
Living under a father that deals with interest

Adapted for www.albaanee.com from an article translated by Isma'eel Alarcon [al-Asaalah Magazine, Issue 10]

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Question: I am a young man who has not finished studying, and my father is a rich man who deals with interest (riba) as well as other types of forbidden business. What should be my stance in this situation, especially if it is my father who spends money on me, even though I have explained to him many times that interest is Haraam (forbidden), but to no avail?

Answer: Shaykh al-Albaanee (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ)¹: Indeed these studies, which the questioner has indicated are by no means from the obligatory matters. Rather it is only a means that leads to obtaining provision in these days. So if it is the case that he lives under the shelter of his father, and he knows for certain that his father deals with interest, then it is upon him to undertake all the possible means by which he can free himself from this way of living that is established upon sin, even if it leads to him having to abandon his studies, since this type of study in itself, is not an individual obligation. And it is upon him to strive hard towards earning lawful provision, by working his hands off and causing his forehead to sweat. This is better for him and more lasting.

So depending on the ability of the questioner, the studies should be left off, even temporarily, and he should make an effort to find sustenance for himself, which would be modest enough for him, and through which he can free himself from his father having to spend on him.

And if he is forced while not desiring it, meaning (he is forced) to live under the sustenance of his father, then he should not go to great extents in his requesting of money. Rather, he must only take according to the extent that will be enough for him to survive on, pay his necessary expenses and which will free him from begging people.

¹ (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ) (rahimahullaah) May Allaah have mercy on him