

*"As for those who strive in Our way, We will certainly take them onto Our paths, and indeed Allah is with those who are good in deeds."*

Surat-ul-Ankaboot: 69

# *Will Power*

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

أَلْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ وَكَفَى وَسَلَامٌ عَلَىٰ عِبَادِهِ الَّذِينَ اصْطَفَىٰ : أَمَا بَعْدُ

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

وَالَّذِينَ جَاهَدُوا فِينَا لَنَهْدِيَنَّهُمْ سُبُلَنَا وَإِنَّ اللَّهَ لَمَعَ الْمُحْسِنِينَ

سُبْحَانَ رَبِّكَ رَبِّ الْعَزَّةِ عَمَّا يَصِفُونَ وَسَلَامٌ عَلَى الْمُرْسَلِينَ

وَالْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ

اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَىٰ آلِ سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَبَارِكْ وَسَلِّمْ

اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَىٰ آلِ سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَبَارِكْ وَسَلِّمْ

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Allah ﷻ says in the Quran:

وَالَّذِينَ جَاهَدُوا فِينَا لَنَهْدِيَنَّهُمْ سُبُلَنَا وَإِنَّ اللَّهَ لَمَعَ الْمُحْسِنِينَ<sup>1</sup>

“As for those who strive in Our way, We will certainly take them onto Our paths, and indeed Allah is with those who are good in deeds.”

In this verse of the Holy Quran, Allah ﷻ provides some very satisfying and joyful news for the believers. He says that once a person does jihad (struggle in the way of Allah ﷻ) Allah ﷻ makes it easier for him to follow the right path.

## **TWO FUNDAMENTAL TYPES OF JIHAD**

**1. Physical Jihad:** The first type of jihad involves fighting physically to protect the religion. It includes a wide range of situations, such as protecting Muslims from attacks by non-Muslims attacks or fighting against a tyrant in order to protect the religion of Islam. At

<sup>1</sup> Surat-ul-Ankaboot: 69

times, the word jihad is interpreted and restricted to this meaning.

**2. Spiritual Jihad:** The second type of jihad is a fundamental aspect of a Muslim's everyday life, rather than a response to a specific external situation. A person is engaged in this type of jihad by fighting constantly against one's own desires with the hope of defeating the internal enemy, which is the nafs (self). Our beloved Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said:

① **الْمُجَاهِدُ مَنْ جَاهَدَ نَفْسَهُ فِي طَاعَةِ اللَّهِ**

*"A real mujahid is the one who does jihad against his nafs in order to fulfill the commandments of Allah ﷻ."*

## **DIFFERENCES BETWEEN DOING JIHAD AGAINST THE INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL ENEMY.**

There is very little ambiguity in determining the two types of enemies. The external enemy is a non-Muslim or a tyrant ruler and the internal enemy lies in one's own soul. However, apart from this, there are other differences as well.

**1. OCCASIONAL CONFRONTATIONS WITH THE EXTERNAL ENEMY:** The most conspicuous difference between the two is that a person rarely finds himself in a position to fight against his external enemy. Many people have lived their entire lives without such an opportunity coming their way. The idea is further restricted for a common man in this modern era as professional militaries are specifically maintained for this purpose. Hence very few people have the opportunity to fight against an external enemy.

**2. FIGHTING WITH THE INTERNAL ENEMY IS A COMMON EXPERIENCE:** In contrast, every person is engaged in a fight with his nafs. Whether old or young, male or female, everyone is engaged in this fight. This is precisely due to the fact that Allah ﷻ has created desires in every man

and those desires continuously encourage him to commit sins.

**3. THE FIGHT WITH THE nafs IS AN UNHERALDED ONE:** Unlike physical jihad, the spiritual jihad is a very unpredictable fight. Pre-meditation in this type is a much more difficult step than in the one against an external enemy. In other words, one may be able to predict when and where the enemy may strike in the battlefield and hence, the strategies can be applied accordingly. On the other hand, one cannot deduce when the internal enemy may strike because wrong desires can overcome a person at any moment. The youngsters spend their time on the Internet and if a picture of a non-mahram woman appears, the war between a person and his nafs starts there and then. The nafs encourages the person to look at it while the law of Allah ﷻ prohibits it.

