

ALI 634: Principles of the Spiritual Journey

Session Three

Questions

- 1) What is the difference between complete and perfect?
- 2) How do we find out about perfection?
- 3) What is the link between balance and perfection?



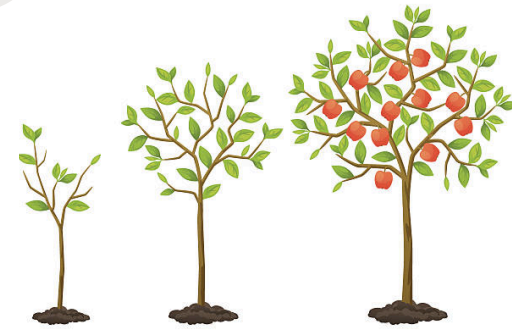
A Discussion on Perfection

(<https://www.al-islam.org/faith-and-reason/question-15-attaining-perfection>)

The term progress could apply to a movement that is merely horizontal. However, elevation is embedded in the meaning of perfection.

Perfection is meaningful only in the context of an ascending and vertical movement. Hence, it is possible to achieve progress without attaining to perfection.



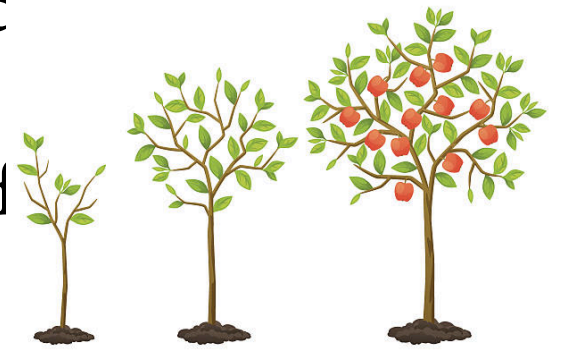


Mystics are of the opinion that reality is nondual. Reality is God and all else is the radiance of His existence. Thus, the human being attains to perfection when he comes to view only Him and nothing else, when he reaches annihilation in the Truth.

The closer one ascends to the Truth, the more perfect he becomes. And the path of this journey is the heart, and one must combat one's ego and overcome it.

Although Islam approves of the path of the heart and vision, it also supports the intellect and has referred to the latter as the “inward prophet”.

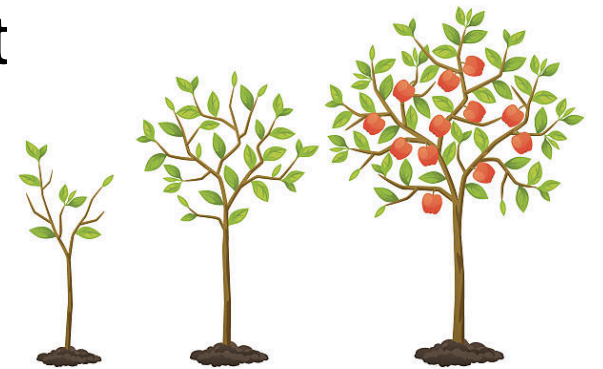
In contrast to mysticism, both the personal and social aspects of life have been recognized, and perfect human being is he who perfects himself aspects.



Does Intellect lead to perfection?

The intellect must be complemented by faith,
for reason alone is not potent enough.

It is the intellect monitored by Revelation and
faith that is desirable in the Islamic cont



According to Islam, the Universal Man is he who is a man of worship, of kneeling and prostration before the Lord, but also one who is dutiful vis-à-vis his social responsibilities—i.e., social reformation and enjoining good and forbidding evil.



All quotes from: <https://www.al-islam.org/faith-and-reason/question-15-attaining-perfection>

التَّائِبُونَ الْعَابِدُونَ الْحَامِدُونَ السَّائِحُونَ الرَّاكِعُونَ السَّاجِدُونَ الْآمِرُونَ
بِالْمَعْرُوفِ وَالنَّاهُونَ عَنِ الْمُنْكَرِ وَالْحَافِظُونَ لِحُدُودِ اللَّهِ ۖ
وَبَشِّرِ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ

[The faithful are] penitent, devout
celebrators of Allah's praise
wayfarers, who bow, prostrate
bid what is right
and forbid what is wrong
keep Allah's bounds
and give good news to the faithful.

Sura al-Tawbah, Sura 9, verse 112

