

A PRECIOUS PRESENT

GOLDEN NECKLACE

PART -- I

By

AFZAL HUSAIN. M.A., L.T.

Translated By

Abdurrashid Khan, B.A.

PEARLS

TO THE BELOVED DAUGHTERS	5
1. The Best Lady Amongst Women	7
2. Love of Allah	10
3. Love of Father	14
4. Elegant Manners	18
5. Honesty	20
6. Moral Courage	23
7. Do Thy Work Thyself	26
8. Help to the Poor	29
9. Things to Remember	32

IN THE NAME OF ALLAH, MOST GRACIOUS, MOST MERCIFUL

TO THE BELOVED DAUGHTERS

Dear Daughters:

You may have seen necklaces of various sorts. They may be of silver or gold, simple or studded, small or large, real or artificial. Their lustre would have made you long to possess one for yourself!

But, just think for a while!

These necklaces are such that their glitter fades away after a while. Most of them turn out to be fake or made of sub-standard material. Their possession can expose you to various hazards.

I have prepared for you a beautiful necklace of which the pearls are genuine and highly precious. Its glamour is more enduring. A charming ornament to adorn

yourself with! You would surely endear yourself to all and become 'the jewel' to every one's eyes. And what is more, it will prove to be highly rewarding in the Hereafter.

MAY GOD BLESS YOU.

Your well-wisher,
AFZAL HUSSAIN

ONE

THE BEST LADY AMONGST WOMEN

Thanks to Allah that He raised Muhammad (P.B.U.H) as His Apostle. The beloved Apostle showed us the path of Righteousness, otherwise we would have gone astray and put to shame on the Day of Reckoning.

The beloved Apostle of Allah was exceedingly noble, truthful and trustworthy even from his childhood. People called him 'Sadiq' (the truthful) and 'Ameen' (the trustworthy). When he was in the prime of youth he received wide acclaim from people for his uprightness.

At Makka there lived a lady of great fortune. Her name was Khadijatu'l Kubra. She was an excellent lady. Everyone called her

'Tahira' (the pure). She was a widow. Her husband had died. She wanted to invest her wealth in business, but could find no one who was trustworthy and who could carry on her business. However, when she heard about the trustworthiness of the beloved Apostle, she sought his help. The Prophet took her trade-wares to places far and wide. On his trade missions he made enormous profit. On return, he handed over the entire profit to his employer lady. This honesty pleased her immensely. She offered her hand in marriage to him. After marriage they ever remained happy.

When he was forty years of age, Allah bestowed on him His Apostleship. When the beloved Apostle narrated this unique experience of revelation to Hazrath Khadijatu'l Kubra, she consoled him and she was the first lady to accept Islam.

Burdened with responsibilities, at times, he used to be worried and perplexed, but it was Hazrath Khadijatu'l Kubra who provided him best support and counsel. In

establishing the religion of Islam she sacrificed her entire wealth and gave whole-hearted support in the cause of his Mission. Had she not been there, the beloved Apostle would have faced far greater hardships in the establishment of religion. This is the reason why, the prophet loved her most. He used to say:

“Amongst the women of this faith, the best lady is Hazrath Khadijatu’l Kubra.”

1. Why was the Apostle of Allah raised on earth?
2. Who was Hazrath Khadijatu’l Kubra?
3. How did she help the Prophet?
4. Why is she considered the best lady of her community?

TWO

LOVE OF ALLAH
ALLAH IS MOST FORGIVING,
MOST MERCIFUL

Immense is His love for His servants. He has created myriad bounties for us. Not a moment passes when His bounties are not showered on us. No sooner are we born than He causes milk to flow into our mother's breasts. He has instilled love in the hearts of men for us. Under Divine Guidance, our parents suffer pain and sorrow to give us comfort and protection when we are helpless puny creatures. They bring us up and make us grow in life. When so much is the love that Allah showers on us, shall we then not return His love wholeheartedly? That is why noble and chaste daughters love Allah overwhelmingly.

Never do they act in a way that can displease Him.

