

NATURAL AVENUES OF GOD-REALIZATION

LECTURE FIVE

UNDERSTANDING THE FACTS ABOUT MAN'S SOUL

One of the effective ways of God-knowing is to make an indepth study of the nature and function of soul in human body.

1. NATURE OF THE SOUL AND ITS FUNCTION

a. Although we do not fully know the nature of soul, yet we are compelled to admit that it is the source of life and energy in the human body. Scientists admit that they do not fully know what life is but they do confirm that there is life. Likewise our reason and instinct both compel us to admit that there is a Creator though we do not have full knowledge of Him.

b. We know that the soul as a power is the ruler of our body. Likewise we know that God as the Greatest Power is the Ruler of the universe.

c. If any of our body limbs refuses to obey the command of our soul, it is not the reflection on the strength of the soul. Rather it is considered as the defect of the limb itself. Similarly, if one refuses to obey the command of God, it will be deemed one's own defect. His disobedience will not weaken the authority of God.

d. We know that the soul is connected with our body; but we do not know where it is. We know that life is everywhere in our body. But if a limb is severed, we do not say that that much portion of his soul has been cut off.

Likewise, we know that God is everywhere but we cannot say, He is here or there. We cannot point towards Him nor can we connect Him with any place.

Whenever God wishes, anything to happen, it just happens. When God says: "Be this" or "Be that", it takes place. The following ayat in the Holy Qura'n is worth noting:

"His Command, whenever He willeth a thing, is only that He says unto it "Be" and it is". (36.82)

Infact no sooner God wills something, it happens.

- e. We know that God has decreed that once created, the soul does not die. Likewise, we know that God is eternal and everliving.
- g. We cannot see the soul, likewise we cannot see God.
- h. Man's soul is able to hear every voice and see every action. Similarly God is able to hear every voice and see a smallest action in the world.
- i. Man's soul is not borne from another soul. Likewise God is not borne out of another God nor having father or son.
- j. Man's soul is one and never more than one. Similarly God always been one and will always remain one.
- k. We are not able to comprehend total awareness of what is our soul similarly we cannot totally comprehend God.
- l. The full state of soul is not known, what it is, how it is but it is certain that it does exist. In this respect, we read from Doa-e-Mashloul:

"Oh He Whom none knows what He is nor how He is nor where He is nor in what respect He is but He (Himself)"

2. SIGNS OF GOD IN OUR INNERSELVES

Exhorting man to attain self-knowledge, the Holy Qura'n says:

"In the earth are signs for those having sure faith and in your own selves; what do you not see"
(51:20-21)

"We shall show them our signs in the horizons and in themselves till it is clear to them that it is the truth"
(41:53)

3. GOD KNOWING THROUGH SELF KNOWLEDGE

A number of sayings have emphasized upon self-knowledge One such saying from Ali Bin Abi Talib (A.S.) reads:

"Whosoever knew his soul knew his Lord"

There appears to be a direct relationship between the knowledge of man himself and that of God. When one embarks upon the study of oneself, his origin, his dependence upon so many for his existence, his inability to control his destiny, he becomes convinced that like other creatures in the world, he too is not independent but is at the mercy of the Originator, the Almighty Creator of everything, the All-Powerful Allah.

Thus, since the most perfect signs pointing to God are found in human-beings, the best way to raise God-knowing and awareness of His existence is through the study of oneself.

SUMMARY

1. The nature and peculiarities of human soul go to prove the existence of God.
2. The Holy Qura'n has declared the signs of God in man's soul and exhorted us to seek self-knowledge.
3. Realization of man's own dependence, limitations and weakness would lead one to recognize the existence of Allah - the Supreme Being.