

O Hakim, this money is like a sweet, fresh fruit

Hakīm ibn Hizām (may Allah be pleased with him) reported: I asked the Messenger of Allah (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) for some money, and he gave it to me. Then I asked him again, and he gave it to me. Then I asked him again, and he gave it to me, and then he said: "O Hakīm, this money is like a sweet, fresh fruit; whoever takes it without greediness, he is blessed with it, and whoever takes it with greediness, he is not blessed with it, and he is like a person who eats but is never satiated; and the upper hand is better than the lower hand." Hakīm added: I said: O Messenger of Allah, by the One Who sent you with the truth, I shall never accept anything from anyone after you until I depart this world. Then Abu Bakr would call Hakīm in order to give him, and he would refuse to take anything. Then 'Umar called him to give it to him, but he would refuse to accept it. Upon that, 'Umar said: O Muslims, I offer Hakīm his share from this booty that Allah entitled him to, and he refuses to take it. So, Hakīm never took anything from anybody after the Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) till he died (may Allah have mercy upon him).

[Authentic hadith] [Narrated by Bukhari & Muslim]

Hakim ibn Hizam (may Allah be pleased with him) asked the Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) for some of the worldly goods, and he gave them to him. Then he asked again, and the Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) gave him. Then the Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) said to him: O Hakim, this wealth is sweet and tempting. Whoever receives it without asking and takes it without greed or insistence, it will be blessed for him. But whoever takes it out of craving and desire, it will not be blessed for him-he will be like the one who eats but is never satisfied. And the upper hand that gives is better in the sight of Allah than the lower hand that asks. Hakim said: I said: O Messenger of Allah, by the One Who sent you with the truth, I will never again ask anyone for anything after you until I depart this world. The successor of the Messenger of Allah (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him), Abu Bakr (may Allah be pleased with him), would call Hakim to give him his share (from the treasury), but he would refuse to accept anything. Then the Commander of the Believers, 'Umar (may Allah be pleased with him), also called him to give him something, but he likewise refused to accept it. So 'Umar said: O Muslims, I offer him his rightful share-that which Allah has allotted to him from the spoils of war obtained without fighting—yet he refuses to take it. Hakim never took anyone's wealth by asking after the Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) until he passed away (may Allah be pleased with him).

