

Practising Charity and Kindness in the Holy Qur'an

Introduction:

Although planet Earth was created 4.9 billion years ago, humanity was created comparatively more recently, commencing with Adam and Eve, only after Earth had reached ambient temperature. Concluding from studies of relics and archaeological finds, scientist have stated that mankind was created around two hundred thousand years ago only; and definitely less than six million years. Civilization as we know it, is less than six thousand years old. Almighty God had sent Archangel Gabriel to reveal to selected people of their Divine roles as prophets of Almighty God. There were a total of 124,000 such selected people who were revealed to, as prophets¹. These prophets were allocated to every continent in this world, mainly to correct and to guide mankind. Some of these prophets also introduced Divine scriptures, which were revealed to them by Archangel Gabriel. Past prophets also preached widely, encouraging the people to practise charity and kindness without publicity. All scriptures have quoted examples of charity and kindness for the people to follow. Both men and women have equal opportunities to practise charity and kindness.

This is given below in the discussion:

1. In the Muslims' scripture, the Holy Qur'an, Almighty God states that practising of all forms of charity is a required obligation to be performed equally by both men and women. They are both required to set aside a proportion of their wealth towards practising charity and kindness; and Almighty God states that He will doubly reward all those who practise charity and kindness as prescribed. Almighty God further states that all those who practise charity willingly as their requirement and not regretting after having spent so, or have not elevated their practise of charity and kindness purposefully into gaining much publicity, then they shall have no fear on the Day of Judgement. **Both men and women are required to practise charity as stated in the Holy Qur'an: HQ57:18-19 "The men who give in charity and**

¹ From names of Prophet Adam to Prophet Muhammad (*pbuh*), a total of 124,000 Prophets (*Nabi*) were appointed by Divine revelations, but directly delivered to them by Archangel Gabriel. Out of 124,000 Prophets, only 313 are Messengers (*Rasul*). Out of 313 Messengers, only 25 have been mentioned by name in the Holy Qur'an. Note that every Messenger (*Rasul*) is also a Prophet, but every Prophet (*Nabi*) is not a Messenger. The figure of 124,000 prophets is quoted in Hadith No 21257 of Musnad ibn Hanbal. Prophet Muhammad (*pbuh*) was the Last and Final Prophet and after his death in 632AD, that sealed off all prophets of any description whatsoever being appointed by Divine revelations, to serve humanity on earth.

the women who give in charity and set apart for Allah a goodly portion, it will be doubled for them, and theirs is a generous reward. And those who believe in Allah and His messengers, they are the truthful and the faithful ones with their Lord. They have their reward and their light. And those who disbelieve and reject Our messages, they are the inmates of hell."

2. Even if men and women were aggrieved by some other party, Almighty God states that kind words and act of practising charity and extending forgiveness to the aggressor party is much better practice. Almighty God states that He is Self-sufficient and Forbearing. To Muslims, Almighty God states, not to make their charity worthless by reproach and injury, like the person who spends his wealth to be seen of by others and that person does not believe in One God and the Last Day. **Almighty God does not guide and assist those who do not believe in His supreme existence as One God. HQ2:261-265** *"The parable of those who spend their wealth in the way of Allah is as the parable of a grain growing seven ears, in every ear a hundred grains. And Allah multiplies (further) for whom He pleases. And Allah is Ample-giving, Knowing. Those who spend their wealth in the way of Allah, then do not follow up what they have spent with reproach or injury, their reward is with their Lord, and they shall have no fear nor shall they grieve. A kind word with forgiveness is better than charity followed by injury. And Allah is Self-sufficient, Forbearing. O you who believe, do not make your charity worthless by reproach and injury, like him who spends his wealth to be seen by people and does not believe in Allah and the Last Day. So his parable is as the parable of a smooth rock with earth upon it, then heavy rain falls upon it, so it leaves it bare! They are not able to gain anything of what they earn. And Allah does not guide the disbelieving people. And the parable of those who spend their wealth to seek Allah's pleasure and for the strengthening of their souls is as the parable of a garden on elevated ground, upon which heavy rain falls, so it brings forth its fruit twofold; but if heavy rain does not fall on it, light rain (is sufficient). And Allah is Seer of what you do."*
3. Almighty God also states that prayers without charity is hypocritical. In this regards, Almighty God further states that there some others who deny religion, are rough to the orphans and they do not involve in feeding the poor. These people are not mindful of the purposes of prayer and existence of Almighty God. They only do acts of good to be seen and publicised so; they refrain from the true-spirited acts of kindness. **The Holy Qur'an states that prayer without charity is hypocritical HQ107:1-7** *"Have you seen him who denies religion? That is the one who is rough to the orphan, and does not urge the feeding of the needy. So woe to the praying ones, who are unmindful of their prayer, who do (good) to be seen, and refrain from acts of kindness!"*

