

The background of the cover is a textured, light brown surface, possibly paper or fabric. Two golden wheat stalks are positioned diagonally from the top left towards the bottom right. The stalks are in focus, showing the individual grains and the long, thin awns. The lighting is warm, highlighting the golden color of the wheat.

Seeds of Righteousness

Tools for Muslim Women to Spread Islam

By: Abdul-Malik Al-Qasim

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**Tools for Muslim Women
to Spread Islam**

By

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بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

*In the Name of Allâh,
the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful*

***“And march forth in the way (which leads to)
forgiveness from your Lord, and for Paradise as
wide as the heavens and the earth, prepared for
Al-Muttaqûn (the pious).” (3:133)***

Introduction

All thanks are to Allâh, Who said, “And march forth in the way (which leads to) forgiveness from your Lord, and for Paradise as wide as the heavens and the earth, prepared for *Al-Muttaqûn* (the pious),” (3:133) and may Allâh’s peace and blessings be on the most honorable Prophet and Messenger, who perfectly conveyed the Message, and performed *Jihâd* in Allâh’s Cause as *Jihâd* should be performed.

Da‘wah (calling mankind to Allâh) is one of the most significant duties obliged on Muslims. *Da‘wah* to Allâh ensures ultimate success and religious benefit for individuals, as well as, the society at large. Since the job of *Da‘wah* is also obliged on Muslim women, they (from the earliest times of Islam) called to Allâh’s religion and played a major role in spreading Islam among mankind. The Muslim women’s role in *Da‘wah* was made all the more significant by their role as the mothers of young Muslim generations, who would rear future Muslim heroes, men and women. Hence, Muslim women had (and still have to some extent) a good share in the *Da‘wah* to all that is good and righteous contained in Allâh’s religion. Furthermore, and through the efforts of Muslim mothers and sisters, the sun of hope has risen on the Muslim *Ummah* (Nation) and its dawn of might kept overcoming the horizon.

In this book, we collected a hundred and seventy-six Seeds of Righteousness, green and fruitful, for Muslim women to sow and reap. These Seeds were sown by Muslim sisters who took care of them until they grew to produce various fruits and benefits. These are also good examples of

Da'wah to Allâh that should be practiced by Muslim women, who strive hard to acquire safety on their path to the Hereafter. This book should encourage them to work hard and revitalize their energy, since the subjects touched on by this book are many, we collected them in a summarized form to make it easy for our sisters to remember and practice them.

This is a modest attempt on our part to collect various ways and means of goodness for Muslim women; there are many other ways, which we did not mention. We should assert that there are hindrances on the path to planting and collecting the harvest of these Seeds of Righteousness, but they are hindrances that only make movement harder, not stop it altogether. Trying to overcome the hindrances on the path to Allâh carries good rewards and benefits from Him. Therefore, Dear Muslim Sister, discard the robe of laziness, trust, and rely on Allâh and fill your coming days with firmness and endurance. Indeed, you have many Seeds of the Hereafter to sow and collect their harvest, so let Allâh see only good deeds ascending to Him from you. We ask Allâh to grant us all the most righteous and sincere good deeds and award us the best and most perfect compensation from Him. May Allâh shelter us all in the shade of Paradise and forbid our faces for the Fire, so that we dwell in the Garden of Eden, beneath which rivers flow.

**Abdul Malik bin Muhammad
Ibn Abdur Rahman Al-Qasim**

Seed of the School Year

* Whoever looks to the right and left will be amazed at the condition of the Muslim world, seeing only wounds everywhere and widespread pain and grief. Faced with this sad reality, many among us wish they could help the needy, teach the illiterate, support the widow and take care of the orphan. These will remain but wishes and hopes, until they become a reality in action and deed for those who keep asking themselves what they should do. Therefore, for those who wish they could help, but wonder how, we offer this modest step on the path of striving hard and doing the best one can do.

This is a project for *Da'wah* that could be implemented at the end of every school year: collecting unused pages of notebooks and binding them together using thick covers, remaking them into new notebooks to use for the next school year. Four thousand five hundred (4500) new notebooks were made using this simple project in just one school in the Dammam area, in only one school year! The expenses to accomplish this beneficial endeavor were minimal; just one stapler and labels placed on the outer cover of each notebook, where the student could write the name of his school, his name and grade, needed. Also strong paper was used as covers for these notebooks, which later on shipped to needy Muslim students through a charity organization. We call this project, 'Notebooks for Students of Knowledge,' and aim to save Muslim wealth (the aim was to save Muslim wealth by blank papers) from waste and being thrown in garbage cans. We can also collect other school items that were not completely used, such as pencils and rulers, and start another good project to benefit needy Muslim students. We should not forget

that whenever a Muslim starts a good *Sunnah*, established by Islam, and spreads it between Muslims, then he or she will gain a reward similar to that earned by all those who practice this *Sunnah*, without decreasing their own reward.

Dear Sister, extend your hand and help in this yearly project that takes only a few days of work, but Allâh willing, will have a good share in the effort of spreading knowledge between Muslims. Only a few precious days are needed to accomplish a good action, so do not waste this time in wishing and wondering how you could help other Muslims!

A Shining Seed

* Eleven years ago, there was an unforgettable night during which we talked about wastefulness in our life, which is noticeable and rampant in our society. We waste Bounties and Favors from Allâh that we care little about. During that night, we, the three women present at the time, discussed the wound that bleeds Muslim wealth, that is, wastefulness. We decided that we should play our role to help and support our mighty religion any way we could, starting with helping putting an end to wastefulness. Another sister and I decided to implement this wish and hope, while the third sat idle.

We started collecting small amounts of money every month that made little change in our income, and paid it to a charity organization. Over a period of time, many other sisters, friends, neighbors and relatives started saving money monthly like us, and the amount collected became significant. We also started buying books on the correct Islamic creed, and other major books on various subjects in the religion, and shipping them to various parts of the

world. We continued this project for the past eleven years and helped spread the correct creed and true Islamic knowledge to all parts of the world. On monthly average, we were sending around two hundred small parcels and fifty large parcels containing major references of Islamic knowledge.

Even though we expanded our effort through the years, we still had excess amounts of money that we spent on other goodly projects through reliable charity organizations. This project started with a little amount of money saved by two people, but expanded to reap this fertile harvest. Using the money we collected, we also helped dig nineteen wells, built five Mosques and shipped thousands of Islamic books. We also sent financial assistance to many of our Muslims brothers and sisters in Somalia, Bosnia and other areas of the world. A small project that Allâh blessed became a major charity establishment.

A Blessed Seed

* She is only seventeen, youthful and full of life, frequently thinking about the role she could play in spreading the *Da'wah* of Islam. She is eager to defend her *Ummah* and raise high the flag of Islam, as much as she can. She attends Islamic lectures frequently and is very active in memorizing the Qur'ân by heart. She gives good advice to her sisters in Islam, encourages them to read and learn the Qur'ân when she meets them at the school's mosque and forbids evil whenever she confronts it using the best methods. Her good efforts and sincere advice also reach her teachers. She is truly a good worshipper of Allâh.

One day, she realized that the school principal was not wearing socks and she was concerned because of the

effect this might have on the students. She went to the principal and greeted her politely. She praised her efforts in managing the school and said to her, "We ask Allâh for you when you are not present with us, for you are our example at school who advises and leads us. I would like to tell you that I realized that you did not wear socks today and you know that a woman's feet are not to be shown to men. You pass by men whenever you go in or out of the school." The principal lowered her head and knew that what the young student was telling her was true. The principal accepted her advice with a good heart and thanked her for it, saying to herself that truthful words have an amazing effect on the heart. The student became very happy when the principal accepted the call of Allâh and His Messenger and thanked and praised Allâh for succeeding in convincing her. Of course, she studies in girl's school.

* She thought of a righteous action that she wanted fulfilled and was unsure to whom she should talk to about it. She said to her Islamic Studies teacher, "Dear teacher, there are workers who serve the school, so where can they receive their share of learning the Qur'ân and attending religious lectures? Let us start teaching them." She and her teacher agreed that they should teach the workers some short *Surah* (chapters) from the Qur'ân and invite them to attend Islamic lectures held at the school. They appointed a knowledgeable sister at school to take care of the mission of *Da'wah* among the school workers. They said to her that there are workers who take care of the school and who are just like their mothers; they need to be taken care of and taught.

* She is a blessed girl wherever she goes and in whatever good action she participates.

The Seed of Friendship

* Friendship has an amazing and lasting effect on people. When she died, her friend started invoking Allâh frequently to grant His Mercy and Forgiveness on her.

* We were three relatives who started to firmly adhere by the religion when we were attending girl's college together. We were bonded by our relation to each other, being fellow students and loving each other for Allâh's Sake. We started collecting a little amount of money from the stipend we used to get from the college and bought Islamic books and tapes with the money. Even though the amounts we collected were not substantial, Allâh blessed that money and we were able to give books as gift to our relatives and friends. Some of our female relatives also donated money, and we had no difficulty buying whatever books and tapes we wanted to use for charity purposes.

* She worships Allâh frequently and makes sure to perform voluntary acts of worship often. She advises her fellow students at her girl's high school and encourages them to worship and obey Allâh. She tells them, "Let us pray. If we do not pray now, when will we pray, when we are old and standing, bowing and prostrations become hard for us? We are in the time of our life when we have youth and energy. Let us work hard and use our vitality in acts of obedience before death strikes us or we become ill and feeble. Let us work before our responsibilities increase and we become wives and mothers."

* Three friends in girls college agreed to start learning the entire Qur'ân by heart and would get in touch with each other every night to review what they had learned that day. During the weekend, they would read what they memorized to each other, starting in the beginning or the

middle of the *Surah* so that they could be sure of the correctness of their memory. This good method helped these three Muslim girls learn *Surat Al-Baqarah* in only one and a half month.

* She passes on that road for around fifteen minutes every day on her way to and from the girl's college, so she decided to use that time to read beneficial books and revise what she has memorized the Book of Allâh (the Qur'ân). Many girls have passed on that road over the years, yet few of them gained the benefit that this girl has gained.

Seed of the Granddaughter

* There are many schools containing good teachers who strive hard to fulfill their duty regarding *Da'wah* to Allâh. She was appointed a teacher, and was sent to a school full of teachers who had succumbed to sleep! There were no Islamic lectures at school or active *Da'wah* activities. She began to draw close to her fellow teachers saying that starting with *Da'wah* with the teachers is more beneficial than with the students, since the teachers are responsible for teaching the students and conveying the Message to them.

She started her good effort of waking them up by first giving them gifts of books, tapes and other gifts. In a short time, the school became active and a center for *Da'wah* among its staff and students. One of the teachers thanked Allâh and remembered how she wasted five full years standing before her students, without calling them to Allâh or trying to rear them on the better Islamic ideals. She acknowledged that what she did was heedlessness that she will be asked about on the Day of Reckoning.

* The teacher talked about the harmful effects of immorality and sin that are rampant in disbelieving countries and asked Allâh sincerely to never let her enter or visit those countries. Even before she finished her speech, one of her students said, "Unless we enter it as an invading army!" Yes, indeed, we ask Allâh to bless your words and make you and your children among that invading Muslim army.

* She works hard for her Hereafter, attending Islamic lectures, giving sincere advice to her sisters and engaging in every act of righteousness, as much as she can. At the end of every month, one of her fellow teachers came to know, she sends her entire salary to a charity organization. She pays all of her salary to the orphans, to support

printing Islamic books and helping the Cause of *Jihâd*.

