

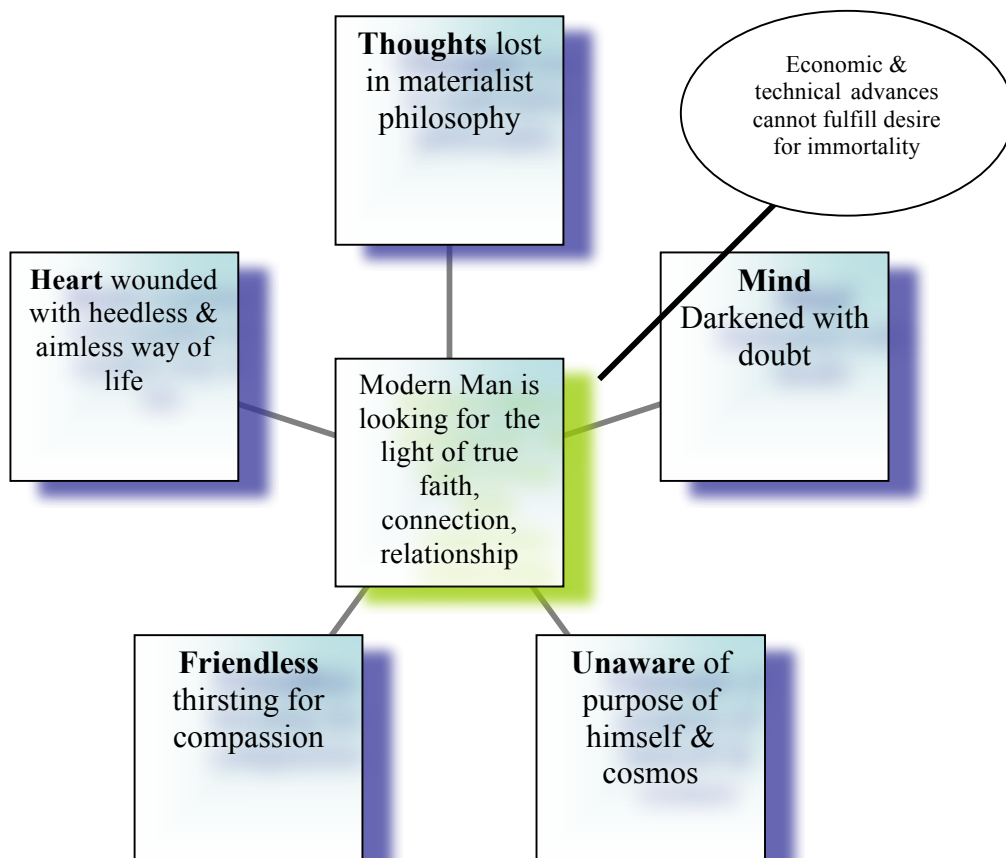
In The Name of Allah, Most Merciful, Most Compassionate

Merits of Belief

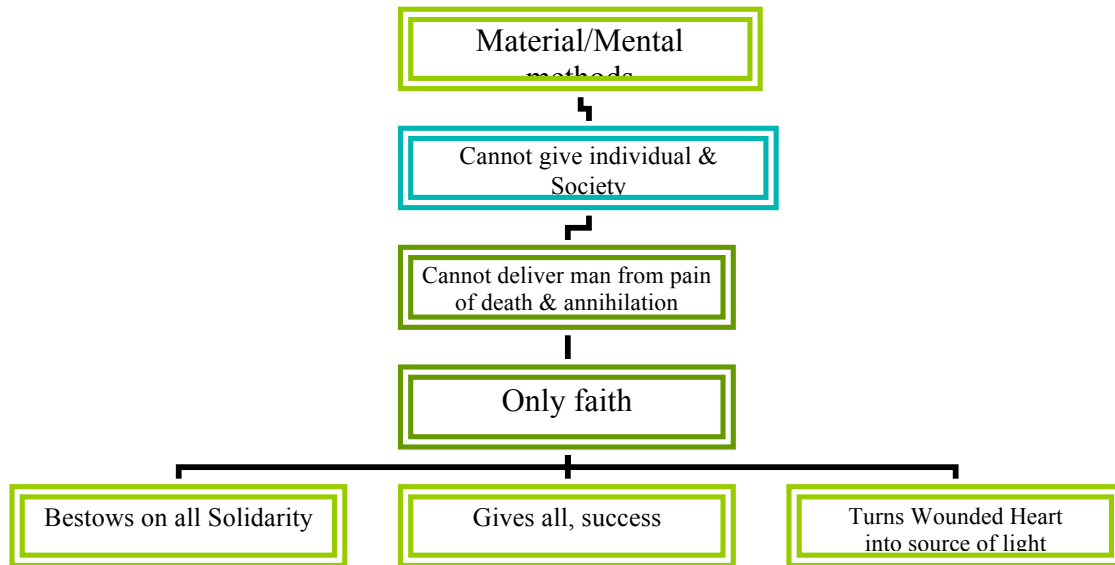
Introduction

The man of our century is looking for the light of true faith. For his thoughts are submerged in the complex and insoluble problems of materialist philosophy; his mind has become darkened with the clouds of doubt; his heart has become wounded with the heedless and aimless way of life inspired by the vicious aspect of civilization; he is unaware of the purpose for which he and the cosmos have been created; he is friendless and thirsting for compassion.

Purely economic and technical advances, robot-like systems, cannot give him this light; they cannot fulfill mans desire for immortality.



Materialist and mental methods that are incapable of bestowing a spiritual and eternal pleasure, one that embraces both the individual and society, are also unable to deliver man from the pain of death and separation and to rescue him from the darkness of annihilation. It is only faith that bestows on everyone, from the lowliest person to the most celebrated scholar, the strength of solidarity; gives him success on the tempestuous journey of life; and turns his wounded heart into a peaceful source of gentle, warm and brilliant light.



The support that strengthens man in the face of the innumerable vicissitudes that terrify him, from the smallest microbe to the most violent earthquake and the silent blackness of space, is to be found only in belief and trust in that Unique Creator Who holds the whole universe and our world in His control and protects it with His infinite concern.

Faith appeared together with the first man on earth, and from that time onward that Creator of all being has taught man his duty and the paths that by way of that duty lead to happiness in the two worlds, by means of prophets and scriptures. The Prophet Muhammad and the Qur'an are the last prophet and last scripture; they confirm all the prophets and scriptures that preceded them, and place a seal on their messages; but because of new needs emerging as result of changed times, they introduce changes in certain secondary matters.

Not only are these changes in matter of detail extremely logical, but the unity on fundamental matters summons all who believe in God and His messengers to unity. If it be taken into consideration that the struggle being waged in the world of today is none other than the struggle between believers and unbelievers that has been unceasing since the time of Adam, the necessity of this unity will be better understood.

The work now in your hands speaks of the fundamental matters that bring believers together, instead of separating them; it proves with rational evidence the foundations of belief on which all are agreed. The truths in this work will be found as useful by the followers of other heavenly religions as well as by the Muslims.