

**IMAN
ISLAM
IHSAN**

SAHIH IMAN SERIES

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IMAN, ISLAM, IHSAN

Written By

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PREFACE

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

الحمد لله رب العالمين، والصلاة والسلام
على سيدنا محمد وعلى آله وصحبه أجمعين

The Hadith of Ihsan describes three distinct stages in Islam, viz (i) Faith in Heart (Iman), (ii) Deeds by limbs (Islam) and (iii) Complete attention towards Allah (عَزَّ وَجَلَّ) (Ihsan).

It is in Hadith - Abu Huraira (رضي الله تعالى عنه) narrated that one day while the Prophet (صلى الله عليه و آله وسلم) was sitting in the company of some people, Jibreel (عليه السلام) came and sat and asked, 'What is Iman?' Allah's Apostle (صلى الله عليه و آله وسلم) replied, 'Iman is to believe in Allah (عَزَّ وَجَلَّ), His angels, (the) meeting with Him, His Apostles, and to believe in Resurrection.' Then he asked, "What is Islam?" Allah's Apostle (صلى الله عليه و آله وسلم) replied, "To pray Allah (عَزَّ وَجَلَّ) alone and none else, to offer prayers perfectly, to pay the compulsory charity (Zakat) and to observe fasts during the month of Ramadan.' Then he asked, 'What is Ihsan (Tasawwuf)?' Allah's Apostle (صلى الله عليه و آله وسلم) replied, 'To pray Allah (عَزَّ وَجَلَّ) as if you see Him, and if you cannot see him then you must consider that He is seeing you.' (**Bukhari, Muslim and others**)

Thus, Iman, Islam and Ihsan are three aspects in the life of Muslim. Most important is the state of Ihsan, that can be achieved by Tazkia Nafs (purification of Self) under the teaching, training and guidance of a Shaikh of Ihsan.

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1. THE PEOPLE OF IMAN, ISLAM AND IHSAN

The following Hadith, mentioned in Bukhari, Muslim and other Ahadith books, clarifies that there are three distinct stages in Islam; viz., **(i) Iman** in Heart, **(ii) Deeds** by limbs (**Islam**) and **(iii) Complete attention** towards Allah (عَزَّ وَجَلَّ), **Ihsan**."

Thus, Iman, Islam and Ihsan are the 3 distinct states of a Muslim.

It is in Hadith - Abu Huraira (رضى الله تعالى عنه) narrated - One day while the Prophet (صلى الله عليه و آله وسلم) was sitting in the company of some people, (angel) Jibreel (عليه السلام) came and sat, folding his knees and asked, "What is Iman?" Allah's Apostle (صلى الله عليه و آله وسلم) replied, 'Iman is to believe in Allah (عَزَّ وَجَلَّ), His angels, (the) meeting with Him (on the day of judgment), His Apostles, and to believe in Resurrection.' Then he asked, "What is Islam?" Allah's Apostle (صلى الله عليه و آله وسلم) replied, "To pray Allah (عَزَّ وَجَلَّ) alone and no one else, to offer prayers perfectly, to pay the compulsory charity 'Zakat' and to observe fasts during the month of Ramadan." Then he asked, "What is Ihsan?" Allah's Apostle (صلى الله عليه و آله وسلم) replied, "To pray as if you see Him, and if you cannot see Him then you must consider that Allah (عَزَّ وَجَلَّ) is seeing you." (**Bukhari** - part of the Hadith).

As per the above Hadith, there are three categories of people in Muslim Ummah, (i) People of Iman, (ii) People of Islam, and (iii) People of Ihsan.

1.1 THE PEOPLE OF IMAN

People of Iman truthfully believe in Allah (عَزَّ وَجَلَّ), His Apostle Mohammad (صلى الله عليه) (و آله وسلم) and all the tenets of Iman. The people of Sahih Iman will eventually get salvation.

There are three types of people of Iman, as described by Allah (عَزَّ وَجَلَّ) and His Apostle (صلى الله عليه و آله وسلم).

It is in Quran - ثُمَّ أَوْرَثْنَا الْكِتَابَ الَّذِينَ اصْطَفَيْنَا مِنْ عِبَادِنَا فَمِنْهُمْ ظَالِمٌ لِنَفْسِهِ وَمِنْهُمْ مُقْتَصِدٌ وَمِنْهُمْ هُوَ الْفَضْلُ الْكَبِيرُ [Then We gave the book (the Quran) as an inheritance to those of Our servants (Muslims) whom We have chosen. Among them there are some who wrong their own selves, some of them follow a middle course, and some of them are foremost in good deeds by Allah's blessings. That is the great favor (indeed).] (**Faatir - 32**)

The above verse categorizes the Muslims in three groups, as follows.

