

# Fatal Calculation

Dahlia Iman

**S**lough the dead skin of sin. Allah says, "You counted it a little thing while it was very great in the sight of Allah." (An-Nur: 15) Some Companions said, as reported by Anas, "You are doing deeds which you view to be finer than a hair, but we, in the days of the Prophet used to consider them as major sins." (narrated by Bukhari)

Viewing sins as little things has adverse effects:

**1** The sins multiply in the sight of Allah.

**2** The path of repentance becomes distant, since he does not anymore feel a need for it. It is the one who realises its severity, adheres to making *istighfar* (asking Allah for forgiveness) and regretfully seeks repentance from Allah who has his sin erased.

**3** He is drawn to individuals similarly engrossed. This alone is among the major factors behind a person's deviation. Moreover, it results in him avoiding the gatherings where Allah is remembered. As a result, opportunities that would otherwise help him remain steadfast on good deeds are missed.

**4** The sin becomes a hard habit to break. Even if the sins are minor, they gather around a person leading him to devastation, as Allah's Messenger warned. Abdullah bin Mas'ud said, "Beware of viewing the sins as little for they gather upon a person till he is devastated and Allah's Messenger has coined a similitude for it as a group of people stopped in a desert and the cook among them arrived. So a person would go and bring one stick, and another one would go and bring one stick till they gathered

many of them, lit a fire and brought to ripeness all that they have thrown in it." (narrated by Ahmad)

In a time when faith in God is many times considered a weakness, *iman* may seem like a fantasy at best, an albatross at worst. The line between right and wrong is deliberately blurred, redrawn and blurred again.

Allah guides those who perform good deeds. And the more we do, the more guidance we receive. Likewise, evil doing feeds on itself. Ibn-ul-Qayyim said, "This is because Allah likes good deeds and rewards on them, and abhors evil deeds, and punishes for them." Scholars have taken this truth and crafted the rule, "Recompense is according to deeds."

Allah says in the Quran, "And recite to them (Oh, Muhammad) the story of the one to whom We gave our verses (signs), but he turned them away, so Syaitan followed him up, and he became of those who went astray. Had he willed We would surely have elevated him therewith but he clung to the earth and followed his own vain desires. So his description is the that of a dog; if you drive him away, he lolls his tongue out, or if you leave him alone, he (still) lolls his tongue out." (surah Al-A'raf: 175-176)

The verse tells us that some even have knowledge, but instead of applying it, they choose to follow their whims and worldly desires. In the end they lose their blessing and stray from Allah.

As the core of all actions, *iman* is the motivation necessary for a Muslim to accomplish whatever needed to lead a good life. Allah's Messenger pointed out, "... three (factors), whoever has them will find the sweetness of *iman*: that Allah and His Messenger are more beloved to him than



A young man poses during a march for the decriminalisation of cannabis in Santiago May 17, 2009. Picture: AFP

any thing else, that he loves a person solely for the sake of Allah, and that he hates to revert to disbelieve, as he hates being thrown into hellfire." (Bukhari and Muslim)

In another hadith, Allah's Messenger said, "(He has) experienced the taste of *iman*, who is contented that Allah as his Lord (*Rabb*), Islam as his religion and Muhammad as a Prophet." (narrated by Muslim)

When *iman* and Islamic knowledge are deeply rooted into a person's heart, there remains very small possibility for him to turn away from the path of righteousness.

"The seizing of *amanah* (trustworthiness) and *iman* (which has been reported in the authentic hadith) is not the seizing of knowledge," Ibn-Taymiyyah said, "For it is known that a person may be bequeathed with *iman* even though he lacks knowledge. An *iman* like this one could be snatched from his heart -

like the *iman* of Bani-Israel after they saw the calf."

"If one is bequeathed with Quran alone or *iman* alone, *iman* can be seized and this is the reality. The most to revert from Islam are those who recite Quran, without understanding or *iman*, or those who possess *iman* without knowledge and Quran. But as for the one who has acquired Quran and *iman*, and hence obtained knowledge, for this one, *iman* is never seized from his heart and Allah knows best." (Majmou'a al-Fatawa 18/305).

The mere memorisation of the Quran and concepts does not mean one has acquired knowledge, especially since the Quran is read by the

*munafiq* (hypocrite), the *Mu'min* (believer) and the illiterate.

Al-Hasan Al-Basri said, "Knowledge is of two types; knowledge in the heart and knowledge on the tongue. So knowledge in the heart is the useful one while knowledge on the tongue is Allah's argument against His servants."

Seeking Islamic knowledge saves thoughts from turning to desires and sins because there is no spare time. He will be so engrossed in the pleasure of acquiring knowledge such that the chance of him looking for activities that may weaken his *iman* or cause him to deviate will be minimum.

Al-Jumu'ah

**Allah says,**  
"We gave our verses, but he turned them away, so Syaitan followed him up, and he became of those who went astray."

## Islamia Quiz

1. In which surah (and verse) of the Quran does Allah reveal the event of *Isra' Mi'raj*?

2. Who were the Prophets that the Messenger of Allah Muhammad met in his heavenward journey of *Mi'raj*?

1. Surah Al-Isra' or Bani Israil verse 1  
2. Nabi Adam, Yahya, 'Isa, Yusuf, Idris, Harun, Musa, and Ibrahim (peace be upon them all)

ANSWERS

## Books

**W**hat do coffee beans, torpedoes, surgical scalpels, arches, and observatories all have in common? Were Leonardo Da Vinci's flight ideas original? Who devised the casing for pill capsules and where did Fibonacci learn to flex his mathematical fingers? All these answers can be found here in "1001 Inventions: Muslim Heritage in Our World", written in an accessible style for those with limited knowledge of either Islam or history. A golden age of civilisation,



from 600 to 1600 CE, will unfold, because medieval Muslims were trailblazers in fields as diverse as medicine and mechanics, cartography and chemistry, education and engineering, architecture and astronomy. No area was too obscure to miss the scrutiny of enquiry backed up by rigid scientific experimentation.

**A** Day with The Prophet

by Ahmad Von Denffer, a leading German Muslim, is a theme and excellent rendition into a complete guide for anyone who would like to know about a day in the life of the Blessed Messenger of Allah, may peace and blessing be upon him. A selection of *ahadith* that apply directly to one's daily routine.

