

Let Us Eat
LAWFUL BREAD

Written By

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M.A. English, Islamic Studies, Arabic,
Govt. College Of Commerce, Gujranwala



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In The Name Of
ALLAH
The Most Beneficent,
The Most Merciful



FOREWORDS

Our dear Holy Prophet's (S.A.W) holy saying is,

أَمْثَلُ الْأَعْمَالِ بِالنِّيَّاتِ وَأَنْصَالَ كُلِّ امْرِئٍ مَّا نَوَى (بخاری و مسلم)

“Of course actions depend upon our intentions and of course, everybody will get his (good or bad) reward according to his intentions.

It is true, all of the noble and humble deeds get acknowledged from Allah. There is no action of a true Muslim, which is devoid of Allah's confirmation or love. Allah knows better the conditions and intentions of man's heart. Therefore we get the shelter of Allah from malicious deeds of Satan and mind because there is no one, who helps us except Allah. No one can harm a person who is under protection of God and no one can get his respect who is rejected by Allah.

I am nothing more than a humble fellow who has started a humble presentation series of books and pamphlets within limited resources. It is only for God's sake.

Already a few gifts in the shape of books have been presented. The task certainly is a manifestation of God's blessings. All of my beloved companions and daughters of Islam including Muhammad Naeem Anwar Farooqi, Hafiz Asif Raza Farooqi, Hafiz Muhammad Imran Farooqi and Muhammad Abuzer Farooqi deserve great tributes who are right hand for the sacred mission. Particularly Mrs. Tabinda Iftikhar Sheikh's services are really laudable

as she has played a vital and key role in translating this book into English. Almighty Allah must reward all of her services. Her contribution will remain ever lasting. She must prosper in every sphere of life "Insha Allah". I especially give great importance to her sincere services. May she as well as her family members live long. Allah must give her more courage to perform more duties with great zeal and zest.

(Amin)

Islam provides man a complete guidance in every field of life and defines some limitations and restrictions as well. It makes obligatory for every one to follow these restrictions. Putting aside all prejudices it becomes crystal clear that these restrictions are only for the betterment of mankind. Though some narrow-minded persons take these restrictions as useless and absurd.

In fact, Allah has made these restrictions compulsory only where they are in man's favour. Only Allah knows well the mystery behind these commands.

A man's mind cannot perceive the height of Almighty's philosophy. Suppose! If these restrictions were not in man's favour, even then it is necessary to abide by them whole-heartedly because it is natural outcome of a man's thankful behaviour in return to Almighty's countless mercies on him.

☆ وَإِنْ تَعُدُّوا نِعْمَةَ اللَّهِ لَا تُحْصُوهَا (الحل: 18)

"If you start counting the blessings and favours of Allah, you will fail to do so".

Let's discuss the teachings of Islam about Halal and Haram ways of earning and eating in some details.

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HONEST AND DISHONEST EARNING

Almighty Allah has made man restricted in his earning and eating manners. The terms of "Halal" and "Haram" are there for us. The things which are allowed to take in, are called "Halal" (permitted ones) and which are forbidden to use for dietary purpose are called "Haram" (prohibited ones). Secondly, the means of earning are also divided into two groups in Islam. Islamic law permits some sources of income and some are not allowed to practise as earning sources. So the permitted professions

are honest means and prohibited ones are called dishonest means.

FOUR TYPES OF EARNINGS

So keeping in view the above situation, here are the following four types of earning-methods.

- 1) Lawful food, Lawful source of income.
- 2) Lawful food, 'Unlawful' source of income.
- 3) Unlawful food, "Lawful" source of income.
- 4) Unlawful food, "Unlawful" source of income.

ONE LAWFUL WAY OF ATTAINING DAILY BREAD

Islam has allowed only first source whereas the rest of three means have been prohibited.

So, two important points are there:

- 1) Complete lawful food
- 2) Complete Lawful source of income

To attain daily bread by lawful source is called "Kasb-e-Halal" (honest earning). Now we are going to discuss the topic, "Kasb-e-Halal".

