

Welcome to
ALI 383: Session Three

What is the link between love of
the world and wisdom?

What is Zuhd?

Definitions of Zuhd

- 1) To renunciate the world- leave its extras
- 2) Not to be attached to the world
- 3) To be indifferent to the world
- 4) To avoid its glitter
- 5) A spiritual and intellectual abstinence from the world

The Zahid

Accordingly the Zahid (i.e. one who practises Zuhd) is someone whose interest transcends the sphere of material existence and whose object of aspiration lies beyond the kind of things we have mentioned above. The indifference of a Zahid originates in the sphere of his ideas, ideals, and hopes, not in his physiological makeup

Ayatullah Mutahhari

Glimpses from Nahjul Balagha

All Zuhd is summarized in two sentences of the Qur'an: God, the Most Exalted, says, ... So that you may not grieve for what escapes you, nor rejoice in what has come to you. [57:23] Whoever does not grieve over what he has lost and does not rejoice over what comes to him has acquired Zuhd in both of its aspects.

Hadith #439, Nahjul Balagha

Differences between Zuhd and Monasticism

Monasticism - Retreats from people and society

Zuhd - Lives with society with simplicity and responsibility

Monasticism - Chooses between world or Hereafter

Zuhd - World and Hereafter are two sides of a single reality.

Monasticism - Dislikes life of this world

Zuhd - Gives a special quality to life of this world.

For more discussion on Zuhd read:

<https://www.al-islam.org/al-tawhid/general-al-tawhid/selection-glimpses-nahj-al-balaghah-mutahhari/moral-lectures-aphorisms#zuhd-and-piety>

<http://www.islamicinsights.com/religion/zuhd-asceticism-and-worldliness.html>

Understanding wisdom

يُؤْتِي الْحِكْمَةَ مَنْ يَشَاءُ ۚ وَمَنْ يُؤْتَ الْحِكْمَةَ فَقَدْ أُوتِيَ
خَيْرًا كَثِيرًا ۗ وَمَا يَذَّكَّرُ إِلَّا أُولُو الْأَلْبَابِ

He grants wisdom to whoever He pleases, and whoever is granted wisdom has indeed been given a lot of good and none pay heed except a people of understanding

Sura al Baqarah, 2:269

Hadith on Wisdom

The one whose mind is filled with anger and desires cannot benefit from wisdom.

Imam Ali (a). Ghuraril Hikam

As wisdom increases desires decrease

Imam Ali (a). Ghuraril Hikam

The wise ones among people are the most noble; they are foremost in patience, quick to forgive, and best in manners.

Imam Ali (a). Ghuraril Hikam

O Ahmad, when a servant keeps his stomach hungry and safeguards his tongue, I teach him wisdom. Then if he is a disbeliever his wisdom is a proof against him and a burden and if he is a believer his wisdom becomes for him a light, a proof, a cure, and a mercy so he learns what he did not know before and he sees what he did not see before and the first thing that I make him see is his own faults, so he becomes busy with them instead of the faults of others and I show him the subtleties of knowledge so Shaytan does not get to him.

Hadith al Mi'raj

Biharul Anwar, Vol. 77, pg 69

It is not all the time
that a container is good for honey
such are the hearts
it is not all the time
they are good for establishing wisdom
A container that is not broken, or dried, or dented
can be a good container for honey
and such are the hearts
so long as they are not torn with desires
and polluted with greed
and spoilt by comfort
they can be containers for wisdom



Nabi Isa (a)

Biharul Anwar, Vol. 14, pg 307