

SHORTCUTS TO HEAVEN

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SHORTCUTS TO HEAVEN: Every believer in God wants to get to heaven. There are certain actions if we focus on them can improve our chances. Amongst them are:

1. Being patient when a loved one is taken from this world.
2. Taking care of an orphan.
3. Taking care of elderly parents.
4. Not severing ties of kinship.
5. Visiting the sick.
6. Not associating partners with God.
7. Guarding the use of our tongue and genitals.
8. Ruling with justice
9. Constantly seeking knowledge
10. Mending our quarrels and divisions.

This booklet gives you the details, and leaves you to strive for a place in heaven.

IRFAN ALLI: Irfan Alli is in search of spiritual enlightenment and enjoys sharing what he finds with others. He has served as a director, educator and chairperson in Islamic organizations as well as a lay Muslim Chaplain in Canadian hospitals and prisons.

He is the author of three books "The ABCs of Parenting - A Practical Guide for Muslim Parents", "How to get the most out of School - A Practical Guide for Students and Parents" and "Muslim Child - Understanding Islam through Stories and Poems" which is co-authored with his wife Rukhsana Khan.

Irfan is often asked to speak to Muslims and non-Muslims to help them better understand Islam. His presentations to students, parents, youths, community groups, pastors, educators, and at interfaith forums have been well received. His research and lecture notes are transcribed into booklets, and can be downloaded from www.IslamicBooklets.com free of charge.

His volunteer and professional work has taken him all across Canada, to the U.S., Brazil, Hong Kong, Indonesia, South Korea, Japan, Guyana, Pakistan, India, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia. What he has learned from his travels is reflected in his writing. Irfan lives in Toronto, Canada with his wife and four children.

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INTRODUCTION

During the summer months, sitting in my backyard, and looking up at the sky, I wondered if there were any shortcuts to heaven. I figure with so many distractions in life, all one would need to do is focus on such shortcuts to improve their chances of getting to heaven. I know that none of us can get to heaven without God's mercy and permission, but there must be some actions that come highly recommended to help us get there. I decided to see what the **Hadith** had to say.

The teachings of Islam come from two sources, the **Quran** and the **Hadith**. Muslims believe the same angel (Gabriel) that came to prophets Abraham, Moses and Jesus also came to prophet Muhammad (peace be upon them all). Muslims also believe that God, through the angel Gabriel, revealed the **Quran** to Muhammad (peace be upon him). This was done over a period of twenty-three years. Muslims consider the Quran to be God's last revelation to mankind. Since one in every five persons on earth is a Muslim, the Quran enlightens and guides over one billion people around the world.

The **Hadith** are sayings and practices of prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). Muhammad (peace be upon him) lived during the sixth and seventh centuries. Muslims accept him as God's last prophet and messenger to mankind. He invited people to the same God that Abraham, Moses and Jesus (peace be upon them) invited people to. The sayings of prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) number in the thousands, and cover a variety of topics.

These thousands of sayings occur in various collections such as Bukhari, Muslim, and Riyad-us-Saliheen. I decided to scan the smaller collection, Riyad-us-Saliheen, to see if I can find such shortcuts. I was looking for sayings of prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) where he said do such and such, and you will get to heaven or paradise. What I found is contained in this booklet. I have left in the Hadith number for those who wish to go back to the Arabic text.

Since this booklet is written for both Muslims and non-Muslims, it is my intention to eventually add some comments under each shortcut (Hadith) so that all can understand them.

Please note, that where the word Allah is used, it is simply the Arabic word for God.

Irfan Alli.

