

SPREAD KNOWLEDGE

THE
HOLY QURAN

ENGLISH TAFSEER
CHAPTER 67
SURAH AL-MULK

COMMENTARY & EXPLANATORY

By
ABDULLAH YUSUF ALI

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HOLY QURAN

CHAPTER

067

SURAH AL-MULK

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Introduction To Surah

We have now done fourteen-fifteenths of Quran, and have followed step by step the development of its argument establishing the *Ummah* or Brotherhood of Islam.

There is a logical break here. The remaining fifteenth consists of short spiritual Lyrics, mostly of the Makkan period, dealing mainly with the inner life of man, and in its individual aspects. They may be compared to Hymns of Psalm in other religious literature. But these short Quranic Surahs have a grandeur, a beauty, a mystic meaning, and a force of earnestness under persecution, all their own. With their sources in the sublimest

regions of heaven; their light penetrates into the darkness recess of Life, into the concrete facts which are often mistaken for the whole of Reality, though they are but an insignificant portion and on the surface and fleeting. There is much symbolism in language and thought, in describing the spiritual in terms of things we see and understand.

It is the contrast between the shadows of Reality here and the eternal Reality, between the surface world and the profound inner World, that is urged on our attention here.

This Surah of 30 verses belongs to the Middle Makkan period, just before Surah 69 and Surah 70. Allah is mentioned here by the name *Rahman* (Most Gracious), as He is mentioned by the names of *Rabb* (Lord and Cherisher) and *Rahman* (Most Gracious) in Surah 19.

C.246 (The running Commentary, in Rhythmic Prose)

*Lordship in right, and in fact belongs
To Allah Most Gracious, Whose Goodness
And Glory and Power are writ large
On all His Creation. The beauty and order
Of the Heavens above us proclaim Him,
Then who can reject His call but those
In pitiful delusion? And who can fail
To accept, that truly knows himself
And the mighty Reality behind him?
The earth and the good things thereof are prepared
For man by his Gracious Lord, Who guards
Him from hourly dangers. Who sustains
The wonderful flight of the Birds in midair?
Above, and below, and in midair can we see
His boundless Signs. We know that His Promise
Of Hereafter is true. The spring and source
Of the goodness of things is in Him, and will
Appear triumphant when the Hour is established.*

تُبَارَكَ الَّذِي بِيَدِهِ الْمُلْكُ ...

1. **Blessed** be He in Whose hands is **Dominion**:

C5554. What do we mean when we bless the name of Allah, or proclaim (in the optative mood) that the whole Creation should bless the name of the Lord?

We mean that we recognise and proclaim His beneficence to us; for all increase and happiness is through Him, "in His hands", - in the hands of Him Who also holds Dominion or Power. In our human affairs we sometimes see the separation of Dominion or Power from Goodness or Beneficence: in the divine nature we recognise that there is no separation or antithesis.

C5555. Mulk: Dominion, Lordship, Sovereignty, the Right to carry out His Will, or to do all that He wills. Power (in the clause following) is the Capacity to carry out His Will, so that nothing can resist or neutralize it. Here is beneficence completely identified with Lordship and Power; and it is exemplified in the verses following.

Note that "**Mulk**" here has a different shade of meaning from **Malakut** in 36:83.

Both words are from the same root, and I have translated both by the word "Dominion". But **Malakut** refers to Lordship in the invisible World, while **Mulk** to Lordship in the visible World. Allah is Lord of both.

... وَهُوَ عَلَىٰ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ (١)

and He over all things Hath Power --

الَّذِي خَلَقَ الْمَوْتَ وَالْحَيَاةَ ...

2. He Who created Death and Life,

C5556. "Created Death and Life." Death is here put before Life, and it is created. Death is therefore not merely a negative state.

In 2:28 we read: "Seeing that ye were without life (literally, dead), and He gave you life: then will He cause you to die, and will again bring you to life; and again to Him will ye return."

In 53:44, again, Death is put before Life. Death, then, is

- the state before life began, which may be non-existence or existence in some other form:
- the state in which Life as we know it ceases, but existence does not cease; a state of **Barzakh** (23:100), or Barrier or Partition, after our visible Death and before Judgment; after that will be the new Life, which we conceive of under the term Eternity.

