



"And I (Allah) created not the jinns and humans except they should worship Me (Alone)." [Al-Quran 51:56]

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Putting Things in Perspective: Allah's Greatness and Becoming Loved by Him

From time to time, it is important to reflect on Allah's Greatness and his countless favors upon us so we may humble ourselves and become better servants of His, insha'Allah. Following are a few ayat and ahadith which may inspire us.

The Creator's Greatness Over His Creation

It is mind boggling to try and put into perspective how tiny and insignificant we are in comparison to Allah's entire creation, and how Great He is in comparison to it.

" . . . His Kursi (footstool) extends over the heavens and the earth . . . " [Al-Qur'an: 2:255]

The Prophet (peace be upon him) said: "The seven heavens and the seven earths by the side of Al-Kursi (Allah's footstool) are nothing but as a ring thrown down in a desert land, and such is Al-Kursi with respect to Al-'Arsh (Allah's Throne)." [Ibn Abee Shaybah: Al-'Arsh, 58, Al-Baihaqi: Al-Asmaa' was-Sifaat, 862]

"They made not a just estimate of Allah such as is due to Him. And on the Day of Resurrection the whole of the earth will be grasped by His Hand and the heavens will be rolled up in His Right Hand. Glorified is He, and High is He above all that they associate as partners with Him!" [Al-Qur'an 39:67].

Everything We Have Belongs to Allah

Allah is the owner of our souls, and everything He has given us (wealth, health, homes, children, bodies, senses, etc.) are a trust (amanah) and a test, to see if we will be grateful for them and use them in a way that will be pleasing to Him.

" . . . To Him blongs whatever is in the heavens and whatever is on earth . . . " [Al Qur'an, 2:255]

"Who, when afflicted with calamity, say: 'Truly! To Allah we belong and truly, to Him we shall return.'" [Al Qur'an, 2:156]

And Allah has brought you out from the wombs of your mothers while you know nothing. And He gave you hearing, sight, and hearts that you might give thanks (to Allah). [Al-Qur'an, 16:78]

Becoming a Loved Servant of Allah and Receiving His Help

Our ultimate goal should be to become a loved servant of Allah. By doing so, insha'Allah we may receive His help in all of our affairs.

Messenger of Allah (pbuh) said, "Allah the Exalted has said: 'I will declare war against him who shows hostility to a pious worshipper of Mine. And the most beloved thing with which My slave comes nearer to Me is what I have enjoined upon him (Fard, obligatory deeds); and My slave keeps on coming closer to Me through performing Nawafil (prayer or doing extra deeds besides what is obligatory) till I love him. When I love him I become his hearing with which he hears, his seeing with which he sees, his hand with which he strikes, and his leg with which he walks; and if he asks (something) from Me, I give him, and if he asks My Protection (refuge), I protect him". [Sahih Al-Bukhari, Book 1, Hadith 95]

Allah's Messenger (pbuh) said, "If Allah loves a person, He calls Gabriel, saying, 'Allah loves so and so, O Gabriel love him' So Gabriel would love him and then would make an announcement in the Heavens: 'Allah has loved so and-so therefore you should love him also.' So all the dwellers of the Heavens would love him, and then he is granted the pleasure of the people on the earth." [Sahih Al-Bukhari 7485, Book 97, Hadith 111]

Allah's Messenger (pbuh) said, "Allah said, 'O son of Adam! Spend (on charity), and I shall spend on you.'" [Sahih Al-Bukhari 5352, Book 69, Hadith 2] ♦

Feeding the Poor So They Can Fast

"O you who believe! Fasting is prescribed to you as it was prescribed to those before you, that you may (learn) self-restraint,-" [Al Quran, Chapter 2, Verse 183]

The Prophet (peace be upon him) said: "Whoever feeds the person who is breaking his fast, he will have his reward (for his fasting) without decreasing anything from the reward of the fasting person." [Al-Tirmidhi 807]

One Million Meals

Every year, Hidaya Foundation strives to provide one million meals to those in need throughout the world by offering dry ration food packages as well as cooked meals. During the month of Ramadan, we increase efforts on this project in regions we work so that the poor can have something to make iftar and suhur with, and enjoy the month of fasting.

Dry Ration During Ramadan

This Ramadan, Hidaya Foundation is distributing dry ration meals to tens of thousands of poor families throughout Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Cameroon, Guinea, and Sierra Leone so they can have something for iftar and suhoor. *Due to buying in bulk, it costs on average **just 50 cents per meal.***

Cooked Meals for Iftar

Additionally, like last year, Hidaya is distributing cooked meals in economically poor areas for iftar in Pakistan. *It costs approximately **\$50** to cook each pot of chicken biryani, which is enough to feed over 100 people insha'Allah.* ♦



Fidya Explained

For those (elderly, terminally ill, pregnant, breastfeeding etc.) who are unable to fast due to difficulty, a compensation must be given by feeding a poor person for every day of fasting not observed.

