

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

# Selfishness

الحمد لله رب العالمين،  
والصلاة والسلام على سيد المرسلين.

As for then;

Truly, selfishness is part of the natural instincts in man, because he is by his nature: selfish. He loves the good for himself and the benefit for his own being before anything else. And this is a matter that has been governed by the Divine Wisdom, so that the earth will be colonised and constructed, and so that life will continue and flourish.

Also, it is a principal governing tests on which are built upon the imposition of hardships on man and his inhabitancy of this earth. And this is why man is anxious about gathering for himself what he can from the bounties. He is anxious that *he* attains, not others; such that he is rendered old and his anxiety renders old with him, and this is how his Creator describes him:

**“And man is ever miserly”<sup>1</sup>**

**“And human inner-selves are swayed by greed.”<sup>2</sup>**

And the Messenger of Allah peace be upon him pictured to us the concern of a human about this life and its provisions such that he said:

**“If the son of Adam had two valleys of gold, he would have sought a third. And nothing will fill the interns (i.e. satisfy) of the son of Adam except soil [of his grave], and Allah will accept whoever repents.”<sup>3</sup>**

If man let this greed overcome his soul and rule his behaviour and govern his relations with others, then we won't find except a man who is selfish and greedy. His only worry is to benefit himself and not others; to receive, but not to give. He will want to win without work or effort. He is constantly saying: ‘me’, ‘mine’. And it is a disaster if such a man is present in a community such that he says: “Myself, Myself” and doesn't think to say “My community! My nation!”.

Yet, a society that wants to build its honour, to construct its civilisation and to rise with a message is in need of excessive efforts for this to happen. At the same time, it is in need of masterminds who think for it, hands that work for it and enthusiasm which doesn't exhaust.

Similarly, it is in need of a person who gives before he receives, and who performs the work before he asks for his rights. A person who doesn't mind leaving his family for the benefit of his community; and leaving his home for the benefit of his Lord. He finds pleasure in sacrificing his money and his life for the sake of Allah. He sacrifices his own benefits for the benefit of the rest. And he accepts poverty and hardship if it is in aid of the truth.

---

<sup>1</sup> Holy Qur'an: The Chapter of the Night Journey 17 : 100

<sup>2</sup> Holy Qur'an: The Chapter of Women 4 : 128

<sup>3</sup> Sahih: Narrated by Imams Al-Bukhaari and Muslim.

So, what kind of a man is he? And what is this wonderful school in which he has been educated?

This man is the believer; and the school is the school of the Qur'an and *Iman*.

*Iman* which makes the human control his desires and abandon the unnecessarily worldly needs. Such that he is satisfied with that which replenishes the hunger for food and that which covers his body of clothes. And he is satisfied with the littlest amount of money for living. He devalues money – in his sight – and so he spends it in the way of Allah. He devalues his home: so he leaves it; his family: so he departs from them; and even his life: so he gives his time and energy to its Creator hoping of Him to accept it. Such that if death comes to him, whilst he is working for goodness, he greets it with comfort and joy because he is sure that in front of him is paradise and the pleasure of Allah is greater.

Truly, *Iman* in Allah and his gracious reward in the hereafter is the principal on which a believer gives the valuable and the precious. For if he gives, it will be returned unto him manifold.

**“And Whatever you spend in the Cause of Allah it shall be repaid unto you in full, and you shall not be treated unjustly.”<sup>4</sup>**

**“And if you are killed in Allah’s Way or die there in, surely forgiveness from Allah and mercy are far better than all that they amass.”<sup>5</sup>**

Then, any effort a Muslim presents for the sake of Allah isn’t lost no matter how little it is.

Islam gives us the greatest of examples of effort and sacrifice.

Zaid ibn Aslam said, ‘When the saying of Allah: **“Whomsoever loans Allah a great loan.”** was sent down, Abul-Dahdah said, “You are [like] my Father and Mother, O Prophet of Allah, does Allah require from us a loan and he is in need of our loans?”

The Prophet – peace be upon him, “Yes, He wants to enter you with it to paradise.”

So he said, “If I give my Lord a loan will it ensure me and my daughter paradise.”

The Prophet – peace be upon him - said, “Yes.”

He said, “Give me your hand,” So the Prophet peace be upon him gave him his hand and he said, “I have two gardens, one in the lower part and the other one in the upper part of Al-Madinah, By Allah I don’t have any other wealth beside it, I have made them a loan for Allah the exalted one.”

So the Prophet peace be upon him said, “Make one of them for Allah, and the other leave it as a source of living for you and your family.”

He said, “I witness you O Messenger of Allah that I have given the better of the two for Allah and it is a garden with six hundred date-palm trees.”

The Prophet peace be upon him said, “Then, Allah will reward you with *Al-Jannah*.”

So, he set off until he came to Umul-Dahdah -his wife- and she was her children in the garden, so he informed her of what had happened, she said to him, “Your trade is successful. May Allah bless you with what you have purchased.”

---

<sup>4</sup> Holy Qur’an: The Chapter of The Spoils 6 : 60

<sup>5</sup> Holy Qur’an: The Chapter of The Family of Imran 3 : 157

Then she went to her children and took what was in their mouths because it didn't belong to them anymore.'

Such is one example of many examples of overcoming one's greed. When the human realises who he is, and knows his Creator, then he will give without any fear of poverty; because he knows for certain that Allah owns all that is in the Heavens and in the Earth; and whatever one spends, then Allah can replace.