

Planting the Seed of Nahjul Balagha

Session 1- Introduction to Nahjul Balagha



* Welcome to the Nahjul Balagha Course

- * Please write down the following questions on a sheet of paper (to be able to answer them throughout the webinar). Alternately you may print out the file in advance with the questions:
- * 1) Nahjul Balagha is a collection of sermons, letters and sayings from which Imam?
- * 2) What kind of a speaker was Imam Ali (a)?
- * 3) Who compiled Nahjul Balagha?
- * 4) The mother of Sharif ar-Radhi was descendant of which Imam?
- * 5) The father of Sharif ar-Radhi was descendant of which Imam?

Thinking Time!

* What is Nahjul Balagha?

Is there anything that you already know about Nahjul Balagha?





What is Nahjul Balagha?



- A collection of sermons, letters and sayings of Imam Ali (a) dealing with different religious topics as well as how to be pious and prepare for the Hereafter
- A Masterpiece of Islamic literature (second to Holy Qur'an and words of the Holy Prophet (s))
- Imam Ali (a) was an eloquent speaker





More About Nahjul Balagha



- Before Nahjul Balagha the words of Imam Ali (a) were in different books
- Sharif ar-Radhi compiled the words of Imam Ali (a) into a book called Nahjul Balagha- the Peak of Eloquence
- Sharif ar-Radhi lived in Baghdad, Iraq (a center of Islamic learning) and compiled the book four centuries after Hijrat
- He was a student of Shaykh al-Mufid

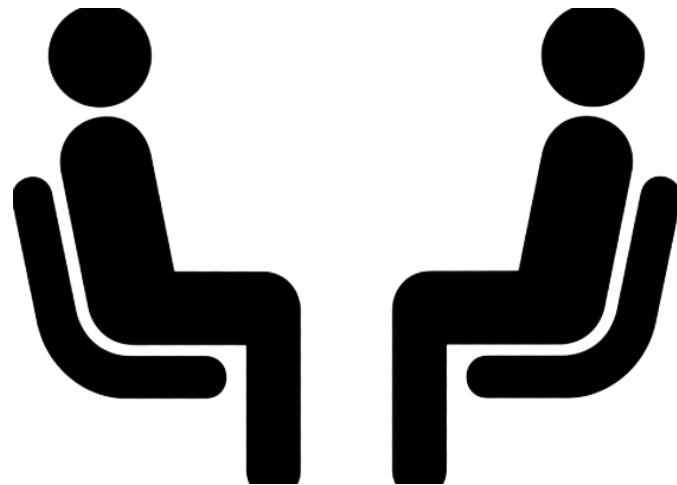




Discussion Question



- * If you were given the opportunity to ask an expert a question about Nahjul Balagha what question would you ask them?



A Closer Look at Nahjul Balagha from www.al-islam.org

NAHJUL BALAGHA PART 2, LETTERS AND SAYINGS

Siffin

- Letter 32: To Mu'awiyah
- Letter 33: To Qutham ibn al- 'Abbas, his Governor of Mecca
- Letter 34: To Muhammad ibn Abi Bakr
- Letter 35: To 'Abdullah ibn al-'Abbas after Muhammad ibn Abi Bakr had been killed.
- Letter 36: To his brother 'Aqil ibn Abi Talib
- Letter 37: To Muawiyah
- Letter 38: To the people of Egypt when he appointed (Malik) al-Ashtar as their Governor
- Letter 39: To 'Amr ibn al-'As
- Letter 40: To one of his officers
- Letter 41: To one of his officers

resoluteness. Consequently, I wrote this piece of my will for you.