Long, long ago, there lived a noble lady. Her name was Hazrath Mariyam. She was the mother of Nabi Issa. The parents of Hazrath Mariyam dedicated their daughter in the way of Allah. She lived in the premises of one of the largest mosques of the town. Right from her childhood she displayed her love for Allah. All the time she was inclined towards Allah, and Allah alone. In solitude she remembered Allah and offered 'Namaz'. Allah accepted her heartfelt love for Him, and protected her from every evil. He blessed her with a son of the stature of Nabi Issa, who proved himself to be one of the most chosen Apostle of Allah. It was her love of Allah that earned for Hazrath Mariyam the towering status of being the best lady amongst all the preceding ladies of her community.

Besides these noble ladies enumerated above, there were innumerable more who cherished love of Allah to an intense degree.

One such lady was Hazrath Rabia (Raz). She was a native of Basrah. She used to spend her entire nights in remembrance of Allah. Once she prayed to Allah the whole night. At dawn, some one asked her: "How shall we express our gratitude to Allah, Who has provided us the opportunity to remember and praise Him whole night?" She replied: "By fasting the whole day solely for the pleasure of Allah."

While she used to be engaged in remembrance of Allah, she was oblivious to all mundane affairs of life. She had profound trust in Allah. Once she fell sick. A person came to inquire about her welfare and presented her a purse containing a lot of money, but this lady mildly turned down the gift. He then tried to persuade her through an influential person, named Hazrath Hasan (Raz), to whom she replied:

"O Hasan! When Allah can provide food to His enemies, will He not provide food to those who love Him most? Then why should I accept this gift? Who knows, how

it has been earned, whether by fair or foul means?

1. What bounties has Allah provided us?
2. What shall we do in return?
3. Why did a man go to Hazrath Rabiah to give her money?
4. Why did she refuse to accept the offer?

THREE

LOVE OF FATHER

Who does not know Hazrath Fatimah (Raz)?

She was the beloved daughter of the beloved Messenger of Allah, and the youngest amongst her four sisters.

Hazrath Fatimah (Raz) was an exceedingly good and dutiful daughter. In complexion and colour, gait and manner of speech, she very much took after her illustrious father. On account of her manifold virtues the Prophet loved her most. She, in turn, loved him none the less. She used to be highly perturbed if she ever found him in pain or sorrow.

One day, the beloved Apostle was offering 'Namaz' in the 'Ka'aba'. Abu Jehl, who was his archenemy, was always on the lookout to harm him. Through his friends

Abu Jehl secured the filthy stomach and guts of a camel. While the Prophet was prostrating in prayers, he got them dumped on the neck of the Prophet. With all the weight of the filthy stuff the Prophet could not raise his head. His body and clothes were badly soiled.

Hazrath Fatimah was but a child of five then. The moment she got the news, she came running. She felt greatly shocked and grieved to see her father in such a state. She cursed the infidels very much, but lost no time in removing the filth and cleaning the father's clothes. All the while she was crying. She struggled hard. It was an exemplary display of her filial love.

On yet another occasion, when the Prophet returned from some journey, Hazrath Fatimah (Raz) was standing at the entrance, anxiously waiting to receive him. However, when she saw his plight she started weeping. The Prophet enquired the reason of tears in her eyes. She said:

“It hurts me to see you so tired and ex-

hausted. Your clothes are soiled with dust. Such a sight grieves me most.”

The Prophet consoled her, and said :

“Dear daughter, weep not! Allah has assigned a job to your father to propagate His Religion, and it has to spread to every nook and corner of the world. Be they the dwellers in palaces, or the hutmen, all shall enter into this religion.”

These words from the mouth of the Prophet calmed her agitated mind.

So great was her love for the Prophet that once, when he said : “I am going to leave this world shortly”, she wept bitterly. But when he prophesied that amongst the members of his family she would be the first to meet him there, she was overjoyed and her face beamed with smile.

The passing away of the beloved Apostle of Allah was extremely shocking to her. After his death she always remained sorrowful. In fact no one saw her smiling ever afterwards, and in this sorrowful state, not even six months had elapsed that she, joined

the Prophet in the Heavenly Abode.

