



BAHYE'S INTRODUCTION TO HIDAYA: OUTLINE

Gavriel Z. Bellino – November 30, 2016

God created the World, and Endowed Man with Wisdom of which there are 3 Types:

- Lower: Physics, nature and accidents of bodies.
- Middle: Mathematics, arithmetic, geometry, astronomy, and music.
- Supreme: Metaphysics, the knowledge of God (and Scriptures, as well as those other subjects). Knowledge of God is essential to performance for the proper motivation, (i.e., not reward).

Three Sources of Divine Knowledge:

- Sane and sound mind (logic)
- Biblical canon
- Prophetic and oral traditions

Religion Involves External and Internal duties:

- External duties of the body and its members
 - Reasoned law
 - Revealed law (e.g., ban on eating meat with milk, etc.)
- Internal (hidden) duties of the heart
 - Positive (Dogma/beliefs)
 - Negative (inappropriate feelings or intentions)

Types of Obedience:

- Outward = the duties of the members (e. g., prayer, fasting, almsgiving, palm branch, the fringes, etc.)
- Inward = the duties of the heart (e. g., belief, spiritual obedience, humility, love for Him, reliance upon Him, submission to Him, the consecration of all our work for His sake, in meditation upon His graces, in all the duties performed by faith and conscience without the activity of the external body-members.

**“The duties of the members are of no avail to us
unless our hearts choose to do them
and our souls desire their performance. “**

Three sorts of religious literature, none of which give sufficient emphasis on the inner duties:

- Textual explanation
- Summaries of principle commandments
- Philosophical discussion of spiritual matters

Traditional Confirmation of the Duties of the Heart:

- Biblical laws
 - Positive, e. g.: And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart...
 - Negative, e. g.: Neither shalt thou covet thy neighbor's wife...
- Talmudic statements, laws, and narratives
 - Statements, e. g.: God requireth the heart; The heart and the eye are the two agents of sin...
 - Law, e.g., unintentional sin.
 - Narrative: "In virtue of what have you reached such a good old age?" stories in Megilla 27b-28a.

Bahye Considers Why Duties of the Heart are Ignored:

- Perhaps duties of the heart are not obligatory upon us everywhere and at all times... They are. (Parable of servant with indoor and outdoor work).
- Perhaps duties of the heart are rare, not divided into numerous duties... They aren't. (Duties of the members are limited to about 613 commandments in all, while the duties of the heart are many and their details innumerable.)
- Perhaps duties of the heart are obvious... They aren't. (Even scholars ignore them).

More on the Great Importance of the Duties of the Heart:

- Otherwise Shema would be without meaning
- Commandments cannot be fulfilled without both knowledge and practice
- Mention of (anonymous Muslim) Sages who emphasize the inner spiritual life
- Obligation of people with sufficient intellect to delve into these matters
 - The duties of the heart are an ongoing intellectual project, and not just tradition
 - Parable of the servant who was tasked to weigh money
 - More important to delve into these matters than legal matters
 - Goal is balance – The harmony of inner and outer

Reason for Composition:

- Direct people in the way of the just, lest the author forget
- Did not see himself as worthy, but and would have preferred the peace of mind and tranquility of idleness, but this was a spiritual obstacle. 'Cautiousness consists of not being too cautious.'

Structure of the Book:

(1) Declaring the pure assertion of the unity of God, but do is unknowable so (2) we must know Him and conceive of His existence by way of His creatures. Observing God's sovereignty inspires (3) obedience and (4) reliance which require (5) a service that is pure and (6) humility. No one is perfect, but (7) repentance is possible but requires (8) self-reckoning and (9) asceticism. This will manifest finally in the ultimate goal which is (10) to love God and to fear his anger.

Two Parables:

Parable of Astrologer – Repeat and share

Parable of King's Silk – Hierarchy of Wisdom