

Planting the Seed of Nahjul Balagha

Session 3- Beliefs and Akhlaq in
Nahjul Balagha



Reminder

- * Just like how a seed needs the right elements to grow, the seed of Nahjul Balagha also needs the right elements to grow in your heart:
- * **Soil:** You will need to have the love of Imam Ali (a) in your heart.
- * **Sun:** You will need the desire of seeking knowledge
- * **Fertilizer:** You will need to seek the help of Allah in acquiring knowledge about Nahjul Balagha



Thinking Time!

- * What kinds of beliefs do I think are in
- * Nahjul Balagha?

What components of akhlaq do we think are mentioned in Nahjul Balagha?



Example #1 of Beliefs in Najul Balagha

An excerpt from *Khutba 109 (On Allah [SWT])*

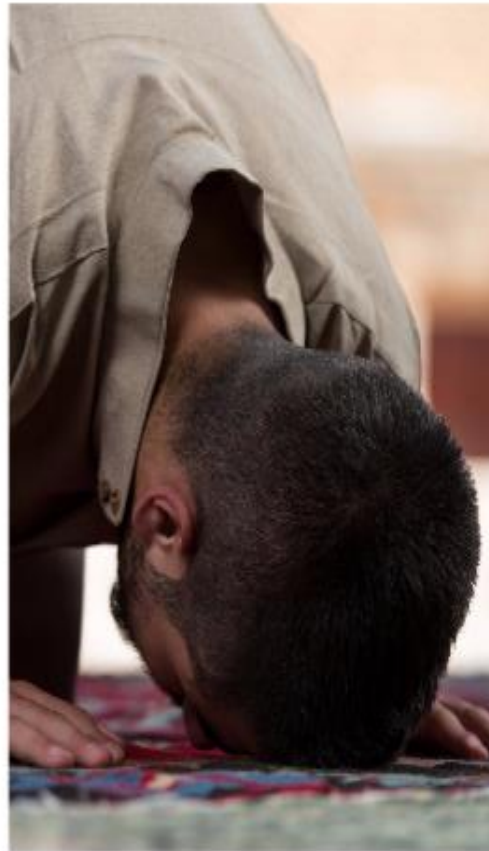
Everything submits to Him and everything exists by Him. He is the Satisfaction of every poor person, Dignity of the low, Energy for the weak, and Shelter for the oppressed.

Whoever speaks, He hears his speaking and whoever keeps quiet, He knows his secret. On Him is the livelihood of everyone who lives and to Him returns whoever dies.

(O' Allah!)

You did not Create the creation on account of loneliness, nor did You Make them work for gain. He whom You Catch cannot go farther than You and he whom You Hold cannot escape you.

He who disobeys You does not decrease Your Authority, and he who obeys You does not add to Your Might...Every secret before You is open and for You every absent is present.




What can I learn from this khutba?

Example #2 of Beliefs in Najul Balagha

An excerpt from **Khutba 65 (On Allah [SWT])**

Every listener other than Him is deaf to light voices while loud voices make him deaf, and distant voices also get away from him.
Every onlooker other than Him is blind to hidden colours and delicate bodies.

He did not create what He Created to strengthen His Authority nor for fear of the consequences of time nor to seek help against the attack of an equal or a boastful partner or a hateful opponent. On the other hand all the creatures are reared by Him and are His humble slaves.



What does this khutba talk about?

Example #3 of Beliefs in Najul Balagha

An excerpt from Khutba 105 (On The Holy Prophet [SAW])

Then Allah [SWT] sent Muhammad (s)
as a witness,
giver of good tidings
and warner,
the best in the universe as a child,
and the most pure as a grown up man.

The purest of the purified in conduct
the most generous of those who are approached
for generosity.



How does the
khutba
describe the
Prophet?

Discussion Question

- * How would you speak to Allah (swt) using the concepts Imam described in the Khutba (sermon) about Allah (swt)? Write your own prayer, talking to God using Imam's description. For example you may wish to praise Allah, in the same way the Imam praised Allah in the khutba?

Group Work!

