

aware of the One Who hears him and sees him, and he should not be unjust in his bequest

﴿All-Knowing﴾ and knows his intention; He knows what the beneficiary of the bequest will do. So the testator should try his best to do what is right, and Allah will know that from his intention and will reward him even if he makes a mistake. This is also a warning to the beneficiary against altering the bequest, for Allah knows and can see what he is doing; so he should fear Allah. This is the ruling on bequests that are fair. As for bequests that include unfairness and wrongdoing, those who are present at the time when the bequest is made should advise the testator to do that which is better and more appropriate; they should tell him not to be unfair. The word translated here as ﴿partiality﴾ refers to being unfair without realising it, and the word translated as ﴿wrongdoing﴾ refers to deliberate unfairness.

If he does not do that, then things should be put right among the beneficiaries of his bequest, trying to reach a fair solution among them on the basis of mutual consent and reconciliation. They should be exhorted to absolve their deceased loved one of any blame. The one who does that has done a great good deed and there is no sin on him, unlike the one who changes a permissible bequest. Hence Allah (ﷻ) says: ﴿for Allah is Oft-Forgiving﴾ that is, He forgives all errors and their consequences to those who repent to Him; that includes His forgiveness of the one who showed selflessness and gave up some of his rights to his brother, because whoever is easy-going, Allah will be easy-going with him, and He will forgive their deceased loved one who was unfair in his bequest, if they seek reward with Allah for being easy-going with one another in order to absolve the deceased of any blame. Allah is Most Merciful to His slaves, as He has prescribed that they should be compassionate with one another in all their affairs. These verses indicate that it is encouraged to make a bequest and to make clear who the beneficiaries are. There is also a warning addressed to the one who changes a fair bequest, and encouragement to put things straight with regard to unfair bequests.