

Talha Ibn Ubayd God (2)

DISCLAIMER: This reminder was originally delivered in Arabic on Friday, 5 June 2009. 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, feeling concern for other Muslims' needs and trying to achieve their aspirations so that this strengthens their affiliation to this religion and helps preserve their identity, is a blessing given by God to the wealthy and those who can spend among this nation. God (Glory be to Him, the Most High) says "Never will you attain the good [reward] until you spend [in the way of God] from that which you love. And whatever you spend – indeed, God is Knowing of it. [Al-Imran 3:92] and in another verse "Here you are – those invited to spend in the cause of God – but among you are those who withhold [out of greed]. And whoever withholds only withholds [benefit] from himself; and God is the Free of need, while you are the needy. And if you turn away, He will replace you with another people; then they will not be the likes of you." [Muhammad 47:38].

It is likely that when you hear these verses thoughts of spending for the sake of God through collecting donations comes to mind- which is a good concept. However, for today we will talk about another kind of spending.

- How many projects, hopes, ambitions and aspirations do Muslims have but they cannot achieve because of lack of funds?
- How many great ideas died because they did not find helping hands for them to grow and deliver?
- How many important projects for Muslims -in this country and other western countries like the USA –did not find anyone to adopt them in order to play a role in servicing Muslims?

There is indeed a long list of projects which are waiting to be achieved by Muslims but one of the biggest obstacles is funds. The main problem, oh Muslims, is that the wealthy Muslims limited their spending to narrow, limited and confined aspects which are not have the priority for their own community. This is because of the lack of awareness towards the actual situation of the nation and the lack of understanding of the needs of Muslim minorities around the world. For example, people in the land of the Balkans, Poland and other Eastern European countries live in communities where there are dozens, perhaps even hundreds of closed mosques with no one to take care of them and no Imam to lead prayers or teach people because of the lack of funds. Such deficiencies in thinking and confusion in spending is a result of a lack of understanding and guidance.

Ibn Asakir narrated that several hundreds of thousands of dirhams were sent to Talha Ibn Ubayd God (Abu Muhammad) from Hadhramawt so he spent the night thinking and worrying how to deal with such amount of money. His wife asked him: "oh Abu Muhammad, why are you worried? Is it something we did?" He replied: "no, I vow that you are the best of wives, but I was thinking: what does a man with this large amount of money in his house think of his Lord?" She replied reminding him of his generosity: "why do you not remember some of your manners?" He asked: "which one?" She replied: "in the morning, ask for bowls and divide the money between the houses of the emigrants and locals depending on how big (number of people needing to be provided for) each house is." He replied: "may God shower you with his mercy, you are as I know, rightly guided and the daughter of a rightly guided." His wife was Um Kalthum – the daughter of Abu Bakr! In the morning, he followed his wife's advice and divided the money between the emigrants and locals in

his community and sent a bowl to Ali Bin Abi Talib. His wife asked him: “oh Abu Muhammad, don’t we have a share in that money?” He replied: “where were you this morning - do whatever you want with whatever left” (that was only about a thousand dirham)!

Oh Muslims, This is a wonderful example which embodies the spirit of giving for the sake of God and to fulfil the needs of Muslims and this dialogue between Talha and his wife is the best proof that Islam raises the souls and purifies them from stinginess and love of wealth. Islam also teaches the souls to spend from the wealth that was given to them by God for the sake of God and to abandon selfishness in order to show sympathy towards the needy “And whoever is protected from the stinginess of his soul – it is those who will be the successful.” [Al-Hashr 59:9].

Oh Muslims, Those two manners of Talha- courage [from last week’s reminder] and generosity-made him among the people of high status and granted a great honour. His love to God and his messenger and sincerity in his service to Islam and his truthfulness with *God* and his *soul* brought him the glad tidings from the prophet (pbuh) that he was among the people of paradise “Among the believers are men true to what they promised God. Among them is he who has fulfilled his vow [to the death], and among them is he who awaits [his chance]. And they did not alter [the terms of their commitment] by any alteration” [Al-Ahzab 33:23].

Talha used to have discussions at night with Ali Bin Abi Talib. It was said that Ali went out for prayer while reciting the verse “Indeed, those for whom the best [reward] has preceded from Us — they are from it far removed.” [Al-Anbiaa 21:101]. Ali said: “I am one of them, Abu Bakr is one of them, Omar is one of them, Othman is one of them, Talha and Az-Zubayr”. He kept reciting till he entered the prayer.

Talha Ibn Ubayd God was killed in the year 36 Hijri in the Battle of the camel; he was about 60 years old. It was narrated that he was buried next to the river Euphrates and some members of his family saw him in their dreams saying (three times): “shall you protect me from this water; I have drowned”. They told Ibn Abbas and took Talha’s corpse out more than 30 years after his death, and found that miraculously only the colour of his body and some change to his hair were the only visible changes to his corpse! They bought a house and buried him there, his grave in Al-Basra is well known.

Oh Muslims, We come to the conclusion of the life-story of the fifth person among the ten people promised paradise during the life time of the prophet (pbuh). Did your *soul* ask you to be distinguished and seek the high status beginning by requesting the satisfaction of God and winning paradise? Take advantage of the treasures of Islam by understanding and applying it with the right intention and sincerity. Encourage yourself to find a space among those who were mentioned in the verse “and those who followed them with good conduct – God is pleased with them” [Al-Tawbah 9:100]. Always remember that God loves the servant who repeatedly turns back to him, the one who remembers him, the ambitious and the foremost in good deeds “So for this let the competitors compete.” [Al-Mutaffifeen 83:26].

May God guide us to whatever pleases Him.