

## Has Longing for Heaven Taken Root in Your Heart? Why Does Cultivating It Matter?

### Longing for Heaven: A Devout Fantasy or a Sign of Self-Knowledge?

We have all thought about Heaven more than once—a place full of peace, beauty, endless blessings, divine mercy, and nearness to God. Thinking about Heaven reflects our longing for eternity and Absolute Perfection. It echoes our inner need to find true meaning in life and to reach something beyond the material world. The longing for Heaven reveals that, in the midst of life's suffering and instability, the human being seeks a higher destination and lasting peace. This longing may actually be a sign of insight, awareness, and self-understanding—a reflection of the soul's desire for something greater and more exalted than the body and worldly desires. Have you ever considered that the longing for Heaven could be a sign of *ma'rifa* (profound knowledge) or self-knowledge?

When we begin to understand our true self and grasp the meaning of life, we realize that our existence reaches far beyond the noisy material world. Heaven, then, is not only a divine promise—it appears as a purpose deeply aligned with the truth of our being. That is why longing for Heaven is a sign of *ma'rifa*; it arises from an awakened soul—one that knows itself and understands its true origin and ultimate destination.

When a person detaches from worldly distractions and begins to think about a greater destination like Heaven, this longing is a sign of a *ma'rifa* which lifts us above

surface-level thinking. In other words, longing for Heaven reminds us that the truth of human extends beyond the material world. It is not just a belief in something greater and eternal—it is a path that helps us understand our existence more deeply. This article explores how longing for Heaven is a sign of self-knowledge and how it can guide us toward a more meaningful life in this world.

### **What Does Longing for Heaven as a Sign of *Ma'rifa* Mean?**

“Longing for Heaven is a sign of *ma'rifa*.” This phrase reflects the link between the yearning for perfection and self-knowledge. But what does “longing for Heaven” mean? In truth, this longing is more than a wish to live in a place full of comfort and blessings. It reflects a deep understanding of the human’s purpose of creation. This desire shows that longing for Heaven is not just a fantasy—it’s a clear sign of awareness of our real place in the universe.

From an epistemological point of view, the connection between longing for Heaven and *ma'rifa* can be explained like this: when a person thinks about Heaven, they are, in fact, seeking a state in which the highest aspects of material and spiritual life are realized. This reveals the peak of the human desire for goodness, beauty, and eternity. In other words, Heaven represents Absolute Perfection, endless peace, and closeness to the Source of Truth. This longing shows that human being naturally seeks to break free from worldly limitations and to reach a higher level of being—a state that brings more meaning to life.

Moreover, the relationship between longing for Heaven and *ma'rifa* can be interpreted this way: to achieve this perfect state, human being must know their

true self, reform their actions, and strengthen their spiritual connection to the Unseen which can be possible only through self-knowledge. Understanding this sign sets us on a path that leads to truth and perfection. It bridges the gap between our material existence and our spiritual essence.

Longing for Heaven also reflects the human pursue for answers to the most fundamental questions of life: Why are we here in this world? What is our role? Where will we go? This longing is not just a feeling within us—it serves as a guide toward a more purposeful life. In the end, this desire moves us toward moral values, good deeds, and the pursuit of spiritual elevation—because Heaven is a spiritual reality that can only be reached through acquiring *ma'rifa*.

### **What Shapes Longing for Heaven?**

To understand the concept of “longing for Heaven as a sign of *ma'rifa*,” we must look at the factors that strengthen or weaken this longing. Below is a brief overview of both the contributing and hindering factors.

#### **Fear of Death or Longing for It**

One of the biggest obstacles to longing for Heaven is the fear of death. This fear often comes from lack of self-awareness and understanding of life's purpose.

A person who hasn't recognized their true self and hasn't aligned their worldly life with that awareness sees death as something scary and unknown.

But for someone who has reached inner knowledge, the mention of death brings joy. It signals the beginning of a journey into a realm filled with divine mercy. That's why this person is filled with longing for Paradise.

### **Neglecting or Focusing on Heaven**

Being heedless of or neglecting Heaven prevents the development of longing for it. A heedless person either disbelieves in Heaven or fails to grasp its importance in their life. This heedlessness results in a disconnection from Heaven, preventing us from experiencing its joy and peace. In contrast, focused attention on Heaven is directly and profoundly linked to cultivating a longing for it; indeed, this focus acts as the spark that ignites desire for Heaven in the human heart, guiding one towards the Hereafter.

### **Turning Knowledge into Existential Asset**

Another key factor in developing longing for Heaven is transforming knowledge into asset. Simply knowing about Heaven is not enough. Knowledge alone does not produce genuine desire. Human beings must turn knowledge into *ma'rifa*—through reflection, practice, and persistence so that they can see its result in their life. Without a deep understanding of eternity and the true value of the hereafter, longing for Heaven cannot take root. This kind of understanding frees us from worldly limits and gives us strength and make us calm in the face of hardship. That is why acquiring *ma'rifa* into the hereafter becomes a powerful and lasting force that nurtures our longing for Heaven.

### **The Role of Reflection and Imagination in Cultivating Longing for Heaven**

Certainty comes from deep thought and focusing on our knowledge. A person who doesn't reflect cannot overcome doubts or find inner certainty. Lack of reflection leads to confusion and deprives us from cultivating longing for Heaven. In contrast, a person who reflects in solitude and contemplates their knowledge reaches the highest level of certainty—a state that fuels the longing for Heaven. Those who attain a deep understanding and certainty about Heaven witness the transformative effects of this knowledge across all aspects of their lives.

Furthermore, cultivating imagination allows one to visualize eternity and Heaven, which, in turn, strengthens their longing for Heaven and their hope for life. The mention of heavenly blessings in religious sources serves precisely to foster these visualizations, aiming to cultivate a sufficient longing for Heaven.

### **Heavenly Blessings as a Motivator to Have Longing for Heaven**

Heavenly blessings are one of the most important tools in cultivating the longing for Heaven. Religious sources describe Heaven in detail: palaces, flowing rivers, servants, and spouses. These blessings remind us that the hereafter is far greater than anything the material world can offer. Understanding this can change how we live in this world. Meanwhile, the main issue is removing the barriers and strengthening the factors that play a role in creating longing for Heaven —and this process is only possible through self-knowledge.

## Longing for Heaven Is a Sign of Self-Knowledge

Longing for Heaven is the undeniable result of human being's desire for an infinite realm. Longing for Heaven is not a sudden or shallow desire—it comes from awareness and self-knowledge that frees us from worldly attachments and distractions. The more we come to know ourselves, the more deeply we desire the blessings of Heaven and as a result, our lifestyle becomes more aligned with this ideal goal. As we discussed, factors like reflection on the hereafter, patience in this world, certainty in God's promises, and the understanding of eternal values all help us develop and deepen this longing.

On the other hand, barriers like negligence, weak faith, fear of death, and excessive attachment to the world can suppress this longing and avoid us from reaching our purpose of creation.

In the end, the longing for Heaven is not just a wish—it is a clear sign of deep understanding of life's true worth and a reflection of trust in divine promises. Strengthening this longing not only fills the soul with hope, peace, and motivation to struggle in the path of God, but it prepares us for the final destination—Heaven and divine satisfaction.

In conclusion let us say that longing for Heaven is a sign of *ma'rifa*; because true *ma'rifa* not only shows us the way toward this longing, but also grants us inner strength, tranquility, and hope.