

(Note: Wherever the word “you” or “your” is singular and refers to one human being, it is printed with an italic y, as in: you. Wherever such a word refers to God, the letter y is printed in capital, as in: You.)

For Fast 18 – August 29

Topic: (M) Moral qualities required of Muslims

- “Say: Come! I will recite what your Lord has forbidden to you: Set up no partner with Him, and do good to parents, nor kill your children for (fear of) poverty — We provide for you and for them, nor go near to indecencies, open or secret, nor kill the soul which Allah has made sacred except in the course of justice. This He enjoins upon you that you may understand. And do not approach the property of the orphan except in the best manner,¹ until he attains his maturity. And give full measure and weight with equity — We do not impose on any soul a duty beyond its ability. And when you speak, be just, even (against) a relative.² And fulfil Allah’s covenant. This He enjoins on you that you may be mindful.” — 6:151-152

1. That is, unless you do it with the object of improving the property or making it profitable for the orphan’s benefit.

2. Islam requires a person to be so upright as not to be led away by the ties of relationship. Truth is not to be sacrificed to any interest but every interest must be sacrificed to truth.

- “And certainly We gave Luqmān wisdom, saying: Give thanks to Allah. And whoever is thankful, is thankful for the good of his own soul; and whoever denies, then surely Allah is Self-Sufficient, Praised. And when Luqmān said to his son, while he instructed him: My son, keep up prayer and enjoin good and forbid evil, and bear patiently whatever befalls you. Surely this is a matter of great resolution. And do not turn your face away from people in contempt, nor go about in the land exultingly. Surely Allah does not love any self-conceited boaster. And pursue the right course in your going about and lower your voice. Surely the most hateful of voices is braying of donkeys.” — 31:12-13, 17-19.
- “Your Lord knows best what is in your minds. If you are righteous, He is surely Forgiving to those who turn (to Him). And give to the near of kin his due and (to) the needy and the traveller, and do not squander wastefully.¹ Surely the squanderers are the devil’s brethren. And the devil is ever ungrateful to his Lord. And if you (have to) turn away from them (in order) to seek mercy from your Lord that you hope for, then speak to them a gentle word.² And do not make your hand to be chained to your neck, nor stretch it forth to its fullest extension,³ so that you sit down blamed, stripped off.” — 17:25-29

1. While enjoining charity, the Quran also draws attention to economy, thus indicating the golden mean.

2. *Hoping for mercy from the Lord* means *not having anything to give to the needy*. In that case one should still speak to the needy gently.

3. By the hand being tied to the neck is meant being miserly, and by stretching it forth to its fullest extension is meant being wasteful. The verse teaches that the middle path should be adopted in one's ordinary expenses.

- “O you who believe, keep your duty to Allah and speak straight words: He will put your deeds into a right state for you, and forgive you your sins. And whoever obeys Allah and His Messenger, he indeed achieves a mighty success.” — 33:70-71

Speaking *straight words* means to speak the truth with sincerity, without any hidden, bad motives or intention to deceive. It is possible to say something which is literally true but is intended to mislead. This verse tells us that if you continue to speak straight words, your deeds will improve.

- “Woe to the cheaters, who, when they take the measure (of their dues) from people, take it fully, but when they measure out to others or weigh out for them, they give less than is due!” — 83:1-3

The cheaters are not only *those who cheat others by giving them less than what is their due*, but also *those who make a default in any of their duties*. The taking of the measure and the measuring out must also be read in a general sense.

- “And the servants of the Beneficent are they who walk on the earth in humility, and when the ignorant address them, they say, Peace!” — 25:63
- “He knows you best when He brings you forth from the earth and when you are embryos in the wombs of your mothers; *so do not ascribe purity to yourselves*. He knows him best who guards against evil.” — 53:32
- “And We shall certainly try you with something of fear and hunger and loss of property and lives and fruits. And give good news to the patient, who, when a misfortune befalls them, say: Surely we are Allah's, and to Him we shall return.¹ Those are they on whom are blessings and mercy from their Lord; and those are the followers of the right course.” — 2:155-157

1. This is the true expression of a Muslim's resignation under trials: *We are Allah's and to Him we shall return*. He resigns himself to the will of God so thoroughly that no trial or misfortune can disturb the course of his life.

- “And if you would count Allah's favours, you would not be able to number them. Surely Allah is Forgiving, Merciful.” — 16:18
- “...and do no favour seeking gain, and for the sake of your Lord, be patient.” — 74:6-7

Although addressed to the Prophet Muhammad, this applies to all Muslims.

Respect for privacy of others:

- “O you who believe, do not enter houses other than your own houses, until you have asked permission and greeted their inhabitants. This is better for you that you may be mindful. But if you find no one therein, do not enter them, until permission is given to you; and if it is said to you, Go back, then go back; this is purer for you. And Allah is Knower of what you do.” — 24:27-28
- “O you who believe, avoid most of suspicion, for surely suspicion in some cases is sin; and do not spy nor let some of you backbite others. Does one of you like to eat the flesh of his dead brother? You abhor it! And keep your duty to Allah, surely Allah is returning (to mercy) again and again, Merciful.” — 49:12