We ask Allâh to make you, Dear Charitable Sister, among the dwellers of the Garden of Eden and to raise your grade with Him. We ask Allâh to increase your kind among the Muslim Nation. Surely, you are one of the granddaughters of ‘Âishah and Fatimah رضى الله عنهما.

Seed of Hospitals

* She became ill and admitted to hospital, but her stay there became a blessing for her and all those around her. She gave away Islamic books and tapes in various languages to the doctors and nurses in that hospital. She also gave many more books and cassette recorder to the patients and left some books in the waiting room. She met an old woman in the hospital who did not have sufficient Islamic knowledge, so she gave her a radio and kept it tuned to the Qur’ân station. She asked a religious female doctor for her counsel, and they agreed to place shelves in the corridors of the women’s section for Islamic booklets on women’s issues. She also gave a long list of suggestions to the hospital administration. The staff of that hospital became amazed at her charitable nature and vitality, for she used to visit other female patients in their rooms and ask them if they needed any assistance of any kind.

* When the doctor saw a woman wearing clothes that were not unacceptable, showing her beauty to men, carrying flowers to her ill relative, she asked that relative, “Where did we get the habit of giving flowers to patients, especially since flower are expensive?” The patient answered her, “Since we blindly imitate disbelievers, we usually present flowers to patients. Sadly, we have become a nation that blindly follows other nations, especially with

regards to the latest models of clothes, shoes and giving flowers as gifts to patients! If you search our efforts with regards to imitating industrial production of other nations, you would find the result to be minimal.”

A Seed at the Campsite

* Most of the meetings that our family conducts are just like bubbles, carrying no benefit whatsoever! Much of them contain sinful statements and actions, and only Allâh knows to what extent. So, when my husband told me that the family has decided to go for a camping vacation for two weeks, he realized my clear dissatisfaction and asked me, “What is the matter?” I said, “Do not be amazed at my displeasure. We will spend two full weeks sailing in a sea of evil actions and idle speech.” He encouraged me and said, “Should we leave them for the devil to lure them with his agents and soldiers? You should not stay behind from that camp. For by Allâh! This is a good chance to conduct *Da‘wah*.” He made me start thinking, and I called a more experienced sister who is dedicated to the *Da‘wah*. She advised me to be sincere to Allâh, to have a good intention in my heart and to invoke Allâh for help and support. She encouraged me to participate in the camp and said, “Take along some gifts that will bring happiness to the youngsters and please their parents. Do not forget to bring some gifts for the women of your family consisting of veils, *‘Abâ* (women’s cloak) and other items that remind them of their Islamic obligations. Start with the older women and invite them to Allâh using kind words. Then choose the younger women whom you think are better prepared to accept the *Da‘wah*, and you will see what pleases your heart, Allâh willing. You have two full weeks to conduct *Da‘wah* to Allâh; rarely do you find such a large number of people staying with you in the

same tent for such an extended time.”

While headed towards the camping site, I felt delight and thought that this is a good chance to call to Allâh that might not be repeated again. I started invoking Allâh for help and firmly decided to try my best efforts for the cause of the *Da'wah*. The first few days at the camping area were dedicated to giving gifts to the children and conducting competitions between them. I also narrated stories of the Companions to them and gathered them for a simple lesson of Qur'ân teaching every night.

All those present watched these good activities and started drawing closer to me, especially the younger women among them. They came to hear stories of the Companions and scholars of Islam. In only one week, I was in the midst of a tranquil and happy crowd. They were interested in practicing the religion, and even some young girls stayed up at night performing voluntary prayers.

The camp ended and the results were far more than what I hoped. We had much better relations with each other and our meetings became much better religiously, filled with mercy and kindness. In a matter of few months, the good effect of this transformation touched fathers, brothers and husbands. I thanked Allâh for His aid and support. I thought that had I stayed behind from that camp trip, none of the good results of my participation would have been possible. It was by the grace of Allâh that the camp was full of *Da'wah* activities and produced the good results it produced. Therefore, to those who can conduct *Da'wah*, but are idle and their environment remains the same for years and years, they should prepare an answer for their inactivity before Allâh. To them I ask, “What have you done with regards to the job that you were entrusted with and where is the *Da'wah* to Allâh that you are required to conduct?”

The Seed of Da‘wah

* “Small righteous efforts performed on a regular basis are better than abundant activity that soon fades away. Therefore, the best types of good actions are those performed frequently, whether they are major or minor.”

When she heard these good words, she decided to take the good path that they describe. She started saving a part of her monthly salary to spend on various virtuous causes. She made sure to analyze the effect of this expenditure on her financial well being. She discovered that what she paid did not decrease her wealth and kept for her with Allâh for the Day of Resurrection.

* She writes articles in newspapers and magazines on women’s issues, dedicating her writing to the subjects that resurrect faith and shyness in her Muslim Sisters. She also tries to refute the doubts that some people raise about Islam, in general, and about women’s issues in Islam, in particular. Only her friend knows of her activities, for her friend takes her articles and asks her brother to mail them to the relevant addresses.

* Offering advice and new ideas has an important role in encouraging righteous people to do more righteous works. She dedicated her articles to encourage Muslims to write and give speeches on Islamic causes. She made sure to offer them new ideas and kind words, so that they continue their good efforts in the sake of *Da‘wah* to Allâh.

* Sufism started to spread between Muslims, so she bought many books that expose the evilness and deviation of Sufism and gave them away to her fellow female students. She also gave away a booklet on the proper *Hijâb* (Islamic dress) with every book on Sufism she donated.

* She knows that *Bid'ah* (innovation in the religion) has its people who work tirelessly to spread their innovations among Muslims. They are callers standing by the doors of the Fire inviting people to enter to it. She felt that she should be a barrier that stands in the face of *Bid'ah*, to prevent it from spreading in her society and between her family and friends. She has some pamphlets that she keeps copying every year and distributes them during the time of the relevant *Bid'ah*. For instance, she distributes the pamphlet about the innovation of celebrating the Prophet's birthday, around and before the date of that celebration. She also distributes copies of a pamphlet on the innovations made in the middle of the lunar month of Sha'ban, on and around the middle of that month.

* She dedicates her time and energy for the cause of *Da'wah* to Allâh from her home. She makes copies of tapes containing Islamic lectures given in Arabic and other languages and distributes them to her sisters in Islam who seek religious knowledge. She also gives cassette recorders for servants, drivers and those visiting her area. This goodly project only costs her a little amount of money, but it is a major effort that earns her rewards from Allâh every time someone listens to these tapes and learns from them.

The Seed of Hobbies

* The Muslim Nation had drowned in various hobbies and recreational activities to such an extent that the Muslim youth rarely find time to attend Islamic lectures or recite the Qur'ân. Muslim youth, except few of them, dedicate their time and efforts to fulfill their desires, and some of them leave their homes for days at a time to satisfy their hobbies. Some of them, especially women, try hard to imitate every model or style that the West invents and waste most of their time in this useless way.

Her hobby is to raise chickens for the benefit of Muslims. She gives away the meat and eggs of the chickens she raises at home to poor and needy Muslims.

* Her hobby is cooking, and she uses it for a good cause that benefit Muslims. Every week, she cooks a few light meals and gives them as gifts to her neighbors, along with an Islamic book or a cassette that contains religious lectures.

* She likes crafts and makes items by hand to sell, supporting orphans with what she earns.

* She said, "Allâh has granted me a gift in making excellent pickles and I thought of expanding my craft, sell what I make and give what I earn to charity, and I did that."

* Another sister is excellent at sewing prayer clothes for women, and children clothes. She sells what she makes and gives the money to charity.

* These are good ways to earn money and spend on good causes, using the gifts that Allâh grants each of us. These unique gifts are the tools used to earn money and spend on charity. Indeed, the ways and means of righteousness are in abundance and only needs those who open the doors and pass through them. For instance, an old woman is

excellent at mixing eastern perfumes. So, she sell the mixture and gives what she earns to the poor and the needy.

* Another sister summarizes Islamic books in her free time and reads the summary when she meets her sisters in Islam, as well as, makes copies of the summaries and distributes them. She seeks the benefit of her sisters in Islam.

* Our houses have abundant space around them, but we rarely use them proficiently. She plants the area around her house with various types of vegetables and fruits and distributes them among poor neighbors and relatives.

* She is dedicated to *Da'wah* work and encourages her children to do so. She rears them to be a benefit to Islam and Muslims from the time they are young. By doing so, when they grow up, they will become righteous Muslims who spend their time in *Da'wah* to Allâh and being a good asset to their fellow Muslims.

* She participates in the building of the Muslim Society and strives hard to assure that her efforts truly help Islam and add strength to its foundation. She helps rear and teaches Muslim children, treating them just as she treats her own children. She hopes that one day, they will become righteous and knowledgeable in Islam.

* She serves her brother as much as she can and tries to bring comfort to him. She seeks Allâh's rewards for her good actions, which are not obliged on her, and he loves and respects her for her caring for him. Because of her good efforts, she and her brother both help each other and have strong ties based on love and kindness.

The Seed of Children

* She only talks about her son, his health, what he ate and drank and how she spends the nights attending to him when he falls ill. She does not care about the way she raises him nor helps him choose good friends. Her sole interest is if he gains weight and consumes the right amount of food. One day she discovered that her young child became a man who suffers from obesity, who is dedicated to eating and drinking and talking rudely in a loud voice. He does not pray, but the young children of her sister pray in congregation and sometimes one of them, a seven-year old, leads them in prayer because he memorized parts of the Qur'ân. It was then that she realized that her house was nothing but a farm to make people fatter!

* She takes very good care of her children and considers them the future soldiers of Islam who will comprise the core of this *Ummah*. She strives hard to rear them as good followers of our righteous ancestors and seeks Allâh's reward for helping them to attain an exalted standard of character. She imprints good conduct in their hearts and often talks to them about the life of the Messenger of Allâh ﷺ, his efforts in *Da'wah*, his patience, his endurance and his suffering. She tells them stories of the Messenger's Companions and the scholars of Islam, to plant in them the seed of loving this religion and all that pertains to it.

* She loves Islam and believes that one of the best ways to call to it is by raising her children to be worshippers and obedient to Allâh. She asserts the importance of keeping her children away from all doubtful behavior and actions. In this way, she often refuses to participate in some occasions and invitations she receives, so that she protects her young children from seeing and hearing evil. When

she apologizes and refuses to take part in certain occasions (such as weddings), she feels delighted that she remains at home with her children and away from what she does not want them to experience. Allâh has blessed her efforts, and it is evident in her children. Her youngest son has learned the whole Qur'ân by heart and has shown signs of wisdom and intelligence. She thanked Allâh in her heart and said that she reared her son to become a righteous Muslim who observes Allâh's stated limits, obeys His orders and stays away from whatever He prohibits.

* She raised her son righteously and took special care to keep him away from deviant and wicked behavior. She wanted to increase the number of good Muslims in the *Ummah* (Nation) of Muhammad ﷺ, and this is why she encouraged him to get married at the age of eighteen. Many people were amazed, but as time passed, many of them realized that this was the correct decision and that eighteen was a good age to encourage your children to marry.

