

Wisdom of the caller and morals of those who receive Da`wah

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the Name of Allaah the most Kind the most Merciful

All Praise be to Allaah, the Lord of the universe, may peace and blessings be upon His servant and Messenger, His friend and trustee over His wahy (revelation), our Prophet, leader and master Muhammad bin Abdullah, and upon his family, his Sahabah (companions) and those who follow his way and are guided by his guidance until the day of judgment. To proceed:

Dhikr (remembrance) of Allaah, and Da`wah (calling to Islaam) to his way is the tradition of messengers (عليهم السلام). Allaah sent them as callers to the truth and guidance to His creation. They give glad tidings and give warnings to stop the excuses of mankind against Allaah. Allaah (عزوجل)¹ says: **[Messengers as bearers of good news as well as of warning in order that mankind should have no plea against Allaah after the (coming of) Messengers.]** Allaah (عزوجل) also says: **[O Prophet (Muhammad (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ)! Verily, We have sent you as witness, and a bearer of glad tidings, and a warner,] [And as one who invites to Allaah [Islaamic Monotheism, i.e. to worship none but Allaah (Alone)] by His Leave, and as a lamp spreading light (through your instructions from the Qur'aan and the Sunnah - the legal ways of the Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ)).]** This is also the way and path of their successors of the scholars and their followers; they perform Da`wah to Allaah, remind people of Allaah and give glad tidings to those who have Taqwaa (fear/wariness of offending Allaah), and warn the others. Allaah (سبحانه)³ created the creation to worship Him and He sent the messengers to clarify and call people to it. Allaah (سبحانه) says: **[And I (Allaah) created not the jinn and mankind except that they should worship Me (Alone).]** Both creations, Jinn (creatures created from fire) and mankind were created to worship Allaah. This worship is the right of Allaah on His Mukallaf (legally competent person) slaves of the jinn and mankind. Allaah sent the Messengers (عليهم السلام)⁴ to show this worship, and call people to and explain it to people. Allaah revealed the Books for this reason, and the greatest of them, the best, the most perfect and the last word of Allaah is the Glorious Qur'aan where the way

¹ (عزوجل) (Azza wa Jaal) Glorified and Exalted be He

² (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) (sallallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam) May the peace and blessings of Allaah the Most High be upon him

³ (سبحانه) (Subhanahu) Exalted be He

⁴ (عليهم السلام) Peace be upon them

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of guidance and the path to happiness lie. It contains that which Allaah is pleased with, and that which brings a person closer to Him of sayings, actions and intentions. It also contains that which displeases Allaah and sends a person away from the Mercy of Allaah, as Allaah (سبحانه) says: **[And verily, We have sent among every Ummah (community, nation) a Messenger (proclaiming): "Worship Allaah (Alone), and avoid (or keep away from) Taaghoot (all false deities i.e. do not worship Taaghoot besides Allaah)."]** Allaah (سبحانه) also says: **[(This is) a Book, the Verses whereof are perfected (in every sphere of knowledge), and then explained in detail from One (Allaah), Who is All-Wise, Well-Acquainted (with all things).] [(Saying) worship none but Allaah. Verily, I (Muhammad (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ)) am unto you from Him a warner and a bringer of glad tidings.]**

Allaah (سبحانه) also says at the beginning of Soorah Ibraaheem (Abraham): **[Alif-Laam-Raa. [These letters are one of the miracles of the Qur'aan, and none but Allaah (Alone) knows their meanings]. (This is) a Book which We have revealed unto you (O Muhammad (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ)) in order that you might lead mankind out of darkness (of disbelief and polytheism) into light (of belief in the Oneness of Allaah and Islaamic Monotheism)]** Allaah (سبحانه) also says in Soorah an-Nahl (the Bee): **[And We have sent down to you the Book (the Qur'aan) as an exposition of everything, a guidance, a mercy, and glad tidings for those who have submitted themselves (to Allaah as Muslims).]** Allaah (عزوجل) also says in Soorah al-Hadeed: **[Indeed, We have sent Our Messengers with clear proofs, and revealed with them the Scripture and the Balance (justice) that mankind may keep up justice.]** There are many Ayahs (Qur'aanic verses) to the same effect.

It is therefore compulsory on every Mu'min (believer), female and male, to read the Book of Allaah, and understand the meaning of what Allaah mentioned. One should read it often to know what it contains and to implement that which it indicates, as Allaah (عزوجل) says: **[Verily, this Qur'aan guides to that which is most just and right]** Allaah (سبحانه) also says: **[Say: "It is for those who believe, a guide and a healing."]** Allaah (عزوجل) also says: **[(This is) a Book (the Qur'aan) which We have sent down to you, full of blessings, that they may ponder over its Verses, and that men of understanding may remember.]** Allaah (عزوجل) also says: **[And We have sent down to you the Book (the Qur'aan) as an exposition of everything, a guidance, a mercy, and glad tidings for those who have submitted themselves (to Allaah as Muslims).]**

