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Madani Q/A Time 15th Q/A

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Question:

My son has failed consecutively for two times in board exams. What Surah or Dua should my son read if he wants to pass the exams? Can he fail due to the affliction of an evil eye?

Answer:

All praise is due to Allaah as many times as the number of His Creation and May the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon the Final Prophet Muhammad ²⁴, his family and companions, and all those who follow them in righteousness till the Day of Judgment.

Summary:

- 1) There is a possibility that he lacks zeal for knowledge. Ibne Qayyim stated that some children will be enthusiastic for knowledge and other children will be experts in practical sciences.
- 2) Yes, he can fail when afflicted with an evil eye.
- 3) He might lack proper guidance in studies.

A Comprehensive Answer with Proofs:

There is no report in the Sunnah which suggests what can be said during the exams. The du'aa's that are widespread among students and are said during revision or when receiving the exam papers or when stumbling over an answer or when handing in the paper, etc., all have no basis in the Sunnah, either in saheeh reports or da'eef reports. Rather they are all fabricated and are falsely attributed to the Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam).

Attributing any such thing to the Sunnah when one knows that it is not part of the Sunnah makes a person one of those who tell lies against the Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam).

It was narrated that al-Mugheerah ibn Shu'bah (may Allaah be pleased with him) said: I heard the Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) say: "Telling a lie against me is not like telling a lie against anyone else.

Whoever tells a lie against me deliberately, let him take his place in Hell." Narrated by al-Bukhaari, 1229; Muslim, 4.

Whoever spreads these false ahaadeeth and other like them, knowing that they cannot be soundly attributed to the Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) is telling lies against the Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) and his sin is the same as the sin of the one who fabricated them.

It was narrated from al-Mugheerah ibn Shu'bah (may Allaah be pleased with him) that the Messenger of Allaah (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) said: "Whoever narrated from me a hadeeth which he thinks is false is one of the liars."

Narrated by Muslim in the Introduction to his Saheeh.

There are ahaadeeth which indicate that this is to be said at times of hardship and difficulty. All of that includes exams and other difficulties. There follow the ahaadeeth which have been narrated concerning that:

1 – It was narrated that Anas ibn Maalik (may Allaah be pleased with him) said: The Messenger of Allaah (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) said: "Whoever says – when leaving his house – Bismillaah, tawakkaltu 'ala Allaah, laa hawla wa laa quwwata illa Billaah (In the name of Allaah, I put my trust in Allaah, there is no power and no strength except with Allaah), it will be said to him: You are taken care of and you are protected, and the Shaytaan will keep away from him." Narrated by Abu Dawood, 5095; al-Tirmidhi, 3426; classed as saheeh by al-Albaani in Saheeh Abi Dawood.

2 – It was also narrated that Anas ibn Maalik (may Allaah be pleased with him) said: If something upset him, the Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) would say: "Yaa Hayyu yaa Qayyoom bi rahmatika astagheeth (O Ever Living, O Sustainer, by Your mercy I seek help)." Narrated by al-Tirmidhi, 3524; classed as hasan by al-Albaani in al-Silsilah al-Saheehah, 3182.

3 – It was also narrated from Anas (may Allaah be pleased with him) that the Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) said: "O Allaah, nothing is easy but that which You make easy and You can make hardship easy if You will." Narrated by Ibn Hibbaan, 3/255; classed as saheeh by al-Albaani in al-Silsilah al-Saheehah, 2886.

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4 – It was narrated that Sa'd ibn Abi Waqqaas (may Allaah be pleased with him) said: The Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) said: "The prayer of Dhu'l-Noon when he was in the belly of the fish: 'Laa ilaaha illa Anta, subhaanaka inni kuntu min al-zaalimeen (There is no god but You, glory to You, verily I was one of the wrongdoers).' A Muslim never calls upon his Lord with these words concerning any matter, but his prayer is answered." Narrated by al-Tirmidhi, 3505; classed as saheeh by al-Albaani in al-Silsilah al-Saheehah, 1644.

[Refer to the book 20 Exam Tips for Students By: Sheikh Muhammed Salih Al-Munajjid]

You have to pay attention to your son, monitor his behavior and his moods. While you should be concerned that his grades are slipping and he seems withdrawn, we caution you from becoming too obsessed with making sure he improves his grades, because you will end up missing other signals your son might be sending about his emotional and mental state of mind. Work with him to establish a study routine that he can follow as well as reminding him gently about his chores around the house. Finally, we caution you from making your goals for your son the main driving force for your intervention with him. As your son experiences nervousness, he will want to assert his independence, and any moment he perceives that you are trying to live out your own childhood through him, he will lose trust and confidence in you. Build confidence and trust by making small, consistent gestures to show him that you are there for him by supporting him and by remaining involved in his life. Remember that there is a fine line between involvement and interference.

Allah Knows Best

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