

ANSWER

وَلَا تَسْتَوِی الْحَسَنَةُ وَلَا السَّيِّئَةُ ادْفَعْ بِالَّتِي هِيَ أَحْسَنُ فَإِذَا الَّذِي بَيْنَكَ وَبَيْنَهُ عَدَاوَةٌ كَأَنَّهُ وَلِيٌّ حَمِيمٌ

And good and evil are not equal. Repel (evil) with what is best, and you will see that the one you had mutual enmity with him will turn as if he were a close friend [41:34]

COMMENTARY

(**And good and evil are not equal - 34**). The special instructions for those who are engaged in calling others towards Allah commence from here. The gist of these instructions is not to repay evil with evil, but to be patient and to be obliging.

(**Repel (evil) with what is best, - 34**) means that the habit of those people who are engaged in calling others towards Allah should be to reply to the evil behaviour of the addressees in the best possible manner. No doubt, it is good not to repay evil with evil and to forgive, but it is much better to do some good to the evil-doer after forgiving him.

Sayyidnā Ibn ‘Abbās *radi‘allāhu ‘anhu* has said that the instruction in this verse is to be patient with the one who is expressing his anger with you, to be tolerant and forbearing with the one who is being ignorant with you and to forgive the one who has made you suffer. (Mazharī)

Some narrations have it that someone either abused or reviled Sayyidnā Abū Bakr *radi‘allāhu ‘anhu* who said to him, ‘*If what you are saying is true that I am at fault and am bad, then I pray Allah Ta‘ālā to forgive me, and if you have told a lie then may Allah Forgive you.*’ (Qurtubī)

TAFSİR IBN KATHİR

(**The good deed and the evil deed cannot be equal.**) means, there is a huge difference between them.

(**Repel (the evil) with one which is better,**) means, ‘when someone does you wrong, repel him by treating him well,’ as ‘Umar (may Allah be pleased with him) said, “*There is no better punishment for one who has disobeyed Allah with regard to you, than your obeying Allah with regard to him.*”

(**then verily he, between whom and you there was enmity, (will become) as though he was a close friend.**) means, ‘if you treat well those who treat you badly, this good deed will lead to reconciliation, love and empathy, and it will be as if he is a close friend to you and he will feel pity for you and be kind to you.’

End.