Here is another point that "Kasb-e-Haram" is the opposite to "Kasb-e-Halal". Mostly a point gets clear view when we compare it to its opposite word. So we shall discuss "Kasb-e-Haram" taking a contrast to "Kasb-e-Halal".

QURANIC VERSES AND EMPHASIS ON KASBE-HALAL

☆ فَكُلُوا مِمَّا رَزَقَكُمُ اللَّهُ حَلَالًا طَيِّبًا (الحمل: 114)

So, O people! Eat what else Allah has provided you as "Halal and pure".

☆ يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ كُلُوا مِمَّا فِي الْأَرْضِ حَلَالًا طَيِّبًا وَلَا تَتَّبِعُوا خُطُوَاتِ الشَّيْطَانِ إِنَّهُ لَكُمْ عَدُوٌّ مُبِينٌ (البقره: 168)

O people! Eat whatever is "Halal" and pure and do not follow Satan. He is your open enemy.

☆ يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا كُلُوا مِن طَيِّبَاتِ مَا رَزَقَكُمُ

وَاشْكُرُوا لِلَّهِ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ إِيَّاهُ تَعْبُدُونَ (البقره: 172)

O Believers! If you are only worshippers of Allah then freely eat what is pure; we have given you.

☆ وَكُلُوا مِمَّا رَزَقَكُمُ اللَّهُ حَلَالًا طَيِّبًا وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ الَّذِي أَنْتُمْ بِهِ مُؤْمِنُونَ (المائدہ: 88)

And eat and drink from "Halal" and pure which Allah has given you and keep your duty to Allah whom you are believers.

TO AVOID "KASB-E-HARAM"

(Verses About Unlawful Earning)

☆ وَلَا تَاءَ كَلُوا أَمْوَالَكُم بَيْنَكُم بِالْبَاطِلِ وَتُدُلُّوا بِهَا إِلَى الْحُكَّامِ

لِتَأْكُلُوا فَرِيقًا مِّنْ أَمْوَالِ النَّاسِ بِالْإِثْمِ وَأَنْتُمْ تَعْلَمُونَ (البقره: 188)

And eat not up your property among yourselves in vanity, not seek by it to gain the hearing of the judges that ye may knowingly devour a portion of the property of others wrongfully.

☆ يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا لَا تَأْكُلُوا أَمْوَالَكُم بَيْنَكُم بِالْبَاطِلِ إِلَّا

أَنْ تَكُونَ تِجَارَةً عَنْ تَرَاضٍ مِّنْكُمْ (النساء: 29)

O ye who believe! Squander your wealth among yourselves in vanity, except it be a trade by mutual consent.

**SAYING OF THE HOLY PROPHET (S.A.W.)
PERSUADING KASB-E-HALAL**

1. Allah says that I feel bashfulness (hesitation) while taking an account from those who resist Kasb-e-Haram.
2. The best deed is earning livelihood by lawful means.
3. It is moral obligation of every Muslim to earn his livelihood by lawful (Halal) means.
4. Allah is Holy and He accepts only pure things and He has ordered the believers the same order He had delivered to His Prophets and that is "O My Prophets! Eat pure things and do good deeds."
5. Hazrat Saad Bin Abi Waqas (R.A) requested the Holy Prophet (S.A.W) to pray to him that, may his every prayer come true. He (S.A.W.) said, "Eat Halal bread, your every prayer will come true."
6. Somebody asked the Holy Prophet (S.A.W) which way of income is pure. He (S.A.W) said, "a man's earning by his own hand and such trade which is acceptable (lawful)".
7. He who earns his livelihood by lawful means is Allah's friend.
8. It is obligatory to struggle for "Halal Earning".
9. He who earns his livelihood by Halal means, will meet Allah in such manners that his face will shine like a full bloom moon of 14th night.
10. He who eats lawful daily bread without a slight mixing of unlawful loaf for consecutive forty days, Allah fills his heart with Noor (divine light) and beads of wisdom spring from his heart. (Al-Hadith).

**HATRED OF HOLY PROPHET (S.A.W.) FOR
"KASB-E-HARAM"**

1. The Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) said, "If a man earns unlawful money and then gives alms from it, his alms will not be accepted, because Allah does not recognise worship from rottenness of unlawful earnings.
2. On the Day of Judgement, every man will have to answer about his resources of income and ways of spending.
3. If a person leaves unlawful money after his death, it will become provision for his hell.
4. The flesh, which is nourished by unlawful earning, will not enter paradise.
5. Each man of flesh deserves Fire more than anyone else who is nourished by dishonest earning.
6. A man's stomach that devours a single loaf of unlawful earning, will not get acceptance of his prayers for forty days.
7. He who buys a dress of ten Derhams (currency) and one Derham (coin) was unlawful, his no deed will be accepted so long as dress remains on his body.
8. A man reaches after a long-journey while his hair is dusty, his body is covered with dust and raises his hands towards the sky and says, "O My God! My God! Whereas his bread is unlawful, his drink is unlawful, his dress is unlawful and unlawful earnings then how his prayers will be acknowledged?"

ALL ROUND BLESSINGS OF LAWFUL EARNING

Let us point out some advantages of honest earnings from the Holy Quran and Sunnah of the Holy Prophet:

- 1) He who earns by honest means, enjoys complete peace of mind as well as satisfaction of heart.
- 2) Prayers of such man are easily accepted who earns by respectful means.
- 3) All the good deeds and virtues of honest bread are favourably recognised.
- 4) He who seeks honest earnings becomes an embodiment of piety and chastity.
- 5) A man striving for honest earnings becomes kind and tender-hearted.
- 6) Almighty Allah blesses honest earnings with abundance.
- 7) All the endeavours of a man for honest earnings are cherished by God's Graciousness in form of a natural inclination towards holy deeds.
- 8) The heart of a man struggling for honest earnings is free of prejudice and malice against others.
- 9) A respectful bread-winner is inspired by springs of generosity.
- 10) A man who earns his livelihood by honest means, decides all matters of life keeping in view the rules of divine justice.
- 11) A man believing and practising "Honest means" provides strong roots for a peaceful society.

WHAT DO QURAN AND SUNNAH SAY ABOUT HONEST & DISHONEST EARNING

Islam has allowed only such things to earn which are honest in existence and means to get them must also be honest. Trade and agriculture are the "Halal" honest professions but there are many sources of income and professions which are unlawful and prohibited professions. There is a brief description of some of them.

(1) THEFT

Theft means to take anyone's safe money without his permission and knowledge. Theft has been declared to be dishonest in Islam and punishment for one who indulges in theft is to cut off his hands. According to Quran:

☆ وَالسَّارِقِ وَالسَّارِقَةَ فَاقْتَعُوا أَيْدِيَهُمَا جَزَاءً بِمَا كَسَبَا نَكَالًا مِّنَ اللَّهِ (المائدة: 38)

And thief whether male or female, "Cut off His/her hands. It is fruit of their harvest and horrible punishment from Allah."

(2) PLUNDER AND DACOITY

To snatch away anyone's money without his willing is also declared to be unlawful. Holy Prophet (S.A.W) said: "He who plunders and robs is not from the believers.

(3) GIVING SHORT MEASURES

Islam has prohibited acquiring profits by giving short measures.

☆ فَأَوْفُوا كَيْلَ وَالْمِيزَانَ وَلَا تَبْخَسُوا النَّاسَ أَشْيَاءَهُمْ (الاعراف: 85)

"And give full measures and weights and don't give people their things on loss."

☆ وَلَا تَنْقُصُوا الْمِكْيَالَ وَالْمِيزَانَ (البؤ: 84)

"And don't give short measures".

☆ وَتِلْكَ لَلْمُطَفِّفِينَ الَّذِينَ إِذَا اكْتَالُوا عَلَى النَّاسِ يَسْتَوْفُونَ
وَإِذَا كَالُوهُمْ أَوْ وَزَنُوهُمْ يُخْسِرُونَ (المطففين: 1,2,3)

"There is destruction for those who give short measures, those who take full and complete for themselves, and when they have to give measures or to weigh something, they give loss."

