

ALI 367 - Session One

Question for Reflection

What is worship?  
What forms can it take?

• Worship is the connection to God in complete submission.

• Worship can take many forms

1) Contemplation

Thinking for a short while is better than prolonged worship

- Holy Prophet (s)

## 2) Overcoming bad habits

The best worship is  
overcoming a bad habit

Holy Prophet (s)

3) Seclusion/Solitude

How good a worship seclusion is. Holy Prophet (s)

Solitude is the comfort of the worshippers. Holy Prophet (s)

4) Silence - silence is golden  
not at all times but at  
appropriate times.

There is no worship like silence

Holy Prophet (s)

## 5) Patience

Espouse patience, for indeed it is a protective fortress and the worship of those who possess certainty.

Imam Ali (a)

6) Not giving in to wrong desires

Abandoning lustful desires is the best worship and the most beautiful habit.

Imam Ali (a)

# Ayatullah Misbah Yazdi



- Student of Imam Khomeini, Allama Allama Tabatabai Ayatullah Behjat . . .
- Active participant in the Islamic revolution
- Scholar, teacher, author, researcher in Qum
- was elected in 1990 to the Majlise Khubragan Rehbar (Council of Experts in Leadership)



# The Prophet (s) talks to Abu Dhar

- Abu Dhar - a distinguished companion of the Prophet (s) who was close to the holy family.
- Abu Dhar asks the Prophet (s) to give him advice by means of which Allah will grant him good.

## Main points from the Hadith

- Safeguard the Hadith and act upon it
- Worship ALLAH as if you see Him
- First stage of worship is Knowing ALLAH
- Second stage is belief in the Prophet (s)
- Third stage is love of the Ahlul Bayt

# Worship and Perfection

- Attaining perfection is only through an acknowledgement of the servanthood of the human being - that human being is the servant and God is the Master.
- Worship is a manifestation of that servanthood and motivates man to reach higher levels of humanity.
- Stations such as contentment, certainty, . . . can only be reached through worship.

# Perspectives of Worship

- 1) Gratitude for His blessings
- 2) Acknowledgement of our neediness
- 3) Fulfillment of inner need
- 4) Peace of mind
- 5) Emotional independence from others
- 6) Harmony with Nature

Is it not the fact that if all people on earth build their homes facing the sun or turn away from it, it makes no difference to the light of the sun?

Although we are compelled to worship God because He is our Creator, Provider and Nurturer, even then He rewards us for carrying it out. That is due to His immense grace.

Aghae Mohsin Qara'ati  
Tafsir Nur