

## **Where Is the Secure Place? Unveiling the Secrets to Finding Your Abode in Life**

### **How Can We Discover Our True Secure Place? The Concept of the Secure Place Goes Beyond Physical Security**

In this chaotic and stressful world that never seems to calm down, many of us are in search of a safe haven; a calm and secure place where we can catch our breath, find peace, and distance ourselves from daily anxieties and concerns. This inner desire for tranquility and refuge has deep roots within us, beautifully expressed in religious teachings as “secure place”.

Perhaps unconsciously, the phrase secure place evokes the memory of the mother’s womb—a time when we lived in the most peaceful and protected space imaginable. But this concept is not limited to the prenatal stage or to a physical location alone. The secure place represents the discovery of a place in life that is lasting, safe, and deeply reassuring—a place that encompasses both internal and external dimensions. Internally, it is tied to heartfelt convictions, to faith, and to inner peace. Externally, it is reflected in healthy relationships, a nurturing environment, and conditions that strengthen our sense of belonging, safety, and growth. In fact, the secure place is the essential foundation for human growth and flourishing—both in the material and spiritual dimensions. From the very beginning of creation, God placed the human being in the mother’s womb—the first secure place—as a nurturing space for development. Yet continuing on this journey, attaining—or losing—this secure place depends on the choices we make. At times,

we may choose a home, a job, or a relationship that, instead of offering peace, brings us anxiety and unrest.

In this article, we will delve deeply into the meaning of this concept and examine how, through self-knowledge, wise decision-making, and connection to the divine source of guidance, we can reach—amidst the storms of life—at a stable and enduring secure place that leads us toward tranquility, growth, and perfection.

### **Humanity’s Journey from Origin to Final Destination — A Quest for Growth and Meaning**

Allah states in the Quran: “Did We not create you from an insignificant fluid? Then lodged it in a secure place? [1]” This verse offers a precise and profound depiction of the beginning of the human journey—a journey that originates from a drop of insignificant fluid and ascends to the station where God designates the human being as His deputy on Earth. Yet this path is neither simple nor without trial. To attain this exalted rank, the human being must pass through multiple stages—and in each stage, there is a need to find a secure place: a firm and protected place that serves as a fertile ground for growth and flourishing.

In this section, we will examine the various dimensions of the secure place by reflecting on the process of embryonic development in the mother’s womb, and by focusing on the role of human choice throughout life. The transformation of a weak and fragile drop of fluid into a complete human being within the mother’s womb is one of the most tangible and awe-inspiring manifestations of the secure place in the natural world. In its earliest stage, the fertilized egg is so delicate and vulnerable that without protection, it would have no chance of survival. Yet its placement in

the womb—a secure and intelligently designed abode—creates the conditions necessary for its growth and development. This protected environment, with astonishing precision, fulfills all the needs of the fetus, and what begins as something minuscule and seemingly insignificant gradually becomes a fully formed and powerful human being.

This same pattern can be extended to our own lives within the womb of the world: unless we are situated in a secure and nurturing environment—intellectually, emotionally, and spiritually—we will not have the opportunity to grow, to flourish, or to know the truth of our existence.

### **The Secure Place in Life — Beyond a Place, a Foundation for Transcendence**

The secure place is not merely a physical location. It refers to any condition or state in which a person experiences a sense of security, inner calm, and the potential for growth. Such a state may be realized through unwavering faith, healthy and nurturing relationships, safe and supportive family or social environments, a vocation that aligns with our values and innate talents, or even a quiet place for reflection and self-discovery.

Finding this kind of state in life is a vital part of the human journey toward growth and transcendence. It looks different for every individual—and without true self-knowledge, it cannot be attained.

### **The Role of Self-Knowledge in Discovering the Secure Place**

In order to find a place in which one can truly flourish, one must first come to know oneself. Our talents, strengths and weaknesses, genuine needs, and inner values—these are dimensions of the self that only become clear through the process of self-

knowledge. Without this inner understanding, a person may spend years journeying down the wrong path, plagued by persistent feelings of dissatisfaction, anxiety, or emptiness.

### **Choice — An Opportunity to Build the Secure Place**

Unlike the fetus, which is placed in the mother's womb without free will or choice, the mature human being must find their secure place through conscious and deliberate decision-making. This capacity for choice is both a tremendous blessing and a profound responsibility. A correct choice can guide us toward growth, tranquility, and the status of becoming God's deputy on earth. Conversely, a misguided choice may lead us astray from the true path, plunging us into confusion or even decline.

Therefore, building the secure depository requires intentional decisions—made with reflection, self-knowledge, and reliance upon the divine light and guidance that has been placed within every human being.

### **Monotheism — The Fundamental Pillar of the Secure Place in Human Life**

Finding the secure place—a safe, stable, and nurturing place—transcends mere material or individual effort. The root of this profound and enduring security lies in the recognition of God and the comprehension of the truth of monotheism. Just as a fetus can only develop within the shelter of a secure place, so too does the human soul require a spiritual and moral refuge to progress along the path of perfection—one founded upon faith in God.

Monotheism is not simply an intellectual belief; it forms the very framework of human character. The deeper one's faith in God, the firmer their roots anchor in the

earth, while the higher the branches of their being stretch toward the heavens. Such a person does not waver before hardships, does not collapse in the face of adversity, and remains unwavering on the path of truth when faced with life's decisive choices.