(4) BRIBERY

Bribery is a social evil, which deprives many deserving persons of their rights and causes many misunderstandings and wrong decisions. Islam has totally prohibited it.

☆ وَلَا تَأْخُذُوا بِالْبَاطِلِ أَمْوَالِكُمْ بَيْنَكُمْ بِالْبَاطِلِ وَتُدْلُوا بِهَا إِلَى الْحُكَّامِ لِنَأْكُلُوا فَرِيقًا مِّنْ أَمْوَالِ النَّاسِ بِالْإِثْمِ وَأَنْتُمْ تَعْلَمُونَ (البقره: 188)

"And eat not up your property among yourselves in vanity, nor seek by it to gain the hearing of judges that ye may knowingly eat a portion of the property of others wrongfully."

The Holy Prophet (S.A.W) said, "Both belong to hell; one who takes bribe and other who gives it."

(5) INTEREST ON MONEY

Usury exploits the poor and gets money bound in limited hands. It makes rich richer and makes poor poorer. Islam has prohibited it and has declared it to be "Haram".

☆ قَالُوا إِنَّمَا الْبَيْعُ مِثْلُ الرِّبَا وَأَحَلَّ اللَّهُ الْبَيْعَ وَحَرَّمَ الرِّبَا (البقره: 275)

"They say that trade is just like usury, whereas Allah has allowed trade and has prohibited usury."

And the Quran has used harsh words against usury in such way,

☆ يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَذَرُوا مَا بَقِيَ مِنَ الرِّبَا إِن كُنْتُمْ مُؤْمِنِينَ
فَإِنْ لَّمْ تَفْعَلُوا فَأْذَنُوا بِحَرْبٍ مِّنَ اللَّهِ وَرَسُولِهِ (البقره: 278-279)

"O Believers! Have fear of Allah and leave (don't take) what has left from interest (on people) if you are really form believers. But if you don't do it, then be alert of war announcement against you."

(6) GAMBLING

Gambling has been prohibited in Islamic Shariah and has been declared to be Satanic design.

☆ يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا إِنَّمَا الْخَمْرُ وَالْمَيْسِرُ وَالْأَنْصَابُ وَالْأَزْلَامُ رِجْسٌ مِّنْ عَمَلِ الشَّيْطَانِ فَاجْتَنِبُوهُ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُفْلِحُونَ (المائدہ: 90)

"O Believers! No doubt drinking and gambling and idolships and lotteries, all are dirty devilish acts, so avoid them, hopefully you will get success."

(7) MARKETING OF NARCOTICS & PROHIBITED COMMODITIES

Wines, Opium, charas (intoxicating chemical) hog all are unlawful, there use is unlawful, and similarly there trade is unlawful in Islam. Hazrat Ans (May Allah Be Pleased With Him) says that the Holy Prophet (S.A.W) has cursed ten people in case of intoxicating drink:

- 1) One who strains (bereaves) it for others
- 2) One who strains it for himself
- 3) Who drinks it
- 4) Who takes it away with
- 5) For whom it has been taken away
- 6) Who serves it
- 7) Who sells it
- 8) Who eats its earnings
- 9) Who buys it
- 10) For whom it has been brought

(8) PROSTITUTION AND BAR-HOUSES

Islam has disliked and prohibited prostitution and bar-houses. Holy Prophet (May Peace Be Upon Him) has clearly announced, "Income of an adulteress is defiled (impure)."

The Holy Quran has prohibited forcing slave girls on adultery.

☆ وَلَا تَكْرِهُوا فَتَيٰتِكُمْ عَلَى الْبِغَاءِ إِنْ أَرَدْنَ تَحَصُّنًا لِّتَبْتَغُوا عَرَضَ الْحَيٰوةِ الدُّنْيَا وَمَنْ يُكْرِهِنَّ فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ مِنْ بَعْدِ إِكْرَاهِهِنَّ غَفُورٌ رَّحِيمٌ (النور: 33)

And do not force (your slave girls) on adultery for your worldly profits whereas they want to remain chaste. And after that if someone has forced them then Allah is forgiver and merciful for them.