When the person whom you dislike is mentioned in a gathering, the nafs certainly encourages you to speak ill about the hated person. However, the command on backbiting is a very fierce one and one which the Holy Prophet ﷺ termed as a sin worse than committing zina. If your servant or employee does something that is against your orders, it is a human tendency to scold or rebuke them. However, Allah ﷻ commands us to suppress our anger and refrain from expressing it in such circumstances. And while one is at home, the azan is called but someone might be inclined to pray at home rather than going to the mosque. But Allah ﷻ commands us to pray in congregation in the mosque. When hard times strike a household, the nafs urges the person to accept forbidden ways of earning. Every day, people are engaged in this fight.

**4. DEFEAT IN THE BATTLE WITH THE SOUL RESULTS IN DEPRIVATION FROM PARADISE:** If one keeps on fighting his internal enemy and death approaches him, Allah ﷻ will surely bestow the blessings of Paradise on him. On the other hand, if one loses this fight and submits to his nafs, then the outcome on the day of judgement will be fairly symmetrical and he will confront failure on that day as well. Allah ﷻ has made Paradise for people who keep their desires pure. As Allah ﷻ says in the Quran:

ذَلِكَ جَزَاءُ مَنْ تَزَىٰ ①

“This (Paradise) is the reward for those who keep their nafs clean..”

Therefore, Islam attaches great importance to the notion of fighting against one’s nafs. Surely, the one who succeeds in this battle, succeeds in the Hereafter. While the one who submits himself to his desires suffers failure both in this battle and in the Hereafter.

### **DEFEATING THE NAFS THROUGH WILL POWER**

One of the most practical ways for a man to defeat his inner enemy is through his will power. It is this will power which enables him to do many tasks. When a person makes a pledge to do something with determination then he easily completes it. For example, a young man vows to protect his eyes from viewing the forbidden, to not backbite, to avoid expressing anger, or to make sure that he does not miss the Fajr prayers from now on. This determination with which he strives in the way of Allah ﷻ is called will power.

### **ALLAH ﷻ LOVES THOSE WHO HAVE WILL POWER**

It is an explanation of a hadith that Allah ﷻ talks highly about two kinds of people with the angels.

- One of these is the one who spends the night with his wife, but in the last stage of the night he wakes up and does ablution and stands before Allah ﷻ in prayer
- The second kind of person is the one who goes on a journey with his group. While the other members are asleep due to the tiresome journey, he does ablution and stands before Allah ﷻ in prayer. ②

Allah ﷻ mentions these people with great praise in front of His angels. A hadith says:

من تمسك بسنتي عند فساد أمتي فله أجر مائة شهيد ③

“The one who remains steadfast on My deen in times of great corruption, for him the reward is that of a 100 martyrs”

① Surah Taha: 76

② Munad-e-Ahmed: 61/7

③ Mishquat-ul-Masabeeh: 38/1

Another hadith says:

① **ذَاكِرُ اللَّهِ فِي الْغَافِلِينَ مِثْلُ الَّذِي يُقَاتِلُ عَنِ الْفَارِسِينَ**

*"The one who remembers Allah while others are heedless is like the one who remains in the battlefield fighting while others have fled."*

In another Hadith it is mentioned:

② **وَذَاكِرُ اللَّهِ فِي الْغَافِلِينَ كَالْمِصْبَاحِ فِي الْبَيْتِ الْمُظْلِمِ**

*"The one who remembers Allah while others are heedless is like a lamp in a dark house."*

Allah ﷻ loves the people who use will power to fight with their desires. As a hadith says:

③ **إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ يُحِبُّ مَعَائِي الْأُمُورَ**

*"Allah ﷻ loves the courageous people."*

For example, even though someone he is not able to achieve his goal to defeat his internal enemy but still he continues in his stride. He is continuously missing Fajr but has an ambition to pray the next one on time. He engages in a sin but has an ambition of leaving it and refraining from committing it next time. This determination is very meaningful in the sight of Allah ﷻ and gradually He enables this kind of person to abstain from following his wrong desires. That is why Allah ﷻ says:

