

AS-SIDQ

(BEING TRUTHFUL)

Definition:

To be truthful is to tell the truth, to behave in a manner that confirms the truth, and to be truthful in our intentions and that, which motivates our actions. In other words, there are three spheres for this noble character:

- Truthfulness in what we say.
- Truthfulness in what we do, and to do our work to the best of our ability.
- True pure intentions that motivates our behavior.

We will discuss **As-Sidq** emphasizing the following concepts:

- Our character and behavior must confirm our words.
- If we are truthful this character will guide us to Paradise.
- Truthfulness will help deliver us out of difficulties.
- Muslims are truthful in buying and selling and do not cheat others.
- The reward of truth is Paradise.
- The promise of Allah is always true.
- The benefits of being truthful.

CONFIRM WITH CHARACTER AND DEEDS

It is not enough to be truthful in words only; we must confirm the truth by the way we behave and in our character. The Qur'an emphasizes

that those who are truthful do confirm their belief by striving in the cause of Allah with their possessions and their persons.

﴿ إِنَّمَا الْمُؤْمِنُونَ الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا بِاللّٰهِ وَرَسُولِهِ ثُمَّ لَمْ يَرْتَابُوا وَجَنَّهْدُوا بِأَمْوَالِهِمْ وَأَنْفُسِهِمْ فِي سَبِيلِ اللّٰهِ أُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الصّٰدِقُونَ ﴾ [الحجرات: ١٥]

"Only those are Believers who have believed in Allah and His Messenger, and have never since doubted, but have striven with their belongings and their persons in the Cause of Allah: such are the sincere ones" (Al-Hujerat 49 : 15)

This Qur'anic verse describes several characteristics for the believers and those who can be considered as truthful:

- They believe in Allah, implying that they obey His orders and live their life as He has told them.
- They believe in Allah's Messenger (PBUH), meaning they obey his orders and follow his example as a true servant of Allah.
- They have no doubt or hesitation in what they do, but embark on their activities with full conviction and firm resolve.
- They strive and confirm their belief by Jihad, both with their possessions and their persons. This means that they spend their money, effort, energy and knowledge in the cause of Allah to help others and to defend the truth..

It is when we are patient in all types of adversity, and when we are true to our promises and confirm our belief in Allah by spending in His cause that we are then considered righteous and truthful.

﴿ وَأَقَامَ الصَّلَاةَ وَءَاتَى الزَّكَاةَ وَالْمُؤْفُونَ بِعَهْدِهِمْ إِذَا عَاهَدُوا وَالصَّابِرِينَ فِي الْبَأْسَاءِ وَالصَّرَآءِ وَحِينَ الْبَأْسِ أُولَٰئِكَ الَّذِينَ صَدَقُوا وَأُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الْمُتَّقُونَ ﴾ [البقرة: ١٧٧]

"to be steadfast in prayer, and practise regular charity, to fulfil the contracts which ye have made; and to be firm and patient, in pain (or suffering) and adversity, and throughout all periods of panic. Such are the people of truth, the God-fearing" (Al-Baqara 2 : 177)

These two characteristic, truthfulness and righteousness go hand in

hand; we cannot be righteous unless we are truthful not only with Allah and ourselves but we must also treat others well.

﴿يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَكُونُوا مَعَ الصَّادِقِينَ﴾ [التوبة: ١١٩]

"O ye who believe! Fear Allah and be with those who are true (in word and deed)" (At-Tawba 9 : 119)

TRUTHFULNESS GUIDES TO PARADISE

When we are truthful and righteous, we gain Allah's pleasure and He will guide our efforts. Our behavior and God's grace will lead us to Paradise; conversely, lying will only make us more wicked and evil and bring about Allah's displeasure. This in turn will lead us to Hell.

Abdullah Bin Masoud (May Allah be pleased with him) related that the Prophet (PBUH) said,

"Indeed truthfulness guides and leads to righteousness, and righteousness guides to Paradise. A man keeps on telling the truth until he is known as a truthful person. Lying indeed leads to wickedness, and wickedness leads to Hell Fire. A person keeps on lying until he is considered a liar."

