

Welcome to

ALI 296: Nature in Sahifa Sajjadiyya

Please go through Dua no. 36 of the Sahifa Sajjadiyya;
His Supplication upon hearing thunder

How does Imam teach us to respond when we see
thunder and lightning?

Agenda

- ❑ Importance of connection to Nature
- ❑ Dua no.36
- ❑ Reaction to thunder
- ❑ Quranic verses on thunder
- ❑ Effects of poverty

Importance of connection to Nature

Today, almost everyone living in the urbanized centers of the Western world feels intuitively a lack of something in life. This is due directly to the creation of an artificial environment from which nature has been excluded to the greatest possible extent. Even the religious man in such circumstances has lost the sense of the spiritual significance of nature.

From *Man and Nature* by Seyyed Hossein Nasr

Points from *Man and Nature*

Nature speaks to human beings. It contains a spiritual message. It is thereby a revelation coming from the same source as religion itself.

Nature contains meaning. It is a symbol of a higher degree of reality, a mirror that reflects a higher reality.

Modern science has emptied nature of its sacred character and secularized it.

Islam does not separate man and nature, and sees the flow of Divine grace in the cosmic and natural order.

Reaction to thunder

Love, Hope and Fear

Love - Thunder and lightning are welcomed by a believer because;

- a) They are signs of Allah
- b) They herald His mercy
- c) They are obedient to Him
- d) They worship Him

Hope

Hearing thunder creates hope in the heart that;

- a) Rain will fall
- b) Prosperity will come
- c) Happiness and contentment will follow

Fear

Thunder creates fear in the heart. Fear of;

- a) A punishment from God
- b) Too much rain that will destroy crops
- c) Poverty that will create negativity

Quran and Thunder

وَيُسَبِّحُ الرَّعْدُ بِحَمْدِهِ وَالْمَلَائِكَةُ مِنْ خِيفَتِهِ وَيُرْسِلُ
الصَّوَاعِقَ فَيُصِيبُ بِهَا مَنْ يَشَاءُ

And the thunder declares His glory with His praise,
and the angels too for awe of Him; and He sends
the thunderbolts and smites with them whom He
pleases

Sura Ra'd, 13:13

وَمِنْ آيَاتِهِ يُرِيكُمُ الْبَرْقَ خَوْفًا وَطَمَعًا وَيُنزِلُ مِنَ السَّمَاءِ
مَاءً فَيُحْيِي بِهِ الْأَرْضَ بَعْدَ مَوْتِهَا ۗ إِنَّ فِي ذَلِكَ لَآيَاتٍ
لِقَوْمٍ يَعْقِلُونَ

And one of His signs is that He shows you the lightning for fear and for hope, and sends down water from the clouds then gives life therewith to the earth after its death; most surely there are signs in this for a people who understand

Sura Rum, 30:24

Effect of Poverty

When there is no thunder and no rain the hearts become full of anger and frustration. Thoughts of poverty fill the mind and distract from thoughts of God.

Imam Ali (a) says:

Poverty confuses the soul, perplexes the intellect, and brings grief.

O my son, whoever is afflicted with poverty is [often] afflicted with four things:

- weakness in his Yaqin (certainty)*
- deficiency in intelligence*
- softness in religion*
- and lack of modesty*