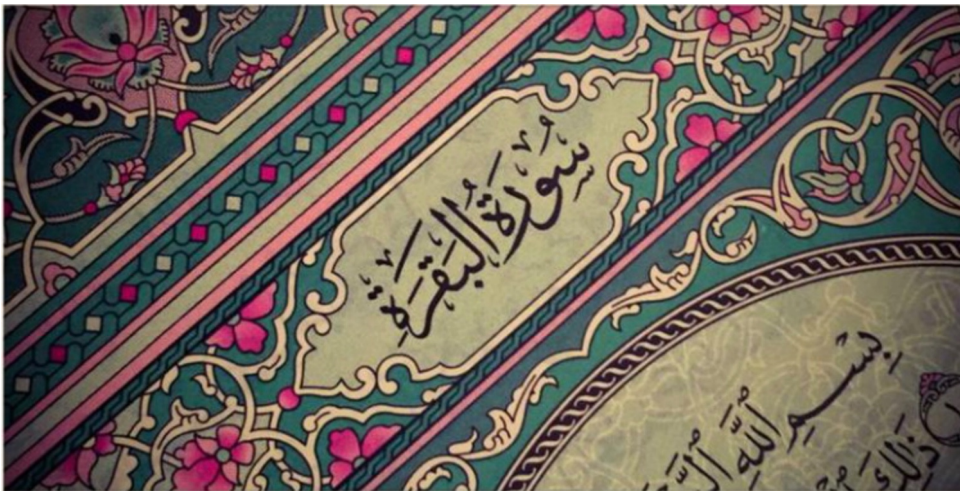


Al-Baqarah

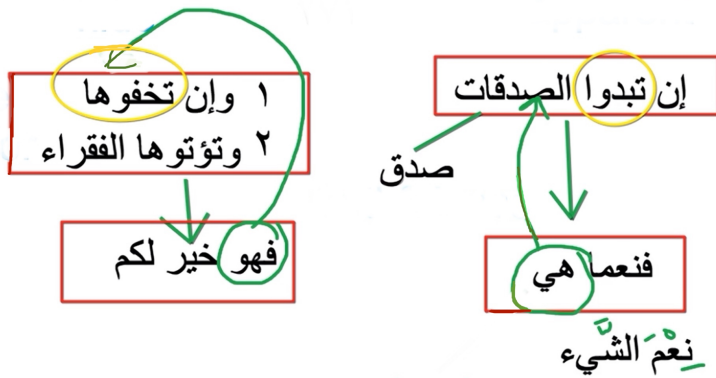
28 الآخرة جمادي 1440

5.3.19



Sometimes you have a big and important project, you are in a hurry to finish it, and tell others about it. But you don't have to worry about people, Allah knows and that is enough. People can't reward you, except by praising you, which fades, or giving you some monetary benefit, which is gone soon. When you go higher in rank, you don't care about people, you work for Allah. With Allah there is a recompense, and a reward for each drop of sweat and each tear. There are so many things that people don't appreciate, such as your intention, and motive, but Allah appreciates every single effort from you, and will reward you for it. Make your focus Allah, do ihsan for Him, and Allah will give you support and victory. Make Allah more Apparent, الظاهر, for you, than anyone else.

In this ayah, Allah tells you how to give sadaqah. There are two options, both correct. The best curriculum is the one which gives you options, and tells you which option is better. This is teaching us the skills of decision making, and setting priorities. The Qura'an doesn't only tell you to pray and fast, it helps you to develop different skills which you need in life, to modify yourself, to be better. So don't separate the Qura'an from your life and your development.



There are two options presented for you, either you make your sadaqah apparent, and let the people know about it, or you hide it and let no one know.

Generally, this depends on the deed, and your position in life. There are many factors which rule this. There are some deeds which cannot be done privately, such as acquiring knowledge, jihad, Hajj, umrah, tawaf, and obligatory worship.

The pillars and symbols of Islam must be made public, and this shows عزة الإسلام, the honour of Islam. If no one showed that they are fasting in

Ramadan, or the adhan was not called out, how would you show your deen? The hijab cannot be hidden either. This is motivating and inspirational to others, giving the deen a good image. When you practice your religion with confidence, this attracts others, even non Muslims. There are some deeds which can be hidden, such as the night prayers, or some charity for people who would feel humiliated if they found out you were helping them.

Here we are discussing a particular deed, the sadaqah. The sadaqah is very important in society, that people think of others and try to help them in different ways. The word صدقة is derived from the verb صدَّقَ, to be true. So when you give charity, you must be truthful, you must really want to give, from your heart. This should be your option, taken happily, otherwise it is not halal. Don't give charity because you are pressured into it, and are embarrassed to say no. Don't give to make people happy. It should come from the heart, for the sake of Allah. The sadaqah is anything good, even a smile, or a good word, and it must not be forced. It must come with truthfulness. When someone does charity publicly, people automatically assume he is showing off, but this is not always the case. It's not our business to guess the intentions of others.

إِنْ تَبْدُوا الصَّدَقَاتِ فَنِعْمًا هِيَ
وَإِنْ تَخْفَوْهَا وَتُؤْتُوهَا
الْفُقَرَاءَ فَهُوَ خَيْرٌ لَكُمْ وَيَكْفُرُ
عَنْكُمْ مَنْ سَيِّئَاتِكُمْ وَاللَّهُ بِمَا
تَعْمَلُونَ خَبِيرٌ

If you disclose your charitable expenditures, they are good; but if you conceal them and give them to the poor, it is better for you, and He will remove from you some of your misdeeds [thereby]. And Allah, with what you do, is [fully] Acquainted
2:271

صلى الله عليه وسلم The Messenger of Allah

said : لا يَجِلُّ مَالُ امْرِئٍ مُسْلِمٍ إِلَّا بِطَيِّبِ نَفْسٍ مِنْهُ

The charity of a person is not lawful unless it is given with the goodness of his heart.

