

Foundations of belief

In the name of Allah most gracious most merciful

This religion is like a good tree with a firm root and with its branch is in the sky, producing its fruit every while with the permission of its Lord. And just as the tree has a root, branches and sub-branches, this religion too has a root or foundation, branches and sub-branches.

The root or the foundation of this religion is found in the heart of each believer. That is the six corners of belief starting with the belief of the one and only god, Allah may he be exalted. While the branches of this religion are the seen Islamic actions and seen laws.

The tree does not die as some of its branches and sub branches die. But, it will die if its root dies. Also the tree will die if all of its branches and sub branches are completely eliminated, or if its root is destroyed.

All matters related to conviction were called by the messenger PPBU as "belief" or *Iman*. While all matters related with the seen Islamic actions and seen laws He called them "Islam". That is in the famous Gabrael hadeeth after the meaning of belief was explained by the messenger PPBU. Gabrael said to him: Tell me about Islam. The messenger PPBU said: {Islam is to testify that there is no other god but Allah, and that Muhammed is a messenger, perform the prayers, pay the Zakah, fast Ramadan and make pilgrimage to the house of Allah if one has the ability and means.} Gabrael said: you spoke the truth. The messenger PPBU made it clear that what is related with one's heartly convictions is known as belief or *Iman* in its six corners of belief. Since this mosque has started every Friday we have been explaining the first corners of belief, that is the belief in Allah almighty. In this subject there are a number of facts which we must be aware of. Such facts will clarify many of vague and problematic points in this subject.

The first fact: is that it is unimaginable for the entire tree including its trunk and branches to continue to exist if its root or foundation is destroyed. That is exactly the same with religion for the human being if his belief and conviction go bad then his/her entire religion is lost. It becomes Islam with no belief or religion with no conviction.

The second fact is that it is also unimaginable for the roots to remain safe and healthy with the liquid of life flowing through it, and yet its life does not flow through the trunk, branches and sub-branches of the tree. For if the root or the foundation remains healthy and strong and alive, it will eventually grow and its effects will become seen within the branches, sub-branches, flowerings and fruits.

This is the case with this religion. If a responsible adult human being does not do any of the Islamic seen obligations nor obeys any of the Islamic seen laws, then this is a testimony that this individual is not a believer. For the failure to do the entire Islamic obligations and requirements will negate the Islam for such an individual. And if an individual is no longer a Muslim, that indicates that he/she has no belief within the heart.

The third fact is that if part of the body of the tree is lost it does not necessarily mean that entire tree is lost. This can be different based on which part of the tree is destroyed. If branches, sub-branches or the fruit parts of the tree are destroyed, then that does not necessarily mean the entire tree will be destroyed. The tree with its root and trunk can still remain to exist. It may not be a full tree, with some minor or even major parts of it missing.

If the trunk of the tree is destroyed, the trunk being the main support of the tree, then the entire tree may be destroyed. The five prayers in our religion are like the trunk of the tree or are like the main support in a tent. If a Muslim completely leaves out the prayers and completely denies it when confronted then his Islam is gone astray and his faith is corrupt. His religion becomes at ruined because performing prayers is the trunk of this religion. So, depending on which part of the tree is destroyed, whether the the entire tree will be destroyed or it will continue to exist as an incomplete tree.

The forth fact concerns the understanding of the wording of the Muslim law in such matters. Some of the Quran text describing some Quranic matters, and describing some matters relating to faith and conviction, and describing some matters of Islam and out seen acts describing all by calling it belief.

The quran described that belief increases and decreases. The scholars that related to the prayers, for Allah called performing the prayer as belief. And that is one of the seen actions of Islam.

Allah also referred to some acts of faith within the heart (like fearing of Allah) and in other occasions described faith and belief with some seen acts like performing prayers, and giving charity or zaka.

The messenger PPBU was reported saying: Are you aware of what belief (or faith) is? "Belief is to testify that Allah is the only god, and to perform prayers, give charity, fast Ramadan and give one-fifth of what you gain in a war". The messenger PPBU described belief or faith with the seen acts of Islam.

In another hadeeth, the messenger was reported describing Islam using some hearty and some seen actions together. He said: "Islam is to submit your heart to Allah". This is a conviction act describing Islam. The messenger PPBU was also reported saying: {Islam is to submit your heart to Allah, and for other fellow Muslims to be safe off your tongue and hand}. Here, the messenger PPBU described Islam with both a conviction and seen acts. And when he was asked which one is better, he replied: "Belief (or faith)". He included faith or belief as being part of Islam.

Amr asked the messenger what is belief (or faith).the messenger PPBU said: {belief is to believe in Allah, his books (scriptures), his messengers and in the resurrection after death.}. In the messenger's hadeeths, the messenger described Islam by acts convictions within the heart and by Islamic acts of seen nature, but he definitely included the belief within Islam.

All this shows that belief and Islam are two entwined matters with a very strong relation connecting them. Sometimes the two terms are used interchangeably, and often one is included into the other. When one mentions Islam it is taken to include belief and when belief is mentioned, it is taken to include Islam. But when the two are included in the same statement, they suddenly become different and they resume different meanings. Belief then resumes the faith in the six corners of belief, while Islam becomes to mean the seen acts and the laws of Islam, whether obligatory or optional acts.

The mention of the "Good tree" used as an example of this religion in the Koran was described by the messenger PPBU as the dates tree with its foundation firmly into the depth of the earth, and its trunk elevating into the sky for all to see. Just like this religion, its foundation is the belief in the firmly fixed in the believer's heart, and its trunk and branches are the visible acts and visible laws elevating the believer to higher levels of status with Allah.

The messenger PPBU also described this religion as having a head, a main supporting column, a peak of a hump. He said: "The head of this matter is Islam, and the main supporting column is the prayers, and the peak of its hump is striving in the way of Allah or *Jihad*". This indicates that without a head nothing can survive, and this religion will not survive without the believing in Allah as one. And nothing can stand without its supporting column or spine, and neither will this religion without prayers. But many may survive without the peak or the Jihad.

May Allah bless us with all the blessings in the Koran, and may Allah make us benefit from the holy Koran. Ask for forgiveness he is the most merciful the most forgiving of all.