

## **Being Positive part 2 – striving to spread good**

DISCLAIMER: This reminder was originally delivered in Arabic on Friday, 28 March 2008. Any meanings lost in translation are not to be attributed to the speaker as reminders are translated by volunteers. The mosque has no official translator and volunteers often have no formal qualifications to translate on the day. Please forgive any errors as they are from our human weakness and any right guidance is from God.

O Muslims - As we remember the birth of God's beloved Messenger, Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him), let us remember why he (pbuh) was sent to us – to take a lesson from the many moral lessons he taught us through his life, which aims to educate every Muslim to be people of repentance, people of belief and people of action.

Every person who believes in God as our Lord, Islam as our religion and Muhammad as our Prophet and Messenger- should know that this religion, (that the last of the messengers came with) is a great religion, a complete straight path. This religion is based on understanding life and acting upon knowledge and with intellect to work for the next life whilst we are in this world.

This reality is portrayed to us O Muslims by the saying of the Prophet (pbuh):

“When the final hour comes to anyone of you and in your hand is a sapling, plant it”

This beautiful picture is painted for us in order to benefit from this in our life- it is a picture that portrays the fruit of faith and shows us that Islam is a religion of action, of good action, of striving and gaining a good outcome for the entire world. It is to be a facilitator for every good and to discourage every evil.

The Prophet Joseph (pbuh) said: “put me in charge of the nation's storehouses” [Yusuf 12:55]

Was this for reasons of corruption, theft or love of leadership? Or was it in order to do good, benefit others and protect their rights. The Prophet Joseph (pbuh) then said “I am a good keeper, knowledgeable” [Yusuf 12:55] as if he was saying, ‘I fulfil people's trusts in me and I carry out my responsibilities to the best of my ability using what knowledge that God gave me.’

So what can we take from these lessons?

- Using this world as means to do good for the next life
- Be as though you are in the final hour and in your hand is a sapling to plant or a project you have yet to do or you are striving to do something good or you are exerting efforts in this life in order to seek your livelihood from a good source. In these circumstances, Islam orders you to plant that sapling and complete that project and to undertake that action or gain your lawful provision.

Yes – plant the sapling and do not deterred in this. Complete your action and do not get confused in order that you can reap the benefits of goodness wherever you are. The prophet Pbuh said:

“be aware of God wherever you are.”

Indeed Islam makes the goodness of the hereafter the result for doing goodness in this world. It makes Paradise/Jannah for those who strive, who work in order to gain an outcome (in both worlds).

Jannah is not for people of laziness, of inactivity, of corruption, of ruin, of destruction, nor for those who are neglectful or weak in the matter of their deen and utilising their dunya (for it); nor for those who neglect the rights of God, the rights on them of themselves, the rights of their society, of their family and of their country. God SWT says:

“the Day when we shall call together all human beings with their Imam. So whosoever is given his record in his right hand, such will read their records and they will not be dealt with unjustly in the least. And those who were blind in this life will be blind in the hereafter and even further off the path” [Isra 17:71-2]

On the Day of Judgment and the Day when we are all gathered – every nation will be called by the way that each followed in the dunya, by the name of the religion by which they believed in; by the name of their messenger in whom they believed and followed in his example for he is their imam. The nations will be called to submit their book of deeds and scrolls in the next life and so whoever has been given his book in his right hand will be extremely happy and his Lord will compensate him with his reward without even a fraction less given nor a mustard seed less in reward, as God promises:

‘for those who will enter jannah they will not be oppressed in the slightest of ways’ [Isra 17:71]

And as for the one who is blind of the knowledge of reality and his place in the world and for the one who is blind in his understanding and knowledge of the message. Who is blind to guidance and to the path of good. Who is blind in his finding a path to benefit himself and other people –blind to seeing the light of Islam in his heart. In the next world he is also blind – in that difficult place; in a crowd where people are pushing each other, without guidance.

O muslims our religion is a great religion if only we understood it and realised its reality but the truth is we are suffering from misunderstanding our religion and are suffering from being distant from the spirit of Islam for this reason we see amongst muslims today having an incapacity to do actions or actions which have no significance or good impact. Obligations have been left, rights have been neglected, wealth has been plundered, generosity is wasted, freedom has been shackled and corruption has become widespread and whatever is lost from the deen / the religion of God is not less than anything you lose in the dunya / worldly matters.

O muslims – working for both lives (the life of this world and the hereafter) is what Islam wants and desires from you. So it is not permitted for a muslim to neglect their dunya completely nor is it allowed for them to neglect or lose their deen due to misunderstanding and neglect. God SWT says:

“we grant the home in the hereafter to those who do not seek superiority on earth or spread corruption: the happy ending is awarded to the Muttaqeen i.e. those who are mindful of God. Whoever comes before God with a good deed will receive a better reward: whoever comes with an evil deed will be punished only for what he has done.” [Qasas 28:83-4]