

Chapter – 53

Slavery

(غلامی)

- ❖ وَأَنْكِحُوا الْأَيَامَىٰ مِنْكُمْ وَالصَّالِحِينَ ----- وَاللَّهُ وَاسِعٌ عَلِيمٌ .
- ❖ وَلَيْسَتَعَفِيفِ الَّذِينَ لَا يَجِدُونَ ----- مِنْ بَعْدِ إِكْرَاهِهِنَّ غَفُورٌ رَحِيمٌ .

And marry off those who are single, among you and those of your male (slave) and female (bound-woman) servants, who are righteous; If they are poor, Allah will enrich them of His generosity; Allah has boundless resources, all knowing (24:32)

And those who do not have the means to get married must abstain from what is unlawful till Allah provides them the resources by his generosity; and the bound-women in your possession who, in order to earn something, seek a letter of freedom from you, then write it for them if you consider some goodness in them; and help them in their cause with Allah's wealth which He has given to you; Do not force your bound-women into the dirty profession, while they wish to save themselves, in order to earn some benefits of the worldly life; and if some feels compelled then indeed Allah (may) forgive upon their forced helplessness, He is Forgiving, Merciful. (24:33)

The first Verse 32 of Surat-un-Noor, quoted above, contains the word **عباد** (slaves) is a plural of **عبد** (servant). It has been used for bondmen, a person who is the legal property of another.

Was this system of slavery prevalent before Islam? Yes! It was always existed. However, Islam has presented reforms in this old tradition. Islam did not stop slavery at once, but practically introduced such methods through which this system has been eliminated gradually from this world.

In what circumstances the slavery originates? It starts in war periods! Everybody knows that during war, rules, regulations and agreements do not exist. In this period neither any life is saved nor any morality. Material becomes a very small item. Plundering, slaying, killing, and all could happen. In old days, the conquerors used to destroy the defeated countries and completely ruin them. All the enemies were kept in cells and prisons. In old days, all men hostages used to be killed and the women were distributed among soldiers. But, later both men and women were made slaves.

Islam has eliminated the slavery system in this way that it was ordered that whatever you eat you should give the same to your slaves. Whatever you use for your dress, you should share it with these slaves. If anybody commits any blunder, it was ordered that a slave should be made free as punishment of your mistake. If master's child is born through his bondwoman, she will be treated as **أُمٌ وَلَدٌ** (mother of that child). After death of the master, she cannot be sold but will be made free. --- As soon as bondmen or bondwomen become educated and civilized they should be given freedom without any give and take.

The second Verse 33 of Surat-un-Noor, quoted above, contains the word **فَكَاتِبُوهُمْ** (then transcribe for them). This is an order and so turns into an obligation. Therefore when slaves become cultured, giving freedom to them is compulsory.

Look at the amenities that are provided by Islam for slaves. According to the principles of Islam, when a son attains young age his further care does not remain an obligation for father. But in case of slaves and their families, the responsibilities of a master remain as it is. --- If master does any injustice, slave can register his complaint to the judge. Judge will order the master to stop his unfair doings. If that master does not listen to the orders of the judge then the slave will be taken off from his custody and will be handed over to other master. --- Slaves can adopt any religion of their choice. Islam does not create any compulsion on this subject.

Prophet Muhammad **صلى الله عليه وسلم** has instructed to nicely behave with slaves. Do not torture them beyond their strength. When you take any work from them, share with them. With all these recommendations can anyone say that slavery has been created by Islam or retained the previous system unchanged ---?

I can say with challenge that the previous slavery in Islam was far better than the prevailing freedom. ---- Look! Previously people used to say “Bondman” to a slave. Now they say “Black Man” to all who are from the east, no matter they are the white people belonging to Kashmir, Punjab, or Gujarat. They will remain always black. ---- These “**White People**”, how they behave with the so called “**Black people**”? Do they provide any opportunity to have a Big Status or extensive share in ‘Power’? Never Ever! These people prepare different laws for western people and make different rules for the eastern people.

Nowadays, millions of public are dying due to hunger but masters are totally carefree. In what condition these “**always ready to die soldiers**” are ---? No proper diet! No proper uniform! They are being kept behind in all respect, but in the war they are permanently in the front and ready to die!

Here, the Idol worshiper’s (Brahmin – priest community) of India call the defeated population of the country as شودر (servile cast – lower class) and لٲچ (the dirty one - untouchables). A dog can go into the kitchen of Hindu but submissive Shudras cannot dare to enter. If it is not slavery then what it is ---?
