

## ASSIST EACH OTHER TOWARDS RIGHTEOUSNESS AND PIETY

### i. Surah Al-Maida 5:2

وَتَعَاوَنُوا عَلَى الْبِرِّ وَالتَّقْوَىٰ ۗ

5:2 Na saidianeni katika wema na ucha-Mngu.

[Help one another in acts of righteousness and piety]

وَلَا تَعَاوَنُوا عَلَى الْإِثْمِ وَالْعُدْوَانِ ۗ

Wala msisaidiane katika dhambi na uadui.

[And do not assist each other in acts of sinfulness and hostility.]

### ii. Surah A'ali Imran 3:92

لَنْ تَنَالُوا الْبِرَّ حَتَّىٰ تُنْفِقُوا مِمَّا تُحِبُّونَ ۗ

3:92 Hamutaweza kuufikia wema mpaka mtoe katika vile mnavyo vipenda.

[You will never attain to true piety unless you spend on others out of what you dearly love.]

وَمَا تُنْفِقُوا مِنْ شَيْءٍ فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ بِهِ عَلِيمٌ

Na kitu chochote mnacho kitoa basi hakika Mwenye-ezi-Mngu anakijua.

[And whatever you give is certainly well known to Allah.]

### iii. Surah Al-Muuminun 23:61

أُولَئِكَ يُسَارِعُونَ فِي الْخَيْرَاتِ وَهُمْ لَهَا سَابِقُونَ - 23:61

23:61 Basi wote hao ndio wanao kimbilia katika mambo ya kheri, na ndio watakao tangulia kuyafikia.

[It is they who race with one another in doing good deeds, always taking the lead.]

#### TEACHINGS

- i. *Birr* or virtue is positive good actions, and *taqwā* refers to staying away from evil actions.
- ii. *Ithm* or sin is defined as an act for which its performer is deserving of blame or censure.
  - It includes every form of evil deed whether large or small.
- iii. The Arabic word *birr* translated as 'righteousness' can therefore be used in two senses.
  - The first is to mean treating others in a good fashion, in particular one's parents, though more generally it means to behave well towards everyone.
  - The second sense in which the word *birr* is used is to refer to acts of worship and obedience to Allah both inwards and outwards.

- iv. We have an obligation to help other people with both our knowledge and actions, to encourage them to act with *birr* and *taqwa*,
  - And we have an obligation towards our Lord to observe His commands and avoid disobedience (*ithm*), out of love and fear of Him.
- v. The Ayah 5:2 above urges a co-operation of the two types – in performing good, and refraining from evil.
  - Righteousness then, includes treating others in the best way possible, believing in Allah and all that Allah has revealed, giving in charity, keeping promises, being truthful, patient and performing acts of obedience and worship of Allah.
- vi. Cooperating with others in goodness is one of the basic rules for a Muslim society.
  - When believers work together there is motivation, enthusiasm and a rise in spirit.
  - Along with that there is Divine help and blessing in the deed.
  - Each believer feels encouraged by the response of the other, and in this way a spark of goodness can become a great light.
- vii. Cooperating with others means drawing on the skills and talents that each person has to offer.

- Everyone has been blessed with unique talents by Allah.
  - When these talents are pooled together the results can be amazing.
  - When two people who have different complementary skills, come together and cooperate to work on something, the result is greater than the total of each individual effect.
- viii. One of the qualities of the believers is their eagerness to perform good deeds. Their desire to please Allah propels them towards good actions. They are quick to initiate good works, carry them out determinedly, and move ahead of others in what they do.
- ix. The word *yusāri'ūna* in 23:61 above, signifies a racing towards good actions.
- The word *sābiqūna* denotes being among those who are ahead in the race.
  - These people compete with others and race so that they are in front.
- x. Human beings are naturally competitive and like to outdo others.
- This desire can be channeled in a positive manner when the competition is in going towards Allah.
  - Such competition is positive and healthy as it increases virtue and piety. That what Allah is encouraging us to do.

## **HADITH 1**

The Prophet of Allah, peace and blessings Allah be upon him, said:

الْبِرُّ حُسْنُ الْخُلُقِ وَالْإِنْتِمَاءُ مَا حَاكَ فِي صَدْرِكَ وَكَرِهْتَ أَنْ يَطَّلِعَ عَلَيْهِ  
النَّاسُ

“Righteousness is good character, and sin is what waivers in your heart and you hate for people to find out about it.”

((Reported by Muslim))

In this hadith the Prophet gave us two very important signs of a sin. The first sign is a completely internal sign within the human being. It is a feeling that occurs within the soul with respect to the act. The human being is created with the internal mechanism to sense which acts are sinful and the soul is uneasy when it performs sinful acts.

The second sign is also internal but occurs in respect to how one is viewed by others. A sin is something we would feel ashamed of if the people knew about it.

Sin is an act which one’s conscience feels bad about because the soul feels it to be morally wrong.

## **HADITH 2**

The Prophet of Allah, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, said:

لَا تَبَاغَضُوا وَلَا تَحَاسَدُوا وَلَا تَدَابَرُوا وَكُونُوا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ إِخْوَانًا وَلَا يَحِلُّ  
لِمُسْلِمٍ أَنْ يَهْجُرَ أَخَاهُ فَوْقَ ثَلَاثِ

“Do not hate each other, do not envy each other, do not turn away from each other, but rather be servants of Allah as brothers. It is not lawful for a Muslim to boycott his brother for more than three days.”

((Reported by Muslim))

### HADITH 3

The Prophet of Allah, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, said:

تَبَسُّمُكَ فِي وَجْهِ أَخِيكَ لَكَ صَدَقَةٌ وَأَمْرُكَ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ وَنَهْيُكَ عَنِ الْمُنْكَرِ  
صَدَقَةٌ وَإِرْشَادُكَ الرَّجُلَ فِي أَرْضِ الضَّلَالِ لَكَ صَدَقَةٌ وَبَصْرُكَ لِلرَّجُلِ  
الرَّيِّئِ الْبَصِيرَ لَكَ صَدَقَةٌ وَإِمَاطَتُكَ الْحَجَرَ وَالشَّوْكَةَ وَالْعِظْمَ عَنِ الطَّرِيقِ  
لَكَ صَدَقَةٌ وَإِفْرَاغُكَ مِنْ دَلْوِكَ فِي دَلْوِ أَخِيكَ لَكَ صَدَقَةٌ

“Smiling in the face of your brother is your charity. Enjoining good and forbidding evil is charity. Guiding a lost man through the land is your charity. Lending your eyesight to a man who cannot see well is your charity. Removing rocks, thorns, and bones from the road is your charity. Pouring your leftovers into the vessel of your brother is your charity.”

((Reported by Tirmidhī))

### HADITH 4

The Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings be upon him, said:

يَسِّرَا وَلَا تُعَسِّرَا وَبَشِّرَا وَلَا تُنْفِرَا وَتَطَاوَعَا وَلَا تَخْتَلِفَا

“Make things easy and do not make things difficult. Give glad tidings and do not repel people. Cooperate with each other and do not become divided.”

((Reported by Bukhari and Muslim))

