



Introduction to *Sahifa Sajjadiyya*

ALI 201, 4/6: Dhul Qa'dah 1432/ October 2011

Objective: The course will cover a comprehensive discussion on the significance, role and authenticity of *Sahifa Sajjadiyya*. The contents of the Sahifa will be studied using two approaches: a detailed discussion on a number of supplications individually, and a topical discussion on a few subjects covered in the book.

The Quran: Praising Allah & thanking Him

○ الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ first verse in HQ after

basmalah.

- فَادْكُرُونِي أَذْكُرْكُمْ وَاسْكُرُوا إِلَيْيَ وَلَا تَكُفُرُونَ 2:152
- إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَذُو فَضْلٍ عَلَى النَّاسِ وَلَكِنَّ أَكْثَرَ النَّاسِ لَا يَشْكُرُونَ 2:243
- الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي لَهُ مَا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ وَلَهُ الْحَمْدُ فِي الْآخِرَةِ 34:1
- الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي هَدَانَا لِهَذَا وَمَا كُنَّا لِنَهْتَدِي لَوْلَا أَنْ هَدَانَا اللَّهُ 7:43
- وَاللَّهُ أَخْرَجَكُمْ مِنْ بُطُونِ أُمَّهَاتِكُمْ لَا تَعْلَمُونَ شَيْئًا وَجَعَلَ لَكُمُ السَّمْعَ وَالْأَبْصَارَ وَالْأَفْئَدَةَ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَشْكُرُونَ 16:78
- وَمَنْ شَكَرَ فَإِنَّمَا يَشْكُرُ لِنَفْسِهِ ۖ وَمَنْ كَفَرَ فَإِنَّ رَبَّيْ غَنِيٌّ كَرِيمٌ



Hamd used for praising & thanking Allah

- **Hamd** true praise, admiration, magnifying and honoring the object of praise, humility and submissiveness in the person offering it. Beside embodying thankfulness, it also includes intrinsic qualities of the object of praise. Also, it includes laudation to one who has done favor. It is more comprehensive than *shukr*, *madHa* and *thanaa*, & has come to be applied exclusively to Allah.
- **Hameed** – Praiseworthy, one of names of Allah
- **Muhammad** – much praised; *Ahmad* = most praiseworthy ; **Mahmood** – praised & lauded
- **Haamid** – one who praises, pl. *Haamidoon*
- **Hamd** appears 68 x in diff forms in the Qur'an



Expressing gratitude is essential

- Do not do *shirk*, rather worship Allah & thank
بَلَ اللَّهَ فَاعْبُدُ وَكُنْ مِنَ الشَّاكِرِينَ (39:66)
- وَلَقَدْ مَكَّنَاهُمْ فِي الْأَرْضِ وَجَعَلْنَا لَكُمْ فِيهَا مَعَايِشَ قَلِيلًا مَا شَكْرُونَ
- 7:10 *And certainly We have established you in the earth and made in it means of livelihood for you; little it is that you give thanks*
وَهُوَ الَّذِي أَنْشَأَ لَكُمُ السَّمْعَ وَالْأَبْصَارَ وَالْأَفْئِدَةَ قَلِيلًا مَا شَكْرُونَ
- 23:78 *And He it is Who made for you the ears and the eyes and the hearts; little is it that you give thanks*
- Ali: 1st duty incumbent on you is thanking Allah
- Sadiq: every breath entails thanks, 1000 thanks



Hadith on thanksgiving

- Imam Ali (a): Thankfulness is the adornment of wealth; patience is the adornment of tribulation
- I Sadiq: في كُلِّ نَفْسٍ مِنْ أَنفَاسِكَ شُكْرٌ لازِمٌ لَكَ ، بَلْ أَلْفٌ وَأَكْثَرٌ
- There is no better act of worship than it [i.e. thanksgiving], He has distinguished it from all other acts of worship and has distinguished those who practice it, saying, “And very few of My servants are truly thankful (وَقَلِيلٌ مِنْ عِبَادِيَ الشَّكُورُ)
- Hadi (a): The thankful prospers more due to his thanks than due to the bounty which incited the thanks, because bounties are sources of delight whereas thanking is not only the consequence [of the bounty] but a source of delight in itself.



Article by Ayt S M B al-Sadr on *Sahifa*

- Bio data on the author of the *Sahifa*

- The knowledge & piety of Imam al-Sajjad (a)
- His respect & reverence with the ummah
- His readiness to defend Islam & Muslims
- The *Sahifa* was composed to counter: (i) influence of alien culture, customs & traditions; and (ii) wealth & prosperity that prevailed with Muslims who did not know best to use it
- He began (i) ideological & scientific movement and (ii) spiritual & moral renaissance



Du‘aa 1: why must we praise Allah?