④ **وَالَّذِينَ جَاهَدُوا فِينَا لَنَهْدِيَنَّهُمْ سُبُلَنَا وَإِنَّ اللَّهَ لَمَعَ الْمُحْسِنِينَ**

*"As for those who strive in Our way, We will certainly take them onto Our paths, and indeed Allah is with those who are good in deeds."*

The one who struggles in his way, Allah ﷻ takes upon Himself to remove the obstructions from his path and provides ease and divine

① Shab-ul-Eman: 90/2

② Shab-ul-Eman: 91/2

③ Almojam-ul-Osat (210/3)

④ Surat-ul-Ankaboot: 69

help. Man only has to perform the task of showing his will power and Allah ﷻ fulfills his objective and makes him reach unbelievable heights of success.

## **Will Power and Steadfastness**

Will power is a priceless attribute which yields remarkable benefits. One of them is the inclusion of steadfastness in a person's deeds. The believer who possesses this indispensable quality is very steadfast in his ways of worship. Inconsistency in our ways of worship is an indication of lack of will power and determination in our quest to please Allah ﷻ.

**1. RECITING THE QURAN EVERY DAY FOR 45 YEARS:** An inspiring example is provided by a man who heard his teacher to recite a thirtieth part of the Quran daily. Since that day there hasn't been a single day in the past 45 years in which he missed the routine suggested by his teacher. This is the power of steadfastness and an unbelievable outcome of using will power. Those who have this attribute will always strengthen their deeds with this. Allah ﷻ also loves such deeds which are performed with steadfastness.

A Hadith says:

① أَحَبُّ الْأَعْمَالِ إِلَى اللَّهِ أَدْوَمُهَا وَإِنْ قَلَّ

*"For Allah, the most beloved deed is that which is performed with consistency, no matter how small it may be".*

**2. NOT MISSING THE PRE-DAWN PRAYERS (TAHAJJUD):** An alim went to meet his teacher. At the time of farewell, his teacher asked him to stay for a few days, a request which he gladly accepted. He used to pray tahajjud, though not with consistency. Staying in the supervision and company of his teacher, he acquired consistency in this deed. It was after that meeting, he says that he did not miss a single prayer of tahajjud for 3 years. Thus one should always be trying and be determined in his stride. Religious tasks will become easier for him to



perform by the Grace and Mercy of Allah ﷻ.

### **A PERSON WITH WILL POWER ACCOMPLISHES GREAT TASKS**

Will power is such an amazing attribute that it makes steadfastness in performing deeds very easy. A person executes seemingly impossible tasks while having this attribute. Then waking up for Fajr is not a problem. In fact, a person feels more inclined towards waking up for tahajjud and waits anxiously for the Fajr azan to be called out by the muazzin. Hence, a person with will power finds no difficulties in performing difficult tasks.

Hazrat Ali's ﷺ will power is described vividly in the history books:

*“In the battle of Khyber, opening the gates of the fort was a formidable task which required many men, however Hazrat Ali ﷺ did this alone.”*

Therefore, the one who is blessed with will power, nothing is hard for him to accomplish. On the other hand, the one whose stride has no determination and will power, then he has been deprived of a great blessing. The mission which our perception terms as difficult can be solved through utilization of will power. That is why it is said “man makes effort and Allah ﷻ helps” which means that a person should take the initiative and Allah ﷻ will surely make the hardest of tasks easy for him to perform.

#### ▪ **MEMORIZATION OF THE HOLY QURAN IN 3 DAYS:**

Mufti Taqi Usmani (DB) mentions in one of his books an incident of an alim who once passed a group of ulama who were talking highly about him. However, they did say that the attribute of being a hafiz lacked in him. This instilled great determination and will power in him. After hearing this, he vowed to keep himself locked in a room until he memorized a large portion of the Quran. Through his unbelievable devotion, he memorized the entire Quran in just 3 days. An achievement which is astonishing keeping the duration in mind. For us, reading the Quran completely in 3 days is an out-of-the-world task and he memorized it in 3 days. Thus, once again, will power can do wonders.

