Faith in the Messenger: Love and Beauty in Our Hearts

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> This sermon explores how faith in Prophet Muhammad is not merely intellectual belief but a beloved and beautiful reality that Allah has placed in the hearts of believers. The speaker examines how this faith deepens over time through continuous engagement with the Prophet's life and teachings, creating an ever-expanding cycle of love and appreciation.

SAŽETAK

Drawing from Qur'anic teachings, this lecture challenges the common understanding of faith (Iman) by focusing specifically on faith in the Messenger of Allah rather than abstract belief in the unseen. The speaker explains that the Prophet was granted divine authority to make decisions independently, and that Allah does not demand perfection even from His Messenger—a mercy extended to all believers. The heart of the message centers on two distinct gifts Allah has given: making faith beloved to us, and beautifying that faith in our hearts. Unlike love without beauty or beauty without love, Allah has granted us both simultaneously in our relationship with Prophet Muhammad . The sermon emphasizes that this faith grows richer and more profound with time and study, defying the typical human pattern where familiarity breeds indifference. The speaker provides practical guidance on maintaining this deepening love through daily engagement with the Prophet's life, hadith, and the Qur'an—whose recitation reminds us of him. The lecture concludes with hadith traditions about tasting the sweetness of faith, linking personal devotion to the Prophet with broader spiritual transformation.

KLJUČNE PORUKE

> Faith in the Messenger of Allah is the foundation upon which all other matters of faith rest; it is not merely one belief among many but the cornerstone of Islamic Iman.

> The Prophet was granted the authority to make decisions independently, and even decisions that were later corrected by Allah demonstrate that divine leaders

> are not expected to be infallible—this mercy applies to all believers managing responsibility.

> Allah has made faith in the Prophet ﷺ both beloved and beautiful in our hearts—these are two distinct divine gifts that work together, not the same thing; love without beauty or beauty without love is common, but we have both (Qur'an 49:7).

> The relationship with Prophet Muhammad ﷺ should deepen over time, becoming more beautiful and beloved with every passing day, unlike typical human relationships where familiarity breeds indifference.

> Maintaining and nurturing this love requires daily, continuous engagement: listening to hadith, reading the Seerah, studying the Qur'an, and remembering the Prophet ﷺ each day.

> The Qur'an itself is inseparable from love of the Prophet ﷺ, as the Qur'an is his message and reciting it connects us to his memory and voice.

> Tasting the sweetness of faith comes from complete satisfaction with Allah as Master, Islam as religion, and Muhammad as Messenger, combined with loving other believers for Allah's sake and hating to return to disbelief (Sahih Muslim).

ČLANAK

Understanding Faith Beyond the Unseen

When Muslims think about Iman, we typically think of faith in Allah, faith in the Akhira, faith in Yawm al-Qiyamah, faith in Qadr—both its goodness and its harm—and faith in the angels. When we contemplate faith, we think of belief in the unseen. But in this particular ayah, what is the only matter of faith that is mentioned? The Messenger of Allah. This is the foundation that everything else rests upon.

The Prophet's Authority to Decide

The Prophet Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam operated according to a principle: he did not simply follow whatever his companions advised. Rather, he would verify matters, examine them carefully, and then make his own final decision. Allah granted him this authority, as He says in the Qur'an: "When you have made a decision, then trust in Allah and take the leap." The Prophet Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam made worldly decisions that contradicted the advice of his companions many times. He also made decisions that Allah later corrected. This teaches us something profound: Allah does not expect us to make the right decision every single time. If He did not even demand this perfection from His own Messenger Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam, then we certainly cannot be expected to achieve it.

True leadership is not about making the right decision all the time. Leadership means making the best decision within your ability at that moment, and then moving forward with whatever comes. Sometimes you get it right, sometimes you don't, but you keep moving. That is the nature of responsibility and trust.

The Gift of Beloved Faith

Now the ayah becomes truly remarkable. Allah says: "However, Allah made faith beloved to you." Let us remember where this ayah began. If the Prophet were to follow you in most matters, you would all end up in great trouble, hurting yourselves and destroying yourselves. But despite this reality, Allah has done something extraordinary: He has made faith something deeply beloved to all of you. The ayah is fundamentally about the Prophet not following you, but now Allah shifts our attention to something far more important—Iman itself.

When we think of faith, we typically think of faith in Allah, faith in the Akhira, faith in the unseen realities. But what is the only faith mentioned in this context? The faith in the Messenger of Allah. You must have faith that what he is telling you comes from a higher source. You can see him with your eyes, but the source of his message comes from the unseen. His words originate from Allah. And that is a matter of faith—a matter that requires trust in the unseen.

The Beloved Place of the Messenger in Our Hearts

In this ayah, when Allah beautifies Iman, He is specifically beautifying our faith in the Messenger of Allah. This is a powerful indication that we do not merely believe in him as a messenger in a mechanical way. Rather, he holds a beautified and beloved place in our hearts. There is a crucial distinction here: believing that he is a messenger is one thing, but loving that belief, cherishing it, and treasuring it in your heart—this is something else entirely. Allah has made this faith in the Messenger beloved to us. He has placed it in our hearts not as mere intellectual assent, but as something we truly love.

