

Change 4 Change

Small Change Big Difference

Background

BismiLLAH was Salaatu Was Salaamu ‘alaa RasuliLLAH.

“In Damascus”, Abubakar Sadiq AbdulQadir (a student of the sacred knowledge) writes: "whenever I took a bus home in Rukn al-Deen, I used to see this signpost close to Jisr al-Ra’is street that had a very beautiful phrase inscribed on it. It reads, “Water is life”. You will ‘never’ be able to comprehend this until you have lived in a place like Niger or Mauritania. In one of my experiences as a student of sacred knowledge in Mauritania was a day when there was little or no water in the village where I studied. For three days, some of us had no water to shower with. The little that we had was used for *wudu* (ablution) and to drink. In the third day, the thirst was beyond bearable due to the hot desert weather. We went to different resident houses begging those who had little reserved water to help us quench our thirst and cook food. Later we got water and the whole experience became by-gone.

For many of us living in developed and developing countries, we do not know the importance nor do we appreciate the blessings we have in the water we use excessively every day for *wudu* and other household chores. If you had lived in a place like Mauritania or Niger, you would understand how important water is to our lives".

What is Change 4 Change?

It is because of the kind of experiences Sidi Abubakar describes above that we are calling upon beloved brothers and sisters in faith to a charity project called "Change 4 Change" i.e. small change, big difference. This project requires us to donate £1 A MONTH from the wealth that Allah, the Most High has blessed us with. The donations will be used to carry out projects such as providing a needy community access to clean water supply via water pumps/wells. In your donating £1 A MONTH will not only be quenching the thirst of many people, it will also be a means of *Sadaqah al-Jariya* (continuous charity) for you after your demise from this earth. You can also make the intention of *Esaal al-Thawaab* for a late family member, a friend, a teacher, etc when making the donation.

It is our hope that we can create a network of people donating £1 A MONTH. This is just '*small change*' for many of us, but collectively we can make a big difference. For example, not all of us are capable of having a Well dug in a poor community for the reward to go to their deceased loved one. However, 'Change 4 Change' is giving this unique opportunity so that we can all collectively be part of such a big project, in sha Allah.

It has been decided that the first project we undertake in sha Allah will be in providing a community in a developing country with a source of clean water i.e., in the form of a water pump/well. You may ask, why water and why should you give your hard earned wealth in this cause. There are so many reasons for this. Below are some Prophetic narrations on charity, water and *esaal al-thawaab* that you might find interesting.

In a *Hadeeth* on the authority of Abu Moosa Al-Ash‘ari the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) said: “Giving charity is an obligation upon every Muslim.” He was asked, “O Messenger of Allah, what about the one who does not find something to give?” He said: “Let him work with his hands and give in charity.” He was asked, “What if he still does not find anything to give?” he replied: “Then let him assist those in need and in distress...”

In a hadith by al-Bukhari, Allah's Apostle (peace and blessings be upon him) said, "A prostitute was forgiven by Allah, because, passing by a panting dog near a well and seeing that the dog was about to die of thirst, she took off her shoe, and tying it with her head-cover she drew out some water for it. So, Allah forgave her because of that."

In another narration, Sad Ibn 'Ubaida (Allah be pleased with him) once said to the Messenger of God (Allah's blessings and peace upon him), "My mother's soul departed suddenly and had she been able to speak, she would have given alms. Would it bring benefit to her if I did so on her behalf?" Yes he replied. So he dug a well (for people to take water from) and said, "this is on behalf of Sad's mother."

Know oh brethren that contributing your wealth for this noble cause is rewarding. The Qur'an says about giving out our wealth, "Those who spend their wealth by night and day, in secret and in public, they shall have their reward with their Lord. On them shall be no fear, nor shall they grieve" (Q 2: 274).

Verily, those who give charity, men and women, and lend Allah a goodly loan, it shall be increased manifold and theirs shall be an honourable good reward (Q 57: 18). So help those in distress. It is a rewardable charity. And the reward for this good act of charity will go to you and also to the ones you have made intention of *esaal al-Thawaab* for.

How the Living may help the Dead

Praying for the dead, asking forgiveness for them, and giving charity on their behalf are some of the things God causes the dead in their graves to benefit from and be protected by. There are many hadiths about this, and many fine and virtuous people have witnessed it in their dreams.

A man said: "O messenger of God! My parents have died, is there anything left with which I may be good to them?" And he replied: " There are four things: praying and asking forgiveness for them, carrying out their promises, being good to their friends, and giving proper attention to those kinship bonds which could only have been attended to by them."

And the Prophet said, blessings and peace upon him: "Were it not for the living the dead would have been doomed". In other words, because of the prayers and requests for forgiveness and for mercy which they receive.

And he said, blessings and peace upon him:" My Nation is a nation covered with mercy. Its members enter their graves with sins like unto mountains, and leave their graves having been forgiven because the living have asked forgiveness for the dead."

It is related that the gifts of alms, prayers, and Quranic recitation sent by the living to the dead reach them carried by the angels on plates of light, and adorned with silk handkerchiefs, and they say to them: "This gift is from so—and—so," and in this way they find joy and delight.

A dead man was once seen in a dream and, upon being questioned about his state, said that he had been greeted by an angel who attempted to burn his face with a flame held in his hand. But one of the living said: "God have mercy on so—and—so"—and the flame went out.

So brothers and sisters you can make the intention for £1 A MONTH to be *Esaal al-Thawaab* for a relative and in sha Allah they will continuously reap the rewards as long as people will continue to benefit from our projects.

How can I get involved?

If you would like to take part in this initiative then please email brother Irfan on the following email address:

irfan78692@hotmail.com

All you need to do is donate £1 A MONTH to be part of this group project. Just remember, the return on this investment is huge. We hope to invest your hard earned wealth in projects that will give us the maximum return. For example, the many people that make wudu with the water you helped to supply, in sha Allah you (or the loved one you made intention for *esaal al-Thawaab*) will get the reward for the Salaah & other worship they do with that wudu. Another example, if people use this water to break their fast in sha Allah you will get the reward for their fast also!

So brothers and sisters join our growing network of investors in this 'Change **4** Change' project. Maybe £1 A MONTH means nothing these days but collectively it will help change the lives of communities all over the world, InshaAllah.

And all success is from Allah Glorified and Exalted is He

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