

The Quran and its Message

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Joseph A Islam www.quransmessage.com

سَلَامٌ عَلَيْكُمْ

Salamun Alaikum (Peace be upon you)

STAND UP FOR JUSTICE

Joseph A Islam

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We often forget how important it is to stand for justice and truth, even if it means testifying against ourselves, ones kinsfolk, parents, families, friends and all those that we love and trust as well as those who are in authority.

004.135

“O you who believe! Be custodians of justice, as witnesses to God, **even if it against yourselves, or your parents, or your kin**, and whether it be (against) **rich or poor**: for God can best protect both. Follow **not** the lusts (of your hearts), **less you deviate**, and if ye distort (justice) or decline to do justice, then indeed God is well-acquainted with all that you do”

However, another very powerful verse underscores the Quranic precept of peace and the promotion of justice even with non-Muslims even if it means it puts one at odds against another believer. This point is unfortunately seldom appreciated as many feel that it remains a duty to side with ‘believers’ (or their own kind) even if they are incorrect or commit injustices against those who are not believers.

Let us consult the following verse carefully.

008.072

“Indeed, those who believed and emigrated and strove with their wealth and their lives in the way of God, and those who took them in and helped them: some of these are protecting friends one of another. And those who believed but did not emigrate, you have no duty to protect them till they emigrate. And if they seek help from you in the matter of religion then it is your duty to help (them) **except against a people between whom and you there is a treaty**. And God is Seer of what you do”

The background of the verse is evident for anyone who consults the theme and address of the preceding passages. However, there is a very powerful conclusion to be drawn which has universal

appeal. The verse clearly informs the reader that it remains a duty for believers to assist other believers and remain protecting friends of one another.

However, in this particular case a group of believers are marked as those who remained sedentary and did not leave their homes, nor strove with their wealth given certain circumstances, whilst others did. Their protection in that case was not deemed a duty except for assistance in **matters of religion** (is'tansarukum fi'dini). However, if this assistance **conflicted** with anyone with whom they had a treaty of peace (Note that the treaty of peace was also with many of the People of the Book / Idolaters / Disbelievers etc) and who had never harmed or broken that treaty, **then even that aid for the believers was to be refused.**

This is a powerful example of where the Quran clearly emphasises for the believers, that justice is so fundamentally important that it **even overrides** ones ties with believers.

Yet sadly today, many overlook the injustices carried out by their own families, friends and wider society against those that may not necessarily be tied to them by kinship. This is a travesty indeed in light of the Quran. At times, our lack of stance against our own (in kinship and otherwise) results in many injustices to simply continue unchecked.

Each soul that finds existence on this earthly plane has a purpose.

075.036

"Does man think that he will be left aimless / in vain / uncontrolled (without a purpose) **(Arabic: Suda(n))?**"

Whether we possess the intricate layers of wisdom to better understand our purpose or we do not, the fact remains, that our **relationships** are simply another platform through which we are being trialled and tested.

047.031

"And We shall try you until We make evident those who strive among you and persevere in patience; and We shall test your affairs"

008.028 (part)

"And know that your wealth and your children are but a trial..."

FINAL THOUGHTS

Whether kinship, friend, a revered personality or foe, we as believers are duty-bound to side by what is true and just even if it means we have to testify against ourselves or them.

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