

The virtue of Honesty with the Messenger of Allah

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In the name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful

All praise and thanks be to Allah, the Lord of Al-‘Alamin, and prayer and peace be upon the best Messenger and Prophet of Allah Muhammad and be upon his family and his companions...

Trust is a good characteristic and it is the contrary to treason, the Islamic Religion ordered us to be honest. The honest person is the beloved one to Allah and people, Allah said: "Truly, we did offer *al-Amanh* (the truth or moral responsibility or honesty and all the duties which Allah has ordained) to the heavens and the earth, and the mountains, but they declined to bear it and were afraid of it (i.e. afraid of Allah`s Torment). But man bore it. Verily, he was unjust (to himself) and ignorant (of its results). (Chapter of Al –Ahzab, verse: 72) And Allah said: "Verily! Allah commands that you should render back the trusts to those to whom they are due." (Chapter of An – Nisa, verse: 58) Allah obliged us to adopt trust and He surnamed our Prophet who is our model in keeping and acquiring trust as the faithful." Trust" means that we prohibit our senses from the forbidden things and not to transgress the rights of others by preserving trust such as money and the likes. We ought to remember that one who has no trust has no faith and both of trust and kinship will stand on the two sides of the Sirat (that is the Bridge set over hell-fire) right and left, because their great position, to take their rights.

The command to discharge trusts:

Allah has ordered us to discharge trust, has condemned betrayal and warned of it in many verses and said: "Verily, Allah commands that you should render back the trusts to those to whom they are due." (Chapter of An- Nisa, verse: 58) Ibn Katheer said: "It is general in all trusts obligated the human to fulfill, it includes two types: Allah`s rights such prayer, fasting, and the like, and people`s rights such as deposits and the like." Although trust is a heavy burden, it is not impossible, the righteous servants of Allah characterized by it as Allah described them saying: "Those who are faithfully true to their *amanat* (all the duties which Allah has ordained, honesty, moral responsibility and trusts) and to their covenants." (Chapter of Al-

Mu'menoon, verse: 8) Take into consideration this literal and moral harmony between faith and trust, in the Prophet`s (blessing and peace be upon him) saying: " One who has no trust has no faith and one who has no covenant has no religion". ¹ Beside, Allah the Almighty said: "O you who believe! Betray not Allah and His Messenger, nor betray knowingly your Amanat (things entrusted to you and all the duties which Allah has ordained for you)." (Chapter of Al-Anfal, verse: 27).

The Prophet`s teaching about discharging trust: "Discharge the trust to one who has trusted you, do not betray one who has betrayed you." ² And the Prophet said in condemning betrayal: "There are three signs of a hypocrite: when he speaks, he lies; when he makes a promise, he breaks it; and when he is trusted, he betrays his trust." ³

Types of *amana* "trust"

- 1- The greatest trust, that is adhering to the religion, informing about this religion is also a trust, the Messengers are Allah`s trustee to His revelation, the Prophet (blessing and peace be upon him) said: "Do not you trust me? I am Allah`s trustee, the Divine Inspiration is revealed to me morning and evening." In addition, the Muslim scholars and preachers who have come after them are also guardians in preaching this religion.
- 2- Every blessing that Allah has granted us is a trust that we should keep and use it according to His Will, sight is a trust, hearing is a trust, hand is a trust, leg is a trust, tongue is a trust and money is also a trust, we should spend it in what satisfies Allah.
- 3- Honor is a trust that we should preserve and not lose, we should save ourselves from immorality in addition to everyone we are responsible for them.
- 4- Children are a trust, protecting them is a trust, taking care of them is a trust

¹ Reported by Ahmad and its chain of narrators is fair.

² Reported by Abu Dawud and Al-Hakim who graded it as fair.

³ Reported by Al-Bukhari in his sound collection, chapter of what was written about a person`s will, no. 11756.

and raising them is a trust.