Narrated by Bokhari and Muslim

The Qur'an explains that Paradise is indeed the reward of those who are true and righteous for Allah is well aware of our deeds and He accepts our sincere efforts and gives us the best reward.

﴿قُلْ أُو۟نَتِّقُكُمْ بِخَيْرٍ مِّنْ ذٰلِكُمْ ۖ لِلَّذِينَ اتَّقَوْا عِندَ رَبِّهِمْ جَنَّٰتٌ تَجْرٰى مِنْ تَحْتِهَا ٱلْأَنْهَارُ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا وَأَزْوَاجٌ مُّطَهَّرَةٌ وَرِضْوَانٌ مِّنَ ٱللَّهِ ۗ وَٱللَّهُ بِٱلْعِبَادِ ۙ ؕ﴾ [آل

عمران: ١٥]

"Say: Shall I give you glad tidings of things far better than those? For the righteous are Gardens in nearness to their Lord, with rivers flowing beneath; therein is their eternal home; with Companions pure (and holy) and the good pleasure of Allah. For in Allah's sight are (all) His servants," (Al-Imran 3 : 15)

﴿الَّذِينَ يَقُولُونَ رَبَّنَا إِنَّنَا ءَامِنَا فَاغْفِرْ لَنَا ذُنُوبَنَا وَقِنَا عَذَابَ النَّارِ﴾

[آل عمران: ١٦]

"(Namely), those who say; "Our Lord! we have indeed believed: forgive us, then, our sins, and save us from the agony of the Fire;"

(Al-Imran 3 : 16)

﴿الصَّابِرِينَ وَالصَّادِقِينَ وَالْقَانِتِينَ وَالْمُنْفِقِينَ وَالْمُسْتَغْفِرِينَ بِالْأَسْحَارِ﴾

[آل عمران: ١٧]

"Those who show patience, firmness and self-control; who are true (in word and deed); who worship devoutly; who spend (in the way of Allah); and who pray for forgiveness in the early hours of the morning" (Al-Imran 3 : 17)

Allah's great reward is reserved for the following people who confirmed their belief as described in this verse:

- Those who patiently persevere.
- Those who are truthful.
- Those who are devoted and sincere.
- Those who share with others what Allah has provided for them.
- Those who seek Allah's forgiveness realizing their mistakes and shortcomings.

The reward for those who are truthful is great, Allah will remit their sins and they will be rewarded according to the best of their deeds.

﴿وَالَّذِي جَاءَ بِالصِّدْقِ وَصَدَّقَ بِهِ ۖ أُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الْمُتَّقُونَ﴾ [الزمر: ٣٣]

"And he who brings the Truth and he who confirms (and supports) it, such are the men who do right" (Az-Zumar 39 : 33)

﴿هُم مَّا يَشَاءُونَ عِنْدَ رَبِّهِمْ ۚ ذَٰلِكَ جَزَاءُ الْمُحْسِنِينَ﴾ [الزمر: ٣٤]

"They shall have all that they wish for, in the presence of their Lord: such is the reward of those who do good:" (Az-Zumar 39:34)

﴿لِيُكَفِّرَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمْ أَسْوَأَ الَّذِي عَمِلُوا وَيَجْزِيَهُمْ أَجْرَهُمْ بِأَحْسَنِ الَّذِي كَانُوا يَعْمَلُونَ﴾ [الزمر: ٣٥]

"So that Allah will turn off from them (even) the worst in their deeds and give them their reward according to the best of what they have done" (Az-Zumar 39 : 35)

A similar verse that illustrates the reward of those who speak the truth, fear Allah, and obey Allah and His messenger is,

﴿يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَقُولُوا قَوْلًا سَدِيدًا﴾ [الأحزاب: ٧٠]

"O ye who believe! fear Allah, and (always) say a word directed to the Right:" (Al-Ahzab 33 : 70)

