

this is done, Allah will love them and forgive them their sins. The verse thus establishes the fact that following the Prophet (Sallallahu Alaihi Was Salam) is indeed a sign of one’s true love for Allah. Therefore, in expressing love for the Prophet (Sallallahu Alaihi Was Salam), one needs to follow his blessed practices and Sunnah.

Another sign of true love for the Prophet (Sallallahu Alaihi Was Salam) is that one should send Darood upon him on a regular basis. That is, one must make it a part of his daily routine to send Salaah and Salaam upon him as much as possible.

The Prophet (Sallallahu Alaihi Was Salam) himself has stated, ‘The dearest and closest person to me on the Day of Judgement is the one who sends the most ‘Darood’ upon me’. (Tirmizi, who says it is a good hadith. Hadith No.484, Pg.354, Vol.2, Makaba Tijariya)

The importance of sending Darood upon the Prophet (Sallallahu Alaihi Was Salam) can be seen from the fact that Allah Himself Has officially commanded the believers to do so, and Has stated, ‘Verily Allah and His Angels send blessings (Salah) upon the Prophet (Muhammad). O you who believe! Send your Salah on him, and greet him with the Islamic way of greeting.’ (Surah Ahzab, Verse 56)

In fulfilment of this order of Allah, Muslims must regularly send ‘Darood’ upon the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu Alaihi Was Salam) which will in turn, bring a tremendous amount of blessings to them.

Another sign of expressing true love for the Prophet (Sallallahu Alaihi Was Salam), is that one must invite others to the beautiful teachings of the Prophet (Sallallahu Alaihi Was Salam) and forbid them from opposing his Sunnah. That is, one should propagate his Sunnah and stop others from critizing it. True love for the Prophet (Sallallahu Alaihi Was

Salam) creates in the hearts, respect and appreciation for his beautiful teachings and practices. Those who possess this true love will find within themselves the burning desire to follow his teachings and practices, and will not find themselves opposing or speaking ill of his noble practices. Instead, they will cherish his Sunnah; implement it in their lives; propagate it to others and also stop others from speaking ill of it.

Besides these, there are other signs which become apparent and manifest in a believer when true love for the Prophet (Sallallahu Alaihi Was Salam) enters his heart. While writing on this, the great scholar, Hafiz Badrudeen Al Aini (A.R) stated, ‘Know that love for the Prophet (Sallallahu Alaihi Was Salam) requires one to follow the Prophet (Sallallahu Alaihi Was Salam) and be obedient to him. One must not be disobedient to him’. (Umdah Al Qari (Commentry of Sahih Al Bukhari) Vol.1, Pg.144)

Qadhi Ayadh (A.R) has also stated, ‘From the signs of love for the Prophet (Sallallahu Alaihi Was Salam) is that one helps, supports and propagates his Sunnah, and protects and defends the Shariah which was sent to him’. (Sharh An Nawawi, Vol.2, Pg.18 / Hubb An Nabi Wa Alamatuhu, Pg.23)

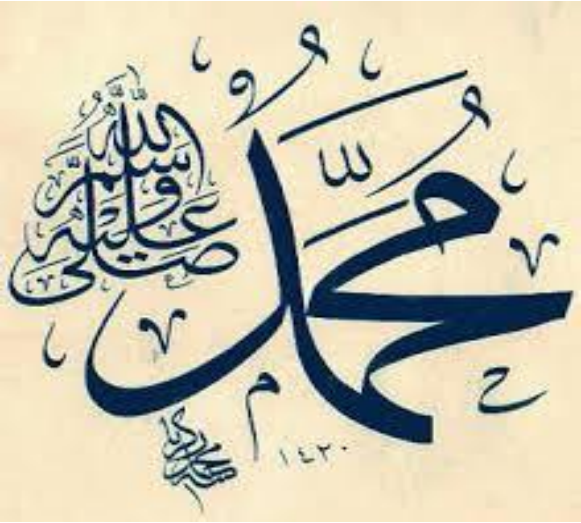
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LOVE FOR THE PROPHET ﷺ

AN INTEGRAL PART OF ONE’S IMAAN (FAITH)

By: Mufti Waseem Khan (May Allah Ta’ala protect him)

Principal, Darul Uloom Trinidad and Tobago



DARUL ULOOM TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
Rashaad Ave, Mon Plasir Road, Cunupia. Trinidad, W.I.
Tel: (868) 665 8868 / Fax: (868) 665 1442
Webpage: www.darululoomtt.net
Email: darululoomtt@gmail.com

الحمد لله رب العالمين , والصلاة والسلام على رسوله الكريم

The Messenger of Allah, Muhammad (Sallallahu Alaihi Was Salam) was indeed the greatest prophet who came to mankind. He was the seal of all prophets, sent by Allah as the final prophet on earth, and so, his teachings shall remain until the end of the world. He was the only Prophet who was sent to the entire mankind at one time, and thus was called the ‘Universal Prophet’, whose message was to be conveyed to all tribes and nations of the world.