▪ **AN INSPIRING STORY OF BAYAZID BASTAMI عليه السلام AND HIS**

**MOTHER'S WILL POWER:** Hazrat Bayazid Bastami عليه السلام's father died when he was in his childhood. While he was growing up, his mother became cautious and concerned for him to make sure that he was not influenced by the vulgar kids in the streets. She consulted many people and someone told her to enroll her child in a madrasah where a very learned teacher taught, and the graduates of that madrasah became walis. This planted in her the desire to see her child as a knowledgeable man. She decided to make her child an alim and to enroll him in this madrasah. Accompanied by her child, she entered the madrasah and spoke to the teacher. She made a request to the teacher to not let her son go until he becomes a wali. As for her son, he was strictly told not to return to his house until he became an alim. The mere idea of taking such a step may haunt many mothers. How hard would it have been for her to tell her child not to return until he became an alim? Indeed, in modern times, her will power would be unmatched.

▪ After some years, Bayazid عليه السلام missed his mother's affection. Therefore, he asked his teacher to accede to his request and let him meet his mother as it had been a long time. The situation was a bit complicated for the teacher as he remembered the promise he made with the child's mother. In order to solve this dilemma, he did find a solution. He told Bayazid عليه السلام that if he memorized the lesson he gave him by the evening, he would grant him the permission to meet his mother. However, he intentionally gave him a very large portion for him to memorize so that he would not be able to meet the requirement by evening. When it became apparent to him that it would be nearly impossible for him to complete such a task, Bayazid عليه السلام raised his hands for du'a and asked Allah سُبْحٰنَهُ saying "My teacher and my mother both taught me that you can accomplish all needs. My teacher thinks that I am sleeping but in reality, I cry every night in memory of my mother. Please make me memorize this whole chapter." In the evening, as scheduled, it was time for him to recite it in front of his teacher. Astonishingly, he recited the whole lesson without any mistake. The teacher was left astounded and he knew this child was no ordinary child. As per his promise, he gave him the permission to meet his mother. The delight on Bayazid's face could be easily perceived as he walked on his way to meet his mother after a very long time. The

mere sight of a child after a long time is irresistible for a mother. When Bayazid رضي الله عنه reached his house, he knocked and someone inquired who it was. He told his mother his name. However, the will power of the mother was too good to make her emotions overcome her goals. She said which Bayazid? I had a Bayazid who promised me to come back only when he becomes an alim? Which Bayazid are you? The child kept weeping but the wailing sounds had no impact on the mother's stern quest to see her child accomplished in Allah's ﷻ religion.

- At last, Bayazid رضي الله عنه found no other solution than to return to his madrasah. On his return, his teacher asked why he had returned so early. He narrated the whole story and said that he would never return until he becomes the person whom his mother wanted him to be. Years passed, accompanied with great determination and hard work from both the teacher and the student and Bayazid never returned to his house. One night, his teacher had the privilege of seeing the Holy Prophet ﷺ in his dream giving him the news that Bayazid has acquired the flag of wilayat (Allah's ﷻ friendship) and also the command to give these tidings to Bayazid. The teacher called Bayazid and told him that his mother's sacrifice had finally paid off and that he should go back to his mother. He hugged his devoted student and saw him off. This time, when the child knocked on the door, it was opened promptly. Bayazid's mother finally met her son again whom she had sacrificed so much for. At last, she was successful in fulfilling her objective and it was indeed a blessing only made possible by the unique strength, the strength of will.

- **Will POWER of MEDICAL STUDENTS MADE THEM ACHIEVE EXCELLENT RESULTS IN RELIGIOUS EXAMS:** Some time ago, a few medical students were enlightened by the light of Allah ﷻ. They decided to enroll themselves in a religious institution in order to gain religious knowledge. However, their families did not have a similar mindset and many people criticized them by saying that you are on the brink of becoming a "Molvi" and some expressed their displeasure by defining this path as too conservative and obsolete. Despite receiving such cruel admonitions, they dealt with them with tolerance and patience. They used to make sure that their grades in the worldly studies were not affected as that would result in their families forcing them to leave religious studies. When the board exams approached for

the madrasah, they were going through the residency training and had to offer time to the hospital. They made a request to the supervisor to let them come 2 hours late as the exams were held between 8 am to 12 noon, while the hospital duties commenced at 10 am. The supervisor of their batch rejected this request promptly. The exams approached in this manner and the students were forced to attempt the exams in the available time, i.e. 2 hours. They did not lose hope and attempted all the papers with their maximum potential. The fruits of their will power were evident when the exam result showed that they achieved top grade (mumtaz) in their exams which left many astounded. Hence, the benefits of will power can never go unnoticed.

