

Don't Judge a Person's Past : Al-Qanabi ibn Maslamah

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ نَحْمَدُهُ وَنَسْتَعِينُهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ وَنَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ شُرُورِ أَنْفُسِنَا وَمِنْ سَيِّئَاتِ أَعْمَالِنَا مَنْ يَهْدِهِ اللَّهُ فَلَا مُضِلَّ لَهُ وَمَنْ يَضِلَّ فَلَا هَادِيَ لَهُ وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ وَأَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ

قال الله تعالى في كتابه الكريم يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ تَقَاتِهِ وَلَا تَمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا وَأَنْتُمْ مُسْلِمُونَ

ويا أيها الذين آمنوا اتقوا الله وقولوا قولا سديدا يصلح لكم أعمالكم ويغفر لكم ذنوبكم ومن يطع الله ورسوله فقد فاز فوزا عظيما

وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ الَّذِي تَسَاءَلُونَ بِهِ وَالْأَرْحَامَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ كَانَ عَلَيْكُمْ رَقِيبًا

أَمَّا بَعْدُ ...

Today, my dear brothers and sisters of islam, I would like to interest you all with an obviously interesting topic about a teen or a young man who used to do bad things. He was from Basra, Iraq. His name was Abdullah ibn Maslamah Al-Qanabi

He used to make alcohol by fermenting dates in apple cider which mixed will make alcohol. He used to put it separately in jars and hid it away from his parents and used to invite his gang and drink outside without his parents seeing or watching him. He was the only one who took his alcohol and drank it publicly and nobody will dare tell his parents on him because he was a gangster and everyone is scared of him. When someone comes into his gangster's territory, he will immediately take his sword and threaten the person or people.

One day, a man was walking with Shu'bah who was on the donkey and they entered the gangster's territory and obviously, Qanabi was standing there, drunk, tired but still up and awake. He heard a donkey stepping on the ground and he got back to his senses, he picked up his sword, called his gang and went to kill Shu'bah and his companion. There were other companions too with them but they were behind, ready to see what would happen.

Qanabi went and put his sword right under his chin and said "Who are you?" Others asked "Why are you here, what's the matter with y'all?" But they kept silent. They forced Shu'bah to speak but he denied, they lost hope but right when they were about to kill him, the companion said "He is Shu'bah, he is a Muhaddith" The sound started to get high, the eyes were all on them, they were thinking how did we just get talked back to? They asked, "What is a Muhaddith?" The other companions came out, taking their swords out. One said, "A Muhaddith is a person that knows a lot of Ahadith" Qanabi proudly said, "Then, say one" Shu'bah replied with emotion and anxiety

قال النبي صلى الله عليه وسلم: إذا لم تشعرُوا بالخجل، فافعلوا ما تشاءون

The Prophet, peace be upon him, said, "If you feel no shame, do as you wish."

Qanabi froze, he never felt shame in his body until Shu'bah said this hadith.
Qanabi was deeply affected by the words.

Allah (SWT) says

إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يُغَيِّرُ مَا بِقَوْمٍ حَتَّى يُغَيِّرُوا مَا بِأَنْفُسِهِمْ وَإِذَا أَرَادَ اللَّهُ بِقَوْمٍ سُوءًا فَلَا مَرَدَّ لَهُ وَمَا لَهُمْ
مَنْ دُونِهِ مِنْ وَالٍ

God will not change the condition of a people unless they change their own
inner selves

Qanabi let go of the sword and it dropped on the ground. He was embarrassed and was thinking, What was I ever doing? Why did I drink? Why did I embarrass myself in front of my gang? He ran and he went back to his house, sweating and tired. He was no longer an alcoholic anymore. He took all his jugs of alcohol and threw it outside. He took his Shahada again, he now was no longer a gangster. He had another goal, to become a scholar!

ISTIGHFAR

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ نَحْمَدُهُ وَنَسْتَعِينُهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ وَنَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ شُرُورِ أَنْفُسِنَا وَمِنْ سَيِّئَاتِ أَعْمَالِنَا مَنْ
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مُحَمَّدًا صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ

Qanabi went to Saudi and he went there to learn from Imam Malik. He learnt a lot of ahadith and he finished the Quran many times. Now he wanted to prove, his city that he can be from a gangster to a scholar. So now, he said his goodbyes and went back to Badr, and he was going to tell them he changed. First thing he did (SUBHANALLAH), he went to look for Shu'bah and was going to tell him the good news. Instead of good news, he got bad news. Shu'bah (May Allah forgive him) died a long time ago! Qanabi went and weeped for a long time.

