He forgives and loves, hears and answers.

Oh, Allah, forgive us our sins and be gracious unto us. Lead us in the straight path. Amen, oh Lord of the worlds.

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As for what follows, man is essentially an immortal soul; the body we live in is a temporary dwelling. Life here is a short introduction to the life to come. So during our years on earth, we are preparing ourselves for a life that never ends. Immortality is a fact. And in eternity, people are divided into two groups: one group that will live forever in Paradise, and another that will be tormented in hell. On resurrection day,

"Those who have done good will rise to eternal life, and those who have done evil will rise to be punished."

It is clear then that people will be divided into two groups according to works. After life's journey, Allah will judge us according to our works.

"Allah is going to judge everything we do, whether good or bad, even things done in secret."

So everyone should ask himself: What are my works like? Are they good or bad? It is those works which please Allah that He counts as good. Even if we think our deeds are good or great, as long as they do not please Allah, they are evil.

We learned in lesson one that Adam fell into sin because he disobeyed Allah's command. Since that fall, people have been dominated by a natural inclination to disobey. Sin has ruled over them. They have lost the friendly relationship with Allah Almighty, and they have become estranged and cast out. Sin has reigned over humans. But what is sin?



*What are my works like?  
Are they good or bad?*



Sin traps you and makes you a slave. It starts with a simple glance, which becomes an immoral thought, and then an uncontrollable desire. Afterwards you find yourself bound by chains you cannot break and in a prison you cannot get out of. But rebellion deserves punishment, and the wages of disobedience is hell.

"For the punishment of sin is death."

Death here is spiritual death, which, as we said in lesson one, involves perishing in eternal hell. Sin, my friend, is what makes you worried, tormented, and lost. You have no peace of heart. You experience no real happiness, and joys are not lasting. You laugh on the outside, but in your heart you cry and suffer. You have some money, but you are not satisfied. Perhaps you have many friends, but you do not feel secure. Or maybe you are from an honorable family or you have achieved a high level of education. Can the family or the diploma buy you happiness in eternity? No. You try to do the right things and to build good relations with people, but disappointments come. Maybe you try to fulfill all your religious obligations in the best way: you do your prayers, you fast, you give alms, and you are proud of your good deeds. But actually, you do not know Allah in a real way. On the contrary, you feel He is far from you.



*Your diploma cannot buy you happiness.*



produces after its own kind. And no creature can bring forth offspring that is not of its own kind. A cat, for example, cannot give birth to a dove.

"A fig-tree... cannot bear olives; a grapevine cannot bear figs..."

This law also applies to people. Adam, who was the father of all mankind, lost his innocence. He lost his fellowship with Allah; and so he was expelled from the garden. Then he fathered children. Would his children be like their father or different from him? Adam's descendants were not better than their father. They came, having the same nature that causes humans to commit sin and rebel against Allah, mighty and exalted. The human soul is prone to evil. And we have the evidence: one of Adam's sons killed his brother. All of Adam's descendants were inclined to disobey and fall into sin.

"Sin came into the world through one man, and his sin brought death with it."

Evil is present in people's hearts and their deeds prove it. Sin is a result of the corrupt nature all humans inherit. Look at a little child. When you tell him, "Come here!" and he doesn't come, or, "Don't go over there," but he disobeys and goes anyway, why



*A grapevine cannot bear figs.*

does he do that? Did a teacher sit with him and say: "When they tell you to come, don't do it"? Of course not. Our sinful human nature does not need to be taught to rebel.

Sin is the fever that has touched everyone, the sickness that has spread throughout the whole human race.

Sin is the reason for sickness, ignorance, misery, and humiliation. It takes the beauty and joy out of life.

Sin causes man to do evil things that ruin his reputation and dishonor him. You are bound by bad habits.

You are prone to sadness, to difficulty, to loneliness, and to fear. The reason for all of that is sin and rebellion. You feel weighed down, and that worries you and bothers you. You do not know what that heavy weight is, and you do not know what to call it. But I tell you the truth: it is called sin.

Sin humiliates humans and makes them tired. Sin is not limited to adults or children, rich or poor.



*Sin is spiritual blindness.*



Sin, my friend, is not only horrible, overt evil; it is not just obvious corruption, as so many people think. Sin, in reality, is turning away from the way of Allah, no matter how slight that deviation might be. It is wandering away from Allah, even ever so slightly. Sin is separation of the creature from the Creator. It is like a thick, high wall that separates people from Allah, glorified.

Sin is like a wide gulf that hinders a person from approaching Allah. It is spiritual blindness that plagues people and makes



*Sin is like a thick,  
high wall.*

them unable to see or understand divine things and unable to do good works that really please Allah Almighty. And this is demonstrated by the fact that humans do evil. Godlessness, lack of faith, murder, adultery, fornication, wars, stealing, lying, cheating, fraud, deception, hatred, treachery, jealousy, and strife—these, overt or hidden, are some of the symptoms that indicate there is a critical problem in people's heart. The problem is that humans are rebellious and disobedient to their Creator. Certainly, this is a serious matter.

Because of Adam's fall, disobedience spread into all his offspring. How? We know from the laws of nature that a creature

*People are dominated  
by sin.*





So on the outside you may look successful, but on the inside you are actually miserable and lost.

I read the story of a man who had a clock that did not give the exact time. So he opened the clock, removed the hands, and took them to a watchmaker to repair them. The watchmaker explained: "I can't make these hands work right if you don't bring me the clock." The man insisted, saying: "The clock hasn't stopped working, so the problem has to be with the hands." The watchmaker replied: "If the hands don't give the right time, it's because there is a problem inside the clock. That's what needs to be repaired."

And you, my friend, the cause of the confusion in your life is sin. The things on the outside, the things you see, are not the problem. The real problem is that your soul has strayed from the straight path.

Then, how about the Day of Judgment? You know that the Day of Judgment is certainly coming. Allah, glorious and almighty, will judge you. But you do not know what is going to happen to you on that day—you do not know where you are going.

Will Allah forgive you for your sins or not? Where will you go after the judgment, to Paradise or to hell? You have no assurance, although this is a very serious matter.

So, my friend, we have discussed two important things. First: Where are you now? The answer is that all people are in sin. Second: Where are you going after this life? You do not know, and that causes you worry and trouble.

Is that what life is then—worry, misery, guilt feelings? Has Allah Almighty created us to live in misery? No, no my brother. He is forgiving and compassionate. And no matter how hopeless and miserable you are, there is hope, there is a bright hope for you. Allah Almighty wants you to enjoy and delight in eternal life and its eternal joys. How is that? In the next lesson, Allah willing, we will discuss this important subject together.

In the keeping of Allah, good-bye.

**Email:**

**Sheikh.Khalilullah@gmail.com**

Your friend,  
Sheikh Abdullah

**khalilullah@amalkhaleej.com**

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