

A Perpetual theme in the verses of Quran and discourses of Imam e Masoomen (a.s.) is that humans do not belong to this world of vacillating shapes and forms created from a dense and decaying material substance, though their bodies are created from that very stuff, apparently abundant in this world. Let's find out:
In the words of Imam Ali (a.s.), how to preserve and develop our humanity?

فَلَا أَمْوَالٌ بَدَلْتُمُوهَا لِلَّذِي رَزَقَهَا وَلَا أَنْفُسٌ خَاطَرْتُمْ بِهَا لِلَّذِي خَلَقَهَا تَكْرُمُونَ بِاللَّهِ عَلَىٰ عِبَادِهِ وَلَا تَكْرُمُونَ اللَّهَ فِي عِبَادِهِ فَاعْتَبِرُوا بِنُزُولِكُمْ مَنَازِلَ مَنْ كَانَ قَبْلَكُمْ وَانْقِطَاعِكُمْ عَنْ أَوْصَالِ إِخْوَانِكُمْ (خطبه ۱۱۵ نهج البلاغه)

پس تم اپنے اموال سے عطا و بخشش نہیں کرتے اُس کے لئے جس نے تمہیں رزق عطا کیا ہے اور اپنے نفوس سے خطرات کا سامنا نہیں کرتے اُس کی خاطر جس نے انہیں خلق کیا ہے۔ اللہ کے وسیلہ سے تم اس کے بندوں میں باکرامت بنے ہوئے ہو لیکن جب تم بندوں میں ہوتے ہو تو اللہ کی تکریم نہیں کرتے۔ پس عبرت حاصل کرو ان مقامات میں اترنے کی بنا پر جہاں تم سے پہلے لوگ آباد تھے اور قریب ترین بھائیوں سے تمہارے رشتے منقطع ہو جانے کے ذریعہ سے۔

ایہا الناس؛ انما الدنيا دار مجاز والآخرۃ دار قرار، فخذو من ممرکم لمقرکم، ولا تهتکوا استارکم عند من یعلم اسرارکم و آخر جو من الدنيا قلوبکم من قبل ان تخرج منها ابدانکم، ففيها اختبرتکم و لغيرها خلقتکم ان المرء اذا هلك قال الناس: ما ترک؟ و قالت الملكة: ما قدم... فقدمو بعضاً یکن لکم قرضاً و لا تخلفو کلاً فیكون علیکم کلاً. (خطبه ۲۰۱ نهج البلاغه)

Now the Question. The answer to be sought with mutual discussion and under the guidance of Wahī e Ilāhī.

If your family, friends and the surrounding social environment (with which we connect on the daily basis) is taken away and not a trace of these is left around your person, how “much” Allah will remain with you?

Two different aspects of the same question

A) It is an inevitable and undeniable fact that one day will come in our life, when all the blessings and material benefits will be left behind and we shall proceed into the vastly unknown and potentially terrifying world of Barzakh and Akherat. Thus, it is better to take heed of that fateful day before it is too late. And if we keep on wasting the time then we may run into severe problems during the days before departure.

Quran is very explicit and unambiguous about a person's relationship with his children, wife and material wealth. Also, there is no mincing of words in describing that where the true wealth of a believing person lies or exists. Let's have a look at the following verses from 4 different surahs. From top down (in colour coding) Anfal: 28, Munafiqoon: 9, Taghabun: 14 & 15 and Aal e Imran: 14 & 15.

وَأَعْلَمُوا أَنَّمَا أَمْوَالُكُمْ وَأَوْلَادُكُمْ فِتْنَةٌ وَأَنَّ اللَّهَ عِنْدَهُ أَجْرٌ عَظِيمٌ ﴿٢٨﴾

يَأْتِيهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا لَأَنْلَهُمْ أَمْوَالُهُمْ وَلَا أَوْلَادُهُمْ عَنْ ذِكْرِ اللَّهِ وَمَنْ يَفْعَلْ ذَلِكَ فَأُولَئِكَ هُمُ الْخَاسِرُونَ ﴿٩﴾

يَأْتِيهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا إِنْ مِنْ أَرْوَاحِكُمْ وَأَوْلَادِكُمْ عَدُوًّا لَكُمْ فَاحْذَرُوهُمْ وَإِنْ تَعَفَوْا وَتَصَفَحُوا وَتَغْفِرُوا فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ غَفُورٌ رَحِيمٌ ﴿١٤﴾

