

Rights of the way

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27 Safar 1431

12 February 2010

In the name of Allah Most Gracious Most Merciful

All praise and thanks be to Allah, the creator of man and who made available to him all that is on earth. People, do fear Allah, glorify Him, and give thanks to Him for all His mercies. And the greatest of those mercies is the mercy of being guided to this faith. Allah says: {Count not you're becoming Muslims as a favour to me. Nay, but Allah has conferred a favour upon you, that He has guided you to the Faith, if you indeed are true.} 18:17.

Dear brothers in the sight of Allah, Islamic regulations has included all aspects of the individual's life, and organised all that he may come cross from cradle to grave. It is one of Allah's mercies that He made this a comprehensive religion which takes care of each and every aspect of life. It is a faith which builds a nation with a message which remains as a leader and provides guidance, valid for every time and place. A faith of this level does not leave out a general or personal behaviour uncovered. A'eshah (Allah be pleased with her) said: {The messenger ppbu left nothing which may get us closer to Allah which he didn't commanded us with, and left nothing that can bring us away from Allah that he didn't warn us against}. It is unsurprising then that Islamic guidance and regulations go into the organizing of society. It gets involved into each small and great matter, and into aspects of individuals or groups and into all matters. Books written by Islamic scholars into aspects of ethics and morals is charged with wisdom, rulings in a genuine intellect, and deep and thorough look and an outward vision into the understanding of life and human affairs, and the politics of the society with live examples and great implementations right through the fantastic history of the Islamic nation.

One of the topics which show the comprehensiveness of this faith and the clarity of its wisdom and rulings is the etiquette of using roads and streets, and the rights of other road users and the ethics of society. In Islam the road has a personal sanctity. Despite that a road is a public property for every individual to use as they like, yet the individual must care about the feelings and comfort and safety of others. Roads are therefore the common interest and are not for the self interest. Islam denies for a Muslim to cause harm on roads and streets to other users through harassing or annoying them, or causing obstructions, or parking in the wrong place. It is not part of the character of a good slave of Allah to cause harm or discomfort to other people and those whom they interact or deal with. Allah says: **{The (faithful) slaves of the Beneficent are they who walk upon the earth modestly, and when the foolish ones address them answer: Peace}** 25:63. They do not respond to rage with rage. They do not inflict harm or abuse verbally or physically. They do not block the way on others or cause harm on roads. The messenger ppbu said: **{be warned against sitting along the roads}**. They said: “we can not avoid that; we need to sit and chat”. The messenger ppbu said: **{if you have to then give the road its deserved right}**. They said: “What are the rights of the road?” He said: **{curtail your looks, and size to harm, and respond to greeting of peace, and command the good, and deter against evil}**. The messenger ppbu outlining some of the doors leading to good deeds said: **{smiling into the face of your brother has reward for you, and so when you command the good and deter against evil you get rewarded. And when you guide a man in the land of misguidance your get rewarded, and your eye sight to a man with a bad sight will get you rewarded, and clearing the road off a rock, or a thorn or a bone will get you reward. And taking away some water from your bucket into your brother’s bucket has reward for you}**. See how far we are from all that. Instead of clearing the harm off the road; some intentionally block the road for other pedestrians and road users, as if he or she owns the road or the street. Our faith came with a culture and a civilization to improve the life of all people, despite their colour, race or creed. We as Muslims need to elevate our selves up to the level of

the faith, and we must not do our faith injustice through harming people and blocking their roads. And notice that in Islam one of the rights of the roads is not harming people on roads and streets. The word harm is a general and inclusive meaning any form of harm verbal or physical or otherwise. And the word “people” is also inclusive to Muslims and non Muslims.

The messenger ppbu said: **{I saw a man rolling over in paradise for doing nothing deserving except that he removed a tree off the road it used to cause harm to people}**. A man asked the messenger ppbu once to teach him something which will benefit him. The messenger ppbu said: **{eliminate the harm out of the Muslims way}**. And he was also reported saying: **{while a man was walking along on a road, he found a thorny branch on the road. He pushed it a side, and he thanked Allah for that, and Allah gave him forgiveness}**.