So it is most proper for all of us, both males and females, scholars and common people, to read the Book of Allaah, understand it and take care of it in order to know the truth and follow it and be aware of what pleases Allaah and what sayings and actions that bring one closer to Allaah to act upon them. At the same time, to know what displeases Allaah and what sends one further away from His Mercy to refrain from doing it. And in order for us to implement Da`wah to what is good and to abandon what is evil with knowledge and insight. The messengers (عليهم السلام) were sent for this matter, as we previously mentioned, Allaah

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(سبحانه) also says: **[And verily, We have sent among every Ummah (community, nation) a Messenger (proclaiming): “Worship Allaah (Alone), and avoid (or keep away from) Taaghoot (all false deities i.e. do not worship Taaghoot besides Allaah).”]** The books were revealed for this reason, as previously mentioned, Allaah (سبحانه) also says: **[[This is) a Book, the Verses whereof are perfected (in every sphere of knowledge), and then explained in detail from One (Allaah), Who is All-Wise, Well-Acquainted (with all things).] [Worship none but Allaah]** Allaah (سبحانه) also says: **[This (Qur’aan) is a Message for mankind (and a clear proof against them), in order that they may be warned thereby, and that they may know that He is the only One Ilaah (God - Allaah) - (none has the right to be worshipped but Allaah) - and that men of understanding may take heed.]** All the books revealed from the heavens call people to worship Allaah and His Messenger, to have ‘Eemaan (faith) in Allaah, and to stop at the limits. Likewise, the messengers (عليهم السلام) were all sent to clarify the truth and guide people to that through sayings, actions and `Aqeedah (doctrine -belief-faith).

What is Waajib (obligation) upon the people of Islaam is to obtain knowledge of the worship for which they are created. That is to know Tawheed (Oneness of Allaah/ monotheism) of Allaah, obey His commands, forbid His prohibitions. This is the worship, for which we are all created; the Tawheed of Allaah (سبحانه) through our actions in all of our worships, whether they be through sayings, actions, intentions, obeying the commands or forbidding the prohibitions. As for the saying of Allaah (سبحانه): **[And I (Allaah) created not the jinn and mankind except that they should worship Me (Alone).]** It means that they should sincerely obey Him alone; acting upon the commands, abandoning the prohibitions, and stopping at the limits.

The Du`ah (the callers to Islaam) and the righteous scholars are the successors of Messengers; they are the inheritors of Messengers in calling to righteousness, clarifying the path to happiness, and clarifying the path to misery and destruction in order to refrain from and be warned against it. The title of my work, this article, as previously mentioned is: (The wisdom of Da`ee (caller to Islaam) and the morals of those who receive Da`wah (call to Islaam)). This title was chosen and agreed upon, because the wisdom of calling to Islaam has great benefit, the caller carefully chooses the words used, the appropriate timing, and the appropriate manner in order for him to be closer to succeeding. Of the names of Allaah (سبحانه) is Al-Hakim (the All Wise), Al-`Aleem (the All-Knowing), because He (سبحانه) puts things in place with knowledge: **[Certainly your Lord is All-Wise, All-Knowing.], [And Allaah is Ever All-Knower, All-Wise.]** He knows the things as they are, and lays down actions and rulings according to the most proper manner that suits Him (سبحانه) and appropriate to the benefit of mankind, for He is the Wise, the All Knowing in His Sayings, Actions, commandment and prohibition in all that which He says and does (عزوجل). The person who is wise is he who knows everything and places the sayings and actions in their appropriate places. This perfection only befits Allaah (عزوجل), because He is the Knower of all things, the Wise in all

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matters, (سبحانه). It is the wisdom of the caller to have knowledge of what he is calling for and what he is forbidding, as Allaah (عزوجل) says: **[Invite (mankind, O Muhammad (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ)) to the Way of your Lord (i.e. Islaam) with wisdom (i.e. with the Divine Revelation and the Qur'aan)]** which means: with knowledge of what Allaah says and what the Messenger stated.

It is also wisdom on the part of the caller to use the most appropriate manner and information, conversing with each community with what they know and understand, Allaah (سبحانه) says: **[Say (O Muhammad (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ))]: "This is my way; I invite unto Allaah (i.e. to the Oneness of Allaah - Islaamic Monotheism) with sure knowledge]** Allaah (عزوجل) also says, **[Invite (mankind, O Muhammad (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ)) to the Way of your Lord (i.e. Islaam) with wisdom (i.e. with the Divine Revelation and the Qur'aan)]** i.e. Knowledge, [...and fair preaching] i.e. Encouragement and discouragement to soften hearts and bring them closer to the acceptance of the truth. [...and argue with them in a way that is better.] i.e. in a good manner, without using violence or hardship; rather in a good manner in order for them to accept the truth and follow him. Allaah (سبحانه) says about the people of the Book: **[And argue not with the people of the Scripture (Jews and Christians), unless it be in (a way) that is better (with good words and in good manner, inviting them to Islaamic Monotheism with His Verses)]** they are the Jews and the Christians. It is not permitted to argue with them except with that which is better, except for those who do Dhulm (injustice) among them, for those who do injustice will be dealt with in a different manner.

