

Seventy-Seven Branches of Faith

Edited by Muhammad Sulaiman

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Aspects of Islamic Beliefs

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

**In the Name of Allaah,
The Beneficent, The Merciful**

Introduction

It is narrated on the authority of Aboo Hurayrah (*raDia-llaahu 'anhu*) that the Messenger of Allaah, may peace and blessings be upon him (p.b.u.h.) said:

Faith has over seventy branches or over sixty branches, the most excellent of which is the declaration that there is no god but Allaah, and the humblest of which is the removal of what is injurious from the path; and modesty is a branch of faith.

(Muslim Book 1, Hadith 56)

This book details seventy-seven branches of *eemaan* (faith), to enable the reader to reflect on whether they have inculcated and practised upon them all, and if so, to what extent.

One of the pious ancestors was asked:

Is it possible for faith to increase and decrease? 'Yes,' he replied, 'it can grow until it towers like a mountain, or shrink until it is no larger than a particle of dust.'

Imaam Ahmad ibn Hanbal said that Yazeed related, on the authority of Ja'far ibn Uthmaan:

Seventy-Seven Branches of Faith

Some or all of our scholars heard Aboo ad-Dardaa' saying 'Indeed, it is a part of a man's growth in knowledge to improve his eemaan; make up for any decrease; know whether his eemaan increases or diminishes, and know when and where Satan's temptations may come.'

'Umar (r.a) reported that the Prophet (p.b.u.h.) mentioned about Aboo Bakr as-Siddeeq (r.a.):

Were the faith of Aboo Bakr (r.a.) to be weighed on one side of a scale and the faith of the people around the whole world on the other side, the faith of Aboo Bakr (r.a.) would outweigh the faith of all the people around the world.

(Bayhaqee with a good chain of narrators. Also reported by Tirmidhee and Ahmad ibn Hanbal.)

30 Branches Related to the Heart

1. To believe in Allaah Most High in accordance with the way that He describes Himself and as He is described by His Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him).
2. To believe that only Allaah Most High has existed forever and that everything other than Allaah was created subsequently by Him.
3. To believe in the Angels.
4. To believe in all the revealed, heavenly Books that were sent to the different Prophets (peace be upon them), including the Tawraah (Torah), Zaboor (Psalms), Injeel (Gospel) and Qur'aan.
5. To believe in all the Prophets of Allaah, from Aadam to Muhammad (peace be upon them).
6. To believe that *taqdeer* (Destiny), whether good or bad, is ordained by Allaah; that Allaah Most High has knowledge of everything from beforehand and that only that which He wishes or allows will occur.
7. To believe in life after death, including questioning in the grave, punishment in the grave, Resurrection, the Day of Judgement, rendering account of one's deeds, the Scales and passing over the Bridge of Hell.
8. To believe in the existence of *Jannah* (Paradise) and that the Believers will live in it forever.
9. To believe in the existence of *Jahannam* (Hell) with its severest punishments, and that it will last forever.
10. To love Almighty Allaah.
11. To be grateful for the bounties and favours of Allaah (*SHukr*).
12. To perform all actions with *iKHlaas* (sincerity)—i.e. with the intention of pleasing Allaah Most High alone—and avoiding show and hypocrisy.
13. To be resigned to one's fate (*tasleem*) and to be pleased with whatever one experiences from Almighty Allaah (*riDaa*).

14. To exercise patience (*Sabr*).
15. To practise *tawakkul* (placing one's trust) in Almighty Allaah.
16. To fear Almighty Allaah (*KHawf*).
17. To regret and express remorse when one commits a sin, turn in repentance (*tawbah*) from the core of the heart, and be determined not to repeat it.
18. To hope (*rijaa*) and pray for the Mercy of Allaah Most High, and not to despair of His Mercy.
19. To love the Messenger of Allaah (peace and blessings be upon him), which includes holding him in the highest esteem, offering *Salawaat* (salutations) on him, and following his *sunnah*.
20. To love or hate other people solely for the pleasure of Allaah (i.e. to love the pious and hate the disobedient). It includes loving the family and descendants of the Messenger of Allaah (peace and blessings be upon them all) and his Companions (*Sahaabah*)—especially the *Muhaajireen* and *An-Saar*.
21. Not to have love for worldly things, including wealth and status.
22. To be modest, in the sense of shyness and bashfulness (*hayaa'*).
23. To show humility and to consider oneself lower than others (*tawaadu'*).
24. To refrain from self-praise and self-aggrandisement (*'ujb*) concerning any quality that one possesses.
25. To show kindness, pity and mercy to the creation.
26. To consciously fulfil one's promises (*wa'd*) to others in letter and spirit (*awfaa'*)—as distinct from their physical fulfilment.
27. Not to deceive, cheat or suspect others.
28. Not to harbour rancour, jealousy or envy against others (*hasad*).
29. Not to have malice or hatred, or wish harm for anyone.
30. Not to become angry, and failing this to at least restrain one's anger.

