

THE BLESSED FUND PROJECT

In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful

Praise be to Allah, and may the peace and blessings of Allah be upon His final Messenger, his family, companions and whoever loves and supports him.

Allah Almighty says: **"And the believing men and the believing women, they are friends of each other. They enjoin the right and forbid from the evil and establish the prayer and give the Zakât and obey Allah and His Messenger. These, Allah will show mercy to them. Surely Allah is All-Mighty, All-Wise".** (Surah Al Tawba verse 71).

Bearing in mind the great and tremendous loyalty that Allah has established between the believers, we would like to present a righteous project that we hope our brothers and sisters will adopt, be rewarded for participating in and that Allah will bless; The Blessed Fund Project. It is a charitable project with the purpose of reducing and removing the distress, misery and poverty among the destitute Muslims (widows, orphans, sick, poor, and needy), especially during holidays and special occasions.

It is not normal to expect Allah to remain pleased with an individual that neglects his brothers and sisters who are suffering from sadness and grief because they don't have enough money for themselves or their families. It's not normal for a Muslim to be happy seeing Muslim children during the holidays and special occasions at the peak of their happiness, playing and having fun, wearing the most beautiful clothes and receiving the most expensive toys while the widows and poor people have nothing in their hands to make them happy, or put a smile on their face. It is also not normal for a Muslim to see his Muslim brother in bed awaiting his death because he does not have the money to pay for his medical tests or his necessary medication. From here, the thought of The Blessed Fund Project was born. This blessed project is a plan of action where the Muslim puts a box in his home to remind himself of the suffering and hardship his brothers and sisters are enduring, and as a result, he and all of his family members including the youngest of them can participate in this blessed charitable project by putting money in the box for the poor and needy, Allah willing. So, even the amount of money that the youngest family member can put in the box will be sufficient to feed a hungry person. We hope to provide the charity to the poor and needy people at the blessed time of Ramadan hoping that it will change their Ramadan, so that all of the Muslims whether rich or poor will all be happy during this time. We have hope and trust in Allah Almighty alone with our hearts overwhelmed by His Oneness that the lives of needy Muslims will be different after the adoption of this project.

We have nearly four months ahead of us to collect what we can in our boxes and make Ramadan the first fruits of this blessed project; providing what is necessary to our needy brothers and sisters which will also allow them to break their fasts during this blessed month. If giving food to a non-fasting person brings a great reward then how about giving food to a fasting person? **Abdullah ibn Amr said that a man asked the prophet (pbuh) "what aspect of Islam is the best?". He (PBUH) replied "you should provide food and greet both those you know and those you do not know".** So he (PBUH) made feeding the person the best aspect of Islam.

Here the blessing of this charity box makes it possible to be reminded of many meanings drawn from the divine revelation; the meanings that Satan strives hard to wipe out from our hearts. From amongst the greatest meanings that the cursed Satan seeks to destroy is the true divine promise and the false promise of Satan.

Allah Almighty says: **"Satan threatens you with poverty and incites you to immorality. But Allâh promises you forgiveness from Himself and affluence. And Allâh is Bountiful, All-Knowing".** (Surah Al Baqara verse 268).

Allah Almighty informed us in more than 90 places in the Quran that the givers of charity (Sadaqa) will receive their great reward in this world and the hereafter, and in one place of the promise of Satan to the people who give charity of a life of poverty, need and distress.

These are a set of meanings that Satan strives to obliterate from our hearts, and we ask Allah Almighty that the presence of this charity box in our homes is a reason to remember them and conquer the false whispers of the evil devil.

- This charity box reminds us that Sadaqa causes richness not poverty.

Allah Almighty says: "Who of you will lend Allah a pure, sincere loan which He will return after multiplying it for him manifold? For Allah has the power both to decrease and increase, and to Him will you be returned". (Surah Al Baqara verse 245).

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said: "Sadaqa does not reduce wealth" (Sahih Muslim).

In addition, Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said: Allah Almighty said "O son of Adam, spend (on charity) and I shall spend on you". (Bukhari and Muslim).

