

“Return to God that which belongs to God”
Sacramento Wisdom Weekend, July 27, 2019

What is it that has to be returned to God? As we think about this, it becomes clear that it is the soul within us which is made of God's light, His 3,000 gracious qualities and His wisdom. All of this belongs to God.

Bawa explains to us that aeons of time past, man existed in a state of purity. He had a direct connection to God and could converse directly with Him. At that time, his heart was pure and man would strive to make his heart beautiful with God's qualities. In this way, man was seeking to return to God that which belongs to God.

Read Suratur-Rahmah, pages 87-89.

Today man may meditate and say I have seen God and I am praying to Him. But Bawa explains in the Golden Words of a Sufi Sheikh that man is only deceiving himself. We must open our hearts and give all responsibility to God. We must give our house to Him and enter His house. We must give Him our qualities and wealth and take His qualities and wealth. Then we can die within Him.

Read Golden Words, pages 351-352, #787

Bawa continues to tell us we have to build the house of the soul with God's qualities. This he says is an eternal house.

Read Golden Words, page 357-358, # 799

Bawa then talks about the nature of a seed. The outer covering has to perish as the tiny point within the seed germinates and grows. This is the way for all created things. The outer portion must perish and the inner portion belongs to God. Bawa then explains how the good qualities within the innermost heart will serve man in the hereafter. But it is only if man uses these good qualities to serve others in this world that these good qualities can serve him in the next world. If we do not have these good qualities in this world, they will not be there in the next world to serve us.

Read To Die Before Death, pages 155-157

Bawa continues to use the example of an apple seed to explain how man comes from the seed of God's grace. As the apple seed grows into a tree, the original seed disappears, but the new seeds appear in the apples on the tree and have a connection to the original seed. Like that, the seed which comes from God's grace becomes a fertilized ovum. Then the elements cover it and it becomes a baby. But the qualities of the seeds he obtained from the grace of the kingdom of God remain within him as God's qualities, actions and the purity of the soul. Bawa says the seed within us which contains the world must go and a new seed must develop. That seed is called gnanam or divine wisdom.

Read The Golden Words, pages 447-448, # 955

Bawa now tells us how we have to use wisdom like a turbine to extract the truth from the five elements which compose our body. That current of truth will illuminate the three thousand beautiful qualities of Allah which are within us. He will transform us into the effulgent light of the Nur and elevate us to the state where we have the right to live eternally in all three worlds.

Read The Golden Words, page 109, #377

Bawa now will tell us what we have to do to return to the state when man could speak directly with God. He explains that we need the magnifying glass of wisdom which can be found in our innermost heart, our qalb. But to acquire that magnifying glass, we have to take into our hearts God's qualities, His actions and His conduct. We need His light, His behavior and His treasury of grace. If we can do this, then the magnifying glass will be in our hands. As soon as we touch it, the fire will come—everything will come.

Read Suratur Rahmah, pages 100-102

So when we speak of what belongs to God that needs to be returned to God, Bawa tells us in the book The Map what it is that needs to be returned.

Read The Map, pages 135-136

In our final reading from the Questions of Life, Answers of Wisdom, Volume 1, Bawa tells us if we can die within God and disappear within that Power, then he can be called God's slave, His representative. We have to merge with that which has no form. Bawa then tells us how we must merge with a sheikh who has merged with God. Just as the sheikh has died within God, we have to die within the sheikh. The two lights become one and both merge with the effulgent light which is God. This is what is called the Triple Flame.

Read Q & A, Vol. 1, pages 114-118

The DVD we will now watch is called “We need the Qualities of God” which was recorded May 6, 1975. In the DVD, Bawa talks about God's qualities and His wisdom saying we first need God's qualities in order to acquire wisdom.