He Who Looks with Goodness Sees Goodness

People honored with faith look at life through another window granted to them by God. This is the light of faith, and it makes them realize that there is beauty and wisdom in everything. For this reason, they are always positive and peaceful, loving, understanding, self-sacrificing and altruistic. Even when they encounter events that appear likely to cause them physical and spiritual distress, they always look at them from the positive side, do not rebel, and strongly avoid sorrow, anger and distress. This is called ‘thinking well,’ in other words, always thinking good and beautiful thoughts about God.

The lives of people of faith are founded on thinking well, and their hearts are always with God. God is light, and in sincere people this light manifests itself as wisdom, relief, abundance and goodness. The light of faith opens a person's mind and the eye of his heart, and enables him to broaden his perspective. One who looks with light sees light, one who looks with beauty sees beauty, and one who looks with goodness sees wisdom and goodness in everything.

A person of faith evaluates everything with the consciousness of faith. His mind is freed from pessimistic approaches and attains spiritual relief. A person who does not believe, however, sees only the material world; he virtually draws adversities and negativities toward himself and lives in pessimism. Even when these two people look at the same event, they think differently. While one immediately speaks of its distressing aspects, difficulties, injustices and so forth, the other regards it as a trial, an opportunity to mature and a means of drawing closer to God.

The difference lies in perspective. When it rains, one complains, **"The weather has turned bad, my plans have been ruined,"** and lives in misery, whereas a person of faith thinks positively, **"God's mercy has descended, the soil has come to life, and blessings will increase,"** even if his work is disrupted. This sharp difference stems from thinking well of God and being certain of God's mercy and compassion.

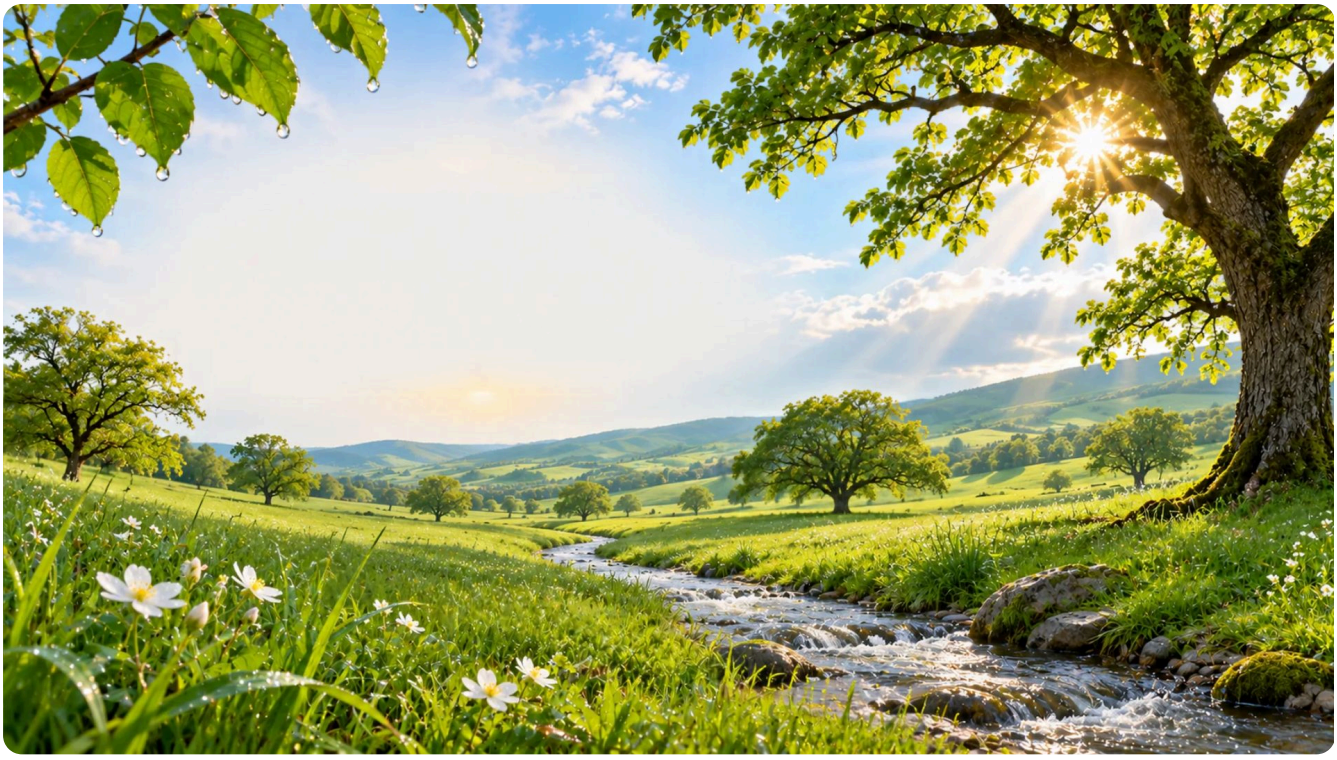
The comfort of living with the light of faith

The mind of a person who thinks well of God and always looks for beauty also opens up; in other words, he begins to see events more clearly, and thus begins to experience the comfort of the light of faith. A person who thinks positively about God becomes more patient and steadfast. He does not immediately give up in the face of difficulty, because he knows that it is temporary and that every difficulty will come together with ease, and he remains patient. This patience is not merely waiting or enduring; on the contrary, it means seeking a rational solution by trusting in God and striving with goodness. Together with patience, a believer puts his trust in God; in other words, he relies on God and trusts in Him.

A person who thinks well of God can give thanks under all circumstances, because he realizes that everything actually has the aspect of a blessing. Giving thanks is not merely expressing gratitude verbally, but being content in one's heart and behaving in accordance with God's approval. A person of faith gives thanks for his health, but at the same time remains patient in illness. He gives thanks for his wealth and also shows patience in poverty, because he knows that both are ordained by God.

A person who fully submits to God has no concerns about the future regarding such matters as sustenance, security and health; he is certain that everything is under God's control. The greatest problem of a person who is distant from God is anxiety about the future. Such people are constantly worried about what will happen tomorrow. A person of faith, however, trusts in God, knows that God will provide his sustenance and that God has ordained the time of his death, and lives in peace with this awareness.

Moreover, such a person becomes more respectful and compassionate toward others, and avoids arguments, injustice, cruelty and hard-heartedness. A person who is able to realize that God shows him mercy at every moment and who experiences the beauty of this also shows mercy to others. He tries to see people's good qualities rather than their shortcomings, and this is the foundation of good relations and friendship, and consequently of social peace.



The way to escape a life of misery: Full submission to God

People who do not know, or who forget, how to look for beauty and see beauty unwittingly torment themselves. They live in constant anxiety, uncertainties frighten them, they feel as though the world is closing in on them, they constantly experience problems, argue, feel sorrow, become worn down, and their burdens grow increasingly heavier. The only way to escape this life of misery is to trust God completely and know that God always desires beauty for believers:

“Say: ‘Nothing can happen to us except what God has ordained for us. He is Our Master. It is in God that the believers should put their trust’.” (Surat at-Tawba, 51)

With faith and trust in God, not only a person's body but also his soul begins to change positively. People who constantly remember God, desire to draw closer to Him, give thanks and submit themselves to God possess radiance and dignity. God always gives a good reward to those who sincerely strive:

“Not so! All who submit themselves completely to God and are good-doers will find their reward with their Lord. They will feel no fear and will know no sorrow.” (Surat al-Baqara, 112)

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