

The Castles of Conscience

A human being is not a creature that lives solely by their intellect. Within them, there is a deeper, quieter, yet more powerful domain: CONSCIENCE. Conscience is a divine call echoing in the depths of the human soul. When a human being stands between right and wrong, an inner court is established in their internal world before making a decision that affects the external world. The name of this court is conscience.

Conscience is an inner guide that restrains the human being from evil and directs them toward goodness. However, for this guide to remain strong, it must be protected and nourished. Within the inner world of the human soul, there are certain virtues that serve as insurmountable castles for conscience. Love, respect, compassion, merciful awareness, and altruism are foremost among these castles.

Love is the first key that opens the doors of conscience. In a heart devoid of love, conscience hardens easily. When a human being cannot feel the pain of others, the line between right and wrong becomes blurred. Love, however, opens the human heart to others and makes the voice of conscience much clearer.

Respect, on the other hand, protects the boundaries of conscience. When a human being feels respect both for themselves and for others, a balance is formed in their inner world. This balance prevents conscience from scattering. For respect is the recognition of value both within one's own existence and within the existence of others.

Compassion and merciful awareness preserve the softness of conscience. When a human being notices the vulnerability of others, their heart does not harden. Compassion keeps conscience alive; mercy makes it sensitive. Therefore, mercy is like the breath of conscience.

Altruism—the virtue of being able to care for the well-being of others as much as one's own—is one of the strongest guardians of conscience. When a human being thinks only of themselves, conscience contracts; but when they look out for the good of others, conscience expands and deepens. Such a conscience becomes a guide not merely for individual interest, but for truth.

These virtues are not merely ornaments for conscience; they are also its nourishment. Just as the body needs vitamins to maintain its health, conscience grows stronger through these

virtues. Love, respect, compassion, mercy, and altruism are like the vitamins of conscience. They nourish, strengthen, and sustain it.

Yet, what nourishes conscience most deeply is the human being shaping their life in line with divine values and standards. Divine values are like a universal compass guiding the inner world of the human being. When values such as justice, righteousness, mercy, honesty, and goodness reside in the human heart, conscience speaks more openly and powerfully.

As the human being keeps these divine standards alive in their life, an order is established in their inner world. Conscience ceases to be just a feeling; it becomes a living guide that distinguishes the right. But when the human being distances themselves from these values, conscience begins to weaken. The human being who loses this guidance in their inner world struggles to see the right.

Such a conscience is like a court without a judge. The rules exist, but there is no authority to enforce them. The truth exists, but no voice is heard to declare it.

Therefore, one of the most important duties in the spiritual journey of a human being is to protect their conscience. The castles that protect conscience are love, respect, compassion, mercy, and altruism. The source that nourishes conscience is divine values and standards.

When a human being unites these two realities in their life, a strong moral integrity is formed within their inner world. Then, conscience ceases to be merely an inner voice; it becomes a light that illuminates the human being's life. This light directs the human being to live in peace both with themselves and with others.

Because conscience is one of the most precious guides entrusted to the human soul. As long as the virtues that protect it and the divine values that nourish it exist, the human being does not lose the path of truth.

Yusuf Beğtaş