

Kindness to Animals

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Darussalam

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Publishers Note

All praises are due to Allāh, we praise Him, and we seek His help, and we seek His forgiveness. We seek refuge with Allāh from the evils of our souls, and the wrongdoings of our actions. Whoever Allāh guides, there is no one to lead him astray, and whomever He leaves astray, there is no one to guide him. I testify that there is none worthy of worship except Allāh, Who is alone having no partner, and that Muhammad is His servant and Messenger.

Islam is the religion for all creatures. Our religion teaches us to be kind to all of Allāh's creation, including animals.

The present book, 'Kindness to Animals', was compiled by Majdee Fathee As-Sayyid, an author of children's books in Arabic, and our American brother, Aqeel Walker has translated it into English. Thus, the original author's intent has been kept while conveying the message

in a modern style of English language for children.

I hope that this publication will describe and give a simple account of how a Muslim child can increase kindness to animals. We also hope that the parents will appreciate our efforts in this regard and help their children to benefit from this book.

Abdul Malik Mujahid

General Manager, Darussalam

Introduction

All praise is due to Allāh, we praise Him, we seek His help, and we seek His forgiveness. We seek refuge with Allāh from the evils of our souls and the wrongdoings of our actions. Whomever Allāh guides, there is no one to lead him astray, and whomever He leaves astray, there is no one to guide him. I testify that there is none worthy of worship except Allāh, Who is alone having no partner, and that Muhammad is His servant and Messenger.

My beloved children...

Islam is the religion for all creatures. Our religion teaches us to be kind to animals.

The Muslim who has complete *Eemaan* (Faith) is the one who is kind to animals, and he does not harm them, nor hurt them. He does not prevent the animals from food and water. The animals do not speak and they are not

able to complain to us. Because of this Islam encourages us to be kind to animals. Islam has made a great reward for kindness to animals.

Come with us and let us learn the guidance of Islam concerning kindness to animals so that we may behave with this beautiful character and gain the abundant reward of Allāh. I ask Allāh to benefit us with this book.

Majdee Fathee As-Sayyid

Kindness to Animals is from the Greatness of Islam

My beloved ones...

Kindness to animals in the Islamic law is from the clear matters. A proof of this can be seen in the following incident:

Sa'eed bin Jubayr tells us:

I was with Ibn 'Umar رضي الله عنهما when he passed by a group of boys who had tied up a chicken and set it up in order to shoot at it (as a target). When they saw Ibn 'Umar رضي الله عنهما coming, they ran away and left the chicken. Ibn 'Umar رضي الله عنهما said:

“Who did this? The Prophet ﷺ cursed whoever uses animals for targets.”

This means that the animal should not be made a target of torture. Torture may be inflicted by cutting off the animal's limbs, or some of its parts while it is still alive. This is strictly forbidden in Islam.

“Islam is the religion of mercy for all creatures.”

Mercy is for humans, animals and plants. Islam is the general and comprehensive mercy for all creatures. From the greatness of Islam is that it is the religion of mercy and peace for all that exists. The goodness of the Muslim reaches even the animals. Therefore, he does not torment them, nor does he prevent them from food and drink. Likewise he does not make them the object of shooting (or throwing). We should treat the animals well with gentleness and by giving them food and drink.

My beloved ones...

Yes, this is the greatness of Islam, which has ruled that whoever uses animals as a target then he is cursed.

If the person knows that he would be cursed for tormenting animals, then how about when he torments human beings?

Truly, Islam is the call of mercy. Our Lord is the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful. Our Messenger Muhammad ﷺ is the Prophet of mercy. Our religion is the religion of mercy. We ask Allāh, the Most High, to make us of those who are merciful.

“Our religion is the religion of mercy.”

As-Salaf As-Saalih
(The Earlier Pious Generations)
advised to be Kind to Animals

My beloved ones...

Our earlier pious generations are our example that we follow and they are our guides. We imitate them in their deeds and their statements.

Come with us so that we can see the advice of our earlier pious generations concerning kindness to animals and so that we may follow them.

Caliph ‘Umar رضي الله عنه saw a man pulling a sheep with his leg in order to slaughter it. Caliph ‘Umar رضي الله عنه said to him:

“Woe to you. Take it to its place of slaughtering in a good manner.”

Look at this compassion for animals, even at the time of slaughtering.

What did ‘Adi bin Haatim رضي الله عنه used to do whenever there were any bread crumbs remaining after a meal? He

would collect whatever bread was left and give it to the ants that were walking on the wall outside of his house. When he was asked about his action he would say:

“They are my neighbors! They have a right upon me!”

Do you see my dear ones?

Do you see how the earlier pious generations used to be kind to the animals? Will you not follow them? This is what we hope for.