Planting the Seed of Nahjul Balagha

Session 3- Beliefs and Akhlaq in Nahjul Balagha



Reminder when Participating in the Chat

- * 1) Do not write any personal information in the chat box (involving your email address and phone number).
- * 2) Do not make fun of the responses of other students (show respect to everyone).
- * 3) Once the class has begun all discussions should relate only to the class (no private conversations with others).

Words of Wisdom from Imam Ali (a) from Hadith 41

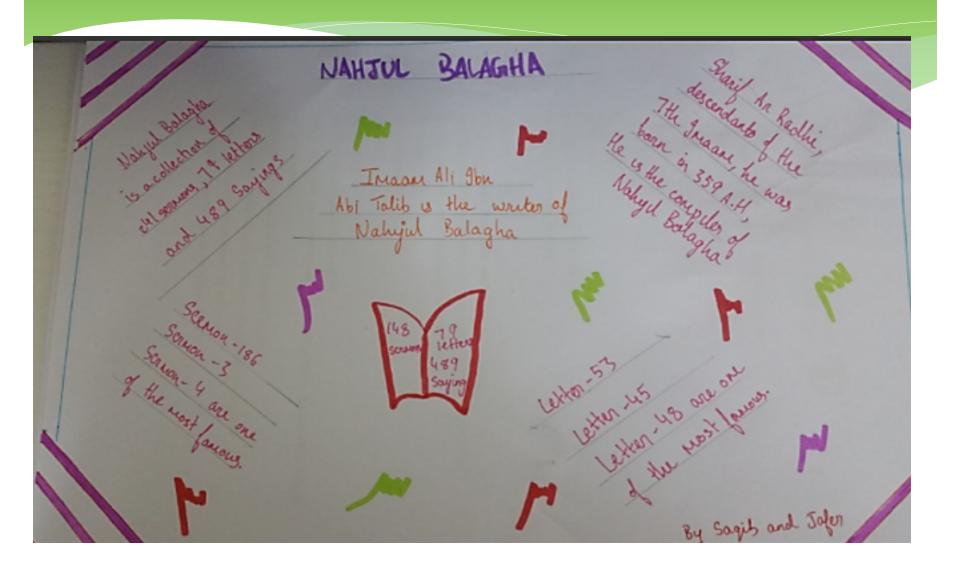
- * Amir al-mu'minin, peace be upon has said:
- * The heart of a fool is in his mouth while the tongue of the wise man is in his heart.

* Impact of the words of Amir al-mu'minin can be shown by the way his companions reacted to them

