

Spiritual Counsel in Nahjul Balagha

Session One

Ponder and Comment

Speech is the spirit's envoy and the words of a man relate to the sphere in which his spirit dwells.

Ayatollah Mutahhari

Glimpses of the Nahjul Balagha

Agenda

- Verse of Quran and Hadith on Justice
- Understanding Justice
- Role of Justice in society
- Effects of Injustice

From the Quran

لَقَدْ أَرْسَلْنَا رُسُلَنَا بِالْبَيِّنَاتِ وَأَنْزَلْنَا مَعَهُمُ الْكِتَابَ
وَالْمِيزَانَ لِيَقُومَ النَّاسُ بِالْقِسْطِ

Certainly We sent Our messengers with clear arguments, and sent down with them the Book and the balance that mankind may conduct themselves with equity.

Sura Hadid, no.57, verse 25

Hadith on Justice

A moment of justice is better than seventy years of worship in which you keep fasts and pass the nights in offering prayers and worship to Allah.

Holy Prophet (s)

Jami'us Sa'adat, vol. II, p. 223

Be fair, just and impartial in your dealings so that even the influential persons may not dare take undue advantage of your leniency and the commoners and the poor people may not be disappointed in your justice and fair dealings

Imam Ali (a)

Letter no. 27, Nahjul Balagha

Understanding Justice

- Justice is an attribute of perfection.
- Instinct and intellect declare justice to be good and injustice to be evil

Types of Justice

- Divine Justice - God treats every one according to what they deserve.
- Justice in Creation - Balance in all things created
- Social Justice - Everyone has rights that should be fulfilled.

Defining Justice

- 1) To put everything in its right place
- 2) To give to everyone their rights, according to what is due to them.
- 3) Justice is not equality. Treating everyone the same can be injustice.

Role of Justice in Society

- Justice is necessary for peace and progress in society
- There can be no basis for discrimination in a just society
- Members of a just society take ownership and are motivated to act.

Effects of Injustice

1. Imbalance
2. Cruelty
3. Exploitation
4. Discrimination