

Friday Khutbah: The virtue of assisting others and looking after their needs
Friday 17/05/2013

Servants of Allah! Know that *Taqwa* of Allah is the best provision. So, have *Taqwa* of Allah in all your affairs; the immediate and the delayed. Have *Taqwa* of Allah in what you do and in what you leave.

Also know that *Taqwa* of Allah and His worship is not limited by time or place. Allah (*subhanahu wa ta'ala*) says: "And worship your Lord until comes to you that which is certain." i.e. death. And his Prophet (*salla Allahu alaihi wasallam*) said: "Have *Taqwa* of Allah wherever you may be."

Have *Taqwa* whether you are alone or with others; whether you are in your home land or in a foreign land.

The Arabic poet said:

When you are alone, don't say I am alone, but say there is a watcher over me.

Don't think that Allah is unaware of you for a moment; or that which you do is hidden from him!

Salves of Allah! We thank Allah (*subhanahu wa ta'ala*) for guiding us to Islam and for favouring us by sending the best of human kind to us. We praise and thank Him for His blessings upon us, the greatest of which is the guidance to Islam.

Servants of Allah! If I was to talk to you about the greatness of the religion of Islam then that will be a very long and complex talk indeed - for no one would be able to enumerate the manifestations of the greatness of Islam even if one spends long hours.

Perhaps it is better to be brief and suffice myself with a few words that are easily grasped and simple phrases that are easily comprehended.

I start by affirming two important facts. The first is that the whole of humanity are in need of this *Deen*. This is simply because it is the only true and correct *Deen* on the surface of earth.

The second fact is that all of humanity are entitled to receive the call and invitation of Islam regardless of their status, deviation from the truth or corruption.

Allah (*subhanahu wa ta'ala*) sent Musa and his brother (*alaihima- as-salam*) to the Pharaoh of Egypt and said to them: "Go, both of you, to Pharaoh; he has indeed transgressed all limits. And speak to him in soft words. May be, he accepts the advice or fears (Allah)".

If Allah wishes anyone good, then regardless of his status, he/she will submit in humility to Allah, lord of the worlds. We have the example of Balqis, the Queen of Saba'. The Qur'an said in what the hoopoe related regarding her: "I found a woman ruling over them, and she has been given (abundance) of all things, and hers is a mighty throne. I have found her and her people prostrating themselves to the sun, instead of Allah, and *Shaytan* has beautified their deeds for them and prevented them from the way, so they do not take the right path"

The Qur'an mentioned at the end of her story: "She said, "My Lord, I had surely wronged myself, and now I submit, along with Sulayman, to Allah, the Lord of all the worlds."

We find a contemporary example for what I have mentioned in the submission of the Dutch politician who was a member of the far right anti-Islam party which produced the film "the *fitna*." He attributed the reason for his Islam to the strong reaction from Muslims against the film. This prompted him to search about Islam and the reason for the tremendous love which

Muslims have for their *Deen* and for their Prophet. This led him to embrace Islam. He recently visited Madinah and Makkah and performed *Umrah*.

Another interesting example, which is also an indicative of the greatness of this *Deen*, is that of a German philosopher who befriended a young Egyptian Muslim man during his visit to Egypt six years ago. The story of this man was reported recently in Muslim media. The philosopher described the young man saying: “He used to do everything with great love, something which I never came across during my life in Germany.”

He also said about his friend Hassan: “He used to do everything he could to help others – something which made me hope to be like him.”

He said that he did not know about Islam except the Crusade wars and the negative images.

His Egyptian friend said that his story with the philosopher started when he took a photo of him while he was praying. He apologised to him for the intrusion during his worship but Hassan responded: “I am happy because I am worshipping my lord.”

The philosopher said to him: “We are friends, but I am not a Muslim”

Hassan replied: “I treat you well for the sake of Allah.”

After two years of friendship, the philosopher decided to read and study Islam and to learn the Arabic language. This led him to embrace Islam.

And so, the reasons for accepting Islam vary and differ from one person to another.

One of the greatest ways to winning people’s hearts and minds is offering assistance to others and treating them in a good way. Had Muslims recognised the significance of this virtue and used it to fulfil their duty of conveying the message of Islam to the world, the hearts of many people would have opened to Islam.

Offering assistance to others and looking after their needs is an Islamic virtue which has a high position in Islam. The *Ahadith* which urge Muslims to look after the needs of others and to bring benefit to them are too many. One such *Hadith* is that reported by Ibn Umar, may Allah be pleased with him and his father. He said: A man came to the Prophet (*salla Allahu alaihi wasallam*) and said: O Messenger of Allah! Who is the most beloved of people to Allah? And which is the most beloved action to Allah? Rasulullah (*salla Allahu alaihi wa sallam*) said: The most beloved of people to Allah are the most beneficial to them. The most beloved action to Allah is to bring about happiness to a Muslim; that you remove some hardship from him or that you pay off some of his burdening debt or that you drive away hunger from him. For me to go with my Muslim brother with a view of fulfilling some of his need is better for me than performing *I’tikaf* in the *Masjid* for a month.....”

There are many other *Hadiths* which urge a Muslim to endeavour to fulfil the needs of others. Rasulullah (*salla Allahu alaihi wa sallam*) said: “Whoever is looking after the need of his brother, Allah will look after his need.”

A wise person is one who seeks to fulfil his own needs by fulfilling the needs of others because when he looks after the needs of others, Allah will look after his own needs as the Prophet (*salla Allahu alaihi wasallam*) said.

And which is better to look after your own needs or that Allah looks after them.

Al-Bukhari and Muslim reported from Anas, may Allah be pleased with him that he said: We were travelling with the Prophet (*salla Allahu alaihi wasallam*) on a very hot day. We

stopped at some place to rest. The one among us who had the best shading was the one who was shading himself with his clothes. Some of us were protecting themselves from the sun with their hands. Some of us were fasting while others were not. The fasting ones rested while those who were not fasting made the tents and gave water to the animals on which we were riding. The Prophet (*salla Allahu alaihi wasallam*) said: Those who were not fasting have got all the reward.”

This was because they were in the service of their fasting brothers.

In conclusion: The Islamic teachings of offering assistance to others and wishing for them the good that you wish for yourself are among the manifestations of the greatness of Islam. These are also means by which Allah (*subhanahu wa ta'ala*) opens the hearts of people to Islam.

Since these action (rendering assistance to others) is a form of *Ibadah* for which a Muslim hopes for the reward from Allah (*subhanahu wa ta'ala*), then this action must be for the sake of Allah (*subhanahu wa ta'ala*) alone whether it is offered to a Muslim or a non-Muslim; to a human being or to an animal.