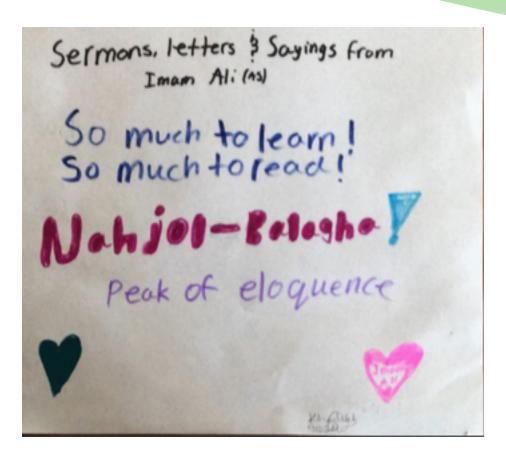
A Beautiful Poster

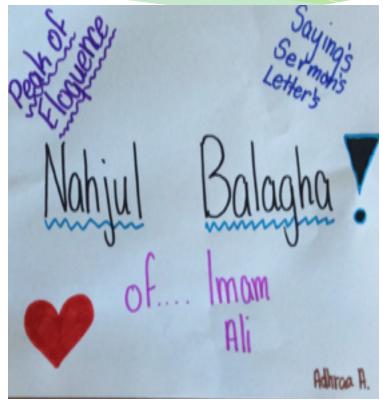


Another Lovely Poster

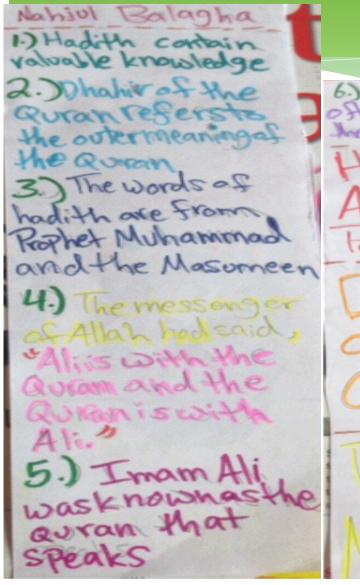


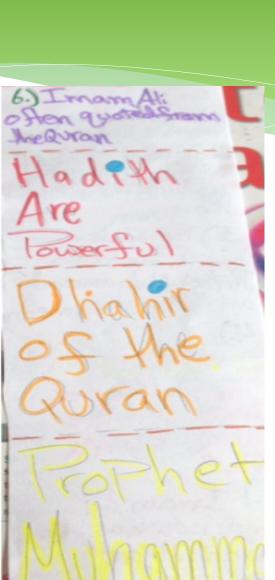
More Beautiful Posters





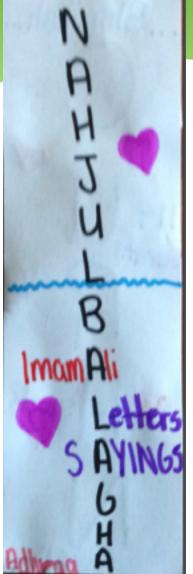
Bookmarks Created by Participants

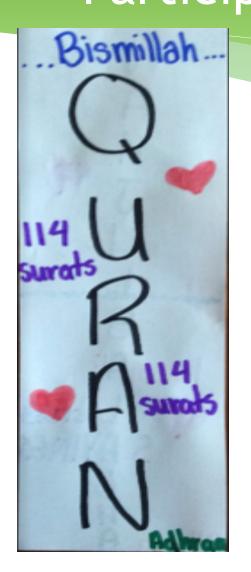




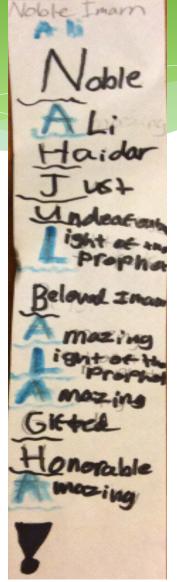


More Bookmarks Created by Participants







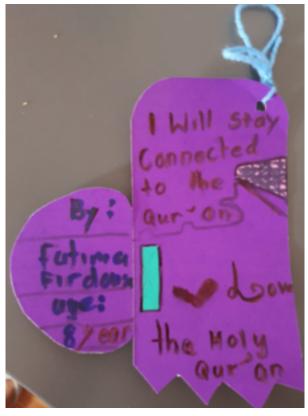


More Bookmarks

"Contentment is wealth that does not decrease." -Hadith from Imam Ali My words: Being happy is better than being rich, contentment is wealth that you can take to the next world







Thinking Time!

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

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



Example #1 of Beliefs in Nahjul Balagha

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

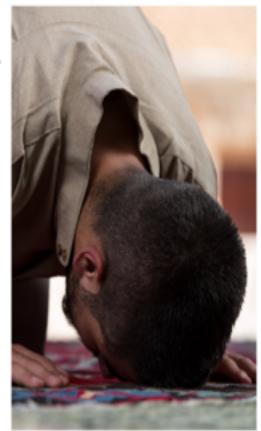
Everything submits to Him and everything exists by Him. He is the Satisfaction of every poor person, Dignity of the low, Energy for the weak, and Shelter for the oppressed.

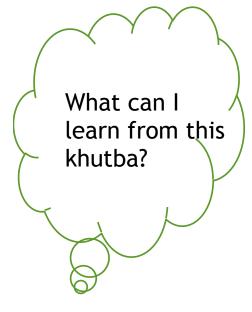
Whoever speaks, He hears his speaking and whoever keeps quiet, He knows his secret. On Him is the livelihood of everyone who lives and to Him returns whoever dies.

(O' Allahl)...

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.





Example #2 of Beliefs in Nahjul 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?

Imam Ali (a) says: 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. (Nahjul Balāgha, Sermon 220)

Example #3 of Beliefs in Nahjul 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)?. For example you may wish to praise Allah, in the way the Imam praised Allah in the khutba before asking for your hajjat.

Example #1 of Akhlaq in Nahjul 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

Important for Us to Not Take Our Sins Lightly

And you thought it to be a light matter, while it was most serious in the sight of Allah. (Sūratun Nūr, No. 24, Āyat 15)



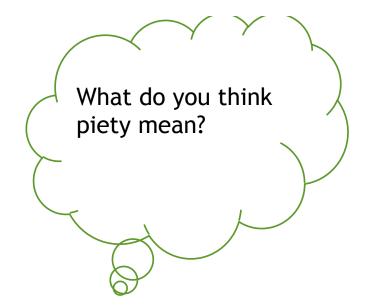
What is one way we can stay away from sins?

Example #2 of Akhlaq in Nahjul 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



Example #3 of Akhlaq in Nahjul Balagha

Determination

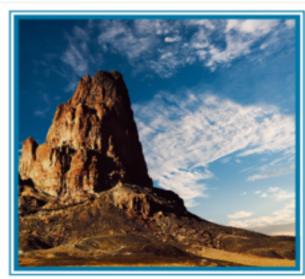
Mountains may move from their position but you should not move from yours. Grit your teeth. Lend to Allah (swt) your head (in fighting for Allah (swt), give yourself to Allah (swt)). Plant your feet firmly on the ground.

- Khutba II



وَلَمْ نَجِدْ لَهُ عَزْمًا And We did not find in him any

firm resolve (Sūrat Tāha, No. 20, Āyat 115)



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

Example #3 of Akhlaq in Nahjul 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.



What is one way you are kind to your relatives?

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.

-example of Bibi Sakina (A) showing excellent akhlag

Optional Assignments

- * 1) Complete Leaf Scavenger Hunt #3
- * 2) Pick 1, 2 or 3 short khutbas, or hadiths (either from the lesson or one you found on your own. Create an small illustration for the short khutba or hadith that you found. In the email please specify the khutba or hadith that you have selected and your name.
- * All submissions received by Wednesday and will be used to create flash cards that you can print and use to help you memorize the different passages in Nahjul Balagha.
- * Example:

Front Side of Flash Card:



Amir al-mu'minin, peace be upon has said:

The heart of a fool is in his mouth while the tongue of the wise man is in his heart.

Back Side of Flash Card: