

Inner Call Podcast #113 Reaching Higher April 16 2021

In Abul Hassan Kharqani's poem about light, posted on April 15th, we read that the Lord sends a light from above upon humanity, which is the light of Grace, and there is also a light from below that reaches upward, and that is the light of purity.

There is nothing we can do to earn or attract the first light, the light from Above, for the essence of grace is that it is given unconditionally and without regard to merit. It cannot be urged or bought; God gives because He chooses to, and when He smiles upon us we are blessed. If He chooses to withhold His grace, we must practice the art of patience.

But what about the light of purity? It is possible to brighten and focus this light by our own efforts, if we understand well what purity means. Most people think of 'purity' as a kind of moral discipline, avoiding what has been called 'impure,' such as certain acts or behaviours, for example, or certain forms of speech. However, as Hazrat Inayat Khan explains in his lecture on the purity of life, begun in the post of April 14th, purity really means discovering our essence, and letting go of everything else.

The spirit that comes to earth is pure in its origin – it is a ray of light from the most pure Source – but through the course of life it accumulates numerous impressions, and these cause its essential inner radiance to grow dim. When we shed those impressions, the light becomes brighter. The original light of purity begins to show its brilliance when we take away the covers. The various disciplines given by religions have this as their aim – to help us wash off the dense layers of grime.

But if disciplines are followed without the proper attitude, they risk burying the spirit under still more layers. That is why a very powerful way of freeing the light of purity is to become ever more grateful for the light of Grace. Because Grace comes unlooked for, our hearts should be softened by gratitude for any blessings that we receive.

There is no life on earth which has not been touched by Grace in many ways. Even to have been born is a gift from Above. If we spend more time recognizing our blessings and giving thanks, then certainly the light of purity will reach higher.