Iman: the Ultimate Gift from Allah to the Ones He Loves

In the concluding part of our iman series, Ann Stock reflects upon the wonders of iman.

When we see someone leave Islam altogether, we need to reflect and then realise that we are not immune to the effects of diminishing iman. The fork in any road starts ever so gradually.

The leader of my apartment clicked behind me, but I still gave it a ratttle just to be sure it was closed. I waved to my son as I walked off on a side road, or our iman is on the decrease or when we are not immune to the effects of diminishing iman. The fork in any road starts ever so gradually. If one of them is removed, the other is removed. The Prophet \( \text{SAW} \) said, “Modesty and belief are together. If one of them is removed, the other is removed.” (Ibn Majah)

It is He who sent down tranquillity into the hearts of the believers. It is He who sent down tranquillity into the hearts of the believers (Al Fath:4) and ‘ibadah. It is He who sent down tranquillity into the hearts of the believers (An-Nur:22) and ‘ibadah. It is He who sent down tranquillity into the hearts of the believers.

Knowing the Arkan or pillars of iman is a good start in building iman. In a hadith related by Abu Bakr, the Prophet \( \text{SAW} \) said, “Allah Almighty shared your character between you as He divided your provision between you. Allah Almighty bestows wealth on those He loves and those He does not love. He only gives faith to those He loves. Whoever is stingy about spending his wealth and fears to fight the enemy and is in terror of enduring the night should repeat frequently, ‘There is no god but Allah. Glory be to Allah. Praise be to Allah, and Allah is greater.’” (Graded Sahih by Shaykh Al Albani)

His ultimate reward is in Hell which makes us think a hundred times before knowingly committing a sin. It’s the constant fear that if we aren’t vigilant, Hell might well be our Qad’ (destiny) for a period of time or forever. At the same time, the tranquil attentive heart balances its fear with the knowledge and hope that Ak Raheem will show us His Mercy when we need it most.

Loving and hating for Allah’s sake here means we take no benefit from our actions. We should hate the actions of sin and disbelief, not for our own reasons, but for Allah \( \text{SWT} \). I don’t give charity because the recipient can benefit me or stop giving because he has made me angry. In the story of Abu Bakr \( \text{AS} \), when his own relatives spread rumours about his daughter Ashâh \( \text{SA} \), Abu Bakr \( \text{AS} \) swore he would stop giving them charity. Allah \( \text{SWT} \) then commanded Abu Bakr \( \text{AS} \) to restate his charitable contributions. (Ah-Muz,12)

When is iman perfected?

Narated Abu Umamah: The Prophet \( \text{SAW} \) said if anyone loves for Allah’s sake, hates for Allah’s sake, gives for Allah’s sake and withholds for Allah’s sake, he will have perfected faith. (Sunan Abi Dawud; graded Sahih Al Albani)

So the more you love, hate, give and withhold for Allah’s sake, the more you will have perfected your iman. You will be shy and ashamed to commit sins and will rather feel encouraged to follow and obey the commands.

Narated ‘Abdullah bin ‘Abbas: I was informed by Abu Sufyan that ‘Harasis said to him, ‘I asked you whether they (followers of Muhammad) were increasing or decreasing. You replied that they were increasing. And in fact, this is the way of true faith till it is complete in all respects. I further asked you whether there was anybody, who, after embracing his (the Prophet’s) religion (Islam) became displeased and discarded it. You replied in the negative, and in fact, this is (a sign of) true faith. When its delight enters the heart and mixes with them completely, nobody can be displeased with it.” (Sahih Al Bukhari)

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Meanings of a Mustrah