

Surah 67. Al-Mulk

Asad: Say [unto those who deny the truth]: "What do you think? If of a sudden all your water were to vanish underground, who [but God] could provide you with water from [new] unsullied springs?"²²

Malik: Say: "Have you ever considered that if all the water you have, sink down in the ground, who is it, that will bring you the clear-flowing water?"

Pickthall: Say: Have ye thought: If (all) your water were to disappear into the earth, who then could bring you gushing water?

Yusuf Ali: Say: "See ye? If your stream be some morning lost (in the underground earth) who then can supply you with clear-flowing water?" ⁵⁵⁹¹

Transliteration: Qul araaytum in a**s**baha maokum ghawran faman yateekum bimain maAAeenin

Khatab:

Say, "Consider this: if your water were to sink ?into the earth?, then who ?else? could bring you flowing water?"

Author Comments

22 - Apart from a further reminder of God's providential power (thus continuing the argument touched upon in verses {19-21}), the above verse has a parabolic significance as well. Just as water is an indispensable element of all organic life, so is a constant flow of moral consciousness an indispensable prerequisite of all spiritual life and stability: and who but God could enable man to regain that consciousness after all the older ethical stimuli have dried up and "vanished underground"?

5591 - The Sura is closed with a parable, taken from a vital fact of our physical life, and leading up to the understanding of our spiritual life. In our daily life, what would happen if we woke up some fine morning to find that the sources and springs of our water-supply had disappeared and gone down into the hollows of the earth? Nothing could save our life. Without water we cannot live, and water cannot rise above its level, but always seeks a lower-level. So in spiritual life. Its sources and springs are in the divine wisdom that flows from on high. Allah is the real source of that life, as He is of all forms of life. We must seek His Grace and Mercy. We cannot find grace or mercy or blessing from anything lower. His Wisdom and Mercy are like, fresh clear-flowing spring-water, not like the muddy murky wisdom and goodness of this lower world which is only relative, and which often hampers life rather than advances it.

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