



Listen and obey, for they are only responsible for their duty, and you are responsible for your duty

Wā'il al-Hadrami reported: Salamah ibn Yazīd al-Ju'fi (may Allah be pleased with him) asked the Messenger of Allah (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him), saying: O Prophet of Allah, what if we are governed by rulers who seek their rights from us and deny us our rights, what do you command us to do? He turned away from him. Then he asked him, and he turned away from him. Then he asked him for the second or third time, so Al-Ash'ath ibn Qays pulled him, and he said: "Listen and obey, for they are only responsible for their duty, and you are responsible for your duty."

[Authentic hadith] [Narrated by Muslim]

The Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) was asked about the rulers who demand their right from people, i.e., to listen and obey and withhold the right that is due to them, namely fulfilling justice, giving the spoils of war, redressing and settling grievances. What do you command us to do with them? The Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) turned away from him as if he disliked these kinds of questions. However, the questioner repeated his question for the second and third time; thereupon, Al-Ash'ath ibn Qays (may Allah be pleased with him) pulled the questioner to silence him. The Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) answered by saying: Listen to what they say and obey their command, as they are only responsible for their duty and for what is entrusted to them of fulfilling justice and giving the subjects their rights, and you are responsible for your duty of obedience, fulfilling rights, and enduring misfortunes patiently.

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