



Character Building for the Muslim Youth

Lesson 7: *the Thief* السرقة



Objective:

The student should reflect upon the meaning of the words “cut off the hand of the thief,” inshaAllah. By showing students real examples from the present about those who steal, they will be able to visually see its effect upon the individual, the community, and the recipient, may Allah make them successful ameen.



Allah (subhanahu wa ta'ala) have said: **وَالسَّارِقُ وَالسَّارِقَةُ**

“Cut off (from the wrist joint) the (right) hand of the **thief, male or female**, as a recompense for that which they committed, a punishment by way of example from Allâh. And Allâh is All-Powerful, All-Wise. (Al-Maa'idah 5:38)



Hadith of the Prophet (salla allahu Alaihi wa salaam) Reported in Sahih Muslim

'Aa'ishah, May Allah be pleased with her, reported:

Allah's Messenger (May peace be upon him) cut off the hand of a thief for (stealing) a quarter of a dinar or more.

Abu Hurairah, may Allah be pleased with him, reported:

Allah's Messenger (may peace be upon him) said: Let Allah's curse be upon the thief; he gets his hand cut off for stealing an egg as well as for stealing a rope.



Point of Benefit: Giving Sadaqa may prevent the action of the thief

Abu Hurairah, may Allah be pleased with him, reported:

Allah's Messenger (may peace be upon him) said: A man expressed his intention to give Charity, so he came out with Charity and placed it in the hand of an adulteress. In the morning, the people were talking and saying: Charity was given to an adulteress last night. He (the giver of Charity) said: O Allah, to You be the praise to an adulteress. He then again expressed his intention to give Charity; so he went out with the Charity and placed it in the hand of a rich person. In the morning the people were talking and saying: Charity was given to a rich person. He (the giver of Charity) said: O Allah, to You be the praise to a well-to-do person. He then expressed his intention to give Charity, so he went out with Charity and placed it in the hand of a thief. In the morning, the people were talking and saying: Charity was given to a thief. So he (the Charity giver) said: O Allah, to You be the praise (what a misfortune it is that Charity has been given to) the adulteress, to a rich person, and to a thief! There came (the angel to him) and he was told: Your Charity has been accepted. As for the adulteress (the Charity might become the means) whereby she might restrain herself from fornication. The rich man might perhaps learn a lesson and spend from what Allah has given him, and the thief might thereby refrain from committing theft. /Reported in Sahih Muslim



Current Reflection: Pickpocket at Mecca's Great Mosque has hand cut off

A Nigerian man had his right hand severed in Saudi Arabia on Saturday after he was convicted of stealing in the Great Mosque in Mecca, Islam's holiest shrine, the interior ministry said.

Kurba Thani Mohammad was found guilty of "committing the crime of pick pocketing inside the Great Mosque" at an unspecified date, the ministry said in a statement carried by the official SPA news agency. Mohammad was sentenced to the amputation of his hand, and the punishment was carried out in Mecca, it said.

Saudi Arabia applies a strict form of sharia, or Islamic law that provides for severing the hand for theft. The death penalty is meted out for murder, rape, apostasy, armed robbery and drug trafficking.

Reported September 9, 2006 www.smh.com

1. Please write out the definition for the words thief, thieves and larceny.
2. Create a sentence using the following words inshaAllah.
Burglar, housebreaker; embezzler, grafter; kleptomaniac; pickpocket, pilferer, rifler, shoplifter; abductor, hijacker, kidnapper, skyjacker; despoiler, looter, plunderer, ransacker, ravisher; poacher, rustler, smuggler; bandit, pirate; grabber, mugger
3. In your own words, describe how you feel when you find out that someone has taken something from you that you did not want to give away. What does being trustworthy have to do with the quality of your character?
4. From the ayat above, explain what thoughts you had when you read Allah's statement.
5. Class Discussion: sticking to the Sunnah of the Prophet (salla allahu alaihi wa salaam) in reference to the statement "Let Allah's curse be upon the thief." Do you think that this would be someone you could trust? Write down the conclusion.
6. Class Discussion: How Allah has granted mercy to even those who commit sins by way of Sadaqa, with the statement of the Prophet (salla allahu alaihi wa salaam) "and the thief might thereby refrain from committing theft". What happens when a person ceases to commit evil actions? Write down the conclusion.
7. Write an essay describing what this society might be like if nobody were trustworthy, if suspicion, dishonesty, and betrayal were the norm, if nobody could be counted on to keep commitments.



Point of Reflection: Hadith

Abu Hurairah, may Allah be pleased with him, reported:

Allah's Messenger (may peace be upon him) observed: Whoever fornicates is not a believer so long as he commits it and no thief who steals is a believer as long as he commits theft, and no drunkard who drinks wine is a believer as long as he drinks it.

1. Imagine for one minute standing before a judge as he orders for your right hand to be severed in accordance to what Allah has commanded, what thoughts cross your mind? Explain. What happens when people live in accordance with the guidelines of the Sunnah? What happens when they don't? How might this affect society?