

BELIEF IN DIVINE REWARD AND RETRIBUTION

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Paulof - a famous psychiatrist- had a dog for whom he had, for its feeding purposes, provided a special cell in his garden and made it habituated to it.

Once he suspended a square-shaped drawing in front of that cell and he then called the dog towards it so as to feed it. As soon as the dog arrived near the cell, he gave the pet a harsh beating with his cane before making the food available to it.

Second day, he prepared a round-shaped drawing which he suspended at the same place instead of the square-shaped one and then called the dog towards the cell for feeding. But this time, instead of raising his cane on it, he treated the dog with much kindness and consideration.

As a result, thereafter, the dog always considered the square-shaped drawing a sign of wrath and punishment and on seeing it, it ran away. Whereas on seeing the round-shaped one, it accepted it as a sign of blessing and good omen thus it ran towards it with much fondness and willingness.

One day, Paulof suspended both the drawings in front of the cell, one near the other. When the dog was called towards it, it became very confused and disturbed. When it glanced at the round-shaped one, it tended to draw near the cell. But when its eyes fell upon the square-shaped one, it moved backward and backward as if frightened by it.

The poor dog was then considerably hungry and so perturbed as not knowing what to do, because for its food it was only habituated to come to that cell.

It moved around that cell so much till it got tired and about to collapse from hunger and confusion.

Likewise, mankind is also liable to suffer confusion and mental disturbance in absence of a clear faith and belief in the life hereafter and the ultimate Allah's reward and retribution for actions committed in this world. In particular when he witnesses gross injustice and oppression committed by those with wealth and power against the innocent and weak.

Under such circumstances, those lacking faith in the existence of an All-Mighty and All-Seeing Just God as well as the Day of Reckoning and Judgment to come with ultimate Divine reward and retribution, are bound to be come frustrated in this life and confused as to where the truth lies.

Whilst those with clear and staunch faith, remain confident and patient even against heavy odds in this trouble-full life. They do not despair but remain ever hopeful considering this earthly life as but only a passing phase a testing ground or like a farm to be cultivated here and whose fruits to be harvested and enjoyed in the next life.

The advantage of those with such a belief is reflected in their actions here. They tend to behave justly and do good out of conviction of ultimate return. Whereas, those lacking in faith, their sole aim of life is to serve self-interest and pleasure-seeking. It is because their vision is restricted to the horizon of this worldly life only.

In the present day world, we witness the ever-increasing cases of crimes and oppression despite strict man-made laws of punishment. The fact is that without a spiritual deterrent of the faith in Allah and ultimate reward and retribution to come from Him, the situation cannot be expected to change. If the up-coming generation is to be saved and kept aloof from life of sins and crimes, then let the roots of Islamic beliefs be well inculcated into their minds in their young age.