(i) The people of Iman, but who commit wrong on their own selves (wrongdoers/sinners).

In the above category, the sin or wrongdoing is related to deeds that are not covered under the purview of Iman. Iman is a straightforward issue related with heart. There is no scope of deviation in it. It is because, a person who does not have correct faith (Sahih Iman), and acts according to his wrongful/deviant faith or self-desires that come under the purview of apostasy / polytheism / hypocrisy / blasphemy, etc., then, as per Islamic Fiqh, he is not treated as Muslim, even though he claims himself to be one. Wrongful beliefs of all deviant sects are covered in it.

(ii) Those who follow middle course. Meaning, they are people of Iman but are not outstanding in good deeds.

(iii) The people of Iman who are also foremost in good deeds. Surely, Awliya Allah and Sahih-ul-Aqeedah Shuyookh of Ihsan are covered in this category.

In all the above categories, Iman is the foremost requirement. There is no compromise on Iman. Your salvation depends on Sahih Iman.

Allah (عَزَّ وَجَلَّ) says that the people of Sahih Iman, belonging to all the above categories of Muslims have been given the Quran as an inheritance. They are believers and will be treated as such on the day of Resurrection.

As far as believing sinners are concerned, it is for Allah (عَزَّ وَجَلَّ) to either forgive or punish them to the extent of their bad deeds. Eventually they will be allowed to enter Paradise by the mediation of Prophet Mohammad (صلى الله عليه و آله وسلم).

It is in Quran - **قُلْ يَا عِبَادِيَ الَّذِينَ أَسْرَفُوا عَلَىٰ أَنفُسِهِمْ لَا تَقْنَطُوا مِن رَّحْمَةِ اللَّهِ ۚ إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَغْفِرُ الذُّنُوبَ ۖ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ** [Say, 'O My servants who have transgressed against themselves (by sinning), do not despair of the Mercy of Allah. Indeed, Allah forgives all sins. Indeed, it is He who is All Forgiving, Most Merciful.] **(Az-Zumar - 53)**

1.1.1 Who will benefit from the Mediation of Prophet Mohammed (صلى الله عليه و آله وسلم)

As far as the people of Iman are concerned, anyone having Sahih Iman equal to a mustard seed, will be taken out of Hell on Prophet's (صلى الله عليه و آله وسلم) mediation.

It is in Quran - **وَنَضَعُ الْمَوَازِينَ الْقِسْطَ لِيَوْمِ الْقِيَامَةِ فَلَا تُظْلَمُ نَفْسٌ شَيْئًا ۚ وَإِنْ كَانَ مِثْقَالَ حَبَّةٍ مِّنْ خَرْدَلٍ أَتَيْنَا بِهَا** [And We place the scales of justice for the Day of Resurrection, so no one will be treated unjustly at all. And if there is (Iman equal to) the weight of a mustard seed, We will bring it forth.] **(Al-Anbiya - 47)**

It is in Hadith - It is narrated on the authority of Abdullah bin Mas'ud (رضى الله تعالى عنه) that the Apostle of Allah (صلى الله عليه و آله وسلم) said, 'No one shall enter the Fire (of Hell) who has Iman in his heart equal to the weight of a mustard seed. **(Bukhari, Muslim and others).**

What is meant by 'Iman equal to the weight of mustard seed'?

It is in Hadith - Apostle of Allah (صلى الله عليه و آله وسلم) said, **(i)** He who among you sees something abominable should modify it with the help of his hand; **(ii)** and if he has not strength enough to do it, then he should do it with his tongue, **(iii)** and if he has not strength enough to do it, (even) then he should (abhor it) from his heart, and that is the least of Iman. **(Muslim Book 1, # 84)**

1.1.2 The first degree of Iman

You cannot commit a sin considering that it is allowed by Allah (عَزَّ وَجَلَّ) and His Apostle (صلى الله عليه و آله وسلم). You cannot misinterpret Islamic laws to make a provision for you to commit sins. You cannot commit a sin just because you see other Muslims in your community are doing it openly. A wrongdoing is a sin. You should have the courage to stop it openly. This is the first degree of Iman.

We have the example Imam Husain (رضى الله تعالى عنه). He knew that he would not be able to overpower Yazidi Army. But he preferred martyrdom rather than accepting Haram as Halal and wrongdoing/sin as virtue.

1.1.3 The second degree of Iman

If it is not possible for you to fight against a wrongdoing/sin, then tell the wrongdoer plainly that what he is doing is sin/wrong/Haram, and if possible, advise him to stay away from it. This is the second degree of Iman.

1.1.4 The third and last degree of Iman

If saying to the wrongdoers about their sins openly is also not possible, like in the case of a repressive tyrant, then you should consider it bad in your heart and try to stay away from it as far as possible. You should seek pardon from your Lord for your own self as well as for the wrong doers and pray that they come back to Sahih Iman/right path. **This is known as Iman equal to the weight of mustard seed.**

It is in Hadith - It is narrated on the authority 'Abdullah bin Mas'ud (رضي الله تعالى عنه) that the Apostle of Allah (صلى الله عليه وآله وسلم) observed : Never a Prophet had been sent before me by Allah towards his nation who had not, among his people (his) disciples and companions, who followed his ways and obeyed his command. Then there came after them their successors who claimed whatever they did not practice and practiced whatever they were not commanded to do. He who strove against them with his hand was a believer. He who strove against them with his tongue was a believer, and he who strove against them with his heart was a believer and beyond that there is no faith even to the extent of a mustard seed. Abu Rafi' (رضي الله تعالى عنه) said, 'I narrated this Hadith to 'Abdullah bin 'Umar (رضي الله تعالى عنه). He contradicted me. There happened to come 'Abdullah bin Mas'ud (رضي الله تعالى عنه) who stayed at Qanat, and 'Abdullah bin 'Umar (رضي الله تعالى عنه) wanted me to accompany him for visiting him (as Abdullah bin Mas'ud was ailing), so I went along with him and as we sat (before him) I asked Ibn Mas'ud (رضي الله تعالى عنه) about this Hadith. He narrated it in the same way as I narrated it to Ibn 'Umar (رضي الله تعالى عنه). **(Muslim Book 1, # 86)**

1.2 THE PEOPLE OF ISLAM

There are two types of people under this category, **(a)** Who have Sahih Iman, and **(b)** Who **do not** have Sahih Iman.

The people of Sahih Iman have been described above.

The people who do not follow Sahih Iman and their believes come under the purview of apostasy / polytheism / hypocrisy / blasphemy, are faithless Muslims even though they recite Kalima Tayyiba verbally, claim themselves to be Muslims, and act upon certain Islamic deeds.

It is in Hadith - Abu Said Al-Khudri (رضي الله تعالى عنه) narrated - Allah's Apostle (صلى الله عليه و آله وسلم) said 'there will appear some people among you whose prayer will make you look down upon yours, and whose fasting will make you look down upon yours, and they will recite Qur'an (in melodious voices and memorize it) but Quran will not go down their throats (they will misinterpret the meanings of Quran and mislead people) and will go out of Islam as the arrow goes out of the bow. **(Bukhari)**

Some people consider that people belonging to all Sects will get salvation on the day of Judgment. Some will get instant salvation and the others will get salvation after they are punished for wrong Iman.

This is not a correct understanding because the first and foremost requirement for salvation is Sahih Iman. A person who dies without the light of Iman in his heart, lived in darkness in this world, will remain in darkness in Hereafter as well. His Islamic deeds will not be useful for him for his salvation.

It is in Hadith - Abu Hurairah (رضي الله تعالى عنه) narrated that the Apostle of Allah (صلى الله عليه و آله وسلم) said, 'Allah (عَزَّ وَجَلَّ) does not look at your figures, nor at your attire but He looks at your hearts. **(Muslims)**

The meaning of the above Hadith is, Allah (عَزَّ وَجَلَّ) looks at your Iman and intentions because all your outward deeds are dependent upon your Sahih Iman. If you do not have Sahih Iman (correct Islamic faith) in your heart, all your good deeds go in vain.

It is in Hadith - Allah's Apostle (صلى الله عليه و آله وسلم) drew a line with his hand and said, 'this is the straight path of Allah'. He then drew lines to its right and to its left and said, 'these are the other paths, which represent misguidance and at the head of each path sits a devil inviting people to it.' He then recited this verse - وَأَنَّ هَذَا صِرَاطِي مُسْتَقِيمًا فَاتَّبِعُوهُ وَلَا تَتَّبِعُوا السُّبُلَ فَتَفَرَّقَ بِكُمْ عَنْ سَبِيلِهِ ۗ ذَٰلِكُمْ وَصَّاكُم بِهِ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَتَّقُونَ [And verily, this is My straight path, so follow it, and follow not, other paths, for they will separate you away from His path.] (Al-An'aam - 153). **(Musnad Ahmad, narrated by Abdullah Ibn Masud).**

It is in Hadith - Prophet Mohammad (صلى الله عليه و آله وسلم) said that out of 73 sects of Muslims, only one will be on the right path and the rest will be thrown into Hell Fire on the Day of Judgment (**Tirmidhi**).

