Satya Marg Ki Khoj Series-23

MAN!
KNOW
THY LORD

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In the name of Allah, the most Gracious, the most Merciful

Man! Know Thy Lord

We live in the world—we socialize, we eat and drink and do other activities. But, have we ever pondered over the basic questions: What, after all, is this world? Who created it and why? How has it been functioning? What is life? What is its real purpose? How did man come to this world? Where has he to go? What is his relation with this creation? What relationship should he establish with his fellow beings? How can man get real pleasure? What determines man's ultimate success and failure? What is his relationship with the Creator of this universe? These are some of the fundamental questions of life. It is essential for everyone to ponder over these vital questions.

Unless and until man gets satisfactory answers to these questions, his condition is like that of a traveller who does not know his destination, and wanders aimlessly here and there.

Un-seriousness in thoughts

Generally, people do not consider these fundamental questions seriously. They instead spend their time and resources in such petty things as would earn them some materialistic and transitory benefits just to maintain the luxuries of the physical life and their name and fame in the society. In fact, they thus want to keep themselves as well as their fellow beings in delusion. But delusion remains a delusion whether it is targeted on one's own self or on anyone else. This would neither develop truthfulness, goodness and depth in their life nor would they be able to enjoy real

peace and pleasure. These values can be attained only through firm belief, True Knowledge and God-consciousness. So, unless and until man has the knowledge of life and the real purpose of life, his thought cannot be sublime nor can his heart be large and compassionate and nor can the vicious cycle of greed, hatred, prejudice, deceit, injustice, oppression, exploitation, narrow-mindedness, consumerism, mutual misunderstanding and superstition ever be stopped.

Unless man does not get serious towards the seriousness of the important questions pertaining to his life, and his existance itself, how can he and the society get rid of the vices like : suicide, murder, genocide, infanticide, female foeticide, corruption, adultery, fornication, rape, incest, gang-rape, adultration, hoarding, bribing, scandals, theft, robbery, abduction etc? This total failure in being oberved and experienced by we all in our day-to-day individual life, societal sphere, and collective system.

Devil rules the heart that doesn't fear God. This is the inevitable corollary of not knowing and fearing the Lord, Master and Sustainer that today almost everywhere the people having devilish tendencies are deviantly trampling under feet moral and human values. Today we have turned selfish and we have lost our humanity. As a result, we find ourselves under the burden of umpteen complex problems, and have failed rather miserably to make our life really meaningful.

Purpose of Life

Man can get himself rid of these complexities by determining the great purpose of life and acting accordingly. Only the great purpose of life can make man of man, and can make him really great. That great purpose is : to know the Lord, Creator and Master;

to follow His commandments and lead others accordingly; and not to associate any partners with Him. Only thus can he be able to enjoy peace and pleasure. Therefore, as long as we do not move towards achieving this great purpose, problems will continue to haunt us. People usually believe in the laws of science, but this is a malady that they falter and evade to believe in the laws of true religion, that are most scientific and universally prevalent. If we consider universality and truth as essential features of the 'True Divine Religion', there would be no possibility of variance and diversity in, and multiplicity of religion (s). Universal brotherhood can be established. That in turn, may solve our many problems, and resolve un-ending tragedies of our personal and collective life.

Pure, Absolute Monotheism

The Lord is One, and Only One. Definitely One. There is none else who deserves our worship. There is no image or idol of the Lord. But it is a matter of grave concern that many isms have been created due to ignorance and people do not understand that this has affected the very spirit of religion–its unity (absolute one-ness) and universality. The intellectual level of most of people has become so low that they have lost themselves in the oblivion of isms. They do not care to understand the true religion nor do they try to bring the entire humanfolk onto the path of One Lord. We should get rid of ignorance and make human beings the devotees and slaves of the Lord, thus liberating them from the slavery of fellow humans. The fact remains that as the humankind is 'one' as a whole: its Creater and Lord is 'one the only', the religion and path of all the people can only be one and single, and only by following that path we can stand united and our mutual disputes can be brought to an end.

Divine Guidance

The Lord Almighty, the Most Merciful and Most Compassionate, has sent Guidance for the entire mankind. So there can be no other way better than the one, God Himself has shown; nor can any teachings other than His be for the benefit and welfare of man here in this life and in the 'life hereafter'.

