

An Oppressor who does not want to Desist from his Oppressive ways

Q: Prohibitions and Permissions-48: What is the ruling of the Shari'ah concerning an oppressor who refuses to mend his ways despite being told?

Answer: The Qur'aan teaches us that if two parties are at loggerheads, every effort needs to be made by others to mend the ties between them. If this does not work and one party refuses to desist, it is the duty of all other Muslims to work together to bring the oppressor to book. The two parties can then be reconciled in an amicable manner.

Rasulullaah SAW. once said on oath that salvation cannot be attained unless people forbid oppressors from their oppression. In another narration, Rasulullaah SAW. said on oath, "You must enjoin good, forbid evil, restrain the hand of the tyrant and pull him towards the truth otherwise your hearts will be overturned just like it happened to those people (the Bani Israa'eel) and you will be cursed just like they had been.

Rasulullaah SAW. also said, "Assist your brother, whether he be the oppressor or the oppressed." "O Rasulullaah SAW. the Sahabah RADI. asked. "We shall certainly assist the oppressed, but how do we assist the oppressor?" "By stopping him from oppression," came the reply. And Allaah knows best what is most correct.

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