

Practice

Topic:

Concept and Aspects of Faith/Belief
or Iman/Shahadah in Islam.

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Subject: Islamic Studies

Introduction:

The topic of faith is central to Islam. The formal profession of faith consists of two parts. The first part consists of words of witnessing that **"there is no god but God."** Arabic speaking people cannot imagine using a different word ~~that~~ than Allah when referring to the God worshipped by Christians and Jews. Arab-speaking Christians and Jews also used the word Allah in their worship.

The second part of the Kalima is **"Muhammad (P.B.U.H) is the prophet of Allah."** For the Muslims prescriptions, the life of Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H) is a complete model and ~~the~~ ^{from} his life is ~~being~~ we can take the guidance and make our life righteous.

In Muslim culture, the call of prayer (Azan) is spoken into the newly born

body to intrinsic the acknowledgement of Allah. When all the souls are gathered in the Adam's ribs then Allah asked

أَلَسْتُ بِرَبِّكُمْ قَالُوا بَلَىٰ سُبْحَانَكَ

"Am I not your Lord?", You replied, "Yes, indeed you are."

— (Al-Aaraaf)

2: Shahadah and Faith in Quran

The elements of Shahadah are mentioned in the Holy Quran.

شَهِدَ اللَّهُ أَنَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ

"God bears witness that there is god but God."

(Al-Baqrah)

فَاعْلَمْ أَنَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ فَاسْتَغْفِرْ لَهُ

"Know that there is not god except Allah and ask forgiveness for your sins."

(Al-Quran)

Faith and Iman is simply explained in the Quran and the saying of Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H). One of His ninety-nine name "Al-Mumin" meaning faith or security. Al-Ghazali, interpret His name in his book, "The Most Sublime

Meaning in Explaining the name of Allah."

He interpreted that Allah is the creator of this world and He is the One ~~giver~~ who gives guard or safety to ~~human~~ this world. Then there is great fear of eternal domination and nothing will protect him from that but the profession of faith. This make a man desire to say, "there is no god but God." The divine name "Al-Mumin" is further interpreted by other commentator that Allah is the one who fulfill His promises.

03.

Inner and Outer aspects of Faith

The inner and outer aspects of Faith is clearly mentioned in the Quran. The inner aspects are stated as:

إِنَّمَا الْمُؤْمِنُونَ الَّذِينَ إِذَا ذُكِرُوا بِاللَّهِ وَآيَاتِهِ تَوَسَّعُوا عَلَيْهِمْ

آيَةً زَادَتْهُمْ إِيمَانًا وَهُمْ عَلَىٰ رَيْعٍ يَتَوَكَّلُونَ

"Believers are trembled whenever God is mentioned and whose faith is strengthened whenever His messenger recite the ayats and spend on them we have bestowed them"

(Al-Quran)

The external aspect of faith is stated as:

التائبون العابدون الحامدون السالكون
الركعون الساجدون الامرؤن بالمرؤف
والنائون من المنكر ة

"Those who repent, worship, fasting, bowing, prostrating and those who enjoin good and forbid from evil."

(Al-Tawba).

04 Shahadah and Faith in Hadith:

After the Quran, the second authoritative source in Islam is the saying of Holy prophet (P.B.U.H). A famous hadith which is known as Hadith-e-Jibrael (A.S) present the aspect of faith in this way:

"Prophet (P.B.U.H) was sitting with his companions, or company of some people, the angel Gibrael (A.S) came and asked, "What is faith?" Prophet (P.B.U.H) answered him and said, Faith is to believe in Allah, His prophets and Messenger, His Angels, His books

and the day of judgement." He further asked, "What is Islam?" Then Prophet (P.B.U.H) answered him, and said, "paying the compulsion (Zakat) and fasting in the month of Ramadan." He further asked, "What is Ihsana (perfection)?" Allah's apostle replied, "worship in a way that you see Him; if you cannot reach in this ~~stage~~ state then consider He is looking at you." And He further asked, "When will the Hour be established?" Allah's apostle said, the answer of this question is better know who is questioning." Then, the prophet (P.B.U.H) said, "that was Gibrael (A.S) who came to teach the people."

So, we infer from the above saying of the Prophet (P.B.U.H).

- (i) The first aspect to believe or fulfill the Five Pillars.
- (ii) The second aspect is to say from tongue

(iii) The third aspect is to accept by heart

اقرار باللسان
وتسديق بالقلب

The second part of the shahadh is to testimony that Muhammad (P.B.U.H) is the messenger of Allah. The Quran states:

لقد كان لكم في رسول الله أسوة حسنة

"You have in God's messenger a good example."

-(Al-Ahzab)

And further stating in the Quran:

من يطع الرسول فقد اطاع الله

"the one who obeys the prophet (P.B.U.H) thereby obeys Allah."

-(Al-Nisa)

05 Difference b/w Iman and Islam.

Simple profession of shahadh is called Islam while accepting it by heart is called Iman. According to Hadith **Musnad of Ibn Hanbal**, "Islam is external and Iman is eternal." And **Ibn Taymiyya**, said, "Islam is external, so to speak and Iman is internalisation of Islam."

06

Conclusion:

Truly, faith is to believe in Allah and His commands. Faith is centre to Islam. The one who fully spend his life according the Allah's command as mentioned in the Quran and sayings of Holy prophet (P.B.U.H). Also, belief on the five pillars of Islam. If you commit sins then ask for Allah to forgive his sins and get the reward of good deeds.