

Comfort for the Heart

“Those who believe and whose hearts find comfort in the remembrance of God – surely in the remembrance of God hearts can find comfort.”
(*Al-Ra’d* 13:28).

What is comfort of the heart? It is the solace a man feels when he achieves what he wanted to achieve. On the contrary, discomfort of the heart is felt when a man is deprived of whatever he had a desire in his heart to achieve.

The things of this world in which a man seeks comfort besides that which God can give him, are all limited and imperfect. They do not

measure up to actual human cravings. That is why the achieving of worldly or material things cannot satisfy a man. Before achieving these things the individual is very hopeful about them. But, after achieving them, his hopes come to naught. He enters a state in which the achievement or non-achievement of these things make no difference to him.

But the case of seeking and finding God is totally different from that. When a man discovers God, he feels that he has been given a complete response to his supplication. When a man remembers God and his relations with Him are established on a spiritual level, this amounts to complete fulfillment for his entire personality. When he ponders over the signs of the universe, he finds a response to his intellectual needs. This is that supreme experience, which is expressed in this verse as ‘comfort of the heart.’



Usefulness

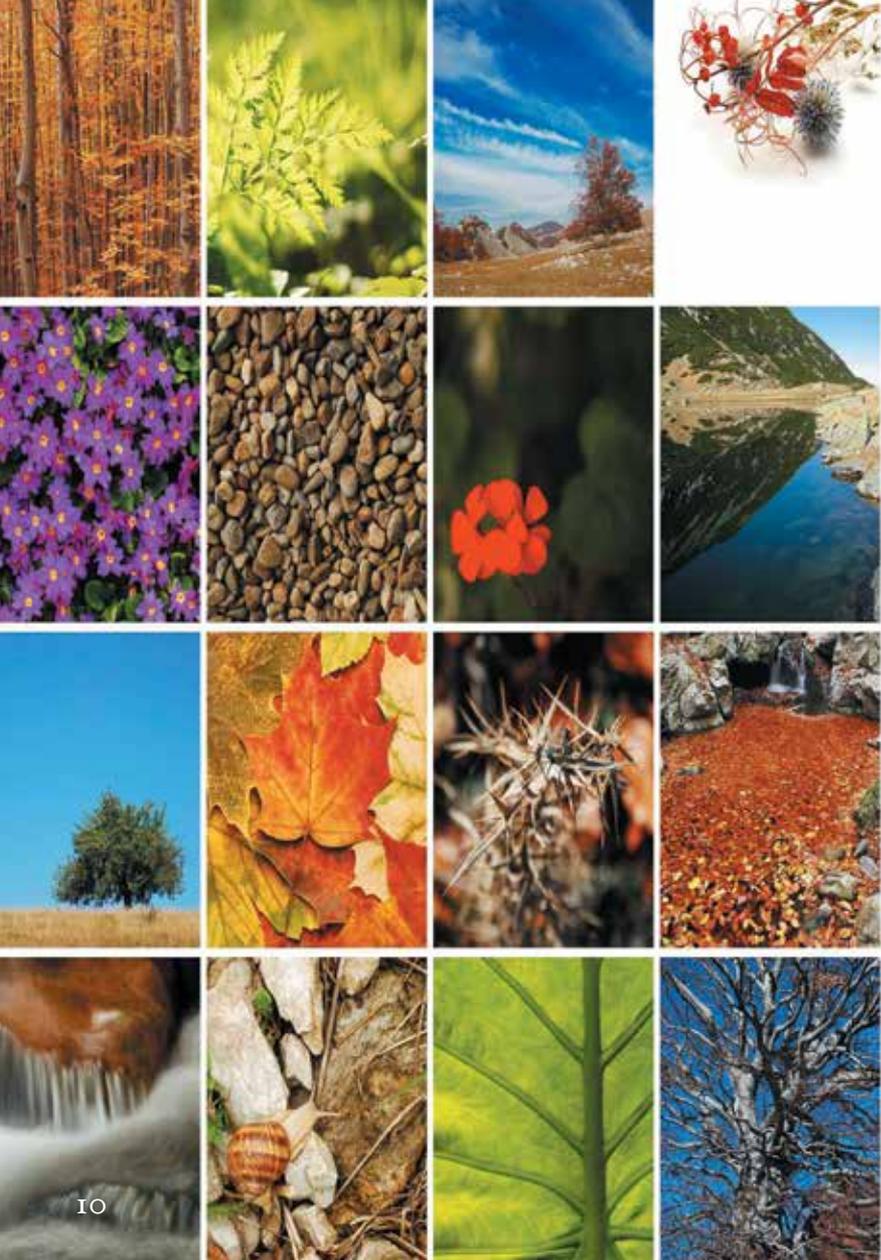
He sends down water from the sky that fills riverbeds to overflowing, each according to its measure. The torrent carries along swelling form, akin to what rises from smelted ore from which man makes ornaments and tools. God thus depicts truth and falsehood. The scum is cast away, but whatever is of use to man remains behind. God thus speaks in parable
(*Al-Ra’d* 13:17).

