

Seeing the light

(Quotations from Titus Burckhardt)

If ... the Spirit gains the victory over the soul, then the heart will be transformed into Spirit and will at the same time transmute the soul suffusing her with spiritual light. Then too the heart reveals itself as what it really is, that is as the tabernacle of the Divine Mystery in man.

(p. 27)

Paraphrased: A spiritual [state](#) (*al-hal*) is a passing immersion of the soul in the Divine Light. According to their intensity and duration 'states' are spoken of as 'glimmers', 'flashes', 'irradiation', etc. A spiritual station is a state that has become permanent.

(p. 88)

The vital spirit, called *ar-ruh* by analogy with the transcendent Spirit ... is a subtle modality intermediate between the immortal soul and the body... This vital spirit is relatively undifferentiated; it includes not only the spatially delimited body but also the sensory faculties with their spheres of experience.

Ordinarily man is not aware of it, but in certain states of realization this spirit becomes the vehicle for a diffused spiritual light which may even radiate externally.

(p. 97)

Muhyi-d-Din ibn 'Arabi:

the 'spiritual state' (*al-hal*), the sudden illumination of the heart, is brought about by the reciprocal action of the divine irradiation and the predisposition of the heart. According to the point of view adopted, one or the other of these two poles will appear as the determining factor and the other as determined...

(p. 108)

©1999 by [Deb Platt](#)

-
- ✦ Select a new topic, or explore this topic further [within Islam](#) or [across religions](#).
 - ✦ Browse [additional quotations](#) from Titus Burckhardt.
 - ✦ Refer to [bibliography](#).
 - ✦ Go to [home page](#).

Seeing the light

(Quotations from Ahmad Ibn `Ata'Allah)

[Invoking](#) removes darkness and brings forth radiant lights.

(p. 77)

When the invocation descends into the heart, if there is darkness within, it illuminates it; and if there is already light, the invocation increases the light and intensifies it.

(p. 69)

Whosoever perseveres in the invocation will find that lights come to him constantly and that the veils of invisible things are lifted from him.

(p. 94)

(*Paraphrased:* As long as an individual's heart is filled with the tendency towards what is other-than-God Most High, there is no Certitude about God.)

When certitude about God Most High does occur in the heart...the heart becomes tranquil through the Majesty of God; then it abstains from what is other-than-God. So, it stands weak and is compelled to cry out to God for help. Then He who responds to the necessitous when they cry out to Him, responds to it. That radiant light settles into the heart and the darkness of preoccupation with what is other-than-God is extinguished therewith. Then the reality of the Realm (*al-Malakut*) becomes visible to it, and that is what Harithah meant when he said to the Messenger of God: "It is as if I see the Throne of my Lord distinctly." And the Messenger of God said, "The Light of God Most High is faith in one's heart."

(p. 150)

©1999 by Deb Platt

-
- ✦ Select a new topic, or explore this topic further [within Islam](#) or [across religions](#).
 - ✦ Browse [additional quotations](#) from Ahmad Ibn `Ata'Allah. ✦ Refer to [bibliography](#).

- ✦ Select a new topic, or explore this topic further [within Islam](#) or [across religions](#).
- ✦ Browse [additional quotations](#) from Ahmad Ibn `Ata'Allah. ✦ Refer to [bibliography](#).
- ✦ Select a new topic, or explore this topic further [within Islam](#) or [across religions](#).
- ✦ Browse [additional quotations](#) from Ahmad Ibn `Ata'Allah. ✦ Refer to [bibliography](#).
- ✦ Go to [home page](#).

Seeing the light

(Quotations from Rabi'a al-Adawiyya)

I look everywhere for your love--
Then suddenly I am filled with it.
O Captain of my Heart,
Radiant Eye of Yearning in my breast...
(p. 47)

(For more on light, also see [Rabi'a's dream](#).)

©1999 by Deb Platt

-
- ✦ Select a new topic, or explore this topic further [within Islam](#) or [across religions](#).
 - ✦ Browse [additional quotations](#) from Rabi'a al-Adawiyya. ✦ Refer to [bibliography](#).
 - ✦ Go to [home page](#).

Seeing the light

(Quotations from Jalaluddin Rumi)

The house of the heart that remains without illumination from the rays of the Magnificent Sun is narrow and dark like a miser's soul, empty of the Loving King's sweet taste. The Sun's light does not shine in that heart, space does not expand, doors do not open: The grave would be more pleasant for you -- so come, arise from the tomb of your heart!

