

Fruits for the Week

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BROTHERHOOD IN ISLAM

The concept of brotherhood in Islam was clearly stated in the following Qur'anic verse: "***The believer are but a single brotherhood.***" (49:10). One aspect of brotherhood is to love for your brothers what you love for yourself. Prophet Muhammad said: "*No one has faith unless he loves for his brother what he loves for himself.*" Other characteristics of brotherhood are: no jealousy, hate or boycott. Prophet Muhammad said: "... ***Do not be jealous of one another, and do not boycott one another; and be the people of Allah as brethren; and it is not lawful for a Muslim that he should sever his relations with his brother for more than three days.***"

Another characteristics of brotherhood in Islam is that Muslim are like one body, when one member ill, the entire body ill. Also, they are as one structure, one part of which strengthens the other. Other characteristics are that a Muslim should not do injustice to his brothers, nor does he leave them to be victims. Prophet Muhammad said: "*A Muslim is the brother of a Muslim; he does him no injustice; and whoever does what is needful for his brother, Allah does what is needful for him; and whoever removes the distress of a Muslim, Allah removes from him a distress of the day of resurrection, and whoever covers the fault of a Muslim, Allah will cover his sins on the day of resurrection.*"

Another characteristic of brotherhood is that the person gives preference to the other brother over himself even though he is in need of that item. This was mentioned in the following verse: "*They give them preference over themselves even though poverty was their own lot.*" (59:9).

Other characteristics which are practiced by believers are: to share happiness and sorrow among themselves, to greet one another, to advise for one's

betterment, based on the Qur'anic guidance, to help one another without desiring or causing people to know, to be humble with one another, to help your brother when wrong is done to him, or when he is the doer of wrong and prevent him from doing wrong, and to show a true image of your brother behind his back as in front of him.

Another significant incident in history shows the preference toward other brothers over oneself even though the latter may be in need of it, was at the Battle of Yarmuk, where a person was suffering and thirsty. A person with water passed near him and was in the position to offer him a glass of water when another voice was heard. He was in need of water. The first man asked the water supplier to go and offer the water to his brother in Islam, implying it could be that the latter was suffering more. The supplier of water went to the second and when he was in the position to offer him a glass of water another voice of suffering was asking for water. The second told supplier to go to the third person, implying it could be that he might be suffering more. He went to the third and found him dead. He came back to the second and found him dead, and finally came to the first to offer him water, but unfortunately, he found him dead also. Every one of them tried to sacrifice himself, and indeed, each sacrificed his life for the love of his brother.

May Allah guide us to the right path. Amin

Prepared by Br. Muhaemin
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