

ALI 322: Understanding Love of God

Agenda

- ❖ Reflection on Verses of Quran
- ❖ Qualities of those who love Allah
- ❖ Readings: Whispered Prayer no.9

Concept of Love in the Shia creed

The most beloved of the servants of Allah
to Allah the Exalted
is one who is most useful to His servants
and most conscientious for His right
one who makes them incline towards good
and those who act upon it.

Holy Prophet (s)

Mizanul Hikmah, Hadith # 3114

Manifestation of the love of Allah

Love of Allah is manifested in:

- The relationship with Allah
- Struggle with the self
- Interactions with others
- Choice of lifestyle
- Aims and goals in life

Qualities of those who love Allah

- 1) Living for Allah
- 2) Daily Dhikr
- 3) Removing evil and negativity
- 4) Night vigil
- 5) Avoiding excess of worldly things
- 6) Solitude
- 7) Working on the self

Living for God

A believer who loves Allah intends only Allah. Each day is an opportunity to get closer to Him.

قُلْ إِنَّ صَلَاتِي وَنُسُكِي وَمَحْيَايَ وَمَمَاتِي لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ

Say. Surely my prayer and my sacrifice
and my life and my death are (all) for Allah
the Lord of the worlds;

Sura An'am, 6:162

Daily Dhikr

Dhikr is a sign of a heart that loves Allah. The Holy Prophet (s) said: *The indicator of love of Allah is love of the remembrance of Allah.*

Dhikr can be daily recitations such as Quran and duas, names of Allah, constant recitation of short verses of Quran, tasbeih . . . Anything that is a remembrance of Allah.

وَلَذِكْرُ اللَّهِ أَكْبَرُ

And surely the Remembrance of Allah is the greatest

Sura Ankabut, 29:45

Removing evil and negativity

One who loves Allah must have full control over himself so that negative thoughts are countered and removed.

Allamah Tabatabai says of a spiritual traveler:

Whenever any evil thought may come to his mind, he should concentrate his attention on one of the names of Allah and should continue to do so till that thought has vanished. The best method of eradicating the evil thoughts is to concentrate on the Divine names.

The Qur'an says:

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ اتَّقَوْا إِذَا مَسَّهُمْ طَائِفٌ مِّنَ الشَّيْطَانِ تَذَكَّرُوا فَإِذَا هُمْ مُبْصِرُونَ

Whenever those who are God conscious are troubled by an evil thought from Satan, they remember Allah and lo they become mindful

Surah al-A'raf, 7:201

Night Vigil

The journey towards Allah is not possible without waking up before dawn to seek closeness to Him. It is an essential sign of those who love Allah.

وَمِنَ اللَّيْلِ فَتَهَجَّدْ بِهِ نَافِلَةً لَكَ
عَسَىٰ أَنْ يَبْعَثَكَ رَبُّكَ مَقَامًا مَّحْمُودًا

And during a part of the night
pray Tahajjud beyond what is incumbent on you
perhaps your Lord will raise you to a praiseworthy status

Sura Israa, 17:79

Avoiding excess of worldly things

One who loves Allah will take from the world what is necessary but is not overly attached to the good things of life; possessions, food, comfort, pleasures . . .

Love of Allah and love of the world cannot be combined in one heart.

فَمَا أُوتِيتُمْ مِنْ شَيْءٍ فَمَتَاعُ الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا ۗ وَمَا عِنْدَ اللَّهِ خَيْرٌ
وَأَبْقَى لِلَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَلَىٰ رَبِّهِمْ يَتَوَكَّلُونَ

Whatever you are given is only a provision of this world's life, and what is with Allah is better and more lasting for those who believe and rely on their Lord.

Sura Shura, 42:36

Working on the Self

For the one who seeks closeness to God life is a continuous struggle to perfect the self. Self purification is necessary for the one who loves Allah and wants to be loved by Him.

The journey for self development requires planning, alertness and assessment.

كَزْرَعٍ أُخْرِجَ شَطَأُهُ فَآزَرَهُ فَاسْتَعْلَظَ فَاسْتَوَىٰ عَلَىٰ سَوْقِهِ

Like a seed which sends forth its blade then makes it strong; it then becomes thick and it stands on its own stem.

Sura Fath, 49:29

Solitude

One who loves Allah needs time alone for reflection, meditation, and improving the relationship with God.

According to Allamah Tabatabai there are two kinds of solitude: general and particular. General solitude means not to mix with other people especially the ignorant masses and to meet them only as and when absolutely necessary.

Particular solitude means to keep away from all men. Such kind of seclusion is commendable at the time of performing all acts of worship, but is considered essential at the time of doing certain dhikr.

وَذَرِ الَّذِينَ اتَّخَذُوا دِينَهُمْ لَعِبًا وَلَهْوًا وَغَرَّتْهُمُ الْحَيَاةُ الدُّنْيَا

And leave those who take their religion for a play and sport and whom the life of the world has deceived.

Sura al-An'am, 6:70

Small Group Discussion

Read and discuss the article

Choose one hadith to discuss

Choose a presenter who will present the hadith to the large group

15 minutes

Sources

Rules of attaining Spiritual perfection, Allamah Tabatabai.

From the book *Light Within me*.

<http://www.al-islam.org/light-within-me-mutahhari-tabatabai-khomeini/part-2-3-rules-attaining-spiritual-perfection-allamah-tabatabai>