

Betrayal

Friday Reminder (30th November 2007) delivered by Shaykh Muhammad Taher

DISCLAIMER: This reminder was originally delivered in Arabic. Any meanings lost in translation are not to be attributed to the speaker as reminders are translated by volunteers. The mosque has no official translator and volunteers often have no formal qualifications to translate on the day. Please forgive any errors as they are from our human weakness and any right guidance is from God.

God Almighty says: **"O believers, do not betray God and His messenger, nor knowingly betray your trusts."** (8.27)

Deception or betrayal is despised in the religion of the Divine. Any balanced and guided mind would turn away from it.

God (Glory be to him Most High) says: "God does not love those who are deceitful /treacherous" and "God does not guide the plans of those who are deceitful".

"God does not love the betrayer, the ungrateful" (22: 38)

"God does not like anyone who is a betrayer of his trust, and indulges in crime" (4: 107)

The Prophet peace be upon him (pbuh) said: "Three are the signs of a hypocrite: when he speaks he tells a lie, when he makes a promise he acts treacherously, and when he is trusted he betrays."

These warnings from the Qur'an and Hadith are sufficient for us to know that deception is a crime that is heinous.

God Almighty says: **"O believers, do not betray God and His messenger, nor knowingly betray your trusts."** (8.27)

This verse can be split into three aspects-

1. Not to betray God
2. His Messenger
3. Your trusts

1) Betraying God.

This is in the sense that we do not betray the things he has given us and entrusted us with:

1. to not be dishonest when we say we are Muslims by not being true to our selves or in our treatment of others,
2. to be neglectful of the obligations of God,
3. to overstep the boundaries He has set and fall into sin,
4. to ignore the needs and issues of the community,

5. to not help improve things,
6. to not have belief in the heart.

Leaving all or even some of these things is to betray and be disloyal to God.

2) Betraying the Prophet (pbuh)

The rights of the Prophet follow the rights of God. From amongst the rights of the Prophet upon us is:

1. to believe in him, his message,
2. to follow the Qur'an and Sunnah,
3. to not go against what he instructed us to do or told us to avoid,
4. to give more weight to the speech of the Prophet pbuh over other people.

Leaving his way of doing things intentionally is betraying the Prophet. People who encourage others to deviate from his example (sunnah) with strange ideas and concepts have betrayed the Prophet and they will be confronted on the day of Judgement about this in front of God.

3) Betraying your trusts

Betraying the things you have been entrusted with and responsible for. This includes the employee to their employer and any other responsibility we are entrusted with (i.e. family). So be careful not to betray your trusts and promises and remember the saying of the Prophet "Each of you is a shepherd and each of you is responsible for his flock."

O Muslims- consider the Prophet Joseph (pbuh) when he asked the King of Egypt to be placed as the financial minister (minister of the treasury). Joseph knew that he himself was not disloyal or treacherous (and how could he be when he was from a chain of noble forefathers- the son of Jacob, the son of Isaac, the son of Abraham). Joseph said: 'Set me over the store-houses of the land; I will indeed guard them with full knowledge (as a minister of finance in Egypt).' (12:55)

The economic circumstances of Egypt worsened during that time and it was Joseph (pbuh) that knew the foundation of improvement had to be based on all matters (not just economical) but thorough the loyalty and faithfulness of the people in their religion, with their Lord and in their adherence to him. Those who are deceitful would certainly not have done likewise if they were in the same position. Instead they would have spread corruption; and there would be ruin on not just an economic scale, but social and political too.

O Muslims- on the day of Judgement, the one who is treacherous and disloyal to his trusts and to his community will face the consequences of betraying these very people.

The Prophet (pbuh) said "Indeed, a banner will be raised for the treacherous person on the Day of Judgment and it will be proclaimed, 'This is the treachery of so and so...'" (Sahih Bukhari)

There is a similar narration to this Hadith that mentions that if the leader of the general public is proved treacherous then his dishonesty is greater than if this was by a member of the general public. There is no doubt that the one who has more power should have a greater sense of responsibility and therefore his bad actions are regarded as greater.

A community that indulges in dishonesty and deceit is devoid of goodness. Those who are deceitful in their work or dealings with people are devoid of blessings. Where can those who do such things turn? Where can those who betray and deceive not just one person, but whole communities escape to? There is no escape from God's justice on the Final Day, He knows those who oppress others and indeed the final return is to Him.

May God purify our hearts and intentions and keep us away from betraying Him, His messenger and our trusts. Amen.