

Extremism in Takfeer

Study Notes
Abu Saifillah 'Abdul Qadir

Note: The revision notes below should not be solely relied upon. They are to be utilised along with their corresponding explanations delivered during the lessons.

PRINCIPLE NINE

This is to believe that *Eemaan* consists of belief, sayings and actions. It is broken down into the following detail; sayings and actions of the heart, sayings and actions of the tongue, and actions of the outwardly manifested limbs.

The Linguistically Meaning Of Eemaan Is *Tasdeeq*

Tasdeeq or 'trust' or 'belief' as the brothers of Yusuf (alayhis-salaam) said:

قَالُوا يَا أَبَانَا إِنَّا ذَهَبْنَا نَسْتَبِقُ وَتَرَكْنَا يُوسُفَ عِنْدَ مَتَاعِنَا فَأَكَلَهُ
الذَّئْبُ وَمَا أَنْتَ بِمُؤْمِنٍ لَنَا وَلَوْ كُنَّا صَادِقِينَ

"They said: "O our father! We went racing with one another, and left Yûsuf by our belongings and a wolf devoured him; but you will never believe us even when we speak the truth." [Yusuf (12):17]

Meaning 'trustful'. Its opposite is denial

The Technical Meaning Of Eemaan

It is belief in the messenger in all that he informed us of from Allaah and to follow this with outwardly actions (ie the pillars of Islam) and with sayings of the tongue.

EVIDENCE FOR PRINCIPLE NINE

When we look into the definition of *Eemaan* according to the *Sharī'ah* we find it is: A saying of the heart and tongue, actions of the heart and tongue and limbs.

Sayings of the heart

This is trusting in, and accepting, what is in the heart is manifest in the speech, as Allaah said:

وَالَّذِي جَاءَ بِالصِّدْقِ وَصَدَّقَ بِهِ أُولَئِكَ هُمُ الْمُتَّقُونَ

"And he (Muhammad (Sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam)) who has brought the truth (this Qur'aan and Islamic Monotheism) and (those who) believed therein (i.e. the true believers of Islâmic Monotheism), those are *Al- Muttaqûn* (the pious and righteous persons)." [Az-Zumar (39):33]

Actions of the heart

This is the intention, sincerity, love, fear, reliance as Allaah says

إِنَّمَا الْمُؤْمِنُونَ الَّذِينَ إِذَا ذُكِرَ اللَّهُ وَجِلَّتْ قُلُوبُهُمْ وَإِذَا تُلِيَتْ عَلَيْهِمْ
آيَاتُهُ زَادَتْهُمْ إِيمَانًا وَعَلَىٰ رَبِّهِمْ يَتَوَكَّلُونَ

“The believers are only those who, when Allaah is mentioned, feel a fear in their hearts and when His Verses (this Qur'aan) are recited unto them, they (i.e. the Verses) increase their Faith; and they put their trust in their Lord (Alone).” [Al-Anfaal (8):2]

Sayings of the tongue

This is in pronouncing the *shahadah* and attesting to all it necessitates. As Allaah said:

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ قَالُوا رَبُّنَا اللَّهُ ثُمَّ اسْتَقَامُوا فَلَا خَوْفَ عَلَيْهِمْ وَلَا هُمْ
يَحْزَنُونَ

“Verily, those who say: ‘Our Lord is (only) Allaah,’ and thereafter *Istaqaamoo* (i.e. stood firm and straight on the Islamic Faith of Monotheism by abstaining from all kinds of sins and evil deeds which Allaah has forbidden and by performing all kinds of good deeds which He has ordained), on them shall be no fear, nor shall they grieve.” [Al-Ahqaaf (46):13]

Actions of the tongue and body limbs

These are actions of the tongue which cannot be performed except by using the tongue alone like recitation of the *Qur'aan*, *adhkaar* (remembrances) and actions of the body limbs are those which cannot be performed except by using the body limbs alone like standing in prayer, *rukoo*, *sajood* as Allaah states:

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ يَتْلُونَ كِتَابَ اللَّهِ وَأَقَامُوا الصَّلَاةَ وَأَنْفَقُوا مِمَّا رَزَقْنَاهُمْ سِرًّا
وَعَلَانِيَةً يَرْجُونَ تِجَارَةً لَّن تَبُورَ

“Verily, those who recite the Book of Allaah (this Qur'aan), and perform *As-Salaat*, and spend (in charity) out of what We have provided for them, secretly and openly, hope for a (sure) tradegain that will never perish.” [Faatir (35):29]

So the heart has sayings and an action, the tongue has sayings and actions, and the body limbs have actions all of which compromise *Eemaan*.

The differences amongst the people in what constitutes *Eemaan*.

Ibn Abi Izza (rahimahullaah) who explained *Aqeedah* at *Tahaaweeyah* said the people have differed in what they believed constitutes *Eemaan* to be. So Maalik, Shafi'ee, Ahmed, Awzaa'ee, Ishaq bin Rahweeyah and all the rest of the people of *hadith* and people of Madinah (may Allaah have mercy on them all) went to the opinion that *Eemaan* constituted of belief in the heart, attesting that with the tongue and action of the body limbs. [Aqeedah Tahaaweeyah p373 - 374]

Some scholars went to the opinion that ‘attesting to it with the tongue’ is an extra pillar of *Eemaan*. From them was Abu Mansoor al Maatureedi and he narrates from Abu Haneefah.

