



باسمہ تعالیٰ

Protection from an Evil Society **Lessons from Nabi Loot ('alaihisa salaam)**

Time of the Year:

We are currently in that time of the year when the level of vice, sin, filth and shamelessness reaches its peak. Since, people are in a mood of fun, enjoyment, celebrating and partying, many wrongs and vices are committed, even by people who would normally not get involved in such acts. People generally feel it difficult to draw the balance between relaxing themselves and between protecting themselves and their families from the prevalent evils.

Nabi Loot ('alaihisa salaam):

In different parts of the Quraan Majeed, Allah Ta'ala highlights the incidents of various Ambiyaa ('alaihimsa salaam) as a means of lesson, guidance and inspiration for us. One of the Ambiyaa ('alaihimsa salaam) who's incident is often repeated is Nabi Loot ('alaihisa salaam). Apart from the many other lessons contained in his incident, one of the most outstanding aspects in his life was the manner in which he conducted himself in a society that had reached the lowest ebb of shamelessness (i.e. same gender relations).

There are many lessons from this aspect of his life that we can adopt and implement in order to save ourselves and our families from environments of evil and vice in general, and during this holiday period in particular.

Indecency and Shamelessness:

Nabi Loot ('alaihisa salaam) was sent to the people of the city of Sadoom. The people of that area were involved in various sins such as highway robbery, deceiving people, etc. However, they stood out for sins of shamelessness, indecency and lewdness. Their lack of shame and the level to which they were steeped in filth can be gauged by the fact that while sitting together, they would openly break wind in front of one another with no one even batting an eyelid. In essence, they were drowning in indecency, to the point where they were even filthier than animals.

From all the sins of indecency though, their worst sin was the sin of homosexuality. They were the very first people on earth to commit this sin. Allah Ta'ala mentions the following statement of Nabi Loot ('alaihisa salaam) to his people:

أَتَأْتُونَ الْفَاحِشَةَ مَا سَبَقَكُمْ بِهَا مِنْ أَحَدٍ مِنَ الْعَالَمِينَ

"Do you commit the shameful act in which nobody in the world has ever preceded you?"

The 'Ulama explain that Allah Ta'ala, in this verse, emphasizes the extent of their perversion by mentioning that they were the first people on earth to commit this act.

This Filth in our Society:

Although this is not directly linked to our topic, it is something that needs to be addressed as well.

There was a time when it was unimaginable that this shameless act would be committed in most Kuffaar societies, let alone Muslim communities. However, unfortunately, this scourge has taken root in Muslim homes – and in some cases prominent homes. There have been many reported incidents of this among Muslim boys and even Muslim girls. Due to the sensitivity of this topic, we will not expound further, however it is something that we, as parents, need to be cognisant of all the time and during the holiday period specifically. May Allah Ta'ala save us, our progenies and the entire Ummah from all filthy and indecent acts.

Threat and Challenge:

Nabi Loot ('alaihisa salaam) invited his people to bring imaan in Allah Ta'ala and urged them to abandon their filthy way of fulfilling their desires, yet his people did not respond. Despite his efforts, not even a single person from his people accepted his message or paid heed to his warnings. They even told him that if he did not desist from prohibiting them from doing what they wanted, they would expel him from the city.

لَئِنْ لَمْ تَنْتَهُ يَلُوطُ لَتَكُونَ مِنَ الْمُخْرَجِينَ

"If you do not desist, O Loot, you will definitely be among the expelled ones!"

Even worse than their threats was when they brazenly challenged Nabi Loot ('alaihi salaam) saying,

اِئْتِنَا بِعَذَابِ اللَّهِ إِنْ كُنْتَ مِنَ الصّٰدِقِیْنَ

“Bring upon us the punishment of Allah, if you are from the truthful.”

Disgusting the Wrong:

When the people did not take heed and threatened to expel Loot ('alaihi salaam), he proclaimed:

إِنِّی لِعَمَلِكُمْ مِنَ الْقَالِبِیْنَ

“Indeed I disgust your act.”

This statement of Nabi Loot ('alaihi salaam) explains two very important principles regarding our approach towards wrong practices and ways in general.

The first is that we must hate the *sin* and not the *sinner*. By doing so, we will not feel ourselves to be better than that person and we will make du'aa for him, while hating the act that he is involved in.

The second is that merely not being involved in a wrong is not enough. Rather, it is our duty to hate the wrong as well. Some people are not involved in shameless practices and celebrations themselves, but they do not disgust them either. This is wrong, since it is a demand of imaan that we disgust and hate these acts of shamelessness and wrong. If we do not have hatred for these sinful actions and celebrations, then it is even possible that after some time, one may fall into these wrongs based on the principle “If you can't beat them, join them”. This applies to every type of wrong – especially the various acts of shamelessness and vice that happen during this season.

