

Akhbar (A)

A WAY TO SELF-RELIANCE

By: A. H. Shank.

Recollecting the hard times that have just passed during which owing to no income, he could neither feed himself nor his family, an Arab was wondering how a mere sentence repeated ~~three~~ three times to him, resulted into revolutionizing his life and that of his family from absolute poverty to full happiness and prosperity.

One day being exceedingly frustrated with poverty and hardship, he had approached the Prophet of Islam with the intention of begging for assistance. Before he could utter a word on his problems, the Prophet conveyed to him ' Anyone who asks for assistance from us, we do assist him but he who excersizes restraint and refrains from begging, God Almighty would free him from obligations of others! He returned home that day without saying anything to the Phophet.

Another day being hard pressed with proverty and lack of food, he once again approached the Prophet of Islam with a desire of asking for assistance. Before he could utter a word, he was told the same words and he returned home without having dared to ~~expre~~ express his miseries.

~~For~~ the very same intention once again, he approached the Prophet of Islam for the third time to be told exactly the same words as in the first two cases, before he could speak. But this time though he returned emptyhanded, he felt a ray of confidence and a hope in his heart and the thrice repeated words from the Prophet made him resolve not to think of begging again but to embark upon a job that would raise an income for the bread of his and that of his family.

With that determination, he goes to the forests outside Medina, collects a bundle or two of firewood which he sold in the city. The small income thereto, gave him some satisfaction and boosted up his confidence that he could definitely stand on his own feet. Thereafter he continued with the same job and in a short period, he found himself completely free of financial worries and sufficiently well-off to make his two ends meet..

One day the Prophet of Islam saw him and smilingly he told him ' Did I not say that whoever begs for help, we do assist him but he who refrains from doing so and excersices self-reliance, God Almighty helps him'.