

In the name of Allah, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

TOGETHER ALONG GOD'S WAY

December 2004¹

“By the Soul, and the proportion and order given to it; and its inspiration as to its wrong and its right;- Truly he succeeds that purifies it, and he fails that corrupts it! (Qur’an 91: 8-11) .

The Qur’an’s oath in this verse refers precisely to the human soul, a treasure to be protected with all seriousness. Recalling that our soul was and is a breath of the essence and of the Soul of God, the person that can purify it of all that is not light, that is not good, that is not mercy, in other words of all that is not its divine essence, that person will really prosper.

That person will prosper if they are able to purify the heart of envy, of jealousy, of anger, of selfishness, of trivial attachments, of the desire for things, for affirmation, for esteem, indeed of the desire for revenge, for judgment or for rebellion... otherwise, a soul disposed in this way will fail... "he fails that corrupts it!"

We need to get to work right away; time is short... and it is possible to lose the greatest Treasure entrusted to us... Islam’s sacred word is the Qur’an; but why can’t we enter to discover it at times, to understand it, to be nourished by its pure truth? The Qur’an itself answers us:

“I swear by the setting of the Stars,...that this is indeed a Qur’an most honourable, in a Book well-guarded, which none shall touch but those who are clean... (Qur’an 56:76-79).

Entering into the sphere of the pure, we will be able to read and understand the words of the Lord more and more, and each time it will be light and growing joy.

¹ Reflection inspired by Chiara Lubich’s commentary on the “Word of Life” for December, 2004: “*As the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do. (Col. 3:13)*”

Forgiveness and patience are the weapons needed for the way of purification. It is often difficult to have patience in life's circumstances; we encounter things, persons and jobs that burden and tire us; that is just where we need patience offered and addressed to God.

But when the challenge becomes difficult, when we find ourselves at work, in the family, among friends and acquaintances in contact with persons that cause us harm, create suffering, sadness, pain or else injustice... what should we do in these difficult moments?

One thing is clear: those people are poor souls immersed in ignorance because if they were to know what they are missing, they would never do those things; here is how the Qur'an explains it for us:

“And the servants of (Allah) Most Gracious are those who walk on the earth in humility, and when the ignorant address them, they say, ‘Peace!’ (Qur'an 25: 63)”.

What should we do then? Let us forgive those that hurt us because they are really in the darkness of ignorance. We bless them in answer to their curse for us, wishing peace upon them, the peace of the soul, lost and burnt in the fire of their ignorance. With all this we want the best for them; we love them.

Now, what is the measure of this forgiveness? What evil, what offense, what suffering and what sin can we forgive, and up to what point?

The human soul is the greatest Treasure entrusted to us. Why is this? Because it can become the living God's image because if God can forgive and forget all the bad and negative that we have committed, we can also do this with respect to those that hurt us.

God forgives everything and everyone; he purifies us of all our sins as soon as we ask Him with a sincere heart, and He sees us anew as if we were just born. This is the measure of forgiveness.

Are we able to be true images of God love - ALRAHMAN – in order to see anew those that hurt us?

But there are no limits in God; his forgiveness really amazes us. Not only does He forgive everyone and everything, but he actually radically changes and transforms our own mistakes and sins. How? The Qur'an says, "Unless he repents, believes, and works righteous deeds, for Allah will change the evil of such persons into good, and Allah is Oft-forgiving, Most Merciful... (Qur'an 25:70)." Not only does He forgive, but he transforms sin and bad conduct into good works!

And to understand this we have the example of the ocean in nature, which is able to recycle dirty water into clean water and good food.

So it is really true: "Truly he succeeds that purifies it"!

Because he will enter into a sphere of light, peace, joy, greatness and strength. The light and joy of the divine love that forgives. That is where we are aiming in the way of purification.

*SHAHRZAD
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