

## KINSHIP

Before Allaah sent us to the earth, He (swt) decided who our relatives would be. Therefore we must honour and maintain these relationships that Allaah (swt) has established. Unfortunately we find that many Muslims cannot be bothered to keep ties with their kin. They find it burdensome to help their relatives and do not make the time to visit them.

***‘And render to the relatives their due rights’***

[Al Israa 17:26]

***‘Worship Allaah and join none with Him in worship, and do good to parents, and unto near relatives’***

[An Nisa 4:36]

All Muslims must treat their relatives in the best way. Allaah (swt) and His Messenger (saw) placed great emphasis on maintaining blood ties and commanded us to treat relatives in the most excellent manner.

The Prophet (saw) said:

***‘Whoever believes in Allaah and in the Last Day let him keep ties of kinship’***

[Bukhaaree & Muslim]

***‘The womb (blood relation) is suspended from the Throne of Allaah and announces: Allaah will hold by him who holds by me; and Allaah will cut asunder from him who cuts asunder from me’***

[Bukhaaree & Muslim]

Before Allaah sent us to the earth, He (swt) decided who our relatives would be. Therefore we must honour and maintain these relationships that Allaah (swt) has established. Unfortunately we find that many Muslims cannot be bothered to keep ties with their kin. They find it burdensome to help their relatives and do not make the time to visit them.

Arguments occur between relatives and each party blames the other for the ensuing division. Often there is little attempt to tackle the problem, to forgive one another and remove the disunity, although this is the way ordained by Allaah and his Messenger (saw).

Furthermore, it is strange that many Muslims have a stronger bond with people who are not related to them at all. They have no time for their own relatives, and instead look down upon them, with contempt and disdain.

This is from the way of the Shaytaan and results in disobedience to Allaah’s commands regarding kinship. We need to ask ourselves if our egos and pride have a greater value to us than the obedience to Allaah. Fear Allaah and establish the rights of kinship according to the Laws of Allaah!

The Prophet (saw) ordered Muslims to preserve the bond of kinship, even if their relatives ignored them

He (saw) said:

***‘The wasil (ie one who maintains ties with his kin) is not the one who does it as a reward, rather, the wasil is the one who contacts his kin even if they shun him’***

[Bukhaaree]

***There was once a man who complained to the Prophet (saw):***

***‘I have relatives with whom I keep relations with and they shun me. I do good to them and they mistreat me. I am patient with them and they are not with me.’***

***The Prophet (saw) said, “If that is true of you then you are filling their mouths with sand! And a helper from Allaah will accompany you as long as you stay like this.”***

[Muslim]

Maintaining good relations increases compassion and love in the Ummah The Messenger of Allaah (saw) said:

*“A person who wants that there may be abundance in his provision, and that his age be lengthened, then he should do favour to his blood relations”* [Bukhaaree & Muslim]

In a hadeeth found in Muslim, the Messenger of Allaah (saw) describes the residents of Paradise as being of three types, and one type is those people who are tender hearted and full of mercy towards their relatives and Muslims.

However, when Muslims sever relations, the opposite happens. These people bring discord to themselves, the community and the Ummah. They will answer for this sin before Allaah on the Day of Judgement.

We need to understand that this is not a matter to be treated lightly. The breaking of family ties may lead a person to the Hell Fire.

The Prophet (saw) said:

*‘One who disregards blood ties of kinship, will not enter paradise’* [Bukhaaree & Muslim]

This hadeeth is a warning and a reminder. It should convince us to guard our ties of kinship and to make them flourish. We need to increase in the inviting and visiting of relatives. In addition, we should always be well-mannered, courteous and kind when dealing with them.

Remember Allaah is aware of what we do and we will answer to Him if we asunder what He has commanded to be joined.