- 1. Who was Hazrath Fatimah (Raz)?**
- 2. How did Abu Jehl behave with the Prophet?**
- 3. How did Hazrath Fatimah (Raz) serve the Prophet?**
- 4. What effect did the Prophet's passing away have on her?**

FOUR ELEGANT MANNERS

**“Good manners beget good fortune
Bad manners beget misfortune.”**

The above expression is perfectly true.

Such of the daughters as know this truth, respect their elders most. They adhere to the norms of decent conduct in the presence of their elders. They observe elegant manners while sitting or standing. They avoid immature silly talk before their elders. They do not insist upon anything obstinately. When they see elders coming, they stand up respectfully before them. They do not display their adornment except that which is apparent (of necessity) and draw their veils over their bosoms. They receive them with salutations and offer them respectable seat.

The beloved Apostle of Allah and his beloved daughter, Hazrath Fatimah (Raz)

observed great reverence for elders.

Once, while the Prophet was seated in his house, by chance, his foster-father, whom he received respectfully arrived. He seated him on a sheet of cloth specially spread for him. Then his foster-mother, who was also received respectfully and made to sit on the sheet of cloth spread at the other end arrived. Finally, in succession, when his foster-brother arrived, he stood up and seated him in front of himself.

Hazrath Fatimah (Raz) used to behave most respectfully with her father. And whenever the Prophet visited her, she would, at once, stand up in reverence and make him sit down on her seat. That is why, her father loved her most.

FIVE HONESTY

Hazrath Umar (Raz) was a Caliph who wielded great power. He was deeply conscious of his responsibilities. Whole day he used to be engaged in the welfare and betterment activities of his public, and at night, at times, he used to take surprise rounds. He would move about here and there in disguise to ascertain for himself what was happening in his state.

One night, while he set out on his usual round, he came across a house wherefrom he over-heard an interesting talk. He stopped to listen to the talk. It was a dialogue between the mother and the daughter.

Mother : "Dear daughter! Please get up and pour some water in the milk."

Daughter : “No, mother! I will not commit this act of dishonesty. Have you not heard the proclamation of the Caliph, not to do adultrate in milk?”

Mother : How silly, my daughter! What does it matter if such a proclamation is made! Is the Caliph watching us all the time?”

Daughter : “What, if the Caliph is not watching us! Allah is observing us all the time. No, no, I shall not be able to commit this dishonest act.”

Hazrath Umar (Raz) over-heard all their talk. He was highly pleased with the answers of the daughter. He made a mental note of the location of the house and returned home.

Next day, he summoned the mother and the daughter. He reminded them of their conversation that had taken place in the night before. Overwhelmed with her hones-

ty he settled the marriage of his son, Asim, with this girl.

Such is the reward an ordinary milk-man's daughter got from Allah for her honesty that over-night she became the daughter-in-law of the great Caliph, Hazrath Umar (Raz). As if it was not enough, later on, we find this lady was gifted with a grand-son of the stature of Hazrath Umar bin Abdul Aziz, who managed the affairs of the Government so excellently that it revived the memories of the days of Hazrath Umar's reign.

May Allah shower His blessings on them all.

-
1. What was the dialogue between the mother and the daughter?
 2. What reward did the daughter receive for her honesty?
 3. Why did Hazrath Umar (Raz) take night rounds?

SIX

MORAL COURAGE

Mahmood Ghaznavi was a King of great fame. He was renowned for his bravery and courage. He conquered many lands and expanded his kingdom rapidly. On our country too he made as many as seventeen attacks, and despite severe retaliations, he was always victorious.

One day, an old lady presented herself in his durbar, and narrated that while her son was proceeding on his trade mission somewhere, along with a caravan, he was way-laid by dacoits. He was robbed of his goods and eventually was killed in the encounter. The old lady, after narrating this tale of woe to the King, said:

“O King! Punish the dacoits, and in future take such precautionary and stringent measures that the dacoits dare not

attack the travellers like this.”

The King listened to the old lady and said:

“O old lady! The place you are referring to is at a very long distance from here. Think for yourself, what arrangements could I make from here?”

