

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

أَلْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ كَمَا هُوَ أَهْلُهُ وَالصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَى سَيِّدِ الْوُلْدِ أَدَمَ كَمَا يُحِبُّ وَيَرْضَى بِأَنْ يُصَلَّى عَلَيْهِ

Allah Almighty, in Whose Name we begin, The Most Compassionate,

The Most Merciful

All Praise is due to Allah Almighty, Countless Peace and Blessings be upon  
His Beloved Messenger – *may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him* – his family & his  
companions – *may Allah be pleased with them all*

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## The Honesty of the Shepherd

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Hadrat Sayyiduna Naaf'e - *may Allah be pleased with him* – narrates:

I accompanied Hadrat Sayyiduna Abdullah ibn 'Umar - *may Allah be pleased with them* - to one of the outlying valleys outside Madina Shareef. There were also others that had joined us as well. The sun was at its zenith and it was extremely hot. We then decided to take shelter under a certain tree and all of us placed our food on an eating cloth eat together. A few minutes, we noticed a shepherd that was walking past.

Hadrat Sayyiduna Abdullah ibn Umar - *may Allah be pleased with them* - said to him, "Come and join in this food." The shepherd replied that he was fasting.

Hadrat Sayyiduna Abdullah ibn 'Umar - *may Allah be pleased with them* - said to him. "You spend the entire day in this hot burning sun looking after the animals. Your job is extremely testing but you keep Nafil fast. Is it necessary for you to keep Nafil fast?"

When the shepherd heard this, he asked, “Has the Qur’an not stated in Surah Haaqah, verse 24 that:

كُلُوا وَاشْرَبُوا هَنِيئًا بِمَا أَسْلَفْتُمْ فِي الْأَيَّامِ الْخَالِيَةِ ﴿٢٤﴾

“Eat and drink with pleasure – the reward of what you sent ahead, in the past days.”

When the eminent companion heard these words of the shepherd, he was very impressed and said to him, “Sell us one of your animals so that we can have it slaughtered and can also pay you a just price.”

When the shepherd heard this, he replied, “These animals do not belong to me. These are animals which belong to my master. I am merely a servant, how can I sell these animals.”

Obviously, the blessed companion was even more impressed by the honesty of this shepherd. He then turned to us and said, “It was also possible that this shepherd could have sold us this animal and if his owner would have asked, he would have said that the wild animals has eaten one of them. But look at the honesty of this shepherd.”

The shepherd heard all of these words and as he was walking away, he raised his finger towards the sky and said, “Even though my master is unable to see me, yet, my Creator is watching over me and is aware of everything I do.”

In fact the blessed companion was extremely impressed by this simple shepherd and his immense honesty. He then approached the owner of this slave and decided to purchase him from his master. After he had purchased him, he freed him. He also purchased all the animals which were there and handed all of these animals to the shepherd as a gift. (Uyunul Hikaayah)