What Does Qur'an Say About Fidya?

"[Observing Saum (fasts)] for a fixed number of days, but if any of you is ill or on a journey, the same number (should be made up) from other days. And as for those who can fast with difficulty, (e.g. an old man, etc.), they have (a choice either to fast or) to feed a Miskin (poor person) (for every day). But whoever does good of his own accord, it is better for him. And that you fast, it is better for you if only you know.

The month of Ramadan in which was revealed the Qur'an, a guidance for mankind and clear proofs for the guidance and the criterion (between right and wrong). So whoever of you sights (the crescent on the first night of) the month (of Ramadan i.e. is present at his home), he must observe Saum (fasts) that month, and whoever is ill or on a journey, the same number [of days which one did not observe Saum (fasts) must be made up] from other days. Allah intends for you ease, and He does not want to make things difficult for you. (He wants that you) must complete the same number (of days), and that you must magnify Allah [i.e. to say Takbir (Allahu-Akbar; Allah is the Most Great) on seeing the crescent of the months of Ramadan and Shawwal] for having guided you so that you may be grateful to Him." [Al-Quran 2:184-185]

How Much Should One Pay for Fidya?

Narrated 'Abdullah bin Ma'qal: I sat with Ka'b bin 'Ujra and asked him about the Fidya. He replied, "This revelation was revealed concerning my case especially, but it is also for you in general. I was carried to Allah's Apostle and the lice were falling in great number on my face. The Prophet said, "I have never thought that your ailment (or struggle) has reached to such an extent as I see. Can you afford a sheep?" I replied in the negative. He then said, "Fast for three days, or feed six poor persons each with half a Sa of food." (1 Sa = 3 Kilograms approx.) [Sahih Bukhari, Vol. 3, Book 28, No. 43]

Who Should Pay Fidya?

Narrated 'Ata: That he heard Ibn 'Abbas reciting the Divine Verse: "And for those who can fast they had a choice either fast, or feed a poor for every day.." (2.184) Ibn 'Abbas said, "This Verse is not abrogated, but it is meant for old men and old women who have no strength to fast, so they should feed one poor person for each day of fasting (instead of fasting). [Sahih al-Bukhari, Tafseer of the Prophet (pbuh), Vol. 6, Book 60, Hadith 32]

Narrated Abdullah ibn Abbas: Explaining the verse; "For those who can do it (with hard-ship) is a ransom, the feeding of one, that is indigent," he said: This was a concession granted to the aged man and woman who were able to keep fast; they were allowed to leave the fast and instead feed an indigent person for each fast; (and

a concession) to pregnant and suckling woman when they apprehended harm (to themselves). [Sunan Abi Dawud, Book of Fasting, Book 13, Hadith 2311]

Who Should Not Pay Fidya?

It was narrated that Salamah bin Al-Akwa said: "When this verse was revealed 'And as for those who can fast with difficulty, (e.g. an old man), they have (a choice either to fast or) to feed a miskin (poor person) (for every day). Those among us who did not want to fast would pay the fidyah, until the verse after it was revealed and abrogated this." [Sunan an-Nasa'i, The Book of Fasting, Vol. 3, Book 22, Hadith 2318]

How Can One Give Fidya?

There are different ways of fulfilling ones fidya by feeding the poor - as Allah (SWT) has left the commandment to feed a poor person general. It is better for an individual to fulfill his/her Fidya directly to deserving people by giving dry ration or cooked food. If however, that is difficult for them, then they may assign the responsibility to a trustworthy individual or organization.

Hidaya distributes Fidya among the poor and deserving in the form of dry ration food.

*Currently, our suggested minimum cost for Fidya based on the approximate price of 1.5 kg of whole wheat or rice in U.S.A. is **approx. \$3.50 for each day of missed fast.*** ♦

Projects in the Spotlight

No Orphan without Education

Hidaya is currently supporting over 10,300 orphans for their education. It costs just **\$10 per month** to meet an orphans educational needs.

Widow/Orphan Support

Hidaya is currently supporting over 4,700 widowed mothers and their orphaned children each month. It costs just **\$20 per month** for all household needs of a widow and her children.

Support Hidaya Schools

Hidaya Foundation is currently operating 64 schools in Pakistan with nearly 5,700 students from KG-5th grade. It costs about **\$120 per month** to run a classroom of approximately 40 students.

Adult Education

Hidaya is currently operating 4 adult schools (2 for women, 2 for men) in Pakistan. Adult students are given an education up to the 8th grade in just 6 months. Upon finishing, they are supported with further education in fields of their choice.

