

وَلْتَكُنْ مِنْكُمْ أُمَّةٌ يَدْعُونَ إِلَى الْخَيْرِ وَيَأْمُرُونَ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ وَيَنْهَوْنَ عَنِ الْمُنْكَرِ وَأُولَئِكَ هُمُ الْمُفْلِحُونَ وَلَا تَكُونُوا كَالَّذِينَ تَفَرَّقُوا  
وَاخْتَلَفُوا مِنْ بَعْدِ مَا جَاءَهُمُ الْبَيِّنَاتُ وَأُولَئِكَ لَهُمْ عَذَابٌ عَظِيمٌ

And be from you a nation inviting to all that is good, enjoining what is right and forbidding what is wrong, **and those will be the successful**. And do not be like the ones who became **divided and differed** after the clear proofs had come to them. And those will have a **great punishment**.

Can't idle, sit-by, side-lines, watch, wait, be insular

Be active, move forward, catalyst, engage, integrate

**Be a key that opens the doors to goodness**

“Some people open the doors to good and close the doors to evil, and some people open the doors to evil and close the doors to good, so glad tidings to those in whose hands Allah places the keys to good, and woe to those in whose hands Allah places the keys to evil.”

If one looks into history, one invariably finds people who initiated either good or evil acts. 1<sup>st</sup> to revive the practice of *Tarawih* after the Prophet was 'Umar. 1<sup>st</sup> to gather the Qur'an together as one unified book was 'Uthman. 1<sup>st</sup> physical written traditions were Imam Malik & Bukhari. 1<sup>st</sup> to entertain a guest was Ibrahim.

On the opposite side of the spectrum, we find that a number of people initiated evil acts as well. 1<sup>st</sup> person to commit murder was son of Adam.

“The first son of Adam takes a share of the guilt of everyone who murders another wrongfully because he was the initiator of committing murder.”

1<sup>st</sup> that introduced polytheism into the world were people of Nuh. The 1<sup>st</sup> that introduced sexual deviancy into the world, people of Luut.

“And [We had sent] Luut when he said to his people, “Do you commit such immorality as no one has preceded you with from among the worlds?”

Be a key that opens the doors to goodness & prevent evil. -**Impediments**

**I fear that I will not be sincere**

If we decided not to do an action due to fear of lack of sincerity, then no good deeds would be done. Strive to purify your intention and carry out the good act.

**Why should I encourage others when I am a sinner?**

We are all sinners, and if sins were an excuse not to do good deeds, we would never do good deeds! Good acts wipe bad away – Tawbah.

## **There are people who are more suitable to do such a deed**

Don't think you are not worthy, everyone else who is skilled & experienced now, was at 1 point like you. So push yourself towards goodness & do excel Ihsaan.

## **False humility**

Humility should not be a barrier to do good deeds nor should it be equated with inactivity. A person can be humble yet be the most active of mankind.

To conclude, the Prophet said,

**“He who started a good practice in Islam which was followed after him (by people) would be assured of reward like one who followed it, without their rewards being diminished in any respect.**

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا ارْكَعُوا وَاسْجُدُوا وَاعْبُدُوا رَبَّكُمْ وَافْعَلُوا الْخَيْرَ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُفْلِحُونَ

**O you who have believed, bow and prostrate and worship your Lord and do good - that you may succeed.**

May Allah grant us all sincerity, makes us keys for goodness and make us amongst those who race with one another towards goodness and Paradise.