

Visiting the Sick

Abu Hurairah may Allah be pleased with him said the Messenger of Allah p.b.u.h. said: "Every Muslim has five rights on other Muslims; to return his salutation, visit the sick, to follow the funerals, to accept the invitation and to bless the sneezers." Agreed upon.

It goes without saying that Islam encourages the greeting of peace and the response to salutation and thus Muslims spread this salutation and it should be properly answered.

Let us remember that reward is doubled for those who shower the mercy and blessing of Allah upon other Muslims. We must also stress that to answer the salutation is obligatory on every Muslim individual and one of the group answer it and that spreading the salutation of peace is a principle factor that leads to purifying hearts and cultivating cordiality and love and eliminating rancor and hatred from among the Muslims.

Let us now explain the rest of this prophetic saying and how the Messenger p.b.u.h. confirms through other sayings each and every one of the rights of Muslims. We shall concentrate this time on visiting the sick.

We must know that illness purifies sins and eliminates them as it is clear in the saying reported by al-Bukhari and Muslim where Abu Hurairah may Allah be pleased with

him said that the Prophet p.b.u.h. said: "He for whom Allah decrees good Allah inflicts illness on him." It is also reported from the Prophet p.b.u.h. who said: "Whatever toil or fatigue or care or difficulty or harm a believer suffers from even a thorn that pricks him, Allah will eliminate his sins due to it.

That is why the Messenger of Allah p.b.u.h. urges us to visit the sick because of the consolation it involves and the elimination of pain and the comfort for his soul and the fulfilment of his right. We have to advise the sick to be patient and to thank Allah for the aspired continuity of sound, health, and peace.

Abu Moosa R.A.A. said the Messenger of Allah p.b.u.h. said: "Visit the sick, feed the hungry and liberate the prisoner." Reported by Al-Bukhari.

On the authority of Abu Hurairah R.A.A. the Messenger of Allah p.b.u.h. said: On the Day of Judgement Allah will say. "O son of Adam, I was sick but you did not visit me." The son of Adam will say. "My Lord! How can I visit you when you are the Lord of the worlds!" God will answer. "Did you not know my slave so and so fell sick and you never visited him? Don't you know that had you visited him, you would have found me with him. "O son of Adam: I asked you for food but you didn't feed Me." He will say: "My Lord! How can I feed you when you are the Lord of the Worlds?" God will say: "Did you not know that my slave so and so asked you for food but you never fed him, Don't you know that had you fed him you would find the reward of

this with Me. O son of Adam! I asked you for a drink but you never gave me drink." He will ask: "My Lord! How can I give you drink when you are Lord of all the worlds? God will then say: " My slave so and so asked you for a drink but you withheld drink from him. Don't you know that had you given him drink that you would find its reward with Me."

Thus the Messenger of Allah p.b.u.h. advises us to visit the sick because of the right we owe the sick and due to the reward from Allah and because we are promised the delicious and fresh fruits of Paradise and that the angles will continue to pray for the one who visits his brother all the time is on his way to him until the evening if he visits him in the morning; they will pray for him till the morning if he visits him in the evening. What a great reward a Muslim gets just through visiting his Muslim brother! Through this little effort he will get all this overwhelming reward and forgiveness from Allah.

On the authority of Ali R.A.A. who said that he heard the Messenger of Allah p.b.u.h. who said: "Every Muslim who goes in the early morning to visit his sick brother, then seventy thousand angles will pray for him until he reaches the evening and if he visits him in the evening, seventy thousand angles will pray for him until the morning, and he will have delicious fresh fruits in Paradise."

Ibn Majah also reported on the authority of Abu Hurairah R.A.A. who said that the Messenger of Allah p.b.u.h. said: "Whoever visits a sick person a caller from Heaven

will exclaim: You will be good, your trip is good and you will have a good position in Paradise."

Remember that part of the great reward a Muslim will get when he visits his sick brother is that he deserves to enter Paradise and to get of its inexhaustible fruits as is clear from the following tradition.

On the authority of Thawban R.A.A. the Messenger of Allah p.b.u.h. said: when a Muslim visits his sick brother he will be in the "Kharfa" of Paradise until he returns." It is said: "O Messenger of Allah, what is "Kharfat" al Jannah" he replied: its fresh fruits." Reported by (Muslim).

This is concerning the right of a sick Muslim who should be visited by other Muslims. Visitors, however, should not stay long with Muslim patients unless they know that their stay does not disturb them but comforts and pleases them. They should come close to them, put their hands and gently on their bodies and ask them to give vent to their pains and should say to them what pleases them and should ask Allah to grant them healing. This is what the Prophet p.b.u.h. asked us to do.

On the authority of Aisha R.A.A. who said that the Prophet p.b.u.h. used to visit some of his sick relatives and would rub his hands and say: "O Allah! Lord of mankind! Remove the suffering and bring healing. You are the healer! No other healing exists except your healing, in a manner that leaves neither weakness nor illness.

The companions also did the same after the Prophet p.b.u.h. They practiced this guidance and we have to follow his way and apply his example as is clear from the above tradition.

Anas R.A.A. reported that he said to Thabet, may Allah have mercy on him: shall I pray for you with the prayer of the Messenger of Allah p.b.u.h.? The man said : "Yes please!" he said: "O Allah! Lord of mankind! Remover of suffering fulfils healing. You are the healer. There is no other healer except you. Heal the healing that leaves no illness behind it."

Dear Muslims, Here is another saying of the Prophet p.b.u.h. which we need to hear and apply. On the authority of Ibn Abbas R.A.A. who said that the Prophet p.b.u.h. said:" Whoever visits a patient who's turn has not come (meaning death) and he says in his presence seven times: I appeal to Allah the Glorious, Lord of the Glorious Thrown to heal you. Allah will surely heal him of that illness."

This is how we learn to visit our patients from the Messenger of Allah p.b.u.h. and how to pray for their recovery and healing from their illness. Our trust in Allah should be greatest. For it is He who causes illness and it is He who fulfils recovery and cure.

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