

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ، أَحْمَدُهُ سُبْحَانَهُ حَمْدًا طَيِّبًا مَبَارَكًا فِيهِ
كَمَا يَحِبُّ وَيَرْضَى، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ
لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدَهُ وَرَسُولَهُ، اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ
وَبَارِكْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ، وَمَنْ
تَبِعَهُمْ بِإِحْسَانٍ إِلَى يَوْمِ الدِّينِ.

All praise is due to Allah, as is befitting to Him. I bear witness there is no deity save Allah, having no partners, and that Muhammad is His servant and Messenger. May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, his family, his companions, and all those who live like them till the Day of Resurrection.

There is a historic freshwater spring in Bahrain known as **Ayn Adhaari**, it leaves the surrounding lands dry and barren whilst providing water to distant farms due to its topography. Similarly we focus on work, money, & friends whilst we forget and neglect those close to us. We nourish those afar and ignore those near who need us more.

Prioritising family is one of the most important commandments of Islam.

“Your Lord had decreed, that you worship none but Him, and kindness to parents.” (17:23)

“And serve Allah and do not associate anything with Him and be good to the parents and to the near of kin and the orphans and the needy.” (4:36)

A man once came to the Prophet ﷺ and informed him that he had travelled from a distant land to meet the Prophet ﷺ and become a Sahabi. He told him, **“I left my parents in tears so that I could come and be by your side.”** The Prophet ﷺ said , **“ارْجِعْ إِلَيْهِمَا فَأَضْحِكُهُمَا كَمَا أَبْكَيْتَهُمَا”** **“Go back to them and make them laugh just like you made them cry.”** Even the deed of becoming a Sahabi & being with the Prophet ﷺ was not something the Prophet ﷺ prioritised over family ties. **What good deed can we possibly do in the 21st century that justifies neglecting family?**

The Prophet ﷺ would lengthen his Sajdah just so Hasan / Husain would not fall off his back. **Even in Fard Salah, the Prophet ﷺ showed how important his family was to him.**

The usual habit of the Prophet ﷺ after Fajr was to see if Sayyidah Aisha was asleep after Fajr. **If she was asleep, he would lay down with her, If she was awake, he would stay up and talk to her - Quality Family Time.**

All the pillars of Islam should not be done in isolation, but rather with the family which makes it happier, healthier, stronger and more successful.

Theodore Roosevelt said: “When home ties are loosened; when men and women cease to regard a worthy family life, with all its duties fully performed, and all its responsibilities lived up to, as the life best worth living; then evil days for the commonwealth are at hand.”

One of the signs of the end of times, as the Prophet ﷺ said, will be the **deterioration of family ties and breaking of kinship.**

PRIORITISING FAMILY IS PRIORITISING ISLAM

Once the Sahabah passed a man who was exerting himself while performing manual labour. The Sahabah said, **“If only he was exerting himself this hard in the path of Allah ﷻ.”** The Prophet corrected them -

“If he has gone out, striving to provide for his young children, then he is in the path of Allah.”

“If he has gone out, striving to provide for his elderly parents, then he is in the path of Allah.”

“If he is striving in order to protect himself [from the disgrace of begging], then he is in the path of Allah.”

Concluding he ﷺ said “And if he has gone out in order to show off and boast, then it is the cause of Shaytan.” Sincerely providing for your family, not just with money but also with your time, emotion, and energy, is going out in the path of Allah ﷻ.

There are countless causes which need help. **Rohingya. Palestine. Shirk. Islamophobia. Bid’ah. Racism. Lack of Islamic knowledge. Prison reform. Misogyny. Domestic abuse.**

These are all causes which are good to get involved in. **BUT NEVER AT THE EXPENSE OF FAMILY.** To put it bluntly, you will not be asked why you did not save a stranger across the world. You will not be asked why you did not manage to get the Muslim countries of the world to unite and help the Muslims of Myanmar. **YOU WILL THOUGH BE ASKED WHETHER YOU FULFILLED THE RIGHTS OF YOUR FAMILY.** Once you have done those, yes, spend your free time helping in whatever cause you can.