

ALI 258: Qualities of a Faithful believer

Khutba No. 87

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What is the difference between faith and conviction?

What are good qualities of speech and silence?

How would you define sincerity?

Excerpts from Khutba 87

فَهُوَ مِنَ الْيَقِينِ عَلَى مِثْلِ ضَوْءِ الشَّمْسِ، قَدْ نَصَبَ نَفْسَهُ لِلَّهِ
سُبْحَانَهُ فِي أَرْفَعِ الْأُمُورِ، مِنْ إِصْدَارِ كُلِّ وَارِدٍ عَلَيْهِ، وَتَصْيِيرِ
كُلِّ فَرْعٍ إِلَى أَصْلِهِ. مِصْبَاحُ ظُلُمَاتٍ، كَشَافُ غَشَوَاتٍ، مِفْتَاحُ
مُبْهَمَاتٍ، دَفَاعُ مُعْضَلَاتٍ، دَلِيلُ فَلَوَاتٍ
يَقُولُ فِيهِمْ، وَيَسْكُتُ فِيَسْلَمُ. قَدْ أَخْلَصَ لِلَّهِ فَاسْتَخْلَصَهُ

He is on that level of conviction which is like the brightness of the sun. He has set himself for Allah, the Glorified, for performance of the most sublime acts of facing all that befalls him and taking every step needed for it. He is the lamp in darkness. He is the dispeller of all blindness, key to the obscure, remover of complexities, and a guide in vast deserts. When he speaks he makes you understand whereas when he remains silent then it is safe to do so. He did everything only for Allah and so Allah also made him His own. .

Agenda

- Recap of Session Three
- *Yaqin* – conviction
- Speech and silence
- *Ikhlas* - sincerity

I - Conviction

Questions

- How does a believer achieve conviction?
- What are the signs of conviction?
- How is a level of conviction like the brightness of the sun?

Stages of Faith

يقين – Conviction



تقوى – God consciousness



ايمان – Faith



اسلام – Submission

Signs of Conviction

A Believer who has yaqin;

- trusts Allah completely, submits to Allah
- is pleased with the decree of Allah
- entrusts his affairs to Allah
- has little hopes/expectations in the world
- works only for Allah
- prepares for death
- looks forward to Heaven
- is afraid of Hell
- takes account of himself
- works hard for the Hereafter
- does not displease Allah to please people
- does not praise others for what Allah has given him
- does not blame anyone for what Allah has not given him

Conviction - Light of the Sun

- guides
- clarifies
- enlivens
- energizes
- brightens
- beautifies
- encourages

II – Speech and Silence

What is better, speech or silence?

Know that Allah, the Elevated, the Honored, did not send His Messengers with gold or silver, but He sent them with words. Surely Allah enabled mankind to know Him through words . . .

Imam Husain (a) – Mizanul Hikmah

Speech is comfort for the soul, silence is comfort for the body. **Imam Ali (a) - Mizanul Hikmah**

Speech is praiseworthy when it:

- glorifies Allah
- says what God likes
- is not unnecessary
- spreads good and virtue
- helps and comforts others




Silence is praiseworthy when it is to:

- remember God
- think deeper about something
- refrain from sin
- remain dignified

إِنَّ أَوْلِيَاءَ اللَّهِ سَكَتُوا فَكَانَ سُكُوتُهُمْ ذِكْرًا
وَنَظَرُوا فَكَانَ نَظَرُهُمْ عِبْرَةً
وَنَطَقُوا فَكَانَ نُطْقُهُمْ حِكْمَةً
وَمَشَوْا فَكَانَ مَشْيُهُمْ بَيْنَ النَّاسِ بَرَكَةً

Surely the friends of Allah when they are silent, their silence is thoughtful, when they look, their sight is insightful, when they speak, their talk is wisdom, and when they walk, their walking among people is blessed.

Holy Prophet (s) – al-Kafi, 2/237



Why are you so afraid of silence,
silence is the root of everything.
If you spiral into its void,
a hundred voices will thunder messages you long to hear.

Jalaludin Rumi

Silence is painful, but in silence things take form, and we must wait and watch, In us, in our secret depth, lies the knowing element which sees and hears that which we do not see nor hear. All our perceptions, all the things we have done, all that we are today, dwelt once in that knowing, silent depth, that treasure chamber in the soul. And we are more than we think. We are more than we know. That which is more than we think and know is always seeking and adding to itself while we are doing nothing - or think we are doing nothing. But to be conscious of what is going in our depth is to help it along. When subconsciousness becomes consciousness, the seeds in our winter-clad-selves turn to flowers, and the silent life in us sings with all its might.

Kahlil Gibran

III – Ikhlas (Sincerity)

Definitions

- 1) Removing everything other than Allah from the heart
- 2) Knowing that we are from Allah and we will return to Him
- 3) Not hoping for praise or reward from people for your actions.

Stages of Ikhlas

Mukhlisin

قُلْ أَمَرَ رَبِّي بِالْقِسْطِ ۖ وَأَقِيمُوا وُجُوهَكُمْ عِندَ كُلِّ مَسْجِدٍ وَادْعُوهُ مُخْلِصِينَ لَهُ الدِّينَ

Say: My Lord has enjoined justice, and set upright your faces at every time of prayer and call on Him, being sincere to Him in obedience. **Sura A'raaf, 7:29**

إِنَّا أَنْزَلْنَا إِلَيْكَ الْكِتَابَ بِالْحَقِّ فَاعْبُدِ اللَّهَ مُخْلِصًا لَهُ الدِّينَ أَلَا لِلَّهِ الدِّينُ الْخَالِصُ

Surely We have revealed to you the Book with the truth, therefore serve Allah, being sincere to Him in obedience. Now, surely, sincere obedience is due to Allah (alone). **Sura Zumar, 39:2-3**

Mukhlasin

قَالَ رَبِّ بِمَا أَغْوَيْتَنِي لَأُزَيِّنَنَّ لَهُمْ فِي الْأَرْضِ وَلَا أُغْوِيَنَّهُمْ أَجْمَعِينَ إِلَّا
عِبَادَكَ مِنْهُمُ الْمُخْلَصِينَ

He said: My Lord! because You have made life evil to me, I will certainly make (evil) fair-seeming to them on earth, and I will certainly cause them all to deviate. Except Your servants from among them, the sincere ones.

Sura Hijr, 15:39-40

(Also, 12:42, 19: 15)

إِنَّا أَنْخَلَصْنَاهُمْ بِخَالِصَةٍ ذِكْرَى الدَّارِ

Surely We purified them by a pure quality, the keeping in mind of the (final) abode. **Sura Sad, 38:46**

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