

Surah 2. Al-Baqara

Asad: on this world and on the life to come. And they will ask thee about [how to deal with] orphans. Say: "To improve their condition is best." And if you share their life, [remember that] they are your brethren:²⁰⁶ for God distinguishes between him who spoils things and him who improves. And had God so willed, He would indeed have imposed on you hardships which you would not have been able to bear:²⁰⁷ [but,] behold, God is almighty, wise!

Malik: this world and the hereafter. They ask you about orphans. Tell them: "It is best to deal with them justly; you may become co-partners with them, after all they are your brethren; Allah knows who means harm and also who means their welfare. If Allah had wanted He could be hard on you in this matter, surely Allah is Mighty, Wise."

Pickthall: Upon the world and the Hereafter. And they question thee concerning orphans. Say: To improve their lot is best. And if ye mingle your affairs with theirs, then (they are) your brothers. Allah knoweth him who spoileth from him who improveth. Had Allah willed He could have overburdened you. Allah is Mighty, Wise.

Yusuf Ali: (Their bearings) on this life and the Hereafter. They ask thee concerning orphans. Say: "The best thing to do is what is for their good; if ye mix their affairs with yours they are your brethren; but Allah knows the man who means mischief from the man who means good. And if Allah had wished He could have put you into difficulties: He is indeed Exalted in Power Wise." ²⁴³

Transliteration: Fee alddunya waalakhirati wayasaloonaka AAani alyatama qul islahun lahum khayrun wain tukhalitoo hum faikhwanukum waAllahu yaAAalamu almufsida mina almuslihi walaw shaa Allahu laaAAnatakum inna Allaha AAazeezun hakeemun

Khattab:

upon this world and the Hereafter. And they ask you ?O Prophet? concerning orphans. Say, "Improving their condition is best. And if you partner with them, they are bonded with you ?in faith?.¹ And Allah knows who intends harm and who intends good. Had Allah willed, He could have made it difficult for you.² Surely Allah is Almighty, All-Wise."

Author Comments

206 - The implication is that if one shares the life of an orphan in his charge, one is permitted to benefit by such an association - for instance, through a business partnership - provided this does not damage the orphan's interests in any way.

207 - I.e., "by putting you under an obligation to care for the orphans, and at the same time prohibiting you from sharing their life" (see preceding note).

28917 -

Literal translation, "They are your brothers."

28918 -

By not allowing partnership between you and orphans.

243 - Gambling and intemperance are social as well as individual sins. They may ruin us in our ordinary every-day worldly life, as well as our spiritual future. In case it is suggested that there is no harm in a little indulgence, we are asked to think over all its aspects, social and individual, - worldly and spiritual.

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