... لِيَبْلُوَكُمْ أَيُّكُمْ أَحْسَنُ عَمَلًا ...

that He may try which of you is best in deed:

C5557. Creation, therefore, is not in mere sport, or without a purpose with reference to man. The state before our present life, or the state after, we can scarcely understand. But our present Life is clearly given to enable us to strive by good deeds to reach a nobler state.

... وَهُوَ الْعَزِيزُ الْعَفُورُ (٢)

and He is the **Exalted** in Might, Oft-Forgiving --

C5558. All this is possible, because Allah is so Exalted in Might that He can perfectly carry out His Will and Purpose, and that Purpose is Love, Mercy, and Goodness to His creatures.

الَّذِي خَلَقَ سَبْعَ سَمَاوَاتٍ طِبَاقًا ...

3. He Who created the seven **heavens** one above another;

C5559. Cf. 65:12, and n. 5526-27.

The heavens as they appear to our sight seem to be arranged in layers one above another, and ancient astronomy accounted for the motions of the heavenly bodies in an elaborate scheme of spheres. What we are concerned with here is the order and beauty of the vast

spaces and the marvelous bodies that follow regular laws of motion in those enormous spaces in the visible world. From these we are to form some conception of the vastly greater Invisible World, for which we want special spiritual vision.

... مَا تَرَى فِي خَلْقِ الرَّحْمَنِ مِنْ تَفَاوُتٍ ...

no want of proportion wilt thou see in the Creation of (Allah) Most Gracious,

... فَارْجِعِ الْبَصَرَ هَلْ تَرَى مِنْ فُطُورٍ (٣)

so turn thy vision again:

Seest thou any flaw?

ثُمَّ ارْجِعِ الْبَصَرَ كَرَّتَيْنِ ...

4. **Again turn thy vision a second time;**

C5560. Reverting to the indication of the external or visible world, we are asked to observe and study it again and again, and as minutely as our powers will allow. However closely we observe it, we shall find no flaw in it. Indeed the region of enquiry is so vast and stretches so far beyond our ken, that our eyes, aided with the most powerful telescopes, will confess themselves defeated in trying to penetrate to the ultimate mysteries. We shall find no defect in Allah's handiwork: it is our own powers that we shall find fail to go beyond a certain compass.

... يَنْقَلِبُ إِلَيْكَ الْبَصَرُ خَاسِئًا وَهُوَ حَسِيرٌ (٤)

(thy) vision will come back to thee dull and discomfited, in a state worn out.

... وَلَقَدْ زَيَّنَّا السَّمَاءَ الدُّنْيَا بِمَصَابِيحَ ...

5. **And We have, (from of old), adorned the lowest heaven with Lamps,**

C5561. "Lowest (or nearest) heaven":

see n. 4035 to 37:6.

... وَجَعَلْنَاهَا رُجُومًا لِلشَّيَاطِينِ ...

and We have made such (Lamps) (as) missiles to drive away the Evil Ones,

C5562. The phenomenon of the shooting stars has been, explained in 15:16-18, notes 1951-54; and in 37:6-10, and notes thereon. (R).

وَأَعْتَدْنَا لَهُمْ عَذَابَ السَّعِيرِ (٥)

and have prepared for them the Penalty of the Blazing Fire.

وَالَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا بِرَبِّهِمْ ...

6. For those who reject their Lord (and Cherisher) ...

C5563. We have seen how the fire in the stars can suggest the beauty and order of the external world-, and yet, when it meets with resistance and disharmony, it can burn and destroy. So in the moral and spiritual world. What can be a greater sign of evil, disharmony, and rebellion than to reject the Cherisher and Sustainer, on Whom our life depends, and from Whom we receive nothing but goodness?

The Punishment, then, is Fire in its fiercest intensity, as typified in the next two verses.

... عَذَابُ جَهَنَّمَ وَبِئْسَ الْمَصِيرُ (٦)

... is the Penalty of Hell: and evil is (such) destination.

إِذَا أُلْفُوا فِيهَا سَمِعُوا لَهَا شَهيقًا وَهِيَ تَفُورُ (٧)

7. When they are cast therein, they will hear the (terrible) drawing in of its breath even as it blazes forth.

C5564. For **shahiq** see n. 1607 to 11:106.