It is in Hadith - Abu Umana Bahili (رضي الله تعالى عنه) narrated that the Prophet (صلى الله عليه و آله وسلم) said 'Before Qiyamah, they (the misguided sects and their sub groups) will spread and attack bitterly like the small and large insects and whosoever witnesses this period must seek refuge in Allah (عَزَّ وَجَلَّ) (**Huliya**, by Abu Naim).

Some people, like Ammanis, consider that oral recitation of Kalima Tayyiba is sufficient for a person to get salvation and people belonging to all Sects will get salvation on the day of Judgment. Some will get instant salvation; the others will get salvation after they are punished for wrong Iman. This is not a correct understanding because the first and foremost requirement for salvation is Sahih Iman. A person who dies without the light of Iman in his heart, lived in darkness in this world, will remain in darkness in Hereafter as well. His Islamic deeds will not be useful for him for his salvation.

It is in Hadith - Wahab bin Munabbih (رضي الله تعالى عنه) was asked, 'is it not the saying - لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ - (There is no god but Allah)', the key of Paradise?' He replied in the affirmative, and said, 'there is no key without teeth, and if you have the key which has teeth, it will open it for you, and if it is without teeth, then it will not open it for you.] (**Bukhari, Book 23, Chapter 1**)

The meaning of the above Hadith is, if you do not have Sahih Iman, you will not get salvation because Sahih Iman is the key to salvation.

What is the meaning of 'key with teeth' and 'key without teeth' or there cannot be a key without teeth in the above Hadith?

From time immemorial the lock and the key are designed in such a way that when you put the key inside a lock, it fits with the levers inside the lock and helps in unlocking it. A certain lock can only be unlocked from a specific key.

In our times, the computer technology has changed the makeup of lock and the key, but the fact remains that a specific software match between the lock and key only opens the computer lock which is described as

'password'. Previously it was metal lock and key, currently it is computer lock and key. However, the fact remains that the lock cannot be opened without a specific key.

To describe the shape of the key, earlier people used to say that the levers of the key are like shape of teeth, or the key has specific teeth.

When you follow a sect, all the qualities of the followers of that sect overtake you and become distinct in your actions.

1.2.1 Wahhabi / Salafis

If you start following Salafi/Wahhabi sect, you start worshiping a Sky Idol God who you will believe to be sitting over the skies. You will start misinterpreting all Quranic verses and Ahadith to prove your beliefs.

1.2.2 Deobandis

If you start following Deobandi Sect, you will believe and act upon the beliefs of that sect. You will stop doing Eisaal-e-Thawab, stop respecting past Ulema/Awliya Allah, equate the Prophet (صلى الله عليه و آله وسلم) with sinful human beings and will claim that they both cannot hear and talk after death, etc. You will say that if someone brands all Sahabah as Kafir, he still remains a Muslim. You will say, Allah can lie but he avoids lying. You will associate shirk with Muslims who visit the graves of Awliya Allah and their relatives. When someone questions you about your beliefs, you will start arguing that you also respect the Prophet (صلى الله عليه و آله وسلم) and Awliya Allah. Deobandis do not realize that they are under delusion about their own selves. Their claims and their hypocrisy are exposed on many occasions repeatedly on daily basis. But they do not care about it.

1.2.3 Shias and Ammanis

If a person starts following the Shia sect, all Shia beliefs gets imprinted on his heart. In the same way, when a person starts following Ammani sect, all Ammani beliefs gets exposed from his actions. Similar is the case with other sects.

1.2.4 Secular Muslims

Secular Muslims do not care much about religious laws. They make fun of religious people and always try to pick and portray their human shortcomings to malign them in society. They always try to find a bizarre logic behind Islamic laws. They interpret Islamic laws as per their whims and fancies. They make laws as per their convenience and do not bother if their laws are in direct conflict with laws of religion.

Many Islamic Governments in the world call themselves secular and feel pride in it. Our men in power should take care that secularism teaches tolerance among various religions. This is good and it should be like that because Islam teaches tolerance. But secularism should not support degradation of human values in the name of modernity.

If someone talks of religious consequence of an unlawful / unhealthy / immoral practice in public in the name of consensual sex, the secular Muslims regard him as fundamentalist and extremist. They follow the footsteps of advanced nations and feel pride in men and women dating and live-in relationships. For them religion is simply an I-card.

