Al-Islam.org
Ahlul Bayt Digital Islamic Library Project
Published on *Al-Islam.org* (https://www.al-islam.org)

Usury

Usury الرِّبا

Warning Against Usury

التَّحذيرُ مِن الرِّبا

.. رسولُ اللهِ (صَلَّيَ اللهُ عَلَيهِ وَ آلِهِ): إنّ اللّهَ عزّوجلّ لَعَنَ آكِلَ الرِّبا ومُوكِلَهُ وكاتِبَهُ وشاهِدَيهِ1

1– The Prophet (S) said, 'Verily Allah, Mighty and Exalted, curses the usurer, his agent, his scribe and his two witnesses.'[Amali al-Saduq, p. 346, no. 1]

. رسولُ اللهِ (صَلَّيَ اللهُ عَلَيهِ وَ آلِهِ): أتَيتُ ليلةَ أُسرِيَ بِي على قَومٍ بُطونُهُم كالبيوتِ فيها الحَيّاتُ تُرى مِن خارجِ2
بُطونِهِم ، فقلتُ: مَن هؤلاءِ يا جَبرئيلُ ؟ قالَ: هؤلاءِ أكَلَةُ الرِّبا.

2– The Prophet (S) said, 'During my Night-Journey up to the heavens, I was taken to a people whose bellies were as large as houses and contained serpents that could be seen from outside their bellies. I asked, 'Who are these people, O Gabriel?' He replied, 'They are the usurers.'[Kanz al-'Ummal, no. 31857]

.. الإمامُ الباقرُ (عَلَيهِ السَّلامُ): أخبَثُ المَكاسِبِ ، كَسبُ الرِّبا3

3– Imam al-Baqir (a.s.) said, 'The most despicable of profits is the profit earned from usury.'[al-Kafi, v. 5, p. 147, no. 12]

4ـ الإمامُ الصّادقُ (عَلَيهِ السّلامُ): آكِلُ الرِّبا لا يَخرُجُ مِنَ الدنيا حتّى يَتَخَبَّطَهُ الشيطانُ

4– Imam al-Sadiq (a.s.) said, 'The usurer only leaves this world after Satan has thrown him to the ground in defeat.'[Tafsir al-'Ayyashi, v. 1, p. 152, no. 503]

5ـ الإمامُ الصّادقُ (عَلَيهِ السّلامُ): دِرهَمٌ ربا أعظَمُ عِندَ اللّهِ عزّوجلّ مِن سَبعينَ زَنيةً كلّها بِذاتِ مَحرمٍ في بيتِ اللّهِ الحرامِ.

5– Imam al-Sadiq (a.s.) said, 'A dirham earned by usury is worse in the sight of Allah than seventy counts of incest in the Holy Sanctuary of Allah.'[Nur al-Thaqalayn, v. 1, p. 295, no. 1177]

The Wisdom Behind the Prohibition of Usury

حِكمَةُ تَحريمِ الرِّبا

6ـ الإمامُ الصّادقُ (عَلَيهِ السّلامُ) ـ لَمّا سَأَلَهُ هِشامُ بنُ الحَكَمِ عن عِلَّةِ تَحريمِ الرِّبا ـ: إنّهُ لَو كانَ الرِّبا حلالاً لَتَرَكَ الناسُ التِّجاراتِ وما يَحتاجونَ إلَيهِ فحَرَّمَ اللّهُ الرِّبا لتَفِرَّ الناسُ عنِ الحرامِ إلى التِّجاراتِ وإلى البَيعِ والشِّراءِ فَيَتَّصِلَ ذلكَ بَينَهُم في القَرضِ .

6– Imam al-Sadiq (a.s.), when asked by Hisham b. al-Hakam about the reason behind the prohibition of usury, replied, 'Were usury to be permissible, people would abandon their trading and other necessities, so Allah prohibited usury in order that man may flee from the unlawful [means of earning] to trade, and resort to buying and selling, and this in turn facilitates borrowing from each other.'[Bihar al-Anwar, v. 103, p. 119,no. 24]

7ـ الإمامُ الصّادقُ (عَلَيهِ السّلامُ) ـ لَمَّا سُئلَ عن عِلَّةِ تحريمِ الرِّبا ـ: لئلاّ يَتَمانَعَ الناسُ المَعروفَ

7– When Imam al-Sadiq (a.s.) was asked the reason behind the prohibition of usury, he replied, 'So that people may not withhold common courtesy from each other.'[Bihar al-Anwar, v. 78, p. 201, no. 32]

That Which Leads One to Become Involved in Usury

ما يوجِبُ الارتِطامَ فِي الرِّبا

8ـ الإمامُ عليٌّ (عَلَيهِ الّسَلامُ): مَعاشِرَ الناسِ ، الفِقهَ ثُمَّ المَتجَرَ ، واللّهِ لَلرِّبا في هذِهِ الأُمَّةِ أخفى من دَبيبِ النَّملِ عَلى الصَّفا.

8– Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'Engage yourself firstly in communal relations with people, then the law, and subsequently trading, for by Allah, usury creeps into this community more discreetly than an ant creeps onto a rock.'[Bihar al–Anwar, v. 103, p. 117, no. 16]

9ـ الإمامُ عليٌّ (عَلَيهِ الّسَلامُ): مَنِ اتَّجَرَ بغَيرِ فِقهٍ فَقَدِ ارتَطَمَ في الرِّبا.

9– Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'Whoever trades without knowledge of legal rulings gets involved in usury.'[Nahjul Balaghah, Saying 447]

The Usurer Who Justifies Himself Must be Fought

آكِلُ الرِّبا مُستَحِلاًّ مُحارِبٌ

10ـ الإمامُ الصّادقُ (عَلَيهِ الّسَلامُ) ـ لَمّا بلَغهُ أنّ رَجلاً كانَ يَأكُلُ الرِّبا ويُسَمِّيهِ اللِّباءَ ـ: لئن أمكَنَنِي اللّهُ عزّوجلّ (مِنهُ) لَأضرِبَنَّ عُنُقَهُ.

10– Imam al–Sadiq (a.s.) was once informed of a man who was extorting usury and calling it liba' instead of riba (usury) to justify his actions, with regards to whom Imam said, 'If Allah gave me the power to, I would have him beheaded.'[al–Kafi, v. 5, p. 147, no. 11]

Source URL: https://www.al–islam.org/mizan–al–hikmah–scale–wisdom/usury#comment–0