

# Spiritual Counsel in Nahjul Balagha

## Session Three

### Ponder and Comment

It can be said of maw'izah that if it comes forth from the soul then it necessarily alights upon the heart. Otherwise it does not go beyond a listener's ears.

Ayatollah Mutahhari

Glimpses of the Nahjul Balagha

# Agenda

- Verse of Quran and Hadith on moral advice
- Defining موعظه , حكمة , and خطابه
- Examples from Nahjul Balagha of the above
- Discussion on Taqwa

# From the Quran

أَدْعُ إِلَى سَبِيلِ رَبِّكَ بِالْحِكْمَةِ وَالْمَوْعِظَةِ الْحَسَنَةِ ۚ وَجَادِلْهُمْ  
بِالَّتِي هِيَ أَحْسَنُ ۚ إِنَّ رَبَّكَ هُوَ أَعْلَمُ بِمَنْ ضَلَّ عَنْ سَبِيلِهِ ۚ وَهُوَ  
أَعْلَمُ بِالْمُهْتَدِينَ

Invite to the way of your Lord with wisdom and good instruction, and argue with them in a way that is best. Indeed, your Lord is most knowing of who has strayed from His way, and He is most knowing of who is rightly guided.

Sura Nahl, no.16, verse 125

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يُؤْتِي الْحِكْمَةَ مَنْ يَشَاءُ<sup>ج</sup> وَمَنْ يُؤْتَ الْحِكْمَةَ فَقَدْ  
أُوتِيَ خَيْرًا كَثِيرًا<sup>ق</sup> وَمَا يَذَّكَّرُ إِلَّا أُولُو الْأَلْبَابِ

He gives wisdom to whom He wills, and  
whoever has been given wisdom has  
certainly been given much good. And  
none will remember except those of  
understanding

Sura Baqarah, no.2, verse 269

# Hadith on Wisdom

أَلْحِكْمَةُ شَجَرَةٌ تَنْبُتُ فِي الْقَلْبِ وَتُثْمِرُ عَلَى اللِّسَانِ

Wisdom is a tree that grows in the heart and bears fruit on the tongue

Imam Ali (a)

Sharh Ghurarul Hikam, Vol.2, pg 106

# Defining Wisdom

- 1) Implementing Knowledge
- 2) Thinking and doing what is best in a given situation
- 3) Foreseeing consequences and making good decisions

# Defining Maw'izah

1. Giving a recommended about what might be done in a given situation
2. Guiding others through suggested ways of dealing with situations
3. Helping others solve problem or find a solution.

# Defining Rhetoric

1. The Art of winning the soul through by discourse (Plato)
2. Using persuasive and motivational words through speech or writings
3. Using language to have an effect on people



# Discussion

- Read the assigned passage on Taqwa
- How is Taqwa described in the passage?
- Suggest how that understanding of Taqwa can be implemented in daily life