Secular Muslims are very serious about raising the standard of living of Muslims all over the world. If atrocities are committed on Muslims in any part of the world, they raise their voices against the oppressors. If there is a riot against a Muslim population, or a natural calamity befalls on a Muslim country, they work actively to help the needy, collect money for rehabilitation work and support the affected people. They do charitable work and try to uplift Muslim community economically.

1.2.5 Liberal Muslims

Liberal Muslims are not afraid of Allah's (عَزَّ وَجَلَّ) punishment. They do not regard religious laws as mandatory. They will make certain rules in their own lives based on certain philosophies.

They will adopt anything which is beneficial for them economically. They take advantage of secular/liberal Governmental laws of their countries. If religious laws create roadblocks, they go to the country's court for registered marriages with people from other religions.

Many Muslim political leaders, public figures, movie/TV actors, celebrities, businessmen and economically affluent class generally fall under this category.

They question religious laws and blame religious people for all the ills in Muslim society. They keep religion out of day to day life.

Generally, they don't go to mosques to avoid being branded as religious Muslims. Sometimes they go to mosques and pray along with Muslims.

To maintain close relationships with their non-Muslim friends, they visit temples, churches, gurdwaras and carry out worship as per the norms of these religious places and feel proud of their actions. They happily marry their daughters and sons with Non-Muslims. They do not mind their children to have live-in relationships with men and women of different faiths and denominations. They say civilization is different and religion is different.

1.2.6 Sectarian Muslims

There are many groups of Sectarian Missionary Muslims in the world. Some of them share common ideology. Some of them are extreme, determined and militant in their resolve. Together they are formidable, organized, affluent and influential.

The followers of these groups spend their lifetimes in propagation of their sect's beliefs. Forefront of this group are Salafis, Deobandis, and their likeminded subgroups. They target young Muslims with the slogan of Kalima, Salah and Islamic deeds. Innocent young men and women get overwhelmed with their outward religious appearance and agree to learn Islam from them. Initially they teach simple Islamic rules, but gradually they shift their focus to the principles of their sects' faith in such a way that the innocent soul gradually gets convinced. Since young people are not fully aware of the rules of their religion, they become soft targets of these groups. Young people cannot understand the tricky misinterpretations of Quran and Hadith. Once a youth is baptized, it is very rare that he will ever be able to understand the facts of Islam.

They ask people to come to their mosques and special gatherings. In these gatherings they win over the confidence of young people by their oratory skills. Later they take these young people to their regional, national and international Centers for baptizing. They teach Da'wa skills to young people in order to spread their net deep into villages

and towns. They carry out campaigns at all levels, radio, television, internet, social media, mass meetings, schools and colleges. Their hi-tech data banks are efficiently networked throughout the world which are full of answers to the questions posed by various people. Their answers are based on misinterpretation of Quranic verses and Ahadith.

They reject many Hadiths as fabricated (Maudhu), if these are in conflict with their faith. Backed by massive financial and organizational support, they have infiltrated into cities, villages and rural areas throughout the world. Their victims are poor Muslims whose beliefs are changed in the guise of financial assistance. Most of the Madrasas are run by their support throughout the world.

Sectarian Missionary Muslims claim they are virtuous and do not need any teacher to help them to lead on the right path. In essence they rebel against the Prophet's (صلى الله عليه و آله وسلم) authority in religion (though they do not say it openly) and treat him on par with common sinful human beings.

They should understand that though Prophets are human beings, but they are the high-ranking human beings in Allah's (عَزَّ وَجَلَّ) court.

Insulting elders, high ranking responsible person and down grading their status, is treated as crime in every nation which is punishable by penal laws. In the same way, insulting prophets by equating them with sinful human beings is an unpardonable religious crime which is punishable by Islamic Sharia. If you commit a crime, you cannot get away with it. If not in this world, you will sure be punished in Hereafter. What may happen to these people in the court of Allah (عَزَّ وَجَلَّ) on the Day of Judgment is anybody's guess.

The root cause of deviation of Sectarian Missionary Muslims from the right path is their rejection of the requirement of Imams and religious advisers / teachers. How can anyone understand the heavenly word of Allah (عَزَّ وَجَلَّ) (the Holy Quran) and the traditions of His Prophet (صلى الله عليه و آله وسلم) (Ahadith) without expert guide and support.

Cleansing and purification of hearts is important to understand these subjects. Religious teachers are like anklets of the chain of love which join us with Prophet Mohammad (صلى الله عليه و آله وسلم) emotionally in an eternal bond. Their verbal claim of love of Prophet Mohammad (صلى الله عليه و آله وسلم) does not hide the disrespectful beliefs they have about the Prophet of Islam (صلى الله عليه و آله وسلم).