﴿يُضِلِّحْ لَكُمْ أَعْمَالَكُمْ وَيَغْفِرْ لَكُمْ ذُنُوبَكُمْ ۗ وَمَنْ يُطِيعِ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ فَقَدْ فَازَ فَوْزًا عَظِيمًا﴾ [الأحزاب: ٧١]

"That He may make your conduct whole and sound and forgive you your sins: he that obeys Allah and His Messenger, has already attained the highest Achievement" (Al-Ahzab 33 : 71)

TRUTHFULNESS GETS US OUT OF TROUBLE

Ibn Omar (May Allah be pleased with him) related that the Messenger of Allah (PBUH) related the story of the three men who went into a cave seeking shelter from the rain, but the cave closed on them. They said to each other, *"Nothing will save us except the truth. Let every one relate an incident in which he was truthful."*

One of them related that he was honest and truthful with someone working for him. The other man left some rice with him. He planted the rice and bought cows from the proceeds. When the laborer came asking for his earnings he gave him the cows and not the rice. That person relating the story prayed, *"O Allah if You know that I did this fearful of*

you, then come to our aid." The rock that was closing the opening to the cave moved a little.

The second man related how he took care of his elderly parents and that he would bring them milk to drink. One night he was late and his parents went to sleep. He did not want to awaken them. He stood until dawn when they awoke. He prayed, *"O Allah if You know that I did this because of You, then remove our distress."* The rock moved until they were able to see the light of the sky.

The third person related how he brought a sum of money to his cousin at her request and was about to seduce her but she asked him to fear Allah and wait until they were married. He feared Allah and did not commit sin. He prayed, *"O Allah if You know that I did that fearful of you, then remove our distress."* Allah removed their distress and they were able to get out of the cave safely.

Narrated by Bokhari and Muslim

We learn from this story the following:

- Nothing will save us except the truth.
- Whatever we do, we must be honest, sincere and truthful with Allah, for we cannot hide our motives from Him. He knows the inner most secret of our hearts.
- The first story gives a good example of truthfulness and keeping our trusts not cheating others.
- The second story shows our obligation to our parents especially in their old age when they are vulnerable and in need of our help.
- The third story illustrates our obligation of safeguarding our chastity and not taking advantage of others when they are vulnerable and in a weakened position.

TRUTHFULNESS IN OUR DEALINGS

Nothing reveals the true nature of people faster than buying, selling and financial transactions. It is in this process of dealing with others that our true character becomes apparent; are we honest and truthful and do we fear Allah? or are we looking for a quick gain and have no problem lying and cheating others?

Hakeem Bin Hizam (May Allah be pleased with him) related that the Messenger of Allah (PBUH) said,

“The buyer and the seller have a free choice until they agree and separate. If they are truthful and honest in what they concluded and did not hide anything, then their commerce will be blessed for both of them; but if they lied and hid something in their agreement, then they will lose any blessing in their transaction.”

Narrated by Bokhari and Muslim

We learn from this Hadith:

- We should disclose all relevant information that may influence the decision of another person to buy or sell in the same way that we too would like to know these relevant facts if we were to buy or sell something.
- Lying or cheating will deprive us of Allah’s blessings. Any temporary gain will be lost.
- If we are honest and truthful, we gain Allah’s pleasure and our affair will be blessed and successful.

The Prophet (PBUH) further explained the obligation of Muslims to divulge any defect that they are aware of in anything that they are selling. This way the buyer will make an informed decision and is not cheated.

“It is not allowed for a Muslim selling something that has a defect in it, unless he informs others about that defect.”

Narrated by Bokhari

The punishment of those who cheat others and lie in order to sell something, is very grave.

