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Mudhakkirah al-Hadeeth an-Nabawee

by Rabee Bin Haadee Umayr al-Madkhalee Trans. Abu Naasir Abid Zargar

The Truthful Imaan

From Anas (radiallaahu anhu) that the Messenger of Allaah (sallallaahu alaihi wasallam) said:

"None of you will (truly) believe until I become more beloved to him than his children, his parents and the whole of mankind."

Reported by al-Bukhaari¹ and Muslim².

The Reporter of the Hadeeth

The biography of Anas has preceded in hadeeth number 7.

The Meaning of the Hadeeth

An individual can never be a believer with true imaan until the Messenger of Allaah (sallallaahu alaihi wasallam) becomes more beloved to him than those he is related to, by bonds of kinship and lineage or the bonds of friendship and mutual benefit.

So when an individuals love for the Prophet (sallalaahu alaihi wasallam) exceeds his love for those who gave birth to him and raised him up, such as his mother, father, grandfather, grandmother, blood relatives, wife, his tribe and all those whom he is by socially, politically or financially related to, or any bond or benefit, then he is a true believer. A sign of this is that he gives precedence to the obedience of Allaah and His Messenger (sallallaahu alaihi wasallam) over and above obedience to other than them. He gives precedence to what Allaah and His Messenger love over and above what the whole of mankind love, those near or far to him, even if he displeases the whole of mankind.

¹ Kitaab ul-imaan, hadeeth no. 15

² Kitaab ul-imaan, hadeeth no. 40

And he will not find the sweetness of imaan until he achieves three necessary qualities, as occurs in the hadeeth of Anas which is agreed upon:

"Whoever possesses three (qualities) will find the sweetness of imaan: that Allaah and His Messenger become more beloved to him than anything else, and that he loves a person only for Allaah's sake, and that he hates to return to kufr, after Allaah saved him from it, just as he hates to be thrown into the Fire."³

So when these three qualities are found then he will find the sweetness of imaan. And he does not fear those who criticize him and he is not miserly with his soul or wealth in the path of Allaah.

The author of "al-Qawl as-Sadeed" mentions the following on page 122:

"And know that the types of love are three:

The First: Love of Allaah, which is the foundation of imaan and tawheed.

The Second: Love for the sake of Allaah, which is love of the prophets and messengers of Allaah and their followers. And loving that which Allaah loves, such as good deeds, times and places etc. and these follow on from loving Allaah and are a completion of it.

The Third: Love others besides Allaah, which is the love of the mushrikeen for their deities and the rivals they have set up from the trees, stones, men, angels etc. and it is the foundation of Shirk and its basis."

³ Reported by al-Bukhaari and Muslim and others. The full explanation and references for this hadeeth can be found in hadeeth no. 21.