- 5- The work entrusted to us is a trust, undoing it perfect is a betrayal, Abu – Huriara (may Allah be pleased with him) narrated: The Prophet (blessing and peace be upon him) said: “If trust was missed, you would wait the Hour.’ He said: ’How does it miss?’ He said: ’If the work was entrusted to non qualified people, you would wait the Hour!’”⁴
- 6- Keeping secrets is a trust and spreading it is a betrayal, Abu Sa’id Al – Khudari narrated: The Messenger of Allah said: "Indeed, the most evil of people in front of Allah on the Day of Resurrection is a man who is intimate with his wife and then spreads her secret."⁵
- 7- Trust means the deposit, and this we should keep and return as it was.⁶

Some Prophetic traditions relate to the virtue of trust

Ibn Mas’ud narrated: "Testimony of faith (to bear witness that there is no god except Allah and Mohamed is His Messenger) expiates any sin except trust, man will be brought on the Day of Judgment, if he was killed in Allah`s Cause, it is said: discharge your trust, he would say: ‘How can I as the worldly life finish?’ Then the trust will be represented for him at the bottom of hell forever and will be asked to bring it."

Beloved brothers and sisters, trust is not alien to the souls, but it is a nature (*fitra*) that the human has had a natural deposition for knowing it. Sometimes he agrees to it, other times, he doesn’t, and every one of them will be rewarded. Hudhaifa ibn Al- Yaman reported: "The Messenger of Allah (blessing and peace be upon him) foretold to us two prophetic traditions. I have seen one (being fulfilled), and I am waiting for the other. He (blessing and peace be upon him) told us, Amana (the trust) descended in the innermost (root) of the hearts of men (that was innately in

⁴ Reported by Al-Bukhari, chapter of taking away the trust, no. 6131.

⁵ Reported by Muslim.

⁶ *Al-Amanah wa anwa’iha* , Ali Abdul Aziz al-Rajhi, *al-Amana*, Dr. Faysal Al-Halabi (paraphrased).

their hearts, by Fitrah, or pure human nature). Then the Qur'an was revealed and they learned from the Qur'an and they learned from the Sunnah. Then the Prophet (blessing and peace be upon him) told us about the removal of the *amanah*. He said: "The man would have some sleep, and *amanah* would be taken away from his heart leaving the impression of a faint mark. He would again sleep, and *amanah* would be taken away from his heart leaving an impression of a blister, as if you rolled down an ember on your foot and it was vesicle. He would see a swelling having nothing in it. The people would enter into transactions with one another and hardly a person would be left who would return (things) entrusted to him (and there would look like an honest person) till it would be said: 'In such and such tribe there is a trustworthy man.'"

How Allah loves the one who has trust, who renders back it to himself, his family, his work and everything, really no one deserves it except the trustee. The Prophet (blessing and peace be upon him) said: "Whoever hopes that Allah and His Messenger love him, let him say the truth when he speaks and discharges his trust entrusted to him."

Trust is the standard of the serious successful work when combined with the strong, the trustworthy. "Verily, the best men for you to hire is the strong, the trustworthy." It is the trust that the Prophet (blessing and peace be upon him) did bid farewell to his companions and army saying: "I entrust your religion and your actions and your seal deeds to Allah." It is the trust that increase the position of Abu 'Obaida ibn Al-Jarah , the prophet said: "Verily, there is a trustworthy person for every nation, Obaida Ibn Al-Jarah is the trustworthy person of this nation." The trust includes question, discussion and reward, the man has bore it, so he should entrust it, the Prophet said: "All of you are shepherds and each of you is responsible for his flock. A man is the shepherd of the people in the house and he is responsible. A woman is the shepherd of the house of her husband and she is responsible. Each of you is a shepherd and each is responsible for his flock."

Samples of the Prophet's (blessing and peace be upon him) trust:

Allah (Glory be to Him) undertook the Prophet's (blessing and peace be upon him) education and politeness, so he has been the best people in character, politeness and mind. He was also known by his integrity, truth, and honesty among the people of Mecca, so they gave him the title of the truthful and honest person.