Clean Drinking Water

To date, Hidaya has installed 3,906 water hand pumps and distributed over 4 million gallons of water via the water tanker to benefit hundreds of thousands of people!

Water Hand Pumps - The average cost of installing a hand pump in South Asia is about **\$300 per pump**.

Delivery with Water Tanker - It costs just **\$10 per round** for a 1,200 gallon tanker to give water to hundreds of people.

Sadaqah in the form of Sacrifice & Aqiqah

Hidaya performs thousands of Sadaqah and Aqiqah sacrifices on behalf of our donors each year and distributes the meat to benefit tens of thousands of poor families, who would otherwise normally not be able to eat meat. It costs **\$120 for a goat**, and **\$420 for a cow** for Sadaqah in the form of Sacrifice, and **\$120 for a girl** and **\$240 for a boy** for Aqiqah.

You can donate one time or sign up for **Automatic Recurring Donations** towards any of these projects by setting up a profile on our secure website at: www.hidaya.org/createprofile ♦



Sadaqat-ul-Fitr

Sadaqat-ul-Fitr (also called Zakat-ul-Fitr) is an obligatory charity for every Muslim; it must be paid before Eid-ul-Fitr (i.e. before the end of Ramadan).

The wisdom behind this act is two-fold - to purify the month long fasting of the Muslims, and to enable the poor and less fortunate to also enjoy the celebration of Eid.

Why Should One Give Sadaqat-ul-Fitr?

Narrated Ibn Umar (may Allah be pleased with him): Allah's Apostle (peace be upon him) enjoined the payment of one Sa' of dates or one Sa' of barley as Zakat-ul-Fitr on every Muslim slave or free, male or female, young or old, and he ordered that it be paid before the people went out to offer the 'Id prayer. (One Sa' = 3 Kilograms approx.) [Sahih Bukhari : Vol. 2, Book 25, # 579]

How Does Hidaya Distribute Sadaqat-ul-Fitr?

Each year, Hidaya distributes Sadaqat-ul-Fitr donations on behalf of our donors to provide several hundred dry ration packages of food containing wheat, barley, grain, etc. to poor families overseas.

Currently, the suggested minimum cost for Sadaqat-ul-Fitr is **approximately \$7.00 per person** based on the price of 1 Saa (approx. 3kg) of rice or wheat at local costs in U.S.A. ♦

Green Energy: Hidayah's New Solar Powered Offices

Due to poor infrastructure and corruption, municipalities are failing to provide adequate power in poor areas of the world. A few years ago, Hidayah started the Green Energy project, in which we have experimented with wind and solar power at our office locations in Pakistan. Once we find a good practical and cost effective solution to the power problems, we will like to pass it on to the masses insha'Allah.

The latest efforts have been to make Hidayah's central field operations in Shikarpur solar powered, as our team there regularly experiences black outs for hours, sometimes daily. One may imagine how hard it is to run an infrastructure of 300 plus employees under such conditions.

Alhamdulillah, our offices being powered by the sun has greatly increased the efficiency in our Pakistan team's productivity.

Please keep Hidayah as well as all organizations who do good work in your du'as so Allah may continue opening doors and avenues for us to go on helping humanity in today's increasingly unstable world. ♦



For \$40, Donate a Cot for an Orphan to Sleep on



Hidayah supports over 10,000 orphans each month. Due to poverty, the majority of them sleep on the floor in climates that have extremely hot and cold weather. Understanding their condition, Hidayah has taken a challenge to provide a cot for each orphan. To start Hidayah has designed a cot which can be assembled and disassembled with nuts and bolts whenever needed, and is easy to transfer from place to place. So far, over 500 cots have already been given to orphans, but we will like to give one to each child we support in our ongoing effort to help orphans, insha'Allah. It costs approximately \$40 for each cot, please donate to give comfort to an orphan. ♦



Help the Poor by Educating Fellow Muslims About Zakat



Each year, Hidayah Foundation publishes documents about Zakat with the goal of helping Muslims understand the concept and how to give the proper due amount so they may fulfill their religious obligations and the rights of the poor.

Join us in this Effort of Teaching Muslims, and be part of Sadaqah Jariah

Enclosed along with this newsletter, you should find a copy of Hidayah Foundation's latest document "A Practical Guide for Calculating Zakat." Hidayah is asking that you join us in this effort of spreading knowledge about Zakat to other Muslims by distributing the extra copy to friends or family to read. Please contact us if you are interested in receiving more copies.

Watch Zakat Videos (Part 1 - Part 13), explaining in detail about Zakat at:
www.hidayah.org/publications/zakat-videos/ ♦

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Zakat _____
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 Other : _____
 Other : _____
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