4. Furthermore, Almighty God states in the Holy Qur'an that both men and women are required to show kindness to each other. Even when women are getting divorced, men must show utmost kindness to them throughout the passage of completion of the divorce action. However, when women who are on the brink of divorce are found to be pregnant, then their husbands must defer the divorce and then retain them with utmost kindness until the baby gets born. Almighty God reiterates that husbands must not forget the rights of kindness to their wife under divorce until the entire divorce process becomes completed; this act of kindness and charity is a required compulsion. Men who do not obey this prescription are committing sins against their own souls to the Day of Judgement. **The Holy Qur'an states that both men and women are required to show kindness to each other. Even when women get divorced, men must show kindness to them: HQ2:231-233** *"And when you divorce women and they reach their prescribed time, then retain them with kindness or let them go with kindness and do not retain them for injury so that you exceed the limits. And whoever does this, he indeed wrongs his own soul. And do not take Allah's messages for a mockery, and remember Allah's favour to you, and what He has revealed to you of the Book and the Wisdom, instructing you by it. And keep your duty to Allah, and know that Allah is the Knower of all things. And when you divorce women and they end their term, do not prevent them from marrying their husbands if they agree among themselves in a lawful manner. With this is instructed he among you who believes in Allah and the Last Day. This is more virtuous for you and purer. And Allah knows while you do not know. And mothers shall suckle their children for two whole years, for him who desires to complete the time of suckling. And their maintenance and their clothing must be borne by the father according to usage. No soul shall be burdened beyond its capacity. Neither shall a mother be made to suffer harm on account of her child, nor a father on account of his child; and a similar duty (devolves) on the (father's) heir. But if both desire weaning by mutual consent and counsel, there is no blame on them. And if you wish to engage a wet-nurse for your children, there is no blame on you so long as you pay what you promised according to usage. And keep your duty to Allah and know that Allah is Seer of what you do."*
5. Almighty God warns Muslims not to take His instructions for mockery as they will be the ones to ultimately regret for their own actions. Almighty God further warns with certainty that on a balance, mankind must remember His favours to humanity: that Almighty God has revealed the Holy Qur'an purposefully as the handbook of His Wisdom. Humanity must take heed that Almighty God has His rights to admonish them for their misdeeds in not practising charity and kindness as He has prescribed. Almighty God clarifies

most succinctly that there is always His rewards to all those who follow His prescribed acts of charity and kindness. Their rewards shall be everlasting into timeless span of Heavenly Bliss, of the kind beyond humans' imaginations of material pleasures. They shall rest with absolute happiness as being compensated for their practising of charity and kindness. **The Holy Qur'an states there is always rewards for practising charity and kindness: HQ2:277** *"Those who believe and do good deeds and keep up prayer and give the due charity — their reward is with their Lord; and they have no fear, nor shall they grieve."*

6. The Holy Qur'an makes particular mention of the people of the Book². The particular reference is being made to Jews, Sabeans, Christians and Muslims. **If the people of the Book do not heed to stipulations of compliance in their scriptures, then they shall be grouped together with polytheists and idolaters and given to suffer accordingly in the Fire of hell. This is expressly stated in the Holy Qur'an at HQ98:6-8** *"Those who disbelieve from among the People of the Book and the idolaters will be in the Fire of hell, abiding in it. They are the worst of creatures. Those who believe and do good, they are the best of creatures. Their reward is with their Lord: Gardens of perpetuity in which rivers flow, abiding in them forever. Allah is well pleased with them and they are well pleased with Him. That is for him who fears his Lord."*
7. **In the same vein, the Holy Qur'an gives the firmest of assurances that all those who heed to their scriptures and perform in full compliance to the stipulations will be rewarded in abundance. This is stated in the Holy Qur'an at HQ18:30-31** *"As for those who believe and do good, We do not waste the reward of him who does a good work. These it is for whom are Gardens of perpetuity in which rivers flow; they are adorned therein with bracelets of gold, and they wear green robes of fine silk and thick brocade, reclining therein on raised couches. Excellent the recompense! And goodly the resting-place!"*

The artistic description of Heavenly Bliss given in the above verse, has been especially described in material terms, so that all people of whatsoever age, community and culture, could appreciate and understand the rewards in this material life. Charity and kindness are two of several stipulations of virtues of compulsion, stated in many chapters of the Holy Qur'an.

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² The People of the Book are: Jews, Christians, Sabeans and other Muslims. Their revealed Books are Torah, Injeel, Zabur and Holy Qur'an respectively.