

The Highest Grade Of Tawakkul



The highest grade of tawakkul [1] is defined by Bayazid-i Bestami, the sultan of arifs [2], as follows: Abu Musa Dinawari said: "I asked Bayazid what tawakkul meant. He asked what my opinion was. I said that the savants said, 'It is tawakkul when nothing would come to your heart if there were lots of snakes and scorpions on your right, on your left, all around you.' He said: 'In my opinion tawakkul is to see all disbelievers being tormented in Hell and all Believers being blessed with favours and gifts in Paradise and still not to see any difference between the two cases.'"

What Abu Musa describes is the high grade of tawakkul. But this does not mean that you should not beware of danger. Hadrat Abu Bakr 'radyallahu anh', when he was in the cave (with the Prophet), defended (the Prophet and himself) against the snake by putting his blessed foot on its hole, though his tawakkul was higher. It was not the snake that he was afraid of. He was afraid of the snake's Creator, that He might give the snake strength and motion. He saw that only Allahu ta'ala gives strength and motion to everybody.

Bayazid's word reveals the iman [3] which is the basis for tawakkul, which is the iman, the belief in Allah's justice, hikmat [4], compassion and favour. It is the belief in that everything He makes is in its proper place. A Believer with such iman sees no difference between torment and blessing.

GLOSSARY

[1] tawakkul: trusting in, expecting everything from Allahu ta'ala exclusively; expecting from Allahu ta'ala the effectiveness of the cause after working or holding on to the cause – before which tawakkul is unadvised. See Endless Bliss III, 35.

[2] arif: an 'alim who knows what is possible to know of ma'rifa.

[3] iman: faith, belief, beliefs of Islam; kalam, i'tiqad.

[4] hikma: wisdom; right, useful sayings.