

Maintaining Family Ties from a Distance

*As-Salaam 'Alaykum wa Rahmatullaahi wa Barakaatuh.
Bismillah Walhamdulillah Was Salaatu Was Salaam 'ala Rasulillah*

We intend to remind ourselves of the importance of keeping family ties and how to maintain it, especially for those of us living in the West while our immediate and distance families and relations reside far away in other ends of the world.

This common hadith “Whoever believes in Allah and the Last Day, let him maintain the bonds of kinship” (Bukhari)” always comes to mind as a mild reminder. With these words, we are advised to maintain jealously the family ties. However, distance and other preoccupations make us forget to carryout this meritorious act.

But when we remember the ayat of the Quran that orders the maintenance of family tie, we are quickly alerted strongly to do something positive about it. Allah Ta’ala says “And those who break the covenant of Allah, after its ratification, and severe that which Allah has commanded to be joined (i.e. they sever the bond of kinship and are not good to their relatives) and work mischief in the land, on them is the curse, and for them is the unhappy home (i.e. Hell)” (Ar-Rad 13:25).

The Rosulullah was reported to have said in another hadith that: “Rahim (family ties) is a word derived from Ar-Rahman (The Compassionate One) And Allah says: ‘I shall keep connection with him who maintains you and severe connection with him who severs you.’” (Bukhari).

To overcome the effect of distance, we can deploy out telephone and internet access to the service of maintaining family ties. Tools like WhatsApp, Facebook, WeChat, simple text messenger and a host of other communication tools on our phones and tablets can facilitate good family communication in a most cost-effective way. When we heed this advice, Allah Ta’ala will grant us all mercy and avert from us His curse. Ameen

Subhanakal lahomma wabihamdik. Ash-hado alla-ilaha-illa ant. Astaghfiroka w'atoobo-ilayk.

Glory be to You, Oh Allah, and all praise! I testify that there is no deity but You. I seek Your forgiveness and to You, I do repent.

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