

Hadith 7

The Text:

عَنْ أَبِي رُقَيْةَ تَمِيمِ بْنِ أَوْسِ الدَّارِيِّ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ
أَنَّ النَّبِيَّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ قَالَ: الدِّينُ النَّصِيحَةُ قُلْنَا
لِمَنْ؟ قَالَ: لِلَّهِ وَلِكِتَابِهِ وَلِرَسُولِهِ وَلِأئِمَّةِ الْمُسْلِمِينَ
وَعَامَّتِهِمْ - رَوَاهُ مُسْلِمٌ.

On the authority of Tamim Al-Dari that the Prophet, ﷺ, said:

"Religion is *nasihah*." We said: "To whom?" The Prophet, ﷺ, said: "To Allah and His Book, and His messenger, and to the leaders of the Muslims and their common folk."

[Muslim]

Lessons from this Hadith

Nasihah to Allah

The *nasihah* should be to Allah first. This includes the fulfillment of the obligations in the best way possible (Ihsan). This should be the goal for every Muslim. This also includes striving to get as close to Allah as possible by doing not only the obligations but also the preferable good deeds, by forbidding the forbidden and avoiding the disliked acts.

Nasihah to Allah also involves:

- believing in Allah and denying any partners with Him.
- believing in His attributes.
- obeying Him.
- fulfilling His commands and abstaining from what He has forbidden.
- doing what is best to remember Him, under all circumstances.
- loving whatever He loves and hating whatever He hates, be it objects, persons, actions, sayings, etc.
- recognizing the blessings He has bestowed upon us and properly thanking Him for these blessings.

To do *nasihah* to Allah one should have the correct intention in one's heart to fulfill the rights of Allah, even when one is excused and it is beyond one's ability to perform these obligations. Sometimes a person may not be able to perform an obligation but at least he has good intentions in his heart to fulfill it in the first place.

The actions of the heart (i.e. to have hope in Allah's mercy, to trust Him, to fear Him and to seek refuge in Him), and the actions of the limbs (prayers, Zakah, etc.) also fall under *nasihah* to Allah.

Honesty is also another aspect of this great concept. In whatever we do we should always be honest with Allah, similarly with *ikhlas* (sincerity). In fact *ikhlas* should be the first thing that a Muslim should attain when we talk about *nasihah* to Allah.



Nasihah to His Book

This includes:

- Believing that the Qur'an is from Allah, that it is the Word of Allah and that it is not like the word of man.
- According to one's ability, to read and recite the Qur'an and to practice it.
- To study its admonitions, lessons and parables.
- Calling others to believe in the Qur'an.
- To defend and protect it from any kind of distortion or misinterpretation.
- Defending the Qur'an against false claims made against it.
- Having proper respect and treating the Qur'an in a proper manner - e.g. to be careful not to throw away a piece of paper which has an *ayat* printed on it (magazine article, etc.) as it may be stepped on - we should also be aware if we see such a piece of paper on the ground to pick it up and keep it away safely or destroy it by burning it so that it is not subject to disrespect.



Nasihah to His Messenger

This includes:

- Believing the Prophet's, ﷺ, message.
- Believing in all that he brought as being divinely inspired.
- Loving him more than we love ourselves and our families - it is the second level of love after the love of Allah.
- Our love for him should lead to other obligations like obeying him.
- Helping him and defending him (for those who were alive during his time) - defending his honour and respecting his status.
- For the people who came after the Prophet's, ﷺ, life, we should respect and love his Sunnah which is an implication of loving him.
- To say "ﷺ" whenever his name is mentioned.
- To accept his Sunnah as a scale by which we judge things, actions and sayings.
- To accept him as the true leader and only human's final word with respect to the religion - he is the only true human authority and everyone else's statements/opinions come after his.
- To love those who love him and hate those who hate him.
- Reviving his Sunnah by learning, understanding, teaching and spreading it. However, when we call people to the Sunnah - as advised by Imam Ahmad - we should do it in a nice and proper way and not to end up fighting about it. One problem today is that many Muslims are unaware of the Sunnah and the status of the Sunnah - so one of the things we should do is to make these people love the Sunnah, and we should not do so in an aggressive or confrontational way as this might lead to the people being confused, offensive and rejecting the Sunnah.

There are so many *bid'ah* being practiced today and the way to remove *bid'ah* amongst the people is to revive the Sunnah (The Salaf said: "Bid'ah only arises when the Sunnah is not known or practiced."). To revive the Sunnah, we should not start with the condemnation of *bid'ah* but rather with the introduction/presentation of the Sunnah. We have to set good role models of those who love, and follow the Sunnah and we should teach others in a nice, proper way so that others too can understand, love and appreciate the Sunnah. Then they will use the Sunnah as a scale to judge things. Slowly, insha Allah, *bid'ah* will be reduced and minimized.