## **THE HOLY PROPHET ﷺ AND HIS COMPANIONS رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُمْ ARE THE**

### **EXAMPLES OF WILL POWER:**

If you want to see a depiction of will power, there isn't a better group of people than the Companions of our Prophet ﷺ. Each and every Companion can be cited as a definition of this word.

▪ **THE PROPHET'S ﷺ STRUGGLE WITH HUNGER IN THE BATTLE OF TRENCH:** The life of Muhamad ﷺ is the best and the most complete example of will power for this ummah. In the battle of the trench, the Holy Prophet ﷺ was busy digging a trench with his companions when a companion came and lifted his shirt to show the Prophet ﷺ the intense hunger he was suffering from. He had a stone tied on his stomach (a way to fight hunger). The Holy Prophet ﷺ lifted his shirt and there were two stones tied to his stomach. ❶

Digging a trench in such intense hunger is a unique and unimaginable example of will power for Muslims to follow.

### **THE HOLY PROPHET'S ﷺ UNIQUE DISPLAY OF WILL POWER IN HIS VISIT TO TAIF:**

The pagans of Makkah had inflicted many forms of torture on the Holy Prophet ﷺ in his abode of 10 years in Makkah after Prophethood. After the demise of Abu Talib, the uncle of the Holy



Prophet ﷺ, he had no clan-protection. Hence, the insults and tortures doubled. He decided to visit Taif with the conviction that if the tribe of Banu Thaqif in Taif accepted Islam, the Muslims would no longer have to face such hardships in Makkah. However, the matters which unfolded didn't support such a belief. The people in Taif insulted him and taunted him saying, "Didn't Allah ﷻ find anyone else to place His message other than you?" They also did not encourage the idea of letting him stay the night. In fact, they told him to leave immediately and sent a group of children to chase him and hurl stones at him, to an extent that his whole shoe was filled with blood. He returned in this way. Allah ﷻ sent Jibrael ﷺ to the Prophet ﷺ who informed him that Allah ﷻ had appointed an angel between the two mountains of this town and he is free to command the angel whatever he wills. In the meantime, the angel appeared and asked the Holy Prophet ﷺ to let him crush the whole population by pulling the two mountains together. The Holy Prophet ﷺ rejected this request and said that he hoped from Allah ﷻ, that even if these people do not become Muslims, their progeny will surely prostrate before Allah ﷻ. This was the nature of the one whom we call ourselves the followers of. Such grave hardships and rude responses did not make him speak ill about those ignorant people. Instead, he prayed for them and thought with foresight about the generations to come. ❶

The light of Islam shines in different parts of the globe due to this devotion and patience of our beloved Prophet ﷺ.

#### ▪ **Will POWER of CHILDREN:**

A companion of the Prophet ﷺ said that on the the day of Badr, he was carefully analyzing different aspects of the battlefield. He saw that on one side of him was a Muslim young while on the other side, there were two children. He wished that it would have been better if there were young warriors on that side too. In the meantime, those two kids came to him. They inquired, "O Uncle, where is Abu Jahl?" He says that when he noticed their young ages, he was astonished that they were

asking about Abu Jahl. He asked them why they were so concerned about Abu Jahl. They replied that they had heard that he had inflicted great tortures and on their beloved Prophet ﷺ, and caused him a lot of trouble during his time in Makkah. They promised that if they saw him on the battlefield, either he would not leave the battlefield or they would not leave it. The companion was left speechless. When he considered their height and age with those of their target, he found that there was no comparison. He told them that the tall man between two soldiers wearing armor was Abu Jahl. After that they turned their focus on Abu Jahl. When the battle started, the Muslim warriors attacked. The two made their way through the rows of horses and to Abu Jahl. Their height was so short that they could not kill a horseman while standing on the ground. In fact, some writers have even written that their height was so short that their swords were longer than their height. However, the gallant children found a way, which was to cut the legs of the horse. As the horse fell down, Abu Jahl also crashed to the ground. The kids were so weak that they could not even cut his neck with their swords. Therefore, Abdullah ibn Mas'ud (RA) did the needful and put an end to the story of Abu Jahl. <sup>①</sup>

