

Arab Republic of Egypt

Ministry of Awqaf

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Lawful Earning

All praise is due to Allah, the Lord of all worlds, Who says in His Ever Glorious Book, **“You who believe, eat the good things We have provided for you.”** I bear witness that there is no god but Allah, and that Muhammad is His Servant and Messenger. May Allah’s Peace and Blessings be upon him, his Household, Companions and upon those who follow their path to the Day of Judgment.

Our religion appreciates work and views it as a great and honorable concept, considering it as a means of advancement and progress. When reviewing the Qur’an, one finds a clear call for action, persistence and diligence in seeking one's livelihood. The Almighty Allah said, **“It is He Who has made the earth manageable for you; so travel its regions; eat His provision- and to Him you will be resurrected.”** Allah (Glory be to him) also said, **“Then when the prayer has ended, disperse in the land and seek out Allah’s bounty. Remember Allah often, so that you may prosper.”** Irak Ibn Malik (May Allah be pleased with him) -after performing the Jum’ah Prayer- used to stand at the door of the Mosque and say, **“O Allah, I have answered Your call, performed the Prayer You**

obliged and walked in the land as You have commanded. So, provide me from Your favour as You are the the Best Provider."

However, seeking livelihood in Islam is based on lawful earning within the framework of honesty, mutual consent, and avoiding cheating or exploitation of people's needs. Our Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) said, "Everything belonging to a Muslim is inviolable for a Muslim; his honour, his blood and property." The Prophet (Peace be upon him) also said, "I shall not meet Allah [with the sin] that I give to someone a property of another without his consent. Sale may only be done by mutual consent."

Lawful earning is a reason for blessing and the increase of livelihood, as the Prophet (Peace be upon him) said, "Wealth is attractive and sweet. Whoever takes it with consent, it will be blessed for him, and whoever takes it with avarice, it will not be blessed for him. He is like one who eats without being satisfied, and the upper hand is better than the lower hand." The Prophet (Peace be upon him) also said, "Both parties in a business transaction have a right to annul it so long as they have not separated. If they tell the truth and make everything clear to each other (i.e., the seller and the buyer speak the truth, the seller with regard to what is purchased, and the buyer with regard to the money) they will be blessed in their transaction, but if they conceal anything and lie, the blessing on their transaction will be eliminated." In another Hadith, the Prophet (Peace be

upon him) said, "The best earning is man's work with his hand and every transaction which is free from cheating or deception." When a person realizes the blessing of the lawful earning, he will never think about unlawful earning even if it is of large amount, because lawful earning brings blessing for one's own soul, wealth and children; it brings about assurance for one's mind, and produces inner peace.

To show the nobility of lawful earning, the Prophet (PBUH) said, "The truthful and honest merchant will be with the Prophets, the upright, and the martyrs." A truthful and honest merchant reaches this status because it is the nature of humans that they love wealth which is one of the pleasures of life. The Almighty Allah said, "**Wealth and children are the attractions of this worldly life.**" Therefore, one who challenges the love of wealth, controls his own soul and resists his lust and the attraction of this world life, and thus prefers lawful earning to unlawful one, and prefers the Hereafter over this world life, deserves to be with prophets, the upright, and martyrs, who are the best companions. The Almighty Allah said, "**But whoever desires the Hereafter and strives for it as he should, as a true believer, his striving will be thanked.**"

In addition, Lawful earning is one of the reasons that makes one's supplications accepted by Allah. The Prophet (Peace be upon him) said to Sa'd Ibn Abu Waqas: "Oh Sa'd, Make your earnings lawful, and thus your supplication will be accepted. By the One in Whose Hand is my soul, when

a slave of Allah puts an unlawful morsel in his stomach, his good deeds will not be accepted for forty days. Anyone whose body is nurished with an unlawful earning, Hellfire will be his fitting abode.”

All praise is due to Allah, Lord of the Worlds; may Allah’s Peace and Blessings be upon Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), his companions and followers:

It goes without saying that an unlawful earning has dangeious consequences and serious effects. It wastes people’s energies and competencies, and disrupts the interests of the countries and nations. The Almighty Allah said, “You who believe, do not wrongfully consume each other’s wealth but trade by mutual consent. Do not kill each other, for Allah is Merciful to you.” The Prophet (PBUH) said, “There is no flesh that is nourished by the unlawful except that the Fire is more appropriate for it.”

Therefore, we are in a dire need to seek lawful earning in order to obey Allah, the Lord of the Worlds, protect our honor and faith, and to preserve the grace of our nation.

May Allah guide us to do good deeds and may Allah save Egypt and all countries of the world from any evil!