



# ALI 419: 'Ibādat in *Nahjul Balāgha* – Concept of God

Session 12 Tuesday Dec 19, 2017  
Jaffari Community Center

# Imam Ali (a) on 'Ibādat

1. Being patient in the difficulties of worship will raise you up to the honor of great success (*The Sayings & Wisdom of Imam Ali*, p.51)
2. The most excellent worship is being silent, and waiting patiently for relief (Ibid).
3. Perfect happiness comes with knowledge, and partial happiness comes with abstinence. Worship without knowledge and without abstinence merely exhausts the body (Ibid).

# ‘Ibādat of the Awliya

The faith of Sayyid ibn Tawus (r) had brought him to such a point that he used to celebrate every year the anniversary of the day of his becoming *mukallaf*, for on that day God had bestowed upon him the permission to engage in His worship and had dressed him in the robes of *taklif*. Study the condition of those noble souls (Prophets & Imams) and the character of their worship and prayers. At the time of *salat* the color of their blessed faces would pale and their bodies would tremble with the fear lest there should occur some lapse in the course of this divine observance, although they were infallible. (Hadith 27, *Forty Hadith*, Khumayni)

## ‘Ibādat of Amīrul Mu'minīn (a)-2

(One day ‘Ali b. al-Husayn’s) son, Abu Ja‘far (Muhammad al-Bāqir), peace be on both, came to him. He had carried out in worship what no one had ever carried out. He saw that his color had gone yellow from weeping all night; his eyes had used up all their water from being awake all night; his forehead was bruised and his nose squashed from prostrating; and his legs and feet were swollen from standing in prayer.

Abu Ja‘far (a) reported: I could not control myself from weeping when I saw him in that state and I wept, may God have mercy on him. Behold, he was thinking and he turned to me a short time after I had come and said: *‘My son, give me some of those parchments in which there is the (practice of) worship of Ali ibn Abi Talib, peace be on him.’* I gave them to him and he read something from them for a while. Then he let them go from his hand in exasperation and said: *‘Who is strong enough to perform the worship of Ali Ibn Abi Talib, peace be on him?’* (Kitāb al-Irshad, p. 383)

## Imam Ali (a) on 'Ibādat

4. The most excellent worship is refraining from disobedience, and stopping when in doubt (*The Sayings & Wisdom of Imam Ali*, p.52)
5. Wherever there is wisdom, there is fear of Allah; and wherever there is fear of Him, there also is His mercy (Ibid).
6. Reserve for yourself the best times and portions of that which is between you and Allah, the Glorified (*Ghurar*, p. 626)

## 'Ibādat of Amīrul Mu'minīn (a)-3

Mu'āwiya asked Dhirar to describe him about Amīrul Mu'minīn, (a). He said: I stand witness that I have seen him on several occasions when night had spread and he was standing in the niche (of the masjid) holding his beard, groaning like a man bitten by a snake and weeping as a grieved man, saying: *O world, O world! Get away from me. Why do you present yourself to me? Or are you eager for me? You may not get that opportunity to impress me. Deceive some other person. I have no concern with you. I have divorced you thrice thereafter there is no restitution. Your life is short, your importance is little and your aspirations are base. Alas! The provision is little, the way is long, the journey is far and the goal is hard to reach.* (Nahj, Saying 77):

يَا دُنْيَا يَا دُنْيَا إِلَيْكَ عَنِّي أَبِي تَعَرَّضْتُ أُمَّ إِلَى تَشَوَّقَتِ لَأَحَانَ حِينُكَ هَيْهَاتَ غَرِّي غَيْرِي لَا حَاجَةَ لِي  
فِيكَ قَدْ طَلَّقْتُكَ ثَلَاثًا لَا رَجْعَةَ فِيهَا فَعَيْشُكَ قَصِيرٌ وَخَطَرُكَ يَسِيرٌ وَأَمْلُكَ حَقِيرٌ أَهْ مِنْ قِلَّةِ الزَّادِ وَطُولِ  
الطَّرِيقِ وَبُعْدِ السَّفَرِ وَعَظِيمِ الْمَوْرِدِ

# Imam Ali (a) on 'Ibādat

7. Obey Allah in all your affairs because Allah's obedience has precedence over all other things. Deceive your heart into worshipping, persuade it and do not force it. Engage it (in worshipping) when it is free and merry, except as regards the obligations enjoined upon you, for they should not be neglected and must be performed at the five times (*NB*, Letter 69). 8. Surely hearts draw near and retreat, so when they draw near let them be concerned with voluntary acts of worship, and when they retreat, limit them to what is obligatory (*The Sayings & Wisdom of Imam 'Ali*, pp. 36)

# Worship by Loving Allah (swt)

*Those who believe are more ardent in their love of Allah Q 2:165*

1. Study the 'ibādat of those who love Allah, and get inspired
2. Prophet Muhammad (s): *Lo! Whoever has longing for Allah should listen to the word of Allah!* And he (s) said: *Whenever one of you would like to talk to his Lord, he should read the Quran.*
3. Avoid things that would distract your worship, the way dislike to be disrupted when talking to a beloved or a close friend.