Abu Huraira (May Allah Almighty be pleased with him) said: "The messenger (PBUH) said 'Not a single sunrise passes except that two angels descend and one of them says "O Allah, give him who spends something, in place of what he spends", while the other angel says "O Allah give destruction to him who withholds". (Bukhari and Muslim).

- This charity box reminds us that the money in our hands belongs to Allah Almighty and He has entrusted us with it to see what we will do with it.

Allah Almighty says: "Believe in Allah and in His Messenger and spend from what He has entrusted to you. A great reward awaits those of you who believe and spend their wealth". (Surah Al Hadid verse 7).

- This charity box reminds us that the highest level of faith is attained by giving Sadaqa.

Allah Almighty says: "You shall not attain righteousness until you spend out of what you love (in the way of Allah). Allah knows whatever you spend". (Surah Ali Imran verse 92).

- This charity box reminds us that with miserliness comes destruction and distress.

Allah Almighty says: "Spend in the Way of Allah and do not cast yourselves into destruction with your own hands; do good, for Allah loves those who do good". (Surah Al Baqara verse 195).

In addition, Allah Almighty says: "As for the one who is charitable, mindful of Allah, and firmly believes in the finest reward, We will facilitate for them the Way of Ease". (Surah Al Layl verses 5 – 7).

- This charity box reminds us that charity (Sadaqa) is a purification, and that this purification (Zakat) is for those who give charity.

Allah Almighty says: "Take from their wealth 'O Prophet' Sadaqa to purify and bless them and pray for them—surely your prayer is a source of comfort for them. And Allah is All-Hearing, All-Knowing". (Surah Al Tawba verse 103).

- This charity box reminds us that success in this world and the next is due to spending in charity and defeating greed.

Allah Almighty says: "So be mindful of Allah to the best of your ability, hear and obey, and spend in charity—that will be best for you. And whoever is saved from the selfishness of their own souls, it is they who are truly successful". (Surah Al Taghabun verse 16).

- This charity box reminds us that the first wish of a person after their death will be to delay death for just a little to be able to give a little bit of charity.

Allah Almighty says: "And donate from what We have provided for you before death comes to one of you, and you cry, "My Lord! If only You delayed me for a short while, I would give in charity and be one of the righteous." (Surah Al Munafiqun verse 10).

Indeed, Allah Almighty mentions the person in the above verse greatly desiring to be sent back to this world to give charity because it is at that point after their death that they had realised and seen the immense reward for such an act.

One of the righteous people was lying on his death bed and spoke a few words between consciousness "I wish it was new" "I wish it was all". When he regained consciousness his children asked him about his words and he replied, "I donated an old item of clothing and I was offered the rewards of this donation, but I wish I had donated a new item of clothing (because this man had now realised how big the reward of giving Sadaqa is). Also, a poor person passed by me and I gave him a piece of bread, but I wish I had given him the whole bread. I was offered the rewards of this donation, but I wish I had donated all of it (more than what I had given)".

- This charity box reminds us that on the Day of Judgement when the sun is near and above the people for 50,000 years, the Muslim will be protected and under the shade of his charity (Sadaqa).

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said: "Everyone will be shaded by his Sadaqa on the Day of Judgement until it has been judged by the people". (Related by Ibn Hibban and Al-Hakim).

- This charity box reminds us there are many types of Sadaqa that we can be performing, such as the charity (Sadaqa) given at night. Hence, the existence of this box in your home gives people the opportunity to practise this type of worship. Furthermore, one can perform all types of commendable Sadaqa (Sadaqa at night, Sadaqa during the day, Sadaqa in private and Sadaqa in public).

Allah Almighty says: "Those who spend their wealth in charity day and night, secretly and openly—their reward is with their Lord, and there will be no fear for them, nor will they grieve". (Surah Al Baqara verse 274).

The verse shows that for those who give Sadaqa there will be no fear from the horrors of the Day of Judgement, nor shall they grieve over the family and descendants they left behind.

- This charity box reminds us that even the little Sadaqa that is easily achievable could be a reason to enter paradise.

