



True Feelings

2
الإقتصاد والشح
Moderation
and
Miserliness

Both الإقتصاد and الشح look like withholding, but there is a difference of a hair's breadth between the two.

Moderation or الإقتصاد is a praised characteristic. It is a fair and economic behaviour. The person controls

himself from being extravagant in spending, words and actions, because he has a goal. An example of this is fasting; the person holds himself from eating and drinking for a lofty goal. He disciplines himself for a reason.

Moderation is generated from two concepts, justice and wisdom. It is an estimated withholding, not random or disturbing; it is just. The person balances the giving and withholding. For instance, someone on a strict diet is deprived of food, that on a cheat day, he will go to the other extreme. But the one who eats with moderation is always balanced. With wisdom, he saves his assets to use at the appropriate time. For example, you use wisdom when you don't let your child have candy every day, but you are also just with her, so you let her eat candy once a week, not depriving her completely, and wisely giving her not too much nor too less.

وَلَا تَجْعَلْ يَدَكَ مَغْلُولَةً إِلَىٰ عُنُقِكَ وَلَا تَبْسُطْهَا كُلَّ الْبَسْطِ
فَتَقْعَدَ مَكُومًا مَّحْسُورًا

And do not make your hand [as] chained to your neck or extend it completely and [thereby] become blamed and insolvent.

سورة الإسراء

17:29

The best people are those who are moderate. They don't spend too much or too less. There should be moderation in food and drink.

The miser is also holding back, but this is a dispraised characteristic, because it is accompanied by سوء الظن, thinking bad, and ضعف النفس, a weak character, so that he is easily influenced by other forces. The one who is a miser will have negative thoughts, thinking he would become poor if he spends, there will be a crisis, he will be deprived. He forgets that الرزاق, the Provider. Even if he is spending, he has a negative feeling in his heart. This person doesn't have any determination, so he surrenders to his negative thoughts.

إِنَّ الْإِنْسَانَ خُلِقَ هَلُوعًا

Indeed, mankind was created anxious

إِذَا مَسَّهُ الشَّرُّ جَزُوعًا

When evil touches him, impatient

وَإِذَا مَسَّهُ الْخَيْرُ مَنُوعًا

And when good touches him, withholding [of it]

سورة المعارج

70:19-21

The shaitan will make him panic, and he will feel restless. He is a target of the shaitan because he is weak and negative. Miserliness generates greed for more and more.

The human being is innately restless, exaggerating in his feelings, according to the decree. If something good comes to him, he becomes miserly, and if something disliked comes

to him, he becomes irritable. So he never enjoys the blessings given to him.