

IBN SIYABA

Youth (7)

THE TRUSTWORTHY YOUTH

When Siyaba died in Kufa - Iraq, his son Abdul Rehman was still very young. Because of poverty and absence of ^{income} earning, he had become extremely downcast and agrieved.

One day when he was inside his home, someone came and knocked his door. That man happened to be the friend of his late father. Consoling him on his sad bereavment, he inquired:

"Have you inherited anything from your father?"

"Nothing" the young boy replied.

"Alright don't worry, herewith a thousand dirham for you. But do try to utilize this money as a capital and from the income of its investment, you may pay for your home expences."

So saying the man went away. Young Abdul Rahman was naturally delighted with this windfall. He went to his mother and handed over the packet of 1,000 dirhams to her explaining how it came about.

After some careful consideration, he opened a shop and filled it with goods purchased from the capital he had on hand. Allah by His Grace blessed him with prosperity whereby withinga short period, he could save money, after meeting all expenses, from the income derived.

Naturally happy with the results of his business venture, he decided to go to Mecca to perform the Haj. But before he set to go out, he consulted his mother who wisely advised her:

"Son! You must first go to that friend of your late father and refund to him the money he had loaned to you. Thereafter you may willingly proceed to Haj."

Following the mother's advice, Abdul Rehman went to his father's friend and extending a packet of 1000 dirhams said:

"Herewith I have the pleasure of returning your money"

Thinking it was a small instalment, the man first refused to accept and said:

"Son if what I had given you is not enough, I am willing to increase"

"No, it is not so, but because I have by now raised enough income, I have come to express my thanks for your help and repay it. I wish to proceed for Haj, therefore, may you please accept back your money."

Having repayed the money, Abdul Rahman proceeded for Haj. When the rituals at Mecca were completed, along with other Hajis he went to Madina to pay respect to the Holy Prophet (SAW) at his shrine. There he also paid a visit to Imam Jaffer Sadiq (A.S.) for the first time. He was wonderingstruck to witness how the people in a big rush paid their respects to the Imam and discussed different questions of religion with him. After a while when the rush receded, the Imam called him near and asked who he was and whether he needed anything.

"I am the son of Siyaba Bajali Al-Kufi" he replied.

"How is your father?" the Imam asked

"My father is dead" replied Abdul Rehman.

"I feel sorry. May Allah bless his soul. Has your father left any inheritance for you?"asked the Imam.

"No, unfortunately nothing was left for me". he replied

"So how did you manage to pay for the Haj expenses"? inquired the Imam.

Abdul Rahman related in detail how a friend of his father had helped him with a capital fund. The Imam promptly inquired as to what he had done with the money advanced to him by that friend of his father. He explained how he first repayed the loan before he set for Haj.

"Very good! May I give you a piece of advice?" responded the Imam.

"Certainly, may my life be ransomed upon you". Said Abdul Rahman.

"Be firm upon truth and trustworthiness..

The true and straight person has a share in the wealth of people."

(Translated from Sadae-Jaafarriya)

Thus this story of the young Abdul Rahman Ibn Siyaba is but a valuable source of moral lesson. The question every fair person need to ask himself is whether he cares to pay all debts and dues before proceeding on pilgrimage to holy places. How many of our people in the commercial class care to speak the truth in the course of their business dealings? And how many care to repay their business debts?