If this direction from Allaah (سبحانه) is meant to dealing with the people of the book, then it is more proper to be adopted when dealing with the Muslims. Allaah (عزوجل) also says: **[And by the Mercy of Allaah, you dealt with them gently.]** Allaah addresses the Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) saying: **[And by the Mercy of Allaah, you dealt with them gently.]** i.e. those who were called to Islaam of Qur'aysh and others, **[And had you been severe and harsh-hearted, they would have broken away from about you]** Allaah also said to Moosa (Moses) and Haaron (Aaron) (عليهم السلام) when He sent them to Fir`awn (Pharaoh): **["And speak to him mildly, perhaps he may accept admonition or fear (Allaah)."]** This is guidance from Allaah, the Exalted, to His Messengers Moosa and Haaron when He sent them to Pharaoh, for the callers to copy this, and use it in their Da`wah to Allaah, especially when dealing with the great leaders, and especially in our times. For the wisdom, good manners and kindness are of the most important matters in all times, and in our time more specifically, due to the great amount of ignorance and whims over most of the creation. By using harshness, people will flee from you, and stay away from you, they will never accept the truth, except those whom Allaah blessed with Mercy.

Some historians have mentioned that one of the callers to Islaam met with some rulers of Banoo al-`Abbas and said to them: I am saying to you, and am strict with you. The Caliph then said to him: No my brother, be kind to me, for I am not worse than Pharaoh and you

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are not better than Moosa, Allaah has said to Moosa and Haaron: **["And speak to him mildly, perhaps he may accept admonition or fear (Allaah)."]** This means that one should choose the appropriate words for those who receive Da`wah or advice and address them kindly. The Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said: **"He who is deprived of forbearance and gentleness is, in fact, deprived of all good."** He (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) also 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."**

Then, for every place is a saying, the caller should consider the needs of the society which he is talking to. He should notice the Munkar (that which is unacceptable or disapproved of by Sharee`ah and Muslims of sound intellect) within that society in order to first address that using evidence from the Sharee`ah (Islaamic law), which is what Allaah says and the Messenger (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said with evidence. He should be lenient with whoever asks or suggests an unclear matter, until the truth is made clear to them, by arguing with kindness, until the unclear matter is eliminated, because the aim is to guide people and drive them from darkness to the light. Your intentions should not be to show your knowledge, reprove them or show their ignorance but only to call them to what is good, guide them to the truth, and drive them out of darkness into the light.

It is waajib to follow the path using the means that leads to this matter and is expected to get the benefit.

Likewise, the one to whom Da`wah is given should adopt the following manners: He should keep silent and focus on what they are hearing from the caller, and recalling it in order for them to benefit and understand, also having sincere intentions to benefit, learn, gain knowledge and act upon it. Of these manners also is asking good questions if they ask. These are all of the manners of the person who receives Da`wah: listening, accepting the person who is doing Da`wah, sincerity, good intentions, asking for the truth, and resolving to do good and accept the advice. Allaah (سبحانه) says: **[...so announce the good news to My slaves] [Those who listen to the Word [good advice Laa ilaaha illaallaah - (none has the right to be worshipped but Allaah) and Islaamic Monotheism] and follow the best thereof (i.e. worship Allaah Alone, repent to Him and avoid Taaghoot) those are (the ones) whom Allaah has guided and those are men of understanding.]** Allaah (سبحانه) also says: **[...but if they had done what they were told, it would have been better for them, and would have strengthened their (Faith) And indeed We should then have bestowed upon them a great reward from Ourselves.] [And indeed We should have guided them to the Straight Way.]** Allaah (سبحانه) also says: **[But none is granted it (the above quality) except those who are patient - and none is granted it except the owner of the great portion (of happiness in the Hereafter i.e. Paradise and of a high moral character) in this world.]**

The person who is called upon should accept the Da`wah with heart intending to please Allaah and be successful in the Hereafter. They should be ready in heart and reason to

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accept the truth, implement it when knowing it, and fight against their desires and devils. The most important matter which should always and frequently be advised with is to be sincere in their worship to Allaah Alone, and for the slaves to judge themselves in order for their deeds and sayings to be for Allaah Alone. All their actions, prayers, fasting, and Da`wah should be for Allaah Alone. Their ordering of Ma`roof and forbidding Munkar and other such deeds should sincerely be done for Allaah Alone in all their actions. Their goal in life should be to worship Allaah and obey His Messenger, and please Allaah (سبحانه) to be successful with honour and implement that which the servants are required to do.