The old lady was very much annoyed at the King's reply and said: “When you cannot effectively control such far off lands, why, then, did you conquer them and bring them under your control?”

The statement of the old lady was quite reasonable. The King felt very much ashamed of himself. This is the very King at whose bravery and courage even Rajahs used to tremble, but when the old woman scolded him on his weaker point, he was nonplussed and remained silent. He was constrained to pay her reasonable compensation with an assurance that he would trace the culprits and punish them suitably.

After this incident he started sending security forces along with every trade

caravan, as a result of which plundering and ravaging stopped in his Kingdom.

- 1. Who was Mahmood Ghaznavi?**
- 2. What talk did the old lady have with him?**
- 3. What effect did it have on the King?**
- 4. What security measures did he adopt?**

SEVEN.

DO THY WORK THYSELF

You may have read the brief history of Hazrath Fatimah (Raz), the beloved daughter of the beloved Apostle of Allah. You also know her mother, Hazrath Khadijatu'l Kubra, who was a rich lady of Makkah, yet Hazrath Fatimah (Raz) led a very simple and austere life. She did all the domestic chores herself. She used to be at the grinding-stone herself to grind the flour, so much so that blisters used to appear on her palms. Daily she used to carry from long distances, musk-bags containing water, which made blue bruised in her skin. She had to sweep the floor and do all the cooking herself, besides nursing and training her children. With such work, her clothes used to be soiled and smeared with dark spots here and there. With such

pressure of work she had no time to care for her own health, much less her clothes or looks. Such heavy strain lasted for quite a number of days. By chance, in some 'Ghazwah' (battle), the Prophet got many slave-girls in booty. Hazrath Ali (Raz) coaxed her to approach the Prophet to secure a slave-girl for her assistance also. Somehow Hazrath Fatimah (Raz) persuaded herself to go to the Prophet, but seeing some people already with him, she felt shy to speak, and returned without opening her mouth. Later on, when the Prophet himself visited her and learnt about her intention of coming, he said:

“The rightful claimants of these slave-girls are the poor Muslims, who are deprived even of their night meals. I shall present you something better, instead. Listen! After the day's work when you retire to bed, recite thirty three times 'SUB'HAN ALLAH' and thirty three times 'AL-HUMD-U-LILLAH' and thirty four times 'ALLAH-U-AKBAR'. The obedient

daughter always acted on her father's advice, and with this act of praising Allah, she used to derive immense solace, and felt herself relieved of her day's strain. That is why it is called the 'Rosary of Fatimah'.

1. Who was Hazrath Fatimah (Raz)?
2. What household work she used to do?
3. Why did she present herself before the Prophet?
4. How did the Prophet pacify her?
5. What is the 'Rosary of Fatimah'?
6. What are the advantages of this 'rosary'?

EIGHT

HELP TO THE POOR

Shah Kirmani was a God-fearing pious person. In fact he was the King of a big country with all the pomp and pageantry of a monarch. But as days passed by, he lost interest in all mundane things of this world. So much so that ultimately he abdicated his throne and became a mendicant and started spending all his time in devotion to Allah and prayers. He had great trust in Allah. Whatever wealth he possessed, he spent in the way of Allah on the poor and the destitute, with trust in Allah that He would provide him for the morrow.

He had a daughter, who was extremely noble. Her heart went out in sympathy for the poor. When she came of age, proposals for her hand in marriage were mooted from all parts of his country. Amongst these there was a proposal even from a King.

Shah Kirmani rejected all these proposals and married his sweet daughter to but a poor boy. He was very virtuous, God-fearing and observed fasts and was punctual in offering prayers ('Namaz'). The erstwhile princess, on reaching her husband's place, found a crumb of bread of yester night lying there. She asked her husband what it was and why it was lying unused.

Husband : "This is yester night's crumb of bread. I have laid it aside thinking that it may be of use tomorrow."

Wife : "In that case my staying in this house is difficult" (She gets up to go).

Husband : "I thought as much! How could a princess remain in the house of a poor person like me?"

Wife : "No. It is not so! What I thought was that you may be a very magnanimous person. You may be having a feeling heart for the poor,

but my observation belies my expectations.”

