

Display your blessings and conceal your plans

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The Muhaddith of the Era

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allaah, the Most Merciful, the Bestower of Mercy

Question: There are two narrations. One narration reads,

Seek help in having your needs met by being discreet, for everyone who is blessed with something is envied.¹

Yet, in many places we read that we should mention the favours of Allaah. I do not understand how to determine this. Is there a certain period of time that someone should conceal his needs?

Shaykh al-Albaanee (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ) said: It is not hidden from you, that with regards to individuals and their relationship with others, there are things which are obvious and apparent. An example of this is the narration when a Bedouin man came to the Messenger of Allaah (peace be upon him) wearing a tattered garment. He asked the man: “**Do you have any wealth?**” The man replied: “I have every type of wealth which Allaah has given me, to include camels, cow, sheep, dirhams, and dinars (currency of that time).” The Messenger of Allaah (peace be upon him) said to him: “**If Allaah gives you wealth, then allow it to be seen upon you. For indeed Allaah loves that His favours are displayed upon His servant.**”²

Therefore, if a Muslim implements this narration and dresses according to his wealth, this is clear. He does not conceal this. As for the narration “**Seek help in having your needs met by being discreet**”; this is regarding affairs that need to remain secret. For example, in the industry of inventors and inventions. The person does not speak about these matters because he wants to attain permissible earnings. And if he speaks about it, someone may precede him to it and thus, he will not attain his goals and needs.

¹ (Saheeh al-Jami' 943)

² (Mishkat al-Masabih 4352)

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