

# Letter to Malik al- Ashtar

## Session Four

### Questions for Reflection

- 1) List five qualities that Imam advises for Malik in this last section of the letter.
- 2) What are some negative traits of a leader mentioned in this section?
- 3) What points can you derive from the last paragraph of this letter? How can we apply that to our speech and writings?

# Agenda

- Sincerity and communion in the obligatory prayers
- Truth and Falsehood
- Good communication with people
- Seeking Peace
- Fulfilling Promises

# Sincerity and Communion in Obligatory Prayers

The example of the Salaat is like the framework of a tent. If the framework is firm, the ropes, and pegs, and cloth, will be of use. If the framework breaks, the ropes and pegs and cloth will be of no use.

## **Holy Prophet (s)**

The obedience of Allah lies in serving Him, and nothing of His service can equal the Salaat.

## **Imam as-Sadiq (a)**

Let your biggest worry be your Salaat

## **Holy Prophet (s)**

# Truth and Falsehood

- Truth is not always easy to distinguish from Falsehood

- Example of Truth and Falsehood in the Holy Quran

Sura ar-Ra'd, 13:17

- Signs of Truth

always beneficial, quiet, calm, humble

- Signs of Falsehood

loud, empty, transient, useless

# Ahadith on Truth and Falsehood

A little of Truth can defend a lot of Falsehood just a little fire burns up a lot of wood.

**Holy Prophet (s)**

Be Patient on Truth. No-one can be patient on Truth except one who understands its value.

**Imam Ali (a)**

Truth is heavy and bitter. Falsehood is light and sweet.

**Imam Ali (a)**

# Good Communication

Allah has blessed the human being with the power of communication

The Beneficent Allah, Taught the Quran, He created man,  
Taught him the mode of expression.

**Sura Rahman, 55:1-4**

O Mufazzal! Consider the blessing of speech with which he [human being] is endowed by Allah the Almighty, which is the medium for the expression of his inner thoughts and his cordial feelings springing from his understanding, and with which he also understands the inner points of others. Without this faculty he would have been like quadrupeds, neither able to convey his own inner thoughts nor to understand the words of the speaker.

Hadithe Mufazzal, Imam as-Sadiq (a)

# Seeking Peace

And if they incline to peace, then incline to it and trust in Allah; surely He is the Hearing, the Knowing.

**Sura al Anfal, 8:61**

## The Ideals of Islam:

- To pursue peace with everyone including past enemies, except when they fight the Muslims and refuse peace, then Muslims are allowed to fight in self defense.
- To ensure that we always apply justice and never transgress against others even if they are our enemies.
- To repel evil actions with good actions, in order to replace hatred with an intimate friendship.
- To respond to punishment with the same punishment, but forgiveness and patience is better than retaliation.

# Fulfilling Promises

And the performers of their promise when they make a promise, and the patient in distress and affliction and in time of conflicts-- these are they who are true (to themselves) and these are they who guard (against evil)

**Sura al-Baqarah, 2:177**

Keeping of promises is a part of Faith.

Whoever breaks promises has no Faith.

**Holy Prophet (s)**

Pledges are chains on the necks until the Day of Judgment, whoever keeps them Allah will keep him, and whoever breaks them, Allah will humiliate him.

**Imam Ali (a)**