

O Ali, Allah has Accepted Your Charity!

Four Dirhams

Once Imam `Ali (a.s) had four Dirhams. He divided them into four. He gave away one dirham for the sake of Allah by night and one dirham by day. He gave away the third dirham secretly and the fourth openly. The following holy verse was revealed on the same occasion:

الَّذِينَ يُنْفِقُونَ أَمْوَالَهُمْ بِاللَّيْلِ وَالنَّهَارِ سِرًّا وَعَلَانِيَةً فَلَهُمْ أَجْرُهُمْ عِنْدَ رَبِّهِمْ وَلَا خَوْفٌ عَلَيْهِمْ وَلَا هُمْ يَحْزَنُونَ

"As for those who spend their property by night and by day, secretly and openly, they shall have their reward from their Lord and they shall have no fear, nor shall they grieve". (2:274).

Charity Changes People

One day the Holy Prophet gave `Ali three hundred Dinars, which they had given to him as gift.

Ali said: "I took the money and said to myself: 'By Allah, I will give such a charity with these Dinars that Allah will accept'.

When I completed the night prayer with Allah's Messenger, I took a hundred Dinars and left the mosque. On my way, I came across a woman to whom I gave one hundred Dinars.

The following day, people said, "Ali has given charity to a corrupt woman!" It was a great sorrow for me.

The night of that day, I performed the night prayer, took a hundred Dinars in my hand, left the mosque and said to myself, "By Allah! I will give a charity which will be accepted by my Lord". I saw a man and gave away the one hundred Dinars to him.

The following day, the people of Medina said, "Ali has given away a hundred Dinars to a thief." Again a great sorrow came to me but said to myself, "By Allah! I will give a charity tonight that Allah will accept from me."

So, I performed my night prayer with Allah's Messenger and then left the mosque having a hundred Dinars with me. I saw a man to whom I gave the money.

The next day, the people Medina said, "Last night, `Ali gave a hundred Dinars to a rich man."

Again, a great sorrow came to me. I went to Allah's Messenger and told him the story.

The Holy Prophet said: "O `Ali! Gabriel says to you: Allah has accepted your charity and purified your acts:

"The one hundred Dinars you gave as charity was put at the disposal of a corrupt woman who repented to Allah and used the money as earnings for her living. She also intends to get married with this money.

"The charity of the second night went to a thief who repented thereafter and used the money for running business.

"The charity of the third night went to a rich man who had not paid alms for years. He went home and blamed himself saying, "How miser I am! This is `Ali ibn Abu-Talib who gave away a hundred Dinars to me while he has nothing whereas I am a rich man who has not paid his obligatory alms!"; So, he reckoned his alms and put it aside.

"It was for this reason that Allah revealed this verse.

"By men whom neither worldly business nor merchandise can divert from the remembrance of Allah, nor from regular prayer, nor from the practice of regular charity: their (only) fear is for the Day when hearts and eyes will be transformed (in a world wholly new), that Allah may reward them according to the best of their deeds, and add even more for them out of His grace: for Allah does provide for those whom He will, without measure". (24:37-38)

(Al-Manaqib: 74/2).