



ALI 275: The Stimulus of Hope

Session Four

Read the whispered prayer of the Beseechers (#5)

Choose one sentence that stands out for you.

Agenda

- *Husnuḥ Zan* – a good opinion of Allah
- Understanding *Husnuḥ Zan*
- The *Raji'* and the *Khai'f*
- Hadith al Qudsi and Hadith on *Husnuḥ Zan*
- An example from the life of Nabi Musa (a)

Husnuḏ Zan

Having a good opinion of Allah means that you must not hope in anyone except Him and you should not fear for anything except for your sins.

Imam Ja'far as-Sadiq (a)


Hope in God lead to a good opinion of Him, thinking well of Him, the way He deserves to be thought of. Not the way human beings think of one another. This is known as *Husnuḏ Zan*.

Husnuḏ zan means to not have hope in one's own deeds and abilities, but in God's Mercy and Grace.

Understanding *Husnuḥ Zan*

1) After committing a sin or an inappropriate action the believer hopes for;

- Pardon from God
- Forgiveness of the sin
- Concealing of the sin from others
- Tawfiq to make amends for the sin



2) When asking for something from God, the believer has confidence that;

- God will listen to his prayer
- God will answer him
- God will not turn him away empty handed.
- God will give him only that which is best for him.

The *Raji'*

(one who hopes)

Sees Generosity and
Nobleness . . . Of God

Hope turns him closer
to God

Hope motivates him
towards more good
deeds

The *Kha'if*

(one who fears)

Sees the Justice of God

Fear can take him away
from God

Fear can create despair and
lack of motivation

Hadith al Qudsi

أَنَا عِنْدَ حُسْنِ ظَنِّ عَبْدِي الْمُؤْمِنِ

I am with [according to] the good opinion of My believing servant


Biharul Anwar, vol. 67, pg 385

From the Holy Prophet (s)

فَأَحْسِنُوا بِاللَّهِ الظَّنَّ

So have a good opinion of Allah

Mustadrakul Wasail, Vol 11, pg 250



Those who work for My reward should not rely on their works. For even if they try their very best to worship Me throughout their lives, they fall short of My due worship, seeking honour, bliss and high ranks in My presence. They should be sure of My mercy and hopeful of My favour, having a good opinion of Me. In this case My beneficence, mercy and forgiveness will envelop them. For I am the Beneficent, the Merciful as I am called.

Hadith al Qudsi, as quoted from the Holy Prophet (s)

<http://www.al-islam.org/living-right-way-ayatullah-jawad-tehraani/having-good-opinion-god>

More Hadith

A believing servant must retain two lights in his heart: a light of fear and a light of hope, and these lights must be equal.

Imam Muhammad al Baqir (a)

A believer cannot be called such unless he is fearful and hopeful; and he cannot be fearful and hopeful unless he acts according to his fear and hope.

Imam Ja'far as-Sadiq (a)

From the life of Nabi Musa (a)

When Prophet Musa (as) stood in front of the Red Sea, a tyrant and his army approached from behind. Some of those in Musa's midst began to divide. Looking ahead, those people saw only defeat:

And when the two bodies saw each other, the people of Moses said: 'We are sure to be overtaken.(26:61).

But Musa (as) had different eyes. His eyes were spiritual eyes that saw through the illusions of worldly hardship and defeat. He saw through. With a heart connected to the Most High, looking at the same seemingly impossible situation, Musa saw only God:

قَالَ كَلَّا ۗ إِنَّ مَعِيَ رَبِّي سَيَهْدِينِ

He said: By no means; surely my Lord is with me: He will show me a way out. (26:62)

From: <http://www.suhaibwebb.com/society/international/egypt-musa-and-the-red-sea/>. See also



Check

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nANJeAzE3Ps>

I am Near, by Khalil Jaffer

(3 min clip)