

Arab Republic of Egypt

Ministry of Awqaf

*Safar 20, 1443 A.H./ September 16, 2022 C.E*

## **Rights of Close Relatives in the Qur'an and Sunnah**

All praise is due to Allah, the Lord of all worlds, Who says in His Ever Glorious Book, "Be mindful of Allah, in whose Name you make requests of one another, and beware of severing the ties of kinship: Allah is always watching over you." 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.

When reviewing the Glorious Qur'an and the Sunnah, one realizes that keeping good relationship with relatives is one of the most important duties, and the most emphatic acts of worship. The Almighty Allah said, **"Worship Allah; join nothing with Him. Be good to your parents, to relatives, to orphans, to the needy."** Also, Allah (Most High) said, "If other relatives, orphans, or needy people are present at the distribution [of inheritance], give them something too, and speak kindly to them." In another verse, Allah said, **"Remember when We took a pledge from the Children of Israel: 'Worship none but Allah; be good to your parents and kin, to orphans and the poor; speak good words to all people.'" The**

Prophet (PBUH) said, “He who believes in Allah and the Last Day, let him maintain good relation with kin.”

The word kinship in Arabic is derived from the root *Ra hi ma* which is a root for the Beautiful Name of Allah “Al-Rahman” (the Most Beneficent.” This is why Allah promised great reward for those who maintain good relation with their relatives. The Prophet (PBUH) said, “Allah created all the creatures and when He finished that, *Ar-Rahim* (kinship) said: ‘(O Allah) at this place I seek refuge with You against severing my ties.’ Allah said: ‘Are you satisfied with that I treat with kindness those who treat you with kindness and sever ties with those who sever ties with you?’ It said: ‘I am satisfied.’ Allah said: ‘Then you have that.’”

Kinship will testify on the Day of Resurrection for those who kept good relationship with their relatives, and will testify against those who severed the ties of kinship with their relatives. The Prophet (PBUH) said, “Kinship will come on the Day of Judgement either testifying for the one who used to maintain connections his relatives, or against the one who used to cut off relation with his relatives.”

Maintaining good relationship with one’s relatives has great virtues in this life and the Afterlife. The Prophet (PBUH) said, “Whoever loves that he be granted more wealth and that his age is extended should deal with

kindness with his near relatives." The Prophet (PBUH) also said, "Keeping good relation with relatives, having good manners, and being good with neighbours brings blessing in one's home and increases one's age." The Prophet (PBUH) also said, "O people, extend greetings, keep relations with your kin, provide food (to people) and pray at night when people are asleep, so that you will enter Paradise in peace." Once a man asked the Prophet (PBUH) saying, "O Messenger of Allah! Inform me of a deed which will make me enter Paradise." The Prophet (PBUH) said, "You should worship Allah and join none in worship with Him; You should offer prayers perfectly, give obligatory charity (Zakat), and keep good relationships with your relatives."

The Glorious Qur'an and the Prophet's Sunnah emphasized the rights of relatives as the Almighty Allah said, "**Give to close relatives their due rights.**" Also, Allah said, "**Allah commands justice, doing good, and generosity towards relatives.**" Thus, spending on the needy from among one's close relatives is a very emphasized duty and its reward is multiplied as the Prophet (PBUH) said, "Giving charity to a poor person is charity, and (giving it) to a relative is two things: charity and upholding the ties of kinship."

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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:

The Glorious Qur'an and the Sunnah of the Prophet have shown the virtue of having a good relation with close relatives, and warned against severing ties of kinship. The Almighty Allah said, **“If you turn away now, could it be that you will go on to spread corruption all over the land and break your ties of kinship? These are the ones Allah has rejected, making their ears deaf and their eyes blind.”** Also, Allah (Most High) said, “And those who violate Allah's covenant after it has been affirmed, break whatever [ties] that Allah has ordered to be maintained, and spread corruption in the land – it is they who will be condemned and will have the worst abode.”

To show the punishment for severing ties with close relatives, our Prophet (PBUH) said, “There is no wrong action more likely to bring punishment in this world in addition to what is stored up in the Next World than oppression and severing ties of kinship.”

Thus, how much we need to deepen human ties through maintaining good relations with close relatives, as this indicates one's full faith, pleases Allah, and leads to the stability of societies and the advancement of homelands.

We ask the Almighty Allah to unite us, and protect our country  
Egypt!