

VIRTUES OF BISMILLAH

(Extract From Faaizaan e Sunnat)

Ameer e Daawat e Islaami
MOLAANA MUHAMMAD ILYAAS
QAADRI

Compiled and Translated by
MUHAMMAD SAJID YOUNUS

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The Virtues of Bismillah

Every important matter should begin with Bismillah

Hazrat Abu Hurayra narrates the Prophet's sallallaahu alaihi wasallam saying 'Every important act that begins without *Bismillah irahmaa Niraheem* remains incomplete' (Mataali ul Massaraat)

Beloved Islamic Brothers! All good and permissible acts should start with Bismillah Shareef. But NEVER EVER begin haraam and evil acts with Bismillah. Fataawa Alamgeeriya (a famous book of Islamic law) warns

'Reciting Bismillah when drinking alcohol, committing Zinah (Adultery), gambling and stealing is Kufr'

The Angels keep on writing good deeds

The Prophet sallallaahu alaihi wasallam said 'When one of you performs wudhu he should recite *Bismillahi wa'l Hamdu lillahi* (because) for as long as the wudhu remains valid the Angels (who record/write all our deeds) will keep on writing good deeds (for you)' (Tibraani)

Beloved Islamic Brothers! Make this your habit! By paying this slight attention (in reciting Bismillahi wa'l Hamdu lillahi) you can collect many good deeds! Insha'allah.

A Source of Forgiveness

Hazrat Ali states 'A man recited *Bismillah irahmaa Niraheem* beautifully and properly (and) was forgiven' (Kanz ul Am'maal)

Hazrat Anas narrated that the Prophet sallallaahu alaihi wasallam said ‘Whoever, to show respect to Allah, writes *Bismillah irahmaa Niraheem* in a beautiful way will be forgiven’ (Durr e Manthoor)

A strange and unique account of the Barakah of Bismillah

A wise man was once preaching the benefits Bismillah shareef. A Jewish girl was amongst those listening and was so affected by what she heard that she immediately accepted Islam. From that time onwards her tongue began the utterance of *Bismillah irahmaa Niraheem*, whenever she would rise, sit, sleep, or walk she would recite *Bismillah irahmaa Niraheem*. Her parents, who were still Jewish, became very displeased and began punishing her. Their hatred became so intense that they decided to falsely accuse her of something and have her executed. So one day the girl's father, who was also a minister of the King, gave his daughter the King's special signet ring. She recited Bismillah and put the ring into her pocket. That night as the girl slept her father took the ring from her pocket and threw it into the river, where it was swallowed by a fish.

In the morning a fisherman threw his net into the river and caught the fish which had swallowed the ring during the night. The fisherman presented that fish to the king's minister (the girl's father) who gave it to the girl to cook. She recited Bismillah and took the fish. Before cutting open the fish she again recited Bismillah and when she cut it she saw the ring. She recited Bismillah and put it into her pocket. She cooked the fish and presented it to her father. After finishing his meal the father asked the girl to give him back the ring he had given her the previous day. The girl recited Bismillah and took it out of her pocket and handed it to him. Her father was shocked to see the ring and his plan to have her killed had been foiled and Allah Azza wa Jall, through the Barakah of Bismillah, had saved the girl from being killed. (LaMa'aani Sufiyya)

The Sinner was forgiven

A man once saw a sinful person in a dream and asked ‘How has Allah treated you?’ He replied ‘Once (during my lifetime) day I was walking past a Madrassa (religious school) and heard *Bismillah irahmaa Niraheem* being recited. The sweetness of Allah's name had a great impact upon my heart and at the same time I heard a voice claim ‘We will not combine two things; 1) the sweetness of Allah's name and 2) the bitterness of death.’ After my death I discovered that Allah had forgiven me.’ (Anees ul Waa'izeen)

Parents freedom from the Punishment of the grave,

It is stated in Shar'a tul Islam that if a person finds a piece of paper on the floor with *Bismillah irahmaa Niraheem* written on it and picks it up through respect, Allah will make that person His friend and will protect his parents from the punishment of the grave and will raise him amongst the martyrs on the day of Qiyaamah. (Tadhkira tu'l Waaizeen)

Dear Islamic Brothers! Unfortunately today many newspapers have *Bismillah irahmaa Niraheem* written on them and for a few pennies our brothers sell them as rubbish and we see these newspapers ending up in filthy drains. If only we had respect for the verses of the Quran! Dear brothers! Rather than throwing newspapers away as rubbish extinguish them in the sea and my dear Trader brothers! For the love and respect of Allah and His Prophet try not to use newspapers as wrapping! Allah will surely reward you for this show of respect.