When we try to educate people about the Sunnah, we should be careful not to confuse them by focusing on minor issues. Sunnan can be broken into different levels and we should start from the highest level. We should not teach people about the lower levels (details) when they haven't been taught the higher levels (basic concepts). We should let the people understand and love the higher level Sunnan first before we go step by step into the lower levels, slowly covering more details. This, insha Allah, will lead to the revival of the Sunnah.

- To love both his family and his companions. Most Islamic sects love one or the other and not both. There are some deviated Islamic sects who are propagating their false beliefs by creating doubts about the Sahabahs (Companions) with the intention of making people hate them. This will lead to the rejection of the Sunnah. Some sects only believe the Sunnah that comes through their imams, e.g. the Shi'ah. We should be aware of the sources of narrations about the Sahabah as some of these narrations are false and may create doubts.
- To love those who follow, defend and strive to revive the Sunnah of the Prophet, ﷺ.



Nasihah to the Muslim Leaders

The word 'leader' stands for both '*ulama* and those in authority (at all levels). *Nasihah* should be given to all leaders, no matter how high or what the ranking is. No one is above the law in Islam and no one is above needing advice. *Nasihah* is for the benefit of anyone who is in authority. This means that a ruler, leader or scholar should be the first to accept sincere advice.

Making *nasihah* to Muslim leaders should include:

- Helping them in whatever is good or beneficial.
- Obeying them in what is right.
- Reminding them if they should err or forget.
- Being patient with them if they do things which we dislike - we try to do the *nasihah* and at the same time we tolerate the leader because otherwise it may lead to instability in the Muslim community.
- Making *jihad* with them and not revolting against their proper authority.
- One should pray for their guidance and piety.
- Choosing the right way, manner and channel in advising them. The Scholars say giving *nasihah* to leaders should be done according to certain rules:
 - i. One must have good intentions (*ikhlas*).
 - ii. It should be done mildly, calling on them with respect.
 - iii. Avoiding harshness and not to embarrass them - our aim is to advise and correct them and not to show off.
 - iv. Not to divulge or inform others about their wrong-doings as this may lead to more problems in the society.
 - v. Give the *nasihah* privately and not publicly.
- If one is asked by the leader to do a *maksiyah* or something which contradicts with Shariah, one shouldn't obey. However, we should disobey in a nice/assertive manner and not in an aggressive

way because our aim is to remind them that this is wrong so that they will change and not ask us to do the *maksiyah*.

- For the Scholars, our *nasihah* is seeking knowledge from them.
- We obey them if their opinion is based on sound proof and evidence.
- Not to seek or point out their mistakes. There are some people who search for the mistakes of Scholars - we shouldn't do this because Scholars are pious people and this act may cause Allah to be displeased with us. It may also create chaos in the community.
- Not to follow them blindly.



Nasihah to the Common Folk of the Muslims

This includes:

- To observe the rights of other Muslims - fulfilling our obligations towards other Muslims. These obligations differ depending on the group of Muslims (e.g. our parents, children, relatives, neighbours, etc.) - e.g. greeting them, visiting them when they are sick, making *du'a* for them, giving advice if they ask for it, praying *salat ul janazah* for the one who dies, etc.
- To observe the concept of *wala'* which means:
 - i. to love every Muslim.
 - ii. to care for all Muslims.
 - iii. to help other Muslims.
 - iv. to defend/protect other Muslims .

If you do not love, you will not care. If you do not care, you will not help. If you do not help, you will not protect.

The reason why so many Muslims today do not care or help others is because there is something wrong with the *wala'* aspect of love. We should have love for other Muslims, especially those who are suffering, so we will care and help them. The Scholars say one way to help and the least we can do is to make *du'a* (pray for them).

There is a counter concept to *al-wala'* which is *al-bara* or disassociation with (for the purpose of leading others from doing evil). However we should not do it:

- v. for our own interest.
- vi. if it will not lead the other person to change his ways - we should not start with disassociation, we should start with giving advice and educating.

We should show love and concern and give *nasihah* in the proper way. If all else fails, then we can use the concept of disassociation (if it will lead to the person changing).

- The Prophet, ﷺ, said that "he is a real Muslim if he is the one who the other Muslims are saved from his tongue and his hand" - the true Muslim is one who will not harm others verbally or physically, in any way or by any means.

