

Manifest Signs

It's strange for you to have a state in which there is no room for Muhammad when Muhammad does not have a state in which there is no room for a creature like you! After all, the state you have attained is because of him and through his influence. All gifts are first showered down upon him; only then are they distributed through him to others. Such is the custom. God said, "Peace be with you, O Prophet, and God's mercy. We shower you with all gifts." The Prophet added, "*And upon God's righteous servants.*"

God's way was extremely terrifying and blocked by snow. Since the Prophet risked his life first to drive his horse forward in order to clear the way, whoever goes this way does so because of his guidance and favor. He first discovered the way, leaving signposts everywhere to say, "Do not go this way!" and, "Do not go that way!" and, "If you go that way, you will perish like the people of Ad and Thamud," and, "If you go this way, you will find salvation like the faithful."

The whole Qur'an expresses this one thing: *therein are manifest signs* [3:97]. That is, we have put signposts along these routes. If anyone intends to tear down any of these posts, everyone will set upon him and say: "Why are you ruining our route? Are you trying to get us killed? Are you a highwayman?" Now realize that the leader is Muhammad. Until one reaches Muhammad one does not reach us. [*Discourses of Rumi (Fihi ma Fihi)*: Discourse 64]

The Resurrection Is Now

In this world everyone is preoccupied with something. Some are preoccupied with love for women, some with possessions, some with making money, some with learning—and each one believes that his well-being and happiness depend on that. And that also is God's mercy. When a man goes after it in search and does not find it, he turns his back on it. After pausing a while he says: "That joy and mercy must be sought. Maybe I did not look enough. Let me search again." When he seeks again he still does not find it, but he continues until the mercy manifests itself unveiled. Only then does he realize that he was on the wrong track before.

God, however, has some servants who see clearly even before the Resurrection. Ali said, "If the veil were lifted I would not be more certain." By this he meant that if the shell were taken away and the Day of Reckoning were to appear, his certitude would not increase. His perception was like a group of people who go into a dark room at night and pray, each facing a different direction. When day breaks they all turn themselves around, all except the one man who had been facing Mecca all night long. Since the others now turn to face his direction, why should he turn around? Those servants of God face Him even during the night: they have turned away from all that is other than Him. For them the Resurrection is immediate and present. [*Discourses of Rumi (Fihi ma Fihi)*: Discourse 7]

A Few Sayings of Hazrati Ali (may God be pleased with him)

The word of God is the medicine of the heart.
Lead such a life, that, when you die, the people may mourn you,
and while you are alive they long for your company.
Generosity hides shortcomings.
A man's behavior is the index of his mind.
A man who praises himself displays his deficiency of intellect.
The tongue of a wise man lies behind his heart.
A wise enemy is better than a foolish friend.
Silence is the best reply to a fool.
Speech is like a medicine, a small dose of which cures but an excess of which kills.
As a man's wisdom increases, so his desire to speak decreases.
Finding fault in others is one's greatest fault.
Haste is a species of madness.
Greed is perpetual enslavement.
Knowledge is the ornament of the rich, and the riches of the poor.
He who teaches you even one letter binds you with a fetter of gratitude.
Truth is bitter, but its result is sweet; falsehood appears to be sweet
but it is poisonous in its effect.
He who does not know should not be ashamed to learn.
Do not run after the world, let the world run after you.
He who is aware of his own faults is oblivious of the faults of others.
Contentment is the treasure which is never exhausted.
No relationship is stronger than the relationship that exists between man and God.
Whatever harm accrues of silence can be remedied
but whatever harm is done because of speech cannot be remedied.
It is better to restrain your desires than to stretch your hand before others.
A little that is earned because of honest labor is better
than a larger amount gained through dishonest means.