Challenges facing Seeker today – Eye of the Heart

Not many should disagree with the statement that "most people are seekers after one thing or the other; be it financial wellbeing, security, love, happiness, acclaim, knowledge or wisdom. But, very few have a clear idea of what exactly they seek, even within these broad categories. Worse yet, many embark upon the search with nothing but a hunch, or by trying "to wing it". Others imagine that day dreaming or wishful thinking can get them their wish".

This article takes an in-depth look at the concept of seeking, and the steps involved in the seeking process. It is written in the hopes of helping true seekers develop an idea of what true seeking entails, and to recognize some of the challenges that many are likely to face.

What is true seeking?

Unrecognized by many is that the awakening of any desire is a sign of the Spirit wanting to find meaning in the great book of Life. A book that is not written on paper. Rather, the book is reflected in the workings in the universe, and in the experiences that occur daily in our lives, be they pleasant or unpleasant.

Although this book is open to anyone who knows how to read in it, the reading can only be done with "the eye of the heart". And one does not need to be educated or literate to read and understand this great book of Life.

The notion of the heart's eye may sound strange and foreign to one who equates the word heart with a biological organ residing in our chest. But the word, as used in this context refers to the inner person, the Spirit, the inner being, the real living essence. This inner essence has the capacity to see a much larger World than can be seen or grasped by the physical eye, or our day consciousness, both of which control much of modern man's activities and desires.

Unlike the eyes on our face and our brain which can only see and interpret the shapes of physical objects and events, the eye of the heart can learn to decipher the truth about the objects, and the events in our daily lives, both of which reflect only a small part of the Truth of the universe.
To an awakening mind/Spirit, these workings and daily experiences usually evoke the perceiving of the existence of a higher or driving force behind all that they see and experience. And with that, everything that he or she "sees", experiences or desires, becomes an impetus to find answers in the book of Life.

Such an awakening one will soon recognize that even a mundane desire, like the desire for financial wellbeing, is, at its pure foundation, a Spirit's unconscious desire to "create" wealth, which, when properly used, would benefit his or her fellow human beings.

Unfortunately, because most people are not conscious of the Spiritual underpinning of this desire, it is normally pursed and executed from a purely mundane perspective of individual self-aggrandizement, with its subsequent consequences. Nonetheless, the original spiritual underpinning often eventually manifests, though again unconscious, through efforts by the very wealthy to establish endowments to benefit the commonwealth, from their amassed wealth.

The same inability to see with the eye of the heart accounts for the problems that many face in pursuing their desire for love, power or knowledge.

Hopefully the keen reader can use the example given about the pursuit of financial wellbeing to decipher the misunderstood Spiritual underpinnings to these other desires.

So, the logical question is, “how does one see with the eye of the heart?”

The answer lies in this simple statement:
“If everything that we see with the physical eyes, and our desires remind us of the omnipotence of the driving force behind everything, and we are thereby induced to acknowledge the existence of this eternal power, it means that the eye of the heart has started to see.”
(excerpt from a dialogue in episode 25 of Uyanis: Buyuk Selcuklu)

The foregoing statement is just another way of understanding what Jesus Christ already told us in Matthew 6:33 - *But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you*.

However, the truth is that only a few people look at their lives, and especially their desires from this perspective. Yet one has to begin to look at them from this point of view if one wants to be able to read the true meaning behind what they see, experience and desire. Thus, become able to read in the book of Life.

Another thing that the ability to see with the eye of the heart teaches is that each person has their own individual book of Life, which, in time, and with the necessary effort they can learn to read. However, one has to be humble to acknowledge that they need help from a knowing one before they embark upon this journey of seeking. Doing otherwise, and thinking that one can experiment their way through the process opens one to dangers from which they will find difficult to free themselves.

As already established, seeking starts with a desire, or wish, arising within an individual. If the desire is strong enough, it should propel the person towards some initial activity, like seeking out a source, or resource to help them attain the desired objective.

Already at this first step, the source to which a seeker may have turned for help may themselves be ignorant. Yet, in wishing to help, he or she inadvertently misguides the seeker, by offering erroneous information.

