

Khutba 09.01.2009

Supporting Muslim brothers

DISCLAIMER: This reminder was originally delivered in Arabic on Friday, 9 January 2009. 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.

The prophet (pbuh) says: "You find the Muslims in their mutual love and compassion, like one body, should any organ of it fall ill, the rest of the body will share in the fever and sleeplessness that ensues".

How wonderful is this description! And how great is this statement. It expresses the unity of this nation and the bond of faith between hearts! It is the affection and mercy of believers and how they show kindness to each other. These are great meanings that the prophet (pbuh) wanted Muslims to live by and implement until they become clear characteristics of the Muslim Community.

Muslims are all like organs in one body, everyone should be considerate of the feelings of others so share in each others' good and bad times. How? A Muslim should be pleased for the joy and pleasure of his Muslim brothers when they are in comfort, security, health, happiness and prosperity. On the other hand, a Muslim should feel their Muslim brothers' sufferings during hardships, illness, destitution, poverty, pain, anguish and misery.

Reflect on the words our prophet (pbuh) in the hadith. He spoke of an organ "falling ill" – by this saying, he (pbuh) wants us to reflect upon how, when one part of the body complains, the rest of the body suffers the pain of that part! The word "share" describes the unity, coherence, cooperation and speeding up the response to remove harm and bring benefit.

Oh Muslims,

This life is full of troubles and agonies. A fellow Muslim might frequently face times of discomfort, illness, anxiety and grief. In this case it is a duty for his Muslim brothers to support him and to relieve him from the harm or oppression. The prophet (pbuh) says: "The Muslim is a brother to the Muslim. He neither oppresses him nor humiliates him" in another narration in Sahih Muslim, he (pbuh) said: "he shall not let him down" meaning: he shall not leave supporting his brother Muslim when oppression befalls him. Supporting a Muslim brother is a duty regardless of what kind of oppression he is suffering; whether he is suffering from physical weakness or moral injustice or an oppression which affect his soul, honour or wealth. Imam Ahmed narrated that the prophet (pbuh) said: "Whoever allowed a Muslim to be humiliated while he could assist him, God will humiliate him in front of the entirety of creation on the Day of Judgment"

Oh Muslims,

Islam spread this spirit between Muslims to make them become stronger. This can be achieved only if they apply the meanings of cooperation, solidarity and interdependence between themselves. By this, Muslims will reach the point of feeling that they are one body. This is nothing less than the fulfilment of order given by God to all Muslims "And cooperate in righteousness and piety" [Al-Mā'idah 5:2] and the call of the prophet (pbuh) to all Muslims "The connection between Muslims is like that of a strong building - one part strengthens another" and in another hadith "the best of deeds is bringing happiness and

pleasure to a fellow Muslim; relieving him of distress, or keeping hunger away from him or paying off his debt”

There is no doubt that the best of fruits for helping your brother Muslim is the help and support you get from God the almighty as the hadith stated “God will not cease to help His servant as long as that servant is helping his brother”. God is the one who is controlling this whole universe; he is the Giver and the Withholder, he is the Expander and the Restrainer, he is the Exalter and the Abaser and he is the Perceiver and the Illustrious. Health and illness, strength and weakness, wealth and poverty are all in the hands of God, as are the hearts of his servants.

So rush to aid and support your brothers – God will give you his aid and support whenever you need them.

Second khutba

Some have called on making this juma’ah as a day for expressing the truth against the current crimes against humanity committed by the blind and brutal Zionist war machine towards the occupied and unarmed people of Gaza.

May we heed the lessons the first reminder, supporting a fellow Muslim is a duty upon each Muslim. Here are some practical steps through which you can support your brothers in Gaza but always remember that any means that you use to support your brothers must be legal and positive:

- 1- Reinforce your belief in God and your trust that he will open a way of ease and relief for our brothers in Gaza. The Quran has taught us the principle of being positive when facing hardships and the benefits of applying this principle “But perhaps you hate a thing and it is good for you; and perhaps you love a thing and it is bad for you. And God Knows, while you know not.” [Al-Baqarah 2:216]. So we must be positive and have the capability to interact positively with these events.
- 2- Continue your donations and encourage people around you to donate as the people of Gaza are in great need of medicines, food and clothing.
- 3- Contact your local member of parliament by calling or emailing them to condemn what is happening in Gaza. Demand a complaint to Parliament and the Prime Minister and the Minister of Foreign Affairs and don’t belittle this action as it can be used effectively. You will find all information you need at www.parliament.uk
- 4- Participate in the internet forums; contact the press and media channels, through their websites in a positive and effective way. Focus upon the human suffering and aspects that will make others feel the injustice as we do but keep away from losing control of your own emotions leading to rashness, insults and abuse.
- 5- If you are a doctor, seek all possible means to help your brothers as they are in dire need of medicine and doctors.

Finally, du’a/supplication has a great impact and impressive strength. Ask God’s help for your unarmed brothers. May God make their hardship a coolness and safety upon them, ease a way out for them, fill their hearts with strength, belief and satisfaction, accept those who are innocently killed among the righteous people in the after life and grant them the high ranks of paradise; and to. God said at the time of the battle of Badr “when you asked help of your Lord, and He answered you” [Al-Anfal 8:9], that is how help and support comes after supplication and seeking God’s help. At the battle of Uhud God said “And their words

were not but that they said, "Our Lord, forgive us our sins and the excess [committed] in our affairs and plant firmly our feet and give us victory over the disbelieving people." [Al-Imran 3:147]. That was followed by the verse "So God gave them the reward of this world and the good reward of the Hereafter. And God loves the doers of good. [Al-Imran 3:148].

O God, put mutual love and compassion between the muslims and accept our du'as and our efforts for Your help to reach the people of Gaza. Ameen.