Be Free

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So you want to be free? But do you know what freedom is?

So you want to be a freedom fighter? Well, first you have to be free.

There is an Islamic tradition about Prophet Yusef (peace be upon him), who is called Joseph in the Bible. It says Prophet Yusef (PBUH) was the freest person in the world, even when he was in prison in Egypt. How is that possible? He was the freest person in the world, even while in prison, because he was free at heart.

[Allah] sent a mosquito which flew into the nose of Nimrod, who then began beating his head to get the insect out until he killed himself by smashing his own head.

If you do not have the spirit of freedom in your heart, you can never be free, even if you live under the most just government in the freest society.

Likewise, if you are truly free at heart, the most oppressive government cannot enslave you, even if you are thrown in the darkest dungeon.

To be free at heart, one must practice jihad-i-nafs, which means the struggle against the lower self or ego. To be successful in jihad-i-nafs, one must attain fana, which means annihilation of the self.

Only after becoming selfless and altruistic can one become a true freedom fighter. The path becomes clear, the goals bright as day, unclouded by selfish desires.

It is even important for unbelievers to live freely.

Imam Hussein (peace be upon him) once said: "If you have no faith, at least be a free man."

We must also acknowledge our own mortality. We will all die one day and be resurrected on Judgment Day, when we will have to answer for our actions in life.

Therefore, we must prepare provisions for that day, just as we would prepare provisions for a journey.

Prophet Mohammad (peace be upon him and his family) once said: "Die before you die."

Imam Ali (peace be upon him) said: "…in my view, this world of yours is no better than the sneezing of a goat."

Imam Hussein (PBUH) said: "Verily, people are the slaves of the world and their religion is superficial, only on their tongues. They are attentive to it as long as their material benefits are provided, but when they are tested, the number of true believers dwindles."

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According to another Islamic tradition, Allah decided to humiliate Nimrod because he was too proud.

So, He sent a mosquito which flew into the nose of Nimrod, who then began beating his head to get the insect out until he killed himself by smashing his own head. The mosquito lost a wing after it flew out. Allah then told the mosquito it could have anything in the world that it wanted as a reward for killing Nimrod. The mosquito said it only wanted its lost wing back. And that is the origin of the saying that the entire world is worth less than the wing of a mosquito.

Unfortunately, nowadays many people have become materialistic. They are suffering from mental slavery and have become slaves of the material world.

They have become so self-centered that the selfless path of freedom seems foolish to them.

Most people claim they want to enjoy life, and then they spend their whole lives chasing selfish desires, trying to make

themselves happy. They have
lost sight of the simple
truth that the greatest joy
in life is found in working
to make others happy.

The true servants of God
are servants of the people,
and they know a joy that
others on the materialistic
path can never find. They
are the happiest people
because they have inner
peace and satisfaction.
They have yaqin, which
means certainty in faith.

Let's learn from these
great examples. Let's be
free.

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