

KHUTBA

Friday 15.01.10

English

Reformation of our hearts

Our hearts play a very important role in both our religious and normal life because it controls our attitude and behavior towards people and life. If we clean our hearts, then our deeds will become good, many problems can be solved and vice versa. The Quran explain this relation between hearts and deeds or behaviors:

Do they not travel through the land, so that their hearts (and minds) may thus learn wisdom and their ears may thus learn to hear? Truly it is not their eyes that are blind, but their hearts which are in their breasts. [Koran 22:46]

It was also explained that we will be questioned about our hearts exactly as we will be questioned about what we see with our eyes and hear with our ears.

And pursue not that of which thou hast no knowledge; for surely the hearing, or the sight, the heart all of those shall be questioned of. [Koran 17:36]

The prophet (saws) said: «Beware! There is a piece of flesh in the body if it becomes good (reformed) the whole body becomes good but if it gets spoilt the whole body gets spoilt and that is the heart». [Al-Bukhari]

So, how can we reform our hearts and make it clean?

Before you go to the battle, you have to know your enemy. Hence before we explain how to clean our hearts, we should know what makes it dirty.

Hate, jealousy and envy are the most common dirt that can affect our hearts. Our scholars termed it as the «heart diseases». This dirt can affect and ruin and destroy every community if it is widely spread. That is why Prophet Mohamed warned us from them:

Abu Huraira reported Allah's Messenger (may peace be upon him) as saying: «Don't nurse grudge and don't bid him out for raising the price and don't nurse aversion or enmity and don't enter into a transaction when the others have entered into that transaction and be as fellow-brothers and servants of Allah. A Muslim is the brother of a Muslim. He neither oppresses him nor humiliates him nor looks down upon him. The piety is here, (and while saying so) he pointed towards his chest thrice. It is a serious evil for a Muslim that he should look down upon his brother Muslim. All things of a Muslim are inviolable for his brother in faith: his blood, his wealth and his honor» [Muslim]

So how can we clean our hearts?

Guard your heart and control your feelings. Don't do what your heart want immediately. Think about it first, if it will lead to good, proceed; if not, forget about it. One of our early scholars, his name is Abu Hafs Al Naisabori, said: I guarded my heart for 20 years of my life and it guarded me, from sins, the following 20 years.

Remember death. Remember that you will soon die and you will leave everything behind you. What will remain is your deeds and reputation. If you hurt or do the bad to people, due to hate or envy for instance, then you will gain sins and you will be cursed, even if you are in the grave. And fear the Day when ye shall be brought back to God. Then shall every soul be paid what it earned, and none shall be dealt with unjustly.

Choose your friend and companion carefully. Bad friends can mislead you easily. Abu Musa reported Allah's Messenger (may peace be upon him) as saying: «The similitude of good company and that of bad company is that of the owner of musk and of the one (iron-smith) blowing bellows, and the owner of musk would either offer you free of charge or you would buy it from him or you would smell its pleasant odour, and so far as one who blows the bellows is concerned, he would either burn your clothes or you shall have to smell its repugnant smell.» [Al-Bukhari, Muslim]

Link your heart with Allah. Always pray to Him and ask Him for guidance.

Persist in doing good deeds and worships. It will make you busy and confer comfort and relief on your life.

Read Quran and perform dhikr daily. Abd Allah ibn Umar said that the Prophet used to say: «Everything has a polish, and the polish of hearts is dhikr of Allah. Nothing is more calculated to rescue from Allah's punishment than dhikr of Allah." He was asked whether this did not apply also to jihad in Allah's path, and he replied: "Not even if one should ply his sword until it breaks». [Bayhaqi narrated it in Kitab al-da`awat al-kabir as well as in his Shu`ab al-iman]

Finally we ask Allah to guide us to be good Muslims and fix our heart on His path. We ask Him to clean our hearts from every hate, envy or jealousy. We ask Him to forgive our sins and reward us Paradise.

Amen

Khutba av Sidi Mohamed Ould Cherif