الراوي : حنيفة عم أبي حرة الرقاشي | المحدث : الألباني | المصدر : صحيح الجامع

الصفحة أو الرقم : 7662 | خلاصة

حكم المحدث : صحيح

A man praised another man in front of the Messenger of Allah صلى الله عليه وسلم and he said to him :

وَيْكَ قَطَعْتَ عُنُقَ صَاحِبِكَ قَطَعْتَ عُنُقَ صَاحِبِكَ
مِرَارًا

Woe to you, you have cut off your companion's neck, you have cut off your companion's neck.

He repeated it several times. Then he added :

مَنْ كَانَ مِنْكُمْ مَادِحًا أَخَاهُ لَا مَحَالَةَ فَلْيَقُلْ أَحْسِبُ
فَلَانًا وَاللَّهِ حَسِيبِيهِ وَلَا أَرْكِي عَلَى اللَّهِ أَحَدًا
أَحْسِبُهُ كَذَا وَكَذَا إِنْ كَانَ يَغْلَمُ ذَلِكَ مِنْهُ

Whoever amongst you has to praise his brother should say, 'I think that he is so and so, and Allah knows exactly the truth, and I do not confirm anybody's good conduct before Allah, but I think him so and so,' if he really knows what he says about him."

صحیح البخاری ، حدیث #2662

The statement of Allah نِعْمًا هِيَ means well done, it is أصْلُوبٌ مَدْحٌ, a tool of praise. It is so encouraging when you praise a child for doing something good. But here, the sadaqah is praised, not the person. The word هِيَ refers to the sadaqah. This is the right way to bring the person back to his level. He is already doing the sadaqah in public, which can mess with his sincerity, so he needs something which will bring back his balance. So the deed is praised.

Detach the deed from the person, whether good or bad. Hate the sin, not the sinner. Human beings love praise, it makes them feel good. Seek the praise from Allah, He is the One saying نِعْمًا هِيَ.

To hide the sadaqah is a higher level.

They are hiding their deed because they want it to remain private between them and Allah.

The Messenger of Allah صلى الله عليه وسلم said :
سَبْعَةٌ يَظْلِمُهُمُ اللَّهُ فِي ظِلِّهِ يَوْمَ لَا ظِلَّ إِلَّا ظِلُّهُ الْإِمَامُ الْعَادِلُ،
وَشَابٌ نَشَأَ فِي عِبَادَةِ رَبِّهِ، وَرَجُلٌ قَلْبُهُ مُعَلَّقٌ فِي الْمَسَاجِدِ،
وَرَجُلَانِ تَحَابُّا فِي اللَّهِ اجْتَمَعَا عَلَيْهِ وَتَفَرَّقَا عَلَيْهِ، وَرَجُلٌ طَلَبَتْهُ
امْرَأَةٌ ذَاتُ مَنْصِبٍ وَجَمَالٍ فَقَالَ إِنِّي أَخَافُ اللَّهَ. وَرَجُلٌ تَصَدَّقَ
أَخْفَى حَتَّى لَا تَعْلَمَ شِمَالُهُ مَا تُنْفِقُ يَمِينُهُ، وَرَجُلٌ ذَكَرَ اللَّهَ
خَالِيًا فَفَاضَتْ عَيْنَاهُ.

Allah will give shade, to seven, on the Day when there will be no shade but His. (These seven persons are) a just ruler, a youth who has been brought up in the worship of Allah (i.e. worships Allah sincerely from childhood), a man whose heart is attached to the mosques (i.e. to pray the compulsory prayers in the mosque in congregation), two persons who love each other only for Allah's sake and they meet and part in Allah's cause only, a man who refuses the call of a charming woman of noble birth for illicit intercourse with her and says: I am afraid of Allah, a man who gives charitable gifts so secretly that his left hand does not know what his right hand has given (i.e. nobody knows how much he has given in charity), and a person who remembers Allah in seclusion and his eyes are then flooded with tears.

صحیح البخاری ، حدیث #660

When you give a hidden charity to a needy person, this involves the person knowing. Also you may give charity through some organization. This is fine. If it still hidden.

You must save your secret sadaqah until you find someone who is worthy of it. Reserve your special action for someone in need, someone who is going through a bad time in life, and needs your kind words. This make she standard of your special deed higher.

The word هو shows that this is good for you. Allah says all this, so it is sufficient. The word لكم shows that Allah doesn't benefit by it, you benefit from your sadaqah, as well as the recipient. Don't think you are only giving, it comes back to you. Don't forget you are actually doing it yourself a favour, not anyone else. You need to give sadaqah.

The sadaqah in general expiates some minor sins. Allah give you the goodness and the reward of the dunya and the akhirah. Sins affect a person negatively, leaving you disturbed. The sadaqah will uplift you, because some of your sins are expiated.

Don't get bogged down with small issues, think vast, for the vast reward, for خَيْرٌ لَكُمْ and نعمًا هي. The hidden deeds have more of an effect on you. Hide your sadaqah if possible, and all the goodness will come to you, and the sins and faults will be removed.

The fact that Allah is the All-Knower of what you do, empowers you.

