

Chapter – 31

Zakath

(زكاة)

❖ إِنَّمَا الصَّدَقَاتُ لِلْفُقَرَاءِ وَالْمَسَاكِينِ وَالْعَامِلِينَ عَلَيْهَا وَالْمُؤَلَّفَةِ قُلُوبُهُمْ وَفِي الرِّقَابِ وَالْغَارِمِينَ وَفِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ وَابْنِ السَّبِيلِ فَرِيضَةً مِّنَ اللَّهِ وَاللَّهُ عَلِيمٌ حَكِيمٌ

Certainly, the obligatory charity (Zakath) is only for the destitute and the needy, and for those who collect it, and for those whose hearts are to be reconciled (for Islam); and to free those in bondage, and to the debtors, and in Allah's cause, and to the travelers; this is an obligation from Allah; and Allah is wise and all knowing. (09:60)

❖ وَمَا أُمِرُوا إِلَّا لِيَعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ مُخْلِصِينَ لَهُ الدِّينَ حُنَفَاءَ وَيُقِيمُوا الصَّلَاةَ وَيُؤْتُوا الزَّكَاةَ وَذَلِكَ دِينُ الْقِيَمَةِ -

Yet all that they had been commanded was that they serve Allah with utter sincerity; devote themselves exclusively to Him, and they establish Prayer and pay Zakath, and that is the right faith. (98:05)

Any work which is done in the way of God is صدقة (charity). But sometimes with decency its meaning is taken as زكاة (compulsory charity). Similar to the submission of prayer's essentiality zakath is also obligatory.

Those people who did not consider it necessary and betrayed to pay it, the first Khalifah Abu Bakar Siddique رضى الله عنه fought with them. Nowadays Muslims are not paying zakath that is why any work is not going up to the national level. If all pay this money for charity then Muslims will not see this miserable condition. Those who fulfill zakath obligation they live happily and safe as well.

Dear People! Look everywhere you will see a craze of money, no matter it is earned with fair means or unfair means. People do not hesitate to take bribery. They are ready to eat 'Bank interest'. No reluctance in theft. Day and night they think for money, land, house, car, property and wealth. No one cares for orphans and nobody help the poor. Money is wasted in unnecessary customs.

Thousands of rupees saved and became millionaire and billionaire but still not sufficient. Do you know what would be the result for this 'more and 'more'. It will be Hell! Hellfire! You say 'more' and the Hellfire also cries for 'more! You do not feel enough nor does Hellfire satisfy at any stage.

Look! Craze for wealth is a distress. No ease in the day and no peace in the night. This desire of more wealth does not give chance to take proper meals, and in the night does not provide comfortable sleep. When the statement of account is prepared, whatever you eat you even write in the column of loss! ---- There are two phrases in Urdu:

کھال جائے مگر مال نہ جائے or چمڑی جائے مگر دھڑی نہ جائے

(You can get nothing from a miser except his skin)

How long you will continue with the above saying? Whether wealth is your servant or you are the servant of wealth? You collect food with struggle like a hunting animal, but you don't eat yourself nor feed to others, and at last face a wistful death. This is an extreme tragedy!

Look! God provides you His favors in abundance then He will also question you regarding income and expenditures. By which means it is earned and in what way you spent? It should not happen that your wealth becomes a nuisance, and its account turns into punishment. Therefore be remembered! Earn through fair means. Help poor. Spend money in charity. Then your life is worthy and your death is also decent. The person who has contentment in his heart then he is like a king. He is a ruler. He will see comfort in this world and will also be pleased in Hereafter. God is all in all. Rest is lust.

Islam does not have the cruel system like Capitalism nor have difficulties of Socialism. Rather, Islam permits us to earn with fair means. Save wealth and properties, but always remember for poor. Pay zakath. Never make your money with such methods that poor are totally finished.

Alas! Muslims do not pay zakath, but keep on yelling all around for donations. After one year they need to pay only one rupee out of 40 rupees yet this is also difficult for them.

Those who save money with wrong means and do not pay zakath, look how God crumbles them! Whatsoever is deposited in the banks all plundered due to bankruptcy. Those banks which exist, here the inflation of rupee goes up to the extent of tyranny. Moreover, governments impose taxes in many ways. These factors also create overpricing of utility items in the market.

Alas! This is the result of your greed. You showed your miserliness, God has stopped His bestows. These days blessing (برکت) is being considered as if it is against the fact.

There is a Persian saying of one Intellect:

ابرند آید از پے منع زکوٰۃ

(You stopped the charity

therefore God did not help you by not sending rain)

Remember! Those who are not compassionate with people of earth, Allah سبحانه و تعالیٰ is also not merciful toward them.

Who is responsible to collect zakath? The answer is --- the prevailing Government. If the country is not Islamic or where the zakath is not collected on Islamic Principles, then Muslims should elect or select any reliable person who should manage to collect and distribute this zakath. It demands discipline and proper management. The organizers must be fully informed regarding needy persons. They should also ensure that the zakath fund is reaching to the eligible persons.

In every village or town there is a representative of residents like Counselor (leader of the local area) or Patwari (Land Recorder of village). Similarly, zakath collection should proceed systematically. One President for a local area, one President for a district, and one President for a province should be designated. Each President should have few committee members who should be responsible to collect and distribute zakath. In order to prepare a complete list of the residents, the government Censes Record may be referred. ---- I myself arranged such lists and distributed in various districts, but nobody cared for it. Practically, all did not care for it of it. Sad --!

Very sad! After one sadness a chain of thousands sadness ----! The basic question is that from where the 'sincerity' would come --?

Who would pass on zakath to the deserving persons? ---- Throughout the world, donations are collected for national works. But what is the outcome --? There is a Persian saying:

نشستند و گفتند و برخاستند

(Just sit, talk, and disperse)

All gather for ‘meetings’, deliver good ‘speeches’, and raise ‘movements’. Also cheer up and go for slogans of الله أكبر. Many resolutions are passed as well. --- It is possible that some contribution might have utilized in a proper place. But generally it is spent more on the name rather than work. Self-display is very much important for them. There is scarcity of those works which are done solely in the way of God. That is why we are humiliated and disregarded.

If any work is done it goes in a much disorganized way. People give money for charity. But no one show courage to ask those persons who collect this charity to submit the audited account. --- Behind them, they will say bad words. They backbite for them, but will never openly criticize for their wrong doings. This demands sincerity and moral courage.

Frustration for one thing! Frustration for another thing!

اونٹ رے اونٹ تیری کون سی کل سیدھی

(Camel’s body has no part straight!)

Anyways! May God bestow us richness, bestow us sincerity and bestow us moral courage. And above all, bestow us ‘spiritual power’ as well. Amen.

وَالْعَصْرِ. إِنَّ الْإِنْسَانَ لَفِي خُسْرٍ.

إِلَّا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ وَتَوَاصَوْا بِالْحَقِّ وَتَوَاصَوْا بِالصَّبْرِ.

{(On oath of) This era! Indeed man is surely in a loss. Except those who accepted faith, and did good deeds and urged one another to the truth, and urged one another to have patience. (103: 01 to 03)}