The challenge in such a situation lies in the average seeker’s immediate inability to ascertain the correctness of the help offered. For this reason, it may take some time before the seeker realizes that the information given, and the path they have been following are wrong. This recognition often causes great disappointments which leads some to lose interest in further seeking. However, a person who gives up, or loses interest, thereby demonstrates the degree of their seriousness to realize the desired goal. Such a person could not really be called a true a seeker, because the concept of the word “seeking” implies continual searching until the intended goal is reached.

Some seekers encounter charlatans on this first step. People who masquerade as helpers, but whose intention is to lead seekers into becoming dependent on them, by making false claims and promises to help the seeker attain their desire with little or no more effort than to believe and adhere to some doctrine or methodology.

The first thing that a seeker must appreciate is that a source, or resource can only offer information, or know-how to help the seeker attain their desired goal. The actual implementation must be left to the seeker's own effort. Therefore, any source or resource that claims, or offers to lift that burden off the seeker must immediately be recognized as false, and should be avoided. Also, any helper who advocates stringent rules and practices that the seeker must follow needs to be carefully scrutinized, no matter how appealing the promise of success, by adhering to the rules. These practices, which are usually determined exclusively by the helper, or through an organization that is completely beholden to the helper, harbor hidden "traps" that make the seeker completely dependent upon the so-called helper. Soon, the seeker becomes afraid to take any step towards their own goal without the consent or authorization of the so-called helper. Intimidation and other tactics are often brought to bear against seekers who become bold enough to go against the grain.

All seekers have to understand that all human beings are very different. Our individual desires, even when commonly classified, mean different things to different people. Therefore, a true source or resource must reflect this individuality of paths that seekers must tread.

To illustrate, let us take the example of a person who wants to become literate. The person is first exposed to recognizing the alphabets of the language, then gradually helped to recognize how the alphabets are put together to form words, and finally how words are put together to form sentences. After becoming thus equipped, the person is free to pursue their individual path, as they grow and enjoy the benefits of having learned to read. Any teacher who at the beginning of the process offers pre-defined books and rigid definitions only wants to give as much aid as is necessary, in order to limit the seeker to materials that will only benefit themselves and their organization, but not the seeker. This is true even though the actual learning, i.e. recognizing and memorizing, is done by the seeker!

Another important point, from this example, is that a person must be exposed to, and must memorize the correct alphabets of the language, since they are the key foundation for being able to read. Otherwise, the person would never learn to read properly. A faulty foundation would only lead to poor understanding of any material that the person reads subsequently. This self-evident logic applies to all seeking, including seeking Spiritual knowledge and Peace. Therefore, any solution in these areas must also be founded on finding the right source or resource, and becoming exposed to the correct basic building blocks.

The history of mankind, regardless of nations or groups, shows an unending series of conflicts of opinions on social as well as Spiritual matters. This can only lead the objective thinker to the conclusion that there must be differences in the foundations upon which individuals and societies are attempting to build their own Spiritual and social lives. Notwithstanding the differences, a common goal of almost all philosophies or mores is the desire for individual or group happiness. This suggests that happiness must be a universal desire of all human beings, even though it is described by many different terms, some of which are used in the introduction to this article.

Happiness also is a desire that is sought by all persons and all groups. But it is impossible to attain happiness without inner and external peace.

Well-meaning attempts have been made in mankind's long history to extract principles, philosophies and laws to guide peaceful co-existence within communities, groups and between nations. Yet, none of these efforts have achieved the needed lasting solution. This should make the keen thinker wonder whether the problem perhaps lies in a faulty grasp of the building blocks upon which all these efforts are being made.

Just like a reader who has not been exposed, or has not memorized the correct alphabets of the language. The consequences must be the same when the correct foundation blocks for building a life of happiness are not known, misunderstood or ignored.

So, the logical question should be, what then are the correct foundation blocks for building a life of universal happiness?

For this, we need to turn to the sacred books, since they all have this as their primary theme, even though humans have not succeeded in translating their tenets into deeds.

Indeed, no person, society or nation on earth today can honestly claim not to be aware of the foundation blocks for the Spiritual and social life that can lead to universal happiness. All societies have a set of sacred writings or folklores that espouse the same on what it takes to live a universal peaceful and happy life.

However, in our bid to pursue selfish ends, while assuaging the conscience, mankind has, for a long time, engaged in twisting or distorting the meaning of the once clear and straight forward concepts contained in these sacred writings and folklores. The result is the present-day lack of clarity, and confusion that has risen thereby. Perhaps today's practice of "spin doctoring" will help many understand the point been made here. How individuals and groups use distortions of facts, concepts or events to achieve selfish ends.