Their rebellious attitude keeps them away from reformation of their attributes (Tazkia Nafs) which is a basic requirement. Prophet Mohammad (صلى الله عليه و آله وسلم) declared that the struggle for purification of hearts (Tazkia Nafs) is a supreme war (Jihad-e-Akbar) and took special care of his companions in this regard. The world saw the results. Each of His companions became a solid rock and they collectively changed the map of the world.

So much Da'wa has been done in the name of Islam by these Sects/groups. So many of their groups are working actively around the Globe. Membership of their sects is swelling by the day. After all these decades and centuries' organized propagation and after so many people coming under their fold, what has been achieved?

If their sect's beliefs were truthful, then where are the results? Where is Allah's (عَزَّ وَجَلَّ) support? Why are they falling down and being humiliated in the World? Why are they treated as protégé of big powers? Why they are killed mercilessly around the globe in the name of terrorism? Why their countries are falling apart one by one into anarchy?

It is in Quran - وَمَنْ يُشَاقِقِ الرَّسُولَ مِنْ بَعْدِ مَا تَبَيَّنَ لَهُ الْهُدَىٰ وَيَتَّبِعْ غَيْرَ سَبِيلِ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ نُوَلِّهِ مَا تَوَلَّىٰ وَنُصَلِّهِ جَهَنَّمَ ۖ وَسَاءَتْ مَصِيرًا [And when someone opposes the Prophet (صلى الله عليه و آله وسلم) when the truth had been unfolded to him and walks on a path different from Muslims, then We (Allah) will leave him on that path which he has chosen for himself and he will be put in Hell, which indeed is a place of torment.] (An-Nisa - 115).

They should search their conscience. They will realize that what they have earned is the Wrath of Allah (عَزَّ وَجَلَّ) and His Apostle (صلى الله عليه و آله وسلم).

What is needed is an urgent change of attitude. They should accept the folly of their past deeds and turn towards Allah (عَزَّ وَجَلَّ) and ask for His forgiveness for their high handedness. Then see, how the help of Allah (عَزَّ وَجَلَّ) comes and change the status of Muslims in this world and in Hereafter.

It is in Quran - وَهُوَ الْعَفُورُ الْوَدُودُ - ذُو الْعَرْشِ الْمَجِيدُ - فَعَالٌ لِّمَا يُرِيدُ [And He (Allah) alone is truly forgiving, all embracing in His love, in sublime Almightyness enthroned, a Sovereign doer of whatever He wills.] (Al-Buruj - 14-16).

1.3 THE PEOPLE OF IHSAN

The People of Ihsan are those who are good, both in Iman (Islamic faith) and Islamic deeds. These are the people who are successful in both the worlds. They are the ones who will get innumerable bounties of Allah (عَزَّ وَجَلَّ) in Hereafter.

It is in Quran - إِنَّ اللَّهَ مَعَ الَّذِينَ اتَّقَوْا وَالَّذِينَ هُمْ مُحْسِنُونَ [Allah is with those who are righteous and practice Ihsan.] (**An-Nahl - 128**).

It is in Quran - إِنَّ اللَّهَ يُحِبُّ الْمُحْسِنِينَ [Allah loves those who practice Ihsan.] (**Al-Baqara - 195; Aal-e-Imran - 134, 148; Al-Ma'ida - 13, 93**).

Who are the people of Ihsan? People of Ihsan are the Sahih-ul-Aqeedah Shuyookh of Ihsan, the friends of Allah (عَزَّ وَجَلَّ).

It is in Quran - أَلَا إِنَّ أَوْلِيَاءَ اللَّهِ لَا خَوْفَ عَلَيْهِمْ وَلَا هُمْ يَحْزَنُونَ - الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَكَانُوا يَتَّقُونَ - لَهُمْ - الْعَظِيمِ [Behold the friends of Allah. On them shall come no fear, nor shall they grieve. These are they, who have believed in Allah and are mindful of Him and are righteous (abstain from everything evil). To them good tidings come. This in itself is a great felicity. (**Younus 62-64**).

Followers of Salafi/Wahhabi/Deobandi sects and their likeminded groups do not believe in Awliya Allah and Sufi Shuyookh of Ihsan and consider their pious graves as places of polytheism. The Muslims who visit their graves for barakah are called by these sects as 'Grave worshipers' They do not realize that it is the practice of Prophet (صلى الله عليه وآله وسلم) and Sahabah who used to visit the graves of Muslims frequently, at regular intervals. There are many Ahadith in this context in almost all authentic Ahadith books. By doing blasphemy of Awliya Allah, followers of these sects surely invite the wrath of Allah (عَزَّ وَجَلَّ).

