

The Prophets Worked To Earn Their Living

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The Prophets worked in common professions to earn their living. They did not just sit back and wait for the rizq (sustenance) to come to them.

Allaah (subhanahu wa ta'aala) tells us the story of Moosaa (alayhis-salaam) and how he worked on the farm of an old man for ten years ¹ After the ten years, Moosaa travelled back to Egypt. Along the way, he met with Allaah and Allaah spoke to him:

"(Allaah said,) "What is that in your right hand, O Moosaa?" He (Moosaa) replied, "It is my staff. I lean upon it, and I use it to tend my sheep, and I use it for other things." He said, "Drop it, Moosaa." So he dropped it, and it immediately turned into a running snake."

[Soorah Taahaa (20):17-20]

All the other prophets tended sheep as well. Aboo Hurayrah (radiyallaahu anhu) reported that the Prophet (sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam) said:

"Never did Allaah send a prophet except that he (the prophet) tended sheep."
[Bukhaaree and others]

Also, Aboo Hurayrah (radiyallaahu anhu) said that the Prophet (sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam) said:

"Zakariyyah was a carpenter." [Muslim, Ahmad, and Ibn Maajah]

And Aboo Hurayrah (radiyallaahu anhu) said that the Prophet (sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam) said:

"Indeed, the Prophet Daawood did not eat except from that which he produced with his hands." [Bukhaaree]

We should remember that the Prophets worked only in good and permissible jobs so as to earn good and pure rizq. This is unlike some ignorant people who work in many haraam (prohibited) jobs to earn their rizq. Umm 'Abdillaah, Shaddaad Bin Aws's niece (radiyallaahu anhaa) reported that the Prophet (sallaallaahu alayhi wa sallam) said:

"The Messengers were commanded not to eat except good things, and not to do except good deeds." ²

This command to the Prophets comes in the following aayah:

"O Messengers, eat from the good food and do good deeds."

[Soorah Al-Mu'minoon (23):51]

¹ **"He said: "I intend to wed one of these two daughters of mine to you, on condition that you serve me for eight years, but if you complete ten years, it will be (a favour) from you. But I intend not to place you under a difficulty. If Allaah will, you will find me one of the righteous."** [Soorah Al-Qasas (28):27]

² This hadeeth was recorded by al-Haakim. It was verified to be hasan by al-Albaanee (Saheeh ul-Jaami' no. 1367 and as-Saheehah no.1136)