

Infertility is an Expiation of Sins

Explained by Shaykh bin Baz رحمه الله

Question: For his first question he asks: The Messenger of Allah صلى الله عليه وسلم said:

ما أصاب المؤمن من هم ولا غم ولا حزن؛ حتى الشوكة يشاكها إلا كفر الله من خطاياها

The believer is not afflicted with distress, grief, or sadness, even the thorn that pricks him, except that Allah expiates some of his sins thereby.

I would like to know about the authenticity of this narration. And if it is authentic; is infertility – meaning the inability to have children – considered to be from the expiations of sins for the person? Because infertility causes sadness due to the absence of children; and Allah has made children and wealth from the adornment of the life of this world.

Shaykh bin Baz: Yes, this narration is authentic it has been collected by Imam Muslim in his collection of authentic narrations. This is from the blessings of Allah the Exalted and His favors. A person is not afflicted with distress, grief, illness or harm; even the prick of a thorn except that Allah will expiate some of his sins. **And there is no doubt that infertility is from the calamities thus it is from the expiation of sins.** Infertility is a calamity which causes people sadness and it is from that which harms the people. Allah the Exalted will expiate due to infertility, some of the person's sins and transgressions just as He expiates their sins due to grief, sadness, anxiety, and illness; rather infertility is a much greater calamity than many other misfortunes. Thus if the person seek the reward and is patient with that and desires the reward with Allah, then he will receive a great deal of good with Allah.

Translated by Rasheed ibn Estes Barbee