

Self - Responsibility

Qamrul Khanson
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Introduction:

In the last two sermons we talked about **Reforming Evil-self** and **Knowing-self to Reform**, today by the Guidance of Almighty Alloh we would talk about **Self-Responsibility** as a believer in Islam. Though message is open to whole humankind but charity starts from home. Every person is responsible for the consequences of the decisions which correspond with his awareness, or in the case of the model of the sphere, for all those consequences which take place within his awareness sphere. The responsibility for the action of things are imputed to their human user. To transfer responsibility from a person would be to make them less than human.

The worldly legal system clearly recognizes this principle in the prosecution of crimes and the religion of Islam is in the forefront for the accountability on self-Responsibility basis. All humans individually have a responsibility to reform, correct and become eligible to live with pleasure, gratification and the fulfillment in life with the delight of Almighty Alloh. When God sanctifies you, no one has the strength and power to desecrate you. Almighty Alloh assures you of it, as believers so that your intention, your deeds and your social engagements become accordingly upon His Guided – Path. After self-responsibility, what about situations where tasks are carried out by Muslim community?

Who carries the responsibility for the decisions on behalf of the community? Is there such a thing as collective ethical responsibility? How far does the responsibility go within a group in the event of a causal chain of consequences as member of the Muslim community in Canada? Can responsibility be shared?

To deal with the most important question here first: There are no changes to the personal responsibilities as a citizen of Canada. The co-responsibility as Canadians and as a member of the community therefore does not primarily depend on the individual position in the hierarchy, but on his personal fitness as a responsible citizen and as a responsible Muslim.

As multifaceted as we Canadians may be, once our existential needs are covered, we all finally strive for the same thing: We want to be perpetually happy and satisfied and we want to be able to live our lives without worries and cares. This search for harmony and inner peace, for self-realization, are the objectives in life, but we as Muslims govern our life for the betterment in this world and more for the life in the Hereafter. That is why Almighty Alloh reminds the humankind: -

"And it is not (possible) for one to die except by permission of Alloh at a decree determined. And whoever desires the reward of this world - We will give him thereof; and whoever desires the reward of the Hereafter - We will give him thereof. And we will reward the grateful" {The Qur'an – Surah Al Imran (Chapter: The Amramites) 03: 145}.

The-Qur'an Explains:

"Because of that, we (Almighty Alloh) decreed upon the Children of Israel that whoever kills a soul unless for a soul or against the corruption (committed) in the land - it is as if he had slain humankind entirely. And whoever saves one - it is as if he had saved humankind entirely. And our Messengers had certainly come to them with clear proofs. Then indeed many of them, (even) after that, throughout the land, were transgressors" {The Qur'an – Surah Al Ma'idah (Chapter: The Table spread) 05: 32}.

"O you who have believed, upon yourself is the responsibility for yourselves. Those who have gone off track will not harm you when you have been guided (by Almighty Alloh). To Alloh is your return all together; then He will inform you of what you used to do" {The Qur'an – Surah Al Ma'idah (Chapter: The Table spread) 05: 105}.

Ahadith on Self-Responsibility:

Abu Umamah (RTA) reported that The Prophet (PBUH) said, **"Alloh is responsible for three clauses (for the self-responsible Muslim): if they live, they will have enough, and if they die, they will enter the Garden. Alloh Almighty is responsible for whoever enters his house, saying 'Peace'. Alloh is responsible for whoever goes out to the mosque. Alloh is responsible for whoever goes out in the Way of Alloh"** [Al-Adab Al-Mufrad 1094 (Sahih-Albany)].

So, whenever anyone goes away, The-Prophet (PBUH) would made supplication in support of a believer and invoked Almighty Alloh for the support during the expedition of such a believer: -

Narrated Abdullah Al-Khatmiyye (RTA): 'When the Prophet (PBUH) wanted to say farewell to an army, he would say: **"I entrust to Alloh your religion, what you are responsible for, and your final deeds"** [Sunan Abi Dawood 2601 (Sahih-Albany)].

In following this tradition of The-Prophet (PBUH) Salem bin 'Abdullah bin 'Umar (RTA) reported: When a man was to set out on a journey, 'Abdullah bin 'Umar (RTA) would say to him: "Draw near so that I may bid farewell to you as Messenger of Alloh (PBUH) used to bid farewell to us (and recited the above supplication as mentioned in (Sunan Abi Dawood 2601 (Sahih-Albany)" [At-Tirmidhi (E) - Book 2, Hadith 715].

Narrated Abdullah (RTA) that Alloh's Messenger (PBUH) said, **"Every one of you is a guardian and is responsible for his charges. The ruler who has authority over people, is a guardian and is responsible for them, a man is a guardian of his family and is responsible for them; a woman is a guardian of her husband's house and children and is responsible for them; a slave/servant ('Abu) is a guardian of his master's property and is responsible for it; so all of you are guardians and are responsible for your charges"** [Sahih Al Bukharie (E) -Vol. 3, Book 46, Hadith 730].

Thus every act of a believer comes with a responsibility. For example 'Profit follows Responsibility' (Sunan Abu Dawood) - 'The hand that takes is responsible for what it has taken until it returns it' (Sunan Ibn Majah) - 'The owners of properties are responsible for guarding them by day, and the owners of animals are responsible for guarding them by night' (Sunan Abu Dawood).

Conclusion:

From the basic rights of existence each being derives the equal right to live, to develop and to carry out its tasks. Every being can thereby decide for itself what it wants to do or not do (the principle of self-determination). He who is free to decide for himself what he should do or not do is naturally also responsible for the consequences of his decisions. Who otherwise would be responsible for the consequences of a decision if someone can freely decide? From the principle of self-determination there follows therefore the *principle of self-responsibility*: