

Seventh hadith

وَعَنِ ابْنِ عَبَّاسٍ وَأَنَسِ بْنِ مَالِكٍ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُم أَنَّ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ قَالَ: لَوْ أَنَّ لَابْنَ آدَمَ وَاوْدِيَاءَ مِنْ ذَهَبٍ أَحَبَّ أَنْ يَكُونَ لَهُ وَاوْدِيَانِ، وَلَنْ يَمْلَأَ فَاهُ إِلَّا التُّرَابَ، وَيَتُوبُ اللَّهُ عَلَى مَنْ تَابَ

Ibn ‘Abbas and Anas bin Malik reported: Messenger of God (pbuh) said, “If a son of Adam were to own a valley full of gold, he would desire to have two. Nothing can fill his mouth except the earth (of the grave). God accepts a person’s repentance with mercy”.¹⁵⁹

Analysis of the hadith

The narrators of this hadith are Ibn Abbas and Anas bin Malik. The information about them was previously given. Bukhari and Muslim agreed on the authenticity of this hadith according to their criteria and therefore they recorded it in their *saḥīḥ* collections.

This hadith deals with people’s greed and their lust for material wealth. Human beings are in trial with different things at this world, therefore they should repent right after their every failure so they do not lose eternal happiness in the Hereafter. Being greedy is the reason for people to commit many sins. If a person loves worldly material so much he/she may neglect some of their obligations towards God and society. For example, they may not give due zakat on their wealth or may not care orphans or help needy.

The beauties of this world are test for human beings and this fact is reminded for them in various verses of the Qur’ān including;

“Made innately appealing to men are passionate love for women, children, (hoarded) treasures of gold and silver, branded horses, cattle, and plantations. Such are enjoyments of the present, worldly life; yet with God is the best of the goals to pursue.”¹⁶⁰

“Say: ‘If you possessed the treasures of my Lord’s Mercy, still you would surely hold them back for fear of spending (in God’s cause and as subsistence for the needy).’ Indeed, human is ever grudging.”¹⁶¹

How sins destroy the spiritual dimension of heart similarly greediness and lust for worldly materials affect it negatively. Human beings innately desire worldly benefits more and more. They never be satisfied with what they have, rather they would desire to have two valleys full of gold. The reason for human greediness is explained by the Prophet as follows; “The heart of an old man remains young in two respects; his love for the world (its wealth, amusements and luxuries) and his incessant hope for long life.”¹⁶²

¹⁵⁹ Bukhari, *Saḥīḥ*, Riqaq, 10; Muslim, *Saḥīḥ*, Zakat, 119-119.

¹⁶⁰ Qur’ān 3: 12.

¹⁶¹ Qur’ān 17: 100.

¹⁶² Bukhari, *Saḥīḥ*, Riqaq, 5.

Commentary on Unforgettable Hadiths of Prophet Muhammad

The desire for long life in a person yields to be greedy and this desire will continue until he/she dies. The expression 'nothing can fill his mouth except the earth' is used to explain how strong such desire in human nature for it only ends by death. Stingy people do not want to spend their wealth in charity or in support for religious organizations. They like to save money more even if they have a mountain of gold. Every favor brings some type of responsibility upon human beings. First of all, they should thank God for all the favors and blessings that He bestowed upon them. Secondly, they should carry out their financial responsibility towards their families, relatives, friends and society. Thirdly, they should support religious organizations for the better welfare of humanity.

Being rich is not condemned in Islam as long as the obligations are carried out. Indeed, Islam encourages Muslims to be rich and powerful so they can help others. However, if wealth is not spent in God's cause, it becomes a reason for loss for human beings in the Hereafter. So, they should discipline the feeling of stinginess and use such wealth as God commanded.

In short, being contented with the favors of God is a good character and people should pay attention to this world and the next one according to their value and duration. Purifying heart from the feeling of stinginess can be achieved with frequent repentance and remembrance of God.