

Lessons relating to Rizq - Wealth, Sustenance, Earnings, Money

DISCLAIMER: This reminder was originally delivered in Arabic on Friday, 27 June 2008. Any meanings lost in translation are not to be attributed to the speaker as reminders are translated by volunteers. The mosque has no official translator and volunteers often have no formal qualifications to translate on the day. Please forgive any errors as they are from our human weakness and any right guidance is from God.

Oh Muslims, in this life the human being is always busy minded, worried, sad and concerned about how he is to find his sustenance (rizq). It is part of human nature to work hard to get his/her sustenance (rizq) for him and his household. There is nothing wrong in that, indeed it is required from everyone to do that by both religion as well as human nature.

But some people might use forbidden and prohibited ways to get their sustenance (rizq) without knowing that there is no blessing in any ill gotten earnings (rizq). Of course, those people are ignorant about the right Islamic means by which sustenance can be earned and the doors to blessings can be opened. God the most high says "It is He Who has made the earth manageable for you, so traverse through its tracts and enjoy of the Sustenance which He furnishes: but to Him is the Resurrection" Al-Mulk [67:15]

Here are, oh Muslims, some criteria by which you should check your means for earning your sustenance. Understand them and more important apply them in your life.

Firstly, have total reliance on God the One and Only, the eternal, and the absolute. Listen to the saying of the prophet (pbuh) "If you were to rely on God as He should be relied on, He would provide for you as He provides for the birds. They go out in the morning hungry and return in the evening full." [At-Tirmidhi] and God says "And if any one puts his trust in God, sufficient is ((God)) for him. For God will surely accomplish his purpose: indeed, for all things has God appointed a due proportion" [At-Talaq 65:3] and "There is no moving creature on earth but its sustenance depends on God. He knows the time and place of its definite abode and its temporary deposit: All is in a clear Record" [Hud 11:6]. So use the lawful means and rely on God, do not be lazy or complacent. Where are you in this -do you knock on the door of the most generous with your *hands* open: a *heart* full of trust and reliance on him; and stay at His door with a *mind* full of certainty that sustenance

is with God only and you will get whatever was written for you? [see further <http://www.leedsgrandmosque.com/khutbahs/khutba-20070622.pdf>]

Secondly - repentance and seeking God's forgiveness. God tells you [of the call of his messenger, Noah] "Saying 'Ask forgiveness from your Lord; for He is Oft-Forgiving; He will send rain to you in abundance; '" And give you increase in wealth and sons; and bestow on you gardens and bestow on you rivers (of flowing water)" [Nooh 71:10-12].

- Imam Al-Qurtubi (may God have mercy on him) "this verse is an evidence that seeking forgiveness is a reason to get sustenance (rizq) and rain "
- Ibn Katheer (may God have mercy on him) said explaining those verses: "if you repent to God, seek his forgiveness and obey him then your sustenance will be more."
- A man came to AlHasan AlBasri (may God have mercy on him) complaining about sterility, he replied: 'ask God for forgiveness'. Another man came complaining about destitution/poverty, he replied: 'ask God for forgiveness'. Another man came asking him to pray that God gives him a son, he replied ... 'ask God for forgiveness'. His companions then asked him: three different men asked you three different questions and you gave them the same answer!! He replied: I didn't say anything by my own, God the most high says "Saying, 'Ask forgiveness from your Lord; for He is Oft-Forgiving; He will send rain to you in abundance; '" And Give you increase in wealth and sons; and bestow on you gardens and bestow on you rivers (of flowing water)"

So repent to God, seek his forgiveness and admit your shortcomings to be blessed with his mercy and showered with his blessings. [see further <http://www.leedsgrandmosque.com/khutbahs/khutba-20030523.asp>]

Thirdly, maintaining ties of kinship as prophet (pbuh) said: "Whoever would like to see his provision expanded and his life extended, let him maintain his ties of kinship" so are you maintaining your ties of kinship? [see further <http://www.leedsgrandmosque.com/khutbahs/khutba-20080509.pdf>]

Fourthly, worshipping God the almighty and making time for this so that you can give it your total attention and full care. God says in a qudsi hadith (i.e. in the words of the Prophet SAW) "O, Son of Adam! Be free from this world by worshipping me. I will fill your heart with independence and your hands with sustenance; otherwise I will fill your heart with poverty, your soul with difficulties" and in [Adh-Dhariyat 51:56-58] "I have only created Jinns and men, that they may serve Me. No Sustenance do I require of them, nor do I require that they should feed Me. For God is He Who gives (all) Sustenance, Lord of Power forever. [see further <http://www.leedsgrandmosque.com/khutbahs/Khutba-20060303.pdf>]

The **fifth** reason is to spend in the sake of God almighty. God says "and nothing do you spend in the least (in His cause) but He replaces it: for He is the Best of those who grant Sustenance" [Saba 34:39]. Prophet (pbuh) once said to Bilal "O Bilal spend, spend (in the way of God) and don't fear anything, the Lord of the throne won't let us down." And God says in a qudsi hadith "O son of Adam, spend (for my sake) and I will spend on you." How great is this guarantee! And how generous is the creator! Where are those who don't spend in the sake of God at all? [see further <http://www.leedsgrandmosque.com/khutbahs/khutba-20070831.pdf>]

The **sixth** reason is to be kind to the weak, poor and needy people and help them as much as possible. Prophet (pbuh) said:" You are provided for and granted victory ... due to the weak amongst you" [AlBukhari] [see further <http://www.leedsgrandmosque.com/khutbahs/khutba-20071013.pdf>]

After all these six lessons of: {1. having total reliance upon God, 2. seeking God's forgiveness, 3. giving full attention to God's rights to your worship/service, 4. maintaining your ties of kinship, 5. spending for the sake of God and 5. being kind to the less fortunate} - you should earn your sustenance (rizq) with your hard work and diligence. You should use only lawful ways without oppressing anyone and without exploiting and promoting of anything prohibited by Islam. A Muslim is prohibited from working in anything that is unlawful in Islam (food, drink or cloths). He must avoid working in bars and night-clubs, he should keep away from doubtful places where his belief might get weaker whatever money he can make. [see further <http://www.leedsgrandmosque.com/khutbahs/khutba-20040409.asp>]

In Islam, we are allowed to get wealth from lawful ways only "Any meat that has grown from ill-gotten wealth, then hellfire is more deserving of it."

God says "O you who believe! Eat not up your property among yourselves in vanities: But let there be amongst you Traffic and trade by mutual good-will" [An-Nisa 4:30]

"And fear God. That you may prosper" [Al-Baqara 2:189]

Do not depend upon your own power and strength without depending upon Allah as He is the Owner the heavens and the earth and all sustenance (rizq) that is between them - always remind yourself of the lessons from verses and the sayings in this reminder whenever you feel weak or your lower self inclines you to something that is away from this.