



A Sufi Message

The Deeper Side of Life, The Purpose of Creation

Selected Teachings by Hazrat Inayat Khan

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Every moment has its special message.

– Hazrat Inayat Khan –

WE should remember to do every little good action, every little kindness, every act of generosity with one's whole heart, without the desire of getting anything in return making a trade out of it. The satisfaction must be in doing it and in nothing else.

Every step in our evolution makes life more valuable. The more evolved a person is, the more priceless is every moment; it becomes an opportunity to do good to others, to serve others, to give love to others, to be gentle to others, to give sympathy to souls who are longing and hungering for it. Life is miserable when a person is absorbed in oneself, as soon as one forgets oneself, they are happy. The more one thinks of oneself, their own affairs, work and interests, the less such a person knows the meaning of life. When a person looks at another, they cannot at the same time look at oneself. Illness, disappointments and hardships matter very little when one can look at them from a higher standpoint.

Practice: Ya Khabīr (kḥa-BEER)

- The Knower of Inner Truth The One who knows and understands the meaning of even the most hidden secrets.
- The One who know the inner truth of every condition and situation.

Besides this moral point of view there is the mystical aspect, and when looking from the mystical point of view one sees that God's greatest purpose is accomplished by us. In explaining this philosophy, I should like to give you the simile of an artist who has produced a beautiful picture. The dogs have looked at it and the cats have looked at it, but that is not enough. When a person who has not understood the idea of the picture, the art, the feeling of it, comes, looks at it and says, "There is nothing in it", then the purpose for which the artist painted the picture is not attained. At last some one else comes, looks at the picture and says, "Oh, what a beautiful idea! It suggests something to me, I can read something from it, it tells me something, it is living." It means that this person has not only understood the picture but has understood the soul of the artist.

QUESTION: How much or how often do we not understand of God's unfoldment? How often do we attempt to conform God's Will to our limited knowledge? What if instead, we sought to gain deeper insight and understanding in God's unfoldment?

The whole beauty of creation - the dogs have seen it, the cats have seen it, the peacocks and other birds have seen it and in their way they have been delighted, they have enjoyed it, they have danced and rejoiced over it. They have admired it in their own way, but as humans - besides admiring we have the ability to see beyond the surface, our sight [or insight] has the **potential** to penetrate all one sees, and then one touches God, the Creator. It is not only praising God, but it is knowing and understanding God which gives the greatest satisfaction, because that is the purpose of the creation of humanity: that we may understand and know. **[Prayer Khatum: *Disclose to us Thy Divine Light, which is hidden in our souls, that we may know and understand life better....*]** And it is only by seeing the sublimity of nature's beauty, by being impressed by it, by understanding it, by knowing its language, by hearing its voice, that this can be done. The person who is living, who can hear and see and whose heart can feel, has risen above ordinary humanity. **[Prayer Khatum: *Open our hearts that we may hear Thy voice which constantly cometh from within.*]** It does not mean that a person has to become an angel: one needs to live a fuller life, a really human life. **[Prayer Saum: *Raise us from the denseness of the earth. Thy Beauty do we worship, To Thee do we give willing surrender.*]**

Practice: Ya 'Alim ('a-LEEM)

- The All-Knowing, The Omniscient One, The One who comprehends everything.

What a great thing is understanding! It is priceless. No person can give greater pleasure to another than through understanding. The closest friend in life is the one who understands most. It is not your wife, brother or sister, it is the one who understands you most who is your greatest friend in the world. You can be the greatest friend of God if you can understand God. Imagine how a person lives in the world - with closed eyes and closed ears! Every name and every form speaks constantly, constantly making signs for you to hear, for you to respond to, for you to interpret, that you may become a friend of God. *When the soul is tuned to that state then the eyes and the ears of the heart are open to see and hear the word that comes from all sides. In point of fact every atom of this world, either in heaven or earth, speaks, and speaks aloud.* (Ref. Sufi Message Volume 6, *The Alchemy of Happiness, Receiving the Knowledge of Life, 5. Revelation*) The whole purpose of your life is to make yourself ready to understand what God is, what your fellowman is, what the nature of humanity is, what life is.

Now coming to a still greater secret of life I want to answer the question: how can we grow to read and understand the message that life speaks through all its names and forms? The answer is that, as by the opening of the eyes you can see things, so by the opening of the heart you can understand things. As long as the heart is closed you cannot understand. The secret is that, when the ears and eyes of the heart are open, all planes of the world are open, all names are open, all secrets, all mysteries are unfolded. (Prayer Salat: *Thy Light is in all forms, Thy Love in all beings... Allow us to recognize Thee in all Thy holy names and forms....*)

The question arises: what is the manner of opening the heart? The way to it is a natural life, the life of the child, smiling with the smiling one, praying with the praying one, ready to learn from

everyone, ready to love. The child has enmity against no one, has no hatred, no malice, the heart of the child is open. It is in the child that you can see the smiles of angels; and a child can see through life.

Jesus says it in this way: Amen I say to you, unless you be converted, and become as little children, you shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Verily I say, Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven. (Ref: Holy Bible, New Testament, Matthew 18:3-4) What does this mean? Experiencing the life of God, as life with in in God in this life requires humility like a little child. It means maintaining the wonderful and beautiful characteristics and qualities of children that life in this sinful world tends to beat out of us.

Practice: Ya Fattah (yaa fat-TAAH)

- Al-Fattah means both to begin and to open.
- With Ya Fattah you begin to open your heart to the infinite possibilities of the divine presence. This opening is continuous.
- It is an enlightenment that keeps happening.
- Al-Fattah brings great power to clear the way of obstacles and open the path of your life for success and opens the heart to love and ecstasy.
- Ya Fattah is a very powerful practice because, even in the midst of despair, it brings the possibility of awakening to love and ecstasy.
- Its activity in us is opens the veils of darkness over the heart to uncover the light within.

When the grown-up person is made ready, when one has acquired the attributes of the child, then one creates heaven within oneself, one understands. The child with their innocence does not understand, but when a person with understanding develops the childlike loving tendency, the purity of heart of the child with the desire to be friendly to all - that is the opening of the heart, and it is by that blessing that one can receive all the privileges of human life.

CLOSING

- Dedication of Merit
- Prayer Khatum
- Giving

We pray this teaching resonates and benefits YOU!

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References:

Sufi Volume 8, The Privilege of Being Human, The Purpose of Creation

Sufi Message Volume 6, The Alchemy of Happiness, Receiving the Knowledge of Life, 5. Revelation

Holy Bible, New Testament, Matthew 18:3-4

Physicians of the Heart, A Sufi View of the Ninety-Nine Names of Allah, Sufi Rubaniat International