

pray for your (dead) companion.' Abu Qatadah رضي الله عنه said, 'O Allah's Messenger ﷺ! Lead his funeral prayer, and I will pay his debt.' So, he led the prayer.' [*Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī*: 2289]

2. Those acts which were not obligatory on the deceased but when the relatives perform them, they can be a source of reward for the deceased. These include the following:

#### Praying for Forgiveness for the Deceased

- ♦ Abu Hurairah رضي الله عنه narrated that the Prophet ﷺ said: 'When you pray over the dead, make a sincere supplication for him.' [*Sunan Abū Dāwūd*: 3199]
- ♦ 'Uthman bin 'Affan رضي الله عنه narrated: 'Whenever the Prophet ﷺ became free from burying the dead, he used to standby him (i.e. his grave) and say: 'Seek forgiveness for your brother, and beg for steadfastness for him, for he will be questioned now'.' [*Sunan Abū Dāwūd*: 3221]

#### Giving Charity on Behalf of the Deceased

- ♦ Aisha رضي الله عنها narrated: 'A man said to the Prophet ﷺ, 'My mother died suddenly and I thought that if she had lived she would have given alms. So, if I give alms now on her behalf, will she get the reward?' The Prophet ﷺ replied in the affirmative.' [*Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī*: 1388]
- ♦ It was narrated that Sa'd bin 'Ubadah رضي الله عنه said: I said, 'O Messenger of Allah, my mother has died; shall I give in charity on her behalf?' He said: 'Yes.' I said: 'What kind of charity is best?' He said: 'To provide drinking water.' [*Sunan al-Nisā'i*: 3664]
- ♦ Ibn 'Abbas narrated: 'The mother of Sa'd bin 'Ubadah رضي الله عنه died in his absence. He said, 'O

Allah's Messenger ﷺ! My mother died in my absence; will it be of any benefit for her if I give Sadaqah on her behalf?' The Prophet ﷺ said, 'Yes,' Sa'd رضي الله عنه said, 'I make you a witness that I give my garden called Al-Makhraf in charity on her behalf.' [*Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī*: 2756]

#### Sacrifice on Behalf of the Deceased

Sacrifice may be done on behalf of the deceased in order to send reward for them. 'Aisha رضي الله عنها reported that Allah's Messenger ﷺ commanded that a ram with black legs, black belly and black (circles) round the eyes should be brought to him, so that he should sacrifice it. He said to 'Aisha رضي الله عنها : Give me the large knife, and then said: Sharpen it on a stone. She did that. He then took it (the knife) and then the ram; he placed it on the ground and then sacrificed it, saying:

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ، اللّٰهُمَّ تَقَبَّلْ مِنْ مُحَمَّدٍ وَآلِ مُحَمَّدٍ وَمِنْ أُمَّةٍ مُحَمَّدٍ

*Bismillah, Allah-humma Taqabbal min Muhammadin wa Aal-i-Muhammadin, wa min Ummati Muhammadin.*

In the name of Allah, 'O Allah, accept [this sacrifice] on behalf of Muhammad and the family of Muhammad and the Ummah of Muhammad'. [*Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim*: 5091]

**Important note:** Just as good deeds generate continual reward even after a person's death, bad deeds also generate continual sin. Therefore, one must pay particular attention and keep away from such deeds which may continue even after his death.

The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said: 'Whoever introduces a good practice that is followed, he will receive its reward and a reward equivalent to that of those who follow it, without that detracting from their reward in the slightest. And whoever introduces a bad practice that is followed, he will receive its sin and a burden of sin equivalent to

that of those who follow it, without that detracting from their burden in the slightest.'

[*Sunan Ibn Mājah*: 203]

#### Incorrect and Innovated Ways of Forwarding Rewards to the Deceased

When sending reward for the deceased, it is important to rely on only those actions which are authenticated by the Qur'an and Sunnah and to avoid all practices which were invented as ways of sending reward after the death of the Prophet ﷺ. For example:

- ♦ Reciting Surah Al-Baqarah near the deceased believing that it would ease his/her journey ahead
- ♦ Placing a testament with the deceased during burial
- ♦ Reciting Surah Al-Fatihah, Surah Al-Ikhlās or Surah Ya-Sin on the grave
- ♦ Mourning on the third, tenth or fortieth day after the death and every Thursday
- ♦ Distributing sweets or food at home or at the graveyard every Thursday
- ♦ Paying people to recite Qur'an and forwarding its reward to the deceased
- ♦ Completing the Qu'ran of Bismillah or reciting the Kalimah 70,000 times on chickpeas/date stones or pebbles.
- ♦ Doing dhikr on seeds for the sake of sending reward
- ♦ Having a death anniversary and reciting the Qur'an every year in order to send reward for the deceased

We pray that Allah gives us the ability to save ourselves from all such innovations and to follow the instructions of the Prophet ﷺ in this regard.

