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Love for Allah and His Prophet (ﷺ)

When man thinks about his self and the natural phenomena, he feels no difficulty in reaching the conclusion that there must be some super being who wields power over everything, brings up helpless creatures and possesses wisdom. That being is the one who rules everything, gives energy to all living things and enables them to develop. That being is All-Powerful, the Creator, the Lord and the Supreme Sage. He makes the vast universe work with His wisdom. Man cannot help thinking that if a chair, a table or an earthen bowl cannot come into being without a maker, how the earth, the sky, the moon, the sun and man and uncountable abilities in his body came into existence. This thinking leads us to the conclusion that all these things and capabilities have been created by some Super Creator who is All-Powerful, All-Merciful and All-Wise and Who is the source of limitless powers in the universe. His power and wisdom is a proof of His existence. The acknowledgement of His existence gives man the true perception of the human life in relation to the vast universe. The manifestation of the creation of Almighty Allah is visible everywhere in the world. The greatness of man is to acknowledge the Creator, love Him devotedly and carry out His commands. In the Holy Quran Allah says:

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ اعْبُدُوا رَبَّكُمُ الَّذِي خَلَقَكُمْ (البقرة. 21)

“O mankind! Worship you lord, who has created you.”

Worship requires that you must follow the orders of the Being Who has created you. He has blessed you with the eyes, you should, therefore, see things according to His wish. He has blessed you with the ears, you should, therefore, listen what He wants you to listen to. He has blessed you with the ability to think, you should, therefore, think over the existence and power of the Creator and follow His commands.

Love for Allah

Right thinking requires you to love Allah. If you receive an ordinary favour from some person, you feel to be under his obligation. In some cases you feel obliged to your benefactor for the whole of your life. Now think for a moment about the Being Who gives you life. Why should you not foster love for Him? That is why Allah says:

وَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا أَشَدُّ حُبًّا لِلَّهِ (البقرة. 165)

"Those who believe are overflowing in their love for Allah."

The accomplishment of faith is not possible without love because any act performed without love is always devoid of Divine guidance. It is said that a lover is obedient to whom he loves. It is required by faith that we should love Allah. Love for Allah requires that we should accept His commands and follow them whole-heartedly. It is His mercy that Almighty Allah sent His Prophets in all ages for the guidance of mankind. To these pious persons Allah gave His commands in form of Books and Scriptures.

The Holy Prophet of Islam Hazrat Muhammad (ﷺ) is the Last Prophet of this series of guidance, and the Holy Quran revealed to him is the last book of guidance for all times to come. It is the last message to mankind for his success which can only be achieved by practising its teachings. By acting upon its golden teachings, we can achieve success in this world as well as in the Hereafter.

Love for the Holy Prophet (ﷺ)

The faith is Islam also requires us to love the Holy Prophet (ﷺ). In the Holy Quran Allah says:

النَّبِيُّ أَوْلَىٰ بِالْمُؤْمِنِينَ مِنْ أَنفُسِهِمْ (الاحزاب. 6)

"The Prophet is closer to the believers than their selves"

If believers are put in a situation that they have to choose between their own lives and love for the Holy Prophet (ﷺ) and obedience to him, they

must guard their love for the Holy Prophet (ﷺ) even at the cost of their lives.

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا لَا تَقْدِمُوا بَيْنَ يَدَيِ اللَّهِ وَرَسُولِهِ وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ (الحجرات: 1)

“O you who believe! Be not forward before Allah and His Messenger, and fear Allah (keep your duty to Allah).”

You can do justice in keeping your duty to Allah by observing the rules of etiquette, keeping conformity in your actions and showing obedience to Allah and His Prophet (ﷺ). It is, therefore, necessary to know about the commands of Allah and sayings of the Holy Prophet (ﷺ). The Holy Prophet (ﷺ) said:

لَا يُؤْمِنُ أَحَدُكُمْ حَتَّىٰ أَكُونَ أَحَبَّ إِلَيْهِ مِنْ وَالِدِهِ وَوَلَدِهِ وَالنَّاسِ أَجْمَعِينَ-

“No person amongst you can be a believer unless he loves me more than he loves his parents, children and all other people.”

The Holy Prophet (ﷺ) further said:

لَا يُؤْمِنُ أَحَدُكُمْ حَتَّىٰ يَكُونَ هَوَاهُ تَبَعًا لِمَا جِئْتُ بِهِ-

“No person amongst you can be a believer unless he subordinates his desires to the commands (of Allah) I have brought.”

From the above discussion it is clear that love for Allah and His Prophet (ﷺ) requires that the believers should observe the following rules.

They should not make someone else a partner in love for Allah and his Prophet (ﷺ).

Love for the Holy Prophet (ﷺ) should exceed all worldly relationships.

