

The Metaphysics of Paradise

Reconciling infinite love with individual capacity

Extracted from the works of Bediuzzaman Said Nursi (The Twenty-Eighth Word)

A collision between the law of love and the limits of capacity.



The Promise of Love

"Everyone will be together with those he loves." (Bukhari / Muslim). For example, a simple nomad whose love is kindled during a single minute's conversation with the Prophet (PBUH) is promised to be with him in Paradise.



How can two vastly different spheres of existence be united in one shared space?



The Chasm of Capacity

The Prophet receives limitless spiritual effulgence and divine illumination. The simple nomad possesses a narrow, simple capacity.

The Allegory of the Magnificent Banquet

To understand this elevated truth, imagine a magnificent personage who has set up a vast banquet within a splendid garden.

Contains every delicious food to gratify the sense of taste.

Filled with fine things to please the sense of sight.

Overflowing with wonders that amuse the faculty of imagination.

Two friends arrive together, side-by-side, and sit at the exact same table.



Two friends share the exact same table,
but inhabit entirely different realities.

The Limited Capacity



Senses: Very limited sense of taste, sees only a little, lacks a sense of smell.

Comprehension: Cannot understand the wondrous arts or comprehend the marvels around him.

Outcome: Receives only minor pleasure. Benefits from merely a thousandth or a millionth of the beautiful place.

The Developed Capacity



Senses: Has perfectly developed his outer and inner senses, mind, heart, and emotions.

Comprehension: Subtle faculties are entirely awakened to the exhibition.

Outcome: Perceives and experiences all the subtleties, beauties, and fine things, receiving their limitless different pleasures.

Physical proximity does not equal experiential uniformity.

Even in this confused and narrow world, the greatest and the least can sit together, yet the difference in their subjective experience is as great as from the ground to the Pleiades.

In the realm of bliss and eternity, friends will be physically together. Yet, each will receive his unique share from the table of the Most Merciful exactly in accordance with his individual capacity.

The physical architecture of eternity allows for endless hierarchical levels.

How can hierarchical levels of existence coexist without separating inhabitants? The texts describe the **eight** levels of Paradise as overlapping spaces.

The Conical Mountain: —————→
The foundational structure of the realm.

The Walled Circles: —————→
Eight levels of Paradise, one within the other, from foot to summit.

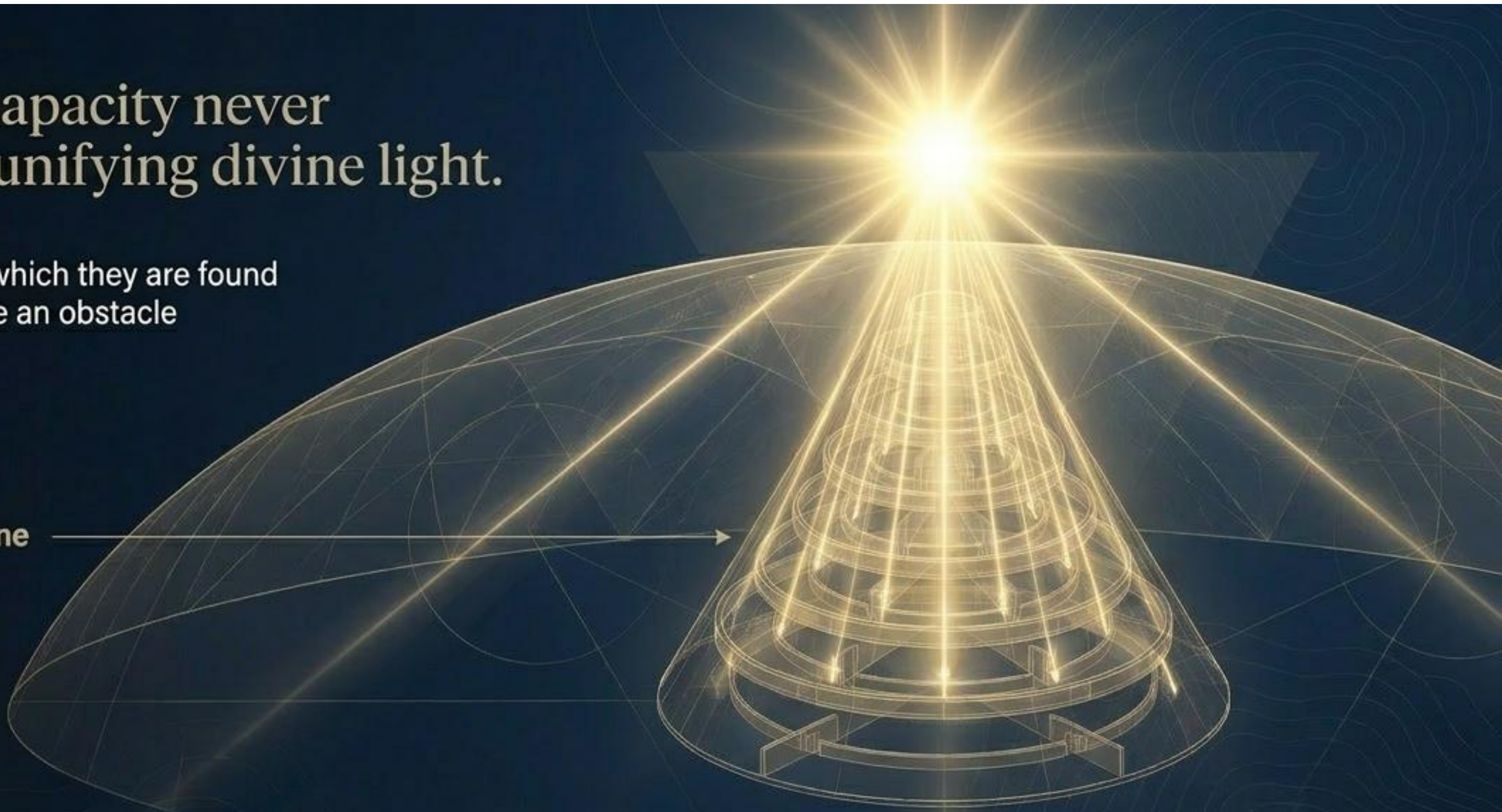
The Vantage Point: —————→
The circles sit one over the other, inherently looking to one another without obstruction.