An astonishing collection

Allah sent books and revelations to some of His Prophets. In total they number 104. 60 books were sent to Hazrat Shuaib *alaihi salaam*, 30 to Hazrat Ibraheem *alaihi salaam* and 10 to Hazrat Musa *alaihi salaam* before the revelation to the Tawraat. There are 4 major books:

- Tawraat Shareef – sent to Hazrat Musa *alaihi salaam*
- Zabur Shareef – sent to Hazrat Daud *alaihi salaam*
- Injeel Shareef – sent to Hazrat Isa *alaihi salaam*
- Quran Majeed – sent to the lord of Madeena, Hazrat Sayyidina Muhammad Mustafa *sallallaahu alaihi wasallam*

The text and subject of all these revelations and books is encompassed within the Quran. The whole subject matter of the Quran is contained within Surah Fatiha and the whole meaning of Surah Fatiha is encompassed within Bismillah Shareef and the whole subject of Bismillah Shareef is contained within the ‘Baa’ (at the beginning).

The Poor and weak Devil

A believer’s devil once met a disbeliever’s devil. The disbeliever’s devil was fit and healthy, well clothed and well groomed whilst the believer’s devil was thin and weak with dry hair and shabbily dressed. The disbeliever’s devil asked the believers devil ‘Brother, Why are you in such a state?’ He replied ‘I am with a servant of Allah who eats by first reciting Bismillah, thus I have to go without food; he begins drinking by reciting Bismillah and consequently I go without drink and when he oils his hair he begins with Bismillah so my hair remains dry and when he puts his clothes on he recites Bismillah. As a result I am without clothes.’ The disbeliever’s devil said ‘I am with a person who never reads Bismillah, thus I join in with him in his every act!’ (Mawaahib ud Duniya)

This encounter teaches us that if we want barakah and virtue we must begin every act with Bismillah. If not, the cursed devil will be with us in our every act.

The frightful snake

Hazrat Isa Ruhullah *alaihi salaam* once passed a man who was chasing a very frightening snake. The snake warned ‘O Prophet of Allah, tell him to stop chasing me for I have a very deadly poison’ Hazrat Isa *alaihi salaam* advised the man to stop hunting the snake but the man did not listen. After some time, Hazrat Isa *alaihi salaam* again passed by the same place and asked ‘O Man, did you manage to catch the snake?’ As soon as he said this Hazrat Isa *alaihi salaam* noticed the snake who immediately lowered his head in shame and pleaded ‘Oh Ruh ullah, his physical strength did not overpower me! It was due to *Bismillah irahmaa Niraheem* that he overcame me. Bismillah rendered my poison useless’ (Nuzha tul Majaalis)

10,000 Good deeds

Hazrat Abu Bakr Siddiq narrates the saying of the Prophet *sallallaahu alaihi wasallam* ‘Whoever recites Bismillah Shareef once, Allah will record 10,000 good deeds for him and 10,000 of his sins will be erased and he will be elevated 10,000 ranks. (Anees ul Waa’izeen)

76,000 Good deeds

Hazrat Ibn Masood narrates that the Prophet *sallallaahu alaihi wasallam* said ‘Whoever reads Bismillah, for every letter he recites he will have 4,000 good deeds recorded, 4,000 sins erased and elevated 4,000 ranks (Nuzhat ul Majaalis)

