

Ramadan Daily Quran Studies, by Dr Zahid Aziz, 2025

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## Study 4:

**Prophet Muhammad ﷺ**

**does not ask for any personal reward, return or gain from people**

- The revelation of the Holy Prophet Muhammad in the Quran addressed him as follows:

قُلْ لَا أَسْأَلُكُمْ عَلَيْهِ أَجْرًا ۖ إِنَّهُ هُوَ إِلَّا ذِكْرٌ لِّلْعَالَمِينَ ﴿٩٠﴾

1. “Say: I do not ask you for any reward for it.

It is nothing but a Reminder for the nations.” — 6:90

وَمَا تَسْأَلُهُمْ عَلَيْهِ مِنْ أَجْرٍ ۗ إِنَّهُ هُوَ إِلَّا ذِكْرٌ لِّلْعَالَمِينَ ﴿١٠٤﴾

2. “And you ask them no reward for it.

It is nothing but a Reminder for the nations.” — 12:104

- Verses 1 and 2 above say that what the Holy Prophet wanted was not a reward for himself, but to convey to people of all nations “a Reminder” by which they would remember God and His teachings.

قُلْ مَا أَسْأَلُكُمْ عَلَيْهِ مِنْ أَجْرٍ إِلَّا مَنْ شَاءَ أَنْ يَتَّخِذَ إِلَىٰ رَبِّهِ سَبِيلًا ﴿٥٧﴾

3. “Say: I ask of you no reward for it

except that whoever wishes may take a way to his Lord.” — 25:57

- According to verse 3 here, the Holy Prophet was showing people a way to the Lord, only for their benefit, those who wished to follow it.

قُلْ مَا سَأَلْتُكُمْ مِنْ أَجْرٍ فَهُوَ لَكُمْ ۗ إِنِ اجْرِيَ إِلَّا عَلَى اللَّهِ ۗ وَهُوَ عَلَى كُلِّ شَيْءٍ شَهِيدٌ ﴿٣٤﴾

4. “Whatever reward I ask of you, that is only for yourselves.

My reward is only with Allah, and He is a Witness over all things.” — 34:47

- Verse 4 says that the Holy Prophet’s reward for his work does not come from the people; rather, the reward of his work goes to the people themselves, since they benefit from his teachings.

قُلْ مَا أَسْأَلُكُمْ عَلَيْهِ مِنْ أَجْرٍ وَمَا أَنَا مِنَ الْمُتَكَلِّفِينَ ﴿٨٦﴾  
إِنْ هُوَ إِلَّا ذِكْرٌ لِلْعَالَمِينَ ﴿٨٧﴾ وَتَعْلَمَنَّ نَبَأَهُ بَعْدَ حِينٍ ۚ

5. “Say: I ask you no reward for it; nor am I one of the impostors.

It is nothing but a Reminder for the nations.

And certainly you will come to know about it after a time.” — 38:86–88

- Verse 5 is a clear prophecy that in the end people would come to know that the Holy Prophet was not an imposter, who was after some gain from his people, but had delivered to them a book for all nations.

- The statement that the Holy Prophet did not ask for any reward at all is made very often in the Holy Quran. The preacher of virtue never asks for any reward.
- Noah was commanded to say the following:

فَإِنْ تَوَلَّيْتُمْ فَمَا سَأَلْتُكُمْ مِنْ أَجْرٍ ط  
 إِنْ أَجْرِيَ إِلَّا عَلَى اللَّهِ وَأُمِرْتُ أَنْ أَكُونَ مِنَ الْمُسْلِمِينَ ﴿٤٢﴾

“But if you turn back, I ask for no reward from you.  
 My reward is only with Allah,  
 and I am commanded to be of those who submit.” — 10:72

- And:

وَيَقَوْمٍ لَا أَسْأَلُكُمْ عَلَيْهِ مَالًا ۖ إِنِ اجْتَرَىٰ إِلَّا عَلَى اللَّهِ وَمَا أَنَا بِطَارِدِ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا ۗ<sup>ط</sup>  
إِنَّهُمْ مُّلقُوا رَبَّهُمْ وَلِكِنِّي أَرْكُم قَوْمًا تَجْهَلُونَ ﴿٢٩﴾  
وَيَقَوْمٍ مَنْ يَنْصُرُنِي مِنَ اللَّهِ إِنِ طَرَدْتُهُمْ ۗ أَفَلَا تَذَكَّرُونَ ﴿٣٠﴾

“And, my people, I do not ask you for wealth (in return) for it.

My reward is only with Allah, and I am not going to *drive away* those who believe.

Surely they will meet their Lord, but I see you a people who are ignorant.

And, my people, who will help me against Allah, if I drive them away?

Will you not then be mindful?” —11:29–30



- The “drive away” here is in reference to the leaders of Noah’s people saying to him: Your followers are from the lowest classes, so if you turn them away from you, we will follow you. Noah condemns this objection as based on their ignorance.
- Another prophet was commanded to say:

يَقَوْمِ لَا أَسْأَلُكُمْ عَلَيْهِ أَجْرًا ۖ إِنِّي أَخْبِرُكُمْ بِالَّذِي فَطَرَنِي ۚ أَفَلَا تَعْقِلُونَ ﴿٥١﴾

“My people, I ask of you no reward for it.  
My reward is only with Him Who created me.  
Do you not then understand?” — 11:51

- Chapter 26 mentions five prophets who said to their people:

وَمَا أَسْأَلُكُمْ عَلَيْهِ مِنْ أَجْرٍ ۖ إِنَّا نَجْرِي إِلَّا عَلَىٰ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ

“And I ask of you no reward for it:  
my reward is only with the Lord of the worlds.”

- These were the prophets Noah (26:109), Hūd (26:127), Sālih (26:145), Lot (26:164) and Shuaib (26:180).

- Religious teachers and clerics often seek some gain from the people, such as money, position, influence, popularity etc. Incidents of their greed are legendary.
- In the present times, many of them seek political power through their religious leadership. They keep the masses trapped in ritual practices and ignorance because they want to be popular with them.

- They cannot risk reforming the people because, if they told the people that they are doing wrong things, they would incur the people's opposition.
- But no prophet sought any gain from people. The aim of every one of them was solely their guidance and reform.
- This is seen most clearly in the life of the Holy Prophet.
- Every Muslim religious leader and preacher should also follow this example.

*END OF STUDY 4*