The Seed of the Morning

* Allâh opened her heart for the *Da'wah* to Islam, so she opens her house for weekly Islamic lectures and lessons. Every week since then, she gives a lesson she prepares or invites another sister to give a lecture and invites many sisters to attend these lessons. After every lesson, she sells books and tapes about Islam and proper *Hijâb* for Muslim women. Whatever she earns from these sales, she gives to the orphans, the poor and other charity projects.

* Everyday before she starts her housework, she reads one page from the Qur'ân, then starts her regular housework with a good heart and invokes Allâh for forgiveness.

* She frequently raises her hand to heaven invoking Allâh

for guidance and glory for the Muslim Nation. She tries to invoke Allâh during the recommended times and begs Him with a heart certain in the deliverance. She once asked her female relative, “When was the last time you invoked Allâh with humility and humbleness?” She replied, “Months pass before I invoke Allâh with a sincere heart. I frequently invoke Him, but that invocation is often without humbleness or humility; these feelings have almost vanished from our invocation of Allâh!”

* She restricts her use of the telephone to keeping good ties to her relatives, enjoining righteousness, forbidding evil and (occasionally) for ordinary tasks of life.

* Allâh has given her great wealth, and she often thanks and praises Him for His bounties and favors. She has several servants and makes good use of them by helping them cook a large amount of light meals and distributes them to working mothers for a minimal price. She then gives away what she earns for charity causes.

* Even though she is still very young, whenever she starts the prayer, her family knows that her prayer will not end soon! She strives to offer the prayer perfectly and on time, often extending it seeking Allâh’s pleasure. She does not pray fast as some people do, who pray as fast as a cock picks seeds from the ground!

* Whenever she can, she listens to the Qur’ân station, which broadcasts Qur’ân recitation, Islamic lectures and good words of advice. What she hears dispels loneliness, repels the devil and fills her house with tranquility and mercy.

* She visits women’s workshops carrying Islamic books in Arabic and other languages and distributes them to the workers and visitors of these shops. Her efforts are modest, but several women have embraced Islam as a result. How many women do the same as this good Muslim woman?

The Seed of Islamic Lectures

* She graduated from an Islamic university where she studied Islamic knowledge, and her standard of Arabic is good. However, she did not use the knowledge that Allâh gave her because she prefers to be alone, where she can practice her arrogance and conceitedness. She allows the devil to hinder her from the path of the *Da'wah* to Allâh, and this is why she always has some type of excuse for her disinterest in *Da'wah* activities.

Another woman, who is not as literate as the first woman, gives lectures about Islam to women, sometimes in the presence of the educated woman described above. The latter is amazed at the ability of the former, even though the former is not as educated as she is. The semi-literate woman fulfills her duty to the *Da'wah* and one time, while giving a lesson to a group of female teachers, she said that simple words of advice such as, "Fear Allâh," and, "Remember death and the Reckoning," will have profound effects on the hearts of Muslims. She said that they could use simple words to call others to Allâh, for truthful words move sincere hearts. The 'literate' woman who does not fulfill the duty of *Da'wah* will be asked about her inaction and idleness on a Day when each one's record of deeds will fly and end up in his or her right or left hand.

* She tried to give a lesson about Islam, but she could not do that due to her natural shyness. So, she decided to write what she wanted to say and gave what she wrote to another sister, who gave the lesson on her behalf.

* She is not an eloquent speaker, and her knowledge in Islam is modest, but she participates in *Da'wah* activities as much as she can. She often offers some important subjects to her sisters in Islam who are good speakers, and

they speak about these subjects. Also, she asks scholars about good books about Islam and encourages other women to buy them.

* She tries hard to participate in and benefit from as many Islamic lectures as she can, often writing down a short summary of the lecture she attends. This way, she is able to use the summary she writes for her own benefit and the benefit of her sisters in Islam. Once, she went to an Islamic lecture in the evening, which she was eagerly awaiting, but she found her neighbor holding her son at the entrance to the hall where the lecture was to be held. Her neighbor complained that they would not let her in because she brought her young son with her, and therefore, was unable to benefit from the lecture. She said to her neighbor, "All thanks to Allâh, I frequently attend Islamic lectures, but you might not get the same chances as I do. Why don't you leave your son with me and go to hear the lecture feeling at ease." She took her neighbor's son and sat with him, while her neighbor attended the lecture that she waited patiently for.

The Seed of the House

* She said to herself that there is none more dearer to her than her husband, therefore, she decided not to let him fall prey to the devil, or being lured to immoral behavior by indecent magazines. She tried hard to correct this deficiency in her husband and observed patience for six months, all the while invoking Allâh to help her. She succeeded after months of hard work, during which she heard tough words from her husband. She shed many tears because of the pain caused by his harsh words, but Allâh helped her succeed in winning him back. He said to her one day afterwards, "What can I do to reward you for your

patience?” She cried and said, “I ask Allâh to gather us both in the Gardens of Paradise.” He said to her, “Allâh willing, you will gain a reward for every good thing I did because of you, and my reward will not decrease. The Messenger of Allâh ﷺ said:

«مَنْ دَعَا إِلَى هُدًى كَانَ لَهُ مِنَ الْأَجْرِ مِثْلُ أُجُورِ مَنْ تَبِعَهُ لَا يَنْقُصُ ذَلِكَ مِنْ أُجُورِهِمْ شَيْئًا، وَمَنْ دَعَا إِلَى ضَلَالَةٍ كَانَ عَلَيْهِ مِنَ الْإِثْمِ مِثْلُ آثَامِ مَنْ تَبِعَهُ لَا يَنْقُصُ ذَلِكَ مِنْ آثَامِهِمْ شَيْئًا».

“Whoever calls to guidance, will gain a reward similar to the rewards of those who accept his call, and their rewards will not suffer any decrease. And whoever calls to an evil, will earn as much evil burden as the evil burdens of those who follow his call, without decreasing from their own burden.”
(Muslim)

* She endured ill treatment from her husband, seeking Allâh’s reward for her patience and avoiding exposing his secret to anyone. She did not allow herself to tell anyone about what goes on in her house, preferring instead to practice patience and accepting with a good heart, what Allâh gave her. She did not complain to the creation, but rather hurried to perform prayer to Allâh whenever she felt sad and depressed. Allâh willing, He will reward her for her patience and endurance and will relieve her grievance.

* She married a miser who is also wicked and deviant. Later on, he divorced her. Afterwards, he did not support her financially, nor took care of their children, even though they were still very young. He thought that what he did was clever, unaware that one day he will stand for reckoning before Allâh. She thought that what touched her is a trial and a test; she said to herself that her children are

in need of her, and she spent on them from what Allâh gave her. She sometimes hears, from her female friends, words of praise for her children's father because they think that he spends on them. However, she knows that she is the one who takes care of them for Allâh's sake.

The Seed of feeling Pride in Islam

* People are weak, especially when they fall ill and need to visit doctors. She is a doctor who takes care of female patients, but she is also dedicated to the *Da'wah* to Allâh using kind words and soft advice. With a smile on her face, she sows the seeds of trust in Allâh and reminds her patient that what has touched her would never have missed her and what has missed her, would never have touched her. She also gives away books to her patients and buys tape recorders for those among them who cannot read.

She also fulfills the duty of *Da'wah* among her fellow doctors and always advises them of the significance of wearing *Hijâb* (Islamic dress) and avoiding mingling with men. She advises them not to say soft words to men, so that those among them, who have a disease in their heart, would not think evil of them. She advises them to use the hospital as a center to conduct *Da'wah* saying, "For some of the female patients, it is the first time they read the books and hear the lectures we give them. It is a chance that we should take and never waste, for when the patients leave here, they will not return, Allâh willing. The hospital is a good place for *Da'wah*, especially since those who come here feel humble and despair because of their illness. So, where are those who will fulfill the job of *Da'wah* here?"

* The doctor asks the mother while examining her young

son, "Does he have hearing problems?" His mother said, "We did not notice that." The doctor asked again, "Have you seen him get closer to the TV when he is watching it, to hear it better?" The mother said with a sure voice, "No, because we do not have a TV!"

* She enjoins righteousness and forbids evil among women, whenever she meets them, whether in the market, at the hospital, at school or any other meetings and gatherings. Whenever she witnesses an evil, she rushes to forbid it, and whenever she witnesses an act of righteousness, she rushes to praise and encourage it.

The Seed of Spending

* She was amazed when she realized her extravagance and the wastefulness that she indulges in everyday. She became idle for a while then recited the *Hadith* which says that 'Āishah رضي الله عنها eat two meals in a day:

«يَاعَائِشَةُ أَمَا تُحِبِّينَ أَنْ يَكُونَ لَكَ شُغْلٌ إِلَّا جَوْفَكَ» .

"O Aishah, do you like that your stomach becomes your only busying concern?" (*Al-Baihaqi*)

* Every six months, she has a day during which she asks her female relatives if they have any extra clothes, shoes, sheets, covers or kitchenware that they do not need. She tells them that this is a campaign of ridding themselves of extra burdens on the Day of Judgment, and adds extra space to their rooms and homes. A few days later, she calls on those whom she called before and collects whatever they could spare. She gives what she collected to several poor families.

* Some men feel astonished at the vitality of righteous Muslim women whom Allāh employs in the service of this

religion, who are truly the granddaughters of ‘Āishah and Fatimah رضى الله عنهما. These women seek a higher standard and grade with Allāh, for they heard a true promise from the Most Merciful, Most Compassionate for those who give charity in His Cause, and they rush to obey His orders with all their strength. For instance, she buys new clothes and distributes them to her poor neighbors as gifts. Whatever remains, she sends some of it to other neighborhoods and sells some to wealthy women in her area and gives the proceeds for charity. They buy clothes from her and in the meantime help charity projects.

* She is dedicated to collecting donations from wealthy people and distributing it to the needy whom they deserve charity. She has a file in which she records everything she collects and how she spent it. She sends a representative to investigate the condition of the needy families, in order to give each family what they need and require.

The Seed of Vitality

* My wish, ever since I was a child, was to become a teacher who helps shape future Muslim generations. During my years of learning at girl’s college, I prepared myself for this mission. I invoked Allāh to extend my life until I could witness the moment I become a teacher. The more I heard about teaching and the fact that teachers have a significant role in raising the young generation in this *Ummah*, even more than the role parents have in this regard, the more I felt eager for that moment to come.

The days passed quickly and I became closely involved in *Da‘wah* activities and learned more about the role of the teacher as a defender of Islam and its principals. I became more encouraged, yet felt anxious about the requirements

of this important job. When I graduated, I waited for a job to come and heard words of advice from many people. One sister said to me that now the job of raising Muslim Nation's children laid on our shoulders. I felt more encouragement and when a position finally came, I immediately started fulfilling my duty. I had many ideas about what to do, such as giving Islamic lessons, conducting competitions between the students, a school magazine, and so forth. However, when I conveyed these ideas to other teachers, they said that every new comer has the same dreams and wishes! Some of them said, "If you were married, much of this vitality would not be there. We had similar ideas when we were single, but the responsibility of having a husband, a house and children to take care of does not leave much room for anything else." Hearing these and similar words of discouragement, I felt that if I wanted to keep my vitality intact, I should act in silence and fulfill my duty without enlisting other people's help.

