

Hadith on Moderation

Time should be devoted to worldly affairs and the Hereafter without neglecting either of them.

عَنْ حَنْظَلَةَ الْأُسَيْدِيِّ قَالَ وَكَانَ مِنْ كُتَّابِ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ قَالَ لَعِينِي أَبُو بَكْرٍ فَقَالَ كَيْفَ أَنْتَ يَا حَنْظَلَةُ قَالَ قُلْتُ نَافِقٌ حَنْظَلَةُ قَالَ سُبْحَانَ اللَّهِ مَا تَقُولُ قَالَ قُلْتُ نَكُونُ عِنْدَ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ يُذَكِّرُنَا بِالنَّارِ وَالْجَنَّةِ حَتَّى كَأَنَّا رَأَيْ عَيْنٍ فَإِذَا خَرَجْنَا مِنْ عِنْدَ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ عَافَسْنَا الْأَرْوَاحَ وَالْأَوْلَادَ وَالصِّغَارَ فَتَسْبِيحُنَا كَثِيرًا قَالَ أَبُو بَكْرٍ فَوَاللَّهِ إِنَّا لَنَلْقَى مِثْلَ هَذَا فَانْطَلَقْتُ أَنَا وَأَبُو بَكْرٍ حَتَّى دَخَلْنَا عَلَى رَسُولِ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ قُلْتُ نَافِقٌ حَنْظَلَةُ يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ فَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ وَمَا ذَلِكَ قُلْتُ يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ نَكُونُ عِنْدَكَ تُذَكِّرُنَا بِالنَّارِ وَالْجَنَّةِ حَتَّى كَأَنَّا رَأَيْ عَيْنٍ فَإِذَا خَرَجْنَا مِنْ عِنْدِكَ عَافَسْنَا الْأَرْوَاحَ وَالْأَوْلَادَ وَالصِّغَارَ فَتَسْبِيحُنَا كَثِيرًا فَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ وَالَّذِي نَفْسِي بِيَدِهِ إِنْ لَوْ تَذَوُّمُونَ عَلَى مَا تَكُونُونَ عِنْدِي وَفِي الذُّكْرِ لَصَافَحْتُكُمْ الْمَلَائِكَةَ عَلَى فُرُشِكُمْ وَفِي طُرُقِكُمْ وَلَكِنْ يَا حَنْظَلَةُ سَاعَةً وَسَاعَةً ثَلَاثَ مَرَّاتٍ

صحيح مسلم كتاب التَّوْبَةِ باب فَضْلِ دَوَامِ الذِّكْرِ وَالْفِكْرِ فِي أُمُورِ الْآخِرَةِ وَالْمَرَاقِبَةِ وَجَوَازِ تَرْكِ ذَلِكَ فِي بَعْضِ الْأَوْقَاتِ 2750
وَالِاشْتِغَالِ بِالدُّنْيَا

Hanzalah Al-Usayyidi, who was a scribe for the Messenger of Allah, reported: I met Abu Bakr and he said, "How are you, O Hanzalah?" I said, "Hanzalah has become a hypocrite." He said, "Glory be to Allah, what are you saying?" I said, "When we are in the presence of the Messenger of Allah and he reminds us of Hellfire and Paradise, we feel as if we are seeing them with our very eyes, but when we are away from the Messenger of Allah attending to our wives, our children, and our business, most of these things slip from our minds." Abu Bakr said, "By Allah, I have experienced the same thing." So Abu Bakr and I went to the Messenger of Allah and I said to him, "O Messenger of Allah, Hanzalah has become a hypocrite." The Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings be upon him, said, "**What has happened to you?**" I said, "O Messenger of Allah, when we are in your presence and are reminded of Hellfire and Paradise, we feel as if we are seeing them with our very eyes, but when we leave you and attend to our wives, our children, and our business, most of these things slip from our minds." The Prophet said, "**By Him in whose hand is my soul, if your state of mind remains the same as it is in my presence and you are always occupied with the remembrance of Allah, the angels will shake your hands in your beds and roads. O Hanzalah, rather time should be devoted to this and time should be devoted to that.**" The Prophet said this three times.

Source: Sahih Muslim 2750

Grade: **Sahih** (authentic) according to Muslim

My Brief Understanding

By Ismail Sukardi

Basically, Hanzalah Al Usaydi was fearful of being a hypocrite (nifaq) as he felt that his focus on Akhirah shifted to Dunya when he was not with the Prophet (ﷺ). He asked the Prophet (ﷺ) how he was so focused on Akhirah in his presence and when he returns home he was more focused on worldly affairs (family, job, etc).

The Prophet (ﷺ) told him that if he continues to maintain his state of mind thinking that the Prophet (ﷺ) is with him and always do zikir (remembrance of Allah) he will be guided with the angels keeping him alert at all times. Hanzalah was told to devote his time equally for the Akhirah and Dunya, paying attention to his responsibilities to his Creator (Allah) and His creations (worldly things) that are being entrusted to him (eg. parents, wife, children, anything on earth or the earth itself). Moderate his action so as not to neglect one or the other.

This is congruent with the quranic verse 77 Surah Al-Qasas (28:77)

"But seek, with that (wealth) which Allah has bestowed on you, the home of the Hereafter, and forget not your portion of legal enjoyment in this world, and do good as Allah has been good to you, and seek not mischief in the land. Verily, Allah likes not the Musfidun (those who commit great crimes and sins, oppressors, tyrants, mischief-makers, corrupts)"

[Qur'an (28:77)].
Translation by Mohsin Khan