

## Spend wisely and be contented

Allah (SWT) says: “*And those, who, when they spend, are neither extravagant nor niggardly, but hold a medium (way) between those (extremes).*” (Al-Furqan: 67)

Acquiring wealth or procuring property is permissible in Islam, but only when it is done by Islamic means. However, it must be borne in mind that wealth is not the main object of life. Money is not the be-all and end-all of everything.

So, therefore, do not devote your life entirely to the pursuit of wealth and become greedy. Be moderate. Have the heart for care, concern and compassion for other people especially for the less fortunate.

Once a person goes after money just for the sake of accumulating wealth, he becomes a servant to money. Even when he earns double or triple the amount of what an average man earns, his earnings would still be insufficient for him. He may live in a big house, have a car and a maid, yet he may not part with even a dollar for charity. This is why Islam forbids stinginess.

When a person solely goes after wealth, there is also the possibility of him meeting with some dire disappointment or defeat in life. This has been proven as it is often reported in the media that some people become completely devastated, even to the point of committing suicide, when, for instance, they lose huge amounts of money in the stock market.

Islam forbids greed and misuse of wealth. It also insists that Muslims must not hoard

wealth but must spend it wisely. When we earn more money, we must also help the poor and the needy to lessen their burden and suffering. We must treat our wealth as a sacred trust of Allah and use it in a proper way for the good of our fellow human beings, such as for charity, mosque funds and *da'wah*.

“Spending” in the Qur’anic verse quoted above does not mean spending unnecessarily or unmindfully. This is squandering, and squandering in Islam is an unrighteous act.

Islam imposes the principle of *zakat* (poor due) so that the wealth accumulated by the rich and able Muslims can be shared with the poor and needy. And by doing so, they gain by accumulating spiritual merit. Also, in addition to *zakat*, the rich and able Muslims should give *sadaqah* (charity) and make contributions to charity funds in the interest of the people and country.

Practice *sadaqah*, even if you may be a student. Put some money, no matter how little you can afford, even 50 cents or 20 cents, into charity boxes in the mosques when you go for the Friday Prayer. Your donation would go a long way towards maintaining the mosque and organizing religious activities. You would reap great spiritual merits from Allah for your sincere contributions. Wallahu A’lam.

Prepared by Br. Muhaemin Karim, Dawah Worker, IUHK