



Quranic & Prophetic Nurturing Program

Surah An Noor – Class 12

Date: 04 October 2018 / 24 Muharram 1440



Value of Thinking Good

Introduction

- Anyone who thinks good of Allah (ﷻ) will have all goodness. Sometimes we go through a decree or a command is ordained upon us and we think 'why is this happening to me?'.
• If we went through something difficult in life or are still going through it, then how do we solve it? With a 'master key'. There's no everlasting problem but we need to think good of Allah (ﷻ) and the solution will come.
• Many people say they get cured when they 'think positively' and this means we get sick when we think negatively.

What is the meaning of thinking good (حسن الظن)?

- It means to choose the side of good over the side of evil (ترجيح جانب الخير على جانب الشر), a person puts more weight towards the good than bad. Imagine if you're told someone will come over at 5pm and they don't show up, what do you think? Or you get stuck in traffic? Or you enter the masjid and the children are running while the mother is sitting and not doing anything? Or sometimes you're in a rush and a slow car is right in front of you? Or someone is serving food on a nice tray and they pass over you? Or you're told you're going to have an exam?
• Doubts (الشك): the negative is more than the positive. Doubt is not acceptable in the faith.
• Assumption (والظن): between negative and positive.
• Illusion (والوهم): something that's not real.

(الظن) in the Quran

Surah An Noor 12: (لَوْلَا إِذْ سَمِعْتُمُوهُ ظَنَّ الْمُؤْمِنُونَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتُ بِأَنْفُسِهِمْ خَيْرًا وَقَالُوا هَذَا إِفْكٌ مُّبِينٌ) (Why then, did not the believers, men and women, when you heard it (the slander), think good of their own people and say: "This (charge) is an obvious lie ?")

- The believer's attitude is to think good of the believers. If a person tells you about something about a person you know which you've never seen in them, then you should think good of Allah (ﷻ) and the person. If we don't see anything bad then we shouldn't think bad.
- We can't go into the intentions of the people because this is only for Allah (ﷻ).

Surah Al Hujurat 12: (يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اجْتَنِبُوا كَثِيرًا مِّنَ الظَّنِّ إِنَّ بَعْضَ الظَّنِّ إِثْمٌ وَلَا تَجَسَّسُوا وَلَا يَغْتَب بَّعْضُكُم بَعْضًا أَتُحِبُّونَ أَنْ يَتَقَبَّلَ اللَّهُ مَن يَكْفُرْ أَتُحِبُّونَ أَنْ يَكْفُرَ اللَّهُ بِكُم إِنَّ اللَّهَ تَوَّابٌ رَّحِيمٌ) (O you who believe! Avoid much suspicion; indeed some suspicions are sins. And spy not, neither backbite one another. Would one of you like to eat the flesh of his dead brother? You would hate it (so hate backbiting) . And fear Allah. Verily, Allah is the One Who forgives and accepts repentance, Most Merciful.)

- Thinking bad is a master key which will lead to spying and backbiting. Some thinking bad is sinful and at the same time some suspicion is good because someone who's a criminal or displaying strange behavior or jumping over a wall then a person will be suspicious as protection. Nevertheless, one should avoid most suspicion. A person can't be suspicious of everyone and at the same time can't be totally careless.

(الظن) in the Sunnah

Hadith: (إِيَّاكُمْ وَالظَّنَّ، فَإِنَّ الظَّنَّ أَكْذَبُ الْحَدِيثِ، وَلَا تَحَسَّسُوا، وَلَا تَجَسَّسُوا، وَلَا تَحَاسَدُوا، وَلَا تَدَابَرُوا، وَلَا تَبَاغَضُوا، وَكُونُوا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ إِخْوَانًا) (Allah's Messenger (ﷺ) said, 'Beware of suspicion, for it is the worst of false tales and don't look for the other's faults and don't spy and don't hate each other, and don't desert (cut your relations with) one another O Allah's slaves, be brothers!') - Sahih al-Bukhari 6724

- When people hate each other then it begins with thinking bad, then looking around, then spying, then being jealous, then giving one's back, then hating.

Hadith: (عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ، قَالَ قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ " لَا يَفْرَكُ مُؤْمِنٌ مُؤْمِنَةً إِنْ كَرِهَ مِنْهَا خُلُقًا رَضِيَ مِنْهَا آخَرَ) (Abu Huraira (Allah be pleased with him) reported Allah's Messenger (ﷺ) as saying: A believing man should not hate a believing woman; if he dislikes one of her characteristics, he will be pleased with another.) - Sahih Muslim 1468

- If a husband hates his wife then what should he do? Remember all the good that's been done. We need to be more observant of the good than bad and be more sensitive to the good than bad.
- A person wants to make an 'account' of good memories, an 'account' of family, an 'account' of friends because surely the shaitan wants to spoil our good relationships so we need to withdraw the good memories from these accounts.



Sayings of the Righteous Predecessors

- **Don't think bad if you can't find an exit to the good:** a person doesn't need to over-think matters but just remove it.
- **Whoever knows goodness of a person and a person hasn't seen it then he shouldn't listen to what others say.** We shouldn't judge according to other people's eyes.
- **Allah (ﷻ) made it obligatory to think good of the believers forever.** Bad behavior comes as a result of thinking bad.

Examples of Thinking Bad

- **Thinking bad: don't talk about it.** If a person has any suspicions then he shouldn't speak of it.
- **When a person has envy then he shouldn't do bad towards the person he envies.** Thinking bad of Allah (ﷻ) brings forth jealousy because they're jealous of what others have.
- **Don't be superstitious:** there are those who think if they laugh then they'll cry or if they trip on their wedding day then it'll be a bad marriage, or if they want to travel but get into an accident then they'll cancel it. We have a white picture in front of us but we want everyone to look at the black dot, subhan Allah.

Types of (الظن)

- Saving and protection: for example a person sees certain behavior in her child that has changed and her friend has recently changed so the mother doesn't allow her to go out. Such doubts are good.

Benefits of thinking good (فوائد حسن الظن):

- Sign of complete faith (علامة على كمال الإيمان). Thinking good makes one life quieter.
- Closes the door of evil and fitna (اغلاق باب الفتنة والشر). In life there can be many slips and traps so it's important to think good and positively.
- Increases love between the people (زيادة الالفة والمحبة). When there's any hate between the people then it's because there's thinking bad. The shaitan especially wants to put doubts between husband and wife.
- Guards society from spreading mischief and rumors (يحمي المجتمع). All of us are part of a society and we can be a lantern in society when we think good.
- Indicator of a pure and transparent heart (سلامة القلب وطهارة النفس)

Whom we should think good of



- Allah (ﷻ)
- Our leaders, rulers, and anyone in charge. Anyone who's below should think good of the one above.
- Think good of those who are close to you and are good
- Think good between husband and wife

Obstacles to thinking good

- Living in a society where everyone thinks bad
- The way a person was raised. If a person grew up with a mother or father who were always thinking bad then he will think bad.
- Ignorance
- Befriending evil companions
- Envy and jealousy

How to think good of Allah (ﷻ)

- Make dua to Allah (ﷻ)
- Follow the Sunnah
- Good upbringing
- Increase in faith
- Give benefit of the doubt
- Give excuses to the people
- Judge according to what's apparent

May Allah (ﷻ) make us think good of Him and others. Ameen.