

# A Look into the Human Soul



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Translation by **Saheeh International**

*And [by] the soul and He who proportioned it And inspired it [with discernment of] its wickedness and its righteousness, He has succeeded who purifies it. And he has failed who instills it [with corruption].*

وَنَفْسٍ وَمَا سَوَّاهَا (91:7)  
فَأَلَّهَمَّهَا فُجُورَهَا وَتَقْوَاهَا (91:8)  
قَدْ أَفْلَحَ مَنْ زَكَّاهَا (91:9)  
وَقَدْ خَابَ مَنْ دَسَّاهَا (91:10)

God has created man with a duality of nature and ability. What we mean by duality is that the two ingredients in his make-up, i.e. earth's clay and God's spirit, form within him two equal tendencies to good or evil, to either follow divine guidance or go astray. Man is just as capable of recognizing the good as he is of recognizing the evil in everything he encounters, and he is equally capable of directing himself one way or the other. This dual ability is deeply ingrained within him. All external factors, like divine messages, only serve to awaken his ability and help it take its chosen way. In other words, these factors do not create this innate ability; they only help it to develop. Man is equipped with a conscious faculty which determines his line of action. Hence, he is responsible for his actions and decisions. He who uses this faculty to strengthen his inclinations to what is good and to purify himself and to weaken his evil drive will be prosperous and successful. By contrast, a person who uses this faculty to suppress the good in him will ruin himself.

*From: In the shade of the Qur'an*