

Love of Allah

All praise are due to Allah (s.w.t) and I bear witness that there is no God worthy of worship except Allah (s.w.t) and I bear witness that Mohammad (s.a.w) is His Servant and Messenger.

Brothers and Sisters in Islam!

The greatest aim every believer strives to achieve is the love of Allah (s.w.t) for the one who is loved by Allah (s.w.t) is indeed successful both in this world and in the Hereafter. When Allah (s.w.t) loves a man, He (s.w.t) makes the dwellers of the heavens and the earth love him also as this hadith explains.

Reported by Imams Al-Bukhari and Muslim, narrated Abu-Hurairah (r.a) the Prophet (s.a.w) said: *“When Allah (s.w.t) loves a slave (person) He (s.w.t) Calls Jibril (Gabriel) and says: ‘I love so-and-so. O Jibril! Love him.’ Jibril will then love him. Then Jibril makes an announcement amongst the inhabitants of the heavens: ‘Allah (s.w.t) loves so-and-so therefore you love him also.’ And so all the inhabitants of the heaven would love him and then he is granted the pleasure (the acceptance) of the people of the earth.”* Riyadh 340, Muslim 1771

Brothers and Sisters in Islam,

So what is the way to be amongst the ones loved by Allah (s.w.t)? The answer is in the following Ayah (verse) of Surah Al-Imran. Allah (s.w.t) says –meaning-: *“Say (o Mohammad (s.a.w) to mankind) ‘If you really love Allah (s.w.t) then follow me. Allah (s.w.t) will love you and forgive you for your sins. For Allah (s.w.t) is Oft-forgiving, most Merciful.”* 3/31

Ibn-Kathir (r.a) said in his Tafsir: *“Allah’s (s.w.t) love is attained by following the Messenger (s.a.w). This honourable Ayah judges against those who claim to love Allah yet do not follow the way of Mohammad (s.a.w) and his religion in all his statements, actions and conditions.”*-Tafsir 2/145

Brothers and sisters in Islam,

Attaining the love of Allah (s.w.t) is following the Sunnah of the Prophet (s.a.w) and in the Sunnah we find many examples, simple and easy acts that individuals and groups can use, practise and implement in order to achieve the love of Allah (s.w.t) and one of such examples can be found in the following Hadith.

Reported by Imam Muslim (r.a), Abu-Hurairah (r.a) relates from the Prophet (s.a.w) that: *“A man set out to visit a brother (in faith, Muslim) in another town and Allah (s.w.t) sent (deputed) an angel to wait for him on his way and when the man came to the angel, he (angel) asked him: ‘Where do you intend to go?’ He (man) said: ‘I intend to visit my brother in this town.’ The angel said: ‘Have you done my favour top him, the repayment (recompense) of which you intend to get?’ He said: No, the purpose of the visit is nothing but I love him for the sake of Allah (s.w.t) the Glorious, the Majestic.’ Thereupon the*

angel said: *'I am a messenger to you from Allah (s.w.t) to inform you that Allah (s.w.t) loves you as you love him (your brother in Faith) for His sake.'* Riyadh 394, Stories#27
Some Ulama (scholars) said: *"This hadith points out the following:*

- 1. The great merit of visiting Muslims for Allah's (s.w.t) sake.*
- 2. The bond of brotherhood in Islam is much stronger than the bonds of blood relationships and worldly interests and therefore comes before them in preference.*
- 3. Whoever loves someone for Allah's (s.w.t) sake, Allah (s.w.t) will love him in a manner that suits His Majesty."* Riyadh 1/332

Brothers and Sisters in Islam,

The love for the sake of Allah (s.w.t) must be truthful and sincere because Allah (s.w.t) knows what's in the hearts and not just what tongues say.

And now I would like to share with you the following words written by Maulana Muhammad Zakaria Iqbal to explain the meaning of this Hadith. Please be an attentive listener to the words of the sheikh. He wrote

: "This Hadith divulges to us the merits of love with the slaves of Allah (s.w.t) for His sake and especially with the Believers. The Hadith also tells us what excellent reward is in store for this sort of love. Indeed, to love for the sake of Allah (s.w.t) is a very difficult thing to do. In this world such qualities as selfishness, seeking personal gain and lying are very common but selfless love and sincerity are lacking qualities. Things have gone so far that even blood relations are subservient to selfish motives. The Shari'ah demands of us that we must not make friends with anyone or antagonise him for personal gains, tribal interests or class benefits. We must not love anyone because he belongs to the same group as we or because we have certain benefits to derive from him. These standards are wrong and untenable in Shari'ah. This attitude grows hypocrisy, malice and hatred in the world. In our experience, and it is seen everyday that if friendship is maintained for selfish ends, then the consequences are that the so-called friends become worst enemies. Such is the outcome of wrong standards of friendship. May Allah (s.w.t) grow among Muslims sincere and unselfish love for one another. Aameen!"-Stories from the Hadith, pg.188-189