It is in Hadith - Whoever takes a Wali of mine (ولي الله) an enemy, I will wage a war on him (**Bukhari**, part of the Hadith).

The emphasis on 'Wali of mine' in the above Hadith shows that Awliya Allah (the people of Ihsan) are the chosen ones among believers and their disrespect, blasphemy and equating them with polytheists' Idols may lead to dire consequences in Hereafter.

1.3.1 The Shuyookh of Ihsan

The Shaikh of Ihsan is a person whose heart is purified, mind is illuminated, and he is inspired with Islamic wisdom. He sees facts of things precisely. He is the friend of Allah (عَزَّ وَجَلَّ) and an expert in both 'theory and practice' of Islam. His perpetual focus is on the Unity of Allah (عَزَّ وَجَلَّ). He walks on the footsteps of Prophet Mohammad (صلى الله عليه و آله وسلم). As an efficient Doctor of Islamic intrinsic reality, he diagnoses the ailments of Nufoos and suggests appropriate remedies. He shows to people the rightful practices of Islam, purifies their minds, cleanse them from worldly desires and helps them to get close to Allah (عَزَّ وَجَلَّ) and His Apostle (صلى الله عليه و آله وسلم). He is the Islamic doctor who explains Islamic faith and practices to people with irrefutable evidence from Quran, Sunnah and from apparent happenings in the Cosmos. He exposes the misleading views of Non-Muslim theosophists and misguided Muslim sects. The main opponents of the Shaikh of Ihsan are Non-Muslim Theosophists / Universal Gurus and scholars of misguided Muslim sects.

2. SOURCES OF OUR KNOWLEDGE

There are three primary sources of our knowledge, as follows.

(i) Apostles of Allah (عَزَّ وَجَلَّ) convey and teach people what is sent for them from Allah (عَزَّ وَجَلَّ).

It is in Quran - يَا أَيُّهَا الرَّسُولُ بَلِّغْ مَا أُنزِلَ إِلَيْكَ مِنْ رَبِّكَ [O' Noble Apostle (صلى الله عليه و آله وسلم) convey and teach people what is sent down to you' (**Al-Ma'ida - 67**).

(ii) Acting upon the commandments of Allah (عَزَّ وَجَلَّ) the prophets show the people the operational and practical side of the religion by elucidating details of Islamic deeds.

It is in Quran - لَقَدْ كَانَ لَكُمْ فِي رَسُولِ اللَّهِ أُسْوَةٌ حَسَنَةٌ [Apostle Mohammad (صلى الله عليه و آله وسلم) is an exemplary model for all of you.] (Al-Ahzaab -21)

(iii) Prophets cleanse purify and reform people from their attention (توجه).

It is in Quran - لَقَدْ مَنَّ اللَّهُ عَلَى الْمُؤْمِنِينَ إِذْ بَعَثَ فِيهِمْ رَسُولًا مِنْ أَنْفُسِهِمْ يَتْلُو عَلَيْهِمْ آيَاتِهِ وَيُزَكِّيهِمْ وَيُعَلِّمُهُمُ الْكِتَابَ وَالْحِكْمَةَ وَإِنْ كَانُوا مِنْ قَبْلُ لَفِي ضَلَالٍ مُبِينٍ [Allah has bestowed a great favor upon Muslims, as He sent to them a Noble Apostle (صلى الله عليه و آله وسلم) from among them, who recites to them His verses, and purifies them, and teaches them the Book and wisdom. Before it, they were surely in open error.] (Aal-e-Imran - 164).

From the above, it is clear that Prophet (صلى الله عليه و آله وسلم) undertook the following tasks.

- (i) He recites to the people what was revealed to him. This is the teaching of Quran.
- (ii) Becoming a practical example he educated people how to carryout Allah's (عَزَّ وَجَلَّ) commandments. This is the training of people.
- (iii) He cleansed and purified people's hearts by his personal attention and training. This is Purification of Hearts (Tazkia Nafs).

3. PURIFICATION OF NUFOOS

3.1 What is cleansing and purification of hearts (Tazkia Nafs)?

Ans. It is turning people's attention away from the darkness of materialism to the light of Islam.

3.2 What is light of Islam?

Ans. It is people's training in **(i)** sincerity of heart (Ikhlas), **(ii)** wisdom (Hikmah) of actions, and **(iii)** Islamic vision.

