

Chapter – 59

Theft

(چوری)

❖ وَالسَّارِقِ وَالسَّارِقَةُ فَاقْطَعُوا أَيْدِيَهُمَا جِزَاءً بِمَا كَسَبَا نَكَالًا مِّنَ اللَّهِ وَاللَّهُ عَزِيزٌ
حَكِيمٌ

And cut off hands of those men or women who are thieves ;(it is) a recompense of their deeds, a punishment from Allah, and Allah is Almighty, wise. (05:38)

What is Theft ---? Confidential extraction of any saved material from the custody of its owner is a theft. Taking out of very minor quantity is not theft. Then what is that quantum of removal after that, the punishment of hand-cut will be enforced ---? Imam Abu Hanifah رضى الله عنه says it should be minimum 10 Dirhams. Imam Shafi'i رضى الله عنه says it should worth minimum quarter of a Dinar. And Dawoodi and Khawarij say that no matter if it costs one penny or two pennies that will be called theft.

The most important thing is the theft material must be at a safe place. If something is fallen on the road and somebody took it, that will be not be called as theft. Similarly, funereal cloths, shop lifters and pickpockets will not be included in theft and they will not be punished as thief. Rather, they will be given disciplinary punishments. These are called Penal Punishments.

Somewhere any armed person entered and snatched money and material; it will be called dacoit or robbery. Punishment for this crime is in the hands of a Judge. That can even reach to the death sentence.

In case of theft, to what extent the hand will be cut ---? The answer is up to the wrist. --- Is this hand-cut punishment is not too harsh ---? According to the western procedures, some people believe that a thief should be punished through confinement in prison. And they are trying hard to justify it. But all fruitless! The experience proves that wherever the punishment of hand-cut has been implemented, the theft cases almost eliminated from these places. We went to Haj in those days when this hand-cut punishment was practically suspended. In those days theft and robbery was taken place as an ordinary affair. --- And we also went on Haj in those days when Islamic theft punishment was practically implemented by the Najadi Rulers. The result was, theft and robbery was totally eliminated.

Remember that instance when those who were knitting mousseline cloth in Bengal their thumbs were cut. I ask them was it justified ---? The people who unnecessarily support them they should think over it. Whoever considers that God's Orders are not justified they are themselves unjustified. Look! Always accept a specific harm against any common wickedness. It is always better to adopt lesser evil against greater evil.

Our hand-cut punishment is unjustified! But your killing millions of innocent people by heavy bombardment and fire are fully justified! Wow! سبحان الله .

Dear People! In Islam, punishment with fire is not permitted. Bugs, Fleas, Scorpions and Snakes etc. cannot be burnt into the fire. These Hindus, who burn human dead bodies, how can they object that we cut hands? There is one Urdu saying:

دوسروں کی آنکھ کا تیکا تو نظر آجاتا ہے، اور اپنی آنکھ کا شہتیر بھی نظر نہیں آتا

(You can see a minute bit of the grass in others eyes but you cannot see a bigger wood in your own eyes)

وَمَنْ لَّمْ يَحْكَمْ بِمَا أَنزَلَ اللَّهُ فَأُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الْفَٰسِقُونَ

{And whoever does not judge by what Allah has revealed then it is they who are the sinners - lawbreakers. (05:47)}