The basis and foundation of the Deen is the Tawheed (Oneness of Allaah/ monotheism) of Allaah, and being sincere to Him (سبحانه). As Allaah (سبحانه) also says: **[And your Lord has decreed that you worship none but Him.]** Allaah (سبحانه) also says: **[And they were commanded not, but that they should worship Allaah, and worship none but Him Alone (abstaining from ascribing partners to Him)]** Allaah (سبحانه) also says: **[So worship Allaah (Alone) by doing religious deeds sincerely for Allaah's sake only.] [Surely the religion (i.e. the worship and the obedience) is for Allaah only.]** The Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) resided for ten years in Makkah, performing Da`wah to people, calling them to the Tawheed of Allaah and sincerity to Him, and forbade them to commit Shirk (associating others with Allaah in His Divinity or worship) of Allaah, and he showed them the nullity of worshipping idols, prophets and righteous people. He informed them that the obligation is to be sincere to Allaah Alone in their worship, He is the One Who should be supplicated and worshipped, the One to Whom all sacrifices, vowing, prayer and Sawm (fasting) and other such worships should be offered. Allaah (سبحانه) also says: **[So, call you (O Muhammad (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) and the believers) upon (or invoke) Allaah making (your) worship pure for Him (Alone) (by worshipping none but Him and by doing religious deeds sincerely for Allaah's sake only)]** and not to show off and not to set up rivals with Him in worship) Allaah (سبحانه) also says: **[So worship Allaah (Alone) by doing religious deeds sincerely for Allaah's sake only.]** It is recorded in the Saheeh⁵ Hadeeth that the Messenger (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said: **I have been commanded to fight against people until they testify that none has the right to be worshipped but Allaah, and that Muhammad is the Messenger of Allaah, i.e. Until they testify by words, actions and belief; they must believe in its meaning, and act upon it by Tawheed of Allaah and sincerity to Him, associating nothing with Him (سبحانه) and performing that which Allaah has commanded including Salaah (prayers), Sawm (fasting), Zakaah (obligatory charity), and other deeds, and refraining from committing that which He forbade.**

⁵ A Hadeeth that has been transmitted by people known for their uprightness and exactitude; free from eccentricity and blemish

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It is reported in the Saheeh collection of Hadeeth from Ibn 'Umar (رضي الله عنهما)⁶ that he said: I heard the Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) saying: **I have been commanded to fight against people until they testify that none has the right to be worshipped but Allaah, and that Muhammad is the Messenger of Allaah, perform the Prayer, and pay Zakaah. If they do that, their blood and property are guaranteed protection on my behalf except when justified by law, and their affairs rest with Allaah.**

All of the Mukallafs (persons meeting the conditions to be held legally accountable for their actions) of the Jinn and mankind are ordered to believe in the Tawheed of Allaah and are ordered to be sincere to Him in their worship. They are ordered to believe the Messenger of Allaah (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) and believe in what he brought of guidance. They are ordered to believe that he is the Servant of Allaah, His Messenger who was sent to all, both mankind and jinn, and that he is the Last of Prophets. It is an obligation upon every mukallaf to have faith in him, believe him and follow his Sharee'ah (Islaamic law) - (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ).

As it is also an obligation upon every individual to implement his duties, after the Tawheed of Allaah, sincerity to Him, abandoning Shirk with Him, and belief in His Messenger Muhammad (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) and in all which Allaah and His Messenger (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) revealed to us, then we should undertake the duties which Allaah has made obligatory upon us such as Salaah, Zakaah, Sawm, Hajj (pilgrimage), obeying parents, keeping the ties of kinship, being truthful when talking, commanding good and forbidding evil, Da`wah to Allaah, Jihaad (fighting/striving in the Cause of Allaah) in the cause of Allaah and other acts of worship along with staying away from all which Allaah forbade. The most grave of that is Shirk with Allaah, for it is the gravest of sins. A person should beware of all sins including ungratefulness to parents, Zina (sexual intercourse outside marriage) drinking alcohol, breaking ties of kinship, using Riba (usury) and other sins that Allaah has prohibited. The Mu'min, female and male, should strive against their desires until the male is correctly following the commands of Allaah and His Messenger (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) and until the female is correctly following the commands of Allaah and His Messenger (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) in every aspect, at every time, during hardships and good times, night and day, during travel and at home, at all times and everywhere. Everyone should strive against themselves until they are following the commands of Allaah, until they abandon that which Allaah has prohibited, and until they abide by the limits that Allaah has set.

Salaah (prayer) is the pillar of Islaam and the greatest obligation, It is the most important aspect after the testimonies of faith. Therefore, it is an obligation upon every Mu'min (believing) female and male to preserve the prayers, be sure to pray it at the due time, and perform each of them quietly and solemnly. Allaah (سبحانه) says: **[Successful indeed are the believers.] [Those who offer their Salaat (prayers) with all solemnity and full**

⁶ (رضي الله عنهما) (rad iyallaahu 'anhumaa) May Allaah the Most High be pleased with them both ('Umar & ibn 'Umar)

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submissiveness.] A Mu'min is required to preserve it in congregation in the Houses of Allaah (mosques). One must not imitate the hypocrites and the lazy people and should be quick in going and keeping it with his brothers in the Houses of Allaah at every time. Allaah (سبحانه) also says: **[And perform as-Salaat (Iqaamat-as-Salaat), and give Zakaat and bow down (or submit yourselves with obedience to Allaah) along with those who bow down (in prayer).]** i.e. pray with those who pray. The Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said: **He who hears the call to pray and does not come, there is no prayer for him unless he has an excuse. It was said to Ibn `Abbas: What is the excuse? He said: fear or sickness. Once a blind man said: O Messenger of Allaah, I do not have a guide to guide me to the Masjid (mosque), do I have permission to pray at home? He (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said: do you hear the call to prayer? He said: Yes! The Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) replied: Then you must answer it.**

This man was blind and he had no one to guide him but he was commanded to answer the call! What then is the case with others?

