

Al Hilal



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QUARTERLY AL-HILĀL

A Magazine for children, by children, that provides them with a creative opportunity to learn about the world around them, and how to apply the teachings of Islām and Ahmadiyyat to their daily lives.

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In This Issue

The Blessings of Charity

About Al-Hilal	2	Eshaal Hafeez	73
Editorial	5	Ezzah Chaudhry	96
Verses from Qur'an	6	Fajr Chaudhry	20
Hadith	7	Fareeha Iqbal	93
Excerpt from Huzoor's (aba) Sermon	8	Faria Mahmood	103
		Fariha Tahir	21
		Fatima Janjua	14
Aaiza Feroza Izaz	39	Fatima Salmana Kauser	85
Aateka Maaz Mirza	84	Haania Ahmad Nasir	33/75
Abia Virk	47	Hania Daud Shahid	28
Abrish-ul-Malik	41	Hareem Bilal	77
Adil Mashood Ahmad	69	Hassan Ahmad	52
Afeefa Tak	29	Hassan Qamar Shahid	68
Aimen Ahmad	63	Hazeem Ahmad	70
Aiza Mahmood	56	Humna Tahir	95
Aizah Jamil	25	Inayah Pal	18
Aleena Ahmed	46	Jwayria Ahsan Mangat	59
Ali Ahmad Khan	67	Kaashifa Shakoor	58
Alisha Chaudhry	98	Kinza Malik	90
Alyia Azeem	44	Labeena Ahmad Nasir	57/75
Amna Ahmad	16	Laibah Yousaf Shahid	13
Amna Maqsooda Alvi	94	Lilah Mumtaz	24
Aniya Ahmad	15	Maham Mamoon Malik	11
Anoosheh Mahmood	88	Mahdiyya Olatinwo	22
Asma Athar	81	Mahera Qudus Malik	42
Ayatt Bajwa	50	Manal Ahmad	54
Aylin Ahmad Arain	23	Maya Tahir	92
Azlan Mahmood Ahmed	26	Muhammed Olatinwo	17
Dania Chaudhry	86	Nadia-Din Kamal-Muili	102
Darmana Haider	82	Naila Tak	35
Duha Sabiqah Ahmad	62	Noah Ali	74
Emaan Bajwa	72	Nomana Ahmad	55

In This Issue

The Blessings of Charity

Rameen Tahir	78	Valiyah Ijaz	87
Rbiya Rizwan	45	Yasir Mahmood	40
Rezwana Maaz Mirza	27	Yusra Fahim	53
Rohma Salman	66	Zaid Bashir	38
Sabeeqa Ahmad Jawaid	46	Zanoobia Choudhary	19
Sajeela Ahmad	50	Zareesh Ahmad	65
Samina Hossain	61	Zarish ul Mulk	32
Sanavish Rizwan	60	Zoya Tahir	64
Sanaya Raja	76	Zymal Mansoor Ahmad	80
Sarmad Ahmad	36		
Shafiya Munir	30	<i>This Week with Huzoor</i>	79
Shaina Younas	12	<i>Puzzle Answer Key</i>	104
Shumaila Jawaid	34	<i>Glossary</i>	106
Sofia Rose Islam	10	<i>Books for Kids</i>	107
Sundas Aiman Haq	49		
Tanzeela Ahmed	100		
Tauheed Ahmad Choudhary	83		
Tuba Rizwan	91		

Editor's Note:

The notation (sa) is an abbreviation of the prayer *sallallāhu 'alaihi wa sallam* (peace and blessings of God be upon him), which we say for the Holy Prophet Muhammad (sa). Though the prayer has not been written in full it should nevertheless be understood as being repeated in full in each case.

Similarly, the notation (as) is an abbreviation of the prayer *'alaihis-salam* (peace be upon him) and is used at the mention of the Promised Messiah (as) and all other prophets of God.



Dear Reader, As-Salāmu ‘Alaikum!

I am pleased to introduce this issue on “**The Blessings of Charity**” and am delighted by the many children who chose to write about this important and beautiful topic. It is one of the paradoxes of the teachings of Islam. The more you give the more you receive. As the Holy Qur’an explains, it is the means of attaining righteousness and brings you close to God, (Ch. 3, V. 93), which is the greatest reward.

I am enthralled to read our children’s articles. How well they understand this value! How thoughtfully they have written about the consequences of giving and how they have encouraged friends to embrace the challenge they might face in this spiritual endeavor.

Please join me in learning from our children!

Was-Salam,
Saliha Malik
Chief Editor, Al-Hilal

Editor’s note cont.

The notation (ra) is an abbreviation of the prayer *radiyallahu ‘anhu/’anha/’anhum* (may Allah be pleased with him/her/them) and is used for the companions of the Holy Prophet (sa) and the Promised Messiah (as).

The notation (aba) is an abbreviation of the prayer *ayyadahullahu ta’ala bi-nasrihil-’aziz* (may Allah be his helper) and is used at the mention of the current Khalifa (aba).



Holy Qur'an

مَنْ ذَا الَّذِي يُقْرِضُ اللَّهَ قَرْضًا حَسَنًا فَيُضِعَّهُ لَهُ
وَلَهُ أَجْرٌ كَرِيمٌ ﴿١٢﴾

Who is he that will lend to Allah a goodly loan? So He will increase it manifold for him, and he will have a generous reward. (Ch. 57, V. 12)

مَثَلُ الَّذِينَ يُنْفِقُونَ أَمْوَالَهُمْ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ
كَمَثَلِ حَبَّةٍ أَتَتْ سَنَبَإً سَبْعَ سَنَابِلٍ فِي كُلِّ سَنَابِلٍ مِائَةٌ
حَبَّةٌ وَاللَّهُ يُضِعِفُ لِمَنْ يَشَاءُ وَاللَّهُ وَاسِعٌ عَلِيمٌ

The similitude of those who spend their wealth for the cause of Allah is like the similitude of a grain of corn which grows seven ears, in each ear a hundred grains. And Allah multiplies it further for whomsoever He pleases; and Allah is Bountiful, All-Knowing.
(Ch. 2, V. 262)



Hadith

The Holy Prophet of Islam (sa) said:

بَادِرُوا بِالصَّدَقَةِ فَإِنَّ الْبَلَاءَ لَا يَتَخَطَّاهَا

“Give charity instantly, for it stands in the way of calamity” (Sunan al-Tirmidhi).

ظِلُّ الْمُؤْمِنِ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ صَدَقَتُهُ

“The believer’s shade on the Day of Resurrection will be his charity” (Sunan al-Tirmidhi).

مَا مِنْ مُسْلِمٍ يَغْرِسُ غَرْسًا إِلَّا كَانَ مَا أَكَلَ مِنْهُ لَهُ صَدَقَةٌ وَمَا سُْرِقَ مِنْهُ لَهُ صَدَقَةٌ
وَمَا أَكَلَ السَّبُعُ مِنْهُ فَهُوَ لَهُ صَدَقَةٌ وَمَا أَكَلَتِ الطَّيْرُ فَهُوَ لَهُ صَدَقَةٌ
وَلَا يَزُرُّهُ أَحَدٌ إِلَّا كَانَ لَهُ صَدَقَةٌ .

“If a Muslim plants a tree, then whatever is eaten from it is charity on his part and whatever is stolen is charity from him and whatever is eaten by animals is charity from him, and whatever birds eat from it is charity from him, and whatever is subtracted from it is charity from him” (Sahih Muslim, 2886).



Ways of Seeking Allah— Financial Sacrifice

January 3, 2020

Hazrat Khalifat-ul-Masih V (aba) said, in *The Philosophy of the Teachings of Islam*, the Promised Messiah (as) has mentioned eight means of finding and recognizing God Almighty and strengthening one's faith in Him. These means are also necessary to fulfil the purpose of man's creation. About these means, the Promised Messiah (as) states: "The fifth means of achieving the purpose of life appointed by God Almighty, is striving in His cause; that is to say, we should seek God by spending our wealth in His cause, and by employing all our faculties in furthering His cause, ...; as it is said: 'Strive in His way with your wealth and your lives and with all your faculties; and Whatever We have bestowed upon you of intelligence and knowledge and understanding and art, employ it in Our cause. We surely guide along Our ways those who strive after Us.'"

Then, the Promised Messiah (as) said on one occasion: "It is not possible for you to love wealth as well as to love Allah. You can love only one of them. Fortunate is he who loves Allah. If any of you loves Him and spends his wealth in



His cause, I am certain that his wealth will increase more than that of others, It should be so that every member, every individual of our Community pledges that they shall [regularly] give a certain amount of chanda. Whosoever makes this pledge for the sake of Allah the Exalted, Allah will in turn bless his wealth.”

By the Grace of Allah, there are hundreds of thousands of such sincere members of our community, who strive to increase in financial sacrifices in order to gain the love of Allah the Exalted. To make financial sacrifice is relatively easy for those who have the means, but there are heart-warming tales of those, who are destitute and still go hungry to be able to make contribution to the system of financial contribution of the Jama'at.

Hazrat Khalifat-ul-Masih V (aba) stressed that even a small amount given with sincerity is accepted by Allah the Exalted in such a manner that He returns it manifold and this subsequently, becomes a means for them to gain the nearness of Allah the Exalted and to strengthen their faith in Him. These miraculous ways of getting income from unexpected sources are not mere coincidence. This is how God Almighty treats those who place their trust in Him, so as to strengthen their faith, and it also serves as a proof to the truthfulness of the Promised Messiah (as).

According to a tradition of the Holy Prophet (sa), the people who sacrifice in the way of God Almighty are those who are deemed worthy of envy.



Sprinkles of Sadaqah

Sofia Rose Islam/ Age 8 /Queens

Charity helps here and there,
So people's lives can be happy and fair.
Helping people by giving *Sadaqah*
Is kind and sweet—like a gift from Allah.

Just a sprinkle of *Sadaqah* each day
Can brighten someone's life in a special way.
Like tiny drops of love we share,
Showing others that we care.

When we give, it makes hearts bright,
It turns dark days into light.
It is a special treat inside,
A happy feeling we cannot hide.

In the Holy Qur'an, Allah says
He loves when we give in quiet ways.
He says our charity will grow
Like seeds we plant that overflow.

The Holy Prophet Muhammad (sa) said
To feed the hungry and those with no bread.
He taught us giving is the best way
To earn Allah's love every day.

The Promised Messiah (as) told us too
To help the poor in all we do.
He said true faith is when we care
And always choose to kindly share.

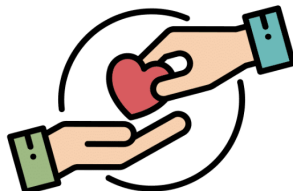


Huzoor reminds us year by year
To give *Sadaqah* with hearts sincere.
He says it brings us blessings and peace
And makes our love for Allah increase.



Allah gives and Allah takes,
He forgives us for our mistakes.
So with sprinkles of *Sadaqah* from our hands,
We follow what Allah commands.

Charity helps both you and me,
It makes our souls feel light and free.
So I will give and always try
To please my Lord who is Most High.



Maham Mamoon Malik/ Age 7/ Albany

I learned that charity is like planting a tiny seed. When we give something for Allah, it grows into a big tree of blessings.

Once, our Holy Prophet Muhammad (sa) saw a hungry man. He told his companions to bring food, and they shared what they had. Everyone gave a little, and it was enough. This teaches me that even small things can become big when we share.

Charity makes the world kinder and happier.



Charity Spreads Love

Shaina Younas/ Age 9/ Long Island

Charity is very important in Islam. It is a way to show our love and sincerity to Allah. When we give to others, we are not losing something, we are gaining blessings. Charity helps build a balanced and caring society where people help each other.



The word *Zakat* means “to cleanse.” When we give a portion of our wealth to people who need it, it purifies the rest of our money. It also cleanses our hearts from greed, selfishness, and loving material things. It teaches us to be kind, generous, and thankful for what we have.

Charity is not only about money. We can give food, clothes, toys, or even a smile. Helping someone carry their bag or sharing your lunch with a friend is also a form of charity. Even saying kind words can make someone’s day better.

One day, I saved some of my pocket money to buy a new toy. But when I heard that a family near our house needed help, I decided to give my money to charity instead. At first, I felt a little sad because I really wanted that toy. But when I saw how happy the family was, my heart felt warm and full of joy. That day, I understood that giving makes us happier than receiving.

Charity brings people together. It spreads love, kindness, and peace in the world. When we help others, Allah rewards us and makes our hearts clean and bright.



Spread Love

Laibah Yousaf Shahid/ Age 8/ Dayton

I think charity means to spread love. When I go to the mosque my mom gives me money that I give for Sadaqah. That makes me feel very happy.

The Holy Prophet Muhammad (sa) taught us the importance of charity and about its blessings when he said, **“Charity does not decrease wealth”** (Muslim).

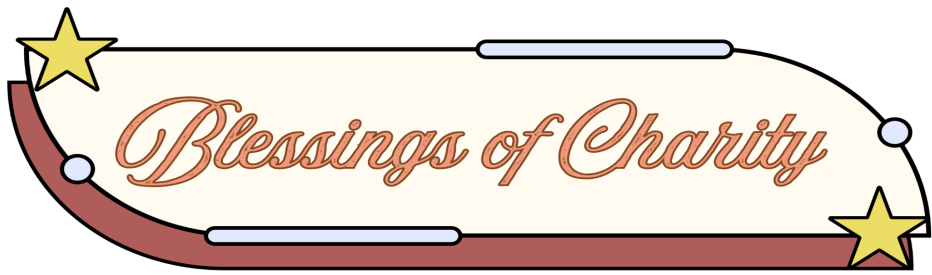
This means that when we give in the way of Allah our wealth does not actually decrease. Instead, Allah increases it by placing His blessings in it. Sometimes He increases money and sometimes He rewards in the form of peace, health and happiness.

Allah says in the Qur'an:

“The similitude of those who spend their wealth for the cause of Allah is like the similitude of a grain of corn which grows seven ears, in each ear a hundred grains. And Allah multiplies it further for whomsoever He pleases” [Ch. 2, V. 262].

Our beloved Khalifa, Mirza Masroor Ahmad (aba), has repeatedly reminded us that, financial sacrifice strengthens our faith and builds a strong relationship with Allah. He teaches that charity is not a burden but an opportunity to gain Allah's blessings. Charity is not only giving money, it is an act of love, kindness and compassion. It removes hardship, protects us from calamities and brings unity in society. When we care for needy people, we create a world filled with love.





Fatima Janjua, Age 11, Virginia North

Allah has given us the five pillars of Islam for guidance: The Kalima, Salat [prayer], Zakat [charity], Fasting, and Hajj [pilgrimage to the Holy Ka'bah]. These pillars help us become better Muslims and better human beings.

In Islam, Zakat plays a very important role because it helps support people who are in need. Islam has two types of charity. Zakat is an obligatory form of charity upon those with wealth exceeding a minimum threshold. *Sadaqah* is voluntary charity, which means we can give it whenever we want for the sake of Allah.

Zakat must be paid when a Muslim man or woman owns a certain amount of wealth that reaches a set limit called *Nisab* [threshold]. If someone has wealth equal to or more than the *Nisab* for one year, they must give a portion of it to help the poor and needy. Even though we give some of our wealth away, Allah promises that He will bless what remains.

Sadaqah is not obligatory. We can give *Sadaqah* at any time and in any amount. It does not always have to be money. Smiling at someone, helping a neighbor, feeding a hungry person, or removing something harmful from the road are also forms of *Sadaqah*. This shows that everyone can earn blessings from Allah, no matter how much money they have.

Zakat removes selfishness and greed from our hearts. It purifies our soul and also purifies the rest of our wealth. It gives us spiritual protection and acts like a shield against the Hellfire. Allah says in the Holy Qur'an:

"As to men that give alms, and the women that give alms, and those who lend to Allah a goodly loan, it will be increased in manifold for them, and theirs will also be an honorable reward" [Ch. 57, V. 19].



This teaches us that when we give for the sake of Allah, He increases it many times and gives us great rewards. Huzoor (aba) once shared an incident from Guinea-Conakry about a woman who listened to his sermon about charity. She did not have much money. Her father had given her 100,000 Guinean francs. She decided to keep half for her household and give the other half for charity. Later, she received three times more than what her father had given her. This shows that charity does not decrease wealth. Instead, Allah blesses those who give sincerely.



