

A photograph of a mosque interior. In the foreground, an open book with a green cover and white pages lies on a patterned rug. To the left, a portion of a dome is visible, featuring intricate Islamic calligraphy in gold and blue. Several ornate, golden chandeliers hang from the ceiling, casting a warm glow. The background shows a blurred view of the mosque's interior, including an arched doorway and more chandeliers.

## Essence of Iman (Faith) and its Signs

## Essence of *Imân* (Faith) and its Signs

All thanks are due to Allâh Who judges by Truth and Justice and guides whom He wills to the Straight Path. He decides all matters with His Wisdom and ordains the religion, and He is the All-Wise, All-Knower. He sent the Messengers as Bringers of glad tidings and as Warners, and revealed the Book to them to judge between people concerning what they differ about. That was so that they judge by fairness and give each his due right without exaggeration or shortcomings. I bear witness that there is no deity worthy of worship except Allâh Alone without partners; His is the kingdom, He is Worthy of all praise and He is Able to do all things. I bear witness that Muhammad is Allâh's slave and Messenger, may Allâh's peace and blessings be on him, his progeny and all those who followed him with excellence until the Day of Judgment.

O people! Fear Allâh the Exalted, offer your loyalty and support to Him and He will grant you victory; obey Him and He will compensate you.

﴿وَلَيَنْصُرَنَّ اللَّهُ مَن يَنْصُرُهُ إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَقَوِيٌّ عَزِيزٌ ۝ الَّذِينَ إِنْ مَكَّنَّاهُمْ فِي الْأَرْضِ أَقَامُوا الصَّلَاةَ وَآتَوُا الزَّكَاةَ وَأَمَرُوا بِالْمَعْرُوفِ وَنَهَوْا عَنِ الْمُنْكَرِ وَلِلَّهِ عَاقِبَةُ الْأُمُورِ﴾

“Verily, Allâh will help those who help His (Cause). Truly, Allâh is All-Strong, All-Mighty. Those (Muslim rulers) who, if We give them power in the land, (they) enjoin *Iqamat-as-Salât* [i.e. to perform the five compulsory congregational *Salât* (prayers) (the males in mosques)], to pay the *Zakât* and they enjoin *Al-Ma'rûf* (i.e. Islâmic Monotheism and all that Islâm orders one to do), and forbid *Al-Munkar* (i.e. disbelief, polytheism and all that Islâm has forbidden) [i.e., they make the Qur'ân and *Sunnah* as the law of their country in all the spheres of life]. And with Allâh rests the end of (all) matters (of creatures).” (22:40)

O people! *Imân* (Faith) is not acquired by wishing and hoping. Rather, *Imân* is the creed that resides in the heart and is implemented by

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actions that substantiate its truth and essence by performing acts of worship and avoiding sins. Each one of us is able to state that he is Muslim and even claim that he is a *Mu'min* (faithful believer). Each one of us is able to declare that there is no deity worthy of worship except Allâh and that Muhammad ﷺ is the Messenger of Allâh. Even hypocrites, who will dwell in the lowest depths of the Hellfire, mention Allâh by their words. Hypocrites used to declare to the Prophet ﷺ, "We testify that you are the Messenger of Allâh." They also swore to the Prophet ﷺ and his Companions that they were with them, even though they were against them. However, all these testimonies and vows did not avail them in the least: here they are in the lowest bottoms of the Fire below every *Mushrik* (polytheist), atheist, Jew and Christian! This is because their vows and oaths did not come from hearts full of *Yaqin* (sincerity), *Imân*, submission or obedience.

﴿ وَمِنَ النَّاسِ مَن يَقُولُ ءَامَنَّا بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ وَمَا هُمْ بِمُؤْمِنِينَ ﴾

"And of mankind, there are some who say: 'We believe in Allâh and the Last Day,' while in fact they believe not." (2:8)

*Imân* requires strong and firm faith that bears the fruits of truthful statements, righteous actions, love in the Cause of Allâh, sincerity in performing *Tauhîd* and obedience to His Messenger ﷺ. *Imân* requires strong resolve, liveliness, vigor, endurance and dedicating the heart to what it finds hard: the obedience of Allâh and restraining the inner self from what it covets and is a disobedience of Allâh.