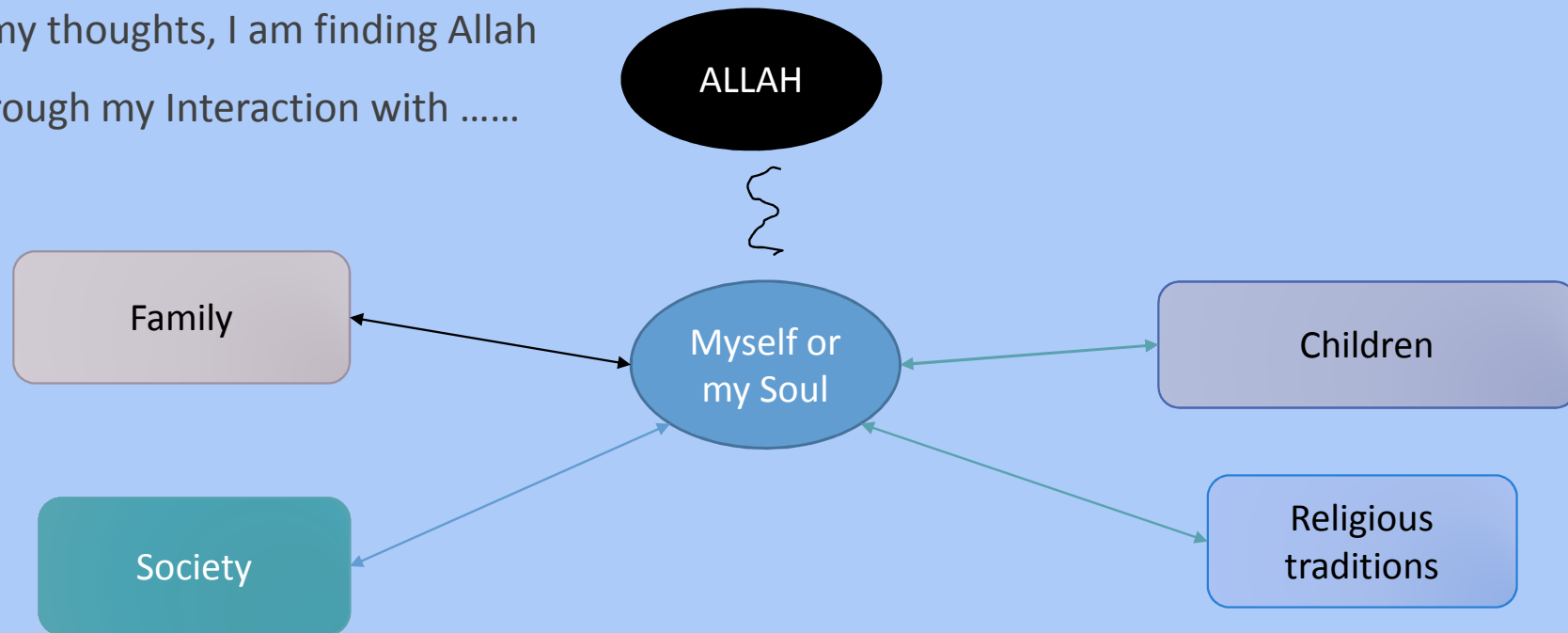
إِنَّمَا أَمْوَالُكُمْ وَأَوْلَادُكُمْ فِتْنَةٌ وَاللَّهُ عِنْدَهُ أَجْرٌ عَظِيمٌ ﴿١٥﴾

زِينٍ لِلنَّاسِ حُبُّ الشَّهَوَاتِ مِنَ النِّسَاءِ وَالْبَنِينَ وَالْقَنَاطِيرِ الْمُقَنْطَرَةِ مِنَ الذَّهَبِ وَالْفِضَّةِ وَالْخَيْلِ الْمُسَوَّمَةِ وَالْأَنْعَامِ وَالْحَرْثِ ذَلِكَ مَتَاعُ الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا وَاللَّهُ عِنْدَهُ حَسَنُ الْمَثَابِ ﴿١٤﴾

﴿١٤﴾ قُلْ أَوْبِنْتُكُمْ بِخَيْرٍ مِّنْ ذَلِكَ لِّلَّذِينَ اتَّقَوْا عِنْدَ رَبِّهِمْ جَنَّاتٌ تَجْرِي مِنْ تَحْتِهَا الْأَنْهَارُ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا وَأَزْوَاجٌ مُّطَهَّرَةٌ وَرِضْوَانٌ مِّنَ اللَّهِ وَاللَّهُ بَصِيرٌ بِالْعِبَادِ ﴿١٥﴾

B) But there is another dimension of looking at the same question.

In my thoughts, I am finding Allah through my Interaction with



Allah comes in my life not as the Absolute Reality in Wholeness with whom I can evolve a personal and loving relationship. But in my thoughts and that too in piecemeal through the sources considered dear and valuable by my emotional selfish desires and material propensities. What will happen, if those sources vanish?

Throughout my life, I keep on thinking that I am taking care of my children and family because Allah has asked me to do so. I have to move in the society and remain a social creature, without caring that at times it happens at the expense of my relationship with Allah Himself.

I strive hard to establish youth centres, wander in many cities for reciting lectures and majalis, work day and night to make my children happy. During all those times my relationship with everyone is getting stronger except the ONE whose name I am using, most probably for satisfying my own pleasures. But what will happen if every thread of these relationship is cut off? Have I established any personal and lasting relationship with Him or He remained only words and slogans for me while I thrust myself deeper and deeper into the abyss of Divine indifference.

وَنَرِيهِ، مَا يَقُولُ وَيَأْتِينَا فَرْدًا ۝ ٨٠

وَكُلُّهُمْ آتِيهِ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ فَرْدًا ۝ ٩٥