

Glimpses of Nahjul Balagha

Session Three

Readings: Part III – Suluk and Ibadah

Glimpses of Nahjul Balagha

by Shaheed Murtada Mutahhari

Hadith

Reflect on the following Hadith of Imam Ali (a)

Anyone who has been granted four attributes will not be deprived of their (four) effects;

- one who prays to Allah and implores to Him will not be deprived of granting of his prayers;
- one who repents for his thoughts and deeds will not be refused acceptance of the repentance;
- one who has atoned for his sins will not be debarred from salvation
- and one who thanks Allah for the Blessings and Bounties will not be denied the increase in them. .

Hadith no. 134, Nahjul Balagha

Questions for Reflection from the Readings

- 1) What are the different levels of worship mentioned by Shaheed Mutahhari? Which view does Imam Ali (a) take in Nahjul Balagha?
- 2) What effect does worship have, according to the Holy Quran and Nahjul Balagha?
- 3) What are some characteristics of the true worshippers of God?

Levels of Worship

1) That of the trader

Worship is done to receive rewards, just like a laborer works to earn wages.

2) That of the free person

Worship is done to attain closeness to God, to please God, for personal and spiritual growth, as an expression of gratitude.

Effects of Worship

- 1) Cleanses the heart to receive God's light
- 2) Energizes and motivates the human being
- 3) Calms the restlessness of the soul
- 4) Prevents evil and indecency
- 5) Creates a sense of accountability and responsibility

Characteristics of true worshippers

- 1) Delight in worship
- 2) Sorrow over sins
- 3) Frequent recitation of the Quran
- 4) Occasional ecstatic experiences
- 5) Struggle against the self