

**IN THE NAME OF ALLAH MOST GRACIOUS MOST COMPASSIONATE**

## **RIGHTEOUSNESS ( ISTIQAMAH) IS ILLUMINATION AND GUIDANCE**

Praise be to God , the ever-forbearing and the most generous, He guides, by His permission. , whom He wills to the straight path . We bear witness that there is no God worthy of worship except Allah .He sent down truth and established it and made from adhering to it the essence of righteousness. We bear witness that Muhammad (Pbuh) is our Prophet and Messenger, most honest and trustworthy, was sent down to Muslims to be their guidance. May Allah grant peace and honor on him, his family and companions and whoever followed him in truth to the Day of Judgment.

O Servants of Allah

Fear Allah the way His Almighty should be feared and apprehend Him the way a true believer observes his duty towards Him. You should know that Allah created Man and has shown him the straight path which he should follow in his life, such path which leads whoever follows it to salvation in the Day of Judgment. Almighty Allah says: [And, [moreover], this is My path, which is straight, so follow it; and do not follow [other] ways, for you will be separated from His way. This has He instructed you that you may become righteous]<sup>1</sup>.

Moreover Allah has ordered His slaves to ask Him in their prayers, for guidance to righteousness. They recite Al-Fātiḥah in each rak'ah (individual unit of prayer) and utter from the depths of their hearts [It is You we worship and You we ask for help. Guide us to the

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<sup>1</sup> Surat Al-'An`ām-153

straight path]<sup>2</sup> . It has been reported that Sufyan bin Abdullah (May Allah be pleased with him) asked the prophet .He said «O Messenger of Allah, tell me something about al-Islam which I can ask of no one but you." He (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said, "Say I believe in Allah — and then be steadfast."

O Muslims

The righteousness of the Muslim includes good treatment towards Allah, the self and the Human beings. From the one hand , righteousness towards Allah is when the human being submits his soul unto His Lord and entrust all His affairs unto Him and makes righteous deeds in secret and in public [Yes [on the contrary], whoever submits his face in Islam to Allah while being a doer of good will have his reward with his Lord. And no fear will there be concerning them, nor will they grieve]<sup>3</sup>.

Likewise, keeping righteous behavior towards Mankind is a result of the righteous behavior towards the Creator. The righteous person towards his Lord will necessarily be righteous toward the creatures of His Lord. He will act with them in the right way , be kind to them and forgive their offences. Hence the the Prophetic Hadith brought together piety and good treatment of people .The prophet (Pbuh) said :(“Fear Allah wherever you are, follow a bad deed with a good deed and it will erase it, and behave with good character toward the people”).

In other respects, righteousness of Mankind in his behavior towards himself lies in keeping it away from weaknesses and connecting it with noble issues. Actually righteousness should encompass very important issues and the very simplest of which as well. That is to say, politeness in taking, thanking for favor, asking for permission for leaving, keeping moderate pace , low voice, fair look and straight way of sitting are all of them issues that should be taken into consideration by whoever opts for treating others in a good manner in order to be among the righteous.

Indeed, adhering to righteousness makes the life of the Human being full of virtues, filled with purity and adorned with chastity. It is unquestionably a life of a dignified person who is honored by His Lord and preferred by Him over many others among His creatures. Righteousness uplifts the human being, so it purifies his heart and keeps his tongue chaste in a way that makes him refrain from committing any offence or uttering any obscene language. It is by virtue of righteousness that the human being is attributed with all virtues and prevents himself from being involved in vices. It's no wonder that God commanded His Messenger and the believers with

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<sup>2</sup> Surat Al-Fātiḥah/5-6

<sup>3</sup> Surat Al-Baqarah-112

righteousness. He said [So remain on a right course as you have been commanded, [you] and those who have turned back with you [to Allah ], and do not transgress. Indeed, He is Seeing of what you do]<sup>4</sup>. Any group whose members are characterized with righteousness get their works improved, their matters settled and invoke the promise of Allah to promise their provisions. [and [ Allah revealed] that if they had remained straight on the way, We would have given them abundant provision]<sup>5</sup>.

O Muslims

If righteousness is that important, what helps to achieve it? Righteousness can be achieved or attained by a Muslim only when this latter has good knowledge of the religion of Allah, Glorified and Exalted, and is aware of the teachings of His Lord . Such knowledge will lead him to righteousness and restrain himself from impure evil desires, and lusts. [He has succeeded who purifies it, and he has failed who instills it [with corruption]<sup>6</sup>.

Actually, what helps to achieve righteousness is by constantly judging and controlling the self. The Prophet (Pbuh) said, "(A wise man is the one who calls himself to account (and refrains from doing evil deeds) and does noble deeds to benefit him after death; and the foolish person is the one who subdues himself to his temptations and desires and seeks from Allah the fulfillment of his vain desires").

Umar, May Allah be pleased with him , said “Call your souls to account before you are called to account and weigh your souls (i.e. your actions) before you are weighed for it will make the accountability easier for you tomorrow if you call your selves to account today”.

Furthermore, what helps to achieve righteousness is by keeping company of honest people, from whom the Muslim may take advantages, and meeting with people who will strengthen his obedience to Almighty God and enhance his remembrance of the Hereafter. Almighty and Glorified Allah recommended his Messenger (Pbuh) of the following in this saying [And keep yourself patient [by being] with those who call upon their Lord in the morning and the evening, seeking His countenance. And let not your eyes pass beyond them, desiring adornments of the worldly life, and do not obey one whose heart We have made heedless of Our remembrance and who follows his desire and whose affair is ever [in] neglect]<sup>7</sup>.

