

Types of companions

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[Sharh Hilyah Taalib al-'Ilm Pg. 102 of Shaykh al-Uthaymeen (May Allaah have mercy on him)]

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allaah, the Most Merciful, the Bestower of Mercy

Shaykh al-Uthaymeen (May Allaah have mercy on him) said: Companions can be categorised into 3 types:

The first: The companion of personal interest

This is one who accompanies you so long as he attains some sort of benefit from you; whether this be wealth, status or so forth. Whereby if this benefit ceases, he turns into an enemy and treats you like a total stranger as though you do not know him. How many of this type of companions there are! How many they are who make accusations concerning Sadaqah.

Allaah (Mighty and Majestic is He) has said in the Qur'aan:

وَمِنْهُمْ مَّنْ يَلْمِزُكَ فِي الصَّدَقَاتِ فَإِنْ أُعْطُوا مِنْهَا رَضُوا وَإِنْ لَمْ يُعْطُوا مِنْهَا إِذَا هُمْ يَسْخَطُونَ

[And from them are some who accuse you (O Muhammad) in the matter of (the distribution of) the alms. If they are given part thereof, they are pleased, but if they are not given thereof, behold! They are annoyed!]"¹

He could be a close friend to you and you view him as the most honourable of the people and he views you the same. One day he asks you, "Give me your book so that I may read it." You say to him, "By Allaah, I need the book tomorrow (so I can't give it to you)." He becomes haughty towards you and displays enmity towards you. Is this a (true) friend? This is a friend of benefit!

The second: The friend of delight

Meaning, he only befriends you because he finds pleasure in speaking with you and associating with you and being with you. However he does not benefit from you nor do you benefit from him. Neither of you benefit the other. It is nothing except a waste of time. Regarding this one should also beware that he should waste your time!

The third: The friend of virtue

He carries you toward that which beautifies (you) and prohibits you from that which disfigures. He opens for you the doors of good and directs you towards it. If you slip he corrects you in a manner that does not strip you of honour. This is the friend of virtue!

¹ Soorah at-Tawbah [9:58]