Abou Horaira (May Allah be pleased with him) related that the Messenger of Allah (PBUH) said,

“Three people Allah will not look at on the Day of Judgment and will not purify, and they will have a grave chastisement; A man who had water but prevented a passer by from drinking; a man who gave the pledge to his leader only for material gain, he is happy if the leader gives him, but unhappy if the leader does not give him, and a man who was selling in the afternoon and claimed that others gave him so much for his merchandise taking Allah as his witness (and was lying) and another man believed him.” Then the Prophet (PBUH) recited the Qur’anic verse,

﴿ إِنَّ الَّذِينَ يَشْتَرُونَ بِعَهْدِ اللَّهِ وَأَيْمَانِهِمْ ثَمَنًا قَلِيلًا أُولَٰئِكَ لَا خَلْقَ لَهُمْ فِي الْآخِرَةِ وَلَا يُكَلِّمُهُمُ اللَّهُ وَلَا يَنْظُرُ إِلَيْهِمْ يَوْمَ الْقِيَمَةِ وَلَا يُزَكِّيهِمْ وَلَهُمْ عَذَابٌ أَلِيمٌ ﴾

[آل عمران: ٧٧]

"As for those who sell the faith they owe to Allah and their own plighted word for a small price, they shall have no portion in the Hereafter: nor will Allah (Deign to) speak to them or look at them on the Day of Judgment, nor will He cleanse them (of sin): they shall have a grievous Penalty" (Al-Imran 3 : 77)

Narrated by Bokhari

The three examples given in this Hadith are noteworthy:

- A person who deprives others of water; he harms other people by his behavior, for they surely need the water. It is not his water, it was provided to him by Allah, but he behaved in a way that clearly demonstrated his ingratitude to Allah. He was not willing to help those who needed his help.
- The second person gave his pledge but his motive was wrong. All he cared about was the material gain in this life. He was not interested in striving in the cause of Allah. When tested he was not happy and would break his pledge; therefore his action was not accepted or rewarded, on the contrary, he was punished for not fulfilling his promise.
- The third person tried to cheat others by lying and even worse giving them assurances that he was truthful by invoking the name of Allah as his witness. Both are grave sins, lying to others and using Allah's name in vain.

GOD'S PROPHETS WERE TRUTHFUL

Allah promised His Paradise to those who are truthful and righteous. Such a promise is true, Who is to be trusted more than Allah? The Qur'an states,

﴿ أُولَٰئِكَ الَّذِينَ نَتَقَبَّلُ عَنْهُمْ أَحْسَنَ مَا عَمِلُوا وَنَتَجَاوَزُ عَنْ سَيِّئَاتِهِمْ فِي أَصْحَابِ الْجَنَّةِ وَعَدَ الصِّدْقِ الَّذِي كَانُوا يُوعَدُونَ ﴾ [الأحقاف: ١٦]

"Such are they from whom We shall accept the best of their deeds and pass by their ill deeds: (they shall be) among the Companions of the Garden: a promise of truth, which was made to them (in this life)" (Al-Ahqaf 46 : 16)

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) confirmed such a promise that Allah made to those who bear witness that there is no god except Allah; if they are truthful then Allah will not punish them. Anas Bin Malik (May Allah be pleased with him) related that the Prophet (PBUH) said to his companion Moa'dh Bin Jabal who was riding with him:

"No one who bears witness that there is no god except Allah and that Muhammad is His messenger saying that truthful with full conviction in his heart, until Allah forbids Hell fire for him." Moa'dh said, *"Should I not then tell the people to give them the glad tidings?"* The Prophet (PBUH) said, *"No, for they may depend on it."* Moa'dh related this Hadith on his deathbed afraid of concealing such knowledge.

Narrated by Bokhari

BENEFITS OF SIDQ

- It is one way to gain Allah's pleasure and to enter His Paradise.
- Those who are truthful are trusted by others.
- It is a way to salvation, lying will only lead us to ruin.
- The truthful ones are in Heaven with the prophets, the martyrs and the righteous.
- Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) was known as **As-Sadeq** (the truthful one), and as **Al-Ameen** (the one to be trusted), even before he became a messenger of Allah. Allah's Messenger serves as our example of noble character and proper behavior.