

Fruits for the Week

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KINDNESS AND CHARITY

Allah (SWT) says: *“But seek, with that (wealth) which Allah has bestowed on you, the home of the hereafter, and forget not your portion in this world, and do good as Allah has been good to you, and seek not mischief in the land. Verily, Allah loves not those who do mischief.”*(28:77)

Among the ethical values taught by Islam, the virtue of kindness is of supreme importance in human conduct. The attaining of nearness to Allah (SWT) lies in one’s strength of kindness as this virtue invariably leads one to do good deeds. Our Prophet (SAW) said: *“Every good act is kindness.”*

When one does good, he will be kind, and this virtue will lead him to a host of other virtues such as humility, humbleness, sincerity, unselfishness and sympathy for others.

The virtue of kindness is also closely interwoven with charity. Indeed when a person is kind, he will also be charitable. Thus, to be kind and charitable to others is a duty of every Muslim. Indeed, with the guidance provided by Islam, a Muslim should not be short on these and other virtues. He should be kind to his parents and relatives, and to anyone, Muslims or non-Muslims, and even to animals and the environment. Allah (SWT) says: *“Treat with kindness your parents and kindred, and orphans and those in need.”* (2:83)

Acts of kindness and charity can be in any form. Satisfying the basic needs of the poor, relieving someone of a difficulty or calamity,

guiding a wayfarer, helping the elderly to cross the road, picking up a kitten from a drain, and so on are all acts of charity and kindness. Our Prophet (SAW) said: *“Removing stones, thorns and other obstacles from the road is charity, showing the way to a lost person is charity.”* He also said: *“Every act of kindness is sadaqa (charity), and kindness includes meeting your brother with a cheerful face.”*

Helping the needy and the less fortunate by giving monetary donations or doing voluntary work are also acts of kindness and charity encouraged by Islam. Our Prophet (SAW) said: *“He, who does not show kindness to children and respect to our elders, does not belong to us.”* So, visiting the sick, the old and orphans, even those in elderly homes and orphanages, is an act of kindness for which there is great reward. Our Prophet (SAW) said: *“The one who visits the sick is like one who is in the fruit garden of Paradise until he returns.”*

Kindness is an aspect of Islamic teachings contributing to the establishment of human fraternity. The basis of service to humanity is kindness, which the Qur’an instructs us to uphold always. In reiterating this, the Prophet (SAW) said: *“The best among men is one who does good to the people.”* He also said: *“Be kind to all living beings, so that Allah may be kind to you.”* Wallahu A’lam.

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