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Ministry of Awqaf
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Consolation and Its Impact on Individuals and Societies

All praise is due to Allah, the Lord of all worlds, Who says in His Ever Glorious Book, “And do good so that you may succeed,” and said, “A kind word and forgiveness is better than a charitable deed followed by hurtful [words]: Allah is self-sufficient, forbearing.” I bear witness that there is no god but Allah, and that Muhammad is His Servant and Messenger. May Allah’s Peace and Blessings be upon him, his Household, Companions and upon those who follow their path to the Day of Judgment.

Islam is a comprehensive message that encompasses all moral values and lofty ideals. One of these values is to bring comfort to others and to reform their broken hearts. It is a value that indicates one’s nobility and sympathy. The Almighty Allah has honored this value as He makes it one of His Attributes. He calls Himself *Al-Jabbar* as in his saying, “He is God: there is no god other than Him, the Controller, the Holy One, Source of Peace, Granter of Security, Guardian over all, the Almighty, the Most Consoler.” He is the Caterer to the needs of his creatures; He supports the poor with wealth, the sick with health, and turns fear into tranquility. Al-Qurtubi said, “This Name of Allah is a hyperbolic form the root *jabr* which indicates reforming what is broken, resolving of the affairs of all creatures

and enriching the poor. The Prophet (PBUH) used to Ask Allah saying, “O Allah! Pardon me, have mercy on me, guide me, provide me with comfort, and grant me sustenance.”

The Almighty Allah shows His servants how He reforms their broken hearts. In the story the mother of Prophet Moses (BPUH), when she felt sorrow for losing her son, Allah brought him back to her to bring comfort to her, as He said, “We restored him to his mother in this way, so that she might be comforted, not grieve, and know that Allah’s promise is true, though most of them do not know.” When our Prophet (PBUH) was forced to leave his homeland Mecca, Allah consoled him through revealing to him His saying, “He who has made the Qur’an binding on you [Prophet] will bring you back home,” i.e. to Mecca again.

This value appears in the life of our Prophet (PBUH). When he returned home troubled and thinking that something bad inflicted him, his wife Khadijah comforted him saying, “Never! By Allah, Allah will never disgrace you. You keep good relations with your kith and kin, help the poor and the destitute, serve your guests generously and assist the deserving calamity-afflicted ones.” When our Prophet (PBUH) met Jabir Ibn Abd Allah after the martyrdom of his father, who left for Jabir younger sister to care about and debts to pay off, the Prophet wanted to comfort Jabir. He told him, “O Jabir, shall I not tell you what Allah said to your father?’ ... ‘Allah does not speak to anyone except from behind a screen, but He spoke to your father face to face and said: “O My slave, ask Me and I

shall give you." He said: "O my Lord, bring me back to life so that I may be killed for Your sake a second time." He said: "I have already decreed that they will not return (to the world after death)."

The Prophet (PBUH) gives us the greatest example of consolation when the poor immigrants came to him and said: "O Messenger of Allah, the rich have taken away (all the) reward. They observe *Salah* (prayers) as we do; and give *Sadaqah* (charity) out of their surplus wealth." Upon this he (the Prophet (PBUH)) said, "Has Allah not prescribed for you (a course) following which you can (also) give charity? In every declaration of the glorification of Allah (i.e., saying *Subhan Allah*) there is charity, and in every *Takbir* (i.e., saying *Allahu Akbar*) is a charity, and in every celebration of praise (saying) is charity, and in every declaration that He is One (*La ilaha illallah*) is a charity, and in enjoining of good is charity, and in forbidding evil is charity...)

The one who contemplates the Islamic Shari'ah will find out that reforming the broken hearts of others and bringing comfort to them is of paramount importance, especially to the weak. The Almighty Allah said, "So do not be harsh with the orphan; and do not chide the one who asks for help," that is try to console them and be kind with them. The Prophet (PBUH), "You receive provision and Divine support by virtue of the weak ones amongst you." He (PBUH) also said, "I and the one who looks after an orphan will be like this in Paradise, showing his middle and index

fingers.” The Prophet (PBUH) also said, “One who strives to help the widows and the poor is like the one who fights in the way of Allah.” When the Prophet (PBUH) was asked: “Which deeds are the best [in the sight of Allah]? He said: “The best of deeds is that you bring joy to your believing brother, or you pay off a debt on his behalf, or you feed him bread.” The Prophet (PBUH) also said, “The most beloved people to Allah are those who are most beneficial to people. The most beloved deed to Allah is to make a Muslim happy, or to remove one of his troubles, or to forgive his debt, or to feed his hunger. That I walk with a brother regarding a need is more beloved to me than that I seclude myself in this mosque for a month.”

All praise is due to Allah, Lord of the Worlds; may Allah’s Peace and Blessings be upon Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), his companions and followers:

Undoubtedly, bringing comfort to the weak is a moral value that includes promoting solidarity in the whole society. Islam does not know selfishness or negativity. Rather, it knows sincere brotherhood, caring for people’s feelings, and comforting them. The Prophet (PBUH) said, “The believers in their mutual kindness, compassion and sympathy are just like one body. When one of the limbs suffers, the whole body responds to it with wakefulness and fever.” He (PBUH) also said, “Whoever has an extra

mount should offer it to him who is without it, and whoever has surplus food should give it to him who has nothing.”

Meanwhile, we affirm that consolation may be practiced through one’s actions, good words, an invocation, sincere advice, or a smile. Our Prophet (PBUH) said, “Do not belittle any good deed, even meeting your brother (Muslim) with a cheerful face.” We also affirm that consolation has a great impact on spreading love, unity and cohesion of society.

O Allah, guide us to do good deeds and make us a source of comfort for people.