



GREED

DEBT, RIOTS & POVERTY

We have been discussing, how the bankers took risk after risk in order to make more money, for a number of years. Recently we were told we are in a recession, now the possibility of a double-dip recession looms. Europe is in financial dire straits. This is particularly due to some countries like Portugal, Greece, Ireland and Spain who have excessively borrowed; basically they are spending more than they are earning. But that is what we as individuals are told to do, spend even if we don't have the money. That is exactly what governments have been doing in Europe and in the West generally. Until now, these weaker economies have been looking at the Europe financial powerhouses of France and Germany, but they are also faltering and are not that happy to bail out other European countries but will have to do something as they all share one currency. In the past Europe has always looked towards its 'big brother' America, but that mighty power is shaking as Standard & Poor's downgraded their AAA, top-notch, credit rating to AA+ due to the current debt of \$14,617, 171, 000,000. However, whilst I was typing this huge number it kept changing as I added the details from <http://www.usdebtclock.org/>. That is nearly \$15 trillion! The reason it was changing is due to the fact the debt is going up by \$4 billion dollars a day! So America's debt is increasing and therefore cannot help itself, never mind help with Europe's debts.

We have developed a 'want-it have-it' attitude. The question of whether we can afford it or when are we going to pay for it is irrelevant. Furthermore, as leaders of the globe, as members of the developed world we are sharing this philosophy with others and claiming it is the only and best way to live.

However, this attitude is not just limited to the so-called 'wealthy' (as how can a person be wealthy if they are so much in debt) as recently in England we have seen riots in London, Birmingham, Manchester, Liverpool and a number of other areas. A number of reasons are put forward for the riots; single-parent families, lack of morals, or now due to the lavish lifestyles of the rich each government is bringing in 'austerity measures' which means the rich continue to be rich whilst the poor become poorer. Therefore, social facilities have been removed, support systems removed, public servants reduced. However the common thread is simple to see - GREED. It is the selfish attitude to earning and having and being better than somebody else or having whatever somebody else has; this insatiable desire for wanting it all is the root cause. Our society is not just broken it is polluted. Broken can be repaired but polluted has to be cleansed, purged and cured. All areas of our society from the way our schools are run to how our banks operate to the aspirations of our future generations. We should be thinking of what we **give** from our lives...not what we **want** from our lives.

Ibn 'Abbas and Anas Ibn Malik reported that the Messenger of Allah (may Allah's salutations and peace be upon him) said, "If a human was to own a valley full of gold, they would desire to have two. Nothing can fill their mouth (greed) except the earth (of the grave). Allah turns with mercy to that individual who turns to Him in repentance". (Transmitted by al-Bukhari and Muslim)



We can understand from the end of the hadith that to want and to desire is an innate characteristic which we should subdue and control. We do this by repenting and giving in charity. As only by facing our enemy (Greed) can we deal with it; by satisfying it we only make it stronger.

We must not forget that whilst our fellow Englishman and woman are burning shops and destroying businesses for a pair of trainers because they don't have that particular brand or style and our culture has meant that when we want something we should have it; there are Somalis starving to death but they not contemplating looting and burning as it would be excusable if they did, however they are patient waiting for Allah the Almighty to send a generous individual to provide their meals.

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