*Developing Our Faith – Knowing Allah – Al Kareem (The Generous) Ramadan – Ashton Central Mosque – 20/07/13*

In the name of Allah, The All-Merciful, The Ever-Merciful, all praises be to Allah, Lord of the world. All Prayers and Blessings of Allah be upon the Messenger of Allah.

As a human being, you should not humiliate yourself because you are so precious to Allah. To know how, let’s live for a while with Allah’s most beautiful Name “The Generous” (Al-Kareem).

There are two meanings for Allah’s Name, “The Generous”: one is general and the other is exclusive only to mankind. The general one is that “The Generous” is a comprehensive Name for Allah’s all other beautiful Names. The exclusive one is that Allah, “The Generous”, has honoured mankind for we are so precious to Him.

**The General Meaning:**

People always connect the word “generous” or “generosity” to financial offerings, which is a very limited interpretation for the word. In the Arabic language, the meaning of this word is much more comprehensive, as it represents the meaning of every good, praised and noble trait. Hence, the generous is someone with noble and good traits and manners.

Consequently, “The Generous” is a comprehensive Name representing all the good we thank Allah for. It includes all Allah’s beautiful Names. For His generosity, He is the Superb Provider, the Effacer of sins, the Ever-Forgiving, the Superb Bestower, the Supreme Answerer…etc.

The Prophet expresses that Allah is so generous that He does not let down His slaves when they supplicate to Him. This is related to His Names “The Supreme Answerer” and “The Ever-Forgiving”. Allah is “The Most Honourable” because no one in the universe is so generous in everything like Him.

Remember that “The Generous” takes the initiative by treating you with kindness, never reminds you with His favours upon you and never lets you down. The Prophet explains that no one loves your excuses but Allah, The Generous. Most people get really sick of your silly excuses each time you go apologize, but not “The Generous”.

**The Exclusive Meaning:**

The second meaning of “The Generous”, which is exclusive only to man, is that man is the most precious creature to Allah, The Generous, has honoured man and has distinguished him from among the rest of creatures.

**وَلَقَدْ كَرَّمْنَا بَنِي آدَمَ وَحَمَلْنَاهُمْ فِي الْبَرِّ وَالْبَحْرِ وَرَزَقْنَاهُمْ مِنَ الطَّيِّبَاتِ وَفَضَّلْنَاهُمْ عَلَى كَثِيرٍ مِمَّنْ خَلَقْنَا تَفْضِيلا**

Allah says what can be translated as, “And indeed We have already honoured the Seeds (Or: sons) of Adam and carried them on land and sea, (Literally: in the land the sea) and provided them of the good (things), and graced them over many of whom We created with marked graciousness” (17:70)

Allah created man in the best form that can be.

**يَا أَيُّهَا الإنْسَانُ مَا غَرَّكَ بِرَبِّكَ الْكَرِيمِ (٦)الَّذِي خَلَقَكَ فَسَوَّاكَ فَعَدَلَكَ (٧)فِي أَيِّ صُورَةٍ مَا شَاءَ رَكَّبَكَ**

“O you man! What has deluded you concerning your Generous Lord, Who created you, then moulded you, then proportioned you?” (82:6-8)

If you have not been moulded and proportioned, you would have acted like animals, for example, when eating, drinking, etc.

As a believer, your honour is even more tangible. The angels asked Allah what can be translated as, “Will You make therein one who will corrupt in it and shed blood (Literally: bloods) while we (are the ones who) extol (with) Your praise and call You Holy? Literally: hallow for you)” He said, “Surely I know whatever you do not know” (2:30). Although the angels might be correct, since some of us commit corruption and shed blood on earth, Allah knew that the good in the believers, prophets, messengers and reformers was worth it.

Allah commanded the angels in what can be translated as, “So, when I have moulded him and breathed into him of My Spirit, fall down to him prostrating!” (15:29). All angels, including “Gabriel”, prostrated to Adam except Satan, who was expelled for refusing to prostrate. This ayah demonstrates three forms of honour to man: moulding, breathing into man of Allah’s Spirit and commanding the angels to prostrate to him.

Allah created us from dust and water, which are the purest two elements on earth, in addition to a breath from His Spirit. Hence, man is pure by nature and should not stain his purity or degrade himself by committing sins. Man was the last being created to live on earth, which means that all was created for him to master.

Allah has honoured and has chosen you from among all other creatures to be His successor on earth. “Surely I am making in the earth a successor” (2:30). He made all creatures bound to your service and made you free to think, innovate, invent and do what you like. However, you should never forget that you are still His worshipper.

He enjoined you to have good manners and sent His messengers and books to teach you manners. He created jannah for you and made the angels your guardians in life and servants in the hereafter. Moreover, when you get close to Him, you become higher in rank than the angels themselves. However, when you turn your back on Him and disobey Him, He turns you back to the basest of the base.

Allah honours you as He accepts your repentance when you fall into sins. Moreover, He veils your faults and sins to protect your self-respect and people’s respect to you. Sometimes, He unveils them so that you would wake up, repent and retrieve your lost self-respect. However, He does this gradually. It is like medical treatment; the stronger the illness is the bigger the dosage should be until you are completely cured. When you degrade yourself, He discloses you slightly. If this does not work and you insist on not repenting, He keeps widening the disclosure bit by bit until you stop degrading yourself.

Unfortunately, some people have already lost their self-respect after having completely degraded themselves until nothing seems to make a difference to them anymore. On the other hand, others have nothing but their self-respect; they keep holding tight to it no matter how poor and needy they are.

Always remember that your battle with Satan is a battle against degradation. Satan simply wants to degrade and humiliate you. Satan thus wants to prove he is better than Adam and all his offspring. Therefore, he told Allah in the ayah that can be translated as, “Have You seen? This, whom you have honoured above me, indeed in case you defer me to the Day of the Resurrection, indeed I will definitely bring his offspring under my subjection, except a few” (17:62).

One last thing before we go, do not ever humiliate others as well! The Prophet said that if one mocked at someone for committing a sin or a fault, he would not die until he himself had committed the same fault he mocked at. He also warned us not to glee at another’s misfortune, or Allah will grant His mercy upon the unfortunate and inflict us with misfortune.