The Holy Prophet (sa) explained that when a person gives charity, their wealth doesn't actually decrease. This shows that charity brings blessings not only in money, but also in respect, honor, and closeness to Allah.

In conclusion, Zakat and *Sadaqah* are not just about giving money. They are about gaining the blessings of Allah. When we give charity sincerely, Allah increases our wealth, purifies our hearts, protects us, and rewards us in this life and in the Hereafter.

The Importance of *Sadaqah*

Aniya Ahmad/ Age 10/ Queens

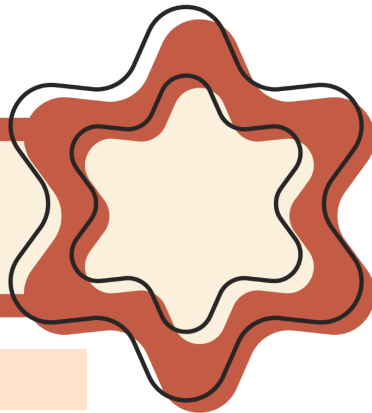
Sadaqah has many benefits. Firstly, it benefits the giver. It helps us wash away our sins and helps us give back to others. While doing so, it's all for the sake of Allah. Allah says in the Qur'an:

"Those who spend their wealth by night and day, secretly and openly, have their reward with their Lord; on them shall come no fear, nor shall they grieve" [Ch. 2, V. 275].

Secondly, *Sadaqah* benefits the receiver. *Sadaqah* provides food for the hungry, water for the thirsty, and support for the vulnerable. Allah has given us many blessings, so in return, as Allah has helped us, we must help other people by giving *Sadaqah*.



The Blessings of Charity



Amna Ahmad/ Age 11/ Virginia North

Did you know charity is a pillar of Islam? Obligatory charity known as Zakat is the third pillar of Islam, which means it is required in Islam (of Muslims who possess wealth above a minimum threshold). However, not all charity is required; *Sadaqah* is a voluntary charity. Both Zakat and *Sadaqah* are ways of earning blessings from Allah.



The article Zakat explains, “Zakat, therefore, is a duty enjoined by God in the interest of the society as a whole. While on one hand these charitable contributions provide for the needs of the society, on the other hand the act of giving in the name of God purifies the heart of the contributor from selfishness and greed” (*Zakat Obligatory Alms with prescribed rate*, p. 3).

Allah mentions in the Holy Qur’an: *“And worship Allah and associate naught with Him, and show kindness to parents, and to kindred, and orphans, and the needy, and to the neighbor that is a kinsman and the neighbor that is a stranger, and the companion by your side, and the wayfarer, and those whom your right hands possess. Surely, Allah loves not the proud and the boastful”* [Ch. 4, V. 37].

Allah is saying that He will honor and bless those who are kind, respectful, and who help their peers financially. This teaching of Allah in the Holy Qur’an truly highlights the blessings of charity.



The Blessings of Charity

Muhammed Olatinwo/ Age 8/ Portland



Sadaqah in Islam is a voluntary act of kindness performed with the sincere intention of pleasing Allah. Charity is not just a social obligation, but a divine blessing that cleanses the soul, multiplies and creates a united and compassionate society.

Spiritual purification and growth: Charity detaches believers from materialism, cures greed, and nurtures gratitude. It acts as a proof of one's faith.

Divine promise of increase: **Charity does not decrease wealth** (*Sahih Muslim*).

Allah says in the Holy Qur'an: *"The similitude of those who spend their wealth for the cause of Allah is like the similitude of a grain of corn which grows seven ears, in each ear a hundred grains. And Allah multiplies it further for whomsoever He pleases; and Allah is Bountiful and All-Knowing"* [Ch. 2, V. 262].

Protection and blessing: Charity wards off calamities, eases hardship and brings Allah's mercy including the acceptance of Prayers. Charity is a comprehensive blessing affecting the giver, receiver, and society. Charity is better to be given in secret rather than showing off. Kindness, smiling and helping others are all forms of charity. Giving charity makes you successful in this world and the Hereafter.



Many Blessings

Inayah Pal/ Age 10/ Virginia North

What is charity? It is helping the needy, providing for others, and showing compassion. Charity toward humanity, in the truest sense of the word, is a cornerstone of Islamic society. It is also a recurring theme throughout the teachings of the Holy Qur'an.



The Holy Qur'an teaches:

"...and spends his money, for love of Him, on kindred and orphans and the needy and the wayfarer and those who ask for charity..." [Ch. 2, V. 178].

There are many blessings in charity. Allah has promised to remove difficulties, grant us nearness to Him, and reward us in the Hereafter. Charity can take many forms, such as giving food, clothes, or other necessities to those in need. Instead of throwing away good things we do not need, we can donate them and earn the blessings of Allah.

Zakat, one of the five pillars of Islam, is obligatory upon those with wealth exceeding a minimum threshold. It involves giving a portion of one's wealth to those in need. Sadaqah is voluntary and includes giving money, food, or even helping others in simple ways. Acts of charity bring happiness both to the giver and the receiver.

Sometimes people focus on what they will gain from charity instead of thinking about helping others. However,



charity must be done sincerely for the sake of Allah. We may not always see rewards for our charity immediately in this world, but Allah knows our intentions, and we will be rewarded in the Hereafter. Those who regularly give *Sadaqah* are promised great rewards.

As Ahmadi Muslims, we should not focus only on worldly desires. Instead, we should strive to fulfill the needs of our families, friends, orphans, and those in need, as taught in the Holy Qur'an.



Zanoobia Choudhary/ Age 10/ Philadelphia

I really love giving *Sadaqah* because Allah loves people who give charity. The Promised Messiah (as) said that the word *Sadaqah* comes from *Sidq*, which means being truthful and sincere. That means when I give *Sadaqah*, I am showing Allah that I really love Him with all my heart (*Friday Sermon February 24th, 2017*).

When my parents give me money, and on Eid when I get money from my relatives and friends, I save some of it. I put part of it in my Tahrik-e-Jadid jar that I got at Jalsa Salana. I also take five dollars from my savings every Friday to give to people who need help.

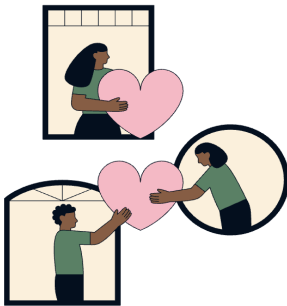


It makes me very happy because I know my *Sadaqah* can help someone. It also makes me feel close to Allah and shows Him that my love for Him is real and true.

Sadaqah

Fajr Chaudhry/ Age 9/ Long Island

In Islam, *Sadaqah* is a voluntary act of charity given for the pleasure of Allah. It includes helping the poor, supporting those in need, and doing good deeds with sincerity. Sadaqah is not limited to money; kind words, sharing knowledge, caring for others, and even a smile are all considered forms of charity. Islam teaches that every good action done with a pure intention can be Sadaqah, making it an easy and meaningful way for Muslims to earn reward.



Sadaqah holds great spiritual value and brings blessings to a person's life. It purifies wealth, increases sustenance, and can protect a person from harm. The Holy Prophet Muhammad (sa) encouraged giving charity regularly, even if it is small. Through *Sadaqah*, Muslims strengthen their faith, develop empathy, and help build a caring and just society.



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Al-Hilal

WHY IS GIVING SADAQAHA SO IMPORTANT?

Fariha Tahir/ Age 13/ Dayton

In Islam, *Sadaqah* refers to a voluntary act of charity performed with the sole purpose of pleasing Allah and without expecting a substitute in return. In Arabic, the word *Sadaqah* literally means 'righteousness' and stems from the root word '*sidq*', which means sincerity; implying that *Sadaqah* is the sincerity of faith and a righteous behavior that leads to a healthy and balanced society.



As Muslims, we are taught from a young age that we have to prepare for the Day of Judgment by doing good deeds. The person who gives hidden charity is one of the seven to be sheltered under Allah's shade on the Day of Judgment. The Holy Prophet (sa) said, **"The believer's shade on the Day of Resurrection will be his charity"** (Tirmidhi).

Every time you give charity which removes someone's discomfort, Allah will reward you for your compassion by removing one of your discomforts in the next life, *In Sha' Allah*.



THE MANY WAYS OF SADAQAH

Mahdiyya Olatinwo/ Age 10/ Portland

Sadaqah means any act of kindness, compassion or generosity performed for the sake of Allah. *Sadaqah* can be monetary or non-monetary. Common forms of non-monetary *Sadaqah* include many kinds of actions and social courtesy. Smiling at others, removing harmful objects from the road, helping



someone with their luggage and guiding a lost person. Sharing knowledge, reciting the Holy Qur'an, or encouraging good while forbidding evil. Volunteering at a shelter and helping an elderly neighbor. Every step taken towards prayer is considered a form of charity.

Monetary and material *Sadaqah* include direct support such as giving cash, food or clothing to the poor, needy relatives or orphans. *Sadaqah al-Fitr* is giving charity at the end of Ramadan. *Sadaqah Jariyah* [perpetual Charity] such as providing access to water, digging a well or providing clean water. Creating infrastructure such as donating to building mosques, schools, hospitals, or shelters. Environment and knowledge projects such as planting trees or spreading knowledge, for example, publishing books.

Sadaqah in Islam encourages giving in open and secret, through wealth and good actions as stated in the Holy Qur'an:

“If you give alms openly, it is well and good; but if you conceal them and give them to the poor, it is better for you, and He will remove from you many of your sins. And Allah is aware of what you do” [Ch. 2, V. 272].



CHARITY IS A BLESSING

Aylin Ahmad Arain/ Age 8/ Virginia South

Allah likes charity because Allah likes those who help people in need. Allah says in the Holy Qur'an:

"The similitude of those who spend their wealth for the cause of Allah is like the similitude of a grain of corn which grows seven ears, in each ear a hundred grains. And Allah multiplies it further for whomsoever He pleases; and Allah is Bountiful, All-Knowing" [Ch. 2, V. 262].

Charity is also called *Sadaqah* in Arabic. When I give charity, it makes me feel like I found a treasure and I am giving it to someone. You can give any amount of money or items such as toys and food. Charity is a blessing because we help people and Allah blesses this act. Our hearts become bigger and purer.

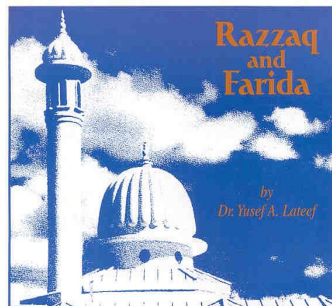


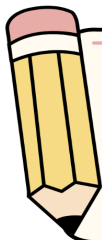
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Attaining Allah's Pleasure Through Charity

Lilah Mumtaz/ Age 13/ Oshkosh

People often think that by giving charity they will lose money or valuable possessions. However, many do not realize the true blessings of giving charity. In reality, while it may seem like you are losing something valuable, you are actually gaining something whose worth is priceless. It is so valuable that nothing else can compare to it. What is this precious treasure? It is Allah's pleasure.



When a person attains Allah's pleasure, they are protected from harm and become inheritors of Paradise. Their hearts are filled with peace. What greater blessing can there be than the pleasure of Allah? This is why it is extremely important to give *Sadaqah*, because it is a means of gaining Allah's eternal pleasure.

Allah the Almighty promises great rewards for those who spend in His way. In the Holy Qur'an, Allah says:



"The similitude of those who spend their wealth in the way of Allah is like the similitude of a grain which grows seven ears, in every ear a hundred grains..." [Ch. 2, V. 262].

This shows that whatever we give for the sake of Allah never decreases. Instead, it multiplies many times over.

A beautiful example of this was mentioned by Khalifat-ul-Masih V (aba) in his Friday Sermon on 9 January 2026. Huzoor (aba) related the story of a lady in Kenya who "emptied her pockets" in order to fulfill her *Waqf-e-Jadid* pledge. However, Allah did not leave her empty-handed. Soon afterward, her



daughter sent her a generous amount for her needs, and her son-in-law gifted her two valuable cows.

This is how Allah blesses those who give in His way and sacrifice their comfort for His sake. When we trust Allah and give sincerely, He opens doors we never expected. He blesses our wealth, our homes, and our hearts.

May Allah grant us the ability to sacrifice our wealth in His way, to give with sincerity, and to gain His nearness and eternal pleasure, *Ameen*.



Aizah Jamil/ Age 6/ Assisted by mother

Fill in the Blank Activity:

Allah _____ those who give out of what they love. We should help the people that are in _____. We should never give _____ to show off. Charity is giving food, _____, and money. The Holy Prophet (sa) said that the best charity is in the month of _____. I received a *Sadaqah* jar from our _____ to fill it with coins. Have you received yours? I have been filling mine and am excited to take it back to the mosque very soon, *In Sha' Allah!*

Word Bank:

loves
need

Charity
water

Ramadan
Mosque

A Sincere Heart

Azlan Mahmood Ahmed/ Age 9/ Fort Worth

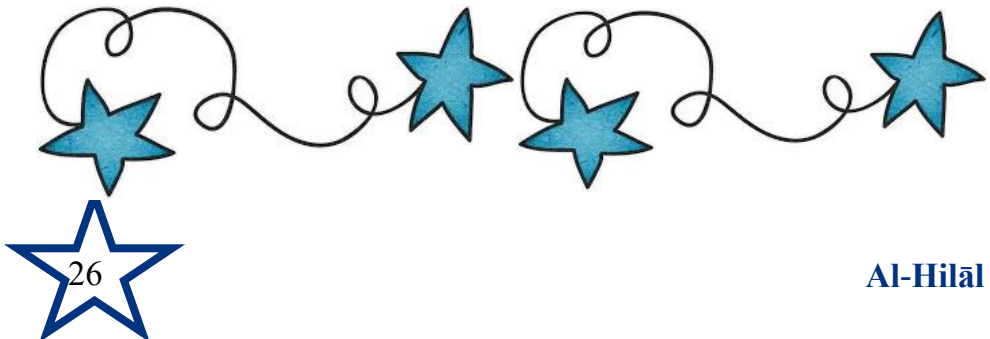
There are so many blessings when you share with someone who doesn't have much. Giving for the sake of Allah is one of the one of the greatest deeds we can do, and it will also bring us great rewards.



Once at the mosque, I donated a big portion of the money I had received for my birthday to Humanity First. It wasn't easy, but I gave with a sincere heart, and not long after Allah blessed me with the toy I had always wanted. That moment reminded me that when you give for Allah, He gives back in ways you don't

expect.

I encourage all my brothers and sisters to have a generous heart and give in charity. You never know. In return, Allah may bless you with something you've been praying for.



Many Blessings

Rezwana Maaz Mirza/ Age 11/ Virginia South



Giving Chanda has many blessings. It can make a major difference in both your financial and spiritual life. Giving Chanda with a pure intention brings many rewards and blessings. It teaches patience, self-discipline, and thankfulness, and it helps us develop

the habit of sacrificing in the way of Allah. When we spend for the sake of Allah, we receive spiritual rewards and feel happiness in helping others.

Khalifat-ul-Masih V (aba) has shared many real-life stories about Ahmadi Muslims around the world who gave Chanda and were blessed by Allah. For example, a woman in Indonesia was working as a teacher and was facing financial difficulties. Even though her situation was difficult, she still paid her Chanda. Soon afterward, she received a higher salary and finally obtained a long-awaited government position.

The Holy Qur'an says:

“Whatever you spend in the way of Allah, He will replace it; and He is the Best of Providers” [Ch. 34, V. 40].

Especially during difficult times, Allah helps and blesses those who give Chanda. Trusting Allah fills our lives with happiness and blessings.



Why is giving Charity Important?

Hania Daud Shahid/ Age 10/ Dayton

Charity in Islam includes Zakat which is obligatory (upon Muslims who possess wealth above a minimum threshold) and Sadaqah which is voluntary. Zakat is the third pillar of Islam and is given by Muslims on their unused wealth.

Giving charity is important because you can help others. Giving charity also helps take away your sins and stop bad habits. It helps you to stop thinking about worldly things and brings you be closer to Allah. It helps you become more kind and caring for others.