- 1- He never ate a date which may drop of charity: Abu Hurira (may Allah be pleased with him) narrated: "The Prophet Muhammad said: 'By God, when I turn on my bed and I find a date on it – or in my house - then I pick it up to eat, I am afraid of it being a charity or part of charity so I leave it.'" ⁷
- 2- Discharging the trusts at migration: Aisha (may Allah be pleased with her) reported that at the time of immigration, the Prophet (blessing and peace be upon him) appointed: 'Ali as his deputy in Mecca to render trusts back to the people of Mecca. They used to leave their deposits with the Prophet (blessing and peace be upon him) because they know that he had the best morals. As they surnamed him the honest trustworthy person, they left with him what they were afraid of losing it with him. So, the Prophet (blessing and peace be upon him) migrated and Ali ibn Abi Talib stayed three days in Mecca to render trusts back. When he finished rendering trusts back to people, he joined Allah's Messenger (blessing and peace be upon him) in his migration.⁸ This is one of the best images about the Prophet's (blessing and peace be upon him) trust where disbelievers of Mecca used to show hostility against him, hurt him, and plotted to kill him while going to Mecca. In spite of that, he rendered trusts back and appointed his cousin Ali Ibn Abi Talib. Had the disbelievers of Quraish not known that the he was a trustworthy person, they wouldn't have left their trusts with him. They were sure about his trust and high morals that nobody else ever had. Allah the Almighty

⁷ Al-Bukhari, the book of fallen lost thing , chapter if the person finds a palm-tree date on the way (2300), Muslim, book of zakah, chapter of the prohibition to give zakah to Allah's Messenger (peace be upon him) (1070).

⁸ Al-Bayhaqi, *as-Sunnan al-Kubra* 6/289 (12477), Ibn Kathir, *al-Bedayah wa an-Nehayah* 3/218 , At-Tabari,, *tarikh al-Umam wa al-Muluk*, 1/569.

said:" And by mercy of Allah, you deal with gently. And had you been severe and harsh-hearted, they would have broken away from you; so pass over (their faults), and ask (Allah`s) forgiveness for them; and consult them in the affairs. Then when you have taken a decision, put your trust in Allah, certainly, Allah loves those who put their trust (in him). (Chapter of Al – ‘Imran, verse: 159) So the Prophet (blessing and peace be upon him) knew that he would gain people’s hearts by his noble morals and so he treated them well. Thus many Companions followed this Divine guidance.

- 3- Returning the Ka‘ba`s key to ‘Othman Ibn Talha, Ibn Juraij said: "Allah`s saying ‘Verily, Allah commands that you should render back to those to whom they are due.’" Chapter of An-Nisa, verse: 58 was revealed to the Prophet (blessing and peace be upon him) because of Othman Ibn Talha, that the Prophet (blessing and peace be upon him) took the Ka‘ba`s key on the day of conquering the Ka’ba, he took it home, then he went out reciting this verse and called Othman to render back the key. ⁹
- 4- Once the Prophet (blessing and peace be upon him) came to a Jewish to buy two garments and pay in installments, the Jewish seized this opportunity, and he said I knew what he wants, he wanted to waste my money, thus the Prophet (blessing and peace be upon him) said: "He lied, he knew that I am one of the most pious to Allah and the most careful people to render back their trusts." ¹⁰
- 5- His informing all what Allah commanded him from informing the message, advising Muslims and spreading this great religion for all people to the extent that he was known by this title "the Informer about the Message and renderer of the trusts back". Really, he rendered back the trust entrusted to him and guided us to the straightway, may Allah reward him the best reward got for any Prophet about his nation.
- 6- The Prophet (blessing and peace be upon him) was characterized by honesty

⁹ At-Tabari, *jami’ al-Bayan fi ta’wil al-Qur’an*, 8/491-492, Ibn Kathir, *tafsir al-Qur’an al-‘Azim*, 2/340.

¹⁰ Reported by At-Termidhi and Al-Albani graded it as sound.

and truth so he was known as the honest and trustworthy, the story of the black stone during building the Holy Ka'ba shows that, the Prophet's (blessing and peace be upon him) Companions disputed that who deserves the honor of raising the black stone and putting it in its place, they were about to fight each at other until they agreed that they would take the judgment of the first person who would come into the Sacred Mosque and it was the Prophet (blessing and peace be upon him), when they saw him ,they said: 'We are satisfied by this honest, this is Muhammad', the Prophet (blessing and peace be upon him) said: "Give me a cloak." Then he put the stone by his noble hand on it then he said: "Every clan holds a side of the cloak then all you raise it together." And they did do so until they took it to its place, then the Prophet raised it. Ibn Hisham said: "Quraish named the Prophet "the honest" before the title was revealed by Allah."