BE PATIENT WHEN A LOVED ONE IS TAKEN FROM THIS WORLD

Narrated Abu Hurairah (may Allah be pleased with him): Allah's Messenger (may Allah's peace and praise be on him) said, "Allah the Exalted says: I have no reward other than Paradise for a believing slave of Mine who remains patient for My sake when I take away his beloved one from among the inhabitants of the world.'" [Al-Bukhari, Riyad-us-Saliheen # 32]

Narrated Abu Musa Al-Ash'ari (may Allah be pleased with him): Allah's Messenger (may Allah's peace and praise be on him) said, "When a man's child dies, Allah the Most High asks His angels, 'Have you taken out the life of the child of My slave?' and they reply in the affirmative. He (azza wa jal) then asks, 'Have you taken the fruit of his heart?' and they reply in the affirmative. Thereupon He asks, 'What did my slave say?' They say: 'He praised You and said: Inna lillahi wa inna ilaihi rajiun (We belong to Allah and to Him we shall return).' Allah says: 'Build a house for my slave in Paradise and name it Baitul-Hamd (the House of Praise).'" [At-Tirmidhi, Riyad-us-Saliheen # 922]

Narrated Abu Hurairah (may Allah be pleased with him): Allah's Messenger (may Allah's peace and praise be on him) said: "Allah the Exalted says: I have no reward except Paradise for a believing slave of Mine who shows patience and anticipates My reward when I take away his favourite one from the inhabitants of the world.'" [Al-Bukhari, Riyad-us-Saliheen # 923]

REMINDER: Where the word Allah is used, it is simply the Arabic word for God.

SPEAK THE TRUTH

Narrated Abdullah bin Masud (may Allah be pleased with him): The Prophet (may Allah's peace and praise be on him) said, "Truth leads to piety and piety leads to Paradise. A man persists in speaking the truth till he is enrolled with Allah as a truthful man. Falsehood leads to vice and vice leads to the Fire (Hell), and a person goes on telling a lie till with Allah he is enrolled as a liar." [Al-Bukhari and Muslim, Riyad-us-Saliheen # 54]

BE MINDFUL OF YOUR DUTIES TO GOD

Narrated Abu Umamah (may Allah be pleased with him): I heard Allah's Messenger (may Allah's peace and praise be on him) during the sermon of the Farewell Pilgrimage saying, "Be mindful of your duty to Allah; offer your five daily Salat (prayers), observe Saum (fasting) during the month (of Ramadhan), pay the Zakat on your properties and obey your leaders; (if you do so) you will enter your Lord's Paradise." [At-Trimidhi, Riyad-us-Saliheen # 73]

MULTIPLY YOUR PROSTRATIONS

Narrated Rabi'ah bin K'ab Al-Aslami (may Allah be pleased with her) (a servant of the Messenger of Allah and also one of the people of As-Suffah): I used to spend my night in the company of Allah's Messenger (may Allah's peace and praise be on him) and used to put up water for his ablutions. One day he said to me, "Ask something of me." I said: I request for your companionship in Paradise. He inquired, "Is there anything else?" I said that is all. He said, "Then help me in your request by multiplying your prostrations." [Muslim, Riyad-us-Saliheen # 106]

FREQUENT THE MOSQUE

Narrated Abu Hurairah (may Allah be pleased with him): The Prophet (may Allah's peace and praise be on him) said, "He who proceeds towards the mosque at dawn or dusk (for Salat), Allah prepares a hospitable entertainment for him in Paradise, every time when he walks to it or comes back from it." [Al-Bukhari and Muslim, Riyad-us-Saliheen # 123]

OBEY THE PROPHET

Narrated Abu Hurairah (may Allah be pleased with him): Allah's Messenger (may Allah's peace and praise be on him) said, "Everyone of my Ummah will enter Paradise except those who do not want to." He was asked: "Who are those who do not want to?" He (may Allah's peace and praise be on him) said, "Whoever obeys me, shall enter Paradise, and whoever disobeys me, does not want to (enter Paradise)." [Al-Bukhari, Riyad-us-Saliheen # 158]

