

Arab Republic of Egypt
Ministry of Awqaf
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Faithfulness and Being Grateful to others' Good Behavior

All praise is due to Allah, the Lord of all worlds, Who says in His Ever Glorious Book, "And do not forget kindness among yourselves." 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.

Faithfulness and being grateful to others' favors are among the lofty human values and virtuous morals fostered by our religion. The Almighty Allah has praised Prophets (PBUT) for having such noble morals. Speaking about Prophet Abraham, Allah says, "And of Abraham, who was faithful to his duty;" and about Prophet John Allah says, "[He is] kind to his parents, not domineering or rebellious."

It goes without saying that the most deserving people of one's faithfulness and gratefulness are one's parents. To them, one owes gratitude due to their endless favors. This is why Allah ordered us to be courteous to them and treat them kindly especially in their old age. Allah says, "Your Lord has commanded that you should worship none but Him,

and that you be kind to your parents. If either or both of them reach old age with you, say no word that shows impatience with them, and do not be harsh with them, but speak to them respectfully. And lower your wing in humility towards them in kindness and say, 'Lord, have mercy on them, just as they cared for me when I was little.'" Faithfulness and gratefulness to one's parents continue even after their death. The Prophet (PBUH) said, "The finest act of goodness is that a person should treat kindly the loved ones of his father."

Among the finest forms of faithfulness is: faithfulness among spouses, which includes fulfilling rights and good treatment. The Almighty Allah says, "Another of His signs is that He created spouses from among yourselves for you to live with in tranquility: He ordained love and kindness between you. There truly are signs in this for those who reflect." The Prophet (PBUH) said, "Act kindly towards women." Observing the life of our Prophet (PBUH) one finds that he was the most faithful one to his wife Khadijah. He remained faithful to her even after her death. He used to praise her, ask Allah to forgive her, and treat her friends well. Once, an old woman came to the Prophet and he treated her well and showed hospitality to her. Aishah asked the Prophet about the reason for such treatment and he replied, "She used to visit us when Khadija was alive."

Among the manifestations of faithfulness is: faithfulness to the people who do a favor to you. This appears in the case when the Prophet wanted to console the *Ansar* on the day of Hunayn when he said, "But for the

emigration, I would have been one of the Ansar: and if the people took their way in a valley, I would take the Ansar's valley. O Allah have mercy on the Ansar, their sons and their grandsons." He (PBUH) also said, "The Ansar have fulfilled their obligations and rights which were enjoined on them but there remains what is for them. So, accept the good of the good-doers amongst them and excuse the wrongdoers amongst them." The Prophet also said about Abu Bakr, "No doubt, I am indebted to Abu Bakr more than to anybody else regarding both his companionship and his wealth. And if I had to take a *Khalil* from my followers, I would certainly have taken Abu Bakr, but the fraternity of Islam is sufficient."

Moreover, the value of being faithful to others favors extends to include enemies. This appears in the Prophet's conduct when he remembered on the day of the battle of Badr Al-Mut'am Ibn Adeyy who protected the Prophet (PBUH) when he returned from his journey to al-Ta'if. So, the Prophet said, "If al-Mut'am Ibn Adeyy had been alive and spoken to me about them, I would have freed them for him." He means the captives of Badr.

Among the forms of faithfulness is: faithfulness to ones teachers through respecting and honoring them. Abu Hanifah said, "Since the death of my teacher Hammad, whenever I make *Du'aa* (supplication) I always ask Allah to forgive my father and my teacher. I always ask Allah to forgive all those I have learned from and those I have taught them." Imam Ahmad

said, "Over thirty years ago, I have never slept without making *Du'aa* for Allah to forgive my teacher 'Al-Shafi'i."

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: -

One of the greatest forms of faithfulness and gratefulness: loyalty to one's homeland, there is no doubt that it is one of traits of noble and virtuous people. Al-Asma'i said, "If you want to know how faithful someone is, observe his tenderness to his homeland, and his longing for his brothers." We can see this noble value in the Prophet's migration when he looked at Mecca after its people tortured and belied him, but he said, "You are the dearest land to Allah. Had your people not expelled me out of you, I would never have left you." When the Prophet made invocation to Allah regarding Medina, he said: "O Allah! Make Medina dear to our hearts just like you made Mecca dear to our hearts, and even more so."

How much we need to have the values of faithfulness and gratefulness as such traits purify souls and perfect people's faith. The Prophet (PBUH) said, "The best ones among you are the faithful ones who react generously."

O Allah, guide us to the best morals and protect our country Egypt and the whole world!