A Muslim should preserve these great worships, which are the pillars of Islaam and whoever preserves them has preserved their religion and whoever loses them, will be lost. Maalik (رَحِمَهُ اللهُ)⁷ narrated in his book ("Al-Muwatta`) from Nafee` that `Umar (رضي الله عنه)⁸ used to write to the workers and princes saying to them: The most important of which I have commanded you to do is Salaah; he who preserves it has preserved his religion and he who wastes it has wasted his religion.

Many people today do not preserve prayers in congregation. This is a great danger and a grave evil. Some do not pray the Fajr (morning) prayer until they get up to go to work and pray it then after the sunrise. This is a great munkar. Prayer is the pillar of Islaam; whoever preserves it has preserved their religion and whoever wastes it, will be wasted in the same manner. Allaah (سبحانه) says: **[Guard strictly (five obligatory) as-Salawaat (the prayers) especially the middle Salaat (i.e. the best prayer – 'Asr).]** It is obligatory to preserve and maintain it at the due time in congregation for males. The Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said in a Saheeh Hadeeth: **[What makes one a disbeliever and a polytheist is abandoning prayers.]** The Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) also said: **That which differentiates us from the disbelievers and hypocrites is our performance of Salaah. He who abandons it becomes a disbeliever.** This is a great danger. Some scholars maintain the view that this is a Major Kufr (disbelief). Whoever neglects it has committed an act of major kufr, even if they do not deny its obligation. As for the person who denies its obligation, this is a major kufr according to all scholars. Therefore, one should be careful and should preserve it in congregation to give it due importance and perform it with a present heart and humbleness, hoping for its reward from Allaah and fearing of His Punishment.

⁷ (رَحِمَهُ اللهُ) (rahimahullaah) May Allaah the Most High have mercy on him

⁸ (رضي الله عنه) (rad iyallaahu `anhu) May Allaah the Most High be pleased with him

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This is also the case with the paying of Zakaah (obligatory charity), which is the third of the five pillars of Islaam, which one must preserve and pay it with good heart and willingness. A person must strive to give it from his money and place it in the hands of those who need it, seeking the reward from Allaah and fearing His punishment.

Likewise, fasting the month of Ramadhaan; people should fast in the prescribed time, preserve fasting, and refrain from all which Allaah has forbidden, such as backbiting, gossiping and other sins.

This is also the case with Hajj (pilgrimage) for whoever has the ability to do so should perform Hajj whether they are male or female at least once in their lifetime, as Allaah (عزوجل) says: **[And Hajj (pilgrimage to Makkah) to the House (Ka'bah) is a duty that mankind owes to Allaah, for those who are able to undertake the journey.]** The Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) also said: **Islaam is built on five (pillars)...** Hajj was mentioned as one of the pillars.

Also enjoining good and forbidding evil, one should take care of practicing this with his family, neighbours and other fellow Muslims, for it is an important part of the character of a believing female or male, as Allaah (سبحانه) says: **[The believers, men and women, are Auliyyaa' (helpers, supporters, friends, protectors) of one another; they enjoin (on the people) al-Ma'roof (i.e. Islaamic Monotheism and all that Islaam orders one to do), and forbid (people) from al-Munkar (i.e. polytheism and disbelief of all kinds, and all that Islaam has forbidden); they perform as-Salaat (Iqaamat-as-Salaat), and give the Zakaat, and obey Allaah and His Messenger. Allaah will have His Mercy on them. Surely Allaah is All-Mighty, All-Wise.]** Likewise, all the believing males and females, as Allaah (سبحانه) mentioned that they are all Aawliyyaa' (devoted Muslims), not enemies. Between them should be love, brotherhood and cooperation in good. Therefore, it is an obligation upon both believing males and females to keep the love and brotherhood. Loving for the sake of Allaah and hating for the sake of Allaah, keeping away from lies, betrayal, backbiting, gossiping, giving false testimonies and from anything that causes separation, differences and hatred. Allaah, the Exalted, made it clear that they are: **[...they enjoin (on the people) al-Ma'roof (i.e. Islaamic Monotheism and all that Islaam orders one to do), and forbid (people) from al-Munkar (i.e. polytheism and disbelief of all kinds, and all that Islaam has forbidden)]** This was mentioned before Salaah and Zakaah due to its great importance and benefit of enjoining good and forbidding evil. In another Ayah (verse), Allaah described the entire Ummah (nation) as enjoining good and forbidding evil i.e. a positive Ummah, as Allaah (عزوجل) says: **[You [true believers in Islaamic Monotheism, and real followers of Prophet Muhammad (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ)] and his Sunnah] are the best of peoples ever raised up for mankind; you enjoin al-Ma'roof (i.e. Islaamic Monotheism and all that Islaam has ordained) and forbid al-Munkar (polytheism, disbelief and all that Islaam has forbidden),**

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and you believe in Allaah.] This is for no reason but the paramount importance of this obligation and its great benefits.

