

Repenting from all sins but keeping the ill-gotten money (like in the case of new Muslim)

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Question:

A person used to abandon Salaah (prayer), drink alcohol and commit vile deeds. He has a lot of ill-gotten money. He then turned to Allaah with sincere repentance with regard to all the sins mentioned above except the ill-gotten money. Should he get rid of such ill-gotten money? Or will he be treated like a new Muslim who is not asked about the source of his wealth?

Answer:

On turning to Allaah with sincere repentance with regards to the ill-gotten money, it is obligatory for one to get rid of such evil money. In case he is not able to define the ill-gotten money, he can give out what he thinks to clear himself from such guilt. This is to be followed if his sins have not caused him to leave Islaam.

On committing sins that make a person leave Islaam such as the abandonment of Salaah, according to the most preponderant opinion of scholars, even if such a person does not deny its obligation, repentance can be realised by performing Salaah and embracing Islaam again. This is because Islaam wipes out all that has gone before it. Also, one is not obliged to get rid of the money he got before adopting Islaam. This is because Allaah (Exalted be He) says about the disbelievers, **Say to those who have disbelieved, if they cease (from disbelief), their past will be forgiven.** As mentioned in the Saheeh (Authentic Book of Hadeeth), the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم)¹ said, **Islaam wipes out all that has gone before it (previous misdeeds). And penitence also wipes out all that has gone before it.**

May Allaah grant us success! May peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad, his family and Companions!

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¹ (صلى الله عليه وسلم) (sallallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam) May the peace and blessings of Allaah the Most High be upon him