- 7- The Prophet's (blessing and peace be upon him) enemies witnessed the Prophet's (blessing and peace be upon him) honesty before his friends and Companions, before Abi Sufian –the leader of Mecca – embraced Islam, he was speaking to Hercules, king of Byzantine, he could not deny the Prophet's (blessing and peace be upon him) honesty, however he was careful to dispraise him, when Hercules asked him about what the Prophet (blessing and peace be upon him) calls for, he answered: "He calls for prayer, truth, abstinence, keeping the promise and rendering back the trusts."
- 8- As for his friends and companions no one of them differs over in his honest for example, what Khadija (may Allah be pleased with her) said during the commencement of the Divine Inspiration: "By God, you render back the trust, treat your relatives kindly, and tell the truth. .." And what Jafer Ibn Abi Talib said to Negus, king of Abyssinia, when he asked him about Islam, he was giving the answer: "Until Allah convoyed a Messenger of us we know his lineage, telling the truth, honesty, and his chastity ..." Especially the Prophet was the model for the honesty, why not when we know that Allah entrusted to him His seal Message and was the best one who rendered back the trust. Allah said: "This day, I have perfected your religion for you, completed My Favor upon you, and have chosen for Islam as your religion." (Chapter of Al-Ma'ida, verse: 3)

The Prophet (blessing and peace be upon him) told his companions examples for trust for those who came before us, this clears that trust is a noble manner, what the Prophet (blessing and peace be upon him) mentioned was for reminding:

1-The Prophet (blessing and peace be upon him) said:

"A man bought a piece of land from another man, and the buyer found an earthenware jar filled with gold in the land. The buyer said to the seller: 'Take your gold, as I have bought only the land from you, but I have not bought the gold from you.' The (former) owner of the land said: 'I have sold you the land with everything in it.' So both of them took their case before a man asked: 'Do you have children?' One of them said: 'I have a boy.' The other said: 'I have a girl.' The man said: 'Marry the girl to the boy and spend the money on both of them and give the rest of it in charity.' "

2- The Prophet (blessing and peace be upon him) said: "A man from Bani Israel asked someone from Bani Israel to give him a loan of one thousand Dinars and the later gave it to him. The debtor went on a voyage (when the time for the payment of the debt became due) but he did not find a boat, so he took a piece of wood and bored it and put 1000 Dinar in it and threw it into the sea. The creditor went out and took the piece of wood to his family to be used as fire-wood. And when he saw the wood, he found his money."

As for our previous predecessors, the trust has taken root in their hearts. With it they were paying homage and were dealing so. There are many examples to demonstrate their trust - we do not have time to mention all of them. ¹¹ Unfortunately, we rarely find a trust person, to the extent that it is said that there is a trust person in any place, this is a sign of the Day of Judgment. Abu Hurira (may Allah be pleased with him) narrated: "The Prophet (blessing and peace be upon him) said if the trust was lost, you would wait the Hour. How? If the matter entrusted to non qualified persons, you would wait the Hour".¹² How a beautiful

¹¹ You can refer to some books, view *al-Istizada*.the next page.

¹² Has already been authenticated and referred to.

thing that the man is honest in his dealing with his Lord, family and with all people, and the Prophet (blessing and peace be upon him) is his model following his manners, O Allah gather us with the group of the trust people , help us to render back the trust , O Allah prepare for this nation trust people who bear the burden of victory, make them the winners, O Allah we ask You to grant us noble manners and make us with the Prophet (blessing and peace be upon him) on the Day of Judgment, O Allah You are The Powerful ... Amen, we ask for Allah`s Forgiveness, and we repent to Him, You are The Ever-Accepting Repentance and the Most Merciful, peace be upon the Messengers and all praises and thanks be to Allah, the Lord of Al-‘Alamin.

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