

EDITORIAL

Is This All Life Is About?

We, the privileged by fate or by our own endeavor, living in comfort and smugness of material success, must ask ourselves, is this all life is about? Is it enough to live in a beautiful house, to ride beautiful cars, to fill every moment of one's leisure in pleasure, not necessarily carnal but pleasures of hobbies and luxuries to pass the time? Is it enough to live for comfort and security of one's self and his or her loved ones? If comfort, pleasure and security are the purpose of life, then how do we differ from the rest of the animals? Are we just another sophisticated species of the same kingdom and ruled by a somewhat more sophisticated but basically the same laws of the jungle? Is what we have just a more complex central nervous system to compute and thus manipulate the world around us which makes us different from the apes and the monkeys? What is the purpose of our life on this planet?

These are some of the questions that are inevitable and are the products of every human intellect. Sophocles over 2000 years ago said, "*wonders are many but none is more wonderful than man himself.*" Greek genius saw the unfathomable potentials in man, so much so that they created out of marble their gods in their own images. Contemporary social orders do not differ from the Greeks for they too worship themselves and their deified heroes and their leaders. The Greeks mistook the "wonder" in man more in the material sense than in the spiritual sense. However, it was Islam which declared for the first time the true nature of man and his worth. God in several places in Qur'an says, "*Oh, mind of man, you are the most generous of my creations and the criterion by which I reward or punish man.*" Allah in Qur'an declared man as his "*vicegerent*" on earth and defined him as the worthiest of all creatures (*ashrafal makhluqat*). He gave man His greatest gift, a small part of Himself, the intellect and commanded him to live in harmony with nature and to endeavor for the highest spiritual qualities, the highest virtues known to man. Qur'an teaching the true equilibrium and equanimity,

emphasized also the material well being of man without making him solely the seeker and the slave of material power on this earth.

For we muslims the true meaning of life is to live with the love of God, to fulfill God's commandments, to acquire knowledge, wisdom and the highest virtues, to strive for the spiritual and the material betterment of one's self and his society. For a true muslim, Islam is not just a concept or a theory but an organic entity on this planet. As an organic entity which engages over 800 million humanity, it is subject to growth and development as well as to fall and decline. In the past it was the deeds of the Prophet, the Khalifs, saints, savants, heroes and martyrs which brought its historical rise and the unprecedented development of the Islamic Civilization. The reason for that success was Islam's simple truths and the dedication and the sacrifice of those who believed in them.

This century marks the turning point for humanity; the reassessment of present world civilization and social movements which are in chaos and engaged in bloody inhuman struggle for world power. There is no doubt that within the present world cacophony, Islam appears as the only sublime symphony of peace and happiness - for mankind on this planet. This religion without refuting the perennial truths and human dignity of the past, presents the distillation of all human knowledge about God, man and his society building and not destroying, purifying and not extinguishing the perennial philosophy of man for the attainment of a better world and a happier humanity. Under the concept and love of Allah, Islam sets the highest goal of evolution of human spirit and demands his mastery of the world and the worlds beyond. As Mawlana Rumi states it in a poem:

"We are the ocean of mysteries,
We are the firmament's brilliant sun,
We are the people of a ruined earth."

(Continued on Page — 32)

Continued from "Is This All Life Is About"

However, the establishment of God's dominion on earth requires struggle and sacrifice against the forces of evil which wrongfully claim the final answer for the materialistic paradise on earth by their materialistic philosophies of agnosticism and atheism. This planet is witnessing and will continue to witness this Great Struggle. Since Islamic ideology is God made and their's are man made, the issue is not of validity and truth. But the outcome of this Great Struggle will be determined by the dedication, the strengths of faith, the vigilance and sacrifices of the followers of these two great antagonists. May Allah help us and guide us in this Great Struggle.

Continued from "Biochemical Newborn"