I then noticed that one of my fellow teachers, a mother of four, works in silence and voluntarily gives and organizes Islamic lectures and various school activities. She is also a successful teacher who reads the books she teaches, so that she gains knowledge in the material first hand. She is a successful caller to Allâh among her friends and relatives through the lectures that she gives at various meetings and occasions outside of the school. She often gives advice to her sisters in Islam and tries to help them acquire their needs. Whenever charity is mentioned, she rushes to donate books, cassettes and money. Her children are also successful at school, because she is a good mother to them, by Allâh's help.

I asked about her teaching experience and was told that

she started work as a teacher eight years ago and has been active in the *Da'wah* through all these years. I said to other teachers, "She is a proof against you," because she remained like this all these years and her vitality did not decrease.

This righteous teacher and Allâh knows best, her righteousness is a good example of working Muslim women. In contrast, many Muslim women earn good salaries from their jobs, yet do not care for their jobs and ignore the rights of their families and husbands. Many women do not even think about *Da'wah* and what it requires from them, even though their jobs do not stop them from going to the market whenever they wished, claiming that this is a necessity. This means that they have ample time to participate in *Da'wah* activities and fulfill other duties instead of frequently spending precious time at the market.

I was reassured when I realized that this good sister fulfilled her duty to her job, children, husband and *Da'wah*. I had hesitated to marry, because I thought that marriage might prevent me from conducting *Da'wah* to Allâh and force me to leave my job to take care of my family. Yet in the same time, I felt that the job women do at home is in fact more important and delightful than what they do at work.

These words are for my fellow teachers. They should know that good intention and truthfulness with Allâh are the reasons behind the success that this fellow teacher earned and her being able to fulfill her duty towards her job, husband, house, children and *Da'wah*. We ask Allâh to grant us sincerity in action and statement and to employ us in the service of His religion and Book and calling humanity to them, *Âmin*.

The Seed of the Parents

* Ever since she started working, she gives her mother and father a part of her salary. One of her friends said to her, "This is a big amount, you are giving and it is better if you save some of it for the time when you would need it." She replied to her ignorant friend, "What I am giving is an act of charity and in keeping good ties of kinship. I do not want my parents to need something and not find the money to buy it. My dear sister, this is something that I keep for a Day when I will be in need!"

* Occasionally, she gives away charity on behalf of her parents, sincerely seeking Allâh's pleasure for appreciating and being dutiful towards them. Only the All-Knower, Most Acquainted of everything in existence knows what she does.

* She frequently inquires about the condition of her parents, trying to find out if they need anything or have a taste for anything. She indirectly asks about what they want and rushes to buy it for them, so that their hearts are pleased and delighted by acquiring what they wanted.

* They are sisters and good mothers who try their best to act righteously, especially in being dutiful to their parents for which Allâh has promised the greatest rewards. When their mother fell ill, they divided the days between them, so that one of them would stay with their mother during the day. Even though they are married and have homes to take care of, they are delighted to share in taking care of their mother and obeying Allâh's Commandments.

* Everyday she asks herself how she could be dutiful to her deceased parents and frequently invokes Allâh for them in her prayer and gives charity on their behalf. She

keeps it as her own secret, so that she earns the full rewards of her good actions and preserves her sincerity to Allâh Alone.

* She prefers her mother to whatever she would like to do and whomever she would like to talk her. She often sits with her mother and talks to her, as to keep her company.

* Even though she is very young, she is very dutiful to her mother, obeys her and helps her in the house, delighted in serving her mother who has tremendous rights on her. She tries to implement the advice that the Messenger of Allâh ﷺ gave to the man who wanted to join the *Jihâd*, but whose parents were still alive:

فَفِيهِمَا فَجَاهِدْ

“Then exert yourself in their service.”

The Seed of Islamic Books

* She rushed to the door with her young children to meet their father who was carrying some grocery bags. She met him with a smile and greeted him back with the *Salam*. She said to him, “May Allâh compensate you for what you spent.” She helped him bring whatever he bought inside the house and the children also carried some bags to the kitchen. The mother called her children to bring their markers to deface the pictures on the containers and bags that her husband brought back with him. A few minutes later, they defaced all the pictures while laughing and enjoying their time. She rears them on the good qualities of forbidding evil and changing it, as much as they can.

* She often makes errors and mistakes and feels misery at home, frequently disputing with her husband, children, and in-laws and even with herself. It is because of her

mistakes that she lives in distress and feels depressed. When she returned back to Allâh, strived to correct herself and sought Allâh's forgiveness, she found peace and tranquility at home. This is the good benefit of going back to Allâh in repentance, for He is the Most Generous, Most Compassionate.

* She is not very wealthy and cannot always give substantial amounts of money in charity. So, she asked her driver and his wife to spend time in helping the needy and the poor and distributing charity to them. The driver became happy that his mission involves acts of charity and kindness to others.

* She seeks the ways and means of righteousness and piety, and whenever she hears about an act of charity she could perform, she rushes to perform it. She hopes that she earns a good share in all aspects of good conduct and compassion encouraged in Islam. She knows that whenever she hears about a righteous act and performs it even once, she was among those, who are known by it, as Amr bin Qais stated.

* Since the best good deeds are those that are continuous, even if they are small, she designated the end of every month to giving away Islamic books and tapes. It became her habit to await the end of every month, so that she could distribute to her Muslims brothers and sisters whatever books and tapes she collected or bought.

* Most Islamic books do not cost much to print and buy. There is a good collection of books in her house, which she buys on a regular basis and distributes to her relatives and neighbors, little by little over a period of months at a time.

The Seed of holding Yourself Accountable

* An old Muslim woman fell ill and suffered from acute pain in her ear. When she finally agreed to have the doctor examine her, she only uncovered her ear and left the rest of her face covered. The doctor was amazed at her dedication and said to her, “You are like my mother, so uncover your face that I may examine you.” She said to him, with a voice full of faith and obedience to her Lord, “You only need to examine my ear, and I uncovered it for you.” She is very obedient to Allâh and accepts His Decisions with a good heart full of contentment and faith.

* On Friday afternoons, she does not do work so that she can invoke Allâh during those blessed hours. Another sister does not attend any meetings or activities during Friday afternoons, so that she earns the good blessings of invoking Allâh during that time.

* She said, “My daughters-in-law are teachers who fulfill the duty of calling to Allâh. I felt that I should have a share in the reward for their good efforts, so when they are busy conducting *Da‘wah*, I take care of the cooking for them and attending to their children. I often encourage them to give more Islamic lectures and lessons and blame them if they sometimes become lazy with regards to spreading Islamic knowledge among women.”

* She often remembers Allâh, praises Him and invokes Him for forgiveness. When she is sitting in an audience, she is usually quiet. If she speaks, she says beneficial words, and if she is idle, she remembers Allâh with her tongue and heart.

* She frequently stands in voluntary prayer at night, even though she is married and has four children to take care of. She sometimes sleeps in the early morning hours, so her

friends mentioned to her that she sleeps at that time. She did not want to tell them that she stands in prayer at night to avoid feeling pride in what she does. So she hinted to them, one at a time, saying, “Dear Sister, why not stand even for a half hour before dawn to worship your Lord?”

* She holds herself accountable every night. She reminds herself of what she does every day so that she invokes Allâh to forgive her for her errors and mistakes. It is not substantial work to do, but it helps her seek Allâh’s pardon soon after she commits an error or a mistake.

* Every evening, she goes to one of the Qur’ânic schools to teach and give lectures on Islam to Muslim sisters. She seeks Allâh’s pleasure and rewards for conducting *Da’wah* to His religion and explaining the correct creed to Muslims.

* Ramadân is the month of worship and obedience to Allâh. It is the month of activity and vitality, so she divided her days from dawn to the *Zuhar* prayer for reciting the Qur’ân. After *Zuhar*, she stands in the kitchen to cook a large meal to distribute to the needy and the poor. Her husband chose a Mosque in their area where there are many workers who attend prayer, but not many people giving free food in Ramadân. A few days after the month started, her husband said to her, “There are over a hundred people in that Mosque who benefit from the food you make, congratulations. The Prophet ﷺ said:

«مَنْ فَطَّرَ صَائِمًا كَانَ لَهُ مِثْلُ أَجْرِهِ دُونَ أَنْ يَنْقُصَ مِنْ أَجْرِ الصَّائِمِ
شَيْئًا» .

“Whoever gave breakfast to a fasting person, will earn a similar reward to his reward, without decreasing the reward of the fasting person.” (*At-Tirmidhi*)

* She treats her maid with kindness, according to Islamic

principals. She also helps her in doing the housework, so that she earns her love and trust. She then dedicated her attention to teaching her Islamic knowledge, even when they both are doing housework. She said to herself, "This maid might one day become a caller to Islam in her country, forbidding the types of *Shirk* and innovations in the religion that exist in her area and warning against deviant, un-Islamic behavior."

The Seed of Good Conduct

* We helped our brother to choose a girl for him to marry, because she belonged to an honorable family. Before that, we were not able to help him decide on whom to marry, since we did not meet someone whom we thought was suitable for him. When we visited this girl's family, her mother met us with a smile and treated us in the best manner. She invited us to sit in another room, explaining that her mother-in-law was in there alone and that she would be very happy if we kept her company. We saw how kind and compassionate the mother was to her mother-in-law and heard other good things about the family. My mother said to us when we returned home, "We will not leave a house that is honorable and kind like this. The daughter of such a mother will surely be impressed by her mother's good conduct and imitate her. If your brother agrees with this girl, we should encourage him to marry her; I will be the one conveying the news of this good, compassionate family to him." Our brother married that girl and positively affected in our own family by the kindness, respect and compassion she learned from her family.

The Seed of Marriage

* She is dedicated to the obedience of Allâh and His Messenger ﷺ and only looks for a husband who fulfills the Prophet's criteria for a good husband:

«إِذَا جَاءَكُمْ مِنْ تَرْضَوْنَ دِينَهُ وَخُلُقَهُ فَرُؤُجُوهُ».

“If someone who is acceptable to you regarding his religion and mannerism came asking for marriage, let him marry.” (*Ibn Majah*)

Therefore, whenever someone came to her family asking for her in marriage, she would weigh him according to the *Hadith* of the Prophet ﷺ. When someone who befits this *Hadith* came forward, her family refused to marry her to him because he was not wealthy. She tried her best to change their mind, mentioning to them the *Hadith* of the Messenger of Allâh ﷺ, and they agreed. Here she is, living in a house built on Islam and filled with happiness and kindness. She said to herself, “Allâh's Prophet ﷺ prescribed the most significant aspects of married life for us, religion and good conduct. To the Muslim family, religion and good conduct are just like the two wings with which the family flies high to clear, tranquil skies. Why should we look for other standards then, when we already have the best and most important basis for happy marriage?”

* It was an Islamic marriage, during which young girls sang without music and older girls felt delight. They added a touch of advice to the women's party they helped organize, by reminding the invitees that their presence at the wedding should not be a way to the Fire. They placed several notices on the food tables, on which they wrote:

﴿وَلَا يَغْتَبِ بَعْضُكُمْ بَعْضًا﴾ [الحجرات: ١٢]

“...neither backbite one another.” (49:12)

She insisted that her marriage party will be conducted according to Islamic principals, a few songs (without music) for youngsters and simple competitions for which they won prizes. The party ended with an invocation to Allâh to bless this marriage and to help those who did not marry yet, get married to good Muslims. Everyone said, ‘*Âmin*’ after reciting the *Du‘â* to Allâh.