If the reward is so great for this who seizes to inflict harm on to others, then what is the punishment for those who intentionally inflict harm on to people on the roads? All sort of harm like intentionally blocking a road, or obstructing it for example by parking a car in the wrong place. Such a behaviour shows levels of selfishness, and bad ethics towards people when Islam clearly deters us against. If parking your car can obstruct movement and travel of others then that is a tremendous harm and aggression committed against the rights of people on the road. You as a person do not have the sole right to using roads. You have the right to use it but you do not own it. All people have rights to use roads. Obstructing a road is an aggression and is a harm directed towards Muslims and non Muslim in the society. The messenger ppbu said: **{A Muslim is a brother to a Muslim. The entirety of a Muslim is forbidden to another Muslim: his blood (meaning life), his money and his honor}**. Allah has forbidden harming and annoying people in their roads, their homes and in dealings with them and at their place of work. The messenger ppbu said: {faith is classified into just over seventy classifications. The best class of faith is saying: “No God but Allah”,

and the least class of faith is taking the harm out of the road. And modesty is one branch of faith}.

Dear brothers, this mosque is established in a commercial area and has a limited number of car parking spaces. There are other parking spaces available free of charge along the sides of the road outside this unit. Each one of us, man or woman should park their cars in a proper place in or out of this commercial location, in such a way that it would not harm anyone else. And do not park in a location assigned to our neighbours who have commercial businesses activities in this area. Islam calls against harming the neighbour, and commands to treat them with kindness and honor. The messenger ppbu said: **{Gabriel kept on recommending and telling me about the neighbour to the point that I thought that the neighbour was about to be included in inheritance}**. The companions used to listen to the prophet's guidance and instructions and hurry to put it into practice and practically implement it into their lives with their neighbours both Muslims and non Muslims. Abdullah Ebn Amr when he slaughtered a lamb, and kept on asking the young man working for him repeatedly: "have you given our Jewish neighbour a present off the lamb? For I heard the messenger of Allah ppbu saying about Gabriel's recommendation..". Dear brothers, a neighbour must not be interfered with, insulted, or kept off doing his/her work, or infringed upon their rights and privacy. What is more important in our area here; is that no one should under any circumstances block the main gate preventing everyone from leaving. Just like what happened last Friday. That did cause a lot of harm and many problems to many people. It also caused us a lot of embarrassment and we were exposed to complaints by the neighbours. Complaints made to the owner of the premises. Brothers in Islam, fear Allah and do not be a reason for the closing down of this mosque, and do not be the cause of preventing good work to continue, intentionally or unintentionally. This sort of terrible behaviour has caused many prayer rooms and mosques to close down in the past in some areas in Dublin and Cork and other cities. Those closures were a result of complaints made by people and especially neighbours due to blocking of roads by badly parked cars on Fridays

during prayers outside the homes and gates of businesses. Dear Muslim brother and sister, let them be careful those who are a reason causing a mosque to be closed, let them be careful in case they would be amongst those about whom Allah says: **{And who has done more aggression than this who prevents the name of Allah of being spoken in the Mosques of Allah, and acts towards its destruction. Those should not go into those mosques except with fear filling them, for shame will be upon them in this life and in the life after they shall have great punishment}**. And if those people causing all this harm, if they just hear what the people they blocked and affected ask Allah (or make Duaa to Allah) to revenge against those who harmed them, then they would really be shocked and worried. Those prayers made by stressed out people who are coming out of a Friday prayer does not go astray. Did you not know that the duaa or prayer made by a victim is surely answered by Allah?

Dear brothers and sisters, harming others is not part of the faith, or the ill treatment of a Muslim to another Muslim, nor ill treatment to a non Muslim, or the ill treatment of a neighbour. The messenger ppbu on his Hajj while travelling from Arafah to Mozdalafah with that large number of Muslims, kept on saying “Calmness, calmness” and kept on pulling the rein of his camel to slow it down so it would not push its way through people. And so not to make things tougher for the rest of Muslims on the march, and them be pushed out of his way, and would not stress them out on their way. He is the best of all the creations. Take example off him. Allah has commanded us to take the messenger ppbu as our example. Give roads and streets their deserved rights according to Islam, give way to others, refrain from putting harm on to others or into the way of others, and do not commit aggression against people and their sanctity, and businesses and work. Allah says: **{And those who harm believing men and believing women undeservedly, they bear the guilt of slander and manifested sin.}** 33:58. The messenger ppbu said: **{This whosoever harms Muslims in their roads, then their curse will be imposed on to him}**.