God's Messengers

Messengers and Prophets have been sent by the Lord down the long human-history to teach man the True Religion, to remove their misconceptions and show them the Straight Way. The world will always remain grateful to them. The last in the chain of Prophets is Muhammad (peace be upon him). He confirmed all his preceding Prophets and their teachings, and also raised his voice against the tamperings and distortions made therein by misguided human beings. He struggled against injustice and oppression in the human life caused by such tamperings. He called upon the people to come out of the web of darkness and ignorance, and follow the True Path; for, their wellbeing and success lies therein only.

The path shown by Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) has been the only True Path since dawn of humanity and no other path will prove true in the future as well. His most important message is:

"Man! Know Thy Lord."

It is our most urgent need today that we know our Lord because–

He is our Creator. He is the Sustainer, Who alone deserves our worship. He is the Master of all of us. He is very Compassionate. He is the Provider. He is the Master of the Day of Judgement. He is the Best

Patron and Protector. He is the Omnipotent and Only He is worth worshipping.

The HolyQur'an says:

"All authority to govern rests only with the Lord. He has commanded that you obey and worship none but Him.This is the right way of life." (12:40)

The Ultimate Goal

The Lord alone is the goal of our life journey. And to Him alone have we to return. If we follow His Path, we would attain immortal life in Paradise (Swarg) where there would be no sorrow nor would there be any fear. In the proximity to the Lord we would get all that we wish for. Even the wishes themselves will be quenched there. There would be such a downpour of divine bliss as we cannot even imagine. But this divine grace would come down upon only those who deserve it, who are noble, God-concious and pious. Therefore, we have to prove our worth in this very present life. This is the very real purpose of this life. It would be the greatest injustice with life if man deprives his life of its beauty and sublimity, takes the physical enjoyment and unsublime life for real, and deprives himself from the proximity to the Lord and falls into the hell. Quite evidently, no sensible person would opt for this.

Meaning of the 'Divine Guidance'

To follow the path laid down by the Lord does not mean that man should discard this world and proceed to the jungle. Nor does it mean that he should forget all his worldly responsibilities. To follow the divine path means that man should go along this path while establishing a perfect equilibrium between the life here and the hereafter. Therefore, by knowing the

Lord we get the power and strength that can hardly be imagined. One who knows the Lord, would be a man of character, a true man quite free from all kinds of narrow thinking. His heart would be so large that he might think of the welfare of the whole world and treat all human beings fairly. In his heart would be love, kindness and compassion for all. He would be eager to see that the entire human beings know the Lord and bring necessary changes in their life to follow His path.

The Holy Qur'an says in no ambiguous terms:

"Be kind even as the Lord has been kind to you, and seek not corruption on the earth; lo! the Lord does not love corrupters." (28:77)

The ideal society Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) created in accordance with the Divine teachings of Islam, was free from all sorts of evils and degenerations. Such a society in needed today, and in future too. Such society is not of any world of whims, desires, imaginations, and wishful thinking. It has indeed been formed; and the history bears wituess unto a full-fledged transformation and total revolution brought by the messenger Muhammad (pbuh), based on the 'Divine Guidance', that is, the 'True Religion'. This did happen when the contemporary human society did respond positively to his clariou call of, "Man! Know the Lord".

The Path to Success

To cap it all, to follow the path laid down by the Lord means that:

- We understand the reality and mystery of life.
- We follow the commandments of the Lord with the pure heart; let's not keep our heart dry, rather let us kindle love and faith therein.

- We have firm relationship with the Lord, and let sympathy and compassion (for others) flourish in our heart.
- We should not practise deceit–never and nowhere.
- We should strive to eliminate all kinds of injustice, persecution, oppression and exploitation from the human society.
- We try to see everyone gets equal opportunity for justice and progress.
- We remove all sorts of improper discrimination, and acquaint people of the fact that great is he alone who fears the Lord and follows the path laid down by Him–no matter what his complexion is, which country or state he lives in, and which language he speaks.

Conclusion

Now we may conclude, that we own to look at our personal, familial, societal, and collective life (as to be blissful and successful in true sense of the word) with all seriousness and sincerety. We are the only creature on the face of this earth who does possess intellect and intuition. This precious assest of ours has been bestowed upon us by none but God our Lord alone. Let's not ignore imperative of, or weaken the sense of this great, holy, and eternal relationship between us and our Lord. Let's be God-concious, faithful and obedient towards Him. Let's listen and respond to the Divine Call : "MAN! KNOW THY LORD"; for, if we don't know Him, we'd fail to establish the real relation with Him. We owe to respond positively to this "clarion call" to achieve bliss, peace, and real success.

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