

Self-Care and Clarity of Mind...a weekly column by Princess Lakshman (Sister Iqra)



Welcome to my weekly column on **Self-Care and Clarity of Mind**. If you're taking time out to read this, pat yourself on the back because you have shown commitment to taking care of your mind and body.

Today, In Shaa ALLAH, we will explore the topic: **Practice versus Preaching - Connecting with Compassion**

I wish to share a poem with you today. It pretty much sums up the essence of the topic.

Preaching Vs Practice

It is easy to sit in the sunshine
And talk to the man in the shade;
It is easy to float in a well-trimmed boat,
And point out the places to wade.
But once we pass into the shadows,
We murmur and fret and frown,
And, our length from the bank, we shout for a plank,
Or throw up our hands and go down.
It is easy to sit in your carriage,
And counsel the man on foot,
But get down and walk, and you'll change your talk,
As you feel the peg in your boot.
It is easy to tell the toiler
How best he can carry his pack,
But no one can rate a burden's weight
Until it has been on his back.
The up-curved mouth of pleasure,
Can prate of sorrow's worth,
But give it a sip, and a wryer lip,
Was never made on earth.

(poem by Ella Wheeler Wilcox)

What prompted me to choose this particular topic for this week's column was the fact that we have become a society of 'advisers and judges'. Everyone has a 'piece of advice or fatwa' for another and most times the advice or judgment does not come from lived experience. We have become a society of preachers without practice.

Recently I was asked by a potential client if I had a psychology degree. I told him I did not. He asked me how I could help him and his wife with their marital challenges when I did not have a psychology degree. I told him I had extensive life experience and in-depth knowledge and experience in Writing Therapy since 2006 to know that I could help him and his wife to at least process any feelings of hurt, pain, trauma or self-loathing that are usually the key feelings that need processing when trying to rebuild a dysfunctional marriage. He then asked me matter-of-factly, "What else?" I answered, "Compassionate connection."

It is fairly easy for people to observe and give advice however advice is only useful if these people can connect with the one they are advising and display that they are actually walking the walk and talking the talk.

The only way to preach with practice is to become compassionate towards others.

How to Cultivate Compassion

No matter how optimistic you may be, your optimism may not necessarily affect another person who is feeling down and dark, unless you are able to connect with him/her with compassion.

Cultivating compassion requires you to connect with your own true self first, your authentic or essential self. (refer to past column

http://www.crescentsofbrisbane.org/Newsletter/CCN0639.asp#Self-Care_and_Clarity_of_Mind...a_weekly_column)

Being compassionate with your own self first results in being compassionate with others. It is a daily practice.

Daily Affirmations to Cultivate Compassion

| Compassion for | Daily Affirmation |
|-------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Self | I am aware that I have made some choices in life that have not worked in my favour. I embrace my flaws and I move forward with ultimate faith in ALLAH (swt) that HE may guide me to make better choices. |
| My Spouse | I am aware that my husband/wife has had a different upbringing than mine. She/He deserves to be treated with respect. I respect and understand my husband/wife. |
| My Child | I am aware that my child is growing up in a different kind of world than the one I grew up in. My child has a different perception of the world than mine. I respect my child and seek to understand his/her perceptions. |
| My Parents | I am aware that my parents have a traditional approach to life. Their battles and challenges have been different to mine. I respect my parents and seek to understand them, learn from them and enrich my life through an open mind. |

In Shaa ALLAH, next week we will explore the topic: **Jealousy**

If you wish to know about a specific topic with regards to Self-Care and Clarity of Mind, please text or email me or visit www.muslimahmindmatters.com. If you wish to have a FREE one hour **Finding Clarity** telephone session, contact me on 0451977786



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