

alladhīna āmanū walam yalbisū īmānahum biẓul`min ulāika lahumu l-amnu wahum muh`tadūna (Al Anfal 8:72)- sadaq. Those who have attained to faith, and who have not obscured their faith by wrongdoing-it is they who shall be secure since it is they who have found the right path!

It is said that when everything was arranged and the earth became a place of life, our Lord summoned all of His Creation. He offered them the cup of His Will, inviting them to drink from it and find contentment. Accepting the cup and drinking from the cup meant to accept the Divine Will. It meant to accept that every event and circumstances intricately woven into existence aligns with Allah's Perfect Wisdom.

It was a beautiful gathering. Shaytan-i lain was the first guest, dressed very fancily, showing off his devotion and glorification to His Lord. Under this, he was disguising his pride, envy and revolt. He looked around the creation, and saw how beautiful everything was, but this just increased his envy. He convinced himself that he was highly superior, and that everything else which was made out of earth and water was lowly. He was offered the cup of Allah's Divine Will and in return he was asked to prostrate in front of Adam. He did not do what was bidden and refused to sip Allah's offering in the cup of His Will. He refused to taste it. His refusal pulled him into the darkness of imagination and deceit. On the other hand, our father Adam (as) accepted this beautiful gift offered to him.

What was the nature of this offering? What was in the cup of Divine Will? It wasn't just a simple drink, but a rich and complex blend of God's most precious attributes. It was filled with Divine Wisdom, offering insight beyond human comprehension. It was sparkling with Divine Beauty, reflecting the flawless perfection. It held Divine Knowledge, complete understanding of everything. It was mixed with Divine compassion, overflowing empathy and love. It was made with perfect and unyielding Divine Justice. This powerful elixir potion was perfected with all the other beautiful attributes that our Lord wanted to be known.

For the children of Adam (as), when we face challenges in life, Allah-u Ta'ala passes His cup of Divine Will around once in a while for us to taste. We also often have difficulty appreciating what is offered to us in the cup of Divine Will. In many cases, when it's our turn to taste it and we sip from it, we find this most powerful elixir bitter and hesitate to drink. In order to perceive the taste, we have to stir it with another gift that Allahu Ta'ala has given to us, it is faith. Faith is the best sweetener for the Divine Will.

Faith not only has principles but also a profound taste, a sweetness that deeply touches the heart. Just as the tongue can taste the sweetness of foods and drinks, the heart can experience the sweetness of faith. The sweetness of faith experienced by the heart is far beyond the taste of food or drink experienced by the tongue.

As the tongue cannot taste the sweetness of foods and drinks when the body becomes sick, weak, and unhealthy, the heart also cannot experience the sweetness of faith when it is afflicted with spiritual diseases. The health of the spiritual heart is lost when we are distracted by the petty concerns of the world.

When this happens, we lose the sweetness of our faith, and the sweetness of our religious obligations, and we start to see haram (forbidden) and halal (permissible) merely as tasks to be checked off, rather than actions meant to please our Lord.

Faith wears out in the heart in the same way a garment would wear out. It loses its vibrancy, its colors, its fit, and its distinctiveness, and fades over time if not replenished. To maintain the sweetness of faith, one must nurture the heart and protect it from spiritual diseases, just as one would care for a physical ailment. This involves regular acts of worship, righteous acts, sincere prayers, seeking knowledge, and staying mindful of Allah in all aspects of life. Loving Him, Loving His Beloved Messenger, and His creation. Through such efforts, the heart can regain its spiritual health and the believers continue to taste the profound sweetness of faith and drink from the cup of Divine Will with joy.

Ubadah ibn Samit, narrated from Resulallah that we will not be able to embark on the reality of faith until we understand that what has come to us is not meant to have missed us and that which missed us is not meant to have come to us. As the bitterness of tea is compensated by the sweet honey mixed into it, the bitterness of life events is also sweetened by the sweetness of faith. Such faith makes the believers satisfied with what has been decreed for them, and they do not want anything hastened if it is meant to be delayed or delayed anything that is meant to happen now. This is total submission to Allah's decision and being mindful of Him.

Our lives are filled with special moments, moments of pure joy that create lasting memories, and moments of hardship that weigh heavily on our thoughts, relationships, and even our faith. These are the moments that define us. Often we have difficulties understanding the meaning behind the existence of suffering and evil, but as we navigate our life with the sweetness of our faith, we find Allah's wisdom prevails. Suffering prompts us to rise above our base instincts, nourishing compassion and charity. Every sign that we observe in the challenges as well as the comfort of this life becomes an opportunity to deepen our relationship, to understand His Wisdom and His Mercy. That is the purpose of our existence. We see that without suffering there would be no opportunity for moral and spiritual growth. We must understand that suffering does not negate a compassionate God, on the contrary, suffering reminds us of our fragility and dependency on each other and God. It prompts us to seek the One who is closer to us than our jaguar vein.

Those who know and obey Allah by drinking from the cup of Divine Will can find inner happiness and serenity, no matter how difficult their life circumstances may be, even if they are in prison. But those who forget their Lord, they feel miserable even if they are in palaces. True happiness and fortune are not found in what the material world offers, but in the spiritual fulfillment and peace within the heart. We must find the strength to go beyond our current situation or physical conditions through our love for Allah and connection with Him.

Yurdaer Al Latif Al Jerrahi