* I got married and given many valuable gifts, for my family is wealthy and socially elevated in society. They gave me gifts of gold, watches, jewels, etc. I only see these items occasionally, for they are being kept in a safe and only used when needed. The only gift that touched my heart and remains easily available is the simplest gift: Islamic books given to me by my friend. These books awakened me and resurrected my heart from its sleep.

In the Middle of the Journey

Dear Sister, in the middle of the journey, while you are headed towards its end, ask Allâh to help and support you. I remind you that sincerity to Allâh is the core of the religion and the key to the messages of all of Allâh’s Prophets عليهم السلام. Allâh said:

﴿ وَمَا أُرْوَا إِلَّا لِيَعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ مُخْلِصِينَ لَهُ الدِّينَ ﴾ [البينة : ٥]

“And they were commanded not, but that they should worship Allâh, and worship none but Him Alone (abstaining from ascribing partners to Him).”
(98:5)

Dear Sister, while travelling on the journey towards the Hereafter, some worshippers of Allâh might be lured to fall in *Riyâ‘* (showing off and pride) and liking people to

know of and talk about their actions and deeds. Such people perform good deeds to inform people of their deeds, not to gain Allâh's reward and the good of the Hereafter. Indeed, *Riyâ'* creeps into their hearts unnoticed, even though it is worse for them than the False Messiah. Abu Sa'id Al-Khudri رضى الله عنه said that the Messenger of Allâh ﷺ said

«أَلَا أُخْبِرُكُمْ بِمَا هُوَ أَخَوْفُ عَلَيْكُمْ عِنْدِي مِنَ الْمَسِيحِ الدَّجَالِ» .

“Should I tell you about what I fear for you more than the False Messiah?”

They said, “Yes, O Allâh's Messenger!” He (ﷺ) said:

«الشِّرْكُ الْخَفِيُّ» .

“Hidden *Shirk* (in reference to *Riyâ'*).”

Those who hide their good deeds from the creation will be helped in earning sincerity in their hearts, Allâh willing. Hence, Dear Sister, sincerity is such an exalted conduct that if it fills one's good deeds and acts of obedience to Allâh, it earns one the best rewards from Him, even if the act of obedience appeared minor in the eyes of its doer.

* Shaikh Al-Islam Ibn Taimiyyah mentioned the Prophet's *Hadith*:

«بَيْنَمَا كَلْبٌ يُطِيفُ بِرِكِيَّةٍ قَد كَادَ يَقْتُلُهُ الْعَطَشُ إِذَا رَأَتْهُ بَغِيٌّ مِنْ بَغَايَا بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ، فَتَزَعَّتْ مُوقَهَا فَاسْتَقَّتْ لَهُ بِهِ، فَسَقَّتَهُ فَعُفِّرَ لَهَا بِهِ» .

“A prostitute was forgiven by Allâh, because when passing by a panting dog near a well and seeing that the dog was about to die of thirst, she took off her shoe and drew out some water for it. So, Allâh forgave her because of that.”

Ibn Taimiyyah commented: “This woman gave water to the dog on account of the sincere faith in Allâh that

resided in her heart, on that account Allâh forgave her. Not every prostitute will be forgiven if she gives water to a dog. This indicates that actions vary according to the degree of faith and sincerity that resides in the hearts. Certainly, whoever performs acts of worship without sincerity to Allâh, will not gain rewards for them because they are worthless. Rather, whoever does this, will subject himself to tremendous consequences, even if the acts of worship were major, such as spending on righteous causes and fighting against the disbelievers.”

* Allâh said:

﴿ الَّذِي خَلَقَ الْمَوْتَ وَالْحَيَاةَ لِيَبْلُوَكُمْ أَيُّكُمْ أَحْسَنُ عَمَلًا ﴾ [الملك : ٢]

“Who has created death and life that He may test you which of you is best in deed.” (67:2)

Al-Fudail bin ‘Iyâd was asked about the most sincere and correct actions.” He said:

“If the action is sincere, but not correct, it will be rejected. If the action was correct, but insincere, it will be also rejected. The action must be both sincere and correct. The sincere action is that which is performed for Allâh’s sake alone, while the correct action is that which conforms to the *Sunnah*.” He then recited this *Âyah*:

﴿ فَمَنْ كَانَ يَرْجُوا لِقَاءَ رَبِّهِ فَلْيَعْمَلْ عَمَلًا صَالِحًا وَلَا يُشْرِكْ بِعِبَادَةِ رَبِّهِ أَحَدًا ﴾

[الكهف : ١١٠]

“So whoever hopes for the Meeting with his Lord, let him work righteousness and associate none as a partner in the worship of his Lord.” (18:110)

I remind you, Dear Sister, may Allâh forbid your face to the Fire, that as you collect good deeds and perform

righteous actions, you should never lose them on account of an utterly evil trade — the harvest that one collects because of his or her tongue. Stay away from backbiting, calumnies, lying, mocking others and other evil actions. Do not be like those who build great projects by day and bring them down by night. Do not be like those who collect great wealth and then waste it overnight.

The Messenger of Allāh ﷺ said:

«أَتَدْرُونَ مَنْ الْمُفْلِسُ» «إِنَّ الْمُفْلِسَ مِنْ أُمَّتِي مَنْ يَأْتِي يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ بِصَلَاةٍ وَصِيَامٍ وَزَكَاةٍ، وَيَأْتِي قَدْ شَتَمَ هَذَا، وَقَذَفَ هَذَا وَأَكَلَ مَالَ هَذَا، وَسَفَكَ دَمَ هَذَا، وَضَرَبَ هَذَا، فَيُعْطَى هَذَا مِنْ حَسَنَاتِهِ، وَهَذَا مِنْ حَسَنَاتِهِ، فَإِنْ فِينَتْ قَبْلَ أَنْ يُقْضَى مَا عَلَيْهِ، أَخَذَ مِنْ خَطَايَاهُمْ فَطَرِحَتْ عَلَيْهِ، ثُمَّ طُرِحَ فِي النَّارِ».

“Do you know who is a bankrupt?” They replied, “bankrupt among us is he who has no dirham or property.” He said, “Verily, the one who is bankrupt from my *Ummah* is he who will come on the Day of Resurrection with prayer, fasting and *Zakat* that he performed. However, he had cursed this person, falsely accused that person, ate up the property of another person, shed the blood of another person and beaten another person. So, this person will be given from his righteous deeds, and that person will be given from his righteous deeds. If his righteous deeds finish before his account is paid in full, sins from their records will be transferred from them to him, and he will then be thrown in the Fire.”
(*Muslim*)

The Seed of Children

* Some mothers call me ‘the mother of *Du‘â*’, because I teach children various *Du‘â* narrated from the Messenger of Allâh. I also benefit from correctly remembering the Prophet’s *Du‘â* and help plant these *Du‘â* in the hearts of our children. Sometimes, a mother would feel amazed at hearing her child reciting a *Du‘â* supplicated in times of hardship and affliction, while she does not memorize that *Du‘â*.

* She is young and energetic, and whenever she meets young children, she is kind to them. She greets them with the *Salam* (the Islamic greeting), and conducts simple competitions between them. She also advises them and recites stories about our righteous ancestors. She next distributes some candy to them, with permission from their parents. Her meeting with young children is filled with teaching and advice.

* She found a space on one of the pages on which the text is printed, so she wrote a *Hadith* (saying of the Prophet ﷺ) about the virtue of seeking Allâh’s forgiveness. She is a teacher at the elementary level.

* She brings delight to the hearts of children by giving gifts and Islamic cassettes. She considers this, a part of her duty towards the *Da‘wah* to Allâh and an act of drawing close to Him.

* She sometimes finds children’s magazines belonging to her relatives when she visits them. After taking permission, she reads some of them and often feels shocked to find that young girls send letters to these magazines and mention singing, dancing and music as being among their hobbies. She collects the addresses of

these young girls and sends two Islamic books to each address. She says that by doing so, she is also talking to the parents of these children who are responsible for teaching them Islam. She sometimes chooses books on *Hijâb* (Islamic dress for women), or the rearing of children in Islam, or stories about great personalities of Islam. In a span of one month, she sent over two hundred letters, saying to herself: "Even if one family accepts my call to Allâh, it will be sufficient for me. However, I have a bigger hope than only convincing one family out of two hundred."

The Seed of Working

* Since there are many ways to forbid evil, she tries to remember and practice the easiest and most effective ways. For instance, when she sees a relative or a friend of hers commit an error and fears that she might be embarrassed if she talks to her about it, she calls another friend and asks her to offer words of soft advice and reminders to the friend that erred.

* Women often witness other women commit errors and mistakes. I help erring women realize their shortcomings by sending questions to scholars regarding Islam's rulings on the errors they commit. When the scholars answer my questions over the TV or in newspapers and magazines, the benefit becomes larger and more widespread, Allâh willing.

* She is very polite, knowledgeable and eloquent. This is why her fellow employees often ask her to talk to some of their relatives regarding various errors and mistakes that they make. Some of them wear western clothes, for instance, or go out without wearing proper *Hijâb*, while

others go to the market excessively, do not take care of their husbands, sometimes do not pray, go out alone in their cars following the driver, and so forth. She telephones these women, saying to them that they belong to honorable families and have some knowledge in Islam, so how is it that they commit such and such errors. Many of these women accepted her call, because she uses truthful, kind words and sincere advice to convince them.

* She puts the copy machine in the library into good use by copying the various *Fatâwa* (religious decrees) from scholars and distributing them to women.

* Gifts have a wonderful impact on people by spreading affection and kindness among them, just as the Prophet ﷺ stated:

«تَهَادُوا تَحَابُّوا» .

“Give gifts, and you will love each other.”

So when she hears of a friend getting married or having other happy occasions, she gives a gift to that friend, considering it an act of charity and spreading Islamic knowledge. Her gifts always consist of Islamic books and cassettes, a real gift that has a lasting benefit.

The Seed of Treasures

* She said to herself that this is the treasure of the times: Islamic lectures on tapes given by known scholars who follow the Qur'ân, the *Sunnah* and the understanding of the Companions. She bought some tapes she found explaining the book titled, '*At-Tauhid*', and wrote down its explanation on the relevant pages of the book. This helped her write comments and explanations on the entire book in just two months. Next, she started doing the same with the books that explain aspects of creed, jurisprudence, language, and whatever beneficial books she could find explained on tapes. Truly, she collected a valuable treasure that she and her friends and family can benefit from for a long time to come.

* She conducted a deal with a publishing company to print large amount of Islamic books on a regular basis. She then started collecting enough money to pay for printing and distributing these books free. She said that if her fellow teachers donated a meager amount every month, they would be able to cover the cost of printing thousands of books to send to various parts of the world.

* I love to read about the biography of the Prophet ﷺ and his Companions. This is why some time ago, I started collecting these stories from various books and typing them into the computer. I make copies of these stories and distribute them to my fellow teachers and to students.

* She dislikes sitting in the car for a long time when her husband goes to buy something from the store. So she started to spend these minutes revising what she memorized from Allâh's Book. She turned the long boring minutes into acts of obedience to Allâh that bring her happiness and delight.

* A few months after she got married, she began lending the modest Islamic clothes she and her husband wore for their wedding to those who need them for their own wedding parties. She also encouraged Muslim sisters who borrow her clothes to donate some money for charity from what they saved by not having to buy new clothes for their weddings.

