

Sick Son

After few weeks...

It was almost the time for *dhuhr* prayers and one of the persons, Mr. Zahid who was a regular attendee of Seyyid's lectures came in a hurry and requested to talk to Seyyid urgently. Mr. Zahid told Seyyid that his son was very sick last week and had been hospitalized. He had a major surgery in emergency to save his life. At the time of admission in hospital, he only paid some of the required advance money as his financial condition was not good. On the third day, the hospital asked him to pay a huge sum so that they can do major surgery and take care of his son after it. Mr. Zahid said that he borrowed money from his boss and requested him to reimburse fixed amount from his monthly salary.

In hurry, he took the money from his boss and went to the hospital. However, when Mr. Zahid went to the hospital accountant office to give the required money, the accountant checked in the computer and informed him that his brother had come the night before and deposited not only money for surgery but also a large extra amount sufficient for his son's stay in the hospital after surgery until his discharge. 'The hospital will return any remaining extra amount back to you', said the accountant. Mr. Zahid was shocked and told the accountant that he had no brother. However, the accountant said that the person introduced himself as his brother. Mr. Zahid asked if that person left his name, phone or any other contact details. The reply was negative as that person gave money in cash and left no details. Finally, Mr. Zahid asked about physical features and the accountant was upset and said that he deals with hundreds of hospital patients and their family members and doesn't remember him. Mr. Zahid came out of hospital, puzzled as to how to find that person....

Seyyid smiled and told Mr. Zahid that he should first thank God for this timely help and offer two *rak'at* prayer of thanks to God. Secondly, he should pray another two *rak'at* prayer for the person who helped him and also give *sadaqa* for him. 'You should always pray for that person after your prayers and in your night prayers as he has saved your dearest and most valuable asset of your life,' said Seyyid. It was time for *dhuhr* by then so they performed their prayers with few others who had come to Seyyid's house.

After prayers, Mr. Zahid told Seyyid that among his family members there was no one who could pay the high amount of money for his son's surgery. He also mentioned that his own brothers and first cousins

are not living in the city and they were not informed of his son's condition and so it is impossible that they may have paid. He also called other family members who could have paid the money and found that they were not informed of this son's condition and declined that they have paid... Mr. Zahid then said that the only place he could think of was Seyyid's house where they meet with several friends twice or thrice a week to pray and attend his lecture and so he thought someone from here may have done it. However, he didn't recall informing anyone in the gathering here when he came last time while his son was admitted in hospital. 'I left in hurry after *dhuhr* prayers when my wife called from hospital to bring few medicines. Seyyid, please help me to find the person who has done this noble deed and saved the life of my son while remaining secret himself', he said. Seyyid smiled and said that he will help, but that Mr. Zahid should wait for a few days until his son recovers after surgery and is discharged from the hospital. He also said that he should come this Saturday and he will try to see what can be done.

Mr. Zahid's son was still in the hospital and was recovering fast and Mr. Zahid and his wife were happy and at the same time, trying to find out who the mysterious helper was. That afternoon, he received a phone call from Ahmad, a student very close to Seyyid, who asked him for urgent help with money. The amount was very small. He said that the money will be returned in a week's time. He said 'Dear brother Zahid, you are under no obligation to help me. I will ask another person to help me and it will not affect our relationship in the least.' Mr. Zahid, who was quietly listening to Ahmad, informed him that his son was in the hospital and had major surgery. Ahmad was surprised to hear this news and apologized to him and said that since he was having exams, he didn't come to Seyyid's house last week. However, Mr. Zahid said that he will be happy to give him the money on the condition that he will not inform Seyyid or anyone about it. Ahmad refused to take it. However, due to repeated and heavy insistence of Mr. Zahid, he was forced to take it. Ahmad provided details of his bank account number and Mr. Zahid immediately transferred the required amount. After a week, as per his promise, he returned the money to Mr. Zahid.

The next Saturday, after *maghrib* prayers, Seyyid gave a lecture on the characteristics of believers and their lifestyle. A lot of people were present, including the 12 students. He mentioned few basic things about the believers' intention and thinking, their life, their actions, their manners, their aim of life, their ways of dealing with different situations, their basic routines and their quest for hereafter. 'A true believer is a totally different human being. Though he may appear to be a common person, but he is very high in his status. He lives like a passenger in this world. He sees things, actions, events, and everything that happens around him with the eye of reality, with the divine vision blessed to him by God according to the level of his faith and knowledge. He is a very intelligent person though he may appear to be slow. He is not fooled by the crafty ways of this world. He doesn't go after his name, fame and transient glittering worldly returns', Seyyid continued...