TAKE CARE OF AN ORPHAN

Narrated Sahl bin Sa'd (may Allah be pleased with him): Allah's Messenger (may Allah's peace and praise be on him) said, "I will be like this in Paradise with the person who takes care of the orphan." Allah's Messenger (may Allah's peace and praise be on him) raised his forefinger and middle finger by way of illustration. [AL-Bukhari, Riyad-us-Saliheen # 262]

Narrated Abu Hurairah (may Allah be pleased with him): Allah's Messenger (may Allah's peace and praise be on him) said, "He who takes care of an orphan, whether he is his relative or a stranger, will be with me like these two in Paradise." The narrator, Malik bin Anas raised his forefinger and middle finger for illustration. [Muslim, Riyad-us-Saliheen # 263]

TAKE GOOD CARE OF YOUR DAUGHTERS

Narrated Anas (may Allah be pleased with him): Allah's Messenger (may Allah's peace and praise be on him) said, "Whoever supports two girls till they attain maturity, he and I will come on the Day of Resurrection like this." Allah's Messenger (may Allah's peace and praise be on him) joined his fingers illustrating this. [Muslim, Riyad-us-Saliheen # 267]

Narrated Aishah (may Allah be pleased with her): A woman came to me with her two daughters. She asked me (for charity) but she found nothing with me except one date-fruit, so I gave it to her. She accepted it and then divided it between her two daughters and herself ate nothing out of that. She then got up and went out. When Allah's Messenger (may Allah's peace and praise be on him) came in, and I narrated to him the story, he said, "He who is involved (in the responsibility) of (bringing up) daughters, and he accords benevolent treatment towards them, they would become protection for him against Hell-fire." [Al-Bukhari and Muslim, Riyad-us-Saliheen # 268]

TAKE CARE OF AGING PARENTS

Narrated Abu Hurairah (may Allah be pleased with him): Allah's Messenger (may Allah's peace and praise be on him) said, "May he be disgraced! May he be disgraced! May he be disgraced, who finds his parents, one or both, approaching old age and does not enter Paradise (by rendering due services to them)." [Muslim, Riyad-us-Saliheen # 317]

DO NOT SEVER TIES OF KINSHIP

Narrated Abu Ayyub Khalid bin Zaid Al-Ansari (may Allah be pleased with him): A man came to Allah's Messenger (may Allah's peace and praise be on him) and said, "Direct me to a deed which will draw me near to Paradise and take me away from the Fire." Upon this Allah's Messenger (may Allah's peace and praise be on him) said, "Worship Allah and never associate anything with Him, establish As-Salat (the prayer), pay Zakat, and maintain the ties of kinship." [Al-Bukhari and Muslim, Riyad-us-Saliheen # 331]

Narrated Abu Muhammad Jubair bin Mut'im (may Allah be pleased with him): Allah's Messenger (may Allah's peace and praise be on him) said, "The person who severs the bond of kinship will not enter Paradise." [Al-Bukhari and Muslim, Riyad-us-Saliheen # 339]

VISIT THE SICK

Narrated Abu Hurairah (may Allah be pleased with him): I heard Allah's Messenger (may Allah's peace and praise be on him) saying, "Whosoever visits an ailing person or a brother of his to seek the Pleasure of Allah, an announcer (angel) calls out: 'May you be happy, may your walking be blessed, and may you be awarded a dignified position in Paradise.'" [At-Tirmidhi, Riyad-us-Saliheen # 362]

REACH FOR THE SHADE OF GOD

Narrated Abu Hurairah (may Allah be pleased with him): Allah's Messenger (may Allah's peace and praise be on him) said, "Seven are (the persons) whom Allah would give protection with His Shade on the Day when there would be no shade but His Shade (i.e., on the Day of Judgement, and they are :) A just ruler; a youth who grew up with the worship of Allah; a person whose heart is attached to the mosque; two persons who love and meet each other and depart from each other for the sake of Allah; a man whom an extremely beautiful woman seduces (for illicit relation), but he (rejects this offer by saying): 'I fear Allah,' a person who gives in charity and conceals it (to such an extent) that the left hand might not know what the right hand has given; and a person who remembers Allah in solitude and his eyes well up." [Al-Bukhari and Muslim, Riyad-us-Saliheen # 376]

