

THE ECONOMIC ASPECT OF ISLAMIC CULTURE

Wealth is one of the necessities of life. Allah has made wealth the means of providing comfort for human and his needs. Allah has made wealth one of the charms of human life. A person spends his whole life struggling to attain and collect wealth, and the same wealth is a test for him. Allah Almighty says:

﴿ زُيِّنَ لِلنَّاسِ حُبُّ الشَّهَوَاتِ مِنَ النِّسَاءِ وَالْبَنِينَ وَالْقَنَاطِيرِ الْمُقَنْطَرَةِ مِنَ الذَّهَبِ وَالْفِضَّةِ وَالْخَيْلِ الْمُسَوَّمَةِ وَالْأَنْعَامِ وَالْحَرْثِ ذَلِكَ مَتَاعُ الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا وَاللَّهُ عِنْدَهُ حُسْنُ الْمَبَاقِ ﴾ آل عمران: ١٤

Translation of Meaning: "Fair in the eyes of men is the love of things they covet: Women and sons; Heaped-up hoards of gold and silver; horses branded (for blood and excellence); and (wealth of) cattle and well-tilled land. Such are the possessions of this world's life; but in nearness to Allah is the best of the goals (To return to)." (Surah Aal-e-Imran, Verse 14)

The passion to collect wealth sometimes persuades man to leave the Halaal resources and to choose Haraam resources, due to which he becomes the slave of wealth and follows it completely. Sometimes, a person does not control his desires and spends money in those areas where it becomes the source of his destruction as well as the destruction of the whole society. Therefore, Islam has formulated a rule to earn and spend the wealth. Islam has made this clear that man is answerable about his wealth and its expenditure. Islam has explained to the people about the love of wealth and its consequences. This point is clearly made in this hadith of Prophet (ﷺ):

"لَا تَزُولُ قَدَمَا عَبْدٍ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ حَتَّى يُسْأَلَ عَنْ عُمْرِهِ فِيمَا أَفْنَاهُ ، وَعَنْ عِلْمِهِ مَا فَعَلَ بِهِ ، وَعَنْ مَالِهِ مِنْ أَيْنَ اكْتَسَبَهُ وَفِيمَا أَنْفَقَهُ ، وَعَنْ جِسْمِهِ فِيمَا أَبْلَاهُ " (الترمذي)

Translation: "A person would not be able to drag his feet from the court of Allah, till he is asked about his age that where he spends it and in what activities, and how much he follows his learned knowledge, from where he earns his income and where he spends it, and where he spends his self and energy." (Tirmizi)

And Allah Almighty says:

﴿يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا لَا تُلْهِكُمْ ءَمْوَالُكُمْ وَلَا أَوْلَادُكُمْ عَنْ ذِكْرِ اللَّهِ وَمَنْ يَفْعَلْ ذَلِكَ فَأُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ
الْخَاسِرُونَ ﴿٩﴾﴾ المنافقون: ٩

Translation of Meaning : “O ye who believe! Let not your riches or your children divert you from the remembrance of Allah. If any act thus, the loss is their own.” (Surah Al Munafiqoon, Verse 9)

And Allah says at another place:

﴿إِنَّمَا ءَمْوَالُكُمْ وَأَوْلَادُكُمْ فِتْنَةٌ وَاللَّهُ عِنْدَهُ أَجْرٌ عَظِيمٌ ﴿١٥﴾﴾ التغابن: ١٥

Translation of Meaning : “Your riches and your children may be but a trial: but in the Presence of Allah, is the highest Reward.” (Surah Al Taghabun, Verse 15)

It is important for a Muslim to have knowledge of some of the things related to wealth:

1. Like the other things present in the universe, wealth is also the property of Allah.
2. Wealth is the property of Allah and man is its trustee. If he spends the wealth in good ways then there is excellent reward for him and if he spends it extravagantly then he is to answer in the court of Allah.
3. Wealth is the way of living one’s respectable life. It is not the purpose of life for which a person always struggles and wastes his whole life in it. A true Muslim is not ignorant of the importance of wealth. This is why, he earns money by Halaal means only and he spends it merely in the favourite deeds of Allah.
4. The wealth that a person has earned by Halaal means is his property only, and it is compulsory on him to protect it and no one is allowed to take it from him.

On the basis of the previous rules and regulations described earlier, a person has full right to spend his wealth whether it is the matter of earning or spending it or managing it. The money that person has earned by halaal means has some right liged on it too.

* * *