

ALI 322: Understanding Love of God

Agenda

- ❖ Introduction
- ❖ Defining Love
- ❖ Types of Love
- ❖ Love of Allah
- ❖ Verses of Quran on Love of Allah
- ❖ Readings: Whispered Prayer no.9
Speech of Shahid as Sadr

The faith of a person is not genuine
until Allah is dearer to him
than himself and his father and his mother
and his child and his family
and his wealth
and all of mankind.

Imam as-Sadiq (a)

Mizan al Hikmah, #3081

Defining Love

When you love someone you;

- think of them often
- want to be with them
- care for their happiness
- can be yourself with them
- trust them completely
- are willing to sacrifice for them
- become happier and more satisfied with life

Types of Love

- 1) Love of humanity - affection
- 2) Family Love - bond
- 3) Enduring love – attachment
- 4) Self love – self respect
- 5) Romantic love - eros
- 6) Divine love - spirituality

Love of Allah

- Love of Allah is the foundation of the beliefs and actions of the believer.
- The heart is full of love of Allah. All other loves stem from it.
- A believer is not a person who just loves God. A believer is a person whose love for God is the highest and strongest love present in the heart.

Love of Allah stems from:

- A natural instinct in the human being to love.
- An appreciation and attraction for a Being that is all Perfect and most Beautiful.
- A reciprocation for His love for us
- An understanding of the magnitude of His favors on us
- A desire to move closer to the Creator and away from the creatures.

From the Lives of the Prophets

Nabi Musa (a)

Almighty Allah revealed to Nabi Musa
Love Me and make My creation love Me
Nabi Musa replied; My Lord You know
that no-one is more beloved to me than You
But what power do I have over the hearts of others?
Allah revealed to him; Remind them
of My favors and My blessings
so they do not think of Me except good.

Mizan al Hikmah, #3168

He once told Allah; *My Lord I have made my love pure for you and have washed my heart of other than you.*

But he loved his family a lot.

Allah told him *Remove your slippers,*

that is remove love of family from your heart

if your love is for Me alone

and your heart is washed of love other than Me.

Mizan al Hikmah, #3087

Verses of Quran that show Nabi Musa's Love for God

And what is this in your right hand, O Musa?

He said: This is my staff: I recline on it

*and I beat the leaves with it to make them fall upon my
sheep and I have other uses for it.*

Sura Taha, verse 17-18

Tafsir Namune says his answer was long perhaps in order to continue the conversation with God. He loved God and this was the first time he was conversing with Him.

*And what caused you to hasten from your people, O Musa?
He said: They are here on my track and I hastened on to
You, my Lord, that You might be pleased.*

Sura Taha, verses 83-84

When Nabi Musa (a) went to the mountain to receive the laws of Tawrat, a group of the Banu Israel went with him. Nabi Musa (a) was excited about the meeting with God and did not wait for the others. He rushed towards the meeting place and reached before everyone else.

Nothing other than God has been ever loved. It is God who has manifested Himself in whatever is beloved for the eyes of those who love. There is no being except that it loves. Thus, the whole universe loves and is loved and all these go back to Him just as nothing has ever been worshipped other than Him, since whatever a servant (of God) has ever worshipped has been because of wrong imagination of deity in it; otherwise it would have never been worshipped. God, the most High, says (in the Qur'an): *'and your Lord has commanded not to worship but Him.'*(17:23) This is the case with love as well. No one has ever loved anything other than his Creator. However, He, the most High has hidden Himself from them under the love for Zaynab, Su'ad, Hind. Layla, dunya (this world), money, social position and all other beloved subjects in the universe. **Ibn Arabi, 1994, Vol. 2., p.326**

The service and worship of God is a dictate of the Merciful
To every creature: man and jinn alike.

And yet this order takes to task the most elect-as God has
said: *I did not create the jinn and men for aught
but they should worship Me.* (the Qur'an, 51:56)

Through worship man is brought to prayer;
From prayer to mystic thought, and then from thought
The flame of gnosis leaps, until he sees
The truth with contemplation's inner eye.

Such wisdom comes from altruistic love (or kindness):
The latter is its fruit, the first the bough.

At last comes Love which ousts all else:
Love undoes all sense of 'two'; Love makes all One,
Until no 'mine' Nor 'thine' remain

Sheikh Mahmud Shabistari in his *Sa'adat Nameh*

Sources

<http://www.al-islam.org/perspectives-concept-love-islam-mahnaz-heydarpoor/human-love#human-love-god>

Small Group Discussion

Read and discuss the article

Choose at least three points to discuss

Choose a presenter who will present these points to the large group

15 minutes