Halaqa: Saturday, July 5, 2014

Topic: The Word; Cryings of the heart

Surah An’am (6): 76

**But when it set, he said: “I love not those that set.”**

**006.076**



**The human mind, which plunges into causes, is bewildered at the upheavals of the passing of the world, and laments despairingly.**

We should ask: Do I really feel a sense of despair at the upheavals of the passing of the world?

**Plunges into causes**:

* The human mind is prone to attributing the ‘effect’ experienced to a seemingly apparent cause
	+ Thirst: We think **water** quenches our thirst
		- But, does water have the consciousness to know our bodily needs and satisfy them accordingly?
		- If we do not take these additional steps to ponder on the validity of our claims, we are wasting our intellectual qualities

Bewildered at the upheavals of the passing of the world:

* I find myself with a desire that my happiness should last forever
	+ Upon drinking water and having my thirst quenched, I find myself in thirst some moments later
* The transient nature of existence is puzzling because I realize that nothing exists permanently despite the fact that I desire permanence

I want to be happy, but I want something that will respond to my needs PERMANENTLY.

* I have to search for the permanent source and not seek happiness in transience because that will leave me unsatisfied.

False process of explaining our satisfaction:

* Cycling satisfies me.
* When I grow old, I will be unable to cycle anymore, and I have to accept the reality of it.
	+ BUT, ironically, we are denying our REAL reality which innately desires fun and satisfaction

Even when I am old, I still desire eternal happiness

* It is within me
* We should not ‘cheat’ ourselves by suppressing our true desires in exchange for the presumed ‘reality’ around us
* The inability to cycle IS CREATED just as the ability to cycle is created
* In both instances, we are being trained to reach the conclusion that causes cannot satisfy desires
	+ Rather, only the One who creates the causes can satisfy desires

Everything is continuously changing and being re-created

* Nothing can sustain its own existence
* I cannot be the source of my own existence; if I was, shouldn’t I be able to control my ageing process and preserve my being eternally?
* We ought to be aware of the dependency of EVERYTHING, at EVERY MOMENT on an Absolute Creator
	+ *Ubudiya:* Seeing a new demonstrated act of creation at every moment

**055.029**



**“On Him depends all creatures in the heavens and eart**h; every moment He is yet in another act of creation.”

My reality (desire for eternal happiness) demands that I ask of the Creator:

* Can you provide me with my desired eternal happiness?

We are created within an order of cause and effect

* The Creator is the One who has created water as well as

the characteristics that will quench our thirst

* Our logic tells us that water itself cannot create itself let alone its qualities
* While the ‘cause and effects’ are apparent, if we get fixated on them, we will be in a great loss because the ‘cause’ has no power in and of itself
* The ‘cause and effect’ processes are a means for us to reach a rational and logical conclusion of the true Creator
	+ BUT, we have to use our rational capacities to reach a rational conclusions
	+ If we do not use our rational capacities, we find ourselves bewildered/anxious/depressed because we encounter the reality that the ‘causes’ have no ability to truly CAUSE anything

We have been conditioned to accept a distorted sense of reality (i.e. see the end in the means)

* But a small amount of introspection reveals the flaws in such a distorted reality because NOTHING in this universe can offer us a comforting ‘end’
* Why?
* Because everything is Created, which means that the beginning and end is only with the Creator.

Example: Fasting

* Fasting ought to be performed in the conscious presence of God (i.e. belief)
	+ When I do not drink water, it is because I acknowledge the true owner of water and my true owner
* Belief is not an outcome of fasting; on the contrary, fasting is an outcome of belief
* I should not be fasting just because the Quran says so; I should be aware why I should take the Qur’an as my guide
	+ I fast because I am aware of my Creator and my relationship with Him

Any action that is done in the name of ‘religion’ must be founded on a strong system of belief

**While the conscience, which desires true existence, severs the connection with metaphorical beloveds and transient beings through crying like Abraham, “*I love not those that set,”* and it binds itself to the Truly Existent One, and Eternal Beloved.**

The consciousness of our mind DESIRES TRUE EXISTENCE which is permanent

* We have to train ourselves to pay attention to it instead of ignoring it and being heedless (*ghaflah)*
* When we experience calamities, our consciousness gets jolted
	+ We might label calamities as a negative occurrence but in actuality, if they lead us to our TRUE REALITY, it is a great occurrence

Death is taking place at every moment

* We cannot ignore the reality that this universe is transience
* The fact that every moment is changing calls us to listen to our consciousness
	+ Instead of being displeased at death, we ought to rejoice at its creation
	+ The dying nature of this universe forces me to seek out the Eternal One
* It is a sign that guides us towards the only One who is Permanent

If someone claims that they do not want to live forever (and hence not seeking the Eternal), we should ask: What is the point of existing now, then?

* This person, in fact, does not want to be bored with his/her life, that is a genuine demand. This feeling is given to us as a sign that our Creator is not going to give us a “boring life” if only we connect ourselves to Him.
* When we think of our life as an accident, it is inevitable for us not to think of a “boring life” if it was eternal.
* I cannot be accidentally happy forever. But the One who created this universe and my desire to have a happy life eternally can create eternal happiness.
* The universe witnesses to this.

You will realize that the meaninglessness and purposelessness of existence is discomforting

* If we appoint this universe as ‘lord’ we will be in a constant state of despair because of the reality that everything is transience
* **The despair is our consciousness calling us to find the Eternal Creator**

The Creator who gave me this sense of eternal pleasure, is promising me, that He will grant me Eternal pleasure

* But if I attribute my desire for eternal pleasure to ‘chance’ and ‘nature’ then I find myself in a realm of meaningless
* As soon as I cut off my relationship with the Creator of the desire for eternal happiness, I will be living a life of hopelessness (punishment)

When I find the Creator and attach all my hopes to Him, I find myself at peace

* But at the instance I cut myself off, I find myself in despair
* The despair we feel is a ‘sign’ and ‘guide’ of our consciousness pointing us to truly reflect and ponder

If the universe is yours, you will be ready to sacrifice EVERYTHING in it, so that you will be saved from into a complete despair

* A powerful description in the Quran to remind us that I am ready to give everything within my possession to save my eternal happiness which is the ultimate purpose of humanity
* Why?
* Because my humanity (my consciousness) is the only REAL rope that will connect me to the True Creator

Think about how meaningful our life can become when we are with the Giver of all our senses!

- **Only with Him, every problem is solved.** Without Him every thing becomes a source of despair. You decide now, which way of thinking represents **your reality**?