فَاسْتَخْلَصْتُ لَكَ مِنْ كُلِّ أَمْرٍ نَخِيلَهُ، وَتَوَخَّيْتُ لَكَ جَمِيلَهُ، وَصَرَفْتُ عَنْكَ
مَجْهُولَهُ، وَزَأَيْتُ حَيْثُ عَنَانِي مِنْ أَمْرِكَ مَا يَغْنِي الْوَالِدَ الشَّفِيقَ، وَأَجْمَعْتُ
عَلَيْهِ مِنْ أَدَبِكَ أَنْ يَكُونَ ذَلِكَ وَأَنْتَ مُقْبِلُ الْعُمْرِ وَمُقْتَبِلُ الدَّهْرِ، ذُو نِيَّةٍ
سَلِيمَةٍ، وَنَفْسٍ صَافِيَةٍ، وَأَنْ أُبْتَدِئَكَ بِتَغْلِيمِ كِتَابِ اللَّهِ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ وَتَأْوِيلِهِ،
وَسَرَائِعِ الْأَسْلَامِ وَأَحْكَامِهِ، وَحَالَاتِهِ وَحَرَآمِهِ، لَا أَجَاوِزُ ذَلِكَ بِكَ إِلَى غَيْرِهِ.
ثُمَّ أَسْأَلُكَ أَنْ يَلْتَبَسَ عَلَيْكَ مَا اخْتَلَفَ النَّاسُ فِيهِ مِنْ أَهْوَائِهِمْ وَأَزَائِهِمْ
مِثْلَ الَّذِي التَّبَسَّ عَلَيْهِمْ، فَكَانَ إِحْكَامُ ذَلِكَ عَلَى مَا كَرِهَتْ مِنْ تَنْبِيهِكَ لَهُ
أَحَبُّ إِلَيَّ مِنْ إِسْلَامِكَ إِلَيَّ أَمْرٍ لَا أَمْرُ عَلَيْكَ بِهِ الْهَلَكَةُ وَرَجُوتُ أَنْ يُؤَفَّقَكَ
اللَّهُ فِيهِ لِرُشْدِكَ، وَأَنْ يَهْدِيكَ لِقُضْدِكَ، فَعَهْذْتُ إِلَيْكَ وَصِيَّتِي هَذِهِ.

Know O my child, what I love most for you to adopt from my will is to fear Allah, to confine yourself to what Allah has made obligatory on you, and to follow the actions of your forefathers and the virtuous people of your household, because they did not fall short in seeing for themselves what you will see for yourself, and they did about their affairs as you would like to think (about your affairs). Thereafter, their thinking led them to discharge the obligations they came to know of and to desist from what they were not required to do. If your heart does not accept this without acquiring knowledge as they acquired it, then your search should first be by way of understanding and learning and not by falling into doubts or getting entangled in quarrels.

* What does letter 31 of Nahjul Balagha involving the advice Imam Ali (AS) gave to his children talk about?



More About Sharif ar-Radhi



- * He was a very pious Shia scholar and Sayyid born in the year 359 A.H and his full name used to be Muhammad bin Husayn
- * His parents were Saddat (descendants of the Holy Prophet)
- * His father was a descendant of the 7th Imam and his mother was a descendant of the 4th Imam
- * Sharif ar-Radhi attended many classes, lectures and religious gatherings and was respected by many people including Sunnis and non-Muslims





Think About It!



- * Sharif ar-Radhi worked hard to learn and acquire wisdom. What are some ways I can seek knowledge in my life?





Nahjul Balagha Exploration Challenge:



- * Your challenge is to look through a copy of Nahjul Balagha (either online or a hard copy) and find one part of it that you find particularly interesting. You may select a hadith/saying, sermon/khutba or a letter that you find interesting. Once you have found an interesting part in Nahjul Balagha please email it along with your name to fatima.siddiqa@hotmail.com by Wednesday so it can be shared with everyone in the next class.

- * **Useful Resources for Accessing the Online Version of Nahjul Balagha**
- *
- * 1) *Sermons in Nahjul Balagha*
- * <https://www.al-islam.org/nahjul-balagha-part-1-sermons>

- * 2) *Letters and Sayings in Nahjul Balagha*
- * <https://www.al-islam.org/nahjul-balagha-part-2-letters-and-sayings>



Optional Creative Challenge



- * If you had to inform people about Nahjul Balagha, how would you best do it in a poster? Create an eye catching poster on Nahjul Balagha that will attract people and encourage them to read its contents.
- * Don't forget to send a picture of the poster that you created by Wednesday to the email address fatima.siddiqah@hotmail.com so it can be shared with everyone in the next class.