

# Forty Narrations

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

# Introduction

It was reported in a weak narration that the Prophet, may the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, said

Whosoever memorises and preserves for my community forty hadith concerning matters of this religion, Allah will resurrect him on the Day of Judgment as a jurist and religious scholar.

In the version of Abu al-Darda, it reads

On the Day of Judgment I shall be an intercessor and a witness for him

and in the version of Ibn Mas'ud, it reads

It will be said to him: Enter the Garden (paradise) by whichever gate you wish.

This was the reason why many of the classical scholars of Islam including an-Nawawi, Ibn al-Mubarak, al-Nasai, al-Daraqutni, al-Hakim, al-Baihaqi, and Shah Wali Allah ad-Dehlavi compiled forty narrations of the prophet, may the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him. This document is also a compilation of forty narrations of the prophet, may the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, chosen for the sake of their brevity, conciseness and relevance to every day life.

1

الأَعْمَالُ بِالنِّيَّةِ

Actions are (judged) by intentions.

2

المُسْتَشَارُ مُؤْتَمَنٌ

The one who is consulted is under trust.

3

الدَّالُّ عَلَى الْخَيْرِ كَفَاعِلِهِ

The one who guides to a good deed is just like the one who does the good deed (in reward).

4

اتَّقُوا النَّارَ وَلَوْ يَشِقُّ تَمْرَةً

Protect yourself from the fire, even if by a small part of a date.

## 5

الدُّنْيَا سِجْنُ الْمُؤْمِنِ وَ جَنَّةُ الْكَافِرِ

This world is a prison for a believer and paradise for an unbeliever.

## 6

لَا يَحِلُّ لِمُؤْمِنٍ أَنْ يَهْجُرَ أَخَاهُ فَوْقَ ثَلَاثَةِ أَيَّامٍ

It is not lawful for a believer to abandon his brother for more than three days.

## 7

لَيْسَ مِنَّا مَنْ غَشَّنَا

The one who cheats us is not from among us.

## 8

مَا قَلَّ وَ كَفَى خَيْرٌ مِّمَّا كَثُرَ وَ أَلْهَى

What is little (in provisions) and sufficient is better than what is abundant but distracting.

## 9

الرَّاجِعُ فِي هَبْتِهِ كَالرَّاجِعِ فِي قَيْئِهِ

The one who takes back his gift is like the one who takes back his vomit.

## 10

الْبَلَاءُ مُوَكَّلٌ بِالْمَنْطِقِ

Afflictions are a result of (excessive, uncontrolled) speech.

## 11

الْغِنَى غِنَى النَّفْسِ

The rich is the one whose soul is rich.

## 12

السَّعِيدُ مَنْ وَّعِظَ بِغَيْرِهِ

The blissful one is the one who takes lessons from (the actions of) others.

## 13

الْمَرْءُ مَعَ مَنْ أَحَبَّ

A person will be with whom he loves (in the afterlife).

14

مَا هَلَكَ أَمْرٌ وَعَرَفَ قَدْرَهُ

Never was a person ruined who knew his worth.

15

لَا يَشْكُرُ اللَّهُ مَنْ لَا يَشْكُرُ النَّاسَ

The one who does not thank people does not thank Allah.

16

التَّائِبُ مِنَ الذَّنْبِ كَمَنْ لَا ذَنْبَ لَهُ

The repentant from sin is like the one who had no sin.

17

إِذَا جَاءَكُمْ كَرِيمٌ قَوْمٍ فَأَكْرِمُوهُ

If the nobleman of a people comes to you, treat him with graciousness.

18

الْيَمِينُ الْفَاجِرَةُ تَدْعُ الدِّيَارَ الْبَلَّاقِعَ

The wicked (false) oath causes ruined homes.

## 19

مَنْ قُتِلَ دُونَ مَالِهِ فَهُوَ شَهِيدٌ

Whoever is killed defending his wealth, he is a martyr.

## 20

سَيِّدُ الْقَوْمِ خَادِمُهُمْ

The leader of a nation is their servant.

## 21

خَيْرُ الْأُمُورِ أَوْسَطُهَا

The best of matters is that which is moderate (of neither extremes).

## 22

اللَّهُمَّ بَارِكْ فِي أُمَّتِي فِي بُكُورِهَا يَوْمَ الْخَمِيسِ

O Allah, bless my nation when they rise early on Thursdays.

## 23

خَيْرُ الزَّادِ التَّقْوَى

The best provision is God-consciousness (*taqwa*).

24

الْمَجَالِسُ بِالْأَمَانَةِ

Meetings are under trust.

