

Nurturing Womb of the Mentor

The Necessity of Having a Master on Our Human Journey

The Necessity of a Having a Master and the Role of the Nurturing Womb of the Mentor in Spiritual Growth

"Make sure to get a coach!"

"Consult someone who has walked this path before!"

We have all heard this type of advice from well-meaning friends or family—especially when trying to master a sport, an art, or a skill professionally. And we know this advice is completely rational: Learning under the guidance of a teacher dramatically accelerates growth. For example, someone attempting to learn calligraphy alone will take far longer and face more challenges than someone learning under an expert. This indicates the necessity of having a master to navigate the stages of growth and development.

But the necessity of having a master is not limited to material achievements. It is even more critical in the metaphysical realm and in matters of spiritual growth because these directly affect our eternal life, and eternity is not something to take lightly. Knowing true human perfections and a fulfilling journey toward eternity without an expert mentor is, if not impossible, at least extremely difficult.

For transformative spiritual breakthroughs, we need a qualified mentor—someone with mastery over the structure of the soul, who knows the twists and turns of the path toward God. This master must guide us through the ups and downs of the

journey, enabling us to step onto the path with open eyes and reach the purpose of our creation in the shortest possible time.

Hafez Shirazi, a mystic and seeker on the path to God who faced many challenges along the way, emphasizes the necessity of having a master or mentor and warns about the risks of not learning from their guidance:

*“Do not take a step on this journey without Khidr by your side;
It is a dark path—fear the peril of being lost.”*

This article explores how a mentor helps us become similar to God, how the soul accelerates in the nurturing womb of the mentor, and—most importantly—who qualifies to be such a mentor.

The Necessity of Having a Master Through the Lens of the Characteristics of the Womb

In our previous lesson, we stated that the primary function of a womb is to complete and nurture. The womb receives a potential being in its weakest state, helps it actualize its potentials, and then transfers it to the next phase of existence. This is the womb’s essential superiority over its surrounding environment. The embryo left outside the womb—even for decades—will never become a child. But once inside the womb, development begins immediately, and capacities that would remain dormant in any other environment start to flourish.

The same applies to the relationship between this world and the hereafter. The womb-like capacity of the hereafter is much weaker than this world.

Even if we spend hundreds of years in the *Barzakh* (the intermediate realm), we cannot cultivate the spiritual faculties that God has entrusted to us—nor easily correct our deficiencies. Thus, this short life is our only chance to address our moral shortcomings and to cultivate our spiritual talents. Knowing this, God has embedded powerful secondary wombs within the structure of this world—systems that accelerate our transformation and compensate for our shortcomings and weaknesses. One of these is the nurturing womb of the mentor.

What Is the Nurturing Womb of the Mentor?

As mentioned, to succeed in life—physically and spiritually—we need mentors. A competent teacher can make up for years of stagnation, propelling us from the depths of Hell to the heights of Heaven. A believer on the path to eternity never proceeds blindly. They study deeply, learn from teachers who fully master the human soul and its governing principles, and learn the formulas of speed and strength that apply to spiritual progress.

Without learning these formulas, nearly all our efforts to draw closer to God are futile and may even be harmful. For example, if we are not familiar with the mathematical structure of the soul, we will not be able to recognize the attacks from the right side by Satan. This can turn our acts of worship, instead of being a means of getting closer to God, into tools in the hands of Satan, creating false pride that distances us further from Him.

Many people spend their entire lives worshipping God, yet their character does not improve even slightly; they remain angry, aggressive, resentful, jealous, and plagued by various moral vices. This is because they lack a mentor who can guide them on the rules governing the self and the dangers of the spiritual journey. In contrast, there are corrupt and wicked individuals who, by being in the presence of a knowledgeable and skilled teacher, can grow so rapidly that they become one of God's friends in a short period. The stronger the mentor, the faster they lead us to our destination. In this regard, a teacher who can organize our hearts is a very powerful womb because when we move toward God with our hearts and souls, our self gains speed and strength, rather than merely burdening our bodies with various acts of worship and austerities.

Now that we understand the necessity of having a master and their womb-like power, we must consider who the best teachers and mentors are to facilitate our growth and inner strength as we move toward eternity. It is clear that the best teachers are those who, in addition to being similar to God, possess a deep understanding of the laws of creation and the structure of the human soul, and have been appointed to this mission by God Himself. Consequently, first the Fourteen Infallibles (Peace be upon them) and then their disciples are worthy of this position.

The character of the Infallibles (Peace be upon them) and their nurturing womb-like quality, as well as that of the divine friends, provides the shortest shortcut on the path of spiritual journey. If someone entrusts themselves to their guidance and obeys their commands, they can traverse a hundred-year journey in a single night and reach the highest levels of perfection in a short time.

In this article, we discussed the necessity of having a master and their power in fostering human spiritual growth. We stated that the nurturing womb of a mentor is a shortcut to self-improvement and attaining perfection. By placing ourselves in the nurturing womb of an experienced and knowledgeable teacher, we can compensate for our past setbacks and mistakes, gaining increasing speed and strength on our journey toward the ultimate purpose of our creation.

What paths have you explored in your journey of spiritual growth? Do you have a teacher in this regard? We would be happy to hear about your experiences in this area.