

MUSLIMS ARE BROTHERS

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as Primary Helpers to Each Other.

Muslims should help each other. The Muslim servant of Allah cannot be ignored, for helping him is equal to helping Allah.

Rasulullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) said: "Verily, Allah, the Exalted and Glorious, will say on the Day of Resurrection: 'O son of Adam, I was sick but you did not visit Me.' He will say: 'O my Lord, how could I visit You when You are the Lord of the worlds?' Thereupon He will say: 'Didn't you know that a certain servant of Mine was sick but you did not visit him, and were you not aware that if you had visited him, you would have found Me by him? O son of Adam, I asked you for food but you did not feed Me.' He will say: 'My Lord, how could I feed You when You are the Lord of the worlds?' He will say: 'Didn't you know that a certain servant of Mine asked you for food but you did not feed him, and were you not aware that if you had fed him you would have found him by My side?' (The Lord will again say:) 'O son of Adam, I asked you for something to drink but you did not provide Me with any.' He will say: 'My Lord, how could I provide You with something to drink when You are the Lord of the worlds?' Thereupon He will say: 'A certain servant of Mine asked you for a drink but you did not provide him with one, and had you provided him with a drink you would have found him near Me.'" (Sahih Muslim: Book 31, Number 6232)

How far does this help go? When the Ansār welcomed the Muhajireen, they shared

everything with them. They divided their property in half. They even offered their wives to be wives the Muhajireen. They became brothers in the true sense of the word.

Muslims are not Angels

One of the problems we have with helping Muslims is that we expect exemplary behaviour in return. We expect everyone to be perfect just because he or she is Muslim. We think Muslims are a nation of angels. It is not true. Muslims are not perfect for simply belonging to the creed. None of us are perfect, even in the Noble Prophet's time, there were hypocrites, drunks, adulterers, thieves and slanderers. We have to forgive each other.

Rasulullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) said: "It is not permissible for a Muslim to have estranged relations with his brother beyond three days." (Sahih Muslim: Book 31, Number 6212)

We have to be kind to each other. Rasulallah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) said: 'Kindness is not to be found in anything but that it adds to its beauty and it is not withdrawn from anything but it makes it defective.'" (Sahih Muslim: Book 31, Number 6274)

Final Word

Lastly, be careful in what one utters and feel for fellow Muslims. Muslims are not perfect, but all share a common bond, love for Allah and His Messenger (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam).

(Ar Rasheed)

Allāh Ta'āla has made the relationship of the Muslim to a Muslim more sacred than any relationship, even that of blood, culture or nation. He has united us into one Ummah, the Muslim Ummah, and has made us responsible for each other. The relationship between the Muslims is a sacred one.

Our beloved Nabi (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) said: "A Muslim is the brother of a Muslim. He neither oppresses him nor humiliates him nor looks down upon him. The piety is here, (and while saying so) he pointed towards his chest thrice. It is a serious evil for a Muslim that he should look down upon his brother Muslim. All things of a Muslim are inviolable for his brother in faith; his blood, his wealth and his honour." (Sahih Muslim Book 31, Number 6219)

Denigrating Fellow Brothers/Sisters

We have special responsibilities towards our brothers/sisters in Islām that we do not have towards others. We are to consider the Muslim, first and foremost, regardless of our relationships. The act of looking down upon a Muslim brother or sister is a serious sin in Islām.

Ask ourselves: How many times do we look down a fellow Muslim due to his/her social and economic position in life? For instance, a brother refuses to consider a woman for marriage because she is poor or hails from an unknown family, or a sister refuses to consider a brother because he is not professionally qualified or economically settled. Yet, these people are great in their

Deen and their manners.

We must also not assume the worst about people on face value or harbour unfounded suspicions about certain Muslims. Black Muslims tend to hold certain negative perceptions of the Indian Muslim, whilst the Indian Muslim will look upon the Black Muslim in a certain light. Thus, even before meeting or attempting to cement a bond, certain 'invisible' barriers obstruct constructive communication between them! The ties of Islām must be stronger than all other ties.

Love and Enmity for the Sake of Allah Only

The most vivid example of this is that of the Prophet Nooh (A.S.) and his son. Allah tells us: "And Nooh called upon his Lord, and said: 'O my Lord! surely my son is of my family! and Your promise is true, and You are the most just of Judges!' Allah said: 'O Nooh! Lo! he is not of your household; lo! he is of evil conduct, so ask not of Me that whereof you have no knowledge. I admonish you lest you be among the ignorant.'" (11:45-46) Here was the Prophet's own son, and Allah was telling him that the son's disobedience had effectively removed him from the family unit and from Allah's protection. How did Nooh (A.S.) react to this?

Prophet Nooh (A.S.) said: "O my Lord! I do seek refuge with You, lest I ask You for that of which I have no knowledge. And unless You forgive me and have Mercy on me, I should indeed be lost!" (11:47) "This day nothing can save, from the command of Allah, any but those on whom He have mercy!" 11:43

The Prophet was true to his character, recognising the wisdom of Allah over his own judgement, and he sought forgiveness for his assumption.

Another example of this is Prophet Loot (A.S.). He fled his city by Allah's command, and tried to save his family, but this was not the will of Allah, for his wife was not of the believers. "But we saved him and his family, except his wife: she was of those who lagged behind" (7:83) Here we see that Allah did not save the wife of the Prophet. He had to choose between obeying Allah and saving his wife, he had no choice, he obeyed Allah. He knew that the only relationships that exist are those for the sake of Allah - seeking His Great Pleasure.

Rasulullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) said: "A person visited his brother in another town and Allah deputed an Angel to wait for him on his way and when he came to him he said: 'Where do you intend to go?' He said: 'I intend to go to my brother in this town.' He said: 'Have you done any favour to him (the repayment of which you intend to get)?' He said: 'No, except that I love him for the sake of Allah, the Exalted and Glorious.' Thereupon he said: 'I am a Messenger to you from Allah (to inform you) that Allah loves you as you love him (for His sake).'" (Sahih Muslim: Book 31, Number 6226)

We cannot hold enmity and hatred for our fellow Muslims. Too often Muslims are heard talking about others because they are from a particular race or nation: Arabs insult Pakistanis or Indians, Whites insult Blacks, and Somalis insult Nigerians. Rather Muslims