19 Letters

Bismillah irahmaa Niraheem has 19 letters (in Arabic) and Hell has 19 Angels of Punishment. It is hoped that with the barakah of each letter of Bismillah Shareef we will be saved from the punishment of each one of these Angels. Secondly there are 24 hours in a day and with 5 hours taken up by the 5 prayers the 19 letters of Bismillah shareef can be allocated to the remaining 19 hours. Allah Willing, whoever recites Bismillah Shareef his

every hour of the day will be counted as worship and the sins of each hour will be forgiven.’ (Tafseer Naeemi)

Once a group of fire-worshippers challenged Syeduna Khalid bin Waleed to show them a sign which proved the truthfulness of Islam. Khalid bin Walid called for some deadly poison, read *Bismillah irahmaa Niraheem* and ate it. With the barakah of Bismillah Shareef the deadly poison had no effect on him. On seeing this the fire worshippers cried out ‘Islam is Haq (True)’ (Tafseer Kabeer)

Salvation from the 19 levels of Hell

Bismillah irahmaa Niraheem has 19 letters and Hell (Jahanum) has 19 levels. Whosoever recites *Bismillah irahmaa Niraheem* will be saved from all the levels of Hell (Allah Willing).’ (Anees ul Wa’aizeen)

Freedom from Hell

A Bedouin (person from the desert / country) presented himself in the company of the Prophet sallallaahu alaihi wasallam and pleaded ‘Yaa Rasoolallah, I am very sinful. Pray for my forgiveness’. The Prophet sallallaahu alaihi wasallam said ‘Recite *Bismillah irahmaa Niraheem* and the Most Merciful will forgive your sins. The Bedouin was astonished and asked ‘Is that all (I have to do) Yaa Rasoolallah?’ The Prophet sallallaahu alaihi wasallam replied ‘Whichever Muslim Man or Woman recites *Bismillah irahmaa Niraheem* with sincerity and surety, Allah will, through His Grace and Mercy, free him from Hell’ (Asraar ul Fatiha)

A Drunkard becomes a Walli

Before he repented Hazrat Bishar Haafi rahma tullah alaih was a heavy drinking drunkard. Once, whilst roaming the streets in a drunkard state, he found a piece of paper with Bismillah written on it. Through it’s respect he picked it up and purchased

fragrance and scented it. He then put that piece of paper in a high place. That night a holy man in a dream heard a voice which said to him ‘Go! And say to Bishar that he has scented My name and respected it and placed it in a high place. (Thus) We will also purify you and grant you respect in both this and the next world’. The holy man awoke and thought to himself that maybe his dream was wrong because Bishar was nothing but a drunkard and a sinner. So he performed Wudhu, prayed Nafl and went back to sleep. But again he saw the same dream, but still did not believe it until he saw it again for a third time in which he was also ordered ‘Take Our message to Bishar, Go! Give him Our message!’

In the morning the holy man went in search of Bishar and heard that he was in a drinking session. The holy man went there and called out to Bishar but was informed that Bishar was heavily drunk. The Holy man told them to let Bishar know somehow that someone was waiting outside with an important message. The people went to Bishar and said ‘Wake up, there is an important message for you’ Bishar ordered them to find out who it was from. The people came back to the Holy man and asked him who was the message from, He explained it was from Allah Azza wa Jall. When Bishar was told this he immediately rose with joy and ran outside and after hearing the message repented sincerely. His status became so elevated that the power of seeing the truth led to him not wearing anything on his feet and he never wore shoes. It is for this reason that he is known as Haafi – the person who keeps his feet uncovered. (Tadhkira tu’l Awliya)

By respecting a piece of paper that has the name of Allah written on it gives even a sinful person such a rank that he is elevated into the list of Allah’s beloved and dearest servants. So think would it not be rewardful to respect those pure people in whose hearts the name of Allah is imprinted? And why

wouldn't we sinners, through the grace of Allah, not benefit from the hearts that are busy in the Dhikr of Allah? And what about he who is the Chief of all the Awliya and Prophets, surely Allah will be pleased with those who respect him (i.e. Ahmad ul Mujtaba, Muhammad ul Mustafa). And surely also respecting the name of a holy person is rewardful. Hazrat Bishar Haafi showed respect to the name of Allah and became respected himself, so if we today showed respect to the name of Muhammad, if we kissed his name whenever we heard it and placed it upon our eyes would we not gain respect? Where Bishar Haafi saw the name of Allah he scented it with Attar and became pure himself. So if we spread Attar and rosewater wherever the Dhikr of the Prophet of Allah takes place would we also not become pure?