There are several signs of *Imân* that Allâh has mentioned in His Book and His Messenger ﷺ detailed in his *Sunnah*, as follows. Allâh said:

﴿ إِنَّمَا الْمُؤْمِنُونَ الَّذِينَ إِذَا ذُكِرَ اللَّهُ وَجِلَّتْ قُلُوبُهُمْ وَإِذَا تُلِيَتْ عَلَيْهِمْ ءَايَاتُهُ زَادَتْهُمْ إِيمَانًا وَعَلَىٰ رَبِّهِمْ يَتَوَكَّلُونَ ۝ الَّذِينَ يُقِيمُونَ الصَّلَاةَ وَمِمَّا رَزَقْنَاهُمْ يُنْفِقُونَ ۝ أُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الْمُؤْمِنُونَ حَقًّا لَهُمْ دَرَجَاتٌ عِنْدَ رَبِّهِمْ وَمَغْفِرَةٌ وَرِزْقٌ كَرِيمٌ ﴾

"The believers are only those who, when Allâh is mentioned, feel a fear in their hearts and when His Verses (this Qur'ân) are recited unto them, they (i.e., the Verses) increase their Faith; and they put their trust in their Lord (Alone); who perform *As-Salât*

(*Iqâmat-as-Salât*) and spend out of that We have provided them. It is they who are the believers in truth. For them are grades of dignity with their Lord, and forgiveness and a generous provision (Paradise).” (8:2-4)

Allâh also said:

﴿ وَإِذَا مَا أَنْزَلَتْ سُورَةٌ فَمِنْهُمْ مَن يَقُولُ أَيُّكُمْ زَادَتْهُ هَذِهِ ۖ إِيْمَانًا فَأَمَّا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا فَزَادَتْهُمْ إِيْمَانًا وَهُمْ يَتَّبِعُونَ ۚ وَأَمَّا الَّذِينَ فِي قُلُوبِهِمْ مَّرَضٌ فَزَادَتْهُمْ رِجْسًا إِلَىٰ رِجْسِهِمْ وَمَاتُوا وَهُمْ كَافِرُونَ ۚ أُولَٰئِكَ يَنْهَرُ بَقْتَنُونَ فِي كُلِّ عَامٍ مَّرَّةً أَوْ مَرَّتَيْنِ ثُمَّ لَا يَتُوبُونَ وَلَا هُمْ يَذَكَّرُونَ ﴾

“And whenever there comes down a *Sûrah* (chapter from the Qur’ân), some of them (hypocrites) say: “Which of you has had his Faith increased by it?” As for those who believe, it has increased their Faith, and they rejoice. But as for those in whose hearts is a disease (of doubt, disbelief and hypocrisy), it will add suspicion and doubt to their suspicion, disbelief and doubt; and they die while they are disbelievers. See they not that they are put in trial once or twice every year (with different kinds of calamities, disease, famine)? Yet, they turn not in repentance, nor do they learn a lesson (from it).” (9:124-126)

Therefore, dear Muslims, who amongst us has these qualities? Who amongst us feels fear in his heart because of Allâh and Honors His remembrance when He is mentioned? Who amongst us has his faith increased and rejoices when the *Âyat* of his Lord are recited to him? Who feels the delight of believing in the *Âyat* and applying their laws? Who amongst us truly trusts in Allâh, rather than in any among the creation? Who amongst us performs the prayer as it should be performed, perfectly and on time? Who amongst us gives from what Allâh has granted him by paying the *Zakât* and helping the needy, the relatives and the poor?

When contemplating the condition of Muslims in the present time, we find many Muslims who do not practice *Imân* or Islam, except whomever Allâh wills among them to have faith. Generally, Muslims

have fallen into shortcomings, especially with regards to fulfilling Allâh's rights, the rights towards each other and acquiring *Imân* and *Yaqin* (certainty). Many Muslims all over the Islamic World do not embrace the code of Islamic conduct or correct their actions, and many of them were affected by the ways and immoral traditions of the disbelievers. The impact of this appears on some Muslims who feel doubt and hesitation in their hearts about Allâh's revelation, the Prophet's prophecies, existence of angels and Jinn and about the authenticity of the Prophet's Message in general. Some of them even doubt the existence of Allâh, the Lord and Creator! Glory be unto Allâh! Would one doubt the existence of God, yet not doubt his own existence? Who has created him then, if Allâh did not? This is the reason why we witness many Muslims today whose hearts do not move if Allâh is mentioned, as if nothing they heard should cause them humbleness. Some Muslims do not increase in faith when Allâh's *Âyat* (the Qur'ân) are recited to them. Rather, they increase in wickedness and sin, mock Allâh's *Âyat* and shun implementing them out of arrogance. Some Muslims in present times do not trust in Allâh, but instead trust in material possessions and this life. Thus, they do not seek wealth from lawful resources, thinking that if they do, the opportunity to amass wealth becomes less open. They strive to collect wealth from any resource, whether allowed or disallowed. Some Muslims nowadays rely on Allâh's enemies to secure their safety and peace, leading them to obeying the disbelievers in disobedience to Allâh and His Law:

﴿ إِنَّا الَّذِينَ أَرْتَدُّوا عَلَىٰ أَدْبَارِهِمْ مِن بَعْدِ مَا بَيَّنَّ لَهُمُ الْهُدَىٰ ۗ الشَّيْطَانُ سَوَّلَ لَهُمْ  
وَأَمَلَىٰ لَهُمْ ۚ ذَٰلِكَ بِأَنَّهُمْ قَالُوا لِلَّذِينَ كَرَهُوا مَا نَزَّلَ اللَّهُ سَنُطِيعُكُمْ فِي  
بَعْضِ الْأَمْرِ ۗ وَاللَّهُ يَعْلَمُ إِسْرَارَهُمْ ۚ فَكَيْفَ إِذَا تَوَفَّتْهُمُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ يَضْرِبُونَ وُجُوهَهُمْ  
وَأَدْبَارَهُمْ ۚ ذَٰلِكَ بِأَنَّهُمْ اتَّبَعُوا مَا أَصْحَبَ اللَّهُ وَكَرَهُوا رِضْوَانَهُ فَأَحْبَطَ  
أَعْمَالَهُمْ ۗ ﴾

“Verily, those who have turned back as disbelievers after the guidance has been manifested to them — *Shaitân* (Satan) has beautified for them, and (Allâh) prolonged their term. This is because they said to those who hate what Allâh has sent down:

“We will obey you in part of the matter.” But Allâh knows their secrets. Then how when the angels will take their souls at death, smiting their faces and their backs? That is because they followed that which angered Allâh and hated that which pleased Him. So He made their deeds fruitless.” (47:25-28)

We find that those Muslims who obey and follow their enemies in matters that contradict Islamic Law do so because of their weak trust in Allâh and their strong reliance on something other than Him! They are amazed at the strength of Allâh’s enemies and think that all power is in their hands. They forget that He Who has created the enemies, is indeed more powerful than they are. Had these people used their awe by dedicating their trust in Allâh Alone, and sought the means and ways of achieving triumph, such as abiding by Allâh’s religion and Law with regards to their affairs of life, they would find sufficient strength. If they did this, Allâh would be with them, and whoever has Allâh with him, will never be defeated:

﴿وَمَا كَانَ اللَّهُ لِيُعْجِزَهُ مِنْ شَيْءٍ فِي السَّمَوَاتِ وَلَا فِي الْأَرْضِ إِنَّهُ كَانَ عَلِيمًا  
قَدِيرًا﴾

“Allâh is not such that anything in the heavens or in the earth escapes Him. Verily, He is All-Knowing, All-Omnipotent.” (35:44)

Nowadays, we find Muslims who neither join the prayer in congregation nor preserve its obligation. They do not attend the *Jumu'ah* (congregational prayer) at the Mosque and when they do pray, they do not fulfill the prayer’s pillars, conditions and *Sunan* (recommended acts). They do not take special care regarding purity of (prostrating) body, praying on time, completing the standing, sitting, *Ruku'* (bowing) or *Sujud* (prostrating) calmly and with grace. Some people who say that they are Muslims do not pray at all, and some of them mock the prayer and those who pray. Some Muslims do not spend for *Zakât* or *Sadaqah* from what Allâh has granted them, nor spend on those on whom they are required to spend. Yet, such people spend lavishly on what does not benefit them and on what Allâh had disallowed for them.

Muslims in these times are in a dire situation. We complain to Allâh

from the evil that they have done and from their abandoning His set limits and commandments. We complain to Allâh from their taking His Law lightly, forgetting His remembrance, feeling safe from His plan, ignoring the mission they were created to fulfill and indulging in foolhardiness instead. This explains why enemies of Muslims have power over them now and humiliate them, while controlling them politically and economically. Muslims have become just like a flock of sheep that hears nothing but calls and cries from their shepherd; they are deaf, dumb and blind, and therefore they do not understand. Indeed, we are all for Allâh and to Him shall be our return.

O Allâh! We invoke You while waiting to perform an act of worship that You have ordained on us as a favor from You. We invoke You by asserting that You are Allâh, there is no *ilah* (god) deserving worship but You, the One, the Sustainer. He Who neither begets, nor was He begotten and there is none like unto Him. O You Who created the heavens and earth, Owner of Power and Grace, the Ever-Living Who never dies, Who sustains all that exists. We invoke You to make *Imân* dear to us, beautify it and make it firm in our hearts. We invoke You to make disbelief, sin and rebellion hated by us and to take us away from this evil path.

O Allâh! We invoke You to set aright the affairs of this *Ummah* and provide them with righteous rulers who abide by the truth and judge by it. Grant us rulers who never fear the blame of anyone in their implementation of Allâh law. Give us rulers who never favor their relatives because of their relation or the strong on account of their strength. We ask You to protect our religion and make us firm on it until the day we die. You, verily You are the Most-Kind, Most Generous. I say this and ask Allâh to forgive me and you.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> *Adh-Dhiyaa al-Lami*, by Shaikh Muhammad bin ‘Uthaimin, p. 352