A Muslim should perform Da`wah to what is good, enjoin good and forbid evil among the people of his own house including his wife, children and others. He ought to advise and warn them against disobeying Allaah. He should urge them to pray at the right time, encourage them to do all that Allaah has obliged, forbid them from doing all that Allaah has prohibited, and warn them against backbiting, gossiping, harming one another, harming their neighbours, and against neglecting the prayers in congregation for males, etc. This is in accordance with this Glorious verse, which is the saying of Allaah (سبحانه): **[The believers, men and women, are Auliya' (helpers, supporters, friends, protectors) of one another; they enjoin (on the people) al-Ma'roof (i.e. Islaamic Monotheism and all that Islaam orders one to do), and forbid (people) from al-Munkar (i.e. polytheism and disbelief of all kinds, and all that Islaam has forbidden)]** This is in accordance with the saying of Allaah (سبحانه): **[O you who believe! Ward off yourselves and your families against a Fire (Hell) whose fuel is men and stones]** until the end of the verse. And the saying of Allaah (سبحانه) to His Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ): **[And enjoin as-Salaat (the prayer) on your family, and be patient in offering them [i.e. the Salaat (prayers)].]** Allaah also says about His Prophet and Messenger Ismaeel (عليه السلام)⁹: **[And mention in the Book (the Qur'aan) Ismaeel (Ishmael). Verily he was true to what he promised, and he was a Messenger, (and) a Prophet.] [And he used to enjoin on his family and his people as-Salaat (the prayers) and the Zakaat and his Lord was pleased with him.]**

Then you, O slave of Allaah, should perform Da`wah to your family, and strive with them in the cause of Allaah with wisdom and kind speech, using intensity sometimes and prosperity at other times. When leniency and kind words do not work, one should become more firm and strict, as Allaah (عزوجل) says: **[And argue not with the people of the Scripture (Jews and Christians), unless it be in (a way) that is better (with good words and in good manner, inviting them to Islaamic Monotheism with His Verses), except with such of them as do wrong]** He who wrongs should be punished with what he deserves, depending on one's energy, within the pure Sharee'ah (Islaamic law). The Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said: **Command your children to pray when they are seven years old and beat them for (neglecting) it when they are ten years old; and arrange their beds (to sleep) separately.** If talking does not work, he may beat them. This is also true with the Faasiq (someone openly and flagrantly violating Islaamic law) and the disobedient, if they do not accept advice and guidance to what is good. Then it is an obligation upon the leaders to reprimand them in order for them to leave falsehood and turn to the truth.

They are required to carry out the punishments of Sharee'ah on those who deserve it, according to the saying of Allaah (عزوجل): **[So keep your duty to Allaah and fear Him as**

⁹ (عليه السلام) ('alaihi-salaam) Peace be upon him

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much as you can] For this reason, the Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said in a Saheeh Hadeeth: **"Whoever, among you, sees something abominable should rectify it with his hand; and if he has not strength enough to do it, then he should do it with his tongue; and if he has not strength enough to do it, (even) then he should (abhor it) from his heart, and that is the weakest of Faith."** O servant of Allaah, you should strive according to your strength in enjoining good and forbidding evil with your family, neighbours and other Muslims using the correct, good method in the hope that you may succeed and they may listen to you. If you are able to change things with your hands e.g. Beating your children, your wife, or servant when they disobey the command of Allaah or neglect Da`wah, truth and guidance and do not carry out their duties or accept advice.

What is intended is that the Mu'min should take the path of wisdom in all affairs, using kind words and polite manner. This should take priority always when possible. If the need arises to beat or reprimand, then do so and rebuke when you can according to your ability e.g. Your child, your wife or others. The same is true with regard to a ruler with those under his command; and the Committee for the Propagation of Virtue and the Prevention of Vice (CPVPV) in accordance with its rules; and the father with his family. Each person has their share of responsibility; they all have an obligation in enjoining good and forbidding evil, and forcing the truth upon people, because this life is the life of deeds. It is the life of striving, the life of Da`wah, the life of guidance to what is good, and the life of enjoining good and forbidding evil, and the hereafter is the life of reward. Allaah (سبحانه) says: **[So whosoever does good equal to the weight of an atom (or a small ant) shall see it.] [And whosoever does evil equal to the weight of an atom (or a small ant) shall see it.]**

Being lenient and careless is not permitted if you have the ability to deny the munkar, find the truth, guide and teach, Allaah (سبحانه) also says: **[And who is better in speech than he who [says: "My Lord is Allaah (believes in His Oneness)," and then stands firm (acts upon His Order), and] invites (men) to Allaah's (Islaamic Monotheism), and does righteous deeds, and says: "I am one of the Muslims."]** Allaah (عزوجل) also says: **[Let there arise out of you a group of people inviting to all that is good (Islaam), enjoining al-Ma'roof (i.e. Islaamic Monotheism and all that Islaam orders one to do) and forbidding al-Munkar (polytheism and disbelief and all that Islaam has forbidden). And it is they who are the successful.]** You, servant of Allaah, are required to carry out the obligations of Da`wah, guidance, enjoining good and forbidding evil. Your brothers who listen to you and are ordered should follow the truth and the Sharee'ah by accepting it, submitting to it, saying the truth and being content with it, and putting it before personal desires. This is the path to happiness.

