

Fruits for the Week

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7th Floor, 40 Oi Kwan Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong

E-mail: iuhk@netvigator.com

Tel: 2575 2218

Fax : 2834 5409

Website: <http://home.netvigator.com/~iuhk/>

The Niyyah (Intention)

In Islam, deciding our intentions before doing anything is extremely essential. Whether we will be rewarded or punished depends on our real intentions. Prophet Muhammad said: “ *The reward of deeds depends upon the intentions and every person will be rewarded according to what he has intended. If he emigrates for the sake of Allah and His messenger, then his emigration is for this purpose; and if he emigrates for a worldly benefit or for a woman to marry, his emigration will be for what he emigrated for.*” (Bukhari and Muslim).

As Allah is the most Gracious and Most Merciful, He rewards us according to our intentions and deeds, but He punishes us according to our deeds only. Prophet Muhammad said: “ *Allah has defined good and evil and has expounded their gradation. Therefore, one who makes up his mind to do a good deed, is rewarded by Allah for one full measure of it, and if he then proceeds to carry it out Allah rewards him from ten to seven hundred times and even many times more. He who is inclined towards an evil deed, but does not carry it out, is rewarded by Allah for one full measure of good deed. Should he carry it out he is debited only for one evil deed.*” (Bukhari and Muslim)

We should be very careful and be on alert lest we change our intentions from their good and straight courses. Sometimes, Satan deceives us and makes us change our intentions. We may start doing something merely for the sake of Allah and later on we do it for the sake of the people. Allah, in the Holy Qur'an says: “*He (Allah) knows what is in the heavens and on earth; and He knows what you conceal and what you reveal. Allah knows well what is in the hearts (of the people).*” (64:4).

We might deceive people by our good appearance or good way of talking, but we can not deceive Allah who scans our hearts and knows our thoughts. Prophet Muhammad said: “Allah does not go after your bodies and appearances, but He scans your hearts and watches over your deeds.” (Muslim). The feeling that Allah is watching over us makes the Muslim put Allah in his consideration whenever he decides to do anything. He will not lie, cheat, steal or do any injustice to anyone because Allah is watching over him. We should be very careful and firm in our intentions/deeds because our false intentions which we think may lead us to

paradise may lead us to Hell. Prophet Muhammad said: “ *The first of people against whom judgement will be pronounced on the day of Resurrection will be a man who has died as a martyr. He will be brought (before Allah) and Allah will make known to him His favours and he will recognize them. He (Allah) will say: ‘ And what did you do about them?’ He will say: ‘I fought for You until I died a martyr.’ He (Allah) will say: ‘You have lied, you fought that it might be said (of you): ‘He is a courageous.’ So it was said.’ Then he will be ordered to be dragged along with his face on the ground until he is cast into Hellfire. (Another) will be a man who has studied (religious) knowledge and taught it and who used to recite the Qur’an. He will be brought (before Allah) and Allah will make known to him His favours and he will recognize them. He (Allah) will say: ‘And what did you do about them?’ He will say: ‘I studied (religious) knowledge and I taught it and I recited the Qur’an for Your sake.’ He (Allah) will say: ‘You have lied, you studied (religious) knowledge that it might be said (of you): ‘He is a learned.’ And you recited the Qur’an that it might be said (of you): ‘He is a reciter.’ And so it was said.’ Then he will be ordered to be dragged along with his face on the ground until he is cast into Hellfire. (Another) will be a man whom Allah had made rich and to whom He had given all kinds of wealth. He will be brought (before) Allah and Allah will make known to him His favours and he will recognize them. He (Allah) will say: ‘And what did you do about them?’ He will say: ‘I left no path in which You like money to be spent without spending in it for Your sake.’ He (Allah) will say: ‘You have lied, you spent so that it might be said (of you): ‘He is a generous.’ And so it was said.’ Then he will be ordered to be dragged along with his face on the ground until he is cast into Hellfire.’”(Qudsi-Muslim)*

From the above mentioned verses of the Holy Qur'an and Hadiths, we can understand that we should make our intentions properly before doing any action. We should make sure that we perform our salats, we give our charity, we do our fasting, or we do anything else only for the sake of Allah alone and not for the sake of anybody or anything else. Wallahu A'lam.

Prepared by Br. Muhaemin