

Chapter – 02

Soul

(روح)

Man is made up of earth, but the life that he has is his ‘Soul’. In connection with Man’s creation, God says in Quran:

وَنَفَخْتُ فِيهِ مِنْ رُوحِي

{And breathed into him a soul from myself (15:29 & 38:72)}

Therefore, Man has lots of God’s attributes and distinctions. He is capable to know the facts about all the things present in this Universe. He knows well how to use fire, water, plants, animals and non-living things. When his soul starts executing towards heights then he can capture the entire Universe. But, when the same man drops down his soul into depths, then he starts worshiping sun, stars, fire and stones as well.

Soul or spirit is a non-materialistic thing, but the main nucleus of his life, knowledge and power is this soul. The core of the word ‘Soul’ itself has movement and action in it. The body of man, which is a materialistic thing, when looked in action is basically due to his soul. If the soul stops doing anything then body becomes dead.

The famous and well-known Islamic Philosopher Sheikh Ibn Arabi says that “In a mankind, if the soul is dominant then every related thing also keeps glory of life in it”. Even the dust of his feet has life in it. Thus, when the magicians of Firaun put the dust of Rooh-ul Ameen Jabriel’s feet into a cow, made up of gold, that started giving sound and showing life in it. (Be noted that when Jabriel used to come to Prophet Moosa, at that time wherever the horse of Jabriel had gone, the earth became fertile. The dusty part of this portion of the earth was given to the golden cow by the magicians).

According to Sheikh Ibn Arabi, Prophet Eisa (PBUH) had the dominance of spirituality. That is why he used to give life to the dead persons. The chronic sick patients used to become fully cured. These were among his miracles. He had many more miracles like that.

In the birth of Prophet Eisa (PBUH) the role of father did not exist. His birth took place due to his mother only. Therefore by nature he was a very polite person. If anybody hits on cheeks of someone's cheek, he used to say, 'present another cheek to hit'. ---- But, when the same Prophet Eisa (PBUH) will be descended from Heaven near the ending period of this world, he will be subjective to Prophet Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم. Then, he will receive capitation-tax levied from the non-Muslim. He will kill a domesticated pig as well.

As regard to the soul, God says in Quran that:

وَيَسْأَلُونَكَ عَنِ الرُّوحِ قُلِ الرُّوحُ مِنْ أَمْرِ رَبِّي وَمَا أُوتِيتُمْ مِنَ الْعِلْمِ إِلَّا قَلِيلًا

{They ask you concerning the soul; proclaim, "The soul is an entity by the command of my Lord, and you have not received knowledge except a little. (17:85)}

This very 'soul' is also called as Human Self (نفس انسانية). For the purity of soul, man is essentially required to take care of his self-refinement. This 'Self' is in a way behaves like an animal. It does not care for right or wrong. The only thing that is needed is, at any cost his desire should be fulfilled. However, there is one good thing in it that if this inner-self or behavior is trained on positive lines, it becomes good. And when it becomes habitual, it does things consistently.

For the refinement of 'Soul' or 'Self' three factors are involved:

1. Due to Shaytan and the Inner-self hurdles (خطر نفساني), inclination towards bad deeds, provocation for sexy desires, and intensification for evils develop in the Human beings. This is called نفس امارة (bad signs of self). This type of hurdle comes into human heart in a way as if a thief comes in a house that goes one step ahead and with fear takes one step behind.
2. As Shaytan is always ready to mislead human beings, there is one 'Angle' also who persistently stays with man busy to guide positively. This Angle stops men from evil. It shows evil as evil, and good as good. Therefore, on account of this help, man starts regretting on his bad deeds and goes for "Repentance" (توبة), and then man's self is called نفس لوامة (good signs of self).
3. .And if Soul or 'Self' gets merciful grants from God, then He makes man rich and richer with His Acquaintance and Knowledge. At this stage this self is called نفس مطمئنة (Pure, Belonging to God). This is a grace of favour from God.

In this connection God says:

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّفْسُ الْمُطْمَئِنَّةُ - ارْجِعِي إِلَىٰ رَبِّكِ رَاضِيَةً مَّرْضِيَّةً

{O the contented soul. Return toward you Lord, you being pleased with Him, and He pleased with you. (89:27&28)}



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