Allaah (عزوجل) also says in His Glorious Book: **[Then as for him who transgressed all bounds, (in disbelief, oppression and evil deeds of disobedience to Allaah). And preferred the life of this world (by following his evil desires and lusts), Verily, his abode will be Hell-fire; But**

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as for him who feared standing before his Lord, and restrained himself from impure evil desires and lusts. Verily, Paradise will be his abode.] Whoever fears standing before Allaah and fears Him sincerely will accept advice and follow the truth hasting to obeying that which Allaah has obliged and keeping away from that which Allaah has prohibited. Following desires leads a person to hellfire, darkness and a bad eternity. Allaah (عزوجل) says: **[...and follow not your desire — for it will mislead you from the Path of Allaah.]** Allaah (عزوجل) also says: **[But if they answer you not (i.e. do not bring the Book nor believe in your doctrine of Islaamic Monotheism), then know that they only follow their own lusts. And who is more astray than one who follows his own lusts, without guidance from Allaah?]**

Allaah, the Exalted, made it clear that there are two ways: either responding to Allaah and His Messenger (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) or following ones desires. Allaah (عزوجل) says: **[But if they answer you not (i.e. do not bring the Book nor believe in your doctrine of Islaamic Monotheism)]** i.e. O Muhammad, **[...then know that they only follow their own lusts.]** Allaah (عزوجل) then says: **[And who is more astray than one who follows his own lusts, without guidance from Allaah?]** Allaah (عزوجل) also says: **[O you who believe! Answer Allaah (by obeying Him) and (His) Messenger when he (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) calls you to that which will give you life]** Allaah and His Messenger only call to that which revives the servants and saves them from misguidance, for life and happiness are in accepting the Da`wah which Allaah and His Messenger have ordered us to follow, and by following the Sharee'ah of Allaah. This is the way to happiness, the path to life, and the path to the light. Allaah (عزوجل) also says: **[Is he who was dead (without Faith by ignorance and disbelief) and We gave him life (by knowledge and Faith) and set for him a light (of Belief) whereby he can walk amongst men - like him who is in the darkness (of disbelief, polytheism and hypocrisy) from which he can never come out?]** A kaafir (disbeliever/non-Muslim) is dead and in darkness, his life is through 'Eemaan (faith) and Islaam, the light is what the Messenger revealed to us of 'Eemaan, guidance and beneficial knowledge in the Qur'aan and Sunnah. They are not equal; a kaafir who is dead by being far from guidance is not equal to a Mu'min whom Allaah has given guidance and light. Allaah (عزوجل) says: **[And thus We have sent to you (O Muhammad (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ)) Rooh (a Revelation, and a Mercy) of Our Command. You knew not what is the Book, nor what is Faith? But We have made it (this Qur'aan) a light wherewith We guide whosoever of Our slaves We will.]**

Allaah (سبحانه) made it clear that whatever the Messenger of Allaah (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) came with of the Qur'aan and Sunnah is a revelation and light, for the Qur'aan and Sunnah are the revelations which give a person life. They are the light which give a person insight and knowledge. Each time your knowledge is strengthened with the Qur'aan and Sunnah, you have been blessed with the kind soul and light and each time your knowledge decreases, your life weakens and your light weakens. The happy life is for whoever receives the revelation and remains steadfast to it to receive the light i.e. Knowledge. For this reason, Allaah (سبحانه) says: **[But We have made it (this Qur'aan) a light wherewith We guide**

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whosoever of Our slaves We will.] You, male or female slave of Allaah, should be keen in achieving and maintaining this light and this life, read and ponder the Glorious Qur'aan, preserve the Book of Allaah, and preserve the Sunnah of the Messenger (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) and revise it from the Saheeh books, ask the scholars who are known for their good `Aqeedah (creed) and reputation. Seekers of knowledge should listen to preachers, guides, and those who call to Islaam in the Masjids (mosques), on Friday Khutbah (sermon), and on the radio. For example, the Holy Qur'aan Radio station, and 'Noor `ala al-Darb' and the like media of informing people of what Allaah and His Messenger (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) have said. Whoever is keen on it will find it and benefit from it, but the major problem is if one turns away from it heedlessly and follows their whims. Allaah (عزوجل) says: **[But those who disbelieve turn away from that whereof they are warned.]** Do you, male and female believers, wish to be similar to those Kaafirs in their turning away from the Religion of Allaah? Allaah (عزوجل) says: **[And who does more wrong than he who is reminded of the Aayaat (proofs, evidence, verses, lessons, signs, revelations, etc.) of his Lord, but turns away from them, forgetting what (deeds) his hands have sent forth.]** No one does worse wrong than these people. So be on guard, o servants of Allaah, lest you should be of them. Allaah (عزوجل) also says: **[And surely, We have created many of the jinn and mankind for Hell. They have hearts wherewith they understand not, and they have eyes wherewith they see not, and they have ears wherewith they hear not (the truth). They are like cattle, nay even more astray; those! They are the heedless ones.]** Cattle include camels, cows and sheep. Allaah (عزوجل) compared those who turn away from His Religion and are heedless of following the truth to these animals, due to their lack of following what Allaah has sent with His Messenger (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) of guidance and truthful religion. Allaah has made them more astray than the cattle, because they were blessed with a mind and with the sense of hearing and seeing, yet they did not benefit from it by following the truth but they went astray and became worse than the cattle.

