The Common Understanding of Beauty That Reinforces Love Among Muslims

One of the important features of the love and closeness among Muslims is the harmony in their outlook on life, beauty, art, aesthetics, joy and entertainment. Muslims who have the same understanding of faith and morality can easily understand one another's souls, attitudes and tastes; they often enjoy similar things, laugh at similar things, take pleasure in the same beauties, share a similar understanding of art and aesthetics, and when they are together, they can simultaneously derive happiness from the same environment.

This harmony can manifest itself not only in the important matters of life, but even in the smallest details of daily life. They may simultaneously take pleasure in music they listen to together, a beautiful view they see, a work of art, beautiful clothing or a sincere attitude; they may together appreciate a painting, an architectural work, an aesthetic decoration, a beautifully prepared table or a pleasant environment. They may laugh at the same joke, enjoy the same conversation and like the same form of entertainment. What one finds beautiful, the other also finds beautiful; what makes one joyful also makes the other joyful.



Thus, the time spent together becomes not a companionship in which they force one another, constantly seek compromise, or one of the parties has to put up with the other, constantly tolerate his tastes and wishes and continually make concessions, but a natural environment of peace and joy in which both parties take pleasure at the same time and increase one another's happiness.

This harmony does not arise from Muslims subsequently making a great effort to resemble one another. Since Muslims are created with souls that are compatible with and resemble one another, they are also in harmony with one another in the things they love, like, enjoy and find entertaining.

The fact that they possess the same understanding of good morality brings closer together not only their thoughts on fundamental matters, but also what they find beautiful, which attitudes they regard as superior and valuable, what they laugh at, how they entertain themselves and in which environments they feel at peace.



Love and Harmony Among Believers Are a Blessing from God

It is revealed in the Qur'an that this closeness, peace and harmony among people are created by God. When the creation of spouses is described, it is described as;

“Among His Signs is that He created spouses for you of your own kind so that you might find tranquillity in them. And He has placed affection and compassion between you. There are certainly Signs in that for people who reflect.” (Surat ar-Rum, 21)

In the verse, it is revealed that people are not merely brought together, but that;

- They are created in such a way as to find peace with one another, and

- The love and mercy between them are also created by God.

Therefore, true closeness and peace do not arise merely from being in the same environment or living together for a long time; they come about through the harmony God creates in people's dispositions.

Regarding the bond among believers, it is also revealed in the Qur'an;

“And unified their hearts. Even if you had spent everything on the earth, you could not have unified their hearts. But God has unified them. He is Almighty, All-Wise.” (Surat al-Anfal, 63)

In the verse, it is informed that even if all the means on earth were spent, people would still be unable to create such a union of hearts through their own power. For this reason, the closeness among believers is not a condition that can be explained merely by habit, common interests or spending a long time together.

God,

Warms their hearts toward one another,

Creates love between them and

Causes them to feel peace in one another's company.

It is also revealed in the Qur'an; **“The believers, men and women, are protectors one of another: they enjoin what is just, and forbid what is evil: they observe regular prayers, practice regular charity, and obey God and His messenger. On them will God pour His mercy: for God is exalted in power, Wise.” (Surat at-Tawbah, 71)** thus describing believers' closeness to one another, their solidarity and their devotion to one another. Therefore, the strong bond among Muslims cannot be explained merely by their sharing the same ideas. The closeness of their souls, tastes, preferences and understanding of beauty is also an important part of this love and the happiness derived from being together. A beauty that pleases one also pleases the other; when one takes pleasure in something, the other can share the same pleasure.

A Lack of Common Taste and Understanding Makes It Difficult to Be Happy Together

Among people in general, however, such harmony is often absent. For example, even in marriages, one spouse's taste in food, understanding of art, aesthetic preferences, sense of humor, subjects that entertain him and environments in which he is happy may be quite different from those of the other spouse.

An environment or behavior that gives one great pleasure may not please the other at all; something one laughs at may mean nothing to the other. The music, food, place, decoration, form of entertainment or social environment that one party likes may disturb the other party or not interest him at all.

When these differences extend to many areas of life, even if people share the same environment, they have difficulty experiencing the same happiness together. A lack of common tastes and preferences may continually require one party to adapt to the other, give up his own wishes or endure a situation he does not like.

Therefore, even if people love one another, if their ways of enjoying life, their understanding of beauty, entertainment and humor constantly differ, the time spent together may not provide the same degree of happiness and peace for both parties; on the contrary, it may even become exhausting.

Therefore, true closeness among people does not consist merely of sharing the same environment or spending time together. Being able to understand one another, take pleasure in the same beauties, rejoice over similar things and mutually increase happiness when together are also important elements of love. One of the features seen in the strong love and friendship among Muslims is this common spirit, common understanding of beauty and profound harmony with one another.