- ♦ The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said, 'I enjoin you to fear Allah, and to hear and obey even if it

be an Abyssinian slave, for those of you who live after me will see great disagreement. You must then follow my sunnah and that of the rightly-guided caliphs. Hold to it and stick fast to it. Avoid novelties, for every novelty is an innovation, and every innovation is an error.' [*Sunan Abū Dawūd*: 4607]

- ♦ He ﷺ also said, 'The best of speech is embodied in the Book of Allah, and the best of guidance is the guidance given by Muhammad. And the most evil affairs are their innovations; and every innovation is error.' [*Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim*: 2005]
- ♦ 'Umar رضي الله عنه said: 'Every innovation leads astray even if people consider it to be piety.' [*Aḥkām al-Janā'iz li-Albānī*: 127]



For more information on this topic listen to audio lecture

Eisaal- e- Sawaab

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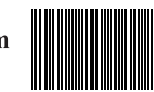
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# إِيصَالُ التَّوَابِ

## Sending Reward for the

# Deceased

Every Muslim should wish that he leaves a perpetual source of reward for himself which continues to benefit him after he dies, so that he can attain the highest ranks in the Hereafter. A person's death deprives him from the opportunity of performing any more reward-worthy actions. However, there are some actions that can still benefit him. In one category are those actions that a person performs himself during his lifetime for which he continues to receive reward after he dies. Another category is of those actions that relatives can perform with the intention of furthering reward to the deceased person.

- ♦ The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said: 'When a man dies, his actions come to an end, but three: continuous charity, knowledge from which people benefit, a pious offspring who prays for him (for the deceased).' [*Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim*: 4223]

### Good Deeds that Generate Continual Reward

Many reward-worthy actions performed by people in their lifetime continue to reap rewards even after death. These include the following:

#### Spending in the Way of Allah

'*Ṣadaqatun Jāriyyatun*' is a charity that continues to benefit people. It includes spending on public benefit projects, for example, construction of mosques, schools, hospitals and guesthouses, pharmaceutical manufacturing, plantation of shady or fruitful trees, establishment of water systems and wells etc.

- ♦ The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said: 'The most

virtuous of charitable spending is the shade of a tent in the cause of Allah, or giving a servant in the cause of Allah, or a riding camel in the cause of Allah.' [*Sunan al-Tirmidhī*: 1627]

#### Building a Mosque

- ♦ The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said: 'Whoever builds a mosque like a sparrow's nest or even smaller for the sake of Allah, Allah will build for him a house in Paradise.' [*Sunan Ibn Mājah*: 738]
- ♦ The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said: 'He who built a mosque for the sake of Allah, Allah will build a house for him like it in Paradise.' [*Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim*: 1189]

#### Arranging Water Supply

- ♦ The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said: Allah will continue to give reward till the Day of Judgment to the one who digs a well and the thirsty drink from it – whether they are from among the jinn or men or even a bird. [*Ṣaḥīḥ al-Targhīb wal Tarhīb*: 271]

It is also rewarding to make water arrangements through resources other than wells e.g. hand pumps or electric cooler.

#### Planting Trees

- ♦ The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said: 'When a Muslim plants a tree, whatever is eaten from it is charity from him and whatever is stolen is charity and whatever beasts and birds eat from it is charity and whatever is subtracted from it is charity.' [*Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim*: 3968]

#### Taking Care of the Needs of Travelers

- ♦ 'Amr bin Harith رضي الله عنه narrates: 'The Messenger of Allah ﷺ did not leave a Dinar or a Dirham or a male or a female slave. He left only his white mule on which he used to ride, and his weapons, and a piece of land which he had

donated in his life for the needy travelers.'

[*Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī*: 4461]

- ♦ The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said: 'No doubt this wealth is sweet and green. Blessed is the wealth of a Muslim from which he gives to the poor, the orphans and to needy travelers.' [*Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī*: 1465]

#### Beneficial Knowledge

This could include teaching the Qur'an and Sunnah, enjoining good and forbidding evil, spreading the deen by writing authentic books and articles, preparing cassettes and CD's for the purpose of teaching, producing beneficial scientific inventions etc.

