

Chapter – 16

Obedience

(عبدیت)

❖ *Introduction:*

The word Abd (عبد) is used in three connotations.

1. Servant
2. Obedient
3. Bondman

Everyone knows that a bondman does not have anything of his own. Even he is not of himself but of his master. That bondman who considers himself free like his master is 'rebellious'. A sensible bondman always obeys his master. He exerts himself day and night for his master.

Abd in the meanings of God's Bondman is that who has no ownership of anything. He has no decision of his own, neither any act from his own, nor has even a desire of his own. The Persona of God and His acts and attributes all belong to His Own (بالذات). On the other hand the Bondman as a person or his acts and attributes all are dependent (بالعرض). The alternate name of this dependency of Bondman is Obedience (عبدیت).

❖ *Faith and Certainty:*

Obedience starts with faith. Quran says:

وَإِذَا سَأَلَكَ عِبَادِي عَنِّي فَإِنِّي قَرِيبٌ أُجِيبُ دَعْوَةَ الدَّاعِ إِذَا دَعَانِ فَلْيَسْتَجِيبُوا لِي
وَلْيُؤْمِنُوا بِي لَعَلَّهُمْ يَرْشُدُونَ

{And when my servants ask you (O Muhammad) concerning Me, Indeed I am near, I answer to the prayer of the supplicant when he calls upon Me, so let them respond to Me (by obedience) and believe in Me that they may be guided. (02:186)}

Faith means certainty. If heart feels certainty but there is no obedience then how this faith could work? Is there any advantage of such certainty? By this, there are no chances of acceptability of Faith or Islam.

For Obedience, faith is essential. Faith has three stages:

1. Knowledge of Faith ((علم اليقين)
2. Essence of Faith (عين اليقين)
3. Certainty of Faith (حق اليقين)

A man saw fire and understood that it will burn. This is 'Knowledge of Faith'. Then he saw a thing burning. This is 'Essence of Faith'. And if he puts his hand and it is burnt then it is 'Certainty of Faith'. ---- It means he is "Be Sure of God" (حق الحق).

❖ Obedience:

In Obedience, the foremost thing is submission and compliance. You must consider that you are nothing but God is the only Reality. This is the root of greatness, this is the spirit of certainty, and this is the real faith.

Obedience starts with faith. While travelling on this route, you meet with love & fear of Allah (SWT) and the companionship of God. On the other hand "Specials" are acquired with 'Prophet-ship' and 'Messenger-ship'. It would be a great foolishness if one considers that his Obedience is equivalent to the Obedience of Prophets. ---- According to Soofi intellectuals, "genuine Obedient of God" (عبدالله) is 'one' and 'only', he is Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم, he is the Noble Prophet, he is the beloved of God.

"Abdullah" loses his personality and attributes. When an Obedient Person gets this point clear in his mind that I cannot do any act on my own, and my acts cannot appear until God would give order with his "كن" (Be). This stage is 'Annihilation of Acts' (فناء افعال). When it is disclosed on him that all his attributes and paragons are not his own but are reflections of the Good Names of God, الأسماء الحسنى. ---- The Moon shines with full intensity yet it is totally a dark body. The glow in moon is actually the light of Sun. This stage is 'Annihilation of Attributes' (فناء صفات). And when this thing is revealed to him, that I, myself do not exist by 'my-own', rather, I am entirely 'nonexistent'. For example, 'Brass', which is a combination of copper and zinc, it loudly says that I am exhibiting two elements but personally I am nowhere. This is 'Self-Annihilation' (فناء ذات).