- Praise belongs to God, for, had He withheld from His servants the knowledge to praise Him for the uninterrupted kindnesses with which He has tried them and the manifest favours which He has lavished upon them, they would have moved about in His kindnesses without praising Him, and spread themselves out in His provision without thanking Him. (Du‘aa 1:8)
- Knowledge of parsing Allah comes form Him
- Continuous kindness & bounties come as a trial
- Servants of Allah will take praise for success
- Human is capable of being ungrateful
- Praising Allah, entails additional praise



The Ungrateful are worse than animals

- *Had such been the case, they would have left the bounds of humanity for that of beastliness and become as He has described in the firm text of His Book: “They are but as the cattle—nay, but they are further astray from the way!” (25:44) (Du‘a 1:9)*
- Not thanking removes us from humanity
- Do you think that animals are ungrateful?
- What about the verse 17:44 where Allah says: *The seven heavens glorify Him, and the earth [too], and whoever is in them. There is not a thing but celebrates His praise, but you do not understand their glorification.*



Du‘aa for thanking Allah

- *Praise belongs to God for: (i) the true knowledge of Himself He has given to us, (ii) the thanksgiving He has inspired us to offer Him, (iii) the doors to knowing His Lordship He has opened for us, (iv) the sincerity towards Him in professing His Unity to which He has led us, (v) and the deviation and doubt in His Command from which He has turned us aside (Du‘aa 1:10)*
- Many bounties abound that entail Divine praise
- *Irfaan* is the true knowledge for Allah
- Allah inspires us- so prepare grounds for it
- *He knows him/ herself knows his/ her Lord*
- Sincerity from Him; so his abandoning deviation



The 15 *Munajat* in the *Sahifa*

- Translator: “that the *munajat* may have been worked upon by others” (p. xx). We disagree!
- Role of *munajat* in personal prayers
- We invite you to try out invoking the *munajat* in time of need, difficulty, distress & see the results. Nay, recite to simply show your devotion, etc.
- The 15 Munajat are from the Repenters, Complainers, Fearful, Hopeful, Beseechers, Thankful, Obedient, Devotees, Lovers, Mediators, Destitute, Knowers, Rememberers, Clingers & Abstainers.



Munajat al-Shakireen (Du‘aa No. 74)

- We get distracted from thanking on account of
~~uninterrupted flow of Divine graciousness~~
- We enjoy so many bounties that we can never count them. Ref vv. 14:34 & 16:18
- Successive kindness & continuous benefits from sometimes diverts from acknowledging
- No way can we express true gratitude (74:2)
- *So how can I achieve thanksgiving? For my thanking You entails (another) thanksgiving. Whenever I say, 'To You belongs praise!' it becomes thereby incumbent upon me to say, 'To You belongs praise!'* (74:2)



What to ask after Praising & Thanksgiving?

- *My God, as You have fed us through Your gentleness and nurtured us through Your benefaction, so also complete for us lavish favours, repel from us detested acts of vengeance, and of the shares of the two abodes (daarayn), give us their most elevated and their greatest, both the immediate and the deferred! (74:3)*
- Allah has promised to give more to the Thanksgiver (HQ 14:7), we should know what to ask
- Completion & perfection of bounties
- Removal of any negativities in the favors
- Always ask for both the world (HQ 2:201)



Adaab of thanksgiving

- Ali: '[True] thanksgiving means restraining oneself from the things that Allah has prohibited'
- Ali (a): Pardonning an enemy is thanksgiving for the power [given to you] over him (*Nahj Balagha*)
- Regard even a little sustenance from Allah as too much for yourself by way of sincere thanksgiving
- Sadiq (a): An expression of complete thanks is when a man says, *al-hamdu lillaahi rabbil 'aalameen*
- Prophet's practice: For happy moment he said: *al-hamdu lillah* for this bounty, for sorrowful moment said: *alhamdu lillah* for every situation.
- The lowest level of shukr:to consider the bounty coming from Allah irrespective of its cause,



Prep for the next class

- Personal experiences on what helped you most during sickness?
- Any stories/episodes on thanksgiving
- Read article by S S Akhtar Rizvi, “The Illustrious Period of the Imamate of Imam Zayn al-Abidin”
- Reflections on Du‘aa for Monday (No. 63 in the *Sahifa*).
- What role this Du‘aa can play in your life?