There **shahiq** (sobs) was contrasted with **zafir** (sighs): in the one case it is the drawing in of breath, and in the other the emission of a deep breath. Here the latter process is represented by the verb **fara**, to swell, to blaze forth, to gush forth.

In 11:40, the verb **fara** was applied to the gushing forth of the waters of the Flood; here the verb is applied to the blazing forth of the Fire of Punishment. Fire is personified: in its in-take it has a fierce appetite; in the flames which it throws out, it has a fierce aggressiveness. And yet in ultimate result evil meets the same fate, whether typified by water or fire.

تَكَادُ تَمَيَّرُ مِنَ الْغَيْظِ ...

8. Almost bursting with fury:

... كَلَّمَا أَلْقَىٰ فِيهَا فَوْجٌ سَأَلَهُمْ خَزَنَتُهَا أَلَمْ يَأْتِكُمْ نَذِيرٌ (٨)

every time a Group is cast therein, its Keepers will ask,
"Did no Warner come to you?"

C5565. Cf. 39:71, and n. 4348.

"Every time": it may not be the same angels who are guarding the gates of Hell every time new inmates come in. The pure, innocent angel nature does not know the crookedness of human evil, and is surprised at so many human beings coming in for punishment: it wonders if no warning was conveyed to men, whereas in fact men have a seaming in Clear Signs during all the period of their probation. The Clear Signs come from Revelation, from their own conscience, and from all nature around them.

قَالُوا بَلَىٰ قَدْ جَاءَنَا نَذِيرٌ فَكَذَّبْنَا وَقُلْنَا مَا نَزَّلَ اللَّهُ مِن شَيْءٍ ...

9. They will say:

"Yes indeed: a Warner did come to us, but we rejected him and said, "

Allah never sent down any (Message):

إِن أَنْتُمْ إِلَّا فِي ضَلَالٍ كَبِيرٍ (٩)

ye are in nothing but an egregious delusion!" "

C5566. Allah's Signs were not only rejected or defied, but their very existence was denied.

Nay, more, even their possibility was denied, and alas! righteous people and Prophets were persecuted or mocked (36:30). They were called fools or madmen, or men under a delusion!

وَقَالُوا لَوْ كُنَّا نَسْمَعُ أَوْ نَعْقِلُ مَا كُنَّا فِي أَصْحَابِ السَّعِيرِ (١٠)

10. They will further say:

"Had we but listened or **used our intelligence**, we should not (now) be among the Companions of the Blazing Fire!"

C5567. Man has himself the power given to him to distinguish good from evil, and he is further helped by the teachings of the great Messengers or World Teachers. Where such Teachers do not come into personal contact with an individual or a generation, the true meaning of their teaching can be understood by means of the Reason which Allah has given to every human soul to judge by. It is failure to follow a man's light sincerely that leads to his degradation and destruction.

فَاعْتَرَفُوا بِذَنبِهِمْ ...

11. **They will then confess their sins:**

C5568. They will then have passed through the fire of Judgment and will now be in the fire of Punishment. The Reality will not only now be clear to them, but after the questionings of the angels they cannot even pretend to make any excuses. They will freely confess, but that is not repentance, for repentance implies amendment, and the time for repentance and amendment will have long been past.

... فَسُحِقًا لِّلْأَصْحَابِ السَّعِيرِ (١١)

but far will be (Forgiveness) from the Companions of the Blazing Fire!

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ يَخْشَوْنَ رَبَّهُم بِالْغَيْبِ ...

12. **As for those who fear their Lord unseen,**

C5569. See n. 3902 to 35:18.

Read "**unseen**" adverbially.

To fear the Lord is to love Him so intensely that you fear to do anything which is against His Will, and you do it because you realise Him intensely in your hearts, though you do not see Him with your bodily senses. Nor is it of any consequences whether other people see your love or the consequences that flow from your love, for your good deeds are for the love of Allah and not for show in the eyes of men. Such intensity of love obtains forgiveness for any past, and is indeed rewarded with Allah's love, which is immeasurably precious beyond any merits you may possess.

... لَهُمْ مَغْفِرَةٌ وَأَجْرٌ كَبِيرٌ (١٢)

for them is Forgiveness and a great Reward.

