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Islam Faith in Action

Reflections and Prayers for Help and Support

By Ahmed Nezar Kobeisy, Ph.D.*

The Qura'n encourages generosity in volunteerism, kindness and charity. The following verses indicate the attention and priority that the Qura'n has given to help and to support those who are in need regardless of their ethnic or religious background.

In Chapter (4) named "Women," the Qura'n states:

Serve Allah, and join not any partners with Him; and do good-to parents, kinsfolk, orphans, those in need, neighbors who are near, neighbors who are strangers, the companion by your side, the wayfarer (ye meet), (Surah 4/36)

In chapter 76 named "the Man" and "the Time," the Quran states:

And they feed, for the love of Allah, the indigent, the orphan, and the captive. (Saying), "We feed you for the sake of Allah alone: no reward do we desire from you, nor thanks. (Surah 76/8-9).

The Prophet (peace be upon him) encouraged showing mercy to others as the condition for eligibility of receiving mercy from Allah S.W.T. in his statement which translates to:

"The one who does not show mercy will not be shown mercy."

The Prophet (peace be upon him) also said:

"Show mercy to those who are on earth, you will be shown mercy by the one who is above the Sky."

Furthermore, the criteria for determining who is best and who is the closest to Allah has been outlined by this great Prophet (peace be upon him) as follows: ***"The best of human beings is the one who is most beneficial to them."***

and:

"The creatures are the dependents of Allah and the dearest of them to Allah is the one who is most beneficial to His dependents."

Prayer

Let's pray for the generosity of our spirits and for the productivity of our actions. Let's pray for those who need our help that we may attend to their needs and that they may benefit from our efforts.

**O' Lord,
Our maker, Our Creator, the Creator of all worlds, Sustainer of all creations,
The One to whom all things belong, and to whom they shall one day return.**

**God of all of the prophets: Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, Jesus and Mohammad
(Peace be upon them all).**

Our beloved God and Our Loving God

**O' Allah
All Praise be to You alone
Guide us to the Straight Path,
the Path of those on whom You have bestowed Your Blessings, not of those who
provoked Your Wrath or those who have strayed.**

**Our Lord, Most Just, You have placed on our shoulders a hefty responsibility.
Deeply embedded in Your Divine Purpose is our obligation to defend all that is weak,
to nurture all that is vulnerable, to protect all that is innocent, to safeguard all that is
fragile and to cherish all that is precious.**

**Almighty and most merciful Lord, we remember before you all poor and neglected
persons whom it would be easy for us to forget: the homeless and the destitute,
the old and the sick, and all who have none to care for them.**

**Look with mercy upon the people in this world who live with injustice, terror,
disease, and death as their constant companions.**

Have mercy upon us.

Strengthen those who spend their lives helping others and caring for their neighbors.

**Let our hands be the kind that build and never destroy. Let those hands only
comfort and caress and never abuse and hurt.**

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