Everyone was immersed in the inspiring words of Seyyid. After the lecture, Seyyid announced that everyone should pray for the recovery of Mr. Zahid's son. He then said that someone has done a great deed by helping him and said that Mr. Zahid wants to know who that person is and thank him. However,

no one from the audience responded. Seyyid then requested that if that person doesn't want to show himself in front of everyone, he should come to him in private and he will keep his secret. Everyone recited *salawat*.

After the dinner was over, Mr. Zahid stayed with Seyyid until everybody left. However, no one came to him or Seyyid. Mr. Zahid then thanked Seyyid for his help. Seyyid said that after your son is back to normal life, bring him here and then he will help to find out that person. Mr. Zahid then left thanking him.

Families of several friends and acquaintances who used to come to Seyyid's house visited his son in the hospital during the next few days. However, he and his wife couldn't get any information about the person who had helped. His wife asked from ladies of the families, but nobody was aware of anything about it. Mr. Zahid informed Seyyid about it. Seyyid smiled and said that the person who has helped his son must be of a very high IQ and cautious in protecting his deed. But he said that he will try to find out in a few days after he brings his son to Seyyid's house.

After four weeks, Mr. Zahid came to Seyyid's house with his son, Javad. It was before *maghrib* prayers. Some students were making preparations for the gathering of joy and happiness as it was the occasion of *wiladat* of Imam Ali (as). Seyyid kissed his son who was a boy of 13 years of age studying in 7th grade. Seyyid asked him about his health and studies. Then Seyyid asked Mr. Zahid that he should observe a few things today. When he will announce that today Mr. Zahid's son is here who has now fully recovered and recite *salawat* for his health, watch the faces of those who are near him, especially those 12 students. 'If someone smiles more than others, or shows a specific affectionate expression while looking at your son then surely that person has paid for his son's surgery. If this doesn't happen then watch who talks more to your son, makes him sit near him, shows more tender affection towards your son while you are here after prayers, during dinner and after it. If someone, especially one of those 12 students shows more affection or frequently smiles looking at your son's face, that person might have helped. You should then inform me and then I will ask that person in private,' said Seyyid. Mr. Zahid said that he will be vigilant and try to observe what he asked him.

After prayers, when Seyyid sat on his seat to give a lecture, he changed the routine and first asked Javad to come near him. Then he introduced Javad, told about his illness and said that some unknown person has helped and may God bless him. He then said prayers for Javad's health and requested everyone to recite *salawat*. He then began his lecture on fruits of patience in one's life. He said: 'Patience is the basic ingredient of faith. A patient person is a very powerful person because God is with him. However, most of the times in our daily lives, patience is forgotten and the person who has suffered a hardship or loss gets stressed. Patience keeps a person stable under the most difficult situations in life. It acts like a powerful shield. A successful person is always patient because he gets back what he lost, he achieves success, gets what he struggled for because patience is a divine mechanism that overrules all the events and material phenomena and guarantees ones success,' Seyyid said. He then described different levels of patience and their fruits and the skills necessary to develop patience.

'Finally when a person reaches the highest point of patience, he achieves the station of *rida*, or satisfaction with God in all circumstances. Beyond that there are other stations until God is satisfied with his servant, which is the last station', Seyyid concluded. Everyone was deeply in thought and paid utmost attention to the inspiring words of Seyyid. Mr. Zahid was carefully watching the faces of those 12 students and some others in the audience who were rich. However, he failed to detect any sign. They were all sitting and listening to Seyyid. No one showed any emotions on their faces. He looked at Ahmad's face who was also smiling and saying *salawat* with others but dismissed the possibility of help from him since during those days Ahmad was himself in need of money and had asked him for help.

After the lecture, during dinner, people talked with Mr. Zahid and asked about his son, they also talked casually with Javad, asked about his health, studies etc. However, no one showed any special affection towards his son. Mr. Zahid took the hand of Ahmad and pulled him away from everyone and asked him about his exams. Ahmad said that the exams went very well and he thanked Mr. Zahid for his timely help with money. Mr. Zahid insisted that if he needed money, he should consider him as his real brother and ask him without any hesitation. Ahmad thanked him and promised that he will do the same.

When everyone left, Mr. Zahid told Seyyid that despite his close, keen and continuous observation, he couldn't detect anyone who showed specific affection towards his son as all were same in their good behavior. Seyyid said that he saw Ahmad was talking to his son, perhaps he may have helped. Mr. Zahid said that Ahmad himself was in need of some money during those days and so it is not possible. Seyyid asked Mr. Zahid how he knew this. Mr. Zahid said that Ahmad had called him for help about four days after the surgery of his son and that he was not aware of his son's sickness. Seyyid smiled. He then said that the person who helped him for his son's surgery was perhaps in the gathering today but was too smart to disclose himself. 'Perhaps we may never find him,' he said. However, he said that after a few weeks, he will try again. Mr. Zahid then thanked Seyyid and left with his son.

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