

SNMC-3 Sickness, Patient, Hospital and Home Visit

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3.0 Sickness, Patience and Virtues

Sickness expiates evil deeds and wipes out sins. The Prophet (PBUH) said: "When God wants to be good to someone, He tries him with some hardship." Prophet (PBUH) also stated "For every misfortune, illness, anxiety, grief, or hurt that afflicts a Muslim -even the hurt caused by the pricking of a thorn – God removes some of his sins."

3.1 Visit the sick:

We should visit the sick, to provide the moral support, and to make sure that he or she is well taken care of. The Prophet, (PBUH) stated: "Feed the hungry, visit the sick, and free the captives."

The Prophet (PBUH) said: "A Muslim has six obligations to another Muslim. "What are these?" they asked. He replied: "To greet another Muslim when you meet him; to respond when he invites you; to give him your (sincerest) advice when he seeks it; to say 'may God have mercy upon you' when he sneezes and says ' may God be praised ' ; **to visit him when he falls ill; and when he dies, to attend his funeral.**"

3.1.1 Etiquette in Visiting Sick at Hospital or Home

It is good to take some gifts in visiting home or hospital.

When we are visiting in hospital, we should talk with staff /doctor at the ward station. We should obey all the rules as suggested by nurse or doctor. There is confidentiality issues, we should respect

It will help for current and future visits

Also we should passionately listen what the patient is saying. He is in distress, we should never interrupt him or advise him. If he is saying something unpleasant about God or family members, still we should refrain from advising, just listen.

We should not also advise the patient he should have sabr or patience. Just listen and look at the face, no comment

We should shorten our visit.

Same rules apply in visiting home of a patient.

3.2 General Etiquette of Visiting the Sick:

The visitor pray for the recovery and health of the patient and that he should listen to him as he describes his endurance with the disease. We should say only few nice words to cheer him up

and keep his spirits high. The Prophet (PBUH) said: "When you visit a sick person, give him hope for a long life. This will not avert anything, but will please the patient and give him comfort." When the Prophet (PBUH), visited a sick person he used to say to him: "Do not worry! It is a means of cleansing (you) of sins, God willing."

Shorten the visits and to make them less frequent as far as possible, lest they should become burdensome for the patient, except when the patient himself desires longer and more frequent visits.

3.4 Visiting a Non-Muslim Patient:

We are encouraged to visit a sick person, Muslim or not Muslim. It is narrated that "a Jewish boy, who used to serve the Prophet (PBUH), once fell ill. The Prophet, (PBUH), visited him and invited him to Islam, saying: 'Submit to God's will.' So he accepted Islam."

3.5 Reward for Visiting the Sick :

The Messenger of God (PBUH) said: "A caller from heaven calls out to the person who visits a sick person, 'You are good and your path is good. May you enter your residence in Paradise'."

The Messenger of God (PBUH), also said: "Verily, God, the Exalted and Glorious, will say on the Day of Judgement: 'O Son of Adam! I fell ill, but you did not visit Me.' The human will ask, 'O my Sustainer! How could I visit You when You are the Sustainer of the Worlds? And how can You fall sick?' He, the Almighty, will say, 'Did you not know that such and such a servant of Mine was sick. But you did not visit him. Did you not know that, had you visited him, you would have found Me by his side?

O Son of Adam! I asked you for food, but you fed Me not?' The man will say, 'O my Sustainer! How could I feed You when You are the Sustainer of the Worlds? And You are free from hunger?' He, the Almighty, will say: 'Such and such a servant of Mine asked you for food, but you refused to give him any. Did you not know that, had you fed him, you would have found it recorded here with Me?

O Son of Adam! I asked you for a drink, but you did not give Me any.' The man will say, 'O my Sustainer! How could I give You a drink while You are the Sustainer of the Worlds and are free from thirst?' He, the Almighty will say, ' Such and such a servant of Mine asked you for a drink, but you did not give him any. Had you given him a drink, you would have surely found that recorded with Me."

The Prophet, (PBUH) stated: "Verily, when a person visits his sick brother, he is, as it were, in one of the gardens of Paradise (enjoying its ripe fruits) until he returns to his home."

The Messenger of God (PBUH), saying: 'When a Muslim visits a sick in the morning, seventy thousand angels pray for him, and they continue praying for him until that evening. When one visits the sick in the evening, the angels pray for him and continue praying for him until the next morning. Moreover, he will be rewarded with the choicest fruits of Paradise.'