This becomes especially clear when our faith is tested. When the Prophet tells his companions, "We will not make Hajj this year. I never guaranteed it would happen this year," and 1,800 people's hopes are dashed—yet you still must say, "He is the Messenger. The Messenger does not lie. Allah and His Messenger speak the truth." Even when it looks completely wrong to your face, even when your desires are frustrated, you accept it. And that capacity to accept it comes from the beauty of faith that Allah has placed within our hearts. Subhanallahu wa Ta'ala.

Love and Beauty: A Distinction

Allah says: "And He has beautified it in your hearts." This is expression upon expression. First, Allah says He made faith beloved to us, and then He says He

beautified it in our hearts. This is not redundancy—Allah is making an important distinction between love and beauty. These are not the same thing.

Out of love for someone, you can overlook their ugliness or their shortcomings. A parent may love a disabled child who brings great grief and challenge to their life. Through tremendous effort and mental discipline, that parent develops the capacity to see beauty in that child, even though the world sees only difficulty. But this does not always happen easily. Similarly, a spouse may have been severely burned, with skin scarred and wrecked, yet their partner still loves them. Their love is genuine and present, but the external beauty is not there. We understand this reality: sometimes love can exist without beauty, and sometimes beauty can exist without love.

But Allah says about this faith in the Messenger: He made it beloved to you, AND He beautified it in your hearts. It is not just something you love and believe in—you actually find beauty in it. The more you study him, the more beautiful he becomes to you. The more beautiful you find him, the more you fall in love with him all over again. This is a profound, romantic relationship that we have with our Prophet Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam. It is actually romantic in nature.

The Eternal Deepening of Love

Consider a man who is deeply in love with his wife. Every time he sees her, he finds her more beautiful than before. The more beautiful he finds her, the more in love he becomes. And as his love deepens, his perception of her beauty deepens further, creating an ever-expanding cycle of love and appreciation. This is the profound reality of what Allah is describing—this beautification and this deepening of beloved faith.

In most human relationships, you may begin with someone you truly love, but over time that love is tested. The beauty of it fades. Perhaps there was beauty in the beginning, but as the years pass, it becomes just routine: "Whatever." This is what typically happens. But Allah tells us that He is the One who has beautified this love of the Prophet in your hearts. When you have a teacher you greatly admire at first, over time they become just someone you know. The awe disappears. The sense of wonder fades.

But we are learning something remarkable and miraculous about our Messenger. This ayah comes near the end of his career. Allah is describing that you—some of you—have been with him for more than twenty years, and yet he becomes more beautiful to you and more beloved to you with every passing day. This is incredible. The more we learn about him, the more we study his Seerah, the more we cry. With every new hadith, the longing increases: "I want to meet him. What will I do with him?" An Imam expressed it beautifully: it is possible for someone who loves something to eventually become bored with it. When you have possessed something for a long time, you take it for granted, and familiarity breeds indifference. But with this Imam—with this

Prophet—every single day he becomes more beautiful. Every single day. Subhanallahu wa Ta'ala.

Keeping the Love Alive Daily

Among you is the Messenger of Allah. Within you is the Messenger of Allah. This is a jumla ismiya, which means we must be in touch with our Messenger every single day. We must take something from him every single day, all the time. This is what will keep the love alive and the beauty alive. Listen to a hadith. Read something from the Seerah. Take something from the Qur'an. Engage with him in some way every day. Because even these ayat that we are reciting, the first people who heard them heard them in the voice of our Messenger Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam. These ayat reminded them of Rasulullah Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam. I can guarantee you that when Umar ibn al-Khattab recited the Qur'an, he would remember what it sounded like when the Prophet recited it. He used to pray behind him. The Qur'an reminded them of the Messenger of Allah. Our love with the Qur'an is inseparable from our love for our Prophet Alayhis Salatu Wasallam. They are one and the same.

Tasting the Sweetness of Faith

Allah also describes faith as something you can actually taste—something with sweetness. There is a beautiful hadith about this. The Prophet Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam said: "The one who is completely satisfied with Allah as their Master, with Islam as their religion, and with Muhammad as their Messenger—they have tasted the sweetness of faith." Dhaqa ta'mal iman man radhiya billahi rabban wa bil islami dinan wa bi Muhammadin rasula. The one who tastes the sweetness of faith enjoys the true flavor of their faith.

The Prophet also said: "Three things—if someone has them within them, they have tasted the sweetness of faith." The first is: "The one to whom Allah and His Messenger are more dear than anything else besides them." The second is: "The one who loves a slave of Allah whom no one else loves except for Allah's sake." You love the person whom nobody appreciates, the loner, the one whom the world overlooks—but you see their worth and you appreciate them. The third is: "The one who hates to return to disbelief and disobedience and ingratitude after Allah has saved them from it, just as they would hate to be thrown into fire."

Qur'an 49:7 Qur'an 3:159 Sahih Muslim #Iman and Faith #Prophet Muhammad □ #Love of the Messenger #Sweetness of Faith #Spiritual Development #Qur'an and Sunnah #Heart Purification