

WORK ETHICS IN ISLAM

Earning a livelihood is an important responsibility in Islam. And more so earning a Halaal livelihood as is very clearly understood from the words of Rasulullah Sallallahu Alayhi Wasallam,

“The earning of a Halaal livelihood is an obligation after fulfilling other obligations” (Sunanul Kubra– Bayhaqi)

In this world a person is either an employer or employee, if he is not self-employed. Islam has laid great emphasis that both parties must be just, sincere and transparent in all their dealings and contracts. Allah Ta’aala commands us in the Qur’aan with the words:

“Be just, for it is the closest to piety (Taqwa)” (Surah 5, Verse 8)

Neither party should oppress the other by not fulfilling their obligations as per the contract. A Muslim, as an employer or employee, should always keep in mind that I am a Muslim first and then an employer/employee. Therefore, through my dignified Akhlaaq (character), just dealings, and fulfilling my commitments, I will become a flag bearer of the noble teachings of Islam. Not only will this behaviour of mine be a means of Da’wah and spreading Islam but it will also pave an easy pathway to Barakah in my earnings and to obtain the perpetual Rahmah of Allah Ta’aala.

Special attention in this regard should be directed towards the treatment of our domestic employees. It has become almost commonplace for adults and children to verbally abuse and treat them as if they are a sub-human species. It is our Islamic obligation to realise that they are humans like you and I, and have feelings and emotions like you and I. They should thus be treated with due respect and courtesy.

May Allah Ta’aala protect us from incurring His displeasure and endow us with the Tawfeeq of fulfilling the rights of others. Aameen

29/04/09

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