

Attributes of the slaves of the Rahman – 3 - Staying up at nights in Worship.

We are still living with the slaves of the Rahman. With the image painted by Allah may He be exalted to show us a model of those who are contented with Allah and Allah is contented with them.

In ayah 63 of Surat Furkan Allah says: {And the slaves of the Most Beneficent (Allâh) are those who walk on earth in humility or modesty, and when the ignorant people address them (with bad words) they reply back with words of Peace.}

Allah starts telling us about the state of those slaves with them selves. They have the attributes of humility and humbleness, not proud and not cocky. Allah told us about their state with other people. The state of who does not indulge with those who ignorant and arrogant. He said that their reply is "Salam", when they are addressed by the ignorant and the arrogant people.

Their state with their Lord gets clearer in the middle of the night. When other people are sleeping deeply, Or staying up the nights in fun and forgetfulness, Allah describes his slaves as: {they spend their nights to their Lord kneeling and standing}. Kneeling, means placing their foreheads that never goes down to anyone, it goes down on the ground to Allah. Allah says: Look at my slave coming back to me, in hope in what I have, and in fear of I have, until his blood debilitate.

Wanting Allah's reward, and Fear of Allah's punishment. That's what's keeping him off his bed at night.

Another man in a battle, who sees his fellow fighters retreating, hand he realized what is in it for him to retreat and what is in it for him if he returns and faces the enemy of Allah. And he des, and his blood debilitate and he dies. Allah is amazed with him, and he boasts with him to his angels. Both men are in strive for Allah (Jihad).

God fearing people are described by Allah: {Those who fear Allah are in gardens and springs. They take what Allah has brought to them. They in previous times were the kind and charitable. They used to only sleep a small part of the night. And just before dawn they used to ask for forgiveness}.

They always feel they are not doing Allah justice, not doing enough for Allah or feel they are doing less than they should. And consequently ask Allah for forgiveness from such short coming on their behalf.

Some of our ancestors used to stay up the night and just before dawn say to Allah: My Lord, the likes of me is so ashamed to ask you to deliver me to paradise. So, all I ask is with the grace of your mercy just to deliver me safe from hell fire. They do not think they are good enough to ask for paradise. Those were the people who had the fear from Allah punishment and the hope in Allah's reward.

There are those who stay up the night in obedience to Allah. There are those who spend the night sleeping till the morning. And there are those who stay up the night in amusement and fun. And when the time of dawn gets nearer they go to sleep and are only up at late morning or noon. There are those who spend their nights in sin and lust, and in fear of no one, and in no shame of what he does from anyone. And there are those who spend the night in crime, and in conspiracies, in bad and cause pain and hurt to people. There are those who have nothing to worry about, their day is just food and drink, and their night fun and sleep.

3a-asha described the messenger PPBU: "He used to stay up the night until his feet crack" in another report she said until his feet swell up. And she would say to him: "Why do you do this despite that Allah has forgiven your sins, past and future." And he replies: "Wouldn't I be a thankful slave!"

3a-asha was asked about the strangest thing she saw of the messenger PPBU. She said: One night he said to her: tonight let me worship my God. She replied, I like staying close to you and I like what makes you happy. She said he got up, did a tahara wash, and then started praying. And he started crying. He cried so much that his knees got wet. And he sat down and kept on crying till he got his beard wet. Then he cried till the ground got wet. And Belal walked in to make athan for Fajr prayer. When he saw him crying he said: "Messenger of Allah, do you cry when all your sins are forgiven past and future?" He replied "Wouldn't I be a thankful slave! For tonight one verse was brought down upon me. Condemned are those who read it and not think about it. {indeed, in the creation of the heavens and earth are signs for those who can think and analyse.}

That's the way the messenger and his companions were at night. They got ready to stay up nights; some were not happy staying up half the night, or two thirds of the night. The Messenger PPBU used to deter them from staying up all night. He always recommended balance in all matters. For it is

the sunnah and the recommendation to stay up part of the night and not the entire night.

The messenger PPBU said: the most liked prayers to Allah is David's prayers, and the most liked fast to Allah is David's fasting. He used to sleep half the night, and stays up one third of it, and sleeps one sixth the night. Meaning sleeps the last part of the night so he will get up with some freshness and activeness.

The messenger PPBU also said: {The best prayer after the obligatory prayers is the prayer in the deep part of the night.}. It was reported that Allah may He be exalted, descends down to his slaves and brings his glory on to them in the last third of the night. And He calls them: any one asking for anything, I will answer him. Anyone asking for forgiveness, I will forgive them? Anyone with any request, and they will be given their demand? Etc., etc., until dawn appears.

Those who can not stay up the night, or half the night, or one third, or sixth of the night, at least make sure you do Isahaa prayers in group. And the dawn prayers in a group. The messenger PPBU said: {This who does Eshaa prayer in a group, it is like he stayed up half the night. And this who does dawn prayer in a group, it is like he stayed up all night.}. Anyone who can not do that, well, at least let him be certain to do his prayers on time. The messenger PPBU was told of a man who slept his night till the morning. He said: {that is a man that Satan had urinated in his ear.}. And there are so many who made their ears be places for Satan to urinate in.

It was reported that the messenger PPBU said: {Satan places three knots on the back of your head- when one goes to sleep- On each knot he has the message, "The night is so long, go sleep"}. If one awakes, and utters the name of Allah, one of the knots is undone. And if one does a wadoo another knot is undone. And if one prays all the knots are undone and he becomes full of energy and of a good soul. Or else, he remains of a bad soul and full of laziness.

With the Satan knots still remain on his head. And that's why the messenger PPBU said: {untie the Satan's knots with a prayer of mere two rak3a}

Abdulla ebn Salam said when the messenger PPBU came to Mdinah people hurried up to him and I was amongst them. When I looked into his face real well, I realized that is not a deceitful or lying face. And the first of his words that I hear was what he said: {people, exchange the call for peace between

you, feed others, keep contact with your family and kin, do prayers at night when people are asleep, you shall be entered into paradise with peace}

We ask Allah to make us among those who enter paradise with peace.