The Holy Qur'an says:

“You are the best people created for the good of mankind...” [Ch. 3, V. 111].

Giving Zakat purifies your wealth.

Sadaqah protects you from misfortunes and disasters. If you cannot give charity in money, you can give food and clothes.

Allah promises to reward, multiply and increase the wealth of those who give charity, both in this life and the Hereafter. The Holy Prophet (sa) said, ***“Sadaqah extinguishes sins just as water extinguishes fire”*** (*Sunan Ibn Majah*).

A man came and asked the Holy Prophet (sa), ***“Which giving in charity is more acceptable to God?”*** He answered, ***“That which you give away while you are in good health, seeking wealth, fearing adversity and hoping for prosperity. Do not delay spending in charity till you are in extremity to say: To So and So this, and to So and So that; for by then they***



already belong to So and So (*Bukhari and Muslim*).

You can give Charity on a special day like your birthday or Eid. At my home I have a charity jar where we collect *Sadaqah* money for the needy. We also give clothes or food to needy people. I feel happy and satisfied when I give charity.



Afeefa Tak/ Age 11/ Maryland

Charity is very important in Islam because Allah wants us to care for others. Zakat is an obligation on Muslims (who meet the minimum threshold of wealth above their basic needs). It is one of the five pillars of Islam, which shows how important it is. Through Zakat, Muslims purify their wealth and help people who are in need. This reminds us that our money is not only for ourselves, but also a trust from Allah.



Sadaqah is optional, but it is still very special. By giving *Sadaqah*, Muslims can help reduce suffering and make someone's life easier, even in a small way.



Allah wants us to give charity because it helps us become better people. When we help others, we grow kinder, more thankful, and less attached to money. Islam teaches us not to focus too much on worldly things, but instead to focus on pleasing Allah. Giving charity brings us close to Allah because it shows love, mercy, and care for others.

THE MANY WAYS OF CHARITY

Shafiya Munir/ Age 13/ Virginia North

Giving charity is very important. The Holy Prophet (sa) said, **“Shield yourself against the fire even if it be only with half a date (given in alms)”** (Bukhari). This Hadith signifies that even a small quantity of *Sadaqah* counts and can be a source of blessings and keeping away evil.



But what if you cannot give money or you don't have enough? Well, *Sadaqah* also means helping others, and we can help others every day! For example, we can donate food and clothing or help care for the needy. Giving someone a ride, helping someone, giving useful advice, and consoling a distressed person can also be acts of charity.

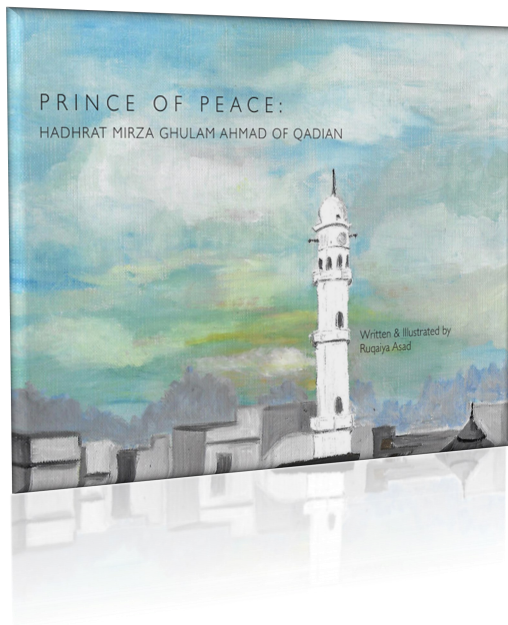
Explaining other forms of charity, the Holy Prophet (sa) said, **“Smiling to your brother is an act of charity, enjoining good and forbidding evil is charity, giving directions to a person who is lost, or to a blind person is charity for you. Removing a rock, a thorn or a bone from the road is charity for you (i.e., remove any rubbish). Pouring what remains from your bucket into the bucket of your brother is charity for you”** (Tirmidhi).

Sadaqah can be big or small. It is whatever you can do or give. It is helping others. Do not think that a small deed is insignificant. We can give *Sadaqah* every day!



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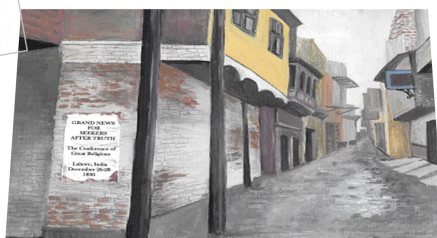
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Zarish ul Mulk/ Age 8/ Virginia South

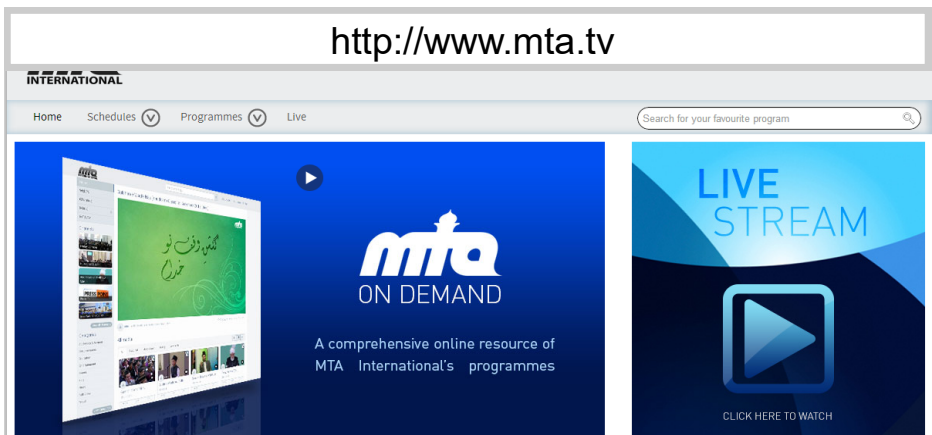
Charity is when you share,
It shows kindness and care.

It's never too late to start,
Doing charity gives you a happy heart.

It also counts when you share food,
Helping others makes you feel good.

When you smile, you shine bright,
It's not hard to do what's right.

Always try to help those in need,
Allah will reward your good deeds.





Haania Ahmad Nasir/ Age 8/ Houston Jama'at

Do you know that smiling is a form of charity? Our Beloved Prophet Muhammad (sa) said, **"Your smiling in the face of your brother is charity"** (Tirmidhi).



Smiling is also a *sunnah*. Smiling can make someone's day brighter. It is very easy to do, so you can perform an act of charity easily and receive the blessings and pleasure of Allah.

Smiling is also like a secret language. For example, if there is someone new in the Masjid, you can smile at them, so they feel welcome. If someone feels stressed, your smile may help them feel a little better.

Sometimes smiling can cause a chain reaction. When you smile, the other person smiles, and then someone else smiles too. I hope we all try to smile every day so we can receive Allah's blessings and make others happy too.



JUST A SMILE

Shumaila Jawaid/ Age 8/ North Jersey



Giving charity or *Sadaqah* can reap great blessings from Allah. There are lots of ways charity can be practiced, but where do we start? Charity begins from home, where even helping your parents and treating them with love and respect can count as *Sadaqah*. Charity also means we should help the needy, the orphans and other people around us. Charity can even be one cent, or a smile.

But how do these acts of charity reward us? In his Friday Sermon of November 26, 2004, The Merits of Almsgiving and Prayer, Huzoor (aba) read excerpts from the writings of the Promised Messiah (as) saying, “***Sadaqah eludes trouble... It is Allah’s intent that one who repents and gives alms is saved.***” So this means that when you give *Sadaqah* or alms, Allah saves you from any trouble that would have happened if you had not given charity. That’s why, we should all strive to give charity in the way of Allah, which can be money, a good deed or even just a smile.



SADAQAH - AN ACT OF FAITH

Naila Tak/ Age 15/ Maryland

Sadaqah is not just charity, it's a way of purifying both your wealth and your heart. Allah is Al-Khaliq [The Creator]. Allah has created matter, time, and life itself. Absolute ownership belongs only to Him. *Sadaqah* is how a believer acknowledges this reality.



Giving away your wealth in the name of Allah weakens greed, fear, and desperation. Generosity is a sign of faith and miserliness is a sign of spiritual sickness. Sin often stems from selfishness, ego desires, and excess attachment. *Sadaqah* attacks the root of these traits.

Living by what God has commanded you to do creates dignity, so you do not feel small and powerless. Giving wealth in His way liberates the hearts of believers, strengthens faith, invites divine help, erases spiritual disease, and turns a believer into a vessel of mercy.



REAL GENEROSITY

Sarmad Ahmad/ Age 14 / Virginia South

Charity has always been at the heart of Islam, and the best examples come from the Holy Prophet (sa) and his companions. Their lives were filled with kindness, sacrifice, and a deep desire to help others, even when they had very little themselves.

These stories aren't just history lessons — they show us what real generosity looks like.



Whether it was giving food, sharing wealth, or supporting someone quietly without expecting praise, they proved that charity is more than money.

It's love, sincerity, and putting others before ourselves. Their actions inspire us to become better, kinder, and more helpful every day.



kinder, and more helpful every day.

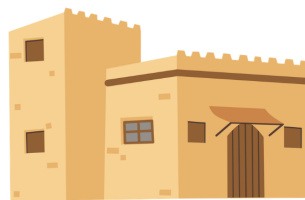
The Holy Prophet (sa) gave to others even when he had barely anything. He never turned beggars away from his door but gave them things to eat and items to sell in order to earn money. Ibn Abbas (ra) said, **“The Holy Prophet (sa) was more generous than the blowing wind”** (Bukhari and Muslim).



The same spirit could be seen in his companions. Once, the Holy Prophet (sa) made an appeal for financial contributions. Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) and Hazrat ‘Umar (ra) both went home to collect funds. While Hazrat ‘Umar (ra) brought a half of everything



he owned, Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) came back with everything he owned. The Holy Prophet (sa) at seeing this was very pleased, and he asked what had he left at home for his family? Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) replied, ‘only the name of Allah and his messenger’. This story shows how selfless and ready we should be to donate money for the sake of Allah.



When the Muslim army was preparing for the expedition of Tabuk, it is said that **Hazrat Uthman ibn Affan (ra) presented so much wealth that the other companions couldn't match it (Tirmidhi).** Some narrations say that Hazrat Uthman (ra) gave 10,000 dinars, 1,000 camels and 70 horses. Due to his huge sacrifice, the Holy Prophet (sa) said, **“Nothing will harm Uthman after today” (Tirmidhi).**



At the time of migration when the Holy Prophet (sa) went to Medina, the Ansar [people who already lived in Medina] didn't just offer their wealth, they even gave their entire homes for the sake of Islam. Can you imagine donating your entire house? This was the level of charity which the companions practiced because of what the Holy Prophet (sa) taught them.

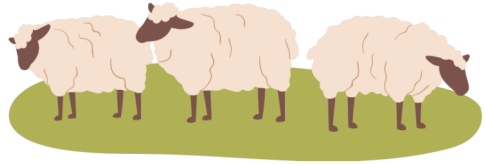
“They give preference to others over themselves, even if they too are in need” [Holy Qur'an, Ch. 59 V. 9].

So, what do these lessons mean for us today? They remind us that every one of us, no matter our age, can make a difference. A kind word, a small donation, helping a friend, volunteering at an event — these are all forms of charity that Allah values. If the companions could change lives with their kindness, then we can start building goodness in our own families, schools, and communities. The real question is: what good will we choose to leave behind, and how will we use our gifts to make the world a little brighter for someone else?

A GENEROUS HEART

Zaid Bashir/ Age 12/ Rochester

The Holy Prophet (sa) was the most generous person. Once, a man asked him for help, and the Holy Prophet (sa) gave him an entire valley full of



sheep. The man was so amazed by his generosity that he returned to his people and told them to accept Islam because Muhammad (sa) gives without fearing poverty. Even when the Holy Prophet (sa) did not have much, he still shared whatever he had. That teaches us that charity is about having a generous heart and trusting Allah.



The Promised Messiah (as) also showed great generosity. Even though he did not always have a lot of money himself, he would still help the poor and guests who came to him. It is written that sometimes he would give away what little he had and trust that Allah would provide. He taught that true faith means loving humanity and serving others for the sake of Allah. So when we give charity, we are not just helping people, we are also coming closer to Allah.

The Khulafa of our Jama‘at have continued this example. The second Khalifa encouraged members to make sacrifices for the sake of their faith, even during difficult times. Today, beloved Huzoor (aba) reminds us in his Friday sermons that financial sacrifice and serving humanity brings Allah’s special blessings.



Under his guidance, the Jama'at helps people all over the world through hospitals, schools, disaster relief, and clean water projects. This shows that charity is not just an individual act, but something that can help entire communities.

The Holy Qur'an says:

"The example of those who spend their wealth in the cause of Allah is that of a grain that sprouts into seven ears, each bearing one hundred grains. And Allah multiplies the reward even more to whoever He wills. For Allah is All-Bountiful, All-Knowing" [Ch. 2, V. 262].

This verse shows that when we give in the way of Allah, He multiplies our reward many times over. Just like one seed grows into many grains, one small act of charity can turn into many blessings. Every small act counts, and Allah sees it all.

GROWING MY CHARACTER THROUGH CHARITY

Aaiza Feroza Izaz/ Age 9/ North Jersey

Do you know why we give charity? Muslims believe in One God, Allah. We pray to Him and we read the Holy Qur'an as well. Those things bring us blessings, but how else do we get blessings? Charity! We thank Allah that He has given us food, water and a home. But when you see people with no food, no water, not even a home, how do you feel?

Allah has blessed us that we are Muslims, and a good Muslim would always help a needy person. We should give them food, water and a sweet home! The Holy Prophet Mohammad (sa) was so kind that every time he saw a needy person he would help them. In the month of Ramadan we get even more blessings for good deeds. May Allah grant us blessings and help us become great Muslims, *Ameen!*



Every Good Deed is Charity

Yasir Mahmood/ Age 12/ SC/ GA

My personal experience with charity is that the more I give, the more Allah blesses me in health and success. As mentioned by the Prophet Muhammad (sa), **“Even a smile is charity.”** Charity is more than donating money, charity is about helping others, being kind to others, and giving while expecting nothing in return.



Charity, including Zakat [obligatory charity upon those with savings] and *Sadaqah* [voluntary charity], is deeply rooted in the Holy Qur'an and Sunnah as a means of aiding the poor and needy. Beyond monetary donations, charity includes acts like smiling, helping someone in distress, and removing harmful things from the road, all of which are considered Sunnah.

By helping others, we help ourselves.



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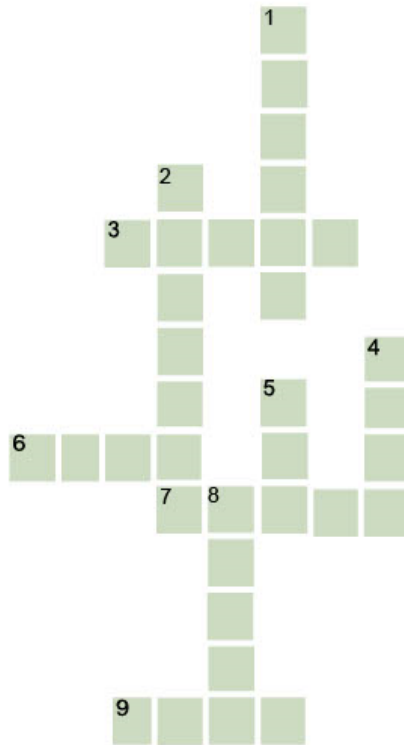
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Crossword Puzzle

Abrish ul Mulk/ Age 10/ Virginia South



Across

3. The One we want to make happy when we do good things, our Creator
6. To let someone else have something you own
7. Letting a friend play with your favorite things.
9. Fun things we can give to other children to play with.

Down

1. The special Arabic word for giving and being kind.
2. Warm coats or shirts we give to people who need them.
4. A very big, warm feeling in your heart for others.
5. A special prayer we say to ask Allah to help someone.
8. How your heart feels after you help a friend.

EVERYONE CAN BE CHARITABLE!