DO NOT ASSOCIATE PARTNERS WITH GOD

Narrated Jabir (may Allah be pleased with him): A bedouin came to Allah's Messenger (may Allah's peace and praise be on him) and asked him, "O Messenger of Allah, what are the two imperatives which lead to Paradise or Hell. He (may Allah's peace and praise be on him) replied, "He who dies without associating anything with Allah (in worship) will enter Paradise, and he who dies associating partners with Allah (in worship) will enter the Fire" [Muslim, Riyad-us-Saliheen # 414]

Narrated Anas (may Allah be pleased with him): A man said: "O Messenger of Allah! I love Surat-Al-Ikhlās [Say: He is Allah, (the) One]." He (may Allah's peace and praise be on him) said, "Your love for it will admit you to Paradise." [At-Tirmidhi, Riyad-us-Saliheen # 1013]

DO NOT BEG

Narrated Thauban (may Allah be pleased with him): Allah's Messenger (may Allah's peace and praise be on him) said, "Who gives me guarantee that he will not beg anything from anyone, I will guarantee him (to enter) Paradise." I said, "I give you the guarantee." Then Thauban (may Allah be pleased with him) never begged anything from anyone. [Abu Dawud, Riyad-us-Saliheen # 535]

GUARD THE USE OF YOUR TONGUE AND GENITALS

Narrated Abu Hurairah (may Allah be pleased with him): Allah's Messenger (may Allah's peace and praise be on him) was asked about the deed which will be foremost to lead a man to Paradise. He replied, "Fear of Allah and good conduct." Then he was asked about indulgence which will admit a man to Hell (Fire) and he answered, "The tongue and the genitals." [At-Tirmidhi, Riyad-us-Saliheen # 627]

Do you know the thing which most commonly brings people into paradise? It is fear of God and good character. Do you know what most commonly brings people into hell? It is two things: the mouth and the private parts. (Abu Huraira in Tirmidhi and Ibn Majah)

DO NOT BE ARGUMENTATIVE

Abu Umamah Al-Bahili (may Allah be pleased with him): Allah's Messenger (may Allah's peace and praise be on him) said, "I guarantee abode within the boundary of Paradise for one who gives up arguing (even if he is in the right); and I guarantee a home in the middle of Paradise for one who abandons lying (even for the sake of fun); and I guarantee the sublime portion of Paradise for one whose conduct is excellent." [Abu Dawud, Riyad-us-Saliheen #630]

RULE WITH JUSTICE

Narrated Abu Ya'la Ma'qil bin Yasar (may Allah be pleased with him): Allah's Messenger (may Allah's peace and praise be on him) said, "If Allah appoints any one of His slave as a ruler over a people and he dies when he is still treacherous to his people, Allah shall forbid him from entering Paradise." [All-Bukhari and Muslim, Riyad-us-Saliheen # 654]

Narrated 'Iyad bin Himar (may Allah be pleased with him): Allah's Messenger (may Allah's peace and praise be on him) said, "The inmates of Paradise will be of three kinds: A just ruler to whom Allah has given success in doing things pleasing to Him, a man who shows mercy to his relatives, and a pious believer who has a large family and refrains from begging." [Muslim, Riyad-us-Saliheen # 662]

SPREAD PEACE AND LOVE ONE ANOTHER

Narrated Abu Hurairah (may Allah be pleased with him): Allah's Messenger (may Allah's peace and praise be on him) said, "By Him in Whose Hand my soul is! You will not enter Paradise until you believe, and you will by no means believe until you love one another. Shall I inform you of something which, if you do, you will love one another? Spread the salutation amongst you." [Muslim, Riyad-us-Saliheen # 848]

