

ALI 634: Principles of the Spiritual Journey

Session Two

Questions from the notes

- 1) Who are the ones that never perish?
 - 2) When does a spiritual traveler attain the reward of a martyr?
 - 3) How is a believer indifferent to happiness and sorrow?
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- A large yellow triangle is positioned in the bottom right corner of the slide, pointing towards the top right.

Moving beyond the self

Unification (*wasl*) implies returning after going away and ascending after descent.

For each one amongst us has descended from the highest of stages and that is the position of *ahadiyyah* and unification with the Eternal since eternity, to the lowest of positions and that is the world of elements and matter.

Then, some of us have fallen to the lowest level and remain in the pits.

While others, by treading towards Allah, and in Allah, by attachment to His attributes, and through annihilation in His Being, have returned to the state of unification.

Thereby, through this real unison, as it was in eternity, we shall continue to remain so in perpetuity.

Abd ar-Razzaq al Kashani

<https://www.shiavault.com/books/salat-prayer-the-mode-of-divine-proximity-and-recognition/chapters/3-meeting-allah-in-human-mysticism/>

Understanding self annihilation

(Fanā) or annihilation is one of the mystical stages or states experienced in the spiritual journey

- 1) Reducing the self (ego) to nothing.
- 2) Becoming one with God - the self becomes an instrument of God's plan in the world
- 3) Annihilation of the servant's will in God's will.
- 4) Appearance of the Divine greatness so that everything else is forgotten.
- 5) Annihilation of the human side into the divine side.

Three Meanings of Self annihilation

- 1) Annihilation of Will
- 2) Annihilation of Attributes
- 3) Annihilation of Self

<http://www.imamreza.net/old/eng/imamreza.php?id=12840>

Is annihilation non-existence?

The non-existence of something there is a complete disappearance of the thing.

But in annihilation there is a disappearance of the properties and specifications of the thing.

The thing will not disappear completely.

Hadith Qurb al-Nawafil

If one seeks nearness to Me via supererogatory worship, I will love him.

And I will become his ears, his eyes, his tongue, and his hand by means of which he can hear and see.

And if he calls to me, I will answer him and fulfill his wishes.

Hadith al-Qudsi

In the view of mystics, the mystical journey is done in two phases:

- a) Nearness to God via obligatory worships
(qurb al-fara'id)
- a) Nearness to God via supererogatory worships
(qurb al-nawafil).

Wahdatul Wujud

It means to believe that all the entities (things present around us) are an indication of Allah's presence and to believe that everything besides Allah is subjective or just shadows and epiphany of the Truth.

The only real existent in the world of existence is God; others have no real existence but they are the expressions and shadows of God.

Multiplicity applies to the expression of existence not to the existence itself.

<https://www.islamquest.net/en/archive/fa5265>

There is none in the house
except the owner of the house.