

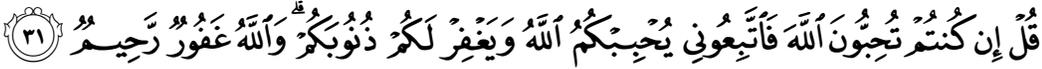


1	 <p style="text-align: center;">ATTAINING THE SWEETNESS OF FAITH 4 August 2017AD / 11 Zulkaedah 1438H</p>
2	<p>إِنَّ الْحَمْدَ لِلَّهِ، نَحْمَدُهُ وَنُسْتَعِينُهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ وَتَتُوبُ إِلَيْهِ، وَنَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ شُرُورِ أَنْفُسِنَا وَمِنْ سَيِّئَاتِ أَعْمَالِنَا، مَنْ يَهْدِ اللَّهُ فَهُوَ الْمُهْتَدِ وَمَنْ يُضِلِّ فَلَنْ تَجِدَ لَهُ وَلِيًّا مُرْشِدًا.</p>
3	<p>أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ،</p>
4	<p>اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى نَبِيِّنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ وَمَنْ دَعَا بِدَعْوَتِهِ إِلَى يَوْمِ الدِّينِ.</p>
5	<p>أَمَّا بَعْدُ، فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ، أَوْصِيكُمْ وَنَفْسِي بِتَقْوَى اللَّهِ وَطَاعَتِهِ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُفْلِحُونَ.</p>
6	<p>أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ وَمِنَ النَّاسِ مَنْ يَتَّخِذُ مِنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ أَنْدَادًا يُحِبُّونَهُمْ كَحُبِّ اللَّهِ وَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا أَشَدُّ حُبًّا لِلَّهِ وَلَوْ رَى الَّذِينَ ظَلَمُوا إِذْ يَرُونَ الْعَذَابَ أَنَّ الْقُوَّةَ لِلَّهِ جَمِيعًا وَأَنَّ اللَّهَ شَدِيدُ الْعَذَابِ ﴿١٦٥﴾</p>
7	<p>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah, Let us together increase the level of our conviction in Allah SWT with full obedience, faith and sincerity. Fulfil all that He has instructed us to do and abandon all that He has prohibited us from doing. May we become faithful and successful human beings who shall attain security in this world and in the Hereafter.</p>
8	<p>Today's sermon shall discuss the topic entitled, “Attaining the Sweetness of Faith”.</p>



9	<p>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,</p> <p>Be mindful that life in today's world is increasingly challenging. It is not only mentally challenging, but also capable of unsettling one's faith. Various opportunities to commit sin and immoral acts are present and served before us.</p>
10	<p>So, a strong faith is the best shield to deal with it. If a person's faith is strong, he shall always obey Allah SWT and shall be secured from being entrapped in immorality.</p>
11	<p>Indeed, Islam is very concerned with the faith of its followers. The question now is, how do we strive to achieve that feeling of satisfaction and sweetness with our faith?</p>
12	<p>Reflect upon a hadith recorded by Imam Al-Bukhari Rahimahullah, which was narrated by Anas bin Malik RA, where Rasulullah SAW was reported to have said:</p> <p>ثَلَاثٌ مَنْ كُنَّ فِيهِ وَجَدَ حَلَاوَةَ الْإِيمَانِ؛ أَنْ يَكُونَ اللَّهُ وَرَسُولَهُ أَحَبَّ إِلَيْهِ مِمَّا سِوَاهُمَا، وَأَنْ يُحِبَّ الْمَرْءَ لَا يُحِبُّهُ إِلَّا لِلَّهِ، وَأَنْ يَكْرَهُ أَنْ يَعُودَ فِي الْكُفْرِ كَمَا يَكْرَهُ أَنْ يُقَذَّفَ فِي النَّارِ. (رواه البخاري)</p>
13	<p>Which means: "There are three characteristics, which, if found in a person, he has attained the sweetness of faith: When one loves Allah and His Prophet more than he loves anyone else. And when he loves another person, for nothing but for the sake of Allah. And when he hates to return to a state of infidelity (Kufur), as much as he dislikes to be thrown into hell."</p>
14	<p>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,</p> <p>Through the hadith above, we can understand that there are three things which has to be done first in order to attain the sweetness of faith, and they are:First: Loving Allah SWT and His Messenger more than anything else.</p>



