

## **WHOSE PLEASURE SHALL WE SEEK?** **LOQMAN'S PREACHING TO HIS SON**

Loqman is said to have been not an apostle of God but blessed with extraordinary wisdom. He was the nephew of Prophet Ayyub and had lived for a thousand years from the time of Prophet Dawood to Prophet Yunus. A whole chapter in the holy Quran is dedicated to his name and which contains various ethics preached by him to his son, meant for mankind as a whole. ( Chapter XXXI - verse 12- 19)

Once he said "Oh son! Do not tie your heart in seeking the pleasure of people as you are not likely to succeed. Do not pay heed to what people say but instead mind yourself always in seeking the pleasure of God"

In order that this lesson is deeply rooted in his mind and never forgotten, Loqman then told his son to ride a donkey. The son obeyed and the father followed behind on foot. Having travelled a distance, they came across a band of people who instantly remarked "what discourteous and bad a boy! The old father is on foot and the young son is riding comfortably on the donkey. Is this the way to show respect to one's father ?"

On hearing this, the son dismounted and the father instead rode on the donkey. After a while, they came across another group of people who remarked "Oh you old man! Is this the way to rear a son that you exert him by making him to walk on foot whilst you are comfortably riding on the donkey."

Loqman came down and this time, the donkey was made to move in front and both the father and the son walked behind. A few paces further, some people seeing them remarked "How foolish people you are to walk on foot behind a donkey."

For the fourth time, both the father and the son together rode on the donkey and proceeded further. They arrived at a water-way on which a bridge had to be crossed. Some people sitting there, on seeing both Loqman and his son together riding the donkey, said "How unkind and cruel you are to ride two together on one poor animal"

Both then dismounted and having travelled a little distance further, Loqman addressed his son saying "Now you must be convinced that whichever way you move in this world you are never able to please people". Pointing to the water-way, he said "You can still raise a barrier and close the flow of this water but never the mouth of people from criticism".

Precisely same is the case with our society today. After all the tongue has no bone and as many mouths are there so is the number of different comments and criticism. It is even worse where the tendency is to find lame faults with some one doing a useful work for the society instead of appreciating his efforts.

The more you listen and care for the comments of the public, the more disappointed you become. Why then not train yourself to think always of whether you do is right and whether it has the pleasure of your Creator. Seek always the pleasure of Allah and derive satisfaction and contentment you need in life.