

The Minimum Difference between a 'Momin' and a 'Kafir

1 - علي بن إبراهيم، عن أبيه، عن حماد بن عيسى، عن إبراهيم بن عمر اليماني، عن ابن اذينة، عن أبان بن أبي عياش، عن سليم بن قيس قال: سمعت عليا (صلوات الله عليه) يقول - وأتاه رجل فقال له: ما أدنى ما يكون به العبد مؤمنا وأدنى ما يكون به العبد كافرا و أدنى ما يكون به العبد ضالاً؟ فقال له: قد سألت فافهم الجواب -: أما أدنى ما يكون به العبد مؤمنا أن يعرفه الله تبارك وتعالى فيقر له بالطاعة، ويعرفه نبيه (صلى الله عليه وآله) فيقر له بالطاعة، ويعرفه إمامه وحجته في أرضه وشاهده على خلقه نفسه فيقر له بالطاعة، قلت له: يا أمير المؤمنين وإن جهل جميع الأشياء إلا ما وصفت؟ قال: نعم إذا امر أطاع وإذا نهى انتهى. وأدنى ما يكون به العبد كافرا من زعم أن شيئاً نهى الله عنه أن الله أمر به ونصبه ديناً يتولى عليه ويزعم أنه يعبد الذي أمره به وإنما يعبد الشيطان. وأدنى ما يكون به العبد ضالاً أن لا يعرف حجة الله تبارك وتعالى وشاهده على عباده الذي أمر الله عز وجل بطاعته وفرض ولايته، قلت: يا أمير المؤمنين صفهم لي فقال: الذين قرنهم الله عز وجل بنفسه ونبيه فقال: " يا أيها الذين آمنوا أطيعوا الله وأطيعوا الرسول وأولي الأمر منكم (1) " قلت: يا أمير المؤمنين جعلني الله فداك أوضح لي فقال: الذين قال رسول الله (صلى الله عليه وآله) في آخر خطبته يوم قبضه الله عز وجل إليه: إني قد تركت فيكم أمرين لن تضلوا بعدي ما إن تمسكنم بهما: كتاب الله وعترتي أهل بيتي، فإن اللطيف الخبير قد عهد إلي أنهما لن يفترقا حتى يردا علي الحوض كهاتين - وجمع بين مسبحتيه - ولا أقول كهاتين - وجمع بين المسبحة والوسطي - فتسبق إحداهما الأخرى، فتمسكوا بهما لا تزلوا ولا تضلوا ولا تقدموهم فتضلوا.

The narrator says I was in Amir-ul-Momaneen^{SWS}'s company when a man came and asked: Ya Amir-ul-Momaneen^{SWS} what is the minimum negligence, which would turn a momin into a Kafir or lead him to destruction? Amir-ul-Momaneen^{SWS} replied it's the same bare minimum which one would require to become a momin: Allah^{azwj}'s recognition with knowledge (Marfat) and then submission to Him^{azwj}, obedience to Rasool Allah^{saww} after Prophet^{saww}'s appreciation with understanding and acquiring 'Marfat' of His^{azwj} 'Hujjat' (Divine representative) on face of the earth, who is His^{azwj} 'Witness' on His creation and follow him^{SWS} deferentially.

I asked Amir-ul-Momaneen^{SWS}, Will he still be a momin if he is ignorant of all these essential knowledge? Amir-ul-Momaneen^{SWS} replied, only if he carries out what Imam^{SWS} has commanded and refrains from what Imam^{SWS} has forbidden. However, the minimum what would make a person Kafir is to deem permissible from Allah^{azwj} which, in fact, has been forbidden by Almighty^{azwj} and start practicing it as a religion and perceive as he is worshiping as per Allah^{azwj}'s commands. But in fact he worships Iblis^{la}.

The slightest deviation which leads to destruction in deen is to remain ignorant about Allah^{azwj}'s 'Hujjat', who is His observer on people and who's obedience has been made mandatory and whose 'Wiliat' has been made compulsory. I asked, Ya Amir-ul-Momaneen^{SWS} may I be sacrificed for your cause, please explain it further. Amir-ul-Momaneen^{SWS} replied, they are those^{SWS}, to whom Allah^{azwj} has combined together with Himself^{azwj} and His Prophet^{saww} and this 'Amr' (Command) has been revealed in Quran:

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا أَطِيعُوا اللَّهَ وَأَطِيعُوا الرَّسُولَ وَأُولِي الْأَمْرِ مِنْكُمْ (4:59)

O ye who believe! Obey God, and obey the Apostle, and those charged with authority among you.

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I asked again, Ya Amir-ul-Momaneen^{sws} please shed some more light on it. Amir-ul-Momaneen^{sws} added, these are those, about whom Rasool Allah^{saww} referred to in his last sermon, prior to passing away. I am leaving behind two valuables, Allah's Book and my 'Itrat'¹, my Ahlul Bait^{sws}, You will not deviate from the righteous path as long as you adhere to them. Allah^{azwj} has promised me that they will never depart from each other until they meet me at the spring of 'Kausar'. Then pointed out to his two-adjacent fingers and demonstrated by joining them, they will stay together like these two fingers. Thus, you should adhere to them so that you may not loose vision, through speculation, and end-up in destruction. Obliteration is destined for those who try to supersede them^{sws}.²

¹ Prophet saww's family

² Usool-e-Kafi, vol. 5, Tradition 1, pp. 11.