In this verse, a law of nature has been explained in the form of a parable. This law says that only those can achieve stability and permanency who prove their usefulness. Those who cannot do so will find no place in this world of God.

An individual has to be useful to his family. Similarly, he has to be useful to his society. Without benefiting others, he will find a place of respect neither in the family nor in society. This is also true of national and international life. Here too, only those will be accorded respect who can prove their utility.

There are two types of usefulness— one in the material sense and the other in the moral sense. But the greatest benefit that a group or an individual can offer others is to present them with the gift of truth.





The World is not the Real Aim

We give whatever We will to whoever desires immediate gains; but then We have prepared Hell for him which he will enter, disgraced and rejected. Anyone who desires the Hereafter and makes a proper effort to achieve it, being a true believer, shall find favour with God for his endeavours.

Upon all, both these [who desire the world] and those [who desire the Hereafter] We bestow the bounty of your Lord: none shall be denied the bounty of your Lord. (*Al-Isra' 17:18-20*)

One can live his life in two ways: one of them is achieving the world by worldly means, and the other is achieving the Hereafter while in this world. Both these opportunities are equally open to all people. It is man's duty to make a choice. Man has been endowed with excellent physical and intellectual capabilities. Moreover, in the outer world, all types of resources are available in abundance. One who makes either of the above two objectives his target, is instantly supported by all kinds of resources.

This situation often creates misunderstanding in the mind of an individual. Seeing the situation in his favour, he comes to the conclusion that what he is doing is right. But this is where a man is tested. He should not think himself to be right only because he is seemingly advancing towards success and progress. Every individual should make the truth his standard and in its light decide whether he is on the right or wrong path.

Great Success

“We have given you abundance. Pray to your Lord and sacrifice to Him alone. It is the one who hates you who has been cut off.”

(Al-Kawthar 108:1-3)

The Prophet brought the message of unadulterated truth. This is the most difficult task of the present world. The Prophet had to lose his all in order to preach this message. He was alienated from his community and his livelihood was destroyed. The future of his children became dark. Except for only a few, no one supported him. But in these discouraging situations,



...
a revelation came down from God: We have given you abundance (*kawthar*), i.e. every type of supreme success. In the later years, this entire prediction of the Quran came true.

The same promise holds for the followers of the Prophet stage by stage. They can also achieve ‘abundant goodness’ but the condition is that they should propagate the same unadulterated religion which was brought to them by the Prophet and his companions. This abundant goodness carries on from this world to the next. It will never come to an end. If a right mission is faltering in its initial stages, it should not be imagined that it will always remain in this same condition. A right mission is always backed by God and, finally, it will achieve success.

Greed for More and More

“Greed for more and more distracted you [from God] till you reached the grave. But you will soon come to know. But you will soon come to know. Indeed, were you to know the truth with certainty, you would see the fire of Hell. You would see it with the eye of certainty. Then on that Day you shall be questioned about your worldly favours.”
(Al-Takathur 102:1-8)

...
Man desires to earn more and more wealth; to accumulate more and more comforts and luxuries of the world. He remains obsessed with this same craze until death draws near, then at that time he comes to know that what had to be accumulated was something other than what he had remained busy in accumulating. Any increase in worldly things only increases man’s responsibilities, while man thinks foolishly that he is increasing in his success. Undoubtedly, this is the greatest misconception on the part of man.

