

Today inshaAllah we will study:

4. The fiqh of reflecting upon the blessings of Allah

Meaning, reflecting upon the blessings of Allah the Exalted.

Every one of us has at least once thought about the blessings of Allah.

Some fortunate people remember and realize the blessings of Allah very frequently, so they show gratitude to Him.

Some people do not see the blessings of Allah.

The purpose of studying the topic is so that we develop the ability to see the blessings of Allah and be grateful for them.

Here we will see verses in which Allah has mentioned some of His blessings.

Every single blessing we enjoy: whatever it may be, is from Allah and we could never count them all.

Allah the Exalted has said:

أَلَمْ تَرَوْ أَنَّ اللَّهَ سَخَّرَ لَكُمْ مَا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ وَأَسْبَغَ عَلَيْكُمْ نِعَمَهُ ظَاهِرَةً وَبِإِطْنَاءٍ وَمِنَ النَّاسِ مَنْ يُجَادِلُ فِي اللَّهِ بِغَيْرِ عِلْمٍ وَلَا هُدًى وَلَا كِتَابٍ مُّنِيبٍ

Do you not see [meaning, have you not reflected?] that Allah has made subject to you whatever is in the heavens and whatever is in the earth and amply bestowed upon you His favors, [both] apparent and unapparent? But of the people is he who disputes about Allah without knowledge or guidance or an enlightening Book [from Him]. [Surat Luqmān: 20]

- one is to nadhara: To look with the eye. And ra'y: is to see with baseerah: perceive, realize, understand, reflect over. And this is a very common expression in the Quran. We are invited to not just look with the eyes, but to pay attention and feel, realize, understand.
- What we see with attention directly affects the heart.
- asbagha: amply bestowed, many
- blessings are both dhaahirah: visible to us, we see with our eyes, and others are baatinah: hidden
- Some blessings are visible to the eye, and others are not. They are hidden, or intangible. What we say, 'a blessing in disguise'. Some times hidden blessings are things which are before us but we dont notice them, we see them as a source of pain, but in reality they are a blessing.

- There are people who dispute about Allah without any evidence. Who are they? They are those who do not see the blessings of Allah. So the moment they are hurt by something they complain and argue: why is it like this, why did Allah command this? why did this have to happen? There are people who object to the commands of Allah, because they only see the immediate benefit of something, and do not look beyond what is immediate. Allah the Exalted knows what's best for us in the immediate and in the long run also. So He commands us with what is best for us. He is Merciful. We only see things with our limited knowledge and vision and then we don't understand something and we go on objecting.
- Such people are lost themselves and also lead others astray.
- Especially when something happens in our life that is against our wishes and desires, or we have to abide by some restrictions we feel resentful, and then argue, sometimes in our hearts. Some people start criticizing Allah: His existence: who is He, is He even there? what is in His power? what does He do? So we should really think about ourselves: Have we truly acknowledged and understood the blessings of Allah? Have we recognized them? Have we been grateful to Allah for them?
- There are blessings we used to remember, but then we forget about them over time

And Allah the Exalted has also said:

اللَّهُ الَّذِي خَلَقَ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ وَأَنْزَلَ مِنَ السَّمَاءِ مَاءً فَأَخْرَجَ بِهِ مِنَ الشَّمَرَاتِ رِزْقًا لَكُمْ وَسَخَّرَ لَكُمُ الْفُلْكَ لِتَجْرِي  
 فِي الْبَحْرِ بِأَمْرِهِ وَسَخَّرَ لَكُمُ الْأَنْهَارَ  
 وَسَخَّرَ لَكُمُ الشَّمْسَ وَالْقَمَرَ دَائِبَيْنِ وَسَخَّرَ لَكُمُ اللَّيْلَ وَالنَّهَارَ  
 وَآتَكُمْ مِنْ كُلِّ مَا سَأَلْتُمُوهُ وَإِنْ تَعْدُوا نِعْمَتَ اللَّهِ لَا تُنْهَا هَا إِنَّ الْإِنْسَانَ لَظَلُومٌ كُفَّارٌ

It is Allah who created the heavens and the earth and sent down rain from the sky and produced thereby some fruits as provision for you and subjected for you the ships to sail through the sea by His command and subjected for you the rivers.

And He subjected for you the sun and the moon, continuous [in orbit], and subjected for you the night and the day.