A nation whose children have such strong will power, the will power of its youth would be simply unimaginable.

#### ▪ **Syedah Asma Bint Abu Bakr's رضی اللہ عنہا Will Power:**

Syedah Asma رضی اللہ عنہا was the daughter of our first caliph, Abu Bakr رضی اللہ عنہ and was the elder sister of Ayesha رضی اللہ عنہا. At the time of migration, she was very young and therefore her father told her to bring food to the cave in which he stayed with the Holy Prophet ﷺ. This was due to the fact that due to her small age, nobody would suspect her of knowing where the Holy Prophet ﷺ was. On the first day everything went well. On the second day, when she came the Holy Prophet ﷺ saw a mark on

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① Sahi Bukhari (78/5)

her forehead and this got him worried. When he inquired, she said: “O Messenger of Allah, yesterday when I returned to Makkah, Abu Jahl approached me and said that I must know where you are as my father will be where Muhammad ﷺ is. He said: ‘Tell me, do you know where he is?’ I did not lie O Messenger of Allah. I said I did know but I would never tell him. He became furious and started pulling me. I was suffering from deep pain but I did not tell him. Then he said, ‘I will kill you Asma’. I replied saying that whatever you do, I will not tell you. On this he slapped me on my face and I fell to the ground. My eyes wept and blood spurted out of my forehead. He then pulled me from my hair and made me stand up and asked again, ‘Tell me where he is!’ I told Abu Jahl, my life might be in your grip but I will not let you get your hands on Muhammad ﷺ. ❶

The nation which has girls with such great will power, what would be the strength of will power in their young men.

▪ **Syedna Abu Bakr's ﷺ Will Power:**

Syedna Abu Bakr's ﷺ willpower is also exemplary in the history of Islam. After the demise of the Holy Prophet ﷺ, various problems sprung up which included a group of people who used to pay their zakat to the Prophet ﷺ but now refused to pay. Moreover, a liar named Musailma claimed to be a prophet and gained a number of followers. A woman named Sajah also claimed to be a prophetess. Coupled with this was the fact that the Christians were making preparations for an attack on Medina. Thus, it appeared that there were problems arising from every direction. It was the view of many companions during that time that the Muslims should take care of external matters and leave the matter of zakat for the time being. However, our first caliph, Abu Bakr ﷺ said, ‘I will fight against them until they accept to pay zakat as it should be paid.’ Even the greats like ‘Umar bin Khattab ﷺ disagreed. He advised the caliph, saying that the people have accepted the kalima, they believe in Allah ﷻ and his Prophet ﷺ and pray the daily prayers as well, and hence he should

show some leniency to them. Abu Bakr رضي الله عنه became furious and said, “How can a command of Islam be omitted while Abu Bakr is alive?” All the companions became satisfied after hearing Abu Bakr’s رضي الله عنه explanation and this made the whole ummah united again. Someone advised Abu Bakr رضي الله عنه to stop the group going on the Syrian expedition under Osama رضي الله عنه which was initially sent by the Prophet ﷺ himself. Abu Bakr رضي الله عنه replied that he could not stop something that was commanded by the Holy Prophet ﷺ. People said that Christians would attack Medina and only the Muslim women will be left. On this, Abu Bakr رضي الله عنه said that if beasts from the forests came to Medina and attacked women, he would come out and fight them. It was due to his will power and steadfastness that the mufassirs have stated that he was as steadfast as a prophet is during his time. <sup>①</sup>