- Having mercy for the young and showing respect to the elders - it is part of glorifying Allah that we respect the elder Muslims.
 - Sacrificing one's time, effort, money, etc. for the betterment of the Muslim community.
 - i. If we are the ones in authority, then we should act sincerely towards the rest of the Muslims and do whatever is in their best interest. We should give *nasihah* to the people by, e.g. doing what is best for the ummah, defending the community, putting the right and qualified people in the right position and job. Any kind of leadership or authority, whatever the level or rank, is responsible for the people being lead - e.g. supervisors, managers, teachers, principles, etc.
-

Conclusion

From exploring all the obligations mentioned above, we can see that *nasihah* encompasses everything in Islam, Iman and Ihsan.

Vocabulary

Define the following words insha'Allah.

Nasihah	
leader	
common	
ikhlas	
al-wala	
al-bara	
lhsan	

Word Scramble

Unscramble the words below:

1. aaablr _____

2. aeerdl _____

3. isalkh _____

4. ahhsnai _____

5. laaawl _____

6. oommnc _____

7. nshia _____

Comprehension Check

1. Who is the narrator of this hadith?
 - a. Tamim Al-Dari
 - b. Abu 'Ubaidullah
 - c. Amir bin at-Tufail
 - d. Aisha bint Abu Bakr as-Siddiq

2. In this hadith we learned that nasihah includes nasihah to five things and/or people. What and who are these 5 things and people?
 - a. Nasihah to Allah, nasihah to His Book, nasihah to our family and nasihah to our friends.
 - b. Nasihah to Allah, nasihah to His Book, nasihah to His Messengers and nasihah to the leaders of the Muslims.
 - c. Nasihah to Allah, nasihah to His Book, nasihah to His Messenger ﷺ, nasihah to the Muslim leaders, nasihah to the common folk of the Muslim.
 - d. Nasihah to Allah, nasihah to His Book, nasihah to His Messenger ﷺ, nasihah to the common folk of the Muslim.

3. List 4 things that nasihah to Allah include:
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - d. _____

4. To do nasihah to Allah, a person should have the correct _____.
 - a. Knowledge
 - b. Age
 - c. Niyyah (intention)
 - d. Love of Allah

- c. Avoiding harshness and not to embarrass them - our aim is to advise and correct them and not to show off.
- d. Not to divulge or inform others about their wrong-doings as this may lead to more problems in the society.
- e. Give the nasihah privately and not publicly.

8. Nasihah to the common folk among the Muslims includes sacrificing one's time, _____, and money for the betterment of the Muslim community.

- a. Food
- b. Energy
- c. Health
- d. None of the above

9. If a person will not change his bad ways, we should not associate with the person (if it will lead to him/her changing) only if:

- a. The person is not interested in changing
- b. The person tells us to leave him/her alone
- c. All of our nasihah did not work
- d. All of the above

Memorization

Fill in the blanks insha'Allah.

Several words are missing from the hadith. Use the word bank to fill in the blanks insha'Allah.

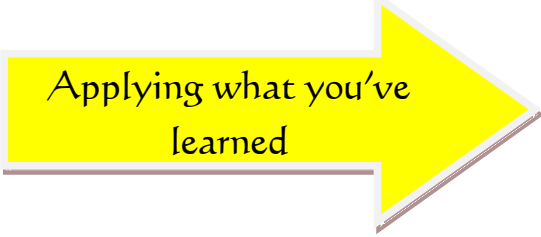
Word Bank

	Tamim	Religion	Book	leaders	
		folk			

On the authority of _____ Al-Dari that the Prophet, ﷺ, said:

"_____ is *nasihah*." We said: "To whom?" The Prophet, ﷺ, said: "To Allah and His _____, and His messenger, and to the _____ of the Muslims and their common _____."

[Muslim]



Applying what you've
learned

One of the things that nasihah to Allah involves is loving whatever He loves and hating whatever He hates, which includes objects, persons, actions, sayings, etc. Many Muslims today love the people who play sports. They learn as much about sports figures as they can. They memorize facts about the person's life, about their performance in a certain sport, etc. Many times (if not always) these sports figures are not Muslim and they associate others with Allah or deny Allah's existence and Lordship. Write a dialogue between you and another Muslim who loves a non-Muslim sports figure and give him/her nasihah to Allah. Use another sheet of paper if needed insha'Allah.

Sports Figure loving Muslim: Man! I did you see so and so play last night? He's awesome! I love that guy! He's the best!

