

Allah bestows understanding on those who fear Him

Another secret revealed in the Qur'an is that Allah gives those who fear Him the ability to judge and discriminate between right and wrong. It is referred to as "wisdom". Allah relates this secret in Surat al-Anfal as follows:

You who believe! If you fear Allah, He will give you a criterion (by which to judge between right and wrong) and erase your bad actions from you and forgive you. Allah's favour is indeed immense. (Surat al-Anfal: 29)



Allah obscures the wisdom and comprehension of unbelievers. These people, no matter how intelligent they may be, cannot grasp even the most obvious concepts pertaining to religion. Wisdom is an attribute peculiar to believers. The majority of people take it for granted that intelligence and wisdom mean very much the same thing. However, intelligence is the mental capacity that everyone possesses. For example, being an atomic scientist or a mathematical genius indicates intelligence. Wisdom, on the other hand, is the consequence of the fear a person has for Allah and the adherence to the conscience, and is by no means related to intelligence. A person may be very intelligent, yet he remains unwise if he has no fear of Allah.

Therefore, wisdom is a blessing Allah bestows on believers. Those deprived of such understanding is not even aware of their situation. For instance, those who assume they are the source of power and possessions, become arrogant. This is simply an indication of lack of wisdom. Because if there is wisdom, there is the realisation that nothing is as powerful as the Will of Allah. This awareness would ultimately lead one to conduct oneself with humility. This person, however, does not think that, if Allah wills, all his property can be reduced to insignificance in a few seconds, or that he can face death, leaving everything behind in the world and stand by the fire to receive reckoning. All these are more certain and real than what one possesses in this world. Only believers, who fear Allah, have this understanding, and do not drift toward the deceitful nature of the life of this world. They spend their lives knowing the real essence of things. Allah bestows understanding on the believers through their faith. As they feel closer to Allah, their comprehension deepens and they become more cognisant of the secrets in Allah's creation.

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