1. The *Karaamiyah*¹ went to the opinion that *Eemaan* was 'attesting with the tongue only'. This necessitates that the hypocrite is a believer with complete *Eemaan*.
2. Jaham ibn Safwan and the *Qadariyah* went to the opinion that *Eemaan* was 'awareness (knowledge) in the heart only' and this opinion is far more corrupt than that of the *Karaamiyah*. This opinion necessitates that Fir'aun and his people were believers because they knew the truthfulness of Musa and Haroon yet they did not believe in them. Allaah said about them:

قَالَ لَقَدْ عَلِمْتَ مَا أَنْزَلَ هَؤُلَاءِ إِلَّا رَبُّ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ بِصَآئِرٍ
وَإِنِّي لَأَظُنُّكَ يَا فِرْعَوْنُ مَثْبُورًا

"He [Moosaa] said: "Verily, you know that these signs have been sent down by none but the Lord of the heavens and the earth as clear (evidences i.e. proofs of Allâh's Oneness and His Omnipotence, etc.). **And I think you are, indeed, O Fir'aun (Pharaoh) doomed to destruction** (away from all good)!" [Al-Israa' (17):102]

And His saying:

وَجَحَدُوا بِهَا وَاسْتَيْقَنَتْهَا أَنفُسُهُمْ ظُلْمًا وَعُلُوًّا فَانظُرْ كَيْفَ كَانَ
عَاقِبَةُ الْمُفْسِدِينَ

"And they belied them (those *Ayât*) wrongfully and arrogantly, though their ownselves were convinced thereof [i.e. those (*Ayât*) are from Allaah, and Mûsa is the Messenger of Allaah in truth, but they disliked to obey Moosaa, and hated to believe in his Message of Monotheism]. **So see what was the end of the *Mufsidûn*** (disbelievers, disobedient to Allaah, evil-doers, liars)." [An-Naml (27):14]

Also, the people of the book knew the Prophet (sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam) as they knew their own children yet they still did not believe.

Further, Abu Taalib would be a believer accordingly because he knew the Prophet (sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam) very well.

Even worse *Iblees* himself would be a believer with complete *Eemaan* according to Jahm bin Safwaan, for he was not ignorant about his lord either. Allaah confirms this from his saying:

قَالَ رَبِّ فَأَنْظِرْنِي إِلَى يَوْمِ يُبْعَثُونَ

"He [*Iblees* (Satan)] said: "O my Lord! Give me then respite till the Day they (the dead) will be resurrected." [Al-Hijr (15):36]

And His saying:

قَالَ رَبِّ بِمَا أَغْوَيْتَنِي لَأُزَيِّنَنَّ لَهُمْ فِي الْأَرْضِ وَلَا أُغْوِيَنَّهُمْ أَجْمَعِينَ

"He [*Iblees* (Satan)] said: "O my Lord! Because you misled me, I shall indeed adorn the path of error for them (mankind) on the earth, and I shall mislead them all." [Al-Hijr (15):39]

¹ An offshoot group from the murjiyah

calltoislam.

So *Eemaan* with Jaham bin Safwan is knowledge of the lord of the worlds, and *Kufr* would be simply ignorance of him. Upon this belief there is not a complete disbeliever in this earth, because no one is ignorant to the Creator of the worlds.

3. Ibn Raawandi and those who followed him from the Mutazalite and other than them said that 'Eemaan was only belief', with this definition all the jews would be believers as they believed in the message of Mohammad (sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam) but they arrogantly rejected it so Allaah negated Eemaan from them.
4. The Murjiyah² and the Karaamiyah³ say: 'Eemaan is attesting with the tongue without belief in the heart.' Upon this the hypocrites are believers, and Allaah said about them: **"And never (O Muhammad (sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam)) pray (funeral prayer) for any of them (hypocrites) who dies, nor stand at his grave. Certainly they disbelieved in Allaah and His Messenger, and died while they were *Fâsiqûn* (rebellious, - disobedient to Allaah and His Messenger (sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam))."** [At-Taubah (9):84]
5. Others of the Murjiyah said *Eemaan* is 'belief in the heart and attesting with the tongue' but they negate actions of the bodily limbs here, they remove the hadith of Jibraeel which explains the pillars of Islam.⁴
6. The Khawaarij and many others who followed them said Eemaan was 'obedience to Allaah in the obligations and voluntary deeds'.⁵

² This is just one type of the *murjiyah* not all of them or most of them.

³ Mentioned in point 1 above

⁴ And this is the type of Muriyah belief the Takfeeri people claim we hold (Salafis)

⁵ No doubt complete Eemaan includes all of this obligatory and volutary deeds however the position of this group is that if a Muslim fell short in any of this he becomes a disbeliever.