25

اسْتَعِينُوا عَلَى الْحَوَائِجِ بِالْكَتْمَنِ

Fulfill your needs discreetly.

26

لِيُسَلِّمَ الصَّغِيرُ عَلَى الْكَبِيرِ، وَالْمَارُّ عَلَى الْقَاعِدِ، وَالْقَلِيلُ عَلَى الْكَثِيرِ

The young (must) give the (greetings of) salaam to the elders, and the ones walking to the ones sitting, and the smaller group to the larger group.

27

لَا يَدْخُلُ الْجَنَّةَ قَاطِعٌ

The one who cuts off (relations) will not enter paradise.

28

رَضِيَ اللَّهُ فِي رِضَى الْوَالِدَيْنِ، وَسَخَطَ اللَّهُ فِي سَخَطِ الْوَالِدَيْنِ

The pleasing of Allah is in the pleasing of the parents and the anger of Allah is in the anger of the parents.

29

كُلُّ مَعْرُوفٍ صَدَقَةٌ

Every good (action) is a charity.

30

ازْهَدْ فِي الدُّنْيَا يُحِبَّكَ اللهُ، وَازْهَدْ فِيمَا عِنْدَ النَّاسِ يُحِبَّكَ النَّاسُ

Abstain from the (material) world, Allah will love you and abstain from the possessions of people, the people will love you.

31

مِنْ حُسْنِ إِسْلَامِ الْمَرْءِ تَرْكُهُ مَا لَا يَعْنِيهِ

From the beauty of a person's Islam is his leaving off what does not concern him.

32

طُوبَى لِمَنْ شَغَلَهُ عَيْبُهُ عَنْ عَيْبِ النَّاسِ

Glad tidings to the one who is busy with his own faults over the faults of the people.

33

العَجَلَةُ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ

Hastiness is from Satan.

34

إِيَّاكُمْ وَالظَّنَّ، فَإِنَّ الظَّنَّ أَكْذَبُ الْحَدِيثِ

Beware of suspicion for verily it is the most false of speech.

35

مَنْ يُرِدِ اللهُ بِهِ خَيْرًا يُفَقِّهْهُ فِي الدِّينِ

Whoever Allah wills good for is given understanding (and knowledge) of religion.

36

أَكْثَرُ مَا يُدْخِلُ الْجَنَّةَ تَقْوَى اللهِ وَحُسْنُ الْخُلُقِ

The most that enters into paradise is God-consciousness (*taqwa*) and beauty of character.

36

الْحَيَاءُ مِنَ الْإِيمَانِ

Modesty is from faith.

## 38

مَنْ رَدَّ عَنْ عَرَضِ أَخِيهِ بِالْغَيْبِ رَدَّ اللَّهُ عَنْ وَجْهِهِ النَّارَ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ

Whoever protects the honor of his brother (by not disclosing his sin), Allah will protect his face from the fire on the day of judgement.

## 39

الْبِرُّ حُسْنُ الْخُلُقِ، وَالْإِثْمُ مَا حَاكَ فِي صَدْرِكَ، وَكَرِهْتَ أَنْ يَطَّلِعَ عَلَيْهِ النَّاسُ

Virtue is good character, and vice is what troubles your consciousness and what you hate for people to see.

## 40

الصَّمْتُ حِكْمَةٌ، وَقَلِيلٌ فَاعِلُهُ

Silence is wisdom. And few are the ones that practice it.

## Chains of Narrations

Hadith 1 to 25 have been narrated by Shah Wali Allah Dehlavi in his book “Al-Arba'in”. This book is available in translation from Turath Publishing. Shah Wali Allah narrated these ahadith from his teacher with isnad all the way to Imam Hussein. The chain of narration for these ahadith is as follows:

Wali Allah said: Abu Tahir Al Madani said to me directly from his father ash-Shaykh Ibrahim al-Kurdi from Zayn al-Abidin from his father Abd al-Qadir from his grandfather Yahya from his grandfather al-Muhibb from his father's uncle Abul-Yaman from his father Shihab Ahmad from his father Radi ad-Din from Abul-Qasim from as-Sayyid Abu Muhammad from his father Abul-Hasan from his father Abu Talib from Abu Ali from Abul-Qasim from his father Abu Muhammad from his father al-Husayn from his father Jafar from his father Abd Allah from his father Zayn al-Abidin from his father al-Imam al-Husayn from his father Ali bin Abi Talib who reported from the Messenger of Allah.

Hadith 25 to 40 were obtained directly from Kitab Al-Jami' (the comprehensive book) from Bulugh Al-Maram of Hafidh Ibn Hajar Al Asqalani.