

Glimpses of Nahjul Balagha

Session Four

Readings: Part IV – Moral Aphorisms

Glimpses of Nahjul Balagha

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Hadith

Reflect on the following Hadith of Imam Ali (a)

I want to teach you five things which deserve your greatest anxiety to acquire them:

- 1) Have hope only in Allah.
- 2) Be afraid of nothing but sins.
- 3) If you do not know a thing never feel ashamed to admit ignorance.
- 4) If you do not know a thing never hesitate or feel ashamed to learn it.
- 5) Acquire patience and endurance because their relation with true faith is that of a head to a body
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Hadith no. 82, Nahjul Balagha

Questions for Reflection from the Readings

- 1) What are the differences between the different ways of inviting towards God?
- 2) How can Taqwa be explained best?
- 3) How can we balance life of this world with Zuhd?

Taqwa

1) Whoever plants the tree of Taqwa reaps the fruits of guidance.

Imam Ali (a)

2) Taqwa – its outer [side] is respect in the world, and its inner is respect in the Hereafter.

Imam Ali (a)

3) Surely Taqwa is the medicine for the diseases of your hearts , and sight for the blindness of your hearts. **Imam Ali (a)**

Taqwa can be compared to walking through a narrow path with thorny bushes on both sides.

A person passing through it tries his best to save his clothes from being torn.

The thorns are the sins and the clothes is one's Eeman.

The essence of Taqwa is to make a shield
(which guards) against
Allah's anger and punishment.