Mahera Qudus Malik/ Age 10 / Virginia North

At some point or another, most of us have probably given some form of charity, but why do we do it? Charity, specifically Zakat, is one of the five pillars of Islam, which makes it a very important part of our faith and one of its foundations. Allah places great emphasis on charity because it shows our love for Him and our care for others. In the Holy Qur'an, Allah promises a special reward for those who give sincerely:

“Those who spend their wealth in the way of Allah by night and day, secretly and openly — they shall have their reward with their Lord” [Ch. 2, V. 275].

While explaining the true meaning of charity, or Sadaqah, the Promised Messiah (as) said, ***“In the science of the interpretation of dreams, wealth is represented by one's liver. This is why giving alms is equivalent to giving away one's life, as it were. When a person gives charity, they exhibit an immense degree of sincerity and steadfastness.***

However, the fact of the matter is that mere words are of no use until they are supported by practice. The reason charity is called ‘Sadaqah’ in Arabic is because it is the hallmark of the Truthful (Sadiqin)” (Malfuzat, Volume 1, page 243).

So those few coins you diligently put in your Sadaqah jar, are not small amounts in Allah's eyes. Those shiny coins are symbols of your love for Allah and His Creation.

The Holy Prophet (sa) taught us that giving charity protects a person from the fire and it keeps our heart and soul pure and sincere. The beauty of Islam is that even if someone doesn't have money to give, there are still ways for them to give Sadaqah and earn rewards. Once, a companion who did not have much money complained to the Holy Prophet (sa), that the wealthy would get more



reward because they had more to give. The Holy Prophet (sa) responded by saying that Allah had made other things that can be given in charity.

He said, ‘Saying *Subhanallah* [Holy is Allah], *Allahu Akbar* [Allah is the Greatest], *Al-Hamdu Lillah* [Allah praise belongs to Allah], and *La ilaha Illallah* [There is none worthy of worship except Allah] are all forms of charity’ (*Muslim*).

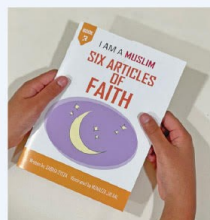
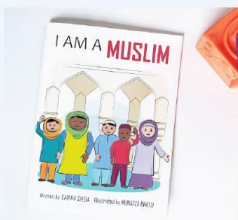
When the wealthy heard this, they too began reciting *tasbeeh*. The poor then returned, complaining again. The Prophet replied, “That is the Grace of Allah, which He bestows upon whomever He wills.” He could not prevent anyone from the remembrance of Allah (*Sahih Muslim*).

According to another narration, the Holy Prophet (sa) was once asked, “What if a person has nothing?” He answered, “He should work with his hands for his own benefit and also give alms. If he is not able to work, he should help a needy person. If he is unable to do even that, he should restrain himself from doing evil. That, too, is charity” (*Bukhari and Muslim*).

So, there is no excuse not to be charitable! You can give from your savings jar, and that is a form of charity. You can do *tasbeeh*, and that is charity. You can even just smile at a stranger—all of it counts!

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True Happiness

Alyia Azeem/ Age 9 / Virginia South

Charity means giving to people who need help. In Islam, giving charity is a very good and important deed. It pleases Allah and helps people who are poor or struggling. Our Beloved Imam, Khalifat-ul-Masih V (aba) said, “Financial sacrifice is a distinguished feature of Ahmadiyya Jama‘at.” When we give charity, we learn to be kind, caring, and generous. It helps clean our hearts from selfishness and teaches us to share our blessings with others.

The Prophet Muhammad (sa) said: “Charity does not decrease wealth” (*Sahih Muslim*). This means when we give for the sake of Allah, He blesses us even more. We may not always see how, but Allah rewards us in this life and the Hereafter.

In our Jama‘at, some of our beautiful mosques were built from the charity of women and girls. In our community, whenever there is a need for financial sacrifice, our ladies have given their jewelry and other assets to the Jama‘at. Charity makes society stronger because people help and care for one another. Even a small act like giving food, clothes, or even a smile can be charity.

When Allah blesses us financially, we should not raise the standards of our living, but we should raise the standard of our giving. In Islam, true happiness comes not from what we keep, but from what we give.

The Blessings of Charity

Rbiya Rizwan/ Age 9/ Brooklyn

Giving charity is a very good deed. Allah Almighty has created us and has blessed us abundantly. Therefore, we must be humble before Allah. The Holy Prophet (sa) said, “None of you truly believes until he loves for his brother that which he loves for himself” (Bukhari).

In January I went to Pakistan with my mother and father. When we went to the market to shop, there was a little girl of seven years old, naked and without a sweater, on a very cold day. She was asking for money to eat food and was holding her ten-month-old brother. We felt very sad for her.

Then we took her along and sat at a shop and ate fruit chat [spicy fruit dish] with her, which made her very happy. Then my mother also gave her money and shoes. The girl was so happy, and she said a lot of prayers for us. This also made me very happy. I pray that Allah Almighty was also pleased with us.

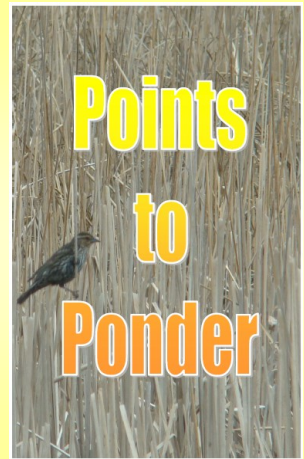


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The Purpose of Charity

Sabeeqa Ahmad Jawaid/ Age13/ Houston

“Never shall you attain to righteousness, unless you spend out of which you love; and of whatever you spend, Allah surely knows it well” [Holy Qur’an Ch. 3, V. 93].

One of Allah’s attributes is *Al-Ghani*, “The Self-Sufficient,” which means that Allah is in no need of our money. Instead, the purpose of charity is to purify us, to test our level of obedience, and see how far we will go to fulfill our pledges of being ready to spend in His way.

I give charity when I have had some hardships at home. One time my mom told me to give *Sadaqah* for my dad because he was stressed about finances. Instead of letting my spare change get lost, I would put it in my “charity drawer,” and I’d always pray and kiss each coin before gently placing it in the drawer. As a young Nasirat, the aunties at my mosque gave us the idea of a charity jar. I didn’t have any empty jars at home, but I found an empty Kleenex box and used it to put my coins and cash.

During this Ramadan, I will try my best to give charity every day or probably twice a week, because then Allah will answer my prayers, *In Sha’ Allah*. This week, my mother donated all my old clothes that don’t fit me to the Charity Box. Years ago, she also gave my old shoes and sandals to the Charity box! *Al-Hamdu Lillah!* May Allah grant me and my family to give charities every day so God may answer our wishes, *Ameen*.



A Big Difference!

Aleena Ahmed/ Age 13/ Brooklyn

Sometimes I stop and think about how lucky I am. I have food every day, a warm place to sleep, and people who love me. Not everyone has these things. Some people feel hungry, cold, or



lonely, and they pray for help. When I think about that, I feel thankful for my life, and it reminds me why charity is so important.

In Islam, charity is not only about giving money. It means caring about others and helping when you can. You can share food, donate clothes, or even just help someone who is struggling. Something small to us might mean so much to someone else. It can make them feel happy and remembered.

Charity also changes us. It makes our hearts kinder and helps us appreciate what Allah has given us. It reminds us that our blessings are meant to be shared. When we give, we feel a special kind of happiness — not because we have something, but because we helped someone.

One of the best things about charity is that Allah sees everything we do. Even if no one else notices, Allah does. In the Holy Qur'an it says, “

So whoever has done an atom's weight of good will see it” [Ch. 99, V. 8].

This shows that even the smallest good deed matters. Charity teaches us to be thankful, kind, and caring. Even small acts of kindness can make a big difference and bring us closer to Allah.



Small Sacrifices, Big Smiles

Abia Virk/ Age 14/ Virginia South

According to the World Bank UNICEF, around 1 in 5 children today live in extreme poverty.

As a 14-year-old, I have spent my whole life living in a household where I have not only had my basic needs like food, water, clothes, a roof over my head, and a good education but also some things I wished for, like an electric bike, New Balance shoes, and AirPods.

Reading about children who don't even have soap, clean water, or proper clothes really made me think: why am I so lucky? And more importantly, what can I do to help? I started researching and found dozens of organizations raising money for children in poverty. But as an Ahmadi Muslim I also wanted to understand

what responsibility I have and what resources we already have in our Jama'at to help.

I found that our Jama'at already has several beautiful schemes that support children and families in need. These schemes help provide basic necessities that many of us take for granted. Here are three important ones:

1. Children's Eid Gift Fund (From Our Children to Your Children)

In this scheme, we children can donate any amount during Ramadan, about two weeks before Eid. The money is used to buy gifts for underprivileged children so they can also feel the happiness of Eid. Even a small amount can help bring a big smile to someone's face.

2. Yatama Fund (Orphans Fund)

Through this scheme, we can contribute any amount throughout the year to help Ahmadi orphans. The money helps cover their daily needs and education, giving them a better future.



3. Fitrana

Fitrana is money given to help poor and needy families so they can also celebrate Eid. This does not only help children but entire families. The amount is fixed at \$6 per family member and should be paid any time before Eid.



These donations can be made online through the Chanda portal or given in person to your local Finance Secretary.

I have already paid children's Eid Gift fund and Fitrana and started saving for Yatama Fund. Let's make small sacrifices to bring big smiles.

Help the Needy!

Sundas Aiman Haq/ Age 12/ Virginia North

When I was eight years old, my mom gave me \$20 to give my Chanda. I didn't understand why I had to give money then. Later, I learned from my parents and Tahir Academy teachers that giving in the way of Allah is a blessing. Now I feel comfortable paying any kind of Chanda.

One day, my parents and I were leaving Walmart. My dad was already late for work, and as we were leaving, we saw a homeless man outside with his puppy. I said, "Baba, stop the car, I want to give him some money." My dad said, "Okay but make it quick." I gave him some money; he was very grateful. Halfway home, I realized I forgot to give some money to the puppy. I said, "Baba, we have to turn back because I forgot to give the puppy money." My dad said, "I'm late for work." But I said, "God gave us money to help the needy, not to throw the money away on useless things." So, we turned around, and I gave some money to the puppy. The homeless man started to cry tears of joy. He said, "Thank you so much, you don't know how much this means to me." It is always good to help people because you never know what someone is going through. You should always help the needy if you are stable. You should never accuse someone and say that they will use it in a bad way. It is always good to help those who are in need.

Giving Sadaqah is very important and causes Allah's bounties and rewards to come in different ways. A good and true Muslim always gives Chanda to please Allah. Giving Chanda helps humanity. Every year, and this year I give to the Children's Eid Gift Fund because it helps needy children of the world. In return, Allah provides me with a lot of Eidi every year.

Islam teaches me that giving charity is important not only to help others but for me to please Allah as well.



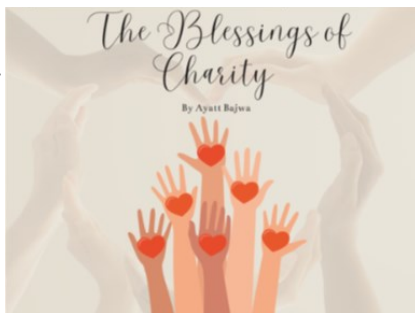
The Blessings of Charity

Ayatt Bajwa/ Age 13/ Queens

The third pillar of Islam, Zakat or charity, highlights the fundamental importance of giving back to our community and supporting those in need. This is a powerful reminder that helping others is not just a moral obligation, but a spiritual one. Personally, I believe charity is one of the most meaningful acts we can engage in as it demonstrates not only our faith in action but also our humanity. It reflects our commitment to being good Muslims and good people. Moreover, the wealth and opportunities we enjoy are gifts from Allah, and it is our duty to express gratitude by sharing those blessings with others.

This sense of gratitude naturally leads us to *Huqooq-ul-Ibad*, or the “rights of mankind,” a guiding principle that urges us to look after the well-being of our fellow humans. There is no better way to fulfill this duty than through acts of charity and service, as it directly addresses the needs of others and strengthens the bonds within our communities.

In conclusion, charity is not merely an act of giving. It is a spiritual practice that aligns our actions with our faith. By embracing Zakat and recognizing the rights of others, we contribute to a more compassionate, just, and caring world. This is the essence of being a good Muslim and a good person: living with a sense of responsibility to both Allah and humanity.



A Life of True Charity

Sajeela Ahmad/ Age 15 / Virginia South

When we think of charity, what comes to mind is people nobly sacrificing their wealth for a cause, or simply to help the needy. This view is true but limited. Islam places great emphasis on giving one's wealth to the poor, especially through the Islamic



tradition of Zakat. Allah refers to Zakat many times in the Holy Qur'an, for example:

“Surely, those who believe and do good deeds, and observe Prayer and pay the Zakat, shall have their reward from their Lord, and no fear shall come on them, nor shall they grieve” [Ch. 2, V. 268].

However, knowing the ways of living a life of charity, rather than simply giving some money when we can spare it, will help us come much closer to the true standard of charity that Islam and Allah desires from us.

The Holy Prophet (sa) is our shining example of how to live a life of true charity. The Holy Prophet (sa) continually gave whatever wealth was granted to him. He freed slaves and distributed food among the needy, even when he did not have enough for himself. He showed that Islamic charity is established through a character of continuous generosity, selflessness, and kindness towards others. When addressing Jalsa workers in his Friday Sermon on July 21, 2023, Huzoor (aba) reminded, *“The standards of good morals expected of us have been explained by the Holy Prophet (sa), who said that smiling is a charity. To enjoin good and forbid evil is charity. To guide someone who is lost or blind is charity. To remove hindrances from the path is charity. To take something of yours and give it to your brother is charity. These are the standards which every Ahmadi must achieve.”*

The Promised Messiah (as) said, *“Serving humanity is itself a form of worship... My state is such that if someone is in distress, whilst I am engaged in the obligatory prayers and I hear their grief, it is my ardent desire to break the prayer and to try to help that person and to shower them with as much love as possible.”*

To conclude, as an Ahmadi Muslim, we should continue our struggle to reform ourselves and, following the teachings of the Holy Prophet (sa) and the Promised Messiah (as), inculcate a lifestyle of charitable giving, compassion, and *haqooq-ul-ibad* [rights of Allah's creation]. May Allah enable us all to do so, *Ameen*.



Gratitude to Allah

Hassan Ahmad/ Age 13/ NJ North



Charity is an important part of our faith that teaches us to care for others. Charity must come from your heart. It can come in many forms of being helpful to others such as giving a ride to someone, picking up trash, tutoring or even just giving up your time for others.

In Islam, charity is said to purify our wealth and our hearts. Allah Almighty says in the Holy Qur'an:

“As to the men who give alms, and the women who give alms, and those who lend to Allah a goodly loan, it will be increased manifold for them, and theirs will be a noble reward” [Ch. 57, V. 19].

Additionally, the Holy Prophet Muhammad (sa) said, “Every good deed is charity. Indeed, among the good is to meet your brother with a smiling face and to pour what is left in your bucket into the vessel of your brother” (*Tirmidhi*). Acts of charity whether they are big or small, show gratitude to Allah Almighty.



Sadaqah

Yusra Fahim/ Age 8/ Long Island

Sadaqah is a voluntary donation given by Muslims to help the poor and needy. Allah has commanded Muslims to protect themselves from trouble and hardship by helping people who are struggling. This kind of gift can be given at any time and in any amount.

Allah says in the Holy Qur'an:

“Surely, those who believe and do good deeds, and observe Prayer and pay the Zakat, shall have their reward from their Lord, and no fear shall come on them, nor shall they grieve” [Ch. 2, V. 278].

A Muslim gives charity to seek the pleasure of Allah, which helps their heart and soul grow closer to Him. The Holy Prophet (sa) said that to be protected from hardship, you should always give charity. He explained that giving in the way of Allah is a duty for all Muslims. The companions asked, ***‘If somebody doesn’t have anything, then what should they give in the name of charity?’*** The Holy Prophet (sa) replied, ***‘They must work with their hands to benefit themselves and then give charity, help the needy, command good, and refrain from evil, which is considered charity. Every act of goodness is considered charity’*** (*Sahih Bukhari*).

In conclusion, charity doesn’t just purify your wealth; it brings you closer to Allah. By looking after one another, we create a more peaceful and harmonious community for everyone.



Blessings of Charity

Manal Ahmad/ Age 12/Virginia North

Charity holds a special place in the heart of a believer and has countless blessings. There are many notable examples of the blessings of charity, but first we need to understand what charity really is. Khalifat-ul-Mash V, Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad (aba) explained in the Holy Qur'an, one of the qualities of true believers is that they spend out of their wealth in the way of Allah. The Holy Prophet (sa) also said that it is for a Muslim to give alms no matter how little they

have, so much so that one who has absolutely nothing to give should act on what is good and shun what is evil with the intention of it being Sadaqah. Allah the Almighty states in the Holy Qur'an:

“And whatever of wealth you spend, it is for yourselves, while you spend not but to seek the favor of Allah” [Ch. 2, V. 273].

There are many opportunities for us to spend in the way of Allah to attain his pleasure. For example, there is Waqf-e-Jadid, Tahrik-e-Jadid, Wasiyyat (The Will), Humanity First, Maryam Shadi Fund, Bilal Fund [for helping the families of Ahmadi martyrs], and many others.

You might be asking, “Well, how does charity have any benefit towards me?” I asked myself the same question, and the truth is, it's not always a big miracle. But when you give charity, it brings you closer to God. You may feel more inclined to observe all five daily prayers and to recite the Holy Qur'an every day. That is a true sign that God is pleased with you. Allah says:

“And whatever of wealth you spend, it shall be paid back to you in full and you shall not be wronged” [Ch. 2, V. 273].



When Hazrat Abu Bakr Siddiq (ra) accepted Islam, he had 40,000 Ashrafis in savings, which would be worth millions of dollars today, and he gave it all to charity! Just look at how close he was with Allah and as we all know, he was extremely loved by Allah and was greatly rewarded. So, in conclusion, charity is more than the act of giving. It returns to the giver and brings a person closer to Allah, *Al-Hamdu Lillah*.

PROFOUND IMPORTANCE

Nomana Ahmad/ Age 12/ Virginia South

Giving charity is a sign of a true community of God and can make us spiritually closer to Him. In one of his Friday Sermons, our beloved Huzoor, Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad (aba) said, “One of the qualities of a believer is that they spend their pure wealth in the cause of Allah the Almighty in order to acquire His pleasure” (November 5th, 2021).

People belonging to divine communities sacrifice their wealth in order to purify their wealth, and in order to please God Almighty and attain His nearness. In the Holy Qu’ran, Allah says:

“And will provide for him from whence he expects not” [Ch. 65, V. 4].

When the Promised Messiah (as) came to spread the true teachings of Islam throughout the entire world, there were certain expenditures required in order to fulfill this monumental task. To this end, Ahmadis across the world made many financial sacrifices towards this cause. The true essence of such contributions and sacrifices is to gain acceptance in the sight of Allah.

May Allah enable us to understand the profound importance of charity and inspire us to partake in this blessed deed regularly, *Ameen*.



True Charity

Aiza Mahmood/ Age 14/ Virginia South

In the eyes of a believer, charity is not merely a social obligation; it is a profound form of worship. Allah provides me with His blessings that make me feel faithfully strong after helping children around Eid time by giving to the Children's Eid Gift Fund. Every year I try to give Tahrik-e-Jadid and Waqf-e-Jadid chanda by collecting spare change and saving. I feel satisfied and happy doing so.

The Holy Prophet Muhammad (sa) taught that charity is a source of immense blessings and is not limited to giving wealth alone. Acts such as working for one's own benefit and giving from it, helping those in need, restraining oneself from doing evil, showing compassion, caring for parents, and nurturing children all count as charity.

Acquiring knowledge and sharing it with others is also considered the best form of charity. Every act of kindness and generosity is known to Allah and brings reward, strengthens society, and benefits both the giver and those around them. I learned how passionate the Holy Prophet Muhammad (sa) was about charity.

The Holy Qur'an teaches that charity and righteous deeds bring great blessings, protect the giver from harm, and earn Allah's rewards. It benefits both the individual and the society by promoting compassion, justice, and care for others. Allah says:

"Those who spend their wealth in the way of Allah and follow not up what they have spent with taunt or injury, for them is their reward with their Lord, and they shall have no fear, nor shall they grieve" [Ch. 2, V. 263].



Hazarat Mirza Masroor Ahmad, Khalifat-ul-Masih V (aba), has emphasized that charity is a means of spiritual elevation and divine blessings, noting that one does not attain true righteousness *“...unless you spend out of that which you love”* [Ch. 3, V. 93]. He teaches that sincere financial sacrifice supports the needy, serves humanity, and strengthens the Community, provided it is accompanied by genuine intention and obedience to Allah.

In conclusion, Islam teaches that charity is not limited to wealth but includes every sincere act of kindness, service, and self-restraint. Through the guidance of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (sa), the Holy Qur'an, and Beloved Huzoor (aba), we learn that true charity purifies the heart, strengthens society, and draws a believer closer to Allah when done with sincerity and love.

GETTING THE MOST OUT OF OUR MONEY

Labeena Ahmad Nasir/ Age 10/ Houston

“O you who believe, spend out of what We have bestowed upon you” [Holy Qur'an, Ch. 2, V.255].

What is the purpose of spending in the way of Allah? Did you know that spending in the way of Allah has been mentioned in the Holy Qur'an over 60 times? But does Allah need our money? No. Allah does not need our wealth; rather, He uses it as a means to reward us. Allah might reward us up to 700 times more than what we spend in His way.

Allah says in the Holy Qur'an:

“Those who spend their wealth by night and by day, secretly and openly, shall have their reward with their Lord; on them shall come no fear, nor shall they grieve” [Ch. 2, V.275].



The Best Trade

Kaashifa Shakoor/ Age15/ Virginia North

We learn from the example of the Holy Prophet (sa) that he gave charity in any way he could to please Allah. The companions saw this example and did their best to follow the Holy Prophet's (sa) teachings about giving charity. One example of this is from Abu Talha (ra) who was a wealthy Ansar. Allah had revealed to the Holy Prophet (sa):

“You cannot attain to righteousness unless you spend out of that which you love” [Ch. 3, V. 93].

At the time Abu Talha (ra) had several gardens filled with date-palms but the dearest garden to him was called the Bayruha garden. This garden was across from the Prophet's Mosque and the Holy Prophet (sa) would enter and drink water from it. Yet, Abu Talha (ra) was willing to give the garden he loved the most for the cause of Allah in order to attain righteousness by giving what he loved the most. The Holy Prophet (sa) however directed him to keep the garden and instead divide it among his relatives. This shows how in order to gain the love and blessings of Allah you have to give something you love as charity for the cause of Allah.



Another incident was when a person wanted to know which act of charity has the greatest reward. The Holy Prophet (sa) responded by saying, ***“That you give charity when you are in good health, when you yourself stand in need, and when you are afraid of poverty and desire to become wealthy—if, even then, you are not neglectful. Not that you tarry until your life is ebbing out, and then you say this much for him and that much for him”*** (*Mishkat*). Thus, the Holy Prophet (sa) explained that you should give charity when you are in need and are fearful of approaching poverty.

These examples show the benefits of giving charity. It shows us that we must give charity for the cause of Allah to learn the way of sacrifice and trust in Him.



A TRUE BLESSING

Jwayria Ahsan Mangat/ Age 10/ Queens

Charity is one of the greatest blessings in everyone's life. It is the act of giving to those in need, whether through money, food, time, kindness, or support. Charity is not measured by how much we give, but by the sincerity and compassion in our hearts.

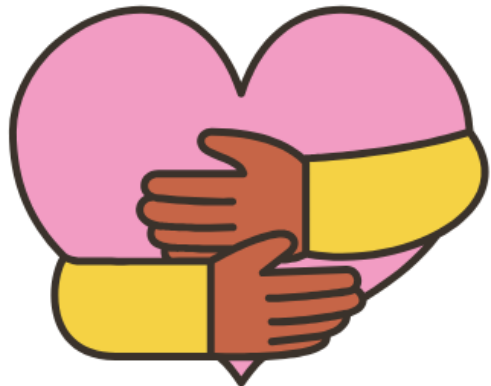


When we give to others, we do more than helping them we also enrich our own souls. Charity builds empathy, reduces selfishness, and strengthens the bond between people.

It creates a sense of unity and reminds us that we are all connected. Even a small act of kindness can bring hope to someone who is struggling.

Moreover, charity brings inner peace and satisfaction. Knowing that we have eased someone's burden fills our hearts with gratitude and humility. It teaches us to value what we have and to share our blessings with others.

In a world where many face hardship, charity shines like a light of mercy and love. It is truly a blessing not only for those who receive, but also for those who give.



The Significance of Charity

Sanavish Rizwan/ Age 14/ North Jersey

Charity is not just about giving money but also being kind to others. It helps in both social and spiritual ways. Charity provides the poor with basic needs to survive such as food, water, clothes, and shelter. Charity also builds character. It purifies the heart and removes misfortune. It decreases the obsession for wealth. Charity brings blessings to one's life.



The Holy Prophet (sa) once said, **“Sadaqah extinguishes sin as water extinguishes fire... Allah offers relief on the Day of Judgment for those who gave Sadaqah”** (Tirmidhi).

He also said, **“When a person dies, all their deeds end except three; a continuing charity, beneficial knowledge and a child who prays for them”** (Sahih Muslim).

People who give *Sadaqah* may enter *Jannah* [paradise] through a special door. You may also enter through this door by helping orphans, supporting your family, helping the poor, the sick, giving smiles to others, and being kind! This shows that giving charity helps strengthen our bond with Allah, helps purify us, and offers us peace in the life to come. Charity also provides a balanced flow of wealth in society. May Allah enable us to give *Sadaqah* in as many ways as we can.



CAPYBARA LEARNS A LESSON

Samina Hossain/ Age 8/ Brooklyn



Al-Hamdo Lillah,
Thank you so much!



Yes!
Jazakallah!

The moral of the story is...whenever you give to others, Allah gives back to you.

"As to the men that give alms, and the women that give alms, and those who lend to Allah a goodly loan — it will be increased manifold for them, and theirs will also be an honorable reward —" (Ch. 57 v. 19)

From the Upper Hand to the Heart

Have you ever shared your snack with someone who forgot theirs? Or volunteered to clean up in the mosque with your friends? If so, you already know a little about *Sadaqah*, or giving in the way of Allah. In Islam, charity is more than just donations or money; it's about fulfilling *Huqooqullah* and *Huqooq-ul-Ibad*, our duties toward God and mankind. In the Holy Qur'an Allah says:



“...truly righteous is he who believes in Allah...and spends his money for love of Him, on the kindred and the orphans and the needy and the wayfarer and those who ask for charity” [Ch. 2, V. 178].

Here, Allah the Almighty tells us that true goodness isn't only believing in Him but also being kind to His creations and sharing all the good things He has blessed us with. This can mean volunteering, helping the less fortunate, and donating food and toys. Giving *Sadaqah* in any way, shape, or form brings us closer to our Lord since we are serving humanity and pleasing Him at the same time.

The Holy Prophet (sa) also emphasized charity. In one Hadith, a companion relayed: **“Every good deed is charity”** (*Sahih Muslim*). This means that every small act matters. Something as simple as greeting our neighbor when they pass by or getting a glass of water for an elder can help us earn blessings from our Lord and bring happiness to others. Even the smallest deeds, if done with a pure heart and for Allah's sake, are true forms of *Sadaqah*.



While charity can help us a lot in our own spiritual growth, it also greatly impacts the people around us. When we sacrifice our food, money, belongings, or time, we make the lives of those around us happier and easier. A simple compliment can make someone's day. Giving our good toys we don't use anymore to children who don't have any can put a smile on their face. Even helping a friend who's struggling with their homework can show them that they're not alone.

The Hand That Gives

Aimen Ahmad/ Age 11 / Maryland

As Muslims, we are taught that by sincerely giving charity we can receive countless blessings from Allah, even in ways we would never expect.

When we give *Sadaqah*, we are helping someone in need and it helps elevate our inner peace. Allah instructs us to give charity so that we can not only become better people but so that we can come close to Him. It also helps us protect against evil. For example, once the Holy Prophet (sa) said: **“Protect yourself from hellfire even by giving a piece of date as charity”** (Bukhari, Muslim).



The Holy Prophet (sa) also explained that the upper hand, or the hand that gives, is better than the lower hand, or the that hand that receives. This is all based on the teachings of the Holy Qur'an, in which Allah says:

“Never shall you attain to righteousness unless you spend out of that which you love; and whatever you spend, Allah surely knows it well” [Ch. 3, V. 93].

So if we want to please Allah, and if we want to become righteous and those who have the upper hand, then the best thing for us to do is to give charity.



Charity

Zoya Tahir/ Age 11/ Dayton

Charity in Islam is any money or property that is spent on the poor or people who are in need for the sake of Allah. Allah says in the Holy Qur'an:

“They who spend their wealth for the cause of Allah, then follow not up what they have spent with taunt or injury, for them is their reward with their Lord, and they shall have no fear, nor shall they grieve” [Ch. 2, V. 263].

Why is giving Charity so important? Well, we are helping someone who really needs it. Not only does it help them fulfill their necessities but also makes the person in need feel good knowing that they have someone who cares about them. In addition, we feel good knowing we helped someone. Most importantly, Allah is pleased and rewards us when we give charity.

The Holy Prophet (sa) said, **“The upper hand is better than the lower hand”** (*Bukhari*). Therefore, in order to achieve nearness to Allah and to follow the footsteps of the Holy Prophet (sa), one must spend on the people in need. May Allah always be our Helper, *Ameen*.



WORD BANK

CHARITY

C A R E F T S A D Q A C
N H A P P Y U R O U B A
E E A B A T P M N R Q W
E L R N F L P O A A F T
D P A A D M O P T N T O
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O C D A B L U T X V G L
P E A V K I N D Y E J P
L M N F O O D M X S M Y
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CARE
HAPPY
SADQA
HELP
KIND

DONATE
FOOD
NEEDY
CHANDA
ZAKAAT

PEACE
RAMADAN
SUPPORT
LOVE



ZAREESH AHMAD/
Age 10/ Virginia South



To Give is To Receive

Rohma Salman/ Age 15/ Long Island

With the coming of every spring season, plants begin to blossom with exquisite petals of every color and shape, signaling a brightening of the days to come. Our Beloved Creator hid within these treasures a gift; the ability to bring joy to others. For your spouse, your parents, your friends, or your children, hand-picked flowers are a heartfelt token of love, appreciation, companionship, and more.



However, on a deeper, spiritual level, there is a greater exchange underway, an exchange of blessings. The receiving party, whomever they may be, now carry alongside them not just the jewels of nature, but the comfort of your relationship.

The blessings of our world come in many shapes and sizes, but one that is often misunderstood is charity. By definition of the Oxford Dictionary, charity is known as the voluntary, unconditional giving of money, food, or help to those in need. Within the loving embrace of Islam, charity takes on a heavier, more rewarding meaning, a meaning that has been expressed across the centuries since the days of our beloved Holy Prophet (sa). Charity can be offering a bedtime story to your sick little brother, consoling your best friend when her dog dies, or taking a few moments out of your day to chat with a lonely person.



Charity is striving to make a difference in Allah's world out of a genuine desire to shed some light on those around you, no matter how small it may be. Charity, as with all Islamic principles, stems from your intent. Your Sadaqah must not come only from a

wish to collect as many blessings as possible. Although it is in our nature as Muslims to desire blessings, but it is helpful to remind ourselves that *Sadaqah* is a two-way road. Give with the desire to sharpen your spiritual path, not your ego. Today, suffering is apparent across the globe; Palestine, Sudan, and Congo are just a few prominent examples of why we need purposeful, clear minded, charitable changemakers in our society.

As the young Muslims of the next generation, we have an obligation to take this responsibility with pride, respect, and clear intent. By the will of our God, the quality of our actions will always surpass the quantity. For no matter how meager it may seem, splitting a candy bar with the kid next door could mean more than donating a building to a university.



Charity - A Great Striving

Ali Ahmad Khan/ Age 14/ NJ North



When I was a child, my mother used to tell me stories of how charity brings blessings and removes all evils, disasters, sickness, and unfortunate incidences. But what is the purpose of charity? Its purpose is to earn the pleasure of Allah Almighty. Allah Almighty says in the Holy Qur'an:

“Never shall you attain to righteousness unless you spend out of that which you love; and whatever you spend, Allah surely knows it well” [Ch. 3, V. 93].