(The Sufi Path of Love: The Spiritual Teachings of Rumi, p. 37)

Wait for the illuminating openness, as though your chest were filling with light, as when God said, *Did we not expand you?* (Koran 94:1).

(The Essential Rumi, p. 255)

The Image of the heart-expanding Moon entered my heart. Since there is neither road nor door, I wonder from whence He came... How happy is my firelike, iron heart as the locus of His Light! Does not a mirror rejoice when purity enters?... The attributes of human nature have been annihilated, the Attributes of God have come!... All pride has gone, all Glory has come!

(The Sufi Path of Love: The Spiritual Teachings of Rumi, pp. 264-265)

At the time of union, only God knows what that Moon is! For even during separation, what incredible joy and expansion of spirit!

(The Sufi Path of Love: The Spiritual Teachings of Rumi, p. 244)

Oh my moon, my bright candle! From the time I first saw Thy Face, wherever I sit I am joyful, wherever I go I dwell in the midst of roses. Wherever the King's Image may be, that is a garden and place of contemplation; whatever station I enter, I am wrapped in pleasure. Although the doors of this six-sided monastery are closed, the Moon-faced Beloved sticks His head in my window from No-place.

(The Sufi Path of Love: The Spiritual Teachings of Rumi, p. 298)

How could the rays of God's light fit into the heart? Yet when you search you will find it there, not from the point of view of containment such that it could be said that the light is *in* that place. You will find it *through* that place ...

(Signs of the Unseen: The Discourses of Jalaluddin Rumi, p. 173)

The window determines how much light enters the house, even if the moon's radiance fills the east and the west.

(The Sufi Path of Love: The Spiritual Teachings of Rumi, p. 10)

He is overflowing with God's light -- he has broken the cup of the body, he is Absolute Light.

(The Sufi Path of Love: The Spiritual Teachings of Rumi, p. 314)

... the reality of day is the inmost consciousness of the saints: Beside their noon, day is but a shadow.

(The Sufi Path of Love: The Spiritual Teachings of Rumi, p. 100)

When man receives light from God, he becomes the object of the angel's prostration, since he was chosen...

(The Sufi Path of Love: The Spiritual Teachings of Rumi, p. 193)

Do you know what shines into the heart's mirror? Only he who knows purity knows the Image displayed there.

(The Sufi Path of Love: The Spiritual Teachings of Rumi, p. 263)

©1999 by Deb Platt

-
- Select a new topic, or explore this topic further [within Islam](#) or [across religions](#).
 - Browse [additional quotations](#) from Jalaluddin Rumi. • Refer to [bibliography](#). • Go to [home page](#).

Seeing the light

(Quotations from Llewellyn Vaughan-Lee)

Rumi:

My heart is *light upon light*, a beautiful Mary with Jesus in the womb.
(p. 116)

Al-Hakim At-Tirmidhi:

When one sees the Glory and Majesty of God in His Realm then all the lights become one light and the chest becomes full with this shining light.
(p. 120)

Abdu'L-Qadir Al-Gilani:

Dear friend, your heart is a polished mirror. You must wipe it clean of the veil of dust which has gathered upon it, because it is destined to reflect the light of divine secrets. When the light from *Allah, (Who) is the light of the heavens and the earth* begins to shine upon the regions of your heart, the lamp of the heart will be lit...

It is your private sun, for you are the one *whom Allah guides...*
(pp. 118-119)

[©1999 by Deb Platt](#)

-
- Select a new topic, or explore this topic further [within Islam](#) or [across religions](#).
 - Browse [additional quotations](#) from Llewellyn Vaughan-Lee.
 - Refer to [bibliography](#).
 - Go to [home page](#).

Seeing the light

(Quotations from 'Abd al-Kader)

The diurnal sun sets at night, but the sun of the heart never disappears.

(Mawqif 172, p. 72)

His light spreads out and this operation expresses nothing other than the ordered unfolding of His attributes over the non-being. What is called "the possibles" are those things which show themselves capable of receiving that light and those which are called "the impossibles" are those which are unable to receive the light. It is to just this that the Prophet -- upon Him be Grace and Peace! -- alluded when He said, "Allah created the creatures in the darkness, then He sprinkled them with His light. Those who were touched by some of this light are on the good way; and those who failed to be touched by it are astray."

(Mawqif 287, p. 86)

©1999 by [Deb Platt](#)

-
- Select a new topic, or explore this topic further [within Islam](#) or [across religions](#).
 - Browse [additional quotations](#) from 'Abd al-Kader.
 - Refer to [bibliography](#).
 - Go to [home page](#).