You: _____

Sports Figure loving Muslim: _____

You: _____



Personal Reflection

The following comes from a thread on [Multaga ahl al-Hadeeth](#). Read what follows and ask, "Do I do that?" "Is that me?" Be honest with yourself. Write 3 journal entries about how you can change for the better. Include ways you think you can change your behaviour insha'Allah. Discuss why you think and/or feel this way (if it applies to you). If these things do not apply to you say Alhamdulillah and write 3 journal entries about why you think some Muslims think, feel and behave this way. Include things you think they can do to change insha'Allah.

Command:

Allah says in the Quran: " Say, if you indeed love Allah then follow me (i.e. Messenger of Allah; Muhammad - صلى الله عليه وسلم)

The Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) said: "None of you shall believe until I become most dearer and most beloved to him than anything else"

Tongues: I love Allah & His Messenger

Contradiction: I do not want to do it and you cannot impose it on us since it is just Sunnah!! I do not get sin for not doing it.

Command:

Allah says: "Let women remain at their homes"

The Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) said: "let women take the sides of the roads when they are out and not to mix with men in [the] streets."

Tongues: I love Allah & His Messenger

Contradiction: Malls and Shopping centres are full of women 24/7. Large percentage of workers and careers seekers are females. Large percentages of those who attend Universities are females although they are mixed since education is important to them as they say.

Command:

Allah says: " Muhammad and those who are with him, firm against the disbelievers and [are] humble and merciful toward the believers"

The Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) said: The Muslim is the one who guard his Muslim fellows from his tongue and hand"

Tongue: Assalam Alykom Wa rahamtu Allah Wa barakatoh

Contradiction: Backbiting, slandering, oppressing, cheating, cursing and abusive tongues and etc.

Activities

Cryptogram # 1 (Easy)

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
24	3	11	17	19	5	25	4	16	22	23	10	6	14	13	2	26	15	12	20	8	21	1	9	7	18

12 20 8 17 7 20 4 19 24 17 6 13 14 16 20 16 13 14 12

10 19 12 12 13 14 12 24 14 17 2 24 15 24 3 10 19 12 16 14

20 4 19 26 8 15 24 14

Cryptogram # 2 (Difficult)

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
24				19				16						13						8					

___ U ___ ___ E A ___ O ___ I ___ I O ___ ,
 12 20 8 17 7 20 4 19 24 17 6 13 14 16 20 16 13 14 12

___ E ___ O ___ A ___ ___ A ___ A ___ E ___ I ___
 10 19 12 12 13 14 12 24 14 17 2 24 15 24 3 10 19 12 16 14

___ E ___ U ___ A ___ .
 20 4 19 26 8 15 24 14

Word Ladders



How to play insha'Allah:

You are given a **start word** and an **end word** that are of the same length. To win the game you must change the start word into the end word progressively. Each new word you make must be an actual real word at each step. You cannot use proper nouns (i.e. a person's name, the name of a place, etc.). To do this you can do one of the following things on each step insha'Allah:

1. Add a letter
2. Remove a letter
3. Change a letter

The letters cannot be interchanged among themselves (i.e. you cannot simply scramble the letters of the word to make a new word). Each letter must keep its place. Each new word can only be different from the word before it by one letter.

Example: Make door into lock in 3 steps.

DOOR

Boor

Book

Look

LOCK

Part of nasihah to Allah is **loving** whatever He loves and **hating** whatever He hates, be it objects, persons, actions, sayings, etc.

Make **love** into **hate** in 2 steps.

LOVE

HATE

When giving nasihah to the Muslim rulers we must do it with a **good** intention and be **mild** with them and show them respect.

Make good into mild in 2 steps insha'Allah.

GOOD

MILD

Answer key to activities for Hadith 7 insha'Alah

For parent/teacher use insha'Allah.

Word Scramble

Answer Key

1. aaablr is albara.
2. aeerdl is leader.
3. isalkh is ikhlas.
4. ahhsnai is nasihah.
5. laaawl is alwala.
6. oommnc is common.
7. nshla is Ihsan.

CRYPTOGRAM Answer Key

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
24	3	11	17	19	5	25	4	16	22	23	10	6	14	13	2	26	15	12	20	8	21	1	9	7	18

S T U D Y T H E A D M O N I T I O N S ,
12 20 8 17 7 20 4 19 24 17 6 13 14 16 20 16 13 14 12

L E S S O N S A N D P A R A B L E S I N
10 19 12 12 13 14 12 24 14 17 2 24 15 24 3 10 19 12 16 14

T H E Q U R A N .

Word Ladder Solutions

LOVE

Hove

Have

HATE

GOOD

Mood

Mold

MILD