

ALI 684/685

Lessons from Jami al-Sa'adat Part III

Joint Vices of the faculties
of Anger and Passion

Some points to note

- Waves of feelings and emotions in the faculties of the soul.
- Higher forms of worship are those that prevent troubling others.
- Aggressions of the tongue.

Joint Vices

- 1) Finding faults with others
- 2) Creating conflict and discord
- 3) Shamatah (Gloating)
- 4) Backbiting

1) Finding faults with others

Roots: Jealousy, pride, or hostility

Form: Looking at the negative side of people, searching for faults and exposing them

Results: Spread of animosity

Those who love that indecency should be spread among the believers theirs will be a painful chastisement in the present world and the world to come

Sura Nur, no.24, verse 19

The closest a servant of God can be to Kufr is when he befriends a brother in faith and then takes note of his faults so he can humiliate him at a certain time.

Imam al-Baqir (a)

Treatment

- The opposite of this vice is the virtue of overlooking the faults of others and spreading good about them.
- Understand that covering faults is a quality of the Almighty.
- Remember your own faults and seeking forgiveness for them

He who covers up [the faults of] a Muslim, God shall cover up his faults in this world and the next.

Holy Prophet (s)

2) Creating conflict and discord

Roots: Hostility, wanting to show love for the person being told, or just to make idle talk

Forms: Recounting to someone the derogatory remarks made about him by another individual.

Telling someone in power and authority something that another may have said or done against him, thus inciting him to the detriment of the victim

Results: Hostility between people

وَلَا تُطِيعُ كُلَّ حَلَّافٍ مَّهِينٍ هَمَّازٍ مَشَّاءٍ بِنَمِيمٍ
مَنَّاعٍ لِلْخَيْرِ مُعْتَدٍ أَثِيمٍ

Do not obey any contemptible swearer
to any slander-monger, tale bearer
hinderer of good, sinful transgressor

Sura al-Qalam, no.68, verses 10-12

Treatment

The opposite of this vice is to work to create good relations between people.

إِصْلَاحَ بَيْنِ النَّاسِ – reforming people's relations

The best charity is to reform relationships between people.

Holy Prophet (s)

3) Shamatah (Gloating)

Roots: usually caused by jealousy or enmity

Forms: attributing the misfortunes befalling someone to his unsavoury acts, delighting in his misfortunes, and blaming him for his misfortune

Results: Hurts the feelings of his brother in faith and is a cause for Divine anger.

Causes the person who engages in it to fall victim to the same misfortunes

Treatment

- Thinking about the evils of this vice
- Sympathizing with the victim and praying for them
- Realizing that misfortunes of others could be a sign of their closeness to Allah

4) Backbiting

Roots: Hatred, jealousy, wanting to be liked by others, wasting time in frivolities, self admiration, low self esteem, cowardice, pity for others or surprise and anger at their actions (conveyed wrongly)

Forms: saying something about an individual that he would not like, even if it is true.

Results: spreading of evil, increase in hostility

Listening to Backbiting

Show respect for the person being talked about;

- Counter it with the tongue
- Change the subject
- Move away
- Dislike it with the heart (at the very least)

Treatment

- Ponder over the evils of this vice
- Remember your own faults and be occupied with that
- Be cautious with speech

Kaffara for backbiting

- Dua and seeking forgiveness for them if the person has passed away.
- Dua and seeking forgiveness for them if telling them would increase enmity and bring about serious problems.
- Telling them and seeking their forgiveness if that is possible to do.