And He gave you from all you asked of Him. And if you should count the favor of Allah, you could not enumerate them. Indeed, mankind is [generally] most unjust and ungrateful. [Surat Ibrahim: 32-34]

- Here, from the sky to the earth, many blessings are mentioned: the sky, the rain, the vegetation, rivers, sun and moon, night and day... basically

- He has fulfilled every need of yours. the summary is: Which and how many blessings could you count? you could never enumerate them.
- The human being is: dhaloom and kaffaar: extremely, greatly dhalim: unfair and ungrateful.
  - sakkara: He has made everything in such a way that you derive benefit from it. For example: there are many planets and stars out there, the light of the sun reaches other planets as well, but the duration of day on Earth and the heat and warmth etc. that reaches it from the sun is such that the Earth is liveable for us. we can rest, sleep, work, live. IF all the planets were such that the day would be 6 months long and the night 6 months, how difficult life would be? Allah (Swt) has kept perfect balance for us.
  - He gave you everything you asked for: One way to ask is through 'qawl': to ask with words. Another way is to ask through 'haal': through ones state and condition. For example, the thirst in our mouth is a need, and demands water. So Allah has provided us water. So all the needs we have, Allah the Exalted has fulfilled them.
  - sakkara: subjected for you: so that it is liveable, rain and all other blessings are 'musakkhar': so that we can live. But we dont even view these things as blessings.
  - People wake up in the morning, go about their day, working, and dont even think about all the blessings they are enjoying: the rest in the night, the work in the day... when a person begins to lose these blessings with old age, then he realizes these blessings. But there are many who even at this time do not realize the blessings, they instead cry and whine about their condition. So we all need to realize Allah's blessings.
  - Here ships are also mentioned: so much transportation is through ships: so how many blessings we obtain through this transportation. Everything does not grow everywhere. There are things that grow in different parts of the world and we obtain them when they are transported through ships to us.
  - This reflection brings too benefits:
    - Firstly, a person uses the blessings correctly, he enjoys them. For example, if a person is surrounded by trees and he does not even see them, he is deprived, he is not enjoying them.
    - Secondly, a persons Iman increases and strengthens. And our deeds depend on our Iman. Our actions improve with the improvement of Iman.

- Sometimes a blessing is right next to us, but we dont notice it and so we dont benefit from it. So He invites us to see the blessings so we are grateful to Him and also we enjoy and use the blessings.
- Gratitude is that the blessing is used, and it is used in the way that the Giver wants us to use it.
- The sister counted at least 50 ingredients that she had consumed in one day: we can really not count the blessings we enjoy!
- The person who counts his blessings is the one who is grateful for them. The one who sees the blessings of Allah is not ungrateful. His heart is always filled with gratitude, and this realization that Allah has given me a lot.

And Allah the Exalted has also said:

وَمَا بِكُمْ مِنْ نِعْمَةٍ فَمِنَ اللَّهِ ثُمَّ إِذَا مَسَكْمُ الْضُرُّ فَإِلَيْهِ تُحَارُونَ

And whatever you have of favor - it is from Allah . Then when adversity touches you, to Him you cry for help. [Surat Nahl: 53]

- Everything you have is from Allah, He gave it all to you.
- In good times you should remember Him just as well as you remember Him in difficulty.
- When someone gives us something we feel happy in our heart. Even if its something small: for example you go from here and someone offers you something small to eat. Even if you dont eat it, you feel happy because of that kind gesture. If in one day many people offer you many gifts, how would be your day? Or if you have some needs and all of them get fulfilled one by one, you would like a king... but why dont we feel thankful towards Allah, when every moment He is fulfilling every need of yours. When you wake up, youre able to open your eyes, walk to the bathroom, wash up, pray, eat, get ready: IF you keep feeling grateful: Alhamdulillah Allah enabled this, and this and this... how happy and pleasant we would be?
- But in these blessings, there are also tests: some adversity, but then what happens to us? Immediately, ‘fa idhaa’ we complain: why did this happen?
- To be happy with Allah in a time of pain: This is something special.
- Reflect on the verse again
- In blessings: we are happy / unhappy, and when there is difficulty we definitely complain.
- Imagine if theres a person whom you are being very good to, and they are perfectly fine, but then when something goes wrong they come

running to you complaining... children do this, generally they are okay, but then when theres a fight they come to you crying.

- A believer is grateful even in hardship, so hardship also becomes a blessing for him.

And Allah the Exalted has also said:

يَا بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ اذْكُرُوا نِعْمَتِي الَّتِي أَنْعَمْتُ عَلَيْكُمْ وَأَوْفُوا بِعَهْدِكُمْ وَإِبَायِ فَارْهِبُونَ

O Children of Israel, remember My favor which I have bestowed upon you and fulfill My covenant [upon you] that I will fulfill your covenant [from Me], and be afraid of [only] Me. [Surat al-Baqarah: 40]

- AS a nation, the bani Israel are reminded of their blessings: that were both worldly and religious. Especially Allah (swt) chose them, gave them preference. So they are asked to fulfill their duty to Allah, and fear Him.
- So when Allah chooses a person for His deen, then that servant should remember that blessing and fulfill his commitment to Allah.
- Some blessings Allah gives like that, other blessings you earn as a reward by being grateful to Allah.

