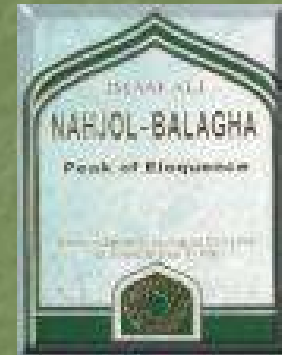


Worship in Nahjul Balagha

- Prayer for Guidance
- Worship and the heart
- Concept of Allah
 - human inability to comprehend
- States of the heart
 - curing apathy
 - creating inclination
 - transcending the physical realm
- Worship through emotions
 - Fear of Allah
 - seeking help from Allah
 - Praising Allah



Prayer for Guidance

May Allah bless him

who listens to wisdom and retains it

when invited to the right path he approaches it . . .

who keeps Allah before his eyes and fears his sins

performs actions sincerely and acts virtuously

earns treasures of heavenly reward

avoids vice

aims at good objectives

and earns recompense

Khutba # 74

Worship and the Heart

Deceive your heart into worshipping

Persuade it and do not force it

Engage it in worshipping when it is free and cheerful

Except as regards the obligations enjoined upon you

For they should not be neglected and must be performed
at the five times.

Letter # 69

Concept of Allah

Praise be to Allah . . .

whom the heights of intellectual courage cannot appreciate
and the divings of understanding cannot reach

He for whose description no limit has been laid down
no eulogy exists, no time is ordained and no duration is fixed.

Whoever attaches attributes to Allah recognizes His like

And who recognizes His like regards Him as two

And who recognizes Him as two recognizes parts for Him

And who recognizes parts for Him mistook Him

He is a being but not through the phenomena of coming into being

He exists but not from non-existence

Khutba #1

Concept of Allah - II

It cannot be said that He has a limit or extremity
nor end, nor termination

He is not inside things, nor outside them

He conveys news but not with tongue or vocal chords

He listens but not with the holes of ears or the organs of hearing

He says but does not utter

He remembers but does not memorize

He determines but not by exercising His mind

He loves and approves without any weakness

He hates and feels angry without any painstaking

Khutba # 184

Human inability to comprehend

Then, look O questioner, be confined to those attributes of Allah that the Qur'an has described . . . Leave to Allah the knowledge of that which Satan has prompted you to seek, which neither Qur'an prompts you to seek nor is there any trace of it in the actions and sayings of the Prophet and other leaders of guidance. This is the extreme limit of Allah's claim upon you.

Know that firm in knowledge are those who refrain from opening the curtains that lie against the unknown . . . Allah praises them for their admission that they are unable to get knowledge not allowed to them.

Be content with this and do not limit the greatness of Allah after the measure of your own intelligence.

Curing Apathy

You should cure the disease of languor in your heart by determination . . . Be obedient to Allah and love His remembrance. Picture to yourself that you are running away while He is approaching you. He is calling you to His forgiveness and concealing your faults with his kindness while you are fleeing from him towards others

Sermon 220

Creating Inclination

O Allah, You are the most attached to those who love You And the most ready to assist those who trust in You. You see their concealments, Know what is in their conscience and are aware of the extent of their intelligences. Consequently their secrets are open to you and their hearts are eager for You. If loneliness bores them, your remembrance gives them solace.

Sermon # 224

No connection is more reliable than the connection between you and Allah provided you take to it. Enliven your heart with Preaching. Kill it by renunciation. Energize it with firm belief . Enlighten it with wisdom. Humiliate it by recalling death. Make it believe in mortality. Make it see the misfortunes of the world. And make it fear the authority of time.

Letter # 31

Transcending the physical

If there had not been fixed periods (of life) ordained for each, their spirits would not have remained in their bodies even for the twinkling of an eye, because of their eagerness for reward and their fear of chastisement. The greatness of the Creator is seated in their hearts and so everything else appears small in their eyes.

Khutba # 191

Fear of Allah

Therefore fear, O creatures of Allah, like the fear of one who has control over himself, who can check his passions, and perceive with wisdom.

Khutba # 159

Certainly fear of Allah is the medicine for your hearts, sight for the blindness of your spirits, cure for the ailments of your bodies, rectifier for the evils of your chests, purifier for the pollution of your minds, light for the darkness of your eyes, consolation for the fear of your hearts, and brightness for the gloom of your ignorance.

Khutba # 196

Seeking help from Allah

We seek his help like him who is hopeful of His bounty, desirous of His benefit, and confident of His warding off calamities, who acknowledges His grants, and is obedient to Him by act and word.

We believe in Him like him who reposes hope in Him with conviction, inclines to Him as a believer, humbles himself before Him obediently, believes in His oneness exclusively, regards Him great acknowledging His dignity, and seeks refuge in Him with inclination and exertion.

Khutba # 180

Praising Allah

My Allah, You deserve the most handsome description and the highest esteem
If wish is directed towards you, You are the best to be wished for.
If hope is reposed in You, You are the most honored to be hoped from.
My Lord, You have bestowed on me such power that I do not praise other than
You and I do not eulogize anyone save You. I do not direct my praise to others
who are sources of disappointments and centers of misgivings.

My Lord, every praiser has on whom he praises the right of reward and
recompense. Certainly I have turned to You with my eye at the treasures of Your
mercy and stores of forgiveness.

My Lord here stands one who has singled You with oneness that is Your due and
has not regarded anyone deserving of these praises and eulogies except You. My
want towards You is such that nothing except Your generosity can cure its
destitution, nor provide for its need except Your obligation and Your generosity.

So grant us in this place Your will and make us free from stretching hands to
anyone other than You. Surely You have power over all things.

Khutba # 89

Some Khutbas to explore

Khutba # 1 – On Creation

Khutba # 89 – The sermon of the skeletons

Khutba # 190 – Khutba of disparagement

Khutba # 191 – Khutba al-Muttaqeen

Letter # 31 - Will of Imam Ali (a) to Imam Hasan (a)