

A QAZI WHO REFUSES A GIFT OF GOLD COINS

It is said that once Malik Mas'ood Ghaznavi became sick. When he recovered from his illness, he gave two bags of gold to his minister Abu Nasr, telling him to give the bags to the learned qazi (the city judge) and his son who were known for their piety, and to tell them that in these bags there was nothing of haram (forbidden), because, he said, "These coins are from the idols of Somnath which my father Sultan Mahmood of Ghaznavi got at the victory of Somnath through Jehaad. I have had these coins cast from the gold of those idols. Therefore tell them to be confident that there is nothing in this money which could belong to haraam".

The minister summoned the two pious men - the qazi and his son - and laid down the bags of gold coins in front of them and conveyed to them the message of the king. The judge said "Tell the king that I cannot accept this money". The minister was surprised; he asked the reason. The judge said "It is possible that from the point of view of Malik Mas'ood his father's works were for the sake of Jehaad - struggle in the way of God; but I am not sure whether his attack on India was for the sake of a Divine cause or for the sake of plundering gold. Therefore it is not possible for me to accept these coins".

Then the minister turned towards the son and told him to take it saying, "I know that you, father and son, are living in extreme poverty". But the son too replied "When my father, an old man weakened by age cannot accept it, I am after all young and strong". Abu Nasr the minister, burst into tears and thanked God that such men still existed among the Muslims. Thus we see that the old qazi did not testify to the truth of Mahmood Ghaznavi's campaign being for the sake of God and refused the gold coins.

What a splendid act of piety to reject the lucrative offer of gold coins lest it originated from the plundered wealth acquired not by lawful means for the sake of God. It is one of the rare examples of one needing financial help yet refusing to accept a royal gift for fear of it being unlawful money.

The mass corruption we see today in the world could only be eradicated the day we can have officials of every country imbued with such piety as to refuse to accept any sort of bribe or gift from any quarter.

1) Babel 2mm
2) 5 MG Jokes
3) TOR 94