Rasulullah (sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam) has mentioned,

« إِذَا عَمِلَتِ الْخَطِيئَةُ فِي الْأَرْضِ كَانَ مَنْ شَهِدَهَا فَكْرَهَا « وَقَالَ مَرَّةً « أَنْتُمْ كَمَا كَانَ كَمَنْ غَابَ عَنْهَا فَرَضِيهَا كَانَ كَمَنْ

شَهِدَهَا « . (« سنن أبي داود » ص ٥٩٧)

“When a sin is committed on earth, the one who happened to be present at that place but disgusted the wrong is counted as one who was not present, and the one who did not witness it but was pleased with that act is regarded as one who participated in the sin.”

Thus, hating and disgusting the shamelessness, vice and celebrations that take place at this part of the year specifically is absolutely essential in order to save us from falling into the wrong personally.

Desensitizing and Brainwashing:

An extremely important point for to understand is that the media and even the education system work hard to first desensitize us and thereafter brainwash us into accepting many sinful and filthy practices. Hence, wrong practices which was totally unimaginable a few years ago has become completely normal in our communities today. This is actually part of a broad plan which is used to deceive people and get them to accept and even practically become involved in things which are completely sinful and shameless.

We will be shocked to know that the school syllabus, which is even been taught in many Muslim schools, includes the teaching that we should not be “Homophobic”. With this indoctrination from an early age, it is no wonder that Muslim boys and girls are unfortunately getting involved in this unimaginable filthy act as touched on earlier.

Save Yourself and Your Family:

After expressing his disgust, Nabi Loot ('alaihi salaam) made the following du'aa:

رَبِّ نَجِّنِي وَأَهْلِي مِمَّا يَعْمَلُونَ

“My Rabb, save me and my family from what they do.”

This du'aa of Nabi Loot ('alaihi salaam) has a very powerful message, which is very applicable to the holiday period as well.

If a person is unable to have an impact on the greater society and change them, he needs to be concerned regarding his own imaani welfare and the imaani welfare of his family. He will have to also make a dedicated effort in this regard, since he is primarily responsible and answerable for himself and his own family. In order to secure this, a person will have to ensure that they receive the correct Islamic upbringing and education, they keep correct company, ta'leem is conducted regularly at home, internet access and phone usage is controlled or restricted.

While this is general for all times, it has greater relevance to the holiday period, since many young boys and girls, in the spirit of fun and enjoyment, get involved in such acts that scar them for life. Therefore, the responsibility of the parents increase during this season.¹

Together with making an effort on protecting ourselves and our families from vice, we will need to make regular du'aa for ourselves and for our families as well, as Nabi Loot ('alaihi salaam) did.

Angels as Guests:

Finally, Allah Ta'ala sent His angels, Jibreel, Mikaa-eel and Israafeel ('alahimus salaam), to Nabi Loot ('alaihi salaam) in the form of young, handsome lads. They arrived at the time of sunset and requested Nabi Loot ('alaihi salaam) to host them as his guests for the night. Nabi Loot ('alaihi salaam) did not realize that they were the angels of Allah Ta'ala. On seeing them, he became extremely anxious and worried as he feared that his people would take advantage of these handsome youngsters and abuse them.

The wife of Nabi Loot ('alaihi salaam) had not accepted his Deen and supported the wrong actions of the people. Hence, when Nabi Loot ('alaihi salaam) brought the guests home, she climbed onto a high place and waved a cloth to summon the people. Seeing her signal, they rushed to her home and asked her why she had summoned them. She then informed them of the handsome guests in the home of Nabi Loot ('alaihi salaam). When the people heard this, they were eager to lay their hands on these guests.

Nabi Loot ('alaihi salaam) began to plead with them to not disgrace him by interfering with his guests and harming them, but they were adamant and tried to open the door of his home. At that moment, the guests informed him that they were actually the angels of Allah Ta'ala, sent to punish his people. Jibreel ('alaihi salaam) then struck the faces of the people outside the door with the tip of his wing, rendering them blind.

Leaving the Town:

The angels then instructed Nabi Loot ('alaihi salaam) to depart with his family at the last portion of the night, and to refrain from turning back and looking at the punishment befalling the people behind them. They also told him to walk in the back, as a shepherd walks behind his flock. The Quraan Majeed states:

فَأَسْرِ بِأَهْلِكَ بِقِطْعٍ مِنَ اللَّيْلِ وَاتَّبِعْ أَدْبَارَهُمْ وَلَا يَلْتَفِتْ مِنْكُمْ أَحَدٌ وَامْضُوا حَيْثُ تُؤْمَرُونَ

Travel by night with your household, when a portion of the night remains, and follow behind them, and let no one among you look back, and continue on to where you are commanded.

Nabi Loot ('alaihi salaam) did as instructed, and when the sun rose, the punishment of Allah Ta'ala descended.