* A village came into sight while traveling, and she said to her husband, "Let us go to the clinic in this village and place some Islamic books and cassettes in it so that people will benefit from them." The workers and patients who visited that clinic were happy to see the Islamic books, some of which they never saw or read before.

* She is prepared for the day when she will deliver her baby. She bought Islamic books and cassettes and arranged them in parcels that she gives as gifts to her friends and family who visit her after she delivers.

* She meets newcomers to the girl's high school and encourages them, with a smile, to attend Islamic lectures at the school and to pray at the school's mosque. She also gives them some Islamic books and cassettes as gifts.

* The way she conducts *Da'wah* to Allâh is excellent. She looks for the strongest personality in the families she is acquainted with and directs her *Da'wah* efforts to that woman, so that she accepts the call of Islam with knowledge and sincerity. She then says to her, "You are responsible for the rest of your family, so are you ready for this heavy responsibility?"

The Seed of Gold

* She asked her husband to take care of his deceased relative's family, reminding everyone of the Prophet's statement:

«السَّاعِي عَلَى الْأَزْمَلَةِ كَالْمُجَاهِدِ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ.»

“The caretaker of the widow is just like the Mujahid in Allâh's Cause.”

* Her husband learned of a way he can help spread the *Da'wah*, but hesitated to participate saying that he has designated the afternoons for his wife and children. When he told her this, she encouraged him to participate in the *Da'wah* for Allâh's sake. His respect for her increased, because he knew that she is also concerned about the *Da'wah* to Allâh and is willing to sacrifice her comfort for His Cause.

* She often encourages her husband to pray on time and participate in charity activities. She makes things easy for him and tries to guide him to the best ways of righteousness.

* She married a man whose wife had died in an accident leaving him with young children to take care of, the youngest of whom is a few months old. She was working on her Ph.D. at the woman's university, but invoked Allâh to guide her to the best way. She resigned from her job and discontinued furthering her education to take care of these young children. She sought Allâh's reward for rearing them, for rearing children is a significant achievement that rivals, and has several advantages over furthering education.

* She suggested to her husband that they should move closer to his father's house, so that he helps rear his young brothers, make sure they attend the congregational prayer

and help them choose good friends.

* Even though her husband was appointed to work in a rural area, she did not hesitate to accompany him. Allâh made things easier for her, for she found a conservative society who liked her and sought knowledge in Islam from her. She lived an entire year in that village, helping to influence an entire generation consisting of grandmothers, mothers and children!

* Some women are just like pure gold, often invoking Allâh for other women to guide them to the straight path, rather than earning their enmity and rivalry as some women do to each other.

* “May Allâh grant you eternal happiness,” says the blind mother-in-law to her son’s wife who helps her move about by holding her hand. This is typical of Muslim women, but the media try to portray the mother-in-law in an unfavorable picture, as if she is the eternal enemy of her daughter-in-law.

* He married a shy, polite girl whose beauty lies in her good conduct and religious nature. She once asked him for some money to buy a gift for his mother. He promised her, but forgot to fulfill his promise. So, she sold a piece of her gold and bought the gift for his mother, without telling him what she did.

* She encourages her husband to associate with good Muslims. She also invites her friends to visit her and her husband with their husbands, knowing that those families are good Muslims. She is eager for her husband to be acquainted with righteous families, thus helping him spend the time in the best manner.

* Her dedication is in pleasing her husband and taking care of his needs. She often repeats the Messenger of

Allâh's statement:

«أَيُّمَا امْرَأَةٍ مَاتَتْ وَزَوْجُهَا عَنْهَا رَاضٍ دَخَلَتْ الْجَنَّةَ» .

“Any woman who dies while her husband is pleased with her, enters Paradise.” (*At-Tirmidhi* and *Ibn Majah*)

The Seed of the Purse

* She heard that the shop that sells Islamic cassettes in her area is about to go bankrupt and close doors. She said to her, “This door, that was opened to tremendous goodness, is about to close.” She bought a large number of Islamic cassettes from this store and encouraged wealthy people to buy cassettes from it, so that it did not have to close its doors. She sought Allâh's reward twice, for supporting an Islamic activity and by giving her friends and relatives the tapes she bought from the store.

* She carries a purse just like other women, who usually stuff their purses with beauty items. However, her purse is full of Islamic books and pamphlets and wherever she goes, she leaves some of these books and pamphlets as a resource of righteousness for people. Allâh made her more beautiful by her piety and dedication to Islam, for she calls to Him and fulfills the requirement of *Da'wah* on her. Many women could do the same, but where are those women who have the dedication and concern for *Da'wah* as this woman has?

* Her family's name is well-known and often mentioned because of their social status. She moved to a house located near a funeral home and started helping washing dead Muslim women, but did not announce who she was. She was raised in a righteous home full of correct guidance and true success.

* She heard the Prophet's statement:

«من جَهَّزَ غَازِيًا فَقَدْ عَزَا» .

“Whoever helped provide for a fighter in Allâh's Cause, will have participated in battle himself.”

She did not hesitate and gave her friend some money, so that her husband could pay it to a charity organization that supports *Jihâd*. She asked her friend not to tell her husband where the money came from. Allâh willing, she earned the reward of supporting a fighter in Allâh's Cause and participated in battle, without leaving her house. We ask Allâh to raise her grade with Him to a higher, exalted level.

* Wearing her *Hijâb* and observing Islamic conduct, she gave the seller at the store some Islamic books and tapes to give to those who shop at his store.

* Some people are so disinterested in *Da'wah* that they do not call their own families or servants, to practice Islam in the correct manner. This is why I started an Islamic library in my house containing tapes on Islam in various languages. Whenever I saw a maid or a driver, I would give them some cassettes in their language, asking them to give some of them to those who spoke their language.

* She lives by a mosque that contains a place to wash dead Muslims. She often sends shrouds and other items to the mosque to use in washing the dead.

* She fasts Mondays and Thursdays, for fasting these days is an evergreen seed that provides support and aid on the long path to the Hereafter.

* Her relatives know that she helps her husband conduct *Da'wah* to Allâh, awaiting Allâh's reward for sacrificing her comfort for His sake.

The Seed of Young Generations

* Since there are good potentials regarding *Da'wah* to Allâh in educational institutes, many Muslim women voluntarily work in this field seeking Allâh's reward for teaching and in fulfilling the job of *Da'wah* at the same time. These good examples of Muslim women have pressing needs at home. Their focus is on rearing their children and taking care of their homes, especially those among them, who have spent years teaching. Yet, disregarding their own comfort, they keep on teaching and making an effort to benefit the Muslim generations to come. They know that the time they spend with their students provides them with a precious opportunity to conduct *Da'wah* to a few dozen girls sitting in class periods that last around one hour each. This is why every teacher should be a *Dâ'iyah* (caller to Allâh), regardless of the subject they are teaching.

* The Mathematics teacher is very active in the *Da'wah* and often gives good advice and counsel to her students. She often adds words of advice on the sheets she writes for the exams. One of her questions was, 'Abdullah wanted to get rid of the songs he has on tapes, because Allâh has forbidden listening to songs and music. He opened the first drawer and found 19 cassettes in it, then opened the second drawer and found 15 cassettes and 13 tapes in the third drawer. How many cassettes of songs that Allâh has prohibited will Abdullah get rid of?'

* She teaches English language, but dedicates a few minutes in the beginning of each class to reciting to her students several *Ahadith* from the Messenger of Allâh ﷺ and translating their meanings to them.

* The Science teacher gave a lesson on melting iron core,

and made an experiment in which she melted a small amount of iron. She told her students who watched the experiment, “How will the Fire of *Jahannam* be then? Can we ever tolerate its heat even for a few minutes?” One of her students was awakened from her sleep by these words and became active in worshipping Allâh and obeying Him.

* I was told of an English teacher who helped an entire girls school become better in their Islam by conducting *Da'wah* to them inside and outside the class. She knows that one day she will stand before Allâh, and He will ask her about the efforts she gave to her job, students and *Da'wah* to Him. She considers her years at school as golden chances to earn Allâh's reward and strives hard to invest these years in the best and most righteousness manner.

The Seed of awaiting Allâh's Reward for Patience

* She married a husband who had good conduct and prayed on time. Some years later, after they had several children, he became acquainted with wicked men who lured him to be lazy regarding the acts of worship, and he started spending extended periods outside of his home. In the end, he abandoned the prayer by giving the weakest excuses not to pray, such as being tired and exhausted. She advised him and reminded him of Allâh, for he is the father of her children. She tried to correct his conduct using good advice and invoking Allâh for him, but he continued on his path unabated. She left a recorded message for him and went to her family, and when he called there, he did not receive a good response from her. He asked what the matter was and she told him that she

left a recorded message that he should listen. She said on that cassette that Islam does not allow Muslims to remain with the spouse, who does not pray. She told him that if he died in this state, he would not be washed or buried in the Muslim graveyard. She said to him that he would not have access to his children because a non-Muslim does not have custody of Muslim children. She asked, "How can you be this disinterested in Allâh after your gray hair have started to grow on your head and your children have grown up?" Even after he heard this message, he said to her, "Think about what you will do about our children. Where will you live and who will take you to your school?" He wanted to make her afraid of the consequences of her action, but she remained firm to her faith and said to him, "There are many families that do not have fathers. I will not go back to a man who does not pray and will endure any hardship that touches me because of my decision. I will observe patience and await Allâh's reward for my suffering."

Once, when one of the women who only care about the life of this world heard what she did, she said to her, "How can you leave your husband? You did not think clearly about the consequences." She said, "Had I told you that he is a miser or that he beats me, you would have shouted, 'How can you stay with a man who does not give his wife her rights; this humiliates women...' However, you do not act the same when I tell you that he does not pray, even though the prayer is the second most significant cornerstone of Islam and the pillar of the religion." She did not answer her, maybe because she kept thinking about whatever evil the devil was luring her to think about!

He thought about his situation and insisted on it for a while. But he was shocked because of what happened and people came to know that he does not pray. He started

going back to Allâh slowly and in time his wife and children went back to him. He said, “All thanks to Allâh, I was but a few steps away from falling in the Fire.”

The Seed of Meetings

* She placed a small card on the table that is in the middle of her sitting room and wrote on it:

﴿ وَلَا يَغْتَب بَّعْضُكُم بَعْضًا . . . ﴾ [الحجرات: ١٢]

“...neither backbite one another.” (49:12)

Whenever women meet at her house and start talking about other people, she points at the card to remind them. Soon, these meetings became free of backbiting.

* Her speech is as delightful as the morning breeze. Whenever women start talking about models and clothes, she talks to them about her school and then uses soft advice to remind them of Allâh and the Last Life.

* She was meeting some women when one of them who lacked good conduct, started cursing her, but she did not answer that rude woman. She said to herself, “Why do I not become among those whom Allâh described:

﴿ وَالْكَاظِمِينَ الْغَيْظَ ﴾ [آل عمران: ١٣٤]

“...who repress anger.”¹ (3:134)

At another meeting, the same woman treated her badly and again she did not answer her. Months later, the rude woman came to her apologizing for her conduct and

[1] “Narrated Abu Hurairah رضى الله عنه: Allâh’s Messenger صلى الله عليه وسلم said, “The strong is not the one who overcomes the people by his strength, but the strong is the one who controls himself while in anger.” (*Sahih Al-Bukhâri, Hadith No. 6114*)

begging her to forgive her.