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said: "Guard yourselves against The Fire (of hell) even if it be with half a date fruit (given as Sadaqa)". (Sahih Bukhari).

Such as the woman who was freed from hell-fire and entered Paradise because she split the final date in half between her two daughters. (Sahih Muslim).

- This charity box reminds us that this Sadaqa can be the reason for your major and minor sins to be erased.

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said: "There was a severely thirsty dog frantically moving around a well on the verge of death and suddenly a prostitute from Bani Isra'il happened to see the dog, so she drew water in her shoe and made it drink, and she was pardoned because of this". (Sahih Bukhari).

Allah Almighty had mercy on a woman who was committing one of the greatest of sins. She was forgiven for all her daily sins simply because she gave a dog water to drink; so what about the mercy of Allah Almighty on one who feeds a widow, an orphan, a poor person or a needy person?

- This charity box reminds us that the one who gives Sadaqa relieves hardship and eases the situation of the poor person, and Allah Almighty promises greater rewards than the actions of the one who gives Sadaqa.

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said: "if anyone relieves a Muslim believer from one of the hardships of this worldly life Allah will relieve him of one of the hardships of the Day of Judgement. If anyone makes it easy for the one who is indebted to him (while finding it difficult to repay) Allah will make it easy for him in this worldly life and in the Hereafter and if anyone conceals the faults of a Muslim Allah will conceal his faults in this world and the Hereafter. Allah helps His slave so long as he helps his brother". (Related by Muslim).

- This charity box reminds us that Allah Almighty gives generously to those who give Sadaqa.

Allah Almighty 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". (Surah Al Baqara verse 261).

It has been narrated on the authority of Abu Mas'ud Al-Ansari who said a man bought a muzzled female camel and said "it is offered in the way of Allah" the Messenger (PBUH) said: "For this you will have 700 female camels on The Day of Judgement all of which will be muzzled". (Sahih Muslim).

- This charity box reminds us that the first thing that Allah Almighty blames the heads of disbelief for after their disbelief is their abstaining from Sadaqa.

Allah Almighty says: It will be said, "Seize and shackle them, then burn them in Hell, then tie them up with chains seventy arms long, For they never had faith in Allah, the Greatest, nor encouraged the feeding of the poor". (Surah Al Haqqah verses 30 – 34).

Allah Almighty says: "Have you seen the one who denies the final Judgment? That is the one who repulses the orphan, and does not encourage the feeding of the poor". (Surah Al Ma'un verses 1 – 3).

In addition, Allah Almighty informs of the criminals' response whilst being tortured in Hell. He says: "What has landed you in Hell?" They will reply, "We were not of those who prayed, nor did we feed the poor". (Surah Al Muddathir 42 – 44).

Finally, we are faced with two options: either we comply with The Divine promise, or comply with the promise of Satan. The rational thought is to not comply except with The Divine promise. How? Allah Almighty calls us and says:

"Here you are, being invited to donate a little in the cause of Allah. Still some of you withhold. And whoever does so, it is only to their own loss. For Allah is the Self-Sufficient, whereas you stand in need of Him. If you still turn away, He will replace you with another people. And they will not be like you". (Surah Muhammad verse 38).

Let us show Allah Almighty what He loves and pleases Him. We have wronged ourselves in many acts of worship and in His obedience. However, we can clear ourselves from these sins with Allah Almighty by relieving the hunger of the widow, the orphan, the poor and the needy.

Our goal is to implement this project in Ramadan where we hope to reap the rewards of this blessed charity box.

On the authority of Abu Huraira (May Allah be pleased with him) who said that the Messenger of Allah (PBUH) said: "Allah Almighty will say on The Day of Judgement "O son of Adam, I asked you for food and you did not feed Me. He will say "O Lord, how should I feed You when You are The Lord of the worlds? He will say "Did you not know that My servant so and so asked for food and you did not feed him. Did you know that had you fed him you would surely have found that the reward for doing so with Me?" (Sahih Muslim).

This is success and a guide to the straight path and Allah Almighty knows best.