

KHUTBA

English

Friday, 06.11.09

The kith and kin ties or family connections

Dear Muslims.

We have to keep good and nice connections and relation with our relatives, because, in Islam, it is a very big sin not to do so. We are obligated by our religion to treat our relatives nicely, visit them, help them and do the good for them even if they do bad things for us. If we do not do that, we are then committing a very big sin and hence subjected to punishment on judgment day.

And those who break the covenant of Allah, after having established it and cut asunder what Allah has commanded to be joined, and act corruptly in the earth — on them is the curse and they shall have a grievous abode. [Koran 13:25]

So give what is due to kindred, the needy, and the wayfarer. That is best for those who seek the Countenance, of God, and it is they who will prosper. [Koran 30:38]

This has been also stated by Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) who said «**The one who breaks his kith and kin ties, will not be rewarded Paradise (Jannah)**» [Al-Bukhari]

So how do we keep good family connections? Or in another words what are the obligations we have towards our relatives? What are their rights?

The obligation range is very wide. It extended from a simple behavior such as nice words and smile to include everything that can help, make pleasure or solve their problems. These obligations are not only for the close relative but also the far ones.

Here are some few examples:

Provide help with money especially for poor relatives who are entitled for *Sadaqah*. In this case the *sadaqah* will be of great value and rewards. The help can also be provided physically, emotionally or by using your status or connections. However, it is a must that this help is within the religious borders (i.e. you do not help them to do bad things or sins such as cheating, stealing money ...etc).

Keep contact with them. This can be by calling them frequently, asking about them, and checking if they have any problems or if they are in need of any help. It is preferable also to exchange visits and invite them for meals or even just for coffee. This will break the borders and bring you closer.

We are also obligated to respect the elders and give them good status. They are the base of the family and we always need their wisdom. They must feel how valuable and appreciated they are. This feeling is the pleasure they need at that age and they are in more need for it as they grow older.

We have to participate and share with them the happy times as well as the times of sorrow. We also have to pray for them, advise them to follow the right way and abandon the devil track and guide them to the best way to combine living and enjoying life with worshipping.

The question that comes to the mind now is what are we going to gain by doing this? What are the benefits?

Well, we can have a list of benefits such as healthy and united community, strong family relations, less poverty (the rich relatives cover the poor needs) and healthy atmosphere to raise our children ...etc; but is that enough for us as Muslims? Of course not, because we are working for the other life and paradise. So what will we gain?

Forgiveness.

Ibn Omar (may Allah be pleased with him and his father) said that a man came to Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) one day saying: **«I made a very big sin and I want Allah to forgive me, what shall I do?»** The Prophet replied: **«Is your mother alive?»** The man replied: **«No»**. The Prophet (PBUH) asked again if any of his aunts were alive. The man replied: **«Yes»**. Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) said: **«Then do the good for her and treat her well to be forgiven»**. [Tirmidhi]

A step further towards Paradise.

Abu ayoub (may Allah be pleased with him) said: **While Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) was traveling, a man stopped him and asked: «what shall I do to be closer to Paradise and distant to hell?»** The Prophet (PBUH) commented to his companions that this man has asked a very good question and asked the man again: **«what did you say?»** The man repeated his question. The Prophet (PBUH) then replied: **«You have to worship God as the only God without any partner, do your Prayers (salah), pay Zakat, and keep your kith and kin ties»**. When the man went away, the Prophet (PBUH) said to his companions: **«If he do what I told him, he will be rewarded Paradise»**. [Muslim]

Instant rewards (both in life and on the Judgment day).

Abu Horaira (may Allah be pleased with him) said: **«the Prophet (PBUH) said: Nothing I do for God is faster rewarded than keeping kith and kin ties and nothing brings the punishment faster than breaking them»**. [Albayhaqi]

Its a witness for your good deeds on the Judgment day.

Ibn Abbas (may Allah be pleased with him and his father) said: **«the Prophet (PBUH) said: every kith and kin ties will come on the Judgment day and be a witness for the man if he has kept it or against him if he has broken it»**. [Al-Bukhari]

Dear brothers and sisters.

All of these advantages and more are waiting for you in addition to the good reputation, the respect and love you get from people in life. You only have to keep your family connection, even if they do bad to you. It is not an excuse that your relatives are bad people or even if they harm you. You have to be kind to them. The Prophet (PBUH) said: **«The one who keep his kith and kin is not the one that do good when they do good for him; He is the one who keeps it when his relative abandoned him or break the relation with him»**. [Al-Bukhari]

Omm Kulthoum (may Allah be pleased with her) said: **«the Prophet (PBUH) said: The best sadaqah is that given to the relatives who hate you»**. [Ahmed]

We ask Allah to guide and help us to keep our kith and kin ties, to bare their harm and to always be kind and do the good to them.

Khutba by Sidi Mohamed Ould Cherif