

قَوْلَ الَّذِي نَعَتْ فِي الْأَعْيُنِ رَسُولًا مِّنْهُمْ يَتْلُو عَلَيْهِمْ
 آيَاتِهِ وَيُزَكِّيهِمْ وَيُعَلِّمُهُمُ الْكِتَابَ وَالْحِكْمَةَ وَإِنْ كَانُوا مِنْ
 قَبْلُ لَفِي ضَلَالٍ مُّبِينٍ

The Key to Development

Development of individuals and societies
 was one of the main goals of
 the prophet Muhammad's message

- The development that Allah wants to see upon his earth is from many aspects and not restricted to only one! Each aspect of development must be first and foremost internalized then once internalized and mixed with one's soul, one's heart, one's mind, one's blood... then it will naturally manifest externally upon the limbs and the tongue and eventually with other individuals in our societies. Allah tells us...

(إِنَّمَا لَا يُغْنِي عَنْهُمْ كَيْفُ مَا كَانُوا يَفْعَلُونَ) (الأنعام: 160)
 Allah tells us about the soul in the Quran and actually sneers by it...

وَنَفْسٍ وَمَا سَوَّاهَا - فَأَلْهَمَهَا فُجُورَهَا وَتَقْوَاهَا

قَدْ أَفْلَحَ مَن زَكَّاهَا - وَقَدْ خَابَ مَن دَسَّاهَا

And by the soul and He who proportioned it - and inspired it with its discernment of righteousness and wickedness - the one who purifies it will succeed and the one who corrupts it will fail --

Our souls come from Allah --- and will return back to Allah --- our bodies come from dirt --- and will go back to dirt --- and each aspect of our being needs the proper nourishment --- Nourishment of the soul is attained by seeking knowledge of the Creator of the soul --- Nourishment of our physical bodies should come from the pure and natural things that Allah has given us --- on this earth --- from which their origins are water and dirt ---

- We must be balanced in the way we nourish both ~~our~~ our spiritual bodies and physical bodies ---

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What are the practical steps to have a successful soul? ... ?

Practical steps to train the soul ...

مراجعة النفس، كسب يوتي حقا، حقا الله

1. Taking account of oneself and

observing and acquiring knowledge about one's self - one's soul ...

one has different levels of spirit that the + orders of to follow its desires

a) The disobedient soul ...

b) The blameworthy soul ... it's always

changing ... sometimes it remembers Allah

sometimes it is heedless

c) The tranquil and peaceful soul

The obedient soul ...

النفس الباطنة 3 types

النفس النورية

النفس البروتينية

2. Realizing and coming to an awareness

that all people have mistakes and shortcomings

كل بينا في سبيلنا، من الخبايا القولون

3. Striving against and exerting one's efforts

to suppress the evil inclinations of one's

soul ...

4. Nurturing and developing the positive,

righteous and wholesome traits of the

soul - patience ... perseverance ... generosity ...

sincerity ... honesty ...

5. Servitude to Allah ... Standing in front of

Allah as a weak, poor, deficient servant

and begging Allah for guidance, forgiveness

and whatever you desire ...

Some of the things that can help us ~~develop~~ our souls ^{train and develop} is to make them go from ^{disordered} ~~sunk~~ ^{frank} ~~soul~~ ^{tranquil} ~~soul~~ → the peaceful one

① Getting back to the book of Allah
(وَنَزَّلْنَا مِنَ الْقُرْآنِ طَهُورًا لِّقُلُوبِ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ)

② Remembrance of Allah -
(الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَتَطْمَئِنُّ قُلُوبُهُمْ بِذِكْرِ اللَّهِ أَلَا بِذِكْرِ اللَّهِ تَطْمَئِنُّ الْقُلُوبُ)

③ Remembering death... and what occurs during death... and the pains and agony of death... the grave... the hereafter...

So what needs to be unified first or foremost?
* So once we purify our souls individually... then we will find that the good souls will be inclined towards one another ^{and unite} as the prophet said... ^{Salih and Lim} ^{Abu Hurairah}

الْأَرْوَاحُ جُبُودٌ مُّبْتَدِرَةٌ فَمَا تَعَارَفَ مِنْهَا

اِتَّفَلَفَ وَتَنَاطَرَ مِنْهَا اِخْتَلَفَ

recruited

"Souls are like troops ~~gathered~~ ~~together~~ those that are compatible with each other - know one another - share the same traits, ~~and~~ characteristics ~~and~~ and qualities with each other - will incline towards each other - unite with each other - and those who have dissimilar qualities will stay apart

So our souls need to be purified individually from ^{many things} ignorance of our religion, foreign ideologies and beliefs contrary to Islam - ... innovations - ... giving precedence to people's personal opinions and views over the Quran and Sunnah ...

We also have to strive to cleanse our souls from the desire to debate and argue about religious affairs without knowledge - ... extremism and being reactive - ... Being bigoted to certain individuals, schools of jurisprudence or scholars' ~~and~~

- ~~fighting over leadership positions and~~
- ~~the issue of~~
- Imitating the disbelievers
- following one's desires - ...

and gravitating towards

ONCE we purify our souls of these ills individually then we will naturally feel ~~the~~ ~~our~~ our souls uniting ~~to~~ the soul of other ~~individuals~~ individuals who ~~show~~ show the same characteristics as our souls.

