

رَسُولُ اللَّهِ

LOWER
YOUR
WING

Neighbor





In the Name of Allah,
The Compassionate, The Merciful



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YOUR
WING

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صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ
صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ



Birds, soaring and diving, must end their flight slowly. Landing and lowering their wings is harder than taking off and stretching their wings.

Like a bird coming down from sky to earth that slows its wing beats and lowers them to gently touch land so was the Command of **ALLAH** (Glorified be He) to His Messenger (peace and blessings be upon him) regarding believers:

(And lower your wing to those of the believers who follow you)⁽¹⁾

⁽¹⁾ Translated meanings of Ash-Shu'ara' 26: 215.



Lower your wing
Lay down your pride
Let go of your own life
Adopt patience
Give and care for people
Relieve their burdens
Remove their ignorance
Let not your eyes overlook them
Man or woman, young or old, rich or poor,
strong or weak, enslaved or free
Humble yourself to them, O Muhammad
(peace and blessings be upon him)
And turn the darkness into light



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- *Do you know what the rights of a neighbor are?*
- *If he asks you for help, help him.*
- *If he asks you for a loan, lend to him.*
- *If he becomes poor, give to him.*
- *If he falls ill, visit him.*
- *If he dies, follow his funeral procession.*
- *If good befalls him, congratulate him.*
- *If a calamity afflicts him, console him.*
- *Do not lengthen a building that blocks the wind from him, unless you have his permission.*
- *If you buy fruit, present him with some; if you do not, take it inside secretly, and let not your son come out with it to vex his son with it.*
- *And do not taunt him with the smell of your grill unless you ladle out some of it for him.⁽¹⁾*



⁽¹⁾ 'Abdullah bin 'Amr bin Al-'As, Al-Muttaqi Al-Hindi, Kanz Al-'Ummal fi Sunan Al-Aqwal wa Al-Af'al, Hadith no. 24935.



Faith Begins Next Door

Muslim or non-Muslim, righteous or sinner, friend or foe, kindness to neighbors as urged by the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) and written in the Qur'an is as imperative as kindness towards parents, relatives, and the poor in order to have a prosperous community where feelings are cared for, rights are respected, and people live kindly together under the Religion of Allah.

(Worship Allah and associate nothing with Him, and do good to parents, kinsfolk, orphans, the needy, the near neighbor, the distant neighbor, the companion by your side,





the wayfarer, and those (slaves) whom your right hands possess. Verily, Allah does not like those who are proud and boastful.)⁽¹⁾

‘Abdullah bin ‘Amr (may Allah be pleased with him) had a sheep slaughtered by his family. When he returned home, he asked, “Have you sent a gift (from its meat) to our neighbor, the Jew? Have you sent a gift to our neighbor, the Jew? I heard the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) saying, ‘Jibril (Gabriel) kept on exhorting me about (the rights of) the neighbor so much that I thought he would include him among the heirs!’”⁽²⁾



⁽¹⁾ Translated meanings of An-Nisa’ 4: 36.

⁽²⁾ Mujahid, Sunan At-Tirmidhy, Book of Al-Birr Waslah, Hadith no. 1866.

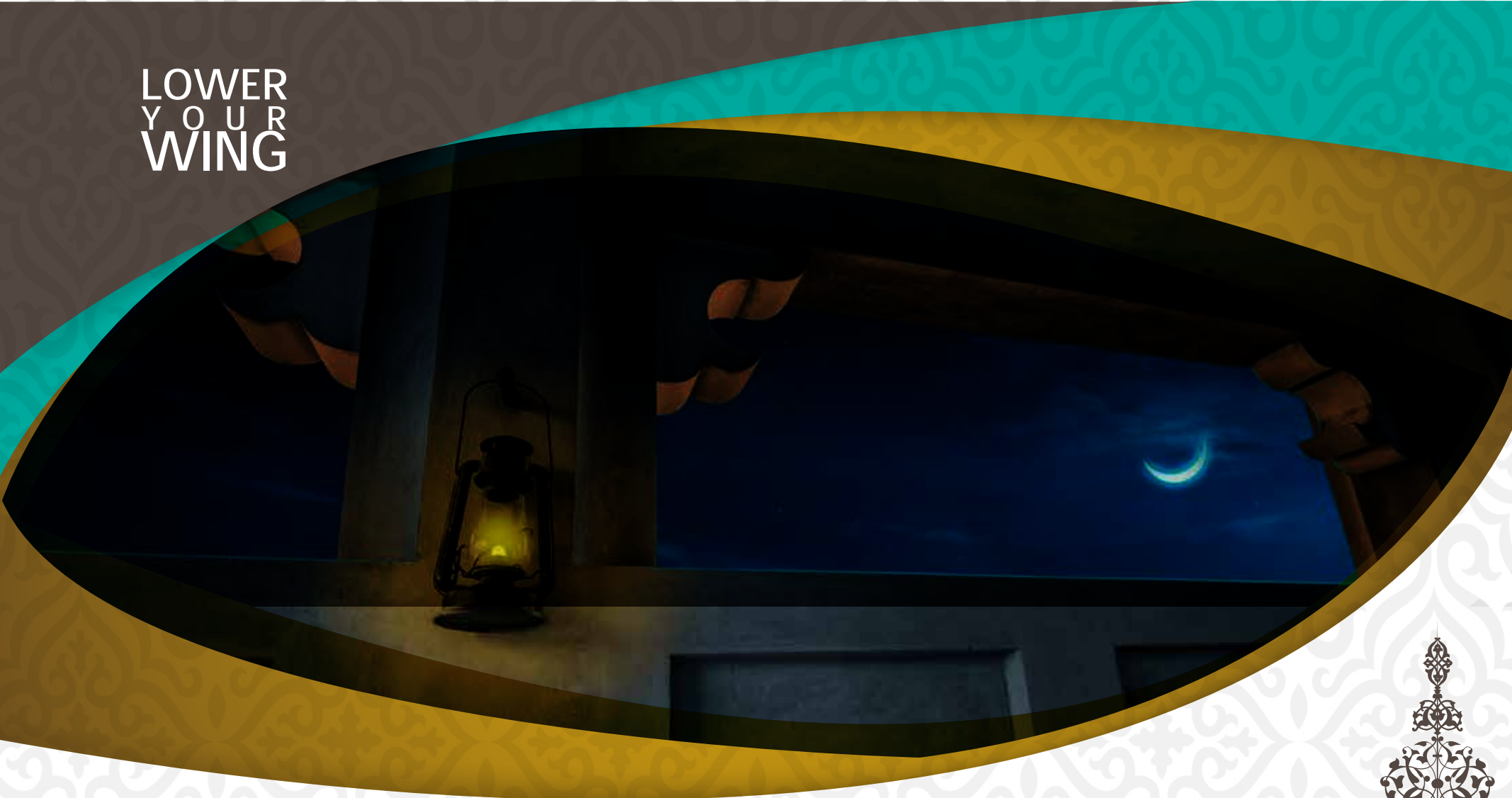


The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) said, “By the One in Whose Hand is my soul, no servant (of Allah) will have faith until he loves for his neighbor (or he said: his brother) what he loves for himself.”⁽¹⁾ And, “Whoever believes in Allah and the Last Day should not harm his neighbor, and whoever believes in Allah and the Last Day should entertain his guest generously, and whoever believes in Allah and the Last Day should speak good (words) or keep silent.”⁽²⁾

Neighborly benevolence is thus integrated by the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) into the body of faith, which, as the Prophet (peace and

(1) Anas bin Malik, *Sahih Muslim*, Book of Iman, Hadith no. 65.

(2) Abu Hurairah, *Sahih Al-Bukhary*, Book of Al-Adab, Hadith no. 5559.



blessings be upon him) preached, must shape conduct and translate into righteous works, especially felt by those living nearby.

Therefore, in the eyes of the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him), neighbors are the unmistakable gauge of man's righteousness. Kulthum Al-Khuza'i narrated that a man came to the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) and asked, "O Messenger of Allah, how can I know when I am doing good that I am doing good, and when I am doing wrong that I am doing wrong?" The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) replied, "When your neighbors say you are doing good, you are doing good. And when they say you are doing wrong, you are doing wrong."⁽¹⁾



⁽¹⁾ Sunan Ibn Majah, Book of Az-Zuhd, Hadith no. 4212.



Neighborly Affection

“When you cook broth,” the Messenger (peace and blessings be upon him) advised Abu Dhar (may Allah be pleased with him), “increase its water, then seek a household among your neighbors and kindly give them some of it.”⁽¹⁾

This is the shortest path to warmth among neighbors. “Give presents to one another, you shall love one another.”⁽²⁾ “O ‘Aishah, if your neighbor’s boy comes to you, put something in his hand; this draws affection.”⁽³⁾

(1) Sahih Muslim, Book of Al-Birr Waslah Waladab, Hadith no. 4759.

(2) Transmitted by ‘Ataa’ bin Abu Muslim Al-Khurasani, Muwatta’ Malik, Book of Al-Jami’ (Miscellany), Hadith no. 1413.

(3) Lady ‘Aishah, Al-Muttaqi Al-Hindi, Kanz Al-‘Ummal fi Sunan Al-Aqwal wa Al-Af’al, Hadith no. 24936.





Such cordial gestures among neighbors should be welcomed, even if they only involve giving the hooves of a sheep. The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) exhorted, saying, **“O Muslim women, a neighbor should not despise any gift from her neighbor, even if it were the hooves of a sheep.”**⁽¹⁾

Harming Neighbors

The negligence or violation of neighbor’s rights is interpreted by the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) as a manifestation of absent faith.

- **“By Allah, he does not believe! By Allah, he does not believe! By Allah, he**



⁽¹⁾ Abu Hurairah, Sahih Al-Bukhary, Book of Al-Hibah (Gifts), Hadith no. 2378.



does not believe!” It was asked, “Who is that, O Messenger of Allah?” He (peace and blessings be upon him) said, “The one whose neighbor is not secure from his mischief.”⁽¹⁾

- “He who goes to bed satisfied while his next-door neighbor is hungry is not a believer.”⁽²⁾

- “Many a neighbor will cling to his neighbor on the Day of Resurrection and say, ‘O Lord, this man shut his door on me and debarred his kindness.’”⁽³⁾



⁽¹⁾ Abu Shuraih, Sahih Al-Bukhary, Book of Al-Adab, Hadith no. 5557.

⁽²⁾ Lady ‘Aishah, Al-Muttaqi Al-Hindi, Kanz Al-‘Ummal, Hadith no. 24929.

⁽³⁾ Ibn ‘Umar: Al-Muttaqi Al-Hindi, Kanz Al-‘Ummal, Hadith no. 24899.



Long hours of worship, Salah, and Sawm will come to nothing if accompanied by abuse of one's neighbors. The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) warned, **“He will not enter Paradise whose neighbor is not secure from his evil.”**⁽¹⁾

The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) was asked,

“O Messenger of Allah, such-and-such a woman is known for much praying, fasting and charity, yet she hurts her neighbors with her (sharp) tongue.” He (peace and blessings be upon him) replied, **“(Her good deeds will be of no avail). She will be in Hellfire.”**



⁽¹⁾ Sahih Muslim, Book of Iman, Hadith no. 66.



He (peace and blessings be upon him) said, “O Messenger of Allah, such-and-such a woman is known for little fasting, charity, and praying, yet she gives pieces of curds in charity and does not hurt her neighbors with her tongue.” He (peace and blessings be upon him) replied, “She will be in Paradise.”⁽¹⁾

‘Abdullah bin Mas‘ud (may Allah be pleased with him) narrated, “I asked the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him), ‘Which sin is the gravest in the Sight of Allah?’ He (peace and blessings be upon him) said, ‘That you set up a rival to Allah although He Alone created you.’ I said, ‘That is indeed grave.’ I



⁽¹⁾ Abu Hurairah, Musnad Ahmad, Book of Al-Mukthrin, Hadith no. 9298.



asked, ‘Which is next?’ He (peace and blessings be upon him) said, ‘To kill your child lest they should share your food with you.’ I asked, ‘Which is next?’ He (peace and blessings be upon him) said, ‘To commit sexual intercourse with your neighbor’s wife.’”⁽¹⁾



⁽¹⁾ Sahih Al-Bukhary, Book of Tafsir Al-Qur’an, Hadith no. 4117.

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