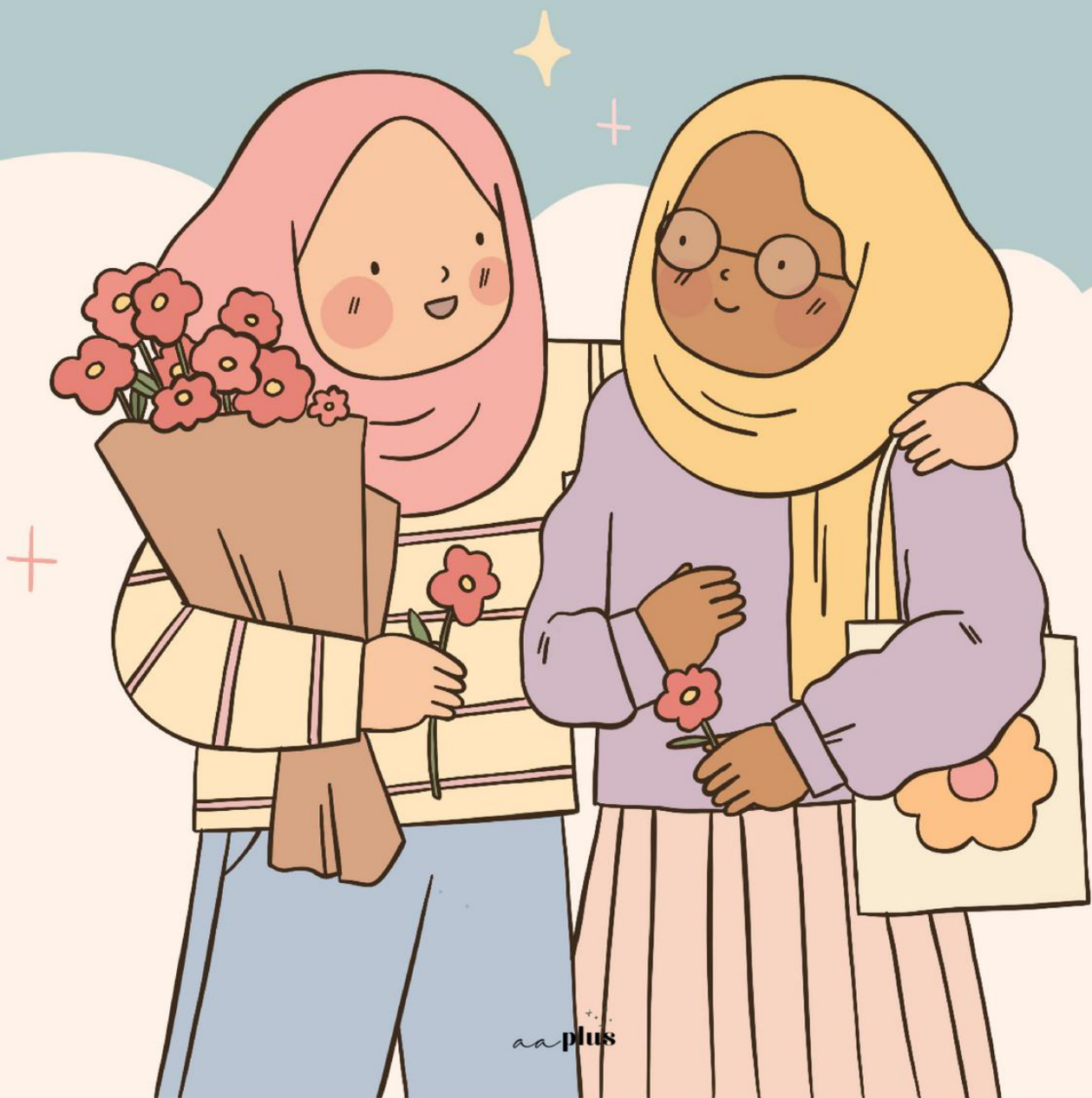


episode 1:

THE GIFT OF GENEROSITY:

How Islam Is A Religion of "We", Not "Me"

with Aida Azlin + Ustazah Alimatunnisa Abdul Ghani





What is Generosity?

- Generosity is a holistic character trait that involves many deeds (Amal) taught by Rasulullah SAW
- It comprises of more than just the surface-level generosity that we're used to understanding.
- When we mention someone is a generous person, we understand that he likes to give not just in terms of money, but he also gives through his energy, time, Du'a, smiles etc.
- We tend to attribute generosity with money. The first thing that comes to mind whenever a generous man is mentioned is someone nicely-dressed, giving out money to people in the streets. But generosity is so much deeper than just giving money.



Generous translated into Arabic is 'Karim'.

How to become more generous?