Knowing God and establishing a continuous relationship with Him grants a person peace, meaning, and inner strength. This peace is not a superficial ease but a deep, inherent stability that empowers one to discern the right path amid crises and remain steadfast on the journey toward perfection.

Ultimately, the true secure place—the place where a person can find rest, grow, and reach spiritual maturity—is built solely upon the firm pillar of monotheism. Without knowing God, every security is transient, and every refuge is unstable.

If a person does not bind their heart to the love of God, they will always be vulnerable to instability, anxiety, and confusion. Yet, when believing in the unity of God takes root in the heart, even in the hardest circumstances, one can experience security and growth. Such faith is the secure place that prepares the human soul in the womb of the world for a rebirth in the Hereafter. Finding a secure place across different aspects of life—such as faith, family, society, and work—is crucial. However, the most essential and vital secure place is the connection to the leadership (*Wilayah*) of Imam of Time, Imam Mahdi (May Allah hasten his reappearance), the significance of which we will elaborate on in later sections.

### **The Importance and Role of the Secure Place in Human Lifestyle**

Just as a fetus in the secure place of the mother's womb is shielded from harm and provided with the conditions necessary for growth and development, a person too

must find a secure place—a stable and safe place—amid the ups and downs of life. This place protects them from turmoil and enables their talents to flourish. These secure abodes appear in various dimensions of life, ranging from the choice of spouse and profession to one's beliefs and values, all of which collectively shape our lifestyle.

Each person's lifestyle reflects their outlook on life and the conscious or unconscious choices they make in pursuit of their goals. According to self-knowledge, an ideal lifestyle is one that directs the individual toward perfection and nearness to God. To attain such a lifestyle, it is essential to accurately recognize the secure places in one's life and, with awareness and insight, actively work to strengthen and firmly establish them.

A secure place is not merely a geographic location or a social status; rather, it is a spiritual and emotional state shaped by our decisions, behaviors, relationships, and thoughts. A person may live in the heart of a religious city, yet due to their particular lifestyle and disregard for ethical and spiritual principles, they may be far from the true secure place. Conversely, someone living in the most remote parts of the world, but living a humane life and adhering to human and divine values, may reside in a firm secure place. As Imam Sadiq (Peace be upon him) stated, wherever a person lives, if they are within a secure place and uphold the necessary principles, they are considered from city of Qom and belong to the tribe of Prophet Muhammad and his Household (Peace be upon them) [2]. Conversely, someone living in religious cities like Qom or Mashhad in Iran but enamored with foreign and hostile cultures is not part of this tribe.

Finding a secure place gives a person the strength to maintain stability and balance amid life's upheavals and to move confidently toward their goals. God emphasizes

in the Quran, referring to the early stages of human creation, the importance of the safe haven of the mother's womb for the growth and development of the fetus [3]. However, this secure place is not confined to the mother's womb; it symbolizes any secure place that allows a person the opportunity for growth and transcendence. Choosing a righteous spouse is one of the most important secure places in life—partners who, through mutual understanding and empathy, create an environment for each other's growth and support one another on the path to divine goals. A job that aligns with an individual's talents, abilities, and ethical values, giving a sense of usefulness and satisfaction, can also be considered a secure places. However, more important than all these is the spiritual secure place.

A correct understanding of oneself, a proper grasp of the purpose of creation, and knowledge of the relationship between the servant and the Mentor (*Rabb*) form the most fundamental secure place for every human being: a faith that assures a person they are not alone in the universe and that a Force beyond themselves supports and guides them. To clarify this concept, one can liken the spiritual secure place to the roots of a tree, which provide stability and protect it against winds and storms. These roots are the deep beliefs and values that dwell in our hearts and give us direction.

An important point to remember is that finding a secure place is a continuous and ongoing process. As life conditions change and personal growth occurs, our needs may also change, necessitating a search for a more suitable environment and a new secure change. However, this effort is worthwhile, as finding a secure place can open the door to a more fruitful, meaningful, and peaceful life filled with success. In this journey, self-knowledge and consulting knowledgeable and experienced individuals can be very helpful. By knowing ourselves and striving to strengthen

our secure places, we can choose a lifestyle that leads us toward bliss and perfection.

In this lesson, we examined the concept of a secure place from the perspective of self-knowledge teachings, using the example of fetal growth in the mother's womb. We discussed the parallels between the mother's womb and the universe for human beings, leading to the idea of a secure place in various aspects of life. We concluded that just as a fetus needs a secure abode for growth and development, human beings also need to find a secure place in their lives—a place that includes strong faith in God, healthy relationships, a safe environment, and conscious choices. Finding this secure place is a continuous process that becomes easier with self-knowledge, knowledge of God, and having a relationship to the leadership of Imam Mahdi (May Allah hasten his reappearance), ultimately leading to a lifestyle that guides a person toward bliss and perfection.

What is your secure place in life? What beliefs and values provide you with peace and assurance? Share your thoughts and experiences with us!

#### References

[1]. The Quran, 77:20-21

[2]. Bihaar al-Anwar, vol. 60, p. 215-217

[3]. The Quran, 77:20-21