

Chapter – 16

Charities

(صدقة ونيرات)

Quran:

وَمَا أَنْفَقْتُمْ مِّنْ شَيْءٍ فَهُوَ يُخْلِفُهُ وَهُوَ خَيْرُ الرَّازِقِينَ

{And whatever you spend in Allah's cause, He will restore it, and He is the Best Sustainer. (34:39)}

وَلَا يَحْسَبَنَّ الَّذِينَ يَبْخُلُونَ بِمَا آتَاهُمُ اللَّهُ مِنْ فَضْلِهِ هُوَ خَيْرًا لَّهُمْ بَلْ هُوَ شَرٌّ لَّهُمْ
سَيُطَوَّقُونَ مَا بَخُلُوا بِهِ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ

{And never must those who act miserly upon what Allah has bestowed upon them of His grace; think that it is good for them; in fact it is harmful for them; soon what they had withheld will be collars round their neck on the Day of Resurrection. (03:180)}

Hadith:

Narrated 'Adi bin Hatim:

Prophet said; "Give charity, no matter it is one date and that save you from Hell-fire. (Sahih Bukhari: 1332)

Narrated Haritha bin Wahab and Abu Hurairah:

Prophet said, "Give charity, as a time will come upon you when a person will wander about with his object of charity and will not find anybody to accept it, and one who will be requested to take it will say, "If you had brought it yesterday, would have taken it, but to-day I am not in need of it." (Hadith 1327 says), The Day of Judgment will not be established till your wealth increases so much so that one will be worried, for no one will accept his Zakat. (Sahih Bukhari: 1326 & 1327)

Narrated 'Adi bin Hatim:

Allah's Prophet said; "As regards stealing and robberies, a time will come when a caravan will go to Mecca (from Medina) without any guard. And regarding poverty, The Day of Judgment will not be established till one of you wanders about with his object of charity and will not find anybody to accept it. And so give charity, no matter it is one date. If you do not find even one date, then you can do it through saying a good pleasant word. (Sahih Bukhari: 1328)

Important Aspects of Islamic Doctrine

Obligatory (فرض):

(1) Giving charities is open to all so everyone should help others who are needy. Therefore, God has not made it obligatory. (2) However, some Islamic Jurists say that Charity after Ramazan is obligatory.

Essential (واجب):

(1) The sayings of our Noble prophet that, “give charity no matter it is one date-fruit” indicates that for giving charity it is not necessary that one should be rich. It stimulates all to give charity to poor. (2) In Eid-ul-Azha, making share of meat is a part of the philosophy of giving charity to poor. (3) Similarly, charity on Eid-ul-Fitr is also obligatory.

Sunnah (سنة):

(1) Charity on Eid-ul-Fitr should be given prior to the Eid prayer. (2) Helping to beggars is Sunnah.

Desirable (مستحب):

(1) It is the teachings of our Noble Prophet that talking with smile, preaching for good deeds, stopping from bad deeds, helping blind persons, and cleaning road hurdles, these all are Charities. (2) Similarly, spreading good things, plantation, making noncommercial institutes for education and building charity hospitals etc. are all included in charities; rather it is a Continuous Charity (صدقه جارية), means as long as the charity item exists its benefit goes to the donor too.

Miscellaneous (متفرق)

(1) In the days of Prophet, dates, dried grapes and cheese in certain quantities (one Sa'a which is equal to two kilos) were used to be given for the charity of Eid-ul-Fitr. Nowadays, the most used item that is “Wheat” has been fixed as scale. (2) However, the items mentioned in point No. 1 may also be given. (3) Charity of Eid-ul-Fitr is essentially given on behalf of every individual person in the house.