LET LAA ILAAHA ILLALLAH BE YOUR LAST UTTERANCE

Narrated Mu'adh bin Jabal (may Allah be pleased with him): Allah's Messenger (may Allah's peace and praise be on him) said, "He whose last words are: 'Laa ilaaha illallah' (none has the right to be worshipped but Allah) will enter Paradise." [Abu Dawud, Riyad-us-Saliheen]

MAXIMIZE THE USE OF RAMADAN

Narrated Abu Hurairah (may Allah be pleased with him): Allah's Messenger (may Allah's peace and praise be on him) said, "When Ramadan begins, the gates of Paradise are opened, the gates of Hell are closed, and the devils are chained." [Al-Bukhari and Muslim, Riyad-us-Saliheen #1220]

FIND YOUR WAY TO ARAFAT

Narrated Aishah (may Allah be pleased with her): Allah's Messenger (may Allah's peace and praise be on him) said, "There is no day on which Allah sets free more slaves from Hell than he does on the Day of 'Arafah." [Muslim, Riyad-us-Saliheen # 1277]

CONSTANTLY SEEK KNOWLEDGE

Narrated Abu Hurairah (may Allah be pleased with him): Allah's Messenger (may Allah's peace and praise be on him) said, "Allah makes the way to Paradise easy for him who treads the path in search of knowledge." [Muslim, Riyad-us-Saliheen # 1381]

ENGAGE IN THE REMEMBRANCE OF GOD

Narrated Jabir (may Allah be pleased with him): Allah's Messenger (may Allah's peace and praise be on him) said, "For him who says: "Subhan-Allahi-wa bi hamdihi (Glory be to Allah, and to Him belongs all praise), a palm-tree will be planted for him in Paradise." [At-Tirmidhi, Riyad-us-Saliheen # 1439]

MEND YOUR QUARRELS AND DIVISIONS

Narrated Abu Hurairah (may Allah be pleased with him): Allah's Messenger (may Allah's peace and praise be on him) said, "It is not lawful for a Muslim to forsake his (Muslim) brother beyond three days; and whosoever does so for more than three days, and then dies, will certainly enter the Hell." [Abu Dawud, Riyad-us-Saliheen #1595]

MAKE HEAVEN A PRIORITY

We all live busy lives, any have so many priorities, that multitasking is the norm.

Often in this frenzy we forget that heaven should be one of our foremost priorities.

We can easily make it a priority and focus by making the concepts, principles, and actions highlighted in this booklet the centerpiece of our life.

Should we do so, God may shower His favours and Mercy on us and grant us a place in heaven.

By following the various principles outlined in this booklet, God does not benefit. We, our families and society as a whole benefit.

Not only do we benefit in this life, but we stand to benefit in the hereafter as well.

We can start by ensuring we will be able to answer the following five questions on the day of judgement:

On the day of judgement no step shall a man take until he has answered questions on five aspects of his worldly existence: his life and how he spent it; his knowledge and what use he made of it; his wealth, how he acquired it and how it was spent; and his body and how he utilized it. (Abu Hurairah in Tirmidhi)

To help us position ourselves properly to answer the above questions, Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) gives us some advice in the following three Hadith. Use them to your advantage:

The wise and strong among you is the one who keeps his appetites under control and strives for life after death. And the foolish and weak among you is he who is a slave to sensual pleasures and still hopes for the best from his Lord. (Shaddad ibn 'Aus in Ibn Majah and Tirmidhi)

Take advantage of five things before five others overtake you: your youth before you grow old; your health before you fall sick; your money before you become poor; your leisure before you become busy; and your life before you die. (Amr ibn Maymum in Tirmidhi)

When a person dies, no further reward is recorded for their actions, with three exceptions: Charity which continues to benefit people; knowledge from which benefit continues to be reaped; or the prayers of a child for his dead parent. (Abu Huraira in Muslim)

I hope that you remember me in your prayers, and ask that I get a place in heaven.

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