

The story of the people of the Cave part 4

Allah (SWT) says about the group of young Believers, who were steadfast in monotheism, and knew their Lord, their religion, and their creed:

“They were young men who believed in their Lord, and we increased them in guidance, and We gave strengths to their hearts when they stood and said: “Our Lord is the Lord of the Heavens and the Earth, never shall we call upon any other god than Him: if we did, we should indeed have uttered an enormity! These, our people, have taken for worship gods other than He. Why do they not bring forward a clear authority for what they do? And who does more wrong than he who invents a lie against Allah?” (Al-Kahf)

O Muslim Youth!

We must now study the important characteristics of our *Aqidah*, our Islamic faith. Our *Aqidah* is clear, and natural, relying on proofs and taking the balanced way.

Here are the characteristics of our *Aqidah*:

- 1 it is a clear *Aqidah*, with no complications or riddles. In essence, it is the understanding that behind this wonderfully detailed and elaborate universe is a single Lord and Sustainer, Who created and ordered it, and measured everything with a wise measure. This Lord is Allah, the One God. This logical deduction is clear and acceptable to the intellect. As in the Qur’an, *“If there were in the heavens and the earth gods other than Allah, they would have come to ruin.”*
- 2 It is the *Aqidah* of man’s natural disposition. It presents nothing strange nor contradictory to human nature; indeed it is totally in line with this nature, as Allah says in the Qur’an:

“So set your face towards the religion, with pure monotheism. Allah’s natural disposition, with which He has created mankind. There is no change in the creation of Allah. That is the straight religion, but most people know not”.(Rum :30)

And as the Prophet, may Allah bless him and give him peace, said: *“Every newborn is born on the natural disposition, (that is, Islam) and it is his parents who make him Jews, or Christians, or Zoroastrians”*. This shows that Islam is the natural way Allah has made for His creation.

- 3 It is a firm *Aqidah*. It does not accept independent reasoning, nor any alteration or deviation, addition or subtraction. Any attempt to interfere and play around with the Islamic *Aqidah* by addition or subtraction is to disbelieve in it. As the Prophet, may Allah bless him and give him peace said: *‘He who introduces into our religion that which is not from it, will have it rejected.’*
- 4 It is an *Aqidah* based on sound proofs, as in the Qur’an: *‘Say: bring forth your proofs, if you be truthful.’*(Baqara :111) .Our faith is supported by unshakeable evidences, and logical reasoning that the intellect accepts, and the heart holds fast to. Allah says in the Qur’an: *‘Is not He who created the heavens and the earth able to create the like of them? Indeed He is, and He is the Creator, the All Knowing.’*(Surah YaSin)
- 5 It is a balanced *Aqidah*, which takes the middle position; between atheism of polytheism, for Allah is One, and there is no god but He. It is the middle way in respect to the Attributes of Allah, for He is exalted above resembling His creation, and far above anthropomorphism and qualification... *‘..there is nothing whatsoever*

like Him, and He is the All-Hearing, the All-Seeing. It is a middle way between the blind following of those who follow their forefathers without understanding or comprehension, and between the way of those who follow their intellects in everything, without belief in the unseen, dismissing what they cannot arrive at intellectually as superstition. They have no knowledge of the essence of their own selves, nor of the reality of the intellect from which they derive their beliefs, and so they have forgotten that they are the creation of Allah, as is the intellect that they trust so deeply.

It is a middle Aqidah with regards to the Prophets and Messengers. It does not elevate them so highly that they reach the position of gods, with people worshipping them and seeking their aid (may Allah be our refuge); nor does the Islamic Aqidah permit that the Messengers of Allah be tainted with accusations of immorality, sin or disobedience. Rather, according to our belief, they are pure human beings, chosen by Allah to carry His message, as Allah says: *'Allah chooses from amongst His Angels Messengers, and from amongst mankind.'* (Surah Al-Hajj)

Second Khutba:

The People of the Cave were an example to the intelligent, insightful young believer, whose natural disposition has not been tainted by the lusts of vain desire, nor have the temptations of this world spoiled the purity of his righteousness. The upright Islamic society does not leave its youth to such wickedness, but rather is a society which is built on the belief in Allah and following his Sacred Law. One of the utmost concerns of the Islamic community, therefore, is guarding the youth from such evils, and leading them away from misguidance. The Islamic society must not leave the guidance of its youth to those with diseased hearts, nor abandon them without direction; rather it provides a sound environment for every young person to grow up according to their pure natural disposition.

If our youth is raised with a sound Aqidah, and praiseworthy habits become firm in their hearts, they will deserve to be described as were the People of the Cave before them: *'they were young men who believed in their Lord, and We increased them in guidance.'*

The People of the Cave were disturbed by their nation for their polytheism, and so they saved themselves from corruption and fled to the cave, searching for the Mercy of Allah, that their hearts be strengthened by the belief in Him, so that they might build with their young hands and their firm wills a new society, pure from idolatry and polytheism.

So what is your cave? Where is your place of sanctuary, O Muslim Youth?

Let your sanctuary be with Allah, and your retreat to Him. Hold firm to Allah, and fortify yourselves with sound knowledge of your religion and faith, and seek this knowledge from the scholars who guide sincerely to Allah, and call others to His Way.