

Ahmed bey Agayev,
a journalist

An Open Letter to the rich Muslim

Recently, a Muslim student of Baku Commercial College of applied to one of the local rich people for help. The student, this is one of the best on the moral qualities and successes throughout the school, and he is an orphan, and so poor that he lived in the caravanserai courtyard. School made free him from the school payment, provides clothes and academic subjects, and found him to live in space for full boarder equivalent to 10 rubles a month. And for these 10 rubles a student applied to a rich man, but hard-hearted rich agreed to give only half and it is probably only due to respect visiting card of influential man; so a rich man saved 40 rubles a year. Unfortunately, this fact is not a singular phenomenon, which causes us to address with a letter to rich Muslims.

You, gentlemen, rich Muslims are very, very strange. It is difficult to understand you. Who are you, what nationality and what religion do you belong to? To Tatars and Muslims you will answer. So does this show? You might help your poor Tatars. Have you ever thought of life? Where it leads, what it ends. Of course, you lost your closes, friends and relatives. What did they take with themselves? It is just a piece of shroud, a pound of wool and a few boards. That's all their material stuffs, all their personal property from all millions which they saved in their life. But with this pitiful stuffs they carried off their souls as well, with which they will appear before the face of God; decorations for these souls at a time will be only good deeds but not of gold-filled chests, large diamonds, banknotes, stocks and bonds. There you will not meet servile men, bowing low to you for your millions, and a searching glance of the Supreme Judges, looking at you copies of those good deeds which you made on earth.

You say you're Muslim! So open any chapter of the Koran and you will certainly read there that "the most pleasing to God hand is a hand of the giver, the most pleasant eyes are compassionate eyes, the most pleasant heart is a heart, feeling grief, seeking to relieve her at least by a word." "The earthly wealth are pleasant by that give an opportunity to help closes," says in our Holy Book; "but - continues further the Koran - a person who collects wealth and protect it eagerly, not helping by it to fellow man, like a lumberjack, which aggravates his burden collecting avidly chips on a fire for his own soul".

We give! - You might say. But to whom and how are you giving? Is this endowment, when any madam citizen of Vologda extorts from your lust thousands rubles to travel and thousands for diamonds and thousands for supporting. Is this endowment, when a failed son wastes accumulated by you millions on champagne vines, actresses, cards or dissipation? Is this endowment when some poor or ill-fated student appeals to you and goes away from you with tears in his eyes? No, this is God's punishment. You have become slaves to your millions; they crush your soul, your feelings; through them, your hands are short, your eyes are sick, your heart is lead; and you may even forgot that you are Muslim.

How can you be a Muslim and at the same time not to be adorned with at least one of the qualities of the Prophet and the Imams? Do you remember them, gentlemen rich men? Do you remember how, for example, at night from a sense of delicacy Imam Ali was carrying on his own shoulders to distribute to the poor flour, dates? Do you remember a scene when the Imam sat down with his family for a modest meal of milk, stale bread and a few dates, he heard knocking a beggar at the gate and not hesitating, took him to a meal, leaving himself and his family to be hungry. You may say - Ali was poor, yes, he was poor, although he was the Caliph of a great state and if he desired, he could be richer than all the rich. But do only the poor may be true Muslims? Whether only poor people have kind and sympathetic heart? No, rich people can be kind and capable of noble impulses. Do not you remember an example of Hatem? It all depends on how you look at the wealth. If you

look at the wealth in Muslim, i.e. as a means to do good then a rich man may be sympathetic and generous. A rich man, like all others, should be imbued with idea that he does not live alone. He is connected by close spiritual and physical bonds with other people, and that solidarity is a great fact of human existence. Do you remember, gentlemen rich men that verse of Saadi: Beni adam aazai ek dikarand Ki dar aferiniş zi ek joxarand Qu uzvi bs dard avarad ruzikar Diqar uzvxara nemanad qarar. "People are that bodies of one common body, God has created them out of common clay, and when one of bodies hit, while others suffer no less".

So, gentlemen, rich men, when a poor or indigent student leaves you only with tears, it will affect you the same also, as a student might be educated, good people, and ever instruct your children on the same good way; as neither poor man nor student do not find your supporting and others stopping to be students that increase number of idlers, loafers, thugs, thieves, perjurers and assassins which, of course, cause you a lot of trouble. I'm not saying that you can too become poor, that your children are, in turn, may need support.

But besides all this, the victim and help give a higher pleasure, which can not provide any physical pleasure. Try it, gentlemen, rich men, and I assure you that you do not stop, you will not find such sweets in any candy shops because it is made on the sky. For good reason that the Qur'an says: "Who will feed at least one poor, help orphans, widows, seeking help or knowledge of science - he gives himself to God, who will consider themselves in debt to the giver." Soften your heart, the rich Muslim!...

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