Holy Prophet Muhammad (sa) explained how it is a great striving, **“Charity does not part with a man until it is freed from the jaws of seventy devils”** (*Musnad Ahmad* 22962). Charity is a door to paradise that heals the sick, protects you from hardship, increases your wealth, and shades you on the Day of the Judgment.

EVERY ACT OF GIVING

Hassan Qamar Shahid/ Age 11/ Dayton

Charity is helping those less fortunate or in need. Prophet Mohammad (sa) said, **"Smiling is an act of charity"** (Tirmidhi). It is an act of kindness and goodness. By doing kind acts, giving up your time, or helping the elderly Allah rewards us with blessings. The world has millions of people with little to no money. When we give charity, Allah will reward us with a good life and others will get our help. It will act as a shield that protects us in this life and the Hereafter.



"The believer's shade on the Day of Judgement will be his charity" (Tirmidhi).

Every act of giving gets us closer to Allah's blessings and makes us more righteous. Allah defines the righteous in the Qur'an as those: ***"Who believe in the unseen and observe prayer and spend out of what We have provided for them"*** [Ch. 2, V. 4].



Giving charity not only benefits others but also brings immense blessing and protection in our own life. Whether it's wealth, time, or kindness, every act of giving counts.

Helping people is a form of charity and that is very important for a society's wellbeing. Humanity First is a great example of charity which goes beyond giving money and helps the needy in every way regardless of their religious or spiritual beliefs, truly showing the blessings of charity.



Serve Humanity!

Adil Mashood Ahmad/ Age 14/ Virginia South

Charity towards mankind is the cornerstone of the Islamic society and is constantly mentioned in Qur'anic teachings. There are two kinds of charities in Islam: obligatory and voluntary. The obligatory charity is called Zakat [obligatory on adult Muslims with wealth exceeding a minimum threshold] while the voluntary charity is called *Sadaqah*. The Holy Qur'an states:



“And spend for the cause of Allah and cast not yourselves into ruin with your own hands and do good; surely, Allah loves those who do good” [Ch. 2, V. 196].

I have observed that my mom takes out *Sadaqah* regularly and she tells my sister and I to do the same. We especially give charity on our birthdays, as Huzoor (aba) has also guided children to spend money on the poor instead of on lavish birthday parties and gifts. Whenever my family and I see the needy on the street we make sure to give them some money. Sometimes when they are selling flowers, we try to buy from them just to help them. I always like to remind my parents to have spare cash in the car so we can help the needy in such situations.



May Allah enable us to give charity, attain His blessings, and serve humanity with sincerity, *Ameen*.

The Charitable People Will Always Succeed

Hazeem Ahmad/ Age 12/ Virginia South

The word “charity” means “the voluntary giving of help, typically in the form of money, to those in need.” But charity does not only have to be a form of giving to the poor. It can be any good deed done in a person’s life that increases their connection with

Allah, their Lord. Most of us probably know this, but we might not know why doing “charity work” is so important in our lives, especially in the life of an Ahmadi Muslim.

Zakat is a fundamental aspect of Islam and is a mandatory form of charity for those with sufficient means. The word itself literally means **“purification,”** which is why giving Zakat can purify the soul and make a person less miserly. It is never permissible to be miserly, because miserliness is equivalent to arrogance, and if someone is arrogant, they begin to believe that they are better than others. Zakat directly links a person to their faith in Allah.

Charity is also linked to faith in another way. Allah the Almighty explicitly states in this verse from the Holy Qur’an:



“Never shall you attain to righteousness unless you spend out of that which you love” [Ch. 3, V. 93].

This verse doesn’t just explain the value of giving to the needy; rather, it embodies the spirit of true faith and tells the people that the only charity that will be accepted is the charity of the heartfelt people who give for the sake of Allah and for the people who need it. It is narrated in the hadith that the Holy Prophet (sa) was asked



by someone: **“What if a person should have nothing? He answered: He should work with his hands to his own benefit and also give alms. If he is not able to work? He should help a needy one. If he lacks that also? He should restrain himself from doing evil. That too is charity”** (*Bukhari and Muslim*).

This hadith is clear evidence that any good deed is considered charity, and even if someone doesn't have the means to give to the poor, they should still be a faithful servant of Allah. Giving others a good example to follow is also doing good deeds and will make the world a better place. Spreading the message of Islam Ahmadiyya, the purest religion in the world, can also be considered as charity. Spreading the message of Islam is essential for the world to stop its descent to utter destruction. This is why being charitable will always help you in the long run.



**We Want to Hear
from You!!!**

Children are encouraged to send their original writing for publication. Please include your full name, age, city, state and contact number when submitting an article as we may follow-up with the author for clarification.

If you would like to send a picture or artwork, please send the original. If you would like the original returned, please include your full name and return address/postage along with this request.

The Children's Magazine Committee, under the supervision of the Amīr, Jamā'at Aḥmadiyya, U.S.A., will review and approve all submissions before publication.

The Blessings of Charity

Emaan Bajwa/ Age11/ Queens



When we give *Sadaqah* (charity), we are following in the footsteps of the Holy Prophet (sa). The Holy Prophet (sa) was very generous and kind, and he always followed the Holy Qur'an's teachings, which include giving *Sadaqah* to others. Whenever we follow his example, Allah is pleased with us and forgives us for our sins. For example, the Holy Qur'an says:

“If you give alms openly, it is well and good; but if you conceal them and give them to the poor, it is better for you; and He will remove from you many of your sins. And Allah is aware of what you do” [Ch. 2, V. 272].

The Qur'an is the word of Allah, and when we read it, it is like He is speaking to us. This verse says that Allah always knows what we are doing and that when we give *Sadaqah*, it pleases Him. It also says that Allah will forgive our sins if we give *Sadaqah* to the poor. This is why giving *Sadaqah* is important.

Furthermore, in his Friday Sermon delivered on January 8th, 2021, Huzoor (aba) mentions a verse about giving Allah a loan. This does not mean Allah needs our worldly wealth. Instead, another meaning of the word *qarz* [loan] also means good or bad recompense. Thus, in this context, the verse means “Who is it that will spend in the way of Allah so that He may reward him for it.” This shows that Allah wants us to give money to the poor and needy, and we will be rewarded for that by feeling good because of doing a good deed and pleasing Allah. Basically, giving *Sadaqah* is important because it gives us the opportunity to follow in the footsteps of the Holy Prophet (sa) and do what Allah wills us to do, a chance that we should all jump at, taking us one step closer to paradise.



The Value of Charity

Eshaal Hafeez/ Age 12/ Virginia South

Charity is one of the most important values within human society. It embodies the spirit of generosity, offering various forms of assistance to those in need. This noble act involves providing help, whether it be in the form of very little things, the gift of our time, or just simple acts of kindness. It's important to recognize that charity doesn't always have to involve large amounts of money or grand prizes. In fact, it can often be expressed through the most ordinary and heartfelt actions.

For instance, lending a hand to a neighbor who might be struggling with daily tasks, sharing food with someone who is hungry, or even saying a few kind words to make someone's day.



These small acts of kindness contribute to fostering a sense of community and compassion. Each gesture, no matter how modest, plays a vital role in building connections and promoting a more caring society. By embracing the value of charity, we not only help those around us but also enrich our own lives, creating an effect of good will and positivity in our world.

SMALL CHARITABLE ACTS FOR KIDS

Noah Ali/ Age 7/ Cleveland

Charity is one of the Five Pillars of Islam. Giving charity makes us less greedy and helps us become kind. We can donate some of our money to the needy but there are many ways other to practice charity if we don't have money.

Here are some ideas:

- 1) **Smile at people**
- 2) **If someone doesn't have a friend, be their friend.**
- 3) **Share food with someone who doesn't have any.**
- 4) **Help your friends and family clean**
- 5) **Pick up litter**
- 6) **Feed birds and other animals**
- 7) **Donate clothes and toys**



Allah promises us in the Qur'an that doing charity work is greatly rewarded so that's why we should try our best to help others.



SPREADING CHEER

Labeena Ahmad Nasir/ Age 10/
Haania Ahmad Nasir/ Age 8/ Houston



C Spread Cheer
H Help the needy
A Assist without expecting return
R Receive rewards from Allah
I An Important pillar of Islam
T Take obstacles off the road
Y Yearn for Allah's pleasure

MANY BLESSINGS

Sanaya Raja/ Age 11/ Virginia North Jama'at

It was a hot, sunny day, and Miranda was at her best friend Muneefa's house. The girls were playing a board game when they heard the sound of an ice cream truck outside.

Miranda: "Come on, Muneefa! Let's go get some ice cream before the truck leaves! Do you have any money on you?"

Muneefa: "Oh, sorry, Miranda. I'm actually saving my money to pay my Waqf-e- Jadid."

Miranda: "What's that?" Miranda asked.

Muneefa: "Waqf-e-Jadid is a charity that we give to help with things like building mosques, hospitals, and schools around the world. We believe that doing so pleases Allah."

Miranda: "That sounds interesting, but I have a question, if you don't mind."

Muneefa: "Of course! What's your question?"

Miranda: "Do you have to give Waqf-e-Jadid in your religion?"

Muneefa: "No, technically not. However, I try my best to contribute whenever I can."

Miranda: "But Muneefa, if it's not obligatory, then why do you spend your money on that instead of something else? What benefit does paying Waqf-e-Jadid have for you?"

Muneefa: "I choose to spend my money on Waqf-e-Jadid because even though I don't have to pay it, we Ahmadi Muslims believe that voluntary charity purifies a person and brings many blessings. We also believe that when you donate money voluntarily, Allah will reward you and bless you in times of need. Did you know that Allah says in the Holy Qur'an:

'And whatever of wealth you spend, it shall be paid back to you in full and you shall not be wronged' [Ch. 2, V.273].

"Therefore, when we give out of what we love, Allah returns it with even more blessings. So, I don't think of paying Waqf-e-Jadid as a



waste of money. I know that whatever I spend in the way of Allah, He will give back to me and grant me many blessings. Did you know that our Khalifa often shares stories about this topic in his sermons? He gives several examples of people who gave generously for charity and received many blessings in return.”

Miranda: “Wow, this is starting to make sense to me now. Thanks for explaining!”

Muneefa: “No problem! Miranda! Come on, I have some ice cream downstairs in the freezer.”



The Many Ways of Sadaqah

Hareem Bilal/ Age 13/ Virginia North

Sadaqah which is a voluntary charity in Islam, is a profound act of worship and is limitless making it accessible to every Muslim regardless of financial standing. *Sadaqah* is an expression of faith and trust in Allah’s provision. The Prophet Muhammad (sa) taught that everyday acts of kindness constitute *Sadaqah*, for example removing a harmful object from the road or offering good advice, helping others in different ways, financial help, arranging food for deserving people.

A unique, highly virtuous form is *Sadaqah Jariyah* [perpetual charity], such as building a Mosque, school, digging a water well, or planting a tree, which provides lasting benefits to the community and continuous rewards for the giver. *Sadaqah* is a powerful tool for self-purification, breaking the shackles of greed and selfishness. *Sadaqah* fosters a caring community by supporting the vulnerable, including orphans, widows, and the poor, reducing inequality and strengthening social bonds.

Charity

An Important Part Of Faith

Rameen Tahir/ Age 11/ Fort Worth

Charity means helping people in need. It is about giving without expecting anything in return. It is about being kind and generous toward people who need support. Charity teaches us to share what we have and help those who are less fortunate. It is important because it brings kindness to society. Many people around us do not have basic necessities such as food, clothing, education, or shelter. When we give charity, we make life easier for them and help create a happier and fairer world.

In the Holy Qur'an, Allah says:

“Those who spend their wealth in the way of Allah by night and by day, secretly and openly, shall have their reward with their Lord” [Ch. 2, V. 275].



Charity is not only for adults; children can also help others in simple ways, such as donating old toys, clothes, and books. The Holy Prophet Muhammad (sa) said, **“Charity does not decrease wealth”** (*Sahih Muslim*). When we

help others, we feel happy because we know we have made someone's day better. Charity brings peace of mind and fills our hearts with contentment.





**November 5, 2021,
In a virtual Mulaqat with Nasirat from UK**

***Nasira.* In which fields should an Ahmadi girl go into to best serve the Jama‘at and Humanity?**

Huzoor (aba): What is your opinion?

Nasira: I think Medical.

Huzoor (aba): Okay, first Medical, then Teaching, Human Rights Law, Engineering. With regards to this present-day problem of global warming, you can study this subject as well. Any field which is beneficial for human beings. The first preference should be Medical and Teaching, that is what I prefer for a Waqf-e-Nau girl. Otherwise, there are so many fields which are beneficial for human beings that can be taken by Ahmadi girls as well.



***Nasira:* How can girls become more like Taalay Ahmad Shaheed Sahib?**

Huzoor (aba): You work hard for Jama‘at. Spread the message of Allah. Show your example as a good believer, a good Ahmadi Muslim girl, so that people will see you and say these are the girls who are the true portrayal of the Islamic Teaching. As far as shahadat is concerned, Allah knows better to whom He is going to give this status, but at least we should perform our duty by practicing Islamic teaching and portraying ourselves as good believers and good Muslims. Okay?

THE BLESSINGS OF CHARITY

Zymal Mansoor Ahmad/ Age 13/ Virginia South

Charity is one of the most beautiful teachings of Islam. It is not only about giving money, but also about showing kindness, care and compassion to others. Allah has made charity an important part of our faith because it helps both the one who gives and the one who receives.

In the Holy Qur'an, Allah teaches us to help those in need and to give in His way. The Holy Prophet Muhammad (sa) was the most generous person and always helped others, even when he had very little. He taught that charity does not decrease wealth, instead it increases blessings. Following his example reminds us that helping others is a way to please Allah.

The Promised Messiah, Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (as), also taught that serving humanity with love is a true sign of faith. He showed that charity should be given sincerely, without showing off or expecting praise. When we give with a pure heart, Allah rewards us in ways we may not even realize. Charity also helps build good character. It teaches us gratitude, humility and selflessness. When we help someone who is struggling, we become more thankful for what we have. Even small acts of charity, such as sharing food, helping a neighbor, or speaking kindly are valuable in the sight of Allah. In conclusion, charity is a great blessing that brings us closer to Allah and strengthens our faith. By giving *Sadaqah* regularly and helping others, we can spread love, reduce suffering and become better Muslims. May Allah enable us all to practice charity in our daily lives, *Ameen*.



The Blessings of Charity

Asma Athar/ Age 15/ Long Island

I believe that giving charity is one of the most beautiful teachings of Islam. It is not just about giving money but about giving from the heart and having the right intention. Charity holds great significance in Islam because it teaches valuable lessons of gratitude, kindness, and care for others.

One of the key blessings of charity is that it brings us closer to Allah. When we give, we do so for the sake of Allah, and He rewards us in many ways. The Holy Qur'an says:

"Those who spend their wealth in charity by night and by day, secretly and openly—their reward is with their Lord; and there shall be no fear on them, nor shall they grieve" [Ch. 2, V. 274].

This verse highlights that the reward of charity is not only material but also spiritual, benefiting us in this life and the Hereafter.

Charity also helps those who receive it. It provides food for the hungry, clothes for those in need, and hope for those who are struggling. Even small amounts of charity can make a big difference, and it is always the intention that matters.

The Promised Messiah (as) emphasized that financial sacrifice is essential for the progress of the Jama'at and for attaining Allah's blessings. He explained that wealth is not decreased by giving in the way of Allah; rather, it is increased through His blessings.

Charity also teaches humility and reminds us not to look down on others. It helps build strong communities where people care for one another.

In conclusion, charity benefits both the giver and the receiver. It strengthens our faith, improves our character, and spreads kindness. Making charity a regular part of our lives helps us become better Muslims and better human beings.

Allah Loves Charity

Darmana Haider/ Age 10/ Virginia South

We give charity to please Allah, not to look good in front of our friends or parents. Charity isn't just money; it's giving something that is precious to you, such as very pretty dresses, books, or anything that you worked hard to earn.

