

## Inner Call Podcast #149 The Point of View of the Stars November 24 2021

We were talking about 'consideration,' a conversation started by the phrase from the Gayan: *Verily the man who considers human feelings is spiritual.*

As one person in the circle pointed out, the root of the word consider seems to be from the Latin, 'to be with the stars.' This would suggest looking at the bigger picture, seeking the cosmic background which explains –or perhaps directs – that which is immediately before us. A Sufi might say, it means to look at the cause behind the cause. In its modern use, consider can mean to think about or to examine something with care, as for example if one said, 'I am considering which charity to support.'" But to show consideration towards a person means taking care not to harm or injure them, usually in the sense of their feelings. A fine example of this sort of consideration can be found in the anecdote of Hazrat Inayat Khan, who was once asked by a dinner companion if it was spiritual to fast. As the lady who asked the question was rather substantial in form, Hazrat Inayat Khan replied very discreetly, "It is as spiritual to fast as it is to enjoy a good dinner." And this answer pleased the lady very much.

Our feelings, especially the finer feelings, serve as a pathway toward the infinity of spirit, for it is they that define and enshrine the sacred. It is not a name or a mental concept but our feelings that elevate a place or a prophet or a book or a tree to the status of an object of worship. Therefore, to pay attention to feelings, both ours and those of others, is to lift ourselves up into another plane. Respect for another's faith, the foundation stone of the Universal Worship, must include recognition of the other's feelings.

Nevertheless, considering the feelings of others does not automatically ensure the harmony of heaven, for we human beings are a mixed lot, and most of us are not particularly saintly. In other words, when we look at the world around us, the feelings we encounter may be dense, selfish, and even aggressive. In that case, what to do? How do we maintain our 'spiritual' attitude?

If we go back to the stars and reflect upon the cause behind the cause the problem becomes easier. Jesus said, "They know not what they do," and he could have added, "nor why they do it." If someone throws a hard word at us, it is a symptom of their condition, and the real student of life will endeavor to understand what it is that ails that person. Certainly, they themselves feel some pain – perhaps a sense of powerlessness, or dissatisfaction with themselves, or a need for love and attention – and most often, they do not know the root of their action. By understanding, we may be able to help in some small way.

What is more, seeing the cause behind the cause permits us to develop indifference to the blows that life inevitably rains upon us. The person who has surrendered themselves to the infinite is everywhere and nowhere at the same time. If a word is thrown like a stone at such a person, it has no place to land, and simply passes by without doing any harm.