

## **ALI 033: Themes from Sura al-Baqarah** **Session Three – verses 153-157**

### **Hadith**

1. *Surely we are Allah's* is acknowledgement by us that we belong to Him, *and to Him shall we return* is acknowledgement by us that we shall die.

**Imam Ali (a)**

2. Three stones came down from heaven; the Black stone which was put in place by Ibrahim (a), the standing place of Ibrahim (a), and the stone of the Israelites.

**Imam Muhammad al-Baqir (a)**

3. Almighty Allah has subjugated mankind through this House (the ka'bah) so that He may test their obedience to Him. He has urged them to revere it and visit it. He has made it the place of Prophets, and the Qibla for those who pray to Him. It is a part of (winning) His Pleasure, and the way towards His Forgiveness.

**Imam Ja'far as-Sadiq (a)**

4. Do you not see that Allah has tried all the people . . . beginning with Adam (a) up to the last ones in the world, with stones which yield neither benefit nor harm, which neither see nor hear. He made those stones into His sacred House . . . He placed it in the most rugged and stony part of the earth, on a highland with the least soil thereon, in the most narrow valleys between rough mountains, soft sandy fields, springs of scanty water, and scattered habitans, where neither camels nor horses nor cows nor sheep etc. can prosper . . .

If Allah had placed His sacred house and His great signs among plantations, streams, soft and level plains, plenty of trees, abundance of fruits, heavy population, close habitans, golden wheat, lush gardens, green land, watered plains, thriving orchards and crowded streets, the amount of recompense would have decreased because of the lightness of the trial . . . but Allah tries His creatures by means of different troubles, wants them to render worship through hardships, and involves them in distresses, all in order to extract vanity from their hearts, to settle humbleness in their spirits and to make all this open door for His Favors and easy means for His Forgiveness.

**Imam Ali (a)**

**Nahjul Balagha, Khutba 190**