Husband: : “How do you say so? I do not follow.”

Wife : “This remnant of bread which you have kept aside! Little did you think that even tonight, Allah knows, how many lame and crippled, poor and helpless persons may go to sleep half or empty stomach. If it were to go in their stomach, how rewarding it would be? Allah is Great. He would have been pleased to provide us for the morrow. You had no consideration for these afflicted lot, and kept the surplus to yourself. How can I get along with such a person?”

Listening to such talk from his wife, the husband hung his head in shame, and took the crumb of bread and gave it to a beggar.

NINE

THINGS TO REMEMBER

1. Allah! There is no God save Him, the Alive, the Eternal. He has created us all. He is the Nourisher. He fulfils everyone's needs. That is why, He Alone is the Supreme Lord and Sovereign of us all. Everyone should obey His orders and submit to his Will and Pleasure.
2. Allah is most Merciful. He provided us innumerable bounties. He has blessed us with good and loving parents. He has filled their hearts with love for us. We must be grateful to Allah and pray unto Him.
3. He has sent His Apostles to show us what is His Will and Pleasure. The Apostles brought Holy Books with them. These Books contain the code of

life for the Righteous, the path of Truth and Virtue. The last in the chain of Apostles to arrive is Prophet Muhammad. After him no Apostle will be raised. The Holy Quran was revealed on Muhammad, the last Apostle of Allah (PBUH).

4. On Doomsday all that exists will cease to exist. It will be the end of this world. Allah will then raise them all once again. Every one will have to account for his deeds. The virtuous will be rewarded, and strict punishment would be inflicted on the evil doers. We must be afraid of the wrath of Allah and earn His reward by our virtuous deeds.
5. Love for parents is supremely great. They suffer pain and sorrow to give us comfort. They feed us, educate us and make us grow into towering personalities. We must respect them and be in service on them.
6. Innumerable are the poor and miserable fellow beings. They have neither food

to eat nor clothes to wear. We must render them all help and give them a share in food and clothing from out of our own share. To help them is to please Allah. Paradise awaits the virtuous.

MEANING OF WORDS

TO THE BELOVED DAUGHTERS:

	Studded with	=	Having a thing set in or scattered on the surface.
	Artificial	=	Not natural or real.
	Glamour	=	Charm or enchantment.
	Glitter	=	Shine brightly with flashes of light sparkle.
	Genuine	=	True, really what it is said to be.
Lesson 1.	'Sadiq'	=	The truthful.
	'Ameen'	=	The trustworthy.
	Immense	=	Very large.
	Counsel	=	Advice, consultation, opinion, suggestion.
	Perplexed	=	Puzzled, bewildered.
Lesson 2.	Myriad	=	Very great number.
	Enumerated	=	Count, naming them one by one (as in a list).
Lesson 3.	Perturbed	=	Troubled, anxious.
	Soiled	=	Made dirty.
	Filth	=	Dirt, obscenity.
Lesson 4.	Immature	=	Not yet fully developed.
	Obstinate	=	Not easily overcome, not easily giving way to argument or persuasion.
	Reverence	=	Deep respect, feeling of

Lesson 5.	Wield	=	wonder & awe. Have and use (power, authority, control).
Lesson 6.	Retaliation	=	Returning the same sort of ill treatment.
	Encounter	=	Meet an (enemy or enemies).
	Constrain	=	Make subject do a thing by using force or strong persuasion.
	Plunder	=	Rob (people) especially during war or civil disorder.
	Ravage	=	Destroy, damage badly.
Lesson 7.	Smeared	=	Covered or marked with thing oily or sticky.
	Solace	=	(That which gives) comfort or relief (when one is in pain).
Lesson 8.	Pageantry	=	Rich and splendid display.
	Mundane	=	Worldly (contrasted with spiritual).
	Abdicate	=	Give up, renounce a high office, authority, control.
	Mendicant	=	Getting a living by asking for alms like a beggar.
	Destitute	=	Without food, clothes and other things necessary for life.
	Magnanimous	=	Having, showing generosity.
	Remnant	=	Small part that remains.
	Doomsday	=	The Day of Judgement, the end of the World.