

GLIMPSES FROM THE GLORIOUS RELIGION OF ISLAM.

"SURRENDERING TO THE WILL OF ALLAH, THE SUPER- UNKNOWABLE".

"WHO ARE YOU?" THE DEVOTEE ASKED. GOD REPLIED: "YOU"!

by Ishqee - e - Hakiki

Amongst the humanity on this earth, there are several Religions. All of them are the messages from God. Therefore each of them is a huge statement of Truth. The original source of each is the same. The ultimate aim as proclaimed by each is the same. The difference lies only in certain disciplines, devotions, 'tarikats', procedures of life. For a Muslim, 5 Namaz and Ramzan fast is a sacred tarikat. For a Parsi, Sudreh- Kushti is the holy spiritual exercise and "Aalaat" i.e a sacred object with divine energy sparkling from it. The holy Cross is such Aalaat for a Christian.

Again, certain rules of life are common to all Religions, particularly the moral virtues like love, selflessness, compassion, non-violence, service. But we observe that different Religions lay more emphasis on some one or the other virtue and more importance is given to the spiritual doctrine or Truth from which the particular virtue emanates or is derived. Thus Christianity gives pre-eminence to love and meekness; Buddhism to compassion; Jainism to non-violence; Hinduism to "Nishkam Karma" i.e. desireless works; Zarathushtrian to alchemy of "druj" into "gava" and resistance to the evil within; Judaism to the silent suffering for God.

Every Religion has, thus, its own lustre and glory. God in His Wisdom has bestowed on the humans this variety of Religions and decreed that one should practice one's own Religion of birth, and look at others with profound respect. Very often some, spiritual Truth is elaborated more in one Religion than the other and it is a matter of great joy for our heart when the other Religions clarify some Truth which is not so clearly declared in our own Religion. Like, Swami Vivekanand teaching certain Vedantic Truths to the Christians to make them better Christians and understand their own Religion in a clearer way.

During the five years of its life this humble Parsi Pukar have touched the other Religions to show their sublimity. Today I would love to present to my open minded readers some beautifully divine colours of spirituality contained in **ISLAM**.

Islam is a glorious Religion. Its mystical dimensions are many splendored. Great Sufi Saints and 'Awlia' have adorned it with lustrous writings, poems, stories, even humour-from Maulana Rumi's heart throbbing poems to the Sufi Master's creation of the famous character of Mulla Nasruddin. Let us enter into this fragrant garden of Allah.

Meaning of the word 'Islam' is submissiveness, surrender to God and His word. Pious Muslims say: does not the blood circulate **as Islam i.e by surrendering to Allah? Is not the motion of the stars Islam itself? Do not the plants grow by way of surrender to Allah?** Every motion in Creation is surrender to Him. So, should not the humans do the same? The great German artist poet, Goethe, **who wrote Ghazals in German language** has defined Islam thus:

"Wenn Islam Ergebungin Gottes Willenhebit

In Islam leben und sterben wir aile."

"If Islam means surrender to God's will, then all of us live and die in Islam"

KEEP SMILING AT HIS WILL.

The poet is not talking of any narrow idea of conversion to Islam. He points out to the great teaching of surrender to God, which is found in one form or the other in all Religions. Whatever comes from Him, be it happiness or misery, welcome it, thank God for it - more for the misery than happiness. The same Truth is in

the great formula in Patet Pasheymaani: "**Az Anaai Khorsand Hom**" - I am happy, pleased and smiling towards any misery or calamity coming on me. Since it is His wish and will, I am smiling. The same idea is hidden in the "Sthit-pragnya" state in Hinduism, that is, to be balanced, peaceful and undisturbed to Karmic storms, whether good or bad, comforting or burning, smooth or rough. The same idea is hidden in "the suffering for servant of God" in Judaism.