Allaah (عزوجل) also says: **[Or do you think that most of them hear or understand? They are only like cattle - nay, they are even farther astray from the Path (i.e. even worse than cattle).]**

O male and female servants of Allaah, do you agree to be compared to these cattle in their ignorance of the truth and failure to follow it! You must strive to understand the Qur'aan and Sunnah, learn and ask questions about that which you are unsure, implement the truth in order not to be similar to these animals. Whoever strives will find, and whoever is afraid will set out early, and whoever sets out early reaches their destination, the important thing is to be sincere in seeking the truth. It is reported in a Saheeh Hadeeth that the Messenger (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said: **"He who is afraid of the pillage of the enemy sets out in the early part of the night; and he who sets out early, reaches his destination. Be on your guard that the**

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commodity of Allaah is precious. Verily the commodity of Allaah is Jannah i.e. Paradise".¹⁰

He who is truthfully afraid will learn and be knowledgeable. Allaah (سبحانه) also says: **[But for him who fears the standing before his Lord, there will be two Gardens (i.e. in Paradise).]**

The reward was made conditional upon fear, because true fear drives a person to obey Allaah and His Messenger and makes one strive to understand knowledge and learning and helps him to abandon that which Allaah and His Messenger (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) forbade. For example, Allaah (عزوجل) says: Verily, those who fear their Lord unseen (i.e. they do not see Him, nor His punishment in the Hereafter), theirs will be forgiveness and a great reward (i.e. Paradise). Fear should be of Allaah, and being afraid should be of Him. This is all considered obedience to Allaah and knowledge of the religion.

This means that all of this is to inform you that it is an obligation upon every believing male and female to obtain religious knowledge, have insight and knowledge, and act upon it. Neglect and heedlessness are signs of loss, as Allaah only wants good for His Servants. Turning to Allaah, learning and obtaining knowledge of the religion and asking are signs of guidance and righteousness. Allaah wants good for His Servants as stated in the Saheeh Hadeeth where the Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said: **[When Allaah wants to do good to a person, He will make him understand the religion]** Understanding the religion, gaining knowledge, accepting advice, attending lectures and benefitting from them, and accepting that by heart are of the signs that Allaah wants good for His Servant. Opposing this and being heedless of the knowledge and understanding are of the signs that Allaah wants evil for His Servant. We ask Allaah to Grant us success.

You, o servant of Allaah, should be diligent to accept the truth with your heart when advised and reminded. Your main concern and intention should be to understand the ruling of Allaah, know what Allaah has asked, and implement it, as well as knowing that which displeases Allaah in order to abandon it. Allaah (سبحانه) says: **[And whosoever fears Allaah and keeps his duty to Him, He will make a way for him to get out (from every difficulty). And He will provide him from (sources) he never could imagine.]** Allaah (سبحانه) also says: **[...and whosoever fears Allaah and keeps his duty to Him, He will make his matter easy for him.]** Allaah (عزوجل) also says: **[O you who believe! If you obey and fear Allaah, He will grant you Furqaan [(a criterion to judge between right and wrong), or (Makhraj, i.e. a way for you to get out from every difficulty)], and will remove from you your sins...]**

I ask Allaah with His Names and Attributes to grant us and you success to have the beneficial knowledge and good deeds and to protect us and you from the evils of ourselves, and the sins of our deeds. I ask Allaah to guide us all to His Straight Path, make us and you of those who strive to do good, and those who move away from all evil. I ask Him to make His Religion victorious and His Word supreme, help our leaders to all that is good, make His

¹⁰ Reported by At-Tirmidhee (رَجْمَةُ اللهِ) with a Hasan (a Hadeeth whose Sanaad contains a narrator with weak exactitude, but is free from eccentricity or blemish) Sanaad (chain of narrators).

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Religion victorious through them, make their entourage good, help them do all that is good and move them away from all that is evil, make all those responsible successful in doing that which pleases Allaah and improves the welfare of mankind and countries. I also ask Allaah, the Exalted, to improve the affairs of the Muslims all over the World, to make the best among them their leaders, and improve their leaders, and grant them knowledge of the religion and keep them steadfast on it, for He is the All-Hearer, All-Near. May Allaah's Peace and Blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad, and on his family, companions and those who follow him with good.