▪ **THE COMPANIONS رضي الله عنهم SURVIVED ON A SINGLE DATE:**

The Holy Prophet ﷺ instilled will power as a major element in the disposition of his Companions رضي الله عنهم. Once while on Jihad, the Companions رضي الله عنهم survived by eating a date daily. They have said that the care for dates came when there was a shortage of it. They used to feed on the seeds as well. <sup>②</sup>

This is a unique example that proves that will power can enable a person to face many hardships without any difficulty-

**SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH: ONLY THE ONE WITH WILL POWER SUCCEEDS**

Psychologist Walter Fisher made a very famous discovery, which says: “Will power is the single most important ingredient of success.” He learnt the Arabic language and because he was in the field of medicine he spent a great deal of time in libraries reading Greek books on medicine. He translated two of those books into Italian which received great praise. In the meantime, his health became deteriorated and on his visit to the doctor, he was diagnosed with

① Sahi Bukhari (93/9)

② Sahi Bukhari (166/5)



cancer and told he would live no more than 2 years. Normally, a person would lose hope after hearing such devastating news. He, however, was still full of hope and said, “I have less time and many things to do.” So he went to the library and picked 80 books and went home. Some people were appointed by him to translate the simple portions of the book and the parts which demanded complex knowledge regarding the subject matter would be translated by him. Thus, he translated a total of 80 books in 2 years from Arabic to Italian. In the modern era, his name is in the Guinness world record book as the world’s best translator. Although, he was a cancer patient for two years and he was aware of his fate, yet it did not stop him from implementing his will power and doing wonders.

### **Will POWER AS A BLESSING of Allah ﷻ**

Will power is a great blessing bestowed by Allah ﷻ on some people. Without will power, light fever can cause one to skip prayers, a headache can cause him to avoid religious lectures. All those aspects which have no power to affect our worldly activities become big obstructions in our path. Will power is such an important provision that no other attribute can match it. Moreover, religious or worldly activities can also not be successful without will power accompanying them. Will power turns a person into a mountain of hope and courage.

### **WILL POWER CAN BE ACQUIRED THROUGH THE COMPANY OF ALLAH'S FRIENDS**

One of the best ways to adopt this quality is by spending time between Allah’s ﷻ friends and those whom Allah ﷻ loves. Will power can be acquired through the Company of Allah’s ﷻ Friends. Steadfastness in religious activities can be achieved by staying under the supervision of such people. It is a common saying that a melon gains its color while being in the same bag as another melon. That is why it is our belief that many people start doing good deeds after having the privilege of being with religious people, although in the past they may have spent time in a state of obliviousness. The company of such people makes following our Prophet’s ﷺ actions easier. Standing before Allah ﷻ in the nights becomes an easy task. On the other hand, the one who is deprived of such a privilege, then even waking up for the morning

prayers becomes a formidable task. A person acquires the qualities of those whom he spends time with. The Holy Prophet ﷺ said:"

الرَّجُلُ عَلَى دِينِ خَلِيلِهِ ①

“Man is on the religion of his friend”

Therefore, if a person spends time with pious people then he will feel the sweetness of the religion. If someone has bad company, then gradually his hate for sins will decrease and he will start committing sins. Hence, a great way to produce will power is by having good company.

▪ **MAULANA MOHAMMAD ALI JAUHAR'S EXCELLENT WILL POWER:**

Maulana Muhammad Ali Jauhar was a great orator and he was skilled in the English language. At the time of struggle in the subcontinent to achieve a separate nation, he decided to play his role. Thus he vowed to travel to England and write against the British in the English newspapers. His articles were met with great criticism and he began receiving imprisonment threats for his ‘rebellious ideas’. The situation became aggravated to the extent that he started receiving death threats. On this, he wrote some lines of poetry. During this time, his young daughter became severely ill in India. The situation worsened to the extent that the doctors gave the final fateful verdict and also suggested not to waste any further money on the treatments. Her father’s plan was too powerful and required great determination, which he had. The young daughter knew her days were numbered so asked her mother if she could fulfill her final wish, to see the face of her father. The mother was aware of her father’s commitment to his mission, so she advised her daughter to write a letter. Imagine what would be the reaction of a father living abroad if he received a letter from his daughter saying that her days are numbered and she wanted to meet him. Maulana Muhammad Ali Jauhar, however was no ordinary father. He replied to the letter with two couplets:

