

## RISALE-I NUR AND INNER COMPREHENSION: A GUIDE IN THE JOURNEY OF WISDOM

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*"I am reading Risale-i Nur; I don't understand, I don't understand, I don't comprehend."*

Pause for a moment, of course you will initially struggle to understand. Wait a little, for you stand at the door of a grand and magnificent palace. To expect to unravel all the intricacies and secrets of the entire palace in one move would be an unjust demand. To merely stand at the door of the palace is a great privilege in itself.

Firstly, endeavor to understand the door of the palace, step inside, strive to know the residents there. With time, the servants of the palace will admit you inside and present knowledge about the palace. Thus, as much as you grasp and experience, you will begin to familiarize yourself.

***Your greatest misconception is to regard Risale-i Nur as a simple book and have the same expectations from it.*** However, you must not forget that **THE RISALE-I NUR IS DIFFERENT FROM OTHER BOOKS; IT IS A GUIDE, A LIVING SPIRITUAL MENTOR.** You must fully comprehend and accept this. As you encounter Risale-i Nur, you should respectfully kneel before it... The Risale-i Nur subjects you to a spiritual check-up, discerning where your deficiencies lie, diagnosing the spiritual ailments you are afflicted with, and pinpointing which metaphorical pathogens are causing your discomfort. Subsequently, it instigates a process of repair and rehabilitation. Perhaps its foremost task will be to rectify your foundation. As you may well be aware, the foundation is not something conspicuous; it is merely something that is felt. After fixing your foundation, it gradually places your support columns and beams. It then shapes your walls and finally moves onto the finer works.

You are hoping to understand everything at once, but you know that this is not possible.

This is because Risale-i Nur, being a living spiritual mentor, first repairs whatever you need, slowly. It lifts you up, opens your eyes and you see all truths to the extent you can see. I say "to the extent you can see" because it gives as much as you need.

The late disciple of Bediüzzaman Said Nursi, the author of Risale-i Nur, Bayram Yüksel recounts a memory as follows:

During the morning lesson, our Master would summon us, his servants, to his presence every morning after prayer; after ascertaining that we had performed our prayers and recited the tesbihat, we would sit together for the lesson. Morning lessons were never less than two hours. If there was a topic related to the one we were studying in another book, he would bring that book and have it read verbatim.

***Even though I felt as though I was consuming these truths with my heart and soul, I believed that I was not intellectually understanding anything.***

One day, addressing me, our Master asked,

"Bayram, what did you understand?"

"I didn't understand anything, Master!" I responded.

Then, when I left the presence of our Master, a transformation occurred. It seemed as though this intellect was replaced by another. Again, during a morning lesson, our Master was providing elucidation. It was as if it was settling into my brain like a photograph... After the lesson, I thought:

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"Well! I have now reached a state of **'completeness and adequacy'**; I fully understand, **I can go from here!**"

When we returned to the lesson, I saw that state had disappeared again! I still didn't understand anything. Our Master, addressing me, asked:

"Bayram, what did you understand?"

"Master, I didn't understand anything!" When I answered, he slapped me! But not in jest...

**"Now you have fully understood! If you had always understood as you did before, you would have said 'I am complete' and would have left, and you would not have been needed in the service of the Quran. Risale-i Nur is a garden of the Quran. Some people reach out, pick the fruits; some eat the fruits they have picked, some take a bite, some take a whiff... Even if you just take a whiff, be content with your service in the Quran", they said.**

You ought to understand that the first thing you need to recognize is the necessity of approaching Risale-i Nur with a sense of need and acknowledging it as your spiritual guide. You should communicate these needs to it with your spirit. In doing so, Risale-i Nur gradually begins to provide what you need—only as much as required, no more. An excess may indeed prove detrimental to you.

**After all, you were not created to know everything.** It is your purpose in creation to aim to attain truth in the light of the knowledge you have acquired and reflected in your life. The fundamental truth lies in the existence of Allah, who is the creator of all things and is with us every moment, governing the entire universe at all times, in all aspects. Going beyond this involves striving to know Him (learning about the Divine Names).

**Risale-i Nur requires from you a commitment—an untainted and genuine commitment. With this commitment, you must kneel before it as one in need of treatment, sensing your hunger for knowledge.** It is like a patient appealing to a doctor: "I am sick and need a doctor; this doctor will restore my health, give me the necessary medicines, and as I use these medicines regularly, I will regain my health." In this way, you need to kneel before Risale-i Nur with the submission of a patient before a doctor. **After Risale-i Nur comprehends your sincere and devoted attitude, it examines your condition and provides the remedies you require, in neither deficit nor surplus.**

To comprehend Risale-i Nur, you initially need to feel a sense of need for it; you are to enter its shop like a customer and declare, "I have these specific needs," demonstrating your demand. If you have entered, instead, to see "if this shop contains what I need, let me inquire, perhaps I will find it"—in other words, **if you have chosen to be an "inquirer" rather than a "buyer," you might find the answer you sought, but may not satisfy your needs.**

Subsequently, Risale-i Nur requires your fidelity. Much like seeking a therapist, you should regularly consult it, adhere to the course it suggests, and place your trust in it.

Risale-i Nur seeks seriousness and perseverance in you. Otherwise, you might continue reading Risale-i Nur like other books, but not progress significantly.

**The crux of this entire process lies in Risale-i Nur seeking sincerity from you.** You must express your needs sincerely and continue faithfully. That's when, Risale-i Nur takes your hand. It first assesses your situation, identifies your needs, discerns what areas require repair, and then begins to construct you like a building. As you ascend, you make new discoveries and arrive at new truths.

Risale-i Nur embraces diverse languages such as Ottoman Turkish, Arabic, Persian, and various branches of knowledge including logic, philosophy, theology, tafsir, and numerous advanced sciences. However, mastery of all these disciplines is not a prerequisite for understanding Risale-i Nur. As evidenced by many Nur disciples living in the Anatolian region of Turkey, numerous elder brothers, without formal education, lacking knowledge in Persian, Arabic, Ottoman Turkish, and even those who haven't attended school, showcase the progress they've made through the Risale-i Nur.

Indeed, not everyone may be like the late Senior Disciple Mehmet Kırkinci or other sage elders. To be a scholar, a master of logic may not be within everyone's capabilities. However, this is not expected. **Risale-i Nur will provide you with as much as you need; anything more may be harmful to you.** Essentially, Risale-i Nur offers spirituality; it imparts a sense of cause, spirit of faith, spirit of patriotism, consciousness of worship, awareness, and truth beyond the apparent truths. Alongside this, it slowly imparts other knowledge to the extent of your abilities and a level that will not harm you.

In conclusion, if you wish to understand Risale-i Nur, firstly, you will be a sincere seeker. Secondly, you will accept it not merely as a book, but as a living guide, a mentor, and you will kneel before it, continuing faithfully and trustingly with what it offers. This is the foundation and the commencement of the process.

Leave the rest to Risale-i Nur: it will provide whatever you need, however much you need, and whenever you need it, like a mentor, a guide, an engineer, a doctor, a teacher, a psychologist - in the right dosage and at the right time, do not worry... If you require proof of this, visit the Nur disciples in the Anatolian region of Turkey who have embraced and reflected the teachings of Risale-i Nur in their lives. Engage in discussions with them, learn about their life stories, and witness for yourself how they would affirm to you that it's "indeed true."