

Bribery



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All praise is for Allâh. We praise Him, seek His aid and forgiveness. We further repent to Him and seek refuge with Him from the evil of ourselves and from our wrongdoings. Whomever Allâh guides none can lead astray, and whoever Allâh misguides none can guide him. I bear witness that there is no god worthy of worship except Allâh Alone, having no partner with him. I also bear witness that Muhammad ﷺ is His slave and Messenger. May the blessing and peace of Allâh be upon him, his family, his Companions and any one that follows in their footsteps until Judgement Day.

O people, fear Allâh and fulfill what he entrusted you with in all matters. Carry out these trusts with a pure intention and sincerity for Allâh ﷻ, submitting to Him and following His Commandments, and intending to remit yourselves from responsibility and correct your society. Allâh ﷻ says:

﴿يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا لَا تَخُونُوا اللَّهَ وَالرَّسُولَ وَتَخُونُوا أَمْنَكُمْ وَأَنْتُمْ تَعْلَمُونَ
○ وَعَلِمُوا أَنَّ أَمْوَالَكُمْ وَأَوْلَادَكُمْ فَتَنَةٌ وَأَنَّ اللَّهَ عِنْدَهُ أَجْرٌ عَظِيمٌ﴾

“O you who believe! Betray not Allâh and His Messenger, nor betray knowingly your *Amânât* (things entrusted to you, and all the duties which Allâh has ordained for you). And know that your possessions and your children are but a trial and that surely, with Allâh is a mighty reward.” (8:27,28)

O you who believe! The trust you are entrusted with is not an easy matter. It is the religion, the responsibility of safeguarding it, the methodology and the way. It is a heavy burden and a great responsibility. It was offered to the heavens, the earth and the mountains, yet, despite their high strength and durability, they declined to bear it and were afraid of its consequences. Instead you, man, have bore it for the reasoning and understanding that Allâh ﷻ has created in you, and the knowledge, revelation and guidance He has made available to you. With the reasoning and understanding you may

recognize things and with the revelation and knowledge you may be guided and shown the right way. For this you were qualified to endure and fulfill the responsibilities of this trust. Therefore you must attend to the responsibilities of the 'trust' you bore completely and perfectly, so as to please your Lord and achieve the piety of your society. However, if you fail to keep it, the whole society shall suffer a great destruction in its body and disintegration in its ties.

O Muslims! In order to protect and safeguard this trust, Allâh ﷻ has prohibited every cause leading to its ruin or even its partial loss. He therefore, prohibited the practice of bribery, which is to give money to someone or forgive him from his dues for the purpose of accomplishing an unlawful gain. Allâh ﷻ says:

﴿ وَلَا تَأْكُلُوا أَمْوَالَكُمْ بَيْنَكُمْ بِالْبَطْلِ وَتَذَلُّوا بِهَا إِلَى الْمَكَارِمِ لِتَأْكُلُوا فَرِيقًا مِنْ
أَمْوَالِ النَّاسِ بِالْإِثْمِ وَأَنْتُمْ تَعْلَمُونَ ﴾

“And eat up not one another’s property unjustly (in any illegal way, e.g. stealing, robbing, deceiving), nor give bribery to the rulers (judges before presenting your cases) that you may knowingly eat up a part of the property of others sinfully.”
(2:188)

Condemning the Jews, Allâh ﷻ says:

﴿ سَمْعُونَ لِلْكَذِبِ أَكَلُونَ لِلسُّعْتِ ﴾

“(They like to) listen to falsehood, to devour anything forbidden.” (5:42)

Bribery is a form of *Suhut* (possessing something by a forbidden way) as was explained by Ibn Masud ؓ and others. Ibn Umar رضى الله عنهما narrated that the Messenger of Allâh ﷺ had cursed the briber and the one bribed. In different wording the *Hadith* says that the Messenger of Allâh ﷺ said:

﴿ لَعْنَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَى الرَّاشِي وَالْمُرْتَشِي ﴾

“The curse of Allâh shall be upon briber and the bribed.”

This *Hadith* could be a statement by the Prophet ﷺ (as stated directly in this translation) or an invocation against them to be expelled from the mercy of Allāh ﷻ as Satan was cursed, hence expelled from the mercy of Allāh ﷻ. (To convey this meaning, the translation may be changed into: “May Allāh curse the briber and the bribed.”)

O Muslims! The curse of Allāh and His Messenger is only deserved for doing a great evil and a detestable matter. Certainly bribery is one of the most corrupting practices on earth, for it is a form of changing Allāh’s verdict, neglecting people’s rights, establishing fraud and ruining what is right. Bribery is a great cause of corruption in the society and a betrayal of the ‘trust’. By practicing bribery, the briber wrongs himself, for he spends his money to gain an illegal achievement. On the other hand, the bribed wrongs himself by yielding to injustice and oppression against the commandments of Allāh ﷻ. Both of them usurp other people’s rights and take the possession of prohibited property. This shall not benefit them; it shall rather harm them and thus ruin their wealth or the blessing therein.

Judges and rulers can be the target of bribery, when they tend to favor the briber in their judgement and decisions against the truth. They do so at the expense of other people’s rights, for the sake of benefiting themselves through bribes. The executive officials may also be targets for bribery, when they neglect carrying out orders, or even worse than that, when they deliberately cease to execute verdicts, especially a court verdict against a criminal, all because of being bribed.