ہم تو مجبور سہی، اللہ تو مجبور نہیں تجھ سے میں دور سہی، وہ تو مگر دور نہیں  
تیری صحت ہمیں منظور ہے لیکن اسکو نہیں منظور تو پھر ہم کو بھی منظور نہیں

Just imagine the love he had for Allah ﷻ that he remained patient and

steadfast in his oath even in such a testing situation. When a person has will power, no obstacle is big enough to stop him.

▪ **Will POWER DURING Hajj:**

During Hajj Maulana Ahmed Lahori رحمۃ اللہ علیہ is one of the religious figures who stand out in the last few centuries. He was the student of Maulana Taj Amr رحمۃ اللہ علیہ and Maulana Din Poori رحمۃ اللہ علیہ. Religious company had bolstered his will power. He took an oath never to use money earned in a prohibited manner nor to eat anything that was cooked by a person who did not pray. It was in his daily routine to be cautious of such things. It was to the extent that if there was a doubt that the chef did not pray, he used to travel without eating anything for two or three days. Once, he was travelling to perform the pilgrimage. People from far off places used to travel through ships. The ship used to be full of people and he used to educate them with his lectures. For Urdu speaking people, the lecture was delivered in Urdu, for Sindhi it was delivered in Sindhi and for Persian speaking, it was delivered in Persian. The ship's crew did not pray. Hazrat Ahmed Lahori رحمۃ اللہ علیہ had with him, a few eatables on which he fed for a few days. However, the journey was of more than a month. He preached the importance of prayers and urged the crew to pray but they did not pay heed to him. He, however, was not to be moved and he did not eat anything made by the ship's crew. Lack of food made him ill and he suffered from weakness. Someone suggested that he had become too weak and had lost weight. Moreover, he was on his way to performing hajj, which itself required a lot of hard work. Hence, he should eat the food that was cooked in the ship so that his health becomes better. On this, he replied saying that they were travelling to earn Allah's بَرَکَاتُ blessings and to make their scarce deeds count. This is what we call will power.

▪ **DAUGHTER'S WILL POWER CHANGED THE LIFE OF THE MOTHER WHO WAS A SINGER:** In the Arabian Peninsula there lived a very famous singer called Fatuh. She was highly praised and she used to sing in front of men. That was her way of earning her living. However, her daughter was a complete opposite of her. Allah عَزَّ وَجَلَّ had instilled His love in her heart. She used to pray in spite of having a very un-Islamic environment. It did not go unnoticed by the sight of the mother. She was very surprised to see that despite not having a good environment

in the house, her daughter was so close to Allah ﷻ. When the girl grew up, she started wearing hijab. The mother was even more concerned now. She used to get embarrassed as she was a woman who presented herself to men and sang for them, while her daughter did every possible good deed. In order to change the nature of her daughter, or to mold her disposition into her's, she enrolled the girl in a school where hijab was not allowed. She did this so that gradually, her daughter would come on the same track as her's. However, the daughter was remained unmoved. Every day for the entire year, she used to have a feud with the school's management on this issue, as she would not leave hijab. She fought the whole year with them but did not give up her objective. At last, the school had had enough and they told her mother that if her daughter did not stop covering herself like this, she would not be allowed to enter the school. On this, the mother tried to explain to the girl, saying that she should leave hijab because if she didn't then there will be fierce consequences. She would not be able to complete her studies and would lose all her friends. Therefore, she should not make life difficult for herself. The girl replied with such inspiring words, saying that she could deprive herself of her studies but could not deprive herself of obeying a command of Allah ﷻ. These words struck the heart of the mother with great spiritual force and she repented and left singing.

■ Will power not only helps the one who possesses it, but also effects the people who interact with such a person every day. May Allah ﷻ enrich us with this attribute. May Allah ﷻ enable us to lead a sinless life and provide steadfastness in performing good deeds.

وَأَجْرُ دَعْوَانَا أَنْ الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