

﴿and those who ask﴾. They are the ones who are faced with some troubles or desperate need which dictate that they should go and ask for help, such as one who has to pay for damage caused accidentally or has to pay a tax that has been imposed by the authorities. This also applies to one who asks people for donations for the maintenance of public utilities, such as mosques, schools, bridges and the like; such a person has the right to ask even if he is rich.

﴿and for the ransom of slaves﴾ this includes manumission and helping others with it; giving money to a *mukâtib* (slave with a contract of manumission) so that he can pay off his master; ransoming captive Muslims from the disbelievers; and paying ransoms in the case of those who are being held by evildoers.

﴿to establish prayer and give zakâh﴾. We have seen above that Allah (ﷻ) often mentions prayer and zakâh together because they are the best acts of worship, for they are spiritual, physical and financial. By means of them a person's faith and certainty may be evaluated.

﴿to fulfil the covenants you make﴾. A covenant means fulfilling that which Allah has made binding or that which one has made binding upon oneself. That includes all the rights of Allah, which Allah has enjoined upon His slaves so that they have become binding and form part of the covenant, hence they are obliged to fulfil them. It also includes the rights of other people that Allah has enjoined upon them, and the obligations that an individual takes upon himself, such as oaths, vows and so on.

﴿to be patient in the face of hardship﴾ that is, poverty, because the poor man needs patience in many ways, as he is going through ongoing psychological distress and physical pain that no one else is going through. When he sees rich people enjoying that which is beyond his means, he feels distress. When he or his dependents go hungry, he feels distress. If he eats food that does not suit him (because he cannot afford anything else), he feels distress. If he goes naked or almost naked, he feels distress. When he thinks of his current