In employment, bribery has an impact in hiring someone at the expense of another who may be more entitled. For being bribed, the one in charge may pass the answers of the test, by which the employer decides who is to be hired, to the person who is only favored by bribery. A *Hadith* states something to that effect as the Messenger of Allāh ﷺ said:

«مَنْ لَمْتَعْمَلَ رَجُلًا مِنْ عِصَابَةِ - أَيِّ طَائِفَةٍ - وَفِيهِمْ مَنْ هُوَ أَرْضَىٰ اللَّهُ فَقَدْ خَانَ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ» .

“He who gives authority to a man from amongst a group, while

another from the same group is more pleasing to Allâh, has indeed betrayed Allâh, His Messenger and the believers.”
(Narrated by *Al Hakim* with a sound chain of narrators)

Bribery can also be involved in implementing projects. In this regard, a tender for a project is published, and one of the bidders may bribe the ones in charge, so he takes the project, despite that other bidders may be more honest and more proficient. Bribery can also be influential during conducting criminal investigations, as the investigators can be bribed to be lenient or even negligent in their investigations in favor of the culprits.

The Messenger of Allâh ﷺ said:

«مَنْ اسْتَعْمَلَنَا عَلَى عَمَلٍ فَرَزَقْنَاهُ رِزْقًا فَمَا أَخَذَ بَعْدَ ذَلِكَ فَهُوَ غُلُولٌ.»

“Whoever amongst you is appointed by us to a position of authority for a certain salary, anything he takes beyond that shall be deemed misappropriation.” (*Abu Dâwud*)

Al-Ghalul (misappropriation, stealing through abuse of authority) is a great sin. A man came to the Prophet ﷺ to tell him that someone had died a martyr, but the Prophet ﷺ said: “Nay! He is being dragged into the Fire for a garment he stole from the spoils of war.” (*Ahmed*, with a sound chain of narrators)

It is worth a moment of thinking to fathom how bribery can effect the decisions of the people in charge of educating our children. With bribery, a lazy student may be given or hinted the answers for the finals, or be allowed to cheat during the exam, then pass and take the place of another student who may be better and hardworking. This occurs because the people in charge are vulnerable to the temptation of the bribe.

O servants of Allâh! You now know the punishment of the briber and the bribed in the Hereafter, which is to be ousted from the mercy of Allâh, the Merciful. You also learned how corrupting bribery can be in the society. Should not this be a deterrent to every God-fearing and faithful believer who is also fearful of Allâh’s punishment and caring

about his religion and society, to not practice this evil? How could a man with reason strive to destroy and ruin his society? O Muslims! Actions can easily be taught and passed on from one group to another. If bribery spreads in one area of this society, it will spread quickly to all the other areas, and the one starting it will be the example for every one until the Day of Resurrection.

Fear Allâh, O servants of Allâh, and safeguard your religion and the trust you are shouldering the responsibility thereof. Think for a moment of which is better for you: to please Allâh by establishing His justice and protecting yourselves from falling in the mud of your lusts, or to be oppressors reclining to the deception of this earthly life and subsequently being subjected to the wrath of Allâh.

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ
 ﴿يَأْتِيهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَقُولُوا قَوْلًا سَدِيدًا ۝ يُصْلِحْ لَكُمْ أَعْمَالَكُمْ وَيَغْفِرْ لَكُمْ
 ذُنُوبَكُمْ وَمَنْ يُطِيعِ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ فَقَدْ فَازَ فَوْزًا عَظِيمًا ۝ إِنَّا عَرَضْنَا الْأَمَانَةَ عَلَى السَّمَوَاتِ
 وَالْأَرْضِ وَالْجِبَالِ فَأَبَيْنَ أَنْ يَحْمِلْنَهَا وَأَشْفَقْنَ مِنْهَا وَحَمَلَهَا الْإِنْسَانُ إِنَّهُ كَانَ ظَلُومًا جَهُولًا
 ۝ لِيُعَذِّبَ اللَّهُ الْمُنَافِقِينَ وَالْمُنَافِقَاتِ وَالْمُشْرِكِينَ وَالْمُشْرِكَاتِ وَيَتُوبَ اللَّهُ عَلَى
 الْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ وَكَانَ اللَّهُ غَفُورًا رَحِيمًا﴾

I seek refuge with Allâh from Satan, the outcast.

“O you who believe! Keep your duty to Allâh and fear Him, and speak (always) the truth. He will direct you to do righteous good deeds and will forgive you your sins. And whosoever obeys Allâh and His Messenger (ﷺ), he has indeed achieved a great achievement (i.e., he will be saved from the Hell-fire and will be admitted to Paradise). Truly, We did offer *Al-Amânah* (the trust or moral responsibility or honesty and all the duties which Allâh has ordained) to the heavens and the earth, and the mountains, but they declined to bear it and were afraid of it (i.e. afraid of Allâh’s Torment). But man bore it. Verily, he was unjust (to himself) and ignorant (of its results). So that Allâh will punish the hypocrites, men and women, and the men and women who

are *Al-Mushrikûn* (polytheists, idolaters, pagans, disbelievers, in the Oneness of Allâh, and His Messenger Muhammad ﷺ). And Allâh will pardon (accept the repentance of) the true believers of the Islâmic Monotheism, men and women. And Allâh is Ever Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful.” (33:70-73)

O Allâh! Guide us and protect us from the causes of ignorance and destruction! Save us from the defects of ourselves! Cause the last of our deeds to be the best and most righteous! And forgive all of us.

With this I conclude my speech and ask Allâh, the Almighty and the Sublime, to forgive all of our sins. So seek his forgiveness. He is All Forgiving Most Merciful.