وَأَسِرُّوا قَوْلَكُمْ أَوِ اجْهَرُوا بِهِ إِنَّهُ عَلِيمٌ بِذَاتِ الصُّدُورِ (١٣)

13. And whether ye hide your word or publish it, He certainly has (full) knowledge, of the secrets of (all) hearts.

أَلَا يَعْلَمُ مَنْ خَلَقَ ...

14. Should He not know -- He that created?

... وَهُوَ اللَّطِيفُ الْخَبِيرُ (١٤)

And He is the One that understands the finest mysteries (and) is well-acquainted (with them).

C5570. He Who creates must necessarily know His own handiwork. But lest we should measure His knowledge by such imperfect knowledge as we possess. His knowledge is further characterized as understanding the finest mysteries and being well acquainted with them (**Latif and Khabir**):

See 22:63. n. 2844.

Section 2

هُوَ الَّذِي جَعَلَ لَكُمُ الْأَرْضَ ذَلُولًا ...

15. It is He Who has made the earth **manageable** for you,

C5571. Dhalul is used in 2:71 for an animal trained and tractable: here it is used to qualify the earth, and I have translated '**manageable**'.

Man has managed to make paths through deserts and over mountains: through rivers and seas by means of ships; through the air by means of airways; he has made bridges and tunnels and other means of communication. But this he has only been able to do because Allah has given him the necessary intelligence and has made the earth tractable to that intelligence.

... فَاْمْشُوا فِي مَنَاكِبِهَا وَكُلُوا مِنْ رَزَقِهِ ...

so traverse ye through its tracts and enjoy of the Sustenance which He furnishes:

... وَإِلَيْهِ النُّشُورُ (١٥)

but unto Him is the **Resurrection**.

C5572. In describing Allah's gifts and mercies and watchful care in this our temporary sojourn on this earth, it is made clear that the ultimate end is the Hereafter. The real Beyond, which is the goal, is the life after the **Resurrection**.

أَأْمِنْتُمْ مَنْ فِي السَّمَاءِ أَنْ يَخْسِفَ بِكُمْ الْأَرْضَ فَإِذَا هِيَ تَمُورُ (١٦)

16. Do ye feel secure that He Who is in heaven will not cause you to **be swallowed up** by the earth when it shakes (as in an earthquake)?

C5573. Cf. 17:68. and n. 2263.

Also Cf. the story of Qarun in 28:76-82.

If we feel safe on land, it is because Allah has made this earth amenable, manageable and serviceable to us (verse 15 above). But if we defy Allah and break Ms Law, have we any security that even this comparatively unimportant safety in a fleeting world will last? Looking at it from a purely physical point of view, have there not been dreadful earthquakes, typhoons, and tornadoes?

أَمْ أَمِنْتُمْ مَنْ فِي السَّمَاءِ أَنْ يُرْسِلَ عَلَيْكُمْ حَاصِبًا ...

17. Or do ye feel secure that He Who is in Heaven will not send against you a **violent tornado** (with showers of stones),

C5574. Cf. 17:68; and 29:40, n. 3462. Such a violent wind destroyed the wicked Cities which defied Lut's warning.

... فَسَتَعْلَمُونَ كَيْفَ نَذِيرِ (١٧)

so that ye shall know how (terrible) was My warning?

وَلَفَّذُ كَذَّبَ الَّذِينَ مِنْ قَبْلِهِمْ فَكَيْفَ كَانَ نَكِيرِ (١٨)

18. But indeed men before them rejected (My warning):
then how (terrible) was My rejection (of them)?

C5575. Cf. 22:42-44, and n. 2822.

أَوَلَمْ يَرَوْا إِلَى الطَّيْرِ فَوْقَهُمْ ...

19. Do they not observe the birds above them,

C5576. The flight of birds is one of the most beautiful and wonderful things in nature. The make and arrangement of their feathers and bones, and their stream-line shapes, from beak to tail, are instances of purposive adaptation. They soar with outstretched wings; they dart about with folded wings; their motions upwards and downwards, as well as their stabilization in the air, and when they rest on their feet, have given many ideas to man in the science and art of aeronautics.

But who taught or gave to birds this wonderful adaptation?

None but Allah, Whose infinite Mercy provides for every creature just those conditions which are best adapted for its life.

... صَافَاتٍ وَيَقْبِضْنَ ...

spreading their wings and folding them in?