- To be generous, one has to be selfless and give even if they don't have enough.
- The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said, "Every joint of a person must perform a charity each day that the sun rises: to judge justly between two people is a charity. To help a man with his mount, lifting him onto it or hoisting up his belongings onto it, is a charity. And the good word is a charity. And every step that you take towards the prayer is a charity, and removing a harmful object from the road is a charity."
[Bukhari & Muslim]
- If charity is linked to only giving money to the poor, some Muslims wouldn't be able to do charity.
- Islam makes the art of giving accessible to every single person, whether one has wealth or not. One could definitely do one of the charitable deed in the Hadith above!

Types of generosity

1) To judge justly between two people is a charity

- Islam teaches us to be generous with advice. Whenever we see someone in need of kind guidance, be generous with it.
- Islam is not a religion of only for the Self. If it is, our worship would be confined to just worshipping in a cave.
- Our 5 daily prayers only take up a little amount of the 24 hours that Allah SWT gives us. Even if we include our Sunnah prayers, read Quran and the mornings and evening dhikrs, they would only amount to 30% of our whole day.

We are
24-hrs
believers.
We are
not just
believers
for 5-6
hours.



Giving is a part of worship

- If our Deen tells us that we should be 24-hrs believers, what can we do in the other 70% of our day? The other worship falls in the category when we are serving others.
- For example, a mother serving her family; a daughter serving her parents and siblings etc.
- Giving is part of worship - it has more percentage of worship than the physical worship like Solah.
- We need to be people who are aware of others and be sensitive to them.
- The art of giving advice is to know how to approach others, and what kind of words we can impart to them. This requires wisdom and sensitivity.



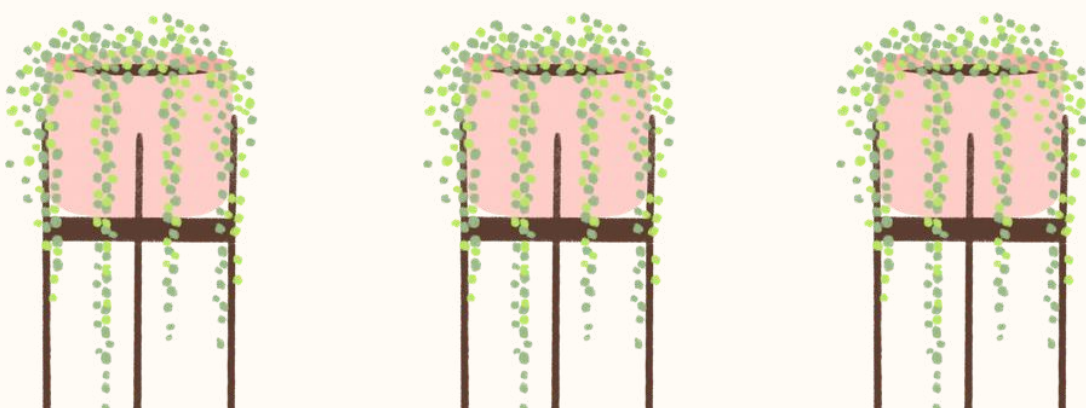
2) To help a man with his mount, lifting him onto it or hoisting up his belongings onto it, is a charity

- In today's context, we can help someone going up the public transport when they struggle with their groceries, for example.
- The Hadith teaches us to be generous with our strength, energy and health.
- Our charity will help bless and purify our wealth. If we give in the form of our energy, it can help bless our health.
- The Fajr Charity - when we have a hajah (a wish), and we want to give charity with the intention that Allah will ease us with it, we can make charity after our Fajr congregation prayers. We should go out to the streets to find those in need because there may be people who are in need of a job or food to eat in the early morning.



One aspect of giving is the energy that we put forth to those that we give.

- Many of the teachers in Damascus organise their halaqahs right after the Fajr prayers in the mosque. There would be people who would come with lots of oven-baked breads to give in charity to the attendees of these halaqahs.
- In Morocco, leftover breads are separated from trash. This is so that hungry animals could have access to these leftover breads.

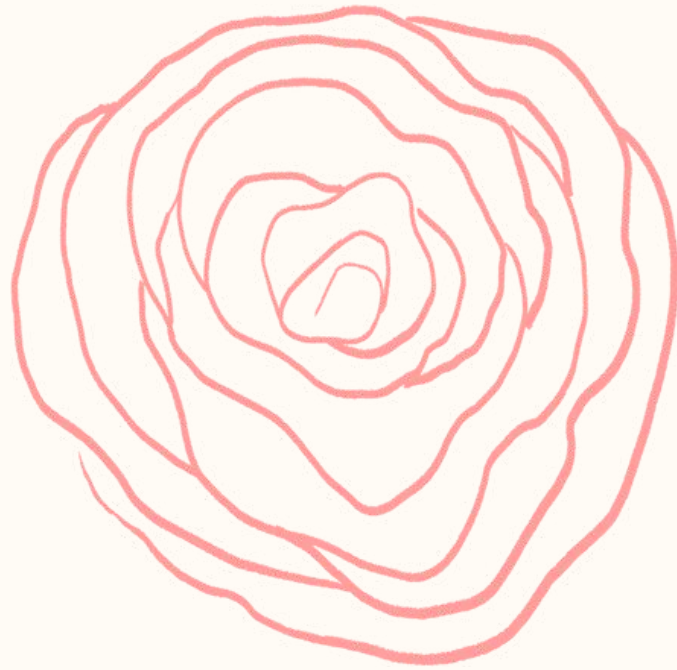




3) Good word is a charity

- We should also offer our good words to our family and friends, not just to our partners.
- In Islam, it is Sunnah to call others by the names that they like.
- We need to be aware of the names that we call people. We don't really know if they are happy with the name that we give them.
- Good words is also words of appreciation for them. Trying to keep the good word even when we are frustrated, annoyed or angry is also a form of charity. This may be difficult and require lots of patience.
- Being generous with our goods words and being generous with our patience in giving good words are considered charity.

Study Break



Timestamp: 20:14

4) And every step that you take towards the prayer is a charity

- Even those who live far away from the mosque can gain the reward of this charity through each and every step they take to go to the mosque.
- Being generous with our efforts that we put into our prayer or into our worship, in general.
- Renewing our wudhu for each prayer is good. It's OK for us to keep our Wudhu for our prayers, especially in winter. But the effort to renew our Wudhu each time is acknowledged and rewarded by Allah SWT.
- So many Ibadah require a lot of effort but we always want to do things without putting in effort.



The more efforts and struggle we put in an Ibadah, the better it is.

4) And every step that you take towards the prayer is a charity

- When we want to perform the sunnah prayers that may not be easy to perform, we would be rewarded.
- We are being generous to ourselves through our acts of Ibadah because the benefit goes back to us. Some benefits of charity include Barakah in our time and increase in our spiritual states. Nothing is wasted in the eyes of Allah SWT.
- When we do nice things for others, they get the benefit from our act but the one that reaps the most benefit is ourselves. This is the ripple effect of goodness.



5) Removing a harmful object from the road is a charity

- Being generous with our care and concern towards others is an act of charity.
- Islam is a religion of us being with others, not a religion of 'Me, Myself and I'.
- We can check in on others, or on those who we have not heard in a while.
- When we think of generosity, we should consider more than just the poor. Widows, women, weak people, orphans are also worthy of our generosity. Furthermore, Islam reiterates taking care of women.
- People with disabilities who may struggle financially are also worthy of our generosity
- We can also offer our companionship to those who need it.



Islam is not a
religion of
'Me, Myself and I'.

What if we don't have money or the strength do charity?

- Expedition of Tabuk - the battle requires travelling so they need as many rides as they could in order to preserve their energy for the battle. Rasulullah SAW made it wajib for the Companions to give whatever they have for the battle. Everybody gave everything they had but Sayyidina 'Ulbah ibn Zayd RA was poor and was sad that he neither had money to give nor strength to participate in the battle. He woke up for Tahajjud at night to confide in Allah.

Listen to the lesson to know what Sayyidina 'Ulbah gave in charity



- The next day when they went to prayer, Rasulullah SAW asked that those who gave in charity the night before to come forward. He announced it three times, and after some time, Sayyidina ‘Ulbah RA confessed to the Prophet SAW what he gave in charity and to this, Rasulullah SAW smiled and said, “Cheer up you! By Him who holds my soul in His hands, verily your alms have been written as zakat received!!” Allah SWT endorsed and accepted his unconventional charity.

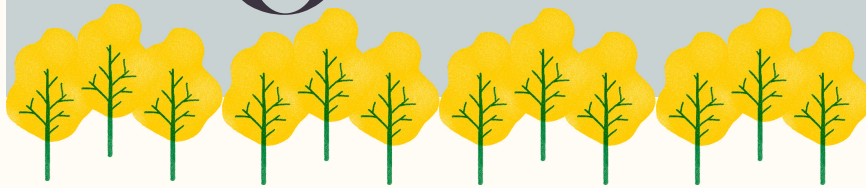


Charity as a solution to our problems

- When the Companions arrived for the Battle of Tabuk, the enemies retreated hence the battle did not even happen.
- But all of the charities that the companions gave for the battle did not go to waste. It could even be that they were saved because of their generosity!
- We don't have to wait for the Day of Judgement to see the reward of our charity because we will definitely see its fruits within our own lives.
- The encouragement of Charity is to keep us steadfast in our religion and in whatever difficulties or struggles that we are going through.



Just give



- If we struggle with our Ibadahs, to the extent of feeling paralysed because we are missing a lot of our Sunnah Ibadahs or even our obligatory Ibadahs, the scholars advised us to start with Charity. Just give Sadaqah and ask Allah to bring us out of the rut or difficulty that we are in.
- The more we give, the more Barakah will be put in the thing that we give. Allah SWT will place the peace and tranquillity in our hearts, time and energy through our Charity In Sha Allah.
- The Barakah from our charity will also seep into our health and it is known to be one of the reasons for longevity.



The more
we give,
the more
Barakah
we invite into
our lives

