

In the name of Allah most gracious most Merciful

This Friday the talk is about some who did repent and their stories and the lessons learnt.

It was said that those with sins have three rivers in this life to cleanse themselves. If due to a large amount of their sins those rivers are not enough then they will be cleansed off their sins in the Hellfire in the life after.

Those three rivers are:

1. The river of Repentance.
2. The river of good deeds that weighs out sins.
3. The river of major calamities.

If Allah wanted goodness to servant of his, then Allah puts his servant into the way of one of those three rivers.

It was reported that the prophet said: "There was a man before your time; who killed 99 souls. He asked for the wisest one on earth. He found a preacher; He asked him if there was repentance for him after killing 99 souls. The preacher said "No". The man got so annoyed and killed the preacher thinking "So what difference killing one more will make!!" But; He still felt he wanted to repent. So, he sought out the wisest man till found him. He asked him: "I killed a hundred souls. Is there repentance for me?" The wise man said: "And what or who would come between you and repentance?" He went on saying: "Go to such and such land. There are people there who worship Allah. Join them in worshipping Allah and do not return to this evil land."

The man seeking repentance set off on his journey. Half way through journey he died. The angels of mercy and angels of punishment argued to whom the man's soul belonged. The

angel of mercy said: "The man came to Allah with a repentant heart". The angel of punishment said: "He never did a single good deed in his entire life."

A third angel in a human appearance came along and he was asked to look into their case. He said: "Measure the distance between the dead man and each of the two lands (the land of evil where he was coming from; and the land of good where was heading. And find out to which land is he closer". When the measuring was done, it was found that he was closer to the land he was seeking (the good land) by no more than an arm's length. So the angel of mercy received his soul.

In another version the story says that as he was dying he pushed his chest to protrude towards the land of good. And he was found to be that much closer. In another version the story states that Allah moved the good land closer and moved the evil land further out. How merciful Allah is?

Another scene of repentance:

A bandit used to rob travelers. One day he and his gang were about to rob people on some caravan when he heard someone saying: "By-pass this road and use that road going to that town because there is a robber called Al-fadeel ben Eyath (الفضيل بن عياض)". That caused Al-Fadeel to be shocked. Allah wanted to put some faith into his heart. For no slave will repent unless Allah wants him/her to repent.

Al-Fadeel replied "Have no fear for your safety. Pass through. In fact you are my guests tonight." He took them home, got them some food. Later on he heard someone reciting the Koran. He heard aya 16 in chapter "Al-Hadeed" that says: {Is it not about time to those who believe for their hearts to humble when Allah is mentioned and what was

descended of the righteousness}. Al-Fadeel said: "Yes, it is time to those who believe for their hearts to humble when Allah is mentioned." He eventually became a scholar who left all earthly life seeking Allah's forgiveness.

Ibrahim Ibn-Asha'ath (إبراهيم ابن الأشعث) said he heard Al-fadeel ben Eyath once talking to himself saying: "You have put an act and an appearance to people until they made you such a big thing; a righteous man, they get things done for you, giving you the finest of seats. What a failure and a disappointment. If this is your case, then you are such a loser."

Yes, a man can give a lot of advice but if he is tested he may not be sure he would follow what he preaches.

Prophet Muhammad (PPBU) said: "Allah becomes so happy when a slave of his repent. As happy as a man who was traveling alone in a desert and who went for a sleep. When he woke up he did not find his camel with all the water, food and all belongings. He went seeking it unsuccessfully until he was about to perish of thirst. He gave up and laid down knowing he is about to die. He fell asleep and when he woke up he opened his eyes to find his camel beside him. Out of delight, surprise and happiness he shouted: "Allah, you are my slave and I am your God."