

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَنِ الرَّجِيمِ

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ كَمَا هُوَ أَهْلُ الْصَّلَاةِ وَالسَّلَامِ عَلَى سَيِّدِ الْعَبْدِ وَرَبِّ الْأَدَمِ كَمَا يُحِبُّ وَيُرْضِي إِنَّمَا يُصْلِلُ عَلَيْهِ

Allah Almighty, in Whose Name we begin, The Most Compassionate,

The Most Merciful

All Praise is due to Allah Almighty, Countless Peace and Blessings be upon
His Beloved Messenger – *may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him* – his family & his
companions – *may Allah be pleased with them all*

The Sisters of Hadrat Bishr Hafi

The following has been presented by Ibn Jouzi.

Hadrat Sayyiduna Abdullah bin Ahmed - *may Allah be pleased with him* - narrates that once someone knocked on their front door while he was with his blessed father, Hadrat Sayyiduna Imam Ahmed bin Hambal - *may Allah be pleased with him*. His father then asked him to go and see who it was.

He narrates, “When I opened the door, I saw that it was a female who was in full Pardah and when she saw me, she said, ‘O Abdullah! Please seek permission from Ahmed bin Hambal so that I may be able to see him.’

“I then approached my father and said to him that there was a female who sought permission to see him. He allowed me to call her inside. She made Salaam and then said, ‘O Abu Abdullah! I spin cotton at night using a lamp and when this lantern dies, I then

spin this cotton using the light of the moon. Is it necessary upon me to inform the people who purchase this cotton to explain under which light I had spun this cotton? Should I tell them that it was spun using the light of the lantern or it was spun using the light of moon?’

“My father, Hadrat Sayyiduna Imam Ahmed bin Hambal - *may Allah be pleased with him* - replied, ‘If you are able to differentiate between the two, then it is necessary to inform the people who are purchasing and it is also necessary that you should sell them separately.’

“She then continued to ask, ‘O Abu Abdullah! During immense illness and sickness, the cries and complaints of a person, will be it considered as complaints or mere involuntary sounds.’

“The great Imam replied, ‘I have hope that these are not sounds of complaints. However, the cries of a person during all difficulty and sadness certainly reaches Allah Almighty.’

“When this pious females had left, my father said to me, ‘O my beloved son! I have never met a person who has asked me such questions before. Go and see who this female is and where she stays.’

“As I walked behind this female, I noticed that she entered the house of Hadrat Sayyiduna Bishar Hafi - *may Allah be pleased with him* - and that she was one of his sisters.

“I then returned home and informed my father of who this female was. When he heard this, he replied, ‘It could have never been any other female besides the sister of Hadrat Sayyiduna Bishar Hafi - *may Allah be pleased with him*. There are no females more pious and nobler than them.’

“Hadrat Sayyiduna Abdullah bin Imam Ahmed bin Hambal - *may Allah be pleased with him* - also states that, ‘We have no idea whom among the three blessed sisters of the Hadrat Sayyiduna Bishar Hafi - *may Allah be pleased with him* - were more pious than the other. At the same time, we also did not know which of the three sisters was the one who approached us on that day.’

It is also mentioned that one of the sisters of the great Saint was older than him and when she passed away, he wept a lot. He is also reported to have stated after her passing, “I have read in certain books that when a person is lazy in making the Ibadah of Allah Almighty, then the Allah Almighty takes away his most beloved possession. This elder sister of mine was the most beloved member of my family and she has departed from me.” (Uyunul Hikaayah)

Hadrat Sayyiduna Abu Bakr Ahnaf - *may Allah be pleased with him* - narrates that Hadrat Sayyiduna Abdullah bin Imam Ahmed bin Hambal - *may Allah be pleased with him* – narrates:

“Once the sister of Hadrat Sayyiduna Bishar Hafir - *may Allah be pleased with him* - came to visit my father. She then asked him, ‘I had one quarter of a Dirham and I purchased some cotton and then sold it for half a Dirham. The cost of the food in the house is one part of this Dirham. However, once the Governor, ibn Taahir went past the house and he also had some lanterns with him. He spent some time speaking to a few people near our house. During this period and the because of the light which was available, I happened to spin a little cotton. After the Governor had left, I began to think that I certainly owed something for this cotton because I had it spun using the light coming from the Governor’s presence. When I thought about this, I became worried and this is the reason that I have approached you. What should I do with the money I make from this cotton?’

“My father replied, ‘Keep two parts of this money (in other words, the complete one quarter which was initially spent) and desist from any profit acquired. Allah Almighty will give you a better reward than this.’

“When this pious lady had departed, I asked my father, ‘If you had mentioned to her the profit acquired during the time the Governor’s light was available should be kept one side and the balance of the profit was permissible, what harm would it have caused?’

“My father replied, ‘The question presented by this female does not allow this. Are you aware who this female is?’

“I replied, ‘Yes, I know that she is the sister of the famous saint, Hadrat Sayyiduna Bishar Hafi - *may Allah be pleased with him*.’

“My father replied, ‘This is the reason that she came to ask such a question. Only the sister of Hadrat Sayyiduna Bishar Hafi - *may Allah be pleased with him* - can be expected to ask such questions.’

In another words, issues which are missed by ordinary Muslims are things which the great servants of Allah Almighty do not miss. Ordinary Muslims would have kept whatever profit they wanted without even thinking about it but the special servants of Allah Almighty are always aware that Allah Almighty is watching them and they have to answer for everything.