This is the first key to development ...

Second key is Intellectual development

- ① Acquiring Religious knowledge
 - nourishment for soul, mind, body
 - importance of seeking knowledge
 - Quranic verses ...

- ② Secular knowledge
 - specialization and mastery of all aspects of knowledge
 - utilizing the secular knowledge one has to benefit Islam and the muslims

وَاللَّهُ يَهْدِي الْقَوْمَ الصَّالِحِينَ

- ③ Consultation ... الْمَشُورَةِ
 - A- Religious knowledge + secular knowledge - each one speak about their specialty

Muslims throughout history were known for their inventions in medicine, engineering, mathematics, science astronomy etc. --

③ Physical Development

- our physical bodies

البدن القوي خير وأجره أكبر من البدن الضعيف ، في كل شيء خير

- what type of physical strength are we talking about here... is it only muscular strength... which many of us only focus upon?

- the way that the health should be understood is that a Muslim should seek to be strong in all aspects of life:

- physical strength
 - mental strength
 - spiritual strength
 - economic strength
 - political strength
 - social strength
- } unlimited

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~~Physical Body Development~~

physical development amongst the Muslims needs to be taken to the next level of understanding -

worldly development is something that all nations strive for -

- Many don't have proper way -

- Some think that development, progress and improvement in worldly affairs negates or contradicts firm adherence to the religion -

- This is why we see many of our communities under developed in all aspects - here and all throughout the world -

Allah tells us in the Quran:

(وَأَعِدُّوا لَهُمْ مَا اسْتَطَعْتُمْ مِنْ قُوَّةٍ وَمِنْ

رِبَاطِ الْوَيْلِ تُرْجِعُونَ بِهِ عَدُوَّ اللَّهِ وَعَدُوَّكُمْ)

"And prepare ^{for} against them everything you can and everything you are able to prepare of cavalry so that you may cause fear in the hearts of the enemies of Allah..."

This is an outright and general command from Allah to prepare everything in one's ability with unlimited extent...
 Spiritual power which is the foundation --- intellectual power ---
 economic power --- industrial power ---
 political power --- social power ---
 all forms of power...

This is an ~~and~~ clear command from Allah ~~to~~ ~~that~~ that the Muslims, ~~the~~ the Muslim communities and Muslim nations need to keep pace with development and progress of all worldly affairs... and not be inanimate, stagnant and inactive while the rest of the world ^{and communities} are developing around us

Many of our communities have
 falsely understood that ~~the~~
~~relationship~~ the relationship
~~between~~ between developing ^{physically} strong
 Muslim communities, while observing
 the religion -- good character along with morality
 and fine ethics -- is contradictory
 and impossible to do.

~~This is what we see in our
 world here in the USA and other
 major parts of the so-called
 developed world...
 Many people have assumed and
 believed that worldly improvement
 and development while adhering
 firmly to our religion is
 contradictory and impossible to
 do...~~

So from the results of ~~these~~ ^{these}
 false assumptions is ~~the~~ the
 abandonment of spiritual development...
 irreligiousness and complete abandonment
 of ~~our~~ faith to focus solely
 on development of their worldly
 affairs.

So brothers and sisters - the keys to develop our communities are in your hands... the doors are in front of you... in your homes, neighborhoods and cities...

So let's use those keys to open and purify ~~our hearts and minds~~ our souls ~~and shine the light of Islam with them~~

~~that we can purify our souls~~ so that ~~we~~ they can unite ~~and develop within our shari'ah~~ ~~needs~~ with other brothers and sisters in our communities to bring about unity - strength - and respect to our muslim communities..

So what are some practical things that we can do to develop our communities:

1. Go + to know everyone here -- exchange contact information before you leave -- whatapp -- face book
2. ~~set~~ set up a time and place to meet with your brothers and

Sisters here in another place
and time --- to discuss

3. Take some time out of
your daily schedule...
to review your religious obligations ---

4. Go back to your masjid and
sign up and start ~~attending~~
attending the sittings of
knowledge ---

5. Strive hard in your secular
education... get good grades
in school... encourage your
children to study hard ~~hard~~

6. Any decision you want to
make, consult the people of
knowledge and the people who
have experience in worldly
knowledge as well ---
business entrepreneurs ---

7. Physical development...
start planning with your
brothers and sisters about ---

how to keep our wealth circulating within the hands of the muslims...

- Start pooling our resources
- Start Islamic credit unions
- Start working together to produce ~~goods~~ and manufacture goods for the muslims and which ~~sales of cars from~~
- Buy houses and properties together that are within the vicinities of our masjid...
- Build food pantries, ~~or~~ homeless shelters, soup kitchens for the poor in our communities...
- Build muslim halfway houses to help our bros + sisters who come home from prison...
- ~~Make~~ Make your presence shown in your local communities... give lunch.. food to people...
- ~~Build~~

So be unified in worship,
seeking, knowledge, congregating
in the masjid, and developing
our muslim communities
with the greater community
here in the USA...

Community
Development
+
Unity of Souls