* Women who are dedicated to *Da'wah* usually become a target for defamation and have their efforts belittled by those who do not participate in *Da'wah*. It is easy for them to criticize others since they are asleep, thus adding two sins: abandoning *Da'wah* and defaming righteous women who call to Allâh. Only a few women sincerely advise those who call to Allâh to correct their errors; this is the type of women who are truthful and their advice is beneficial.

* Our societies have become so open to other cultures that some scholars have issued *Fatâwa* (religious opinions based on the Qur'ân and the *Sunnah*) with regards to alien traditions, such as wearing pants and abandoning *Hijâb*. She copies these *Fatâwa* and distributes them whenever and wherever she meets other women.

The Seed of *Tauhid*

* A day before she was about to give a lecture, she asked her about what she was going to talk about. She said that she would be talking about the duties and obligations of husband and wife. She encouraged her to talk about this important subject saying that many women are unaware of the rights their husbands have on them. She said to her next, "I will tell you a story that happened at a nearby girls school. The teachers at that school often disputed with each other and had ill feelings for one another, thus turning the school into a place for arguments and disputes. When this situation persisted, one of them suggested that to keep evil away from their school, they should sacrifice a sheep at its door! No doubt, this made the devil feel happy since a door of *Shirk* (polytheism) was about to be

opened.” The sister who was going to give the lecture the following day become amazed and asked for more details. So she went on by saying, “We attended over twenty lectures this year about various subjects. However, we failed to talk about the core of the Messages of all of Allâh’s Prophets, because of which Allâh sent them to mankind and revealed to them His Books and for which *Jihâd* was established by the swords. I ask you dear sister, have you not seen the armies of soothsayers and teachers of misguidance invade the Muslim World? Have you looked around to see where the *Bid’ah* starts and how it spreads? Have you realized that Sufis have invaded this *Ummah*, just as fire invades wood? Dear sister, do not ignore *Tauhid* and then be surprised that what we have built, established on the tip of a deep hole in the Fire. We must first start with the basics and foundations and then erect the building on them.” The other woman replied, “You have said the truth. I will dedicate my lecture to the subject of worshipping Allâh Alone without partners. I will next talk about the nullifiers of Islam, then about the rights of husbands and wives on each other. We should not abandon the most significant parts of Islam and talk about what is less important. What is the benefit of being kind to our spouses, while we sacrifice for other than Allâh, go around graves and seek the help of the dead?”

Indeed all the Prophets عليهم السلام have the Messages that concentrate on *Tauhid* and forbid all types and means of *Shirk*. Sadly, many Muslims in present times go to soothsayers to read their future, revert to sorcery and magic and give their loyalty and support to non-Muslims, such as Christians and Jews.

The Seed of Vitality

* Good intention, sincerity, energy, vitality, dedication and seeking the best ways and means, all accompany the correct method of *Da'wah* that conforms to the Qur'ân and the *Sunnah*, the way the Companions conveyed and implemented them. The reward in the Hereafter is Paradise, and in this life, the rewards include tranquility, peace of heart and content.

* She was shocked when she saw the schoolteachers are spending their time in backbiting each other and spreading calumnies. She only hears them talking about clothes and their husbands. Every day, there is a new model to describe and about her husband to complain. The new teacher said, "There is only one way to save them from this destructive path that leads to the Fire." She started talking to them about the religion, enduring their smart comments and ridicule. In time, they gradually accepted what she was talking to them about and began participating in the *Da'wah* efforts. This was achieved with hard work and patience.

* Whenever she sees a dedicated, polite student at her school, she encourages her to increase her knowledge and good conduct. She next asks her how much of Allâh's Book she memorized. When she finds out that she does not memorize a good part of the Qur'ân, she says to her, "Allâh has granted you a good standard at school, yet you only memorize this much of the Qur'ân?" She tells the student, "Weekly, I will help you review all that you have memorized," so as to encourage her to learn more of the Qur'ân. This way, her students increase in piety and Islamic knowledge at a fast pace.

* After speaking to her students about new scientific

advances, she starts explaining the relationship between some of these discoveries to the supreme facts contained in the Qur'ân and *Sunnah*.

* The Biology teacher is dedicated to the *Da'wah*, and she often explains Allâh's Might in creating mankind, animals and various insects. It is a fact, that people are impressed by religious facts that have material proof to them that they can see and hear.

* She dedicates her time to conducting *Da'wah* inside the women's jail, even though this work is hard and tests one's patience.

The Seed of Good Example

* Even though good examples are preciously rare within ranks of women, she is a good example to other women in her knowledge, conduct and politeness. She is also a good example of conduct in the way she adheres by the code of Islamic dress, for her *Hijâb* is proper and covers all her body. Those who know how wealthy and socially she is elevated, are amazed at her modesty and Islamic clothes. She is a good example for them:

﴿وَلِبَاسِ التَّقْوَىٰ ذَٰلِكَ خَيْرٌ﴾ [الأعراف: ٢٦]

“...and the raiment of righteousness, that is better.”
(7:26)

Another woman looks like a peacock because of the way she dresses; she imitates *Kâfir* women in their traditions and attire. She deserves to hear this *Hadith* from the Prophet ﷺ, who said that Muslims would imitate disbelievers:

«حَذُوا الْقُدَّةَ بِالْقُدَّةِ، وَلَوْ دَخَلُوا جُحَرَ ضَبٍّ لَدَخَلْتُمُوهُ».

“Step by step, and even if they enter a lizard’s den, you will enter it, as well!”

* Whenever she meets other women, she talks about Qur’anic schools and the benefits gained from attending them. She mentions to them stories of some women who attended Qur’anic schools and how much of the Qur’ân they now learn by heart, so that it becomes easy for them to attend these schools. She is a caller to Allâh with guidance. She has knowledge, tries her best to encourage women to attend the blessed schools that teach the Qur’ân, and helps one memorize it.

* During various meetings and occasions, she organizes competitions that include questions about Islam, as a way of calling women to the Islamic *Da’wah*. She asks those attending various occasions: “What are the conditions for valid Islamic dress? Are women allowed to wear colorful outer clothes?”

* Occasionally, she buys subscriptions to good Islamic magazines and sends the magazines to Islamic centers outside of her country.

* Since they moved to a new area, her husband complains that men in their new neighborhood do not attend the Dawn prayer in the mosque, except a few of them. He tells her that he tries to advise them, but they do not listen. When his wife came to know that the women in her neighborhood meet every Tuesday to talk about matters of this life, she said that this is a chance to conduct *Da’wah*. She attended the next meeting and was welcomed by everyone. The next meeting, she advised them to turn their meetings into blessed lessons where they would learn the Qur’ân, the *Sunnah* and about other aspects of Islam. They hesitated in the beginning, but agreed when she kept

encouraging them. She started with easy lessons about aspects of purity in Islam (*Tahârah*), astounding some of the women attending the lesson, because they discovered how ignorant they were about *Tahârah*. Months later, the number of men attending the Dawn prayer increased dramatically.

The Seed of Islamic Brotherhood and Sisterhood

* Many sisters wish that they could participate in *Da'wah* efforts without having to make any effort. Many of them wish they could help in the efforts of *Jihâd*, but they do not observe patience or endurance. Yet, *Da'wah* and *Jihâd* are two paths of righteousness that lead to Paradise and require patience, endurance, struggle, time and money.

She is a teacher at the intermediary level and is active in *Da'wah* to Allâh, using smiles as the key to enter the hearts of her students. She greets her students with the *Salâm*, asks them questions and offers explanations for their questions with a good heart. She also helps them attain their needs. One day, when one of the students did not attend school, she asked about her and was told that she is tired. Days later, she asked about her again, this time directing her inquiry to her older sister who studies at the high school level. She told her that when her sister was on her way out of the school, she tripped and hurt her foot while ascending the stairs. She asked her father to take her to the hospital, but he refused saying that she deserved it because she did not pay attention while walking!

After a week of absence, the teacher asked for the student's home phone number and asked her mother about

the reason why they did not take their daughter to the hospital. The mother insisted that the father should take her daughter to the hospital; he agreed and various tests were made on the ill girl. The result came that she had cancer in her foot. The young girl remained at the hospital, and the teacher helped her through her difficult ordeal. She often mentioned to the fifteen-year-old girl the *Āyat* about the virtue of observing patience and having faith in Allāh. She visited her everyday, and her visits were as comfortable as the effect of medicine. She would bring her Islamic books and tapes and would call her later to ask if she read the book she gave her, and if she benefited from certain parts, she would mention to her. The teacher filled her ill student's time in a beneficial way and taught her to observe patience and invoke Allāh using various *Āyat* and *Ahadith* that contain Divine healing.

Once, when the teacher found out that her student would wake up late for the Dawn prayer, she made sure to wake her up for *Fajr* by phone and call five minutes later to make sure that she did not go back to sleep. Fifteen days later, the young girl became gravely ill, her body succumbed to weakness, and she died. For fifteen days, the teacher dedicated her *Da'wah* activity to her ill student that might be instrumental in saving this girl from the Fire, Allāh willing. She taught the young girl how to receive her illness with calmness and made the last days of her life easier, filling them with faith and prayer. How many ill Muslims are there who are in desperate need for such an exalted type of help at their time of distress and grief? Indeed, this is the true Islamic brotherhood and sisterhood in the cause of Allāh.

The Seed of the Neighborhood

* Time is scarce, but she wishes her entire neighborhood to be filled with goodness. Therefore, she started a project using the telephone to encourage memorizing the Qur'ân and help her sisters in Islam review what they memorize from it. She said to them, "The telephone is a gift from Allâh and should be used in the service of His religion. We thank Allâh that He helped us use the telephone in this rewarding manner; everyone among us is able to serve the cause of the religion using the telephone to call her relatives and friends without leaving her house."

* Neighbors have tremendous rights on each other, and the Prophet ﷺ emphasized these rights in his *Hadith*. She implements the Prophet's order and concerns herself about the well-being and condition of her neighbors.

* When people in her neighborhood gather, their meetings are advantageous because they contain good advice, memorizing some *Âyat* from the Qur'ân and reciting some of the Prophet's *Ahadith*. They also collect money and spend it on various charity projects. Some of them donate a small amount and others give large amounts, each according to her capabilities.

* She visits the widows and poor people in her area and asks the needy as to what they need. She buys electric items for these families, such as refrigerators and washers, and school necessities for other families. Then she sends the bill to wealthy people to pay, so that she continues her good endeavors with other families.

* They were surprised at her suggestion that they should learn sewing, but her dedication encouraged them to do so. The women in her area started sewing clothes for

themselves and for charity purposes. They spend their time in a good way and earn rewards for their good intentions and beneficial actions.

* She is an energetic caller to Allâh in her school and among the women who live in her area. She occasionally invites women to her house and gives them soft advice that reminds them of their journey to the Last Life. Further more she occasionally invites other sisters to give a speech, so that her guests hear from other people as well.

* She knows that righteousness is easily planted in the hearts of the young. With permission from their parents, she gathers the young girls in her area two days a week to memorize parts of the Qur'ân and to teach them Islamic conduct and ideals.

* She encourages the families in her area to help their children marry at an early age, and often helps them look for suitable candidates for marriage, especially religious girls. She also encourages other girls who are not very firm in their Islam to marry, to protect them from indecent behavior. She helps create more Muslim families and asks Allâh to bless their marriage. Once, the mother of a girl she helped get married, offered a gift to her, but she refused saying that she works for Allâh's Cause only.

