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SOLAH

A Testimony of Success

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا ارْكَعُوا وَاسْجُدُوا وَاعْبُدُوا رَبَّكُمْ
وَافْعَلُوا الْخَيْرَ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُفْلِحُونَ

"O ye who believe! Bow down and prostrate yourselves (in prayer) and worship your Lord, and do good works. So that you may succeed (in this world and in the hereafter)". (Al-Hajj: 77)

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How could Solah bring success to our lives? As repeatedly mentioned in many articles, Solah and success are found to be positively related. Success and Solah may at first sound like two different concepts combined altogether. When it comes to Solah, we may not be able to see how it can be one of the main contributors for a string of successes in our day-to-day lives.

According to Hanis Khairunnisa (2013), 'Solah', a word derived from the Arabic language, means 'supplication', which refers to "the action of asking or begging for something earnestly or humbly". Hence, by purely looking at its definition alone, it is obviously important to see that Solah is the ideal conduit of supplication, which should be practised in order to attain triumph and success in both this world and the hereafter. This is due to the fact that Solah, a well-structured, divined pillar of Islam, grants us a direct connection with Allah SWT and makes constant reminders available for us that whatever and whichever occasions occurring in our episodes of life essentially come from Him, which could be our trials or successes.

Based on an article titled 'Salah: The Secret to a Successful Life' (25th March 2018), it is highlighted that people from all walks of life would constantly be seeking secrets to a successful life. Notwithstanding where they may be, they would find out ways to achieving a success. Since finding a success has become a frenzy, there is an advent of hundreds of articles and books, which come with an

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assertion that they have tons of holy-grail tips to achieving success. However, the answer to this quest is really simple and easy that, unexpectedly, no one has ever expected and barely noticed. In fact, each and every one of us hears the call to pray and success in the daily Azhan:

حي على الصلاة حي على الفلاح

Which means:

"Come to pray, Come to Success"

We have been given a beautiful gift in Solah. This means that whatever ambitions we are striving for, when other forms of success seem to be elusive and far away, but by knowing that our Solah is the most important and valuable deed we can do, we have already been blessed with the best and most tangible route to success five times a day. Delving deeper into the subject, apart from being one of the obligatory Five Pillars of Islam, we are aware of many benefits that Solah could give us.

We can all understand that if Solah is performed correctly and in unity, then how powerful it could become. Discipline is the external aspect of Solah. It is testified that Muslims, who constantly attend to prayers five times a day as per requirement, are able to instil good habits (Hanis Khairunnisa, 2013). For instance, punctuality and discipline. are crucial traits that can be derived from

performing Solah on time, which are essential recipes for anyone's success. On the other hand, this could also mean that being accustomed to delaying these obligatory prayers, which are religiously serious matters since they are pillars of Islam like a house that needs a strong foundation of pillars to stand still and last long, could drive us to getting used to delaying other works. In other words, delaying prayers may drive us towards procrastinating important duties and tasks. This is like a domino effect which affects people's daily routines, which implies that if we delay performing prayers, which should be prioritised and practised on time, then the rest of what we do would be delayed too. Hence, it is worth saying that if we look after our prayers, then Allah SWT would look after the rest of our affairs, which is what He has promised.

To make sure the quality of Solah, which is to enable it to function well as the most powerful form of worship, there are two internal aspects that should be embedded in Solah, which are 'Khushu', or sincerity, and 'Taqwa', or piety, that would be the most important mixture of this exclusive kind of worship (Abid Ishaq, 2004). The external aspect of discipline, united with the aforementioned internal aspects of sincerity and piety, makes Solah the greatest form of worship for Muslims. As this happens, Solah becomes the greatest power of the faithful Muslims,

uniting them with Allah SWT. Allah SWT has stated in His noble Quran:

قَدْ أَفْلَحَ الْمُؤْمِنُونَ الَّذِينَ هُمْ فِي صَلَاتِهِمْ خَاشِعُونَ

Which means:

"Successful indeed are the believers, those who humble themselves in prayer". (Al-Mukminun: 1-2)

On top of the five obligatory Solah every day, we, as Muslims, should also foster and nurture ourselves to perform the supererogatory prayer of Dhuha (Suleiman Hani, 2016). This is because the Dhuha prayer is one of the Nafilah (or Sunnah) prayer, which is highly recommended by the Prophet SAW. There are numerous proofs that state the advantages and benefits of the prayer, which have been recorded in the narration of Hadith of the Prophet SAW:

"In the morning, every single joint of yours must pay a sadaqah (which is charity). Every SubhanAllah is a sadaqah, every Alhamdulillah is a sadaqah, every La ilaha illallah is a sadaqah, every Allahu Akbar is a sadaqah, every commanding good is a sadaqah, and every forbidding evil is a sadaqah, and all this is accomplished through two raka'ats one can pray in Duha (prayer)".

This hadith has emphasised the status and virtue of the two-raka'at Dhuha prayer, of

which serves as a sufficient charity for every joint in the body and works as the emblem of genuine gratitude to Allah SWT. Allah SWT has promised to suffice us if performing the Dhuha prayer is consistently made as a daily regime of worship. The meaning of 'suffice' here comprises the protection of Allah from all evils, harms, misguidance, and sinfulness, alleviation of anxiety and worries, and forgiveness for one's shortcomings during that day, or a combination of any of the above. As fellow Muslims, as long as we take care of our Solah, be it obligatory or supererogatory, Allah SWT would definitely take care of us in return.

قَدْ أَفْلَحَ مَنْ تَزَكَّى وَذَكَرَ اسْمَ رَبِّهِ فَصَلَّى

Which means:

"He who has purified himself shall prosper, remembering his Lord's name and praying". (Al-A'la: 14-15)

In a nutshell, it is always wise to remember that the rewards and benefits of So-

lah, as constantly reiterated, are not for Allah but merely for His pious and obedient slaves, not only in this world but also in the hereafter. This attests that "what we give, we get back", which means that Solah, if performed well, would be an 'eye witness' authenticating that we are dutiful and submissive to Allah SWT as we are living in this world and states that we are the best candidates for His Jannah, therein dwelling forever, in sha Allah. Another point worth mentioning is that

"Solah is not a spare tyre that we pull out when we are in trouble, but it is a steering wheel that directs the right path throughout our lives".

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