

Masoom^{a.s.}'s Guidance on One's Conduct in Life

It was narrated to me by Ahmed bin Hassan Qatan, who referred from Hassan bin Ali Sakari, who from Jafar bin Mohammed bin Ammara, who from his father that:

Imam Jafar-e-Sadiq^{a.s.} said people generally desire for four luxuries in this temporary World: to become rich, to achieve comfort in life, to minimise grief and hardship and to be respected by others:

- Wealth and triumph is hidden in the treasure of countenance, but if someone is seeking it through accumulation of wealth then it is impossible;
- Comfort and ease is in the keeping your liabilities to minimum but if someone tries to gain comfort and peace of mind through excessive commitments then it is impossible;
- Minimum grief and hardship is achieved through indulging in minimum hobbies and engagements but if someone is seeking them through excessive involvements than it is impossible.
- Respect is in the service and obedience of one's Lord^{swt} but if someone is trying to obtain it through serving and keeping others happy then it is impossible for him to succeed.

It is written in 'Tafseer-e-Imam Hassan Askari^{a.s.}' that Imam Mohammed Baqir^{a.s.} told, Mohammed bin Muslim Shahab Zahri visited Imam Zain-ul-Abadeen^{a.s.} in a state of grief and very low morale. Mola^{a.s.} asked why are you so depressed and anxious? He replied, O! Son of Rasool Allah^{saww}, I am engulfed in sadness and fears due to those who are jealous of my wealth and prosperity; I always get contrary to what I expect from them even from those whom I have extended many favours. Imam^{a.s.} replied you should keep your tongue in your control, this will enable you to win them back. Zahri replied, I always communicate with them in a favourable way. Imam^{a.s.} replied it can never be so! It can never be so! Beware, do not be proud of your statements and never talk in those terms, which do not appeal to them. Although you may have complete justification for your statements, but you can never be certain that you are able to clarify your unpleasant comments.

Imam^{a.s.} later said, O Zahri! Listen, whoever does not fully comprehend a matter, he easily makes mistakes. O Zahri! It is obligatory upon you to regard all Muslims¹ as

¹ True Muslim who believes in 14 Masomeen^{a.s.}

part of your family and give an elder the status of your father; younger as your son and those who the same age as you, the rank of your brothers. Then think again if you would like to be unkind to any one of them, or would wish bad luck for him or would be pleased if his hidden sins are revealed or he be insulted? But if Iblis Maloun (the cursed one!) puts illusion in your mind that you are superior than a fellow Muslim, then you should carefully analyse the situation and if that person is older than you, then you should consider that he has carried out more good deeds and adhered to 'Aman'² prior to you; if that person is younger than you then regard him more blessed as you have committed more sins as compared with him and therefore he is better than you; if that person is the same age as you, then make yourself believe that you are sure about your sins which you have committed but you can only doubt about that fellow's wrongdoings and how could you reject what you see clearly in comparison to the vague? (so he is better than you).

And if you see others are giving you respect and bowing down to you then consider this privilege is only extended to you by their kindness and you do not have these qualities. When you realise that people are cruel to you and are annoyed with you then take it as a result of your misbehaviour. When you adopt this kind of attitude then Allah^{swt.} will make your life easier and comfortable, and increase number of your friends and reduce your enemies, and you will be pleased with the polite and kind conduct of others and will not complain on their misconduct.

Be aware! In people's opinion, a more respectful person is that from whom they benefit and gain favours and he does not lean on them and never expects something in return and does not turn to them for help. After this person, people respect that who believes in self-reliance, even though he is not self-sufficient. This likeness is due to the fact that general public is fond of riches, and they would respect that person who does not pose any threat in regard to their most loved entity (wealth), Indeed they will respect and praise that person. However, people would consider a person most honourable person who does not compete with them in earnings but rather in small or large amounts, keeps on contributing to them from his own pocket.

² Admitting Mola Ali^{a.s.}'s wilayat as compulsory in all aspects of deen