Even animals respect the Awliya

Hazrat Bishar Haafi always travelled barefoot and during his lifetime no animal relieved itself in the streets. This was only due to the respect and sanctity of Hazrat Bishar Haafi who always travelled bare foot.

One day an animal relieved itself in the street. On seeing this the owner became sad for he realised that Hazrat Bishar Haafi must have passed away, otherwise the animal would never have done that in the street. After a short while he heard that Hazrat Bishar Haafi had indeed passed away. (Tadhkira tu'l Awliya)

*Whosoever became of this house, the Creation became his
Whosoever turned away Allah turned away from him
You will wander taking knocks so stay lying at this house
Oh Riza, the first caravan has gone and so has the last*

Two Jews attained Faith through the Barakah of Bismillah.

A Jewish man fell in love with a Jewish woman. He became so restless in her love that he went to seek help from the Walli of

that time, Hazrat Ataa Akbar. Hazrat Ata Akbar wrote *Bismillah irahmaa Niraheem* on a piece of paper and told him 'Get out!' As the Jew left his heart became enveloped in the Nur of Imaan and the love of the woman disappeared and his tongue began to proclaim the Kalima of Shahaadah and he became a Muslim.

Later his beloved saw a dream in which she was instructed 'If you wish for Paradise, go to Hazrat Ata Akbar' She went to Hazrat Ata Akbar and told him that she was the beloved of the new Muslim and told of her dream. Hazrat said recite Bismillah and she recited it. As she did her heart too became enlightened and she recited the kalima and became Muslim. That night she saw a dream in which she was wandering through paradise and saw *Bismillah irahmaa Niraheem* written upon the palaces. She then heard a voice call out 'O recitor of Bismillah, You have surely seen what Allah has given you'.

She woke up and became agitated and made the dua 'Oh Allah, You have taken me into Paradise and then brought me out! For the sake of *Bismillah irahmaa Niraheem* take me back there again'

Whilst repeating this dua she collapsed and her soul was freed from this material world. (Nuzha t'ul Majaalis)

Subhaan Allah! Not only have we discovered the Barakah of *Bismillah irahmaa Niraheem* but have come to know that attending the company of the People of Allah is the source of great goodness. Whenever you have any distress or worry, presenting oneself in the company of a Walli of Allah not only gives relief from that worry but sometimes also provides rewards and bounties beyond one's expectations. Just as attending the company of Hazrat Ataa Akbar became the cause of the Imaan of two Jews!

You have escaped Punishment.

A man bequeathed (left a will) that after his death *Bismillah irahmaa Niraheem* should be written on his forehead and chest. The people did as he instructed. Some time later a person saw the man in a dream and asked how he was, he explained that after he had been laid in the grave the angels of punishment arrived and on seeing *Bismillah* on his forehead proclaimed 'You have escaped the punishment'. (Durr e Mukhtaar)

Beloved Islamic Brothers ! Whenever someone dies, be sure to write *Bismillah Shareef* etc. Your slight attention could become a source of forgiveness for the helpless deceased.

How to write upon the Shroud (Kafan)

Allaama Shaami writes that it could also be that *Bismillah irahmaa Niraheem* be written upon the forehead of the deceased and *Kalima Tayyiba* (Laa ilaaha illallah Muhammad ur Rasoolallah) upon the chest. It must be written after washing the body and before placing the shroud using the index finger and not ink. (Radd ul Mukhtaar)

Freedom from Hell on the Day of Judgement

On the day of Judgement the angels of punishment will grab a person and will be ordered to search his every bodily part for any good deeds. The angels will search his every part but will not find any deeds. The angels will then order the man to show his tongue to see if there are any good deeds there. When he takes out his tongue the angels will see *Bismillah irahmaa Niraheem* scribed in white on his tongue. Immediately it will be proclaimed 'Go! We have forgiven you !' (Nuzha tul Majaalis).

