

Arab Republic of Egypt  
Ministry of Awqaf  
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## **The Greatness of Paths of Goodness in the Message of Prophet Muhammad**

All praise is due to Allah, the Lord of all worlds, Who says in His Ever Glorious Book, **“Believers, bow down, prostrate yourselves, worship your Lord, and do good so that you may succeed.”** I bear witness that there is no god but Allah, and that Muhammad is His Servant and Messenger. May Allah’s Peace and Blessings be upon him, his Household, Companions and upon those who follow their path to the Day of Judgment.

The greatness of the paths of goodness and the variety of its means are among the most important features of the Message of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), since it is a message that came as mercy for humankind. It is a message that takes into account the nature of human beings, their circumstances, and their potentials, and opens up to them the gate of goodness as much wide as possible. In a Qudsi Hadith the Prophet said, “My Lord says, ‘If My slave comes nearer to me for a span, I go nearer to him for a cubit; and if he comes nearer to Me for a cubit, I go nearer to him for the span of outstretched arms; and if he comes to Me walking, I go to him running.’”

The paths of goodness are so many. Some of which are related to ritual deeds as the Prophet (PBUH) said, "When a person performs his *Wudu*' properly and proceeds towards the mosque with the purpose of performing Prayer in congregation, he does not take a step without being raised a degree (in rank) for it and having a sin remitted for it, till he enters the Mosque. When he is performing Prayer, the angels continue to invoke Blessings of Allah on him as long as he is in his place of worship in a state of *Wudu*'. They say: 'O Allah! Have mercy on him! O Allah! Forgive him.' He is deemed to be engaged in Prayer as long as he waits for it." The Prophet (PBUH) also said, "He who goes to the mosque at dawn or dusk (for Prayer), Allah prepares a hospitable abode for him in Paradise, every time when he walks to it or comes back from it." In another Hadith, the Prophet (PBUH) said, "The five daily (prescribed) Prayers, and Friday (Prayer) to the next Friday (prayer), and the fasting of Ramadan to the next Ramadan, is expiation of the sins committed in between them, so long as major sins are avoided." Also, the Prophet (PBUH) said, "Whoever performs Hajj (pilgrimage) and does not have sexual relations (with his wife), nor commits sins, nor disputes unjustly (during Hajj), then he returns from Hajj as pure and free from sins as on the day on which his mother gave birth to him."

Among the most important and greatest paths of goodness are those acts whose benefit extends to reach the society, such as charity, relieving those in calamities, supporting the distressed people, and prevention of

harm. The Prophet (PBUH) said, "He who gives in charity the value of a date which he legally earned -and Allah accepts only that which is pure- Allah accepts it with His Right Hand and fosters it for him, as one of you fosters his mare, until it becomes like a mountain." The Prophet (PBUH) also said, "The doors to goodness are plenty, including glorification of Allah, praising Him, saying "Allah is Great" - "there is no god deserving to be worshipped but Allah", enjoining good, forbidding evil, removing harm from the road, conveying the message to deaf, guiding the blind, helping people with their needs, exerting your utmost with those in dire need, and giving aid to the weak as much as you can; all of these are acts of charity for yourself." Our Prophet (PBUH) said, "Removing something harmful from the road is charity (sadaqa)." In another Hadith, the Prophet (PBUH) said, "You should restrain yourself from doing wrong to people, because it (serves as) charity which you bestow upon yourself." All this proves that paths of goodness are plenty and numerous, which is a sign of the Mercy of the Almighty Allah with His servants

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All praise is due to Allah, Lord of the Worlds; may Allah's Peace and Blessings be upon Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), his companions and followers:

Among the paths of goodness is feeding the poor. This is a trait of true believers who pursue to reach Paradise. The Almighty Allah said about them, **“They give food to the poor, the orphan, and the captive, though they love it themselves.”** Our Prophet (PBUH) said, “O people, exchange greetings of peace (i.e., say: *As-Salamu 'Alaikum* to one another), feed people, strengthen the ties of kinship, and be in prayer when others are asleep, you will enter Paradise in peace.”

This feeding may be more rewarding than performing ritual acts, whose benefit is restricted to the performer, especially in times of crises that require solidarity, compassion, cooperation and mutual help and assistance. Al-Hasan al-Basri said, “To walk for fulfilling the need of you Muslim brother is better than performing frequent Pilgrimages.” A poet said:

Fulfill others' needs as much as you can,  
and also relieve the distressed man.

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The best of one's days is that on which

he fulfills other person's wish.

However, we affirm that the message of Prophet Muhammad took into account the conditions of all people, and opened for them the doors of goodness so wide, each according to his capacity and potentials. The basic principle here is being truthful with Allah and having sincerity in the work.

We ask Allah to save our country Egypt, and all other countries of the world!