Once, the Holy Prophet (sa) asked his companions to make financial sacrifices. One of his companions, Hazrat 'Umar (ra), brought half of his wealth, but Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) brought all of his wealth (*Sunan Al-Tirmidhi, Hadith 3675*). Can you imagine what went through their hearts and minds when they made such huge sacrifices? Humans love things that they work hard to earn and want to keep them safe for themselves. But these companions had something more valuable than all the wealth in the world: their faith in Allah and their love for the Holy Prophet (sa). They had complete faith that their sacrifices would not go to waste; instead, Allah would reward them many folds.

The happiest people on earth are the people who are satisfied with what they have, not the people who want more. When you give charity, you are rewarded by Allah, while also helping others in need. When you give charity, you are creating an everlasting bank in *jannah* [heaven] which can never be robbed, and it is protected by the Most Powerful, Almighty, Everlasting Being—our God, Allah. This is why Allah loves charity and why we should do it.



Giving Charity

Tauheed Ahmad Choudhary/ Age 13/ Philadelphia

Giving chanda sounds good, but some might wonder what the benefit is. Why should I be giving away the money that I worked to get? Well, you see, you aren't just helping other people, but you are also strengthening your bond with Allah. Allah is the one who gave you money in the first place. So if you use that money in the way of Allah to help, then Allah will be pleased with you, and he will bestow blessings upon you. When you give in the way of Allah, he always gives it back multiplied. It could be in blessings, money, or the thing you wanted, because Allah always blesses you for your good deeds.



Let me give you an example of the companions of the Prophet (sa). One day, the Holy Prophet Muhammad (sa) called out to the companions and made an appeal for financial sacrifices. So, Hazrat 'Umar (ra) said to himself that today will be the day that I will give more chanda than Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra). So Hazrat 'Umar (ra) went home and took half of his belongings to the Holy Prophet (sa). The Holy Prophet (sa) then asked Hazrat 'Umar (ra), 'what have you left for you and your family?' and Hazrat 'Umar (ra) said, 'I have left half of my belongings.' Then Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) came and brought all of his belongings. The Holy Prophet (sa) asked him the same question, and Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) replied, 'I have left the name of Allah and His messenger' (sa). The companions showed us the way in giving charity because they learned from the Holy Prophet (sa). These are the same examples that we can follow today so that we too can receive the blessings of Allah.



Believe it or not: Charity Brings Blessings

Aateka Maaz Mirza/ Age 13/ Virginia South

Have you ever given something dear to you to someone else? Our answers may vary depending on how much we love our belongings. For some people, it can be very difficult to give away things they value, and I have experienced that firsthand.

Many people value money greatly because it can be used to obtain many things. For children, money can buy toys, and for adults, it helps them pay rent or buy food for their families. This shows how valuable hard-earned money can be. Once, during a Friday sermon, Huzoor (aba) shared a moving story about the blessings of giving charity. There was a man living abroad who was searching for a job. He tried many times by filling out applications and attending interviews, but he still could not find work. Since he had no job, he also had very little money. During that time, the Jama'at asked members to contribute Chanda. The man felt worried because he could barely afford his own expenses. A little while later, he received a small amount of money. In such a situation, most people might spend that money on themselves, but this man chose to give it as Chanda and put his full trust in Allah.



My dear friends, when you truly trust Allah, He always helps you. A few days after giving the Chanda, the man received a phone call from one of the companies where he had applied. They told him that he could start working right away—even without an interview, *Al-Hamdu Lillah!*

Dear friends, this is only one of the many examples shared by Huzoor (aba). When we give in the way of Allah, He blesses us

in ways we cannot imagine. Allah says in the Holy Qur'an:

“So fear Allah as best you can, and listen and obey, and spend in His cause; it will be good for yourselves. And whoso is saved from his own covetousness—it is these who shall be successful. If you lend to Allah a good loan, He will multiply it for you and will forgive you. And Allah is Most Appreciating, Forbearing” [Ch. 64, V.17–18].

THE IMPORTANCE OF CHARITY

Fatima Salmana Kauser/ Age 10/ Dayton

A true believer loves two things, God and God's creation. One of the best ways to show love to God's creation is to give charity (Sadaqah) which helps people in need. By helping others, believers create a society that grows strong and healthy so that there is more peace in the land. This is called spending your wealth in the way of Allah, which according to the Qur'an, is one of Allah's favorite things. And so, giving charity is important because helping others helps us become true believers. The Holy Prophet Muhammad (sa) said, **“Save yourself from the fire, even if it is by offering a fragment of date (as Sadaqah), and for the one who does not even have that much, by saying a kind word”** (*Sahih al-Bukhari*).

According to this hadith, charity is a way to save us from destruction and there are many ways to do it. One way is to give something such as money or even food. Another way is to treat people with kindness and to encourage them with nice words. It doesn't matter if we are wealthy or not, we can always find a way to help others. This way of life spreads peace and goodness, making Allah smile down upon us. In conclusion, giving charity is very important and there are many ways for us to do our part.



GIVING SADAQAH IS IMPORTANT

Dania Chaudhry/ Age 14/ Long Island



Beloved Huzoor, Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad (aba) said in a recent Friday sermon on January 9, 2026, **“Those who spend for the sake of the faith benefit not just themselves but the entire nation. Hence, for the sake of humanity at large, it is necessary to spend for the sake of the faith.”**

Huzoor (aba) explains that giving Sadaqah is extremely important because it helps both our community and us. Giving *Sadaqah* is a great way to help others. It strengthens the community by building and developing run down cities. It supports the development of schools, clinics, and projects which contribute to a happier or easier life for those who are suffering. It helps the poor and the hungry. It helps our community by building mosques and provides funding for Murabbian who can teach others about our faith.

When we give *Sadaqah*, we show kindness and compassion, which helps make our whole community stronger and more united. Giving Sadaqah also teaches us kindness, makes our hearts more pure, and brings us closer to Allah.

When we give from what we love, even if it is a small amount, we learn gratitude and empathy. By thinking of others first and giving Sadaqah regularly, we grow spiritually and become better Ahmadis, which benefits our own lives and the world around us.



The True Value of Giving

Valiyah Ijaz/ Age 14/ Virginia South

In the Holy Qur'an, Allah the Almighty reminds us of the true value of giving:

“As to the men that give alms, and the women that give alms, and those who lend to Allah a goodly loan — it will be increased manifold for them, and theirs will also be an honorable reward” [Ch. 57, V. 19].

Allah provides blessings in charity by making it a way to purify one's wealth. One of the greatest blessings is that it brings increase rather than loss. Even though we may give away our money, time, or effort, Allah promises that it will be replaced in ways that we may not even anticipate. The blessings of Charity are indeed abundant, but let's reflect on its importance and its purpose as a pillar of our faith. Charity is considered of high importance in Islam because of the service and help given to those who are less fortunate, reminding Muslims that we are all Allah's creatures, and we are equal in the eyes of Allah.



Charity is also important because of how it affects a person's character. Charity purifies one's soul by removing selfishness and increasing compassion. Most importantly, charity reminds Muslims that money or wealth is temporary, holding no importance in the next life. When a person passes away, their wealth stays behind, but their deeds go forward. In this way, this is why charity is so powerful because it turns something temporary into something eternal. Charity holds a great abundance of blessings and is stressed many different times in the Holy Qur'an. I pray that may Allah the Almighty make us among those who give sincerely to earn His pleasure through charity, *Ameen*.



TRUST IN ALLAH

Anoosheh Mahmood/ Age 15/ Long Island

Have you ever hesitated before giving something away, even when you knew it was the right thing to do? The truth is, we all have. That brief moment of hesitation reveals something important

about human nature. As humans, we naturally become attached to what we own. We often measure security by what we keep. If we only think in terms of money, giving can feel like losing something. However, Islam teaches us to



look at it in a completely different way.

I remember a time when I was younger, going to Yankee Stadium with my father. On the way, we stopped at “Baked by Melissa” for mini cupcakes, and I was so excited to try them. As we entered the subway, I saw a woman and her daughter asking for food. Without thinking too much, I gave them the entire box of cupcakes. It felt surprisingly good for my seven-year-old self, and seeing their smiles made me realize that charity is not about what we get in return. It is about helping others and letting kindness guide our actions with the intention of seeking Allah’s pleasure. I hope that woman and her daughter enjoyed those cupcakes as much as I enjoyed giving them. The Holy Qur’an teaches:





“You will never attain to righteousness until you spend out of that which you love”

[Ch. 3, V. 92].

This verse feels personal because it shifts the focus from how much we give to what it costs us internally. It is easy to donate what we no longer need, but it is much harder to give up something we truly value—whether it is money we were

saving, time we wanted for ourselves, or something we are emotionally attached to. This is a struggle we all face, but it is what makes charity so powerful. By giving from what we love, we are not only helping others but also training our own hearts. The companions of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (sa) acted upon this teaching.

When this verse was revealed, a companion named Abu Talhah (ra) owned a garden called Bayruha, which was one of his most beloved and valuable possessions. Instead of giving something small, he chose to give that very garden in charity. He trusted Allah’s promise more than his attachment to what he owned. His example reminds us that charity is something we should practice even in our most difficult moments (Sahih al-Bukhari, Book of Zakat).

Based on this, we can understand that true charity is more than just a gesture—it is a test of the heart. It teaches us to trust Allah more than our possessions and to give even when it is difficult. When we follow the teachings of the Holy Qur’an and the examples of the companions, we grow in faith, character, and compassion. Ultimately, charity does not take away from us; rather, it transforms us into better people. It turns what we give into blessings we could never have imagined, for ourselves and for others.



It's a Sacrifice

Kinza Malik/ Age 13/ Virginia North

Charity is an act of giving and sacrifice. You may think of it as money or giving clothes that don't fit you anymore. But charity is so much more than that. It is giving away something that you love, something that means a lot to you. Imagine this, you are going through your closet, and you find a dress that is small and doesn't fit you anymore. You go to your mom and ask her to give away. Now, imagine this, you are going through your closet, and you see a beautiful dress that fits you perfectly. Now, you think about how lucky you are to be able to have this and how many people in the world can't get these things. You go to your mom and ask her to give it to charity so other people in the world can have it. Which one do you think Allah likes more? The second one, right?



It may sound hard, but charity is so much easier than you may think. Without even realizing it, we practice charity every day. The Holy Prophet (sa) would say that a simple act of charity is smiling at one's brother, leading a blind person the way, or even removing a stone or a thorn from somebody's path. We may smile at a person in the hall at school or move a paper, so nobody trips.

There are many types of charity in our Jama'at. There is Waqf-e-Jadid, Tahrik-e-Jadid, Nasirat Chanda, Mosque Fund, and so many more. There is also Humanity First which gives to the poor and helps in countries that are in great need. When the people in Gaza were struggling, Humanity First supplied them with food and water to make surviving there slightly easier. You can practice charity by also just giving to the homeless people that you see on the roads. Have you ever noticed that after you may give five dollars to a person on the street that you feel so good and happy inside?

Charity isn't just about giving away stuff that doesn't fit, or you don't like. It is a sacrifice. Even everyday acts of kindness such as smiling, moving a stick from somebody's path, and helping the elderly are considered charity and are greatly appreciated by Allah. These are just a few of the many blessings of charity.



Charity Builds Character

Tuba Rizwan/ Age 11/ Brooklyn

What does it really mean to be generous? The Holy Prophet (sa) was the most generous of all people—not because he had the most, but because he gave the most of himself to humanity. He taught us that when we give charity, we do not lose what we have, in fact we gain more good deeds for giving charity. When we help poor people get what they need such as food, water, clothes, and money, not only do we build good character, but our hearts are also being purified at the same time.

The Holy Prophet (sa) was also the kindest person because he felt the pain of others. He showed us the real way of giving charity from the heart. He demonstrated that giving charity helps us to stop thinking only about ourselves and start caring about the needs of our community. Every act of kindness, whether big or small, helps build a more compassionate world.

Sometimes people might worry that by giving charity their own wealth will diminish. However, the Holy Prophet (sa) said that giving charity doesn't actually decrease a person's wealth. This is because by giving charity, the wealth of our hearts increases, and we receive more blessings. It's also important to remember that if we want to serve Allah, we have to serve His creation as well. So, every coin we give, and every kind

word we speak, is a brick in the house of our spiritual connection and character.

Let us be the generation that gives more than it takes, proving that our faith is alive through our service to others. May Allah enable us to always be among those who give in His way, and may he purify our hearts through our charity, *Ameen.*





Charity Transforms Society

Maya Tahir/ Age 13/ Dayton

When people give charity for Allah's pleasure, Allah rewards them for their good deeds. Though giving charity can result in many other blessings as well. One of those many blessings is that it can transform society in a positive way.

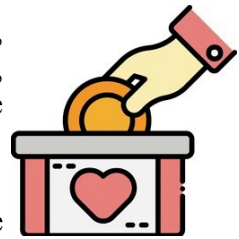
It is narrated by Hazrat Abu Hurairah (ra) that the Holy Prophet Muhammad (sa) told a story to his companions about a man who decided to give charity. So he went out at night and saw a thief and gave him some money, thinking he was poor. The next morning, the people were gossiping about how someone had given charity to a thief! When the man came to know about this he said, 'O Allah, to You belongs all praise—I gave charity to a thief!' Then he said, 'I will give charity again to someone deserving.' So the next night the man was determined to try again and went out and placed charity in the hands of a woman who was committing adultery. The next morning, the people were gossiping. 'Someone gave charity to an adulteress. How is she deserving of charity?'

When the man heard about this he said 'O Allah, to You belongs all praise—I mistakenly gave charity to an adulteress!' Then he said, 'I will give charity again to someone who really deserves it.' So the man went out again and mistakenly gave charity to a rich person. The next morning, the people were saying, 'Charity was given to a person who already has a lot of money! Who cares about the poor anymore!' Again, when the man heard about this he said "O Allah, to You belongs all praise – I mistakenly gave charity to a thief, then to an adulteress, and now to a rich man and I feel ashamed about it!" While he was thinking, he heard a spiritual voice saying, 'Your charity to a thief may have caused him to stop stealing. Your charity to an adulteress may have caused her to stop her sin. And your charity to a rich man may have caused him to learn a lesson and give what Allah has given him' (Muslim).

In this story, we learn that charity doesn't always help people the way we expect. With Allah's blessings, charity can



inspire others, and change them for the better, purifying their souls. If everyone thought like this, then society would become a much better place with everyone helping each other.



May Allah help us spend charity in the cause of Allah, not only to please Allah, but to also make this society a better place, *Ameen*.

CHARITY SHAPES YOUR CHARACTER

Fareeha Iqbal/ Age 13/ Virginia North

Giving charity can help shape your character in many positive ways. If you have ever given charity and helped the less fortunate, you'll agree that it makes you feel good because you have made a difference in someone's life. Your intention to help someone in need helps you to become more empathetic. In this way we learn to appreciate the small things in life, we become less selfish, and we are more likely to express gratitude to others and most importantly to Allah.

If you give charity regularly, even when money is tight, you will learn to strengthen your trust in Allah that he will bless you greatly. When we make a sacrifice for Allah's sake, He blesses us many more times for it. In the Holy Qur'an Allah says:

“Who is it that will lend Allah a goodly loan that He may multiply it for him manifold? And Allah receives and enlarges, and to Him shall you be made to return” [Ch. 2, V. 246].

Did you know that the Holy Prophet's (sa) first wife, Hazrat Khadija (ra) was a wealthy woman? After their marriage, Hazrat Khadija (ra) gave up all her wealth to the Holy Prophet (sa). But he gave away almost all of it to the poor and needy people. He was the kindest, most generous and selfless person and is the best example for us all to follow.



Charity Builds Character

Amna Maqsooda Alvi/ Age 12/ North Jersey

Charity, also known as *Sadaqah*, plays a crucial role in developing a good and strong character. In Islam, *Sadaqah* is not only about giving money, it also includes helping others, being kind, and showing care to those around us. When we practice charity, it helps shape who we are as people. *Sadaqah* develops kindness and compassion because helping someone in need allows us to understand their feelings and become more caring. Over time, these acts of kindness become a natural part of our character.

Charity also teaches gratitude and humility. When we give what we have to others, we realize that everything we own is a blessing from Allah. This helps us stay thankful and reminds us not to be greedy or proud. Gratitude and humility are essential qualities that enable us to grow into better individuals.



