

on the physical aspect of human constitution by the Perfect Benefactor [in the past], then why would anyone think that those spiritual capabilities that people enjoyed in previous ages have become altogether extinct in their constitution in this age, particularly when those capabilities are more crucial to human perfection than physical faculties? And how can it be denied when our everyday experience confirms that these faculties have not become extinct? This illustrates how distant from the truth are the religions that admit that the physical and intellectual faculties of human nature are still the same as they were before, but they deny that the spiritual faculties are still present in human beings as they were in the past.

My intent from this entire discourse is that unless a person possesses certain other qualities—which I shall, God willing, elaborate upon in Chapter III—the mere fact that he sees true dreams or experiences a few true revelations does not prove any excellence on his part. It is merely the result of the peculiar constitution of his brain, and that is why there is no precondition in it for being virtuous or truthful, nor is it necessary for him to be a believer and a Muslim. And just as some people experience true dreams or learn something by way of *ilhām* [inspiration] simply due to the constitution of their brains, similarly, the nature of others is suited for scholarship and discoveries due to the constitution of their brains and they alight upon subtle matters. But, in reality, they fall under the category of people mentioned in an authentic hadith:

أَمَنَّ شِعْرُهُ وَكَفَرَ قَلْبُهُ

Meaning that, his poetry professed belief [in God], but his heart disbelieved.

That is why it is not for every simple-minded person to recognize a truthful one. [As is said]:

اے بے ابلیس آدم روئے ہست پس بہر دستے نباید داد دست  
*Oh how many an Iblis has the face of Adam!*

*So give not your hand [in allegiance] to everyone.*

Moreover, it should also be borne in mind that the dreams and revelations experienced by the people of this rank are steeped in much darkness and very rarely contain the brilliance of truth. They are not accompanied by any sign of God's love and acceptance, and any news of the unseen they may contain is such that it is also shared by tens of millions of others. Anyone who wishes can verify for himself that such dreams and revelations are experienced by all kinds of people, including sinners, liars, infidels, atheists, and indeed, even prostitutes. Therefore, anyone who exults over, and is enamoured by, such dreams and revelations is not wise. And gravely deceived is the one who deludes himself into believing that he is someone special merely by experiencing in himself a sample of dreams and revelations of this quality. Indeed, it should be remembered that such a person is only like someone who, on a dark night, sees the smoke of a fire from a distance, but he cannot see the glow of this fire nor can he alleviate his frigidity and dejection by its heat. This is the very reason why such people derive no share of God's special blessings and bounties, nor does any acceptance develop in them. They have no connection with God at all, nor are the impurities of their human self consumed by the flames of divine light. Since they do not develop a real friendship with God, their lack of nearness to Him allows Satan to remain their constant companion and they are dominated by *ḥadīthun-nafs* [the inspirations of the self]. Even as the sun remains mostly hidden on an overcast day—only a corner of it becomes visible occasionally—so are such people mostly enveloped in darkness, and their dreams and revelations have a great deal of satanic influence.