

Tawalla and Tabarra

Tawalla in simple words means to love Allah and the 14 Ma'soomeen (a.s.) and be friendly with their followers.

Tabarra in simple words means that we should stay away from the enemies of Allah and the 14 Ma'soomeen (a.s.)

Generally Islam is compared to a blooming tree whose roots are equivalent to the principles of belief and the practical laws are like the branches. Generally ten branches of religion are mentioned.

Three of these: Prayer, Fast and Hajj are connected with the worship acts, prayers and attachment with the Almighty.

Two of them (*Zakat* and *Khums*) are related to economics and pledge of Allah and

Five (*Jihad, Amr bil Ma'roof, Nahy Anil Munkar, Tawalla and Tabarra*) are associated with social, military and political problems.

We are taught to love some and hate some. We should love the friends of Allah, those who desire truth, righteous people and supporters of truth and justice and we should hate the evildoers, oppressors, lovers of enjoyment and enemies of Allah, His Prophet and humanity.

The question that is asked is why shouldn't we love all of them? Why shouldn't we behave nicely with all of them? Can we forgo the method of living with amity in the present age? However, those who are in favor of having friendly relations with all must be asked:

In the world which has oppressors and oppressed, the unjust and the victims of injustice, the tyrants and the weak, the equitable and the usurpers, the pure and the dirty; shall we love all of them? Shall we remain pleased with all of them? Shall we help all of them? Can any human logic permit us to do so?

These two principles (*Tawallah* and *Tabarra*) are included in the basic principles of Islam so that the followers of truth, justice, freedom, purity and goodness can create unity among their ranks and that the impure,

oppressive, and the unjust ones are boycotted and in way they are socially and morally subjugated by the unity of the good people.

The Holy Prophet (s.a.w.a.) has said: "The strongest support of faith is to love for Allah and to express hatred for the sake of Allah."

It is, therefore, obligatory on us to cultivate the love of Allah (S.W.T.) and affection for those who love Allah (S.W.T.) (or whom Allah (S.W.T.) loves). At the head of this list are our fourteen Ma'sūmīn (a.s.), then come their Shias and those who love them, their righteous children and due to their relationships the *Sadāts* and *Sayyids*. Their love and affection is the recompense for the Messengership of the Holy Prophet (s.a.w.a.) according to the Holy Qur'an:

"Say: I do not ask of you any reward for it but love for my near relatives..."
(Surah Ash-Shūrā 42: 23)

Tabarra means to consider the enemies of Allah (S.W.T.) and the friends of the enemies of Allah (S.W.T.) as our enemies. The persons heading this list are those who have usurped the rights of the progeny of Muhammad (s.a.w.a.), and those who had oppressed and troubled them. It denotes harbouring enmity towards all those whom Allah (S.W.T.) and the Holy Prophet (s.a.w.a.) consider enemies. A large number of ayats and traditions mention the significance of these two duties and they are among the necessities of faith.