And when the pious Muslim says, all motion in universe is surrender to God, we are reminded of the Zarthoshti Teaching that **all motion is Atash and emanates from "Athra", the son of Ahuramazda," Puthra Ahurahe Mazdao."** **The son's surrender to the Father is itself the Creation.....**

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THE TRUTH ABOUT GOD

God is present and prominent in all Religions, be it Ishwar, or Allah, or Ahuramazda, or Ayin (Jew). And one Thought is common in all : that God is beyond thought. God cannot be thought out, He is to be **experienced**. Any attempt to think out some concept of God is bound to fail. Human mind is too narrowly channelised to understand God through any mental construct. As Pascal (1623-1662) put it: God is that God of Abraham, Isacc and Jacob and not of the philosophers and scholars. He is not an inference from a philosophical proposition or a scientific hypothesis. God is a divine mystery not to be intellectually worked out but to be actually experienced in His divine presence. Swami Vivekanand was pushed to the divine experience by Ramkrishna Paramahans. Buddha had the experience under the Bodhi Tree; Moses, at Mount sinai, Mohammad at the cave of Hira, a desert hill.

This incapability of the non-saintly human mind to understand God is the central Truth about Him in Islam. A great Sufi Saint described God as saying:

" Whatever comes to your mind that I am that - I am not that,

Whatever has room in your understanding that I would be like this - I am not like this."

The great Sufi Saint poet Rumi said, "Whatever you can think is perishable. That which enters not into any thought, that is God"

Every thought is perishable. God is not perishable; therefore He cannot be made to enter into thought. Any attempt to do so leads to confusion and contradiction. An Arabic verse says,

" Praised be He by whose work the intellect becomes confused."

(We may add, "But the heart throbs with Love.")

How can He be transcendent and immanent at the same time? our intellect asks. Transcendent means beyond all and immanent means in everything. Allah says, "My heaven and My earth do not comprise me, but the heart of my faithful servant comprises me." (Ahdith-e-Masnawi no.63). In the holy Koran, Sura 2225, the Prophet describes God: "His Throne includeth the heavens and the earth"; yet the small heart of His devotee is also His Throne! In Sura 50 : 16, Allah says

" We verify created man and We know what his soul whispereth to him and **We are nearer to him than his Jugular vein**".

Can our intellect, our so called common sense, explain this, understand this? As Annemarie Schimmel writes in her "**Deciphering the Signs of God**", "**A Phenomenological Approach to Islam**" (State University of New York Press-1994), at page 223 :

"Poems have sung of Him in colourful images, in paradoxes, negations and affirmations which, however do nothing but hide the transcendent Essence, for He is, so to speak "**SUPER UNKNOWABLE**"

This word Super-Unknowable reminds me of Super-force, Super-symmetry and Superstrings in modern physics, where God seems to have given to the intellect of man, a glimpse of His own apparent contradiction through wave-particle dilemma of electron as well as light and the relativity - quantum dilemma of macrocosm versus microcosm. An electron and a light wave can act as wave and particle both, according to how the experimenter has arranged his apparatus! And the laws found by the intellectual humans as governing the big universe are entirely inconsistent with the laws operating within a tiny atom. They say, both cannot be right.

They are therefore trying to reconcile them through all kinds of super-ideas which they call super-string and super force and super symmetry. And all along the Super Unknowable, Allah, may be laughing. He must surely be capable of laughing, since one of His Messengers by name Zarathushtra laughed whilst being born.....

Ahramazda's big laugh must be when He sees certain words placed in the mouth of His Laughing Prophet, namely that, a non-saintly human can arrive at His truth by means of his or her mind! That is stated by erudite Western Savants and scholars to be contained in Gatha - Yazashney Ha 30-2! And they are proud that Zoroaster differs from all other Prophets, as if God is to teach contrary truths to Them. God does not laugh but cry when His humans fight bloody wars in the name of Religion.....

Here are some gems from the Islam and the Sufi Mystics:

"If you walk towards Him, He comes to you running."

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"Flee to Allah."

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"Wherever you turn, there is face of Allah."

- The Holy Koran

"Rose and mirror and sun and moon - Where are they?"

"Whenever I looked there was always Thy face."

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"When I was intoxicated with wine (of Thy love) and saw around, the whole world turned out to be a dream."

- Mir Taki Mir (Urdu Sufi Poet)

"When a servant whom God loves prays to Him, God says, "O Gabriel, delay answering the need of My servant, for I love to hear his voice".

When a servant, who God dislikes prays to Him, God says, "O Gabriel, answer away My servant's need, for I dislike hearing his voice." - (Traditional)

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"First He pampered me with a hundred favours, Then He melted me with the fire of sorrows. After He sealed me with the seal of Love. I became Him.

Then He threw myself out of me."

- Rumi

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I see my Lord with my heart's eye and asked "who are You?" He answered "You".

- Al Hallaj.

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