

Sadaqah on behalf of the deceased

The Permanent Committee for Scholarly Research and Ifta'

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Question: I intend to sponsor a Muslim orphan through the International Islamic Relief Organization. The sponsorship will be registered in the name of my late mother. Is this permissible? Will she be rewarded for it? Please advise. May Allaah reward you.

Answer: It is permissible to give Sadaqah (voluntary charity) on behalf of your mother by sponsoring an orphan and meeting their need. Your mother will be granted the great reward promised for sponsoring an orphan and you will be rewarded as well. It is authentically reported from Sahl ibn Sa'ad (رضي الله عنه)¹ that the Messenger of Allaah (صلى الله عليه وسلم)² said: **I and the sponsor of an orphan in Paradise will be (near to one another) like this - and he (صلى الله عليه وسلم) pointed with his index and middle fingers, holding them apart.** It is also reported in the Saheeh Book of Muslim on the authority of Aboo Hurairah (رضي الله عنه) that the Messenger of Allaah (صلى الله عليه وسلم) said: **The one who takes care of an orphan, whether a relative or a stranger, I and them, will be (near to one another) in Paradise like these two.** The narrator, Maalik ibn Anas (رضي الله عنه), pointed with his index and middle fingers. His saying: **...relative or a stranger...**, means that the reward is the same whether the orphan is of their kinfolk or is a stranger. For example, an orphan may be sponsored by a relative such as their mother, grandfather, brother or other relatives. Commenting on this Hadeeth, Ibn Battal said: "It is the duty of everyone who hears this Hadeeth to act accordingly to accompany the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) in Paradise and there is no better place in Paradise than that."

May Allaah grant us success. May peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad, his family, and Companions.

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¹ (رضي الله عنه) (rad iyallaahu `anhu) May Allaah the Most High be pleased with him

² (صلى الله عليه وسلم) (sallallaahu `alayhi wa sallam) May the peace and blessings of Allaah the Most High be upon him