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<sup>4</sup> Surat Hūd-112

<sup>5</sup> Surat Al-Jinn-16

<sup>6</sup> Surat Ash-Shams/9-10

<sup>7</sup> Surat Al-Kahf- verse 28

So fear Allah , servants of Allah, remember and obey Him and seek His forgiveness in order to be pleased in your life and the Hereafter.

I say this saying of mine, and I seek forgiveness from Allah for me and for you, and to the rest of the Muslims, so ask Him for forgiveness, He is the forgiver, the Merciful and call upon Him, He will respond to you, as Allah is the most generous.

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Praise be to God , the most glorious and exalted. He urged us to adhere to righteousness for virtuous deeds and promised us accordingly to achieve all our wishes. We bear witness that there is no God worthy of worship except Allah and we bear witness that Muhammad is His Servant and Messenger, He was the best among the creatures who believed in God and relied on Him , feared and asked for His help. May Allah grant peace and honor on him, his family and companions and whoever followed him in truth to the Day of Judgment.

O Servants of Allah

Do you ever know what is the reward of whoever obeyed the Glorified and Almighty Allah ? It is actually a great reward and big recompense. Almighty God says in this regard [Indeed, those who have said, "Our Lord is Allah " and then remained on a right course - the angels will descend upon them, [saying], "Do not fear and do not grieve but receive good tidings of Paradise, which you were promised. We were your allies in the worldly life and in the Hereafter. And you will have therein whatever your souls desire, and you will have therein whatever you request as accommodation from a [Lord who is] Forgiving and Merciful.]<sup>8</sup>.

When the heart of the Muslim adheres to righteousness and therefore becomes enlightened with the illumination of faith and when his mind opts for righteousness in a way that makes it abstain from any evil or sinful thought , and when his treatments for others straightens up in a way that cuts away with any form of disloyalty or falsehood, then he is deemed as attained goodness, the guidance of faith, , achieved happiness and reassurance in his life and granted the honor and satisfaction of his Lord in the Hereafter.[ Indeed, those who have said, "Our Lord is Allah ," and then remained on a right course - there will be no fear concerning them, nor will they grieve. Those are the companions of Paradise, abiding eternally therein as reward for what they used to do]<sup>9</sup>.

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<sup>8</sup> Surat Fuṣṣilat/30-32

<sup>9</sup> Surat Al-'Aḥqāf/ 13-14

So fear Allah, servants of Allah, obey Him, beware of sins, ask the satisfaction of your Lord, remember and thank him constantly, observe your duty toward Him and fear Him. Seek what your God Has promised for the pious and refrain from what He warned for the disobedient in order to be among the righteous.

So, send your blessings upon the leader of Messengers, as Allah has ordered you in the Holy book by saying: [Indeed, Allah and His Angels send blessings upon the Prophet. O you who believe! Send blessings on him and greet him (with) greetings]<sup>10</sup>.

O Allah! Send your mercy on Muhammad and on the family of Muhammad, as You sent Your mercy on Abraham and on the family of Abraham. And send Your blessings on Muhammad and the family of Muhammad, as You sent your Blessings on Abraham and on the family of Abraham. Verily You are the Most Praise-worthy, the Most Glorious.

O Allah! Be content with his Righteous Caliphs, his wives mothers of believers, his companions all together and the believers, men and women to the Day of Judgment, and be content with us too by Your Mercy, O Most Merciful.

O Allah! Bless our gathering here today and make us disperse in peace and in protection from sin and not to make us deficient in our religion.

O Allah! We ask you guidance, piety, chastity and wealth.

O Allah! We ask you to grant each of us honest tongue, humbled penitent heart, righteous deeds, useful knowledge, firmly belief, pure faith and lawful and blesses sustenance. O Allah you are the most glorious and honourable.

O Allah! Grant glory to Islam and Muslims! And grant support and unity to Islam and Muslims, O Allah! Let down tyrants and infidels. O Allah! Grant peace and security to all your servants.

O Allah! Grant us security in our homelands! Grant us long-lasting safety and stability in our homeland! Grant glory to our Sultan and support him with the truth and make him a guide to truth.

O Allah! Send upon us rain from the sky in showers and make us among those who remember you during day and night and who seek your forgiveness during evening and dawn.

O Allah! Bestow us the blessings of the sky and the bounties of the earth and bless our fruits and crops and our entire livelihood. O Allah you are the most glorious and honourable.

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<sup>10</sup> Surate Al-Ahazab 56

O Allah! Give us in this world good and in the Hereafter good and protect us from the punishment of the Fire."

O Allah! Let not our hearts deviate after You have guided us and grant us from Yourself mercy. Indeed, You are the Bestower.

O Allah! We have wronged ourselves, and if You do not forgive us and have mercy upon us, we will surely be among the losers."

O Allah! Forgive all the believing men and women, those of them who were living and those of them who were dead, you are the most hearing and respondent.

Slaves of Allah! [Allah commands justice, the doing of good, and liberality to kith and kin, and He forbids all shameful deeds, and injustice and rebellion: He instructs you, that you may remember.]