## In groups of 2 - 3 reflect on:

Dhi'lib al-Yamani asked Amir al-mu'minin whether he had seen Allah, when he replied, "*Do I worship one whom I have not seen?*" Then he enquired, "How have you seen Him?" Then Amir al-mu'minin replied: *Eyes cannot see Him face to face, but hearts perceive Him through the realities of belief. He is near to things but not (physically) contiguous. He is far from them but not (physically) separate. He is a speaker, but not with reflection. He intends, but not with preparation. He molds, but not with (the assistance of) limbs. He is subtle but cannot be attributed with being concealed. He is great but cannot be attributed with haughtiness. He sees but cannot be attributed with the sense (of sight). He is Merciful but cannot be attributed with weakness of heart. Faces feel low before His greatness and hearts tremble out of fear of Him.*

## Concept of God from Sermon 184

### ARABIC TEXT OF SERMON 184

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي لَا تُدْرِكُهُ الشَّوَاهِدُ،  
وَلَا تَحْوِيهِ الْمَشَاهِدُ، وَلَا تَرَاهُ النَّوَاطِرُ،  
وَلَا تَحْجُبُهُ السَّوَاتِرُ، الدَّالِّ عَلَى قَدَمِهِ  
بِحُدُوثِ خَلْقِهِ، وَبِحُدُوثِ خَلْقِهِ عَلَى  
وَجُودِهِ، وَبِاشْتِبَاهِهِمْ عَلَى أَنْ لَا شَبَهَ  
لَهُ، الَّذِي صَدَقَ فِي مِيعَادِهِ، وَارْتَفَعَ  
عَنْ ظُلْمِ عِبَادِهِ، وَقَامَ بِالْقِسْطِ فِي  
خَلْقِهِ، وَعَدَلَ عَلَيْهِمْ فِي حُكْمِهِ،  
مُسْتَشْهِدٌ بِحُدُوثِ الْأَشْيَاءِ عَلَى  
أَزَلِّيَّتِهِ، وَبِمَا وَسَمَّهَا بِهِ مِنَ الْعَجْزِ عَلَى  
قُدْرَتِهِ، وَبِمَا اضْطَرَّهَا إِلَيْهِ مِنَ الْفَنَاءِ  
عَلَى دَوَامِهِ،

Praise be to Allah. He is such that senses cannot perceive Him, place cannot contain Him, eyes cannot see Him and veils cannot cover Him. He proves His eternity by the coming into existence of His creation, and (also) by originating His creation (He proves) His existence, and by their (mutual) similarity He proves that there is nothing similar to Him. He is true in His promise. He is too high to be unjust to His creatures. He stands by equity among His creation and practices justice over them in His commands. He provides evidence through the creation of things of His being from ever, through their marks of incapability of His power, and through their powerlessness against death of His eternity.

# Doing Du‘ā is also ‘ibādat.

*Say, ‘What weight would my Lord give you were it not for your supplication? (25:77) Your Lord has said, ‘Call Me, and I will hear you!’ Indeed those who are disdainful of My worship will enter hell in utter humiliation. (Holy Quran, 40:60).*

*Holy Prophet (s) (i) Supplication is the essence of worship and no one who supplicates will be destroyed; (ii) Supplication is the weapon of the believer, the pillar of religion, and the light of the heavens and the earth; (iii) The best worship is supplication*

# *Nahjul Balagha* on Du‘ā - 1

(O my son) Know that the one in whose hands are the treasures of the kingdom of this world and the Hereafter has allowed you to supplicate, He has guaranteed to answer you, He has commanded you to ask Him so He can give you, and He is the All-merciful, the All-generous. He has not placed any barrier between Him and you, He has not committed you to whoever intercedes for you... then He has placed in your hands the keys to His treasures by allowing you to ask from Him, so whenever you wish, open the doors of His treasures by supplicating to Him (*Nahjul Balagha*, Document 31).

## *Nahjul Balagha* on Du‘ā - 2

(My dear son), He has opened for you the door for your repentance. Therefore, whenever you call Him, He hears your call, and whatever you whisper to Him, He knows the whispers. You place before Him your needs, unveil yourself before Him, complain to Him of your worries, beseech Him to remove your troubles, seek His help in your affairs and ask from the treasuries of His mercy that which no one else has power to give, namely long life, good health of bodies and increase in sustenance. The He has placed the keys of His treasuries in your hands in the sense that He has shown you the way to ask Him (*Nahjul Balagha*, Document 31).