

The Heart of a Believer and Love for Allah

The heart in the Holy Qur'an has been assigned the most important privileged position. What is meant by the heart is that which controls the degree of human-ness within a human being.

The heart possesses an exalted position in the Holy Qur'an wherein God discusses many different aspects of the heart. He says:

أُولَئِكَ كَتَبَ فِي قُلُوبِهِمُ الْإِيمَانَ وَأَيَّدَهُم بِرُوحٍ مِّنْهُ

These are they into whose hearts He has impressed faith and strengthened them with a spirit from Him. (58:22)

He also says:

وَمَنْ يُؤْمِن بِاللَّهِ يَهْدِ اللَّهُ قَلْبَهُ ۚ وَاللَّهُ بِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ عَلِيمٌ

And whoever believes in God, He guides his heart. And God is knower of all things. (64:11)

The heart in Hadith

Imam Baqir (a) says:

There are three kinds of hearts:

a: First type: Reversed heart which lacks feelings for any sort of righteous deeds. Such heart is the heart of one who disbelieves [in God].

b. Second Type: The heart which contains a black spot in which a war is being waged between the truth and falsehood, and whichever becomes victorious will take over the heart's control.

c. Third type: The conquered heart in which there is a lighted lamp which is never going to be turned off. Such a heart is the heart of a believer

The Prophet David (a) asked God; *'Oh God! All the emperors possess treasure then where is Your treasure? God-Almighty replied: 'I possess a treasure which is greater than the sky; vaster than the Heaven's firmaments; smells better than the perfumes of Paradise, and is beautiful than the Celestial Kingdom. Its earth is enlightenment; its sky is belief, its sun is enthusiasm; its moon is love,. its stars are inspiration and attention towards Me; its clouds are reason, its rain is blessing, its fruits are obedience; and its yield is wisdom. My Treasure has four doors, the first one is the door of knowledge, the second one is the door of reason, the third one is the door of patience, and the fourth one is the door of contentment. Know that My Treasure is -the heart of a believer*

The sick heart

The human heart can also experience health and sickness. When the heart is sound and healthy it is filled with love of God and faith in Him. When the heart is sick it distances itself from God. Life loses its real meaning and purpose as the sick heart will see all things with its diseased

outlook. Uneasiness, discontent, and a general lack of direction in life are all a result of a sick heart. Sickness of the heart is a calamity which has a profound effect on the eventual outcome of the human being. Imam Ali (a) says: *Surely from the afflictions, is poverty, and worse than poverty is the sickness of the body, and worse than sickness of the body is sickness of the heart. Surely from the blessings is ample sustenance, and better than that is health of the body, and better than that is the health of the heart.*

Just as a sick body may cease functioning if it does not receive adequate care, a sick heart can also die if not tended to. The death of the heart is far more serious than the death of the body, for with its demise the human being loses all hope. In Nahjul Balagha, Imam Ali (a) describes the pious people and says: *They see the people of this world magnifying the death of the bodies, but they are more concerned about the death of the hearts of the living.* In another hadith he says: *He who dies and is relieved is not really dead, it is the one who is dead while alive who is really dead.*

One of the results of sickness of the heart is the loss of spiritual pleasure in worship. With a sick heart the human being can find no joy in *dhikr* and *du'a*, feels no stirring of the heart, no surge of faith, and no emotion at being able to talk to his Lord. This is because love of Allah has vanished from the heart. A hadith from Nabi Isa (a) says; *Just as a sick person finds no joy in delicious food, a sick heart finds no joy in the worship of Allah.*

It is the duty of believers to look after the health of their hearts and prevent it from becoming sick. Are we inclined to worship Allah during the nights? Do we stay up, or wake up early to be from among those who seek forgiveness when the world is asleep and heedless? Are our hearts soft enough so that we can weep and beseech Allah? If we find ourselves unaffected and cold to the remembrance of Allah then we know that we are getting sick and need to be cured. It is up to us to look for the remedy. As the Holy Prophet (s) says: *Surely you have been appointed as doctors of your own souls.*