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*For Girls  
Lisaka*

# LESSONS FROM LOAD SHEDDING

**The load shedding that we are currently experiencing in this region of the world has affected each of our lives in different ways.**

**One can only truly understand just how much our daily life depends on electric power when there is NO power at all.**

**The other day, I was in the middle of a very important task when I was suddenly plunged into total darkness. The solar power system also packed up at the same time. With no lights besides the flicker of my torch, I was forced to stop all my work.**

**As I sat engulfed by total darkness, my thoughts shifted to the lessons that could be learnt from the dreadful load shedding.**

**1. According to the government, the reason for load shedding is lack of rain. The dams therefore did not have enough water to generate electricity.**

**The lack of rain alone, caused an entire country to be swallowed by darkness. Ponder for a moment over the astounding miracle of rain. This is the immense power unleashed by a tiny, sparkling raindrop almost invisible to the human eye. Imagine then the power of a kind word uttered, a tiny token gifted. Never underestimate the power of any good deed, no matter how small it may be deemed. It may be that a small deed of ours unleashes a torrent of blessings upon us.**



Similarly, a single sin has the power to plunge our lives into total darkness. Recall the story of the woman who committed adultery and then sought such a sincere repentance that Nabi ﷺ mentioned (wtte) :

Verily, she made repentance which would suffice for seventy of the people of Madinah if it is divided amongst them

On the flip side, failing to carrying out one action can have terrible consequences too.

Remember the incident when Allah ﷻ ordered Jibril A.S to upturn a city with its inhabitants. Jibril عليه السلام said,

'Oh my Rabb, among them lives so-and-so, who has not disobeyed you in the slightest'

Allah ﷻ replied,

"Upturn the city over him as well as them, for his face did not change once [in anger] for My sake.."

اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي أَعُوذُ بِكَ مِنْ زَوَالِ نِعْمَتِكَ وَتَحَوُّلِ عَافِيَتِكَ  
وَفُجَاءَةِ نِقْمَتِكَ وَجَمِيعِ سَخَطِكَ

"O my Allah, I seek refuge in You from diminishing of Your bounty and the removal of wellbeing from You and from the sudden onset of calamities from You, and from Your sudden anger."



2. As the feeble light of my torch began to dim, I thought of our eminent abode; the grave. The thought of being all alone in a dark, cramped place sends shivers down one's spine. Like moths drawn to a flame, we crave light and company. The moment electricity comes back and the lights are on, our mood changes. The visit of a loved one, brings warmth to our hearts. Imagine then the sheer darkness and overwhelming loneliness of the grave. There is no lamp, torch or generator that will dispel that darkness. The only light that will benefit us at that time will be from our good actions. Reciting Surah Mulk, bringing joy to the heart of a Muslim, standing before your Rabb in the silence of the night are just a few of the many actions that will grant us light and company in the grave.

اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي أَعُوذُ بِكَ مِنْ عَذَابِ الْقَبْرِ

Oh Allah, I seek Your protection from the punishment of the grave

اللهم اجعل لي نورا في قبوري

Oh Allah, grant me light in my grave



3. As the hours pass by without electricity, we see how our mind automatically begins to worry about the contents of our fridges and freezers. We agonise about our stock of food going bad. If only we worried similarly about for our spirituality. If only we stressed about the rust layering our hearts as it has been mentioned in a Hadeeth:

"For everything there is a polish and the polish for the heart is the dhikr of Allah"

The purity and spiritual well-being of our body is dependent upon the purity of our hearts . Nabi ﷺ mentioned in yet another Hadeeth (wtte):

"Verily; in the body there is a piece of flesh; if it is sound, the whole body is sound, and if it is corrupt, the whole body is corrupt, and behold, it is the heart..."

اللَّهُمَّ آتِ نَفْسِي تَقْوَاهَا وَزَكَّهَا أَنْتَ خَيْرُ مَنْ  
زَكَّاهَا أَنْتَ وَلِيُّهَا وَ مَوْلَا هَا

Oh Allah, grant my soul piety and purify it, for You are the best to purify it. You are its Guardian and Master.



4. Every other person talks of investing in "backups" like inverters, generators and installing solar panels "just incase there is a power outage." However, have we thought of the "back up" that we will need on the day of Qiyaamah? What if our scales are lacking and we are desperately in need of a few more deeds that can save us? What if our faraa'idh are lacking and we need some back up from the nawaafil deeds that we may have performed?

Rasulullah ﷺ has stated (wtte):

"The first matter regarding which a servant will be brought to account on the Day of Qiyaamah will be his Salaah. If it is found to be complete then it will be recorded as complete, and if anything is lacking Allah will say: 'Look and see if you can find any voluntary prayers with which to complete what was defective in his obligatory prayers'."



5. It is amazing how we now plan our schedules around the times that electricity is present.

We prioritise on certain things getting done when electricity is around. Our lives have begun to revolve around the hours during which we have power. Alas, if only our entire day revolved around the 5 Salawaat. If only Salaah was our focal point, the rest of our lives would fall into place.

Nabi ﷺ has mentioned (wtte):

"Salaah is (the) light (of a believer)."

Why not plan your every day tasks around this singular, untainted light?

The minute power is restored, everyone seems to breath a huge sigh of relief. The depressive gloominess dissipates as the gift of light illuminates our surroundings. It is unquestionable that we need and rely upon light in our daily life. However, our need for spiritual light is far greater than our need for physical brightness. It is the Noor of Imaan that enlightens the twisting pathways of our lives. This is the Noor that aids us to navigate our lives in accordance to the pleasure of our Rabb. This is the irreplaceable light that illuminates the graves of the Mu'mineen and will be with them on the day of Qiyaamah.



اللَّهُمَّ اجْعَلْ فِي قَلْبِي نُورًا وَفِي لِسَانِي نُورًا  
وَاجْعَلْ فِي سَمْعِي نُورًا وَاجْعَلْ فِي بَصَرِي نُورًا  
وَاجْعَلْ مِنْ خَلْفِي نُورًا وَمِنْ أَمَامِي نُورًا وَاجْعَلْ  
مِنْ فَوْقِي نُورًا وَمِنْ تَحْتِي نُورًا اللَّهُمَّ اَعْطِنِي نُورًا

“Oh Allah, enlighten my heart and my tongue. Enlighten my hearing and my sight. Place light behind me and light in front of me. Place light above me and light below me. Oh Allah, grant me light!”

BY : BINT ISMAIL