The Barakah of Bismillah

Before Firawn (Pharaoh) declared himself God he had *Bismillah irahmaa Niraheem* scribed on the front of one of his

palaces. When he declared himself God Musa invited him to believe in Allah but he refused. Hazrat Musa then pleaded with Allah 'Oh Allah, I have relentlessly called him towards You but he is stubborn, I do not see any goodness in him'. Allah replied ' Oh Musa, You want him to be destroyed, you can only see his disbelief but We See Our Name scribed upon his door' (Nuzha tu'l Majaalis)

For the protection of the house

Imam Fakhruddin Raazi states that whosoever writes *Bismillah irahmaa Niraheem* on his front door (main entrance) will be safe from destruction (in this world)! Even if he is a Kaafir. So imagine the state of the person who has had *Bismillah irahmaa Niraheem* etched on his heart all his life! (Tafseer Kabeer)

The drunk was forgiven.

A drunkard was walking intoxicated in a street when he tripped and fall into a well and died. After some time a person saw the drunkard in a dream and asked 'What has Allah done with you?' He replied 'Allah has forgiven me' The person was shocked and asked 'Were you not a drunkard?' He replied 'Yes, I was a drunkard and I died in a state of intoxication but It was the grace of Allah. What happened was that I was dancing through the streets intoxicated and saw a piece of paper with *Bismillah irahmaa Niraheem* written on it. I picked it up and swallowed it. Later, I fall down the well and died. When the angels came to question me I protested 'You question me! I have the pure name of my Lord inside me!' Then suddenly a voice from the unseen said 'My servant is telling the truth, leave him, I have forgiven him'

Deeds equivalent to a lifetimes worth of breathing

If a man reads *Bismillah* when approaching his wife the devil will not be amongst them and if this approach results in a child

the father will receive a reward for every breath of the child.
(Tafseer Naeemi)

In Nuzha tu'l Majaalis it is even stated that the father will receive reward for each breath of the offspring of that child for generations to come.

When sleeping together and before uncovering the husband and wife should both read Bismillah Shareef. They will be shielded from the devil's involvement and will receive many rewards.

Deeds with every footstep

Whosoever reads *Bismillah* and *Alhamdulillah* when mounting an animal will receive a reward for each step the animal takes.
(Tafseer Naeemi)

A shipful of Deeds

Whosoever reads *Bismillah* and *Alhamdulillah* when boarding a ship will continue to receive reward whilst he stays on the ship.
(Tafseer Naeemi)

The forgiveness of the child, Parent and teacher.

Hazrat Ibn Abbass narrates that the Prophet sallallaahu alaihi wasallam said 'As soon as the teacher instructs the child to recite *Bismillah irahmaa Niraheem* salvation (success) is written (confirmed) for the teacher, child and his parents. (Dehlmi).

Punishment was lifted from the grave

Hazrat Isa passed by a grave in which punishment was taking place. After some time he again passed by the grave and saw it full of light and the mercy of Allah showering upon it. He was astonished and asked his Lord 'Tell me the secret of this?' It was said 'Oh Ruh ullah! He was a great sinner and a bad person, this was why he was being punished. However he had left behind a wife who was pregnant, she has given birth to a

child and today he started school and the teacher taught him Bismillah. I did not see it befitting to punish a person whose child is proclaiming My name on the earth'. (Tafseer Naeemi)

The devils melts like lead

When a person reads *Bismillah irahmaa Niraheem* the devil melts like lead. (Anees ul Waa'izeen)

All Sins are forgiven

The Prophet sallallaahu alaihi wasallam of Allah stated 'Not one sin will remain of the one who recites *Bismillah irahmaa Niraheem*' (Anees ul Waa'izeen)

*We did not ever steer clear of Sin
but you never broke our hearts
We made every effort to reach Hell
but your mercy would not withstand it
(Hadaaiq e Bakshish)*

***O Our Beloved Allah ! Enrich us with the Barakah of
Bismillah irahmaa Niraheem and grant us the ability to begin
each good and permissible act by reading Bismillah irahmaa
Niraheem. Aameen bi jaai Nabiyyil Ameen.***