

KHUTBA

Friday 23.09.11

English

Charity and good manners

All thanks are due to Allah, the Most-Generous. I bear witness that there is nothing worthy of worship except Him. He has no partners. May Allah send peace and blessings upon His final messenger.

Brothers and Sisters! Volunteer acts and do good are very important worships in Islam. Many people see the meaning of worship connected with the rights of Allah only, and ignore other great worships which are good treatment and helping other people, and we will mention some proofs from Quran and Hadith showing the importance of these worships:

O, you who have believed, bow down and prostrate, and worship your Lord, and do good, that you may succeed. (22:77)

No good is there in much of their private conversation, except for those who enjoin charity or that which is right or conciliation between people. And whoever does that seeking means to the approval of Allah-then We are going to give him a great reward. (4:114)

And spend in the way of Allah and do not throw (your selves) you're your (own) hands into destruction (by not spending your wealth in the Cause of Allah) and do good; indeed, Allah loves the doers of good. (2:195)

The Prophet (saws) said: "Charity is obligatory everyday on every joint of a human being. If one helps a person in matters concerning his riding animal by helping him to ride it or by lifting his luggage on to it, all this will be regarded charity. A good word, and every step one takes to offer the compulsory Congregational prayer, is regarded as charity; and guiding somebody on the road is regarded as charity." (Bukhari)

Narrated Abu Musa: The Prophet said: "A faithful believer to a faithful believer is like the bricks of a wall, enforcing each other."

While (saying that) the Prophet clasped his hands, by interlacing his fingers. (Bukhari)

Narrated Abu Hurayrah: The Prophet (saws) said: The most perfect believer in respect of faith is he who is best of them in manners. (Abo Dawod)

Brothers and Sisters!

There is also a good explanation from Ibn al-Qayyim to this worship. Ibn al-Qayyim said: The best present for the deceased is an act that is most beneficial to people, for example, freeing a slave. Thus a *sadaqah* giving in charity is better than fasting on behalf of the deceased. The best charity is that which fulfills someone's need and is continuous. **The Prophet (saws) said: "The best charity is to give people a drink of water."** This applies to a place where water is scarce. Otherwise, giving someone a drink of water from a river or a canal would not be better than feeding the hungry that need food. Likewise, supplication and asking forgiveness for the deceased is beneficial to the deceased, especially when the supplicant is sincere, earnest, and humble in his supplication. Such a supplication is better than charity, just as regular prayer (*salah*) is better than the funeral prayer and then supplicating for the deceased by his grave.

In general, the best gift to send the deceased is freeing a slave, giving in charity, asking forgiveness for him or her, and making the *Hajj* (pilgrimage) on his or her behalf.