C5577. In the Arabic, there is an artistic touch which it is not possible to reproduce in the translation. **Saffat** (spreading their wings) is in the form of the active participle, suggesting the continuous soaring on outspread wings; while **yaqbidhna** (folding them in) is in the Aorist form, suggesting the spasmodic flapping of wings.

... مَا يُمْسِكُهُنَّ إِلَّا الرَّحْمَنُ ...

None can uphold them except (Allah) Most Gracious:

إِنَّهُ بِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ بَصِيرٌ (١٩)

truly it is He that watches over all things.

أَمَّنْ هَذَا الَّذِي هُوَ جُنْدٌ لَكُمْ يَنْصُرُكُمْ مِّنْ دُونِ الرَّحْمَنِ ...

20. Nay, who is there that can help you, (even as) **an army**, besides (Allah) Most Merciful?

C5578. Not the greatest army that man can muster is of any use against the Wrath of Allah; while the constant watchful care of Allah is all-in-all to us, and we can never do without it. If the godless wander about in search for blessings otherwise than in the Mercy and Grace of Allah, they are wandering in vain delusions.

... إِنَّ الْكَافِرُونَ إِلَّا فِي غُرُورٍ (٢٠)

In nothing but delusion are the Unbelievers.

... أَمَّنْ هَذَا الَّذِي يَرْزُقُكُمْ إِنْ أَمْسَكَ رِزْقَهُ ...

21. Or who is there that can provide you with **Sustenance** if He were to withhold His provision?

C5579. "**Sustenance**" here, as elsewhere, (e.g., in 16:73, n. 2105), refers to all that is necessary to sustain and develop life in all its phases. Allah Most Gracious is the Source of all our Sustenance, and if we persist in looking to Vanities for our Sustenance, we are pursuing a mirage, and, if we examine the matter, we are only following obstinate impulses of rebellion and impiety.

... بَلْ لَّجُوا فِي عُتُوٍّ وَنُفُورٍ (٢١)

Nay,

they obstinately persist in insolent impiety and flight (from the Truth).

... أَفَمَنْ يَمْشِي مُكِبًّا عَلَىٰ وَجْهِهِ أَهْدَىٰ ...

22. Is then one who walks headlong, with his face grovelling, better guided --

C5580. Cf. 27:90, and n. 3320.

The man of probity is the man who walks evenly on a Straight Way, his feet guided by Allah's Light and his heart sustained by Allah's Mercy. The man who chooses evil grovels, with his face down, in paths of Darkness, stumbling on the way, and in constant distrust and fear,

the fear of Evil. The two kinds of men are poles apart, although they live on the same earth, see the same Signs, and are fed with the same Mercies from Allah.

... أَمَّنْ يَمْشِي سَوِيًّا عَلَى صِرَاطٍ مُسْتَقِيمٍ (٢٢)

or one who walks evenly on a Straight Way?

C5581. Like Abraham trying to guide his unbelieving father: Cf. 19:43.

فَلْهُوَ الَّذِي ...

23. Say: "It is He Who ...

C5582. The Prophet is asked to draw constant attention to Allah, the source of all growth and development, the Giver of the faculties by which we can judge and attain to higher and higher spiritual dignity. And yet, such is our self-will, we use our faculties for wrong purposes and thus show our ingratitude to Allah.

... أَنْشَأَكُمْ ...

... has created you (and made you grow),

C5583. For **anshaa** see n. 923 to 6:98.

... وَجَعَلَ لَكُمْ السَّمْعَ وَالْأَبْصَارَ وَالْأَفْئِدَةَ ...

and made for you the faculties of

- hearing,
- seeing,
- feeling and
- understanding:

... قَلِيلًا مَّا تَشْكُرُونَ (٢٣)

little thanks it is ye give."

فَلْهُوَ الَّذِي دَرَأَكُمْ فِي الْأَرْضِ ...

24. Say:

"It is He Who has multiplied you through the earth,

C5584. Mankind, from one set of parents, has been multiplied and scattered through the earth. Men have not only multiplied in numbers but they have developed different languages and characteristics, inner and outer. But they will all be gathered together at the End of Things, when the mischief created by the wrong exercise of man's will be cancelled, and the Truth of Allah will reign universally.

... وَإِلَيْهِ نُحْشَرُونَ (٢٤)

and to Him shall ye be gathered together."

