



Do what you are capable of doing. By Allah, Allah never grows weary until you grow weary

‘Ā'ishah, the wife of the Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him), reported: Al-Hawlā' bint Tuwayt ibn Habīb ibn ‘Abd al-‘Uzza passed while I was sitting with the Messenger of Allah, may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him. So I said: "This is Al-Hawlā' bint Tuwayt, and they claim that she does not sleep at night." Upon hearing this, the Messenger of Allah (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) said: "She does not sleep at night! Do what you are capable of doing (regularly). By Allah, Allah never grows weary (of giving rewards) until you grow weary (of doing good deeds)."

[Authentic hadith] [Narrated by Bukhari & Muslim]

As Al-Hawlā' bint Tuwayt passed by ‘Ā'ishah, ‘Ā'ishah told the Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) that this woman's name was Al-Hawlā bint Tuwayt and that she used to pray all night without sleeping at all. The Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) condemned this act and said: "Do what you are capable of doing." Thus, the Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) ordered that woman to stop the tedious act that she was doing as she could find it difficult and become incapable of continuing it in the future. Then the Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) ordered that people should do only acts which they are capable of for "Allah will never grow weary until you grow weary." This means that Allah, Glorified and Exalted, rewards people according to their acts of worship. When a slave continues to do a good deed, then Allah continues to reward him for that. However, if the slave grows weary of and bored with this act of worship, and consequently abandons it, then Allah will stop the reward of that particular act. This is because people are rewarded for their deeds, so whoever stops a specific deed, the reward of that particular deed will stop if that deed is stopped for no valid excuse such as sickness or travel. This is the most correct interpretation of "growing weary" that is understood from the apparent meaning of the Hadīth as a description of Allah, the Exalted. Allah's 'Malal' (boredom/weariness), is not similar to people's 'Malal', for ours means fatigue, tiredness, and laziness whereas that of Allah is an attribute that is exclusive to Him in a way that befits His majesty. Indeed Allah, Glorified and Exalted, does not feel tired or lazy.

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