

# ALI 322: Understanding Love of God

## Session Four

### Agenda

- ❖ Whispered prayer no.9
- ❖ Increasing Love of Allah
- ❖ Readings: Love and Eagerness for Allah

Surely Allah loves  
a sorrowful heart  
And He loves  
a grateful servant

Imam Zaynul Abidin (a)  
Mizanul Hikmah, Hadith # 3109

# Natural need for love

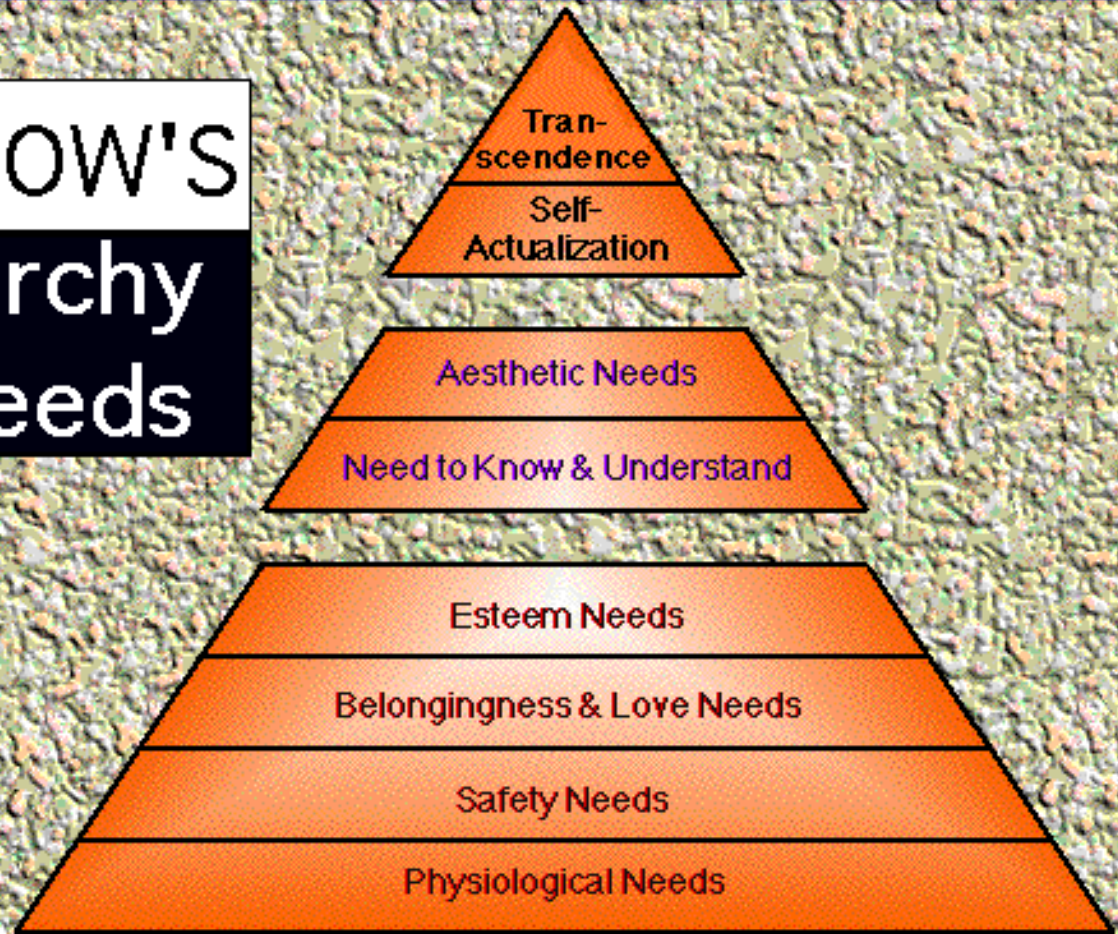
All human beings need to love and be loved. If this need is not met the human being is lonely and dissatisfied.

This natural need searches for perfection in some form. This becomes the object of love.

The most perfect being is God. All other loves are a small glimpse of what loving God can be like.

All other loves should be **for** Allah and **towards** Allah.

# MASLOW'S Hierarchy of Needs



# Problems with loving other than Allah

All objects of love other than Allah:

- are transient and cannot last forever
- can lose their perfections
- have faults along with their perfections
- are not always reliable

الْأَخِلَاءُ يَوْمَئِذٍ بَعْضُهُمْ لِبَعْضٍ عَدُوٌّ إِلَّا  
الْمُتَّقِينَ

Friends shall on that day shall be enemies of one another, except those who guard (against evil).

Sura Zukhruf, 43:67

# Increasing love of Allah

- attention to Allah
- alertness to the self
- not loving the world
- disliking sin and evil

# Attention to Allah

When the heart focuses on Allah and wants to love Him, it is like water that is in the sun. It will slowly get warm.

Thoughts of Allah, His qualities, His loved ones, His teachings . . . all enhance His love in the heart.



# Alertness to the Self

One who loves Allah is constantly watching and analyzing himself. He has an inner critic that tells him of the good and bad that comes out of him.

ذُمَّكَ لِنَفْسِكَ أَفْضَلُ مِنْ عِبَادَتِكَ أَرْبَعِينَ سَنَةً

Reproaching yourself is better for you than the worship of forty years.

Imam al-Kadhim (a) (al Kafi, Vol.2 pg 73)

# Not loving the world

The heart of the human being is like a vessel. If it is full of water it cannot take in another liquid. Similarly, if it is full of the love of the world, love of Allah cannot come in.

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

Holy Prophet (s)

إِنِّي إِنَّمَا خَلَقْتُ الشَّهَوَاتِ لِضِعْفَاءِ خَلْقِي ، فَإِيَّاكَ أَنْ تُعَلِّقَ قَلْبَكَ  
مِنْهَا بِشَيْءٍ فَأَيْسَرُ مَا أُعَاقِبُكَ بِهِ أَنْ أُنْسَخَ حَلَاوَةَ حَبِّي مِنْ قَلْبِكَ

I have created the worldly desires for the weak from  
My creation, so beware of attaching your heart to  
anything from it

for then the least of what I will cause to happen  
is to remove My love from your heart

Hadith al Qudsi

Hilyatul Awliya, Vol. 10, pg 20

The human being who loves God will do worldly things with the heart and mind focused on God.

His example is like a driver whose focus is the destination but who will use different parts of his vehicle to reach there.