(9) ADULTERATION AND CHEATING

To get money by selling rotten goods to people through cheating and fraud is also disliked and prohibited in Islamic Shariah. Holy Prophet (May Peace Be Upon Him) says:

"He who adulterated is not a part of us." (Muslim Community)

(10) EXPLOITATION AND USURPATION

Islam has also prohibited us to take money of the weak people by exploitation and usurpation and he who eats other's money by exploiting him is in-fact eating fire inwards In the words of the Quran:

☆ إِنَّ الدِّينَ يَأْكُلُونَ أَمْوَالَ الْيَتَامَى ظُلْمًا إِنَّمَا يَأْكُلُونَ فِي بُطُونِهِمْ نَارًا وَسَيَصْلَوْنَ سَعِيرًا (النساء: 10)

"Lo! Those who devour the wealth of orphans wrongfully, they do but swallow fire exposed to burning flame."

(11) BETRAYAL

To earn money by betrayal is as if a person gives his machine to someone for repair and he exchanges the new spare parts with old spare parts, then it is betrayal.

Islam does not allow any type of betrayal if someone indulges in it, he will have to be answerable for it. In Quranic verses:

☆ وَمَنْ يُغْلَلْ يَأْتِ بِمَا غَلَّ يَوْمَ الْقِيٰمَةِ ثُمَّ تُوَفَّى كُلُّ نَفْسٍ مَّا كَسَبَتْ وَهُمْ لَا يُظْلَمُونَ (آل عمران: 161)

"Whose deceiveth will bring his deceit with him on the Day of Resurrection. Then every soul will be paid in full what it hath earned; and they will not be wronged."

FEED BACK

When we look upon all the points mentioned above, it becomes compulsory for every Muslim to make better and profitable planning to fulfil the purpose of his creation. Because the purpose of man's creation is to worship Allah.

☆ وَمَا خَلَقْتُ الْجِنَّ وَالْإِنْسَ إِلَّا لِيَعْبُدُونِ (الذريت: 56)

"And I created man and giants not but to (obey) pray (worship) Me."

It means that only that person is right who fulfils all the demands of a perfect obedience and service of Allah. A man gets success only by Divine service. To earn Kasb-e-Halal is to accomplish "Nine Parts Of Divine Service". Where as the total parts are ten. If someone gives full time to Salah, Swam, Zakah, Haj, Unrah, Recitation of the Holy Quran and Iatiqaf thinking them to be whole obedience, whereas, they are only tenth part of Divine. It means that he is willing to go to paradise with the help of ten percent obedience, contradictorily he has left 90% of obedience which consists of earning Kasb-e-Halal The Holy Quran says:

☆ فَأَمَّا مَنْ ثَقُلَتْ مَوَازِينُهُ فَهُوَ فِي عِيشَةٍ رَاحِيَةٍ وَأَمَّا
مَنْ خَفَّتْ مَوَازِينُهُ فَأُمَّهُ هَاوِيَةٌ (سورة القارعة: 7,8,9)

“Then as for him whose scales are heavy (with good works), He will live a pleasant life. But as for him whose scales are light his place will be Raging fire.”

So he is the intelligent person who tries to save the real and basic nine parts of the obedience in first step as the acceptance of tenth part of obedience depends on “Kasbe-e-Halal” and lawful earnings. So if there is one spoon of ‘Haram’ in one’s stomach, his prayers are not recognised till forty days.

HUMBLE PRAYER

☆ اَللّٰهُمَّ اكْفِنَا بِحَلَالِكَ عَنْ حَرَامِكَ
وَاعْتِنَا بِفَضْلِكَ عَمَّنْ سِوَاكَ (الحديث)

“ O my God! Nourish me with “Halal” and save me from “Haram” and make me rich thy grace not of others.” (Al-Hadith)



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