3.3 What is Islamic vision?

Ans. As per the Hadith of Ihsan, people are commanded to see Allah (عَزَّ وَجَلَّ) while in Salah.

3.4 Can anyone visualize Allah's (عَزَّ وَجَلَّ) presence when his heart is covered with materialistic darkness?

Ans. No, you need Islamic light. Prophet Mohammad (صلى الله عليه و آله وسلم) trained his companions to see in Islamic light. Once you get Islamic vision you become resolute in faith and deeds and never lose the straight path of Islam.

It was Prophet Mohammad's (صلى الله عليه و آله وسلم) training which helped his companions to acquire Islamic vision with which they visualized Allah's (عَزَّ وَجَلَّ) presence everywhere, every moment.

It is in Quran - فَأَيْنَمَا تُوَلُّوا فَنَمَّ وَجْهُ اللَّهِ [You turn your face anywhere; you will find Allah. (Al-Baqara - 115).

It is in Quran - اللَّهُ نُورُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ [Allah is the light (existence) of the Heavens and Earth.] (An-Noor -35).

It is in Quran - وَنَحْنُ أَقْرَبُ إِلَيْهِ مِنْ حَبْلِ الْوَرِيدِ [And We are closer to you than your jugular vein.] (Qaaf - 16)

It is in Quran - وَفِي أَنْفُسِكُمْ أَفَلَا تُبْصِرُونَ [And He is in your own self, will you not then see.] (Adh-Dhariyaat - 21)

After Prophet Mohammad (صلى الله عليه و آله وسلم), the teaching, training and purification of people hearts was carried out by Khulafa-e-Rashideen, Aamma, Shuyookh of Ihsan and Awliya Allah.

From the above, it is evident that people are required to be taught, trained and purified under the able guidance of Shuyookh of Ihsan. The Shuyookh adopt various methods in teaching, training and purification of their students/Murideen.

There are famous Sufi orders (Salasil - سلاسل) like (i) Quadri, (ii) Chishti, (iii) Shadhili, (iv) Naqshbandi, (v) Suhrawardi, etc., who train and purify their Murideen in their specific ways.

Most important aspect in the training and purification is 'Remembrance of Allah' (ذِكْرُ اللَّهِ).

It is in Quran - يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اذْكُرُوا اللَّهَ ذِكْرًا كَثِيرًا - وَسَبِّحُوهُ بُكْرَةً وَأَصِيلًا [O you who believe, remember Allah with frequent remembrance and glorify Him morning and evening.] (Al-Ahzaab - 41-42).

It is in Quran - فَادْكُرُونِي أَذْكُرْكُمْ وَاشْكُرُوا لِي وَلَا تَكْفُرُونِ [Remember Me and I will remember you, and thank Me and do not be ungrateful to Me.] (Al-Baqara - 152).

It is in Quran - وَمَنْ أَعْرَضَ عَن ذِكْرِي فَإِنَّ لَهُ مَعِيشَةً ضَنْكًا وَنَحْشُرُهُ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ أَعْمَى [And whoever turns away from My remembrance, indeed, he will have a depressed life, and We will gather him on the Day of Resurrection blind.] (TaHa -124).

It is in Quran - أَلَا بِذِكْرِ اللَّهِ تَطْمَئِنُّ الْقُلُوبُ [The hearts find rest in the remembrance of Allah.] (Ar-Ra'd - 28)

It is in Hadith - Ibn Abbas (رضي الله تعالى عنه) narrated that some poor people came to the Apostle of Allah (صلى الله عليه و آله وسلم) and said : 'O Apostle of Allah (صلى الله عليه و آله وسلم), the rich people pray as we pray, they fast as we fast, but they have wealth with which they free slaves and which they give in charity.' He said : 'When you perform Salah, then say : 'Subhan Allah' (سُبْحَانَ اللَّهِ) thirty-three times, and 'Al-Hamdulillah' (الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ) thirty-three times, and 'Allahu Akbar' (اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ) thirty-four times, and 'La

ilaha illallah' (لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ) ten times. With that you will have surpassed them, and none would surpass you afterwards.' **(Tirmidhi)**

It is in Hadith - Ibn Abbas said : To raise the voice for Zikr of Allah after the people had finished their obligatory prayer was the practice during the time of the Apostle of Allah (صلى الله عليه و آله وسلم). Ibn Abbas said, by this Zikr, I used to know when they have finished the prayer and would listen to the Zikr of Allah. **(Abu Dawood)**

Shuyookh of Ihsan have played a big role in training and purification of Islamic Ummah. The Shuyookh recognize the ability and requirement of individual student/Murid and train and purify him accordingly.