And Allah the Exalted has also said:

هُوَ الَّذِي بَعَثَ فِي الْأُمَمِ رَسُولًا مِّنْهُمْ يَتْلُو عَلَيْهِمْ آيَاتِهِ وَيُزَكِّيهِمْ وَيَعْلَمُهُمُ الْكِتَابَ وَالْحِكْمَةَ وَإِنْ كَانُوا مِنْ قَبْلُ لَفِي  
ضَلَالٍ مُّبِينٍ

It is He who has sent among the unlettered a Messenger from themselves reciting to them His verses and purifying them and teaching them the Book and wisdom - although they were before in clear error - [Surat Al-Jumu`ah: 2]

- So first, the blessing on bani israel is mentioned, and here in this verse the blessing that was given to us is mentioned
- The nation that the Prophet (s) was sent to were unlettered, they had many good characteristics but did not have ilm. So Allah chose one of them to be their Prophet, and gave him knowledge, the Book.
- So one of the biggest favours for an unlettered person is that he is taught knowledge. So Allah gave knowledge to him (s) and he enlightened his entire nation.
- A tangent: some times we have a lot of worldly knowledge, but when it comes to religious knowledge we are unlettered: we dont know how to read the Qur'an or its translation correctly. Then there are people who dont have worldly or religious knowledge.
- So the blessing of guidance is a huge blessing.

- So if you are learning to read the Quran, its meaning, the wisdom of the Prophet (s), you are being purified then this is a HUGE favour of Allah that must be valued!
- If we learn all the sciences of the world, and dont know the ilm of deen, and then we dont even know what Allah wants from us, then what have we gained in life?

And Allah the Exalted has also said:

الْيَوْمَ أَكْمَلْتُ لَكُمْ دِينَكُمْ وَأَنْعَمْتُ عَلَيْكُمْ نِعْمَتِي وَرَضِيتُ لَكُمُ الْإِسْلَامَ دِينًا

This day I have perfected for you your religion and completed My favor upon you and have approved for you Islam as religion. [Surat Al-Mā''idah: 3]

- in the previous ayah: the components are mentioned: the Kitab, its tilawah, the hikmah, tazkiyah - and here the blessing of Islam is mentioned as a whole.

And Allah the Exalted has also said:

سَلِّنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ كَمْ آتَيْنَاهُمْ مِنْ آيَةٍ بَيِّنَةٍ وَمَنْ يُبَدِّلْ نِعْمَةَ اللَّهِ مِنْ بَعْدِ مَا جَاءَهُ فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ شَدِيدُ الْعِقَابِ

Ask the Children of Israel how many a sign of evidence We have given them. And whoever exchanges the favor of Allah [for disbelief] after it has come to him - then indeed, Allah is severe in penalty. [Surat Al-Baqarah: 211]

- These aayaat (signs) are also a blessing
- So if a person does not use the blessings correctly or is not grateful for them, then Allah is severe in punishment.

And Allah the Exalted has also said:

أَلَمْ تَرَ إِلَى الَّذِينَ بَدَّلُوا نِعْمَتَ اللَّهِ كُفُرًا وَأَحْلَلُوا قَوْمَهُمْ دَارَ الْبَوَارِ  
جَهَنَّمَ يَصْلُونَهَا وَبِئْسَ الْقُرْبَارُ

Have you not considered those who exchanged the favor of Allah for disbelief and settled their people [in] the home of ruin?  
[It is] Hell, which they will [enter to] burn, and wretched is the settlement.  
[Ibrahim: 28, 29]

- Meaning, Allah gave them the blessing of deen and guidance, but by kufr they didn't show gratitude. So such people (the leaders) were astray and also lead others astray, so they will end up in severe punishment.

- So not recognizing the blessings of Allah, and not being grateful for them is a source of ruin and destruction for a person. Ingratitude leads to ruin.
- Availability of knowledge is so easy. Knowledge is so accessible to us, yet we don't realize.

And Allah the Exalted has also said:

وَاللَّهُ جَعَلَ لَكُم مِّنْ أَنفُسِكُمْ أَزْوَاجًا وَجَعَلَ لَكُم مِّنْ أَزْوَاجِكُمْ بَيْنَ وَحْدَةً وَرِزْقًا كُم مِّنَ الطَّيِّبَاتِ أَفَإِلَيْهِنَا طَالِبٌ يُؤْمِنُونَ  
وَيَنْعَمُ اللَّهُ هُمْ يَكْفُرُونَ

And Allah has made for you from yourselves mates and has made for you from your mates sons and grandchildren and has provided for you from the good things. Then in falsehood do they believe and in the favor of Allah they disbelieve? [Surat An-Nahl: 72]

- Another blessing is mentioned here: spouses who are of your kind: human. And then from them children and then grandchildren. No man or woman can have children individually. But when a person forgets the blessing they have obtained through their spouse and only remembers the difficulty they have received, then a person is depriving himself.
- If your spouse has hurt you, you have also gained children through them! So if you overlook this, neither can you bond properly with your spouse nor can you be grateful for the blessing Allah has given you.
- Do you believe in falsehood? Some people literally believe that they have children because of some false deity...
- So we ask Allah to make us grateful servants.
- The sister mentioned: alhuda in our city is also a blessing. So let us show gratitude for this blessing: bring at least one person with you for Fiqhulqulooob class.