The Seed of Righteous Acts

* She heard a radio program on the topic of keeping good ties with kith and kin and the rewards that this righteous action brings from Allâh. She immediately called her aunts and uncles, whom she did not visit for some time, and invited them to visit her for dinner. They came and enjoyed being with each other after they had not seen each other for a long time.

* At every meeting or occasion she attends, she encourages the women to give charity because she knows that many of them would like to donate money, but are not sure of how they could do it. When someone encourages them to donate and helps distribute the money, they usually donate generously.

* She collects information about the various Islamic projects and reminds the women, who attend Islamic lectures, about these projects and the virtues of charity. She opens the door wide for other women to participate in charity projects, by informing them about these projects and the good that they bring to Muslims.

* They say that backbiting is the fruit of women, but she refuses this statement and says to her Muslim sisters, "Let us perfume our meetings with remembering Allâh, reciting the Qur'ân and listening to Islamic lectures."

* When the crescent for a new lunar month is sighted, I remind my relatives of the *Du'â* they should recite and the virtues of voluntary fasting on the 13th, 14th and 15th of that month.² I also call them just before these days to

² The Prophet ﷺ said, "Fasting three days of every month (the white days), the thirteenth, the fourteenth and the fifteenth, equals fasting all year round." (*An-Nasa'i*)

remind them to fast and encourage them to attend Islamic lectures for women, often reminding them of the dates and titles of these lectures. And when some of them apologize because they cannot find anyone to take them to the lecture, I and my son drive them to and from the lecture.

* She is physically handicapped, but her inability to move easily did not stop her from taping Islamic lectures and giving the tapes as gifts to her relatives and friends.

* When she learns about mistakes and errors committed by her family, friends and neighbors, she gives them books that pertain to their errors, so they are able to mend their shortcomings. She gives women books about *Tahârah*, for instance, since most women are not fully aware of the rulings of *Tahârah* in Islam. She also gives books against magic, soothsaying and fortune telling, and books that explain the negators of Islam. She helps women read about aspects of Islam that pertain to their distinct needs.

The Seed of the Jewel

* She is a precious jewel, a young girl who is active and energetic, who strives to protect her self and her honor. She decided not to go to the market excessively, yet she has sufficient clothes to wear, according to Islamic principals and code of *Hijâb*.

* Many girls go to the market feeling afraid for some reason, thus causing them to be bothered by sellers or people roaming the market. Such deviant people use these apparent fears and try to abuse women without protest from them. However, she informs the Muslim authorities of every evil action she experiences or witnesses by men, as well as, telling her husband about it. She does not allow anyone to abuse her or Muslim women in any way or

form, and pays back this abuse by helping enjoin righteousness and forbid evil. May Allâh forbid her face to the Fire

* She vowed not to go the market except twice a year, and Allâh helped her fulfill her vow. She does not feel any eagerness to go to the markets, like other women do. She also has sufficient Islamic clothes:

﴿وَلِبَاسُ الْقَوَىٰ ذَٰلِكَ خَيْرٌ﴾

“...and the raiment of righteousness, that is better.”
(7:26)

* When she is invited to a wedding, she asks if the wedding contains any disallowed acts and apologizes if the answer is in the affirmative. She says that obeying Allâh is better than attending wedding parties that contain music, dancing and free mingling between men and women. When the families of those getting married find that many Muslim men and women are not attending their weddings, they will be encouraged to obey Allâh and follow the *Sunnah* of His Messenger ﷺ with regards to all that pertains to marriage. This way, Islamic weddings will become more widespread and true happiness and delight will fill these occasions.

* She started to use makeup less and less and gave away the money she saved by not buying it, to the poor and the needy. She said, “It is better for me to save my face from the Fire by giving away charity.”

* She works with the Islamic authorities and informs them of any indecent acts or statements (that she cannot forbid herself) that occur in public areas where women usually gather.

The Seed of Speech

* She is a good speaker and hears other women's problems with a good heart. She advises them on the best ways to solve their problems, and observes patience when some of them repeat the explanation of their condition or give unnecessary details. She next conveys to them her opinion and reminds them that this life is full of trials and tests. She reminds them of the *Sunnah* of Allâh's Messenger ﷺ and how he endured all types of sufferings, even though he is the master and chief of all mankind. She spends her time and energy helping her sisters in Islam overcome their troubles and attain their needs. She often intervenes with her relatives and friends to solve their problems and help them in their jobs and at home. She tries her best to relieve disasters and remove distress, seeking Allâh's Pleasure.

* She kept drawing close to her female relative for a full month, until her relative felt love for her and comfort in seeing and listening to her. She said to herself, "Now that a month has passed, I should tell her about the good Islamic ways and warn her against all types of errors and mistakes. I do not mind that I continue my efforts with her for five more months until she accepts the *Da'wah* and becomes a better Muslim. If she accepts the *Daw'ah* with a good heart, several families will be positively affected by her transformation."

* Even though summer in Makkah is very hot and she was fasting, she insisted that she visits poor families living in the mountains of Makkah, to see their condition with her own eyes and spend on them with her own hands. She is a wealthy woman from a notable family; yet, she insists on spending in charity directly to the poor, may Allâh forbid

her to the Fire.

* She cuts strong paper in rectangular shapes and writes some *Du'â* and *Ahadith* on them, to use as bookmarks. She sells what she makes in one of the Qur'ânic schools and gives the profit to that school.

In the Barren Desert

When she saw the seeds of righteousness, she ran away from them and continued the heedless life she was living. Her interest is concentrated on shoes and clothes. She did not allow this *Âyah* to touch her heart:

﴿أَفَحَسِبْتُمْ أَنَّمَا خَلَقْنَاكُمْ عَبَثًا وَأَنَّكُمْ إِلَيْنَا لَا تُرْجَعُونَ﴾

[المؤمنون: ١١٥]

“Did you think that We had created you in play (without any purpose), and that you would not be brought back to Us?” (23:115)

She tires herself in this life, but without benefit. She did not stop and contemplate this *Hadith* from Allâh's Messenger ﷺ:

«لَا تَزُولُ قَدَمَا عَبْدٍ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ حَتَّى يُسْأَلَ عَنْ أَرْبَعِ خِصَالٍ: عَنْ عُمْرِهِ فِيْمَ أَفْتَاهُ، وَعَنْ شَبَابِهِ فِيْمَ أَبْلَاهُ، وَعَنْ مَالِهِ مِنْ أَيْنَ اكْتَسَبَهُ وَفِيْمَ أَنْفَقَهُ، وَعَنْ عِلْمِهِ مَاذَا عَمِلَ بِهِ.»

“On the Day of Judgment, the slave's feet will not move until he or she is asked about four matters: about his life, what he did during its term; about his youth, what he invested it for; about his wealth, from where he earned it and where he spent it; and about his knowledge, how he used it.”

* The daughter of Islam prefers weakness, inaction, comfort and laziness! If her shoes become torn, she fills the

air with complaints and gets sad, until she buys new shoes. She does this while the seeds of righteousness are being planted and harvested by others. The caravan of goodness is traveling away from her to Paradise, as wide as the heavens and the earth. But, she lags behind because of her laziness and preferring comfort and an easy life. She drank from the river of excuses and thus has them in abundance.

* O you who offer excuse not to obey Allâh and conduct *Da'wah*, who will offer you excuses on the Day when Allâh questions you. Look at your sister in Islam who worships Allâh in the middle of the night, while people are asleep. She frequently plants and collects the abundant harvest of various seeds of righteousness that will help her on the path to the Hereafter. She hopes that she is included in this *Āyah*:

﴿ وَمَنْ أَرَادَ الْآخِرَةَ وَسَعَىٰ لَهَا سَعْيَهَا وَهُوَ مُؤْمِنٌ فَأُولَٰئِكَ كَانَ سَعْيُهُمْ مَشْكُورًا ﴾ [الإسراء: ١٩]

“And whoever desires the Hereafter and strives for it, with the necessary effort due for it (i.e. does righteous deeds of Allâh’s obedience) while he is a believer (in the Oneness of Allâh — Islâmic Monotheism) — then such are the ones whose striving shall be appreciated, (thanked and rewarded by Allâh).” (17:19)

* This is a call to the Muslim sister who has not planted a seed of righteousness yet. Here you are spending precious time in your life without benefiting your Hereafter. Use the seeds of righteousness offered to you in this book, might that Allâh accept your good deeds from you, even on account of one seed that you plant for His Cause. We ask Allâh to grant you dedication and good intention, so that you become a crown on the upper most part of this

Ummah (the Muslim Nation). We ask Allâh to grant you the cover of *Taqwa* (piety and fear from Him) and bring delight to your eyes when you see the flag of Islam raised as high as it should be.

Conclusion

- * Allâh said:

﴿مَثَلُ الَّذِينَ يُنْفِقُونَ أَمْوَالَهُمْ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ كَمَثَلِ حَبَّةٍ أَنْبَتَتْ سَبْعَ سَنَابِلٍ فِي كُلِّ سَبْلَةٍ مِائَةٌ حَبًّا وَاللَّهُ يُضْعِفُ لِمَنْ يَشَاءُ وَاللَّهُ وَاسِعٌ عَلِيمٌ﴾

[البقرة: ٢٦١]

“The likeness of those who spend their wealth in the way of Allâh, is as the likeness of a grain (of corn); it grows seven ears, and each ear has a hundred grains. Allâh gives manifold increase to whom He wills. And Allâh is All-Sufficient for His creatures’ needs, All-Knower.” (2:261)

- * The Messenger of Allâh ﷺ said:

«بادِرُوا بِالْأَعْمَالِ سَبْعًا، هَلْ تَنْتَظِرُونَ إِلَّا فَقْرًا مُنْسِيًا، أَوْ غِنًى مُطْغِيًا، أَوْ مَرَضًا مُفْسِدًا، أَوْ هَرَمًا مُفْنِدًا، أَوْ مَوْتًا مُجْهِزًا، أَوْ الدَّجَالَ فَشَرُّ غَائِبٍ يُنْتَظَرُ، أَوْ السَّاعَةَ فَالسَّاعَةُ أَدْهَى وَأَمْرٌ».

“Rush to perform good deeds before the coming of seven; do not await poverty that brings forgetfulness, or wealth that brings pride, or illness that brings weakness, or old age that brings feebleness, or death that brings demise, or the False Messiah, and he is the worst awaited absentee, or the Hour, and the Hour is truly more horrible and bitter.” (*At-Tirmidhi*)

- * Shaikh Al-Islam Ibn Taimiyyah said:

“Repentance is not only from committing sins, as many ignorant people think; they cannot see repentance except only from committing evil immoral deeds. Rather, repenting from abandoning performing necessary righteous deeds, is more important than repenting from committing prohibited evil actions.”

غراس السنابل

(باللغة الإنجليزية)

In this book, we collected nearly two hundred Seeds of Righteousness, green and fruitful, for Muslim women to sow and reap. These Seeds were sown by Muslim sisters who took care of them until they grew to produce various fruits and benefits. These are also good examples of da'wah to Allâh that should be practiced by Muslim women, who strive hard to acquire safety on their path to the Hereafter. This is a call to the Muslim sister who has not planted a Seed of Righteousness yet. Use the Seeds of Righteousness offered to you in this book, might that Allâh accept your good deeds from you.



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