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M.T.O. Sufi Association Newsletter

*All who have achieved great things have had a great aim,
have fixed their gaze on a goal which was high,
one which sometimes seemed impossible.*

-Orison Swett Marden

Calamities or Blessings?

Life's storms! Everyone has had them or will go through them at some points in their life. Calamities they may seem but underneath all those pain-stricken, tear-shedding and heart-breaking adversities lies life's secrets.

Be it in passing that exam, the HSC, the university assessments or getting that job you always longed for or having family crisis or the hardest of them all, the one that drains our emotion the most, is getting heart broken by the very people that

were supposed to honor, cherish and love you.

As the saying goes all these can either make you or break you. Isn't it true that the lessons learnt through these periods are the priceless jewels that can never be gained or bought?

Just coming out of one of these difficult periods myself, I can not help but be happy for every moment that I am blessed with. My smiles are now more genuine than ever before and my joy springs out from the deepest levels of my being. Calamities you can call them but the

lessons learnt are blessings; hope, faith, patience, strength, tenderness, generosity, forgiveness, courage, compassion, wisdom and love.

So next time you face a difficulty on your path, embrace it and take it as a blessing and always (I mean *always*) keep your eyes on the price, whatever that may be. This way, you can be assured you will have a richer, happier and healthier life.



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*Until you become an unbeliever in
your own self,
you cannot become a believer in God.*

-Abu Saeed Abil Kheir

WHAT IS REALITY?

I was recently walking in a very busy street in Istanbul this summer (winter time in Turkey) when I saw a Muslim woman walking in the street wearing veils that completely covered her face and body, allowing only a split in front of her eyes to see where she was walking.

As she walked passed me, I saw that she was a young lady in her late 20's with absolutely beautiful big brown Mediterranean eyes. As she looked at me, a question arose within me, "How will she feel one day when she dies and realises that her reality was all wrong and that she could have lived a life free from covering herself from head to toe and wonders about all the things she has missed out on?" As I continued to walk down the street, pondering over this question, a loud voice from deep within me

called out, "How do you know that YOUR reality is right and what happens if you die one day and realise that you had lived your life in the same box?"

This voice touched me so deeply that my feet stuck to the ground and I actually had to stand there in silence for a few moments to comprehend such a deep revelation...

It awakened me to the fact that I am stuck in a world that I have created for myself, thinking that it is right. How do I know what is right? How do I know what is real for my existence? How does one break the box of traditions, cultures and hereditary beliefs and discovers the reality of existence? Who were the great Prophets and Masters of existence? What did they want to teach us?

I do not have the answers, but it was at that moment that I

realised the reality of Sufism. It is for me to find these answers within me and with the guidance of my teacher find the key to MY reality.

References:
1. <http://orisonswetmarden.www.hubs.com/> (Date visited: 10/01/2007).
2. <http://wahiduddin.net/sufi/poetry.htm#Shaikh%20Abu%20Saeed%20Abil%20Kheir> (Date visited: 5/01/2007).



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Abu Saeed Abil Kheir (967-1049), a famous Sufi mystic and poet from Khurasan, Iran renowned for referring to himself as "nobody, son of nobody". In essence, he expressed the reality that his life had disappeared on the path of annihilation in Love,²

Be humble.

Only fools take pride in their station here, trapped in a cage of dust, moisture, heat and air.

No need to complain of calamities, this illusion of a life lasts but a moment.

If you do not give up the crowds you won't find your way to Oneness.

If you do not drop your self you won't find your true worth.

If you do not offer all you have to the Beloved,

you will live this life free of that pain which makes it worth living.

If you are seeking closeness to the Beloved, love everyone.

Whether in their presence or absence, see only their good.

If you want to be as clear and refreshing as the breath of the morning breeze, like the sun, have nothing but warmth and light for everyone.