Love for the Holy Prophet requires that the Muslims should give

preference to the sayings of the Holy Prophet (ﷺ) over their personal likes and dislikes. In this regard Allah says in the Holy Quran:

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا أَطِيعُوا اللَّهَ وَأَطِيعُوا الرَّسُولَ وَلَا تُبْطِلُوا أَعْمَالَكُمْ (محمد: 33)

“O you who believe! Obey Allah and obey the Messenger, and render not your action vain.” (Without obedience all actions go waste.)

Obedience

You can claim to have love for Allah, but how will you prove it. This question may arise in the mind of almost every person. It is a greater graciousness of Allah that He Himself has answered this question. Allah says:

قُلْ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ تُحِبُّونَ اللَّهَ فَاتَّبِعُونِي يُحْبِبْكُمُ اللَّهُ وَيَغْفِرْ لَكُمْ ذُنُوبَكُمْ ۗ وَاللَّهُ غَفُورٌ رَحِيمٌ - (آل عمران: 31)

“Say (O Muhammad, to mankind); if you love Allah, follow me; Allah will love you and forgive you for your sins. Allah is Forgiving, Merciful.”

Love for Allah is to follow the examples set by the Holy Prophet (ﷺ). Obedience demands surrendering oneself completely. Your outward action must reflect your inner feeling and inclination, otherwise the action will be nothing but hypocrisy. In such a case Allah warns the Muslims in these words:

فَلَا وَرَبِّكَ لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ حَتَّى يُحَكِّمُوكَ فِيمَا شَجَرَ بَيْنَهُمْ ثُمَّ لَا يَجِدُوا فِي أَنْفُسِهِمْ حَرَجًا مِمَّا قَضَيْتَ وَيُسَلِّمُوا تَسْلِيمًا - (النساء: 65)

Translation

“But no, by the Lord they can have no (real) faith until they make thee judge in all disputes between them, and find within themselves no resistance against this decisions, but accept them with the fullest conviction.”

The requirements of faith are fulfilled by complete obedience and surrendering to Allah's will.

Finality of Prophethood

Hazrat Muhammad (ﷺ) was the last Prophet of Allah, and after him the line of prophethood came to an end. In the Holy Quran Allah says:

الْيَوْمَ أَكْمَلْتُ لَكُمْ دِينَكُمْ وَأَتِمَمْتُ عَلَيْكُمْ نِعْمَتِي وَرَضِيتُ لَكُمُ الْإِسْلَامَ
دِينًا (الْمَائِدَةُ: 3)

Translation

“This day I have perfected the religion for you, and completed my favour onto you, and have chosen for you Islam as your religion.”

The perfection of religion, the completion of Allah's favour and the clear expression that Allah likes Islam for the Holy Prophet (ﷺ) is a declaration that the Holy prophet Hazrat Muhammad (ﷺ) is His Last Prophet and Messenger, and there is no need for another prophet because all the commands of Allah have been conveyed to mankind. Now what we need to do is to accept the message of Allah as a code of over lives, and take the examples set by the Holy Prophet (ﷺ) as a lighthouse for our guidance. It is an honour for mankind that Allah has considered the Holy Prophet (ﷺ) to be competent enough to receive the eternal message of God and practise the Divine teaching.

Allah has also made Islam a universal religion. It means that before Hazrat Muhammad (ﷺ), Allah had sent prophets to nations or tribes belonging to different ages and regions. In former ages mankind was divided into different societies. The annunciation of the prophethood of Hazrat Muhammad (ﷺ) for the whole world gave rise to internationalism. One God, one Last Prophet, one centre (Ka'ba), one set of good examples of the Holy Prophet (ﷺ) and one and final Book (the Holy Quran) brought unity among the different nations of the world. The Holy Quran says:

قُلْ يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ إِنِّي رَسُولُ اللَّهِ إِلَيْكُمْ جَمِيعًا (الاعراف: 158)

Translation

“Say (O Muhammad): O mankind! Indeed I am messenger of Allah to you all”

Allah also says.

مَا كَانَ مُحَمَّدٌ أَبَا أَحَدٍ مِّن رِّجَالِكُمْ وَلَكِن رَّسُولَ اللَّهِ وَخَاتَمَ النَّبِيِّينَ - (الاحزاب: 40)

Translation

“Muhammad is not the father of any man among you, but he is the messenger of Allah and the Seal of the Prophets.”

This verse of the Holy Quran has put an end to the confusion as to where to seek guidance from. It is now clear that there is only one source of guidance, and that source is Islam which requires us to believe in Allah. We can have faith in Allah and follow His orders only by showing love and obedience to the Holy Prophet (ﷺ) and following good examples set by him. Such a course of life can ensure to bring mankind success in this life and salvation in the Hereafter.

EXERCISES

Answer the following questions.

1. How do you come to the conclusion that there is only one Creator of the universe?
2. What should man do in acknowledgement of the fact that he has been created by Allah?
3. What do you understand by love for Allah?
4. Why is it important to follow the Holy Prophet (ﷺ)?
5. Explain the finality of the Prophethood in the context of the holy Quran.

