

Inner Call Podcast #107 Where is perfection? March 29 2021

We say that beauty is in the eye of the beholder. Is the same true of perfection? Yes – but only when the beholder is not there.

Each individual responds to the world in a distinct way. Majnun saw the beauty of Leila because he was Majnun, and as he said, for others to see her beauty, they would have to borrow his eyes. The whole of creation has been fashioned by the Divine, but for most of us, it does not appear uniformly beautiful; some parts appeal to us more, some less. And there is seldom agreement about the beautiful - that which leaves one person indifferent may lift another to the heavens in rapture.

Our spiritual path is a journey toward the One Being – not a journey in space, but in our awareness; we are already inseparable from the One, but we start in the feeling of isolation and we want to become aware of that Unity, which is described in the Invocation as 'the perfection of love, harmony and beauty.' But where is that perfection? As with beauty, most people find their perception of 'perfection' to be patchy, at best. There is a lot in the world to complain of (unless we have trained ourselves out of that habit). Perhaps we glimpse perfection here or there, and then when we look again, it has vanished.

The limitation of perfection is only caused by our limited point of view. If we were able to enlarge our way of seeing, the 'imperfections' would begin to show something different. Suppose that I walk regularly through a certain forest, and admire the grace and beauty of the trees. Then one day, on my walk I discover that a windstorm has brought down just the tree under which I used regularly to sit for a few moments of quiet reflection. It is a loss – to me. But the tree, as it decays, will now feed many other little lives, and the forest will be renewed.

To see perfection, we must see from ALL points of view, allowing all, respecting all. In other words, the adage that a Sufi sees with two points of view, his own and that of the other person, is not just good medicine for social harmony, but a mystical prescription for the perception of the One, the Only Being. In the Bible we read, "No one may see Me and live." No ONE, no individual may see God – but if we toss aside our little ego and give space to the whole picture, we may at last be granted a view of the infinite perfection we have been seeking all our life.