He (Sallallahu Alaihi Was Salam) was the most beloved to Allah from among the entire creation, and was the most perfect human being who possessed the most beautiful qualities and traits.

Muslims are indeed favoured by Allah to be followers of this great and blessed prophet, who was sent as a ‘Mercy to mankind’ They should feel indebted to him since he sacrificed his entire life to bring the religion of Islam to mankind. The completion and perfection of this ‘religion of Allah’ came about on account of Allah’s will, and the efforts, struggles and sacrifices made by this blessed personality, the Prophet of Allah (Sallallahu Alaihi Was Salam). It is for this reason, a true Muslim cannot help but develop a close connection, a relation and a deep love for the Prophet of Allah (Sallallahu Alaihi Was Salam).

Having this love in one’s heart is so important that the Prophet (Sallallahu Alaihi Was Salam) himself has considered it to be a sign of one’s true and complete faith (Imaan).

While speaking about this, the Prophet of Allah (Sallallahu Alaihi Was Salam) said, ‘None of you can be a true believer until I am more beloved to him than his parents, children and the whole mankind’. (Bukhari, Hadith No.15, Pg.6, Darussalam)

This hadith makes it abundantly clear to all Muslims that in order for one to be a true and complete believer, one must have in his heart such love for the Prophet (Sallallahu Alaihi Was Salam) which is more than the love which he has for family members and other people.

This love however, must be sincere from the heart, and must not be a mere statement uttered from the tongue. One must be true in this love for the Prophet (Sallallahu Alaihi Was Salam), and must be conscious of the fact that Allah sees one’s heart at all times, and is fully knowledgeable of what the heart contains.

When true love for the Prophet (Sallallahu Alaihi Was Salam) takes root in the heart, then it begins to manifest itself in many ways, which are considered to be signs of love for the Prophet (Sallallahu Alaihi Was Salam). One of these signs is to show obedience to the Prophet (Sallallahu Alaihi Was Salam). and to refrain from disobeying him. In other words, if one truly loves the Prophet (Sallallahu Alaihi Was Salam), then he will always be inclined to be obedient to him. After all, how can a person claim to have true love for the Prophet (Sallallahu Alaihi Was Salam) when he is not ready to obey him.

This act of being obedient to the Prophet (Sallallahu Alaihi Was Salam) is so important that Allah Himself has made it an official injunction in the Holy Quran. About this, Allah says, ‘O those who believe, obey Allah and obey His Messenger, and do not nullify your good deeds’. (Surah Muhammad, Verse 33)

In another verse, Allah Has considered obedience to the Prophet (Sallallahu Alaihi Was Salam) to be obedience to Him. In this regard, He says, ‘And whoever obeys the Messenger of Allah, he has indeed obeyed Allah’. (Surah Nisa, Verse 80)

Therefore, every Muslim must know that expressing love for the Prophet (Sallallahu Alaihi Was Salam) should be followed by obedience to his teachings.

Another sign of true love for the Prophet (Sallallahu Alaihi Was Salam), is to follow his noble and blessed ways and practices which he left as a means of guidance for his Ummah.

One who has true love for the Prophet (Sallallahu Alaihi Was Salam) will consider it an honour to follow his footsteps and practices, and will desire to emulate his beautiful ways and actions.

Indeed, the Prophet (Sallallahu Alaihi Was Salam) was blessed by Allah with the best conduct and with the most beautiful practices. His ways and practices are known to be his Sunnah, and is a means of light and guidance for the Ummah. It is this ‘way’ which Allah has considered to be ‘the most perfect’ for the believers. In this regard, He said, ‘Certainly in the Messenger of Allah, you shall find the best way of life’. (Surah Ahzab, Verse 21)

Therefore, those of the believers who wish to have the best qualities and traits, and desire to live the best way of life, should follow the way of the Messenger of Allah (Sallallahu Alaihi Was Salam), as instructed by Allah.

In the Holy Quran, Allah Has also mentioned that a sign of showing true love to Him, is to follow the Prophet (Sallallahu Alaihi Was Salam). About this, He said, ‘Say, O Muhammad (to the people), if you truly love Allah, then follow me. Allah will love you and forgive you your sins’.

Here, the Prophet (Sallallahu Alaihi Was Salam) was ordered to tell the people that if they truly love Allah, then they must follow him (the Prophet (Sallallahu Alaihi Was Salam)). When