The Holy Prophet Muhammad (sa) was very generous and taught that even a smile can be charity. By following his example, we learn selflessness and generosity, which help build strong moral character. Through giving *Sadaqah* regularly, we not only help others but also improve ourselves. Allah wants us to give in His way because it purifies our hearts and strengthens our faith. This is why charity is such an important part of Islam and personal character development.



Charity Builds Character

Humna Tahir/ Age 15/ Long Island

When we hear the word “charity,” we often think about giving money. But charity is much more than that. It is giving from the heart. It can be money, time, effort, kindness, or even a smile. As Ahmadis, we are taught from a young age that serving others is part of our faith. We see our parents giving Chanda, helping neighbors, cooking for others, and serving at Jama‘at events. At first, we may think they are just doing their duty. But as we grow older, we begin to understand that charity is not only helping others, but it is also shaping who we are.

Charity builds patience. When we serve food at an event, clean up after others, or help organize something, it is not always easy. Sometimes we feel tired. Sometimes we feel unnoticed. But we learn to continue without complaining. That patience becomes part of our character.

Charity also builds humility. When we help someone in need, we realize how blessed we are. It reminds us that everything we have is from Allah. Instead of feeling proud, we feel grateful. And gratitude softens the heart. It builds empathy too. When we listen to someone’s problems or support a family going through difficulty, we learn to understand feelings beyond our own. We become more caring and less selfish. We start thinking, “How can I help?” instead of “What about me?”

In Khidmat-e-Khalq activities, we see people from different backgrounds and different faiths. Yet we serve them with respect and love. This teaches us that humanity comes first. It teaches us to see others as human beings, not labels. Charity also makes us stronger inside.



Build a Strong Character!

Ezzah Chaudhry/ Age 16/ Long Island

Charity is a central teaching in Islam and an essential part of building a strong moral character. In Arabic, charity is known as *Sadaqah*, which refers to giving sincerely for the sake of Allah. Islam teaches that charity is not limited to money; it includes acts of kindness, generosity, and service to others. Through the guidance of the Qur'an and the teachings of Prophet Muhammad (sa), Muslims learn that charity purifies the heart, strengthens faith, and develops qualities such as empathy, responsibility, gratitude, and leadership. These qualities are essential for building a strong character, especially in children. The Qur'an clearly explains that charity purifies a person's heart and character. In Surah At-Taubah, Allah says:

“Take alms out of their wealth, so that thou mayest cleanse them and purify them thereby” [Ch. 9, V. 103].



This verse shows that giving charity cleanses a person from selfishness and greed. As a teenager, it is easy to focus on what I want—whether it is clothes, gadgets, or social events. However, when I choose to give from what I love, I feel my heart soften. I begin to think less about myself and more about others.

Charity helps me fight selfishness and reminds me that everything I have is a blessing from Allah.

In addition to purifying the heart, charity strengthens faith and trust in Allah. In Surah Al-Baqarah [Ch. 2, V. 261],



Allah compares those who spend in His way to a seed that grows into many grains, multiplying the reward many times over. This powerful image teaches believers that even small acts of giving can bring enormous rewards. But this verse reassures me that Allah values even the smallest good deed. It motivates me to continue giving, even if it is just a little from my allowance or time spent helping someone with schoolwork. Knowing that Allah multiplies good deeds gives me confidence that my efforts are meaningful.

The teachings of Prophet Muhammad (sa) further emphasize the character-building power of charity. In Sahih al-Bukhari and Sahih Muslim, the Prophet stated, “Charity does not decrease wealth.” This hadith teaches an important lesson about trust and faith. It reassures believers that giving will not harm them but instead bring blessings. As a human, I am still learning and growing. I make mistakes, and sometimes I struggle with pride or impatience. However, practicing charity helps me become more humble and grateful. When I see others who have less, I become more thankful for my family, education, and opportunities. Charity shifts my focus from comparison and competition to compassion and gratitude.

In conclusion, both the Qur’an and the Hadith clearly demonstrate that charity plays a vital role in building strong character. It purifies the heart, increases faith, encourages empathy, strengthens responsibility, and builds confidence. Through consistent acts of giving and kindness, children grow into compassionate and trustworthy people.



Compassion



Kindness



Charity

In Islam, giving in the way of Allah is not just a good action, it is something that touches the heart. Allah reminds us many times in the Qur'an to give charity, and the Prophet Muhammad (sa) showed us how to care for others through his own example. I believe Allah wants us to give because it shows true gratitude, helps those who are suffering, purifies our hearts from greed, and brings us closer to Him in a meaningful way.

Firstly, everything we own is a gift from Allah. Our money, our homes, our families, our food, and even our talents are blessings that He placed in our lives. In Surah Al-Baqarah, Allah tells the believers:

“O ye who believe! spend out of what We have bestowed on you...” [Ch. 2, V. 255].

This is a reminder that nothing truly belongs to us, it was given to us by Allah. I believe that when we give charity, we are not giving away what is ours; we are sharing what Allah trusted us with. Giving becomes a way of saying “Thank You” to Allah for all He has given us.

Secondly, charity brings hope to people who are struggling. There are people who go to sleep hungry, children who have no home, and families who are facing hardship. Islam teaches us not to ignore their pain. A small amount of money, a meal, or even a kind gesture can change someone's life and Allah multiplies our charity far beyond what we can imagine. At first, this may seem hard to understand. When we give money away, it feels like we have less. But Allah promises that whatever we give for His sake is never lost. He replaces it with something better, maybe more blessings in our wealth, more peace in our hearts, or a greater reward in the Hereafter.

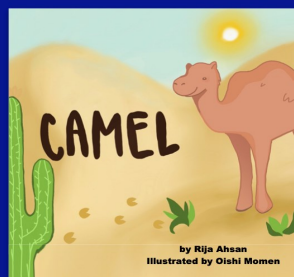
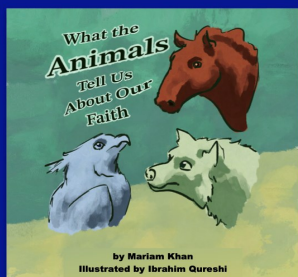
Another important reason Allah wants us to give is to clean our hearts. Money can sometimes make people selfish or too attached to this world. Giving charity breaks that attachment. When

we give, we begin to feel the struggles of others. Our hearts become softer, and our faith becomes stronger. The Holy Prophet (sa) was the best example of generosity. He gave freely and helped anyone in need. He was especially generous during Ramadan, giving so much that he was described as being faster than the wind in doing good. His life shows us that true faith is not only about prayer and worship, but also about kindness, generosity, and caring for others.

Our charity may seem small in this world, but with Allah it is never small. A single sincere act can weigh heavily on the scale of good deeds on the Day of Judgment. Knowing this fills our hearts with hope and comfort. Whenever I give *Sadaqah* I feel a better person and it allows me to know that I am contributing to our society and purifying myself.

In conclusion, Allah wants us to give because it shows gratitude for His blessings, brings relief to those in need, purifies our hearts from selfishness, and earns us rewards. Charity strengthens our communities and deepens our faith. When we give for the sake of Allah, we are not losing anything at all, instead we are gaining closeness to Him, blessings in our lives, and success in the Hereafter.

NEW CHILDREN'S BOOKS by Lajna Ima'Illah



The Light of Giving: How Charity Builds Our Character

Tanzeela Ahmed/ Age 14/ Virginia North

In a small, sun-drenched village tucked away among the sand dunes, there once lived a boy named Yasir. Although he had very little in the way of wealth, he possessed an incredibly generous spirit. Every morning, Yasir would share his breakfast with those who were hungry, assist the elderly woman who lived near the mosque, and offer a sincere smile to everyone he passed. One night, he noticed a village elder carrying a glowing lantern, even though the moon was shining brightly in the sky. When Yasir asked why the man needed a light when the world was already illuminated, the old man smiled and replied, “*This lantern shows me where I am walking, but it also helps me see myself.*” That night, Yasir realized a beautiful truth: charity is exactly like that lantern. It lights up the lives of others, but it also brightens our own hearts from the inside.

In Islam, charity—specifically Sadaqah and Zakat—is about much more than just the amount of money a person has. It is about sharing kindness, time and love with the world around us.

The Holy Qur’an reminds us: “*...And observe Prayer and pay the Zakat; and whatever good you send on before you for yourselves, you shall find it with Allah; surely, Allah sees all that you do*” [Ch. 2, V. 111].

Furthermore, the teachings of Islam emphasize that a kind word and the ability to forgive are actually better than giving charity and then being unkind about it later. This suggests that every time we give, we are growing as individuals, becoming stronger in our faith and softer in our hearts. Even the Prophet Muhammad (sa) taught that “even a smile is charity,” showing that small, everyday acts of goodness are deeply significant. The word Zakat itself comes from the Arabic root “*Zaka*” which means to



purify or to grow. This illustrates that when we give, our hearts are purified, and our character is strengthened. Our Khalifa, Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad (aba), often explains in his Friday sermons that charity is as much for the giver as it is for the receiver. He has taught that when we give sincerely, Allah fills our hearts with peace. However, he also cautions that if we only give to show off or to seek praise, the true blessing of the act disappears. He has stated that true charity is done quietly, for Allah alone. This is how we build real character—by choosing to be kind even when no one is watching.

The concept of giving is a universal language that resonates across many different cultures and faiths. In Christianity, Jesus (as) taught that it is more blessed to give than to receive. In Buddhism, generosity, known as *Dāna*, is considered one of the perfections that helps a person overcome selfishness. Similarly, in Judaism, the word *Tzedakah* refers to “righteous giving” and is seen as a duty to help make the world a fairer place.

Regardless of where people come from or what they believe, there is a common understanding that the act of giving makes us better human beings. In my own family, we have a tradition of collecting coins throughout the year in charity jars. At the end of Ramadan, we donate these savings to the Children’s Eid Gift Fund. While it may seem like a small gesture, it is a consistent way to practice what we believe. My mom always makes yummy dishes to share with our neighbors and my dad and my brothers are always willing to help, whenever our family friends or neighbors reach out to us. These experiences teach us to lead with empathy rather than judgment. When you give from the heart, you stop focusing only on your own needs and start to truly understand what others are going through.

Ultimately, charity is like watering a flower; every drop of kindness helps our character bloom. It teaches us humility, reminding us that our comforts are blessings to be shared rather than trophies to be flaunted. It also builds self-discipline, as giving often requires us to sacrifice our own desires for the sake of someone else. Yasir’s story reminds us that when we give, we do not just help others—we discover the best parts of ourselves. The lantern of charity shines brightest within us, guiding us toward a life defined by kindness, faith, and love. A kind heart is the best charity box, and we should strive to keep filling it, one small act at a time.

Giving Reshapes the Self

Nadia-Din Kamal-Muili/ Age 13/ Columbus

When we talk about charity as a way to grow, it stops being about money pretty quickly. It's not just one hand giving and another receiving. It's about what shifts inside you. In our reading clusters, we're always tracing the "character arc" of a hero; how they move from self-absorption to purpose. Charity works the same way. It pulls you out of yourself. It changes the storyline.

In Islam, that transformation is rooted in *tazkiyah*; a kind of inner cleansing. Not dramatic. Just steady work. Like wiping a foggy mirror until you can finally see clearly. The Qur'an makes this explicit in Surah At-Taubah, where the Prophet is told to take charity from the people in order to purify them and help them grow.

"Take alms out of their wealth, so that thou mayest cleanse them and purify them thereby" [Ch. 9, V. 103].

What stands out in that verse is how it connects purification and growth. You don't get one without the other. First, something has to be cleared out; greed, ego, that instinct to hold on tightly to what you have. Then something better has space to develop. It wasn't the weight of pressure. It was an act of responsibility. The moment you loosen your grip; you realize the tightness was the real burden.

When you give something you actually value, you feel it. That discomfort shows you what you have control over. And once you push through it, your mindset shifts. The fear of "not enough" starts to fade. The increase mentioned in the verse isn't about more money coming back to you. It's about becoming steadier and less dependent on what you own.

Over time, that practice changes how you see yourself. What you have stops feeling purely personal and starts feeling like a trust. You pay more attention to other people. You notice the need more quickly. You feel responsible in a way that feels grounding, not overwhelming.



Charity forces you to confront your own selfishness. It makes you choose someone else's need over your immediate comfort. And in doing that repeatedly, your character changes. Not all at once. Just gradually. You become more aware, more disciplined, and more secure in what actually matters.



A Soul That Gives

Faria Mahmood/ Age 15/ Long Island

In Islam, charity is not just coins in a hand,
It is a heart that feels another heart's pain.
It is knowing you were blessed,
And choosing to share that blessing.

Allah does not need our wealth.
He tests what we cling to
What we love,
What we struggle to let go of.

When we give, we loosen our grip on dunya
And tighten our bond with Him.
We give so no one feels alone,
So no heart thinks it was forgotten.

If we all kept everything to ourselves,
The world would turn cold.
But *Sadaqah* keeps it warm
And grows something inside us

Not just in the hands that receive,
But in the soul that gives.

WORD BANK

CHARITY



CARE
HAPPY
SADQA
HELP
KIND

DONATE
FOOD
NEEDY
CHANDA
ZAKAAT

PEACE
RAMADAN
SUPPORT
LOVE



ZAREESH AHMAD/
Age 10/ Virginia South



Crossword Puzzle Answer Key



Across

3. The One we want to make happy when we do good things, our Creator
6. To let someone else have something you own
7. Letting a friend play with your favorite things.
9. Fun things we can give to other children to play with.

Down

1. The special Arabic word for giving and being kind.
2. Warm coats or shirts we give to people who need them.
4. A very big, warm feeling in your heart for others.
5. A special prayer we say to ask Allah to help someone.
8. How your heart feels after you help a friend.

Glossary

Abū Dāwūd ابو داود : A collection of Aḥadīth. The author of this collection.

Adhan: The call to prayer

Al-Ḥamdu Lillāh اَلْحَمْدُ لِلّٰهِ : All praise belongs to Allah.

Al-Hilāl الهلال : The new moon.

Āmīn [Āmeen, Aameen] آمين : So be it. Amen. Ceremony to commemorate the completion of the first reading of the Holy Qur'an.

As-Salāmu `Alaikum اَلسَّلَامُ عَلَيْكُمْ May peace be upon you. (The formation assalam-o or assalam-u is incorrect as there is no waw و after mīm م, hence the abbreviation AoA or A.O.A. or A-o-A is also incorrect.)

Bukhari: A collection of Ahadith. The author of this collection.

Chanda: چنده Monetary contribution, donation. (The ha at the end is to indicate a fath on dal, and is not pronounced, so should not be explicitly written in the transliteration of the word.)

Ḥaḍrat حضرت [Hadhrat, Ḥaḍrat, Hazrat]: His Holiness

Aḥmad, Ḥaḍrat Mirzā Masroor (1950-...) حضرت مرزا مسرور احمد, may Allah be his Helper: Fifth successor (2003-...) to the Promised Messiah (peace be on him).

Ḥuḍūr [Ḥudhūr, Ḥuzūr, Huzoor] حضور : His Honor, His Holiness, Your Honor, Your Holiness. In Urdu, it is spelled Ḥaḍūr [Ḥaḍoor, Ḥadhūr, Ḥadhoor, Ḥazūr, Ḥazoor].

Iftār افطار : breaking the Islamic formal fast at sunset

Iftārī افطاری : eating to break Islamic formal fast.

Ijtema: gathering

Jalsa Salana: Annual Convention

Jama'at: Community

Muezzin: caller to Prayer

Muslim: Believer, one who submits to Allah

Nāsirāt ناصرات : helpers (feminine). A member of Majlis Nasirat-ul-Ahmadiyya, association of young Ahmadi girls.

Sadaqah صدقه : alms



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(may Allah be pleased with him)

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(May Allah be pleased with her)

Ḥaḍrat Nuh (peace be on him) and
the Great Flood

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(may Allah have mercy on him)

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(may Allah be pleased with her)

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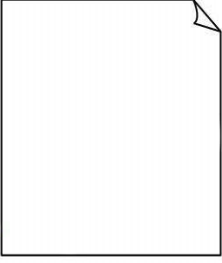
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