Hierarchy in capacity never obstructs the unifying divine light.

Even if the Paradises in which they are found are different, it will not be an obstacle to their being together.

Sublime Throne



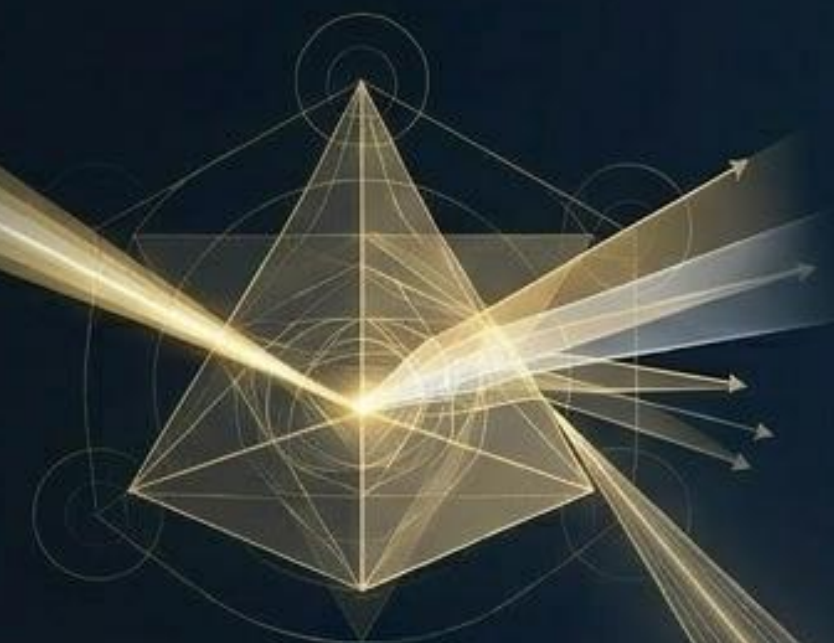
The Singular Roof:

The roof of all eight levels of Paradise is the Sublime Throne.

Unobstructed Vision:

Because the walled circles look to one another, they do not prevent each other from seeing the sun.

The reconciliation of infinite love and individual capacity.



The Lenses of Perception

Reality is filtered through internal development. The table of the Most Merciful offers infinite effulgence, but it is absorbed strictly in accordance with one's subtle faculties.



The Topography of Light

The realm is structurally designed for absolute togetherness. Walled circles and hierarchical levels do not block the shared sun.

The paradox is resolved: Love binds what capacity separates.
Two souls can occupy the same physical space and divine proximity, while internally experiencing entirely different dimensions of reality.

Togetherness in the realm of bliss.

In Paradise, the realm of bliss and eternity,
friend is together with friend.

The greatest and the least may sit side-by-side, united perfectly by love,
The greatest and the least may sit side-by-side, united perfectly by love,
yet experiencing the infinite entirely through the lens of their own perfected capacity.