

True Charity

I gave a beggar from my little store
Of well-earned gold. He spent the shining ore
And came again & yet again still cold
And hungry as before.

I gave a thought,
& through that thought of mine
He found himself, the man, supreme, divine!
Fed, clothed and
crowned with blessings manifold,
And now he begs no more.

A man came to the Prophet (p) seeking charity. He gave him an axe to cut & sell wood. The man returned after some time with the good news that he is earning enough to maintain his family. The helping hand of the Prophet (p) saved the man from homelessness.

True charity is what the world wants today, and wants badly—that spirit of tolerance and kindness which brings its own reward, for we get back from our fellows precisely what we first give them. Envy is met with envy, suspicion with suspicion, dislike with dislike, & charity with charity.

Quran 2:215. They will ask you as to what they should spend on others. Say: “Whatever of your wealth you spend, shall first be for your parents, and for the near of kin, and the orphans, and the needy, and the wayfarer; and whatever good you do, verily, God has full knowledge thereof.”

The above verse teaches that Muslims should be the torchbearers....those who give, and give. Who practices charity like no other, in a brotherhood of mankind like no other. The habit of charity is Muslim through and through, perfected, enjoined, Surah, after Surah after Surah. Zakah is one of the pillars. If only in ritual, charity is a Muslim’s birthright and commandment. It is, not, however, only a ritual.

Islam changes society, & the Islamic society demands that those who have, care for those who do not. There are no exceptions, no pulling rank, no holding back. Be warned: **Take him away. Fetter him and cast him into the fire that he may broil therein. Bind him in**

long & heavy chains that he may not move. For he did not believe in God, **NOR DID HE URGE THE FEEDING OF THE POOR.**” Quran 69:30-34).

To regard charity as duty essentially related to faith, as religious conviction of God, is to regard it as part of the spiritual system which ought to govern the civilization of the world. Such regard is, indeed, the highest wisdom which can guarantee wisdom to man. **The pursuit & acquisition of wealth, its use as an instrument of dominion of man over man, have always been and are the cause of the misery of the world, of revolutions which has destroyed human fraternity and planted enmity between man and man.**

Were men truly convinced of God, they would realize this fraternity toward one another, and they would fulfill, as the least requirement of such a fraternity, the duties of rescuing the needy, assisting the deprived, and putting an end to the misery and suffering brought about by poverty and want.

But it is so difficult for us to take the initiative and to meet strife with peace—uncharitableness with charity, bitterness with sweetness. Our patience will be often taxed and over-taxed, and we shall meet with many failures, but let us remember that if we are to wield a good influence in the world, this is part of the discipline which we must undergo.

For charity is nothing without faith, neither is faith anything without charity, nor charity & faith without works; but in the works they are something & a something of the same nature as the use of the works. It is the same with affection, thought & operation. And it is the same with the will, the understanding & action; for the will without the understanding is like the eye without sight; & both without action are as a mind without a body.

“As a man thinks in his heart so is he,” is a very true saying. Not by giving to the poor, by works of charity and righteousness the outward make up of a good man or woman—shall we be judged—and saved—and are ever being judged now, **but by the thought which prompted the action**; for this thought-life is the spiritual power which moulds first the spirit form and then the material, the body, into the harmonious expression of itself. St. Paul said: “Though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor and have not charity (love) it profits me nothing.” The motive power, the thought-life, must be pure. And a spiritual

blessing follows all that is done from a pure motive. **Give grudgingly, and that negative spirit force follows the gift.** Give generously, with a heart full of pure sympathy and love, and a blessing follows equally the giver and the gift.

*That which we call our sacred thought
Speeds to the earth’s remotest spot,
And leaves its blessing, or its woes,
Like tracts behind it, as it goes.
And after you have quite forgot,
Or all outgrown some vanished thought,
Back to your mind to make its home
A dove or raven it will come.*

If we live for the outward things of life we live for the material and finite, and so become slaves to our worldly possessions and circumstances. But living by the spirit gives us communion with God, the giver of every good gift, and no good thing will He withhold from them that love Him.

There are those who give little of the much which they have and they give it for recognition and their hidden desire **makes their gifts unwholesome.**

The shortest way to the Throne of God is across the valley of individual charity, through love of our neighbors & forgiveness of those that trespass against us. Live in peace with those who are around us.

Have you ever observed how invariably your “last dollar” is restored to you, with additions, when you have given it for some worthy purpose?

Quran 2:271. **If you do deeds of charity openly, it is well; but if you bestow it upon the needy in secret, it will be even better for you, and it will atone for some of your bad deeds. And God is aware of all that you do.**

Even if the purpose did not prove to be a worthy one, yet if you thought it so, and gave your last dollar with spontaneous sympathy and good will, you were not long left penniless.

Money is much like a man. If you do not hold it too jealously it returns to you the more readily. Never hesitate to give aid where you feel there is sore and pressing need, for fear you will be left in want yourself. **You will not be.** This does not mean that indiscriminate

And be steadfast in prayer & practise regular CHARITY

QURAN 2:43

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