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Eemaan (Faith)

What is Eemaan?

What is true *eemaan*, or faith? Who is a true believer (*mu'min*)? What are the essential elements, or articles, of *eemaan*? These questions are of vital importance. In fact, this is what Allah's Messenger (ﷺ) explained to Angel Jibreel (جبرئيل) when the latter asked him about *eemaan*.

When Angel Jibreel (جبرئيل) asked the Prophet (ﷺ), "What is faith (*eemaan*)?" He replied, "It is to believe in Allah, His Angels, His Books, His Messengers, the Last Day, and to believe in the Divine Decree (*al-qadar*), both the good of it and the bad of it." (Muslim)

Eemaan is a Statement and Action

Eemaan is a statement and action. In other words, it has three essential elements: belief in the heart, profession by the tongue and performance of the deeds by the physical parts of the body.

1. Belief in the Heart

The heart is the locus of *eemaan* as well as its foundation. The Qur'an says,

﴿يَأْتِيهَا الرَّسُولُ لَا يَحْزُنُكَ الَّذِينَ يُسْكَرُونَ فِي الْكُفْرِ
مِنَ الَّذِينَ قَالُوا آمَنَّا بِأَفْوَاهِهِمْ وَلَمْ تُؤْمِن قُلُوبُهُمْ﴾

"O Messenger, let not those who race each other into disbelief not grieve you, those who say 'We believe' with their lips, but whose hearts have no faith." (*Surat al-Maa'idah*, 5: 41)

Hence, *eemaan* is the statement of 'the heart'. It is made up of recognition, knowledge and affirmation. In other words, a believer recognizes that there is none worthy of worship except Allah. He has knowledge of this truth and he affirms it in his heart.

The second element of *eemaan* is the actions of the heart. This aspect of *eemaan* is made up of commitment, voluntary surrender and acceptance. These include, among other things, love of Allah, awe of Him, trust in Him, heedfulness of His commands and prohibitions, fear of Him and hope in Him.

2. Declaration of Faith with the Tongue

The second essential element of *eemaan* is to declare one's faith with the tongue. In this case, one testifies that one recognizes the truthfulness of the testimony of the faith and intends

