



The Ants

Surah An Naml (سورة النمل) – Ayah 36

Ayah 36 – (فَلَمَّا جَاءَ سُلَيْمَانَ قَالَ أَتُمِدُّونَنِ بِمَالٍ فَمَا آتَانِيَ اللَّهُ خَيْرٌ مِّمَّا آتَاكُمْ بَلْ أَنْتُمْ بِبِدْعَتِكُمْ تَفْرَحُونَ) (So when (the messengers with the present) came to Sulaimân (Solomon), he said: "Will you help me in wealth? What Allâh has given me is better than that which He has given you! Nay, you rejoice in your gift!")

'**Atumiddūnani Bimālin:** Sulayman عليه السلام didn't take it as a gift but as a wealth. Because the queen's gift was huge. And he wasn't happy with the gift:

1. Because he understood her strategy and that the queen is testing him.
2. And Bilqees didn't reply to the letter but responded by giving gift.

Famā 'Ātāniya Allāhu Khayrun Mimmā 'Ātākum: He said that whatever Allah has blessed me with is better than what you possess. Does this indicate pride?

Analyze: This doesn't indicate pride, He is content with Allah's blessing. And he is not seeking anyone's wealth or land. He is very satisfied and rich, it means that he is not inclined to anyone's wealth. To be rich is to be satisfied with Allah's blessing and not be inclined to wealth of others. Some people who have plenty of wealth and still are inclined to other's money are not truly rich. Allah gave him prophet hood and a position of a king and richness of the world. So the gift didn't change his view, his goal was still the same. For example: if there is a teacher who gives marks and before the exam the student gives the teacher a gift. This gift is a bribe and it may change the teacher's marking pattern. So it is not acceptable to give the person on authority a gift, because it will be injustice and will lead to injustice.

- To brag about the blessing of Allah in general is disliked and you can't use this statement with the believer. But it is permissible to brag about blessings of Allah in front of the enemy.

In one of the battle prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم saw a Muslim walking very proudly, so the prophet said this walk is dispraised but in this situation it is permissible.

- It is permissible, to be firm in speech when there is benefit to it.

In order for us to take the ruling, we need to examine the situation to check the permissibility. Here the firmness of speech and bragging about the blessings of Allah is as sulayman's response to the bribe and a disbeliever. So you can't take any ruling from Quran and apply it as you please.

- There are three stages of contentment.
 - I. To say Allhumdulilah.
 - II. To publicly announce. (His response to enemy when they presented him the gift)
 - III. To be so overwhelmed with the blessing of Allah, that a person is unable to profess it. This was sulayman عليه السلام when he heard the ant. He was so overwhelmed that he made the dua.

So sulayman عليه السلام is an example of the person who is grateful to the blessings of Allah in above three ways.

Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم said that a rich person who is grateful is better than who is poor and patient.

Bal 'Antum Bihadīyatikum Tafrahūna : He said that you rejoice in your gift. Sulayman عليه السلام is content with Allah's blessing and you are rejoicing with your gift as your heart is attached with duniya. This rejoicing is dispraised because it is connected with duniya. But when you rejoice with the blessings of Allah (His mercy, forgiveness), that is praised. In surah Qasas, Qaroon is mentioned, He was very rich and he rejoiced with what he had. So it was a command that don't rejoice. Allah doesn't like people who rejoice with duniya. He is not judging them, but this is apparent and he is mentioning that.

If duniya is our concern, we will cry over it and rejoice over it. Our emotions will be tied to it. That's why we make dua that Ya Allah, don't make this duniya our biggest concern. If your goal is akhirah, then the concern of duniya will diminish.