7 Branches Related to the Tongue

1. To recite the *kalimatu-SH-SHahaadah* (Testimony of Faith).
2. To recite the Qur'aan.
3. To acquire *'ilm* (religious knowledge).
4. To pass on religious knowledge to others.
5. To supplicate (*du'aa*) to Allaah Most High.
6. To make invocations (*THikr*) of Allaah Most High.
7. To abstain from loose and useless talk, vulgar words, lies, backbiting, cursing, and singing that is contrary to the *SHaree'ah*.

40 Branches Related to the Entire Body

1. Observing cleanliness of the body, clothes and place. Cleanliness of the body includes making *wudoo'* (ablution), taking *Gusl* (an obligatory bath), and purification from menstruation and post-birth blood.
2. To cover those parts of the body which are *farD* (obligatory) to cover during *Salaah* and outside *Salaah*.
3. To be steadfast in offering *Salaah* (the ritual prayer) and fulfilling its prerequisites.
4. Giving *Sadaqah* (charity), which includes *zakaah*, *Sadaqatu-IfiTr*, voluntary alms, feeding people, entertaining guests, and liberating slaves.
5. Fasting (*Sawm*)—obligatory and non-obligatory.
6. Performing *Hajj* (Pilgrimage to Makkah)—obligatory and non-obligatory. It includes performing *'umrah* (minor Pilgrimage) and *Tawaaf* (circumambulation of the *Ka'bah*).
7. To perform *uDhiyyah/qurbaanee* (ritual slaughter) and to take care of the animals to be offered.

8. To perform *i'tikaaf* (remaining in a mosque in complete devotion), which includes the search for *laylatu-l qadr*.
9. To fulfil the vows (*naTHar*) made to Allaah Most High, for example to vow to fast for a set number of days if a specific supplication (*du'aa*) is granted.
10. To fulfil oaths (*aymaan*) sworn in the Name of Allaah, if they are not sinful.
11. To pay the *kaffaarah* (expiation) for unfulfilled oaths.
12. To give correct evidence concerning anything one may have witnessed, and not conceal the truth. This includes swearing in Allaah's Name to the truth of one's evidence (*qasaamah*).
13. To be honest and to abstain from prohibited things in monetary transactions, such as usury (*riba'*).
14. To ensure that one's income is pure.
15. To spend according to the *SHaree'ah*, avoiding both extravagance and miserliness.
16. To repay a debt.
17. To give loans to those who are in need.
18. To return an *amaanah* (a thing entrusted to you).
19. Good treatment towards one's parents, and being kind and obedient to them.
20. To fulfil the rights and obligations of one's family members, servants and those who are subordinate to you.
21. Remaining on good terms with one's relatives and friends, and not severing relations.
22. To discharge the obligations to one's neighbours, and to be kind and helpful to them.
23. To obey one's master and one's elders, and follow their advice.
24. To obey the ruler, provided that what he orders is not contrary to the *SHaree'ah*.

25. To get married when the *nafs* desires to do so, and as a safeguard against adultery.
26. Bringing up one's children in a proper manner.
27. To be just.
28. Not to unjustly cause trouble, harm or loss to others.
29. To give *salaam* and respond to *salaam*.
30. To say *yarhamu-ka-llaah* (may Allaah have mercy on you) when anyone says *al hamdu li-llaah* (all praise is for Allaah) after sneezing.
31. Making arrangements for the funeral, and enshrouding and burying of the deceased.
32. To remove troublesome obstructions such as pebbles, stones, thorns and sticks from the road.
33. To help others in their good deeds.
34. To perform *hijrah* (move away or migrate) from any place which is harmful to one's *deen* (religion), and for the defence of the *deen*.
35. To enjoin good and forbid evil. It includes work and speech for the propagation of religion.
36. To work for the betterment of mutual relations, which includes making peace between two warring groups or individuals, punishing the wrong-doers and fighting (*jihaad*) against those who rebel.
37. To take part in *jihaad* whenever necessary, i.e. to fight the enemies of religion (*deen*). It includes guarding the defence lines.
38. To carry out the punishments enjoined by *SHaree'ah*.
39. Not to initiate any way that is contrary to that of the generality of Muslims.
40. To abstain from games and amusements contrary to the *SHaree'ah*, and from idle and useless pursuits.