

Importance of earning Lawful (Halal) Income in Islam:

****The Importance of Earning Lawful (Halal) Income in Islam: A Quranic and Hadith Perspective****

In Islam, earning a lawful (halal) livelihood is not merely an economic activity but a spiritual obligation deeply rooted in faith. The Quran and Hadith emphasize the significance of halal income, linking it to divine approval, ethical conduct, and societal welfare.

Before we ponder in this topic, it is very important to understand a term Quran uses “

أَفَحَبِطَتْ أَعْمَالُهُمْ فَلَا نُقِيمُ لَهُمْ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ وَزْنًا

All their deeds have come to zero (completely nullified) and We shall assign no weight to them on the Day of Resurrection.

Explanation: What Allah (SWT) Is Saying that whatever good deeds anybody does in life, and he thinks, he has done great for his afterlife but there he finds out that all are good deeds which he accumulated by great suffering and hardship have

gone wasted in the sight of Allah , what a monumental loss he will suffer at the most critical juncture of his life. Also there will be no turning back or to get another chance to correct his mistakes in worldly life. That is why it is imperative to protect your good deeds even though it may be small.

We all know that dying in the state of being an unbeliever, or as a Mushrik (Polytheist) will completely nullify our all good deeds, no matter how much they may be, but few ponder on this, that earning unlawful (Haram) livelihood can also render all good deeds to zero.

Look at this Quranic Aya:

وَلَا تَأْكُلُوا أَمْوَالَكُم بَيْنَكُم بِالْبَاطِلِ وَتُدْلُوا بِهَا إِلَى الْحُكَّامِ لِتَأْكُلُوا فَرِيقًا مِّنْ أَمْوَالِ النَّاسِ بِالْإِثْمِ وَأَنتُمْ تَعْلَمُونَ

Do not misappropriate / unjustly eat up one another's property (in any illegal way, e.g stealing, robbing, deceiving etc), nor give bribery to the rulers (judges before presenting your case) that you may knowingly eat up a part of property of others sinfully. Q2/188

It is very important to understand Allah (SWT) mentions about Fasting during the month of Ramadan just a Aya before [Q2/187] and very next Aya after this He mentions Hajj [Q2/189]. Question is why not acquiring another person's property illegally is inserted between these two great evens of Fasting in Ramadan and performing Hajj? We all know from Quran and Ahadith that virtues of Fasting in Ramadan and performing Hajj are so great that Literally one can wipe out all his previous sins if he performs these Ibadadahs (Worships) correctly according to Quran and Sunnah, fearing Allah and for His sole pleasure. The answer is simple, Allah (SWT) is reminding us that these great rewards will become zero if your earnings are haram (illegal), what a great loss it would be.

There are many other Ayats in Quran

1. Quranic Injunctions on Halal Sustenance**

- **Divine Command to Consume Halal:**

The Quran repeatedly commands believers to partake in what is lawful and pure:

- **Prohibition of Unlawful Gains:**

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا لَا تَأْكُلُوا أَمْوَالَكُم بَيْنَكُم بِالْبَاطِلِ إِلَّا أَنْ تَكُونَ تِجَارَةً عَنْ تَرَاضٍ
مِّنْكُمْ وَلَا تَقْتُلُوا أَنْفُسَكُمْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ كَانَ بِكُمْ رَحِيمًا

Allah condemns wrongful consumption of wealth:
"Do not consume one another's wealth unjustly..."
(Quran 4:29).

الَّذِينَ يَأْكُلُونَ الرِّبَا لَا يَقُومُونَ إِلَّا كَمَا يَقُومُ الَّذِي يَتَخَبَّطُهُ الشَّيْطَانُ مِنَ الْمَسِّ ذَلِكَ بِأَنَّهُمْ
قَالُوا إِنَّمَا الْبَيْعُ مِثْلُ الرِّبَا وَأَحَلَّ اللَّهُ الْبَيْعَ وَحَرَّمَ الرِّبَا فَمَنْ جَاءَهُ مَوْعِظَةٌ مِنْ رَبِّهِ
فَانْتَهَى فَلَهُ مَا سَلَفَ وَأَمْرُهُ إِلَى اللَّهِ وَمَنْ عَادَ فَأُولَئِكَ أَصْحَابُ النَّارِ هُمْ فِيهَا خَالِدُونَ

"Allah has permitted trade and forbidden usury..."
(Quran 2:275), distinguishing lawful commerce from
exploitative practices.

- **Accountability and Purity:**

وَكُلُوا مِمَّا رَزَقَكُمُ اللَّهُ حَلَالًا طَيِّبًا وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ الَّذِي أَنْتُمْ بِهِ مُؤْمِنُونَ

*"Eat of the good and lawful things Allah has
provided, and fear Allah in Whom you believe"*
(Quran 5:88). This underscores that halal earnings
reflect piety and gratitude.