In Paradise There Will Be Nothing That Displeases Man, Disturbs His Peace or Diminishes His Happiness

When the life of Paradise is described in the Qur'an, it does not speak only of beautiful places, food, blessings and peace. It is also revealed that the relationships of believers with one another in Paradise will be flawless; they will be together as people who are pleased with one another, love one another, enjoy the same beauties together and experience no disharmony whatsoever.

It is revealed in the Qur'an that all negativity in the hearts of the people of Paradise will be completely removed:

“We will strip away any rancor in their hearts – brothers, resting on couches face-to-face.” (Surat al-Hijr, 47)

This verse shows that not only the material blessings in Paradise, but also the relationships among people will be in flawless harmony. Just as people in Paradise will be very peaceful and happy within themselves, their relationships with one another will also be filled with complete love, brotherhood and harmony.

There will be no resentment, jealousy, anger or discomfort between them; nor will there be any feeling or attitude that disturbs one another, causes disagreement, overshadows love or diminishes one another's happiness.

It is revealed in the Qur'an that in Paradise there will be nothing that displeases man, spoils his enjoyment or disturbs him:

“Platters and cups of gold will be passed around among them and they will have there all that their hearts desire and their eyes find delight in. You will remain in it timelessly, for ever.” (Surat az-Zukhruf, 71)

In another verse, it is revealed as follows:

“'We are your guardians in this world's life and in the Hereafter, and you shall have therein what your souls desire and you shall have therein what you ask for.'” (Surah Fussilat, 31)

It is also stated in the Qur'an that in Paradise there will not even be empty, unnecessary and meaningless words that could disturb man's peace:

“They will not hear any prattling there – nothing but ‘Peace’. They will receive their provision there morning
and night.” (Surah Maryam, 62)

This verse shows that the perfection in Paradise is not limited merely to the beauties, blessings and environments that are seen; the words people hear and the atmosphere of conversation in which they find themselves will also conform to the same peace and beauty. In Paradise, no words will be heard that disturb man's peace, diminish the pleasure he derives from his surroundings or cause discomfort.

Therefore, in Paradise there is no question of man having to endure an attitude he dislikes, an environment he does not want or a situation that disturbs him. God creates Paradise as a flawless life in which everyone will experience the highest degree of pleasure, peace and happiness. Moreover, happiness in Paradise does not merely mean that everyone separately obtains the blessings he desires. Believers will exist as a community in the same environment of beauty, in perfect harmony with one another, happy in one another's presence, enjoying themselves together, rejoicing together and experiencing the same beauties together.

The presence of one will not disturb another; on the contrary, every believer will be a separate means of beauty and happiness for another believer. The conflicts of taste, incompatibilities of character, jealousies, resentments, intolerance and disagreements seen in people's relationships

in the life of this world will completely disappear in Paradise. The love and friendship of believers, their common understanding of beauty and their harmony with one another will attain their most perfect and flawless state.

Indeed, the gratitude of the people of Paradise in the face of this complete beauty, peace and harmony is also revealed in the Qur'an as follows:

“Praise be to God, Who has removed from us (all) sorrow…” (Surah Faatir, 34)

Therefore, Paradise is a form of life in which people are in complete love, understanding and harmony with one another, take complete pleasure in the same environment of beauty and nothing spoils this happiness.

The common understanding of beauty seen among Muslims in the life of this world, their taking pleasure in similar things, rejoicing together, deriving happiness from one another's happiness and being at peace with one another are also a likeness in this world of this flawless harmony in Paradise.

In this respect, the common spirit of love seen among believers in the life of this world, their taking pleasure in similar beauties, laughing at the same things, enjoying the same understanding of art and aesthetics, entertaining themselves together, rejoicing in one another's joy and finding peace when together are a small manifestation under the conditions of this world of the flawless harmony in the eternal life of Paradise they will experience in the Hereafter.

The peace and harmony believers feel in one another's company in this world, their common tastes and their natural understanding of one another are a beauty that reminds them of eternal togetherness in Paradise and makes them long for Paradise. At the same time, this love and harmony prepare them in the life of this world for the superior morality, friendship, eternal brotherhood and flawless togetherness they will experience in Paradise.

For this reason, the togetherness of believers in this world is not merely a friendship belonging to this world. The love, closeness, common spirit, harmony and understanding of beauty that begin in this world will become an eternal and perfect togetherness in Paradise, purified of all flaws and in which there is no disagreement or discomfort.

These beauties that believers see in one another and experience together in this world are among the important blessings that remind them of the flawless life of Paradise God has prepared for them in the Hereafter.

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