15	Love Allah SWT because He is Most Loving towards us. The proof is that Allah SWT has bestowed upon us countless blessings. Allah SWT has so much love for His servants,
16	that He even withholds punishment for those who deny His instructions. Therefore, opportunity is given by Allah SWT for His servants to repent from errors and sin. In the meantime, love Rasulullah SAW too because he has sacrificed his wealth and his entire life in order to ensure the cultivation of faith and Islam in every person.
17	Rasulullah SAW never gave up despite being threatened and intimidated. This is why we need to place Rasulullah SAW at the highest level of love. The love for Rasulullah SAW also indicates the perfection of one's faith.
18	Allah SWT says in Surah Ali Imran verses 31: 
19	Which means: "Say, [O Muhammad], "If you should love Allah, then follow me, [so] Allah will love you and forgive you your sins. And Allah is Forgiving and Merciful."
20	Second: To love someone because of Allah SWT. There are people who love someone because of their wealth, career, lust and beauty. But, in pursuit of attaining the sweetness of faith, one should lay down the foundation of loving others simply due to Allah SWT
21	It means, no measure of the world is placed upon the relationship other than it is due to the command of Allah SWT to love one another, and to achieve the ultimate goal of receiving His pleasure alone. Such relationships shall continue until the Day of Judgement.
22	Third: Resentment of unfaithfulness. The devil adorns unfaithfulness with pleasure. Alcohol, gambling, adultery, bribery, treason and anything that is forbidden by Allah SWT is bait for sinners.
23	Those who seek the sweetness of faith will immediately realize this fact and avoid the excitement that invites the wrath of Allah SWT. In fact, the person's



	loathing for unfaithfulness and sin will make him ever vigilant in preserving, within himself, his faith and conviction.
24	<p>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,</p> <p>In a hadith recorded by Imam Muslim and narrated by al-Abbas bin Abd al-Mutalib RA, Rasulullah SAW was reported to have said:</p> <p>ذَاقَ طَعْمَ الْإِيمَانِ مَنْ رَضِيَ بِاللَّهِ رَبًّا وَبِالْإِسْلَامِ دِينًا وَبِمُحَمَّدٍ رَسُولًا. (رواه مسلم)</p> <p>(مسلم)</p> <p>Which means: "The sweetness of faith is felt by the one who is pleased with Allah as his Lord, Islam as his religion, and Muhammad as His Messenger."</p>
25	Fortunate indeed for those who have attained the sweetness of faith, sweetness which can bring a servant closer to his Creator.
26	<p>Among the features to be felt if a person meets the three criteria mentioned earlier are:</p> <p>First: The delight in obeying Allah SWT. A person would feel the delight, excitement and love when performing his obligations towards Allah SWT.</p>
27	There is no grievance, sadness or laziness. This delight was displayed by the <i>Ansar</i> and <i>Muhajirin</i> women. When the order for them to cover their hair and modesty were revealed in a revelation, they immediately cut off their clothes to cover their heads.
28	They did it happily and openly, without any regret.
29	Second: The delight in abandoning the prohibitions of Allah. Amazingly, when the revelation for the banning of alcohol was revealed, the companions of Rasulullah SAW immediately went home and threw onto the ground all liquor that was in their possession, without any feelings of doubt and loss.
30	It was in fact their daily beverage during that time. They were more proud and happy to give priority to the rights of Allah SWT by abandoning all that He has prohibited. It happened based on their willingness and self-determination to comply with the provisions of Allah SWT.