Any objective thinker can see that the distortion of concepts will only lead to lack of clarity, confusion, and ultimately total loss of understanding regarding the originally pure concept. It can also lead to a loss of memory of the concept itself. The examples of the confusion today surrounding the concepts of Love and Freedom of Choice should suffice to make the point.

Today, many people feel like they are being tossed about in an ocean, with no clear direction or control over their lives. This is evidenced by the growing feeling of uncertainty, among many, about whether there is anything like "right" or "wrong". Among these are many who sense deep within that there must be more to life than this confusion, and that things do not have to be, or remain like this. There are also some who have given up, or close to giving up, and are coming to accept this confusion and lack of certainty as the norm for life.

Unfortunately, giving up only allows one to slide towards loss of memory of the fundamental building blocks for Spiritual and social life. And, with this loss of memory comes total disbelief in the notion of a Spiritual life, of happiness, or the possibility of Peaceful co-existence. These are people who have, or are gradually blinding the eye of their heart.

Even after coming across the right source or resource, a true seeker may have yet another obstacle to overcome in themselves.

This obstacle is being able to let go of the distorted concepts that he or she has accepted heretofore. For example, a person who finally recognizes the limitations of science to fully explain the enigmas of life, may still have a tough time coming to terms with the new concept of a life that exists beyond the physical, or the limitations of man's ability to comprehend with the brain. In other words, in the possibility that real living actually originates and exists beyond the brain's capacity to grasp.

But such challenges are easy to overcome if the seeker recognizes and is willing to acknowledge that our current understanding of the fundamental building blocks for a sound Spiritual and social life must be faulty.

And that this faulty understanding is making it impossible for us to see the Truths contained in the sacred writings, or to even recognize the distortions that we have introduced into them. These distortions are what make it impossible for us to understand our real position in the universe, and which in turn is the cause of all human conflicts, and our abuse of our environment.

Yet, this acknowledgement is fundamental to any new beginning, for a true seeker, and offers the only possibility for the eye of the heart to slowly begin to regain its sight.

Another subtle but serious danger that a seeker may face, especially today, is the illusion that social activism, or participation in many of the so-called socially conscious platforms is tantamount to "seeking" to bring about change in the world. As stated above, if much of today's social and Spiritual life is already founded on faulty building blocks, such attempts can, at best, be described as "pouring new wine into old wine skin". As the bible already tells us, the new wine will simply tear the old wine skin, as is perhaps evident in today's disintegrating social fabric -

Mark 2:22 - *No one pours new wine into old wineskins. The wine would swell and burst the old skins. Then the wine would be lost, and the skins would be ruined*.

In his great opus, "In The Light of Truth", (The Grail Message), Abdrushin takes us back to the pure concepts that form the fundamental building blocks of life. He describes them as the Laws of Creation. He emphasizes that only the correct grasp of these pure concepts can give any individual the withal with which to build a Spiritual and social life in accordance with the Will of GOD, the giver of Life. The book also gives many examples of how these Laws work together to bring to each person his or her own fate, based on the choices that he or she has freely made. Abdrushin states, categorically, that each person must walk their own path of growth, maturity or redemption, by themselves. Thus, no one can, or has the authority to take from anyone the responsibility, burden or joy of learning to know and understand the mysteries of life.

Abdrushin reiterates that it is the duty of everyone to seek to know the purpose for their existence. Thus, like Jesus' parable of "The Talents", failure to do so is a transgression against life itself. This statement already contains the sentence for all who ignore, trivialize, discourage, prevent, or hinder anyone's progress in searching for their own Spiritual purpose in life.

Only he who bestirs himself can advance spiritually. The fool who uses extraneous aids for this, in the form of the ready-made opinions of others, only walks his path as if on crutches, while ignoring his own healthy limbs. But the moment he boldly uses all the abilities which lie dormant within him awaiting his call, to help in his ascent, he is employing the talent entrusted to him in accordance with his Creator's Will, and will easily overcome all obstacles that seek to divert him.

Therefore awake! Genuine faith lies only in conviction, and conviction comes solely through an inflexible weighing and examining! See that you are truly alive in the wonderful Creation of your God!

Abdrushin