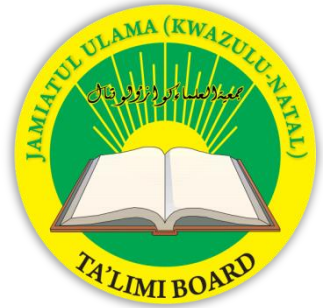




Al Maktab



Tarbiyyat Series

Issue 3 - April 2025

THINKING GOOD OF OTHERS

ظُنُّوا بِالْمُؤْمِنِينَ
خَيْرًا

Thinking good of others is a great Sunnah of Rasulullah ﷺ. When we think good of others, Allah Ta'ala becomes happy with us, and people also begin to love us.

On the other hand, thinking bad of people is a serious sin which causes many problems. Allah Ta'ala warns us in the Qur-aan- Kareem:

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اجْتَنِبُوا كَثِيرًا مِّنَ الظَّنِّ إِنَّ بَعْضَ الظَّنِّ إِثْمٌ

“O you who believe, stay away from having bad thoughts of people. Some thoughts are sins.”

When Shaytaan wants to create disunity and problems, he poisons the minds of people with doubts, suspicions and bad thoughts. As a result, friends end-up becoming enemies.

Evil/ Bad thoughts lead to other major sins such as spying, backbiting and slander. Sometimes we are jealous of someone or we hate them, so we start having bad thoughts about them. It does not stop here. We then make every effort to look for their faults (spying) and speak to others about their wrongs (backbiting). If we don't find anything, we start making-up stories (slander) and begin to falsely accuse them.

All these are major sins for which severe warnings have been given.

Sufyaan Sauri (rahmatullahi alayh) was one of the famous Imaams of Hadith and Fiqh. He mentioned that once he was deprived of reading Tahajjud Salaah for five months. When someone asked him as to the reason for this, he said that on one occasion, he saw a person crying and

thought to himself that this man was pretending. As a result of this bad thought, he suffered this great loss. Imagine the effects of a bad thought! Yet we say bad things about others all the time, without thinking anything of it.

How Can We Stop Thinking Bad of People

- Look for the good in others, not their faults! Every person has some good in them which we can bring into our lives. This is an easy way to remain happy.
- Make an excuse to protect the respect of your muslim brother! It has been said, "Find for your fellow Muslim seventy excuses before you accuse him of anything." [i.e. Try your best to cover-up the faults for your Muslim brother. Don't be quick and jump to conclusions.]

Here are some Examples we can Relate To.

Example 1:

You see someone eating in the month of Ramadhaan when he is supposed to be fasting.

Bad thought: "Look at this sinful person. He is not upholding the pillars of Islam."

Good thought: "Maybe this person is very ill and due to medication, he is unable to fast. Let me make dua for him."

Example 2:

You knock at a door but nobody answers.

Bad thought: "Look at these people. They ignoring me. Looks like they don't want to let me come in."

Good thought: "They must be busy and didn't hear me knocking."

Remember: There is always a good thought we can have instead of a bad one!

Treat others with respect! Treat yourself with suspect!

If we look into our own lives, we will find so many wrongs which Allah Ta'ala has concealed from others. How nice it would be if we can hide the faults of others!

On the day of Qiyaamah, Allah Ta'ala will not ask us about other people's private lives, but He will definitely ask us about our own life. Having bad thoughts about others will make our life miserable and restless. Instead of correcting our mistakes and doing good deeds, all our energy will be used in running others down.

We don't have much time! The angel of death could come at any time to take our soul. Let us be wise and prepare before it's too late.