

### **The Beauty Within**

The beauty that God loves is the beauty that is within us. It is not the attractive appearance or the stunning face. If God were to adore the visible beauty, it would not distinguish between us as He created all of us, and therefore, He would mark us all as beautiful. Loving our eye colour, nose shape, or hairstyle would not separate ethical people from the unethical. Those qualities would achieve us neither satisfaction nor harm in the afterlife. However, the pureness of the heart will impact us in both this world and the Hereafter. To become the beauty God loves, we have to be beautiful in such a way that we are full of love, compassion, and forgiveness for others.

The word “beauty” is often used in such a way to describe people’s physical features. The word indicates qualities that please aesthetic senses. While most people interpret the word qualities as our external appearance, it does not always signify that. Are friends only close because they are glamorous? Is there no visible difference between a corrupt person and an angelic one? The qualities of innocence, bravery, and intelligence are bound to be considered when choosing a role model. Do teachers not praise the ones who show kindness and love? These inner qualities are not pleasant to the eyes, however, they are to the heart.

Allah (SWT) is beautiful in ways that are described by his 99 names. “He is Allah, other than whom there is no deity, Knower of the unseen and the witnessed. He is the Entirely Merciful, the Especially Merciful.” (Quran, 59:22) Allah (SWT) is the Most Merciful, the Generous, the Just, with many more attributes following behind. Although we cannot ever reach the fulfillment of those names ourselves, we should still strive to be the most of them we can. Being merciful and having the quality of forgiveness can help mend or strengthen relationships.

Having generosity and empathy can lead to you helping others. Being just and wise can deliver justice. Striving to possess these adequate traits can lead to better decisions in both this world and the next.

Working to become the beauty God desires is not easy. As illustrated in the Holy Quran, “But only he (will prosper) who brings to Allah a sound heart.” (Quran, 26:89) Attributes a genuine heart should acquire, such as forgiveness, can be extremely tough to fulfill. The process in which we gain beauty within requires time, effort, and patience. The best way to gain those qualities is to start small. Doing little bits of each characteristic can decrease the difficulty it takes to be a better person. Start by forgiving your sibling for eating the last cookie. Over time, increase the amount of the righteous deed you are doing. After continuously doing and increasing, you will come to find that it is no longer burdensome but instead rather simple. Mark Twain, the author of *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, declared, “Continuous improvement is better than delayed perfection.”

Although the attributes of a pure heart are in possession, they may fade away when coming into contact with evil. With unlimited access to the internet, which contains all sorts of information; whether good or bad, it becomes rigorous to escape the stench of an open sewer. Not succumbing to the temptation of the devil is our test in this life. Allah (SWT) is exceedingly stronger than Satan and can effortlessly eliminate the obstacles of evil thrown at us. However, this is our test, and we have to dodge the corrupt things of this world ourselves. In the Quran, it declares, “The life of this world is only the enjoyment of deception.” (Quran, 3:185) Allah (SWT) wants to know who tries to avoid falling victim to Satan, and who gladly falls into the temptations of evil.

As Muslims, we have many sayings and prayers to help detain Satan from us. However, when we say these, we rely on Allah (SWT). Anas ibn Malik reported: A man said, “O Messenger of Allah, should I tie my camel and trust in Allah, or should I leave her untied and trust in Allah?” The Prophet, peace and blessings be upon him, said, “Tie her and trust in Allah.” (Muhammed Tirmidhi, Jami’ at-Tirmidhi) We also have to carry out our part. Our actions should help decrease the whisperings of the devil. Being sucked into the evilness of this life is easy, so to be the bigger person is much laborious; however, it is necessary.

Although God is unseen, we can nevertheless feel his beauty through his creations and words. As we strive to retain the beauty God loves so much, we should take into consideration that we still may yield to the temptation of evil. After continuous, but also arduous, improvement, our inner beauty should break through our physical appearance, and we can finally attain the beauty God adores.

### **Works Cited**

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