

Assalamu Alaykum.

My dear brothers and sisters.

Islam is a way of life that gives importance to both this world and the hereafter. It does not give all importance to one and completely leaves of the other. Rather it holds both with its due right of importance.

One of those aspects of this world that Islam gives a great deal of importance to is wealth and how it's earned. This is evident from the Quran and from the Sunnah of the Nabi SAW. We have direct commands that the believer should search for provisions in a halal manner.

As Allah Most High States

“O mankind, eat from whatever is on earth [that is] lawful and good”

“O you who have believed, eat from the good things which We have provided for you and be grateful to Allah if it is [indeed] Him that you worship.”

Translation of Baqarah 168 and 172

It's an obligation on the believer to search for wealth that is permissible and earned in a way that meets the guidelines set by Allah and His Messenger saw.

Allah The Sustaining One states

“You only worship, besides Allah, idols, and you produce a falsehood. Indeed, those you worship besides Allah do not possess for you [the power of] provision. So seek from Allah provision and worship Him and be grateful to Him. To Him you will be returned.”

Translation of Ankabut 17

He The Self-Subsisting One also states

“And when the prayer has been concluded, disperse within the land and seek from the bounty of Allah, and remember Allah often that you may succeed.”

Translation of Al-Jumu'a 10

There is special reason that the wealth earned by halal means is harder than the wealth earned by haram means. Allah Most High wants to test who holds

His commands and searches and works hard and is contempt with the halal rather than going after the haram and in return earns the displeasure of his Lord and Maker. Allah is distinguishing the good and the bad by this. He Most High tests us with difficulty and ease. At this point, when we see the haram and how easy it is but we stay away from it because it displeases Allah and we stay contempt with the halal no matter how difficult it may be. The believer will never swap the bliss of paradise for a miserly gain of this part time, limited world. Allah The Possessor of Majesty and Honour tests his servants and we know that we are in this world to be tested.

Allah The Eternal Lord states

“Do the people think that they will be left to say, "We believe" and they will not be tried?”

Translation of Al-Ankabut 2

My brothers and sisters even the honourable Messengers worked for their living and earned to feed themselves and their families. The Honourable Messenger Dawud A.S. made armor for his living. They worked and ate and slept just like us.

As Allah The Flawless Shaper states

“And We did not make the prophets forms not eating food, nor were they immortal [on earth].”

Translation of Al-Anbiya 8

Even our great father Adam A.S. worked and he was the first agriculture engineer and farmer. The honoured Messenger Nuh A.S. was the father of the carpenters, shipmen and mariner. Our honoured Messenger Mohammad SAW was a shepherd.

Honoured guests, we have to make it a priority to earn in a halal manner and in a manner that is pleasing to Our Lord and Maker. Lack of earning should not make us go after wealth that's haram for us.

The Nabi SAW said.

“The angel is then sent to him and he breathes into him the spirit. He is commanded to issue four decrees: to record his sustenance, his life span, his deeds, and [whether he will be] unhappy [by entering Hell] or happy [by entering Paradise]. I swear by Allah, other than Whom there is no God, certainly, one of you will definitely perform the deeds of the people of Paradise until there is not between him and Paradise except an arm’s length and then what has been recorded will overtake him and he shall perform the deeds of the people of Hell and enter it. And certainly, one of you will definitely perform the acts of the people of Hell until there is not between him and Hell except an arm’s length and then what has been recorded will overtake him and he shall perform the deeds of the people of Paradise and enter it.”

However much we chase the glams and glitter of this world and its pleasures, we will still have to one day go back and meet and stand in front of our Lord and Maker. A person who indulges in haram earnings and who consumes haram food and drink and wears cloths bought with haram earning will not have his duas answered by Allah as the Messenger SAW said.

“A man who, having journeyed far, is dishevelled and dusty, and who spreads out his hands to the sky saying “O Lord! O Lord!,” while his food is haram, his drink is haram, his clothing is haram, and he has been nourished with haram, so how can [his supplication] be answered?” [Muslim]

A way to increase your provisions is by asking for forgiveness from Allah. Coming back to Allah opens many doors for the believer especially those of provisions.

Allah The Sustaining One states.

“Ask forgiveness of your Lord. Indeed, He is ever a Perpetual Forgiver. He will send [rain from] the sky upon you in [continuing] showers. And give you increase in wealth and children and provide for you gardens and provide for you rivers.”

Translation of Surah Nuh 10-12

To give for the sake of Allah, Allah increases your provisions.

Allah The Most Merciful states in Saba 39 translated meaning

“whatever thing you spend [in His cause] - He will compensate it; and He is the best of providers.”

And in Baqarah 261

“The example of those who spend their wealth in the way of Allah is like a seed [of grain] which grows seven spikes; in each spike is a hundred grains. And Allah multiplies [His reward] for whom He wills. And Allah is all-Encompassing and Knowing”

Another way is to have Taqwa which is consciousness of Allah.

As He High and Mighty states.

“And whoever relies upon Allah - then He is sufficient for him. Indeed, Allah will accomplish His purpose. Allah has already set for everything a [decreed] extent.” At-Talaq 3

And He also states

“And if only the people of the cities had believed and feared Allah, We would have opened upon them blessings from the heaven and the earth; but they denied [the messengers], so We seized them for what they were earning.” Al-A'raf 96.

Also by putting trust in Allah as He The Supreme Solver states

“And whoever relies upon Allah - then He is sufficient for him. Indeed, Allah will accomplish His purpose. Allah has already set for everything a [decreed] extent.” At-Talaq 3.

Umar (May Allah be pleased with him) said:

I heard Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) saying: "If you all depend on Allah with due reliance, He would certainly give you provision as He gives it to birds who go forth hungry in the morning and return with full belly at dusk".

[At-Tirmidhi].

Servitude to Allah and not competing in worldly matters.

“Allah says: ‘O son of Adam, devote yourself to My worship, and I will fill your heart with contentment and take care of your poverty; but if you do not do that, then I will fill your heart with worldly concerns and will not take care of your poverty.’”

Giving in charity to those in need, especially those who are seeking knowledge.

Anas bin Malik narrated:

"There were two brothers during the time of the Messenger of Allah (s.a.w). One of them used to come to the prophet (s.a.w), and the other had some business. The businessman among them complained to the Prophet (s.a.w) about his brother, so he said 'Perhaps you are provided for because of him.'

Once Sa`d (bin Abi Waqqas) thought that he was superior to those who were below him in rank. On that the Prophet (ﷺ) said, "You gain no victory or livelihood except through (the blessings and invocations of) the poor amongst you."

The provisions on the earth decreases because of all the sins and immorality that exists.

As Allah High and Mighty States

“And if only they upheld [the law of] the Torah, the Gospel, and what has been revealed to them from their Lord, they would have consumed [provision] from above them and from beneath their feet. Among them are a moderate community, but many of them - evil is that which they do.”

Translation of AL-Maedah 66.

We ask Allah High and Mighty to forgive us and make us of those who earn His Pleasure and not of those who earn His Wrath. We ask Allah to make us contempt with what He has decreed. We ask you Ya Allah make us companions of those whom you have bestowed your favour in this life and the next.

Ameen and Allah Ultimately knows best.