



(Zubaidah – The Wife of Haaron Rasheed – Part Two)

On one occasion, the finance manager of Zubaidah learnt that a certain person, who was employed to attend to the administration of her various properties, had taken funds from the income of her properties equivalent to two hundred thousand dirhams (silver coins). He thus had the man imprisoned for the crime.

After his imprisonment, the man contacted two of his friends and asked them to go to the finance manager and intercede to him on his behalf. Accordingly, his friends set out, and while they were on the way, they met Faidh bin Abi Saalih. Seeing the two friends, Faidh asked them, “Where are you going to?” They replied by explaining to him the incident that had transpired and the purpose of their errand. “Do you need me to assist you?” he offered. They expressed that they would appreciate his assistance, and so he accompanied them.

When they came to the finance manager and interceded for their friend, he sent a message to Zubaidah, informing her about the situation. After reading the message, she initially replied, “There is no way that he can be released without paying the money that he owes.” Hearing this reply, the two friends resigned themselves to getting up and leaving. However, Faidh remarked, “It would seem that our coming here has only served to further confirm the detention of your friend!” He then took an ink pot and wrote a message to his own financial manager, instructing him to pay the outstanding amount on the prisoner’s behalf.

When Zubaidah’s finance manager wrote her a message, apprising her of the events, she returned the note to him with the following written on the reverse, “It is more befitting for us to show the prisoner this generosity. Return the money to Faidh and release the prisoner.”

(Al-Muntazam vol. 10, pg. 277)

Lessons:

1. Sometimes, an opportunity to do some good comes our way, yet for some reason or another (it can be anger, disappointment, etc), we turn it down. However, so long as the opportunity has not passed, we can still relent and seize it. After our initial emotions subside, we can still capitalize and earn ourselves reward, as Zubaidah did when she relented.

2. Instead of competing in holiday destinations, fashion, jewellery, etc., Zubaidah was competing in generosity. Since the prisoner was her debtor, she wanted to show the generosity instead of Faidh.

3. Every person should try, within his means, to use his money for the benefit of others. It should never be that we have hearts of stone, where we are unprepared to share even a few rands with the next person. If we are enjoying wealth, we must remember that it is only due to Allah Ta'ala favouring us, and had He wished, he could have favoured someone else in our place. Hence, out of gratitude to Allah Ta'ala, let us have the hearts to share with others – especially if it is to support righteous works and efforts, as this will earn us a share in the righteous works as well.

4. When Faidh saw the two friends proceeding to the finance manager for intercession, he offered to help them, even though it was not his problem or concern. This shows the true spirit of a believer – he is always eager to bring comfort and ease to others.

5. When the intercession did not initially work out, Faidh was prepared to pay the money – which was the considerable sum of two hundred thousand dirhams (silver coins) – to secure the release of the prisoner. This speaks volumes of the heart of compassion that he must have had.