2. Hadith on the Obligation of Halal Income

- **Duty to Seek Halal:**

The Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) said, *"Seeking halal
[sustenance] is an obligation upon every Muslim"*
(Sunan Ibn Majah). This elevates lawful earning to a
religious duty akin to prayer or fasting.

- **Purity of Earnings and Worship:**

"O people! Allah is Pure and accepts only what is pure... A person who travels widely, disheveled and dusty, raising his hands to the sky [praying], 'O Lord! O Lord!'—while his food, drink, and clothing are haram—how can his supplication be accepted?" (Sahih Muslim 1015).

- **Consequences of Haram Consumption:**

"If a person earns haram wealth and donates it, it is not accepted; if he spends it, there is no blessing; and if he leaves it behind, it becomes his provision in the Fire" (Ibn Kathir).

3. Consequences of Haram Earnings

- **Spiritual Rejection:**

Acts of worship, supplications, and charity from haram income are rejected. The Prophet (ﷺ) likened such deeds to "building a palace on a heap of filth" (Sunan al-Tirmidhi).

- **Loss of Blessings (Barakah):**

Haram wealth lacks divine blessings, leading to discontent and spiritual emptiness.

- **Eternal Punishment:**

The Quran warns,

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ يَأْكُلُونَ أَمْوَالَ الْيَتَامَىٰ ظُلْمًا إِنَّمَا يَأْكُلُونَ فِي بُطُونِهِمْ نَارًا وَسَيَصْلُونَ سَعِيرًا
"Those who consume the wealth of orphans unjustly are only swallowing fire into their bellies..." (Quran 4:10).

4. Benefits of Halal Income

- **Acceptance of Worship:**

Halal earnings purify deeds, ensuring prayers and charity are accepted by Allah.

- **Barakah and Contentment:**

Lawful income is blessed, fostering satisfaction and sufficiency.

- **Ethical and Social Justice:**

Halal practices promote fairness, honesty, and dignity, aligning with Islamic principles of mutual respect and prohibition of exploitation.

5. Prophetic Examples and Ethical Work

- Prophets like Dawud (David) and Zakariya worked as craftsmen, dignifying manual labor. The Prophet (ﷺ) praised honest traders, stating, "The truthful and trustworthy merchant will be with the prophets..." (Sunan al-Tirmidhi 1209).

- Earning to support family is an act of charity: *"The best charity is that a Muslim earns lawfully and spends it on his dependents"* (Sahih Muslim).

Conclusion

Islam integrates material and spiritual realms, mandating halal income as a cornerstone of faith. By adhering to divine guidelines, Muslims ensure personal purity, societal justice, and divine favor.

The pursuit of halal sustenance is not just an economic choice but a path to eternal success, as

Allah says,

الْيَوْمَ أُحِلَّ لَكُمْ الطَّيِّبَاتُ وَطَعَامُ الَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْكِتَابَ حَلْلٌ لَكُمْ وَطَعَامُكُمْ حَلْلٌ لَهُمْ
وَالْمُحْصَنَاتُ مِنَ الْمُؤْمِنَاتِ وَالْمُحْصَنَاتُ مِنَ الَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْكِتَابَ مِنْ قَبْلِكُمْ إِذَا
آتَيْتُمُوهُنَّ أَجُورَهُنَّ مُحْصِنِينَ غَيْرَ مُسَافِحِينَ وَلَا مُتَّخِذِي آلِهَةٍ وَمَنْ يَكْفُرْ بِالْإِيمَانِ
فَقَدْ حَبِطَ عَمَلُهُ وَهُوَ فِي الْآخِرَةِ مِنَ الْخَاسِرِينَ

"Today, all good, pure things have been made lawful for you..." (Quran 5:5).

Islam emphasizes earning through lawful means, honesty, and hard work. Engaging in haram sources of income (such as interest, fraud, theft, and bribery) results in spiritual and worldly harm, including rejection of all your good deeds including, daily

prayers, Fasting, Zakat and Hajj and loss of barakah (blessings). A Muslim should always seek halal earnings to ensure a pure and blessed life and avoid this Quranic warning,

أَفَحَبِطَتْ أَعْمَالُهُمْ فَلَا نُقِيمُ لَهُمْ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ وَزْنًا .

All their deeds have come to zero (completely nullified) and We shall assign no weight to them on the Day of Resurrection.

Remember this statement is for non believers and Mushriks (Polytheists) , but Quran and Prophet (SAW) has warned us , It can be very well be applied to believers who earn unlawful income in their lives.