

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Overlooking the faults of faults and mistakes of others
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An intelligent and wise person is the one who is constantly aware that this life in which we live is imperfect and the people with whom we live are imperfect. It is easy to realise and accept this fact in theory but not so easy in practical terms when we deal with people and are met with their shortcomings and mistakes against us.

If we accept this fact, then it becomes necessary for us to overlook and turn a blind eye and deaf ear to many of the unbefitting sayings and actions of people around and their failings. If one wants to react and retaliate for every mistake committed against him/her, then he/she will have no spouse, no brother and no friend in this world.

Overlooking the mistakes of others and turning a blind eye and deaf ear is without doubt a good moral quality that extinguishes many evils. It is a noble prophetic moral quality. Al-Hassan Al-Basri (*rahimahu Allah*) said “none of the prophets of Allah was a person who would pursue and thoroughly investigate the mistake of people.”

Allah (*subhanahu wa ta'ala*) says in the Qur'an regarding the Prophet Muhammad (*salla Allahu alayhi wasallam*) when one of his wives (Hafsa *radhiya Allahu 'anhu*) made a mistake and disclosed a secret of the Prophet (*salla Allahu alayhi wasallam*) that he told her to Ayesha (*radhiya Allahu 'anhu*): “And remember when the Prophet told one of his wives a matter in confidence, then she told to another and Allah made it known to him, he informed her part thereof and left a part...”

He (*salla Allahu alayhi wasallam*) overlooked part of it out of his nobility.

Not wanting to know about the faults of others in order not to have ill-feeling in one's heart towards any them was the honourable way of the Prophet (*salla Allahu alayhi wasallam*.) He said in a *Hadith*: “None of you should tell me anything ill about any of my companions because I want when I meet you to have nothing in my heart towards anyone of you.”

It is a dishonourable quality to cling to the mistakes of others, open the heart of people and go to extreme in interpreting their intentions. Safety of one's *Deen*, and *Dunya* as well, cannot be served by a behaviour like this. It was said to Imam Ahmed Ibn Hanbal (*rahimahu Allah*) that safety is ten parts, nine of them are brought about by overlooking the faults of others. He said safety (salvation) is ten parts all of them are realized by overlooking.”

It is the lack of forbearance and overlooking that causes many of the disputes and hatred between people. By having this quality of overlooking one will have fewer disputes and fewer enemies. It is a quality that makes a person high-minded concerned about important issues and not about the trivialities. Allah loves issues of high mindedness and dislikes the trivialities. Whoever does not overlook and blames others all the time all friends and loved ones will run away and desert him.

Slave of Allah!

Know that this moral value of overlooking the faults and mistakes of other is a moral quality for all. It is for the big and small, for the one who is in charge and those who are under him, for the teacher and student, for the father and his children and for the husband and wife.

Anyone who wants to live in peace with others must have this quality. There can be no peace and no unity between people without this quality.

It is mere intelligence and good policy to have this quality. It is the people of intelligence and people of good hearts who are good at this quality. Those who are deprived of this quality have evil hearts and twisted minds. They count the mistakes of others and make of a small thing a big issue.

An intelligent person is one who reflects on the words of Allah (*subhanahu wa ta'ala*) regarding Yusuf (*alayhis-Salaam*): “They (Yusuf brothers) said: if he steals, there was a brother of his (Yusuf) who did steal before. He kept it within himself and did not reveal it to them.”

Finally know that a believer is an intelligent person who distinguishes between forbearance and stupidly, between overlooking and neglectfulness. Many people have fallen into the mistake of turning a blind eye and deaf ear to things they should not turn a blind eye and deaf ear to, and considered declaring what is truthful as truthful and what if false as false part of the recommended overlooking - when it is not.

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