31	Third: The delight of patience in the face of misfortune. Misfortunes are tests from Allah SWT to prove man's faith in Him. To those who are patient, Allah SWT shall reward them with the greatest of rewards.
32	Verse 10 of Surah Az-Zumar is in defence of those who are patient: قُلْ يٰۤاَعْبَادِ اللّٰهِ اٰمِنُوْا اَنْتُمْ رَبَّكُمْ لِّلَّذِيْنَ اٰحْسَنُوْا فِيْ هٰذِهِ الدُّنْيَا حَسَنَةٌ وَّاَرْضُ اللّٰهِ وٰسِعَةٌ اِنَّمَا يُوْفٰى الصّٰبِرُوْنَ اَجْرُهُمْ بِغَيْرِ حِسَابٍ ﴿۱۰﴾
33	Which means: "Say: "O you my servants who believe! Fear your Lord, good is (the reward) for those who do good in this world. Spacious is Allah's earth! Those who patiently persevere will truly receive a reward without measure!"
34	Remember the Companions who were mistreated at the beginning of Rasulullah SAW's mission to preach Islam in Makkah. Hardships befell them, but those hardships added more delight to their struggle in upholding the religion of Allah SWT. Being patient when faced with misfortune feels delightful
35	When it comes with the knowledge that it will elevate a person's standing in the estimation of Allah SWT, doubling rewards, eliminating sin and becomes a condition for being recognized as a believer.
36	Fourth: The delights of appreciating blessings. There are those who often feel dissatisfied or insufficient with what Allah SWT has bestowed upon them. There are also those who use the blessings of Allah SWT for immorality and sin.
37	People who have tasted the sweetness of faith are always grateful for what Allah SWT has given. They know how to use all that Allah SWT has given them, in accordance with the permissible allowances of the Islamic laws. That gratitude will bring forth the sweetness of faith.
38	Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah, To conclude the sermon, let us consider some takeaways from it, which are as follows:



	<p>First: Our faith is the strongest fortress and shield for humans when faced with the trials and tribulations of this world.</p> <p>Second: The key to experiencing the sweetness of faith is to love Allah SWT and His Messenger more than we love others, as well as resenting being a person without faith, or a disbeliever.</p> <p>Third: The sweetness of faith can be felt through the acts of obedience, abandoning the prohibited, being accepting of trials and tribulations, while also being grateful for all the gifts and blessings bestowed upon us.</p>
39	<p>Reflect upon the advice of Allah SWT to Muslims who seek the sweetness of this world over the love of Allah SWT and His Messenger, through Surah al-Taubah, verse 24:</p> <p style="text-align: right;">أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ</p> <p>قُلْ إِنْ كَانَ آبَاؤُكُمْ وَأَبْنَاؤُكُمْ وَإِخْوَانُكُمْ وَأَزْوَاجُكُمْ وَعَشِيرَتُكُمْ وَأَمْوَالٌ اقْتَرَفْتُمُوهَا وَتِجَارَةٌ تَخْشَوْنَ كَسَادَهَا وَمَسَاكِنُ تَرْضَوْنَهَا أَحَبَّ إِلَيْكُمْ مِنَ اللَّهِ وَرَسُولِهِ وَجِهَادٍ فِي سَبِيلِهِ فَتَرَبَّصُوا حَتَّى يَأْتِيَ اللَّهُ بِأَمْرِهِ وَاللَّهُ لَا يَهْدِي الْقَوْمَ الْفَاسِقِينَ ﴿٢٤﴾</p>
40	<p>Which means: “Say: If it be that your fathers, your sons, your brothers, your mates, or your kindred; the wealth that you have gained; the commerce in which you fear a decline: or the dwellings in which you delight - are dearer to you than Allah, or His Messenger, or the striving in His cause; then wait until Allah brings about His decision: and Allah guides not the rebellious.”</p>
41	<p>بَارَكَ اللَّهُ لِي وَلَكُمْ بِالْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيمِ، وَنَفَعَنِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيهِ مِنَ الْآيَاتِ وَالذِّكْرِ الْحَكِيمِ، وَتَقَبَّلَ مِنِّي وَمِنْكُمْ تِلَاوَتَهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ. أَقُولُ قَوْلِي هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ</p>



	<p>اللَّهُ الْعَظِيمَ لِي وَلَكُمْ، وَلِسَائِرِ الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ، وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ، الْأَحْيَاءِ مِنْهُمْ وَالْأَمْوَاتِ، فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ.</p>
--	--