

## **IS IT A NECESSITY OR GREED?**

**Once Hadhrat Abu-Darda (RA) was sitting in the company of his students when his wife came to him and said, "You are sitting here with your students whilst we don't even have a pinch of flour in the house"**

He looked at her lovingly and said, " My dear wife, before us there is a valley hard to travel and only such people who travel light can easily travel through it." Hearing this, his wife went away, satisfied with the reply, and did not complain anymore about her needs.

Hadhrat Abu-Darda (RA) once said, " We have food and the rich also have food. We wear clothes and the rich also wear clothes. **The rich possess wealth which exceeds their needs and it just lies there without them using it (meaning amassing the wealth). We can also look at wealth (possessed by others) without using it.**

We are equal in this respect, but the rich will be required to render an account, on the Day of Qiyaamah for holding (hoarding) extra wealth in their possession. **We are free from reckoning, for we have nothing in our possession.**

**If we glance into our homes today we would find that most of our homes are piling with 'things' that in reality we do not need.** Our wardrobes are overflowing with clothing, footwear and accessories that we could open up our very own boutiques with, our kitchens are stocked to the capacity where we could, leave alone feed our families for a lengthy period of time, feed an entire neighbourhood.

This is our plight today. The simplicity and frugal lives of the wives of Nabi (SAW) and his illustrious companions (RA) exist only within the pages of history. It emulation is something that many of us would shudder to think about, let alone act upon.

Living such a life would be considered a 'low standard of living' by most or 'unable to keep up with the Jones'. It is seldom that we realize that these 'high standards' of living are the root cause of many of our problems in our lives. Needless to say, that the 'break-up' of marriages features on the top of this list of problems and woes.

For years our learned and pious predecessors are continuously exhorting us to live lives of simplicity but sadly these seem to have fallen on deaf ears. Some of us cannot wear anything but that which is designer and name-branded. Our kitchens are considered incomplete and deeply lacking if the appliances that are therein are not 'top of the range' ones, and the list goes on.

Living a life of simplicity is what Islam strongly recommends. Those who live such lives, despite having the wealth, are indeed people of the Hereafter and those who have understood their purpose in life.

The next time you feel that you 'really need' something, think twice. **Is it a necessity?** You will realize that you may not really need it! If we all buy what we need and not what we want we will find much more contentment and spiritual upliftment in our lives.

Time for introspection and change!

