

The Bloom Series - Getting Closer to Allah (S.W.T.)

Why am I not thirsty?

Sheikh Miqdad Roshanali Alidina

In a crucial and quite philosophical discussion, sheikh tries to answer one of the most fundamental questions that we have; WHY ARE WE NOT THIRSTY?

- Why don't we crave proximity to Allah (swt), why don't we yearn for Him?

Human beings were created with the ability to choose their own paths in life. And they can reach their goals with the right amount of willpower and motivation.

- This is the key which the successful people used to reach where they reached. They simply had the motivation and willpower and wanted to achieve their goals, that is why they succeeded in getting what they wanted.

IF YOU WANT IT THEN YOU CAN!

Humans are able to choose their destination and their THIRST/MOTIVATION will determine whether they get to the destination or not.

A narration from the Holy Prophet (s) says that the month of Rajab was named as such because it depicts the idea of abundance, just like that type of rain which comes so heavily that it will drench even those who try to protect themselves from it by using umbrellas or coats.

So why am I still 'dry'? Why am I not thirsty for this rain of Mercy that is coming so heavily upon me?

A narration states that Allah (swt) told Dawud that if those who sined and turned away from me, knew the extent of my love for them, they would die out of love.

SO HOW DO YOU BUILD THIS THIRST?

Those who have achieved this proximity like great scholars and Ulamas. they would be constantly yearning for Allah (swt), constantly thirsty for Him such that they would be ready to bear the difficulties and pain of the journey to perfection.

WHY AREN'T WE THIRSTY THIS PROXIMITY TO ALLAH (SWT)

REASON1: WHY WE AREN'T THIRSTY

We aren't thirsty because we don't know that there is water. How can someone be thirsty about something that they don't even know about? However, it must be said that, according to the 5th Imam, when referring to the fitrah, we have been created in a way that we have this knowledge of Allah (swt) and we have this thirst within us. Every human being is thirsty for this proximity just by the fact that they are humans. It is inbuilt in us. However, this thirst is vague and needs to be nurtured. "I understand that an absolute being has created me and I seek to know him".



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PRACTICAL STEPS TO GET THIS THIRST/YEARNING:

1. We need to be learning about Allah (swt), His awliyah and His religion. Knowledge is fundamental for us to get thirsty, we can't be thirsty if we don't know. Gaining proximity to Allah can not happen if we don't have more understanding, so we have to

INCREASE OUR KNOWLEDGE. That is the first practical step. **HOW?**

- Make a timetable to schedule learning every day without fail. Small steps at a time.
- Once you've set time aside, find out what to read by asking a scholar.
- How to learn: reading, courses, discussions,...

REASON 2: WHY WE AREN'T THIRSTY

- The second reason is because we are **DISTRACTED**. This is the most important reason why we aren't thirsty.
- We do things to distract ourselves instead of solving or facing the problems. Like the tendency to sit and watch Tv after having a bad day instead of thinking about the day.
- The purpose of the world is to distract us according to Islam. This was done by design to see who is thirsty enough to seek out their Lord or to create even more thirst for seeking Him.

PRACTICAL STEP:

How do we avoid distractions of this world?

- Simply avoid what is Haraam and abide by what is Wajib. This causes an increase in thirst after some time if implemented. Even great scholars would constantly advice the same. Ayatollah Bahjat was known for telling students to **STAY AWAY FROM SINS**.
- Reduce the number of distractions in our lives. **HOW?**
Make sure you have some time every day where you switch off all distractions and just sit and speak to Allah (swt). Also, to think about our actions of the day, the good thing we did (for which we should thank Him) and the mistakes we made (for which we ask for forgiveness). This will increase a thirst in your for seeking him.

REASON 3: WHY WE AREN'T THIRSTY

Because we don't want to feel the thirst or admit that we are thirsty.

- We don't want to lower ourselves and humble ourselves in front of our Lord.
The Aimmah would lower themselves and beg through their duas. We need to recognize that we are but servants of our Lord.