وَيَقُولُونَ مَتَى هَذَا الْوَعْدُ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ صَادِقِينَ (٢٥)

25. They ask: When will this promise be (fulfilled)? If ye are telling the truth.

C5585. The Unbelievers are skeptical, but they are answered in the next two verses.

قُلْ إِنَّمَا الْعِلْمُ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ ...

26. Say:

"As to the knowledge of the time, it is with Allah alone:

C5586. The Judgment is certain to come. But when it will exactly come, is known to Allah alone. The Prophet's duty is to proclaim that fact openly and clearly. It is not for him to punish or to hasten the punishment of evil.

Cf. 22:47-49.

... وَإِنَّمَا أَنَا نَذِيرٌ مُّبِينٌ (٢٦)

I am (sent) only to warn plainly in public."

فَلَمَّا رَأَوْهُ زُلْفَةً سَيِّئَتْ وُجُوهُ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا وَقِيلَ ...

27. At length, **when they see it close at hand**, grieved will be the faces of the Unbelievers, and it will be said (to them):

C5587. "It", i.e., the fulfilment of the promise, the Day of Judgment. When it is actually in sight, then the Unbelievers realise that those whom they used to laugh at for their Faith were in the right, and that they themselves, the skeptics, were terribly in the wrong.

... هَذَا الَّذِي كُنْتُمْ بِهِ تَدْعُونَ (٢٧)

"This is (the promise fulfilled), which ye were calling for!"

C5588. They had defiantly asked for it. Now that it has come near, and it is too late for repentance, there is "weeping and gnashing of teeth".

قُلْ أَرَأَيْتُمْ إِنْ أَهْلَكَنِيَ اللَّهُ وَمَنْ مَعِيَ ...

28. Say: "See ye? -- if Allah were to destroy me, and those with me,

C5589. The skeptics might say and do say to the righteous: "Ah well! if calamities come, they involve the good with the bad, just as you say that Allah showers His mercies on both good and evil!"

The answer is: "Don't you worry about us: even supposing we are destroyed, with all who believe with us, is that any consolation to you?"

Your sins must bring on you suffering, and nothing can ward it off. If we get any sorrows or sufferings, we take them as a mere trial to make us better, for we believe in Allah's goodness and we put our trust in Him." See next verse.

... أَوْ رَحْمَةً ...

or if He bestows His Mercy on us --

... فَمَنْ يُجِيرُ الْكَافِرِينَ مِنْ عَذَابٍ أَلِيمٍ (٢٨)

yet who can deliver the Unbelievers from a grievous Penalty?"

قُلْ هُوَ الرَّحْمَنُ أَمَّنًا بِهِ وَعَلَيْهِ تَوَكَّلْنَا ...

29. Say: "He is (Allah) Most Gracious: we have believed in Him, and on Him have we put our trust:

... فَسَتَعْلَمُونَ مَنْ هُوَ فِي ضَلَالٍ مُبِينٍ (٢٩)

so soon will ye know which (of us) it is that is in manifest error."

C5590. See the end of the last note.

"Our Faith tells us that Allah will deliver us from all harm if we sincerely repent and lead righteous lives. You,

Unbelievers, have no such hope. When the real adjustment of values is established, you will soon see whether we were in the wrong or you!"

قُلْ أَرَأَيْتُمْ إِنْ أَصْبَحَ مَاؤُكُمْ غَوْرًا فَمَنْ يَأْتِيكُمْ بِمَاءٍ مَّعِينٍ (٣٠)

30. Say: "See ye? --

if your stream be some morning lost (in the underground earth),
who then can supply you with clear-flowing water?"

C5591. The Surah is closed with a parable, taken from a vital fact of our physical life, and leading up to the understanding of our spiritual life.

In our daily life, what would happen if we woke up some fine morning to find that the sources and springs of our water-supply had disappeared and gone down into the hollows of the earth? Nothing could save our life.

Without water we cannot live, and water cannot rise above its level, but always seeks a lower-level. So in spiritual life. Its sources and springs are in the divine wisdom that flows from on high.

Allah is the real source of that life, as He is of all forms of life. We must seek His Grace and Mercy. We cannot find grace or mercy or blessing from anything lower. His Wisdom and Mercy are like, fresh clear-flowing spring-water, not like the muddy murky wisdom and goodness of this lower world which is only relative, and which often hampers life rather than advances it.