- ♦ The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said: 'He who called (people) to righteousness, there would be reward (assured) for him like the rewards of those who adhered to it, without their rewards being diminished in any respect.' [*Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim*: 2674]
- ♦ The Messenger of Allah ﷺ also said: 'Indeed Allah, His Angels, the inhabitants of the heavens and the earths - even the ant in its hole, and even the fish – supplicate for the one who teaches the people to do good.' [*Sunan al-Tirmidhī*: 2685]

#### Righteous Children

Upbringing children in a good manner becomes a source of earning reward till the Day of Judgment.

- ♦ The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said: 'The most pleasant of things that a man enjoys come from what he earns, and his child is also from his earning.' [*Sunan Abū Dāwūd*: 3528]
- ♦ The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said: 'Verily Allah increases the ranks of a righteous person in paradise and he asks: 'O my Lord! How did I attain this rank?' (Allah) says: 'Due to your

child's du'a of forgiveness for you.'

[*Musnad Aḥmad*, Vol: 10610, 16]

#### Sending Rewards for the Deceased

There are two types of actions through which relatives and friends can further send reward for the deceased.

1. By performing the actions which were obligatory on the deceased but due to some illness or difficulty he or she was unable to perform them. These could be the following:

#### Fasting the Missed Fasts of the Deceased

- ♦ Allah's Messenger ﷺ said: 'Whoever died and he ought to have fasted (the missed days of Ramadan) then his heir must fast on his behalf.' [*Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī*: 1952]
- ♦ Ibn 'Abbas رضي الله عنه narrated: A man came to the Prophet ﷺ and said, 'O Allah's Messenger ﷺ! My mother died and she ought to have fasted one month (for her missed Ramadan). Shall I fast on her behalf?' The Prophet ﷺ replied in the affirmative and said, 'Allah's debts have more right to be paid.' [*Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī*: 1953]

#### Fulfilling Vows of the Deceased

- ♦ Sa'd bin 'Ubadah asked the Messenger of Allah ﷺ: 'My Mother has died and she could not fulfill her vow which she had taken. The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said: 'Fulfill it on her behalf.' [*Sunan Abū Dāwūd*: 3307]

#### Doing Hajj on Behalf of the Deceased

- ♦ Ibn 'Abbas رضي الله عنه narrated: 'A woman came to the Prophet ﷺ and said, 'My mother vowed to perform the Hajj but she died before performing it. Should I perform the Hajj on her behalf?' He said, 'Yes! Perform the Hajj on her behalf. See, if your mother had been in debt,

would you have paid her debt?' She said, 'Yes.' He said, 'So you should pay what is for Him as Allah has more right that one should fulfill one's obligations to Him.'

[*Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī*: 7315]

- ♦ 'Abdullah bin Buraidah رضي الله عنه reported: 'When we were sitting with the Messenger of Allah ﷺ, a woman came to him and said: I had gifted to my mother a maid-servant, and now she (the mother) has died. Thereupon he ﷺ said: There is a definite reward for you and she (the maid-servant) has been returned to you as an inheritance. She said: Fasts of a month are due upon her; should I observe them on her behalf? He ﷺ said: Observe fasts on her behalf. She said: She did not perform Hajj, should I perform it on her behalf? He ﷺ said: Perform Hajj on her behalf.' [*Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim*: 1149]

#### Fulfilling Obligations of the Deceased

- ♦ Salamah bin Al-Akwa' رضي الله عنه narrated: 'Once, while we were sitting in the company of the Prophet ﷺ, a deceased was brought. The Prophet ﷺ was requested to lead the funeral prayer for the deceased. He said, 'Is he in debt?' The people replied in the negative. He said, 'Has he left any wealth?' They said, 'No.' So, he led his funeral prayer. Another deceased was brought and the people said, 'O Allah's Messenger ﷺ! Lead his funeral prayer.' The Prophet ﷺ said, 'Is he in debt?' They said, 'Yes.' He said, 'Has he left any wealth?' They said, 'Three Dinars.' So he led the prayer. Then a third deceased was brought and the people requested, 'Please lead his funeral prayer.' He said, 'Has he left any wealth?' They said, 'No.' He asked, 'Is he in debt?' They said, '(Yes! He has to pay) three Dinars.' He (refused to pray and) said, 'Then