¹ Hazrat Moulana Yunus Patel (rahimahullah) gave the following advice in this regard (*adapted from tarbiyat program - 26/06/2008*):

1. Parents need to understand that we can't be too strict on the children during the holidays. Some freedom should be given to them. However, it shouldn't be such that we give so much freedom, that we allow them to go to discos, rave clubs and cinemas. Some parents put the TV on in the house, putting the suitable cartoon for the child. And the child spends hours in front of the television. The adverse effect of all of this will be experienced by the parents.
2. Adjust the times in our daily routine. Take out time for our children. Talk to them, joke with them and take them out to places to acquire halaal entertainment. But if we say: "No! Rather send them with their friends" etc. Then we should take lessons from around us. How much of correspondence we get where Muslim girls are having abortions and their parents don't know anything about it.
3. The world outside is extremely vicious. It's like someone going to Kruger National Park. If he steps out of the car, he will be devoured by a cheetah or lion. We can't change the world due to our limitations. But we can change ourselves and the environment of our homes. No government stops us from performing salaah. No government forces us to watch TV, movies or to don the dress of the kuffar.
4. We, as parents, need to know what is on our children's phones. Recently some boys were found watching haraam on their phones in the masjid.
5. I am not saying it is totally haraam to watch the waters of the ocean. But in these so called festive times we know what haraam takes place there. For those who want peace of mind and also want their children to grow up in a healthy environment, we shouldn't go to these places. Look for good things that they will be occupied in. Take them out for some halaal entertainment (where no laws of sharee'ah are broken and the environment is conducive).

Additionally, we should do the following:

1. Ensure that all members of the family perform their five daily salaah. Boys who are seven years of age and above should accompany the father to the masjid.
2. Everyone must start their day after fajr salaah with the recitation of Surah Yaaseen. Besides this, some portion of the Quraan Majeed must be recited daily.
3. Daily ta'leem of the fazaail kitaabs should take place in the home, even if just for 10 minutes.
4. Encourage the children to recite 100 times istighfaar and durood shareef daily.

Punishment:

Using the tip of his wing, Jibreel ('alaihis salaam) lifted all seven cities of these people, together with all the inhabitants and even their animals. He lifted them so high into the sky that the crowing of their roosters and the barking of their dogs could be heard by the angels. He then turned the entire cities upside down and dropped them to the earth. Thereafter, stones as hard as baked clay were rained on them continuously. Each stone was marked with the name of the person for whom it was intended. These stones even struck those inhabitants who were absent from the city at that time due to travelling, etc. The people were also punished by a loud shriek. Allah Ta'ala describes this in the Quraan Majeed in the following words:

فَأَخَذْتَهُمُ الصَّبْحَةَ مُشْرِقِينَ ﴿٤٤﴾ فَجَعَلْنَا عَالِيَهَا سَافِلَهَا وَأَمْطَرْنَا عَلَيْهِمْ حِجَارَةً مِّن سِجِّيلٍ

Then the shriek seized them in the morning, and We turned the cities upside down and rained on them stones as hard as baked clay.

The Wife of Nabi Loot ('alaihis salaam):

As for the wife of Nabi Loot ('alaihis salaam), according to one narration, she remained with the people and did not leave with Nabi Loot ('alaihis salaam). Allah Ta'ala says:

فَنَجَّيْنَاهُ وَأَهْلَهُ أَجْمَعِينَ ﴿٤٥﴾ إِلَّا عَجُوزًا فِي الْغَيْرِينَ

So we saved him and his family, all of them except an old woman among those who remained behind.

According to another narration, she left with him, but broke the command of Allah Ta'ala of not turning back. As soon as she heard the shriek, she turned and looked back, exclaiming, "My poor people!" Hence, a stone also struck her and killed her as punishment.

Hence, although she did not actively participate in the filthy practices of her people, she supported their wrong, to the extent where she even acted as an informant and alerted the people that there were guests in the home. She did this by lighting a fire at night and making smoke during the day. (Tafseerul Baghawi vol. 4, pg. 338)

Passive Participation:

The important lesson learnt from this is that passive involvement in a sin is also extremely dangerous. Hence, although she was not personally involved in the sin, she was also punished due to her approving of the sin, aiding her people in their wrong and sympathizing with them when the punishment befell them.

This aspect is extremely relevant during this time of the year when fairs, festivals, parties and other occasions of sin are so common. During this period, most beaches are also places of absolute fitnah where, besides other evils, nudity is the norm. It is indeed extremely sad to notice many Muslims joining the disbelievers in their activities. There are those who remain as spectators and others actively participate. However, even spectating and passively participating is serious:

'Abdullah bin Mas'ood (radhiyallahu 'anhu) was once invited to a waleemah function. When he was about to enter, he heard some impermissible activity taking place, hence he returned immediately. When he was questioned about the reason for his return, he explained: I heard Rasulullah (sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam) saying:

« مَنْ كَثَرَ سَوَادَ قَوْمٍ فَهُوَ مِنْهُمْ ، وَمَنْ رَضِيَ عَمَلِ قَوْمٍ كَانَ شَرِيكًا فِي عَمَلِهِمْ »

"Whosoever adds to the numbers of a people, will be counted from among them, and the one who is pleased with the wrong of a people, will be a partner in their actions." (Musnad Abi Ya'la – Ithaaful Khiyaratil Maharah #3297)