Halaqa: Saturday, August 2, 2014

Topic: Cryings of the heart, pg 230

**Among beings there is no work which is not a most meaningful embodied word and does not cause to be read numerous of the Glorious Maker’s Names. Since beings are words, words of Power, read their meanings and place them in your heart. Fearlessly cast words, whose meanings extracted, onto the winds of transience. Do not concern yourself looking behind them, needlessly occupying yourself.**

We need to train ourselves to not expect satisfaction from anything that is created because it is transient!

* Rather, we have to attach our heart to the meaning that exists in everything that is created
* In doing so, we will be attached to the Eternal Absolute Creator

**Since the chain of thought of the worldly mind, which worships externals and whose capital consists of ‘objective’ knowledge (**knowledge obtained from the externality of the objects themselves)**, leads to nothingness and non-existence, it cries out despairingly in its bewilderment and frustration.**

Worldly mind: A mind that is only concerned with the created objects and which seeks permanent satisfaction from transience.

One of the main confusions that people face:

“I believe in God and I follow His rules BUT when I pray my prayers are not answered”

* What many people fail to realize is that this entire universe has been created so that we may know the Creator. Our prayers are also to acknowledge our position before the Creator. We can only know the Creator through using ourselves. When I acknowledge that I am made, I start searching for my Maker. Through my impotence and the impotence of the objects in and around me I realize that my Maker must be the Omnipotent one. Prayers are not for obtaining something; they are just to express my reality so that I will know who my Lord is. Simply put it, prayers cannot be “prayers” if they are performed in an expectation of something in return; they will be only bargaining with God. For example, when I am hungry, I pray to God to give me food. That should mean, “I am needy, and I acknowledge that the food is provided by God.” Prayers must be performed to express our reality before God. Otherwise, the universe is out there and we are asked to make a search for food created there by God.
* If you expect satisfaction from objects, you will never obtain it
* Rather, all of creation has been created so that we may know the Creator
  + We have to attach our hearts to the Absolute Creator

When you want an object, there is a certain order in this universe that has been set

* Work within the order so that you may obtain the object
* But, once you receive the object, know that the object provides no satisfaction
  + Rather, satisfaction is only with the Creator

We try to obtain happiness that the heart is yearning for by looking towards the world

* However, the happiness that we are seeking cannot be fulfilled within the limitations of this world
* That is how we have been created!

Within temporary happiness lies pain

* Our human qualities recognizes that there is no eternal happiness in transience
  + While you may enjoy the temporary pursuit of eating an orange, our humanity is aware that the temporary happiness will disappear
    - We suppress the internal messenger within us and busy ourselves with securing the transient for proceeding moments
    - However, no matter how much we secure it will EVENTUALLY disappear (or we will die)

We seek help from the Creator, not only in times of hardship

* When I am in a position of good health, I ought to be aware that my satisfaction and happiness is all from the Creator

Due to the frustration or lack of security in their beliefs about the hereafter, people ignore their conscience

* They claim that their human expectations for eternal happiness is artificial
  + As a result, they condition themselves to be minimally satisfied with the transient
* Unbelief in God is a result of denying one’s reality
  + We can only believe in God if we do not contradict our reality

Human *shari’a:* Human consciousness

* If we are not aware of our humanity and the reality about our Creator, there is no way we can derive any benefit from ‘religious practices’
* Religion (and belief) is extracted by understanding one’s own reality
  + Only when you understand your reality can you read religious texts and confirm/reject it
  + We can be sure that a religion is correct by using our own consciousness as the criterion
    - Without using our own abilities, our actions will be mere imitation because there is no personal confirmation!

Stop running away from the process of confirmation

* How can any of us be sure that the message we are reading is from the Creator?
  + By using our own human abilities, which have been provided by the Creator
  + As the Quran says: Every human being has been created with the abilities to represent Me (*khalifa)*
    - I can only represent God on earth if I am aware of the qualities He has endowed within me
    - *Khalifa:* Acting in the name of God
      * You can only act in His name if you know who you really are

Religious critics may say: How can we allocate our limited human consciousness with the responsibility of confirming God’s Absolute message?

* The truth of the matter is that there is no other way for humans to find satisfaction and a confirmation in their belief
* Any other way is an imitative way of life
  + It is nothing more than ethnic culture
* We have to be true to ourselves
  + If we follow cultures, then there is no way to find the ‘truth’ as each community will remain loyal to their own
  + Be honest with yourself and question claims that we find ourselves holding on to

Rationalists may say: Reason is the source of truth

* + However, reason cannot produce truth
    - Reason is the criterion with which we check the truth
    - When the truth is presented, reason is the only way that we can confirm it

Example: Observing an orange

Rationalists will says: The orange has a certain color, weight, etc

* We have to take it one step further;
  + Look for the One who has consciously measured and created the orange
  + Only then can you confirm the Creator

Quran says: We have created humans in the best forms and we have honored them

* Our responsibility is to be honest with ourselves by using our human qualities

God creates according to human choice

* We have to choose which scripture is God’s words
* We can only choose by using our human qualities including human rationality!
  + Do not contradict the way we have been created.
  + I can only define and understand God as a result of my own confirmation by using my given human abilities

As people begin questioning, they reject their cultures

* They may be led to Buddhism since it offers them spirituality and comfort without an institution
* However, some may ask: But what is the point of life itself?
  + In Buddhism they find that there is no conscious will behind creation and that is discomforting
* This then leads them to Islam
* Throughout, there is a process of confirmation/rejection using one’s human rationality. Of course, it should not be misused by reducing it to being just a “worldly mind,” which is concerned with the world itself rather than what the world is referring to.

A common observed trend: Christianity 🡪 Atheism (pointless lives) 🡪 Far eastern religions (still not satisfactory; purposelessness) – Islam

* Through the process of confirmation and rejection, we can confidently confirm that the Quran is the word of God
  + I belong to Islam (Human qualities leads me to confirm the message of truth)
  + Not, Islam is my religion and hence I do XYZ (do not claim ownership and use that as a starting point)

Abraham was honest to himself; He followed his *fitra* (qualities that human beings have been created with)

Believe in the Quran because it is our Book (wrong methodology)

* Rather, believe in the Quran because my humanity confirms the message

I have to use the qualities He has given me to acknowledge Him

* *Inna lilahi wa inna ilayhi rajeoon*
* I have to refer the qualities I observe in this world back to the Source (*ru’ju)*

When someone rejects trinity, they are in reality rejecting the description of God that contradicts with their rationality

* It cannot be the message of MY CREATOR because it does not make sense to ME
  + Use your own human qualities to confirm or reject!
  + However, we have to be honest with ourselves
* When I search for God in the Quran and find that it makes sense, I can confidently says: The message makes sense and has to be the message of MY CREATOR

Everybody is equally responsible for himself or herself before the Creator

* We cannot play the role of a child and deny responsibility

People tend to associate religiosity with blind imitation instead of confirmation

* Confirmation requires constant introspection, which many people steer away from, as it requires hard work.