- * Form groups to discuss each of the three beliefs Imam talks about. In your groups have the following roles:
 - * • **Discussion Director:** creates questions which the group can discuss
 - * • **Connector:** Finds a connection to Du'a, Hadith or stories from Islamic History with your own life and how you can apply it in your life.
 - * • **Illustrator:** Draws a picture related to the reading.
 - * • **Summarizer:** summarizes the reading.
 - * • **Poet:** Writes a short poem on the reading.
- * For groups with less people in them: Each member of the group can select any one of the following roles. After you have completed your individual role discuss your answer with the rest of the group

Example #1 of Akhlaq in Najul Balagha

Staying away from sins

Beware that sins are like unruly horses on whom their riders have been placed and their reins have been let loose so that they would jump with them in Hell.

- Khutba 16

What is one way we can stay away from sins?



Example #2 of Akhlaq in Najul Balagha



Beware that piety is like trained horses on whom the riders have been placed with the reins in their hands, so that they would take the riders to Heaven.

- Khutba 16

What does the term piety mean?

Example #3 of Akhlaq in Najul Balagha

Determination

Mountains may move from their position but you should not move from yours. Grit your teeth. Lend to Allah (swt) your head (in fighting for Allah (swt), give yourself to Allah (swt)). Plant your feet firmly on the ground.

- Khutba II



What is one way you can have determination in your life?

Example #3 of Akhlaq in Najul Balagha

Being good to Relatives

O' people! Surely no one (even though he may be rich) can do without his kinsmen, and their support by hands or tongues.

They alone are his support from rear and can ward off from him his troubles, and they are the most kind to him when tribulations befall him. The good memory of a man that Allah (swt) retains among people is better than the property which others inherit from him.



Behold! If any one of you finds your near ones in want or starvation, he should not desist from helping them with that which will not increase if this help is not extended, nor decrease by thus spending it.

Whoever holds up his hand from (helping) his kinsmen, he holds only one hand, but at the time of his need many hands remain held up from helping him. One who is sweet tempered can retain the love of his people for good.

What is one way you are kind to your relatives?

Assignment

Imam Ali (a) talks about hands and teeth in these sermons. In the boxes below draw how a person would look in the following situations:



Hands of a believer



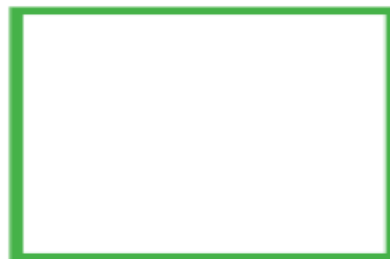
Teeth of a determined person



Hands of a sinner



Helping hands



Unhelpful hands



Feet of a sinner

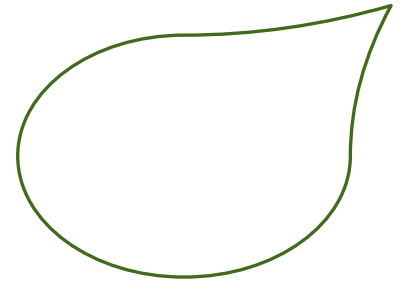
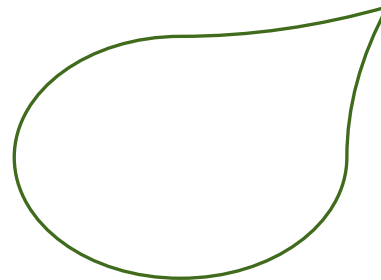
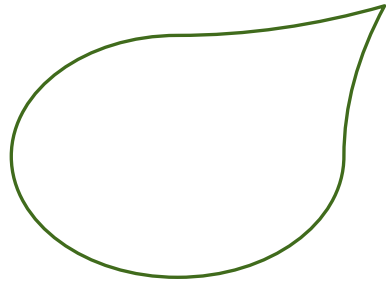
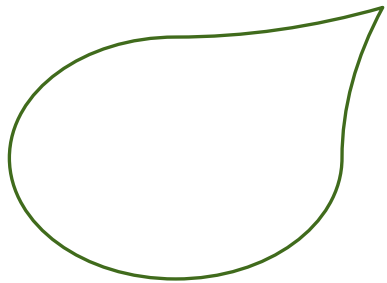
Thinking Time

Answer the questions found on page 35 of your workbook. Each answer should include at least one word from the treasure coins shown here:



Planting Time!

- * Using the template, trace four of the leaves and on each leaf write one new fact that you learned about Nahjul Balagha.



Preparing the Tree for the Blossom

- * The leaves you create will be added to your tree of knowledge about Nahjul Balagha. The more leaves that get added to your tree, the better your tree will look.