Subahanallah, even sentences, words or maybe letters can change you.

Du'aas to Say in Your Khutbah

1. Du'aa for Forgiveness (Istighfar)

اللَّهُمَّ اغْفِرْ لَنَا ذُنُوبَنَا، وَإِسْرَافَنَا فِي أَمْرِنَا، وَثَبِّتْ أَقْدَامَنَا، وَانصُرْنَا عَلَى الْقَوْمِ الْكَافِرِينَ
Allahumma ighfir lana dhunubana, wa israfana fi amrina, wa thabbit aqdamana, wansurna 'ala al-qawmil-kaafireen.

Translation: O Allah, forgive our sins, our excesses in our affairs, make our feet firm, and help us against the disbelieving people.

 [From the du'aa of the believers in Surah Aal 'Imraan, 3:147]

2. Du'aa for Guidance and a Good Ending

اللَّهُمَّ اهْدِنَا وَاهْدِ بِنَا، وَاجْعَلْنَا سَبَبًا لِمَنْ اهْتَدَى، وَلَا تَجْعَلْنَا فِتْنَةً لِلَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا، وَاخْتِمْ لَنَا بِالْخَيْرِ

Allahumma ihdinaa wa ihdi binaa, waj'alnaa sabab(an) liman ihtadaa, wa laa taj'alnaa fitnatan lilladheena kafaroo, wakhtim lanaa bil-khayr.

Translation: O Allah, guide us and guide others through us. Make us a reason for others to be guided. Do not make us a trial for the disbelievers, and grant us a good ending.

3. Du'aa for Sincere Repentance

اللَّهُمَّ تُبْ عَلَيْنَا تَوْبَةً نَصُوحًا، تُطَهِّرْ قُلُوبَنَا، وَتُرَكِّبْ أَنْفُسَنَا، وَتُقَرِّبْنَا إِلَيْكَ

Allahumma tub 'alayna tawbatan nasooaha, tutahhir quloobana, wa tuzakki anfusana, wa tuqarribuna ilayk.

Translation: O Allah, accept from us sincere repentance that purifies our hearts, cleanses our souls, and brings us closer to You.

4. Du'aa for Youth (Relevant to Your Story)

اللَّهُمَّ اهْدِ شَبَابَ الْمُسْلِمِينَ، وَارْزُقْهُمْ التَّوْبَةَ قَبْلَ الْمَوْتِ، وَالْهِدَايَةَ قَبْلَ الضَّلَالِ،
وَالْعِلْمَ النَّافِعَ وَالْقَلْبَ الْخَاشِعَ

Allahumma ihdi shabaaba al-muslimeen, warzuqhum at-tawbah qabla al-mawt, wal-hidaayah qabla ad-dalaal, wal-'ilma an-naafi' wal-qalba al-khaashi'.

Translation: O Allah, guide the youth of the Muslims. Grant them repentance before death, guidance before misguidance, beneficial knowledge, and hearts that are humble.

☀️ 5. General Closing Du'aa

اللَّهُمَّ إِنَّا نَسْأَلُكَ الْهُدَى، وَالتَّقَى، وَالْعَفَافَ، وَالْغِنَى

Allahumma inna nas'aluka al-hudaa, wat-tuqa, wal-'afaafa, wal-ghinaa.

Translation: O Allah, we ask You for guidance, piety, chastity, and self-sufficiency.

📖 [Hadith in Sahih Muslim]

☀️ 6. For Acceptance

اللَّهُمَّ تَقَبَّلْ مِنَّا، إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ، وَتُبْ عَلَيْنَا، إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ التَّوَّابُ الرَّحِيمُ

Allahumma taqabbal minna, innaka Antas-Samee'ul-'Aleem, wa tub 'alayna, innaka Antat-Tawwaabur-Raheem.

Translation: O Allah, accept from us. Indeed, You are the All-Hearing, the All-Knowing. And turn to us in mercy, for You are the Oft-Returning, Most Merciful.

📖 [Based on verses from Surah Al-Baqarah 2:127 and Surah At-Tahrim 66:8]

✅ Tips for Using Du'aa in a Khutbah

- You can raise your hands in du'aa at the end of the second khutbah, before stepping down from the minbar.
- Use an emotional tone during du'aa — it helps connect the hearts.
- Pause slightly between phrases so the audience can say Amen.